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Inside: Votes, Vocations, and Victories

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The Indy is voting!

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CONTENTS

- 3 More Than Just “Studying” Abroad
- 4 News Briefs
- 5 Welcome to the Real World
- 6 A Message to Harvard Voters
- 8 To Be Held
- 9 Assorted Poems
- 10 Poems by Tawanda Mulalu
- 11 Sports Briefs

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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More Than Just "Studying" Abroad

A Candid Conversation with OIE Director Camila Nardozzi

By ANA LUIZA NICOLAE

A recent panel by the Office of International Education (OIE) focused on increasing racial inclusion in study abroad programs. In a candid conversation about the recent happenings at the OIE, Camila Nardozzi, current Director of the OIE, has agreed to address the questions which arose from this event: Is student representation of Harvard abroad proportional to student groups on campus? If not, what might be the reasons for this socioeconomic and racial divide in participation in the study abroad programs?

While it is difficult to assert an estimate of the racial or socioeconomic demographics of students interested in studying abroad, Nardozzi's speculative opinion is that "Harvard is like most similar institutions" in that its representation abroad is less often assured for low-income, first-generation students or students of color. Recent OIE efforts, however, are trying to counter that by ensuring that such considerations like race, gender identity, and class background do not hinder a student's willingness to study abroad or their enjoyment of such programs.

The OIE is aware and trying to address the obvious obstacles that complicate students successfully feeling integrated and included in programs abroad—for example, how to help white students adjust in a predominantly black community or country, or offer solutions to the problems posed to a "tall average looking American in a country such as Japan." Both students would stand out in the crowd. Even though the OIE has concerns over the possibility

of a systemic problem which underlies the lack of participation of students of color and low-income students on account of such fears, Nardozzi and her office choose to focus on what they can do to help better prepare students of all backgrounds for their experience abroad by offering a platform for students to "think about these shocks."

"Students who have had to thinking about race on campus, will have to do so abroad," Nardozzi said. This is a soft way of acknowledging the profound cleavages in the perception of otherness in different countries, where ethnicity, race and culture mean and interact differently than how the average American student might have been used to. However, she has faith in the "wokeness of students at Harvard, as she playfully puts it, in recognizing these challenges and not giving in to FOMO, or the Fear Of Missing Out on Harvard.

Nardozzi maintains mentions that the Office's biggest concern lays with students' security. Alongside efforts to help diversify study abroad applicants, the OIE has also begun a new affiliation (dating back to August) with International SOS in order to provide care and urgent help for Harvard affiliates abroad.

Deploring the poor attendance of "reentry events" nationwide as follow-up experiences to the study abroad programming, Nardozzi emphasizes the OIE's efforts to have students who have studied abroad connect with prospective participants in the programs. Some notable instances study abroad programs changing students' courses at

Harvard include: a student currently on an International fellowship instead of following the "consulting track", and a one-year fellowship turned into a career in working for study abroad programs in another country. On student's witty comeback shows the poignant personal significance of study abroad experiences: replying to a message from her friends, who were boasting about what an incredible experience at YardFest she was missing out on, the student sent a picture of the Coliseum of Rome with the caption: "Now look what you're missing out on!"

"Not to be too Dean Khurana," Nardozzi says, she still feels like the whole study abroad experience is truly transformative and criticizes the residential system of Harvard, saying blocking groups impede students' decisions to study abroad. These groups incite questions of belonging which entangle the mind with uncertainty and prevent students from feeling comfortable in stepping out of the "Harvard wheel" of extracurricular activities, professional opportunities, and social gatherings. She ends by arguing that college students should reverse FOMO, and rather than fear missing out on Harvard, fear missing out on the World.

Ana Luiza Nicolae '22 (analuiza_nicolae@college.harvard.edu) is pondering which study abroad program might be most beneficial for her.

