Person of the Week

Name: Caitlin Bowers '11
Concentration: English

You used to play varsity softball for Harvard. How long have you been playing softball and what position(s) did you play?
15 years, I started playing when I was 4 to be like my older sister. I played 3rd base when I was little. I think because I was the only one not scared to be that close to the batter. On my high school team, I played catcher and hated it. For my travel team, I played 3rd and 2nd base. In college, I also played 2nd base.

What are your favorite sports teams? (Baseball, football, etc.)
I'm from the Houston area so Astros, Rockets, Texans...but I also like teams that actually win games so I'm a Longhorns fan and I've started to like the Red Sox too.

Are you excited for the Harvard-Yale game?
Of course! This is the one time of year that the stadium even comes close to filling up and Harvard students pretend like they enjoy football.

What are you doing for Thanksgiving? What traditions does your family have?
I am going home to spend Thanksgiving with my mom's family. Everyone brings a dish and we just hang out all day and watch football. The following day, "Black Friday", all of the women in my family drive to Houston to go shopping. We spend all day at the Galleria and get everyone's gifts that day, then wrap them all up and wait until Christmas.

What are your post-college plans?
I wish I had a plan! I am currently trying to get a job back home in Texas, possibly in the oil field. We'll see what happens. I'm not too stressed about it yet.

If you won $20 million in the lottery, what would you do with the money?
Charity! Isn't that the PC answer? I would probably pay off my loans first, buy my family and myself some nice things, donate some, take a ridiculous vacation, then just live comfortably the rest of my life.

Question:
Why do Yale graduates hang their diplomas from the rear view mirror?
Answer:
To justify their handicapped parking.
There have been two ‘famous’ pranks pulled during the Harvard Yale Game by MIT — this assumes of course that MIT can produce anything famous.

In 1982, during the second quarter, right after Harvard score a gigantic, black weather balloon that had been hidden by MIT students, exploded spraying the entire field with talcum powder. More importantly, Harvard won 45-7.

Less impressively, on November 18 of 1990, MIT students again managed to produce a miniature rocket, not too different from the kinds made by boy scouts all across the U.S. at the age of twelve, that shot across the goal post. Interestingly enough, the rocket packed enough power to support a measly MIT banner on its back.

During the pregame show in 1992, the Harvard Marching band wanted to X out Yale’s Precision Marching Band while they were standing in their traditional Y formation. However, the Yallies somehow caught wind of this plan and thwarted Harvard by instead quickly forming a large H, thereby making Harvard X themselves out — DOH!

In 2004, Yale Students handed out placards to approximately 2000 Harvard Adult Fans. When held up, they read, “WE SUCK.” Despite Yale’s futile efforts, Harvard still won that game, 35-3.

In 1961, in New Haven, Connecticut, the Harvard Crimson made a fake, parody version of the “Yale Daily News” in which they claimed that President Kennedy would be in attendance at that year’s game. At the game, Robert Smith (then President of the Crimson) sat in the stands while wearing a Kennedy mask and had some of his friends dress up as secret service agents sit around him. Before the game, in disguise, Smith walked onto the field while the Harvard Band played “Hail to the Chief.” Thousands of sports writers and fans were fooled by this prank. It was not until later news reports that people found out that Kennedy was not at the game, but instead listened to it on the radio.

Gimbel’s was the first department store to throw a Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1920.

Sarah Hale (1788-1879) is whom you should thank for pushing congress to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. She was the editor of a woman’s magazine called “Godey’s Lady’s Book.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt established Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday of every November.

The “first Thanksgiving” on current American soil actually occurred in Texas when Francisco Coronado stopped at the Palo Duro Canyon one autumnal morning in 1541 to celebrate a Eucharist Thanksgiving.

Each year, the president pardons a turkey from being killed and eaten. The lucky turkey is sent to a farm named Frying Pan Park in Herndon, Virginia.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the new nation’s symbolic bird. Thomas Jefferson opposed this vehemently. In spite, Franklin christened a male turkey “Tom,” which is the origin of the traditional “Tom the Turkey” name.