



Parents alarmed by YNH daycares transition plans, staffing shortages

BY ASUKA KODA
STAFF REPORTER

Every day, Claire Feldman-Reich drops her two toddlers off at the Yale New Haven Hospital Day Care Center, George Street Campus. For her, the daycare offers crucial support while she is at work.

At two separate campuses, the YNH Day Care Center serves over 100 children from 3 months to 5 years of age. The center operates from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., accommodating hospital workers' demanding schedules. While all members of the New Haven community can enroll children in the daycare, priority is given to workers at the Yale hospitals and the medical school community.

"Being able to feel safe leaving my kids somewhere was really powerful,"

Feldman-Reich said. "And I always felt comfortable leaving my kids."

But on Jan. 18, citing high costs, YNH leadership told daycare parents over a Zoom call that the center would enter a partnership with Bright Horizons, a national organization that provides childcare services. They offered little information to parents about what that transition would mean for their children.

Without advance warning, daycare educators were told to reapply for their current positions. In response, many employees have since left, leaving the center short-staffed and at risk of state closure.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, Connecticut has the fifth-highest infant care cost in America. The News spoke with 12 parents whose children attend the

daycare, seven of whom requested anonymity over concerns of employer retribution. They noted that the center, which is subsidized by YNH, costs half of what other local comparable daycares charge. The center also offers a large discount for families who are looking to enroll another child.

Feldman-Reich is a special education teacher at a therapeutic day school in Connecticut and is married to a YNH employee. For her, the YNH daycare's low costs are critical.

"The daycare is the only reason I'm gainfully employed," Feldman-Reich said. "The other daycares cost my salary."

The parents also highlighted

SEE DAYCARE PAGE 4

Trustees convene on campus as presidential search continues

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Members of the Yale Corporation — the University's highest governing body, which is also known as the Board of Trustees — arrived on campus Thursday, in advance of the Corporation's upcoming formal meeting scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17.

Eight of the 16 total trustees are part of the committee spearheading the ongoing search for Yale's next president, which publicly commenced five months ago when University President Peter Salovey

announced that he plans to step down from the role this summer.

The Corporation held virtual meetings earlier this week and likely held meetings on Thursday as well. Chaired by the president of the University and composed of 16 alumni, the Corporation convenes on campus at least five times a year, most recently on Dec. 2.

In an interview in September, Salovey told the News that Corporation meetings generally occur over a three-day period. He

SEE CORPORATION PAGE 4

Vigil honors missing and murdered Indigenous women and relatives



On Valentine's Day, the Native and Indigenous Student Association at Yale hosted a vigil at the Women's Table on Cross Campus to remember the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and relatives. / Connor Arakaki, Contributing Photographer

BY CONNOR ARAKAKI
STAFF REPORTER

Content warning: This article describes sexual violence and strong language about the violence against Native and Indigenous peoples.

SHARE is available to all members of the Yale community who are dealing with sexual misconduct of any kind, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence and more. Counselors are available any time, day or night, at the 24/7 hotline: (203) 432-2000.

Student leaders from Native and Indigenous Student Association at Yale hosted a vigil on Feb. 14, in remembrance of the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and relatives and to increase visibility of the historical and contemporary injustices Indigenous communities endure. Native and Indigenous students, faculty and other community members gathered at the Women's Table on Cross Campus for the vigil, which featured speakers and a community dinner later hosted by the Native American Cultural Center.

Every year, NISAY organizes a vigil on Valentine's Day to honor the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and raise awareness of the MMIW movement in the greater University community. According to current NISAY President Avery Maples '26 (Eastern Band Cherokee), Feb. 14 is the

designated National Day of Action and Awareness for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, or MMIW, movement.

Since the first Valentine's Day vigil was hosted in 2020 by the organization — formerly named Association of Native Americans at Yale — the date has been resonant to "uphold promises towards Indian Country and the crisis of MMIW [so that] relatives will not go unheard or without redress," Maples wrote to the News.

Although a longstanding historical crisis, the MMIW movement first gained political momentum in Canada in 2016, when the Canadian government commissioned an inquiry into its national missing and murdered Indigenous women, naming the violence an "epidemic." Three years later, former U.S. President Donald Trump established the Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaskan Natives to pursue unresolved MMIW cases in the United States.

"Indigenous women are vulnerable within these communities due to the lack of accountability towards men and outside communities," Mara Gutierrez '25 (Diné/Navajo Nation), former co-president of NISAY, told the News, naming settler colonial ideologies, environmental exploitation, a lack of resources for law enforcement and a lack of tribal jurisdiction as several of the forces that perpetuate the MMIW crisis.

According to a study conducted in 2016 by the National Insti-

tute of Justice, more than four in five American Indian and Alaskan Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. As of that year, at least 5,712 American Indian and Alaskan Native women and girls had been declared missing. The same year, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that the murder rate for Native women living on reservations was ten times greater than the national average — yet even this report falls short in collecting national data on American Indian and Alaskan Native women in urban areas. In an attempt to fill this research gap, the Urban Indian Health Institute identified 506 unique cases of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls across 71 cities in a 2018 study.

The crisis of MMIW is not limited to the contiguous United States: according to Joshua Ching '26 (Kanaka Maoli), executive director of the Indigenous Peoples of Oceania student group, the crisis is "especially salient for Pasifika communities" because of the imperial legacies in Hawai'i and the greater Pacific region.

Indeed, a "Missing & Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls" report released in 2022 highlighted that more than a quarter of missing girls in Hawai'i are Native Hawaiian. The same report states that in 2021, the Missing Child Center Hawai'i assisted law enforcement

SEE VIGIL PAGE 4

Financial aid recipients less likely to have applied to Yale with test scores

BY JOSIE REICH AND MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTERS

Cielo Gazard '27, who receives financial aid from Yale, told the News that she never considered herself a good test taker.

Even before she sat for her SAT, Gazard said she knew that she would not be submitting those scores with her applications to Ivy League or other selective schools.

Still, when it came time to apply to college, Gazard worried about the possible implications of omitting scores from her application.

She asked for advice from her school counselor, who said, "[it's] up to you." She looked at the average test scores listed on the Yale admissions website, which cite a score of 1450 as being in the 25th percentile. She attended talks with admissions officers in her county, who assured her that withholding a score would not be held against her.

Ultimately, she decided not to submit her test score — which was well below Yale's average — to any Ivy League school.

The deciding factor, Gazard said, was that she did not want schools to "write her off" just because she had a low score. Instead, she hoped that omitting a score would allow the other, stronger parts of her application to shine.

"I'm a top student, I've done some interesting extracurriculars, I am really strong in my supplemental writing and my interview went really great," Gazard said. "I felt like if I put the test score down, it would have probably been to my detriment, and taken away from all that."

As the debate over the merits of requiring standardized test scores in applications at universities across the

country has swelled, the News found in a survey of nearly 1,000 undergraduates that Yale College students receiving financial aid are less likely to have included an ACT or SAT score in their Yale applications than students not on aid.

But this finding comes at a time when new research from policy institute Opportunity Insights suggests that test scores may be better predictors of college success than high school grades, which could help colleges facilitate upward mobility. Previous research from the institute found that requiring test scores may act to enhance the diversity of admits, rather than restrict it.

The News received 978 responses to a survey sent to all students in the College, marking a 15-percent response rate overall. Of those who took the SAT, the ACT or both since Yale adopted a test-optional policy in 2020, 86.7 percent submitted a score with their application.

The survey revealed that 95 percent of respondents receiving no financial aid who took a test submitted a score, compared to only 75 percent of respondents receiving full or almost full aid.

Bruce Sacerdote, one of the researchers at Opportunity Insights, told the News that the survey results are consistent with his findings, which both indicate that disadvantaged students submit their tests "at too low a rate" given their scores.

"We hypothesize that this stems from applicants not having full knowledge of how test scores are used in context," Sacerdote wrote to the News. "Scores are used as only one input and are viewed in the context of the applicant's background, neigh-

SEE TESTING PAGE 5

November panel source of federal antisemitism investigation

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

On Jan. 22, the United States Department of Education opened a Title VI Shared Ancestry investigation into Yale. The inquiry relates to a Nov. 6 panel event titled "Gaza under siege," at which two students alleged that they were excluded on the basis of being Jewish and stems from a Dec. 5 complaint filed by the Defense of Freedom Institute for Policy Studies, or DFPI.

The complaint alleges that "several Jewish students" were barred from entering the event even though some attendees left before the conclusion of the panel. The complaint specifically names two students — Sahar Tartak '26 and Netanel Crispe '25 — who penned an opinion column titled "Jewish Students Meet Hostility at Yale" in the Wall Street Journal the following day.

"Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no educational

SEE INVESTIGATION PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1998. Yale receives a shipment of 35 Intel Pentium II computers. The new computers are considerably faster and will accelerate the speed of projects and research. The shipment is part of Intel's three-year, \$2.7 million grant to Yale.

INSIDE THE NEWS

Romance still exists, Sarah Kang '14 declares in her music.

PAGE 6 ARTS



PAGE 3 OPINION

PAGE 6 NEWS

PAGE 8 SCITECH

PAGE 10 SPORTS

PAGE B1 WKND

RIVALRIES Intercity rivalries highlight mayor's priorities for New Haven. PAGE 7 NEWS

MENOPAUSE Scientists at the School of Medicine want to delay menopause. Should they? PAGE 9 SCITECH

BULLETIN



TAYLOR LECTURES

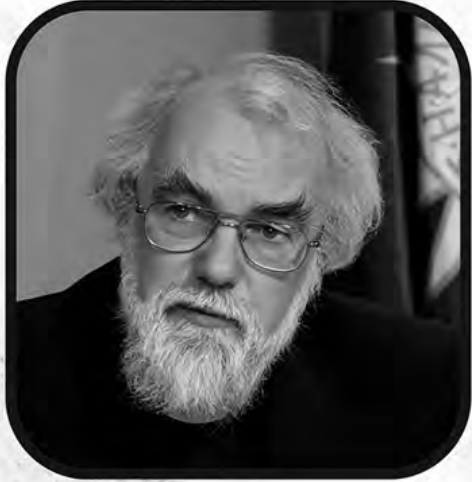
**THE CLAIMS OF SOLIDARITY:
A CONVERSATION IN THEOLOGY AND ETHICS**

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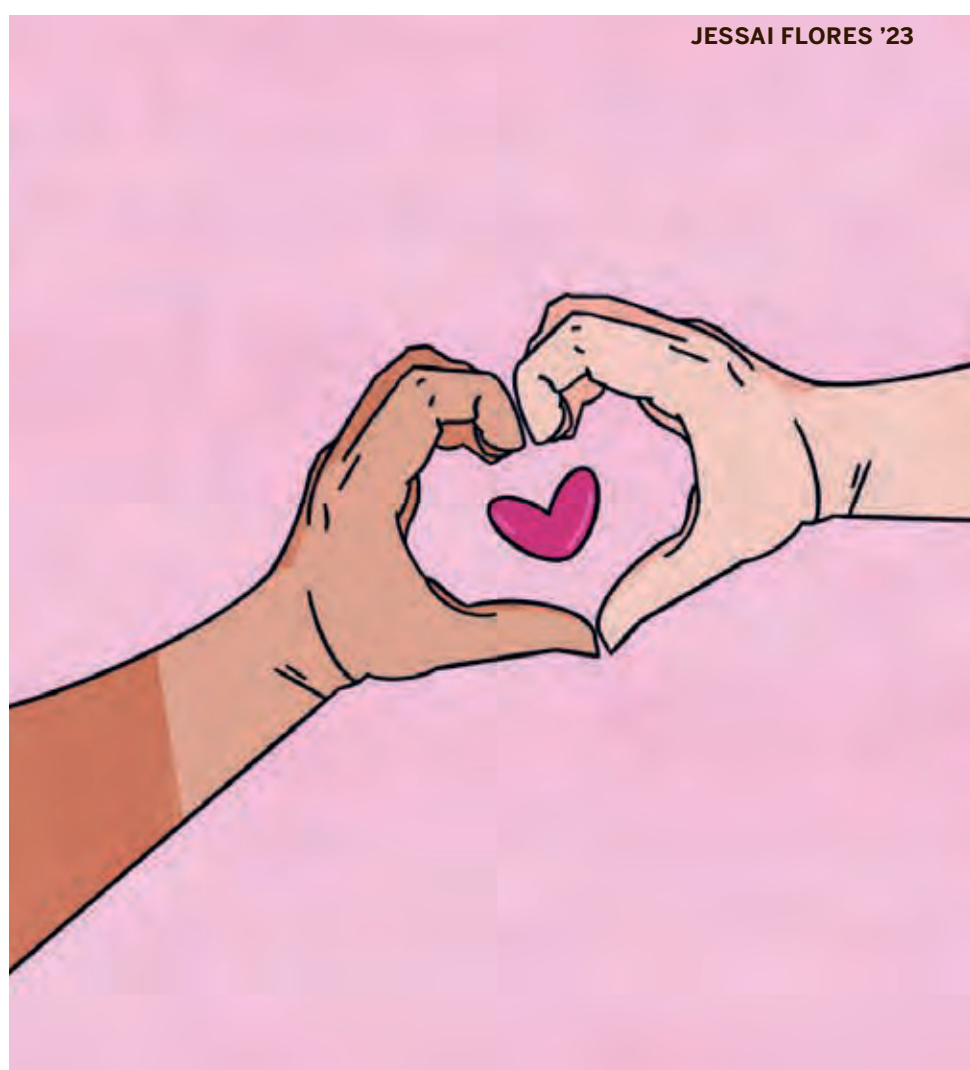
Marquand
Chapel

Rowan Williams
Former Archbishop of Canterbury
and former head of Magdalene
College, Cambridge



Yale
DIVINITY

YDS Office of Communications

 A promotional poster for Taylor Lectures. The background is white with black diagonal stripes. It features the title 'THE CLAIMS OF SOLIDARITY: A CONVERSATION IN THEOLOGY AND ETHICS' and the speaker's name 'Rowan Williams' with his title. A small portrait of Rowan Williams is included. The Yale Divinity logo and 'YDS Office of Communications' are at the bottom.


FROM THE FRONT

“Love is the whole thing. We are only the pieces.”

DAVID VISCOT AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIST

Yale Corporation to meet on Saturday, agenda and minutes private



Yale Corporation members made their way to New Haven. / Ellie Park, Photography Editor

CORPORATION FROM PAGE 1

added that Corporation members often also attend meetings for Yale’s standing committees or arrive on campus earlier for “informal meetings.”

Salovey, his fellow trustees and the University’s vice presidents are hosting a lunch with over 20 “student leaders” on Friday, Feb. 16 — one day before the Corporation meets.

As snowflakes dusted Yale’s campus on Thursday night, Woodbridge Hall, Betts House,

the President’s House and Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall — where administrative offices currently reside — stood quiet and largely empty. If the Corporation — or even just members of the Search Committee — did host a meeting Thursday evening, the News was unable to confirm its location.

Although the Search Committee sent several emails to the Yale community throughout the opening weeks of the search, more than three months passed between the Corporation’s two most recent

updates. The latest announcement came on Jan. 29, which summarized the committee’s outreach efforts and discussed the feedback it had received from students.

The Board of Trustees has two other meetings planned for this academic year, on April 20 and June 8.

The minutes for all meetings remain sealed from the public for 50 years.

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Daycare at Yale New Haven Health outsources, teachers bail

DAYCARE FROM PAGE 1

the daycare educators’ decades of experience: Many of the educators started their careers at the daycare and are now reaching the age of retirement, still working at the YNHH facility.

Now, with the daycare’s educators forced to reapply for their own positions, their future at the facility may be in jeopardy, parents noted.

Cutting costs

On Jan. 18, 2024, Jodie Boldrighini, the vice president of human resources at YNHH, alongside other hospital leaders, held YNHH’s first parent advisory meeting of the year. Like many other parents, Jon West ’20 DRA, whose daughter is enrolled at the daycare, skipped the regularly scheduled meeting, assuming it wasn’t important.

“It was just seen as the regular kind of parent advisory meeting that happens every month. The agenda items were vague enough that almost no one got on the call,” West said.

Parents who did log on were faced with a surprising announcement.

The News spoke with a medical researcher at YNHH with children in the daycare who attended the call. She said that Boldrighini told them that the hospital was losing money on the daycare and had been looking for ways to cut costs. As a result, she recalled, Boldrighini announced that the hospital had zeroed in on no longer managing the daycare.

After large losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Yale New Haven Health system budgeted for a \$250 million deficit for fiscal year 2023.

According to Deborah Greig, an educator in New Haven who has two children at the daycare, the YNHH program was never meant to be a profitable business, but rather “a benefit for the healthcare community at Yale.”

During the meeting, Boldrighini and others revealed that multiple outside vendors had been given tours of the daycare throughout late 2023, without informing parents. YNHH leadership ultimately decided that the facility would enter into a new “partnership” with Bright Horizons.

Though parents in attendance asked for more details, the attendees said that Boldrighini was unclear and did not elaborate

on the consequences of the partnership’s implications.

Parents then asked Boldrighini and others to host a town hall before the process was finalized, though Boldrighini said that she plans to wait to organize the town hall until they had more information. Greig said this lack of a public forum would “give them no voice in this process.”

