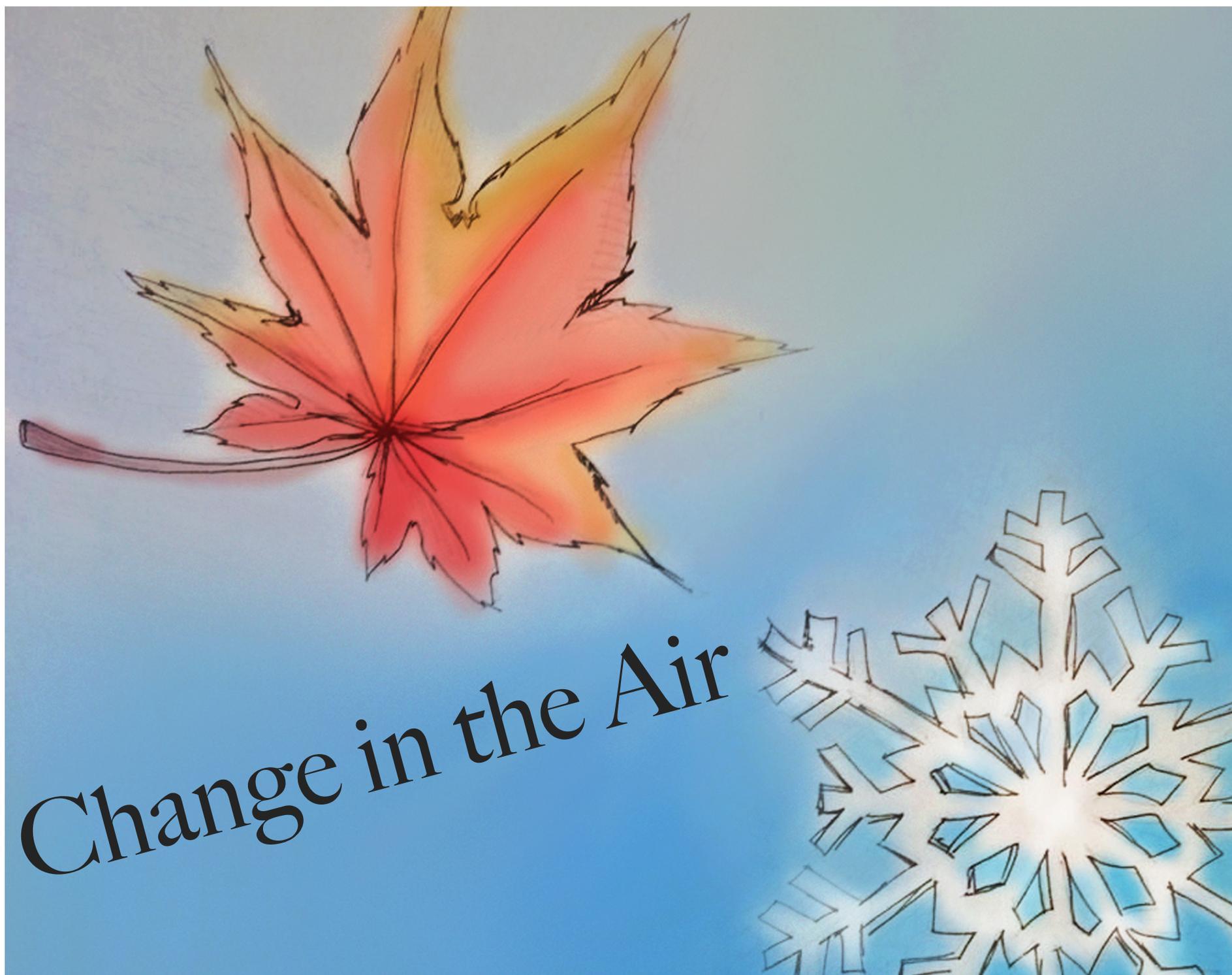


THE HARVARD
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Change in the Air

Inside: New Cups, Referenda, and Inspiring People

11.05.2015

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The Indy feels that a big change is coming.

Cover design by Anna Papp

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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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Red (Starbucks) Cup

Starbucks heralds in the holiday season.

