

Yale Daily News

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MENA cultural suite opens, Yale appoints second Muslim Chaplain

After years of student activism, the University's new Middle Eastern and North African cultural suite opened this week and a second Muslim Chaplain was hired at the beginning of August.

BY KARLA CORTES AND NORA MOSES
STAFF REPORTERS

In August, after years of student activism requesting increased resources for Arab, Middle Eastern, North African and Muslim students, a new designated MENA cultural suite opened and Chaplain

Leenah Safi began her appointment as the University's second Muslim Chaplain.

In his December 2023 statement "Against Hatred," former university President Peter Salovey promised both of these changes, among his series of promises "to enhance support" for communities most affected

by the Israel-Hamas war. This announcement came after months of growing campus tension surrounding the war and years of lobbying by MENA students and the Yale College Council, among other student groups, for a MENA space.

On Aug. 1, the University Chaplain's office welcomed Safi as a new Assistant Muslim Chaplain, according to University Chaplain Maytal Saltiel. The MENA cultural suite opened at 305 Crown St. on Aug. 27.

"I think the space is going to be a place for people to meet, especially

when they're transitioning onto campus," Bassel Dahleh '27 told the News. "I think more than that, it shows that there's been a change in sentiment from the administration that they are willing to recognize their MENA students and work with them."

Safi has previously been a community educator and scholar, teaching with various Muslim community organizations. The Advisory Committee on MENA and Muslim Student Life appointed Safi after a search that included student participants.

Muslim Chaplain and director of Muslim Life Omer Bajwa wrote in his announcement and introduction of Safi that she enters the role at a time when "the pastoral care demands have grown significantly for the Muslim Life Program."

At Yale, Safi will work with Bajwa to support the wider Muslim community, per Saltiel.

Previously, the Asian American Cultural Center cleared two rooms in their building for the MENA com-

SEE MENA PAGE 4

Yale revises free expression policies

BY JOSIE REICH
STAFF REPORTER

A new Yale web page designed to consolidate campus free expression regulations includes several new measures that appear to tighten policies against encampments and other forms of campus protest.

The changes come after several run-ins between administrators and student protestors last year over University regulations on free expression. In April, pro-Palestinian student groups slept overnight in tents on Beinecke Plaza and Cross Campus.

"The free expression content on the Office of the Secretary website was consolidated from exist-

ing content to provide easy to access resources on free expression and peaceable assembly for members of the university community," Vice President for University Life Kimberly Goff-Crews wrote to the News. "The work was in response to recommendations from faculty, students, and staff. In this process, the use of outdoor space and the poster and chalking policies were clarified and an FAQ on free expression was added."

Goff-Crews' initial email to the Yale community claimed to "consolidate" policies, but did not mention any new or updated policy.

Several policy additions seem directly aimed at restricting encamp-

ments. Last year, Yale police arrested 47 students involved in the Beinecke Plaza encampments after the University issued multiple warnings but allowed the encampment to remain overnight for three straight nights.

A new section titled "University Postering, Chalking, Light Projection, and Structures Policy" lists 17 rules for using outdoor spaces, which include a mandatory end time of 11 p.m. for all events, a prohibition on sleeping outdoors overnight and a complete ban on events on Cross Campus during the month of May. Another new section denotes that dispersal, disciplinary action or

SEE EXPRESSION PAGE 4



Yale consolidated its guidelines on free expression to include new policies such as a mandatory end time for campus events, a prohibition on sleeping outdoors overnight and a ban on projection images on cross-campus and Beinecke Plaza. / Alyssa Chang, Staff Photographer

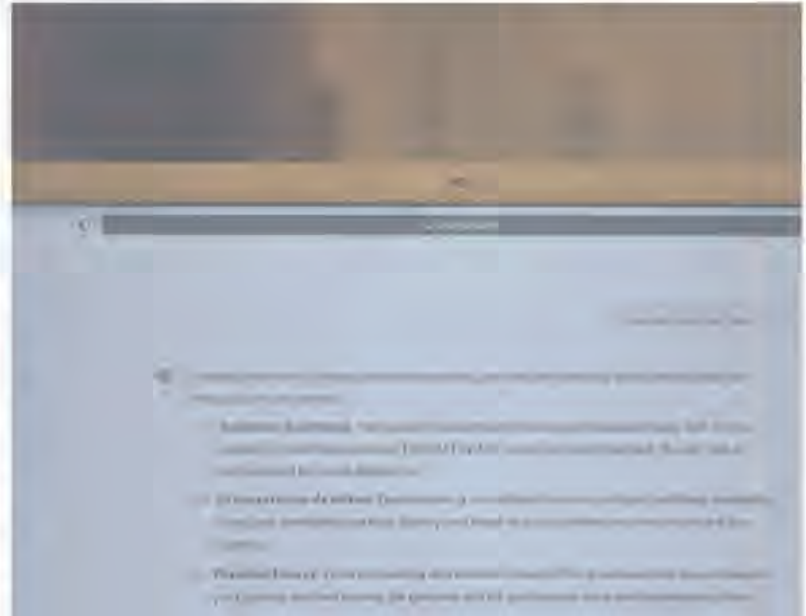
Yale to invest \$150M in AI development

BY ASUKA KODA
STAFF REPORTER

Yale will commit over \$150 million to advance the University's artificial intelligence infrastructure, according to an Aug. 28 email announcement from University Provost Scott Strobel.

The new investment will go towards four objectives: expanding Yale's supply of graphic processing units, expanding access to AI tools, increasing support for research and education and facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration on AI.

This commitment is in response to the recommendations of the Report of the Yale Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, a set of recommendations for coordinated action and University-wide artificial



University Provost Scott Strobel announced that over the next five years, Yale will invest more than \$150 million in AI development. / Samad Hakani, Photography Editor

SEE AI DEVELOPMENT PAGE 5

Dining halls nix to-go boxes

BY KARLA CORTES AND NORA MOSES
STAFF REPORTERS

Starting this fall, Yalies will no longer be able to regularly take their food to go from Yale's dining halls.

In an email to the News, Yale Hospitality confirmed the end of a policy allowing students to use provided take-out boxes to eat their meals outside of regular dining times and locations. Alexa Gotthardt, senior marketing and communications manager of Yale Hospitality, wrote that ending the lenient take-out box policy is part of a wider series of updates to protocols established during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sick students can still request to-go packaging, per Gotthardt.

Other changes include closing Commons on Fridays, expanded Friday lunch hours for Davenport, Grace Hopper and Trumbull colleges, communal napkin dispensers instead of individual table dispensers and an increased \$12 value to Bow Wow swipes.

When asked about their reactions surrounding the new restrictions on take-out boxes, 18 out of 20 students surveyed by the News characterized their feelings as negative. The remaining two characterized their reaction as neutral.

"Sometimes I don't have time to

sit in the dining hall and eat. I have to rush to class or sometimes I just hang out with people who have food allergies and can't sit and eat in the dorms," Nicole Manning '27 told the News. "Not having to-go boxes is just very inconvenient."

Gotthardt wrote that take-out boxes were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic "as a safety measure and to adhere to social distancing and isolation protocols." Now, she said, "protocols and practices have been updated per the University's guidance."

Meal plans allow students "to have as much food as they would like" to consume in the dining halls but with "no food removed for later consumption," according to Gotthardt.

Yale College Undergraduate Regulations state that "food may not be taken from the dining hall to be consumed later unless specified."

Gotthardt explained that closing Commons on Fridays would allow "preparations for weekend events to occur on Fridays with fewer interruptions to the dining schedule." Gotthardt added that the change in Commons' dining schedule does not reduce working hours for any Yale Hospitality employees.

SEE BOXES PAGE 4

New Haven Dems return from DNC

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

Three New Haveners of different generations arrived as delegates at last week's Democratic National Convention, bringing varied opinions on the late-stage change in their party's presidential ticket.

They came home both invigorated by Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign and drained from four days of nonstop activity at the quadrennial partisan extravaganza.

The Democrats representing Connecticut in Chicago included the convention's youngest delegate, Jacob Schonberger, who is entering his senior year of high school in New Haven and will turn 18 in October.

"The energy was just so high, it felt more like a party than it did a political event," Schonberger, the son of Ward 26 Alder Amy Marx, told the News. "It was a little bit insane to be in the room with these figures that have been the face of the Democratic Party as I've grown up."

Days at the convention are long for the nearly 4,700 delegates. The Connecticut delegates met for an early breakfast before attending sessions with constituency groups and elected officials throughout the morning. At night, they packed the United Center to hear speeches from party leaders and others supporting Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Marty Dunleavy, a former alder, returned to Chicago — where he had attended his first Democratic convention as a child in 1968 — for his

14th convention, now as an experienced delegate. Dunleavy, like Schonberger, said he felt exhausted from a schedule that typically lasted from 6 a.m. until past midnight last Monday through Thursday.

"I just slept all weekend," he added. "I'm energized — energized other than the lack of sleep."

President Joe Biden won Connecticut's Democratic primary election in April, largely unopposed except for a campaign promoting the "uncommitted" option as a protest of Biden's support for Israel in the war in Gaza. "Uncommitted" won 21 percent of the vote in New Haven.

Schonberger, Dunleavy and Democratic Town Committee Vice Chair Audrey Tyson won a contest in May to join the group of eight representing Connecticut's third congressional district in Chicago. They pledged to vote for Biden's nomination — but, when Biden dropped out of the race on July 21, the delegates became free to decide whom to support.

"I think he would have won," Dunleavy said. "I didn't like the way he was treated in the exit. A lot of people who were close to him over the years, instead of handling things quietly with respect to him, just stabbed him in the back."

Biden's pullout also upset Tyson, a part-time social worker who has worked to mobilize voters in Ward 29 for 15 years and was previously a delegate at the 2008 and 2016 conventions. Both veteran Democrats said Biden's endorsement of Harris

SEE DELEGATES PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 2012. The term's most shopped course is "The Cold War," found in 489 student schedules. The second most shopped course, "Introductory Microeconomics," was in 438 schedules.

INSIDE THE NEWS

REST Center provides evaluation and stabilization services to adults in crisis

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PAGE 10 SPORTS

COURSE DEMAND During the Fall 2024 semester, Yale College's three most enrolled non-laboratory classes are in the economics department. . . PAGE 6 NEWS

WOMEN'S SOCCER The women's soccer team defeated Saint John's University thanks to a first-half goal. PAGE 10 SPORTS

BULLETIN

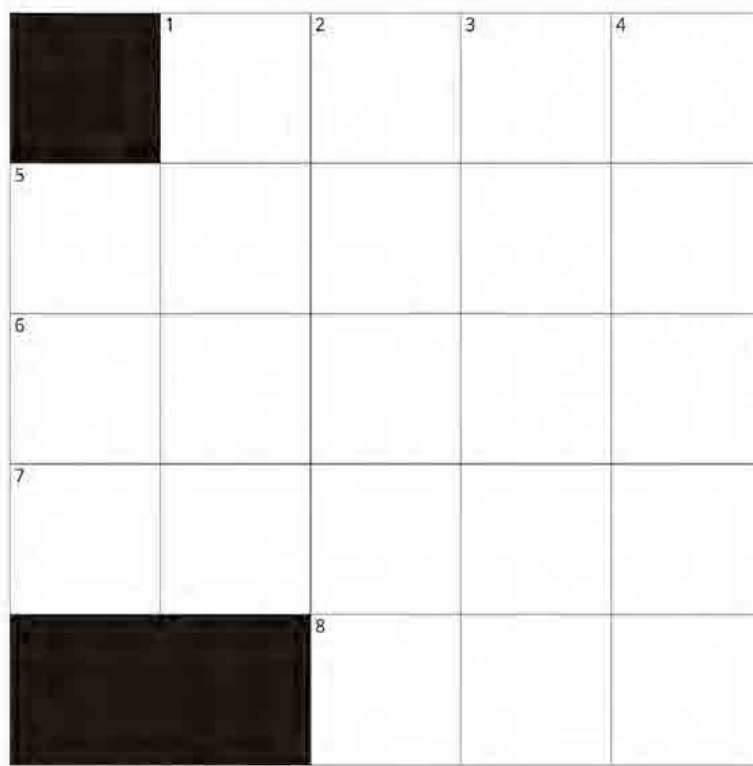
Puzzle by Ariana Borut '27

ACROSS

- 1 Ultimatum ender
- 5 Grads
- 6 Travel documents
- 7 Stars, in Latin
- 8 Pig's digs

DOWN

- 1 Yalies
- 2 Commits one of the deadly sins
- 3 Intelligent
- 4 English class assignment
- 5 Director DuVernay



SOPHIA ZHAO '23

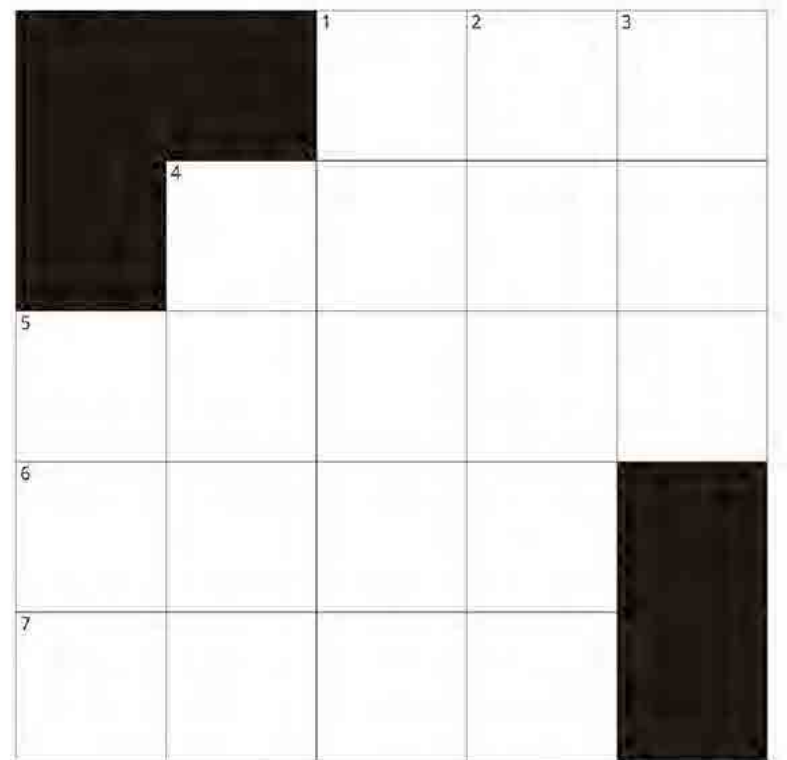


ACROSS

- 1 When a day commemorating 4-Down and 6-Across takes place
- 4 Identical
- 5 "I'm a little teapot, short and ___"
- 6 See 4-Down
- 7 One of the Great Lakes

DOWN

- 1 New Zealand native
- 2 Entertain
- 3 However
- 4 With 6-Across, saga set "in a galaxy far, far away"
- 5 Neighbor of Nor.



AUDITION

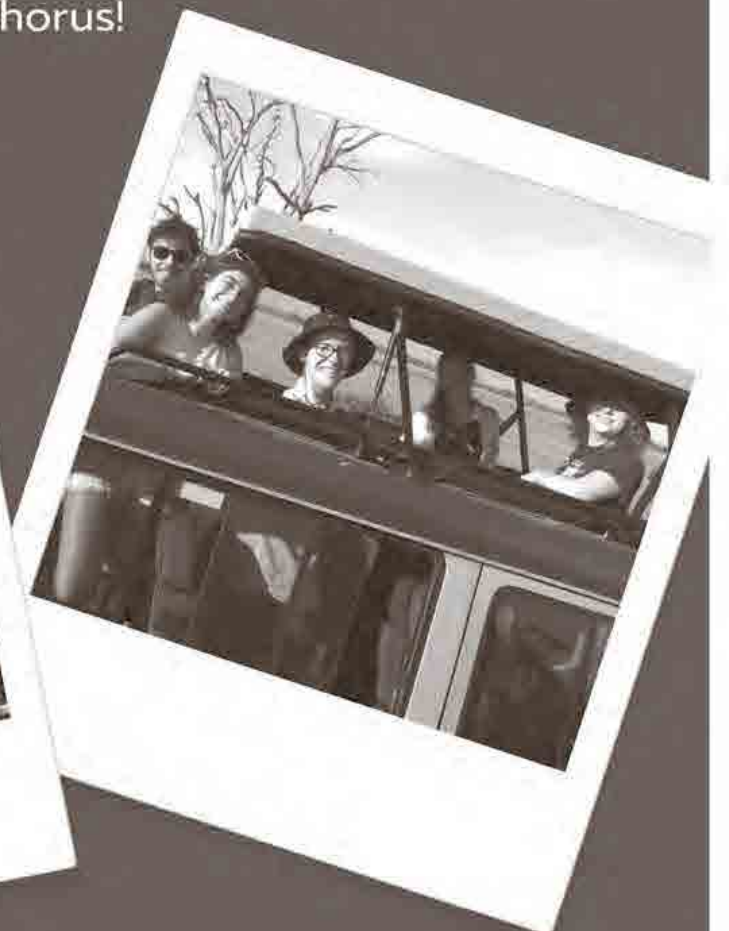
FOR THE

YALE GLEE CLUB!



AUDITIONS:
AUG. 29 - SEP. 1

Join Yale's principal undergraduate mixed chorus!



