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Inside: Happy Halloween!

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CONTENTS



The Indy is feeling spooky!

Cover design by
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- 3 Hallo-Winning
- 5 Islam & Ivy League
- 6 Take What We Get
- 7 Election Day
- 9 Debate Reveals Divide
- 10 Strike 1
- 11 Spooky Sports

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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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HALLO-winning!

By HUNTER RICHARDS

A Harvardian take on some costume classics.



Do not blame yourself for not realizing Halloween is only a few days away, considering you had to ask for an extension on a paper and slept through your midterm already this semester. With all your assignments, extracurriculars, and applications, it is easy to forget that the rest of the world continues to exist outside of the Harvard bubble. Have no fear (save that for the actual day!), the Indy has you covered with some easy and relatable costumes:

A ghost

No, not like the “Boo, look at this sheet that I bought solely for this but plan on using because you know I haven’t done laundry in weeks” look. This is really more of a couple (er...anti-couple?) costume: find a friend to spend the whole night ignoring! To take it up a notch, have them wear a shirt that says “wyd?” or “u up?” and be sure to spend the night standing next to them with a shirt that reads “Read 2:01pm.”

Midterm

There is truly nothing scarier, or, rather, more stress-inducing than the dreaded midterm. Regardless of the context, the word alone brings thoughts of fleeing and a spike in your heart rate. To complete the costume, tape blank pieces of paper to yourself. This look is inspired by the exact blankness of your own midterm when you turned it in after an hour of laughing to yourself about how little the review session mapped onto the actual test. Bring it home by wearing those really baggy sweat-pants you fell asleep in at Lamont after staying up all night studying, and unbrushed hair because you are literally running straight

over from your room when you realized you had overslept and were already late.

Section Kid

This costume gives plenty freedom in expressing what section kid looks like to you. For example, for the “Devil’s Advocate” look only requires a headband with red horns and business attire (because if you are not dressed formally, people might think you believe the racist things you say to spark debate). If the “I did the recommended reading even though it was longer than what my classmates read from the actual course-pack this week” look is your ultimate goal, simply bring along a few of the books you were assigned to read, because Section Kid would show up to a party with their assigned reading in tow.

Final Club Bouncer

This may be the most elaborate and potentially expensive option, but this is because it requires a tuxedo. Once you are dressed up in the finest tux you can find, print out a long list of stereotypical WASP-y female names (there should be at least fifteen Katherines) and go around the party asking people if they are on the list. If they are not, ensure that those peasants get out of your very exclusive and highly elite party!

Engineer

Find enough dark eye shadow to make you shudder at the memories of those angsty, emo middle school days. Make sure to really accentuate those dark under-eye bags to the point that they’re damn near designer. Next, don’t go to a single Halloween event, or actually any party for that matter. Really commit to the bit. Lose all sense of social skills and constantly remind people that you are an engineer before running away to work on a problem set.

Safe Space

This is actually a group costume. Grab your whole blocking group and each person picks a planet to dress up as. Bonus: You can even have

a Pluto if you include that one person with whom you almost blocked but then, through a painfully awkward conversation, eliminated from the group. The final detail that brings it all together is kneepads! Everyone needs kneepads and a helmet to appropriately convey the message: “I first and foremost am concerned about safety but that doesn’t mean I don’t know how to have a good time.” Be aware that you will have to spend the whole night explaining why you are so important to have on campus and, if you are really lucky, you will even be removed because you make people who don’t understand you uncomfortable.

Quadling

Spend the night staring at your phone, constantly muttering something about missing the shuttle just like the White Rabbit with its watch in Alice in Wonderland. Complete the look with a giant backpack full of everything you could possibly need for the day and then some because you should always assume you may be stranded with no hope of return. Leave a note for your roommates so they know you cherished your time with them (and also to delete your internet history to preserve your memory).

Riverling

Unlike the Quadling, the Riverling can be seen sneaking off hurriedly to call their roommate begging them to find someplace else to sleep for the night because there is a chance that cute person from the party, who looked over at you when you were blocking the bar, might have missed their shuttle back to the quad and will be sticking around for a while. To really sell this look, just be sure to never flinch at any of the costumes you see because living with the strange bugs and giant rats at the river has worn you down, and you fear nothing but senior year still in *shudder* n-1 housing.

Hunter Richards (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) is excited to see what costume she manages to throw together an hour before a Halloween party this weekend.

Sex(y tattoos), mostly drugs, and rock'n'roll.
Take the survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/ft9STkyDwT1Z0Y8V2>



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Islam and the Ivy: Being Muslim at Harvard

College can be a hard place to be religious. For many, it is the first time away from the communities that first bred and sustained their religious faith. Surrounded by people of every creed and thought, this faith is now put to test in ways diverse and challenging. To embed yourself within a collegial setting is to mold yourself in ways new and unique; it is to navigate constantly the question of what to hold on to, what to let go.

