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SPRING IS SURE TO
FOLLOW

Inside: We Welcome Spring with Holi, Advising, and Shakespeare.

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The Indy feels like a spring chicken!

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Spring Breaking the Bank

First trial of Spring Break grant program raises questions.

By HUNTER RICHARDS

For students who cannot afford the high travel costs during peak periods, such as Spring Break, the price of food in Harvard Square can place a heavy burden. Rather than being forced to miss meals, the administration has offered assistance to accommodate these students. Some students who remained on campus for Spring Break this year were eligible to receive a grant from the college to provide for their meals while dining halls would be closed.

The \$225 dollars provided to eligible students for the 9 days of Spring Break when dining halls are closed is expected to cover 3 daily meals. However, this is unrealistic considering the unsurprisingly high cost of living near Harvard Square. The price of a meal will likely cost more than \$12, which adds up for students who are supporting themselves through undergrad. During the semester, students typically treat themselves to meals in the square every so often but not as frequently as multiple times within a week. However, before the past couple years, students have had to do so during Spring Break without access to dining halls. The Spring Break grant may offer flexibility to some students who would prefer to buy groceries for the week and cook for themselves rather than traveling to farther dining halls or buying overpriced meals in the square. However, the food that students living on a budget often buy for themselves is typically less nutritious than what they would find in the dining hall during term time. Unless students find kitchens readily accessible, the likelihood that they will be comfortable cooking for themselves during the week is not high. Perry Abdulkadir '18 notes that "the grant doesn't cover everything unless you go out to a grocery store and budget your money well and cook food for yourself. It's not enough for three meals a day."

At the urging of students for recognition from the administration in years past, last year saw two dining halls remain open during Spring Break for students who would be remaining on campus. While leaving Dunster and Currier House dining halls open last year allowed many students to access food during the

changed strategies. I think it's pretty obvious that the dining halls consistently provide foods of better nutritional value and variety than any student would be getting on a budget," says Barros.

While marches and protests on Harvard's campus to raise awareness for those living under the poverty line have taken on a larger presence in past years, students relating to these issues themselves have not been as recognized. Harvard's unlimited dining plan unites the student body at Harvard, regardless of socioeconomic background. Unlike peer institutions that only offer a limited amount of meals per semester covered by financial aid, Harvard has one universal dining plan. Since students are able to swipe into the dining hall with no limit, it is more likely that they will remain on campus for meals rather than buying their own food. Barros mentions the social spaces that dining halls serve as, which is especially welcoming during the isolating period of time that spring



break, the administration piloted the Spring Break grant as an alternative. Dunster and Currier are able to welcome in students from both the river and quad houses, with those living in the yard find themselves traveling the same distance more or less to these dining halls as they would elsewhere for meals. Last year's program offered meals during the regular lunch and dinner times, which allows students to follow their regular schedules for food during these times.

Many students prefer the open dining hall system to the Spring Break grant. Charity Barros '18 cites the many students who remain on campus as well as the dining hall workers who would otherwise be out of work for a week as noteworthy reasons to continue the previous program. "Last spring the open dining halls were pretty packed, so I'm not sure why they

break can be for students remaining on campus. During Spring Break, the Houses and different organizations on campus held events for students who remained on campus. Abdulkadir notes that the Pforzheimer community made him feel welcome and provided him with home-cooked meals during the break.

The administration recognizing the dilemma that accessing food can pose for students who remain on campus without the resources to afford the high prices of the square is a step in the right direction. However, the dining hall system currently in-place term-time sets an astute example for how to provide for low-income students during breaks as well.

Hunter Richards '18 (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) hopes we continue in this direction.

A Safe Space for Whom?

If we're trying to be inclusive, let's include everyone.

By ANONYMOUS

In the last few years, Harvard and other colleges across the country have made a greater effort to be inclusive and provide safe spaces for the diverse body of students who attend these schools. I am in complete agreement with the notion that it should be – at least at Harvard – the responsibility of the undergraduate houses to provide a space in which students do not feel directly threatened (physically or emotionally) for their differences. But the problem is the current practice of “safe spaces” and general “inclusive” college culture has been more focused on suppressing free speech, satire and overall differences in opinion. A safe space should be one in which people are entitled to express their opinions rather than one in which people are deemed racist or bigoted simply if they say something someone does not want to hear. Of course, if a student threatens another or shouts racist things (as it has undoubtedly occurred many times in the past) there should be repercussions, but the culture of fully suppressing free speech – in the case of no explicit threat – is not a healthy one.

