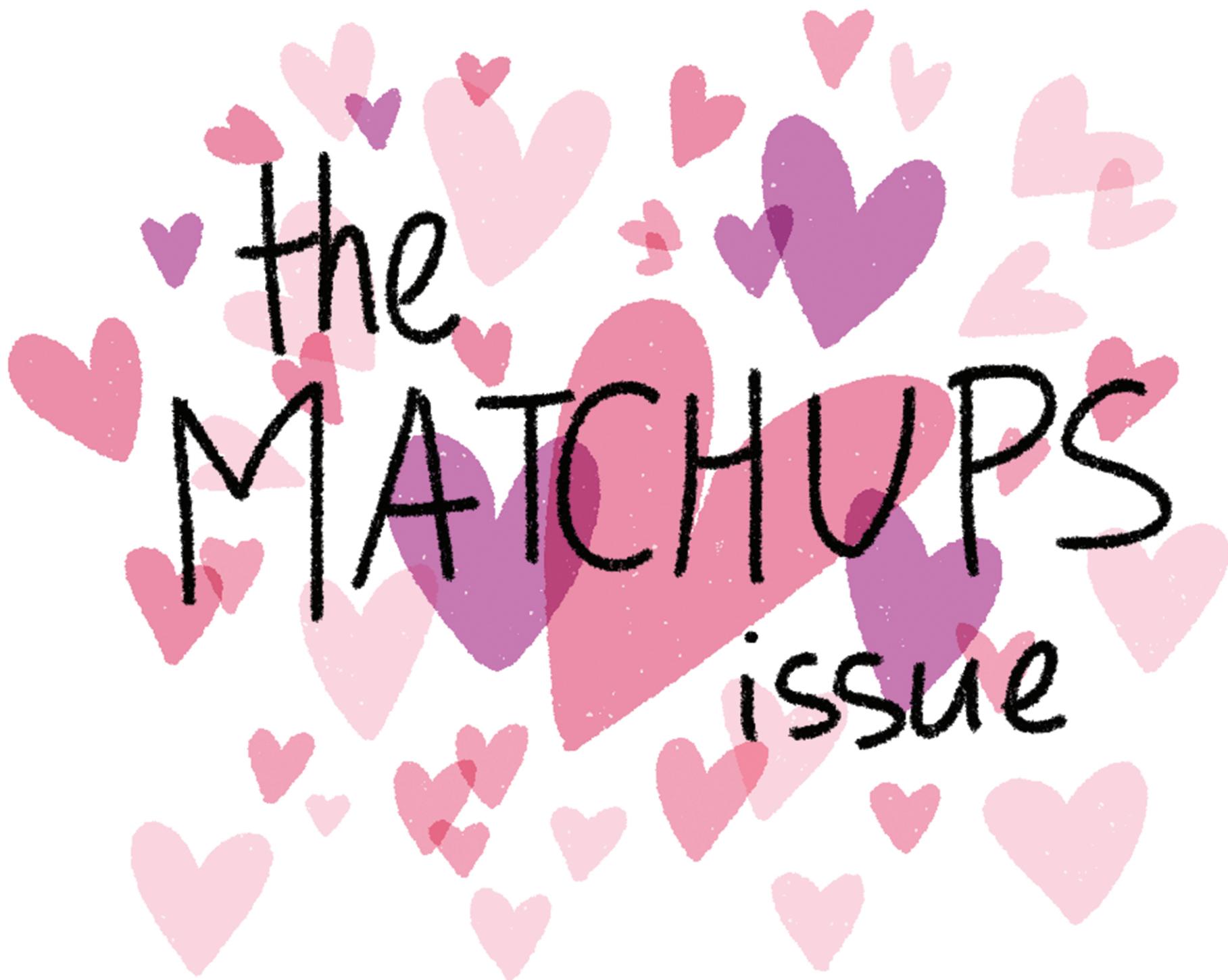


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Inside: Breaking Hearts and Winning Titles

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The Indy loves its readers.

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Audrey Effenberger '19.

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As Harvard College's weekly undergraduate newsmagazine, the Harvard Independent provides in-depth, critical coverage of issues and events of interest to the Harvard College community. The Independent has no political affiliation, instead offering diverse commentary on news, arts, sports, and student life.

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Students react to binary survey.

I was surprised about,” said Johnson, “was that their solution to incorporate non-binary was to have any extra gender identifying information in the ‘extra’ section of the form.” For them and for many students this sent the message that, in the eyes of HCS, “The binary is normal and anything else is extra information.”

