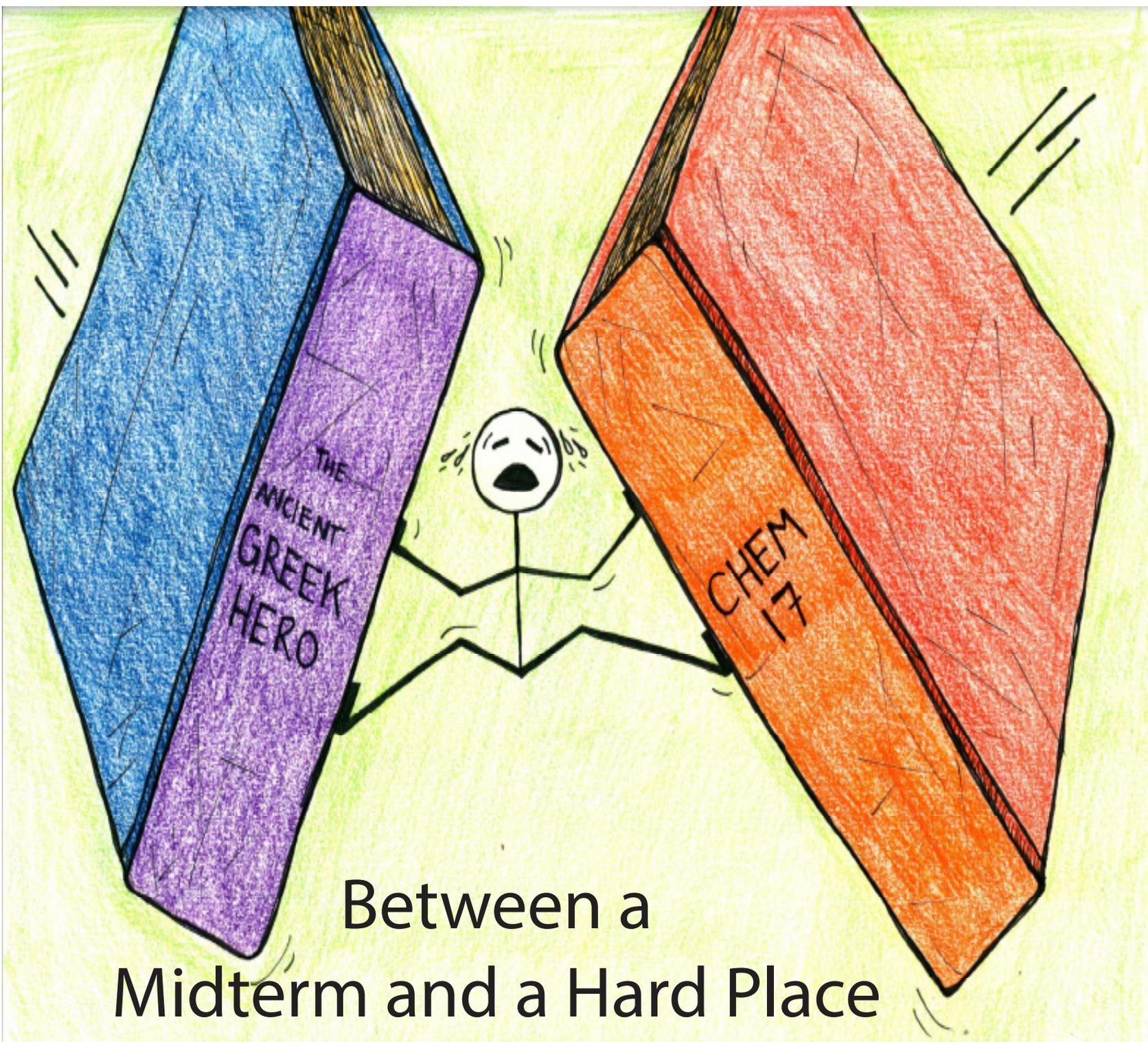


THE HARVARD  
**independent**  
10.17.19 THE STUDENT WEEKLY SINCE 1969



Inside: Expanding, Dancing, and Changing

# The Harvard Independent

10.17.2019

Vol. LI, No. 3



The Indy wishes you the best of luck in your midterms!

