



Carbon monoxide leak leaves 14 hospitalized

Propane-powered tools, combined with freezing weather and a lack of carbon monoxide monitors caused the gas leak on Howe Street.

BY NATASHA KHAZZAM AND ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTERS

Fourteen people were hospitalized with carbon monoxide poisoning on Wednesday morning following a construction-site gas leak at 73 Howe St. Emergency responders determined that the Yale-hired construction firm, Babbidge Construction Company, had not been using carbon monoxide detectors.

The carbon monoxide exposure originated from a propane-powered concrete cutter

being used at the construction site, according to University spokesperson Karen Peart. New Haven Fire Department Chief John Alston explained that the cold temperatures outside might have affected ventilation in the building, potentially exacerbating the effects of the leak.

Emergency responders were first called to the scene around 7:35 a.m. after a construction worker fainted on the sidewalk near Howe Street. The unconscious worker was transported to Yale New Haven Hospital. After

being notified of the worker’s exposure to carbon monoxide, the fire department and American Medical Response reported back to the building to check for a gas leak.

New Haven Emergency Operations Director Rick Fontana shared that emergency responders detected around 350 parts per million of carbon monoxide at the construction site. Standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Association prohibit worker exposure to more

SEE **GAS LEAK** PAGE 4

Tuskegee Airman honored at The House



Brigadier General Enoch Woodhouse '52 joined members of the Yale and New Haven community for a conversation on Tuesday./ Courtesy of Fidah Kabwita, Af-Am House Staff

BY COLLYN ROBINSON
MULTIMEDIA MANAGING EDITOR

The Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale hosted a conversation on Tuesday night with Brigadier General Enoch Woodhouse '52, a Yale alumnus and distinguished Tuskegee Airman. The general shared stories about his life and discussed topics ranging from his experiences as a student at Yale to being a member of the Tuskegee Airmen — the first all-Black aviation division in the United States Army Air Corps.

The conversation was moderated by Ceily Addison '26, a cadet with the Yale Air Force ROTC Detachment, who explained that she found the experience personally meaningful. Addison’s father is a Black pilot, and she said the Tuskegee Airmen were always legends in her house.

SEE **TUSKEGEE** PAGE 6

Leaders and officials celebrate Local 33 contract

BY LAURA OSPINA
STAFF REPORTER

Labor leaders, elected officials and New Haveners awarded Local 33 UNITE HERE organizers with a standing ovation on Monday night, celebrating the graduate student workers’ union’s fresh contract with Yale after 33 years of organizing.

During New Haven Rising’s annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day event, leaders of Yale’s politically powerful UNITE HERE unions and elected officials, including Mayor Justin Elicker, described Local 33’s win as a testament to the power of the labor movement in New Haven and beyond. Graduate workers voted to ratify their first-ever contract with the University in December, securing the highest pay in the Ivy League.

“This was no easy task,” Adam Waters GRD ’26, a member of Local 33’s bargaining committee, told the crowd. “We had to overcome decades of opposition and misinformation by the leadership of Yale University. We had to overcome fear and uncertainty in ourselves and in our co-workers. And we had to overcome the cynicism and divisiveness of those that said that graduate teachers and researchers have no reason to organize alongside other unionized workers at Yale or the wider New Haven community.”

At the “Unity in Action” event held in the Trinity Temple Church, Local 33 organizers shared the stage with Connecticut State Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney, Board of Alders President Tyisha Walker-Myers and leaders



New Haven Rising honored Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy./ Abraham Payve, Contributing Photographer

from Local 24 UNITE HERE, which won a landmark contract with the MGM Grand Detroit casino in December after a 47-day strike.

Calling upon King’s historic push for workers’ rights, speakers emphasized the importance of collective organizing in tackling

national and local threats to economic justice. New Haven Rising’s Pastor Scott Marks, who emceed the event, specifically named the rise of gentrification and the lack of affordable housing in New Haven.

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CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1993. The Freshman Outdoor Orientation Trips group puts up king-size footprints on Harkness Tower to promote the program.

INSIDE THE NEWS

Error allows students to see grades without evaluating courses.

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QUESTBRIDGE Cornell and Skidmore join QuestBridge, with Harvard the only Ivy yet to partner.
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NEW CHAPLAIN Maytal Saltiel becomes first Jewish Chaplain of Yale.
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Students walk out of class to stand with Gaza



At noon on Tuesday, hundreds of students gathered on Cross Campus for a walkout titled “There is No Back To School in Gaza.”/ Ellie Park, Photography Editor

BY NORA MOSES AND HUDSON WARM
STAFF REPORTERS

On the first day of spring classes — Tuesday, Jan. 16 — students gathered at noon in cold and snowy weather for a “There is No Back To School in Gaza” walkout.

Around 200 students surrounded the Women’s Table on Cross Campus during the protest. The event featured speeches by students and professors as well as chants from the crowd denouncing Yale’s “complicity in genocide and war crimes.”

The walkout was promoted in a joint Instagram post by Yalies4Palestine and Yale Law Students for Justice in Palestine.

The post’s caption referenced a statistic, which is from United Nations monitors, that reports the Israeli military offensive to have damaged over 70 percent of schools in Gaza. The Associated Press reported last week that Israel’s mil-

itary campaign in Gaza is among the deadliest and most destructive in recent history.