By RITCHEY HOWE

Earlier today I walked into Starbucks and ordered my daily afternoon caffeine fix. After paying, I waited by the bar while listening to the soft jazz and admiring the black and white photographs on the wall. The barista handed me my drink, and I looked down to reach for my steaming drink to see that it was in a red cup. A red cup? It's November, not Christmas time. The woman clearly observed my shock and quickly explained, "Yes, we now start giving out red cups in November." The cup speaks for itself. Winter is coming.

Starbucks has created their signature red cups since 1997, each year with a slight twist. This year's cup has a soft ombre effect; unlike the kitschy designs from years past, which have featured everything from snowflakes to reindeer. In a company statement earlier this year, Jeffrey Fields, the vice president of design, said "Starbucks has become a place of sanctuary during the holidays. We're embracing the simplicity and quietness of it." To promote these new cups, #redcup seems to be trending on Instagram lately. I have to say though, these pictures aren't too riveting—how interesting can you make a picture on a red Starbucks cup?

Despite my fondness for Christmas and admiration for the Starbucks tradition of the red cup, I have to say, I was a bit unnerved to see this symbol of the holidays pop up so early. While Starbucks has yet to start playing Christmas songs in their stores, does it not feel a bit premature to bringing out my coffee's winter wardrobe? I mean, my own winter coat is still in storage!

However, this early anticipation of Christmas is hardly unique; in fact, it is only one example of a larger trend of large corporations capitalizing on commercial holidays. Valentine's Day was essentially created by Hallmark. Ricky's NYC and the Garment District in Kendall Square must double their revenue around Halloween. Cadbury lives for Easter. Sometimes it seems the whole year can be divided up by holiday advertising: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Valentines Day, Easter, and "Summer Vacation." Of course we enjoy the celebrations and vacation times, but how much are these holidays driven by corporate initiatives?

Take Halloween, a communal, secular holiday with possible Celtic origins. This year, CNN estimated that \$6.9 Billion was spent on Halloween candy in the United States. They also estimated that Americans would spend an average of \$74.34 on candy, costumes, and decorations. Doesn't that seem a bit much for a holiday without any true spiritual or cultural connotation? I can just picture the CEO of Hershey's laughing out loud at our ridiculous spending driven by this commercially constructed holiday.

Perhaps all of these material associations with holidays are distracting us from their main purpose: to bring people together, to foster enjoyment, relaxation, and community. When I walked out of Starbucks with my red cup, instead of feeling excited about Christmas, I felt its material burden. The commercial pressure advertising places to anticipate and celebrate events with tangible items takes away from our

ability to appreciate the moment when it comes. So this year, I'm boycotting the red cup and staying home to brew my own coffee instead. Christmas isn't coming for a while now, and this year, it's all about the love, baby.

Ritchey Howe '17 (ritcheyhowe@college.harvard.edu) refuses to believe it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Illustration courtesy of Anna Papp



Checkboxes for Change

The UC has four referenda for debate this fall.

By SHAQUILLA HARRIGAN

Autumn, especially the month of November, is often a period of transitions, changes, and adjustments. Not only are we adjusting to the drop in temperature, change in the time sunset takes place, and adapting to the naked trees and their yellow and orange vestiges, but we are tasked with making decisions that can potentially change life as we know it. November means elections season. While students do not always take the Undergraduate Council's referenda process seriously, the four questions that will potentially be included on the ballot later this month could have significant impact on our lives as Harvard students. Each of the four proposed questions must obtain 670 undergraduate signatures in order to be included on the UC presidential ballot later this month.

As my fellow students scroll through their inboxes and decide which, if any, of the referenda will garner their support, I'd like to provide my own thoughts on what each of these referenda could mean for the student body. This year, the topics the referenda will tackle include the administration's handling of final clubs, breakfast meetings, student involvement in Harvard's sexual assault policy-making, and the conversion of Pusey into a student social space.