On Jan. 22, 95 parents signed and wrote an open letter to YNHH leadership, the Board of Trustees, Human Resources and daycare leadership requesting immediate transparency about how the transition would impact current parents, children and employees at the daycare. The letter also called for administrators to outline a plan to retain current staff members.

In the letter, parents also re-emphasized their request for a town hall, specifically with YNHH leaders Jodie Boldrighini and Melissa Turner, senior vice president and chief human resources officer at YNHH.

In response, on Jan. 24, Turner sent an email to the daycare parents. In the email, which was shared with the News, she reiterated that YNHH had not yet solidified its plans for the partnership and said that they would host future forums during which they would share updates about the transition when plans are complete.

“YNHH is not selling its daycare business. We are, however, pursuing a strategic partnership with Bright Horizons,” Turner wrote.

YNHH declined to comment to the News’ request for comment in time for publication.

“A big surprise”

On the same day, Boldrighini and Turner organized a staff meeting with daycare educators, during which they informed them that they would have to be reinterviewed and then reapply for their current positions.

During the rehiring process, Boldrighini and Turner said, the staff members would lose their YNHH benefits and paid time off and were further advised to “prepare their resumes.”

The News spoke with a current daycare educator who has worked at the center for more than two decades. She says that during her career working with YNHH in the daycare industry, she had never encountered a similar situation.

“I’ve never had problems like this, it took us for a big surprise. Still, we don’t know what’s going to happen,” she said.

The educator, who has worked in daycares since she was 14 years old, shared sentiments similar to those of many affected parents. She told the News that she was frustrated by YNHH’s lack of transparency to employees who have devoted their careers to the Center.

“I do it because I love kids — that’s my passion,” she said. “I could care less if they said that I’d get paid \$25 an hour or get paid \$10 an hour or whatever the case may be. But what I’m not okay with is that we’ve been in there for so long and for us to reapply. Why would I do my resume all over?”

Boldrighini and Turner also instructed the daycare educators not to discuss the new “partnership” with parents. According to multiple parents and staff members, YNHH leadership threatened to fire daycare educators if they discussed the development with parents.

The next day, on Jan. 25, daycare parents wrote another letter, obtained by the News, to the YNHH administration, which stated that their concerns for daycare staff retention and their wellbeing had been dismissed. The letter argued that if staff members continued to leave, the daycare could be forced to shut down.

Connecticut state law requires daycares to have a minimum of one educator for every 10 preschool-aged children, and one educator for every four children under age 3.

“The daycare staff’s lack of confidence in their ability to maintain their jobs and benefits has a direct and immediate impact on our childcare and our roles as employees of this organization,” the letter stated. “There have already been multiple teachers who have left, including two from George Street just this past week. If this trend continues the daycare is in jeopardy of closing due to inability to meet government mandated ratios.”

Greig, like many other parents who spoke with the News, said that her biggest fear was that one day, the daycare would call parents to pick up their children because the facility had dipped below the state-mandated ratios.

Greig’s fears were not unfounded. On Feb. 7, center leaders gave parents flyers informing them that some of the daycare’s infant rooms would be combined. West told the News that each classroom previously had three teachers for every six to seven kids. Now, there are two to three teachers for every eight kids.



Amid financial challenges and transition to a new service provider, the Yale New Haven Health Child Care Center risks violating state regulations and losing long-time employees. / Adam McPhail, Contributing Photographer

Parents also described how the facility’s receptionist and the daycare supervisors were also taking on educator roles to meet the state educator-to-student threshold. Another parent, a YNHH employee who requested anonymity due to concerns about retaliation from YNHH, also said their child was unable to move up to the next age group because the daycare faced a shortage of educators for older kids.

The developments were a surprising twist for West, who said that the center’s low student-to-teacher ratio was one of the main reasons why he and his family chose YNHH as their daycare provider.

“Where does that leave me?”

Amid this uncertainty, many parents emphasized the need for stability and shared that the closing could have severe consequences for their livelihoods.

“If one of us has to take a step back from work in order to care for our child, it will be me, just because I make less money,” said a nurse practitioner at the hospital, whom the News granted anonymity also due to concerns of employer retaliation.

Alongside other parents, Feld-Reichman contended that the Center’s closing would disproportionately affect women, who may have to take leaves of

absence to care for their children. Most educators who have been long-term employees at the center are also women of color.

If the YNHH facility were to shut down, parents highlighted that most local daycares have waitlists over a year long, leaving them with no alternative for childcare.

“I’ve called a couple of daycares in our area, and they kind of laughed at me,” said a healthcare practitioner at YNHH. “I was told that my child could be put on a waitlist for August. So where does that leave me? And my ability to continue to work for Yale New Haven Hospital?”

Parents also noted that Turner and Boldrighini have yet to host a town hall, despite parents’ continued requests. Instead, Turner has called individual parents to reassure them that — contrary to what educators have been repeatedly told — they would keep their benefits during the transition to the Bright Horizons partnership.

On Jan. 31, parents of the daycare started a Change.org petition demanding transparency from YNHH leaders.

As of Feb. 11, the petition has 493 signatures.

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Yalies hold vigil in remembrance of missing and murdered Indigenous women

VIGIL FROM PAGE 1

with 376 recoveries of missing children, which are only 19% of the estimated 2,000 cases of missing children in Hawai’i annually.

In 2021, following the appointment of Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland — the first Native American to serve in a presidential cabinet — the Bureau of Indian Affairs formed a new “Missing & Murdered” unit under Haaland’s leadership. The unit leverages federal resources and aims to liaison tribal police, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and FBI investigators on active missing and murdered cases. It has not reported any progress.

Students, faculty and community members gathered on Wednesday afternoon at the Women’s Table on Cross Campus to honor these women. Organizers spoke on the history of the MMIW crisis and

offered Native and Indigenous students the chance to speak on their lived experiences with the crisis.

According to Jairus Rhoades ’26 (Samoan), current co-president of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, attending the vigil was a “visceral” and “intimate” experience that “reminded him of the missions of the [Native American Cultural Center] and the responsibilities of stewardship as an Indigenous person.”

Following the vigil speeches and testimonies, NISAY student organizers read the names of current missing and murdered Indigenous Peoples, including women, children and entire families. The vigil ended with a period of silence in remembrance of the lives claimed to the MMIW crisis and an Indigenous travel song, performed by Angie Makomenaw, community wellness specialist at Yale College Commu-

nity Care and wife of NACC Dean Matthew Makomenaw.

“It was especially powerful to hear [Makomenaw] sing because song and performance crosses Indigenous cultures,” Helen Shanefield ’26, a member of both IPO and NISAY, told the News. “The song universally felt emotional, without having to understand the words — it was clearly personal and intimate.”

As an act of visibility and protest for MMIW, some students painted a red handprint on their face and tied red ribbons around trees near Cross Campus. In light of faculty and administrative backlash to red handprints left on the stone walls surrounding tables in 2022, forms of protests on Wednesday focused on the presence of people, rather than University property. Madeline Gupta ’25 (Sault Ste. Marie

Tribe of Chippewa Indians), who imprinted a red handprint on her face, wrote to the News that she had been “excited about this as a means of body sovereignty.”

“If we cannot exist on stolen land peacefully, then let us show ownership of our bodies in this space,” Gupta wrote in a statement to the News.

Beyond the vigil’s day of remembrance, Maples wrote to the News that on Mar. 6, NISAY will be hosting a panel with the Yale Undergraduate Legal Aid Association on Native and Indigenous domestic and sexual violence prevention and advocacy.

Furthermore, according to Ching, the three Native American Cultural Center affiliate organizations — NISAY, IPO and American Indian Science and Engineering Society, or AISES — will additionally be planning collaborative events in the

spring semester that can be educative of issues that deeply impact Indigenous communities.

“The larger push of what the Native community and affiliate organizations are trying to do is engrain within the student body and administration that these issues are not just insular to Indigenous communities or tribal nations or Hawai’i,” said Ching. “Instead, they’re entangled in places like Yale, where there’s so much political and economic capital to influence change.”

The National Day of Action and Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women is Feb. 14, during which the largest MMIW march takes place annually in Vancouver.

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FROM THE FRONT

"In all the world, there is no heart for me like yours."
MAYA ANGELOU AMERICAN WRITER

'Gaza under siege' panel prompts federal inquiry into antisemitism at Yale

INVESTIGATION FROM PAGE 1

program or activity that receives federal financial assistance may discriminate against students on the basis of shared ancestry or national origin," Robert Eitel, DFI president and co-founder, wrote to the News. "It appears that such a program hosted by the university barred certain Yale students from attending simply because they were Jewish. We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is looking into this matter and hope that the investigation will prevent this kind of occurrence from happening again."

The DFI introduces itself in the complaint as an "interested third-party organization" and nonprofit devoted to "advancing freedom" and safeguarding "civil and constitutional rights" in school and workplace settings.

When the News first inquired about the investigation, a University spokesperson wrote that Yale had received a letter from the Department of Education asking for information related to how it responded to alleged discrimination complaints about one on-campus event.

"We take student concerns seriously. We carefully evaluate each complaint under our policies and the law, and determine whether or not allegations are supported by the facts" the University spokesperson wrote to the News. "In recent months, Yale's leaders, faculty, and staff have worked diligently to support our students; to apply our policies in a manner that is fair, compassionate and supports the educational environment; and to treat each student with the care and respect we would expect for ourselves."

The November discussion was moderated by Erica Edwards, an English and African American studies professor, and Lisa Lowe, a professor of American Studies and ethnicity, race and migration. The event also featured anthropology professors Nadia Abu El-Haj of Barnard College

and Amahl Bishara of Tufts University, who is also a professor of studies in race, colonialism and diaspora.

A Nov. 8 Yale statement about the event — to which the December DFI complaint also refers — said that "students and other community members of all backgrounds" were able to attend the event.

"There was strong interest in the panel held on Nov. 6, and the room reached capacity before it began," the statement reads. "A few students were not aware that organizers had required pre-registration, and even some students who had pre-registered were unable to enter due to space constraints. As a result, a small number of people listened from the hallway; because the speakers wore microphones, the discussion was audible outside the room."

Tartak and Crispe, the two students who wrote the op-ed and the complaint, allege that the event marketing material did not specify that registration was required for the event. But the event announcement on the Yale Ethnography Hub site includes a link to a form that allowed students to pre-register for the event.

Tartak declined to comment for this article, and Crispe did not respond to two emails from the News.

Both the op-ed and complaint also alleged that the event coordinators "selectively enforced the registration requirement" and allowed entry to "several non-Jewish, non-registered guests."

The complaint, however, says that the incident surrounding the panel is reflective of "a worrisome trend."

"Antisemitic discrimination at colleges and universities has risen over the past decade," the complaint reads. "To date, the university has not issued an announcement concerning how it intends to take any disciplinary actions against the faculty members and students responsible for planning the event and excluding Jewish students."

The November panel was co-sponsored by the American

Studies, Anthropology and Religious Studies departments; the programs in Ethnicity, Race and Migration and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Center for Middle East Studies, the Black Feminist Collective, the Ethnography Hub, the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund and Yalies4Palestine.

The University and the Department of Education declined to comment for this article. Lowe, Edwards, Abu El-Haj and Bishara did not respond to requests for comment. The News reached out to all chairs involved in leadership for the departments and programs that co-hosted the event. Only one — Chair of the Program in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Roderrick Ferguson — responded.

Ferguson, who attended the panel and read his notes from the event to the News, described the Nov. 6 panel as "a very pedagogical and informative event."

He also said that attendees, including himself, had to pre-register for the event and that the DFI complaint's claim of "excluding Jewish students" seems to have "no basis in reality." Ferguson added that he sat next to a Jewish colleague for the panel.

"As someone who's been in the academy for [almost] my 30th year, I've been to a lot of panels; I did not hear incitement," Ferguson said. "The normal function of the university is that it makes intellectual objects and that panel tried to produce the war as an intellectual object ... that is what universities do, and if we can't do that, we cease to be universities."

Following the panel in November, managing director of Yale Alumni Fund and director of leadership Jocelyn Kane wrote in a Nov. 9 email to alumni fundraising coordinators that the Alumni Fund had heard from a "growing number of alumni expressing their concerns about the November 6 panel discussion."

Nick Gaede Jr. '61 publicly pulled his donation from Yale following the op-ed writ-



Since first reporting on the matter, the News has confirmed that the investigation was sparked by a Dec. 5 complaint about a Nov. 6 panel discussion related to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. / **Ellie Park, Photography Editor**

ten by Tartak and Crispe. Gaede announced his decision in a list of three letters published in the Journal on Nov. 12.

"I assumed that whatever comes out of [the investigation] is going to have ramifications related to free speech," Gaede told the News. "We've got to have free speech but within reason."

As of Thursday night, there are 113 open Title VI Shared Ancestry investigations listed on the Department of Education site that are rooted in a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits recipients of federal funds from discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. According to recent reporting from the New York Times, "several recent" Title VI investigations allege antisemitism on college campuses. An investigation opened into Harvard on Feb. 6 follows a complaint from a group of students alleging that the uni-

versity failed to protect Muslim, Palestinian and Arab students — and their supporters — from harassment and intimidation.

Although Title VI does not explicitly protect individuals from religious discrimination, subsequent executive orders have clarified the language of the law to incorporate specific forms of religious discrimination. Former U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order that expanded Title VI, including the prohibition of "discrimination rooted in anti-Semitism," in 2019. In September, the Biden administration clarified this language to make clear that Title VI also prohibits Islamophobia.

The "Gaza under siege" panel was held in Linsly-Chittenden Hall, which is located at 63 High St.

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College to release new standardized testing requirement in coming weeks



Universities nationwide have debated the merits of requiring applicants to submit standardized test scores. / **Julia Henry**

TESTING FROM PAGE 1

borhood and high school. As a result, applicants may not realize that their score is an impressive one that could help their admission chances."

Earlier this month, Dartmouth College announced that it will resume its standardized test requirement for applicants in the next admissions cycle. Several other selective colleges such as Georgetown University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology have also reinstated requirements, which — like Yale's — were originally suspended during the pandemic.

Yale plans to announce its long-term testing policy at the end of the month, according to Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Jeremiah Quinlan.

Stuart Schmill, dean of admissions at MIT, where the testing requirement has been reinstated, told the New York Times that when low-income students and students of color submit their scores, those numbers are considered in the context of their economic situation and are useful to flag promising applicants whose potential might otherwise go overlooked.

The News survey found that students on no financial aid who took a test were 19.6 percentage points more likely to have submitted those results than students on full or almost full financial aid, and 14.8 percentage points more likely to submit than students on any level of financial aid.

Out of the 978 students who responded to the survey, 529 students, or 54.1 percent, are on some amount of financial aid. This figure is similar to Yale's overall share of 53

percent, according to Mark Dunn, senior associate director for outreach and recruitment at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

The News' results coincide with a trend in increased application rates from first-generation and low-income students in the years since Yale went test-optional. Between this year's application cycle and last year's, applications from first-generation college students increased 13 percent more than the overall uptick in applicants, and applications from students from neighborhoods with below-median household incomes increased 19 percent more than the overall pool, according to data shared with the News by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

According to Yale's submission to the Common Data Set from the 2022-2023 academic year, an annual report of statistics and information about various colleges, 88 percent of all students who matriculated last year submitted a test score. Yale has not released any further details about admissions patterns.

Quinlan wrote to the News that the admissions office is not reporting data on test scores, the choice of applicants to share test scores or the share of admitted students who submitted test scores.

The News spoke to 21 students about their experiences with taking standardized tests. 15 students submitted test scores when applying to Yale and six did not.

The choice to submit

Several students told the News that they decided to submit their test scores in order to distinguish

themselves from other students from their high schools and areas that admissions officers would be comparing them to.

Annalie Diaz '27 — who was admitted to Yale through the Quest-Bridge match program — chose to submit her score. She said that she decided to submit her score, which was below Yale's average, because she knew it stood out in comparison to scores from other students at her high school.

Diaz described her high school as "extremely" under-resourced. She said the average SAT score ranges from around a 900 to a 1000. Since colleges went optional, Diaz said most students stopped taking the SAT altogether.

Even a score in Yale's 25th percentile, when considered in the broader context of her high school environment, would show her commitment and capability, Diaz recalled thinking.

Freddie Rivas-Giorgi '26 was also compelled to submit a test score in hopes of standing out. In his case, however, he hoped to stand out in comparison to students from wealthy urban areas.

Coming from a rural high school, Rivas-Giorgi said he didn't have access to the same impressive extracurriculars as his peers in larger, more affluent cities. As an example, he recalled not being able to conduct research at a university because of geographic barriers.

"[Submitting a score] really helped in my case, simply because it provided an objective measurement of my own skills and preparation," Rivas-Giorgi told the News. "That certainly could overcompensate for a relative weakness in extracurriculars compared to students coming from larger cities. I think scores certainly can level the playing field, at least in my situation it did."

Owen Haywood '26 came from a public school where students are rarely admitted to Ivy League schools.

Early on, Haywood wanted to "aim low" and be realistic in his college plan, but when he got his score, he realized he was a competitive student for a school like Yale.