“As Yale students return to campus, we are walking out of classes, recognizing that there is no back-to-school in Gaza...” the post read. “There will be no business as usual as long as Gaza is under siege.”

The protest follows months of student activism related to the Israel-Hamas war. On Oct. 7, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, in which Hamas killed at least 1,200 people and took 250 people as hostages, according to Israel’s Foreign Ministry. Israel responded to the attack with a declaration of war and full bombardment of Gaza. Israel has killed more than 24,000 people in Gaza through its military onslaught, Palestinian authorities said earlier this week.

SEE **WALKOUT** PAGE 4

Top alder vows to move ceasefire resolution to committee

BY YURII STASIUK AND ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTERS

The president of the Board of Alders plans to let alders “at some point” consider a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, a move which vocal protesters urged at a full board meeting on Tuesday evening.

The board received the proposal for a ceasefire resolution in late November but has yet to act on it. Board president Tyisha Walker-Myers told the News that she intends to send the proposal to committee but is still considering which committee should handle it. She declined to set a timeline for her decision.

“I plan to assign every item that comes to the Board of Alders at some point,” Walker-Myers, who represents Ward 23, said in a brief interview. “When I’m figuring out where it goes, it sits in the queue.”

Calls for a ceasefire in the war threaten to divide the board, whose 30 Democrats are in unanimous agreement on most votes. President Joe Biden and most Democrats in Congress have not pushed for a ceasefire.

But objectors to the ongoing war, including some Yale students and New Haveners, have advocated for one after Israel began to bombard Gaza in response to the Oct. 7 attacks, in which Hamas killed around 1,200 people and abducted 250, according to Israel’s Foreign Ministry. Since then, Israel has killed 24,000 people in Gaza, according to Palestinian authorities.

The ceasefire resolution reached the Board of Alders on Nov. 28, Chloe Miller LAW ’25 previously told the News. It calls for an “immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages including Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel, the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza” and other demands.

As Ward 16 Alder José Crespo emphasized unity in his invocation to begin Tuesday’s meeting, about two dozen pro-Palestine protesters, many wearing keffiyehs and one holding a large Palestinian flag, entered the chamber and filed into several rows.

After a short 15-minute meeting in which alders dealt with routine business, Walker-Myers called a voice vote to adjourn. Meanwhile, protesters stood up and chanted, “Ceasefire now” and “Stop the stalling.”

“Board of Alders, we interrupt your meeting to send the message that your constituents support a ceasefire of the U.S.-funded massacre of Palestinians by the Israeli state,” an unidentified protester shouted. “New Haven should join the many cities across the U.S. that have condemned the brutal killing of tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza.”

The alders stood up and began collecting their things as the protesters continued their chants, producing an unusual scene in the typically calm Aldermanic Chambers.

SEE **ALDER** PAGE 5

BULLETIN



THE FRANKE PROGRAM IN SCIENCE AND THE HUMANITIES

FROM CROSS CAMPUS TO WEST CAMPUS TO SCIENCE HILL:
THE YALE ANCIENT PHARMACOLOGY PROGRAM

A TALK BY DR. ANDREW KOH
MUSEUM SCIENTIST, YALE PEABODY MUSEUM

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 24, 2024 / 4:00 PM

ROOM LO2
HUMANITIES QUADRANGLE
320 YORK STREET

Yale



CATHERINE KWON '25



OPINION

Haley and DeSantis were smoked no matter what

Last night, the Republican presidential primary officially kicked off with the Iowa caucus. According to the Decision Desk HQ/The Hill polling average, Donald Trump held a 34.7-point lead, with 53 percent of the vote going into caucus night. Nikki Haley was polling at 18.3 percent; Ron DeSantis '01 was at 15.9 percent; and Vivek Ramaswamy LAW '13 was at 7.3 percent. Trump was widely expected to walk away with it, and he did. This time, the polls were accurate.

Last week, I spoke with a friend who was leaning toward Ramaswamy. He asked how accurate the polls tend to be in Iowa, so let's take a look.

In the Hawkeye State, J. Ann Selzer's polls are the gold standard. In 2020, most polls showed a close presidential race in Iowa: on Election Day, the FiveThirtyEight polling average had Trump up by 1.3 points. Selzer's final survey had Trump up by 8 points; he ended up winning the state by 8.2 points. The final FiveThirtyEight average in 2016 had Trump up by 3.4 in Iowa; Seltzer's final poll had him up by 7 points; he ended up winning the state by 9.4 points. You get the idea: she's good at her job. The final Des Moines Register/Selzer poll this cycle, released on Saturday, had Trump at 48 percent, Haley at 20 percent, DeSantis at 16 percent and Ramaswamy at 8 percent.

But those were general elections. Caucuses, due to their unique — by which I mean stupid — mechanics and lower turnout, are more vulnerable to polling error, and most pollsters in Iowa aren't as accurate as Selzer. So the question is: Could polling errors have shocked the nation on Tuesday night and propelled Haley, DeSantis or Ramaswamy to a surprise victory? Probably not.

In 2000, Selzer's final poll nailed George W. Bush's final vote share in Iowa but significantly underestimated Steve Forbes. Bush, the frontrunner, went on to easily win the Republican nomination; John McCain came in second nationally.