The suppression of speech and diverse opinions is what often creates problems rather than what stops them. For example, the week when Harvard first-year students were sorted into their undergraduate houses, Currier released a satirical Housing Day video in which a student made a mockery of Donald Trump while he was choosing which of the twelve main undergraduate houses to donate to. The video was clearly satire and was approved by the adult students and supervisors in the house before being released. However, because certain students found the video “problematic” for the mere fact that it even mentions Donald Trump and connects him to Currier House, the video was

taken down. It is important to stress that the video made fun of some of Trump’s unacceptable and racist comments, yet it was still deemed too problematic because the mere notion of Trump made people feel unsafe. Many people I have spoken with (none of whom support Trump) were against the video being taken down but felt rightfully concerned that if they

“Instead of meeting overly sensitive and in many times irrational demands, we need to focus on creating a culture that genuinely is inclusive (of people AND ideas).”

defended the video they would be seen as racist and bigoted. All of a sudden, the same administrators who approved the video now felt it was not inclusive of the diversity that Currier House represents.

Another example of free speech and the growing limits being imposed on it was when Yale Resident Dean Erika Christakis resigned from lecturing after an email controversy broke up. The email did not support or go against cultural appropriation in the form of Halloween costumes but rather advocated that students should talk among themselves instead of having adults and supervisors micromanage which costumes are acceptable or not. She and her husband, Professor Nick Christakis, have been well known in their fight for free speech, writing “The protection of free speech is meaningless if what we really mean is “free speech we find appropriate,” in a 2012 article for Time. The reason I bring up the

article is to emphasize that the professors are not bigots but just proponents of freedom of speech and the prevention of unnecessary censorship. However, in 2015 when they sent an email with essentially the same message as their Time article but in a different context, the outcome led to demands of resignation for the resident deans for their inability to provide a “safe space.” The demands did lead to both Erika and Nick Christakis’ resignation from resident deans despite both of them having been exceptionally dedicated to the students. They recently switched over to Yale after many years of successfully serving as Faculty Deans (House Masters) of Harvard’s Pforzheimer House.

Unfortunately “safe space” culture looks a letter better in theory rather than practice. Instead of meeting overly sensitive and in many times irrational demands, we need to focus on creating a culture that genuinely is inclusive (of people AND ideas). If you are not being directly abused or threatened and an idea offends you, debate it with facts rather than demand that the person “offending” you remain silent.

Contact editorinchief@harvardindependent.com with questions or comments related to this article.

The Greatest Prank

How Senior Spring can feel like one giant April Fools' Joke.

By SHAQUILLA HARRIGAN

Oh, Indy readers, it has been a while since I last shared my latest first-world woes with you. I believe the last time was when I asked everyone to wallow in his or her inner SWUG. Well, I'm back again to share what I think is perhaps the great prank pulled on not only me, but many others in the Class of 2016 as well.

Around this time last year, I remember looking at my senior friends with envy. Those whom had already obtained employment and those who had recently handed in senior theses could look upon the last two months of school without a care. They no longer had to worry about schoolwork. It seemed as if all my senior friends did was party and sleep!

However, I have come to realize that the endless wine nights and reminiscing is all a sham. As a jobless second semester senior who only has her thesis defense and all the work eschewed for thesis writing to look forward to, I'm pretty much feeling like an April Fool. Especially when I consider how few of the goals I set forth last fall will be met by April 1st.

While I am mostly here to dismantle the myth of the most fun you'll ever have in your life ever and then the next 60 years are downhill Senior Spring, I will say that some of you underclassmen will have an awesome senior spring. You will have your sh*t mostly together to apply for jobs and fellowships. You also may not be writing a thesis (which professors and advisors keep telling me you non-writers will regret). To you all, I say be good to your peers who are thesising and job hunting.