**JOIN US FOR OUR
INFO SESSION!**
(and pizza afterwards!)

Wed, Aug. 28
5:30pm
Hendrie Hall, Room 201

OPINION

PUBLIC EDITOR
NATHANIEL ROSENBERG

An introduction

In an institution as long standing as the News, the public editor's role is remarkably new — only dating back to 2020. Over its brief lifespan, the role's external responsibilities have largely remained undefined, with my predecessors' only consistent output being an introductory column like this one.

My vision for the job is quite simple. I want to be an editor working for you, the reader.

The reality today is that the News — with its unparalleled reach and monopoly on daily coverage of Yale — is an essential institution on campus. The reporters and editors here have a platform to help shape the discussions we have about life at Yale and in New Haven. We have a responsibility to challenge the powerful, whether they are shady mega-landlords or an increasingly aloof and unresponsive administration.

Far too often, the decisions the News makes — what we cover, who we source, when we add opposing viewpoints, what context we choose to include or omit — are inaccessible for the vast majority of readers who are not immersed in the inner workings of this paper and the larger world of journalism.

This issue of access — and the need for an active public editor — became obvious to me last year, as the News faced a vari-

FAR TOO OFTEN, THE DECISIONS THE NEWS MAKES ARE INACCESSIBLE FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF READERS WHO ARE NOT IMMERSSED IN THE INNER WORKINGS OF THIS PAPER AND THE LARGER WORLD OF JOURNALISM.

ety of criticisms from across the ideological spectrum for our coverage of Yale and New Haven's reactions to the war in Gaza. Some of the critiques I found compelling; others not as much. But many deserved to be heard and responded to in the pages of the News.

Externally, I will be writing a regular column on the News' policies and coverage choices to examine the thinking of this paper's editors and also offer my commentary on their decisions. Internally, I will work with editor-in-chief Tristan Hernandez to train every new reporter on standard journalistic ethics.

This role was intentionally made independent of the rest of the News' Managing Board and I have no interest in serving as a mouthpiece for the choices of the paper's management. When our coverage is strong and I feel like the decisions made are sound, I will commend them. But I will not shy away from criticizing coverage or decision-making processes that fall short of the standards our readers deserve.

I do this because I have spent hundreds of hours over the last few years trying to make the News the best version of itself. I've covered both housing and homelessness and cops and courts on the City Desk, spent a year running our morning newsletter as an Audience Editor and served as last year's City Editor. I believe that the News is at its best when it captures the diversity of life and experience at Yale and in New Haven and when it pushes for a more just world.

A FRUSTRATING REALITY OF THE NEWS IS THAT STUDENT JOURNALISM IS HARD.

A frustrating reality of the News is that student journalism is hard. Running daily coverage is a nonstop grind with a new deadline every night and a constant demand for more stories. The paper could always use more writers, photographers, podcasters and illustrators; many of its deficits in coverage can be traced to a lack of contributors.

But the challenges of student journalism do not exempt it from reproach. Some of the hardest working, most caring and integrity-driven people I know are working as editors and reporters at the News this year and I hope they run the best paper they can. I will try to fulfill my responsibility by providing an honest accounting of their work.

The last point that I want to make is the most important. None of this will work without you, the public, contributing. To platform reader complaints and answer reader questions, I need you to send me your thoughts. I will respond to everything I can; if you're in New Haven, I'm happy to meet for coffee or a meal. This column will only work with your engagement.

Please send me your questions, complaints, comments, praise and anything else at public@yaledailynews.com.

NATHANIEL ROSENBERG is a senior in Morse College and the News' public editor. He can be reached at public@yaledailynews.com.

GUEST COLUMNIST
ISABEL ARROYO

How to make the most of Yale

This summer, I had a series of conversations with fellow newly nostalgic, conscious-of-the-hourglass-sand rising seniors about things we wished we had known as first years. I have consolidated some common themes into this list, in the hopes that it might be a valuable addition to the medley of welcome materials overwhelming the Class of 2028.

Note: this piece is based on my and my friends' experience, which is mostly with Global Affairs, EP&E, History and similar tracks. Students pursuing STEM paths may find it less relevant.

Phenomenal faculty and opportunities are available to you; by now, you will have heard lots about writing tutors and course selection. I'll use this space to emphasize that office hours are the single best chance you have to build relationships with the professors who will eventually act as mentors to you. Come to them prepared. Be familiar with your professor's academic work and formulate your questions ahead of time. Reading one of their books is not always feasible, but it is one of the most effective things you can do in advance to make a strong impression. Your questions don't have to be brilliant — the professor will help guide you to better ones — but it's good to show that you have taken care in developing them.

Grades do matter, and you do need to keep yours high if you want to apply to competitive graduate schools later. The same goes for jobs with GPA filtration mechanisms. If you're concerned about your performance in a class, taking it Credit/D/Fail is probably better than a low grade.

Study what you want to. I've known more than a few people persuaded by well-meaning

friends and family members to abandon coursework in majors like history, humanities, philosophy and English based on the perception that those fields do not lead to jobs unless you enter academia.

The obnoxious, elitist-sounding truth is that you are at Yale. Being here gives you greater flexibility to explore subjects that are not conventionally pre-professional without harmful consequences to your career prospects outside the academy. If a major in English or history is what calls you — and your student visa doesn't limit your options too much — declare it as English or history, and then make the most of it. A bachelor's degree in English from Yale College is not going to stop you from getting jobs in finance, consulting, law or government.

That said, if you do choose a major that doesn't automatically convey your quantitative skills, consider pursuing a certificate that does, such as Statistics and Data Science. It's a good way to keep your options open.

Beware the B.S. Club Industrial Complex. Some clubs do meaningful work; others do not. A multi-step application process is not a reliable indicator of a club's quality. These applications can reflect real selectivity (take your pick of the many, many pre-professional clubs on campus), but can also strategically mask its absence, convincing new students that they are joining something with the cachet of competitive selection when they really are not (examples omitted).

If a club is pre-professional, good indicators include completion of substantive projects, a history of hosting good speakers, the existence of clear professional pathways and the presence of

robust alumni networks. Asking trusted upperclassmen can be a great strategy for telling the difference between real and exaggerated club features; so can trusting your gut during the first few meetings you attend.

Join groups you truly want to be part of. Every organization will at some point require tedious or downright unpleasant tasks from you. Sacrificing (time, sleep, other work) for a common goal is the obligation that comes with belonging to that organization. If you're not that passionate about the group, you may not make the sacrifices needed to become a sincere part of it — or you will, but those sacrifices won't have been worth your while.

The teams you join and the friendships you make with your peers during your four years here can be as important as the classes you take. Don't feel guilty about dedicating your attention to a frat or an a cappella group instead of the many Yale clubs that focus on community service or set you up for a career in finance. Your time in college is singular and limited and you should spend it on the tasks and with the teams that energize you. (That said, if you do want to do good, impactful community service work, check out Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance.)

Most importantly, remember to treasure your time here in New Haven. Before you know it, you'll be a senior like me, tut-tutting the next generation of bulldogs. Welcome to Yale! I hope you'll love it as much as I have.

ISABEL ARROYO is a senior in Pierson College. She can be reached at isabel.arroyo@yale.edu.

GUEST COLUMNIST
MATTHEW A. WEED

New leadership can open new doors for our community

Change is happening at Yale. It has a new president. The Alumni Association has a new director. New schools and centers are establishing themselves. This totally blind, type I diabetic, multiple Yale degree holder with postdocs and a Yale/Hastings Fellowship in Bioethics senses a tremendous opportunity to reevaluate apparent, and sometimes expressed, university thought on the value of exposing our community to alums — and faculty — with practical experience of the world's problems and how they are being addressed.

When on campus, I mentored hundreds of Yalies. I still work with Yale students today. My experience of the campus and discussions with several undergraduate assistants say that too many students have limited access to Yalies working in practical areas outside of the big four: healthcare, law, finance and consulting.

Even in these areas, on-or-near-campus access to academics while passively sitting in class is far easier to get than is exposure to non-academics, whom students must actively find in their limited spare time, possibly via poorly utilized resources like Yale Connect and Cross Campus which have significant learning curves for everyone. These resources also require comfort, which many people lack when making unsolicited outreach to possible contacts.

As a result, most students in the College and professional schools will make career choices before full exposure to their options for making positive change happen. Yale could, possibly via Career Services, redress this by actively bringing alumni — involved in everything from K-12 teaching to government and community service, not to mention the arts, journalism, startups and technology — to campus, or hosting a virtual series with heavy advertisement. Many alums would welcome opportunities for student interaction.

I matriculated to Yale College in 1989. Helping good people see how they can make great things happen energizes me. In 2023, I asked Yale Medicine Magazine — which profiled me and others in 2000 — to highlight the incredible work done since 1974 by Dr. John Ruge, MD '73, who founded and built the Hudson Headwaters Health Network in rural upstate New York.

I have deep family ties there. I have learned Hudson Headwaters — which began with Dr. Ruge and four physician assistants and now has 300 health providers in 24 community and specialty clinics, with more coming — where 162,000 individual patients were seen last year — totaling at least 500,000 encounters — has made healthcare accessible in places where it would have otherwise ended because local physicians were aging out of practice. Hudson Headwaters was an early Federally Qualified Health Center and helped launch the "Medical Home" movement. Its growing catchment covers a Connecticut-sized section of upstate New York, supports unique community-provider partnerships, succeeds in keeping health professionals in rural practice and more. I am told it may have helped keep communities from dying altogether.

Yet, when I asked Yale Medicine to profile Dr. Ruge and his work, I was told via email: "Recently, we've been asked to emphasize, as much as possible, the important research that's happening at YSM. As a result, we have had less space in the magazine for alumni coverage." I asked contacts at the Yale Alumni Monthly about profiling Dr. Ruge. I heard nothing.

Dr. Ruge is not the only alum doing amazing real-world things to whom Yalies should be exposed. Yale's resistance to talking about his achievements, so relevant to many of the health access issues Americans face today, highlights for me the

low priority it has on helping everyone discover the invaluable work our diverse and talented community does in many applied fields and the positive impact today's campus residents can have wherever they go throughout their lives.

One path Yale could follow to expose everyone to the diverse applied contributions Yalies make today would be a publication like Princeton's "Alumni in the News" so our community can see what a Yale education, hard work, good luck and solid contacts can make possible.

I have a Yale Ph.D., Princeton and Harvard masters' degrees and I work to improve outcomes and access for many. I know highlighting our challenges and opportunities through research is important. Experience drives my belief that encountering problems and seeing how people are overcoming them is even more so. Celebrating those creating practical, cost-effective solutions is particularly critical given America's struggles with outcomes — and increasing doubt good ones are possible here.

This understandable doubt amplifies the importance of highlighting good things happening and Yalies facilitating them.

As their tenures begin, I encourage President McInnis GRD '90 GRD '96 and YAA Director Cole '99, in concert with other Yale leadership, to create ways to expose Yale's incredible students to the amazing practical work Yalies do in ways that will make accessing these people and opportunities easier than I'm told doing so is today. I — and I'm sure many other alums — stand ready to help Yale make this happen.

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FROM THE FRONT

"In the first 30 years of your life, you make your habits. For the last 30 years of your life, your habits make you."

STEVE JOBS INVENTOR

MENA space opens and a second Muslim Chaplain appointed

MENA FROM PAGE 1

munity and coordinated the first AACC-MENA peer liaison program consisting of three PLs last year. An expanded team of now six peer liaisons will guide MENA students and assist with their transition to campus.

According to Satia Hatami '25, a MENA peer liaison, the new space this year is important to the recognition of the MENA community on campus as its own cultural and ethnic category.

Hatami said this space serves as a step in gaining recognition for the Middle Eastern community as a community of color, rather than white or caucasian categories they may have to mark down on traditional surveying.

Hatami also said that the need for a designated MENA space became apparent last year following Oct. 7 and the war in Gaza.

"With the events of last year, with October 7, and everything that followed, I think one thing that we really felt within our community was just not having a designated space to congregate and support each other," Hatami said.

Fagr Aboudaka '27, a MENA peer liaison this year, noted that several administrators were instrumental in establishing this space.

Aboudaka praised Joliana Yee, assistant director of the AACC, for her support in establishing the MENA space and helping to hire MENA Cultural Community Assistant Director Lena Ginawi. Aboudaka also shared that Eileen Galvez, an Assistant Dean at Yale College and director of La Casa Cultural, worked with the heads of college and helped the MENA

cultural suite connect to other cultural centers and peer liaisons during training.

Hatami said that she became involved in the AACC-MENA peer liaison program last year and continued this year as well because she wanted to assist a program that was not available during her first year but could be a resource for others.

Aboudaka also said that her experience in high school founding a MENA cultural club was part of the reason why she became a MENA peer liaison this year.

"Becoming a PL feels like an extension of this — a continuation of my efforts to not erase our heritage, to do my part in not letting anyone slip away from it, and to open doors for conversation," Aboudaka told the News.

Hatami said that students can sign up for more than one peer liaison across cultural communities if they, for example, identify as both Latine and Middle Eastern or North African.

The MENA suite consists of two rooms on the first floor of 305 Crown St. One of those rooms serves as a kitchen and the other will be used as a social space and a study area with plans to build partitions for the differing uses of each room.

Hatami told the News that student leaders have been "very intentional" with using their funding to fully equip the space but added that they could still use additional funding to make it an "even better space for everyone" and continue to build up its programming.

Dahleh hopes that the MENA suite will "be like a hub" where



Courtesy of MENA-AACC

First years can request a peer liaison through the University PL page. *Ada Perlman contributed reporting.*

Contact

KARLA CORTES at karla.cortes@yale.edu and **NORA MOSES** at nora.moses@yale.edu.

different MENA-identifying students can find each other in contrast to the decentralized organization of a social MENA community he experienced without a dedicated space. He hopes to visit the MENA suite during Ramadan or Eid, where there is now a designated space for those events.

"It's more than just the physical element, having a space for MENA students to feel welcomed on campus, to feel like they can share their own stories," Dahleh told the News. "I feel like for a long time that voice hasn't been protected and in many ways, it's been targeted whether it's doxing or just generally being de-platformed."

Yale cracks down on encampments, updates campus protest regulations

EXPRESSION FROM PAGE 1

criminal charges may result from violating these policies.

One new policy that was not previously on the website of the Office of the Provost imposes a blanket ban on the use of projections on Cross Campus or Beinecke Plaza. The policy also provides guidelines for obtaining permission to project images or messages on other Yale buildings or grounds. While projections have not featured prominently in protests on Yale's campus, the form of protest has become highly contentious at other universities.

A University spokesperson declined to comment on whether the updated policies were intended to address encampments and other campus protest activity.

The new web page also includes new and more in-depth guidance for the type of activity that is allowed on outdoor campus spaces.

The new version of the policy regarding use of outdoor spaces emphasizes that "requests may be submitted only by registered student groups and organizations in good standing," which would preclude groups such as Occupy Beinecke — a non-Yale registered group that led protests in April — from requesting outdoor space. It also adds several new factors that will be considered when approving requests, including event size, duration and whether the request is for "highly trafficked campus spaces."

Additionally, three new pages were added to the office's website: one summarizing the Woodward Report — Yale's foundational free speech

document — another answering frequently asked questions about the University's free expression policies and a third linking the disciplinary procedures for each of Yale's schools.

Other policies remain mostly the same, but come with slight changes. One section, on the protocol for disruptions that violate campus free expression policies, features a single word change.

Previously, the second warning read, "if the disruption does not stop, you will be subject to possible disciplinary sanctions, citation, and summons." Now, the warning of "citation" has been replaced with the warning that students in violation of policy will be subject to "infraction." The Executive Committee of Yale College uses the term "infraction" as a general way to refer to violations of the Undergraduate Regulations. The

News could not locate any mention of "citation" in a disciplinary context in the University's regulations.

Similarly, the University's policy on structures remains largely the same as when it was originally posted online, with one notable change. The list of structures that are banned unless permission is obtained — walls, barriers, tents, sculptures and art — has now been updated to include "placards," meaning posters or signs.

University policy on poster and chalking has also been changed to specify that "flags and banners" are considered posters.

The general "Free Expression Policy Guidance" page, which lays out restrictions on various disruptive forms of protest, remains word-for-word the same as it was on an Oct. 4, 2023, capture of the website.

In an email on Monday, Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis affirmed the importance of free speech at Yale while emphasizing the need to have ground rules surrounding discourse on Campus.

Lewis directed students toward Goff-Crews's email and the webpage for further clarification of what these rules will look like on campus.

"You can read more about these values, their practical application, and responses to discrimination and harassment in the August 13 message from Secretary and Vice-President for University Life Kimberly Goff-Crews," Lewis wrote.

Goff-Crews was appointed Vice President for University Life in 2019.

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Yale Hospitality nixes dining hall to-go boxes, closes Commons on Fridays

BOXES FROM PAGE 1

Gotthardt also clarified that sick students can request to-go packaging and dining managers will assist in those cases. She clarified that mobile ordering and pick-up are still available through Smart Meals on the official Yale Hospitality app and said that if a diner is "in a hurry," the Bow Wow is also an option.

Yale College Council Vice President Esha Garg '26 wrote to the News that the YCC has been "actively engaged in efforts to revive the old to-go box policy."

Garg wrote that she and YCC President Mimi Papathanasopoulos '26, in collaboration with the YCC dining policy team, had conveyed student concerns surrounding the new take-out box policy with leaders of Yale Hospitality and other administrators.