Selzer had a great year in 2008, nailing Mike Huckabee's win, as well as Mitt Romney's second-place finish. McCain went on to win the nomination, with Romney coming in second place nationally.

In the 2012 Republican caucuses, Selzer was very accurate — except for Rick Santorum. The final Des Moines Register survey had Santorum in fourth with 15 percent; He ended up edging out Romney to win the caucus. Romney beat Santorum, who dropped out after Super Tuesday, for the nomination.

In 2016, the last contested GOP caucus, Selzer's final poll was close to the results for most candidates. But slightly overestimating Trump's vote share coupled with under-shooting Ted Cruz's meant the survey projected the wrong overall win-

ner. As you well know, Trump went on to win the nomination.

What's the upshot of all of this? First, J. Ann Selzer is a pretty good pollster. Second, when it comes to the Iowa Republican caucuses, polls are generally accurate, and usually — but not always — give you a good idea of the candidates' vote shares. True, it is possible for the polls to underestimate candidates, sometimes by a lot. And these misses can project the wrong winner. But by and large, polling will give you a good idea of who's likely to finish where.

Let's take the largest historical polling miss in Iowa — plus or minus 10 points — and apply it to this year's caucuses, assuming the polls overestimated Trump and underestimated his opponents: Trump might have been at around 44 percent, Haley at 27 percent, DeSantis at 26 percent and Ramaswamy at 16 percent. That's still a comfortable victory. And remember, we're assuming the largest historical polling error in this hypothetical, all in the anti-Trump direction. When the results are all counted, the error this year will likely be smaller, and not directionally uniform.

Even if we make the most generous assumptions about polling error in Iowa, Trump's opponents were almost certainly, as Chris Christie remarked last week, "smoked." A second-place finish in Iowa and Christie dropping out of the race might've been enough to propel Haley to a surprise victory in New Hampshire. But almost half of Haley's supporters in Iowa plan to vote for Biden in the general, and her net favorability rating with likely Republican caucus-goers has collapsed over the past few months, resulting in her third place finish last night. If Haley wins New Hampshire, that will be because lots of independents and Democrats end up voting in the Republican primary. I'll change my party registration and vote for her on Super Tuesday, but it won't be enough for her to beat Trump.

The GOP primary is for all intents and purposes over. So is the Democratic primary. Neither ever really began. Joe Biden is an incumbent president running for renomination; Trump functionally is, too. I would bet a large sum of money on the general election being a rematch. Seriously — I will give any interested readers 10:1 odds on Biden and Trump being their parties' respective nominees. If the election was held today, Trump would probably win. But it's a long time until November and a lot could change. So buckle up, buttercup.

MILAN SINGH is a sophomore in *Pier-son College*. His column, "All politics is national," runs fortnightly. Contact him at milan.singh.@yale.edu.

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On Society

Yale, and an Ancient Eight society, is its status. It would be disingenuous for anyone at Yale to deny this — this is an institution with internationally recognized prestige, prestige which routinely grants us access to networks and opportunities few others get. And we have all opted in. But status and personal gain are not the only reasons people attach themselves to elite institutions, particularly ones in conflict with their values. They are not the primary reasons I decided to attend Yale or join society.

I still seek an end to the existence of elite, oppressive universities like Yale, and I still seek an expansion in access to higher education that makes any future need for elite universities obsolete. I also seek the end of secret societies which, much like Yale, horde wealth and celebrate exclusion toward no particular end. But I recognize that, for the time being, Yale and secret societies confer power, power which can be used to unravel these institutions. For me, the cost of being in tension with the institutions I am a part of is worth the opportunity to make an even greater impact down the line. This is something I have acknowledged since my first month on this campus.

I still think conscientious objection is important, and I think it is essential that we strive to align our principles with actions. But this striving must also account for the power ceded through non-participation. Ends and means must be considered. This is not a new idea.

Wrestling with the rise of the Black Power movement in the United States, Dr. King writes, "What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive and that love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love."

GUEST COLUMNIST
CRAIG BIRCKHEAD-MORTON

The right to education

On Dec. 20, the fall semester at Yale University will conclude. The date will also mark 75 days since the Israeli occupation began its genocidal war against the Palestinian people in Gaza, the Popular Cradle. Yale students will have enjoyed the privilege of pursuing their education in peace while more than two million Palestinians in Gaza will have been denied the mere right to exist on their land.

Currently, an estimated 19,667 Palestinians in Gaza have been martyred, more than the total number of Yale undergraduate and graduate students combined. Of course, students and faculty across the whole of historic Palestine are also represented in that number. An estimated 446 Palestinians affiliated with academic institutions — most, but not all, in Gaza — have been martyred.

This is not accidental. On the contrary — it is by design. Throughout history, the colonizer has always understood that education is a powerful weapon in the hands of the colonized. While writing this op-ed, I met with Sundos Hammad, the Coordinator of the Right to Education Campaign at Birzeit University. She told me, "The right to education is the fundamental pillar to reach the rest of our human rights as Palestinians, and it is a tool for resisting the Israeli occupation."