Now on to my civic duty to reveal the hoax -- before those of you whose futures look like my present fall prey to Senior Spring and become the April Fools of 2017 and beyond. To put it bluntly, senior year has been one of the hardest years at Harvard for me. There are so many changing factors in your life that you can feel like it is impossible to keep up.

One of the hardest things about senior



year is the weight that rejection holds. Every rejection from a job prospect can make you feel like maybe you are not cut out for your dream career or that you are actually unqualified for any job. I remember painstakingly filling out an application for my top choice fellowship only to receive a jarring “no”. I sobbed for hours questioning what I would do next year, much less the summer after graduation.

However, with the support of friends, I picked myself up and started writing more personal essays and cover letters. It is not easy, but it is what you have to do. If I end up taking a job that I am not over-the-moon excited about, at least I will be able to trade my work units for dollar units until I find a job I truly enjoy.

Even rejections from Harvard extracurriculars carry a particular sting because there is no “I’ll just apply next year.” Though, the threat of rejection should not stop you from auditioning for activities you have not done before. Plus, there will be so many senior performances that you will get your time on stage.

Another aspect of senior year that dims the light of the illustrious myth that is Senior Spring is all of the changes you will notice as one suddenly becomes super reflective. You will especially think about freshman year and how much you and

your friends have changed since then—how the people with whom you feel close have changed over the last four years.

You will think about all the crazy (read: questionable) things you did. I often wish freshman Shaquilla was not as insecure and afraid to do things. Constantly, I berate myself “Man, if I could go back I’d do XYZ, no worries!” Alas, I can only move forward.

Senior year raises so many questions and answers very few of them by April 1st. Questions of where I will live, what I will do, with whom I will stay in contact, what do I want to get out of these last few weeks before Harvard kicks me out all float through my head. It is frustrating and wears on my patience as I claw for answers.

Despite my warning to you kids about the sham of senior spring, I am not able to offer much advice beyond telling you to surround yourself with the people who make you feel great, be patient, and keep trying. Senior spring can be a stressful time, but there are glimmers of true fun if you open yourself up to seeing them.

Shaquilla Harrigan '16 (sharrigan01@college.harvard.edu) wishes the Indy were hiring.

Photo courtesy of Audrey Effenberger '19

This is Life in Color

Harvard students celebrate Holi.

By PULKIT AGARWAL

The festival of Holi marks a very special day in the Hindu calendar. It, much like most other Hindu festivals, celebrates the triumph of good over evil, of devotion over corruption, and faith over envy.

The story behind the origins of this festival stems from a puranic myth about King Hiranyakashipu who plots to kill his own son, Prahlad, for not believing in his supreme authority. Prahlad, rather, is a devotee of Lord Vishnu, and is thus rescued by him from a giant fire, which instead takes the life of the King's co-conspirator, Holika. Holika's evil intentions, thus, outweigh her having been granted a boon to be unfazed by fire.

This myth has translated itself into the long-standing cultural tradition of the festival of Holi, on the day of which thousands of giant fires are set ablaze across the Indian subcontinent. The day following this celebratory affair is observed with a massive communal game of color – many of India's widespread and deeply entrenched social problems such as income inequality, poverty and religious divide momentarily recede into the background, as millions color each other's faces using gulaal (colored powder) and colored water (I can personally vouch for having even used emulsion paints). It is worth noting that this year, for the first time, even the border-guarding forces from India and Pakistan joined each other in a celebration of the festival; such is the vigor of the Holi tradition.

The popularity of the festival has travelled across the world along with

the Indian diaspora. Even though Holi happened to fall on a Thursday, the 24th of March, this year, Harvard Dharma and Harvard India Student Group organized a celebration on the subsequent Saturday to ensure that everyone interested in immersing themselves in color, and in the Holi tradition, got the opportunity to do so on the weekend.



Photo credit: Narayan Sundararajan '19

The event was attended by hundreds of students from across all schools at Harvard, and this year's celebration was particularly special for the gulaal didn't seem to run out for a very long time. All of MAC Quad bathed in varying hues of orange, yellow, red and green, as Harvard students celebrated the ideal opportunity to get rid of their most worn out pieces of clothing. Most were seen wearing traditional whites, which remained so only for a short while, while others that had no scruffy clothing to sacrifice may have realized the horror of doing laundry on a post-Holi weekend.