But this reinvention comes with an important precondition: the ability to participate in the full college experience. Most practicing Muslims at Harvard campus cannot. The community faces daunting barriers to participation in the full college experience, wrought jointly by a mix of administrative apathy and Ivy League elitism, the barriers to participation in the full college experience are too high for the followers of the Prophet.

The lynchpin of the undergraduate social scene: the final clubs and a scattering of fraternities and sororities, are oftentimes inaccessible to practicing Muslims. There may be the issues with exclusivity and elitism, but much less considered are issues of religious marginalization.

To even be considered for membership through the processes of ‘punch’ or ‘rush’ is to undertake in customs that challenge basic Islamic precepts. “To stand out in punch is to dress in a certain way, and my religion does not allow me to do that,” says junior Nina*. Nina decided to drop out of the ‘punch’ process this past fall after three female final clubs punched her.

The Quran is explicit in its requirement that females ‘lengthen’ their garments, in addition to not revealing any ‘adornments’ or ‘beauty spots’ except what may be ‘normally apparent’ like the face, hair, lower arms or legs. Religious dictates to minimize skin exposure clash with implicit inner club dictates: multiple female club members interviewed on conditions of anonymity said that they look for ‘classy’ ladies. What the term entails, however, isn’t anywhere quite as clear. For one, being ‘classy’ may demand alignment with Western sartorial standards that often include skin exposure.

Or consider the consumption of alcohol, oftentimes central to a final club or Greek life experience. The Quran, on the other hand, is explicit in its prohibition of alcohol.

Multiple sources confirmed that at the Spee Club’s date event last fall, ‘punches’ were given a bottle of champagne each. The Spee may not be the only one: multiple final club members interviewed said that ‘punch’ decisions were based in part on how well potential members could handle alcohol. This is not to say that the clubs coerce punches to drink; but in a selection process oftentimes embedded in alcoholic rituals, Muslim punches are bound to be disadvantaged.

Why social spaces at Harvard can often be inaccessible to practicing Muslim students.

By ADITYA AGRAWAL

Beyond the induction process is the larger question of how these clubs operate. The male clubs are amongst the only sizeable social spaces on campus that offer well-tended gatherings every weekend. However, entrance into the male clubs is oftentimes contingent on what you wear, unless you happen to know members in the club. Student gatekeepers need to deem you ‘attractive’ enough to pass through.

Among other things, these clubs exist to provide male members access to a steady stream of ‘attractive’ female peers. Once inside, female peers are plied with alcohol. There is an indirect pressure on visitors to ‘hook up’ with club members that demonstrate interest in them, several final club regulars confirmed. This expectation to ‘hook up’ clashes once more with the Islamic tenets against premarital physical intimacy. “Do I really want to be in a space where I am expected to behave in certain ways?” quips junior Helen*.

While these clubs - both male and female - may alienate many Muslim students through their modes of operation, they may also help strengthen their belief in Islam, pushing them to embrace customs that they’d never considered before. Consider Fanny*, a senior at the college: What twenty years of living in a Muslim household with a hijabi mother and a hijabi sister couldn’t produce, the Friday night lines on Mt. Auburn Street did. Fanny embraced the hijab, or the Muslim headscarf, the spring of her junior year.

“Being here has helped me figure out what my place was and what I myself value. My hijab is a way of valuing myself, of protecting myself from physical objectification,” says Fanny*. “It reflects my intellect and other intangible things rather than the physical object many people here would see me as.” Nina and Helen, who both began wearing hijabs in middle and high school respectively, also agree that Harvard reinforced their resolve to wear the hijab. None of them reported having ever faced any kind of pushback at Harvard for wearing the hijab.

This is not to say the clubs do not have any Muslim members. Jackie*, from Manhattan and a member of a female final club, considers herself a Muslim but hesitates to use the term ‘practicing.’ Her father does not know that she wears dresses, drinks or goes out clubbing.

Yet, the sense that she doesn’t completely fit in lingers. “I’m in a final club and there are guys who want to hook up. It is hard for me to explain that I can’t, it can’t just be physical for me,” she says. Jackie, who has had a boyfriend before, says she is still hesitant of premarital sex. This hesitancy, she thinks, springs from her Muslim upbringing.

“My faith is in evolution, and I’m still trying to figure out what it means,” says Jackie.

**Names have been changed for privacy.*

Aditya Agrawal (adityaagrawal@college.harvard.edu) hopes Muslim students will be brought into more discussion of social issues on campus.



Taking What We Can Get

By MEGAN SIMS

Photo by Francesca Cornero

Ever since Harvard announced its sanctions on final clubs last spring, campus climate surrounding the issue has been tense. Between the Hear Her Harvard protests and the recent co-ed shift by several former all-male final clubs, reactions from club members have been both offensive and defensive and filled with uncertainty.

Among those of us who don't belong to single-gender social organizations, reactions have ultimately been more favorable, though dissension still exists. The conversations happening on the other side of Mount Auburn Street have been less about the fairness of the sanctions and the value of single gender social organizations but about whether the sanctions themselves are the right answers.

