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**independent**  
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Inside: Students return to the pool, politics,  
and people of Harvard!

# 09.07.2017

## Vol. XLVIV, No. 1

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*The return of the Indy.*

Cover design by  
Audrey Effenberger '19.

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

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# We're Here

It's Senior Year,  
get used to it.

By HUNTER RICHARDS

By the fourth time around, you would think that coming back to campus to start the school year would be straightforward. And you might even still think that as you head to your first classes of shopping week. The starter pack for your senior year wouldn't be complete without plenty of stress, though. I mean, it is Harvard, isn't it?

## Showing up to Class without a Notebook

Because you actually don't own a notebook. Or pens. Or pencils. Or even a backpack. Seriously, what happened to your backpack??



Dunster House. Audrey Effenberger '19

## Winning BIG on the Lotteries

Smirking at underclassmen as soon as the professor mentions that the enrollment will be capped. You might even lottery for a class you have absolutely no interest or intention in taking but that little burst of energy you get from that "Welcome to the class" email is enough to get you through to your first midterm period.

## First Night Panic

You felt really sure going into the year that you knew exactly what classes you still needed for your concentration because honestly you just want to graduate. Then, Everything Changed. Finding out that your chill class actually would be taking up more than 5 hours a week was just asking way too much and now you're scrambling to find a fourth class, even though a week ago you were sure this was the semester you took five.

## Sleeping In, Skipping Out

Not only were you 15 minutes late to the first class and straddled across a row of other students to find a seat, you also left after 10 minutes. You know you have every intention of taking this class to graduate but everyone knows that nothing important happens during the first week. You're giggling at the freshman hurriedly rushing around campus to shop as many classes as possible because you're nostalgic for feeling that alive.

## Dressing Up, Dressing Down

There are two types of seniors: the type that dress up for that "last first day" Instagram-worthy photo on the steps of Widener, and the type that hit the snooze button 10 times and wore the same free t-shirt from a student organization you fell asleep in last night to class. Seeing first year students with winged eyeliner writing down every word the professor is saying reminds you how jaded you've become and somehow feels like a personal attack.

## Reminiscing about The Old Days

Greenhouse Cafe. Physical Study Cards you had to turn into University Hall. The Smith Campus Center. Did I already say Greenhouse Cafe? Greenhouse Cafe.

## Being grateful for the Last Year of Harvard Time

You're somehow still always late to class even with Harvard Time and you can't imagine losing your saving grace. The amount of times you remind your underclassmen friends that you don't envy them is outnumbering any hints that you're going to miss this place.

## Thesis Stress

Remember freshman year when people asked how you were and you said "great"? Remember sophomore year when people asked how you were and you said "busy"? Remember junior year when people asked how you were and you said "tired"? Here comes senior year, where you might as well get "I'M THESISING" written in large letters across your forehead because that's all you are anymore. See you next April.

Hunter Richards (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) is still looking for that fourth class.

## Politics and Protests Rock the Start of Fall Semester

Students do not  
hesitate to get  
involved.

By EMILY HALL and  
CAROLINE CRONIN

Amid (or perhaps, in some cases, instead of) shopping classes, many students on campus have begun their political involvement early and are seeking to get freshmen involved as well. A slew of events hosted by a variety of campus organizations have sparked conversations on social media and in courtyards and dining halls.

At the close of Labor Day weekend, eleven women student leaders gathered in Fong Auditorium to discuss female leadership on campus. The panelists, leaders in organizations ranging from Divest Harvard to PBHA to Women In Business, spoke about their experiences in leadership and encouraged women to get involved in their organizations.

This week as well, many members of the Harvard community have expressed their opposition to new a federal policy and promise to provide support and resources for those seriously affected by the changes. Harvard President Drew Faust announced her opposition to President Trump's new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy and stated in a college-wide email on

September 5th, "This cruel policy recognizes neither justice nor mercy. In the months to come, we will make every effort to have our voice heard, in the halls of Congress and elsewhere, about the need for the protections of DACA to continue. I write today to share information on available resources and, once again, to affirm the University's strong commitment to supporting individuals who may be affected by these changes." Dean of the College Rakesh Khurana echoed Faust's support stating, "I know that many in our community — those directly impacted by President Trump's actions and those who support this wonderful community of people at Harvard — are now grappling with uncertainty. But know this: Harvard College supports you and as we move forward I want to remind you of what resources are available to you right now." And in quoting Emma Lazarus, Khurana and other leaders of the Harvard community present a picture of campus that is defined by unity and generosity of spirit.