"Providing to-go boxes for students is crucial for health and accessibility and a necessity for students with busy schedules," Papathanasopoulos said. "We will continue to work with Yale Hospitality to develop creative solutions that meet student needs while committing to sustainability and overall waste reduction."

Yale Hospitality is located at 246 Church St.

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Zoe Berg, Senior Photographer

FROM THE FRONT

“35.5 percent of the first years will pick up their first YDN paper before having their first kiss.”

YURII STASIUK PRINT MANAGING EDITOR OF THE YDN

Yale commits to invest \$150 Million into AI development

AI DEVELOPMENT FROM PAGE 1

intelligence investments developed by a team of faculty members who already use AI in their departments. Strobel wrote that this is a necessary step to fulfill the university's mission “to improve the world and prepare the next generation of society's great leaders and thinkers.”

Investment in AI is necessary for Yale to remain “competitive” as AI innovation expands at peer universities, according to Nisheeth Vishnoi, a professor of computer science and member of the task force.

“This is something that had to be done,” Vishnoi said. “[If it did not] then I think pretty soon [Yale would] become a very unattractive and non-competitive place.”

The growth in GPUs, or graphics processing units, supply alone will allow Vishnoi to complete more of

his research objectives, he said. GPUs advance AI development because they process large amounts of data.

The new initiative is the product of a “multi-month exercise,” according to Laurie Paul, a professor of philosophy and cognitive science who was part of the task force.

“The provost had a committee of faculty and administrators that reviewed and discussed all kinds of questions related to AI, like how Yale should approach these questions and what faculty and administrators and students needed,” Paul said. “And so we had interactions basically with every kind of segment of Yale's educational offerings.”

The task force report also emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for AI involvement in non-scientific fields. The announcement stated that one of the priorities of the university is

to explore and harness AI for its benefits while expanding AI use to both research and education across various fields.

For example, Paul told the News about the need for more attention to AI use beyond science.

“It's just more obvious in sciences, but in philosophy or other kinds of humanities focused fields, it's not as obvious how to exploit these tools, and I think that's going to be very challenging,” Paul said.

This interdisciplinary use of AI is unique at Yale. Vishnoi elaborated that as a liberal arts school, Yale is in a position where non-traditional AI contributions could be made.

To facilitate such cross-field collaboration, Paul told the News that she is excited to see leaders in research who have never used AI to learn to use the tool, exposing experienced faculty to the benefits of AI.

“I'm really keen to draw in some more senior faculty, people who've lived their lives and done top quality research for decades, never having to use generative AI, but then seeing ways in which they could expand their perspective, or expand the research they do through generative AI. I want to make that possible, and I think Yale wants to make that possible.”

Edward Wittenstein, a senior lecturer in global affairs and director of the Schmidt Program on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and National Power, shared the same sentiment.

“In the Schmidt Program at the Jackson School, we are especially focused on how to develop requisite technical fluency among our policy-oriented students so that they can identify the threats and opportunities associated with

these emerging technologies,” Wittenstein said.

He said he is especially excited to see Yale invest in “transformational, general-purpose technology that will impact every conceivable field of endeavor.”

Vishnoi expects Yale to do more in the next five years to support the growth of AI development. Paul explained that much of the investment's potential relies on additional support. She said that additional funding from sources such as alumni, donors and other allied universities are necessary to maximize the use of this investment.

The report of the Yale Task Force on Artificial Intelligence was released in June 2024.

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New Haven Democrats return from Chicago energized, exhausted



Courtesy of Amy Marx

DELEGATES FROM PAGE 1

played a pivotal role in their decisions to back her.

Schonberger, for his part, had heard doubts about Biden from other young people before he left the race.

“There was a lot of almost depression and fear when it came to a Biden-Trump rematch,” he said. On the convention floor, he recalled, “you could feel this energy of rallying behind this candidate who might not have gotten there in the most conventional way, but was really a signal and sign of hope in a party that I think had really gone through some rough times in the past year.”

All three New Haven delegates voted for Harris and Walz in the virtual voting process that formally nominated the duo in early August. One of Connecticut's

74 delegates voted “present” to protest Gaza policy.

At the convention, Schonberger said, he saw prominent politicians up close, swarmed by supporters and reporters. Dunleavy observed what he called “the very beginning of jockeying” for potential gubernatorial candidates should Gov. Ned Lamont not seek a third term in 2026. Tyson enjoyed former First Lady Michelle Obama's speech but disliked the convention's long lines.

Now, all three are looking to the work that lies ahead before Election Day.

“I want to make sure that we get people out to vote. That's the big goal,” Tyson said. When she speaks with voters, Tyson said she tends to ask them what new policies they want to see implemented. “And I let them know that this is the person that's

going to definitely make sure that you're going to get that,” she said, referring to Harris.

Although Connecticut is all but certain to send its seven Electoral College votes to Harris and Walz, the three local delegates told the News that New Haveners can contribute to the national campaign by donating money, traveling to volunteer in battleground states such as Pennsylvania or phone banking from home.

The trio were not the only New Haveners to serve as delegates in Chicago. Representative Rosa DeLauro and state Treasurer Erick Russell were automatic superdelegates by virtue of their positions.

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Courtesy of Amy Marx



Ethan Wolin, Contributing Photographer

"Courage is the first virtue that makes all other virtues possible."
ARISTOTLE GREEK PHILOSOPHER

McInnis to continue Salovey administration policies

JOSIE REICH
STAFF REPORTER

University President Laurie McInnis emphasized to the News that she does not plan to make changes to the University or its policies in the near future. However, she said that based on her ongoing "listening tour" of Yale's stakeholders, she sees student mental health and investments in science and engineering as Yale's current top priorities.

"[I] believe very strongly in the importance of my meeting lots of people, hearing about their aspirations for Yale and very much learning where Yale's particular strengths are before having really concrete solutions," McInnis said.

She said that it is "absolutely" fair to say that she is not presently planning any changes from Salovey's administration.

She added that she has not hired anyone to join her team and has no plans to make changes to University leadership.

McInnis's inauguration will be held in the spring semester, in April, a break from tradition. Former University President Peter Salovey was inaugurated on Oct. 13, 2013, and Former University President Richard Levin was inaugurated on Oct. 2, 1993.

"I expect we will lay out some things once we get to the inauguration," McInnis said. "By then, we will have something that looks more like a vision speech. But

nothing's going to be a dramatic shift from where Yale is going."

Focus on mental health

In her speech at the Opening Assembly last week, she structured her message to first years around the idea that loneliness and resulting mental health issues are common experiences among college students, and that "community is an antidote to loneliness."

McInnis told the News that she decided to structure her address around mental health because she heard the issue echoed by multiple sources: feedback from her own children and their friends, academic research and a February survey in which Yale students ranked mental health as the University's top challenge.

"I don't know the granularity of what they mean by that," she said of the survey results. "As I talk with students and as I get to know people better, I really want to understand what they mean by that — what they feel like they need, what can we do to support them better," she said. "I do know that the answer is usually a multivariate answer."

McInnis said that combatting mental health issues will likely come in several forms, namely "normalizing" them, doing prevention work and providing counseling resources. She added that she sees Yale's residential college system as a unique and instrumental tool in improving student mental health.

Last year, in reaction to the survey results, then-President Peter Salovey told the News that university presidents "don't make policy for services and generally and for issues affecting students," and that mental health policy typically falls to the Office of University Life and deans instead. However, he added that presidents can raise awareness and funds and influence policy, and that he had done so in his support for Yale College Community Care, or YC3.

Science and engineering investments

McInnis said that "fulfilling the plans that have [been] put in place around our science investments" is Yale's top priority.

"Yale's science facilities, we'll just say, are past supporting modern science," she said.

In February 2022, the University announced a 10-year plan to improve the University's science and engineering programs. The project, now in its third year, invests in the construction and modernization of campus buildings and the hiring of 45 new faculty members.

Beginning with constructing a new Physical Science & Engineering Building on Science Hill, the project is now entering its implementation stages, which will include renovating buildings on lower Hillhouse Avenue. McInnis said that she will be active in the plan's contin-



McInnis told the News that she sees student mental health and investments in science and engineering programs as priorities.

ued rollout but that there are no changes she wants to make.

"The real important thing is making sure we get the implementation right in all of those [new science facilities]," she said. "I'm deeply committed to that work. I was supportive of it as a corporation member and now see it as my privilege to work supporting academic leaders to ensure that we do this work and we do it well, building Yale into a powerhouse in sciences and engineering."

According to McInnis, the plan especially aims to support science related to planetary solutions, biodiversity loss and climate change, aging and disease, neuroscience, quantum

computing and data and computing science.

When the project was announced, University Provost Scott Strobel told the News that it would continue to evolve, including budget adjustments over the years as faculty members are hired.

"The buildings aren't empty and there's people that are occupying them," Strobel said. "They need to continue to be able to do their work, and so it's a long process of moves, shifts, renovations and more moves."

McInnis began her tenure as University president on July 1.

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Economics courses remain Yale's most popular classes

BY YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

As Yalies begin to shop for classes during the add/drop period, the economics department once again tops the fall semester leaderboard of the most popular courses at Yale College.

Excluding laboratory courses, the three most popular courses are ECON 115 "Introductory Microeconomics," ECON 159 "Game Theory" and ECON 121 "Intermediate Microeconomics," with enrollments at 496, 388 and 306, respectively, according to the Course Demand Statistics site as of Aug. 29. Enrollment numbers will likely fluctuate until the end of the add/drop period.

While the News has excluded laboratory classes from course popularity rankings, some laboratory classes outnumber their co-requisite classes in enrollment. For example, 342 students are enrolled in Chemistry 134L, "General Chemistry Laboratory I."

"I'm taking ECON 115 for a [Quantitative Reasoning credit], and also because it seems like it covers important concepts that span across all fields," Paola Milbank '26, a junior majoring in History and pursuing a certificate in Education Studies, told the News. "It just seems like something I should know about."

Economics 115, "Introductory Microeconomics," was also the College's most popular course last fall, and its enrollment has grown 7 percent since then. The class can be applied to either the Quantitative Reasoning or Social Sciences requirement for the bachelor's degree, and it is commonly listed as a prerequisite for many courses and majors such as Ethics, Politics & Economics.

Because many of Yale College's most popular courses fulfill common distributional or major requirements, professors have implemented measures to promote student engagement and excitement.

"Many students are taking the class as a requirement," Professor Cormac O'Dea, who teaches Economics 115, wrote to the News. "To try to keep things as interactive as possible, we use polls, occasionally open up a discussion, and have some in-class games. We supplement this with optional activities outside of class time."

While Economics 159, "Game Theory," drastically increased in popularity from 260 students in fall 2022 to 410 students in fall 2023, enrollment in the course is slightly down by about 5 percent this fall.

The classes in third and fourth place are Chemistry 161, "General Chemistry I," with 301 students and Earth & Planetary Sci-

ences 100, "Natural Disasters," with 259 students.

Earth & Planetary Sciences 100 has drastically increased its number of students in recent years. The course had grown nearly four times in enrollment since it was last offered in the fall of 2022 when 70 students took it.

"Students are often seeking out Natural Disasters as a way of fulfilling a distributional requirement — it's definitely true that I see a lot of students who are looking for that science credit," Professor Maureen Long, who teaches EPS 100, wrote to the News. "I love working with that group of students and look at it as a terrific opportunity to get non-science majors deeply engaged and interested in their science coursework."

Despite the large class sizes, both students and professors remain optimistic that the courses will run smoothly and that students will receive enough academic support.

Long explained that although "course logistics are always a bit more complicated with bigger classes," teaching assistants make the problem more manageable. O'Dea, who teaches Economics 115, wrote to the News that he similarly employs a team of 20 graduate teaching fellows, undergraduate learning assistants and peer tutors to handle course logistics.

The size of these courses and their lecture formats means that it is difficult for students and professors to get to know each other individually. Thus, course instructors are planning different ways to meet with their students and form relationships through their classes.

"One new thing I'm trying this year is making a point of going to lunch right after class at one of the residential colleges and inviting students to join me — I'm hoping that that will give me a chance to get to know many of my students," Long wrote.

Both O'Dea and Professor Benjamin Polak, who teaches Economics 159, wrote to the News that teaching fellows and assistants also help facilitate course experience by getting to know students individually and providing one-on-one support.

Ellie Jiang '27, a prospective Economics & Mathematics major taking Economics 159, says the course's large size can benefit her academic experience.

"I'm not too concerned [about the class size], as there are a lot of TAs and outside resources I can consult," Jiang said. "Having a large class size also gives me the flexibility to ask for help among my peers."

The fall 2024 add/drop period will end on Tuesday, Sep. 10 at 5:00 p.m.

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NEWS

“Even the greatest was once a beginner. Don’t be afraid to take that first step.”

MUHAMMAD ALI AMERICAN BOXER AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST

Newly opened REST Center provides evaluation, stabilization services

BY LILY BELLE POLING
STAFF REPORTER

Continuum of Care, Inc. announced the opening of its Rapid Evaluation, Stabilization and Treatment (REST) Center for adults with mental health and substance use issues on Wednesday morning.

The Center will serve as a central location for the Elm City Compassionate Allies Serving our Streets — COMPASS — mobile crisis response team and for first responders to bring individuals experiencing non-emergency crises for further evaluation and stabilization. It will particularly focus on individuals experiencing homelessness.

“Previously, the option was to just leave someone how they were on the street or arrest someone, and that is just not the right solution for so many people that are struggling in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury and, frankly, in cities around the nation,” Mayor Justin Elicker said at the opening. “Continuum stepped up as a team that was willing to put the resources, the expertise and, most importantly, the compassion behind helping the people in our community.”

The REST Center aims to act as an alternative to unnecessary emergency room visits or arrests, offering loungers and beds, accepting referrals from police and first responders and allowing stays up to 23 hours. It is Connecticut’s first rapid evaluation, stabilization and treatment center and can hold up to ten individuals at a time.

In 2022, New Haven launched COMPASS, a community-based initiative that supports individuals experiencing mental health or substance use crises. It has become a support network for New Haven first responders, who often refer individuals to COMPASS instead of taking them into custody or emergency rooms.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, John Labieniec, vice president of acute and forensic services for Continuum, shared an anecdote about an individual who benefited from the services REST will provide in collaboration with COMPASS.

A passenger missed their flight at the New Haven Tweed airport due to a psychiatric emergency and was subsequently stranded in New Haven, Labieniec said. After local police called COMPASS, the individual was picked up, evaluated and given a place to stay until catching the next day’s flight out of New Haven.

“This just really highlights how important the work is here, and how important it is that we are coming together so people can have a tool and be treated like a human being,” he said.

The facility has also dedicated six beds to patients awaiting placement in a longer-term facility.

Continuum, which operates the REST Center, is a New Haven-based organization that provides group homes, supported and independent living programs, crisis and respite services and residential case management programs for adults diagnosed with mental illness or severe developmental and intellectual disabilities.



LILY BELLE POLING / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
New Haven’s new mental health services center will serve as a central location for individuals experiencing non-emergency crises.

The organization runs over 50 programs around Connecticut.

The REST Center will provide patients with any basic needs, as well as brief medical and psychiatric assessments, mental health evaluations, referrals to detox and access to other supported living services. It is staffed by clinicians, case managers, peer counselors and nurses who will perform professional evaluations and help connect individuals to fur-

ther services, depending on each patient’s needs.

“The [REST] program integrates the Continuum expertise and skills to provide a new level of care that will streamline psychiatric assessment and evaluations in a community-based setting, thereby transforming how mental health crises are managed without burdening our first responders or our hospital emergency departments,” Jim Farrales, president and CEO of Continuum, said.

New Haven assisted Continuum with the necessary funding to purchase and renovate the facility housing the REST Center. The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is providing funding to help with Continuum’s operational costs of the REST Center.

The REST Center is located at 310 Winthrop Ave.

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In New Haven, nearly 200 sensors listen for gunshots. How do they work?

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTER

When the Yale police union’s billboard truck circled Old Campus during first-year move-in this August, one message was adorned with cartoon bullet holes: police ShotSpotter technology had detected over 1,500 gunshots across New Haven in 2024 thus far.

Most of the detected gunshots are far from campus, but the Yale Police Department is notified of them nonetheless through the city’s complex ShotSpotter system.

ShotSpotter, an audio-based gunfire detection technology first implemented in New Haven in 2009, notifies officers from the New Haven Police Department and the Yale Police Department of suspected shootings.

The system is run by a company SoundThinking, whose analysts analyze the audio data in real-time from California and Washington, D.C.

“We choose to use [Shotspotter data on our billboards] because we think it’s an important piece of information for the public to know,” union leader Mike Hall told the News. “Like we said, there were 1,500 rounds fired within city limits this year alone. You take into account the possibility of a stray bullet, anything can happen.”

The Yale Police Benevolent Association — the police union — is in its 19th month of tense contract negotiations with the University. It has a long history of branding the city as dangerous during active negotiations.

There have been no confirmed shots fired in the city’s District 1 — which includes Old Campus and all Yale residential colleges except Pauli Murray and Benjamin Franklin — since the beginning of January 2024, according to the NHPD’s most recently released CompStat report. But Hall believes that such a statistic — though an achievement for the YPD — assumes that Yale students would be unaffected by crime in the city at large.

The 1,581 ShotSpotter-detected rounds advertised by the YPBA during their first-year move-in action collectively make up around 350 shooting instances.

