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**ON THE
RECORD**

Inside: Records, Reflections, and Recommendations

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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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The Indy is smashing records!

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INDY SPORTS

As the Dust Settles...

*Harvard Runs up a Storm
at Heps Championship*

By ELIZABETH GUMMER

The week before the Ivy League Track and Field Championships, commonly referred to by athletes as Heps Week, is amongst the most spirited of weeks for the Harvard Track and Field team every year. “Heps” refers to the proper title of the meet, the Heptagonal Championships. Although the meet is a competition between the eight Ivy League schools, the name was fitting when it was originally coined in 1934, when the only schools in contention were Harvard, Penn, Cornell, Columbia, Yale, Princeton, and Dartmouth. The indoor rendition of this meet began in 1948, and has aptly been named iHeps. Held at Harvard Gordon Indoor Track for the first time since 2015, crowds of students came out to support

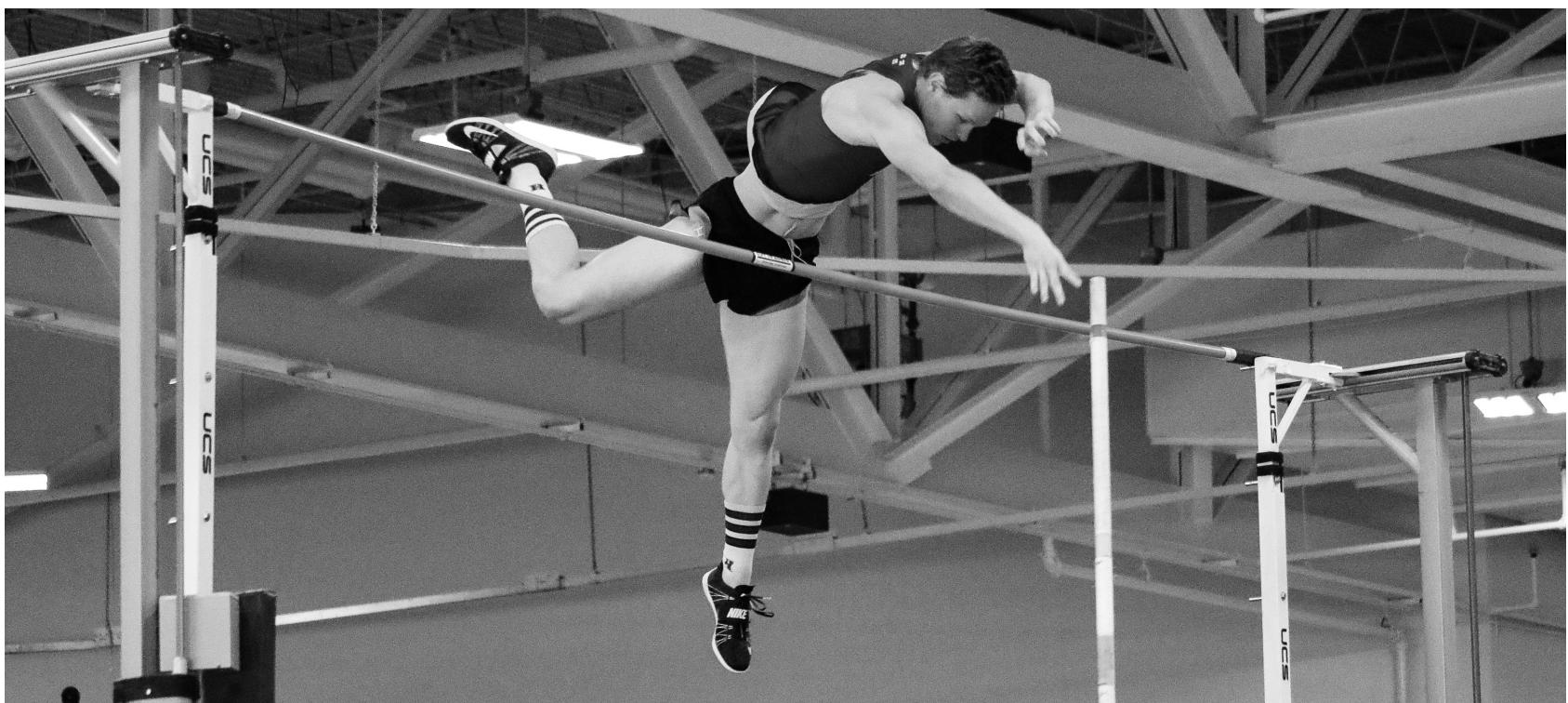
their fellow classmates for the one and only time during their four years at Harvard that the meet would be held at home.