News Briefs

Rapid Results

By TUSHAR DWIVEDI

Upon entering the midterm elections, the Democratic Party was favored to gain control of the House, which they did as a consequence of strong performances in areas such as California, New York, Maryland, and Massachusetts. The results indicated, however, that there were few surprise victories (i.e. victories in likely or leaning Republican regions). While this was sufficient to gain a House victory for the Democratic Party, failure to win key tossup states in the Senate race crushed any chance to upset a favored Republican Party. Key victories by Mike Braun over Joe Donnelly in Indiana and Josh Hawley

over Claire McCaskill in Montana brought disappointment to the Democratic Party, exacerbated further by extremely close losses in Georgia and Florida. Within the Senate, seats changed hands in Indiana, North Dakota, and Montana, favoring Republicans, and Nevada in favor of the Democrats. On the other hand, Democrats were able to flip seats in the race for Governor in the states of Michigan, New Mexico, Maine, Nevada, Wisconsin, and Kansas.

The current results (with 34 of 36 races called) indicate 23 Governor seats filled by the Democrats and 25 filled by the Republicans (with a net change of 7 in favor of the Democrats). Within the House, the Democrats took 220 seats to the Republicans'

194, representing a net change of 27 seats (with 21 races left to be called). Finally, the Senate results revealed 45 seats for the Democrats and 51 for the Republicans, with a net change of 2 seats and four races left to be called.

Tushar Dwivedi '20 (tushar_dwivedi@college.harvard.edu) eagerly awaits the conclusion of the midpoint elections.

SFFA VS Harvard: Final Arguments on the Last Day of Trial

By SEGAN HELLE

Last Friday, lawyers representing both Harvard and Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) delivered their closing arguments to the court, concluding a three-week-long trial over the University's admission policies.

Closing arguments largely rehashed the points that both sides have been working to convince presiding Judge Allison Burroughs of for the past 15 days. John Hughes, the lawyer representing the SFFA, continued asserting that Harvard's admission practices, made unprecedentedly public throughout the proceedings, contain an unfair disadvantage for Asian American applicants who are stereotyped as "book smart and

one-dimensional" and are systematically punished by admissions officers in their personal scores.

William Lee '72, the lead lawyer representing the University, argued that the SFFA is working to "drastically reduce the number of African American and Hispanic students" in institutions of higher education, referencing Ed Blum's prior attempts to challenge affirmative action policies in court using white plaintiffs. Lee also argued that Harvard admissions officers are told not to use race as a factor when assigning personal scores, and that the SFFA had failed to bring an Asian American witness to the stand supporting their side.

The lawsuit was a bench trial, meaning that no jury will be consulted in reaching

a decision. It is unknown when Judge Burroughs will release her decision in the case. However, it is predicted that whatever decision is released will be hotly contested, giving this case the potential to reach the Supreme Court, which given its recent rightward slant, could have serious implications for the future of affirmative action policies.

Segan Helle '20 (shelle@college.harvard.edu) is an Asian-American student at Harvard College who will provide updates when the decision is announced.

Welcome to the Real World

Junior Year Consulting Recruitment

By TUSHAR DWIVEDI

In high school, Junior year is often regarded as the most challenging, as course rigor ramps to a significant level and students begin prepping for College applications. The "seriousness" of extracurricular activities, leadership positions, and awards start to matter, as students look out to the "real world" and realize that high school is about to come to an end.

Junior year at Harvard can oftentimes be much the same, depending on one's interests. As the first semester of the second half of college approaches, for some, the reality of the "real world" post-graduation strikes once again, with the stakes seeming just as high as those in High School. Many of the same factors that one looks for when choosing a college appear when searching for a role outside of school: learning opportunity, personal growth, earnings potential, prestige, culture, competition, personal satisfaction, etc. Unlike the college application process, however, there are few step-by-step guides or walkthroughs on finding one's fit.

Consulting, a popular choice on campus, draws individuals of all concentrations, including those who have had an interest in the field since high school, to those just discovering it as recruiting approached. Fall of Junior year, therefore, transforms into a whirlwind of both interviewing and simultaneous self-discovery. The Independent speaks with Paul Nebres, a Junior at Harvard and Case Team Leader at CBE (Harvard Undergraduate Consulting on Business and Environment), on how

his experience with an undergraduate organization shaped his perception of consulting as a potential career.

Indy: Paul, could you talk a little bit about CBE as a whole, and why a student would join an undergraduate consulting club?