Let's start off easy, and talk about the anti-breakfast meeting proposal from Colin Diersing '16 and Kim Soffen '16. Officially, the question posed is, "Should Harvard undergraduates stop having breakfast meetings?" While in her pub email to students Soffen tries to get peers to consider how much better sleeping in is, she does provide links to the "more serious" referenda

attempting to get signatures. Though I personally am not a morning person, I don't think that the student body as a whole needs to endorse the merits of morning meetings. Sometimes getting things done over a bowl of oatmeal is necessary. Besides, I am hopeful that students are able to schedule meetings that fit within their schedules without the need for a UC vote.

The next 'softball' item that will automatically be included on the UC ballot is whether Harvard should make Pusey Library into a freshman social space. This question does not require student signatures because two-thirds of UC members have already endorsed the referendum, however, students will need to vote yes, no, or abstain from the question. In light of increased advocacy for more inclusive social spaces that can accommodate a variety of student needs, I find that this proposal is a step in the right direction. Besides the individual common rooms within freshman dorms or Annenberg, there isn't another space in which first-year students can commiserate their freshman experiences.

I think that any space transformation of Pusey should have the ability to transition from study lounge to party space. I also think that first-year students should be able to reserve the space for their own private events from time to time because I believe that the college's approach to creating social spaces doesn't give students enough agency or control over space. The key to making a more inclusive campus is to create spaces that are not only communal, but that can allow students to have a sense of ownership or pride. Inclusive social spaces should work to disaggregate the amount of

social space capital a particular group has.

Perhaps the referendum that is getting the most attention is senior Jordan Weiers's, "Should a provision be added to the Harvard College Student Handbook making enrollment at the College contingent upon abstaining from membership and participation in traditionally male final clubs?" This question is different than the question originally posed in order to fall into compliance with UC rules regarding referendum petitions. In all honesty, I did sign the original petition, because I do think our student body should have a greater stake in how the administration handles final clubs. However, I am a little jarred by this rephrasing of the question. While I will vote in favor of having the question included on the ballot, I personally do not think the administration should change the Harvard College Student Handbook to make being in a final club a violation of one's enrollment at Harvard.

While other peer private institutions like Amherst have made similar decisions "to prohibit student participation in fraternities and societies and fraternity-like and sorority-like organizations, either on or off campus," I do not think that is the right move for Harvard. I wholeheartedly agree that there are many issues with final clubs, but I do think that the administration is – to a certain extent – using final clubs as a scapegoat for larger problems within our community. Though I understand that final clubs, in particular male final clubs, have more social capital at their dispense and have been a "larger threat to the Harvard community", I don't think it is necessarily fair to target just final clubs when there are other unrecognized student groups like fraternities and sororities to which students belong.

There are also issues with student rights regarding the autonomy to choose where and how to associate that also need to be addressed.

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Even so, there does need to be a larger conversation with how final clubs are handled by the Harvard administration. Personally, I do not think the pressure for clubs to go co-ed will eliminate all of the issues I believe exist with the clubs, and I believe that students, club members and non-club members alike, should be a part of a larger conversation on how to disaggregate the social capital of clubs and diversify the ‘types’ of people in clubs. I am hoping that this referendum will be the catalyst to those discussions.

The final referendum that is

attempting to get 670 signatures is senior Julia Geiger’s “Should Harvard be required to open the meetings of current task forces reviewing sexual violence policy to interested students?” Geiger is submitting the question on behalf of Our Harvard Can Do Better, Harvard’s student activist group working to better Harvard’s sexual assault policies and advocate for a more supportive culture for victims. I sincerely hope that this question receives all 670 signatures needed, and that once it is on the ballot, students vote in favor of it. Harvard has a long-standing tradition of not including students or getting student approval

the most intimate of ways, students have the right to be on these task force committees. In addition, Harvard owes students this transparency after having such damning results from the sexual climate survey. By allowing students to sit on these task force meetings, students are better able to advocate on behalf of and protect our community.

While it would be nice if everyone agreed with my opinions regarding these referenda, I do hope that my musings (or rants) will add more thoughtful discussion on the question of to sign or not to sign as the Monday, November 9 deadline approaches.