"Getting the score was something that I felt not only helped my application in the end but also gave

me the confidence to even send in that application in the first place," Haywood said.

Several other students on financial aid who took a test told the News that they opted not to submit a score because they felt that their score did not represent them and that a low score would take away from other, stronger parts of their applications.

David Rutitsky '27, who receives financial aid from Yale, said that he was too busy with other commitments in high school to devote enough time to study for and score well on the SAT.

With many AP classes and two jobs, he had too much on his plate to add test prep to the mix, he said.

"I really think SAT scores are more of a reflection of just how good of a school you're in and even your income," Rutitsky said. "Because some people don't have to work two jobs."

Impending University decision

With the University slated to announce its long-term testing policy in the coming weeks, students were relatively split on their opinions on the role of standardized testing in college admissions.

Some students said that they are opposed to a test-required policy, saying that tests are not accurate predictors of success and that they disadvantage students who face difficulties accessing them. Others were open to the University requiring tests so long as scores are considered in the context of an applicant's overall academic background.

"I think, when considering standardized test scores, what colleges have to do is look at the score as just a part of who the student is and within the broader context of that student's demographic and personal background," Haywood said. "A student who's coming from a Title I funded public school who gets a 34 on the ACT is very different from a student coming from a private boarding school who gets a 34 on the ACT."

Diaz said that, as a low-income student, she believes she greatly benefited from submitting her test score.

Even though it was below Yale's median, her score was 400 points above her high school average, something that she believed showed her ability to excel within her environment.

"But, if they switch back to test-required, Yale needs to make themselves seem more welcoming to low-income students," Diaz told the News. "They need to be transparent about how they're considering scores. And they need to work alongside organizations like QuestBridge, which taught me that, regardless of test scores, Yale welcomes people like me."

On the other hand, Rutitsky said that tests pose a barrier to entry that may not accurately measure applicants' capability.

If Yale reinstates a test requirement, he said that he fears Yale may be depriving itself of highly capable students who simply do not have the time or resources to test well.

"I want to stress the fact that I'm doing well in college, even though my test scores were low," he said. "A big reason why I don't think tests should exist anymore is because the whole idea of the tests in the first place is to judge how well you would be able to get college work done. And in my case, the test is not a reflection of that."

But Evan Burkeen '27 said he believed submitting his test score was crucial to demonstrating his academic ability and validating the upward trend of his high school grades.

He said he believes that because test scores are a quantitative measure of achievement, they become a scapegoat for disparities in the admissions process, even though there are disparities in extracurriculars, essays and other qualitative parts of the application.

"This is the wrong thing to attack if we need to make sure that admissions is a more equitable process," Burkeen said.

The first SAT was offered in 1926.

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NEWS

"I don't go by the rule book ... I lead from the heart, not the head."
DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES

Intercity rivalries highlight mayor's priorities for New Haven

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

Mayor Justin Elicker invoked competition with two other Connecticut cities last week to emphasize New Haven's population growth and his aim of increasing affordable housing.

During his State of the City address last Monday, Elicker declared that New Haven was on track to become the state's most populous city, with over 150,000 residents, by about 2034. Currently, only Bridgeport has more residents, with 148,000 to New Haven's 139,000.

"While we wish Bridgeport success, I have news for you, Bridgeport: Watch out. New Haven is growing and we're on the move," Elicker said. "As we grow — and this is very important — we must grow inclusively, equitably and sustainably."

New Haven's population has grown by nearly 4 percent since the 2020 census, whereas Bridgeport's has shrunk marginally in the same period.

Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim told the News in a statement that he hopes New Haven continues to increase its population but disagrees with Elicker's prediction.

"It is inspiring to hear of mayor Elicker, enthusiasm and vigor for the city of New Haven — truly a great city," Ganim wrote. "However it's clear to me, that with our rapidly growing population and with the thousands of people moving into Bridgeport every year, that we will continue to be Connecticut's largest city."

In fact, Census Bureau estimates suggest that Bridgeport lost about 250 residents on balance between 2020 and 2022.

School of Management Emeritus Professor Douglas Rae, who served as New Haven's chief administrative officer in 1990 and 1991, told the News that

the city's recent population rise largely comes down to "eds and meds" — that is, in part, biotechnology companies drawn by Yale investment.

He added that people looking to live in the region surrounding New York City might be attracted to New Haven more than Bridgeport because of scandals involving the latter city's government, such as Ganim's 2003 federal bribery conviction and alleged voter fraud in last fall's Democratic mayoral primary.

"Nobody wants to deal with small-time corruption as part of a package for making a major investment," Rae said.

Ganim's spokesperson did not respond to the claim that local corruption impedes the city's growth.

Elicker mentioned another intrastate rivalry when discussing the centerpiece of his State of the City speech, housing and how New Haven's growth should not come at the expense of preexisting working-class residents.

A study last year by Connecticut's Office of Legislative Research ranked New Haven second among Connecticut municipalities in the percentage of its housing units that qualified as affordable in 2022. In Hartford, the state capital, 40.8 percent of housing units met the standard, while the figure sat at 33.4 percent for New Haven.

"While we wish Hartford success, I have news for you, Hartford: Watch out," Elicker said, echoing his warning to Bridgeport. "New Haven is growing, and we're on the move."

Elicker has pursued several housing initiatives as mayor, including changing the zoning code and using federal COVID-19 relief funds. In his speech, Elicker said 3,500 new housing units, including 1,400 affordable ones, are in the works.

In a statement to the News, Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam said he was proud of his city's role at



NYDIA DEL CARMEN / YTV EDITOR

In his State of the City address, Mayor Justin Elicker said that New Haven would catch up to Bridgeport and Hartford in population and affordable housing. The News asked those cities' mayors what they have to say.

the forefront of affordable housing access in Connecticut.

"For Connecticut to be an affordable place for people to raise a family and age in place, we need every community to actively work to create more housing stock," Arulampalam wrote. "I'm glad that cities like New Haven are making that a priority, and I hope that our suburban communities start working to meet that challenge head-on as well."

In New Haven, the need for affordable housing has become particularly acute as wealthier residents drive rent prices up and neighborhoods like Dixwell gentrify.

"The growth we're seeing now is based on parts of the workforce which are college-educated, or largely college-educated, and have housing expectations grander than the housing that is left over from the industrial era," Rae said.

For now, when it comes to sheer population size and the propor-

tional availability of cheap housing, New Haven remains at No. 2, leaving Elicker to promise that it will catch up.

Spokespeople for Governor Ned Lamot and Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz did not respond to the News' request for comment about how the state's largest cities compare.

Connecticut has a population of 3.6 million.

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Housing process for 2024 commences on expedited timeline

BY TRISTAN HERNANDEZ & HAILEY TALBERT
STAFF REPORTERS

As the housing process begins for the 2024-25 school year, Yale College students are taking part in an expedited process to get housing assignments sooner, ending over two weeks earlier than the process last year.

The faster process will give students more time to decide whether they want to move off-campus after receiving their housing assignments. The change comes a year after Yale's housing system underwent major reforms last year, as it became a centralized process run through a housing office, rather than through individual residential colleges.

The housing process has been a source of student ire in recent years, as residential colleges have faced housing shortages stemming from the historically large size of the class of 2025.

With these shortages, off-campus housing numbers have spiked, leading to displacement and a strain on the New Haven housing market. According to Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis, many students chose to live off-campus during the COVID-19 pandemic, a trend later exacerbated by the size of the class of 2025, but he said that he hopes it will return to pre-COVID-19 levels soon.

"I'm not too upset when a senior moves off campus, but I'm not in favor of juniors living off campus and wish and believe we should do everything in our power to make it possible for every junior to live on campus," University President Peter Salovey told the News.

While students are not guaranteed housing after their first four semesters, seniors get priority in picking their rooms. Sophomores and first years are both required to live on campus, so juniors face the greatest uncertainty in the process.

With the expedited timeline, the deadline for students to declare intent to live on or off campus this year was Feb. 12, while last year's deadline was Feb. 27. Group formation for all rising sophomores, juniors and seniors opens Feb. 20 and the lottery will occur on March 25. The room selection process is open from March 27 to



The housing process, which underwent major reforms last year, will conclude over two weeks earlier than last year's.

VAIBHAV SHARMA

28 for rising sophomores, March 27 to April 1 for rising seniors, and from April 1 to April 2 for rising juniors. Last year's group formation was March 8 to 28 for rising sophomores and seniors and March 8 through April 13 for rising juniors. Room selection took place from April 10 to 12 for sophomores and seniors and April 20 to 21 for juniors.

Justin Thornton, the associate director of undergraduate housing, wrote to the News about the adjusted room draw timeline, saying that the change occurred "based on feedback from Yale College students and staff from the 2023-2024 cycle."

Lewis told the News that the timeline was moved in order to provide students who entered the housing lottery with housing information by the end of March. In order to do this, the deadline to apply for first-year counselors was also moved forward from Jan. 31 to Jan. 22. Seniors who become Fro-

Cos do not enter the housing lottery for their residential college.

With the updated timeline, students will have more time to decide if they want to live off campus once they have received their housing assignments. In past years, due to housing shortages, many students have been annexed to on-campus housing outside of their residential colleges. Lewis attributed annexation housing as a reason why students may choose to live off campus.

Despite the rise in off-campus housing, which Lewis said has been a long-term trend for the last 10 to 15 years, he said that he wants to ensure that students living off-campus stay involved in campus life.

But he does not expect any students to be kicked off campus this year.

While the class of 2027 had an unprecedented 72 percent of students accept Yale's offer of admission, Lewis said that the rising sophomore class size would not

have a "big impact" on the housing draw. He added that while there is a possibility of Yale running out of beds, the University is far from reaching that threshold.

In February of last year, Lewis told the News that no students had ever been kicked off campus due to housing shortages. Thornton wrote that housing is not guaranteed for junior and senior students per undergraduate housing policies but that housing is usually available for students who request it.

"I think any sophomore who wants housing next year will be able to get it if that's what they go for," Lewis said. "It's not a 100 percent guarantee, but I think it's almost certain that they would be able to find a room."

The centralized housing process is in its second year of operation after years of each of Yale's 14 residential colleges handling their own housing draws. With the change, students now choose their future rooms online in an effort to reduce problems that

arose with annexation housing.

A new inclusion to the online housing intent form this year was an option for students to indicate whether they want to live on a single-gender floor.

Last year, when Yale College switched its housing system, there was not an option for students to request single-gender floors and bathrooms for religious reasons. After a petition and rallies, Yale allowed students to submit requests for single-gender housing.

Other than the room draw timeline, no other changes have occurred to the undergraduate process to accommodate the large class size of 2027.

The Yale Housing Office is located in Helen Hadley Hall at 420 Temple St.

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SCITECH

"In all the world, there is no heart for me like yours. In all the world, there is no love for you like mine." MAYA ANGELOU AMERICAN POET

Yalies at School of Medicine discuss efforts to support first-generation students

BY ABEL GELETA
STAFF REPORTER

Yishak Bedaso MED '25 is a first-generation college graduate and current graduate student.

As a low-income immigrant from Ethiopia, Bedaso is now a third-year medical student and business school candidate at the School of Medicine and the School of Management, having previously completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Colorado-Denver.

While his parents supported him financially and emotionally, he said that they couldn't help him navigate the pre-medical path or school-related work more broadly. He received additional support from his older brother and other mentors through various nonprofits but said that he still felt he couldn't access as many resources as others.

For Bedaso, though immigrants and FGLI students come from different cultural and geo-

graphic backgrounds, they often face similar realities. He noted that his experience was similar to other first-generation immigrant students.

"[Due to] the language barrier and because of the fact that our parents didn't go to school here, there's not much they can do to help in terms of applying for certain things or even keeping things on your radar because they never really were a part of that process," Bedaso said.

Bedaso noted that he felt an especially large culture shock after moving to New Haven and attending Yale. Fortunately, he said he quickly found community with people who shared his experiences through Yale First Generation/Low Income or YFLI, a group of medical students who meet for dinner once every two weeks to share advice and support each other. To supplement this existing affinity group, Yale Medical School recently launched the First-Generation Low-Income

Longitudinal Mentorship Program or the "FGLI LMP."

Established in September 2023 by Jaime Cavallo, an assistant professor of urology who was an FGLI medical student, FGLI LMP seeks to help medical students develop meaningful relationships with practicing physicians and offer them a variety of learning and career progression opportunities through networking and tailored resources. These mentorships try to provide current medical students, residents and fellows with insights into the ins and outs of a doctor's life through faculty pairing and mentorship.

According to a 2021 NIH study, fewer than 25 percent of medical student applicants are FGLI and a majority of medical trainees come from high-income households. Yale's FGLI LMP program is on a mission to challenge this reality and is not alone. Other medical schools have developed similar programs to ensure that FGLI students are better supported while at school.

"It feels very scary when you're the only one in different spaces, whether it's in the hospital or in the classroom, but then you have that pocket of community to help you interact with the medical school in ways that you couldn't otherwise," Bedaso said. "You'll find these different, different groups of people to help you and so I couldn't have made it here as it had not been for these people helping me."

Natasha Tillet is a resident doctor at Yale New Haven Hospital who said she is passionate about mentorship increasing underrepresented minority and low-income students' access to medicine and surgical subspecialties. For Tillet, who was the first in her family to attend college and medical school, mentorship was crucial in helping her develop an interest in medicine.

"The biggest impact of mentorship for me is having someone who has been there, done that, and can help me navigate through challenges. As a Black woman in medicine, specifically a surgical field where there aren't many of us, it can be isolating and nerve-wracking — feeling like you don't belong and questioning whether or not you deserve to be where you are," Tillet wrote in an email to the News. "That feeling is also compounded by coming from a low-income background. It can just generally feel othering. Having mentors who fully understand my experience has been life changing, and I don't think I would have chosen the field I'm in now without their support."

In an interview with the News, Nancy Park MED '25, a fourth-year medical school student, highlighted the importance of resilience and resourcefulness in her journey as a FGLI student. Park's path to medical school was far from typical. Her parents, who did not attend college, immigrated from South Korea to the United States in search of blue-collar jobs, eventually starting their own restaurant in Augusta, Georgia, where Park was born. While in college, Park worked as a waitress in their restaurant to cover some of her college expenses, such as housing.

Park said that she especially noticed the difference between FGLI students and non-FGLI students navigating medical and pre-medical school tasks. She said she felt that she was at a disadvantage.

"I noticed that their parents were telling them exactly what they needed to do during college to move on to the next stuff," Park said. "I didn't really have any internal support from my family. The familial and emotional support was there, but I think the logical and practical support wasn't quite there."

Park said the Yale environment has been both welcoming

and intimidating. She initially felt daunted by her more affluent classmates who were more aware of the expectations of medical school or had parents who attended Ivy League institutions.

But Park said that the University's comprehensive financial aid package has allowed her to focus on her studies without fear of financial strain. She also noted that the FGLI student group and the University's feedback surveys on food security, for example, have reassured her of its commitment to supporting FGLI students.

"In terms of feeling supported as well, I think just because of my peers coming from a lot of different backgrounds, everyone that I've met in my class has been really awesome," Park said to the News.

Park emphasized the importance of mentorship pipelines and ensuring that students eventually make it through medical school. Park said that she benefited from having experienced research mentors and peer mentors within the medical community to guide her through her medical journey and offer her insights and support.

Park noted that she tries to extend this generosity to others. She currently reviews personal statements for students at her alma mater and advocates for more diverse representation in future medical school classes.

"I feel like finding a mentor and a specialty or, in general, a field that you're interested in is really important," Park said. "I've benefited so much from having, for example, research mentors that are decades out in my field," Park said.

Readers can learn more about the First-Generation Low-Income Longitudinal Mentorship Program online.

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ANN HUI CHING

Two medical students told the News about various forms of support they said that the medical school offers to students in overcoming challenges.

Yale study finds small molecule can increase white blood cell counts

BY NANCY CHEN AND JANICE HUR
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In a recent study, Yale researchers discovered a new molecule that can temporarily boost white blood cell counts.

The study, led by Nikolai Jaschke, a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of Andrew Wang, an internal medicine professor at the School of Medicine, found that the introduction of A485 in mice offers a short-term but significant increase in white blood cell counts. A485 is a small molecule — colloquially known as "prohiberin" — that inhibits proteins that modulate gene expression. The researchers hope that the discovery could help human patients with neutropenia, or low white blood cell counts, which is common in those fighting infections and undergoing chemotherapy.

"At this point, from what we know in mice, it seems reasonable that a lot of patients receiving chemotherapy could benefit from this molecule," Jaschke said. "But it's not clear if that's the case and it needs to be tested in clinical trials."

Jaschke told the News that he first became interested in A485 after researchers from the pharmaceutical company AbbVie and other institutions first published a study in 2017 detailing how it could be used to treat various malignancies.

However, the research team never followed up on the study. A few years later, Jaschke and his team decided to study whether A485 could help restore bone marrow function, hoping to analyze the molecule from a pharmaceutical rather than oncological perspective. From a new scientific viewpoint, they discovered another use for A485.

"We kind of stumbled across [the discovery] in a very different context because we were interested in a pharmaceutical mechanism or pharmacological mechanism to restore bone marrow function," Jaschke said.