PN: So CBE was founded in 2008, working on cases across technology, life sciences, and sustainability. That means working with companies in areas like water management, pharmaceuticals, artificial intelligence, and more - companies that are really changing the subsectors in which they play. We've completed more than 50 of these cases, and as CBE continues to grow, we expect to extend even deeper within our core fields of interest. And that's the exact reason why students come to CBE. Our clients are companies that we look up to as being considered revolutionary in their space. The chance to play a key role in that process is what drives students to organizations such as CBE.

Indy: Across Harvard's campus then, what sort of backgrounds or skill sets do students usually come to CBE with? Are they already well-versed in consulting or are they brand new to the industry?

PN: CBE is definitely one of the more diverse groups on campus in terms of

concentration and personal interest, especially with our three different areas of focus. We've had students come in who already have experience at major consulting firms while also bringing in analysts excited to start learning about the industry. While we don't require students to enter in with a consulting background, there are a few key tenets we look for amongst students, which we believe are representative of most consulting firms out of college. The largest of these is a strong interest in problem solving and a commitment to impact consulting. As a consultant, our foremost job is to not only solve, but oftentimes to determine the challenges a company is facing before attempting to solve them. As such, an interest in thinking deeply about complex issues and doing the necessary research to support conclusions is absolutely critical. On the other hand, the desire to get deeply involved with a company and drive a company's outcome is something that's also important.

CBE, along with HCCG and several other organizations on campus provide students with the opportunity to get an inside look into "the real world," a rare and oftentimes invaluable opportunity for those looking ahead to Junior Fall.

Tushar Dwivedi '20 (tushar_dwivedi@college.harvard.edu) welcomes all you Juniors to the real world.

A Message to Harvard Voters

2018 Voting Memes

By JAYCEE YEGHER

While voting memes are hilarious and fun to share on your social media accounts, remember that you actually have to get out there and vote to elicit real change.

Memes have truly taken over the internet, and when politics are added to the mix, they

get darker and even more entertaining. But memes don't win elections. Sharing meme posts won't get the politicians you want in office, but getting yourself out the door and voting will.

That doesn't mean memes aren't important in our political climate though. Political meme sharing has become a way for the younger generations to come

together and make light of some of the more serious issues in today's political climate. They convey the collective despair, humor and wit of an entire generation.

Here are some of the more popular political and voting memes circulating the internet lately.



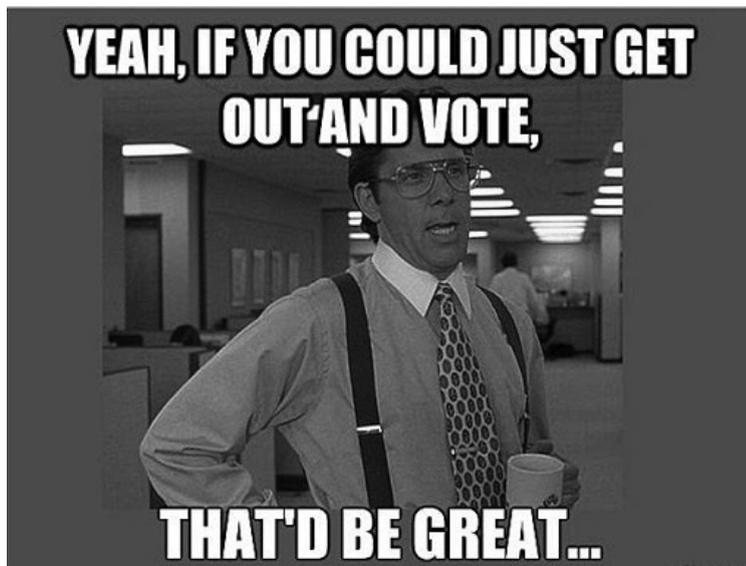
This meme is based on an image from the movie Mean Girls. The original quote, "Get in loser we're going shopping," is one of the more iconic lines from the film. In all, this one meme is a classic. What better way to make voting more mainstream than to make it seem like even the formidable Regina George gives a damn about voting? It doesn't hurt that this meme is a bit of good peer pressure, either.



This meme has origins on the widely popular T.V. show, Game of Thrones. The meme shows one of the characters, Sansa Stark, who has high hopes for her life in King's Landing, but after enduring many extreme hardships she is determined to take matters into her own hands. Like Sansa, many young voters seem to feel that their voices were left out in previous elections, bringing much hardship and turmoil into their daily lives. We can probably count on seeing voters at the polls that feel just like Sansa embarking on a quest to change her own fate.