Shaquilla Harrigan '16 (sharrigan01@college.harvard.edu) wants to start a referendum requiring all Harvard students to read the Harvard Independent. Heck, maybe even a referendum that makes the Harvard Independent the official paper of the University.

after-the-fact on many policies and practices that directly impact students.

Considering that these policies affect students in

Talking Back

Our readers are joining the conversation.

By THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT

The Harvard Independent writes for its readers, and that is why this week we are featuring the comments and Facebook posts from our readers. Our stories are meant to invoke critical thinking and share a new perspective. We want our readers to be able to engage in the conversations we start.

Harvard Ignored Sexual Assault Thirty Years Ago (9/17/15)

By Eloise Lynton

Comment, by Disqus_y0iSEoD950:

“Excellent piece. Harvard has done such a poor job of responding to the sexual assault epidemic on campus. This is true across the board. There is no reason to believe that incidents have declined. The “outreach” to victims of assault remains incoherent. The Harvard websites that purport to deal with the problem are all over the place with links to dead ends in some cases and in other cases present messages that have nothing to do with sexual assault. (Look at the home page for the Office for Sexual and Gender-based Dispute Resolution (ODR), which is one of the places to which victims of sexual assault are directed. This is the big message ODR wants you to know: “The first thing to recognize is that, while Harvard is made up of multiple Schools, we are one community at the end of the day.” It is past the time for Harvard to make some real changes.”



The Invisible Iranians. Aditya Agrawal wishes the world would pay more attention to Iran’s human rights record.

Via The Harvard Independent



99 Likes 2 Comments 37 Shares

Like Comment Share

One Equal Temper of Heroic Hearts

#BLM founder Alicia Garza receives Robert Coles “Call of Service Award”

By CAROLINE C. CRONIN



As I walked through Tercentenary Theater, I clutched my notebook and copy of *Harvard Diary* tightly – it was almost Halloween. The glowing lights of Memorial Church did seem rather ominous in an otherwise dark and empty yard. It was too late for classes but too early for students to be out and about on a Friday night. Before I drew closer to the wide steps of the Church, I realized my mistake – it was not empty at all. Three lines of people stood waiting to enter the doors to hear what Alicia Garza had to say. That evening she would be receiving the Robert Coles “Call of Service” Award. The Coles Award is

certainly prestigious, if for no other reason than that Harvard’s famous Dr. Robert Coles is known to set the bar very high to encourage others to follow his example. Dr. Coles is a “former PBHA volunteer, civil rights worker, child psychologist, Harvard professor and Pulitzer Prize winner” but he means more to some people than those words can encapsulate. My own father took Dr. Coles’s class and gave me his book – *Harvard Diary* – as a gift. Though it is not one of his more academic works, it contains a collection of reflective essays he wrote in Cambridge that has influenced my own time here.

Garza’s work has become equally influential in the turmoil of recent events surrounding police brutality. She holds the position of Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance and has been described as an “organizer, writer, and freedom dreamer.” She has received numerous other awards and commendations for her work. Her writing has been featured in multiple notable publications. Garza is perhaps best known for her co-founding of the #BlackLivesMatter network to combat anti-black racism in 2013. However, I find that, as with most truly great leaders, the people who love her most do not describe her by her titles, but by her unassuming air and her deep passion for the cause.

And so, I found my seat, sat and took a moment to look around me. Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) volunteers and organizers ushered the audience in to those rows of high-backed pews. The sheer

size of the audience surprised me. My surprise grew as I took in the diversity of the audience. Frankly, I had expected the majority to be Harvard College students but I was wrong. Adults of every age crowded the pews and even high school students dotted the aisles as they tried to find their friends. Multiple media groups walked around with cameras and my attention was drawn to an elderly man sitting in front of me. He was having his picture taken, with his family (I presumed). Realizing it must be Dr. Coles I quickly flipped to the back cover of my book. Though the picture was of a much younger man, the smile was the same. I wondered how long it would be before the first speaker began and how long it would take me to work up the courage to go and say hello to an idol of mine. When I finally managed to squeeze in a “Hi I’m Caroline and I love your book,” he responded with humble appreciation and jokingly submitted, “I hope I didn’t bore you!” After thanking him profusely and ineffectively I returned to my seat and felt the buzzing energy that connected every person present.