As students across campus have had to succumb to an unexpected return of the dreary cold over the last week, Holi has provided a reminder to everyone of the vibrancy of student-life in a multicultural environment.

Narayan Sundararajan '19 observes that "The celebration was a lot of fun, and Dharma did a great job of organizing it. It proved to be a welcome, colorful respite from an otherwise gloomy morning." Similarly, Simi Shah '19 thought that Dharma's Holi celebration "was an incredible way to bring members of the Harvard community together; they did a great job, especially by hosting the pre-festivities and making the color-throwing experience such a lovely time!"

Jacob Link '19, who was celebrating Holi for the first time, remarked that "Holi served as the perfect transition to Spring. All in all, it was pretty neat."

The true power of the Holi celebration lies in how obviously its vivid colors can enliven people's spirits, and allow them to disregard gloomy weather and seemingly endless Problem Sets, albeit momentarily. Since everyone around campus has started to turn their attention to work that has been piling on their desks since before Spring Break, the celebration of Holi can be seen as a truly desirable distraction: it comes just once a year, but has the ability of leaving its mark (on your clothes, permanently)!

Pulkit Agarwal '19 (pulkitagarwal@college.harvard.edu) just spent his first Holi away from India.

Concentration Conversations

Freshmen and faculty go through Advising Fortnight.

By AUDREY EFFENBERGER

Despite the last snow on the first day of the season, it seems that all of the traditional signs of spring have finally arrived. Daffodils and other early bloomers can be spotted around the campus. Allergies have returned, if measured by the trumpeting of a thousand noses and the sprouting of HUHS flyers in the dining hall. Changing wardrobes are heavily supplemented by pajamas worn to Lamont as the second wave of midterms and papers arrives. Finally, of course, Advising Fortnight has begun.

Whereas the fall was heralded with sophomore concentration declaration, freshmen are now contending with a wave of Socials, Fairs, Panels, and mandatory Conversations, the constituent parts of Advising Fortnight. The Advising Programs Office instituted the two-week process in 2006, when faculty voted to postpone concentration declaration to sophomore fall. In the hopes of facilitating greater exposure to the myriad of academic opportunities available at Harvard, faculty and students of every department, concentration, secondary, and program track will advocate for their field of study over the course of fourteen days.

The Fortnight began this past Monday, March 28, when Annenberg was transformed into



the Kickoff Concentration Fair. Freshmen mingled with their potential future TFs, professors, and deans amidst tables laden with competing brochures, signs, email lists, and candy. Faculty and staff of the Advising Programs Office and Freshman Dean's Office could also be spotted, wearing

capas to match Advising Fortnight's "superhero" theme. Students were welcome to sample from all 49 concentrations, in an effort to develop a complete view of Harvard's academic offerings.

Through open houses with faculty of the department and office hours, individual departments will now aim to form a personal connection with prospective concentrators. Over 65 events are scheduled to occur, from thesis presentations to career panels and information sessions. Traditionally smaller departments have proposed more intimate gatherings; East Asian Studies, for example, plans to host a dim sum party in Yenching Library, whereas the newly minted Theater, Dance, and Media faculty will have a "meet & greet"

in Farkas Hall. Traditionally popular concentrations, including computer science and the life sciences, have planned open fairs in spaces such as the lobby of Maxwell Dworkin or one of the Science Center auditoriums, in order to accommodate the large

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Concentration Conversations, contd.

number of students anticipated to attend.

“I appreciate that there’s a clear calendar of events for these two weeks, so I have a good idea of what events I’m going to and when they are,” said Jessica Ding ‘19. “At the same time, I feel like it could be overwhelming for some people who really have no idea what they want to concentrate in, just because there’s a lot of events packed into two weeks.” Jessica is a first year student tentatively planning to pursue a pre-medical track. “For me, I’m pretty sure I’ll be studying a life science, so at least it’s not as bad.”