Because many patients with bone marrow failure are more likely

to have infections due to diminished white blood cell counts, the researchers explored whether the injection of A485 molecules could help save mice suffering from myelodysplastic syndrome, a group of cancers in which blood cells in the bone marrow don't properly develop, and chemotherapy-induced bacterial infections, some of which were potentially lethal.

They found that almost a third of the mice treated with A485 therapy survived, suggesting its potential use as a therapeutic intervention. Jaschke argued that there is currently no available pharmacological remedy with similar capabilities to what A485 expressed in his team's mouse model.

Jaschke compared the A485 molecule with G-CSF, a glycoprotein hormone that stimulates the bone marrow to increase the number of white blood cells in the bloodstream. He noted that while many doctors prescribe G-CSF to patients undergoing chemotherapy, many still experience low blood counts and subsequent infections. Once they are reinfected, their treatment options are limited to antibiotics, fluids and supportive care.

Lourdes Mendez, assistant professor of hematology at the School of Medicine, is dedicated to both the clinical care of patients and translational research to identify novel therapeutics in high-risk myeloid neoplasms and leukemia to improve clinical outcomes for patients. She told the News, "Neutropenic fever and sepsis remain a critical problem in our field particularly for patients with acute leukemia. This study on A485 raises the exciting possibility that our toolbox, which is currently limited to G-CSF, could expand by targeting p300 HAT activity."

In contrast, the A485, Jaschke said, could be used in concert with G-CSF to help increase white blood cell counts. Though A485 is a synthetic molecule, it does not need stem cells to proliferate, unlike G-CSF.

Still, other researchers are cautiously optimistic about the study



HEDY TUNG

The researchers discovered that the A485 molecule, known as "prohiberin," helped mice fight against infection.

and A485's future. In an interview with the News, Andres Hidalgo, a professor of immunobiology at the School of Medicine, noted that the study was conducted with mouse models and was not tested directly next to G-CSF.

"If [A485] is better than G-CSF, I think that might be a little bit of an overstatement at this point," Hidalgo said.

Similarly, Jaschke said that he is unsure whether the promising results will be replicated in future experiments in human subjects.

"I have no idea if it will even provoke the same effects in humans as it did in mice," Jaschke said. "This needs to be tested and this needs to be seen, which requires clinical studies, which are very expensive. I don't know if someone will look into this."

Jaschke also highlighted several other challenges with their investigation. First, he noted that while the molecule responded effectively to the bacteria *Listeria*, researchers need to conduct further testing to determine the molecule's efficacy against other

common pathogens, such as pneumococci, staphylococci and *E. coli*, among others.

He also expressed concerns about the consequences of a potential excessive immune response due to the significant increase in white blood cells induced by the molecule. Jaschke compared the strong immune response to immune checkpoint inhibitors, a set of immunotherapies that are often used in cancer treatment but can sometimes lead to an overly robust immune response.

He lastly conveyed that they have extensively characterized the compound, addressing many important questions regarding its efficacy and safety. They believe that further confirmation through testing in various models by different laboratories is necessary to validate their findings, particularly regarding the compound's effectiveness against a wide range of pathogens and in different models of bone marrow injury.

Lohith Gowda, an assistant professor of hematology at the School of Medicine, raised concerns about

A485 beyond its safety.

He also discussed the effects of prolonged neutropenia and whether it can lead to altered immunity.

"Can A485 alter or interact differently with microbiomes?" Gowda questioned. "Can [it] help build a different story if favorable?"

Jaschke also emphasized the need for other laboratories to validate their findings and learn more about the safety and efficacy of the compound in humans. Nevertheless, his lab does not plan on conducting further research with the molecule in the near future.

"That's not something that we will do necessarily because we have described what we found," Jaschke said. "From that perspective, we are done."

About 35.5 million individuals in the United States suffer from neutropenia.

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Scientists at the School of Medicine want to delay menopause. Should they?

BY NANCY CHEN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

As a women's health specialist at the School of Medicine, Kutluk Oktay regularly treats patients experiencing menopause symptoms. Now, he's hoping that he might be able to halt the biological process in its tracks.

The reproductive endocrinologist and ovarian biologist recently developed a mathematical model that can predict outcomes for delayed menopause using a technique called ovarian tissue cryopreservation, in which tissue from the ovaries is extracted, frozen and transplanted years later into the body.

Published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Oktay's model predicts that harvesting tissue from the ovaries at earlier adult ages and using better transplant techniques can delay menopause and extend the timeframe in which women might be able to have children. He said he sees a future where people could use the process, which freezes tens of thousands of eggs from ovarian tissue, to delay menopause for several decades.

Done effectively, Oktay believes, it might even avert menopause altogether.

"He's extending it from just trying to preserve somebody's ability to have a child to potentially preserve somebody's reproductive lifespan in a way that is not just about preserving childbearing, but preserving all of the hormones ... that prevent a lot of medical problems," said Hugh Taylor, the chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Yale New Haven Hospital, of Oktay. "It is very exciting work he's doing, and we're lucky to have the world's leader here."

Oktay is known for spearheading transformative advancements in the field of women's reproductive health. He performed the world's first ovarian transplantation with frozen — or cryopreserved — tissue in 1999, which was later published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2000.

The procedure was considered experimental until 2019 when the American Society of Reproductive Medicine announced in a committee opinion that ovarian tissue cryopreservation could be considered an established medical procedure.

Menopause is a natural biological process that usually occurs around the age of 50. It signals the end of monthly menstruation due to loss of ovarian follicular function: the ovaries stop releasing eggs for fertilization.

According to Mary Jane Minkin, a practicing gynecologist at the School of Medicine with a focus on menopause, the disruption of normal fertilization cycles can make it challenging for people to have children.

"Once you go from 40, say 42, 43, you get a pretty significant decline [in reproduction]," Minkin said. "And once we get beyond 43 or so, it's reasonably tough to have a kid. It doesn't mean it doesn't happen, but your chances aren't fabulous."

According to the National Institutes of Health, menopause symptoms including heat flashes, mood changes, weight changes, trouble sleeping or depression. Some people experiencing menopause consult their doctors about lifestyle changes, while others are prescribed medications to alleviate symptoms.

By surgically removing and freezing the parts of the ovary that contain immature egg cells, Oktay's cryopreservation process might be able to postpone that process. Years after freezing the ovarian tissue, doctors could thaw out those tissue samples and transplant them back into the body, returning a pool of healthy, unused egg cells.

For women receiving treatment for cancer or other diseases that affect the ovaries, cryopreservation can be a game-changer. Many common cancer therapies can disrupt a patient's fertility and hormone production, preventing them from having children in years to come.

Through cryopreservation, doctors can remove and freeze a healthy portion of a patient's

ovaries before treatment starts. Years later, after chemotherapy, surgery, or radiation therapy, that tissue can be transplanted back into the body — theoretically making pregnancy possible once again.

Re-inserting the ovarian tissue also allows the body to restart the natural production of hormones like estrogen, effectively delaying the onset of menopause and the physical symptoms associated with it. According to Oktay, women who experience late menopause face lower rates of depression, osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's disease.

The procedure

For patients who undergo Oktay's cryopreservation procedure, the process typically takes an hour. Cuts are made through the bikini line and the belly button, and doctors remove the outer layer of one ovary. The patient goes home the same day, Oktay said.

Then, the tissue is put through a freezing process that takes three to five hours before being stored in liquid nitrogen at a long-term tissue storage facility. The tissue can last for decades if needed, Oktay added.

Compared to other methods of fertility preservation, like egg freezing, ovarian cryopreservation has the advantage of scale.

During traditional fertility treatments, a combination of medications and procedures designed to stimulate the ovaries might yield approximately 10 or 15 eggs that are subsequently frozen, Oktay said. When those frozen eggs are retrieved, Oktay estimated, about 80-90 percent might survive; doctors might be able to fertilize three or four embryos, which may grow into one or two babies.

For Oktay, though, ovarian freezing could be a better solution. With ovarian tissue freezing, doctors can freeze and harvest portions of the outer ovary itself, which Oktay calculates could contain tens of thousands of eggs. By freezing and re-transplanting pieces of the ovary in the future, the process could scale up the number of potential, unfertilized eggs that women might have in reserve.

Like egg freezing, ovarian freezing can improve fertility, allowing people to become pregnant and have children at older ages. As of 2019, scientists have documented more than 130 live births after transplanting of cryopreserved ovarian tissue, and almost all patients recovered their ovarian function after the implantation procedure.

By delaying menopause, freezing the outer ovary could also help maintain natural hormonal function for longer and alleviate the symptoms associated with hormone changes during menopause.

Sometimes, more ovary transplants, Oktay said, could mean delaying menopause even longer.

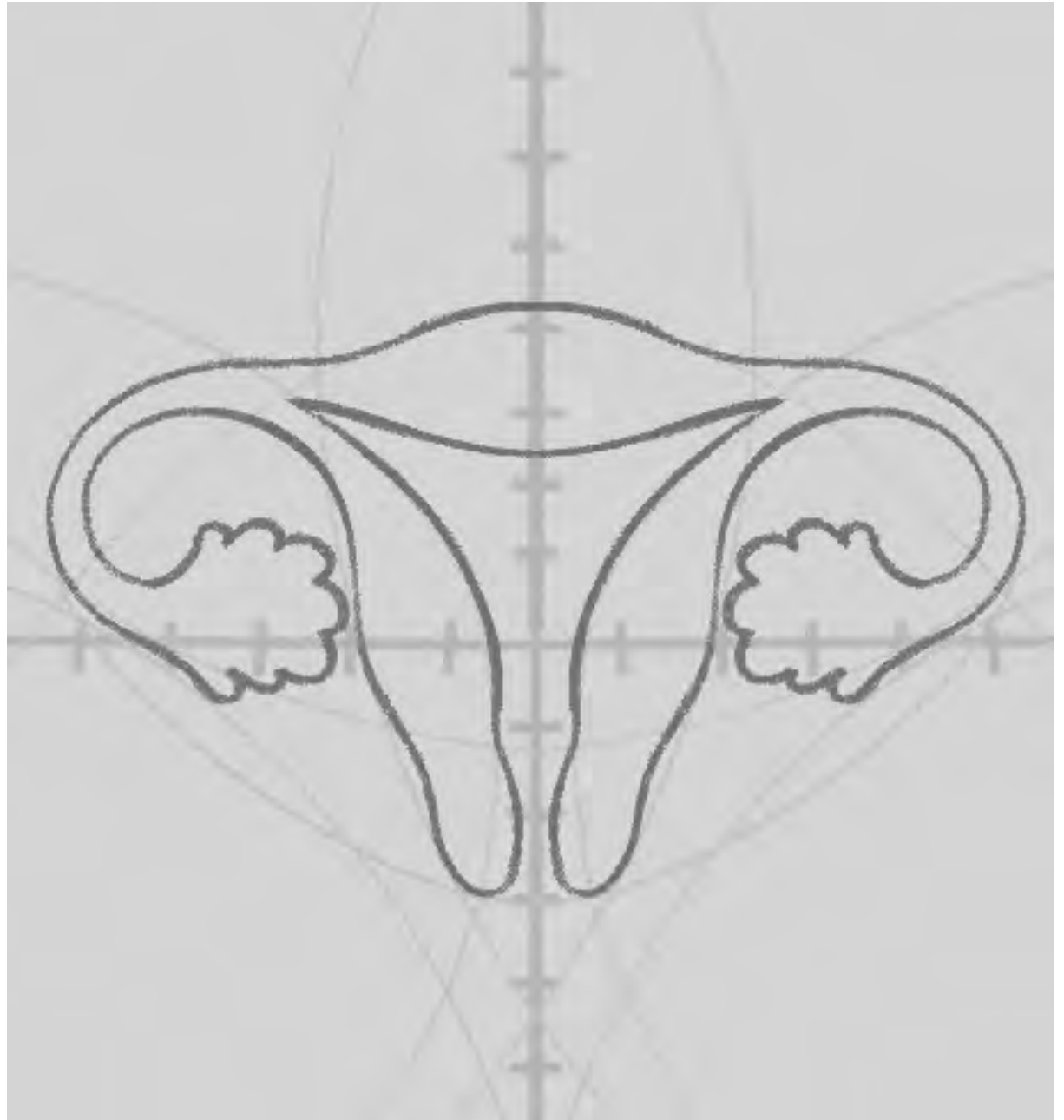
"If that [ovary tissue] starts running out, you can come back and put more tissues and extend [fertility for] 20 years," Oktay said. "So egg freezing is kind of a one-shot deal just for fertility. Ovarian freezing is to restore natural hormone production and, if desired, fertility for a protracted period of time."

A model to end menopause

Using data from previous research that counted a woman's egg reserves at different ages, Oktay designed his new mathematical model to predict how long — and how effectively — the surgery could delay menopause.

Based on the model, the researchers also developed an interactive online tool to calculate menopause delay, based on patient age, the amount of the outer ovary removed, and the number of ovarian follicles — the fluid-filled pockets in the ovary that release monthly egg cells during ovulation — that survive the freezing process.

Their research found that the amount of tissue removed during the procedure is tied to the amount of time menopause can be delayed. The more tissue a surgeon



MICHELLE FOLEY, ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

A technique to freeze and transplant portions of the ovary could prolong menopause indefinitely, helping women improve fertility and skirt symptoms. Some experts are dubious: just because scientists can prolong menopause, does that mean they should?

removes, the longer the procedure can delay menopause. However, if doctors remove too much tissue from the ovaries, it may result in early menopause.

Age was also a key factor, Oktay said. If patients undergo the ovarian freezing procedure before they turn forty, they typically get at least five years of menopause delay.

By transplanting back portions of the harvested, frozen ovary tissue over several procedures instead of all at once, menopause can be delayed even longer, the model indicated. Returning a third of the outer portion of the ovary at a time over three procedures delayed menopause longer than returning all the tissue through one surgery.

If younger patients undergo the procedure in combination with a split-up retransplantation process, menopause might not even be a consideration, Oktay said.

"If done before 30, or closer to mid-20s, and if you end up transplanting [the ovarian tissue back] in fractions, you may get 50 to 60 years in delay, which means the elimination of menopause," he told the News.

However, for Lubna Pal, the director of the menopause program at the Yale School of Medicine, that idea seems unrealistic in practice.

"In my mind, having your ovaries removed in your 20s so that you're planning to achieve a pregnancy in your 60s doesn't make sense to me," Pal said.

'Not just a mere academic exercise'

For Oktay, developing the model is about more than just mathematics. As a practicing reproductive endocrinologist, he sees patients every day facing health challenges related to menopause.

"It's also clinical for me. I've seen how severely my patients suffer from menopause complications," he said.

"This is not just a mere academic exercise," Oktay said. "There are 26 years on average a woman spends in menopause, which for many women is associated with significant health complications ... So far, nobody's addressed menopause directly. I foresee that in the next four to five years, this is going to become more mainstream. You could have it even sooner."

However, Minkin is more skept-

ical about the imminence of widespread cryopreservation. Without widespread insurance coverage, the is expensive. Insurance companies usually don't pay for elective procedures involving cryopreservation, Oktay said, but situations are sometimes decided on a case-by-case basis.

Oktay, however, insisted that insurance companies would recognize cryopreservation as a preventive treatment to minimize the rising cost of menopause symptoms and treatments. A 2023 study by the Mayo Clinic found that missed workdays because of menopause symptoms cost the U.S. economy \$1.8 billion in the previous year.

For now, though, the often uninsured cost of the procedure remains a sticking point. As is the procedure's invasiveness in women's bodies.

"I just don't see it happening," Minkin said. "Right now, for a fairly small amount of money, I can give people estrogen and progesterone, which are the hormones that the ovaries make primarily, for a heck of a lot less money than it's going to take to do these procedures."

The biological problem with ovarian cryopreservation, though, is an increased risk of cancer. According to Pal, extending exposure to natural reproductive hormones for longer time periods is linked with an increased risk of cancers, including breast and endometrial cancer. It's a process that happens during chronological aging, she said.

Since transplanting the frozen ovary tissue back into the body can restart natural hormone production for women, Pal is wary that the technique may have unintended consequences.

"What would it mean for that female?" Pal said. "It may be good for her bones, questionably better for cardiovascular health, but what about breast cancer risk? What about endometrial cancer risk?"

But that increased risk of cancer, Oktay pointed out, is also true for women undergoing more conventional menopause treatments like hormone replacement, in which patients take medication to replace declining estrogen levels in the body. Eleven percent of women also naturally experience late menopause after the age of 55, placing them at a higher risk for cancer,

regardless of therapy.

In his experience, the breast cancers linked to hormone replacement tend to be more "aggressive" than those associated with naturally late menopause, Oktay said. In the case of cryopreservation, which prompts the body to restart its own hormone production, Oktay believes the risks may be worthwhile.

"If you're going to take hormone replacement versus having late menopause, you'd rather have late menopause," Oktay told the News. "Women who take birth control pills also have increased breast cancer risk. But we still take them because the benefits outweigh the risks."