Day one of the championships on the track started with a (literal) bang. Harvard’s own Livia Gauntlett won her heat of 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.48 seconds for an automatic advancement into the final on Sunday. Teammate Karina Joiner also came away with an automatic qualifier (8.49), along with Jada Jones (8.65). Jones told the Indy she “knew the competition was steep and [she] was going to have to give it 110%” in the finals to secure a medal.”

Gauntlett brought the heat to finals, taking 0.02 seconds off her personal best

(8.42) for second place while Jones took third place with a season’s best (8.47). Gauntlett was excited by “the depth in [the team’s] sprint events this year” and is as “excited for the outdoor season and next year” where she will race the 100 meter hurdles.

The Crimson team showed the home crowd a great performance in the women’s 60 meter dash, as Harvard pulled away with the top 4 rankings. Kelisa Cain (7.46), Ngozi Musa (7.51), Olivia Okoli (7.56), and DaLoria Boone (7.66) moved into finals all as automatic qualifiers. Musa came away with the incredibly deserved win (7.42) in



Nicole Trenchard '19

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As the Dust Settles... continued.

her final indoor race as a Harvard athlete, noting that “it was such an amazing feeling to finally win [her] first Ivy League title after 4 years” after struggling with “the ups and downs of this sport.” Following in concession were Okoli, Cain, and Boone to take a podium sweep.

Musa reflected on how the team has “been working so hard this season, and to see Harvard come out on top [was] amazing.” She “couldn’t have done it without God, [her] family, coach, and teammates who have supported and pushed [her] to continue to get better.” Second place medalist Olivia commended Musa for her “much deserved Gold,” and commented on the Harvard women’s accomplishment, saying “it was amazing to do something like [the 1 - 4 top finishes] with the teammates [she] loves and trains so hard with everyday, and to have so much support from the whole team.”

Kelisa Cain set a personal best by 0.63 second with a time of 24.32 in the 200 meter, securing the top seed for finals. Micah Meekins (24.66) and Olivia Okoli (24.52) advanced as well, with Okoli going on to win third place in the finals with a time of 24.42.

Maya Miklos ran a personal best of

1:13.12 in the 500 meter heats for a second place seed in finals. Having learned her opponents race tactics from the day before, Miklos moved into first place on the back straight away. Breaking her personal best and a school record with a time of 1:11.78, Miklos felt “inspired by the energy [the] whole team brought to the meet” and “lucky to have such incredible teammates”. She feels pride in knowing they “worked really hard for this, and this weekend was a special moment”.

Katherine Gillespie cruised into an automatic qualifier for the 1000 meter finals with a time of 2:48.29 on Saturday, and later went on to score 8 points for the time with a second place finish (2:45.67).

Returning Junior Lisa Tertsch ran spectacularly in her second race of the indoor season, crossing the line over 11 seconds in front of the second place finisher in the women’s 5km to take the win.

On the men’s side of the competition, first-year Tre Hollingsworth secured a spot in the 60 meter hurdle finals with a time of 8.21 seconds, and senior Nicky Maxwell set a lifetime best in the 60 meter dash.

Sophomores Jovahn Williamson and Rodney Agyare-May both took comfortable first places in the semi-finals for the 400 meter and the 500 meter races

respectively. Ryan Thrush also ran an automatic qualifying time in the 500 meter. Both Williamson (47.53) and Agyare-May (1:02.97) came away champions in their races, with Thrush coming away with a fourth place finish (1:03.68) in finals. Agyare-May noted he “felt as good as when the Patriots won the Super Bowl”, while Williamson “felt like things were finally clicking”. Williamson also moved onto the 200 meter finals with a top seed. He later finished sixth in the finals.