The first to quiet the crowd was PBHA president Jing Qiu’16. She and Maria Dominguez Gray, Class of 1955 Executive Director of PBHA, both welcomed everyone to what was to be a very special evening. Then Daunasia Yancey – Organizer of Black Lives Matter, Cambridge – introduced Alicia Garza, calling her “awesome” among other things. Our very own Dean of Harvard College Rakesh Khurana stepped forward

One Equal Temper of Heroic Hearts

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By CAROLINE C. CRONIN

next. In his characteristic manner of talking to the crowd as if he were talking to an old friend, he quoted the mission of Harvard College and reminded us all of the appropriate setting for this event – beneath the walls that memorialized soldiers of the past. With that he turned, and to the sound of great applause, handed the award to Alicia Garza.

The time had come Garza herself to speak. She walked up the stairs of the innately carved wooden rostrum and silence fell. She wore a dark sweater and jeans and tossed her hair over her shoulder before

beginning. Garza spoke softly and slowly but with a poetic rhythm that filled the hallowed hall. She thanked those people who are working towards identifying and creating “the world we want to live in.” Those are the people that have not forgotten what the news stations have stopped reporting. She brought a tear to every eye in the audience as she listed the names of people who have “become ancestors too soon.” Garza then described the birth of the #BlackLivesMatter network as her attempt to find words in answer to the events of 2013. Garza eloquently addressed criticisms of the campaign and her work. To those who claimed #BLM meant to restructure the hierarchy of society she responded, “When black people are free, truly free, everyone has the opportunity to be free.” After such sobering words, Garza ended with an optimistic view on how students can answer the call to service as Harvard graduates. She knows, *tho’ much is taken, much abides*. Her encouragement focused on creating a



“regenerative” society and new ways of being. A previous description of her proved accurate; those around her were filled with awe.

Never hurried or impatient, Garza made her avowal loud and clear to every member of that audience, regardless of differences in background or belief. I realized as we stood in ovation that she possessed the rare ability to speak to people and make them listen. In a society where much of what we say is simply self-serving noise, Garza breaks the mold to answer the call.

Students stood in line to ask Garza for her valued advice and then we exited the building to the stirring voices of the Kuumba Singers. Leaving the nave of the church, I found the yard not as dark as I had left it. Halloweekend had begun and the traditional jaunts of the times

danced before me. On my walk back to the river, I reflected, as I know any who was present at the ceremony would be, on what Harvard has given us; access to heroes such as Dr. Coles and Alicia Garza who change the course of history only by doing what they love. Their example inspires those *made weak by time and fate, but strong in will, to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield*.

Caroline C. Cronin '18 (ccronin01@college.harvard.edu) continues to be inspired by Robert Coles, Alicia Garza, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and others who drink life to its lees.

Photos Courtesy of Jay Coney and PBHA.

The Business of Comedy

Nathan Fielder ups the ante in his new show.

By DEVON HIGHAM

For the uninitiated, Nathan For You is a show on Comedy Central in which Nathan Fielder, the show's star, attempts to help small businesses with bizarre business strategies and ideas. These concepts range from one episode where a Burger Shack guaranteed that its burger would be "the best the customer had ever eaten or money back," to the opening up of a "Dumb Starbucks," which sold everything Starbucks sells, but with the word "dumb" in front of it. Nathan's ideas have had varying degrees of success and insanity built into them. Early in the first episode of the third season, however, it became apparent that Nathan was taking this season to another level.

The show kicked off with Nathan attempting to help an electronics store owner compete against the Best Buy that had been taking all of his business by turning Best Buy's price match policy against it. The plan was to sell TVs at the electronics store for next to nothing, and then force Best Buy to match that price through that guarantee. Then, the owner would buy up Best Buy's entire inventory and sell the TVs at whatever price he desired without competition. However, Nathan had to be sure to no one would take advantage of the electronics store prices in the process, and it was in this plan to resist any customer inquisition that the madness of Nathan became apparent. After instituting a black tie dress code for the store, creating a fake wall behind which to put the TVs, and making the door for that wall two feet tall, Nathan, for his last line of defense, put an alligator between the customer and the TVs.

