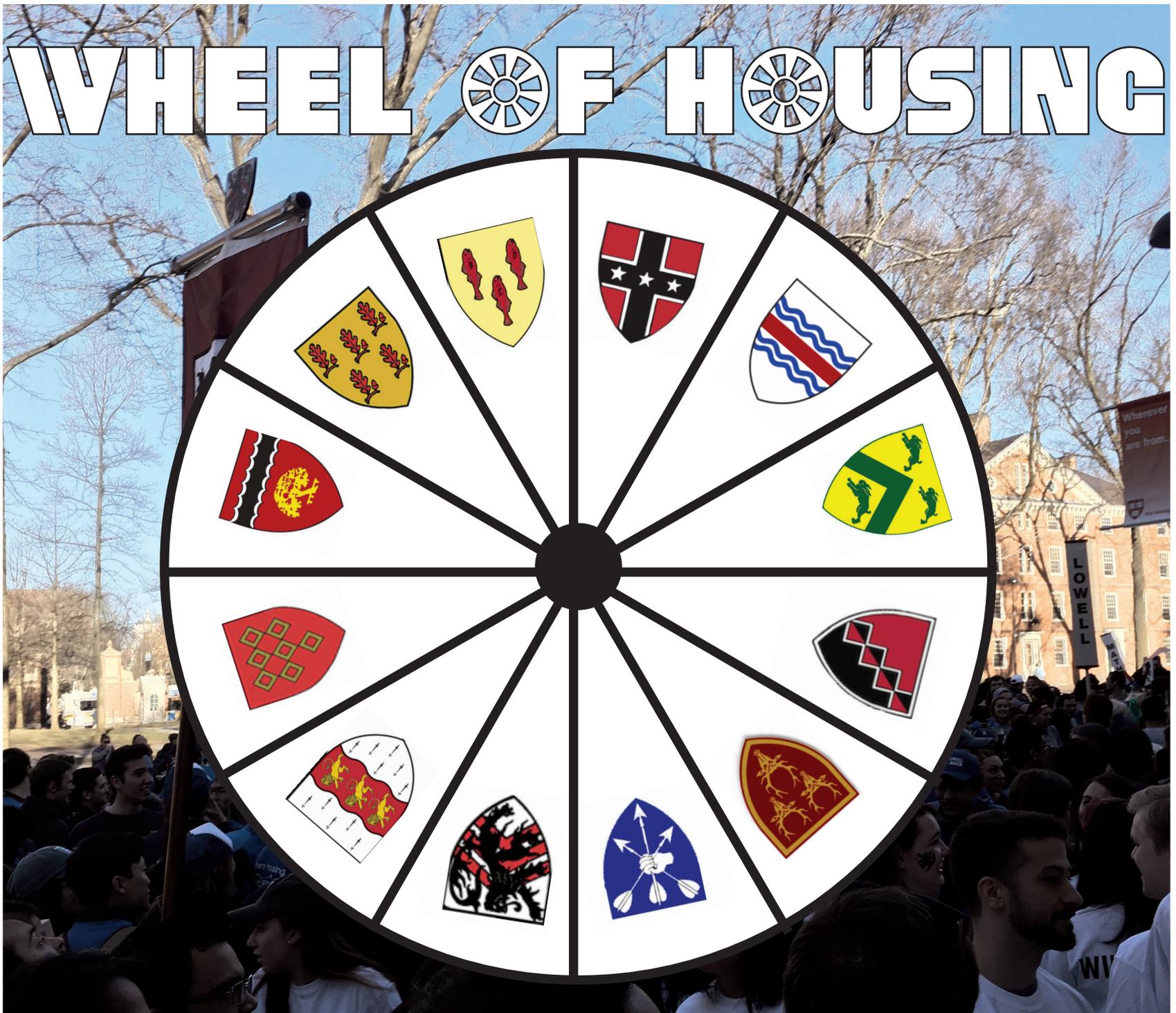


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Inside: The Housing Day Issue

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The Indy is
dorm storming.

Photo by Francesca
Cornero '19
Cover design by
Isabelle Blair '21

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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.

For publication information, email subscriptions, and general inquiries, contact President Daniel Um (president@harvardindependent.com). Letters to the Editor and comments regarding the content of the publication should be addressed to Editor-in-Chief Tushar Dwivedi (editorinchief@harvardindependent.com).