The Israeli occupation's murder of students and faculty, its bombing of university buildings and its criminalization of political organizing on campuses are all tactics of a broader strategy to completely obstruct the educational process in Palestine and to repress the student movement. This secures the Zionist settler-colonial project from the threat of an educated, revolutionary population.

This strategy is not unique to the current moment. The repression imposed on Palestinian universities dates back to the 1970s and '80s when Palestinian students and faculty began organizing against military rule in Gaza and the West Bank. They organized against Military Order 854, which continues to dictate which students

can be admitted, which faculty can be recruited and what educational curricula are permissible.

Historically, Birzeit University — Palestine's most prestigious academic institution — has been the primary target of Israeli repression. According to Wael Hashlamoun, the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Birzeit, the university has been forcibly closed by the Israeli Occupation Forces — or IOF, a term Palestinians and co-strugglers use to more accurately define the Israeli military as an occupying force as opposed to a defensive one — 15 times since its establishment because of its role as a space for political organizing. During the First Palestinian Intifada, it was shut down by the IOF for almost four and a half years. It was in this context that the Right to Education Campaign formed as a movement to "document, research, and raise consciousness about the oppression of Palestinian students, teachers, and academic institutions." Since then, Birzeit has been a particularly central site of struggle in Palestine.

According to Hammad, in the years since the beginning of the Second Palestinian Intifada, "more than 2,000 Birzeit students have been imprisoned" for their political activities, with more than 40 students imprisoned after Oct. 7. Following the temporary ceasefire agreement, which secured the release of three female students and ended on Dec. 1, "more than 110 Birzeit students continue to remain detained in occupation prisons."

According to the Right to Education Campaign, Birzeit's campus has also been raided by the IOF "over 20 times in the past 28 years," with the second to last raid occurring 13 days prior to Oct. 7, a time of so-called peace. During the Sept. 24 raid, the IOF abducted and imprisoned eight Birzeit students, including the President of the Student Council.

For decades, it has been beyond apparent that the Israeli occupation is terrified of Palestinian academia. Thus, it should be no surprise that while the IOF is massacring people in the refugee camps of Jabalia and Nuseirat, it has also found the time

This is not to say power should be sought for power's sake, or that it is justifiable to join any institution. There are lines that no one should cross when seeking power to create change. There are also acts institutions take that no one should stand for and everyone should speak out about. With this in mind, we should carefully consider the tradeoffs associated with entering elite spaces, and we should recognize that no approach to change is free from negative moral implications, especially in this country. If a person decides to join an institution like Yale or society, they must hold fast to their values and make an effort to reduce the harm those institutions cause. As soon as either of these things start to slip, that person's place in that institution is no longer justifiable. Myself included.

It bears repeating that this tension, as applied to the decision to join society, does not have much consequence. What social clubs do on Thursdays and Sundays at an Ivy League university is hardly a matter of existential importance. Maybe Horowitz and her editors, in their anxiety about and fascination with what the private school kids are doing, forgot this. Maybe a better article could have wrestled with tradeoffs of institutional affiliation as it applies to more consequential things — perhaps the ongoing war in Gaza and the relative complicity of government officials in a military campaign that has killed over 20,000 people, most of them women and children.

But what do I know? I'm just a college student who likes status symbols.

CALEB DUNSON is a senior in Saybrook College. His column "What We Owe," runs monthly and "explores themes of collective responsibility at Yale and beyond." Contact him at caleb.dunson@yale.edu.

to completely or partially destroy 11 universities across the whole of historic Palestine; shut down 19 universities in Gaza, disrupting the education of more than 88,000 students; and force all 34 universities in the West Bank into remote learning, disrupting the education of more than 138,000 students. These are all violations documented by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

If there is one thing we in the United States should have recognized over the past 75 days, it is that the aggression the Israeli occupation is waging is not only an aggression on Gaza, but an aggression on every Palestinian seeking liberation from the Zionist settler-colonial project. That is why Palestinian universities have demanded we fulfill our role in the struggle.

On Nov. 30, 15 of the most prestigious academic institutions in Palestine published a joint statement calling on us to seek truth, not be silent and take concrete action to end the genocide. At this moment, we have no right to center ourselves, worry about our jobs or protect our privileges. None of these things are worth more than Palestinian lives.

As students affiliated with this prestigious institution, we have extraordinary obligations to our fellow students in Palestine. In the spring semester, we must build connections with Palestinian universities such as Birzeit and organize against Yale's complicity in colonial war crimes, whether it is through challenging its investments in the war industry or its partnerships with Israeli academic institutions. When we return on Jan. 16, we must be ready to meet the moment.

In the words of the martyr Refaat al-Areer, Professor of English at the Islamic University of Gaza, "We will win. And Gaza and Palestine will prevail."

CRAIG BIRCKHEAD-MORTON is a senior in Silliman College majoring in History. He is a Youth Fellow with the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights. Contact him at craig.birckhead-morton@yale.edu.

FROM THE FRONT

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.”
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AMERICAN MINISTER AND ACTIVIST

Carbon monoxide leaks at Yale-leased construction site, 14 hospitalized

GAS LEAK FROM PAGE 1

than 50 ppm averaged over an eight-hour time frame.

In an interview with the New Haven Independent, Mayor Justin Elicker said that carbon monoxide monitors “should have been used.”