Johnson spoke about their own personal feelings of discomfort with the system. “It was very troubling that these people decided that any identity that was non-binary or not cis was just extra information. It was really unsettling. Being on this campus, there are so many opportunities to learn how to avoid problematic things like that and there are so many people who are trying to educate the campus about non-binary identities, so it was just a blatant disregard for these communities”

Johnson is not alone in these feelings. In our conversation, they told me that the collective frustration surrounding Datamatch has pushed students to have conversations and mobilize around the issue. They said that much of this has occurred over the email list of the Black Students Association. The black queer community has been leading the fight over this issue.

According to Johnson, “[Datamatch’s] reasoning has been completely and utterly unresponsive and inappropriate. And I haven’t really seen an effort on their part to apologize or to say ‘we’re gonna fix it.’” Students continue to push for Datamatch to make these changes and to support students of all gender identities.

Megan Sims (megansims@college.harvard.edu) hopes to see the Harvard Computer Society put their coding skills to work in the future to include multiple gender identities.

Every February, as Cambridge residents bundle up for below-freezing temperatures and feet of snow, Harvard undergraduates await a festive pink and red email in their inbox inviting them to participate in the Harvard Computer Society’s annual Datamatch survey. The survey, which contains a series of increasingly silly questions written by HCS, is intended to match students with others of their preferred gender for a free platonic or romantic food date on Datamatch.

For students who identify as “male” or “female,” especially those who also identify as cisgender and heterosexual, this may accurately reflect the way they approach dating. However, for LGBTQ+ students, especially those who identify as non-binary, Datamatch’s survey distinctly and deliberately leaves no space for them.

Non-binary is a broad umbrella term for a number of gender identities that do not fit in the traditional male/female binary prescribed by Western culture. Non-binary people may be aligned or feel affiliation with many genders or with none, may take any pronouns, and may be attracted to any number of genders similar or different from themselves. But, in the survey put out by Datamatch, this constellation of gender is completely erased to the point that students who do not identify as strictly male or female have been forced to only specify their real gender in a box labeled “extra.” Datamatch’s algorithms then

display this information as “Jane Doe is a Sophomore female (non-binary),” continuing to misgender students and placing them in categories which do not accurately reflect their identity.

This has been Datamatch’s standards for years, but this year students, who have been privately contacting Datamatch about this issue during their full tenure at Harvard, began speaking up publicly. A post in the HCS Datamatch 2017 event by a student poses the question to the creators and organizers that if students do not identify as male or female, should they not participate in Datamatch? Datamatch’s answer, in short: yes.

Datamatch has justified the choice by saying that their algorithm works better with binary pairings, an excuse that seems rather flimsy when the choice is either a bit of extra work for the programmers of the Harvard Computer Society or entirely excluding a portion of Harvard’s populations from using your services. In short, it is choosing the easy, transphobic way out that emphasizes a harmful gender binary over the lived realities of students.

Darius Johnson ’18, who identifies as non-binary and whose poetry is often published in the Indy, participated in Datamatch for the first time this year. When faced with the two reductive gender options on the survey, Johnson said they weren’t surprised. “What

What's Wrong with Racism?

A question with taken-for-granted answers.

By DAN VALENZUELA

I am becoming increasingly convinced that people around the country are not talking about racism in the right ways. People often talk about it as if its meaning were agreed upon when, in fact, most people have different ideas of what racism means.

Take, for example, the accusations of racism against Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Sessions has a long history of racially-charged controversy. In 1986, Sessions' nomination to a federal judgeship was denied after some incidences of racially charged comments came to light. In one incident, he reportedly warned a black assistant U.S. attorney to be careful with what he said to "white folks" and called him "boy." In another incident that occurred while investigating a lynching of a black man by Ku Klu Klan members, Sessions reportedly joked that he thought the Klan was "OK" until he learned that they smoked marijuana.

One Justice Department attorney present for the joke stated that from what he saw "[Sessions] couldn't have been more supportive of making sure we got convicted the murderers of the last black man who was lynched by the Klan." However, another Justice Department attorney who filed multiple complaints against Sessions for racially charged comments couldn't help but think "what a racist guy this is."

These issues were brought up again during his confirmation hearings in January. Sen. Lindsey Graham asked Sessions about these accusations of racism and he responded that they were "very painful."