Senior Myles Marshall beat out second place by 0.51 seconds in the 800 meter heats on Saturday and held out his lead to secure his champion title with a 1:49.32, winning for the third year in a row.

Kieran Tuntivate appeared to be struggling during his first lap of the 3km as he took a few unstable steps while rounding the curve. The crowd would soon learn that Tuntivate was shaking off a shoe that had come loose after a competitor clipped his heels during the beginning of the race. With 14 laps to go Tunitivate ran barefoot, on the newly-resurfaced and yet-to-be-broken-in Harvard track. The surface was anything but smooth, and with only 100 meters left to go Tuntivate said he could “feel more skin pulling away” with each step and strategically “did the bare minimum to stay in the lead”, noting

INDY SPORTS

As the Dust Settles... continued.

he “couldn’t accelerate as hard as [he] normally [does]” as he lacked the traction his spikes usually give him.

Tuntivate managed to hold onto his position within the top three competitors for the whole race. In a spectacular finish he won with Battershill coming in just three seconds later for fourth place. Raw and bleeding, Tuntivate was ushered off the track and received medical care. Tuntivate mustered up the fight to race in the 5km the next day, again coming away with another Ivy League Champion title. The combined victories along with his ceaseless dedication earned him the honors of Most Outstanding Male Track Performer.

As for field events, Simi Fajemisin took fourth place in the long jump, earning two points for the Crimson women, and later jumped a personal best of 13.27 meters in the triple jump. Her jump earned her first place and the award of Most Outstanding Female Field Performer.

Team captains Ian West had a great day of jumping, tying his personal record in the men’s pole vault and coming away with 4 points for the team. West felt as though up until this meet, he had been “met with failure the entirety of this season”. West wants to send ending apologies to

Professor Boyko, noting “this competition was the singular focus of all [his] attention for the past week and a half... and simply put, failure was not an option”. In sum, West notes that “in a field that contained 5 of the top 50 pole-vaulters in the country [he] came in 4th, tying [his] life-time best. As a senior captain it felt like a storybook ending to [his] final indoor meet.”

First-year Kyle Murphy scored 8 points for his team, taking second place in the men’s long jump for an overall improvement of 37 centimeters on his lifetime record. Day 2 of Heps brought Kyle a fourth place finish in the triple jump with 15.43 meters.

Junior Donagh Mahon leaped confidently into the high jump, clearing 2.12 meters on Sunday. His hops earned him the title of Ivy League Champion. Mahon cleared 2.18 meters in his first meet of the season, thus claiming he’d be lying if he “said [he] was happy with the height [he] ended on, but a win is a win”. He “was glad to secure 10 more points for the lads” and takes pride in the seven gold place finishes on the men’s side, and the second highest points overall in team history.

The last 3 events to take place were the distance medley relay, the 4x800 meter relay, and the 4x400 meter relay. The men’s team of Kaeo Kruse (1200m), Taylor Brunskole (400m), Ryan Thrush

(800m), and Will Battershill (1600m) took the bronze medal with a time of 10:00.59 minutes. The women’s team of Abbe Goldstein, Micah Meekins, Tessa Medrano, and Kathryn Gillespie also took third place with a time of 11:39.57.

The 4x800s showed great effort, but the 4x400 teams came to score. Maya Miklos came back from her 500m win to lead off the team of Miklos, Sharelle Samuel, Olivia Okoli, and Karina Joiner to a bronze medal. The men’s team of Rodney Agyare-May, Myles Marshall, Jovahn Williamson, and Kahilil Wassell took the title of Ivy League champions in a race that saw Wassell diving across the finish line to beat out the Penn team by 0.03 seconds.

Once the dust had settled and the scores were totaled, the Harvard women came out with a second place finish, and the Harvard men with third. Both teams hope to improve upon their indoor season, and know they have work to do for the upcoming outdoor season this spring.