It seems that this season, rather than simply trying to help these businesses with "out of the box" ideas, Nathan has resorted to seeing how much he can get away with. He wants to see how ridiculous of an idea he can give to the business owner without it being met with laughter. This trend from the helpful to the absurd has gradually progressed since the first episode. Nathan's plans have increasingly become more intricate and have required more interference on his part to achieve success. For example, his first ever idea was for a frozen yogurt shop to sell a poo-flavored yogurt in order to attract attention. In this instance, the yogurt shop only needed to either accept or reject the idea and see if it would work. Contrast that with this more absurd idea in a later episode when Nathan tries to trick customers into buying from a gift shop by telling them its part of a movie. He then actually turns store footage into a movie when he finds out that his plan was completely illegal. To top it off, he then creates his own awards show and gives his movie top prize to prove that it was a legitimate film. Something like that can only be done once, and as soon as Nathan leaves, the business is no better shape than when he first rolled into town.

The absurdity has always been the best part of the show though, and it seems that Nathan has realized that he'll get farther along with his bread and butter. Creating insane scenarios, and taking them as far as he can makes for a better show and ensures that the trajectory of any episode take a path no one would be able to predict. It enables him to reach new

levels of awkward and new heights of ridiculousness (even higher than when he put the mailbox for a mail-in rebate at the top of a mountain). Of any show on television, his might be the one least encapsulated by a synopsis. It's one thing to read about absurdity, but it's a completely different thing to see it unfold, and cringe as the people involved get roped into his mess. Nathan has turned his show into must see TV, and has made it so that we can't help but get roped into his mess, too.

Devon Higham '17 (devonhigham@college.harvard.edu) hopes to actually have time to watch TV again when the semester ends.

The Win That Shouldn't Have Been

How a blown call ensured Harvard's win over Dartmouth.

By PEYTON FINE

By now, you must have heard the narrative of Harvard's win over Dartmouth. In one of the most anticipated games in recent Ivy League memory, two undefeated and ranked teams fought for control of the race for the Ivy League title. They lived up to its billing as a defensive struggle as both teams failed to eclipse 14 points, and it was as close as could be with the Crimson narrowly defeating the Big Green 14-13. Harvard sealed up the iconic victory by blocking a game-winning field goal attempt as time expired. However, as fans and teammates alike rushed the field and mass euphoria ensued, a blatant foul went unnoticed that could have changed this iconic game in favor of Dartmouth.

First, let's set the scene. Harvard went into the fourth quarter trailing Dartmouth 13-0. Harvard was unable to mount a comeback until they scored their first touchdown with less than seven minutes remaining to cut the score to 13-7. With three minutes left, Harvard forced a fumble at midfield, and after a little more than two minutes, Harvard got the ball in the end zone to take the lead 14-13. However, Dartmouth was not simply bowing out. Harvard kicked the ensuing kickoff out of bounds giving the ball to Dartmouth at the 35. Dartmouth moved the ball down to the Harvard 29 in the span of just over 30 seconds to set up the game-winning 46-yard attempt.

Tensions were high as Dartmouth lined up for the attempt. The snap and placement were fine, the kick went up, and then it was blocked. As soon as the kick was blocked, the clock read :00,

and Dartmouth could not score from a blocked kick by rule. Seemingly, it is obvious that the game was over because no time remained and Dartmouth could not score. However, unlike in basketball where the game ends as soon as the clock expires, in football, if the clock expires during the final play of a game, the play is still played to its completion. For a play with a blocked field goal to end, the ball must either go out-of-bounds or be recovered by a player and then that player must be brought down. Neither of these two things occurred before Harvard committed two fouls.

The first thing that Harvard did when the field goal was blocked, but before the play and in turn the game had ended, was rush the field. At this point, Harvard should have been flagged for a personal foul for players running onto the field without interfering with the play. This was not flagged, but this flag actually would not have affected the outcome of the game. It would have been assessed as a dead ball penalty, and a dead ball penalty on the last play of the game still allows the game to end as it normally would.