'Thoughtfulness, pause and responsibility'

Laura Bothwell, an ethicist and historian of public health at the School of Public Health, also pointed out "myriad" ethical dilemmas that the procedure poses. By delaying menopause symptoms, ovarian tissue cryopreservation could reduce premature morbidity and prolong periods of healthy living — outcomes that Bothwell considers to be "ethically valuable."

But she highlighted concerns that the procedure could shift the idea of menopause: altering it from a natural biological process to a medical problem that needs a fix.

"Interventions that fall outside the realm of healing maladies and instead pathologize what it means to be human and the normal human life cycle become ethically suspect," Bothwell said.

As a result, some experts said they believe that Oktay's work, while promising, needs a more careful look.

"It's tremendously interesting, intriguing, and exciting that people are looking into this," Pal said. "But the translation from science to clinical application requires tremendous thoughtfulness, pause and responsibility."

"This whole extending menopause is a brave new world," Taylor added. "I think it has tremendous possibilities, but again, has to be carefully studied."

Approximately 1.3 million women enter menopause per year in the United States, according to the NIH.

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SPORTS

Elis Prepare for Tilts with Colgate and Cornell



YALE ATHLETICS

The Elis currently sit tied for sixth in ECAC standings, but they are just five points behind a Colgate squad in third place.

M HOCKEY PREVIEW FROM PAGE

The Raiders are led by junior forward Ryan McGuire and senior Ross Mitton. Both have 24 points on the year and both scored against Yale in the November matchup.

After taking on Colgate this Friday, the Bulldogs will travel to Ithaca and suit up against a 12th-ranked Cornell (15-4-4, 10-4-2 ECAC) squad at 7 p.m. Yale played the Big Red tight at home in the Bulldogs' home debut but fell 3-1 in a thriller.

While Colgate comes into this weekend hot, so too does Cornell — they have secured the win in nine of their last 10 games. The Bulldogs will need to shut down senior forward Gabriel Seger who is averaging well over a point a game, and they will need to put a couple past Cornell's outstanding netminder Ian Shane.

A weekend road trip to upstate New York is always tough, and facing two streaking teams will make it no easier. However, Yale has found their stride in the last month, and they will look to keep

that momentum going this weekend with a heavy forecheck, sound defensive play and steady net-minding.

"We are finding ways to win close games which is huge," said Connors. "Our forecheck can be incredibly effective, and it showed in long stretches over the past few games."

The Elis currently sit tied for sixth in ECAC standings, but they are just five points behind a Colgate squad in third place.

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Yalies ready for indoor postseason

TRACK AND FIELD FROM PAGE 14

competition is better, but the light at the end of the tunnel is brighter. Some of the best performances of the entire year come out of HEPs, and it isn't a coincidence."

Both the men's and women's teams will head into "HEPs," short for heptagonals, which reflects the fact that in the original Ivy League Championships there were only seven teams, coming off performances filled with personal bests and all-time top-10 finishes.

On the men's side of events, Isiah Udofia '26 kicked the PR's off with a 7.38 meter leap in the long jump, putting him at sixth on Yale's all-time top performances. There were two more in the 60 meter dash, with Kit Colson '25 snagging fourth on Yale's all-time list with a finish of 6.80 seconds and Christian Pereira '25 taking seventh all-time with a time of 6.83 seconds.

In the middle distances, Colin Quinn '25 and Aaron Miller '25 performed similarly, finishing with PR's of 47.68 and 47.81 seconds to take fourth and sixth on Yale's all-time list, respectively.

In the longer distances, Martin Riddell '24 set a personal best with a 14:27 finish in the 5k, as did Leo Brewer '25, Jack Sendek '25 and Ronan Luff '27 in the mile with 4:03, 4:10 and 4:12 finishes, respectively. Sean Kay '24 also set a personal best in the 3k with an 8:06 finish good for 10th on Yale's all-time list.

"Laying down some solid marks before HEPs definitely

plays a role in boosting our confidence going into the big meet," Appel wrote to the News. "Knowing what we did well leading up to those big marks helps but so does having two weeks to taper our training so we can peak when we need to."

On the women's side of events, first-year Juliette Kosmont '27 broke a school record, running a 7.55 second 60 meter dash. She was the fourth first-year on the women's team to break a school record this season.

Meanwhile, in the mid-distance events, Molly Harding '26 set a PR in the 400 meter with a 57.41-second finish, and Lola Isom '27 set a PR in the 500 meter with a 1:16.45 finish.

In longer distances, Kylie Goldfarb '25 set a PR in the mile with a finish of 5:01.25, and Marina Carlos '26 finished with a PR in the 3k with a time of 10:41.68.

In the field events, Eileen Yang '24 tied her PR with a 3.85m vault, and Sophie Wright '24 set an 11.69m PR in the triple jump.

"The women had two competitive opportunities this weekend at the Valentine Invite in Boston and the Giegengack Invite at home at Coxe Cage," women's coach Taryn Sheehan wrote to the News. "It's not always ideal to split up your team but as we head into championship season it's imperative to make sure each of our athletes have the opportunities we need to be at their best. The competitive environments proved to be fruit-

ful on the women's side as we had another record-breaking weekend for the women led by Juliette Kosmont setting a new school record in the women's 60-meter dash with a time of 7.55."

With HEPs not taking place until Feb. 24 and 25, the Bulldogs will have a weekend off to train and prepare for the meet. This will be their first weekend off since Jan. 13 and 14.

Women's captain Isabella Bergloff '24 provided some insight as to her team's mindset and goals over these next two weeks.

"We put in a lot of work in the offseason and at the beginning of the season, there isn't much more we can change in the next two weeks aside from trusting that everything we've been doing will set us up for success," Bergloff wrote to the News. "We are going to work to maintain what we've been doing and really emphasize recovery, and use the atmosphere of a big meet to see some record performances to cap off our indoor season."

Following the Ivy League Indoor Championships, the Bulldogs will continue their indoor postseason at the ECAC/IC4A Championships at Boston University on March 1 through 3 followed by the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships at the TRACK at New Balance, also in Boston, on March 8 and 9.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs will continue their indoor postseason at the ECAC/IC4A Championships at Boston University.

Yale historic weekend?

M BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

ference's top defense by a wide margin through the first seven Ivy games of the season, boasting a kenpom.com defensive efficiency rating of 97.9, two points greater than Princeton, the next closest team. In particular, they lead the league — and are eighth nationally — in keeping teams off the offensive glass, with a 17.8 offensive rebounding percentage allowed.

Yale has also been extremely stout on the offensive interior, holding teams to a conference-leading 48.8 percent on 2-point shots — the only team in the league to boast a sub-50 percent figure in that category.

Where Yale stands to improve, however, is its perimeter defense. In the Ivy League, the Bulldogs rank fourth of eight teams in three-point shooting percentage allowed. Their season mark of 34.8 percent is 251st in the country and a regression from last season's 32.6.

If the Elis intend to make history Saturday night at Princeton, they'll have to clamp down on three-point shooting: The Tigers hit 32 of 76 threes — 42.1 percent — across three separate matchups vs Yale last year, and shot 39.4 percent against them two weeks ago.

Or, they could dare to follow last week's recipe for success against Cornell, in which Yale hit

just 3 of 14 threes to the Big Red's 10 of 25, but managed to come away with a two-point victory.

Penn, on Friday, is an easier matchup on paper. The Bulldogs enter as a five-point favorite and beat the Quakers 74-58 in a home matchup two weeks ago. Still, if the Bulldogs hope to make history, they'll have to learn from it first: last season, they lost an away game at Penn the night before playing Princeton, their only loss in an otherwise unbeaten two-month stretch. Princeton is the headline matchup, but the Elis must still bring their A-game to the Palestra on Friday night.

As it stands, Yale's 2016 team holds the record for the longest winning streak to begin an Ivy League season, at eight games. That year's team became the first in school history to make the NCAA tournament and then scored an upset victory over Baylor in the first round. Still, they are the only Yale team to ever make the second round of the tournament.

For the 2024 Bulldogs, this weekend is a chance to claim the first of those milestones, and in doing so, inch closer to the second one.

Friday night's game will tip off at 7 p.m. at the Palestra.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Friday night's game will tip off at 7 p.m. at the Palestra.

Bulldogs rally to surge over Cornell

W BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

The crucial game kept the Blue and White in the contest for the Ivy League tournament, as Brown and Penn, the two teams alongside Yale in the race for the fourth and final spot, both lost their games.

Head Coach Dalila Eshe told Yale Athletics that she was up-front with her team about the necessity of this win.

"We told the team, when you made the decision to be a Divi-

sion I athlete, you made the decision to embrace pressure," she said. "We told them this was a must-win game, on the road, which has been a bit of a monkey on our backs."

Continuing Ivy play, the Bulldogs return home to John J. Lee Amphitheater to face the Quakers on Friday for the second time and the Princeton Tigers on Saturday.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Bulldogs return home to John J. Lee Amphitheater to face the Quakers on Friday for the second time and the Princeton Tigers on Saturday.

NEWS

"I love you as certain dark things are to be loved, in secret, between the shadow and the soul."

PABLO NERUDA CHILEAN POET

Computer Science majors on the rise despite tech layoffs, questions over AI

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Artificial intelligence is not slowing down Yale's Computer Science department.

The department is expected to award 138 graduate degrees this year to its "pure" majors, up from 97 the previous year. Other majors under the department's umbrella, such as computer science and economics and computer science and math, are expected to increase as well. The spike comes amid national layoffs in the tech sector in 2023 and the start of 2024, as well as lingering questions about the future of traditional computer science roles due to the emergence of artificial intelligence technology.

"I personally don't think that we are anticipating much of a change for CS majors," computer science professor Brian Scasselati told the News. "The ways in which people program are certainly changing, but the need for programmers does not seem to be going away any time soon."

The number of computer science bachelor's degrees awarded at Yale has more than doubled in the last five years and more than quintupled in the last decade. Other degrees in the department, such as computer science and economics, computer science and mathematics and computing and the arts, have followed a similar trend.

New artificial intelligence technologies that have been recently released, including ChatGPT in 2022, as well as Microsoft's Copilot and Google Gemini in 2023, can automate typical programming tasks, such as code generation, debugging and algorithm optimization. In 2023, more than 260,000 tech employees were laid off by employers including Amazon, Google

and Apple. Layoffs have continued in 2024, while companies have also made investments into AI technology a priority.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an 11-percent decrease in employment opportunities for computer programmers over the next ten years, citing "automation" as a factor. However, software developers, who, according to the bureau, had a higher median pay in 2022 compared to programmers — \$124,200 vs \$97,800, respectively — are projected to see a 25-percent increase in employment opportunities.

Kyle Jensen, a Yale School of Management professor who teaches the course "Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence Models," wrote that Yale computer science majors should have no concern over job security.

"Maybe there's some diminished demand for grunt work, but this is not the kind of work Yale graduates do anyway," Jensen wrote. "If anything, the kind of education students receive at Yale is now more valuable because the CS student is relieved from a few details, freer to think about concepts and 'the big picture.'"

In a News survey of 36 Yale computer science majors, roughly two-thirds of all respondents indicated that they felt "just as" or "more" secure about their future career prospects given the advancements in AI and automation.

Alex Schapiro '26, a computer science major and the head of Yale CourseTable, said that he feels more secure about his career prospects in tech now than he did when ChatGPT first came out in 2022.

"If anything, I think there could be an expanded need for CS graduates because of all the new capabilities in the industry brought about by AI," Schapiro said. "Low-level programming positions might be at risk, but I don't feel particularly threatened at this point."



ELLIE PARK/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The department is expected to award 138 graduate degrees this year to its "pure" majors even amid massive tech layoffs.

But, Schapiro noted, it is still too early to tell exactly what kind of impact AI will have on the CS job market.

Among survey respondents, responses were more evenly distributed to a question asking how knowledgeable respondents felt about AI's current impact on the job market. Responses were spread almost evenly across a 1-5 scale of "no knowledge at all" to "very knowledgeable."

Richard Yang, director of undergraduate studies for the computer science major, agreed with these sentiments, adding that, if anything, the development of new AI technologies like ChatGPT have brought computer science further into the mainstream, attracting more prospective majors than they have turned away.

"I do not see CS majors at Yale slowing down, K. Sudhir, a School of Management professor said. "I pre-

dict the demand for CS grads will grow with the emergence of generative AI and other AI technologies ... The graduate may not be doing exactly the same work as they would have done before, but there will be significant demand growth for their talent."

Yale's Computer Science department was established in 1969.

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Yale's CSC contract is set to end in 2026. Is free laundry next?

BY NORA MOSES AND TRISTAN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTERS

In 2026, Yale's contract with CSC ServiceWorks is expected to terminate — a change that might mark a turning point in students' longstanding efforts to secure free laundry from the University.

CSC ServiceWorks is the laundry contracting service that is responsible for machine maintenance at Yale. Marisa Figueira, director of operations for the Yale College Dean's Office and Faculty of Arts and Sciences, told the News that in August 2026, when the University's contract with CSC is set to end, the University will begin the "request for proposal" process, where laundry vendors will present bids for a contract.

Free laundry may not come with a switch in contractors, but the switch opens up discussion for improving Yale's laundry systems, a central source of student ire, namely in terms of the cost of laundry and the cleanliness of laundry spaces.

"The termination of the CSC contract is a pretty big deal for us and gives us hope, but we worry that the new contractor might not bring free laundry," Emily Hettinger '26, a Yale College Council senator, wrote to the News.

Viktor Kagan '24, who is co-leading the laundry advocacy effort with Hettinger, wrote that, unlike Hettinger, "the ending does not signify a win to him." Both Hettinger and Kagan expressed disappointment that Pericles Lewis, the dean of Yale College, and the Yale College Dean's Office do not seem to be taking steps toward free laundry.

Lewis said that there are insufficient funds for free laundry. Instead, the termination of CSC's contract serves as "an opportunity for us to review how [CSC ServiceWorks] is doing and whether we want to make any changes," he said.

Lewis told the News that the financial aid package sent to students includes costs for unbilled expenses, which applies to laundry services.

At Yale, students pay \$1.50 for each laundry cycle, or \$3 to wash and dry a load of laundry. Figueira wrote that this cost is "below industry (and local laundromat) standards."

The cost of laundry has long been a source of student outcry, with YCC members negotiating with the Yale administration to change the policy for free and clean laundry for years. Many representatives have also included laundry policy changes in their platforms during past YCC elections.

Hettinger said that she has

ise anything because it's a fairly expensive investment on the part of the Dean's Office."

Lewis emphasized programs the YCCO is currently funding, including Yale College Community Care and subsidizing student formal ticket costs.

He did not explicitly rule out free laundry in the future.

"After extensive work, it has

laundry rooms, as well as the responsiveness of CSC.

Kagan also pointed out that Dartmouth College recently terminated their CSC contract and switched to free laundry last year amid similar complaints over cleanliness. Dartmouth chose to end its contract with CSC ServiceWorks early due to complaints from students living

dry users should submit service tickets when they see an issue, as there is "no concern" with creating multiple tickets.

"In partnership with the Director of Student Administrative Services, Yale College has worked with CSC to increase the frequency of preventative maintenance beyond the contract terms," Figueira wrote. "The



FAREED SALMON/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The University's contract with laundry service CSC ServiceWorks is set to end in 2026. Now the YCC duo in charge of Laundry Advocacy is planning to push for free laundry.

been at least the third YCC member to take on the laundry advocacy role which "in itself demonstrates how long and drawn out this fight for free laundry has been."

While Lewis said there are currently not enough funds for free laundry, he said that he will be evaluating funding now that the contract is ending.

"I don't have the funds available to do that now, but we'll be looking at the funding model when we consider renewal or switching the contract," Lewis said. "I don't want to prom-

become clear that the Dean is waiting for the YCC to forget about the progress on the issue and restart the progress made over the last three years," Kagan wrote. "Each year, we provide data, images, and testimony of the inequity of charging for laundry, especially when the contractor does not maintain its machines and they are filled with mold, destroy clothing, and do not function properly."

Student outcry around laundry on campus has not just been about costs, but it has also focused on the cleanliness of

on campus, ranging from failing machines to moldy washers, according to The Dartmouth.

Kagan said that the CSC laundry machines are "both an equity issue and a health one," writing that "the company disregards most, if not all, requests for support from students."

Figueira wrote that CSC's average response time is two days, but that the YCCO knows of instances when the response window was "significantly" outside that time frame and works with CSC to address the issue. She also emphasized that laun-

custodial team has also taken on additional support in the laundry rooms. They were already washing the floors and now also wiping down the machines."

CSC did not respond to a request for comment from the News.

Yale is one of three Ivy League universities — along with Harvard University and Cornell University — that does not offer free laundry services to students.

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NEWS

"To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides."

DAVID VISCOTT AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIST

Jewish community organizes vigil for Israeli hostages in Gaza

BY NORA MOSES
STAFF REPORTER

Last Friday, members of Yale's Jewish community set the table to honor the 136 Israeli hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza and heard from Yale community members directly affected by the war.

The demonstration, which took place on Cross Campus at noon, was organized by members of Yale's Jewish community but not associated with any particular organization. The gathering, which also included student speeches and readings of the testimonies of former hostages, was attended by around 60 students, faculty and New Haven residents. Two members of Yale Security were also present.