Elizabeth Gummer '21 (elizabethgummer@college.harvard.edu) is a member of the Harvard Track Team.

INDY SPORTS

A Splendid Senior Sendoff

Harvard men's ice hockey celebrates Senior Night with a shutout

By MIMI TARRANT

The Harvard men's ice hockey team made their Senior Night one to remember, shutting out Yale 3-0 as they celebrated their six departing seniors on Saturday evening. With this win, Harvard extended their unbeaten streak at Bright-Landry to eight games, and have now won twelve of their last sixteen ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) Hockey contests. Against old-time rivals Yale, there could not have been a better send-off for the ice hockey seniors, who now only have two more scheduled games in which they can wear the Harvard jersey.

As with any Harvard-Yale matchup, this game did not disappoint; with over 3000 in attendance, the Bright-Landry centre was alive with the the competitiveness that only this historic rivalry can bring. With the added value of Harvard's Senior Night, it was clear from the outset that this would be a closely fought contest, where pride, as much as points, was on the line.

However, the night was not all about the seniors; junior Cameron Gornet, the goaltender, made a career high thirty-five saves to keep the Bulldogs out of the net, building on his strong run of performances for the Crimson. For keeping the Bulldogs at bay, Gornet earned the Tim Taylor Cup, awarded annually to the most valuable player in the Harvard-Yale hockey game. Harvard's offensive play was just as consistent throughout, with the Crimson outshooting Yale 46-35, and each of the three Harvard goals being scored in separate periods. Jack Rathbone opened the scoring for Harvard after eight minutes, assisted by Jack Badini and Adam Fox (who recorded assists on all of Harvard's goals on Saturday evening). This was followed by a rapid goal soon after the second

period began, as senior Lewis Zerter-Gossage scored his 16th goal of the season; the leading goalscorer for the Crimson this year, he now has six goals in the last eight games and will be missed once his time comes to leave the ice. The third period saw the final goal of the game coming from Reilly Walsh; his goal means that he has now scored at least one point in each of the last ten games, with three goals and seven assists over this time period. Overall, whilst this was a night to commemorate Harvard's seniors, it was also a sign of the promising things to come from the Harvard ice hockey freshman, sophomores, and juniors in the upcoming seasons.

With this win against Yale, Harvard has won their last five senior nights at Bright-Landry, consolidating Harvard's standing in

the ECAC. The team now stand at second in the ECAC leaderboard, one point behind the leaders Cornell. Harvard will be heading into their final two conference games, against Reissner and Union, with confidence in the team's ability to finish the regular season with 18 wins under their belt. Either way, their win against Yale on Saturday night was a reminder of the team's power to execute under pressure, and a fitting Senior Night for a class who have given so much to Harvard ice hockey over their four years on the ice.

Mimi Tarrant '21 (ameliatarrant@college.harvard.edu) will be remembering to take a extra warm jacket next time she goes to watch an ice hockey game.



Andrew Haimovici '21

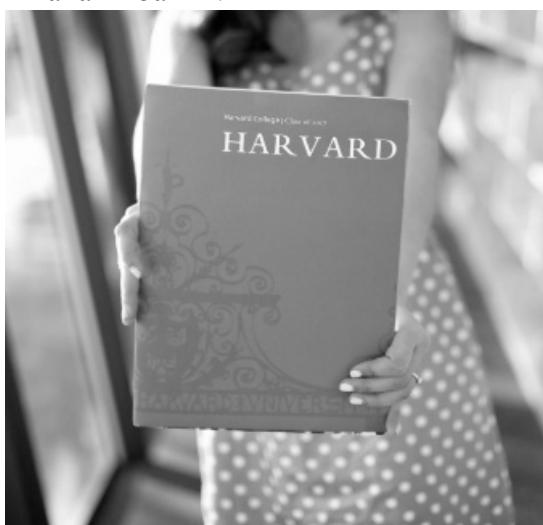
INDY FORUM

To the Younger Version of Myself, During Freshman Year

A four-part reflection on a super-senior's time at Harvard

By ARIANA AKBARI

Ariana Akbari '19



I received my Harvard acceptance in the Spring of 2013. Afterward, my mom took me to the Tex Mex restaurant I had gone to nearly every Friday night with my family. This time it was just me and her, during the day. She ordered a margarita like she did every Friday night - frozen, no salt.