Cover design by  
Jilly Cronin '21

Cover illustration by  
Natalie Sicher '21

## CONTENTS

- 3 Veggie Grill Expands to Harvard Square
- 5 Inner Tube Water Polo
- 6 Harvard Dance Team
- 8 Expanding the Box
- 10 By Any Other Name

## STAFF

President Jilly Cronin '21  
Editor-in-Chief Tushar Dwivedi '20  
Associate Editor Marissa Garcia '21  
Managing Editor Ana Luiza Nicolae '22

News Editor Graham Walter '21  
Forum Editor Alaya Ayala '21  
Arts Editor Jasper Fu '21  
Sports Editor Elizabeth Gummer '21  
Podcast Editor Marissa Garcia '21

Visual Arts Editor Natalie Sicher '21  
Photography Editor Andrew Haimovici '19

Staff Writers  
Jose Espinel '20  
Claire Park '20  
Malcolm Reid '21  
Evelyn Gray '21  
Mimi Tarrant '21  
Grace Tworek '21  
JP Vieira '21  
Jaycee Yegher '21  
Amal Abdi '21  
Michael Kielstra '21  
Aidan Fitzsimons '21

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 Jilly Cronin ([president@harvardindependent.com](mailto: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](mailto:editorinchief@harvardindependent.com)).

The Harvard Independent is published weekly during the academic year, except during vacations, by The Harvard Independent, Inc., Student Organization Center at Hilles, Box 201, 59 Shepard Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Copyright © 2019 by The Harvard Independent.

Find us online!



@HarvardIndy



[soundcloud.com/harvardindy](https://soundcloud.com/harvardindy)

## Veggie Grill Expands to Harvard Square

*Plant-based provisions such as cauli-mashed potatoes, and Beyond Meat are now being served in the new Harvard Square location at a time when plant-based eating is becoming an increasing sustainability priority of the University*

By MARISSA GARCIA

During the festivities of Harvard Square’s annual Oktoberfest celebration, Veggie Grill, the plant-based chain headquartered in Santa Monica, officially opened the doors to its 34th location on Sunday, October 13th, marking its first expansion to the East Coast. Other locations presently include Illinois, Washington, Oregon, and mainly, California, with a new location soon opening in New York as well. Despite the franchise’s goals of swiftly opening 10 restaurants in the timeline of the next year, this new opening at 57 JFK Street comes after a prolonged wait of 16 months. At the time the franchise

expansion was announced in May 2018, the restaurant had been predicted to be serving its first customers by Fall 2018.

During Veggie Grill’s soft opening on Friday, October 11th, each pre-registered customer was offered a complimentary drink, appetizer (per two people), and entree to be ordered from their full menu. Highlights include the Bulgogi Beef Protein Bowl, the Mediterranean Supergreens salad, the Santa Fe Crispy Chickin’, and Carne Asada tacos. This selection alone is inspired by Korean, Mediterranean, American, and Mexican cuisine, truly underscoring Veggie Grill’s marketing tactic to reinvent

plant-based eating as a lifestyle that transcends supposed constraints of cultural culinary tradition. Assumptions that diets from traditionally meat-centric culinary traditions could not be adapted are bygone. Geographical diversity is at the heart of this plant-based fare, simultaneously being attractive to customers from many cultural backgrounds but also advocating for a greater mission: proving by practice that plant-based never translates to restrictive. The promise of a meal at Veggie Grill leaving both the customer “AND our planet feeling better” even manifests itself in the earthtone colors of the drinks, varying from Hibiscus Tea, Black Tea, Matcha Horchata, and Strawberry Lemonade. Customers could elect between dining in or taking their meals to-go, highlighting Veggie Grill’s pick-up option that will assuredly be attractive to the on-the-go lifestyles of students, inevitably bustling between destinations short of time.