The DACA announcement coincided with a previously scheduled debate about immigration policy, hosted by the Harvard Political Union and co-sponsored by Act on a Dream, that was listed as the last of a series of events organized by a coalition of groups surrounding the President's new policy on DACA. The Harvard College Democrats, Act on a Dream, Fuerza Latina, and the Student Labor Action Movement had come together to organize these events—including a rally, dinner, and canvassing—before Faust's announcement. They also encouraged people to attend and participate in the HPU's debate

afterward, which was attended by about ninety students.

Chairman of the Harvard Political Union, Tyler Jenkins '19, commented "The Immigration Debate took place on a day of strong tension surrounding undocumented immigrants and their future in the United States. Despite that tension, both sides were able to come together and present their perspectives. That debate embodied exactly why the HPU exists and what our society should stand for. It proves that the state of constructive discourse may be damaged, but hope of repairing it is not lost."

Also Tuesday evening was the first IOP Forum of the semester, titled "Are Democracies in Peril?" With several Harvard Kennedy School faculty members in attendance on the stage and in the audience, including Marshall Ganz, Jane Mansbridge, and Nicco Mele, this event also had a full house -- despite the competing events happening across campus.

Perhaps the most contentious of the events this first week is the Harvard College Open Campus Initiative's (HCOCI) lecture with Dr. Charles Murray, whose scheduled appearance spurred violent protests at Middlebury College in March. The event, which was announced in mid-August, is publicized as "a lecture about economics, American virtue, cultural changes, the working class, the cognitive elite, and the rise of Trump as POTUS," and it has led to significant student debate on social media, on the event page and elsewhere. In response to this event, students organizing as "Stand Up" sent an email blast to students criticizing the

# INDY NEWS

HCOCI's decision to bring Murray to campus, and inviting students to attend a rally outside of the Murray lecture and an alternative panel of faculty members titled "White Nationalism Unchecked," sponsored by the Black Students Association and the UC Black Caucus. "I think having Murray on campus is valuable because it encourages students to engage with a scholar with whom they may disagree. Intellectual diversity is so important on college campuses,

and the opportunity to increase it should be welcomed." said Kiera O'Brien '20, a member of the HCOCI executive board.

The flurry of passionate political activity on campus in this week alone may rival that of past semesters. The success and impassioned dialogue present in all of this week's events seems to indicate that this will be yet another semester in which Harvard undergraduates

find themselves observers, advocates, and participants in political activity on campus and far beyond it.

Emily Hall (emilyhall@college.harvard.edu) and Caroline Cronin (ccronin01@college.harvard.edu) know that Harvard students will continue to remain involved and fight for the causes that matter to them.

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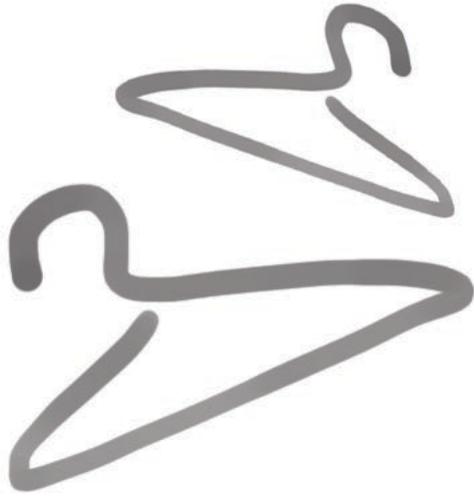
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night and she began to anticipate the hordes below. People who had made the same trek with similar weight to carry and similar socks left behind. She entered the building.

Down, down, down she went. Her flipflops smacked against the cool concrete floor to the rhythm of her bag dragging. A slow, long drag like the cigarette she wished she'd smoked and the cigarette her older, wiser lungs would be thankful to have neglected. Indeed, the basement smelled like smoke. Her laundry smelled worse. She had to persevere.

and dumped the contents of her laundry bag into it. Detergent was next- slimy stuff that smelled like heaven. She put some of that in too.