When I first heard about the sanctions, I was frankly surprised. After decades of unrecognized status for the clubs, the sanctions were a very sudden reaction spurred by the AAU campus climate survey regarding sexual assault, which revealed that after dorms, single gender social organizations were the most frequent sites for

sexual assault to occur.

However, the problems perpetuated by final clubs and other single gender social organizations go far beyond issues of assault. Standing as testament to the privilege and exclusivity on which Harvard was founded and subsequently existed for centuries, the clubs serve as a reminder to so many of us on campus that our ability to belong here is conditional and perhaps temporary. Furthermore, the punch process obviously favors a certain type of student—white, wealthy, from a certain school or certain upbringing, athletic, straight, cisgender, and male in the case of the more established clubs. These institutions of elitism send the message that getting into Harvard is not enough, that we as students must continue to be judged and deemed worthy by a very small and very specific population.

But these arguments are not new. People have been making them far longer than I have been on campus. The conversations about final clubs didn't start with the sanctions—for years queer people, people of color, low income people, women, and more have been calling for the dismantling

of the clubs, or at least serious changes to their structures. Because institutions that privilege certain identities do hold the power to uphold white supremacy, hetero- and cis-normativity, class privilege, and more. They also have the power to make serious strides towards dismantling these harmful systems.

In spite of all this, the sanctions handed down from the university may not be the best way to urge the clubs to begin the complicated work of undoing over a century of privilege. After all, change handed down from the powers that be doesn't change the attitudes of those affected. Those who are opposed to such changes now have a reason to be more vocal than ever about their dissent. Furthermore, the sanctions only seek to eliminate gendered membership without acknowledging the reality that the same students from the same racial and socioeconomic backgrounds will still be the ones to gain membership in the clubs even if gender is eliminated as a barrier.

The sanctions, which are being used by the university to combat the high rates of sexual assault present in final clubs, reduce the issue to

its most basic level. The idea that eliminating single gender social organizations will make a serious impact on sexual assault ignores most of the larger social structures and power dynamics at play with regards to incidents of sexual assault. It ignores the significantly higher rates of assault for queer, trans, and gender non-conforming people. It fails to consider race or class as factors that come into play during assaults. And, most importantly, it assumes that making a space co-ed without engaging in serious educational efforts and preventative measures is “doing enough” to prevent assault.

That said, as a person who believes that final clubs have the ability to cause very serious harm to a very large portion of the campus population, I am of the mindset that we will take what we can get. Though the sanctions are not a perfect system and don't call for an ideal solution, they are a step in the right direction. I believe that opening a much more serious and critical dialogue about the ways in which the clubs perpetuate power, privilege, and harm is necessary in order to truly combat the issues facing our campus, but sanctioning the clubs is a step in the right direction.

Megan Sims (megansims@college.harvard.edu) is waiting to see what will happen next.

'Twas the **NIGHTMARE** Before Election Day...

By EMILY HALL

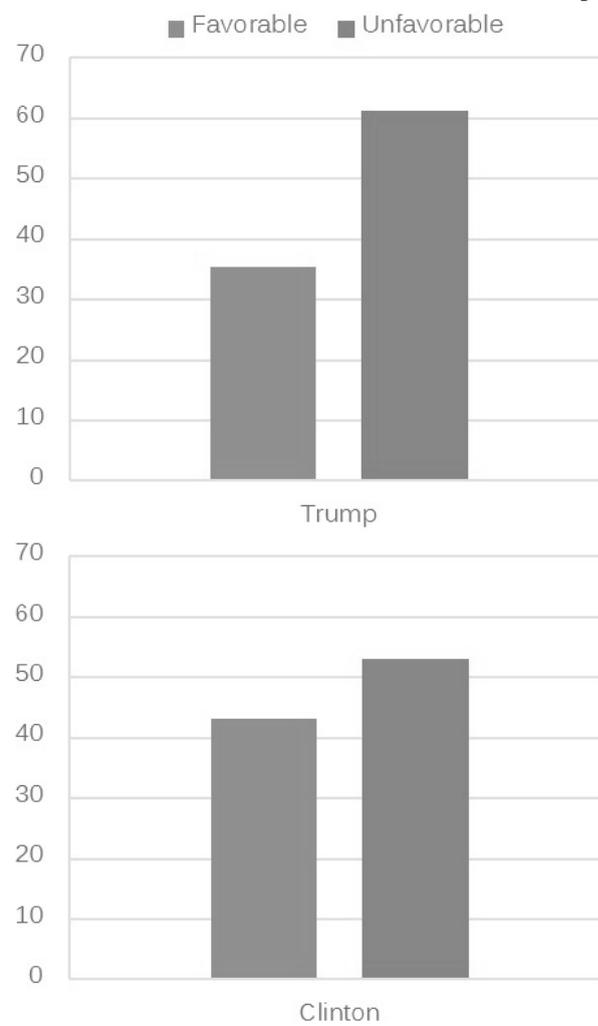
but she was excited to instill the importance of civic duty in our young, developing minds. Every year, she told us that voting is the most important thing we can do as women—she recalled her grandmother, who began her life unable to vote because of her gender, and reminded us that people fought for our democracy and people fought for women's suffrage in particular. My mother taught me that the best way to honor those who fought for our rights is to exercise them—so I went with her each year, and I registered to vote on the day after my eighteenth birthday.