German Lopez of Vox took Sessions' response to Sen. Graham's question as an example of how conversations about race typically go in the country: "Instead of considering what could drive someone to call another person racist, the issue quickly turns to just how unfair it feels to be called

racist." To an extent, Lopez sees this as part of a phenomenon called "white fragility," or the tendency of white people to become defensive or hostile when they are called racist, "even if it's justified."

I take issue with how Lopez frames the controversy over Sessions. For one, anyone would become defensive or hostile if they were called a racist, including racial minorities that are accused of racism.

More importantly, what Lopez (along with many others, as I see it) fails to consider is that understanding accusations of racism is hard. It's easy to see this just by asking one question: What's wrong with racism?

There are at least two ways to think about racism. One way to think about racism is that it has to do with what's in one's heart, which involves not simply one's beliefs and reason but also one's wants, intentions, likes, dislikes, and virtues. And to be a racist means that one has an intrinsic disregard or hatred for people of certain races. In this sense, members of white supremacist groups are racist in their disregard for and hatred of racial minorities.

This view of racism is what I believe is at the root of Sessions saying that accusations of racism are painful, further adding that "I did not harbor the kind of animosities and race-based discrimination ideas that I was accused of." For Sessions, it's hard to see how another person can be certain of the hatred in one's own heart and mind.

For Lopez "the issue is not about what's in Sessions' heart; it's about what he's done." Being a racist for him, then, is about acting unjustly toward people of certain races. The implication is that Sessions is racist in that his record shows support for policies that disproportionately affect minorities.

It's true that the Klan acted racist in their terrorizing and murdering of minorities.

But it's far different from those Southern lawmakers that merely supported Jim Crow laws, regardless of what was in their hearts. Their racism is of a different kind that's related more to the wrongs of unjust social systems than the wrongs of murder or animosity.

These multiple meanings of racism are why we have such a tough time talking about race. More often than not, when two people talk about racism they are actually saying different things. And in such a vacuum of mutual understanding, people take racism to mean whatever they want, leading to offense on the part of those accused of racism and contempt on the part of those accusing racism. This is exactly what happened when Sessions took racism to be about virtue and others like Lopez took racism to be about actions and policy.

Getting to a common understanding of what racism means is not the path forward, however. Understanding what we mean when we call people like Sessions racist is frivolous when we already have language to describe their actions. I think most people can generally agree that hatred is not virtuous, that killing and enslaving others is wrong, and that disproportionate burdens caused by social systems are unfair. Yet these basics of right and wrong are still difficult to apply in light of the facts.

From what we know, Sessions' comments and policies make him out to be insensitive, at best. Accusing him of being racist or morally wrong in such a case is harsh considering the numerous insensitivities that anyone can be guilty of. At worst, Sessions willfully disregards the well being of certain groups of people. Now that would just be plain wrong.

Dan Valenzuela (dvalenzuela@college.harvard.edu) hopes to be at best insightful and at worst misguided.

What Are We?

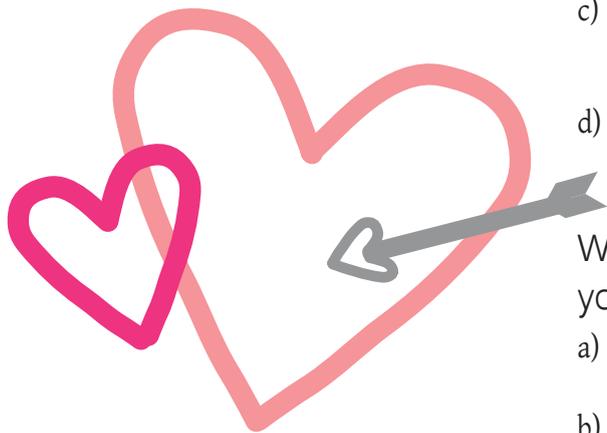
A quiz for the confused.

By HUNTER RICHARDS

So it's Valentine's Day and you're not sure whether it's one of those times where you send out a text wishing them a happy holiday since you're not even sure where you stand with them. Yeah, you went out, like, twice and sent them a drunk text last weekend but what does that mean? Take our quiz to try to figure it out:

Have you met their roommate?

- a) Of course, how do you think we met?
- b) They live in the quad, I think, so they might not even have roommates.
- c) Yeah, but they walked in on us so I can't maintain eye-contact anymore.
- d) Morning-after brunch is a ritual for us now, but we don't really talk much during.



Do your parents know they exist?