"[We] decided to organize this Shabbat table in solidarity with the hostages to raise awareness that after 126 days there are still 136 hostages being held in Gaza, away from their families and in harsh conditions," Eytan Israel '26, one of the organizers of the event, wrote to the News. "We hope that the wider community will stand with us as we mourn and stand in solidarity with the hostages."

During Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel, Hamas killed 1,200 people and took around 250 as hostages. Around 100 hostages were freed during a week-long ceasefire in November, and per reporting from the Associated Press on Feb. 12, Israel says Hamas continues to hold about 100 more hostages. Israel also says that Hamas is holding the remains of roughly 30 others who were either killed on Oct. 7 or died in captivity.

The event on Cross Campus featured a long table, where each chair had the photo and name of a hostage. The table was set for Shabbat, the Jewish religious observance that begins each Friday at sundown.

"If they were home in Israel right now, tonight they would be able to have Shabbat dinner with their families — something they haven't been able to do in months," said Sammy Rosenberg '26, another student organizer.

The speech began with an introduction from Israel, who spoke



ELLIE PARK/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

About 60 students, faculty and New Haven residents joined last Friday in an hour-long vigil for Israeli hostages still held in Gaza.

about the reasons for the demonstration. After him, Aaron Schorr '24 addressed the group.

Schorr spoke about his childhood friend Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a 23-year-old who was kidnapped by Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7, and his schoolmate and neighbor Aner Shapira, who was killed during Hamas' attack on the Nova music festival that same day.

"My speech at the rally was designed to get a simple message across: returning Hersh and 135 others to safety is not about poli-

tics; it is about humanity," Schorr said. "There are lots of political conversations that also need to be happening on this campus, but returning innocent people home should be a priority for anyone who claims to care about justice."

Organizers then read the names and ages of the 136 Israelis still held in Gaza, as well as readings of four testimonies from hostages who were returned to Israel of their experience in captivity. Between each of the testimonies, attendees sang Hebrew songs "of hope and peace," accord-

ing to Israel. The event finished with prayers for the hostages' safety and immediate return.

Mika Bardin '26 also spoke at the vigil about friends and relatives of hers who have been affected by the Oct. 7 attack. Bardin wrote to the News that she had not wanted to speak but felt it to be her obligation.

"I speak for my little cousins who watch bombs fly over [their] house, I speak for my grandparents who have devoted their lives as peace activists and still roll in their wheelchairs to every rally for

those kidnapped, and I speak for my dad who just finished his survey in Gaza," said Bardin. "I spoke for my friend Shani and her close friend Jonathan who was murdered and had his dead body kidnapped. I speak for those who can't so that the few passing by who choose to listen can hear their suffering."

Shabbat lasts from sundown on Friday until an hour after sundown on Saturday.

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Over 3,000 race in IRIS 'Run for Refugees and All Immigrants'

BY EMILY KHYM
STAFF REPORTER

In the annual Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services' Run for Refugees on Sunday, Feb. 11, 3,152 people joined in the 5K race. Ahead of the race, pro-Palestine protesters calling for a ceasefire in Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza interrupted Rep. Rosa DeLauro, cutting her speech short.

IRIS, a non-profit organization based in New Haven, has hosted the event annually to raise funds for its mission of supporting refugee resettlement and to raise awareness around the issue of refugee resettlement. IRIS raised \$168,547, nearly 130 percent more than their fundraising goal. Starting this year, IRIS changed the name of the event from the "Run for Refugees" to include "All Immigrants." On average, IRIS serves around 1,200 refugees and immigrants in New Haven.

"It doesn't matter what [government] papers you come with, we welcome you and we are going to try to help you as best as we can," Executive Director of IRIS Maggie Salem said.

Before the race, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker spoke about the vital role immigrants and refugees play in building New Haven's community. Elicker's speech was followed by a speech from Rep. Rosa DeLauro.

At the start of DeLauro's speech, she was interrupted by a group of pro-Palestine protesters who were standing alongside the finish line. Several of the protesters were holding Palestinian flags and calling for a ceasefire in the Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza, in which — as of Feb. 11 — Israel has killed over 28,100 Palestinians since Hamas' surprise attack against Israel on Oct. 7, in which Hamas killed about 1,200 people in Israel.

"There was a group of people who pulled out loud speakerphones and started protesting about how Representative DeLauro had not acted on the Israel-Hamas War," Steven Zhang '25, who was running in the race, told the News. "It lasted for around six to seven minutes ... eventually DeLauro ended up not finishing the speech, and the race coordinator signaled the start of the race."

Before the race, someone or some group distributed flyers with anti-immigrant hate speech along the race course, according to Salem. Wilbur Cross High School track and rugby teams ran along the race course to pick up these flyers before the race started, Salem said.

She added that Elicker and other participants who arrived early also helped to clean up the roads before the race started.

"[IRIS] is really a community," Salem said. "It is being at the hub of many villages in Connecticut and the nation to do something that is humane and right that is important."

Participants had the option to choose an in-person 5K around the East Rock neighborhood or a virtual one.

This year, 30 local organizations sponsored runners to participate in the 5k.

Some residential colleges and Yale organizations — such as the Asian Network — sponsored runners through a code that would allow runners to run for free.

"I joined the run because it was promoted in the Yale Club Running group chat," Sophie Price '25 said. "I was able to get a sponsorship from a residential college. I think it's a good cause and a way for Yale students to support a New Haven event."

For next year's run, IRIS hopes to move more deliberately into the virtual space to reach out nationally, Salem said.



KHUAN-YU HALL/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Before the annual 5K race on Sunday morning, organizers took down flyers with anti-immigrant hate speech placed around the course.

IRIS has also been supporting Welcome Corps — a nationally recognized organization that supports refugees. Salem and her team are working on expanding IRIS nationally through Welcome Corps and

said that they hope to extend the influence of the virtual 5k next year.

"I have been a participant of this race for the last eight years," Zhang, who is from New Haven, said. "It's a fun run for a good cause."

Jake Jayworth won this year's 5k with a time of 15:12.

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NEWS

“Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back.” PLATO
GREEK PHILOSOPHER

PROFILE: Meet Maytal Saltiel, Yale’s first Jewish University Chaplain

BY ADA PERLMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Saltiel became interested in religious communities while growing up in the Jewish community of Albany, New York, one of several places she grew up in. She was involved in a Jewish youth group, did Israeli folk dance and attended a Jewish summer camp. As the descendant of both Holocaust survivors and Sephardic Jews who survived the Spanish Inquisition, Saltiel said that the importance of inheritance is a key factor in her embrace of Judaism.

When Saltiel began her undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University, she became involved in her campus Hillel chapter.

“Hillel is where I first encountered pluralistic Judaism -- everything that comes with the intrafaith hard work of what it means to be together and build community. Interfaith work is hard, intrafaith work is harder,” she said. Saltiel noted that the community-building work she learned at Hopkins Hillel informs her chaplaincy today.

While at Hopkins, Saltiel also studied international relations and psychology. She was interested in diplomacy and peace-building work but said that she realized she did not want to be a politician.

“What really spoke to me was third track diplomacy of working with communities,” she said.

Around that time, she discovered the Hopkins Interfaith Center, where she met Sharon Kugler, who came to Yale in 2007 as the University chaplain and was the first woman and Roman Catholic individual to hold the position. Kugler mentored Saltiel during her time at Hopkins and later hired her to work in the Chaplain’s Office at Yale in 2013.

Kugler recalled hosting suppers at Hopkins where students would present about their faith traditions and said that Saltiel helped to run these events through the Interfaith Center.

“She was usually the first to arrive and the last to leave. She understood how to create a space that was hospitable and warm,” said Kugler. “What was clear to me was the heart she had for cre-

ating spaces for conversation and connection with people. She lit up when she was part of the programs that we were doing at Johns Hopkins.”

After determining she was interested in interfaith work and community chaplaincy, Saltiel taught 4th grade in the Bronx and worked at the Johns Hopkins Interfaith Center before continuing her education at Harvard Divinity School.

“Harvard is a very pluralistic divinity school. It was asking the questions I was interested in: How do we build communities across boundaries? How do we show up and support each other? How do we be authentically who we are?” she said of her decision to attend HDS.

In her time in divinity school, Saltiel traveled to India to do peace-building work, worked in Brown University’s chaplaincy and did hospital chaplaincy at the Yale-New Haven Hospital. Upon graduation, she worked as the Repair the World Coordinator at the Hillel at the University of Pennsylvania. At Penn, Saltiel also did interfaith work, taking a group of students to Rwanda as well as working with an organization of Black and Jewish students to travel to the American South to talk about the civil rights movement. In 2013, she came to Yale to work in the Chaplain’s Office.

History of the Chaplain’s Office at Yale

After the daily chapel requirement was lifted in 1926, Yale’s first chaplain, Elmore McKee, was hired in 1927. McKee was elected by a council of New Haven pastors to be the first full-time pastor of the Church of Christ at Yale University, as well as the University Chaplain. Since then, the chaplaincy has grown to accompany an influx of students of diverse religious backgrounds. Currently, there are seven chaplains at the Chaplain’s Office and over 25 people working on the Yale Religious Ministries council.

“I’ve always been the round peg in a square hole,” Saltiel said of becoming the first Jewish chaplain at a university where attending chapel was once compulsory.

Even within the Jewish community, Saltiel explained, she has not

taken the most conventional path to chaplaincy, as she chose not to go to rabbinical school.

Kugler recalled once meeting a group of men from the class of 1950 when she first came to Yale. Kugler said to them that she could only hope that chaplaincy could grow to reflect the world, which, Kugler said, is not only the white Protestant one that some previous chaplains represented.

“I could not be prouder of what Yale’s doing now with this next chapter of the University chaplaincy. Maytal being the first Jewish woman at the helm of this is powerful,” Kugler noted.

Saltiel said she felt humbled and said that she would not be here today without all of the people who came before her. She described herself as “standing on the shoulders of giants” and expressed pride at realizing the dreams of her ancestors.

Working in the Chaplain’s Office at Yale

Since coming to Yale in 2013, Saltiel has been known for her obsession with pink flamingos. In 2021, returning to campus during the pandemic, Saltiel said she remembered feeling like there needed to be more joy on campus. She blew up pink flamingos, tagged them with the phrase “Embrace whimsy, take me with you,” and spread them around Cross Campus.

“People took a pink flamingo and went to class at the law school or put them in their windows. I wanted people to understand that we need to be joyful creatures... There is so much more to your being,” she said.

The Chaplain’s Office is not only there for students in times of joy, but also in times of grief, she noted. Along with Muslim Chaplain Omer Bajwa, Saltiel co-taught a class on university chaplaincy at the Divinity School this fall -- one which Kugler pioneered. As they were teaching the course in the fall, both Muslim and Jewish communities in particular, they said, were experiencing a period of immense grief with the start of the Israel-Hamas War.

Bajwa said that in their class, he and Saltiel tried to create a strong sense of community while also



COURTESY OF MAYTAL SALTIEL

The News sat down with Maytal Saltiel, the first Jewish person in Yale’s history to serve as the University Chaplain, to discuss her new role.

responding to calls for help from every corner of the University.

In their work with students, the Chaplain’s Office facilitates an Interfaith Forum at Yale where Saltiel interacts with students weekly to build community across different faith identities. She emphasized the importance of welcoming strangers and seeing the “divine spark” in students “of all faiths or no faith.”

Saltiel described her approach to welcoming people who come into her office as treating them with “radical hospitality.” Her goal, she said, is always to make sure everyone feels welcome and comfortable.

Lydia Monk ’24, who has been attending the Interfaith Forum at Yale since her first year, described it as a thought-provoking environment.

“College is a really emotionally and experientially rich time, and IFFY is an intentional space to slow down and reflect. What I love most about IFFY is the time we spend in silence, just thinking together about the questions we ask each week. I love that IFFY is somewhat self-contained, while the reflections definitely leave with people, there’s not some goal of producing

something or trying to get anyone to respond,” she wrote to the News.

Stepping into the new role

After being at Yale for a decade, Saltiel has seen many eras of the Yale chaplaincy. She said that she aims to continue the chaplaincy’s work of accepting different faiths and growing its scope.

In terms of practical goals, Saltiel said she hopes to move the Chaplain’s Office out of the basement of Bingham Hall and into a bigger space that is more accessible to every member of the Yale community. Kugler and Bajwa also echoed this sentiment.

“I want our chaplaincy to continue to be nimble to the needs of the community. I want us to be a place that continues to love people exactly as they are,” she said. “Being a chaplain is about showing up and helping students find their voice. It’s about our community.”

The Chaplain’s Office is located in the basement of Bingham Hall Entryway D on Old Campus.

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Disruptive City Hall protest splits advocates of ceasefire resolution

BY YURII STASIUK AND ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTERS

A disruptive demonstration during Mayor Justin Elicker’s State of the City address last week underscored strategic disagreements among supporters of a resolution that would call for a ceasefire in Israel’s war against Hamas in Gaza -- even as the proposal’s prospects remain uncertain.

Many protesters in a crowd of over 100 derailed Elicker’s speech for 25 minutes with angry chants, overshadowing a nondisruptive plan by other activists, mainly associated with Jewish Voice for Peace, or JVP.

Members of a loosely defined coalition lobbying for the resolution met virtually last Wednesday and Thursday to discuss how to proceed after the chaos at City Hall, according to Henry Lowendorf, a JVP New Haven co-founder who chairs the Greater New Haven Peace Council.

By his account, which the News could not independently verify, most participants favored continuing to lobby alders in private, as opposed to the sort of antagonistic public pressure used during the State of the City.

“We have to deal with the Board of Alders as human beings,” Lowendorf said. “There’s a recognition that you cannot bully the Board of Alders, and you certainly cannot bully Tyisha Walker-Myers.”

Since the resolution was proposed in late November, Board president Walker-Myers has not assigned it to a committee -- which she has pledged to do -- leaving the effort at a standstill in the legislative process. She and other alders have met with supporters and opponents of the resolution. During the State of the City disruptions, Walker-Myers raised her voice in annoyance but also stayed after the meeting to hear activists out.

Chloe Miller LAW ’25, an organizer of the ceasefire coalition

who submitted the proposed text to the Board, declined to comment for this article.

On the night of Elicker’s speech, two groups of protesters attended the Board of Alders meeting to protest in support of the ceasefire resolution.

Around 20 JVP protesters, wearing matching shirts, gathered at the entrance to the Aldermanic Chambers. At the same time, a larger group gathered outside City Hall, led by organizers from Connecticut Democratic Socialists of America and the recently founded group Socialist Alternative New Haven.

Yet after the alders and attendees entered the chamber, two groups of protesters jointly filled the entire back of the room.

Over a half-hour into Elicker’s speech, a Yale first year associated with Socialist Alternative, who did not comment for this article, loudly asked Elicker if he “can oppose Israel’s massacre of Palestinians in Gaza” and support the ceasefire resolution, starting the 25-minute disruption.

Lowendorf said that he attended the State of the City to protest for a ceasefire resolution without disrupting the mayor’s speech. The JVP group planned only to sing before the meeting began, according to Lowendorf.

After the interruptions began, Lowendorf left the chamber, disappointed by what he saw as “an attempt not to promote a ceasefire resolution, and not to promote a coming-together of people, trying to unify people around some humanitarian issues, but rather an attempt simply to disrupt and project anger,” he said.

Twenty-one minutes into the disruption, JVP activist Zachary Herring ENV ’24, who had earlier spoken with Board President Tyisha Walker-Myers, got the room’s attention to call for greater unity.

“There’s more division that’s happening in this world; we



NYDIA DEL CARMEN, YTV EDITOR

Some activists pushing the Board of Alders for a Gaza ceasefire resolution disapprove of the disruption of the mayor’s State of the City speech.

need to be coming together. I can feel it in the air just in this room right now,” he said. When another protester began to interrupt, Herring begged, “Please listen to me. Please, please, I’m with y’all.”

After threats of arrests from police, the first-year activist asked protesters to “march out for Palestine,” saying in a megaphone that he did not want anyone to get arrested. While most DSA-affiliated protesters left the chamber, JVP activists stayed.

“Disrupting this proceeding is making me less likely to want to [support the resolution],” Ward 25 Alder Adam Marchand told a group of five protesters, with whom he had a long conversation.

Despite the chaos that night, several alders -- including Marchand,

Ward 19 Alder Kimberly Edwards and President Walker-Myers -- told the News that they had meaningful conversations that night and hoped for them to continue.

Activists hoping to win the city’s full endorsement of their ceasefire resolution face a considerable hurdle in Mayor Justin Elicker, who said after his speech that he did not support the resolution’s proposed text.

“I’m concerned about the use of the word ‘genocide,’ for example. I’m concerned about the word ‘ceasefire,’” Elicker said. “I think there’s a lot of language in it that is thoughtful, but we would have to allow the process to move forward.”

The Board usually passes its decisions unanimously, but the Israel-Hamas war risks splitting its 30 Democrats. It is yet unclear

whether the Board will find 16 votes needed to pass the resolution, let alone 20 to, per the New Haven charter, override Elicker’s potential veto.