In April, I wrote a piece titled, “The Devolution of 2016, and why we all need to take a breather.” I cited our tradition of peaceful transition of power as the reason that “it's all going to be okay.” Sadly, we have come to a point where a major-party candidate is threatening that tradition, claiming that American elections are capable of being rigged. It seems that the nation's devolution into negativity has not stopped—instead, the unlikable candidates that plague this election have perpetuated it.

Years after my time in the voting booth with my mother, I watched her cry over her vote. After the second presidential debate, she was so disheartened with all of the candidates listed on the ballot that she doubted whether she could vote in this election. For the first time since she turned eighteen, she is facing the dilemma of whether she can in good conscience vote for one of the candidates with whom we are presented.

It seems that this is not uncommon. Gallup reported earlier this fall that only sixty-nine percent of American adults reported that they were “definitely” planning to vote in the presidential election; this is the lowest of all years Gallup has measured it (they began in 2000). While this is disheartening, it shouldn't be surprising. According to RealClearPolitics, more than 61 percent of Americans view Donald Trump unfavorably, and more than 53 percent

2016 Candidate Favorability



Data by Gallup Analytics. Graphics by Emily Hall and Audrey Effenberger.

One of my good friends told me last week that she wasn't planning to vote. “I'm too lazy, it isn't worth it,” she said. This shook me in a way that I have not experienced in a long time.

For as long as I can remember, my mother has taken my sister and me along to the polls on Election Day each year. We were excited to help push the buttons and to get the “I Voted” stickers,

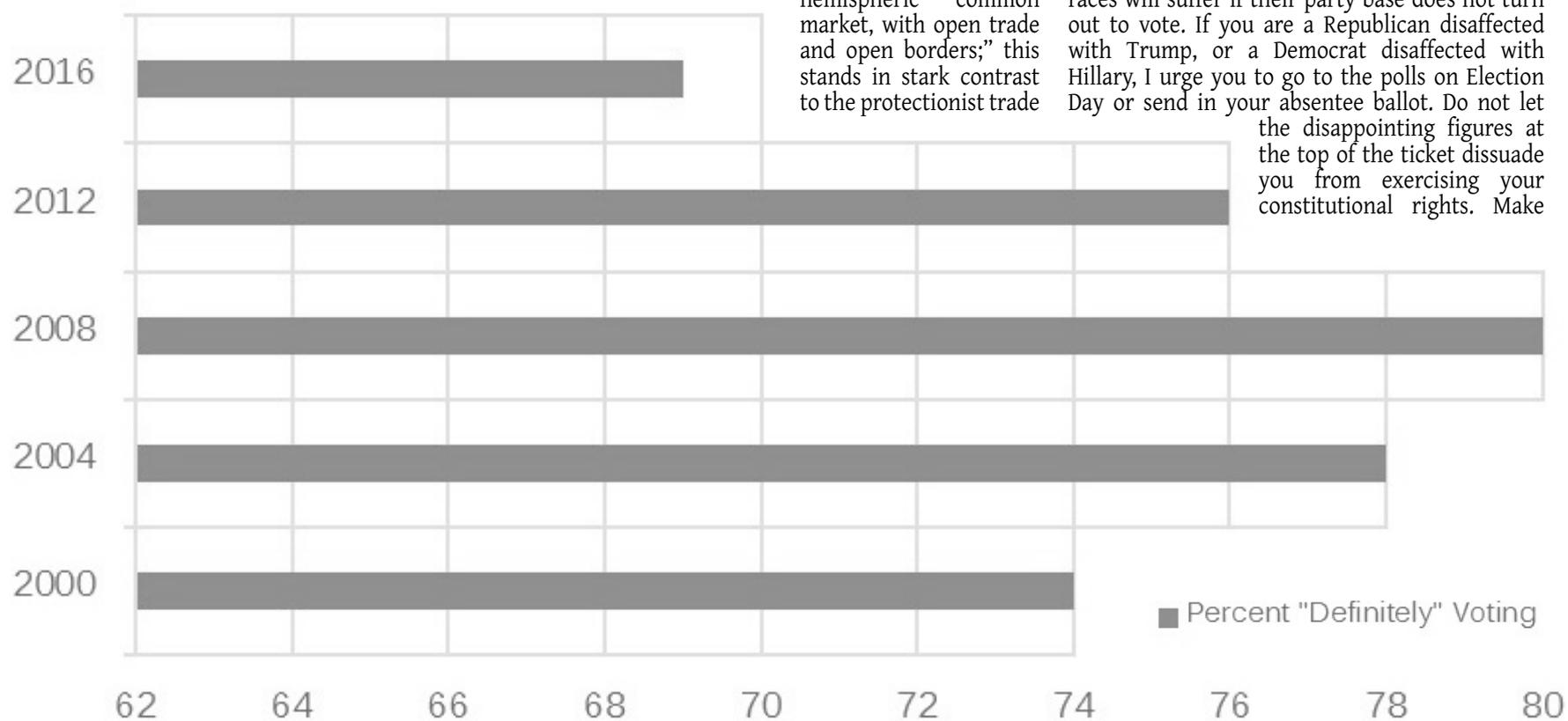
...and all through the House, the down-ballot candidates were about to be trounced.