- a) They've met my parents too many times for me to play that one off.
- b) We were both born once so we both are obligated to acknowledge that we must have parents but that's about it.
- c) My mom knows that I'm not calling her on Friday nights and have become more aware of new movies coming out, but the details aren't that important.
- d) We ran into each other during parents weekend but we're still just "friends from math class" when we get introduced.

How far have you gone?

- a) We don't like to kiss and tell (:
- b) They are into some weird stuff, like texting me "good morning" the next day...
- c) I've sworn I would never admit that for personal reasons.
- d) I traveled all the way to the river to see them so that's PRETTY far.

What's your instinct when you run into them in the DHall?

- a) I'm the one who swiped them in.
- b) I barely remember if I already put in a grill order, let alone who they are.
- c) A smile and wave is sufficient before telling your roommates all the dirty deets on who they are.
- d) If this is reminding me that I've made out with too many people within my house, I already know.

What dates have you been on?

- a) I'm their assumed +1 to all events.
- b) Quite a few, but luckily Netflix is just a monthly subscription cost so it doesn't quite break the bank.
- c) We really enjoy those long, late walks from the entrance of their dorm to their room because I'm pretty tipsy and forget which entryway their in every time.
- d) We went to dinner but paid separately, but that's honestly just because of how much we believe in equality and not because they're so cheap (hopefully).

Mostly A's

You're obviously already College Married. Chances are you took this together as some weird kind of foreplay before bundling up in front of a fire watching classic movies or something really kinky like that.

Mostly B's

Stick to only texting them after midnight. That's when you're in your prime element: After finishing a pset but before calling it a night. Nothing says romance like a 1 am "U up?" text!

Mostly C's

You answered this quiz multiple times for multiple different people, all of whom don't know about each other, and that feels like an answer in and of itself. But also submit all those dirty deets to the Harvard Independent's Sex Issue because you're not shy.

Mostly D's

Honestly just move on. They're probably not worth it and you still have a few more Cute Years in you to find someone better. Console yourself with half-priced Valentine's Day candy from CVS.

Hunter Richards (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) hope everyone enjoyed Valentine's day, regardless!

An Insider's Take

Datamatch in its 23rd year.

By PULKIT AGARWAL

LOADING... 

Recently, the Indy got a chance to speak with Larry Zhang '18, who leads the website team for the free online matchmaking service, Datamatch. We would like to share with you some snippets from this conversation, and our take on this traditional Valentine's Day phenomenon more generally.

It is worth noting that Datamatch is an extremely popular, and surprisingly old, institution at Harvard. Having originally been founded in 1994 by the Harvard Computer Society, it has provided twenty-four classes of Harvard students a chance to find a companion for the widely-celebrated day. What is especially interesting about Datamatch is that while it does not pretend to be a service that would find you your loved one, it takes itself rather seriously. And as do most students at the College, upwards of 4,500 of whom are expected to have used it in the last week.

The reason for this level of interest, you ask? Let's have a look at Larry, who joined the organization this year but had to apply three times before he could get in. He humorously recalls having been rejected the prior two times for his lack of CS skills, and having resolved to find a way in after gaining some experience in the field. He interviewed last year with the current head of Datamatch, Raynor Kuang '17, and realized later that he was being considered to lead the entire Website team. This, along with the Algorithms and Statistics teams, makes up the three arms of the organization, with everyone chipping in to look after publicity.

The 23-year old website has undergone four revamps, we are told by Larry. "This year, we are also exposing a part of our algorithm to

our users", he said when asked about recent changes in the venture. Meanwhile, the algorithm itself has been transformed and worked upon hundreds of times; "Now it's a beast."

It isn't just about the free food: Larry claims to know of more than a few couples that met through Datamatch and continued onto subsequent dates. "It serves a dual purpose; new restaurants around the Square want to work with us to get new customers, and students are happy to get the free food". This year, in order to ensure that as many people are able to get meals as possible, the service has increased its reach to restaurants, and has arranged an increased number of time slots available for users.