INDY FORUM

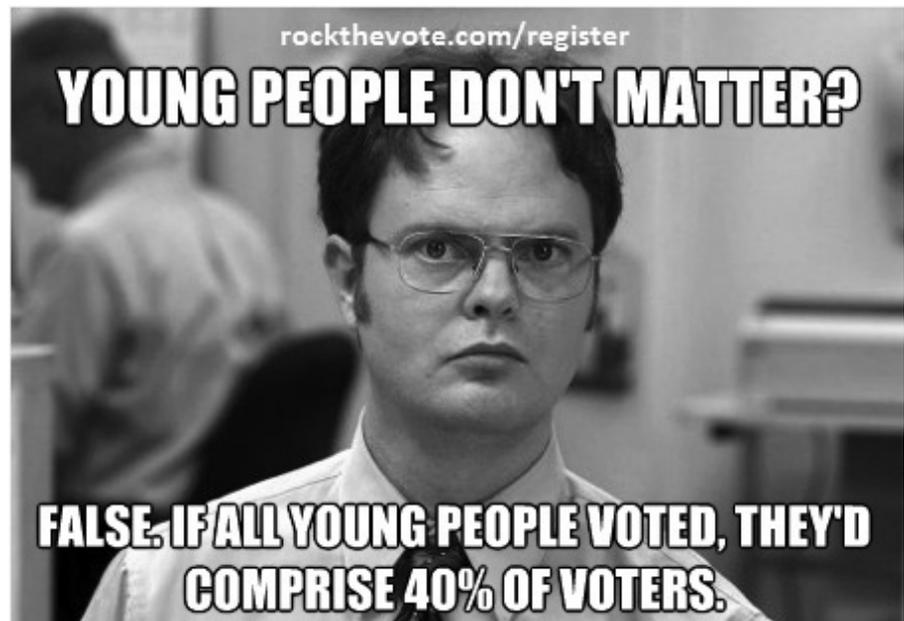
A Message to
Harvard Voters,
continued.



This is an iconic, sarcastic, non-confrontational, passive aggressive quote from the movie Office Space. “Yeah if you could just do ____, that’d be great,” is probably one of the more perfect examples of a motivational meme format, due to the levels of sheer frustration the image and word-combo convey. We’re lucky to have this meme floating around, motivating young voters to get away from their lives for just a bit and vote.



Ah, yes, another great meme. This one particularly hits home in light of recent femme-motivated movements, such as the #metoo movement and the Women’s March. Every year women in the U.S. have the right to vote to make their voices heard, every vote a middle finger to the faces of those who’d want to take that right away. This meme perfectly captures that feeling.



In this meme we have Dwight from the Office asserting some of his classic facts. He’s not wrong, either. The people sharing this meme really need to go vote!



The Hulk epitomizes our frustration here. How many times do we have to repeat it? Voting is important, and every vote matters! This is especially directed at those who’d rather rant about voting on the internet than actually go and make a change.

Your internet activism must somehow transition to the real world in order to be effective. You can attach your online presence to a social or political movement, but here -- truly fulfilling your civic duty comes from casting your vote. Happy voting!

Jaycee Yegher '21 (jayceeyegher@college.harvard.edu) really wants people get up and go vote.

To Be Held

(When You Reach Down to Help Me Up) (When You Love Me)

A Poem

By ELIDA KOCHARIAN

Please forgive these angles
obtuse
of my face,
because the light won't.

Please look down
the black crown
of my lashline,
skip the warped iron of my nose,
let the darkness croaking
ease from my flesh
escape to the earth—
behold her instead,
as I have never been held.

I know what it's like
to cradle and to bottle
to pacify and to pretend
that I Don't Need To Be Loved.
That I Am All That I Need.

Will it make me cry?

(Love.)

Let loose the line
tight round my eyes,
A damn—
Let me sob
Let me smudge
Let me shred myself on the shards of somebody's love
for me.

Because I will hold out my hand
again
& again
& again

to pull you up—
To collapse
under the weight
of my huge fucking heart,
waiting
to be held,
too.