INDY FORUM

view Hillary Clinton unfavorably. America is very unhappy with the results of this year's primary elections, which has encouraged the rise of third-party candidates Gary Johnson (a Libertarian), Jill Stein (of the Green Party), and Evan McMullin (a constitutional conservative who is leading the polls in his home state of Utah), although none of them claim that it would be possible for them to win the presidency in the Electoral College.

These statistics are discouraging enough

Voting Patterns 2000-2016



Data by RealClearPolitics. Graphic by Emily Hall.

without considering the other dangers these candidates have imposed on the nation. This election is in many ways unprecedented—our first female major-party nominee is heading the Democratic ticket, something many have looked forward to, and the Republican nominee is perhaps the first candidate who can truly claim that he has never intended to be a career politician, an ideal that many have advocated for years as well.

Rather than these “firsts,” or the policy preferences of the candidates, dominating the news cycle, the character defects, poor decisions, and uncovered secrets of the candidates have taken over instead.

Earlier in October, tapes were released of Donald

Trump bragging about accosting women sexually. When Republicans denounced him in the wake of this new information, Trump defiantly responded, calling these GOP leaders “self-righteous hypocrites” and attacking Senator John McCain and Speaker Paul Ryan on Twitter. This is not the response of an individual with the temperament and self-awareness to lead our nation.

Shortly thereafter, WikiLeaks released thousands of emails that were circulated among Hillary Clinton’s campaign team, in which a number of inconsistencies is revealed. The leak references Hillary saying that her “dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders;” this stands in stark contrast to the protectionist trade

Later statements on the campaign trail reported that he will accept the election’s results if he wins. This unwillingness to concede in the event of electoral loss sets a dangerous precedent that could undermine this country’s 300 year-old tradition of a peaceful transition of power.

The problem with the way these candidates have dampened enthusiasm for American elections is that the largest turnout tends to occur in presidential election years. These are the years when enthusiasm is supposed to run highest. However, it is the down-ballot candidates—the governors, town clerks, the Congress—whose races will suffer if their party base does not turn out to vote. If you are a Republican disaffected with Trump, or a Democrat disaffected with Hillary, I urge you to go to the polls on Election Day or send in your absentee ballot. Do not let the disappointing figures at the top of the ticket dissuade you from exercising your constitutional rights. Make

policy she has advocated during this campaign. The emails also discuss women working for the Clinton Foundation being paid less, on average, than their male counterparts—despite the gender pay gap being one of the tenets of Clinton’s campaign. For a candidate beset with the public’s concerns about secrecy and dishonesty, these emails only fuel many Americans’ belief that she is a corrupt politician and cannot be trusted to run the country.

Finally, Donald Trump has continually claimed that the American electoral system is rigged against him. When asked about these claims in the final debate last week, the nominee declared, “I’ll tell you at the time, I’ll keep you in suspense.”

your voice heard at all the levels you can, whether that means checking the box of a candidate you do not wholly agree with or writing in someone else—or leaving the presidential field blank entirely. But please, do vote. Do participate in the incredible institution that is the American democratic system. Do everything in your power to encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to vote as well. After all, the best way you can honor those who fought for our rights is to exercise them.

Emily Hall (emilyhall@college.harvard.edu) looks forward to waking up on November 9th.

Debate Reveals Divide

HPU hosts Sanctions Debate.

By CAROLINE CRONIN

Gestapo, Nazis, White Supremacists.....terms all used by Harvard undergrads when discussing the Administration's recent sanctions on Single-Gender Social Organizations. At least, these were terms put forth by the debaters of The Harvard Political Union's Monday evening event. The event, publicized as a "Large-Forum debate on Harvard's Sanctions on Unrecognized Single-Gender Organizations" took place in Harvard Hall 104 at 8:00pm. The resolution being debated was: "The sanctions placed on single-sex organizations by Harvard University are justified actions and will yield overall positive results." Arguing in the affirmative were Tom Osborn '20 and Amelia Goldberg '19. Arguing in the negative were Alexandra Tartaglia '17 and Madeleine Lapuerta '20.

The Harvard Political Union (HPU) has a long history of celebrating the discipline of structured debate. Members attend and take part in debates for the sole sake of argument and not necessarily for a specific partisanship. However, the Administration's sanctions announcement has produced a flurry of protests and criticisms from both sides. The resulting division of strong sentiments is felt across campus and certainly within the HPU debate Monday evening.

