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ALLSTON BRIGHTON, CAMBRIDGE

## Do Harvard students really think BU is wicked easy?

Posted October 1, 2010 03:42 PM

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(Reuters photo)

Actors Jesse Eisenberg and Justin Timberlake in a publicity photograph for "The Social Network."

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

**Many moviegoers might not seize on the line. But for some local college students, it hits like a bolt of lightning.**

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“You don't have to study ... because you go to BU,” says a character in “[The Social Network](#)” the new film portraying a young Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of [Facebook](#).

As The Daily Free Press [reported earlier this week](#), the scripted joke did not sit well with many BU students. But, do the Ivy Leaguers from across the Charles really think BU is a cakewalk by comparison?

Students interviewed on the Cambridge campus Friday said most at Harvard do not feel one school is inherently easier than the other. Variables can swing the “easy-ness” of earning a degree – how well prepared students are for college, their major, which professors they take, and so on.

However, “Some Harvard students like to think they’re much better than they really are,” 20-year-old Harvard junior Bryce Gilfillian said outside the Widener Library overlooking Harvard Yard on an overcast morning.

“Overall, we don’t think down upon BU students,” he said.

Gilfillian and fellow junior Sofia Selowsky saw a midnight showing of the flick in a theater in Harvard Square. When the line dissing BU was delivered, the crowd laughed pretty hard, the two recalled.

That’s a contrast to those who booed the scene during an advanced screening on Boston Common last week, as BU campus’ independent student newspaper [reported](#).







“I don’t think they have it any easier at BU,” said Selowsky, who knows half a dozen friends who study in the BU’s fine arts college. “I spend a lot of time there. ... There are plenty of easy classes and difficult classes at Harvard, and there are plenty of easy and difficult classes at BU.”

Some Harvard students had similar reactions that their peers at BU had.

“The line is a bit rude,” said a 24-year-old student pursuing a doctorate in applied physics. “It’s an oversimplified stereotype.”

“If you know a student who actually goes there, it’s harder to make such a statement,” said the student, who asked their name not be published for fear this story would pop up high in Google search results.

*E-mail Matt Rocheleau at [mjrochele@gmail.com](mailto:mjrochele@gmail.com).*

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