ShotSpotter technology, used nationwide, operates through a network of audio sensors spread throughout the city. When one of the sensors detects a sound resembling a gunshot, it sends a signal to one of ShotSpotter’s two instant review centers, which are located



ARIELA LOPEZ / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
ShotSpotter gunshot statistics have been used by Yale’s police union to brand the city as dangerous, but the sensors most often record gunshots fired away from campus.

in Fremont, California and Washington, D.C. There, a human analyst determines whether the notification is plausibly the sound of one or multiple gunshots — a process that takes under a single minute, according to NHPD Sergeant Jarrod Boyce, the department’s liaison to ShotSpotter.

New Haven-based officers then receive a notification on their ShotSpotter mobile apps, which includes the time of the alleged shot, its approximate location and the number of rounds picked up by the system. Officers can also play the audio, which can help them learn more about the nature of the alleged shooting and make determinations about how to respond to the situation.

Boyce told the News that the YPD officers are also notified by ShotSpotter’s system, but that he believes the YPD has its own liaison to SoundThinking, ShotSpotter’s parent company. YPD officers respond to instances of gun violence when they occur on Yale’s campus.

Lisa Skelley-Byrnes, YPD’s director of compliance, strategic initiatives and crime analysis, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on YPD’s use of ShotSpotter technology.

Boyce told the News that he finds the system to be accurate in

identifying gunshots a majority of the time. He estimated that around 80 to 90 percent of the notifications officers receive on their mobile apps are in fact gunfire, while the remaining “false negatives” could be vehicles backfiring, fireworks or a similar sound.

Thomas Chittum, a spokesperson for SoundThinking, said that ShotSpotter nationally guarantees its clients a 90 percent accuracy.

But when the city was last considering expanding ShotSpotter use in 2022, the NHPD shared that from the 698 ShotSpotter notifications that the police department received in 2021, 17 percent were not gunshots.

Boyce told the News that he notifies his contact at SoundThinking when the system incorrectly indicates a gunshot.

Since its implementation in 2009, New Haven’s ShotSpotter apparatus has been expanded three times — most recently in 2022 through the addition of sensors. Boyce emphasized that the sensors are spread across the city, covering most of its highly populated areas, and originally implemented in areas where the department had historically seen the highest rates of gun violence.

Boyce believes that the system’s accuracy has increased with each expansion, as an

increased number of angles helps pinpoint the source of a gunshot-like sound.

Accuracy aside, Boyce said that ShotSpotter is a reliable reporting system in a city where, he believes, residents might not always report instances of gunfire on their own accord.

“I don’t know if it is some sort of fatigue from there being gunfire in that area, or they’re used to it, or they think it might be something different,” he said of New Haveners declining to notify his department of a shooting. “If it doesn’t affect them, then they’re not particularly inclined to call the police.”

ShotSpotter sensor locations are hidden from the general public, which Chittum said is meant to protect the individuals or organizations that allow ShotSpotter to use their buildings to house sensors.

The company has been criticized in the past for placing its sensors disproportionately in low-income neighborhoods or communities of color in major cities, allowing police departments and their technology a greater opportunity to allegedly surveil marginalized groups.

SoundThinking denies that the locations of sensors are determined by race or income.

“Occasionally people will say, oh, you know, ShotSpotter is only in certain communities, and my response is always, well, that’s probably because that’s where the majority of gun victimization has concentrated,” Chittum said. “I would love to see ShotSpotter spread all the way across every city. But of course, there is a diminishing return on investment if you have a system deployed in a place to detect gunfire where there is no gunfire.”

According to a 2024 Wired investigation that analyzed the leaked locations of ShotSpotter sensors nationwide, 108,131 New Haveners live in a neighborhood with at least one ShotSpotter sensor. Of that number, 24.8 percent are white, 36.2 percent are Black, 30.3 percent are Latine and 4.5 percent are Asian.

Of New Haven’s 2020 population of around 134,000, around 28 percent are white, 30 percent are Black, 31 percent are Latine and 7 percent are Asian — indicating that the sensors are placed in neighborhoods that disproportionately house Black residents, but not by a large margin.

There are 191 ShotSpotter sensor locations in New Haven.

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NEWS

"You can't win unless you first begin."

ROBIN S. SHARMA, CANADIAN WRITER

Police union welcomes McInnis with "subdued approach" to first-year move-in action

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTER

A pair of conspicuous yellow and blue billboard trucks flashing messages of rising crime rates in New Haven welcomed first-year students and their families to campus on move-in day on Aug. 18.

The trucks — commissioned by the Yale police union — are part of what union leadership described as a "subdued approach" to union messaging due to the arrival of the University's new president Maurie McInnis this summer. The police union, "pleased" with McInnis's appointment, highlighted her apparent support of campus police during her presidency at Stony Brook University.

Active contract negotiations between the University and the police union have dragged on for 18 months, a period marked by public tension and repeated union action.

On last year's move-in, the Yale Police Benevolent Association — the police union — distributed "Survival Guide" pamphlets, advising students to avoid leaving their dorms after 8 p.m., to new students and families. Then, the YPBA came under fire from both University and city officials for "fear mongering." The union distributed pamphlets, held a rally and commissioned billboard trucks with similar crime rate messaging during an event for prospective students in April.

"In light of the new President of Yale University, we thought it appropriate to undertake a more subdued approach in our actions on Freshman Arrival Day," YPBA President Mike Hall wrote in a statement. "We thought that the Sign Trucks alone would suffice to apprise the students of the potential dangers within the City, without the need to disseminate written materials as we did last year."

A University spokesperson declined to comment on behalf of McInnis on the YPBA's actions.

The YPBA has publicly branded New Haven as a dangerous city

during the past four contract cycles, often aiming messaging at new or prospective students.

While the University spokesperson expressed support for union members' right to rally peacefully, she condemned the police union for intentionally stoking fear in new students and their families with "misleading, disturbing, and inflammatory rhetoric."

YPBA touts McInnis's record on campus policing

Hall conveyed the union's hope that it will be able to "cultivate a good, productive relationship" with McInnis, whose appointment to the presidency was announced in June.

Before arriving at Yale, McInnis served as the president of Stony Brook University in New York for four years. Hall lauded McInnis's police-related initiatives in her former post.

"President Maurie McInnis appears to support the police, and we hope to cultivate a good, productive relationship with her in the future," Hall wrote. "During her four year tenure at Stony Brook University, Ms. McInnis supported the police and expanded the Public Safety Department. Moreover, Ms. McInnis created a Risk Management Office in an innovative and proactive approach to campus safety."

McInnis founded Stony Brook's Enterprise Risk Management program, a collective of public safety and security departments headed by the school's former police chief, just months after assuming her role as the university's president. The program — and McInnis, whose support for it was steadfast — came under intense scrutiny by Stony Brook faculty for its handling of campus protests against the war in Gaza last spring.

In June, McInnis sent a statement to the News reiterating her full support for the Stony Brook Enterprise Risk Management team and expressing that she looks forward to meeting with "all departments at Yale, including the team at Public Safety" upon taking office.

Hall clarified that his approval of McInnis was not intended to slight her predecessor, former University President Peter Salovey.



TIM TAI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two billboard trucks emblazoned with messages warning of rising New Haven crime drove around campus under direction of the Yale police union on Aug. 18. This marks at least the fourth time the union has framed the University's host city as dangerous this contract negotiation cycle.

"We believe that former President Salovey was supportive of the University Police Department," Hall wrote. "When President Salovey decided to leave the position, we didn't know whether the next Yale President would be someone who backs the police. When the University announced that the next President would be Ms. McInnis, we were pleased with the choice."

The police union has been negotiating a new contract with the University since February 2023. Their most recent contract expired in June of that year. Points of contention in the ongoing negotiation cycle include what the union deems as a lackluster 1.75-percent wage increase proposal and a YPBA proposal to impose a 60-day statute of limitation on civilian complaints.

Joe Sarno, Yale's director of labor relations, and the University spokesperson did not comment further on the status of negotiations.

University and police union debate portrayal of New Haven crime

This year, the trucks flashed three distinct billboards.

One, adorned with bullet hole graphics, warned: "In 2024 police shot spotter detected 1,581 gunshots fired on the streets of New Haven." The second claimed that in 2024, burglaries are up 41%, and robberies are up 100%. This slide also included a quote attributed to an unnamed "Yale mom": "She became terrified; I would have come sooner to pick her up, but I was out of town." The last billboard read, "Yale: Support the Police who protect your students."

YPBA president Hall wrote that the statistics posted on the trucks are "factual and a matter of record," and that the YPBA did not embellish or manipulate them.

Sergeant Jarrod Boyce of the New Haven Police Department confirmed that ShotSpotter notified the police of 1,581 rounds fired citywide from Jan. 1, 2024, to Aug. 16 — two days before the billboards were published.

The University spokesperson commenting on behalf of Sarno called the YPBA's rhetoric "misleading" and claimed that the crime rate on Yale's campus decreased by 12 percent in 2024 so far, compared with the same period in 2023.

Overall crime in the New Haven Police Department's District 1, which encompasses most of Yale's undergraduate campus, including Old Campus and all residential colleges except Pauli Murray and Benjamin Franklin, has decreased by 4 percent since 2023, according to the NHPD's latest publicly available CompStat report, which analyzed data from Jan. 1 through July 21.

As of July 21, there have been no confirmed shots fired in District 1 since the year began.

YPBA's previous contract, which was settled in 2018, took 28 months and over 70 bargaining sessions to settle.

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Pro-Palestine protesters rally for arrested encampment protesters, campaign for charges to be dropped

BY YOLANDA WANG, NORA MOSES & ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTERS

Around 250 pro-Palestine protesters rallied outside the New Haven Superior Court on Wednesday morning to show support for 14 protesters charged with criminal trespassing during the first divestment encampment in April appearing for a pretrial court hearing.

The 14 Yale affiliates summoned to court on Wednesday are among over 50 people — including at least 47 Yale students — who were arrested on three occasions throughout late April and early May in relation to campus protests demanding that Yale divest from companies that profit from the war in Gaza. Besides the students who appeared before court on Wednesday, several students appeared in court virtually over the summer on July 8 and 9. Others will appear in person on Thursday, Aug. 29.

"We refuse to operate under any illusion that the American legal system upholds justice," the arrestees wrote in a statement published shortly after the rally commenced. "Our oppressors will never grant us liberation through sanctioned channels for dissent. We will continue to resist genocide and colonial power by any means necessary."

Wednesday's rally, which was organized by a cross-coalition group known as the Drop the Charges Campaign, was attended by individual protesters as well as contingents from Jewish Voice for Peace New Haven and Faculty for Justice in Palestine-Yale.

The crowd, which was composed of mostly Yale students and affiliates, dissented against the arrests and charges while reaffirming their focus on the war in Gaza through chants such as "free, free Palestine" and "Yale, Yale, you can't hide, you're financing genocide."

"It's completely unacceptable for a university that purports to believe in free speech and has an open public square, that sends us email after email to that effect extolling its own record on free speech, to then use police to crack down on students peacefully protesting," Elijah Bacal '27, a member of Yale Jews for Ceasefire, told the News at the rally. "It just seems to me nonsensical, hypocritical."

Around 50 protesters made their way into the courthouse to spectate the proceeding, which began just after 10:15 a.m. Some remained in the lobby due to a lack of seating.

The 14 arrested protesters gathered with their attorneys for a debrief after the court session. Most of the protesters disbanded from the courthouse by 11:00 a.m.

"We're here in solidarity with those who have to go before a judge today and with Palestine, which continues to endure the genocide sponsored by our university," Tacey Hutten '26, a Yale student and protestor who was arrested last spring, told the News. "While we may have had a break from school, there was no break in Israel's genocide and occupation in Gaza. We are morally obligated to continue to struggle and continue to fight against colonial genocide."

The April protests focused on Yale's endowment, which indirectly invests roughly \$110,000 of Yale's \$113 million in publicly disclosed assets in companies that manufacture weapons — such as Lockheed Martin — via ETFs, a collection of stocks or bonds bought as a single unit. The total size of Yale's endowment is \$40.7 billion, but only about 0.3 percent of those holdings are publicly available through SEC filings.

All of the protesters summoned on Wednesday are represented either by Yale faculty member Greta LaFleur or by Abigail Mason, a lawyer at the Connecti-



CHLOE EDWARDS/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hours before 14 Yale affiliates arrested in the April 2024 divestment encampment were slated to appear before a judge, hundreds gathered on the steps of the New Haven Superior Court to dissent against the protesters' trespassing charges. A motion to dismiss the cases will be heard on Oct. 31.

cut-based law firm Koch, Garg & Brown. The two attorneys filed a motion on Wednesday morning to dismiss the criminal trespass charges against the 44 Yale affiliates arrested on April 22. At the hearing, the judge determined that the charged protesters will next appear in court on Oct. 31 to allow the judge time to read through the motion — which Mason described as "lengthy" — as well as the expected response from the prosecutor.

Mason explained that although the final decision on whether to drop charges would be up to the prosecutor, Yale could put pressure on the prosecutor not to pursue the case further.

Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis confirmed that the University would not necessarily be responsible for dropping charges.

"The university doesn't decide about charges on the part of the state prosecutor," Lewis told the News. "What we have control of is the disciplinary process."

Lewis told the News that he believes any academic discipline would be enforced by the Executive Committee against the arrested students only after the judge rules on the protesters' cases.

Wednesday's rally also comes amid an ongoing letter campaign in which supporters of the arrested protesters sent letters to the Yale administration demanding that charges against the protesters be dropped. As of Wednesday, nearly 15 thousand letters have been sent.

Concurrent with the hearing, the Drop the Charges campaign announced a "phone zap" session via Instagram in which they called

Yale administrators, including Lewis, University President Maurie McInnis and Dean of Students Melanie Boyd, to demand that the charges be dropped and to reiterate their ongoing demands that Yale disclose its investments and divest from military weapons manufacturing.

The New Haven Superior Court is located at 121 Elm Street. said at Tuesday's hearing that his son "had a bright future ahead, one that promised to spread God's love far and wide," per the Associated Press.

The New Haven Superior Court is located at 235 Church St.

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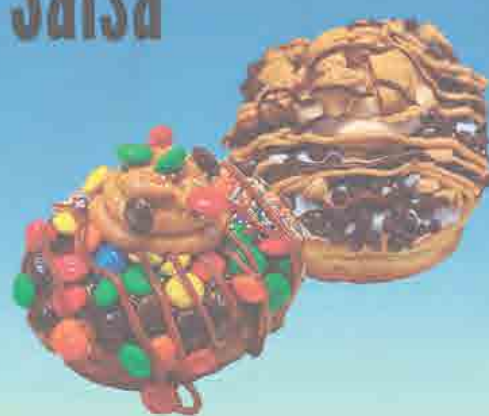
COLLEGE NIGHT

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"I'm proud of our performance tonight and I thought we got back to our brand of soccer. We challenged our group after our last game, and they rose to that. Winning is tough to do, but we encourage our group to enjoy each one."
HEAD WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH SARA MARTINEZ SAID TO YALE ATHLETICS.

Yale Football rebuild on the move

BY SPENCER KING
SENIOR REPORTER

The Yale football team has been hard at work over the summer with their sights set on a third straight Ivy League Championship.

After sharing last season's championship with Dartmouth and Harvard and winning the 2022 season outright, the Bulldogs will look to three-peat for the first time since Yale's run from 1979 to 1981.

Despite the Bulldogs great run of form, for team captain and linebacker Dean Shaffer '25, the message is all about 2024.

"It's something we identified early on," said Shaffer. "Our first day back for the spring semester was 'Hey, you know coming off two championships, those are great things that we had done in the past, but that's exactly what they are. They're great things we did in the past.'"

Those two championships came on the backs of some great players who are now gone. Most notably, the departure of quarterback Nolan Grooms '24 leaves a massive hole in the Bulldogs offense.

The now graduated quarterback was one of only six players to ever win Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year award twice. Grooms finished his career second in Yale history in both passing touchdowns and total offense.

The number one question for Yale fans will be who takes his spot, with Head Coach Tony Reno offering little insight into the competition beyond mentioning that all four quarterbacks spent the summer in New Haven to train.

The options to lead the offense for the Bulldogs in 2024 are Marshall Howe '26, Grant Jordan '25, Brogan McCaughey '26 and Bradyn Fleharty '28. It's unclear who will rise to the top of the depth chart, with Howe having transferred from the University of Wisconsin after the 2022 season and McCaughey having been the highest rated out of high school, a three star according to 247 Sports.

"I'm excited to see them compete," Reno said of his quarterback options. "One of the things that is important at that position is being able to compete and someone being able to win the team. That's happened every year since I've been here and I'm looking forward to it happening again in the preseason."

Grooms isn't the only one the team will need to replace. Standout offensive tackle Kiran Amegadje '24 was drafted in the third round of the NFL draft by the Chicago Bears while wide receiver Mason Tipton '24 is also gone, competing in training camp for a spot with the New Orleans Saints.

The Bulldogs' defense was also hit with losses in the offseason as the three top tacklers from 2023 are gone and playing their final years of eligibility elsewhere. The top two Bulldogs in sacks also left, with Clay Patterson '24 transferring to Stanford University for his fifth season and Ezekiel Larry transferring

to San Diego State University after two years in New Haven.

Despite the losses of these high caliber players, the Bulldogs are confident that the players remaining are ready to fill their shoes.