Amongst the diners on Friday evening was Antares Tobelem ’21, who confessed, after voraciously consuming her vegan dinner, “My friends and family know how much I love eating meat.” She then proceeded to confess that, after ordering the food at Veggie Grill for the first time, “I could realistically become a vegetarian... it not only tasted incredible, it also felt healthier for my body after I ate it.” Beyond just the appreciability of the food’s health angle—after all, Veggie Grill boasts of using rice bran and seed oils, sources of “good cholesterol”—Tobelem was especially driven by the inseparability of the franchise and its commitment to the



Photo courtesy of Antares Tobelem

# INDY NEWS

## *Veggie Grill, continued.*

environment. In an era where alternative meats are priced 200% above comparable ground beef options (\$6 for a half pound of Beyond Meat in comparison to \$3 for a half pound of ground beef), any concerns Tobelem may have harbored about Veggie Grill's presumably high cost—considering the menu's reliance upon Beyond Meat—were quickly dispelled: she discovered that the price of every meal at Veggie Grill was impressively comparable to any other fast-service food option in Harvard Square, ranging from \$7.95 to \$13.50.

Tobelem represents the demographic in the market that Veggie Grill is striving to target, what CEO Steve Heeley would describe as a customer who is “veggie-positive.” In its coverage of Veggie Grill, Forbes brought to light a 2018 Gallup poll that documented that only 5% of Americans identify as vegetarian and 3% as vegan. During an interview with Forbes about the persistent expansion of Veggie Grill despite these strikingly low plant-based demographics, CEO Steve Heeley insisted that “vegans and vegetarians...are about 20% of our business. The other 80% is what we call people who are veggie-positive.” So, it's only tactical that Veggie Grill would be marketing toward those who are veggie-positive in order to be a successful plant-based franchise.

This marketing strategy elucidates upon the staples of Veggie Grill's menu offerings. Instead of focusing on whole food natural proteins, such as beans, chickpeas, and seitan—which are endemic to standard plant-based menus—they expand into industry-born imitation meats, such as Gardein Chickin' and Beyond Burger.

The Beyond Burger, a plant-based burger deriving its protein from peas and its meat-like color from beets, is the menu item most likely to entice meat eaters to venture to plant-based eating—a dietary lifestyle once presumptively bland, now on the brink of exotic. According to executive chairman of Beyond Burger Seth Goldman and as quoted in Food Navigator USA, “70% of purchasers of the plant-based Beyond Burger are flexitarians—meat eaters that are cutting down on meat.” This trend is aligned with the Harvard University Dining Services' addition of the Beyond Burger to the Grille menu offerings in Fall 2018. As of Fall 2019, the Beyond Burger is cited as more frequently ordered than the traditional veggie burger at the Grille.

After Tobelem insisted she intends on bringing all of her friends to Veggie Grill, she exclaimed, “I've already gone [to Veggie Grill] twice since it opened 3 days ago! I wish they would implement it more into the dining halls!” The sentiment parallels the intention behind Veggie Grill's recent partnership with Sodexo, a firm that provides food services to over 700 universities—including the likes of UCLA, UC Berkeley, and the University of Washington. At these colleges Sodexo will incorporate items from the Veggie Grill menu, a considerable boon for the restaurant considering how approximately 20% of college students in particular identify as flexitarian, vegetarian, or vegan, according to Techonomics. This partnership is in tandem with the findings of a 2018 Gallup Poll, which affirmed that vegetarian diets are significantly more prevalent amongst younger age demographics, with 7.5% of those ages 18 to 49 identifying as vegetarian in comparison to the 2.5% who are ages 50 and older.

It has remained a deepening priority of the University to instill in its students a value for sustainable eating, and its recent actions indicate that Harvard's striving to lead

by example. In September 2019, Harvard signed the Cool Food Pledge, committing to a collective goal amongst the other pledgers to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions attributed to dining services by 25% by 2030. Joining the ranks of plant-forward Clover and Whole Heart Provisions, the opening of Veggie Grill could not be more timely.

*Marissa Garcia '21 (marissagarcia@college.harvard.edu) covers plant-based eating at and near Harvard for the Indy.*

# INDY SPORTS

## A Watery Legacy

### Quincy Dominates Intramural Inner Tube Water Polo

By ANNIE COLLOREDO

Quincy House clinched their eighth consecutive win in the intramural, innertube water polo competition this past Saturday. After six hours of intense competition in Blodgett pool, the team emerged victorious after a 5-0 win against Winthrop House in the final.