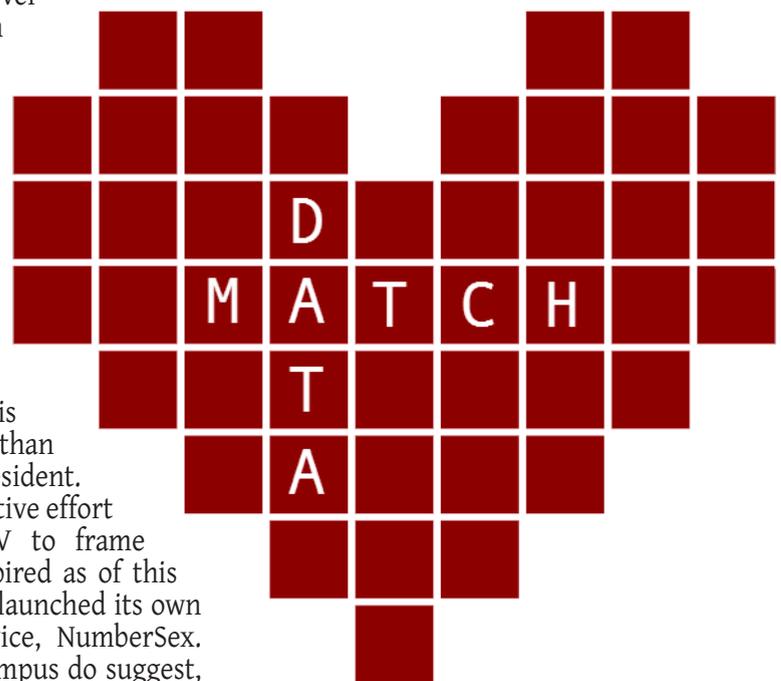
Perhaps it is difficult to truly ascertain what sparks the level of interest in Datamatch that students on-campus and alumni take. When asked about it, Larry pointed to its "semi-satirical" nature, which has grown into something of a Harvard tradition. The questions for the survey are always lined with jokes about current events. No surprise, then, that this year's version features more than the odd reference to our President. Unfortunately, the collaborative effort of Datamatch with SatireV to frame the comedic survey has expired as of this year, with the latter having launched its own satirical matchmaking service, NumberSex. Anecdotal accounts from campus do suggest, though, that Datamatch retains the pole position when it comes to matchmaking services exclusive to the Harvard community.

When asked about new competition, Larry claimed that it was a purely friendly affair. "The kind SatireV has with many clubs on campus." Everyone seems to be having a little fun with the emergence of Datamatch's counterpart.

Datamatch hasn't failed to pique interests of neighboring campuses either. Larry claims that students from BU and Tufts have previously expressed interest in collaborating with Datamatch, but the team has instead chosen to grow domestically.

Like most clubs on campus, its members find its best asset to be the community. "It's not a professional environment at all. We do miss our fair share of meetings, but never forget to share memes."

Pulkit Agarwal (pulkitagarwal@college.harvard.edu) hopes that you are able to grab a meal with your match this week!



Don't *Dream* It, *Be* It

The 1973 musical stage production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* was the creation of Richard O'Brien, who wrote the book, music and lyrics. The story of a newly engaged couple caught in a storm and seduced by the strange members of a transvestite doctor's party is a parody of science fiction and horror movies of the 1940s - 1970s. The show, made into a movie in 1975 with the name *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, starred O'Brien as well. It has won awards and hearts with its eccentric comedy and strangely charming music.

This weekend the Adams Pool Theater will play home to Directors Julia Belanoff's and Patric Verrone's shadow production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Friday and Saturday nights. The movie will play on screen while the actors perform!

The Indy was happy to interview Verrone '18 (PV), who also stars as Frank N. Furter, and provides interesting insights on this unique show!

What is different about this production of the show?

PV: In this production of Rocky Horror, Julia's (my co-director) and my goal was to balance the classic performances that all Rocky Horror fans love while also adapting our production to modern notions surrounding queer identity, sexuality, consent, and relationships. Our design for Frank N. Furter's look, for example, is a merge of both Tim Curry's classic makeup and the current drag queens like Jaidynn Diore Fierce and Violet Chachki. We think that performing this show in front of the movie will turn our performances into a literal reflection of the audience's expectations for the show.

Rocky Horror comes to life in the Pool.

By CAROLINE CRONIN



Has your involvement in the show and your understanding of its origins changed through the course of directing and starring in it?

PV: I am constantly learning new things about Rocky Horror and my own relationship with it. At the beginning of our rehearsal process, Sara Bobok (who plays Janet) commented on how Janet's characterization is so unique and progressive. She is always the instigator and usually the person in the room with the most power besides Frank. I approached this show by thinking about how a world completely manufactured by a femme, gender non-conforming, bisexual, powerful person necessarily flips the traditional narrative on its head. Living in Frank's world and in his mind, I'm always learning about my own biases, issues, doubts, and feelings.

Why did you choose the Pool theater?

