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Harvard may be facing a no-win situation

Changes unlikely to satisfy school's backers or critics

By Aidan Ryan and Anjali Huynh
GLOBE STAFF

Veritas, the Latin word for truth, has been Harvard's motto for nearly all of its 389-year existence. It's emblazoned on the university's shield, recited in campus speeches, and

even baked into waffles — “Verita-ffles” — in dining halls.

Harvard's battle with the Trump administration has now ignited a fierce debate about whether the university is being true to itself. Harvard has said publicly it will not bow to demands that would compromise academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Critics, however, argue that a series of recent reforms amounts to just that.

In recent weeks, Harvard has replaced offices focused on women,

LGBTQ student life, and minority students with an “Office for Academic Culture and Community” and doubled down on a new “view-point diversity” initiative intended to push back on perceptions that conservative opinions are unwelcome.

►University says it has provided worker records. B1.

It's not clear those changes will

satisfy the Trump administration, which is pushing for vast oversight of areas such as faculty hiring and student admissions, and to stamp out diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. But they represent a willingness by Harvard to move away from progressive priorities it previously embraced that have rapidly dropped out of political vogue.

“We have no clue what the university is standing up for,” said Eli Johnson-Visio, a rising Harvard se-

HARVARD, Page A7

EPA aims to kill key weapon on climate

Would no longer have authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions

By Maxine Joselow and Lisa Friedman
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Lee Zeldin, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said Tuesday that the Trump administration will revoke the scientific determination that underpins the government's legal authority to combat climate change.

Speaking at a truck dealership in Indianapolis, Zeldin said the EPA plans to rescind the 2009 declaration, known as the endangerment finding, which concluded that planet-warming greenhouse gases pose a threat to public health. The Obama and Biden administrations used that determination to set strict limits on greenhouse gas emissions from cars, power plants, and other industrial sources of pollution.

“The proposal would, if finalized, amount to the largest deregulatory action in the history of the United States,” Zeldin said. He said the proposal would also erase limits on greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks on the nation's roads.

Without the endangerment finding, the EPA would be left with no authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate the greenhouse gas emissions that are accumulating in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels.

The proposal is President Trump's most conservative. CLIMATE, Page A7

Housing affordability unites foes

Warren, Scott push legislation

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Housing affordability was a key issue in the 2024 elections and continues to be a major problem in Massachusetts and across the country. Now, demonstrating deep bipartisan concern, a Senate committee has unanimously approved a sweeping effort to address it.

The Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act seeks to expand and preserve housing supply and improve affordability and access. It would spur construction of new houses and apartments largely by reducing and streamlining regulations, as well as by encouraging more prefabricated housing and other creative approaches.

The effort is led by Tim Scott, a South Carolina Republican who is chair of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, and the panel's top Democrat, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. The 24-0 vote on Tuesday to advance the legislation was a rare instance of political cooperation

HOUSING, Page A6

A Pew Research Center poll last September found

69%

of Americans said they were “very concerned” about the cost of housing, a jump from

61%

in early 2023.

Lawsuit calls DraftKings' ads deceptive

By Joey Flechas
GLOBE STAFF

A major Boston-based online gambling company is being accused of using misleading ads to entice people to make large bets in a short amount of time, a practice that public health advocates say is deceptive and fuels gambling addictions.

A lawsuit filed in federal court in Pennsylvania claims DraftKings and affiliated companies violated consumer protection laws through ads to lure people into “habit-forming” levels of gambling through online casinos and sports betting. The litigation comes as legislatures in Massachusetts and other states are considering legalizing online-casino betting, or iGaming, which would allow people to play games such as slot machines and blackjack on smartphones.

The dispute offers a window into the issues that could arise if lawmakers in Massachusetts, which expanded casinos in 2011 and legalized sports betting in 2022, open the door to online casinos. In addition to those concerned about the risks of gambling, the major opponents of expansion are existing casino operators, who fear a massive drop in patronage if people no longer have to play slots and card games in person.

DRAFTKINGS, Page A10

‘I have small children — it is totally unacceptable that there are needles in my garden.’

JACOB OPPENHEIM, who lives near Boston Medical Center

Mass. and Cass chaos encroaching on frustrated South End neighbors

By Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

On the last Sunday in June, 38-year-old Brian McCarter took a series of photos and videos from the window of his South End apartment, looking down on Harrison Avenue.

The images show a group of four people lounging on the sidewalk, three holding what appear to be orange-capped syringes. One man appears to inject something into his lower leg. A police car approaches; they gather their belongings and disperse.

That scene, McCarter said, is a common one for residents who live near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, known as Mass. and Cass.

For those residents, frustration is once again hitting a breaking point over public drug use and dealing on their streets, four years after Mayor Michelle Wu entered office vowing to address the humanitarian crisis that has long gripped this area.

Wu and city officials have assured residents they're taking the concerns seriously, and acknowledge there's more progress to be made. City leaders emphasize various ongoing tactics: increased police patrols, city and other outreach



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

Public drug use and dealing are an increasing concern, despite the city's efforts.

teams that work to connect those suffering from substance abuse with services, and Boston Public Health Commission needle-pickup crews that collect throughout the day.

Still, many South End residents said they don't feel it's enough, and their patience is wearing. MASS. AND CASS, Page A10

The UK said it will recognize a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a cease-fire in Gaza, allows the UN to bring in aid, and takes other steps toward peace. A4.

The state suspended the operating license of Gabriel House, the site of a fire that killed 10 in Fall River, twice over the past 15 years, according to documents. B1.

Shane Tamura intended to go to the NFL offices when he stormed into the tower at 345 Park Ave. on Monday with an AR-15-style rifle, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said. A2.

The pending split between Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital hasn't harmed their standing in rankings of cancer care by US News & World Report. B5.

Nantucket officials are calling for accountability from the developer of a turbine blade that became damaged, detached, and washed large amounts of debris ashore. B1.

Burning, out

Wednesday: Another hot one. High 88-93. Low 67-72.

Thursday: Showers, cooler. High 70-75. Low 60-65.

Sunrise: 5:35 Sunset: 8:06

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

Putting it on the line

The Globe's Mark Shanahan knows what it's like to chow down at fried-clam-heaven Woodman's of Essex. But what would it be like to face the summer hordes as an employee? G1.



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