People around her mimicked these simple actions; the trudge, the dump, the pouring of the detergent. Now, they faced a predicament: to stay and wait for the cycle to end or to leave the basement and return some minutes later. She chose to stay, they chose to go. Criss-crossed apple-sauced legs folded under her and she pulled out a book to read. Secretly, she loved doing laundry for the hum of the

## The Laundry Room

By ABIGAIL KOERNER

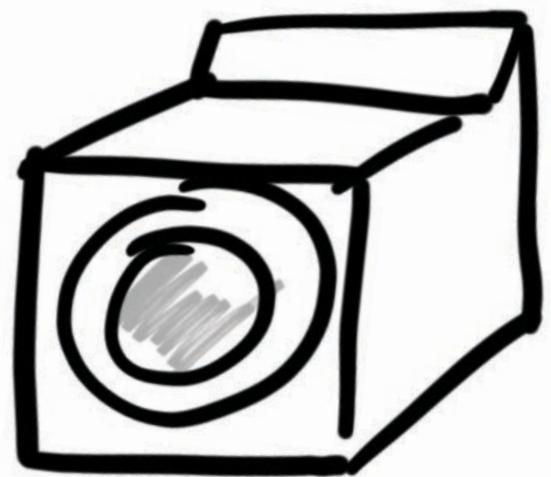
Laundry bag in tow, she trudged down the winding stairs from the small room she shared with other girls who were a lot like her. They had laundry, too. She was just being proactive about it.

She swung the door open and emerged - flipflops, ponytail, and all. Her eyes made a sweep of the area: left to right, right to left again. Those eyes, always looking, searching, found nothing of concern. Still, she felt relieved to have looked a little further, to search for something to be afraid of before she felt afraid. Always proactive, she was. Nothing was out of sight or out of mind.

Steps further, she stood, laundry bag in hand - little socks dropping all around her. They served as a reminder of where she came from. If you looked closely, you could follow the trail. She and the bag walked. It was nearly

Long before reaching the machines themselves, she could sense their presence. Her ears heard the tumble of dirty things becoming clean before her eyes could see such magic. Her nose smelled clean linens and dryer sheets that should be outlawed for their flammability. Bag dragging and flipflops flopping, she finally arrived; the laundry room.

It, like the rest of the basement, was questionable in smell and appearance. A lone vending machine stood with poise and without too many snack choices. Sliding past it, at last, her bag came to a halt. There she stood. Washers spinning, dryers drying, and clothes prepared to make an entrance in this cruel laundry room. She picked a machine, three down from where she stood initially, four away from the end of the line,



machines that coaxed her through each page of words. Suddenly, she was immersed in a story of love, honor, and diction. Her eyes scanned from left to right, right to left, and down the pages. Fingers flipped paper, hands held the paper up, binding held it all together to make it a book. Each deep breath made the basement's smell something familiar, something comfortable.

She didn't notice when he walked in - bag dragging, flipflops flopping, book in hand, hand on book. He chose a machine, dumped his clothes, poured detergent. His legs folded underneath him as his soul travelled to a time that some author created where love, honor, and diction lived. He didn't notice as her pages turned to the cadence of his. She didn't notice when his legs and hers unfolded to make themselves at home in the laundry room - when their legs spread out to make their own small space in the world. They noticed when the machines cried out a beep and told them the wash was complete. They noticed each place a piece of ripped up paper as a marker of where the story paused so abruptly for life to continue. She noticed him and he noticed her and there was a smile shared between them. Introductions ensued. Arms made large for carrying large quantities of wet laundry to be made dry would eventually be large again for holding. They would hold each other.

The doors of the machines opened and closed again to suck water away and return clothes crisp, dry, and wonderful. They had a laugh about the noise! It was so loud in the laundry room where machines dinged, and purred, and swished, and spun. They spoke of the literature they read (he something different than she had encountered before). This cycle was longer, people wait to dry but get wet quite quickly. This time, they sat together criss-crossed on the floor. The hum of the machines was second to the ringing of laughter and the ding of laundry once dirty, now clean; once wet, now dry. They waited and laughed until the dryers said their peace. Doors swung open once more. Clothes dragged away.