PV: Julia and I were looking for a show to direct that would specifically fit the Adams Pool Theater. It is my personal favorite performance space on campus, and we both thought its "creepy, haunted mansion vibe" fits the show. Because of the nature of the space, we've directed the show to have an immersive, 360 degree effect, which works very well with Rocky Horror's audience participation.

What would you like audience members to know before attending the show?

PV: Know that when you come to see the Rocky Horror Picture Show, that you are entering a space of love and joy and freedom. Come in your freakiest attire (Transylvania chic!). Sing along, dance along, heckle us, shout at us, and express yourself!

Lastly, what is your favorite costume?

PV: My favorite costume is Frank N. Furter's outfit during the Floorshow. It was designed by myself and Megan Sims. You just have to see it.

Produced by Sherry Gao '19 and Kyle McFadden '18 with musical direction by Liz Kantor '18, the show promises to be more than just a visual treat - but an experience in and of itself!

Caroline Cronin (ccronin01@college.harvard.edu) thanks Verrone for his time and is excited to see Rocky Horror on stage for the first time!

INDY ARTS

Valentines & Galentines

How students celebrated one another.

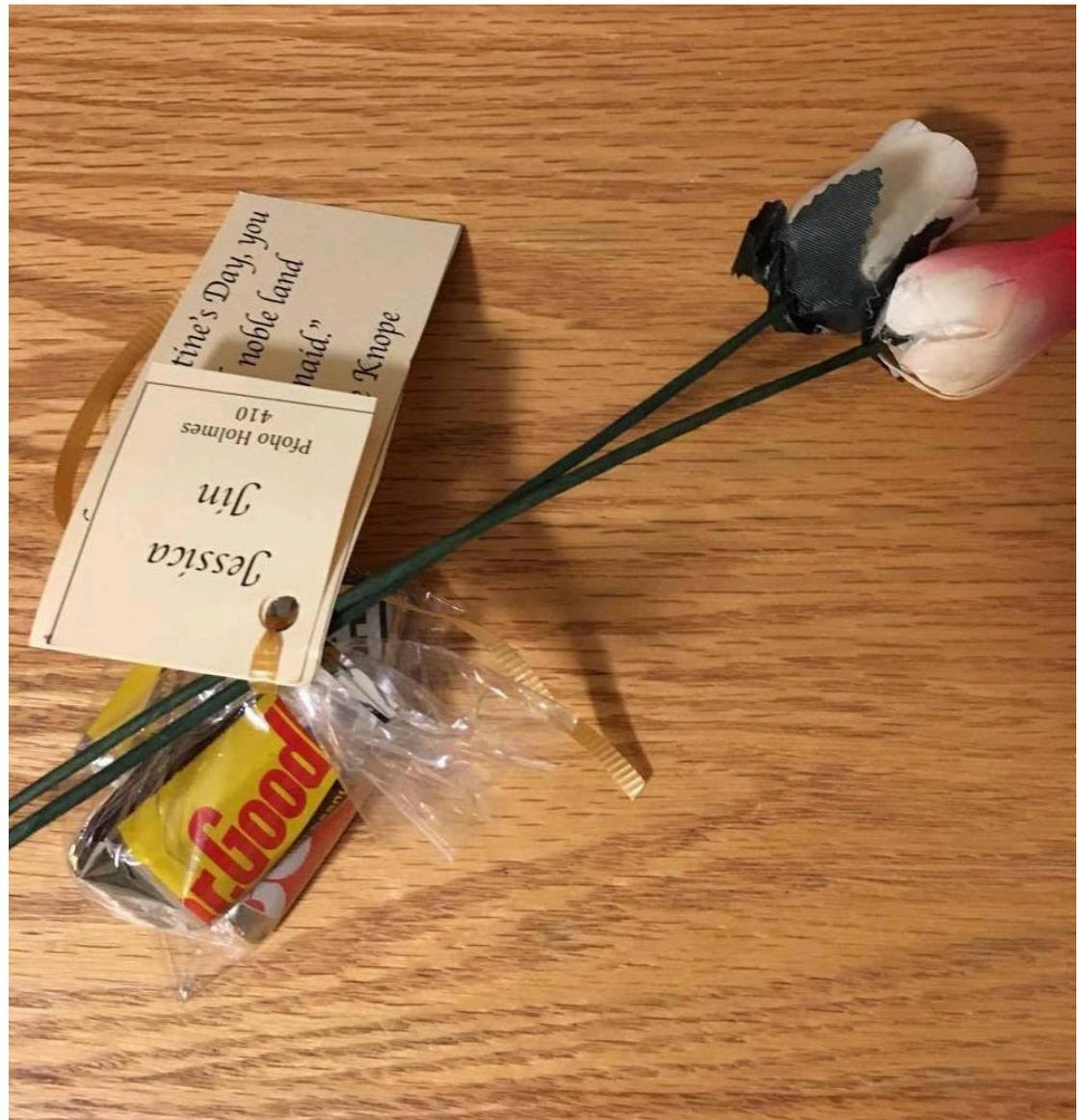
By HUNTER RICHARDS

Valentine's Day means a lot of things to a lot of people, whether it means just another Tuesday or a chance to share affection with someone close to you. At Harvard, there were quite a few ways that people chose to do this but using different student organizations devoted to the arts or that offered different crafts seemed to be a favorite.

Student groups like Speak Out Loud, Harvard's only spoken word poetry group, created hand-crafted flip books of poems. Students were able to specify whether they would like a poem for a friend or a romantic interest. The small poem books featured short poems that members of Speak Out Loud wrote and then delivered themselves before Valentine's Day arrived.

For those musically inclined but not skilled enough to personally create a song, some student groups offered the expertise of their own finely tuned musical talents. Musical organizations like the Harvard Band and a capella groups serenaded students on behalf of their admirers. While the Harvard band performed for a chosen 5 lucky people on Valentine's Day, several a cappella groups were seen and heard entering dining halls and common rooms through out this week to deliver and perform the songs.

Meanwhile, other organizations chose to focus on February 13th, otherwise known as Galentine's Day (to those who frequently watch Parks and Recreation). Galentine's Day is a day celebrating the spirit the strong women and female



Poetry, roses, and chocolate: essential ingredients for any valentine or galentine.

Hunter Richards

