CULTURE

Where to party in Cambridge this weekend

// BY LEAH SKINNER

You can take the Bulldog out of New Haven, but you can't make one root for H*rvard.

Thousands of Yale students will be surrounded by Crimson, forced to navigate unfamiliar, enemy territory. But don't let the change of scenery fool you. Whether you have a ticket to Fenway or not, there are still plenty of ways to make the most of the weekend.

Official H*rvard-Yale tailgate:

If you're one of the lucky Bulldogs who managed to secure a ticket to The Game, congratulations! You can also attend the official H*rvard-Yale Tailgate at Fenway Park. The event offers early access to the bleachers, perfect for capturing the candid cover photo for your Instagram post. Free food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, giveaways, installations and music (although not a Ken Carson song) will be available till 3 p.m.

If you do not have a ticket, keep reading.

Theta Iota Nupes tailgate

The Theta Iota Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., are hosting "The Tailgate" on Saturday starting at 10 a.m. at Back Bay Fens.

Best of all, no ticket is required. So even if you didn't make it into Fenway, you can still get in on the pre-football game activities.

H*rvard-Yale Senior tailgate:

Don't want to spend your Saturday watching a Yale frosh beg the bouncer to let them in? Leave the underclassmen behind and join Yale and H*rvard's classes of 2027 at the Senior Tailgate instead.

Check your Yale email for the link to tickets. After all, this is the only good email most seniors are getting from H*rvard about The Game.

H*rvard Square:

Unfortunately, spending the weekend in Cambridge means you'll probably end up in the heart (read armpit) of H*rvard's campus: H*rvard Square. Whether you're looking for somewhere to grab a bite, get a drink or kill time before the next tailgate, the Square has a few options. Just watch for kids dressed in crimson trying to recruit you for their Consulting Finance Bro Pipeline.

Non-suite parties:

While researching for this piece, I stumbled across perhaps the funniest, lamest H*rvard rule of all: first-year students have to register parties thrown in their suites. And if that wasn't enough, there's a 25-person limit. So if you're a frosh hoping to find an underground suite party this weekend, don't count on it. Some things just aren't worth the paperwork.

Black student association afterparty:

Both schools' Black student associations are coming together to throw what they call "THE BIGGEST AFTER PARTY" at Sojuba from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. It's a 10-minute drive from H*rvard, and a three-minute walk if you're coming from The Game. It's a convenient stop for anyone looking to keep the festivities going after Yale wins. Tickets are around $17. Drinks will be available for purchase, so either bring your wallet or BYOB (Bring Your Own Bulldog, of course).

H*rvard bus to MIT:

Imagine going to a school so lame that you have to take a 20-minute bus ride to MIT just to party. Well, H*rvard kids don't have to imagine that, because it's their reality. For those looking to escape the H*rvard bubble (as you should), the best bus options to MIT are MBTA Route 1 and MBTA Route 68. You can also take the Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Final clubs:

H*rvard's lamer version of Secret Societies. Students typically go through a selection process known as being "punched" during their sophomore year — and I think I would rather be literally punched than go to H*rvard. But my inside source from H*rvard says some Final Clubs are planning on hosting during The Game. You might just have to flirt with the enemy to learn where they're at.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JANE CALLANAN

CULTURE

Home field disadvantage

// BY ERIN MUSE

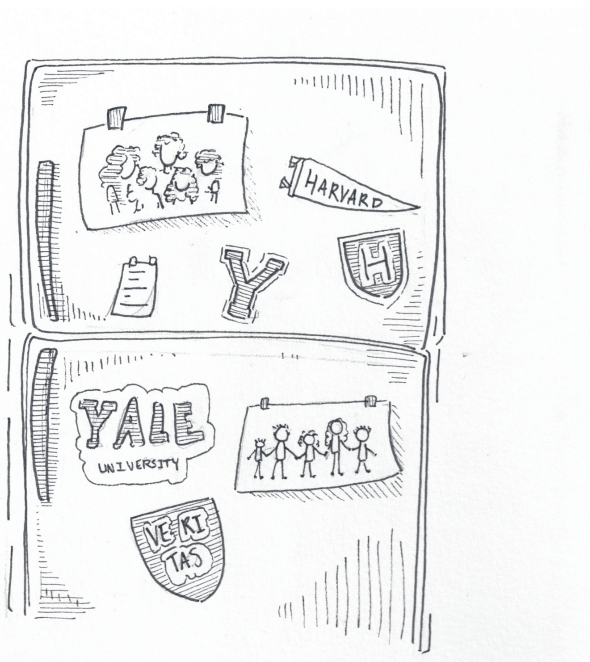

ILLUSTRATION BY CLARA WONG

There are certain topics best avoided at the Thanksgiving dinner table: politics, religion and, apparently, H*rvard.