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Malcolm Reid '21
Hunter Richards '18
Sally Yi '18

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Rumors

What Freshmen have heard about blocking...

By HUNTER RICHARDS

For the amount of “x-person blocking groups of x-type people who study x and do x as an extracurricular” responses, it seems apparent that the rumors themselves are pretty subjective. Here are some of the top responses about blocking rumors from first year students:

“The housing lottery is completely random (sounds fake but okay)”

“Small blocking groups get Adams, Kirkland, or Eliot, but there's no way they'll get singles and their rooms will probably be small/gross”

“Pain and suffering”

“Big groups get quadded”

“If you float, you won't necessarily get a single”

“International students often get quaded, important people are less likely to get quaded (looking at you, Malia)”

“Legacy status is a factor in housing”

“Odd numbers are more likely to get quaded”

“If you get Mather, you basically get a single”

“Athletes are more likely to get river houses”

“That all the rumors are false”

Hunter Richards '18 (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) celebrates her last Housing Day.

INDY FORUM

Blocking Groups

New Freshmen class, same old stereotypes.

By JAYCEE YEGHER & ALAYA ALAYA

With the beginning of Spring Term came Blocking Fever™. Everywhere you looked there were frantic freshmen trying to figure out who they would be living with for the rest of their Harvard lives. The stress of it all was overwhelming, but there was hope for all of us. We all went through a blocking group or five over the course of the second semester, but settled down somewhere tolerable at least. Perhaps you landed your dream blocking group, or maybe you or a loved one ended up like these guys...

The one with the couple that ignores all the warnings

You know them. They practically live together already. You often pass their S.O. in the bathroom and wonder if they're really gonna do it... block together I mean. Despite all their friends telling them not to do it. Despite all the warnings. They did it and it's going to blow up sooner or later. Grab your popcorn and watch their relationship enter the Fantasy suite and see what comes out on the other side.

The ones who work it all day long

A group that P-sets together, stays together. You often see this group huddled together in Cabot, desperately trying to save the world one P-set at a time. They figured they might as well block together and save themselves the trip to the library. Next term we'll see them stressing in the D-hall together, and it will simultaneously terrify us and warm the cockles of our nerdy hearts to see our fellow nerds working so damned hard all the time.

The one with the pack of male athletes

At first glance they all kinda look the same. Same DHA wearin'. Same D-hall grubbin'. But don't be fooled. Some of them are their own special kind of fuccboi. Whether it's the soccer player with the Napoleon complex, who will most definitely be shorter than you in heels, or the heavyweight crew guy whose lost all his morals erging all winter. You have been warned. Chances are, they will be in your house and when they text you to "roll thru" between the hours of 1-3am, do not, and I repeat, do not "roll thru."

The one that sticks with what they know

This group knows exactly what they like and how they like it when it comes to living with someone. They're the roommates who found their blocking group soulmates in each other, and have no plans to ever turn back. Some may call this group lazy, but we call them smart. They've let the freshmen housing questionnaire system do the work for them, and we applaud their capacity for doing the most with the least amount of work possible.

The one with the sorority girls who went through rush yesterday

This is the bougiest and booziest blocking group known to Harvard. Despite those pesky sanctions, they met during rush like an hour ago and now they're totes blocking together!!! It's perf. Did they tell you how much they love their bigs? They did. Seven times. In the last hour.

The one with the people who go waayyyy back

We all know that group of friends who've known each other since Visitas. Their fate as a blocking group has been sealed since they first laid eyes on each other while waiting for their Visitas Host to pick them up from Agassiz House on that wonderful April afternoon. They've been besties ever since, joined at the hip at Every. Single. Event. It was only natural that these people block together. "Distance makes the heart grow fonder" means nothing to this group.

The one with the last-minute-thrown-together-clusterfuck of people

It's getting added to a group chat where you only know like one other number and suddenly realizing you're living with complete strangers next year that puts life into perspective. You might as well have been a floater. No wait that's way worse. Might as well have a group of randos to your name than nobody to call blockmates right?

The one that you have to interview to get into

You really tried your best to get into this group, alas, you didn't make it past the first round of interviews. There's like one-to-two really popular people in this group and you were hoping that blocking with them would cause their popularity to rub off on you. You wooed them; going on late-night CVS runs for snacks, leaving parties early to take care of them, obeying their every command. Unfortunately for you, 'twas all for naught and you had to scramble to find another, less well-known blocking group before it was too late.