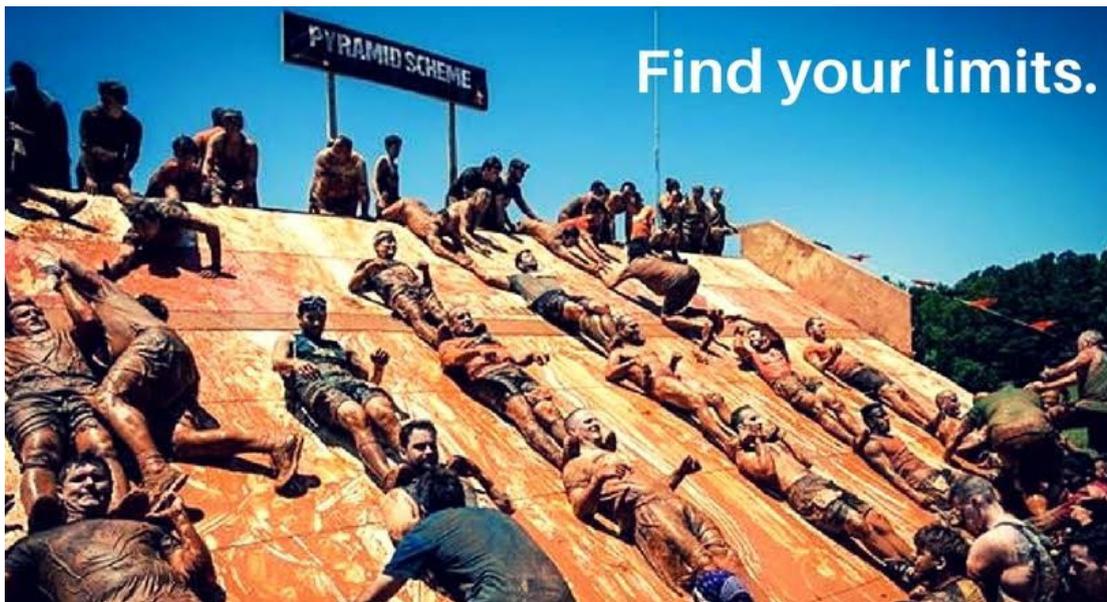
Abigail Koerner (ajkoerner@college.harvard.edu) writes short fiction, but not always in the dorm laundry room!

Have a piece of writing or art you'd like to share?

Send it to us!  
We'd love to feature you in the Arts section.

Talk to us at [arts@harvardindependent.com](mailto:arts@harvardindependent.com)





## TOUGH Mudding, TOUGHER Students

A snapshot of the team at Harvard.

By CAROLINE CRONIN

The Indy asked Alina Muñoz '18 about her passion for Tough Mudding – a sport that has found its way onto Harvard's campus through the enthusiasm of adventurous students! According to [toughmudder.com](http://toughmudder.com), "Tough Mudder is 10 miles of mud and 20+ obstacles designed to drag you out of your comfort zone." It seems the race that is this challenging physical endeavor might give even the most athletic of students pause!

Indy: How did Tough Mudder Team begin at Harvard?

AM: The Tough Mudder team was a large team a few years ago but went dormant as captains graduated. It was brought back two years ago, mostly consisting of Alpha Phi members who all wanted to run a Tough Mudder together as a bonding experience and found that there were other people who wanted to do it as well. We saw that organizations such as Battlefrog had university teams and hoped to be able to get a foundation for a team built here at Harvard.

Indy: How is running and being a member of it different or similar to being a member of other sports teams?

AM: Running a Tough Mudder, and I say this emphatically, is mind over matter. Personally, I was completely out of

shape before my first Tough Mudder and my only goal was to finish without needing medical assistance (for my asthma). But what got me through it was that I could just focus on the next obstacle and how to get through it most efficiently and with my team.

Being on Harvard Tough Mudder is different than other club sports (compared to me being on Harvard Cheerleading) in that it isn't something you can practice for and isn't something that you have to do on your own at any point. These races are done completely as a team. Or even if someone were to race alone, the culture of Tough Mudder is that everyone helps everyone no matter what. Tough Mudders aren't even timed so finishing and helping out other people are the main objectives.

Indy: What is so fascinating or attractive about the actual and diverse physicality of tough mudding?