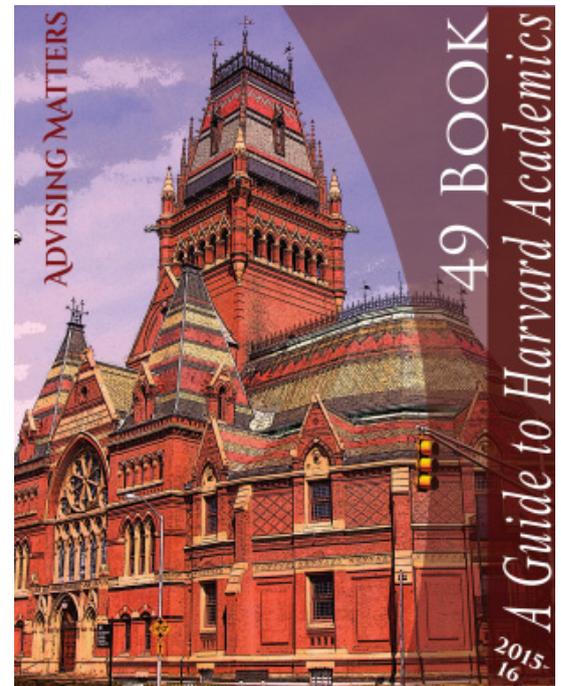
Other students have voiced their appreciation for the exploratory nature of Advising Fortnight. Shirley Lin ‘19 comments, “I think we’re all reaching that time where we’re at least beginning to think about what we want to study for the next three years. It might be overwhelming, but it’s also necessary.” In the vein of College Dean Khurana’s insistence on a transformative college experience, it is the hope of the Advising Programs Office that many freshmen might question the assumptions they held when they matriculated in the fall.

Communication between faculty and students about the logistics of Advising Fortnight, however, has left some dissatisfied. According to faculty legislation, at least one Advising Conversation must be documented on my.harvard, allowing effectiveness and student effort to be measured. However,

the guidelines of this process are poorly defined, leaving the bulk of freshman conversations as a gossipy attempt to determine just how much effort needs to be measured to maintain good standing at the College.

Furthermore, the post-spring break season is particularly ill-timed for some. “I wish [events like Advising Fortnight] happened more often so I wouldn’t have to skip it because of a midterm,” says Krystal Phu ‘19. Some freshmen have expressed doubt that office hours scheduled for Advising Fortnight would see a significantly greater proportion of attendees, citing a lack of free time and a lack of specific questions to ask faculty of the department. One anonymous freshman was overheard in Annenberg: “If I had specific questions, I’d just email the department directly instead of going to a big event.”

Ultimately, the enormous production of Advising Fortnight raises questions about the role of the College administration in actively fostering its students’ intellectual growth. Because all individual advising events are optional, it is certainly possible that some or even many students may not challenge their preconceptions and give each concentration fair consideration. Conversely, the College should not overstep its authority in dictating student choices, especially during such a busy time of the semester. While Advising Fortnight does attempt to strike a balance



between allowing individual agency and mandating some level of student effort, the impact of Advising Fortnight on the decisions that students make in sophomore fall may be limited.

While all of the chaos and energy will soon pass, true conversations about academic futures have just begun. Soon all first year students will form an answer to that most infamous freshman question: “What’s your concentration?” Whether it be Classics, Chemistry, or Folklore and Mythology, Advising Fortnight is trying to help find the answer.

Audrey Effenberger ‘19 (effenberger@college.harvard.edu) is concentrating on writing a good byline.

Shakespeare in the Pool

The Hyperion Shakespeare Company plays in Adams Pool Theater.

By CAROLINE CRONIN

The Adams Pool is a place of legend. Home to particularly raucous parties of the past, it seems to breathe freedom and excitement into all who enter. From the first steps down a narrow corridor in the maze of halls that constitute Adams House, pool goers are imbued with a longing for myth and an appetite for romance. And when facing the stony visage of Poseidon on the far wall, one is mesmerized into remaining.

This past weekend, the Homeric intimations of the pool were felt once again by the audience members of *Diamonds in the Ruff*, a production of The Hyperion Shakespeare Company. A company well known on Harvard's campus, Hyperion puts on two shows a semester: one full production of a Shakespeare play and one compilation of scenes from multiple Shakespeare plays. *Diamonds in the Ruff* is a scene compilation. It showcased dialogue from less celebrated plays and scenes as well as a welcome address written and performed by actor and director Nathaniel Brodsky '18 -- in iambic pentameter! It was unexpected by both avid Shakespeare enthusiasts and by those who only quote, "To be, or not to be" when deciding whether to show up for class.