friendships in your life. Strong Women, Strong Girls were a great resource for such an occasion. The student group that mentors young girls in STEM fields distributed painted wooden roses and candy, along with a personal message, to help those within the Harvard community express appreciation for their friends. Sending love to friends, roommates, and crushes (and open to all identities) also went towards supporting the organization with the donation for each Galentine's gram. Strong Women, Strong Girls uses the donations to help plan events and gather supplies for the elementary school children they mentor in the Boston area.

Regardless of how you show that you care for your friends and significant others, Harvard student organizations were happy to lend their talents for the special occasion.

Hunter Richards (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) was charmed by the efforts of these groups and made sure to take special notice of her friends and loved ones this week.



“By the way, it’s They/Them/Theirs”

By DARIUS JOHNSON

Parentheses: “a word, clause, or sentence inserted as an afterthought into a passage that is grammatically complete without it”

i looked at my body and asked it
 what it needed to be complete—
 and it sighed ...
 a heavy ,wheezing sigh...
 bereft of comfort and bereft of hope,
 a sigh like someone carrying too much.
 like an expectation...
 or a dick—
 or a dick that comes with expectations.
 a sigh like stuck, sigh
 sticky air thick with a masculinity i don’t understand -
 a voice not fond of deepness
 a hand too fond of softness
 it sighed like, lover inside you, sigh
 who whispers your name as you ask,
 but genders your skin
 while it belongs to him ,
 as if to say your identity
 was a foreigner to your body.

the lover, inside you
 doesn’t know how to ask for love
 doesn’t know if language
 will accommodate you
 doesn’t know if: sex;
 love;
 romance;
 will accommodate you —
 it finds the pieces of itself it can breathe without,
 the pieces of itself it can sigh, without
 it puts its tongue somewhere where it will stay silent
 somewhere it cannot be heard over your
 mansplaining body
 that is forced to yell Male before you can whisper—
 human.
 before you can whisper—
 not really .
 before you can sigh,
 that tired sigh you feel, inside;
 in front of your family-
 or while
 filling out datamatch;

I looked at my body and asked it,
 why we betray each other
 why my closet betrays my heart
 and why my heart betrays my
 family.
 and it sighed.
 it sighed that heavy, wheezing, stuck
 sigh.

INDY SPORTS

23 Years in the Making

Crimson wins
the Beanpot!

By CAROLINE CRONIN &
KELSEY O'CONNOR

On Monday night, February 13, Harvard students packed section 324 of TD Garden to cheer the Men's Hockey Team to Beanpot victory 23 years in the making. After last week's decided victory of the Men's Varsity Hockey team over Northeastern, anticipation for the final game of the four-team Beanpot tournament had grown. By Monday evening, students and fans alike were ready to pack themselves into cold T cars and make the Red Line-Green Line jump just to get to the legendary venue. The matchup promised to be a good one: Harvard versus Boston University.