Housing Day Stereotypes, continued.

Jaycee Yegher '21 (jayceeyegher@college.harvard.edu) and Alaya Alaya '21 (alaya_ayala@college.harvard.edu) express their condolences for all of those quadded this year and will have office hours by appointment only for those who need shoulders to cry on.

This article is in the theme of Hunter Richards' 2017 article Blocking Group Stereotypes. This goes to show that like, the jokes in Housing Day videos, some things at Harvard never change.

The one with all the pre-meds

Grinding through those premed requirements together, these kids run on caffeine and pure willpower. It'll be all kumbaya until somewhere along the line they figure out that they'll be competing for all the same stuff on campus. The same lab times, internships, fellowships, and eventually the same med schools. A three year battle royale will ensue, separating the weak from the strong. Who will still be left standing as pre-med senior year? How many will instead sell their soul to econ? Which one will cop out and join the gov jocks? Stay tuned.

The lit group

You've seen this group absolutely RAGING every Saturday since Opening Days. They always party together, and no one is surprised that they want to block together to continue their debauchery. This is the group that secretly wants to get Quadded so that they can have bigger, better, and boozier parties 'till they graduate.



Audrey Effenberger '19

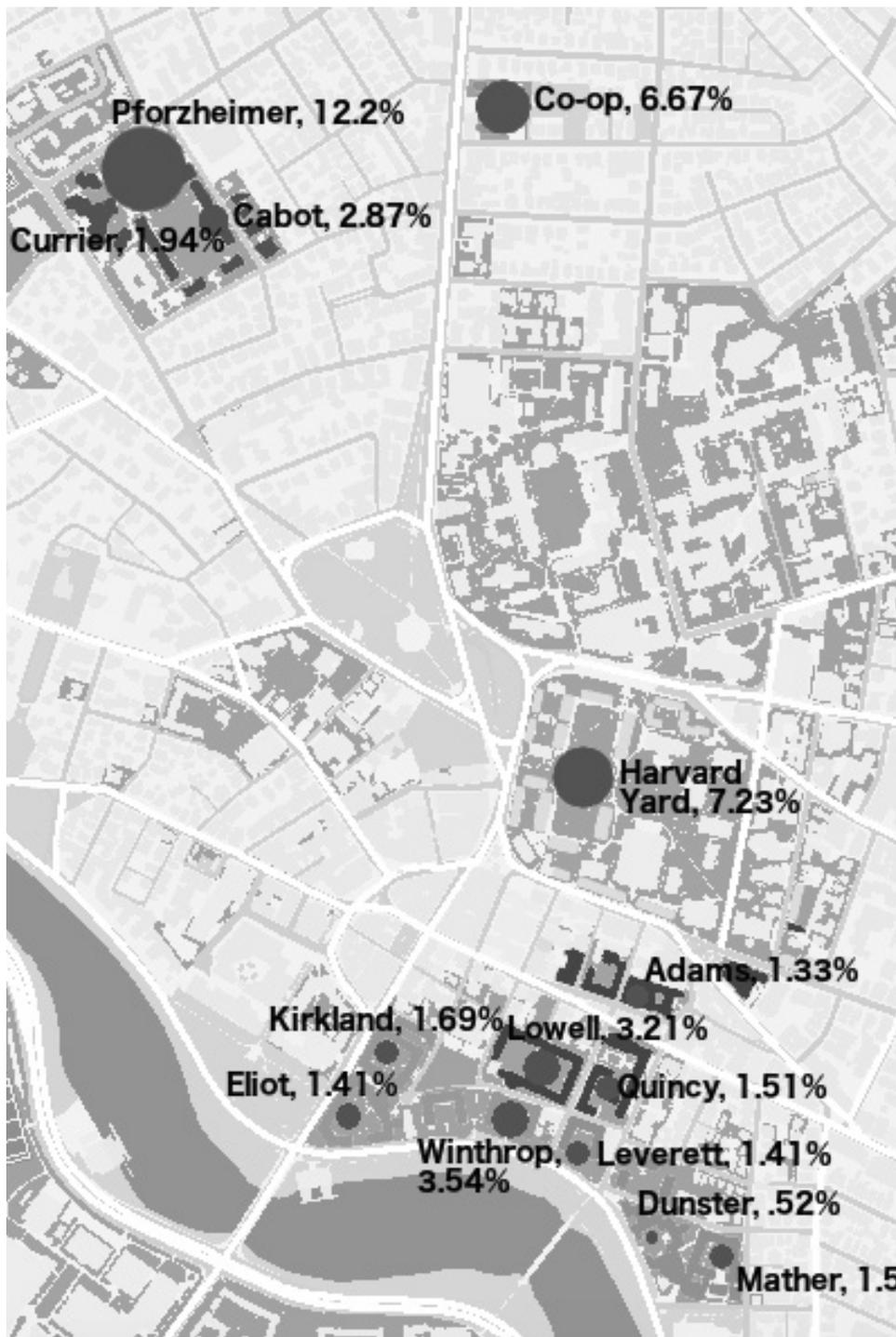


INDY NEWS

Housing Survey

Statistics based on College responses

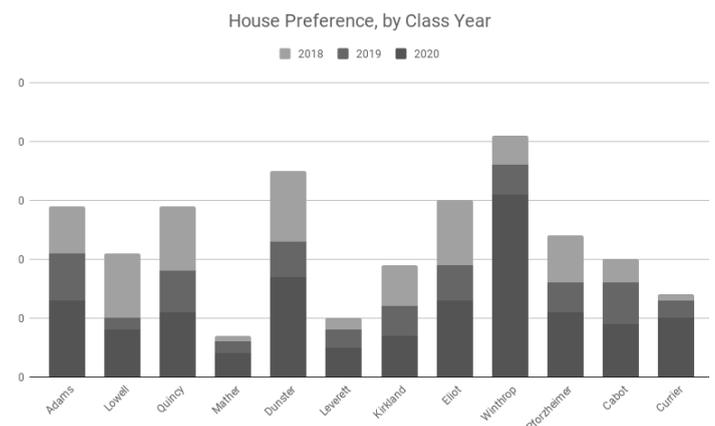
By HUNTER RICHARDS



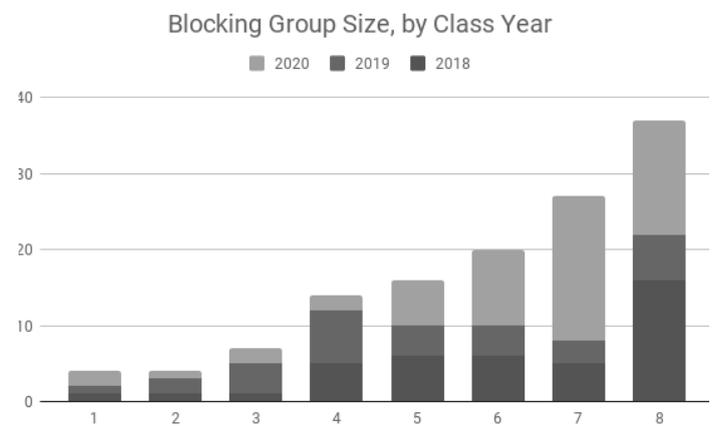
The Harvard Independent introduced the first Indy Housing Day Survey and received 253 responses from undergraduates eager to share insight into their blocking and residential experiences.

The highest percentage of responses from upperclassmen students came from those living in the Quad and Co-op, relative to the overall house populations.

Understandably, the most popular house was seen to correlate with which would be newly renovated for the incoming class. For the Class of 2018, students looked forward to renovated Dunster while the Class of 2020 hoped for Winthrop. For the first year students, Lowell will be the most recently renovated house.



However, house preferences aren't the only aspect that changes according to class year. The most common blocking group size varies according to with class of students, with seniors often having blocking groups of 7, juniors having blocking groups of 4, and sophomores with blocking groups of 8.