Elida Kocharian '21 (elidakocharian@college.harvard.edu) can be found having sad girl hour with her roommate.

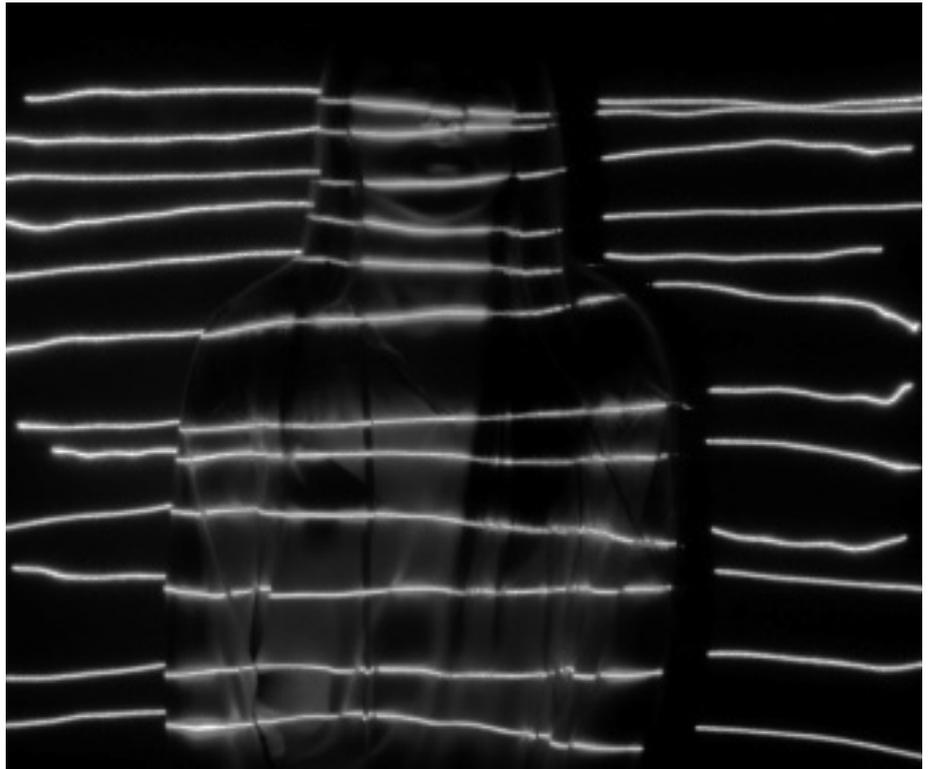
Isabelle Blair '21

Miss Murder *A Poem*

By ELIDA KOCHARIAN

orchestrated opulence adorns her gown
a violent protest against the resonance of sound
dreamlike, it wavers, a bitter black sea
picturesque sunlight dapples the waves free
inky eyes, illicitly unloved
devil's grin, uncharted, ungloved
merciless magnificence, mouth morose
lips whisper murder, fingers hold a rose

*Elida Kocharian '21 (elidakocharian@college.harvard.edu)
writes poetry when she's not too busy with her Pre-Med life.*



Isabelle Blair '21

Untitled *A Poem*

By TAWANDA MULALU

In the experiment, we put the chicks in the box
and make them love the little toy ball, then
show them many toy balls, then hide them and see
if the chicks can count them: and they can. In the city
the people rush around and the stray people with skin
like mine
remind me of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers (mine)
sometimes even of you (once)
but I lose count while God watches, wondering.

*Tawanda Mulalu '20 (tmulalu@college.harvard.edu)
MORE.*

Poems

By TAWANDA MULALU

Untitled

It's... an issue of access. I suppose.

Can you imagine how my hair curls? Into my skull
as a soft collapse outwards. Each one is named "me", as if
wonderfully parcelled as phrenology. If you grasp at me
here, then

I become something else. Or simply shoot

me and see

then what happens to my head. I mean that I wish
to be considered

as the way that we look

at lavender, and how our eyes emerge from their beads.

Your pupils are two bees buzzing towards the night.

Focused, stumbling whirrs. Do you see

that I am scared of your looking? A sting

is a question of when; and with it, your vanishing.