However, there is still one more penalty that should have been called that would have impacted the final outcome. As you remember from above, a blocked field goal play only ends when the ball ends up out of bounds or is recovered and downed. To end the play and the game in turn, Harvard made sure the ball ended up out-of-bounds. Senior linebacker Eric Medes ran to the ball and intentionally kicked the ball out-of-bounds. In that one simple kick, a foul was committed.

Rule 9, Section 4, Article 4 of the NCAA football rulebook states that "a player shall not kick a loose ball." The penalty is a ten-yard penalty, and the opposing team gets to replay the down. And, unlike the penalty with members of the team running onto the field, the kicking of the ball is a live-ball foul meaning that even though no time was remaining, it is still enforced. Dartmouth, should have received one untimed down from Harvard's 19, which would have led to a 36-yard field goal attempt. Dartmouth's kicker had already made a field goal from 39 earlier in the game.

I am a Harvard fan and student, and I surely would not have wanted to see Dartmouth receive another chance to kick the winning field goal on a simple rule oversight. However, I also don't want to feel as if a win was undeserved or in some way helped on by an external force like poor officiating. No one has brought up this fact even though the live TV broadcast showed the side official standing no more than 10 yards from the aforementioned kick. As much as I want this win to live in its fame, I feel like it will live in infamy as the win that maybe should not have been.

Peyton Fine '17 (peytonfine@college.harvard.edu) wants to celebrate the Dartmouth victory like everyone else, but leaves with a sour taste of what should have been.

Water Polo Swims Along

Harvard runs win streak to eight.

By PEYTON FINE

When Harvard swept its annual West Coast road trip, it should have been a sign that this year's team may have been better than anything Harvard water polo had ever seen. Each year, Harvard spends a week in California, considered the mecca of water polo, competing against the best collegiate water polo has to offer. This year, Harvard went undefeated on its trip for the first time in recent memory and in the process beat three top-20 opponents. After this weekend, the special feeling is getting stronger as the Crimson pushed its win streak and rose to 12th in the country, its highest ranking in program history.

The Crimson started the season 2-6 and in a hole that looked insurmountable. Things just were not clicking. They at times were giving up 20 goals and then following that up by being incapable of scoring 10 themselves. Outside and inside scoring were not

coexisting much less complementing each other. Defensively, the Crimson looked porous enough to drain the entirety of the pool they played in. But then, things started to change. Harvard followed up that poor start with a 15-2 run that is culminating with this current 8-game win streak, and the resurgence has been led by none other than seniors from California.

Ben Zepfel'16, Noah Harrison'16, and Blake Lee'16 have paced the offense like none other. Zepfel, a former All-American, has held down the area directly in front of the net, and Harrison and Lee have perfectly complemented Zepfel's interior presence with an array of outside shots. What in the beginning of the season looked dysfunctional now looks like a Rembrandt. Zepfel, Lee, and Harrison are the three-leading scorers on the team and in the last two division games against Fordham and Iona at least two of the three have netted a hat trick.

This weekend, Harvard defeated three CWPA conference opponents, which guaranteed them the second seed for the CWPA tournament the weekend before Thanksgiving. If the Californians keep playing the way they have and Harvard keeps the magic of beating ranked opponents they found in California two weeks ago, Harvard could have its best season ever in store.

Peyton Fine '17 (peytonfine@college.harvard.edu) is astonished and excited by the turnaround of this year's Harvard water polo. If the resurgence continues, unprecedented accomplishments could be in the future.

The Fan Base

The Indy gives you the WWWWH of Harvard Athletics.

By THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT

Another week, another game. Now that it's November, many of Harvard's teams are in the midseason crunch, while other teams are just beginning their seasons. The Indy is here to highlight which games to watch and which athletes to root for.