The sanctions announced by the College through Dean Rakesh Khurana and President Drew Faust late last spring were strategically placed at the end of term when students were taking exams and preparing for departure. The announcement stated that for students matriculating next fall and after, "any such students who become members of unrecognized single-gender social organizations will not be eligible to hold leadership positions in recognized student organizations or athletic teams." Both Dean Khurana and President Faust emphasized that change is difficult, but insisted that this is one they believe should be forced upon their students.

After the announcement, a series of protests broke out against the policy. Women's groups on campus joined together to protect their safe spaces and called, "Hear Her Harvard!" Alumni of the college and of single-gender organizations criticized the policy and defended their organizations. This fall, some groups have attempted to appease the Administration by opening up the punch process to more students, some even of the opposite gender. More unexpected emails from Khurana this semester have announced the establishment of an Implementation Committee that will decide the process for enforcing the sanctions and spearhead the execution of whatever that process may

be. According to the Office of Student Life's website page explaining this committee, the administration has coupled the sanctions policy with, "increases in support for alternative social spaces, budget increases for social programming in the College, and significant investment to update Harvard's undergraduate Houses, traditionally a center for the student experience." Students so far have been aware of a new OSL email in their inbox listing the OSL recognized social activities of that week, but if this so-called "increased support" has been felt more deeply than that, only time will tell.

Finally, Dean Khurana held a town hall meeting last week in the CGIS building on October 13th. The Implementation Committee and Dean Khurana met to field questions on the policy and attempt to explain the intentions behind it. The committee has also opened up a comment box in regards to the policy - which they announced with the invitation to the town hall. Though the recent and historic HUDS strike may have outshined the town hall in terms of campus buzz, student to whom the issue is important flocked to CGIS to express their concerns.

In light of all these discussions moderated by the University, it is important for the students to engage in discourse as well. Therefore, HPU asked for students to volunteer to take part in the debate and opened it up to any undergraduates.

At the Monday evening event, after HPU Moderator Tyler Jenkins '19 outlined the structure of the debate (opening arguments, pre-viewed questions, crossfire, audience questions, closing arguments), Tartaglia and Lapuerta won the coin toss to begin. The arguments offered from their side focused on the hypocrisy of paternalism, the gross contradictions to the College's charter and mission, and the dangerous "blanket solution" to sexual assault that the College is attempting to provide rather than creating more specific, structured ways to break down the problem of sexual assault. Goldberg and Osborn, argued in the affirmative (in support of the sanctions). Their arguments were that single-gender organizations perpetuate elite culture and power dynamics, "contribute to rape culture," and "institutionalized heterosexuality."

In the back and forth answering of questions, both sides seemed to narrow in on the issue of gendered safe spaces. For the negative, this meant that the enforcement of the sanctions would deteriorate the empowering safe spaces women have created for themselves on this campus through single-gender organizations. Furthermore, the plea was made for more education surrounding sexual consent and safety while blaming and punishing individual offenders

more efficiently than the current system allows. For the affirmative, this meant that the power dynamic created by the single-gender organizations is more damaging and must be broken down. Emotional appeal was put to work in Osborn's anecdote of a "female friend," who was "almost crying," when describing the harms she has suffered through the dynamic.

The discussion of freedom of association and private versus public authority revealed some interesting points. Osborn alluded to the "freedoms" touted by white supremacists and even Nazis. He described the, "contractual nature between Harvard as a private school and its relationships with students," as having priority over freedom of association arguments. Tartaglia, in response, quoted the school's charter and complete separation from unrecognized clubs. Therefore, the civil liberties of individuals would be greatly threatened and infringed upon by the enforcement of such sanctions.

When time came for the audience to ask their own questions, the entire room seemed more energized. This was a time for surprises, criticisms, and the understanding of a whole lecture hall of students' attitudes towards the sanctions. Jacob Link '19 asked, "What mechanisms of enforcement does the Affirmative suggest to achieve what they hope will be achieved by the sanctions?" Goldberg's answer was to trust in the procedures of the University while whispers of "spy network?" bounced around the audience and Tartaglia called, "like the Gestapo?!"

In the closing statements of both sides, the arguments they had made were reiterated. There was one point that both the Affirmative and Negative agreed on: that Harvard needs to take a stand against discrimination and sexual assault.

After the debate, Lapuerta described her reasons for entering this discussion as a commitment to ensuring that it is not ignored. She stated, "People will state whether or not they support the decision, but not necessarily provide any reasoning why. I think further discussion is disregarded because people are unaware of the greater impact the sanction will have, both on students' social lives as well as on the climate of sexual assault on campus. It might seem like a simple regulation, but it is much more monumental to our community than is perceived." Furthermore, Lapuerta referenced her desire to learn more about the policy and its implementation.