AM: It's a strange mix between being able to run the half marathon distance and being able to work out muscles that you usually don't use. For example, to get over a wall, you need to run full speed at this large stationary object and be able to have enough finger strength to catch the edge of the wall and pull up

your body weight. You don't find this full-body workout in any other sport, even CrossFit (which I do as well) and it makes it very fun and constantly a new challenge. The course designers make new and crazier obstacles every single time and it's always a new race to come home very sore from.

The Indy Sports Board ([sports@harvardindependent.com](mailto:sports@harvardindependent.com)) is happy to explore the diversity of athletics at Harvard and the students who make them fun!

# INDY SPORTS

# More than Just a Game

"This weekend our program will donate \$5 for each goal that we score in our 4 games to Harvey Relief!"

– Harvard Water Polo

The Tweet was a statement to the world that reflected awareness and consideration amidst turmoil. In the athletic world, everyone from J.J. Watt to Houston's own Kelvin Sampson has been involved in providing aid and relief in the form of monetary donations, clothing, or much needed supplies. Quick to respond to Harvard's announcement were Princeton, Brown and Wagner, all saying that they too would follow in Harvard Water Polo's footsteps. On the other hand, Harvard's own Athletic department was also ready to follow, with Volleyball and Football getting involved

in the outreach as well. Across the country, the support that Houston has received from Athletic departments alone has been tremendous.

At Harvard especially, it is easy to get lost in ourselves. With classes starting, career fairs, comps, retreats, and seeing friends again, the threat of losing touch with the outside world is a constant one. I personally felt it pretty early on in the start of my sophomore year;

Men's Water Polo  
Bruno Classic.

By TUSHAR DWIVEDI



A view of the pool. *Jilly Cronin '21*

# INDY SPORTS

the special kind of stress that Harvard tends to put on its students is one that sometimes displaces empathy in a broader sense. So when Harvard Water Polo makes such a statement, it's not only a stand of solidarity

with Houston, but also signal to the rest of us, here on campus or nearby: even if we are not personally affected by the crisis, there's a part of every single one of us that understands such struggle and the necessity of support.

Nikhil Suri, a sophomore at Harvard on the Men's Water Polo team captured this idea perfectly. He said, "One of our teammates is from Texas, but the main idea behind raising money for Hurricane Harvey was to give back and contribute to a cause that we felt we could positively effect." While one teammate had a direct connection, the others set the stage for the rest of campus, and the country as a whole, regardless of a personal connection. To get the other teams involved, Harvard Water Polo Team took a proactive approach: "We also began a series of shout-outs on Twitter to other teams participating in the tournament and many joined in with us."