The Quincy team was comprised of various varsity athletes, including swimmers Mahlon Reihman, Eric Whisenant, Daniel Chang, Matti Harrison; rowers Joseph Jonson, Lucas Clarke, Sam Monkley, Ethan Seder, Desmond Goodwin; and ex-water polo player and tutor, Austen Novis. With such a lineup, expectations were clearly quite how for the team.

The team climbed the ranks to the final with ease, going undefeated against Elliot, Mather, and Pfoho before beating out Winthrop. For Winthrop, however, the path to the final was not nearly as easy. In their semifinal against Kirkland house, the game went into overtime and Winthrop won by a narrow margin of just one goal.

Participants of the tournament on Saturday varied in age, size, gender, sports team, and nationality, and yet all showed a concerted effort in each game, flapping their arms wildly in backwards motions to propel themselves through the water, and diving heroically for the ball, all the while trying to not fall from their respective innertubes. It was truly a spectacle to behold and all that was missing was... a set of beholders themselves. Disappointingly, only a few spectators came out to witness the intense competition.

Three of the rowers on Quincy's team, juniors Lucas Clarke, Ethan Seder, and Sam Monkley, were kind enough to pause their post-game celebration and reflect on their journey to victory with the Independent.

"We had a really good goalie, who was really committed to staying back, and our defenders were committed to their positions as well. It was a great team effort," said Ethan Seder.

"The boys, and girls, really brought it today. It was a game of two halves," said Lucas Clarke.

With regards to their strategy, Sam Monkley reported that, "Scoring goals was our big plan. We thought that if we scored more goals than they would, we would win, so it went all right for us." After a moment of further reflection,

Sam further credited the athletic prowess of the Quincy team, pointing to the amount of varsity athletes on the Quincy team's roster.

They credit their win to Deb Gehrke, their house dean, who offered to buy the Quincy team pizza in the event of a victory. "We would like to thank Deb," said Lucas, "The pizza was really a big motivator." Sam and Ethan agreed enthusiastically, adding that before the game, Deb texted them one word: "dynasty."

With this, the team definitely felt the pressure to uphold Quincy's long-standing intramural, innertube water polo legacy.

When asked about their strategy for the following year, Ethan said, "Next time, we definitely need team uniforms. That would really help with morale."

From a spectator's perspective, it was clear that key to Quincy's victory was the sheer height of the team members. The towering group of rowers and swimmers had an obvious advantage in stature over all other teams. From

their perches in their innertubes, they were able to hoist themselves far enough out of the water to lob the ball over the unsuspecting heads of their adversaries. Furthermore, the majority of the players on the Quincy team had prior experience with either swimming or water polo, in addition to being already fit from training for their respective sports teams at Harvard. Their experience with the sport, coupled with their mere athleticism, made for an easy victory.

The boys, and two girls, were on.

Annie Colloredo Mansfeld '23  
([acolloredomansfeld@college.harvard.edu](mailto:acolloredomansfeld@college.harvard.edu))  
looks forward to attending more IM tournaments this year.



Sam Monkley '21

# INDY SPORTS

## Devoted to Dance

*Discussing the Crimson Dance Team*

By ELIZABETH GUMMER

What would a Harvard sporting event be without regular breaks to refresh snacks, stretch your legs, and catch some quality performances from the Harvard Crimson Dance Team? Although not every varsity team is lucky enough to be graced with the presence of these upbeat women, the team makes regular appearances at primarily home football and basketball matches. Performing to songs from DJ Snake's "Taki Taki" to the Lumineers' "Cleopatra," the women show a range of ability that goes beyond what is seen in their short duration dances between game quarters.

Devoting around 12 hours each week to team commitments, team workouts range from choreography sessions in the quad at the QRAC to lifting across the river at Palmer Dixon. This year practices are held from 8 to 10 pm on school nights as well as Sunday mornings to avoid academic conflict. Missing practice isn't really an option, learning new choreography weekly and rehearsing timing with one another requires team members to consistently be in attendance. In addition to practice, the team has recently added lift to their weekly schedule.