According to Yale Police Chief Anthony Campbell ’95 DIV ’09, Yale is currently leasing the space at 73 Howe St. from the city. The New Haven Independent reported that the University had hired Babbidge Construction Company to run construc-

tion at the site. According to New Haven Fire Chief John Alston, the site did not have CO monitors installed — which, according to Peart, was the responsibility of the construction company.

Babbidge Construction Company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Campbell also told the News that emergency service workers also investigated the neighboring 79 Howe St. and 32 Edgewood Ave., which house the Yale Security Department and the Yale School of Art Gallery. According to Peart, 79 Howe St. was evacuated.

Sources interviewed by the News disagreed on the affiliations of the 14 hospitalized individuals. In a statement to News 8 WTNH, Elicker said that four individuals were Yale Security employees and the remaining ten were contractors. However, Peart wrote in a message to the News that five were Yale Security employees, while only nine were affiliated with Babbidge.

The worker initially found unconscious was transported to a hyperbaric chamber at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. He was still

in critical condition as of Wednesday night, according to Fontana.

A team from the Occupational Safety and Health Association, or OSHA, arrived at the scene on Wednesday to begin an investigation of the incident. Per OSHA policy, the agency has up to six months to complete the investigation and determine whether a violation of workers’ rights occurred.

Yale community members were notified of the incident through an email and text from the Yale Alert System at 10:55 a.m., which stated that police

and emergency personnel were actively responding to a “medical incident” near 73 Howe St. At 11:48 a.m., a second email from the alert system stated that the area surrounding 73 Howe St. was deemed all clear and had “opened to normal traffic.”

73 Howe St. is located between Edgewood Avenue and Chapel Street.

Contact
NATASHA KHAZZAM at
natasha.khazzam@yale.edu and
ARIELA LOPEZ at
ariela.lopez@yale.edu .



Propane-powered tools, combined with freezing weather and a lack of carbon monoxide monitors, caused the gas leak and subsequent hospitalizations at a Yale-leased construction site on Howe Street. / Sophie Sonnenfeld, Contributing Photographer

Hundreds of students walk out of class to stand with Gaza

WALKOUT FROM PAGE 1

The walkout, which marks the first student protest of the semester, also took place the day following Martin Luther King Jr. Day, with one speaker describing an alignment between King’s work and the goals of the walkout.

“We stand resolute in the tradition of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi in speaking truth to power,” a speaker at the walkout said to the crowd. “Violence only begets more violence. It creates a cycle that can seem never-ending, but it must end. And when we look beyond our differences to reach that common humanity it will end!”

The protest grew in size after noon, and students stood with flags and posters. One sign read “Demands” with a list of points, including “Call for Ceasefire Now,” “Fund Palestine Studies” and “Defund Genocide-Denying Programming and Partnerships.” Chants included “Down, down, down with occupation; up, up, up with liberation,” “From Turtle Island to Palestine, occupation is a crime” and “Apartheid kills; Yale pays the bills.”

Fareed Salmon ’27 attended the protest to stand in solidarity with Gaza. Salmon told the News that he thinks the Israeli attacks on Gaza have been unfair to Palestinians.

He also added that this Saturday, which was a global day of protest in support of Palestine, motivated his attendance at the protest.

“I’m here today because I don’t think I’ve been as involved as I wanted

to be in this effort,” he told the News. “I’m Muslim, so this is a very important topic and thing for me.”

Organizers of the event declined to comment and directed the News to the student who was in charge of press for the event. This press liaison declined to comment to the News and insisted that the News stop interviewing protest attendees.

In a separate joint post, dated the morning of the protest, the two student groups — Yalies4Palestine and Yale Law Students for Justice in Palestine — provided a list of ‘do’s and don’ts’ for the rally were provided, along with a list of demands directed at Yale. The suggestions for students included reading a statement before walking out of their classes and informing their professors of their desire to read a statement ahead of time. The list of don’ts included a “DON’T speak to the press” line, advising students to instead direct press to a “designated press liaison” or a “marshal.”

The press liaison directed the News to a copy of the Yale Palestinian Solidarity Coalition’s press release explaining the goals of the protest which is dated Jan. 16.

The press release outlines five demands directed at the Yale administration: public support by the University for “a ceasefire and an end to the occupation,” the suspension of “all genocide-denying programming and partnerships,” the implementation of boycott, divestment and sanctions in investment policy and divestment from weapons manufacturing, support for Palestinian studies and schol-

ars and the protection of freedom of expression on campus while acting “against anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic harassment.”

Many of these issues have remained a source of student concern over the past months, particularly student safety on campus and divestment from weapons manufacturing. Student safety concerns grew in November with the arrival of ‘doxxing trucks’ on campus which displayed the faces of students with the label “Yale’s Leading Antisemites.”

The press release specifically references an incident in October in which a student wrote “Death to Palestine” on a whiteboard outside a Grace Hopper College suite. In response, Head of Grace Hopper Julia Adams emphasized Yale’s commitment to “academic freedom” — a reaction the press release deems a “double standard.”

The press release also mentions University President Peter Salovey specifically, noting that despite having spoken out against Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Salovey has not spoken out against Israel. The press release calls on Yale to refuse business and collaboration with Israeli universities.

