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Housing market's forever renters

Ownership stays out of reach for many in Boston

By Andrew Brinker
GLOBE STAFF

Six years before Caitlin Harnois was born, her parents achieved the American dream.

For \$250,000, they bought an unremarkable two-family house on a leafy street in Roslindale that was packed with unremarkable two-family houses. That home became the family's anchor — both economic and physical — to the city. Harnois grew up there, and nearly four decades later, she and her husband rent the second floor from her parents, while tenants live downstairs.

If only, Harnois often laments, she could do what her parents had done. But buying a home isn't for people like Harnois anymore. Not around here. Not now.

Harnois is an elementary school teacher in Boston Public Schools; together she and her husband make \$175,000 a year. And their monthly rental costs are modest, considerably less than the typical household around here.

"If homes here cost \$400,000, we'd be homeowners," said Harnois, who is 32.

RENTERS, Page B8



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Caitlin Harnois and her husband rent the second floor of her parents' house.

Survivors share their guidance for Brown

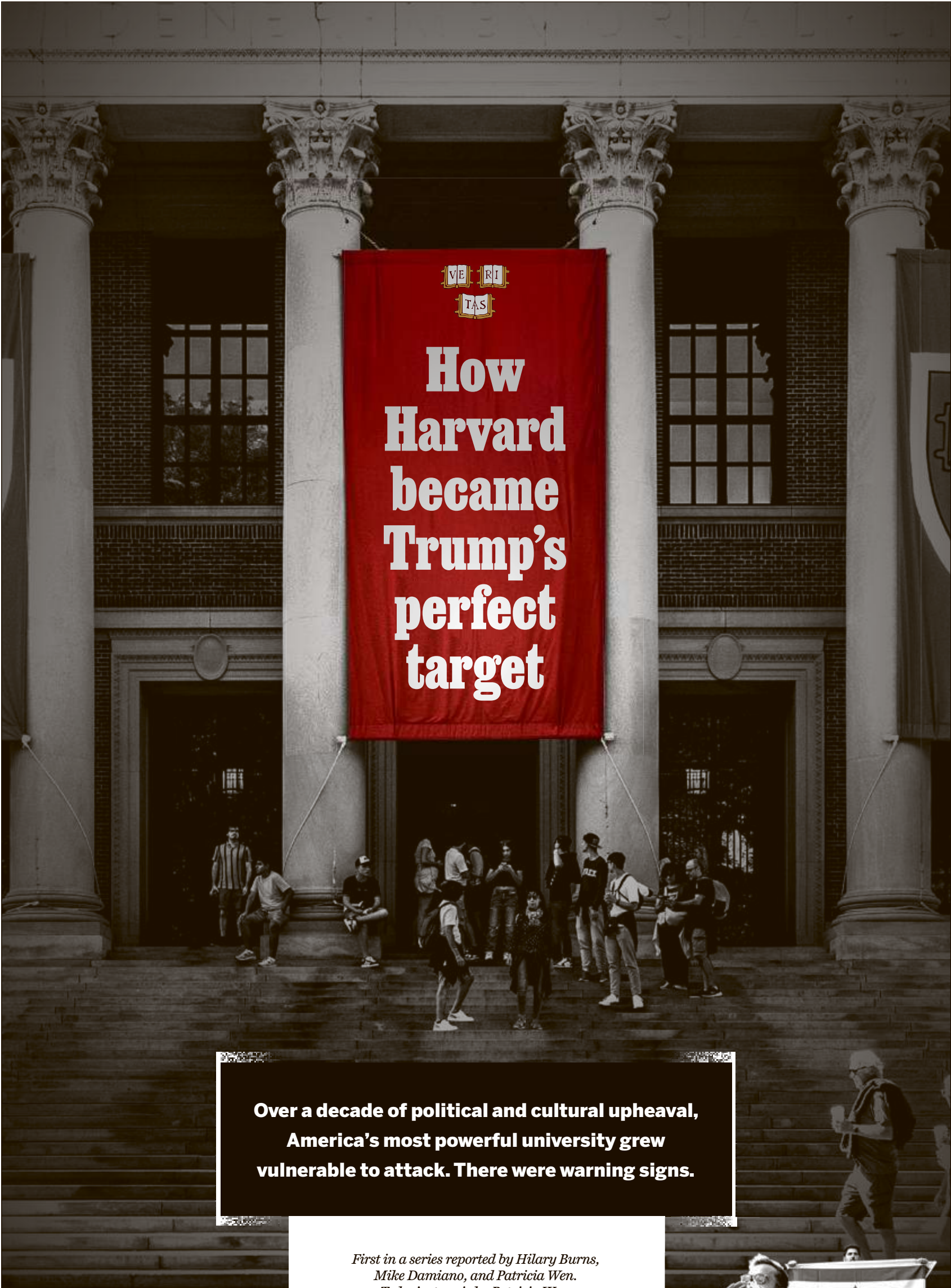
By Shannon Larson
GLOBE STAFF

One school shooting survivor slept on her family's sofa for weeks, unable to return to her bedroom and the girl she was before. Another joined a dance club to try to re-create the innocence that was stolen from her by a shooting that claimed her peers and teachers.

One struggles to breathe every time he sees images of frightened children being led out of a school by officers in tactical gear, as he once was. A woman hit by bullets on her campus started befriending other survivors, people who understood her trauma without having to share a word.

Before the shooting at Brown University, there were Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Parkland, and many hundreds of other mass shootings each year. This violence has in recent decades become part of the American experience, bringing thoughts and prayers, cries for action, and distressing videos

SURVIVORS, Page A12



Over a decade of political and cultural upheaval, America's most powerful university grew vulnerable to attack. There were warning signs.

First in a series reported by Hilary Burns, Mike Damiano, and Patricia Wen. Today's story is by Patricia Wen.