The fall is by and large the busiest time for the team. This year CDT upped their

amount of game time performances, performing in more football games than years prior. Alongside preparation for weekly routines, the team has to think about preparing for nationals this coming January. Earlier this semester, the team spend the entirety of their Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at their fall choreography weekend to learn their dance for nationals. Learning from New York based choreographer Ali Koinoglou, the team spent nearly 10 hours on Saturday alone setting the groundwork for their upcoming performance.

Nationals take place each year in Orlando, Florida, within Disneyworld. The event is held within the Wide World of Sports,



Kayla Roche '19

# INDY SPORTS

*Devoted to Dance, continued.*

and the team travels and stays in the area for a week of their J-term. Returning back on campus early in January to prepare, the team partakes in their J-term bootcamp in which they spend every day of the week dedicated solely to perfection their routines for the upcoming competition. Co-captain Malila Freeman '21 has fond memories of their time on campus without school, noting that being able to focus exclusively on the team for three weeks is both “physically demanding but at the same time so much fun.” This year the team will be performing to Alicia Keys’ “Fallin.”

An incredibly tight knit group, CDT is planning a trip to Cancun post-nationals to celebrate their hard work and bond as a team. Freeman emphasized how important team culture is to the team considering the time they spend together each week in practice, as well as away from dance related activities. Welcoming three new members to the team this year, the group has already taken to hosting mixers, movie nights, and hangouts together to integrate the rookies and continue their tradition of close community.

Freeman reflected on the team culture as truly unique in terms of excitement and energy that is brought to practice each day. Freeman recounts from each practice at least one member expressing how happy they are to be at practice and to be with one another. Each member “does what they do for the team because they think it is fun and they want to be there... People look forward to coming to practice because it is a break from the rest of their lives and they can spend time with people who are so close to one another.”

While some of the choreography in the fall for football and basketball games is done by head coach Mary Ferruolo, CDT members are able to test their own hand at choreography throughout the year. Free-

man, along with co-captain Sarah Chin '21, recently finished their choreography for the upcoming Crimson Madness event in which the basketball team kicks off their 2019 season. New members of the team will choreograph their first numbers here, and work on putting together a repertoire for the Spring show. Held annually in the Spring semester, the show is choreographed exclusively by members of the team and is free and open to students at the college.

In addition to dancing, the Crimson Dance Team partakes in several community service events throughout the year. This Sunday the team gave their time to the Reebok Boston 10km for Women, an annual run held downtown that inspires women to set and achieve wellness goals. The members of CDT single handedly signed in every single participant in the race this year, aiding thousands of women in their race preparation.

Unable to get full funding from the school due to their club sport status, the team partakes in many creative fundraising efforts throughout the year to pay for uniforms, travel, and coaching. Freeman did express an immense appreciation for the increase in support from the athletics department this year. In previous years team members were responsible for purchasing many vital aspects of their uniforms without team aid. After much coordination with the athletics department over the past two years, the team has been able to increase school aid in purchasing leggings, long sleeve competition tops, and singlets to create a cohesive team uniform. Freeman commented on the increased morale on the team, noting the importance and value that is placed on feeling like a valued member of the Harvard athletic community by being able to present as a unified team.

Aside from school grants, the team makes most of their budget by targeting

student generosity. The team is also known for their Harvard-Yale t-shirts and holiday candy grams. While noting that it is difficult to continuously come up with creative and enticing ideas for bringing in extra cash, Freeman hinted at their current effort of selling Yankee Candles as fundraising for the upcoming year.

Look out for the Crimson Dance Team at Crimson Madness this Friday at 7 pm at Lavietes Pavilion for their next performance.

*Elizabeth Gummer '21 (elizabethgummer@college.harvard.edu) writes sports for the Indy.*

# INDY FORUM

## Expanding the Box

### *Research Computing at Harvard*

By MICHAEL KIELSTRA

Going by his hair and stubble, Scott Yockel could be the lead singer in an indie rock band. His bookshelf, on which titles like *Modern Quantum Chemistry* jostle for space with model planes, a mounted autographed baseball, and photos of his family, would place him instead as the resident good-ol'-boy of a world-class chemistry department. This is slightly more accurate: his Ph.D. is indeed from the University of North Texas, and his early research work was in chemistry. These days, though, he lives in Massachusetts (a state which he describes, in a thankful manner, as "having all four seasons") and leads the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences Research Computing team.