In his initial Oct. 10 statement following Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack, Salovey condemned the attacks in the “strongest terms.”

In Salovey’s “remarks on compassion and civility,” on Nov. 3 he noted that there are “waves of hatred” toward Jewish, Muslim, Israeli and Palestinian people and emphasized that antisemitism and

Islamophobia are “empathetically against” the University’s values.

Salovey’s statement about the Russia-Ukraine War in March 2022 detailed Yale’s support for Ukrainian scholars and students, academic collaboration with Ukraine and stated that the University and the Investments Office support companies who stand with Ukraine.

“His reluctance to name Israel — as he named Russia — as the perpetrator of countless war crimes and the most intense bombing campaign in modern history” suggests “racist double standards,” the press release states.

The press release references Yale’s history of divesting from companies that provided assistance to the perpetrators of the genocide in Sudan in 2006.

The press release also raises concerns over Yale’s response to public safety issues and cites Salovey’s Nov. 3 message, which states that Yale Public Safety has “worked with the FBI and other agencies on campus safety.”

The press release further accuses Salovey of “collusion” in working with the FBI to monitor campus safety, which the release says “perpetrates a climate of surveillance and criminalization of solidarity with Palestine.”

According to the press release, “variations of these demands” have been sent to the Yale administration by members of the Yale community, but did not receive any acknowledgment or response from administrators.

These demands include a letter on Nov. 2 and a follow-up letter on Nov. 20th, which, according to the statement, Yale administration “refused to acknowledge.”

In response to questions from the News, the University spokesperson referred to Salovey’s Dec. 7 statement called “Against Hatred.” The statement urges “open exchange of ideas” and points students toward resources for safety and mental health support. In the same statement, Salovey also announced new educational programming on Islamophobia, a designated space for Middle Eastern and North African students — seemingly in response to years of student advocacy in support of a separate MENA-designated cultural space— and the hiring of a second Muslim chaplain. Salovey also announced a new standing committee to address the needs of MENA and Muslim students.

“Students in Palestine cannot go back to school, so that was the reason for the protest. That is why I thought it was important and necessary [to come to the protest],” Freddie Swindal, a New Haven resident who attended Tuesday’s walkout and demonstration, told the News.

Yalies4Palestine has since posted information about a “week of reading for Palestine” slated for this week.

Contact
NORA MOSES at
nora.moses@yale.edu and
contact: **HUDSON WARM** at
hudson.warm@yale.edu .

FROM THE FRONT

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AMERICAN MINISTER AND ACTIVIST

Amid protests, top alder vows to move Gaza ceasefire resolution to committee

ALDER FROM PAGE 1

Ward 27 Alder Richard Furlow, the majority leader, confronted two departing protesters, whom the News could not identify, suggesting they talk to alders individually instead of disrupting meetings. The protesters responded by accusing alders of not being willing to have a dialogue and being “closed off.”

“Just because I don’t agree doesn’t mean I’m closed. If I was closed, I would have walked away at your first sign of disrespect,” Furlow responded. “Things happen at the table, not at protests.”

Two protesters expressed frustration with the lack of immediate

action by the Board of Alders on the resolution, citing Bridgeport, where the city council approved a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza on Jan. 2.

Furlow responded that New Haven has a different legislative process and called a resolution “another piece of conversation,” reiterating his call to continue the dialogue.

One protester stressed the urgency of the resolution, with the war’s continuing human toll. The Associated Press reported last week that Israel’s military campaign in Gaza is among the deadliest in recent history.

“Every day that New Haven doesn’t take a moral stance on this issue and doesn’t call for disinvest-

ment and doesn’t call for an immediate ceasefire,” she said, “it just feels like our hearts break a little bit more.”

Furlow said he shares their sorrow for the “loss of life on both sides,” adding that he had already spoken with one of the protesters and would meet with other pro-Palestine organizers on Wednesday. The two protesters and the alder agreed to continue to talk.

When a proposal reaches the Board of Alders, the body’s leadership, helmed by Walker-Myers, determines which committee should consider it and hear input from the public. The committees include Aldermanic Affairs, Education, Legislation and Pub-

lic Safety — none that expressly relate to international affairs or U.S. foreign policy.

But in 2022, alders approved a resolution urging President Biden to resurrect the Obama administration’s effort to end the U.S. embargo on Cuba. The Cuba resolution passed through the Health and Human Services Committee.

In early December, the activist group Jewish Voice for Peace New Haven circulated a document with instructions for calling alders to urge consideration of the ceasefire resolution. It includes a list of their phone numbers and scripts focused on persuading Walker-Myers to advance the proposal.

In the document, a table listing all 30 alders marks four as supportive of the resolution and one opposed — but the vast majority had no opinion listed there. The News could not independently verify the alders’ stances; several declined to comment publicly on Tuesday.

The full Board of Alders will meet again on Feb. 5. Committee assignments for the new term, with five new alders, have not been released, nor has the committee meeting schedule.

Contact
YURII STASIUK at
yurii.stasiuk@yale.edu and
ETHAN WOLIN at
ethan.wolin@yale.edu .