It was another beautiful morning at Harvard University.

On May 29, 2014, some 30,000 guests streamed through the university's wrought-iron gates and into Harvard Yard, settling into rows of folding chairs. The sound of church bells floated through the air, and the pageantry of the 363rd commencement unfolded in ritual calm.

"Mr. Sheriff, pray give us order!" said the university marshal, in accordance with tradition. The sheriff of Middlesex County, wearing a silk top hat, banged a cane on the stage three times. "The meeting will be in order!"

Harvard didn't have just any singer perform "The Star-Spangled Banner" that day, it had Aretha Franklin, the queen of soul herself. Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York City, had prepared a keynote speech. Alan Garber, Harvard's provost at the time, would award an honorary doctorate to 89-year-old George H.W. Bush, the former Republican president.

Amid the sea of caps and gowns, the faces of the Class of 2014 told a story of transformation. An institution once reserved exclusively for the sons of New England's Brahmin elite was sending off one of its most diverse classes ever. Women made up 47 percent of the more than 1,600 seniors; 54 percent of the graduates were Black, Latino, Asian-American, multiracial, or hailed from abroad.

University leaders prized the school's

HARVARD, Page A6

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Harvard has a

\$57 billion endowment,

the largest of any university in the world.

Its total sticker price is

\$87,000

per year for undergrads.

President Trump froze more than

\$2 billion

of Harvard's federal research funding, threatened its ability to bring in foreign students, and imposed a slew of other sanctions.



A new route gives Boston travelers direct access to Anguilla. **SundayTravel, N11.**

Want to be a better conversationalist? Try changing up what you ask; the questions that get people excited center emotions and senses rather than facts. **Ideas, K1.**

Flu activity in Massachusetts has officially reached high levels, and doctors at pediatric emergency departments are seeing a sharp increase in children coming in with influenza. **B1.**

Columnist Tara Sullivan looks back on the year in sports. **C1.**



Cold medal

Sunday: Some sun, ice late. High: 32-37. Low: 28-33.

Monday: Periods of rain. Complete report, **C24.**

Deaths, **C18-22.**

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