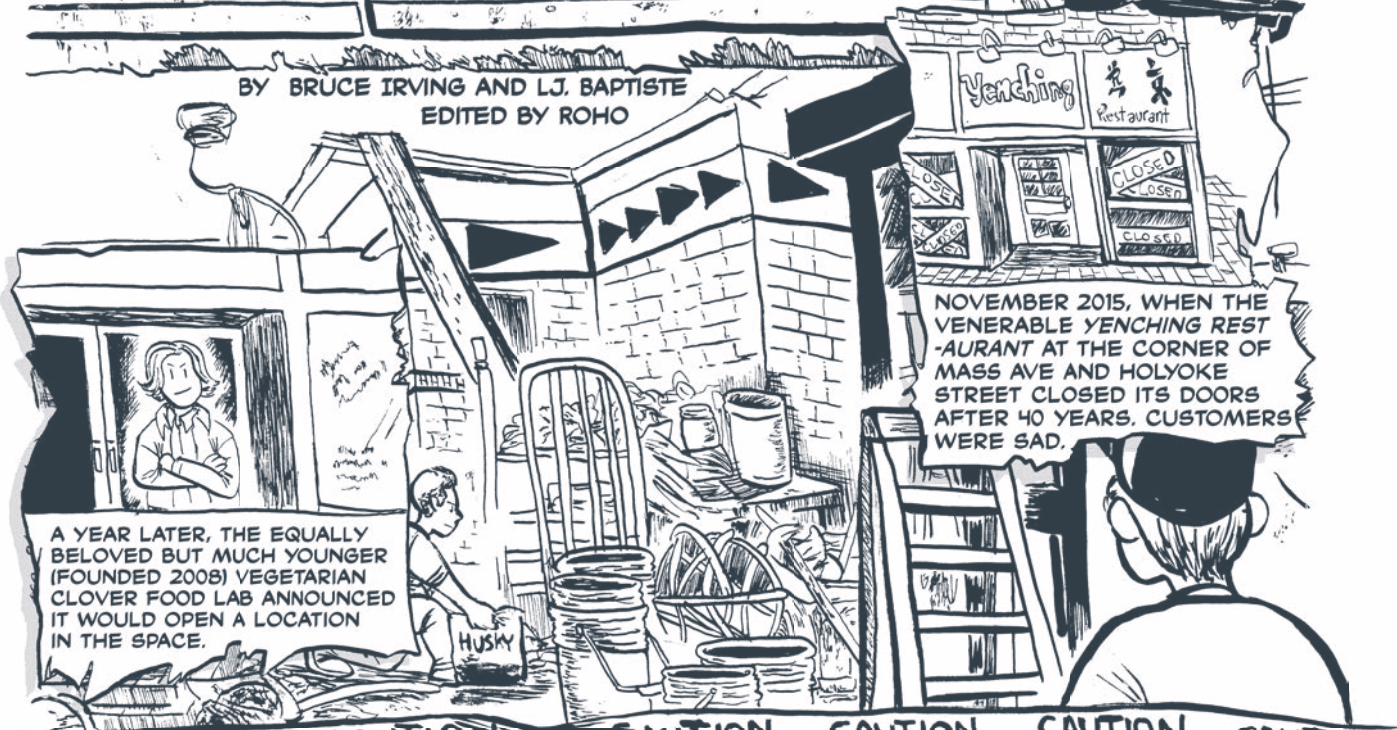


A CLOVER IN TIME

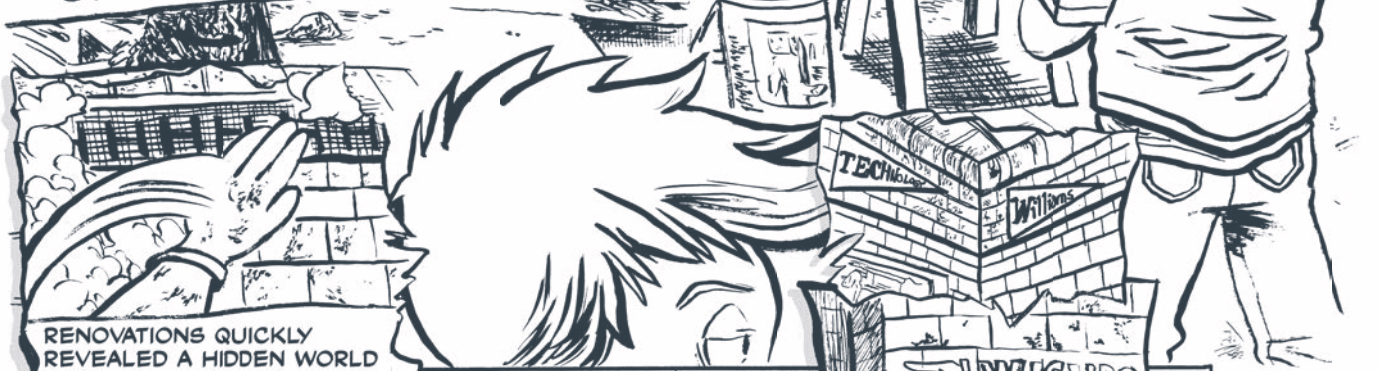
BY BRUCE IRVING AND LJ. BAPTISTE
EDITED BY ROHO



NOVEMBER 2015, WHEN THE VENERABLE YENCHING RESTAURANT AT THE CORNER OF MASS AVE AND HOLYOKE STREET CLOSED ITS DOORS AFTER 40 YEARS, CUSTOMERS WERE SAD.