FASRC, as it is commonly known, was founded in 2007 under the aegis of James Cuff. Cuff very quickly set about embedding research computing within Harvard's culture; today, Yockel regularly reaps the benefits of what he describes as a very stable and reliable budget. Cuff's masterpiece, though, was, without question, *Odyssey*, a supercomputer which grew to span over 82 000 computer cores. For comparison, your laptop probably has four. Housed mostly in a data center built as a partnership between Harvard, BU, Northeastern, MIT, and UMass, *Odyssey* at its height ran 22 million compute jobs every year, ranging from statistical analyses that finish in half an hour to enormous calculations for artificial intelligence or bioinformatics that might take weeks.

This year, *Odyssey* has been replaced with *Cannon*, a new system with a very similar architecture. Yockel is very excited about the new liquid-cooling system, which allows for the use of much more powerful processors without overheating. *Odyssey's* temperature was managed by cold air, but the newest computing technology produces enough heat that Yockel likens cooling it with air to trying to manage "forty hairdryers in a refrigerator". By using liquid coolant in copper tubing, FASRC can move the heat away from the processors more

effectively, allowing them to use the newest and fastest equipment. The Intel Xeon cores that make up much of *Cannon* have computing power similar to what you'd find in the very highest tier of gaming computer, each able to perform almost four billion calculations per second at peak capacity. *Cannon* has 100 000 of them, plus two and a half million "CUDA" cores, designed to run more slowly but make up for it in volume.

The *Cannon* cluster is still in the final stages of testing, and the current state of things fails in some ways to impress the wider research computing world. The unimaginatively named TOP500, a list of the 500 most powerful computers worldwide, put *Odyssey* exactly nowhere. Yockel doesn't care. "We're not trying to be that," he says. The liquid cooling might well put *Cannon* on the list, but that's not the point. In contrast to Texas Advanced Computing's *Stampede2*, number 17 on the TOP500 at the time of writing and famous for a focus on using enormous power to solve enormous problems, FASRC strives to solve problems of all shapes and sizes, from the smallest to the largest. By expanding slowly year by year rather than applying for huge grants all at once, by focusing on services as much as on raw power, FASRC makes gains in accessibility to all researchers at the cost of losing out on a reputation for inhabiting the very top tiers of high-performance computing.

This sort of resource would mostly be wasted were it not for FASRC's second role as an advising body. Every Wednesday at noon, the research facilitation team gathers in a conference room in their headquarters at 38 Oxford Street to hold office hours. No appointment or affiliation with any given Harvard department is necessary, although the front door does have a lock that requires a Harvard ID. Some people take this opportunity to ask very complex questions about the minutiae of their projects; others are new to the research computing game and need to be walked through running their first program. All are welcome.

The leader of this team, Raminder Singh,

describes a typical day at his job as "very user-problem-solving oriented". Beyond office hours, academics can reach him via any number of channels. As I arrived to interview him, he apologized and said that he had double-booked a consultation with "Doug". (He did not tell me who exactly Doug was, and I did not ask.) Doug's problems, in the end, took up only a few minutes, but the event handily underscored how busy Raminder was.

If you can't make it to 38 Oxford Street, or to the shorter office hours held weekly at the T. H. Chan School of Public Health, you can always email. Raminder's team receives over six thousand support requests a year. Most come from humans, some come from automatic systems, but all need to be read, answered quickly if possible, and otherwise directed to the most knowledgeable team member. This routing is the job of the "RTCop", or "research technology cop", a rotating role that fell to Raminder on the day I interviewed him. Another day, he might be running a training seminar or writing new documentation: when the FASRC team is handed a problem that they imagine might be fairly common, they put their solution on the website to make it easy to find.

(Raminder's wife, he says, has been encouraging him to buy a police officer's hat from a costume store and bring it in for the RTCop to wear. He has so far failed or refused to do this, despite finding the title "pretty cool".)