Alder 26 Amy Marx told the News that a resolution about the war does not belong in the New Haven Board of Alders. Marchand and Edwards told the News that they would consider supporting the resolution, but not in its current form.

It is unclear whether activists are planning to disrupt future alder meetings.

The next full Board of Alders meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

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SPORTS

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YALE DAILY NEWS · FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024 · yaledailynews.com

“The atmosphere of HEPs is just, for lack of a better word, electric in the sense that everyone feels a different energy in the air. Some of the best performances of the entire year come out of HEPs, and it isn’t a coincidence.”

MATT APPEL '24 MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM CAPTAIN

M HOCKEY: Bulldogs suit up this weekend

BY TOMMY GANNON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men’s hockey team (10–13–1, 7–9–1 ECAC) will look to push their unbeaten streak to five when they square off against Colgate (11–13–4, 8–6–2 ECAC) on Friday night in Hamilton, NY. With the Bulldogs having dropped the first matchup against the Raiders 7–1 in early November, the team is using that as added motivation in a game already crucial for playoff standings.

“We definitely have a chip on our shoulder going into Friday because of the result from the last time we played Colgate,” said senior captain Reilly Connors '24. “It’s going to come down to executing our game plan, outworking them, and being relentless no matter what they throw at us; which I know our group is capable of.”

This past weekend, the Bulldogs completed a season sweep versus Brown – notching a 3–1 victory against the Bears at Ingalls Rink. It was Connors who got the scoring started for Yale as he potted his first tally of the season ten minutes into the game. For him,

the goal was definitely special, but the fact that it played such a big role in the team’s success was even more important.

“It felt great, yet the win setting in after the final horn felt even better,” Connors told the News. “We knew how big those three points were Friday night, so just happy we could come away with them.”

Sophomore forward David Chen '26 netted one in the second period – his team-leading ninth goal of the season – and senior Will Dineen '25 closed out the game with an empty net goal in the final minutes. Once again, goalie Jack Stark '27 played lights out, helping him secure ECAC Rookie of the Week. This is the third time the first-year Eli has received the honor.

When Yale suits up against the Raiders this Friday, they will need both Stark and the offense to have another solid performance. After all, Colgate has won six of their last eight games, and they are coming off a shootout win over RPI this past Saturday night.

SEE M HOCKEY PREVIEW PAGE 10



Yale will look to avenge two November losses against Colgate and Cornell as they cap their season series against both this upcoming weekend. **YALE ATHLETICS**

M BBALL: How Yale can make history this weekend



YALE ATHLETICS

A look at how Yale, perfect 7–0 in Ivy play, can claim the best start to a conference season in the team’s 128-year history.

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Yale, ahead of two road battles with Penn and Princeton, is playing for more than just league dominance this weekend. At a perfect 7–0 in Ivy play, they’re on the cusp of history.

A win over Penn (9–13, 1–6 Ivy) on Friday and Princeton (17–3, 5–2 Ivy) on Saturday night would elevate the Bulldogs to a 9–0 conference start, the best in the team’s 128-year history.

“I don’t see any bad right now,” head coach James Jones said after last week’s win over Cornell. “But what we have to understand as a team right now is that all those teams that we beat in this gym, we have to go beat them in their gym.”

The opportunity to rewrite the record books likely won’t serve as extra motivation for the Bulldogs – even faced with the prospect of playing Princeton in their home court, where their Ivy League tournament aspirations were cut short last season, they will aim to tackle this weekend’s matchups with an “any other game” mentality.

Still, clinching two wins this weekend would be a symbolic testament to the strength of this year’s team, and signal a positive momentum ahead of the Elis’ March Madness aspirations.

Almost as remarkable as the team’s nine-game win streak, though, is the road they’ve taken to get there.

Back in November, the News highlighted Yale’s uncharacter-

istically poor defense through the team’s first seven games, especially their rebounding and interior presence. At the time, the worst was still yet to come: their next two games, back-to-back losses against Vermont and Fairfield in early December, brought the Bulldogs to a 5–5 record and led Jones to say, “We are not playing Yale basketball, and we’re not where we need to be.”

But since then, Jones’ squad has flipped the script defensively, a feat that’s been the driving force behind his team’s success. Yale has won 11 of their last 12 games since losing to Fairfield on Dec. 6, the only loss coming on the road against nationally ranked Kansas.

In the Ivy League especially, the Bulldogs have been the con-

SEE M BASKETBALL PAGE 10

T&F: Yale wraps up indoor regular season



COURTESY OF RENA HEDEMAN

This weekend, the Yale’s men’s and women’s track and field teams split up between Boston and New Haven.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

On Saturday, Yale’s men’s and women’s track and field teams rounded off their indoor regular season split between two meets. Some members of the team shipped up to Boston to compete in Boston University’s David Hemery Valentine Invitational, while the rest of the team stayed put in New Haven for Yale’s Giegengack Invitational.

This was the team’s fifth and final weekend of the indoor regular season. The team’s first meet took place in New Haven in early December, and the remaining four meets picked up where they left off in New Haven four weekends ago and continued without a break. After facing a mix of

Connecticut and Ivy League opponents early in the season, the team has spent the past three weekends splitting up between Boston, New Haven and New York to find the best competition available. However, when they tie up their laces next time around, the field will be much narrower at the Ivy League Indoor Track and Field Championships in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

“The atmosphere of HEPs is just, for lack of a better word, electric in the sense that everyone feels a different energy in the air,” men’s team captain Matt Appel '24 wrote to the News, speaking of the Ivy League Heptagonal Cross Country Championships. “The stakes are higher, the

SEE TRACK AND FIELD PAGE 10

W BBALL: Bulldogs victorious over Cornell

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women’s basketball team (6–15, 3–5 Ivy) extended their win streak to two with a victory over Cornell University (7–13, 1–7 Ivy) this past weekend.

The weekend prior, the Bulldogs defeated the University of Pennsylvania Quakers (11–10, 3–5 Ivy), 74–68, after forcing an overtime. They rolled into Ithaca, NY confident, especially given that Cornell dropped their previous game to Harvard (13–8, 6–2 Ivy), 52–63. This game was the first time this season that the Bulldogs and the Big Red battled.

The first quarter began with the Big Red winning the tip-off, though holding possession for no time at all before Nyla

McGill '25 stole the ball and passed to Brenna McDonald '24. Although Cornell jumped to a five-point lead early in the first quarter, a three-pointer by Kiley Capstraw '26 and a jumper by McGill tied the game up at 5:59. From there, the Bulldogs and the Big Red fought back and forth for the lead, but eventually met up in a tie going into the second.

In the second, the Bulldogs retaliated against one another with points on either side. Soon, however, Yale broke away from the back-and-forth when Mackenzie Egger '25 and Jenna Clark '24 shot for seven consecutive points. The Bulldogs ran off the court at the half, leading 27–20.

After the half, the gap widened as the Blue and White

increased their lead by as much as 12 points in the third quarter. Turnovers proved fatal for Cornell, which relinquished the ball into the hands of Yale’s top scorers, who capitalized almost every single time. Toward the end of the quarter, it looked as though Cornell was gaining traction, shooting two jumpers and a layup in a row to close the gap to six points. Just as the time dwindled to one second, McGill drove for a layup to take back the momentum. Going into the fourth, the Bulldogs led 46–38.

The last quarter of the game continued Yale’s momentum, with the Bulldogs ahead by no fewer than four points. Yale bested Cornell 66–59.

SEE W BASKETBALL PAGE 10



ZOE BERG, SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The women’s basketball team surged over Cornell with their second straight victory, 66–59.

STAT OF THE WEEK **0.444%**

THREE-POINT PERCENTAGE FOR JOHN POULAKIDAS '24, BEST ON THE YALE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM.

OPEN TABS: Death of the “Woman in STEM”



// BY NORA RANSIBRAHMANAKUL

I've felt guilty ever since I dropped my engineering major.

I've been involved in the STEM world since middle school. I still can't speak about science without romanticizing it. What was promised to me was the world — from the fossils underground to the furthest galaxies — and coming to understand it if I could look hard enough. Scientists and technologists embrace their roles as a mighty, ever-expanding search for knowledge. I wanted to be at the frontier of something important.

When I started to get my hands dirty with competitions and projects, I saw how science inspired my teammates. In philosophy, an agent is someone with the ability to act, and the exercising of that ability. When done correctly, I saw that science is one of the most accessible ways to make people believe they are agents. Science empowers. When you hand a kid a bottle rocket or telescope, they believe they'll make it to space one day.

STEM fields (especially engineering and applied sciences) have a retention problem when it comes to women and gender minorities. The lack of parity can be seen in youth STEM programs, graduate schools and retention rates of women taking on STEM as a career, even though some progress has been made in recent decades. This is why DEI and immersion programs exist: to open up pathways into fields that have historically kept many groups out.

To be one of the only women in those rooms is hard. I am grateful I didn't experience discrimination or rid-

icule because of my identity (and I'm not sure how I would have handled that) but it's a much more subtle experience that persists.

When you're the only girl, nobody mentions it out loud. But every time I was in that situation, I noticed that I was the only one. It was the feeling that people didn't expect your presence, or that you had to make friends differently than everyone else. It was the frustration of having less technical knowledge. The onus is on you to prove that you're just as good, and having to catch up if you aren't.

There's the pressure to not expect special treatment, but also the nagging feeling you might have needed it. To be the only girl in the room is to represent all the others who aren't there. I wanted to prove that I — we — didn't need special awards for making it this far, because I had always been capable to begin with.

Especially once you're immersed in that world, constant messaging promotes STEM to girls as difficult, practical and praise-worthy. When you are a “Woman in STEM” you become a “trailblazer,” a “glass-ceiling-breaker,” an advocate, and a role model for the kids who will follow in your footsteps.

The more involved I got with STEM, and the more I came to care about the people involved with it, the more attached I became to these responsibilities. I decided that I wanted to become an engineer because I wanted to solve problems. Most of all, I loved introducing other people to it and seeing them make their first models and machines.

As much as I could speak about fascinating ideas, I struggled to get excited about the real work. I loved the idea of STEM and the challenge that came with it. I grav-

itated closer to people, but further from the content in my textbooks. Eventually, I chose to break away entirely.

The unintended consequence of the “Women in STEM” narrative is unwittingly comparing them to the women doing everything else. Where DEI messaging can slip up is praising STEM as the most challenging and important path. I earned respect for “choosing” the STEM path because it is painted as the superior one.

I still haven't figured out how to explain this trajectory. Did I burn out of STEM, or was I going down the wrong path in the first place? Was this just the patriarchy getting to me? Was I just scared that I couldn't cut it? Even now, I'm hesitant to fully renounce the sciences in case I have a change of heart and decide to return.

I think much of my hesitation comes from matters of self-image. I feared that people would respect me less if I decided to shed the whole “Woman in STEM” thing. That's how I knew something was wrong with my approach to it.

I don't regret any of my STEM pursuits. What I wish someone had told me is that there are other ways to seek understanding and push boundaries. Being the only girl in the room is hard, but it's even harder to know that and still walk out the door.

There should be more types of all types of people in STEM. How can we make that happen, for the right reasons? I want a bright future for the women in STEM — not because they have something to prove, but because they chose it for themselves.

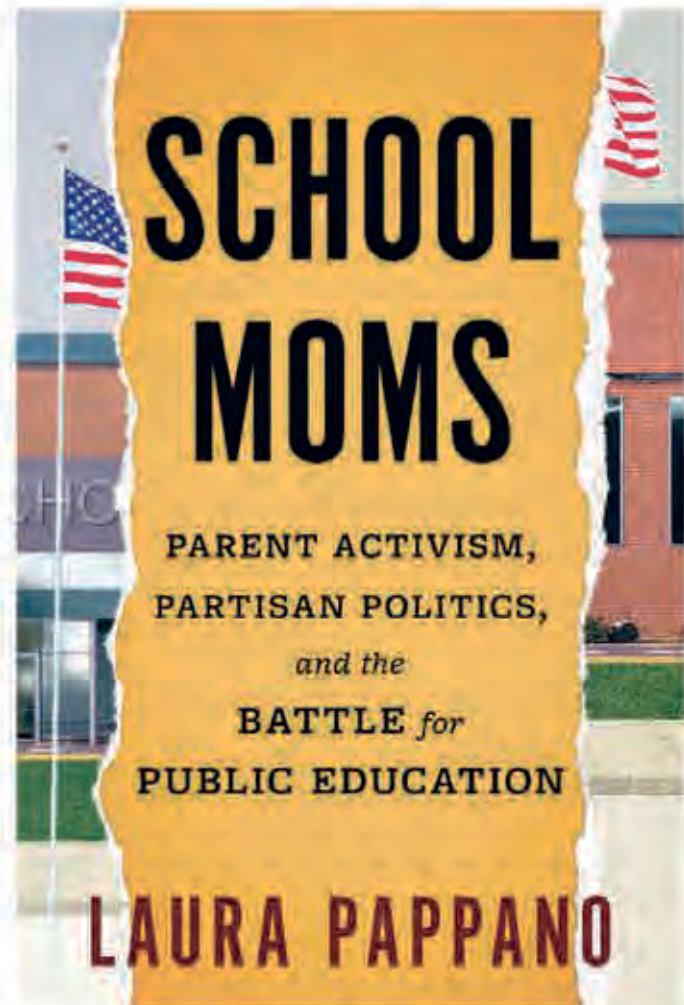
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Gale News

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

WEEKEND

Jonathan Edwards Head of College Tea



Laura Pappano in conversation with Peg Oliveira

Confronting the Culture Wars: The Battle for Public Schools

Around the country, public schools —those communal non-partisan gathering spaces — are facing politically-motivated attacks from the far-right. On the ground, parents — particularly "school moms" — are pushing back, drawing on the powerful but often invisible skills mothers have long brought to the public education sphere. Pappano shares on-the-ground reporting from hot spots around the country, and Oliviera offers an inside look at the challenges within school communities.

February 22
JE Head of College House
4:00 pm Tea
4:30pm Conversation

A Guide to Online Thrifting

Looking Expensive ... for Cheap

// BY MADDIE BUTCHKO

"If I can't feel good, at least I can look good." I've let this statement guide me towards a fashion obsession.

During the winter of my junior year of college, I began to have a lot of difficulties with my health and stress, making getting out of bed and starting my day anxiety-inducing and overwhelming. Getting out of bed meant confronting a day full of pain and distress that all felt out of my control.

Each morning my table-side mirror reflected an exhausted, drained and weary face. One morning, staring into my own teary eyes, I finally laughed to myself, professing: "If I can't feel good, at least I can look good." This felt light — a moment of happiness in the middle of a crisis. Although I could not control most aspects of my long taxing day, the process of getting ready became the one part of my day that I could control.

With this new change in style came a new attitude of positivity and ownership over aspects of my life that I could control. This was my new form of therapy ... pardon me, retail therapy.

Although my new affinity for floral dresses was unlimited, my budget was limited. I ended up looking into a lot of online thrifting options, which is a great way to get into new styles and get access to high-quality clothing at more affordable prices. And now, most of my clothing is second-hand. Not only is investing in second-hand options financially beneficial, but it also is sustainable to continue reusing items. And, there is no greater adrenaline rush than buying your favorite clothing article at 80 percent off.

1. TheRealReal

TheRealReal is an online thrifting website for designed clothing and items. TheRealReal was my favorite obsession for over a year, supplying me with stellar deals on high-end dresses. For the longest time, I have wanted a dress from my all-time favorite brand Reformation: a high-end sustainable women's clothing brand. The dresses highlight femininity, floral patterns

and flattering silhouettes. Although all of the patterns are my ideal style wrapped into one, these dresses are all around \$275, which is steep for any sundress.

This is where TheRealReal takes the spotlight; It sells second hand clothing at a huge discount, depending on the sales. I have bought numerous highly discounted Reformation dresses through TheRealReal by waiting for 75 percent off sales. The only downside is you have to pay for shipping and tax. Shipping is about \$12.95, and with tax, the additional pay is about \$20.

On TheRealReal, there are a lot of clothing and accessory options, so it can be hard to just browse. I recommend searching for clothing from specific brands to narrow the search queue. You can also filter your search based on color, size, sale and pricing. I typically put my search range on prices "low to high" and for items that are on sale. Items will go up to 75 percent to 80 percent off, which is a steal for any designer clothing that is often incredibly inaccessible with its absorbent pricing.

Buying from TheRealReal can be a bit of a gamble because you cannot try on the items. There are some TheRealReal locations, but they are not close to New Haven. So, my shopping is completely online, meaning I have to guess the fit. I highly suggest getting a tape measure to know your sizing.

Overall, TheRealReal is a great option to access designer clothing that is still in great wearable condition. I highly recommend this if there are specific high-end brands you like.

2. Facebook Groups

Be sure to join the Yale Facebook groups where people sell their items. You can ask another Yale to add you to the Facebook group or you can request to join. The only parameter with joining is that you must be a Yale student or affiliate. The Yale "Free and for Sale" and "Yale Clothing Swap" are both Facebook groups that I have gotten a lot of my clothes from. Both undergraduates and graduate students can post on these Facebook groups. Many people



// MELANY PEREZ

sell their items with a massive discount because they are moving or just trying to clean out their closets. To buy an item, you just message the seller. Be sure to try negotiating the price because a lot of times the prices are not fixed and the seller is flexible.