The plays from which *Diamonds* drew include *Richard II*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Troilus and Cressida*. The cast included Hyperion greats as well as a number of newcomers and freshmen. The common casting held at the beginning of every semester for the company ensures that a diverse range of students are given the opportunity to explore their dramatic tendencies.



Photo credit: Hailey Novis

Sophomore Marisa Salatino '18 was new to the company and states that both the makeup of the company and the content of the productions attracted her to the project. She stated, "When I realized that the Hyperion Shakespeare Company's show fit my schedule this semester, I absolutely had to audition!" As described by Salatino, the audience can "experience the full gamut of Shakespeare plays: comedies, tragedies, and histories," through this particular scene recital. Her rendition of *Richard II* moved the

audience in the ways of Shakespearian royalty. With a king's entrance and a stirring relinquishment of the crown, Salatino can call her first foray into Hyperion productions a success.

Another student, Jamie Herring '18, lent his talent to both the stage and the director's chair. Herring played Romeo in the second scene of the night and directed the *Edward III* scene. On the binary nature of his roles Herring fondly stated, "I love both acting and directing! I find that my directing is greatly aided by my [experience] as an actor contd. on page 11

Chatting about Chicken

A selective review of HUDS chicken offerings.

By ANDREW LIN

With the end of spring break comes that inevitable return to Harvard – and with that inevitable return to Harvard comes the inevitable re-acquaintance with Harvard University Dining Services’ love of chicken. Chicken, that greatest of institutional meats by virtue of its low food cost per unit meal, is a staple of an institution which must cope with feeding over 6,000 hungry students. But chicken itself is a meat that often can go badly wrong: when poorly prepared, it can offer a bland, dry, and unfulfilling experience that offers only nutritional sustenance and not much more. For the most part, Harvard’s various chicken entrees thankfully avoid such an outcome, and this review shall hopefully offer some good cheer to the stalwart chefs at HUDS who work so hard to feed so many students in an effective and occasionally delicious manner. Per the classic tradition of the last two food reviews, the Indy offers here a sampler of some of the many, many chicken recipes Harvard has to offer – but in that tradition, please do email in with suggestions for another possible round 2!

*A note: The fried chicken offerings HUDS blesses us with will be covered in a later article – they merit their own separate review in full.

The Recipes: A Breakdown

Chicken with Tomato Basil Salsa: This classic south-of-the-border treatment of the humble *Gallus gallus* is the first occurrence of something of a HUDS motif, namely in the form of the grilled chicken breast which constitutes its base. This grilled chicken and sauce combo is something that we see quite often from HUDS, and indeed, it is in the sauces that each chicken variety is made to shine. The grilled chicken from HUDS offers

a decently springy (if somewhat stringy) palette on which to apply sauces and seasonings, and the tomato basil salsa variant is no exception. The salsa itself is bright and vibrant, and its dual hits of tomato and balsamic vinegar combined with the fresh spritz of basil all awaken the senses.

Chicken Marsala: Echoing the tradition of such culinary TV greats as Emeril Lagasse, this next treatment of the grilled chicken breast offers a deep and rich throwback to the Italian-American kitchen. The marsala appended to the chicken refers to the sauce’s own base of Marsala wine, a sweet dessert wine from Marsala, Sicily which also features in many classic Italian desserts such as tiramisu and sabayon. The marsala sauce here is a thick, creamy affair, with mushrooms lending further depth to the flour-enhanced bulk of the sauce. Chicken base featuring encouraging constituent components such as salt and chicken fat further accentuates the powerful saltiness of this entrée which certainly does transport one someplace foreign and exotic for cash-broke college students – even if it might only be the nearest Olive Garden.

Chicken Francais: Like the previous offering, Chicken Francais is not wholly of Europe, and indeed it owes its creation to Italian immigrants who so popularized the dish in Rochester, NY that many a wag suggests its name be changed to Chicken Rochester. The basic idea, however, is simpler: a chicken breast egg-washed and breaded is treated with a simple sauce of lemon, butter, chicken stock, and sherry. HUDS hews more or less to this template, although they swap out the sherry-based sauce for a piccata sauce reusable in a wide variety of

other contexts. And this substitution more or less works: the sauce still hits the essential lemony and buttery notes characteristic of classic Chicken Francais, and the occasional addition of capers further lends a pickled tang which cuts well through the richness of the dish as a whole.