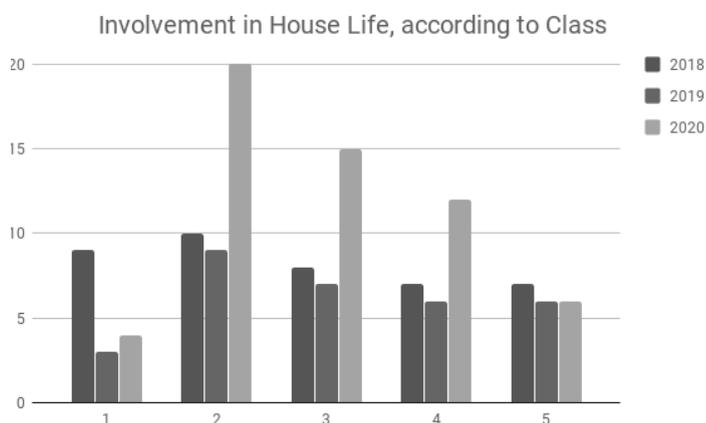


Housing Survey, continued.

Of the 253 respondents, 122 were first year students. These students most often said they were part of a 7-person blocking group, followed by 5- and 6-person blocking groups.

Another common theme for which house was preferred referenced the facilities of each house, the amount of upperclassmen students already knew within the house, the location, and potential for singles. Houses with cafes, art studios, grilles, and distinct traditions were especially inspiring to students. As often as students referenced the quad's distance to the river, many noted its close proximity to the SOCH, academic buildings, and more suburban areas that allow a quieter feel.

Once students get into their houses, however, the involvement in house life seems to remain lower regardless of class year. Although students may enjoy the amenities of their houses and the community within each dorm, the participation in house events themselves does not necessarily correlate. Perhaps this is a result of the integration of house events and community into everyday life of upperclassmen, but more interestingly

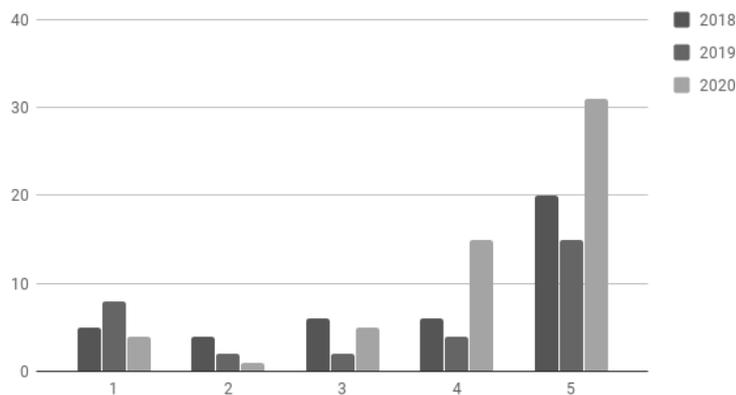


involvement in day-to-day house life does not dictate students' likelihood to dorm storm and participate in other Housing Day events.

Regardless of class year, upperclassmen students look forward to Housing Day

and welcoming in first year students to their residential community. Although upperclassmen may not have gotten the house they hoped for, Housing Day itself was still very satisfying overall according

Participation in Dorm Storming and Housing Day, by Class



to respondents. The house-sponsored outings, community, HoCos, tutors, advising, and initial swag from houses left students feeling welcomed to their new houses.

Although freshmen noted the difficulty of choosing between friends when blocking, Housing Day does not have to mean the end of friendships. The frequency respondents said they visited friends in other houses remained consistent across class years, with most students being in

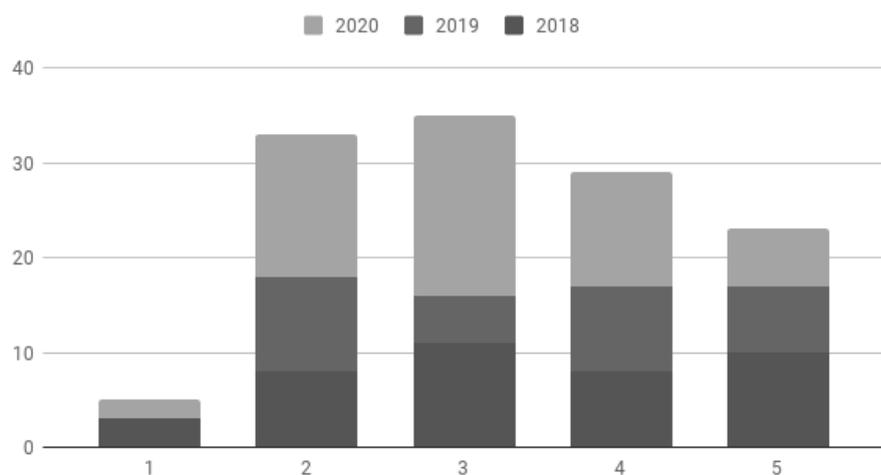
the middle. As there was no significant drop off in likelihood of visiting friends across campus based on class year, it is promising that students will not become less likely to end or have strained relationships based on location.