The "Free and for Sale" group sells a multitude of miscellaneous items, not just clothing.

If you are looking for something specific, you can create a discussion post in the group. Facebook is no guarantee to find specific types of clothing, but from time to time, there can be great deals.

Some of the best items I have bought are trench coats. I bought my winter wool trench coats from another student off of Facebook. I have bought quite a few name-brand items that I continue to wear even now! I have also bought quite a few pants, including name-brand jeans and professional pants. The pants and shirts that I bought were all around \$5-15. Usually, I try to buy or negotiate everything to be under \$20. And, the trench coats and outerwear I bought were around \$40.

Although I have bought quite a few items that I am satisfied with, I also have my fair share of regretted purchases. When I first started buying clothing on Facebook, I was too shy to negotiate and I would struggle to say no. I learned that it never hurts to ask! And, I learned how to walk away from

items that I did not need, would not use frequently, or did not like.

A lot of the finding clothing on Facebook groups is luck as well as hit or miss, depending on what people are selling. With buying things on Facebook, you have to remember to check often to see if there are any new listings. I often do a very quick scroll through these groups to see what kind of clothes people are selling. I highly recommend checking the groups at the end of the semester when everyone is moving out.

3. Depop

Depop is an online thrifting site where you can buy clothes from other sellers and you can sell clothes as well. I have not been able to find as many deals on Depop as compared to Facebook and TheRealReal.

I usually only buy name-brand items from Depop or very specific items, such as vintage Yale merch.

A lot of people sell used clothing that is still quite close to the retail price. You can get a lot of items 25 percent-50 percent off the original price tag, but it is much harder to get a steep discount like 80 percent off. To buy on Depop, you can message the seller, and you can make an offer to the seller. When you make an offer, you can take a maximum of 45 percent off the price listed by the seller. You can still get pretty decent deals on Depop, and it just depends on what you are getting. A lot of the pricing is about messaging and negotiating with the seller. I think Depop is the best place to find niche and specific items.

Clothing is not only a part of our literal outward appearance, but it also is a part of how we feel about ourselves. Second-hand clothing is a wonderful option with accessible prices and options.

While I still have overwhelming and difficult mornings, I know I can still take that time in the morning to wear one of my favorite dresses. And, hopefully, I will feel as good as I look.

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REVIEW: Laura Palmer's Close-Up in "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me"

// BY IDONE RHODES

Spoilers ahead... if you aren't familiar with a TV series that came out in the 1990s...

Last Sunday, I drove home to Boston to see a 35mm screening of David Lynch's "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me" — released in 1992 — at the Brattle Theater in Harvard Square. I settled into my endearingly lumpy seat, and the film began with a woman's scream and a television smashed with a pipe...

Just over 30 minutes into the film, the iconic "Welcome to Twin Peaks" sign appears on screen, with Angelo Badalamenti's hypnotizing theme song accompanying — an indication to any Twin Peaks fan that they are entering a familiarly strange and disturbing world. But this Twin Peaks is different from the world of the show; Laura Palmer (Sheryl Lee), whose mysterious death animates the television series, is still alive.

She walks down the street of an idyllic neighborhood, her skin dappled with sunlight streaming through the tree branches. She is contemplative, preoccupied, but a smile dances across her face nevertheless. 17 years old with a mane of blonde hair and her school books in her arms, she is the picture of innocence. It is tempting to stop the movie here, to allow ourselves to believe that Laura is merely thinking about a crush or appreciating the weather. Instead, the film goes on, and the nightmarish lead-up to Laura's death unfolds.

The beginning of Laura's long list of admirers quickly presents itself: James

Hurley (James Marshall), the brooding but earnest secret lover; Bobby Briggs (Dana Ashbrook), the goonish boyfriend whom Laura uses for cocaine and sex; Donna Hayward (Moirra Kelly), her naive best friend; and Harold Smith (Lenny Von Dohlen), a recluse. Laura is beloved, and she knows it. She drifts from one person to the next, sucking their attention and love with a vampiric mania. She shifts seamlessly from sickly sweet to mortally terrified to dangerously manipulative. She wreaks havoc on those around her to distract from the terror in her own life, as a means of gaining some control over her otherwise violated existence, violently fractured by an evil force called Bob (Frank Silva) who has been sexually abusing her since she was 12.

At night, Laura lives a secret life — heading into the woods with Bobby to score cocaine and murdering someone in the process, doing drugs and working as a prostitute at the local Bang Bang Bar, or sneaking off to meet men at a cabin in the woods, an act which will ultimately lead to her death. Under the neon lights of the bar or in the glaringly bright light of day, Laura's demons follow her.

As the film progresses, linearity is abandoned, and the division between the "real world" — if such a thing exists in this movie — and the dreamscape of Laura's nightmares evaporates. It becomes impossible to predict where the next scene will take us as the preceding one fades out. Laura's face anchors the transitions. Sheryl Lee delivers one of the most heartbreaking performances I have seen in recent memory. With each widening

of her eyes or tear slipping down her cheek, she embodies the abject terror of a young woman forced to witness her own demise. In the hands of a less skilled actress, Laura's humanity might become secondary to the dizzying visuals and bizarre narrative movement of this film, but Lee ensures that Laura remains the beating heart of this film.

The Palmer House becomes a house of horrors for our protagonist. As cinematographer Ron Garcia's camera roams through the house from Laura's point of view, each corner turned and door opened promises a new terrifying reality. There is nowhere safe for Laura to go, even in the light of day. The most terrifying scenes of "Fire Walk with Me" take place at the Palmer's dinner table. What starts as a normal conversation between a father and an uninterested teenager quickly verges into violent territory as Leland (Ray Wise), Laura's father, catches sight of Laura's half of a heart-shaped friendship necklace. He crosses the table, grabbing the necklace from her chest. "Did you get this from your lover?" he demands. She stares back at him, her eyes wide and glistening in fear. Her hands shake and her mouth frowns in pain as he grabs her cheek with his thumb, a gesture of affection escalated to inflict pain. She sobs silently at the dinner table. There is no one in the world to protect Laura; she is completely alone. This scene — like any between Laura and her father — is particularly disturbing to watch with the knowledge that Leland is Bob. The man terrorizing her and sending her down a path of destruction has been inside her house all along. For viewers of the television show, this is no revelation. But for Laura, the tragic dis-

covery trickles in slowly, delivered in puzzle pieces she initially tries to reject.

By virtue of the film's departure from a coherent structure and its startling diversions into the surreal, the two-hour-plus runtime wears on the audience. Certain scenes feel almost gratuitous, like when a white horse briefly appears and vanishes in Laura's mother's bedroom for no discernible reason. As a result, the pacing falters in the last third of the film. The film also starts with a digression into the murder of Teresa Banks and only reaches Twin Peaks proper half an hour into the film. And for those unacquainted with the television show, the film wouldn't make sense. "Fire Walk with Me" is a thematically and stylistically challenging film targeted at a very specific audience. Unsurprisingly, it was met with negative reviews when it was first released in the early 1990s and has only come to be critically appreciated decades since.

As with any David Lynch film, this movie offers few answers. Leland kills Laura, wrapping her in plastic and setting her adrift. But the last we see of Laura is in the Black Lodge, an inexplicable metaphysical space that figures prominently in every iteration of "Twin Peaks." The music swells, and a white light flashes across Laura's face. She begins to laugh and cry simultaneously. An angel arrives to offer her absolution. She is free, or so an audience who has watched her suffer and completely lose herself must believe.

"Your Laura disappeared," she tells James on the night of her death. "It's just me now?"

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WKND Recommends

1981 editions of your favorite magazine.

The (second annual) official list of winners and losers from Super Bowl Sunday at Yale

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

Your favorite annual YDN piece is back. You already know that Taylor Swift's boyfriend and his pals won the big game, Patrick Mahomes is already one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time and the 49ers came up just short once again. And just like last year, Yale Dining was a massive winner with their wings and nachos, and the gambling addiction helpline was a big loser, as I listened to 53 bets on whether the next play was going right or left. But, beyond the obvious, who else's stock is trending up or down after the game?

Winner: Leyli Granmayeh '25's chocolate strawberries

I thought I was too full to eat more after taking down about 12 wings in the JE dining hall, but if you're at a Super Bowl party and you don't try the chocolate strawberries with the vanilla drizzle to make a football pattern, you don't deserve to write a winners and losers column. And boy am I glad I did. Leyli struck just the right balance between chocolate and strawberry, allowing the desserts to just melt in my mouth. 10/10 work from a budding culinary superstar.

Loser: Me

From scheduling a tutoring session from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Super Bowl Sunday to planning on doing readings after the game to incorrectly guessing the score for my econ betting pool, it was just a poor all-around showing. And to add insult to injury, I annoyed everyone within a ten-yard vicinity by singing the chorus to Usher's "Yeah!" on loop for the entire second half.

Winner: Mecole Hardman and the Chiefs' receivers

After spending a season getting memed for dropping passes that "I could have caught" — I would get snapped in half if I stepped on a football field — and ridiculed as the worst receiving corps in the league, the Chiefs receivers showed up when it mattered most. Hardman, specifically, caught both the longest pass of the night and the overtime game winner.

Loser: MAGA Republicans

MAGA was rooting for the notable Republican hotbed city of — let me check my notes — San Francisco. Pfizer man Travis Kelce played well and there were plenty of cutaways to T-Swizzle. The "psy-ops" for the 2024 election are in full effect. The children saw pole dancing during the half-

time show. Bud Light's stock has rebounded. Score one for the liberals.

Winner: Conspiracy Theorists
See above.

Loser: Jauan Jennings

Jennings, the 49ers' third receiver, threw the game's first touchdown, caught the 49ers only other score and made several key plays. By all accounts, he should qualify as a winner. But to come so close to securing the most unexpected Super Bowl MVP in history, just for his team to lose in the last few minutes, is tough.

Winner: Nickelodeon broadcast

I didn't watch it, but based on the clips I've seen, I probably should have. The broadcast featured a grumpy Squidward waiting in line for the bathroom, Dora explaining the rules, Plankton trying to destroy the field and Patrick Star suggesting that Christian McCaffrey should try to hold onto the ball. No doubt, it would have made the first half infinitely more watchable.

Loser: 9:00 a.m. class attendance and participation

We were missing six people in my Monday 9:00 a.m., and our knowledge of the

John Birch Society felt limited, even after we each surely did all the readings.

Winner and Loser: Everyone in the half-time show — except Lil John

Lil John moshing with the crowd is a pure win in my book. Usher's rollerblading ability and costume changes qualify for winner status, but caressing a married Alicia Keys and having a less recognizable discography than I anticipated is loser behavior. Alicia Keys' outfit was a win, but her vocals were not, I fear. Every other performer notched a win for making it onstage at the Super Bowl, but a loss for being unrecognizable to 95% of America.

Probably a loser, but honestly just confusing: Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s campaign ad

We're talking about it, which counts for something. However, in addition to it being a strange and pretty annoying ad, his cousin, Bobby Shriver, denounced the ad as a desecration of their uncles' legacies. And then RFK, who still has the ad pinned on his social media accounts, denied any involvement with its creation. It was a true litmus test of whether all press is good press.

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Sweetest Spots Around New Haven

My favorite places for dessert and anything with sugar

// BY MADDIE BUTCHKO

"Is that your breakfast?"

Olivia's eyes traveled right to the stack of nine cookies and three heaping scoops of ice cream topped with a generous serving of crushed Oreos. While Olivia's breakfast plate was adorned with eggs and hashbrowns, mine looked like the residence of a euphoric sugar plum fairy.

I had no concept of insulin, cholesterol or anything green. This was what my meal typically looked like when I was a first year. I emphasize as a first year to exemplify my maturation to only taking three cookies at dinner now. I still reason that my massive sweet tooth fuels my sweet personality ... or it could just be fueling my progressive sugar addiction.

As someone who used to consume sugar as the entirety of my meal, I have had just about every dessert around New Haven, with some tasting as bland as our dining hall chicken and others tasting so good they could almost cure my depression. Here is my take on top dessert places around Yale.

Listed in no particular order.

1. T-Swirl

T-Swirl has Japanese crepes that are filled with fruit, custard and other toppings that you can choose from. The crepes are made with rice flour, which gives them a slight crunch. And, this means the crepes are fully gluten-free, and they can be dairy-free — just don't add custard. I love the fresh fruit combined with a touch of creamy richness from the custard, all wrapped inside the thin crepe which has a little crunch.

There are many combinations of crepes that you can get, including the possibility of making your own. My go-to crepe is the "Wild Berries", which has sliced strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, custard cream, whipped yogurt, chocolate pearls and granola. This is a

lighter dessert option that gives freshness with a touch of sweetness!

2. Arethusa

Arethusa is a New Haven staple and it is my favorite ice cream place. I love the luxurious richness of the ice cream and the creaminess. Arethusa has wholesale flavors, which don't change, and they have seasonal flavors. My favorite wholesale flavor is strawberry.

Aside from the wholesale flavors, they also have a selection of seasonal flavors. From here, I like the pistachio and pumpkin with ginger molasses cookies. I have yet to try the peach though! Bonus: they also sell other products, like milk, cheese and yogurt. I also recommend trying some of their cheeses!

3. Pistachio Cafe

Pistachio Cafe has two locations, but I recommend going to the original location on Whalley Avenue, which is beautifully decorated. Many of the desserts have a Middle Eastern fusion, such as their wide variety of baklava, halva, Turkish delights, and Barazik. They also have a collection of decadent cakes, ranging from limoncello mascarpone to tora nocciola with praline and hazelnuts. Overall, I recommend trying their classic pistachio cake!

4. G Cafe

G cafe has three locations, but I most recommend going to the Ninth Square location on Orange Street. During my first year — with COVID-19 —, my friend Marley and I would sit on the bright red leather seats, drinking tea and eating croissants as our Friday morning ritual.

I have had quite a few of G cafe's pastries, including their financier, pain au Chocolat, croissant, flourless chocolate tart, brownie, carrot cake, almond croissant and the cronut. My least favorite was the carrot cake, which I don't think they sell anymore. Out of all the baked goods, I would most recommend

the cronut and their bread. Aside from the sweets, you can buy a loaf of bread for about \$8. My favorite bread was the Josephine, which is a classic sourdough. I used to buy a loaf of bread from here each week when I lived off campus, which was perfect for my egg and toast breakfast.

5. Tous les Jours

Tous les Jours is a French-Asian-inspired bakery with a multitude of pastries, cakes and coffee. Their pastries range from sweet to savory, such as their variations of milk bread and croquettes — a deep-fried roll with filling. Lined the warmly lit glass cabinets filled with every variation of pastry, you get a tray and you can pick out exactly what you'd like. Tous les Jours also has a wide range of assorted macarons and slices of cake. Although a slice of cake can be quite pricey in comparison to the other pastries, their cloud cake is their specialty and what I most recommend trying.

My favorite is the Tripe Berry Cloud Cake, which has a light sponge cake with layers of whipped cream, berries and a light cloud frosting. I don't like heavy dense cakes or frosting that is overly sweet and saccharine. This berry cake layers freshness from the berries, softness from the white cake and a light sweetness from the whipped topping.

6. Whale Tea

Whale Tea is a must-try bubble tea place! I love how the boba is still warm, chewy and sweet. I typically get the standard brown sugar milk, but I also like their strawberry milk.

7. Lucibello's

Lucibello's has Italian pastries, such as every type of Italian cookie, butter pastries filled with ricotta or cream, pies and cakes. Lucibello has great prices for the size and is around \$4 for a large pastry. You can sample a ton of different cookies, and you pay by the weight. I have tried my

fair share of variations of butter and shortbread cookies sandwiched with different types of jam. I also really like the Anginetti, which are lemon drop cookies. Anginetti are very similar to the Lofthouse cookies that fall apart in your mouth with their light cakey texture.

Additionally, they have a lot of flaky pastry variations filled with these creams, such as the Napoleon square and the lobster tail. You can either get the full-size or a mini version, which is perfect for sampling. Overall, I suggest trying their cannolis, which are filled with vanilla cream, chocolate or ricotta. I typically get the ricotta, which goes well against the crunchy shell. Lucibello's is a great step into Italian pastries. Bonus: I always see the elderly Italian couples there.

8. Atticus Market

Atticus has two locations: one on Chapel Street which is a part of the bookstore, and a market in East Rock. I prefer the East Rock location for pastries because this location has more variety and carries the pies. Atticus has a variety of pastries to choose from along with savory meal options and coffee. I have tried the tiramisù, salted caramel honey pie, morning bun, anadama cookie and kouign amann.

My least favorite item were the cookies, which tasted too hard and dry. However, all of the pastries were very flaky, and I really liked the kouign amann "butter cake", which was akin to a croissant filled with blueberry compote. My all-time favorite is the salted honey pie, which is a mini custard pie that is superbly balanced with the sea salt topping.

While all of these delectable sweets don't have to be your breakfast or every meal, they can be a great addition and a great way to explore New Haven and have a change of scenery.

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// MADDIE SOULE

WKND Hot Take:

Pringles are kinda nasty.