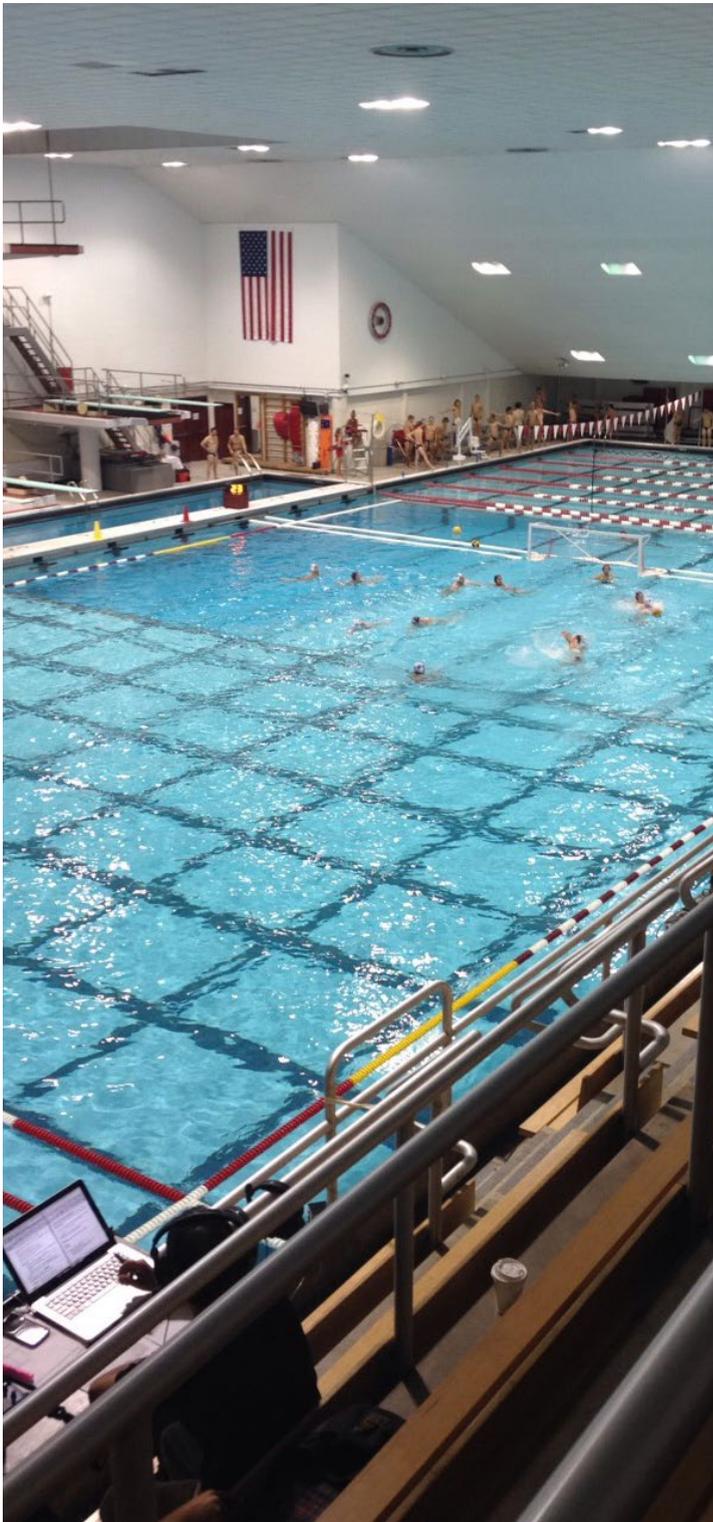
The Bruno Classic was a beginning for the Water Polo Team, and as much as it was about giving back, the matches were also important for the team as well. When asked what his personal goals were for the season, Nikhil was very clear with the success the team has had in the past and where he hopes they will be come the end of the year. "Personally this season, I'm most looking forward to the opportunity to help my team repeat as Eastern Champions and return to the NCAA final four."

This past weekend's matches includes games on Saturday against No. 3 Stanford and No. 7 Pepperdine for the No. 10 Ranked Harvard team at Blodgett Pool. Coming into the matches, Harvard had had its prior struggles against both

teams. Their series record against Stanford was 0-6, whereas their record against Pepperdine was 0-4. Unfortunately, Harvard continued to struggle against the two teams, losing the matches 21-5 and 16-7 respectively. Of course, with the start of the season, came firsts for many new members of the Harvard Team, including for freshman Dennis Blyashov, who scored his first goal. Sunday's matches were a different story for the Harvard team; that includes games against McKendree and Wagner. Coming into the games, Harvard had yet to play McKendree and was 3-0 against Wagner. At the end of the day, Harvard took the match 19-5 against McKendree and walked away winning the match against Wagner 14-9, finishing the Bruno classic 2-2 at the start of the season. The match against McKendree also gave Freshman Ben Wagner his first scored goal, while six goals came from Charlie Owens, a sophomore. I asked Nikhil to reflect on the matches a few days after the weekend, and he said: "we played great teams both on Saturday and Sunday, and I think that each game was competitive and gave us a chance to come closer together as a team while executing our game plan."

At the end of the day, every aspect of the weekend was important. Whether it was freshmen scoring their first goals, the team gaining their first win, the donations to Houston, or the combined efforts of numerous schools to make a difference, the weekend had a special sort of significance. Harvard's next set of matches is this upcoming September 9th, against George Washing and Chapman, both away at Princeton. Harvard's next set of games at home are slated for October 1st, against St. Francis and Iona, with both matches being conference games.

Tushar Dwivedi ([tushar\\_dwivedi@college.harvard.edu](mailto:tushar_dwivedi@college.harvard.edu)) hopes other members of the Harvard community continue to follow the team's example of empathy and action.



A view from above. *Jilly Cronin '21*

# INDY ARTS

## Seen at the Activities Fair

By FRANCESCA CORNERO



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# captured and shot

Saying goodbye to summer.

By AUDREY EFFENBERGER



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# captured and shot

Saying goodbye to summer.

By AUDREY EFFENBERGER

