CULTURE

# H*rvardscopes

// BY JULIA YAKIREVICH

With midterm exams hopefully behind us all and Tini's Thanksgiving mac and cheese making the future look a little brighter, let's all focus on the present — the gift that is H*rvard tears. If the stars haven't been on your side this semester, no need to give up yet. Consider it the collective sacrifice for our Saturday win. Things might be looking up for all of us Yalies after this weekend — we just have to make it out alive first.

Taurus: Don't bother trying to fit your emotional baggage into your carry-on — your knit crewneck from Campus Customs already takes up half the available room. Treat this weekend like a clean slate, and embrace your anonymity in Boston. Pretend to have a fake identity or do something crazy like wearing silver jewelry instead of your go-to gold. But don't forget the famous 142-year-old saying, "What happens at The Game stays at The Game." Just because you're leaving old baggage behind in New Haven doesn't mean you need to accrue Boston baggage.

Aries: We know it's been a minute since you've been off the bench, and unfortunately, this weekend might not be the one to get back on the playing field. The H*rvard man you'll be making out with Friday night will be spotted with his H*rvard girlfriend on Saturday. He was a brunette history major and promised he would take you to the Isabella Stewart Gardener museum if you were ever back in Boston. Was his tactful lying also how he got into that "elite" institution? Face it, The Yale Man™ really might be the best you can get. We know he's got good taste, even if he's not yours.

Gemini: Two-faced and a traitor!? Gemini, we knew you were crazy but we never knew you could be so cruel. After you rep red (crimson is not a valid mascot, nor is it a color, really) on Saturday to appease your four generations of H*rvard legacy, your return to Blue Haven won't be so sweet. Expect a mob pushing you out of the stadium and transportation delays once you're recognized. Karma's a bulldog!

Cancer: The results are just in! The odds that you hook up with your H*rvard ex are... drum roll please... the exact same odds H*rvard has at winning the game? I guess that might not have been what you were hoping for — but don't put all your trust in the stars. The real game will be who sends the first drunk text. And then who folds. Are both teams allowed to win in football?

Leo: Expect a huge increase to your confidence — not just from the impending win. Mars and Jupiter are about to fuse directly in your sign, which means you're finally going to gain the ambition to get that A in your 15-person seminar — unrelated to your professor's D.

Virgo: You're known for being down to earth, and that's exactly where you'll be: plastered on the floor of a stranger's dorm for all of Saturday afternoon. But will sleeping through the entire game be your biggest crime of the weekend? All those extra hours of sleep might lead to more trouble than good — but isn't that what we're all here for? A word for the wise: the Saybrook Strip is a tradition for The Game, not the MIT frats.

Libra: Your lunar nodes (real thing BTW) have finally aligned after 18 long years without direction. Now, it looks like your nodes are all pointing one way: North, to Cambridge. I know it's not the direction you may have wanted — like what you'll major in, what you want to do for the rest of your life, boring stuff like that. Still, this weekend promises to be eye-opening. You'll soon realize whether or not your kids will have H*rvard legacy.

Scorpio: Great news! Your midterm regrade request will be accepted, although you will completely forget to work on your final paper over Thanksgiving break, so keep that Credit-D-Fail deadline in mind. You've had a tough year, so don't forget to black out for the entirety of your time in Boston — you deserve it.

Sagittarius: Expect to come out of this weekend with a black eye — not from getting elbowed at an MIT frat (expect that too, though), but from a football flying directly at you. Yes, it's true — every single one of you Sagittariuses will be hit by a football. The Game will take an extra three hours, but everyone will be too hungover to notice. The nodes told me.

Capricorn: I hope the $175 you made by ripping off a desperate senior for a ticket was worth it and not just immediately added to your Elm account to fund your dirty chai addiction. Unfortunately, winning the ticket lottery marked the end of your lucky streak, and the stars are predicting a broken bone or a pregnancy scare. Two broken bones, then.

Aquarius: We know.

Pisces: This week has put you through more academic embarrassment than what H*rvard should expect to see on the field. Take this weekend easy, and recharge the best you can — especially before you have to prepare for Thanksgiving table family debates. Your real Super Bowl has always been Blackout Wednesday, anyway.

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ILLUSTRATION BY NELLIE KENNEY

CULTURE

# Handsome Dan is at it again: An interview with the 'Kingman'

// BY ABIGAIL BERNSTEIN

What would Yale be without its beloved mascot? Handsome Dan joined Yale in 1889 as the first mascot of a United States college. He has since become a world-renowned symbol of class, elegance and Yalie pride. The joy of campus, Handsome Dan XIX, a regal Olde English Bulldogge, is described as "spirited, friendly and loyal" by his 'Dan Handler' Kassandra Haro '18. "Kingman," as he is often lovingly called, can routinely be found cheering on the Bulldogs at sports events, starring in cultural functions and even doling out comfort at his "pawffice hours." One of Dan's most important obligations is cheering on our Bulldogs at the annual Yale-H*rvard game, which is set for this weekend.

Handsome Dan is the true Renaissance Dog and also a PR dream. After an email interview with his handler, 'Dan' seemed to address all questions with perfectly polished responses, but was conveniently unable to comment on controversies, security or anything aside from his devotion to the Yale Bulldogs.

While Handsome Dan's life is constantly marked with fun Yalie events, Haro told me that they "attend a few of H*rvard-Yale events during the week leading up to the Game" in addition to his regular appearances. Game day itself "is very busy from start to finish," Haro wrote, and because it's at "Fenway and later in the day, our day-of events are a bit different but just as busy" this year. In fact, this will be Dan's first Fenway game, and he is excited "to cheer on his Bulldogs, interact with fans and be 'the Bulldog' of the Yale Bulldogs."