They brought her a margarita with salt on the rim anyway. As I dipped my first chip into the complimentary salsa, my mom reached for her margarita and broke down in tears, overwhelmed by the accomplishment.

My life looked very different then. Before I came to Harvard, I did not have a laptop. I did my homework on the computers at the school library and on the bulky desktop we had in our house. The internet at home never functioned, even though it was wired, because my house is old, and my dad is always installing some dubious tech setup he was given by visiting relatives from Iran, his native country.

My then-hometown was like a real-life reproduction of *Friday Night Lights*. The whole world revolved around football, Jesus, and oil production, in that order. No one from my high school had ever been admitted to an Ivy league institution before I applied. No one had recruited me either. I just had some great teachers who believed in me, a loving family who encouraged me, and a lot of determination.

That August, I left my old house in my

Southern small town with a single suitcase and the backpack I had carried throughout high school. My parents could not come to Harvard to help move me in because they did not have the money nor the ability to take off of work. Nonetheless, I arrived on campus smiling, in a sundress I had bought from Target for my senior pictures earlier that spring.

During one of those early events that become a blur in hindsight, I remember sitting inside of Sanders theater with my freshman classmates. As someone, maybe Drew Faust, was speaking, I had that tingly feeling under my skin, a sense that makes you more aware of being alive, like when you sip a ginger tea or step into a cold shower. I was sitting on one of the balcony seats and was amazed to be surrounded by the best and brightest people from all over the world. I was so excited to know that I was one of them.

I was extremely proud of myself in that moment, but I subsequently spent my entire Harvard career being ashamed of myself. After that moment in Sanders, there were times when I was ridiculed because of who I was and because of where I came from. So much so that eventually, I stopped being me, and I started being what I thought people at Harvard wanted me to be. I hope that in writing this that future students at Harvard who come from backgrounds similar to my own, with insecurities similar to the ones that I held, will be true to themselves and not make the same mistakes that I did.

To the younger version of myself, during freshman year, I would say:

- Do not listen to Dean Khurana when he talks about the "transformative experience." You do not need to transform because you are

not a caterpillar. You are already a butterfly. What you have been doing for years has worked, and you should keep doing it.

- Do not forget about the old folks you helped at the retirement center, about the students you tutored at the high school, or about the man at the doughnut shop who stopped you to tell you in broken English that he was proud of you when he saw you as a star student on the local news. Do not forget about that time your Spanish teacher told you to "Show those people at Harvard what our town is made of."

- Forgive your parents for the things they could not do. Forgive yourself for not knowing what it would be like to go to a place like Harvard and feel alone.

- Go look at your application in the admissions office as soon as you can. Multiple times, if you are able. It will let you know what Harvard saw in you. It will be different from what you thought.

- Be honest about who you are. Do not feel like you have to belong, and do not feel like you have to be someone you are not to fit in at Harvard. If you can just have the courage to be yourself, the world around you will adjust.

- And for practicality's sake, girl, trade in that sundress for some jeans and a winter coat.

ASAP.

Ariana Akbari '19 (aakbari@college.harvard.edu) is a super-senior with a lot of wisdom under her belt.

INDY FORUM

When Fashionable Meets Functional

*The Second Installment of Fashion Advice
Column for Busy College Students*

By GRACE TWOREK

Being a college student and a decently fashionable member of society can be a daunting task - especially when it comes to what fashion pieces are both stylish and functional in an every-day college student's life. It's hard enough to put time into matching an outfit together every morning, let alone creating a signature "look" that's unique to your own style.