For most students, applying to transfer has never been a consideration (74.4%) or was never officially done even if it was thought about at some point (17.1%). For those students who did apply to transfer, distance and community played a large part. The administration and community in the house students transferred to was more welcoming to respondents than their original house.

In the end, the house that dorm storms your freshman room becomes a welcoming community to nearly all students. Although there may be many rumors about blocking and housing, in the end it is tried and proven that students find their place on campus and within the communities they find themselves comfortable in.

Hunter Richards '18 (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) celebrates her last Housing Day.

Frequency of Visiting Friends in Other Houses



Upperclassmen: A Reflection

By HUNTER RICHARDS

What made you feel most welcome to your new house?

Adams: "Tutors and faculty deans, in addition to house events"

Cabot: "Dean Khurana's speech on housing day initially (but not that much because I was pretty irritated for getting Quad). Then Cabot House Fall Retreat"

Currier: "I think that the people in Currier are just genuinely really nice and welcoming. I also knew a couple of people in the house"

Dunster: "The stein was super fun and welcoming!"

Eliot: "The door rush was hype, the house was cozy, the bonuses we had made me excited"

Kirkland: "The awesome community of Kirkland house, which I fully appreciated nearing the end of fall semester. The tutors are awesome, and so are the people. Also, I love my blockmates"

Leverett: "Joining HoCo and working on cultivating house spirit"

Lowell: "The yelling and cheering and when people in my house approached me in Annenberg"

Mather: "The tutors and House staff has a pre-orientation program and they have always been so nice and friendly"

Quincy: "So many dogs would play in the courtyard! I got to pet them and learn all their names. Deb (one of the faculty deans is so spirited and kind)"

Pforzheimer: "I didn't know what Pfoho was until I went there for dinner and ice cream that night but meeting other freshman who were excited about the house made me feel great. Having a really active HoCo that welcomed us and threw us a party to make

sure we knew the house was really nice"

Winthrop: "Everyone I met after housing day was super friendly, and I really started feeling welcome once I moved in this past fall. Getting to meet people in the dhall or at events was very calming, since freshmen events were generally large and overwhelmin"

What influenced what house you hoped to be put in?

Adams: "Definitely wanted a river house, and something that looked pretty and didn't have hallway bathrooms"

Cabot: "Upperclassman friends from extracurriculars! Also, house amenities (cafe, art studio with ceramics equipment, gym, etc.)"

Currier: "I really wanted to be placed into one of the renovated houses. I wanted Currier because I liked the Quad and I had heard that it had a really great community"

Dunster: "Renovations"

Eliot: "Rumors and being super impressed when I saw it and the rooms during river run"

Kirkland: "When the sorting hat descended I whispered, "Not Mather. Not Mather."

Leverett: "Upperclassmen friends, quad's terrible location, house "rumors" (more like facts)"

Lowell: "[Did not want] the quad because my friends weren't getting the quad on housing day"

Mather: "VISITAS host was in currier, the housing in currier and pfoho is nice (big rooms), quad is nice distance from yard. Quincy is close to yard but not Adams which is gross"

Pforzheimer: "Varsity athlete seeking the most convenient living situation to get to practice across the river. Mather is ugly. Adams has weird roach rumors. Quincy has rough sophomore housing. Quad too far (or so I thought before getting a bike)"

Quincy: "Upperclassmen friends, money, rumors, proximity to river, loved their dining hall"

Winthrop: "I was in greenough and Winthrop was at the (W)inn last year so I went there to eat sometimes and liked it"

Hunter Richards '18 (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) celebrates her last Housing Day.

Audrey Effenberger '19



Carmen Americanum III. Apotheosis

By C.

Francesca Cornero '19

I leave Lamont at 5.30—I finally leave you
Behind. I need to sleep.
The air invades my lungs like freezing water;
I fall into the frozen Charles and emerge, gasping.