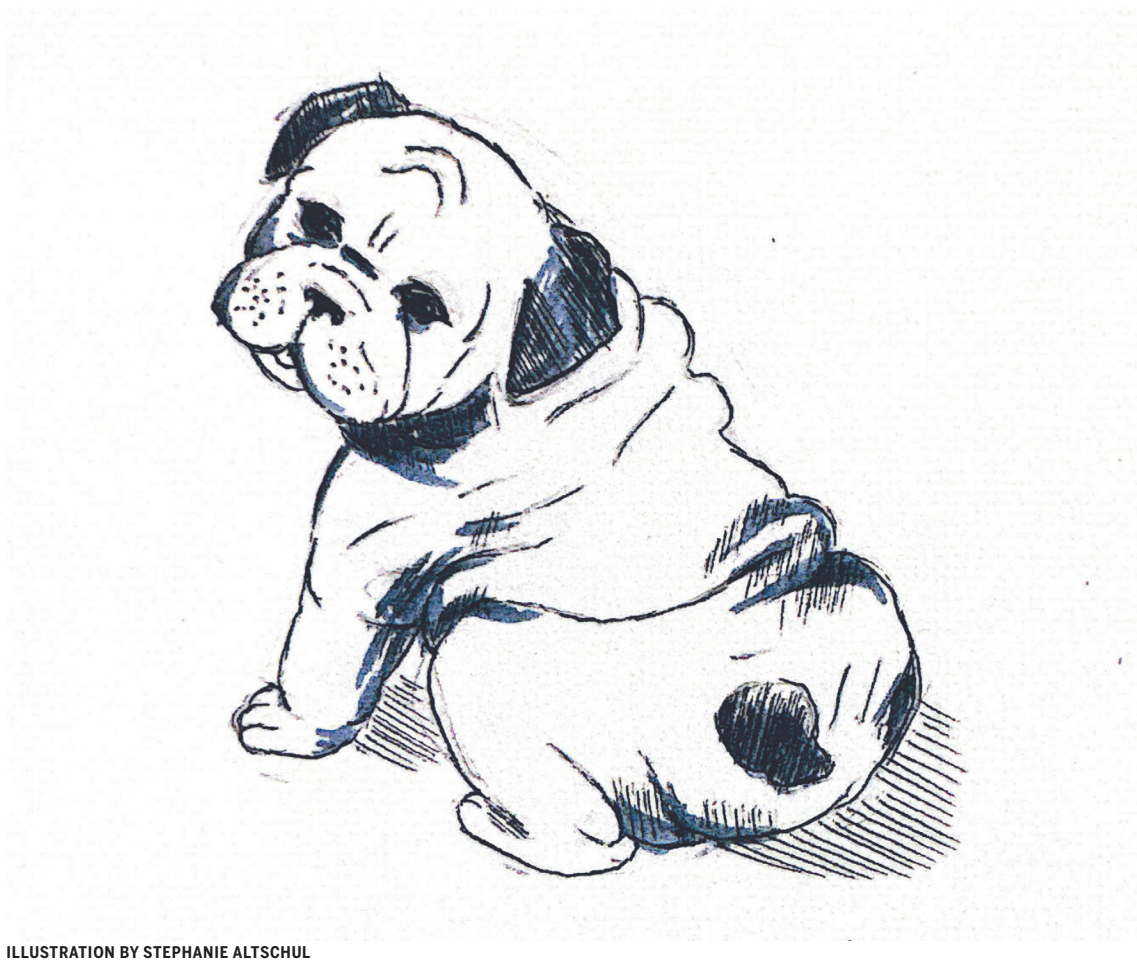

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE ALTSCHUL

While some may wonder how a naturally stubborn breed like the bulldog can handle such a high-energy event, for Dan, it is no problem. Since Handsome Dan is very "familiar and comfortable with environments like The Game," Yale-H*rvard is a great time, Haro wrote. This can be hard to believe as he is frequently picked up and carried like a baby by the football team, although his handler insists that Dan "enjoys the attention and loves the energy!" If you ever peek at the sidelines, you might find him taking "snoozes because he is so familiar with the crowd, noise, etc," Haro wrote. Conveniently, his naps are only when H*rvard has the ball.

Before the game, to bring all the spirit possible, Dan gets "as much beauty sleep as he wants, has a hearty breakfast and puts on his Yale bandana," Haro wrote. Dan, like all of us, despite being a dog, knows that a good night's sleep and breakfast are the best way to prepare for important life events such as being the good luck charm that causes H*rvard's demise. While on the sidelines, Dan's favorite way to cheer on Yale is to wear "Yale blue in some capacity" and to "occasionally bark to make his opinion known," Haro wrote. This means there is no need to fret when the refs make a bad call — as Dan will be there to woof them into shape and help us bring home the win.

But what opinion? Does Handsome Dan actually have a natural-born affinity for Yale blue? Or has he just been bred well? Dan was uncommunicative with me on subjects like his security and the kidnappings of former Dans. Apt for a celebrity mascot, he can sit, fetch, roll-over and decline to comment.

After the game, Handsome Dan gets "time to interact with the team, their families and the fans that attended," Haro wrote — a special moment for Dan and his many fans. While all Yale-H*rvard games are exciting, Dan does have two especially memorable ones, such as 2022, "when we won the Ivy League title outright — at H*rvard — and last year when we got to participate in the post-season for the first time," Haro wrote.

So, if you happen to spot Dan on the sidelines, be sure to wave hello and help him cheer on the Bulldogs as we effortlessly crush H*rvard again! Don't ask him intrusive questions, though, which he seems to hate more than the Crimson.

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WEEKEND RECOMMENDS:

## STARTING A FIGHT OVER THANKSGIVING DINNER