The Board of Alders president told the News that she plans to send the resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war to committee for deliberation./ Ethan Wolin, Contributing Photographer

Labor leaders and elected officials celebrate Local 33 contract at MLK Day event

UNION CONTRACT FROM PAGE 1

“MLK’s mission of economic justice: understanding that without jobs, fair jobs, good-paying jobs, without people being able to support themselves and their family, there is no equality,” Erick Russell, Connecticut State Treasurer, said. “We have concrete evidence of this work coming to action. You look across the country right now, workers are standing together, giv-

ing new life to the labor movement. We’ve seen that in New Haven with Local 33 ratifying its first contract.”

Marks cited union wins like that of screenwriters and actors in Hollywood, autoworkers in Michigan and Ohio and casino workers in Detroit as evidence of a national wave of labor activism.

Members of UNITE HERE 217, the Connecticut hospitality workers’ union, and Local 34 UNITE HERE, the union for Yale’s clerical

and technical workers, also represented local labor at the event. UNITE HERE 217, which according to Marks, has grown the number of union hotels in New Haven by 200 percent in the past year, is currently organizing a union drive for workers at Connecticut College. Avani Mehta, an organizer for Local 34, recounted how union organizers held department meetings to discuss staffing shortages and increasing job opportunities

for New Haveners from historically redlined neighborhoods.

In their speech, Waters and Arita Acharya GRD ’26, another member of Local 33’s bargaining committee, gave thanks to New Haven’s sprawling network of labor activists and supporters. Acharya said that the “struggle and sacrifice” of generations of graduate workers and the solidarity between the union and New Haven were foundational to Local 33’s success.

“Let’s find the commitment to organize, organize, organize and hold vast coalitions together in spite of the repression and the fear,” Marks said. “Let’s fight our freedom, and when we fight...”

“We win,” the crowd chanted back.

New Haven Rising was founded in 2011.

Contact
LAURA OSPINA at
laura.ospina@yale.edu .

FROM THE FRONT

"I have a dream that one day...nation will rise up."
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AMERICAN MINISTER AND ACTIVIST

'No substitute for excellence': Tuskegee Airman honored at The House

"It's amazing to hear from somebody who's got that spirit, that camaraderie, that excellence, and that's something we all, especially as Black students, have to take with us into the future ... that's how you become the change for the next generation," Addison said. "And so, it's just amazing to be sitting here, honored to be in uniform, honored to be able to speak with him."

Woodhouse was one of four Black students in Yale's class of 1952. But before he arrived on Yale's campus in 1948, Woodhouse enlisted in the United States Army after graduating high school. He would eventually be assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group — known as the Tuskegee Airmen — as paymaster.

For most of Tuesday's event at Yale, Woodhouse recounted his time at Yale and shared stories about his experience, sometimes offering wisdom to attendees in a blunt but insightful manner.

When he first arrived on campus, students in his entryway slipped "unwelcoming" notes under his door. Woodhouse said he tore them up. He also recalled that white students would leave the dining hall when he sat near them.

"I just ignored them. I had self-respect, I would take the right road," Woodhouse said.

Woodhouse emphasized to the audience the importance of using Yale's academic resources, like Sterling Memorial Library, and stressed that there is no substitute for excellence.

He discussed how essential it is for students to focus on academics and use what they learn to offer support for communities at home.

"When you go back to communities, they look to you for support," Woodhouse said. "In addition to the advancement of Black, Brown and Asian communities, I care about the advancement of humanity. It can unadvance if we're not in it together."

The event then opened up to the audience for a question-and-answer session, during which he cracked jokes about Harvard and praised the establishment of the Af-Am House in 1969.

Woodhouse, who graduated nearly two decades before its founding, said that The House was "a dream realized."

"Take advantage of your time at Yale," Woodhouse noted in closing. "It's collegial, try to get to know another person. It's not a dating pool, it's educational."

After the end of the conversation, The Yale Black Men's Union presented Woodhouse with an honorary membership. The Yale Black Alumni Association and The House also gave Woodhouse and his wife gifts to commemorate his visit.

Since Woodhouse recently turned 97 years old, Af-Am House staff presented him with a birthday cake, sang the Stevie Wonder version of Happy Birthday and asked him to make a wish.

He turned and said his wish was that "The House continues success ... and puts our [Black] graduates into the mainstream of America."

Attendants were able to shake hands, exchange hugs and take photos with General Woodhouse.

After the event, Woodhouse told the News why he tells his story around the country.

"America has to be educated to what America really is. Who really built America? Who really was enslaved by America? But at the same time, factors and individuals that canceled out the negativity and built on foundation, to make America America," Woodhouse said. "I don't believe in the saying, 'Make America Great Again.' America has always been great, and I say that America remains great."

Timeica Bethel, Director of the Afro-American Cultural Center, helped organize the event.

Bethel noted the importance of representation and connection for Black students and alumni alike and expressed gratitude at Woodhouse's visit.

"I often talk about how incomparable the Black Yale alumni network is; events like this really breathe life into those words," Bethel told the News. "Representation matters. Welcoming alumni like Gen. Woodhouse back to campus gives students the opportunity to engage with people who have sat in their seats and gone on to have a tremendous impact. It's a rare experience to be in such an intimate setting with a leader of Gen. Woodhouse's stature."

Before the formation of the Tuskegee Airmen, there were no Black pilots in the United States Armed Forces.

Contact
COLLYN ROBINSON at
collyn.robinson@yale.edu .