The 6-3 triumph of the Crimson over the BU Terriers, is Harvard's first Beanpot win since 1993 and their first trip to finals since 2008 (for those of us to whom that still feels recent, it was nine years ago). Adam Gilfix '17, statistician and senior member of the Harvard Sports Analysis Collective, marvels, "That fact alone is pretty remarkable, especially considering that it is only a four-team tournament and either BU or BC has won every Beanpot since 1993." The honor and glory of such a title is inherently tied to Boston's long and proud history of sports fans and a love of hockey. Gilfix adds, "Moreover, yesterday morning the new United States College Hockey Online (USCHO) rankings came out and Harvard jumped from 7th to 3rd in the country, dropping BU from 3rd to 4th. Thus, yesterday's win proved the rankings were justified in having the Crimson ahead of the crosstown Terriers and solidified Harvard Hockey as a powerhouse in NCAA competition."

Up in the student section, Crimson fans from Freshmen to Seniors, grad students, alumni and parents watched eagerly for the Crimson to pull through. They were amazed by the tricky goals the team pulled off, the amazing saves by Merrick Madsen, and the impressive speed of all on the ice. Many fans sported the "Harvard Hockey" t-shirts



"Six Men (at a time) of Harvard" doesn't have the same ring to it, but the Men's Hockey team proved themselves to be just as powerful. *Kelsey O'Connor*

INDY SPORTS



Jubilation on the ice. *Kelsey O'Connor*

that team members had sold with tickets in dining halls throughout the week. While there was one pair of fans who seemed more interested in screaming at their fellow spectators than cheering on the team, all students were in great spirits and bringing up the energy with chants of “let’s go Harvard” and the classic “I believe” chant. The trash talk was kept to a minimum in the Crimson stands with a couple, fairly clever, renditions of “Sucks to BU” and “You can’t do that” in response to penalties, sometimes two penalties at a time, by the Terriers.

One of the most fun moments for fans came with less than two minutes left in the game. Down 5-3, BU replaced their goalie with a sixth man on the ice. While a common tactic, it turned out to be an unfortunate one for BU. As Harvard students stood in anticipation and hope for a W, the puck was suddenly coasting toward them and the empty BU goal from down the ice. The sound and excitement reached a high as it sailed over the crease and the flashing red goal lights illuminated. The score was then 6-3 and Harvard had sealed the deal. A moment later Crimson fans started to sing

the famed Bananarama song, “Na na na na hey hey-ey, goodbye.” The BU goalie slowly regained his post from the bench as the Crimson celebrated and prepared for the puck drop.

As the Beanpot banner lowered from the rafters of the legendary TD Garden and the Harvard banner reading “Beanpot Champions 2017” was raised among the championship banners of the Bruins and Celtics, Harvard fans cheered as they began to file out. The ever-competitive Harvard students raced back to campus to see whose route from TD Garden would be more efficient. Conclusion: they were essentially the same. But smiling faces in Harvard hats greeted each other and celebrated as they made their way back across the river to the Square and their p-sets. Paths crossed with entryway mates, freshmen year roommates, other college students roaming the T.

Now the Crimson and their supporters only look forward with the confidence this win has granted them. Gilfix is sure, “I believe this win could propel Harvard toward a Frozen Four appearance and perhaps an NCAA Championship.” But the puck doesn’t stop there. The talented players of the team see long professional careers ahead of them as well. There are currently eight players on the Crimson’s roster who have been drafted in the National Hockey League (NHL), but choose to keep playing for their college team – a move the school and students all applaud. “Moy, Kerfoot, and Malone are all Seniors who have been drafted and seem to be living up to that potential. Perhaps some other graduating seniors can fulfill similar NHL aspirations as the team dominates strong opponents and showcases impressive skill.” They certainly have models like Jimmy Vesey ’16 to look up to; Monday night provided another exciting moment when Harvard Hockey when Vesey scored a game-winning goal for the New York Rangers, his fourth of the season.

This weekend the team takes to the road for two Ivy League matchups against Yale and Brown – and with them, the confidence of success.

Caroline Cronin and Kelsey O'Connor (sports@harvardindependent.com) congratulate the men of Harvard Hockey!

captured and shot

"Hold on, get my good side."

By FRANCESCA CORNERO