Rain Poem

I was scrubbing toilets for

money, then

a rhythm came upon my head

"da-da duh-da-duh da-duh duh" then

the smell of urine, yellow brine.

Later, when I think to send you

the poem it came from, I think of the discovery of it

"From a magician's midnight sleeve"

and the way that we read. And

I think of the toilets I scrubbed, and the words

hidden there lost in all the little flushes, like

everything happening outside my window now: I ran

and ran in the thunder. I am still soaked; home is so far.

Untitled

Nerve cells are assumed things seen

assuredly. What then are our

eyes? Thinking things

whispering maybes with

light, guiding

us towards hopeful

touch, threaded

gently with needle through an other's

slivered eye: we

return to looking. Silk-curtained. Through small science

glass I have you. Here,

let us speak with colours. Blink for me.

Sports Briefs

By GRAHAM WALTER

Crimson Football Conquers Columbia

After last week's loss, Harvard bounced right back against Columbia this past Saturday with a 52 to 18 victory. The win put the Crimson at 4 and 4 on there year, and 2 and 3 in the Ivy League conference. Columbia went to one and four in the conference. Looking a year back to last year's brawl, Harvard and Columbia played a one-touchdown game, despite four interceptions on Harvard's side team. Coach Murphy was looking to make this year's contest less of a nail-biter.

Harvard quarterback Tom Stewart did an outstanding job with 393 passing yards in his final regular season matchup at Harvard stadium. He set a personal record in yards

and tied the Harvard mark for touchdown passes in a game. From the 92-yard pass to Jack Cook on the opening drive, Harvard stayed dominant throughout the game.

The Crimson defense also put a pressure on the Lions. Columbia played the air raid, throwing 42 passes for 22 completions. They averaged 5.2 yards per pass, but the two interceptions by Harvard's Wesley Ogsbury limited their success and earned the defensive player of the week for the Ivy League. The Harvard defense had an additional three sacks, two by Brogan McPartland, and forced 13 fourth downs for Columbia.

Shampklin finished the game with 92 yards, a number consistent with his impressive year. Additionally, Cook had

107 yards, and Taylor had 105 yards. On 65 plays by Harvard, they averaged 7.6 yards while Columbia averaged 4.1 on 75 plays. Tom Stewart was also honored with the Ivy League co-offensive and defensive players of the week.

Celebrated seniors: Allen, Antonellis, Booker III, Camargo, Dunlap, Stewart, Garrison, Gilmore, Graves, Gray, Hart, Houston, Hunter, Jones, LaPolice, Miller, Mott, O'Brien, Ogsbury, Pirmann, Reimers, Smith, Shoults, Stansell, Sunda, Ryan, Scott, Shelton-Mosley, Taylor, Thompson, Tripp, Werner, Williams II, White, and Walker.

Harvard will play at Penn November 10th and finish up their season against Yale in Fenway Park on the 17th.

Women's Field Hockey Shuts Out Columbia

Ranked sixth in the nation, the Harvard women's field hockey team is set to play Penn State in the NCAA tournament after its 6-0 win over Columbia. Finishing their near-perfect season at Berylson field, the team honored its six graduating seniors: Victoria Boylett, Olivia Allin, Emily Duarte, Brianna Bolon, Kathleen Young, and Libby Manela. Over the past four years, these seniors played a role in winning 22 of the past 23 Ivy League contests.

Captains Kathleen Young and Libby Manela helped lead their team to several records including 16 wins in a season, the longest winning streak at 13, the highest national ranking, and the 4 hat tricks.

Harvard's great season is a combined effort of their offense and defense. Columbia was the ninth shutout of the season for the Crimson and freshman Ellie-Shahbo continued her dominance as a goalkeeper. The Crimson kept a perfect Ivy and home record. On offense, it took ten minutes before Olivia Allin scored. Five goals ensued

without reciprocation from the Lions. Once again, the Crimson defense only allowed four shots from their opponents. The dominant performance kept the ball in the possession of Harvard and allowed the Crimson to barrage the Columbia goal.

The Crimson play November 9th against Penn State.

Graham Walter '21 (grahamwalter@college.harvard.edu) is excited to cheer on all of the Crimson teams in the next few weeks.

the independent



“Searching for Gold”

By FRANCESCA CORNERO