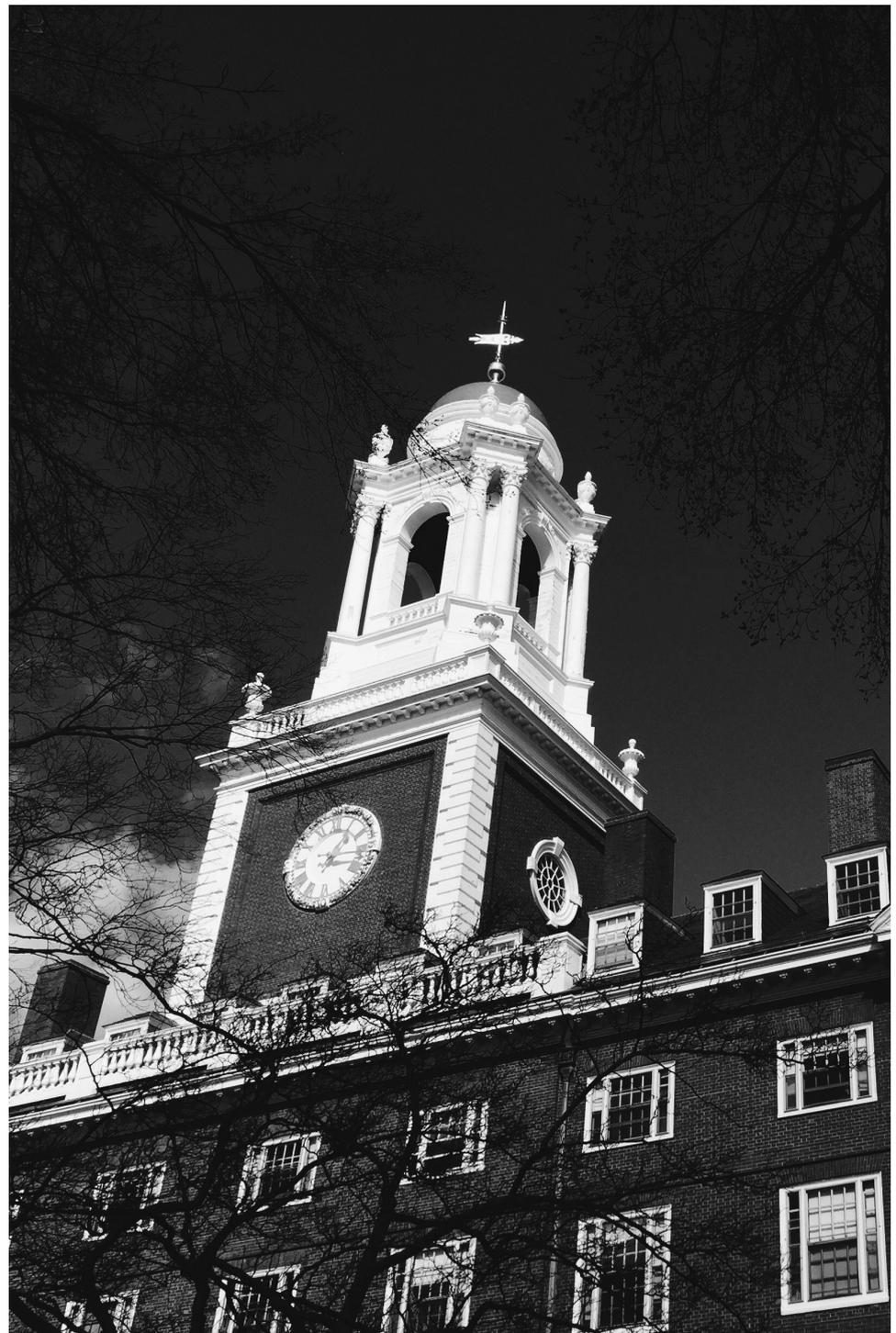
I go down Plympton, past Adams, turn West
On Mt. Auburn—I am still awake, the sun is
Rising, the Lowell spire is golden with
Dawn's pale claws.

The last stars are about to dissolve;
I see Dawn swallow them a million miles
above the polychromed domes
My eyes burn as she swallows me.

The one time I did not lie between
Dusk and Dawn was not in self-sacrifice
But in patient sacrifice to you;
I let myself be swallowed in waiting,

The project I had to finish not my own but
Yours. I stayed up dreamlessly to ward away
Your nightmare, to wait, doing nothing, by
Your side in your hour of need.