As Yale students prepare to head home for the holidays, those with ties to Cambridge may find family reunions a little more contentious than usual. With The Game falling just days before Thanksgiving, Saturday's final score could determine who gets the last word over Thursday's turkey.

Thanksgiving is a holiday built on family traditions. There are recipes passed down through generations, the seating arrangements nobody dares to change and the arguments that somehow manage to resurface year after year. For some families, the H*rvard-Yale rivalry has earned a place among them.

Most Yale students will be able to leave The Game behind when they take off for Thanksgiving break. Whatever happens in Boston stays in Boston, and the familiar comforts of home await: a home-cooked meal, a childhood bedroom and a seat at the kids' table you still haven't outgrown. But for students with H*rvard relatives, the rivalry comes home with them. The people waiting around the dinner table may have spent Saturday cheering for the other team.

Julia Howe '30 has been navigating divided allegiances since before she arrived at Yale. Her mother, a H*rvard alumna, had hoped her daughter would follow in her footsteps. During a campus tour, she arranged four days in Cambridge, carefully timing the visit for the pleasant spring weather and showing Howe around her old haunts.

Howe, however, had already fallen for Yale.

When she opened her acceptance letter, her father celebrated by pulling out Yale merchandise and singing school songs. Her mother offered a considerably more subdued reaction before returning to work.

A mother's love may be unconditional. Her school spirit, apparently, is not.

Still, Howe's mother has accepted her daughter's decision, even if she has yet to embrace the Yale blue. The two will reunite in Cambridge for The Game, where Howe suspects her mother will be cheering for H*rvard. Her mother has even proposed another tour of H*rvard's campus, perhaps hoping a second look might make her daughter begin a transfer application.

There is something endearing about the stubbornness of family loyalties. We inherit all sorts of things from our relatives, but college allegiances are not so easily passed down. And when they aren't, they become one more thing for families to lovingly disagree about.

For Camille Ruiz '30, having a cousin at H*rvard has made the rivalry considerably more entertaining. When she was admitted to Yale, she wasn't sure how he would react. As it turned out, he was delighted, though perhaps not for the reasons she'd expected.

"He said it would make beating our asses a whole lot better if he had a relative at Yale," Ruiz recalled.

For Ruiz, the prospect of a Yale loss carries an additional consequence: Thanksgiving with a cousin who has every reason to remind her of it.

"When I go home and see him for Thanksgiving, I'm really hoping I'm not gonna go home to a loss rubbed in my face," she said.

Anyone with siblings or cousins knows that family members have a remarkable talent for keeping score. Childhood competitions can linger well into adulthood, and even the smallest victories have a way of resurfacing at the most inconvenient moments. For Ruiz, Thanksgiving may offer her cousin the perfect opportunity to add another victory to the family record.

But family ties aren't the only way to find yourself fraternizing with the enemy. For some Yale students, the rivalry is a matter of the heart.

Henry Greenwold '29 has a girlfriend at H*rvard, a relationship that has made Cambridge feel considerably more familiar. Before making things official with her, Greenwold said H*rvard felt almost like a fictional place. Though he moved to Cambridge with his family at the end of high school, he said, he knew relatively few people in the city. Getting to know his girlfriend, Sophia, and her friends has made H*rvard feel less like an abstract rival and more like a real community, he said.

But familiarizing himself with the other side has only given Greenwold more reason to care about the outcome of The Game.

"It's very serious! I don't know how I'd face her friends if we lost," he wrote in an email.

The couple plans to spend Friday night attending H*rvard-Yale parties hosted by their respective student organizations. On Saturday, they intend to move between the H*rvard student section and, as Greenwold put it, "the winning side."

For all the affection that crosses university lines, some disagreements remain irreconcilable. Greenwold said that one particularly contentious question in their relationship is whether Trumbull College is Yale's version of H*rvard's Mather House, or whether Mather is H*rvard's version of Trumbull.

"From my perspective, the answer is pretty clear," he said.

Perhaps that is what makes the H*rvard-Yale rivalry so enduring. The schools may be separated by more than a hundred miles, but their students have a way of finding one another in the same families, friendships and relationships. And while those connections might make the opposing school a little harder to hate, they can also make losing to it considerably harder to bear.

By Thanksgiving, the final score will be five days old. The players will have left the field, the crowds will have dispersed and most students will have traded their school colors for something a little more appropriate for dinner. But for those with divided loyalties at home, the rivalry will be far from over.

After all, the only thing worse than losing to H*rvard is having to pass the mashed potatoes to someone who won't let you forget it. Not that that's happened in the past four years.

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WEEKEND RECOMMENDS:

HUCKING FARVARD