Upcoming Matchups

November 6, 2015

- Men's Swimming and Diving versus Bryant @ 6PM
- Women's Tennis Harvard Invitational @ TBA
- Women's Volleyball versus Cornell @ 7PM
- Men's Ice Hockey versus Yale @ 7PM

November 7, 2015

- Men's Basketball versus McGill @ 3:30PM
- Women's Volleyball versus Columbia @ 5:30PM
- Men's Ice Hockey versus Brown @ 7PM

Athletes to Watch

Senior quarterback Scott Hosch has been named to STATS FCS Offensive Player of the Year's Watch List. Hosch joins the rank of twenty-five other offensive players. In his career as starting quarterback, Hosch is 13-0, making him one of the winningest quarterbacks at Harvard. He ranks fourth in all-time highest rate of completion at 62.1%. Be sure to wish Hosch and the rest of the Gold Pants good luck as they compete against the Columbia Lions this Saturday.

This week's COOP Athlete of the week is Courtney Smith of the women's cross-country team. Coming in third, Smith was the top finisher of the women's team at the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships. Cheer for Smith and the rest of the women's cross-country team at the NCAA regionals at Franklin Park on November 13th.

The Harvard Independent wishes the Crimson a lot of success this fall!

#throwbackthursday

#tbt: 'For the People'

The new UC president asks for students' help in making the Council more effective.

By JOSH LISTON '95

This week, the Harvard Independent goes back twenty years to the February 16, 1995 issue to showcase how the UC is attempting to garner student success. Given that students are in the midst of campaigning and gearing up for the 2016 UC elections, this article is relevant to our current culture of gaining student buy-in.

~

Last week I was elected president of the Undergraduate Council (UC) when 37 of the 86 UC representatives voted for me. That means that I became president because 0.58% of the student body believed that I was the best person for the job.

Popular mandate? Hardly.

To be honest, it is strange to be the head of an organization which, according to the Independent's annual survey, is one of the three Harvard institutions that students would most like to see abolished.

All this prompts the question: Why would I want the job, anyway? And why should you care that I am your new President?

Like the other 86 Council members, I joined the UC – and now lead it – because I wanted to help other Harvardians. Contrary to the conventional wisdom offered by the campus media, typical members are not scandal-seekers or ambitious resume-padders. Nor are we out to propagate our own dangerous agenda. The truth is that we are

simply normal students whose main extracurricular activity involves trying to improve conditions for all Harvard students.

But if we have such good intentions, you might ask, then why aren't we held in higher regard by students?

To begin finding the answer, let's try a little quiz: 1) Do you know what I look like? 2) Can you name the five UC representatives in your house or Yard district? 3) Do you know where the UC office is? 4) Have you ever called a UC representative when there was something about Harvard that really ticked you off?

If you answered "yes" to all of these questions, then you are probably already a member of the Council. If you answered "no" to most of them, then you are an average Harvard student. Most students, I've always believed, don't actually hate the UC – they're just indifferent toward it. Sometimes, that indifference leads to mistrust. The habitual lack of candidates for the fall elections is a good example.

Because the Council is simply an afterthought (if it is even a thought at all) for most students, they don't even consider running. But this lack of candidates only compounds the general perception of the UC as an inept organization that doesn't adequately represent the students.

Maybe the UC hasn't done much to inspire your confidence. But if you continue to ignore us, you're only contributing to our ineffectiveness. Without your input, we have little standing with the administration. We can't claim to represent you if you won't let us represent you. As President, therefore, my first priority is to reunite

students with the UC. To be sure, I do not expect to change the popular opinion toward the Council overnight, but I've already started trying.

During my campaign, I eschewed the more pragmatic tactic of campaigning only to voting UC members, and instead dropped a one-page position paper to every room on campus. One of the main features of this "Contract With the College" was a pledge to send a member of the UC's executive board to every room to inform students of Council activities, to solicit suggestions, and to encourage people to run for office next fall. It may not seem like much, but if the Council doesn't reconstitute itself with the student body, it will sink deeper and deeper into irrelevancy.

This, then, is the two-fold challenge: to move the UC toward students so that it can better represent their concerns to the administration. The time has come for the UC to cease being an insular institution and to become, in every way, the student government of Harvard College.

Josh Liston '95 is a Government concentrator who lives in Eliot House. He looks forward to speaking with you soon.

captured and shot



Pforzheimer House
by Anna Papp