There's no way I am the only one who constantly hears my mother's voice murmuring, "Will you wear that more than once?" just about every time I go shopping. As a student, I struggle with wanting to remain stylish, not wanting to spend every cent to my name, and investing in pieces that I know my mother would approve of.

There are a few fashion pieces that are absolute staples for college students and the versatility of these pieces are what really would get the stamp of approval from mom.

This first one might sound completely obvious, but it has been one of my favorite ways to express my sense of style as well as maintain the greatest sense of utility as a student. No one wants to carry their laptop, notebooks, water bottle, or just about anything a student on-the-go needs in their hands.

So, what do they use? A backpack. Backpacks have really withstood the test of time as they have maintained a staple in the fashion world and the everyday lives of college students. The possibilities for this staple accessory really are endless, and you can choose whatever suits your style, and your budget, with ease.

You can go super boujee with your backpack and make the investment towards a designer

one... or shop online for the king of kings when it comes to backpacks: the Jansport. No matter what backpack you sport, just make sure it is conducive to both your style and lifestyle. You want to be stylish, but, not to be forgotten, your backpack has to be able to hold your massive, loose-leaf, incredibly expensive Econ textbook, too.

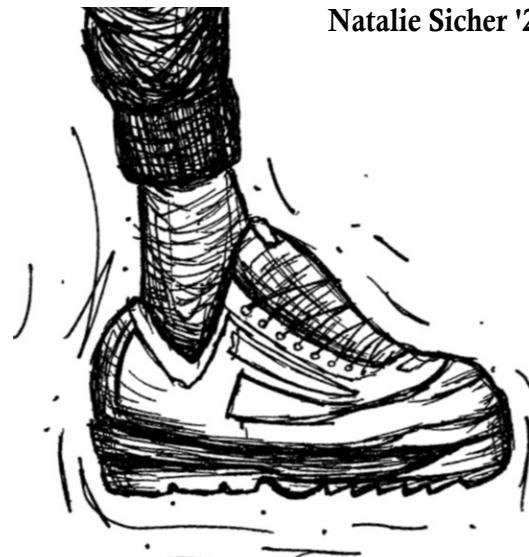
Some people claim to be "shoe people" and some people claim to just not really care. At the end of the day everyone has to wear shoes to walk into most public places and that is not changing anytime soon. I am on the far side of the spectrum as I consider myself "shoe obsessed" so investing in shoes is one of my favorite things. For some, however, shoes can be the hardest part for a student to tie their whole look together.

It is absolutely a necessity that as students, we not only sport something stylish on our feet, but something comfortable as some of us have to make the trip all the way from the quad for class. No one likes blisters, especially when you get one on the way to your 9am class on a hot day because your shoes couldn't mix fashion and functionality.

My piece of advice when it comes to the perfect shoe for a college student is simple: sneakers. Sneakers are not only some of the most comfortable shoes in the game, but they are so versatile that you can dress them up or down without too much trouble. Sneakers go with just about anything, and if you invest in the right pair, they can take your style to the next level on the fashion scale.

Personal favorite: my Air Force 1's... I'm on my fourth pair.

My final staple piece for every college student's closet is a very important one,



Natalie Sicher '21

especially when it comes to the season changes we have here in Cambridge. One day it can be 60 degrees and sunny, the next day there will be four inches of snow on the ground. I am not saying these weather conditions can be intolerable...well, maybe I kind of am.

The perfect jacket can be the key to success when it comes to being stylish as well as dressing for the weather. This staple jacket needs to be more than just your average light cardigan, but lighter than a winter jacket. Remember, layers are everything! The perfect jacket is the one that you can easily fit over a thin t-shirt in the spring or a few sweaters in the winter.

This happy medium of a jacket is individualistic to everyone's personal style, but some of my favorite examples include a leather jacket, a Levi's jean jacket, or a trendy bomber jacket. These jackets are staples not only because they can be worn season to season, but they also pass the test of style as they keep the outfit stylish without completely overtaking the look, especially when it's simple to just take the jacket off when it's not necessary.