Regardless of how you get in touch with them, Yockel and Raminder share a philosophy less centered around teaching the intricacies of high-performance computing in great detail – access to *Odyssey* and now *Cannon* is not conditional on completing any training, and the recommended preparation can be done online in half an hour – and more focused on helping scholars understand the bigger picture. Raminder used the word "workflow" a number of times, and I have more than once come in to office hours with a technical problem only to have a textbook recommended to me instead of a software patch.

---

# INDY FORUM

*Expanding the Box, continued.*

---

Part of this focus does arise as a response to the risks of letting multiple researchers use the system at once. Many resources are shared in a complex way. For example, memory is connected to individual processors, so if someone wants to use only four processors but requires the memory that would normally be associated with having eight, they actually tie up eight processors. Users, who often have more experience working on their own laptops or on high-powered computers that they wholly own and do not share, sometimes run into difficulties due to the often unintuitive ways in which multi-user clusters operate. In this sort of scenario, a broader teaching strategy, more conceptual and less

immediately practical, can pay huge dividends later on.

Framing their philosophy as wholly motivated by the need to safeguard a complex and expensive investment, however, would be a great disservice to the FASRC team. Again and again, the people I interviewed stressed the importance of trying to understand what it was that users really wanted to do. Raminder described how his team had learned to ask further questions before giving a diagnosis or advice. Obviously, Odyssey was and Cannon is crucial to the work of FASRC, but Yockel would even argue that the technology itself is not the most important thing. “Most of the

time,” he says, “researchers ask questions that fit in the technology box that they have. And if we can show them that the box can be much bigger, they can ask much grander questions. They can strive to solve much more challenging problems. And that’s the value that we provide.” Anyone can buy a supercomputer, but good teaching, FASRC believes, is priceless.

*Michael Kielstra '22 (pmkielstra@college.harvard.edu) may not be a computer, but thinks he's pretty super in other ways.*



By Ava Salzman '23

# INDY FORUM

## By Any Other Name

### *Thoughts on Indigenous Peoples' Day*

By ALAYA AYALA

It never quite occurred to me how much stock we put on names until I got to college.

Specifically, at Harvard, there are different and specific names for things that are common at other colleges. Here, a major is a concentration, a minor a secondary. Here, incoming freshmen visit us every spring during Visitas. We don't have Resident Assistants, we have PAFs and Proctors and Tutors. Here, there's a distinction between a club and a student organization (albeit a controversial one). Other colleges have Resident Halls, we have Dorms and Houses.

Given Harvard's tendency towards naming things in unique ways and its goal of being more inclusive, you would think that there would be no hesitation on the University's part to regard the naming of things like holidays and locations on campus with sensitivity. Specifically, I'm referring to the naming of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

This past Monday, the 14th of October, Harvard once again celebrated Columbus Day by canceling classes and naming it on the 2019-2020 Academic Calendar. This was met by protests by students at the University who feel that Harvard shouldn't be acknowledging a holiday named after a man well known for exploiting Indigenous populations in the late 15th and 16th centuries. Their argument is that the University should follow in the footsteps of the City of Cambridge and several other academic institutions in the country by no longer calling the holiday Columbus Day, and instead recognizing it as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

I had an opportunity to sit and chat with Anna Kate Cannon, '21, of Dunster House, about these events. She is the co-president of the Native Americans of Harvard College. According to her, "Our Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration is something we do every year.

We've been doing it since long before I got here and there's always been kind of an element of protest to it. If you just see the pictures of the event we have speakers, we have posters all over Matthews Hall.

It's always taken kind of a protest spin, and I really wish that we could get out of that because it's supposed to be a celebration. Now it's like more of a call to action and more antagonistic toward the University because our goal right now is to get Columbus Day wiped off the University calendar. It is entirely incongruous to celebrate Columbus and celebrate indigenous culture and survival. You can't celebrate Indigenous resilience and survival while also celebrating the person that made that survival and resilience necessary, the person who perpetrated the genocide of indigenous peoples in the Western Hemisphere. He enslaved

hundreds of indigenous peoples, he brought them back as commodities -- as evidence of the bounty New World offered. He was a rapist, he tortured Indigenous people himself so the fact that we are celebrating him, we could do so much better.