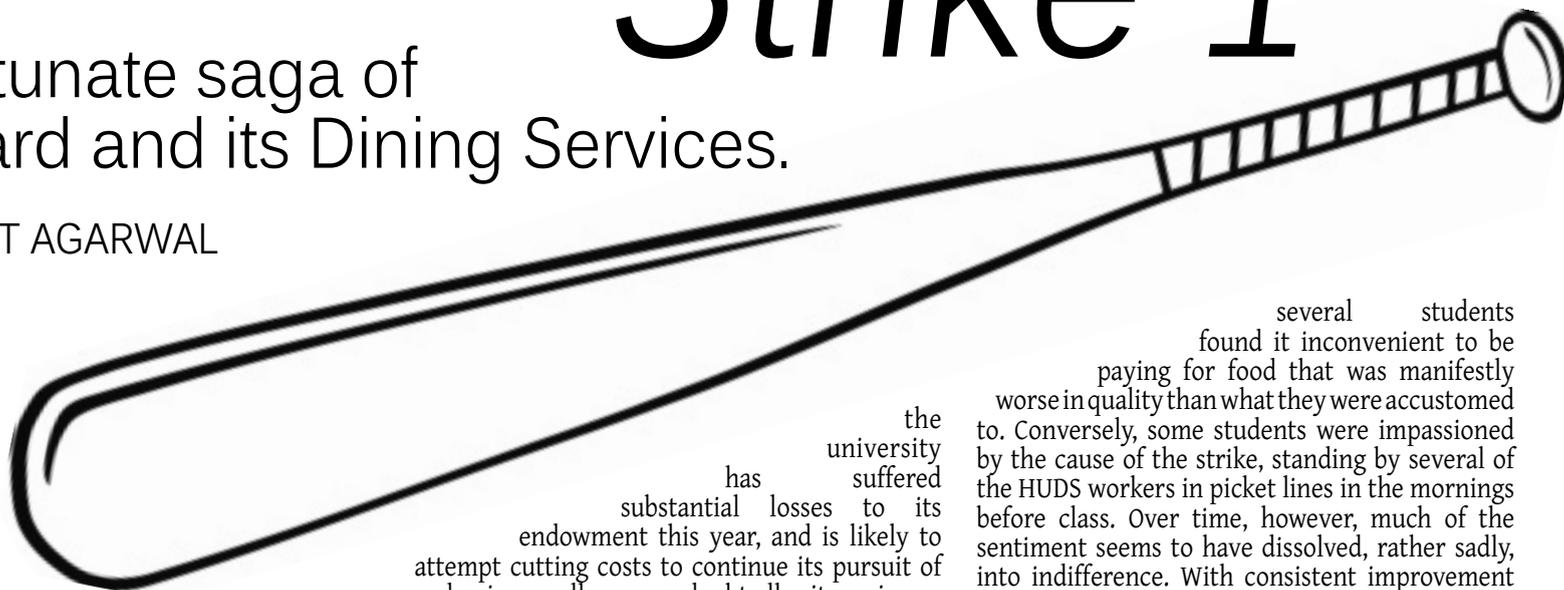
Such a sentiment is another point of agreement on campus: that students want to know more about this policy and have more of a voice in framing it. This is perhaps why a petition is being circulated to put the sanctions issue on a UC referendum! Such actions ensure that the single-gender organization debate will stay at the forefront of campus discourse in the immediate future.

Caroline Cronin (ccronin01@college.harvard.edu) encourages students to engage with both their administrators and their peers to discover more about this campus issue and others facing us.

Strike 1

The unfortunate saga of Harvard and its Dining Services.

By PULKIT AGARWAL



It may appear that the strike by Harvard's dining services employees has subdued in the last week. Appearances can indeed be misleading.

As the university has tried to ensure that meals in the dining halls grow in quality as the strike wears on—understandably so, given the the initial displacement in the supply-chain—it has given some students the false impression that the impact of the strike on their lives has gotten progressively minimal. In fact, the last couple of days have seen the most substantial developments in negotiations between the leaders of UNITE HERE Local 26, and the Harvard administration.

Nearly 5 days after the Dean of Administration and Finance, Sheila C. Thimba, wrote in an email to the college that “hopeful signs of progress were visible” at the negotiations, the Vice-President of the university, Katie Lapp, wrote to the college that a “tentative agreement” had been reached for Local 26 to review.

The university has attempted to hold firm on its position of guaranteeing the dining services employees a better deal than they have had until now. They claim that the union's chief concerns, which have been changes in the dining workers' wages and health insurance plans, have been difficult for the university to completely accede to in a time of “constrained resources.” Many around campus have found this to be an unacceptable defense, given the seemingly exorbitant resources that the university commands.

However, such a simplistic assessment of the situation may be a distraction from the fact that

the university has suffered substantial losses to its endowment this year, and is likely to attempt cutting costs to continue its pursuit of academic excellence—undoubtedly its primary prerogative. If it is difficult to assess the precise implications that acceding to the union's demands would have on the university's budget, so too is it to examine the claims that the HUDS workers are being denied any form of “justice”. Skeptics on either side have been cautious of terming this strike as some sort of class warfare, for it simply isn't.