Staple pieces can be hard to decipher among your wardrobe, but these three pieces are definitely a safe and stylish start for every college student. The best part about these staples- I can almost guarantee your mother will approve, and you'll have a ton of fun building up a strong base to your own style.

Grace Tworek '21 (gracetworek@college.harvard.edu) loves giving fashion advice.

INDY ARTS

As Spun in the Eliot House Record Room

Tucked away in the shelves of the Record Room resides a cultural artifact

By AIDAN F. & MARISSA G.

Nestled within Eliot House is a Record Room, vaguely scented of old album covers. Upon its hardwood floors-- blanketed with an ornate red carpet-- sit two threadbare sofas, angled to face the centerpiece of the room: a record player. Behind it, two bookshelves span the entirety of the wall. In an endearing contrast to the grandeur of the darkened-wood aesthetic, the bookshelves are lined with jagged cut-outs of white paper labels, imperfected throughout the years, guiding visitors through the vinyls. On the first shelf, "CHOPIN" is scribbled out with red and replaced with "BUXT"-- the overt corrections to these labels are an affectionate nod to how cherished the vinyls have been over time. Ostensibly, the collection seems to be exclusively classical, until a visitor navigates all the way to the bottom right shelf in the second bookshelf, where a burst of modern vinyls await. One night, Eliot residents bonded over one such selection in particular: the self-titled album, Fleetwood Mac. The record room bolsters curiosity in the classical and modern music canons alike, and this discovery was one such moment, inspiring students to engage with the band's work even further.

Chico Payne, a resident of K Entryway of Eliot House, has taken to the collections of the Record Room and has even begun his own collection with Fleetwood Mac's Rumours, drawing upon the vinyl hub here in Cambridge. "Fleetwood Mac's Rumours is my transformative experience at Harvard." "From the opening vocals of "Second Hand News" to the closing strums of "Gold Dust Woman," Rumours is a phenomenal record. There's a reason

why Rumours was the soundtrack of 1992 just as it was in 1977, and still today." He picked up the record from Stereo Jack's Records on Massachusetts Avenue and rightfully gave it its first spin within the Record Room.

Fleetwood Mac's album Rumours, which recently celebrated its 42nd birthday on February 4th, 2019, consistently ranks highly on every major "best albums of the 70s" or simply "greatest albums of all time" lists (see: the Onion's recurring Grammy headline "Album That Has Nothing On Fleetwood Mac's 'Rumours' Wins Grammy Award"). The band, which was going through a tumultuous period of personal strife, breakups, and partying while recording, crystallized all of their separate feelings into a masterpiece, which, due to their half-British half-American lineup, represents both the apotheosis and the destruction of the Anglo-American rock relationship that defined the 1960s and 1970s. Every single song on this record is a 10, and a potential single. Second Hand News? Bop. Dreams? Stevie Nicks' Big Witch Energy is on full display, and their most popular single. Never Going Back Again? The most whistle-able song for any mosey. Don't Stop? Bill Clinton got elected because of this song. Go Your Own Way? I have danced to this song by myself dozens of times, and the guitar solo still knocks me over. Songbird is a straight up dose of chills, dude, like, instant goosebumps. The Chain is the only song all of them made together, which is obviously symbolic, and tragic, because they broke the chain; or, perhaps, it is optimistically forward looking, because maybe in a way they did not, and

maybe you are part of the chain; plus, the guitar climax is the ultimate hair-shaking mood. You Make Loving Fun? A song that you can and should have sex to, while also being romantic: rare! I Don't Wanna Know? Catchy as hell, cute harmonies. Oh Daddy? Oh, daddy! Gold Dust Woman is the weirdest song on the album, and its recording session involved the breaking of glass, Stevie Nicks wrapping her whole head (sans mouth) in a black scarf to more deeply access memories and imagination while she sang, and a lot of 4 a.m. cocaine. Finally, Silver Springs, which the band criminally kept off of the original album, is possibly the most emotionally scarring song I have ever heard, and the rawest breakup song on any album on the subject. Lindsey Buckingham, you quite literally will "never get away from the sound of a woman who loves you," and neither will we.