Chicken Breast with Poblano Sauce: This second south-of-the-border offering certainly has a lot to live up to in the form of its ostensible namesake. Chicken with poblano sauce, or more appropriately *mole poblano*, is considered by many to be a national dish of Mexico with a long and ancient heritage. The Harvard version, however, works in a different manner: rather than offering the chocolate-brown depths of the classic, Harvard has instead chosen to define its poblano sauce as a green sauce literally based around the poblano pepper. The resulting sauce is a green, cheesy thing, one which employs a much-vaunted “tri-blend pizza cheese” in conjunction with potato starch and brown rice flour as binding agents. But it works for me – the gentle spice of the sauce offers a rich, parsley-sprinkled depth of flavor that works well with its cheesiness to produce a flavor fiesta that almost (but not quite) manages to whet my appetite for Chipotle.

Andrew Lin '17 (andrewlin@college.harvard.edu) will gladly relinquish his editorial independence towards HUDS in exchange for a lifetime supply of their chicken fingers.

Shakespeare in the Pool, contd.



- I am able to cater more towards actors' needs and so am much more sympathetic as a director towards capabilities. The thing that I strive for with both acting and directing is just to have fun! Because if you're having fun, inevitably the audience will be too."

This was certainly the case for Saturday night's show as Herring portrayed a funny, relatable, and impatient Romeo. As he continually attempted to wish Juliet's Nurse farewell, our Romeo paced up and down the center aisle stairs, which brought him very close to the audience.

The unique set up of the Pool Theater demands such proximity (we can assume such was the goal of alleged 'naked pool parties' of times long gone). With only one center aisle between two sections of seating leading down to a lower, flat stage surrounded by mirrors to both sides and the

open-mouthed face of Poseidon on the back wall, both the audience and performers are drawn into a dramatic and secluded world.

Herring praises these qualities of the theater, "The Adams Pool Theater is one of the greatest theaters on campus. Its uniqueness in terms of its architecture allows for theater to be produced that is pure in terms of its directorial inspiration. The mirrors on the wall open up huge numbers of possibilities as an actor and a director, providing a physical manifestation of the reflective and introvert nature of acting. The Pool Theater is one of my favorite spaces on campus, and acting there is one of the most rewarding experiences."

Though many audience members certainly would rank this Shakespeare production as one of their favorites, it is not created entirely with the entertainment of the audience in mind.

According to a multitalented Brodsky, "Scene Recital in general is a unique production because its focus is all on actors enjoying themselves and trying something new." This is the reason the production aims to enrich actors' experiences through flexible rehearsal schedules and the casting of everyone who auditions. Who said theater at Harvard is exclusive?

Perhaps because the actors and directors were enjoying themselves, as Herring said, the audience did as well! One attendee mused, "the actors seemed so enthusiastic and the music played between scenes was so upbeat that everyone in the pool had to have a good time!" Indeed the pop music played in the time between scenes was both a connection to contemporary tastes and a lively way for audience members to stay involved during transition periods for cast and crew.

At times, Shakespeare is given such a weighty presence in school that the pure enjoyment of his plays can be lessened. The Adams Pool Theater brings much of that back to all participating. Producer Alice Berenson '16 remarks how the company "loves the Pool for Scene Recital" not only for its "interesting aesthetic" but also because "there aren't many theaters that are both scaled for small scenes and so fun to play in without a set."

And so, the production of *Diamonds in the Ruff* could not have been played in a more suitable setting. Both the Pool Theater and the scenes performed have been, arguably, unappreciated at times. As an Adams resident myself, it was the first time I had even entered the Pool. Fear not, dear readers and Pool enthusiasts, it will not be the last.

Caroline Cronin '18 (ccronin01@college.harvard.edu) wonders whether past Adamsians ever predicted the pool that housed their raunchy diversions would also house Shakespeare's.

captured and shot



Bryce Canyon, Utah
by Anna Papp