"We have a lot of young guys stepping up, a lot of older guys that have experience that'll step into those roles and I think they'll do a phenomenal job," tight end Ry Yates '25 said to the News. "We have a very talented group, a group that has gotten to learn from, and play alongside, some very talented players in the past and I think all of those lessons will transfer over to this season."

While the losses may seem big, expectations for the Bulldogs remain sky high. Yale was picked first in the Ivy League Preseason Poll with 114 points, edging out Harvard who had 108 points.

Several players have also been recognized by Phil Steele's preseason All-Ivy League Teams. Kick returner Joey Felton '25 was named to the First Team and Second Team honorees included Yates, running back Joshua Pitsenberger '26, defensive lineman Alvin Guley Jr. '25, defensive lineman Dylan Yang '26 and defensive back Sean Guyton '25.

Both as a team and individually, the Bulldogs have a lot to live up to this season. Roster battles will take place at nearly every position while the Elis chase down the three-peat.

In the Ivy League Preseason Poll, Yale, Harvard, Penn and Princeton all received at least one first place vote.

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TIM TAI, SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Yale football team holds high hopes for their 2024 season with a strong, albeit new, team that is sure to be a strong contender to win what would be the Bulldog's third consecutive Ivy League championship.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Bulldogs earn first victory of the season over St. John's

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

On Wednesday night, the Yale women's soccer team (1-1, 0-0 Ivy) secured its first victory of the 2024-25 season against Saint John's (1-1-1, 0-0 Big East) with a final score of 1-0. It was the team's second match of the year and the first one at home, at Reese Stadium.

Last Sunday, the Elis traveled to Hofstra University on Long Island for their season opener. Despite a late goal from Meredith Phillips '25

to cut the deficit in half and boost morale, the team fell to the Pride 2-1. With the home opener on Wednesday night, the team looked to shift the momentum back to their side against the Red Storm.

Much of the action occurred in the first half, including the only goal.

At nine minutes in, first-year Reagan Exley '28 forced the opposing Red Storm to tackle her, relinquishing a corner kick, the first of the game for the Bulldogs. This corner kick was exactly what seniors Ellie Rappole '25 and Tina Teik '25 capitalized on.

An assist from Rappole was followed by a header from Teik, cementing a lead for the Bulldogs that would not waiver in the game.

Exley was one of three first years to get time on the field against St. John's. Alicia So '28 and Phebe Ryan '28 both secured some time on the grass as well.

In the 21st minute, St. John's inched extremely close to tying the game. Red Storm player Lauryn Tran assisted her teammate Jaiene DeJesus, who shot the ball off the goalpost, just missing the

net. Though St. John's continued to strike, their shots never got much closer than that, thanks to the performance from goalkeeper Kyla Holmes '27.

Holmes scratched her first career shutout in the scorecard with this game. She stopped a formidable St. John's team, which held an overall winning record the previous year and was named sixth in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll of 11 teams.

Head coach Sarah Martinez was proud of how the team improved since the Hofstra match.

"I thought we got back to our brand of soccer. We challenged our group after our last game, and they rose to that," Martinez said to Yale Athletics. "Winning is tough to do, but we encourage our group to enjoy each one."

The Bulldogs look to continue their winning streak when they face the Oregon State Beavers on Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. at Paul Lorenz Field.

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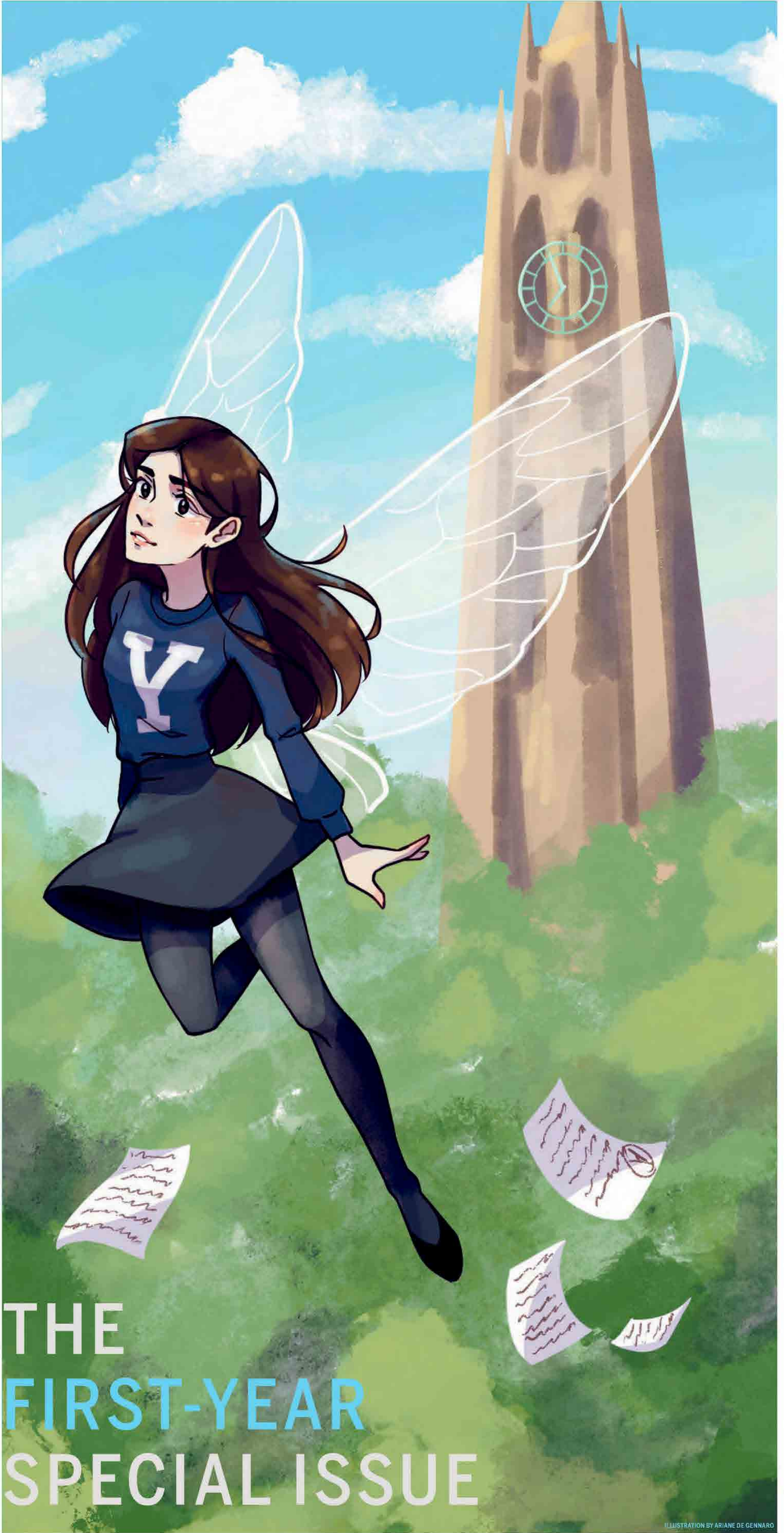


YALE ATHLETICS

The women's soccer team defeated the Red Storm thanks to a first-half goal.

STAT OF THE WEEK #1

YALE FOOTBALL WAS PICKED FIRST IN THE IVY LEAGUE PRESEASON POLL WITH 114 POINTS.



THE FIRST-YEAR SPECIAL ISSUE

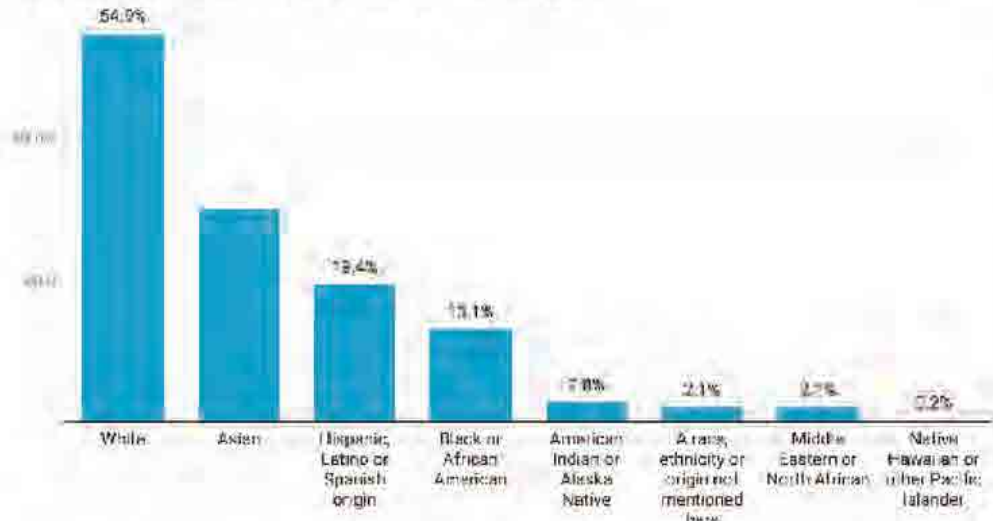
THE CLASS OF 2028 IN NUMBERS

Here's what 541 first years told the News about their backgrounds and experiences.

Demographics

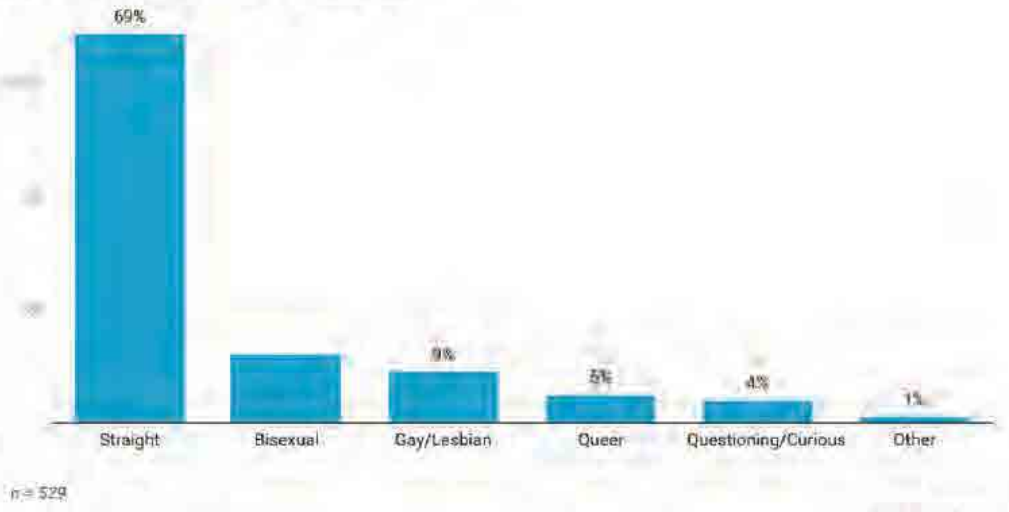
Race and Ethnicity

What racial/ethnic identities do you identify with? Check all that apply.



Sexual Orientation

What sexual orientation most applies to you?



// PAM OGBEBOR

59.4 percent of respondents selected more than one racial/ethnic identity. The most selected combinations were White and Hispanic (8%), Asian and White (4%), and Black/African American and White (2%). Around 31% of the classes identify as a sexuality that is not heterosexual. Out of all respondents, 9% indicated that they were recruited athletes and 17% have familial ties to Yale College or Yale Graduate School.

Geography

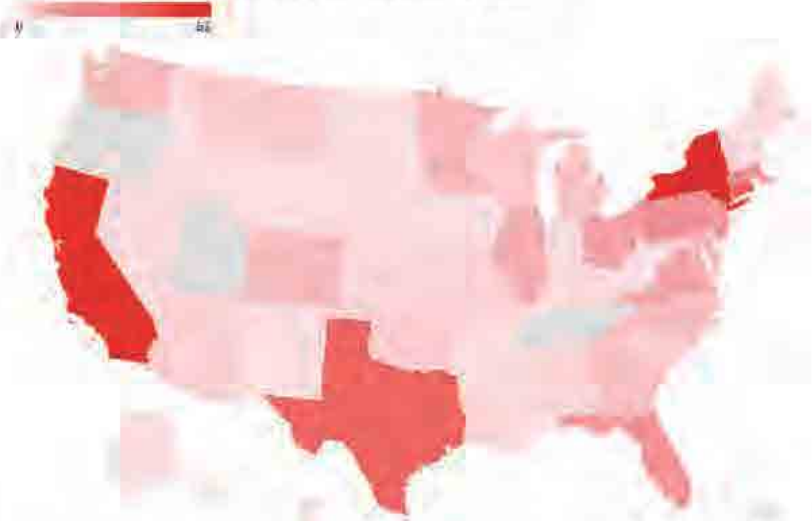
International Countries

If you are an international student, what is your country of residence?



Home States

If you are a domestic student, what is your U.S. state/territory of residence?



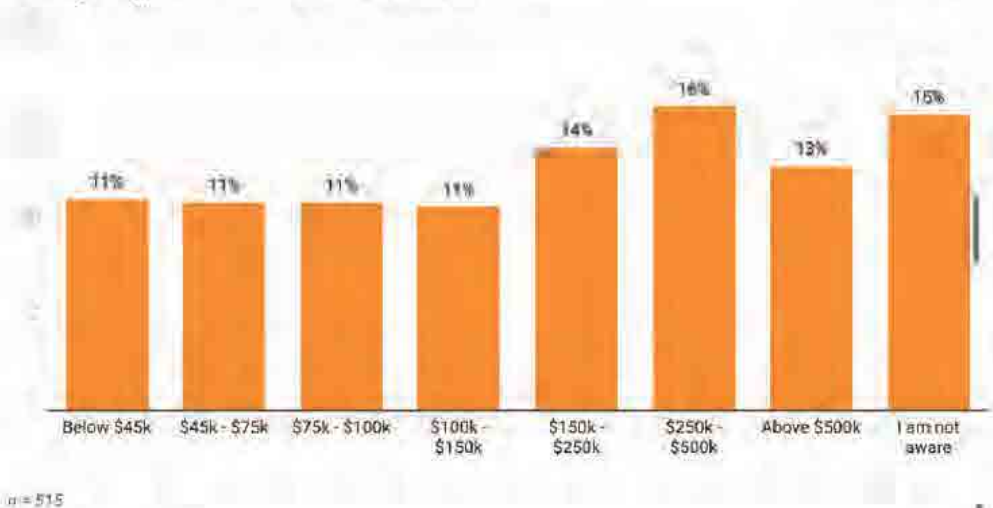
// PAM OGBEBOR

The majority of first-years are from suburban residential communities, with New York, California, and Texas being the most common home states for U.S. students. For the international students who responded, China, the UK, and Canada were the most popular countries. Eighty percent of international students are fluent in two or more languages in contrast to only forty-nine percent of U.S. students.

Finance

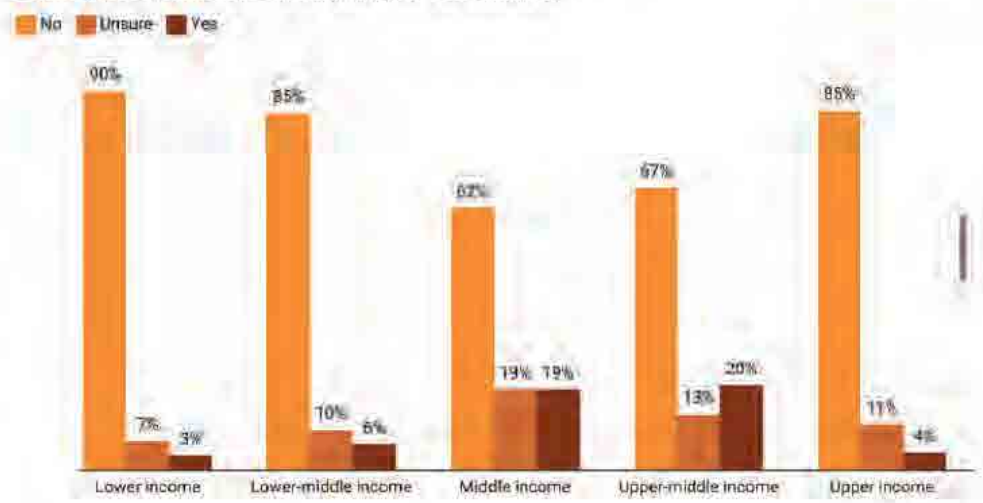
Annual Household Income

What is your approximate annual household income?



Loans by Income Category

Do you expect to take out loans to pay for your Yale education?