A YEAR LATER, THE EQUALLY BELOVED BUT MUCH YOUNGER (FOUNDED 2008) VEGETARIAN CLOVER FOOD LAB ANNOUNCED IT WOULD OPEN A LOCATION IN THE SPACE.

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION



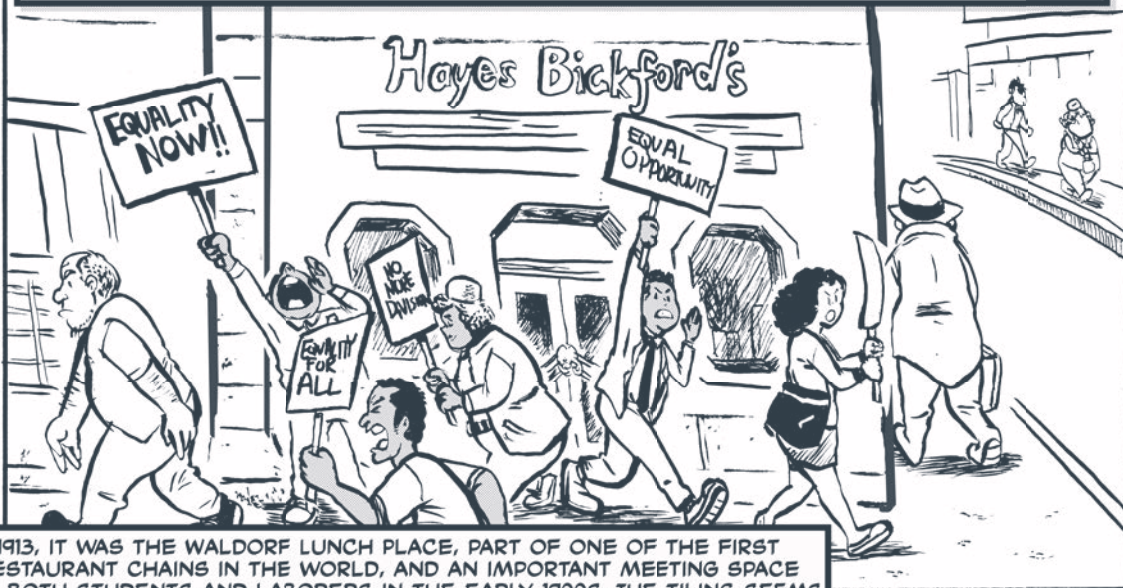
RENOVATIONS QUICKLY REVEALED A HIDDEN WORLD LURKING BEHIND THE CHINESE RESTAURANT'S WOOD-PANELED WALLS: AN ENTIRE ROOM TILED FROM FLOOR TO CEILING.

CLOVER, HARVARD SQ.

LIKE THE LAYERS OF AN ONION, THE PAST BEGAN TO REVEAL ITSELF.



1938 TO 1970, IT WAS THE HAYES-BICKFORD CAFETERIA, PART OF A CHAIN. "THE BICK" WAS ONE OF THE GREASY SPOONS OF CHOICE IN HARVARD SQUARE. IN 1964, HAYES-BICKFORD WAS PICKETED AGAINST FOR ITS DISCRIMINATORY "NEGRO HIRING POLICY"; AT THIS RESTAURANT, A CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE)-SPONSORED DEMONSTRATION LED TO THE ARREST OF 27 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 7 FOR TRESPASSING AFTER THEY LINED UP WITH THEIR BACKS AGAINST THE COUNTER TO KEEP ANYONE FROM BEING SERVED....



1913, IT WAS THE WALDORF LUNCH PLACE, PART OF ONE OF THE FIRST RESTAURANT CHAINS IN THE WORLD, AND AN IMPORTANT MEETING SPACE FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND LABORERS IN THE EARLY 1900S. THE TILING SEEMS TO DATE FROM THIS TIME: ONE OF THE PENNANTS IS OF HARVARD FOOTBALL RIVAL CARLISLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL, WHICH WAS A FEDERALLY FUNDED BOARDING SCHOOL FOR NATIVE AMERICANS UNTIL ITS CLOSING IN 1918.



THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR (CAMBRIDGE'S JUSTIN KELLY CONTRACTING) DISCOVERED A FINAL LAYER OF HISTORY: AN IRON SUPPORT POST WITH THE FAINTEST TRACE OF HELICAL BARBERSHOP STRIPES. IT WAS ON THIS SPOT THAT, IN MAY 1893, WILLIAM H. LEWIS--AN 1892 GRADUATE OF AMHERST COLLEGE, AN ALL-AMERICAN FOOTBALL PLAYER, A HARVARD LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE OF 1895, AND THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN U.S. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL--WAS REFUSED SERVICE BY 2 OF THE 8 BARBERS IN THE SHOP. HE FILED A SUIT SEEKING \$5,000 IN DAMAGES AND SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED FOR THE PASSAGE OF A MASSACHUSETTS LAW PROHIBITING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.