Earlier this month, *The Boston Globe* cautioned against viewing the dining services employees' strike as part of a larger disenchantment with the 1%. While it may seem innocuous to relate the university administration with other employers providing employees with subpar wages across the country, to do so would be utterly incorrect. As per the contract that expired most recently, Harvard pays the average dining hall worker \$22/hour, which is well above the state average of \$10.69 in the food industry. In fact, most employers do not even offer health benefits to workers in this industry, which makes Harvard at best a generous employer given the current market. In fact, to argue that the university is finding itself being unfairly targeted, due to the seemingly awkward public relations battle it is having to fight as a result of the strike, may well be a reasonable understanding of the current state of affairs.

The student opinion, meanwhile, has been difficult to assess. Initially, as the strike began,

several students found it inconvenient to be paying for food that was manifestly worse in quality than what they were accustomed to. Conversely, some students were impassioned by the cause of the strike, standing by several of the HUDS workers in picket lines in the mornings before class. Over time, however, much of the sentiment seems to have dissolved, rather sadly, into indifference. With consistent improvement in the dining services over the course of the strike, and the continual frustration at the negotiations, many have grown to accept the strike as the new normal. Many, though, have noticed a divergence in views over time. Megan Sims'18, who participated in the student sit-in in support of the strike notes that “While increasing portions of the student body have become indifferent and weary of the campus's tense food situation, those of us who have been more involved in actions in support of the strike have only strengthened our resolves.”

For the university and the workers, however, the stakes remain as high as ever. Erring on either side could mean sacrificing high wages for another five years, or a public relations blunder that could occupy an unfortunate page in the university's history. Over the next few days, as the negotiations—hopefully—draw to a close, we will continue to monitor the situation and try and evaluate the proposals on either side. Until then, we, like all of you, continue to hope that better sense prevails.

Pulkit Agarwal (pulkitagarwal@college.harvard.edu) just wants to be able to eat in the Lowell Dining Hall again!



While the World Series matchup between the Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians is only one game old, it feels decades in the making. The two ballclubs hold the two longest championship droughts in baseball, as the Tribe's last banner came in 1948, and the Northsiders last won it all in 1908. With Halloween just around the corner, and one team's run of futility guaranteed to end this fall, the Independent investigates each team's alleged curses, that we might better know the source of the fan bases' suffering.

Chicago Cubs: Curse of the Billy Goat

It has been 108 years since the Cubs last won the World Series. To put that in perspective, the modern zipper was still five years from invention when the Cubs were last champions of the world. This is significantly worse than the Indians' struggle. Even the difference between the time the Indians and Cubs have waited for a championship - 40 years - is longer than all but five other teams' droughts.

The last time the Cubs so much as appeared in a series was 1945, and it was in game four of that matchup against the Detroit Tigers that their curse began. Billy Sianis - Greek immigrant extraordinaire and owner of the Billy Goat Tavern - had purchased two tickets for the ballgame. Yet instead of bringing a friend, a lover, or any kin, he selected his pet goat to accompany him. As rain began to fall, Billy and his billy were escorted out of the stadium.

It seemed the potent mix of water and goat hair exuded a pungent odor, and Sianis and his goat were deemed threats to the paying public's welfare. Not one to take this outrageous expulsion lying down, Sianis declared, "Them Cubs, they ain't gonna win no more."

Over the next 71 pennant-less years, Cubs fans endured an incident involving a black cat whilst playing the Mets in 1969; an error in the 1984 National League Championship series, ultimately attributed to spilled Gatorade; and Steve Bartman's infamous effort at playing outfield from the stands in the 2003 NLCS. All contributed to the belief that Wrigley Field's mistreatment of Billy Sianis and his goat continued to haunt the hapless Cubbies.

Cleveland Indians: Curse of Rocky Colavito

The Indians' drought is less lengthy than the Cubs', and their curse is lesser known. The "Curse of Rocky Colavito" traces its origins back to 1960. That year, the Indians traded reigning homerun champion Colavito for reigning batting champ Harvey Kuenn. The trade was incredibly unpopular among Cleveland fans, and led to the jinx's genesis. By then, the idea of a curse being invoked by a player's trade was hardly novel. The Curse of the Bambino - the mother of all baseball curses - had been similarly wrought by the Red Sox's trading of Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1919. New York proceeded to win 26 world titles in the time it took Boston to finally break the curse in the fall of 2004.

Since the Colavito trade, the Tribe have twice come close to glory, winning the American League pennant in 1995 and 1997 before season-ending heartbreaks. Though the curse is attributed to Colavito himself, he has declared on numerous occasions that the event never occurred, and that he never placed said jinx.

In lieu of more rational explanations, the Independent firmly believes in the potency of curses. However, with both long-suffering franchises now pitted against each other, a crossroads has been reckoned. Two curses will step onto the baseball diamond, but only one will depart this lonely vale.

Devon Higham (devonhigham@college.harvard.edu) is excited to see how these curses and others unfold this weekend!



Spooky Sports

As Halloween and the World Series overlap, curses unfold.

By **DEVON HIGHAM**

captured and shot



Forget Halloween – Harvard is spooky all year round.

By FRANCESCA CORNERO

captured and shot



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