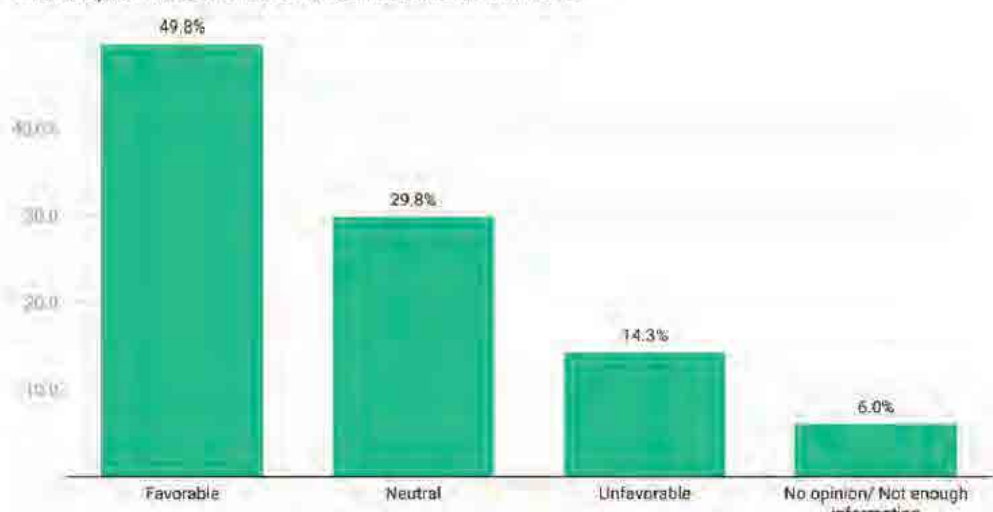
// PAM OGBEBOR

Approximately 56% of respondents receive financial aid from Yale or a large scholarship organization like Questbridge or Gates Foundation. Yale's Financial Aid Office advertises that all demonstrated financial needs of undergrads are met with a package that does not include loans. However, 13% of respondents expect to take out loans to finance their Yale education. When divided by financial category, the data reveals loan borrowing accounts for 20% of middle-income students and 20% of upper-middle income students. This shines a light on ongoing conversations about Yale's affordability for middle income students.

Views

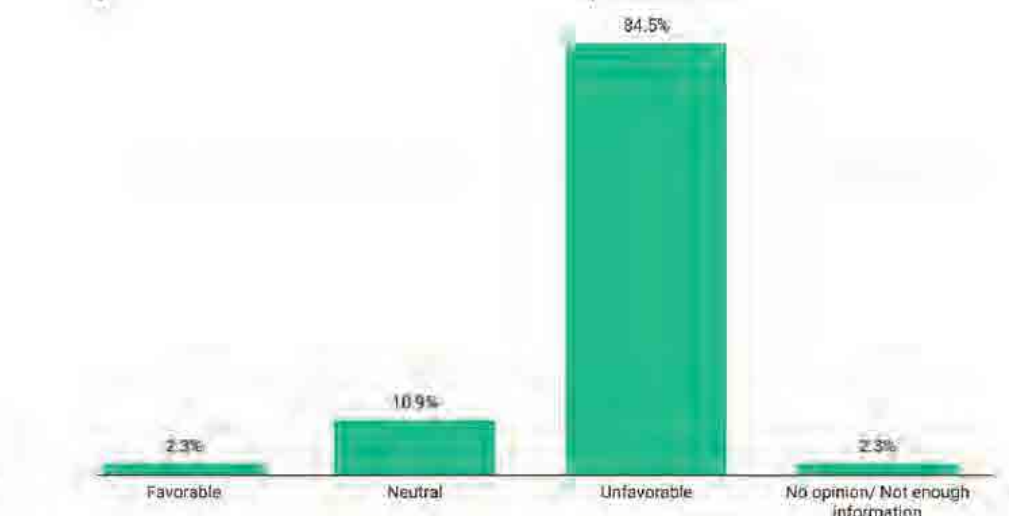
Views on Kamala Harris

What are your views towards U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris?



Views on Donald Trump

What are your views towards Former U.S. President Donald Trump?



// PAM OGBEBOR

Over 65% of the incoming class leans left politically. Out of the four individuals mentioned in the survey, the incoming class held the most unfavorable view toward Former U.S. President Donald Trump. Respondents felt the most neutral towards current U.S. President Joe Biden, with 18.1% considering him favorable, 46.8% selecting neutral and 31.7% believing he was unfavorable.

Read more on our website.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST
MAURIE MCINNIS

Welcoming new students

To New Students Joining the Yale Community,

Welcome to Yale! As you arrive on campus, I am thrilled to be returning to it after nearly three decades. The beginning of this new journey is at once exhilarating and profoundly humbling. One of the great joys of my initial weeks as president has been the chance to connect with the Yale community — those who make this university what it is — and I look forward to meeting some of its newest members. So, I hope you will say hello when you see me around campus.

We all come to Yale with our own stories. Here is mine: I am a

THE THROUGH
LINE OF YALE'S
EXCELLENCE IS A
DEEP SPIRIT OF
COMMUNITY THAT
BOTH ANIMATES
OUR CAMPUS AND
DISTINGUISHES IT.

fourth-generation teacher, the first being my great-grandparents who ran a modest, two-room schoolhouse. Inspired by the educators in my family, I devoted my career to teaching and research. I earned a Ph.D. in the history of art at Yale's graduate school before becoming an educator and art historian and taking on leadership roles at universities.

Now, as then, I reflect on my own formative years at Yale with an admiration for the distinct qualities of our community. I appreciate, as you soon will, how the hallmarks of Yale's educational environment — among them our symbiotic relationship with the City of New Haven, cross-disciplinary scholarship and spirit of partnership with institutions around the globe — prepare students to be the next generation of leaders and introduce knowledge and innovation that enhance lives worldwide.

The through line of Yale's excellence is a deep spirit of community that both animates our campus and distinguishes it. Much has changed since I

arrived here as a graduate student thirty-five years ago, yet Yale's commitment to community is as strong as ever. Indeed, at the very core of our liberal arts education for over three centuries are the inextricable links we share as Yalies.

Although the opportunity to connect with classmates who come from different backgrounds or hold divergent beliefs is invaluable, I can understand if it may seem intimidating, in part due to the growing rifts in our society. An over-reliance on social media, meanwhile, has hastened a breakdown of the mechanisms we use to communicate. And the pressure many students feel to pursue achievement can often come at the expense of connection. Taken together, these trends mean we are all too likely to create barriers rather than engage with one another. Yet as you prepare to begin your "bright college years," I encourage you to remember that just as essential as what you will learn before you graduate from Yale is who you will encounter along the way and how you will establish connections with one another.

As new members of the Yale community, you will encounter peers who are diverse across many dimensions. Out of a record applicant pool — the largest in Yale's history — has emerged an especially strong first-year class from all walks of life.

When you applied to Yale, the admissions team considered, "who is likely to make the most of Yale's resources and who will contribute most significantly to the Yale community?" The tie, therefore, that binds each of you together is the civic motivation that you have already demonstrated. So, your charge, now, is to start your interactions by embracing fully that you are part of this community and to remember that one of the most valuable skills you can develop is learning to listen and connect with others. You will find that your friendships will be enriched by engaging those who hold different points of view — and your scholarship, likewise, by seeking out those with interests in fields and disciplines other than your own.

As we start on new paths together, united by the special bonds of our tradition, I look forward to meeting you — and to learning how you will leave your mark on a Yale community that is now yours.

MAURIE MCINNIS is the 24th President of Yale University.

AMAR & LIPKA: Glorious noise

As a new academic year dawns for Yale undergraduates, we two Old Blues cannot help but recall our own Septembers at Yale College way back when — Proust would not be surprised. Is it just us, or have some things changed for the worse?

For decades, undergraduates would greet the new semester with an orgy of intellectual immersion. Our course schedules were blank slates and a festival of 2,000 courses beckoned, in what was known then as "Shopping Period." Virtually all courses were available to sample. Check out Scully's Art History! How about Kagan and The Peloponnesian War? Not only those best-known and classic courses, but also the new discovery a friend had made, or a spreading rumor about a new brilliant professor, or some enticing topic — all tempted us. This was a two week time of experimentation, of discovery, of a quest to not miss out. The News ran articles showing trends of most shopped courses. "Bluebook parties" abounded, where at least the ostensible mission was to confer and share delight — and some prudent warnings.

For their part, professors were at least partially performers, auditioning for our attention — making a case for their field, their course and, yes, themselves. And we spent time in the presence of many of Yale's greats, either to begin their course, perhaps file it away for a later year, or to mercifully avoid a semester in what might have been an unfortunate choice. It was exhilarating.

This was the Yale campus transformed into a glorious celebration of the life of the mind, with a clear message: this is what you are here for. This is the place where, among what seemed like Yale's unfathomable material abundance, the greatest plenty of all was the infinity of intellectual resources available to us. We need only search them, choose them and then do justice to them.

There was a certain disorder about it, it's true, but that mostly added to the energy. No one knew how big a classroom needed to be and sometimes classes would move from day to day. Our schedules were impossibly stuffed and no one held back on readings or papers in deference to the load. We might take a class after missing the first session. How many teaching assistants for a particular class? A scramble might be needed to match unforeseen demand.

And yet, the madness had a purpose. It was in the service of this greater good; this statement

— this is what we care about. For this, faculty and students were willing to do the extra work, deal with the inconvenience, crowd into a too-small classroom. This distinguished Yale from its so-called "peer institutions." And everyone understood.

Andy is a long-time director of alumni interviewing in the Princeton, New Jersey, area and in his interviewer training sessions, there is always an emphasis on how this was a great illustration of how Yale College is different; how this lies at the

and replace it later if you need to. And they would be absolutely right. It would be more efficient. And it is. But it isn't Yale.

Now course selection takes place in the middle of a semester, when there are a thousand other things on your mind — and you are actually pulled away from thinking about what you are now learning. There's no experimentation and very little conversation with your friends and classmates. This isn't the business of the campus; it's a pain in the neck when we don't need one. There's no energy, there's no sharing of experiences, there's no joy. The only statement that is made is the happy beep your computer sounds when it confirms your choices.

As important as those who keep the place humming are, Yale cannot place its essence — the mission, legacy and identity of the place — in the hands of administrators alone. Keepers of the flame are needed and they must come from those who have been warmed by that flame most intimately; those who have come to know it and treasure it over generations. This means, in this case, faculty and alumni, who immediately and viscerally understand the issues implicated by shopping period. This unforced error would never have occurred, we submit, had alumni been consulted. On other matters the key constituencies will certainly include current students and administrators have their key roles in certain contexts. This will be an ongoing emphasis of this column.

But for today: we know shopping period. We see what is lost. And we want it back.

AKHIL REED AMAR is a Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science. Professor Amar graduated from Yale College in 1980, and from Yale Law School in 1984. Contact him at akhil.amar@yale.edu.

ANDREW LIPKA is the President of EverScholar, a non-profit that conducts immersive learning programs, originally for Yale alumni, and now for all. Dr. Lipka graduated from Yale College in 1978, and from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1982. He is a fellow of Jonathan Edwards College. Contact him at andrew.lipka@gmail.com.

Akhil and Andy co-host the weekly podcast, *America's Constitution*. Their column, "Yale Friends for Life," runs frequently and discusses all things Yale — its successes, shortcomings, and mission — from the perspective of two alumni who love our small college.

DE GENNARO:

These are not the best years of your life

Two years ago, I published my very first opinion piece, "Don't expect to enjoy college," in the News' 2022 First Year Spissue. The piece was a warning not to let expectations define your first year of college, but rather to take things as they come. At the time, I was a rising sophomore, riding the high of my first year at Yale and feeling that I had college all figured out. If I had no idea what I wanted to do post-grad, I still had three more years to decide.

I don't think it really hit me that there would be life after Yale until I was nearing the end of my junior year last spring. My older friends were graduating, my peers interning at firms that would likely hire them and I suddenly realized that in about a year, college was going to spit me out into the real world, where knowledge of Platonic philosophy — along with everything else I had learned in Directed Studies — would not matter as much as the ability to create crisp Powerpoints. What I had figured out at the end of my freshman year

was largely that I adored college. Now, college is almost over. If I am scared of what's to come, I am absolutely terrified of what I am leaving behind.

Most of us are familiar with the age-old refrain that college is "the best years of our lives." For this short window of time, we enjoy the freedoms of adulthood without its concurrent responsibilities. We are meant to form lifelong friendships, gain lifelong wisdom and maybe even start a lucrative career. In other words, from the moment I first set foot on Yale's campus, the pressure was on.

With three years of college under my belt, I am doubtful of the truth of this proposition, not least because I would like to believe there are still better things ahead. While life at Yale has been incredible — I wouldn't trade my experience for the world — it has also often been difficult in ways only college can be. I have wrestled with homesickness, competition and overwhelming amounts of work. I have had my share of nights

MY ADVICE TO
INCOMING FIRST
YEARS: MAKE THE
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that went on far too long, far too late — both out on frat row and tucked away between the Sterling stacks. I have desperately wished for the quiet of my own space. I have felt painfully alone.

All of this is to say, college has had as many lows as highs. In truth, the lows were some of the most memorable parts of all, from boring lectures to brutal break-ups to re-spraining the ankle that never fully healed from a tumble I took my freshman fall. In falling, we learn how to get back up, even if we rise a little bruised and broken. In the end, college is not just an education in economics, engineering or English literature; it is an education in life.

My advice to incoming first years: make the most of the years ahead, but don't feel pressure to live life to its very fullest every second of every day. How could you know the best way to live? You are here to begin working that out. And remember that the time you spend outside of the classroom is at least as valuable as your time inside it.

As I enter my senior year, I still have a thousand things left to figure out. I'm no math major, but I am certain that my chances of finding all the answers in just two short semesters are close to zero. I am only a little older, a little wiser, than I was two or three years ago. I am making as many mistakes as new friends. At the ripe age of 21, I still have no idea what I want to be when I grow up.

Perhaps one of Yale's first lessons to me, from my first-year fall in Directed Studies, will also end up being one of the last. Perhaps it is okay, as Socrates suggested, to know that I know nothing, and to approach the next stage of my life open to questions as much as answers.

ARIANE DE GENNARO is a senior in Branford College. Her column "For Country, For Yale" provides "pragmatic and sometimes provocative perspectives on relevant issues in Yale and American life." Contact her at [ariane.degnar@yale.edu](mailto:degnar@yale.edu).

NEWS

"All the great speakers were bad speakers at first."
RALPH WALDO EMERSON AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALIST

Yale students reflect on admissions post-affirmative action



ELLIE PARK / MULTIMEDIA MANAGING EDITOR

Throughout the 2024 presidential election cycle, Yale alumni have been at the forefront of the Republican party. Ron DeSantis '01 and Vivek Ramaswamy LAW '13 both emerged as popular Republican candidates early in the race, and after former president Donald Trump became the Republican nominee, he chose Ohio Senator J.D. Vance LAW '13 as his running mate.

BY LANDON BISHOP
STAFF REPORTER

Two months ago marked the one year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn affirmative action, barring admissions officers nationwide from considering race during the college admissions process. Today, Yale students remain divided on the court's ruling.

On June 29, 2023, the court struck down affirmative action in response to cases filed against Harvard and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In its majority decision, the court argued that race-based consider-

ations in college admissions violated the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause, ending decades of legal precedent that allowed colleges and universities to consider race as one of many factors in the college admissions process.

Since the court's decision, Yale has made several updates to their admissions policies. According to a 2023 statement from Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis and Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid, Yale remains committed to diversity and inclusion while fully complying with the Supreme Court's ruling on affirmative action.

"Today's rulings will not change our commitment to consider each applicant as a multi-faceted individual," Lewis and Quinlan wrote in a joint statement after the court's decision was released. "Yale's whole-person review process is one of the College's great strengths and has yielded student and alumni bodies that reflect the enormous depth and breadth of humanity."

Following the decision, Yale launched the Office for Educational Opportunity, created to support first-generation, low-income students through new programs to promote diver-

sity and belonging at Yale. Additionally, Yale also made efforts to expand its ambassador program, which sends Yale students to their home areas to engage with prospective students. The program aims to increase geographic reach, especially in rural and small towns.

Furthermore, the University revised its admissions process so that while prospective students can still self-report race and ethnicity on the Common Application, their responses will not be accessible by admissions officers involved in the process. The data will only be used post-selection to inform cultural centers and for reporting purposes.

In February, the University also reinstated its standardized testing requirement for undergraduate admissions, after a temporary suspension during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting with the 2024-25 admissions cycle, Yale College will implement a "test-flexible" policy requiring applicants to submit ACT or SAT scores, with the option to include IB and AP exam results. This policy aims to provide students with more opportunities to showcase their academic strengths, according to the admissions office.

"We are in a dynamic moment for standardized testing," Quinlan told Yale News in February. "There are efforts to design and roll out new tests, and there is more energy for developing alternatives to the SAT or ACT than ever before. Although our research on the predictive power of the four tests we will accept next cycle is compelling, I like that our policy is flexible by design and can easily accommodate future additions to the list of required scores."

Despite its intentions, students expressed concerns with the new testing policy, with some argu-

ing that it created new forms of unfairness in the admissions process. However, others felt that the decision brought a much needed emphasis on merit and fairness in college admissions.

Jack Batten '27 told the News that while he agreed with the Supreme Court's decision, he has no problems with affirmative action as a whole, seeing it as an "experiment" that served a meaningful step toward parity.

Mason Mackie '27 expressed a deep concern about the institution's legacy and the urgent need for more substantial efforts towards inclusivity and reparative justice.

"It's an ironic coincidence that the same year the affirmative action decision was repealed, Yale released a book recognizing the institution's inextricable ties to slavery," Mackie told the News.

Mackie, who is Black, told the News he was "appalled" when he learned about Yale's role in disbanding what would have been the nation's first college for Black students and its commemoration of Confederate soldiers.

Sabrina Guo '27 told the News that although she disagreed with the execution of affirmative action, she believes that it's still the responsibility of universities to promote diversity and inclusion while ensuring that no one is left out for reasons they can not control.

"I think moving forward, it will be up to universities to find innovative, effective ways to continue supporting marginalized groups while ensuring that opportunities are accessible to all, and maintaining integrity and upholding the value of merit."

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is located at 38 Hillhouse Ave.