As of now, I believe only Harvard Medical School and the Graduate School of Education both solely recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. Harvard College recognizes both as does Harvard University as a whole, so it's very decentralized. We've had conversations with Dean Khurana, the Dean of Harvard College, and he seems very receptive. We're also trying to have conversations with Larry Bacow about changing the calendar because it's so easy for them to do, and it's such a symbolic step toward inclusion and making things right, and being on the right side of



Natalie Sicher '21

## *Indigenous People's Day, continued.*

history.

At the same time, any sort of activism, anything that I've been a part of at Harvard has been under the assumption that Harvard is a huge name. People follow what Harvard does. If people see that Harvard recognizes Indigenous Peoples' Day, then there might be a response of 'shouldn't we be doing this too?'"

Recently, the student organization Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC) began a petition on change.org asking Harvard to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day on their academic calendar. So far it has garnered over 1,300 signatures. According to Anna '21, "We've signed petitions toward this goal every year, and this is the first year that we've brought it to change.org and gotten signatures from people outside of the university. There are signatures coming in from all over."

This is a huge step toward getting the University to mobilize, as it is evidence that people outside the University care about how the school presents itself to the world. Students like to joke about being stuck in "the Harvard Bubble," which is the idea that being at Harvard puts you out of touch with the real world during your studies. This is an illusion and one that we - and the University - should strive to shatter. What happens on this campus has every likelihood of affecting events off-campus.

I also had the chance to discuss why the University has been reluctant in the past to fully recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the academic calendar with Anna. According to her, she's received feedback on NAHC's efforts to change the name of the holiday along the lines of "it's named Columbus Day because it's a celebration of Italian heritage." (To this, Anna jokingly responded that there are better men in Italian history to celebrate). She also went on to state that "When Indigenous Peoples' Day was first put on the calendar, it was done quietly, there was no fanfare. After the HUDS strike, one of their conditions for returning to work was the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day. We got this quiet, half-hearted recognition, while it still calls the day 'Columbus Day' because it's a federal holiday."

Currently, the 2019-2020 Academic Calendar for Harvard College lists Monday, October 14th, Monday as: University holiday: Columbus Day (Federal), Indigenous Peoples' Day (City of Cambridge).

There are those who think that this isn't a big deal, or that the name of this holiday doesn't matter. It's a bank holiday, kids get a day off from school. I disagree with this sentiment for a lot of reasons. My younger sisters are 10 and 11 years old. When they learned about Columbus Day in elementary school, it was my mother and I who told them why we don't like that day, and why Christopher Columbus was not someone we'd ever celebrate. As 2nd and 3rd generation Puerto Ricans in the United States, our heritage is tied into the decimation of the native Taino population on the island by the disease, enslavement, and genocide brought to them when Columbus landed in the Caribbean.

It is for this reason that I place a lot of importance on names at Harvard. History does not go away when we call it by a different name. The atrocities committed by Columbus himself and the people who conquered the New World after him do not go away when we take a bank holiday and put his name on it "in celebration" of events that would one day lead to the United States.

On the importance of names at Harvard, and why it's so important that we change the name of the holiday from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day, Anna '21 left me with this thought: "Stoughton, who Stoughton Hall is named after, was one of the main antagonists of the Salem Witch trials, he ensured that several innocent people hung. We have Lowell House named after president Lowell, we have Houses named after slave owners. So many names in Harvard history have so much wrongdoing attached to them. There's been a push for Lowell House to be renamed for a while, and nothing has been done. People outside of Harvard aren't going to care about Lowell House or Stoughton Hall, but people outside of Harvard are going to care about Indigenous Peoples' Day and Columbus Day. There's so many wrongs that the University isn't going to be able to right, but this [changing the calendar] is a small step that would be a huge victory for us."

I can only hope that this is a victory that NAHC and other Indigenous groups on and off campus get to celebrate, and soon.

*Alaya Ayala (alaya\_ayala@college.harvard.edu) is hoping for change at Harvard.*



Photo courtesy of Peter Jankowski

---

# captured and shot



## End of the Road

By ANDREW HAIMOVICI '21