It serves as a reminder that the Eliot House Record Room engages students with the musical culture of record collecting.

Aidan Fitzsimons '20 (aidan_fitzsimons@college.harvard.edu) looks forward to yet another listen in the near future.

Marissa Garcia '21 (marissagarcia@college.harvard.edu) hopes to swing by the Record Room more often.

INDY ARTS

In the Rain *A Poem*

By ABIGAIL JADE KOERNER

It's raining always when I'm with you
And not because I'm feeling blue
It's raining raining
And I can't see
I squint my eyes - there's you and me
Singing and dancing
Kissing in the rain
I said my favorite place was solitude
But that was insane!
Insane like puddles splashing
Water drip drops down my face
You are my favorite place
But my heart will still race
Love the chase

Abigail Jade Koerner '21 (ajkoerner@college.harvard.edu) writes poetry for the Indy.

Isabelle Blair '21



INDY NEWS

News Briefs

By Graham Walter

A National Emergency Declared

This past Tuesday, the House of Representatives voted to block Trump's request for money to build the border wall, a key topic in his state of the Union address. The Senate seems to be coming to a similar conclusion to the House, which may force President Trump's hand to exercise his power to veto for the first time. Trump has promised to veto any measures that Congress puts on his desk in this situation.

On the 15th of February, Trump declared

the southern U.S. border in a state of national emergency. This declaration allows funds to be diverted to the benefit of building the wall, a move that will take away over \$6 billion from the military.

While people such as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have spoken in support of the President's decision, the declaration had opposition from both sides. Many lawmakers are not convinced in Trump's classification of what an emergency is. Others see Trump's move as an overreach of his power that will create an unwanted precedent. As N.C. Senator Mr. Tillis

wrote in a Washington Post opinion article, "Republicans need to realize that this will lead inevitably to regret when a Democrat... controls the White House," as they can simply cite Trump's decision to declare a national emergency to push a policy through that does not gain enough congressional support.

Overriding a veto by Trump would require supermajorities in each chamber (289 in the House and 67 in the Republican controlled Senate).

Two steps Forward, One Step Back

youthful vision in Washington."

Princess Reema bint Bandar has recently been appointed as Saudi Arabia's first female ambassador to the United States. She is not only the first ambassador to the United States, but the first female figure of this stature in Saudi's history. A decree was released by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that the daughter of former American ambassador, Prince Bandar bin Sultan (1983-2005) would be filling that role fourteen years later.

The move has been regarded by many as a step towards equality of the sexes in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). In a statement from Dr. Rayed Krimly, the Saudi Ambassador to Russia, he was quoted as saying that the "first female Saudi ambassador is the right woman in the right place." He continues to qualify her, describing the Princess' familiarity with Washington from her youth and how she will represent the "aspirations and liveliness of [the KSA's]

Princess Reema, taking over the position from new Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, saw her own role to "[highlight] the issues that will help move [the Saudi community] forward holistically. In the past, she has worked to promote the physical education for girls in schools by adding female sporting competitions. She was also brought awareness for breast cancer in her home country. Along with these achievements, she was named in the Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business in 2014 and ranked number 31 on the Forbes Middle East's 200 Most Powerful Arab women that same year.

Saudi Arabia has stated that improving the role of women was an important aspect of their Saudi Vision 2030 goals. Princess Reema's work will hopefully be an inspiration and testament to the importance of women in positions of power. The Princess has been outspoken about women's rights and improving the dynamic between men and

women for years.

Some believe this to be an attempt to gain some good international publicity. Considering the close proximity to the Khashoggi killing, some in Washington are becoming more skeptical of the KSA, so appointing an eloquent and competent female figure as the American ambassador would help the image of Saudi Arabia. Critics have also said that she will lack real power due to the oppressive structure of the Kingdom, but her a strong background in business and willingness to speak openly about issues in the KSA dissuade some from calling her a pawn. Princess Reema has long acted as a leading voice in defending recent economic and social reforms, so it will be intriguing seeing how the relationship goes between our two countries.

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