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Yalies take center stage in 2024 GOP political arena

BY KARLA CORTES
STAFF REPORTER

Three Yalies have been at the forefront of the Republican party throughout the 2024 presidential election.

Earlier in the election cycle, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis '01 and businessman Vivek Ramaswamy LAW '13 were popular candidates competing to become the presidential nominee for the Republican party. Later, after former president Donald Trump secured the nomination on the Republican ticket, he announced junior Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance LAW '13 as his running mate.

"The role of Yale is to provide the educational foundation in the liberal arts and sciences for an aspiring politician or anyone [preparing] to serve the American people," said Alex Bavalsky '25, a former co-president of the News' independent editorial board.

DeSantis and Ramaswamy announced their campaigns in early 2023. Both dropped out of the Republican race in January 2024, with DeSantis polling at 4.1 percent and Ramaswamy at 11.1 percent at the time they suspended their campaigns.

Ramaswamy attended Harvard for his undergraduate education where he majored in biology and later attended Yale Law School where he funded his law degree through the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, a graduate fellowship designed for immigrants and the children of immigrants.

After Yale, he founded pharmaceutical company Roivant Sciences in 2014 and served as CEO until stepping down in 2021. Though other Yalies involved in this election cycle have been in politics for years, Ramaswamy has never held political office.

"Ramaswamy is an entertaining proxy for Trump on the debate stage and might siphon some MAGA Republican votes to make it a little harder for Donald Trump, but some of his views are so extreme, that they run the risk of making Trump more swallowable for some Republicans," former Yale Law Democrats President Sage Mason LAW '24 wrote

to the News last September.

DeSantis earned a bachelor's in history at Yale, where he was a member of Saybrook College, and later attended Harvard Law School. In 2013, he began his political career in the House of Representatives for Florida's sixth district, maintaining a conservative record by opposing issues like abortion rights and the Affordable Care Act.

In January 2018, he officially declared his candidacy for Florida governor and went on to secure victory later that same year. During his time as governor, DeSantis has maintained conservative positions on issues like abortion, education, healthcare, and immigration in Florida.

After DeSantis suspended his presidential campaign, the News spoke with students and faculty across the political spectrum to gauge reactions to his withdrawal. The majority were unsurprised by DeSantis' news of dropping from the race, many attributing his downfall to a lack of charisma and his failure to distinguish himself from Trump.

"The premise of the DeSantis campaign was that he was a more palatable Trump, but that didn't work," Philip Gorski, a professor of sociology, told the News in January. "Something I heard that captures this pretty well is, like, 'why would you go see a Rolling Stones cover band if the Rolling Stones are still out on tour?'"

Later in the election cycle, after Trump secured the nomination, he selected Vance as his vice-presidential running mate. Vance, a 39-year-old native of Middletown, Ohio, had never held political office before winning his seat as a junior Ohio senator in 2022. He was best known for his New York Times bestselling memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy."

He received his bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from Ohio State University and later attended Yale Law School, where he met his wife Usha Vance '07 LAW '13, who was a member of Morse College as an undergraduate. Vance later returned to Yale in 2017 for an event hosted by the William F. Buckley Program where he spoke



ELLIE PARK / MULTIMEDIA MANAGING EDITOR

In June 2023, the Supreme Court axed affirmative action in college admissions, ending colleges across the nation's ability to take into account race during the admissions process. A year later, Yale students remain divided on the ruling and shared their thoughts on the University's new admissions policies since the ruling.

about his memoir, recounting his Midwest family's socioeconomic issues and the struggles and disparities of the American working-class population.

An attendee at the event previously told the News that the turnout for Vance was "unprecedented" for a speaker event at Yale that did not feature a major political figure as it took place years before Vance was elected to office.

Before gaining his seat as a senator, Vance was a Trump critic. When competing in the Republican primary for Ohio senator, a key endorsement from Trump helped him secure the nomination and has become a loyal ally

of the former president. Vance now follows Trump in his tough conservative policies, opposing abortion and foreign aid for Ukraine, while promoting an "America First" agenda.

After Trump announced Vance as his running mate, Yalies expressed a wide range of reactions to the announcement. Some praised Vance for his ability to connect with working class and younger voters while others criticized him for his flip-flopping stance on Trump.

Trevor MacKay '25 told the News in July that while he does not agree with everything Vance says or believes, he views Vance's ideas and selection as the VP

candidate as indicative of a substantial shift in the priorities of the Republican Party.

"I am sure that Yale and the professors here helped inculcate that intellectual aggressiveness in Senator Vance. There is a reason so many politicians have been graduates of Yale," MacKay told the News. "Without Yale, I am sure there would have been no Senator Vance."

Yale Law School is located at 127 Wall St.

Adam Walker contributed reporting.

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ARTS

Meet these six first-year artists

KAMINI PURUSHOTHAMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Yale is known for its vibrant arts community, full of creatives who draw, design, write and act — all while being full-time students. As members of the incoming first-year class explore Yale's offerings, here's what Yale's arts ecosystem can expect to see from the Class of 2028.

The News sat down with six such emerging artists to discuss their journeys, inspirations and plans for their first year at Yale.

Connecticut's Youth Poet Laureate Mercuri Lam '28 writes visual poetry.

Among Yale's incoming first-year class is Mercuri Lam '28, a poet who specializes in ekphrastic poetry — words that vividly describe a visual work of art. In 2023, they were awarded Connecticut's Youth Poet Laureate.

Originally from China, Lam immigrated to the U.S. at age 8 and attended boarding school in Connecticut since they were 14.

Growing up, Lam said their experiences moving to a new country and navigating family relationships heavily influenced their writing. As visual art is the primary subject of their art, Lam said that pieces at the Yale University Art Gallery have been a huge force of inspiration.

In particular, Lam pointed to Pierre Bonnard's "Le châle jaune," an oil painting depicting a scene of tranquility in the kitchen.

"One of my favorite published pieces, 'Household Notes,' is inspired by the painting 'Le châle jaune' on the third floor of the YUAG," said Lam.

In April 2023, Lam published a poetry collection called "BLOOD-PATHS," in which they explored various themes with water as a central symbol and through line.

At Yale, they plan to contribute to publications such as the Cortex Collective, Accent Magazine and the Yale Review. Lam has already joined Indigo, a newly-formed visual arts club, as a curator.

"A big reason why I am so excited about coming to Yale is the people," Lam said. "I've already been able to connect with so many of my peers who are songwriters, singers, artists, thespians, et cetera."

Multimedia poet & graphic designer Jamar Jackson '28 explores the intersection of visual art and the written word.

A wordsmith as well as a digital designer, Jamar Jackson '28 enters Yale as a published writer and hopes to contribute to the multimedia science and arts group Cortex Collective, as well as Yale's oldest performance poetry group WORD. Jackson hails from Chicago, Illinois.

For Jackson, Yale offers a chance to explore long-held interests, as well as to seize opportunities lost to the pandemic and dabble in unexplored activities, such as dancing and music creation.

In high school, Jackson and his slam poetry team — which was prevented from performing in front of crowds due to COVID-19 precautions — met regularly to workshop poetry together. One day, a teacher gifted him a journal, where he began jotting down poems, lyrics, and ideas.

Soon, its pages were filled.

"The journal was like a diary into my mind," he said. "I thought it would be cool to share it with people."

Jackson's first book "Scapegoat" was eventually born from these pages. The title alludes to his being a middle child, who worked as a "peacemaker" in the family and would occasionally take on the blame for other siblings' actions. It also captures the tensions Jackson has felt as a young Black man in Chicago.

"Being a Black male, you're going to hear things from people, experience things from people that you really never did yourself," said Jackson. "It was playing on that idea that I can take on those ideas and those negative concepts and make it something beautiful, making something better," said Jackson.

Just a few weeks ago, Jackson re-published the book with poems from a class he took in senior year. The new edition is called "Scapegoat: Deep Space."

Jackson is interested in pursuing the arts as a hobby and expects to major in Computing and the Arts. The major, he said, offers a chance to explore "the intersectionality between computer science" and creative design.

"I feel like just being a creative here, even though I haven't met many creatives here yet, this is the perfect place for it," said Jackson. "I think there's a lot of diversity going on, and especially for me to just set a name for myself, I thought Yale would be the perfect place."

Kirsten Polk '28 wants to explore artistic interests new and old

Another incoming Yale eager to explore the unfamiliar, Kirsten Polk is preparing to dive into Yale's musical theater scene, as well as engage with her long-standing love for jazz music.

While Polk has always been interested in musical theater, she hasn't pursued the art since middle school due to COVID-19 limitations, as well as other extracurricular focuses in high school.

Despite this, Polk is optimistic about rekindling her love of the performing arts.

"If I get it, I get it," she said about auditioning for shows on campus. "If I don't, I don't. But I know I'll probably just keep trying until maybe something sticks."

The air of hope and excitement was held across the board for the interviewed first years. Echoing the opinions of her peers, Polk was also attracted to Yale's diverse art offerings.

Polk plans to major in computer science and electrical engineering, but that won't stop her from expressing herself through art — either with a jazz band or a musical theater ensemble.

"I'm gonna let fate take its hold and try as many things as I can and still focus mainly on school," said Polk. "You're definitely gonna get a good art scene here, whether it be with drama or music."

Self-taught animator Lily Gao '28 searches for community

When Lily Gao '28 puts pen to paper — or tablet — the characters "actually breathe and come to life."

At her high school, Gao found herself with a small arts community. With the exception of drawing crayon sketches when she was little, Gao experienced no formal art classes or training.

Now, she hopes to utilize the technology, resources and, most of all, community of artists at Yale.

In her first week, Gao has already found peers who are passionate about art.

"Although I haven't really met anyone who's like, 'I animate, let's do a project together,' it is promising that just these accidental meetings already have such a large percentage of people who are interested in that," said Gao.

For now, Gao is considering pursuing computer science and math. Even then, Yale's art community was a considerable factor in Gao's decision to say yes to Yale.

"I knew I wanted to explore art as much as possible," said Gao.

At Yale, Gao hopes to create full-on animated films or episodes with a team of artists — similar to a previous project of hers, in which she created a 50-second long animated opening sequence for "Dungeons and Dragons."

Sofia Marie Reyes '28 is eager to contribute singing and acting experience to Yale

Incoming first year Sofia Marie Reyes '28 knows that being a part of the arts is in her Yale future. From Dallas, Texas, Reyes developed a fondness for creating music as a young girl who grew up watching — and loving — "Hannah Montana." She was 4 when she started making music; Reyes hasn't stopped since.

"When I was younger, I really just wrote [songs] for fun to see what could happen, because I enjoyed the process," said Reyes.

Before transitioning to solo music, Reyes said that she was a part of a girl group. Then, in her middle school years, Reyes' music gained traction — even from the likes of Youtuber Joey Salads, who promoted her music on his platform.

During this time, she also pursued acting professionally. With a penchant for community engagement, she filmed a bilingual science education show called "The Whynauts" through the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. The 11-episode series was shown to students at independent schools in the Dallas district.

Each episode featured Reyes and her colleagues exploring various science topics and was accompanied by instructor guides for student activities.

At Yale, she is eager to continue her theatrical and musical interests, with plans to rush Yale's a cappella groups and join the Dramat.

Sonia Rosa '28 hopes to tell stories through film and journalism

With an interest in film and long-form journalism, Sonia Rosa '28 hopes to tell the stories of underrepresented communities in New Haven.

Rosa has extensive film experience; in high school, Rosa participated in a three-year program called Ghetto Film School in New York City. With a group of filmmakers, Rosa worked on a project about the Taíno Indigenous peoples in the Dominican Republic.

Serving as the art director for the project, Rosa oversaw the set, wardrobe and makeup — departments that "created the world of the story," she said.

"That was a really incredible experience," Rosa said. "It really got me to understand what it's like to work on a larger-scale film set and definitely fueled my passion to keep being a filmmaker."

Rather than attending a traditional film school, Rosa said she was drawn to Yale's interdisciplinary strengths. At Yale, she hopes to continue telling stories through a multidisciplinary approach, from journalism to theater.

Through Yale's offerings, Rosa said that she wants to step out of her "comfort zone." While she has written poetry since middle school, Rosa is interested in performing her pieces in front of crowds through groups such as Word or Oye!

According to Rosa, she was also attracted to the student-run nature of Yale's creative pulse.

"Yale relies on its students to be creative on their own," she said. "That ability to be a self-starter and also continue in the academic endeavors that I want to participate in was a huge factor in deciding to come to Yale."

Yale has over 130 active arts organizations for its undergraduate students.

Jane Park contributed reporting.

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Five new arts organizations to explore

CODY SKINNER
STAFF REPORTER

Throughout Yale's three hundred year existence, prominent arts groups such as the Dramat, the Whiffenpoofs and Yaledancers have cemented their place in Yale's art scene. That hasn't stopped Yale students from creating new spaces for artistic engagement.

In the past five years alone, Yale has witnessed the emergence of several arts-related organizations, each offering distinct opportunities for students to express their creativity. These organizations, though young, have carved out their position in the Yale arts ecosystem.

Here are five new groups that can help first-year students find their artistic niche.

Fashion Lifestyle at Yale: the intersection of fashion, modeling and journalism

Established in 2023 by three first years Kellsie Lewis '27, Maramé Diop '27 and Sumarha Tariq '27, Fashion Lifestyle at Yale, or FLY, is a student-led organization that merges fashion, modeling and journalism.

The journalism branch aims to publish a fashion magazine highlighting student projects. The modeling branch organizes fashion shows, including the notable "Fly Through Time" event last fall — the first of its kind for the club.

In addition to fashion shows, the group engages the Yale community by hosting events like photoshoots and thrift excursions.

"FLY is all about finding yourself through creativity and fashion," Diop wrote in an email to the News. "It's more than just an organization but a community where you can let your individuality shine. No matter your background or experience,

FLY welcomes all who are eager to join in."

Students are encouraged to get involved by following FLY on Instagram — @fly.yale — and signing up for the online newsletter. Looking ahead, FLY plans to expand its activities, which include hosting semesterly fashion shows and organizing events that convene Yale's different communities.

1701 — Yale's premier student-run record label — is back

With roots as far back as 2010, 1701 is Yale's only student-run record label. After an eight-year hiatus, the organization made its comeback in 2023. While different faces run the group now, 1701 has retained its original goals of promoting student music on campus.

"To put it simply, we support creatives," wrote Maxx Shearod '25, 1701's head of label affairs. "We help out with whatever a budding artist or performer needs, whether it be access to a studio, digital marketing for their releases, performance opportunities, or anything else."

In addition to supporting individual artists, 1701 also hosts music shows to showcase Yale talent. Last year's launch concert featured the performances of six 1701-represented artists. Student bands Seldom Street and Strictly Platonic, two bands listed under the label, performed at this past year's Spring Fling festival after winning the year's Battle of The Bands contest.

"We showcase the experiences of our peers, and our model creates a very intimate listening experience for our audience," wrote Shearod.

Students, both with and without musical experience, are encouraged to join the 1701 team, which includes musical, visual and

management roles. Those who are interested can apply through the website or the link in the @1701records Instagram bio. Applications are slated to be released on Aug. 27.

Teatro de Yale spotlights Latine talent on the stage

Since 2022, Teatro de Yale has centered Latine voices in Yale's theatrical productions. The organization promotes performances that highlight Latine stories, such as "Stand & Deliver" and "Luz Negra," producing at least one show each semester.

"Teatro de Yale is dedicated to the exploration of Latinidad in the context of the performing arts," explained Erick Lopez '24, a founder of Teatro de Yale. "Our mission is to amplify the voices of diverse Latino dramatists, offering a platform for their narratives to resonate."

Lopez served as the producer of the November 2023 show, "In the Heights" and the director of "21 Chump Street," which ran in December 2022.

Teatro de Yale is meant to be an encouraging space, said Lopez, especially as the theater space can feel "unapproachable" for those with little or no experience. Auditions are open to everyone, allowing students who haven't previously been involved in theater to grow their skills, he said.

To get involved, students can audition for a show or join the production team, with all information available on their Instagram page, @teatrodeyale.

Asian American Collective of Theatermakers: a hub of support and community for Asian American creatives

Now in its second year, the Asian American Collective of Theatermakers, or AACT, was founded

in 2022 to create a hub for Asian American theater-enthusiasts. The organization aims to promote Asian American artists, who have historically been underrepresented in Yale's theater community.

The organization has two goals, according to Alastair Rao '26. First, it aims to attract "would-be Asian American theatermakers" who would otherwise be deterred by a lack of a clearly defined Asian American theater community.

Secondly, it provides a centralized space for Asian American students interested in making theater to network and collaborate with other Asian American artists.

Most recently, the organization helmed Yale Dramatic Association's Spring Ex show, "Delicacy of a Puffin Heart," performing it at the University Theatre, the largest theater on campus. AACT also hosts mixers and other social get-togethers for the Asian American arts community.

The group is open to all Asian and Asian American-identifying students, regardless of prior theater experience. To get involved, students can sign up for the mailing list at the Extracurricular Bazaar or contact an AACT board member directly.

Yale's fashion community finds a home in MAISON

Maison provides a platform for Yale fashion designers to showcase their work and connect with those interested in fashion, including creatives beyond just the Yale community. MAISON's 2023 show, Entropy, was the first fashion show hosted at Yale in five years and involved designers from other universities, as well as the broader New Haven community.

Their 2024 show, Revival, continued the group's momentum and received support from L'Oréal,



COURTESY OF KIRSTEN POLK

What artistic aspirations do the incoming first-year students bring?

which provided all the makeup used in the show.