But alas, it is too early to think about how
Many nauseating concoctions I'll have to gulp
Down like hemlock to make it through the day—
I can only blink into sleep for a second anyway.



INDY ARTS

Apotheosis, continued.

I have a Greek test and a Government paper
And class and section and seminar and
The freshmen are going home today and
Your thesis is due at five.

Dawn watches me lie down and spring up,
She rushes me to the Yard; I need to tell them
That they got Eliot, you need to tell them
For the last time that they got Leverett.

I float from place to place as dream subsumes
Reality, as today hits me and leaves me
On the floor, immobile, smiling—
It's printed, it's bound, it's over, it's done—

Apotheosis. The sun is low in the sky now, and
It paints you that holy orange I fell in love with
In June when Dawn woke me up next to you.
I take your picture at the steps of the Museion.

You don't cry when she grabs it from your hands—
God acts but doesn't feel. Human that I am, I'll cry
When I throw my baby to the lions.
I make her hand it back; I take a picture.

The dying rays of Dusk paint Church the color
Of dreams. If only I had known what was to come—
But no—even if I could have known,
Should have known that you would break me,

I would have still stood by you in Lamont
All night, I would have let Dawn swallow me and
Spit me out—and I would have smiled through it all,
Like a freshman, waiting, waiting, waiting

Audrey Effenberger '19



The Indy Forum Board proudly presents this poem as the second piece in an original series titled, *Carmen Americanum*. Please contact forum@harvardindependent.com with any comments or questions!

Housing Sorts

I'll have a look inside your mind and tell you
where you belong.

By HUNTER RICHARDS



The Quad

"My calves? Firm. My community? Strong. My single? Exists. AHHHH"

Pfoho

Braggs nonstop about having two floors for the dining hall

Has never used the top floor of the dining hall

Constantly wondering if Quad Grille was just a fever dream

Cabot

"They're mice, not rats"

Still trying to snatch the aux cord in CabCaf

Will defend Khurana until the day they die bc "only they can make fun of him"

Currier

Hasn't left their single in a week and forgot how to talk to human beings

Constantly wants to know why you "just won't even try weed, like it's honestly the most harmless thing"

Has hotboxed their single every night of senior year

River Central

"You can't sit with us," - every resident in their dining hall hiding behind the most intense interhouse restrictions

Adams

3 minute walk to the yard

3 inch walk between beds in your double

Keeps bragging about "the Gold Coast" as if we don't all know it's really the Mold Coast

Lowell

You don't need a house to have a good time

Constantly tells you to come over for some good tea but never has any hot gossip

"Haha Lowelltel, that isn't a stretch at all hahah we just say it like 'Lowtel' but we keep it fun haha *aggressively* LAUGH WITH US"

Quincy

Hasn't seen someone they know in the dining hall since the Berg

Lives for the holidays so they can buy even more penguins and is single-handedly keeping year-round Christmas stores alive

Has drunkenly blacked out at the Grille at least twice a semester

River East

"We're as far as the Quad but we aren't going to remind you about that."

Mather

Lots of singles

Keeps telling you about all their singles

Because nobody has ever come home with them to know they have singles

Dunster

"We got renovated, too!"

It doesn't matter if you have a really nice dining hall if nobody's willing to come visit you for lunch to ever see it

Gets locked out of their room on a weekly basis but refuses to tape the door

Leverett

Had bunny ears surgically attached to their

head in preparation for Housing Day

"The bunny hop": noun, the long trek from Lev to Pierce Hall

"You know what they say about a big house population....."

River West

"Exclusion is the best way to build community but we swear we aren't glorified Final Clubs."

Winthrop

The most incredible glow up of all time

Unironically listens to every TSwift song and sings along but in a Khurana voice

Pretends that the asbestos thing didn't happen but it still totally happened

Eliot

"Who do you know here" at every single event

"It doesn't matter that there's lead paint if you aren't actively eating the paint chips, we aren't Old Winthrop!"

The roaches in Eliot aren't as fun as the ones in Currier

Kirkland

Also didn't see a problem with the incest in Game of Thrones

Instagram famous but the Finsta is just photos of gross hardwood floors and moldy bathrooms

Great view of the roaches in Eliot

Hunter Richards '18 (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) celebrates her last Housing Day.

captured and shot



THE HOUSING DAY DORM STORM INCLUDES A BLIZZARD

By FRANCESCA CORNERO