Kai Chen '26, a designer who has worked with Maison, wrote about his experience: "The past two shows were both well-attended, and it was really cool to see so many fashion-enthusiasts and supportive friends show up and be a part of such a big event."

While the MAISON shows have showcased the talents of designers with plenty of prior experience, newcomers are also invited to join, said Chen.

MAISON's website can be found at www.maisonat Yale.com.

These five organizations represent just a glimpse of the diverse and dynamic arts community at Yale. For first-year students, getting involved with these groups can be a way to connect with peers, develop new skills and contribute to the vibrant artistic culture on campus.

Information about meeting times, events and membership opportunities can typically be found on each organization's social media pages or through the Yale Arts Calendar.

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NEWS

Yale New Haven Health System and Prospect Medical Holdings in a legal battle over the \$435 million hospital acquisition deal

BY ASUKA KODA
STAFF REPORTER

Yale New Haven Health System and Prospect Medical Holdings have sued each other this year over a \$435 million agreement to purchase Waterbury Hospital, Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital.

Months after the state gave YNHHS the green light to finalize the acquisition, the system filed a lawsuit against Prospect, in which it alleged that Prospect's financial mismanagement and operational failures of the three Connecticut hospitals violated their purchase agreement. In June 2024, Prospect Medical Holdings filed a countersuit against YNHHS, charging that the system had "actively worked to prevent" closing the deal to try to get a lower purchasing price.

"The collapse of the deal for YNHHS to acquire the three Prospect hospitals has a detrimental impact on the communities they serve," Connecticut state Senator Saud Anwar, who chairs the Public Health Committee, wrote to the News.

YNHHS system includes five hospitals across Connecticut and Rhode Island. On Oct. 5, 2022, the system signed the agreement to acquire three new Connecticut hospitals from Prospect Medical Holdings. The acquisition would add 700 more beds and roughly 4,400 more employees to the health system.

Although YNHHS assured residents that this would be a smooth transition, skepticism persisted amongst healthcare seekers. Ted Doolittle, the state's appointed healthcare advocate said that "it's probably more likely to be a net negative for the families in the state," citing evidence of hospital prices rising after similar acquisitions.



Yale New Haven Health System signed an agreement with Prospect Medical Holdings to acquire three Connecticut hospitals. **TIM TAI/ SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER**

According to Anwar, the three hospitals currently serve "nearly half a million people in their coverage areas" and employ "thousands locally."

Since early 2024, YNHHS and Prospect have been at odds over whether and how to close the purchase agreement. The conflict escalated in January 2024 when YNHHS proposed lowering the purchase price, citing deteriorating conditions at the three hospitals due to a six-week-long cyberattack.

The state permitted YNHHS to acquire the hospitals in March, but Prospect rejected the proposal. In response, YNHHS filed a lawsuit in May alleging that Prospect violated the initial terms of the agreement.

In the lawsuit, YNHHS

claimed that the conditions required to close the deal could no longer be met due to Prospect's neglect and mismanagement. YNHHS alleged that Prospect failed to meet safety and sanitization standards, mishandled medical samples and drugs and neglected to pay rent, resulting in significant debt. The system also claims that Prospect failed to provide timely financial documents required for auditing, in violation of the asset purchase agreement.

"We simply cannot jeopardize the sustainability of our health system by moving forward with the acquisition as it stands," Dana Marnane, director of public relations at Yale New Haven Health,

stated in a May 2024 press release statement to the News.

Prospect Medical Holdings disputes the system's claims. In its own June 2024 lawsuit, Prospect accused YNHHS of suing to escape its obligation to acquire the three "safety-net" hospitals, which provide significant care to "Medicaid, low-income, uninsured, and chronically ill patients," which are crucial to their communities according to the suit.

Prospect contends that the operational challenges highlighted by YNHHS do not justify terminating the deal or reducing the purchase price. The company points out that hospital patient volumes and financial performance have improved

since the cyberattack. Additionally, Prospect argues that YNHHS was aware of the challenges facing the hospitals before entering the agreement and that many of the problems predated Prospect's ownership.

The legal battle has drawn attention to Prospect's prior allegations of mismanagement. Last year, Prospect was sued by the Rhode Island Attorney General, who claimed that the company owed more than \$24 million to vendors in the state.

Reports have highlighted financial irregularities at Prospect, including accusations that the company changed vendors to avoid payments and regularly issued bounced checks as part of its cash management process. Recently, Medical Properties Trust, the landlord for the Prospect hospitals, revealed that Prospect failed to pay rent for April and May 2024.

Despite the mounting allegations, Prospect remains determined to finalize the acquisition and vowed to take legal action to ensure that the transaction is completed on the original terms.

Anwar urged "look[ing] at long-term implications" and wrote that "it's in the state's best interest these parties talk to each other and develop a plan to provide care in this region and preserve jobs for highly trained and qualified staff in the health care system."

When the News asked Marnane about the next steps that YNHHS plans to take, she wrote, "YNHHS' top priority is ensuring we can devote adequate resources to these facilities to meet their communities' needs while also maintaining the financial stability of our current hospitals."

Prospect Medical Holdings was established in Los Angeles, California, in 1996.

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City pours millions to combat housing crisis as housing activists voice criticism

BY CHRISTINA LEE
STAFF REPORTER

In Connecticut, the housing crisis worsens as residents struggle to find affordable housing in a market characterized by rising prices and a limited supply of quality units.

While New Haven pledges new housing units and crisis-alleviating initiatives, tensions between the city government, housing activists and the city's unhoused population continue.

From 2023 to 2024, the state's increase in housing prices outpaced the national average at 9.64 percent compared to 6.6 percent, respectively, and ranked 7th highest among all states. In New Haven, the percent change in housing price also outpaced the national average at 7.87 percent.

Unmet housing demand

Connecticut lags behind in issuing permits for the construction of new homes with only 959 new permits issued in the first quarter of 2024 – a semblance of its peak of over 3,000 permits in a single quarter of 2004. The state's current rental vacancy rate sat at 3.5 percent.

Although New Haven boasts the highest number of permits issued over the past three years in Connecticut with 307 permits in 2023, the city continues to struggle with affordable housing access.

According to a 2023 report released by Elm City Communities, New Haven's public housing agency, over half of the city's residents face a housing cost burden.

The report estimates that the city will need to build 8,500 new housing units by 2030 to address the housing shortage. Between 2010 and 2019, less than 5,000 homes have been approved for building.

Amid these challenges, Connecticut's homeless population grew by 13 percent between January 2023 and January 2024. As

of August 2023, 30,000 New Haven residents are on the housing waitlist. Waiting times can stretch to over a year.

The city's housing crisis has posed challenges to Yale graduate students in the search for off-campus housing, exacerbated by the closure of Helen Hadley Hall, a 205-student graduate dormitory, this past summer. Graduate students have reported being unable to find affordable, quality housing due to financial strain, according to a 2023 survey conducted by the Graduate and Professional Student Senate.

As residential colleges take on increasingly large class sizes, undergraduate students who opt for off-campus housing face similar challenges but also hold the potential to influence the city's housing market themselves. As Yalies continue to migrate off-campus, city authorities have expressed concerns that Yale students may price out New Haveners in competition for housing.

Elicker's housing agenda

For Elicker, who was reelected in the fall 2023 for his third term, addressing the housing crisis has been at the forefront of his administration.

In his first two mayoral terms, he allocated millions in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act into the "I'm Home" initiative to improve access to affordable housing and provide rental assistance.

Elicker also prioritized the creation of new units to increase the housing supply. In February 2022, the city enacted its first inclusionary zoning law to encourage the creation of affordable housing units. The law, however, has been criticized for providing an insufficient quantity of units, which Elicker said in September 2023 provided 900 new and renovated units.

Elicker's administration also made strides in formally recog-



Both the city of New Haven and housing activists are working to soften a worsening state housing crisis, occasionally clashing in the process. **TIM TAI/ SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER**

nizing tenant unions and their right to collective bargaining.

A major point of contention for Elicker's administration has been the Livable City Initiative. Established in 1996, the Livable City Initiative is an agency aimed at ensuring high-quality housing supply and public spaces. The agency was criticized for underperforming and failing to respond to residents' complaints.

In March, Elicker set forth a plan to restructure LCI. The proposal called for the creation of the Office of Housing and Community Development to take over LCI's task of creating new housing units, eight new housing-related positions, and an additional \$1.4 million for housing programs. The Board of Alders permitted the creation of the office and housing-related positions and approved an \$1.8 million annual support for the city's unhoused populations in their amended budget in May.

A month earlier, Elicker appointed former mayoral contender Liam Brennan LAW '07

as a consultant to head a six-month review of LCI, and later in August, greenlighted Brennan to be LCI's new director.

Criticisms of Elicker's Administration

In recent years, Elicker has been fiercely criticized for his treatment of New Haven's unhoused population.

In 2023, Elicker bulldozed a West River Tent City, a long-term residence for over 40 New Haveners. Elicker's evictions have been condemned by unhoused activists who argue that unhoused New Haveners face an under-resourced shelter system and limited access to adequate alternative housing. Elicker's response: tent cities posed public safety risks.

As the housing crisis continues, unhoused New Haveners seek temporary solutions. In 2023, Amistad Catholic, a local nonprofit, erected six tiny homes in a backyard. The city's Board of Zoning Appeals retroactively approved the tiny

homes but issued a temporary 180-day permit set to expire on July 15. As the deadline approached, residents of the tiny homes asserted that they would remain regardless.

Come July 15, tensions between the Elicker administration and unhoused activists rose. As tiny home residents continued to resist the city's cease-and-desist letter, Elicker moved forward with cutting off power to those homes. With the permit's expiration, Elicker contends that the shelters are illegal dwelling units.

For the unhoused New Haveners who continue to live in these tiny homes, living without power has posed health risks. In late July, unhoused activists disrupted the city's announcement of a new land bank to protest in support of tiny homes, demanding that the power be turned on again.

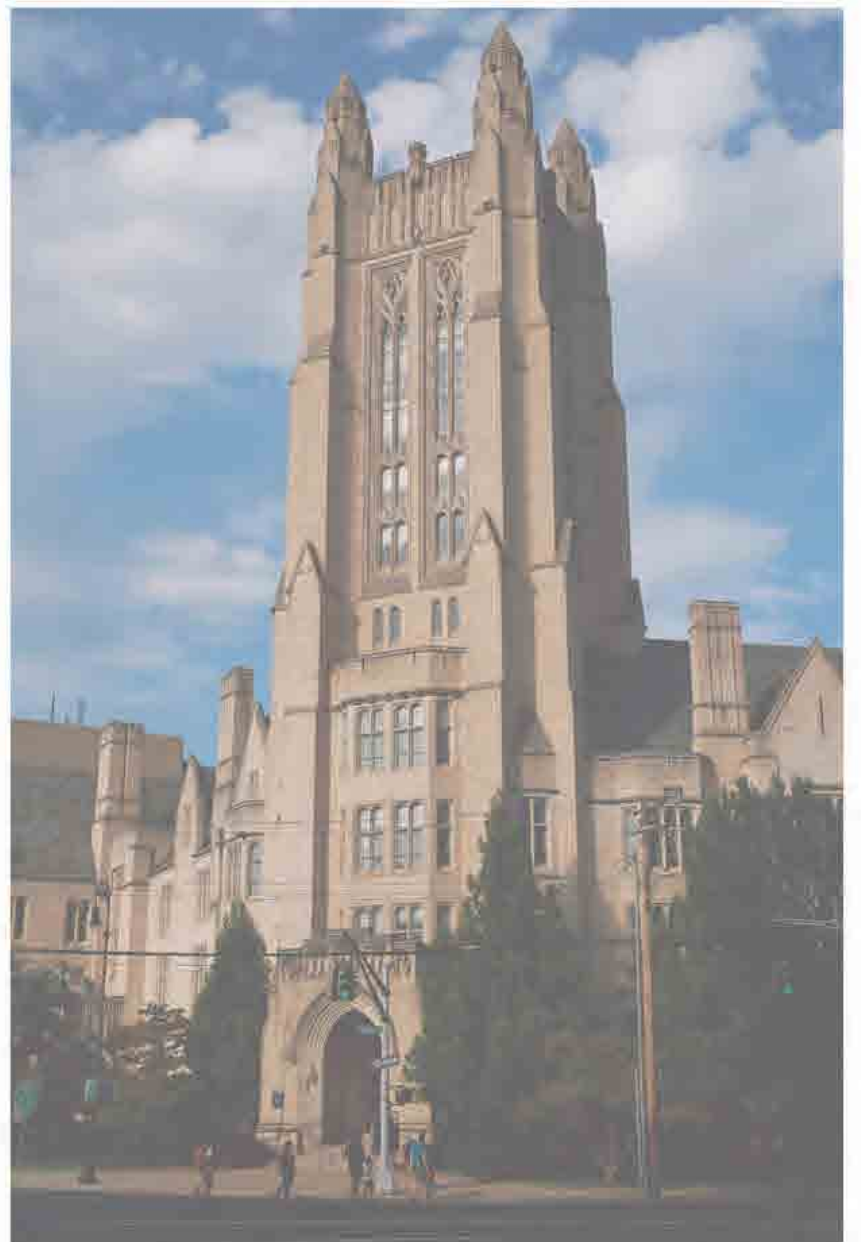
Justin Elicker is the 51st elected mayor of New Haven.

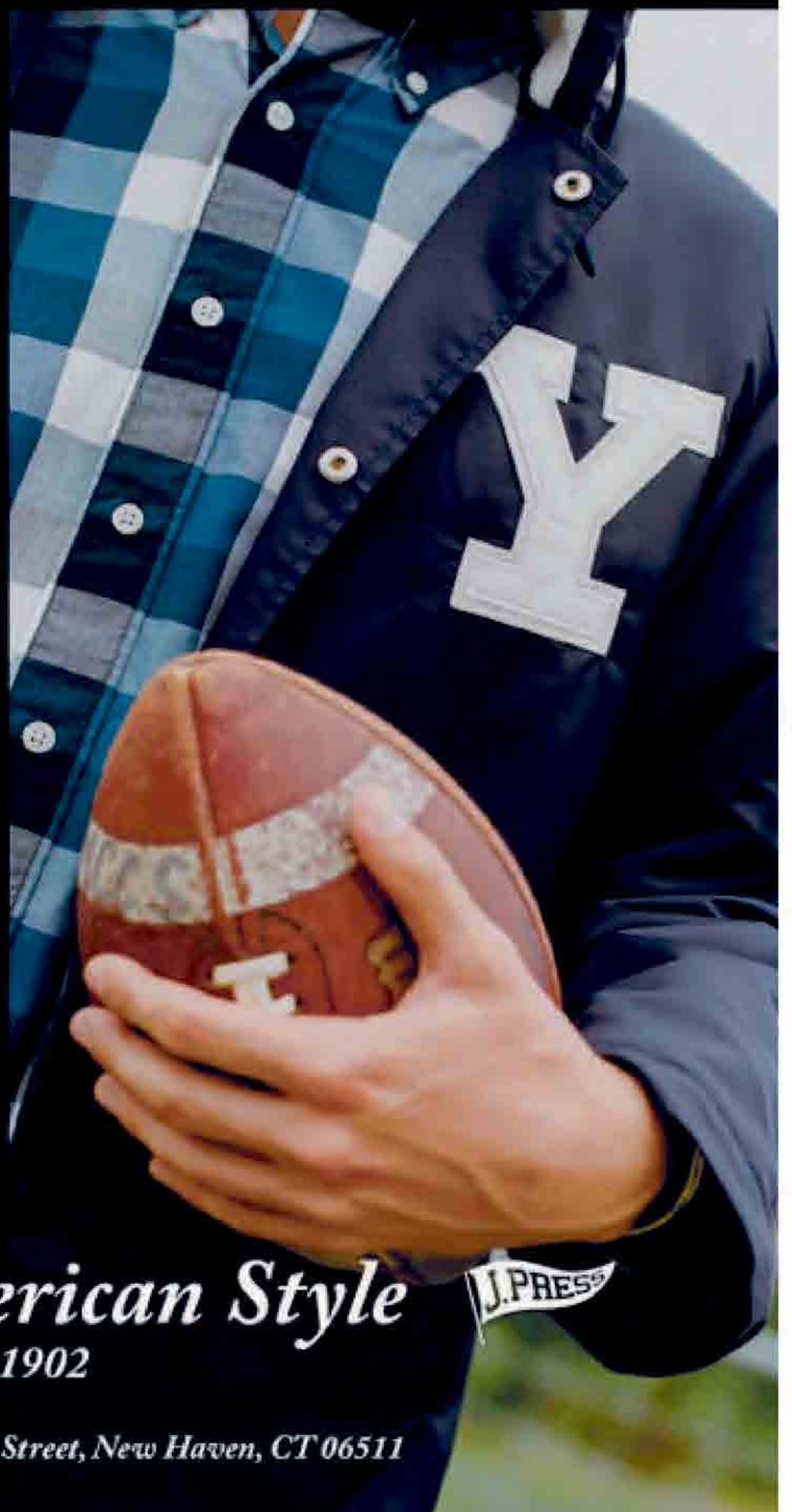
Contact **CHRISTINA LEE** at christina.lee.sl2844@yale.edu.

THROUGH THE LENS

QUINTESSENTIAL FIRST-YEAR SPOTS

*Photos by YuLin Zhen and Alyssa Chang,
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