Courtesy of Fidah Kabwita, Af-Am House Staff

THROUGH THE LENS



FIRST-YEAR SNOWBALL FIGHT 2024



Photos by **Samad Hakani**, Photography Editor.

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AMERICAN MINISTER AND ACTIVIST

Error allows students to see grades without evaluating courses

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Yale Hub’s grade suppression mechanism temporarily failed over the winter recess, allowing some undergraduate and graduate students to see their grades for the fall 2023 semester without submitting a course evaluation.

Typically, Yale Hub’s platform requires students to go through a course evaluation form before allowing access to their grades. In order to see the grade received in a course, a student must either fill out the form or indicate that they would like to skip it for the given course.

“It has been longstanding practice to suppress grades from student viewing until course evaluations have been completed, and there is no change to that policy and practice,” Shonna Marshall, the University registrar, said. “While there was a period of time where Yale College and graduate school students could have seen their grade before submitting an evaluation, overall response rates were not significantly impacted.”

When asked for numbers to substantiate the claim that response rates were not “significantly impacted,” Marshall told the News that the data did not belong to the registrar’s office, and they could not share it.

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean Tamar Gendler did not respond to the News’ request for comment.

According to a poll that the News posted on the anonymous campus chat app Fizz, 70 percent of 2,946 total respondents reported that they did not have to fill out an evaluation form before accessing their grade.

According to the University Registrar’s Office, the issue was resolved as soon as it came to their attention. The News was able to confirm that students could see their grades without submitting a course evaluation as late as Jan. 4. Before then, students still had access to the evaluation forms but had to go out of their way to fill them out on Yale Hub.

Based on online data available through the Online Course Evaluation system, response rates for the fall 2023 semester across five departments — Economics, History, Political Science, Computer Science and English — fell below those of the previous three semesters. However, the data indicate a similar, though not as drastic, dip in responses in Fall 2022, whose cause the News could not determine.

Professor Meg Urry, chair of Yale’s FAS senate, confirmed that the Senate is monitoring the issue and will likely discuss it formally at their next closed meeting.

“Our biggest concern is the faculty for whom teaching evaluations can have a big impact, namely, instructional faculty and junior fac-

ulty,” Urry wrote. “If the response rate for Fall 2023 evaluations is lower and/or the evaluations are more critical than usual (both of which could vary hugely by course, thus aggregate statistics may not be sufficient to judge), we need to know that before making judgments that depend on evaluations.”

On the form, students are asked to evaluate both professors and their teaching assistants for the course on a one-to-five scale based on a variety of factors, including level of engagement, the course’s organization and the clarity of feedback they received throughout the course.

Students are also asked to leave comments and elaborate on these questions in writing.

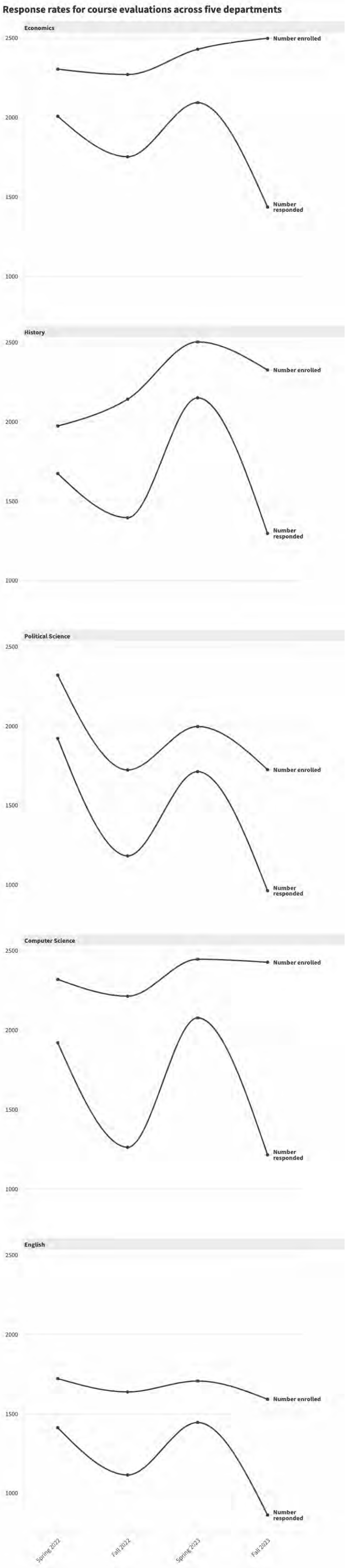
“I noticed after I saw my grades that I wasn’t asked to do the evaluations this year,” Andres Rincon ’25 said. “So I didn’t fill them out this year.”

These reviews from the evaluations become available for viewing on catalogs such as Yale Course Search, the University’s official course registration system, and CourseTable, a student-run website that allows students to browse through detailed course information. These reviews may be used to make administrative decisions about faculty such as assessment and hiring.

Contact **BEN RAAB** at ben.raab@yale.edu.



A Yale Hub error error allowed students to view their grades for the fall without first completing the course evaluations.



‘YOU Have a Dream’ event launches new nonprofit, Newhallville fREshSTARTs

BY MAIA NEHME
STAFF REPORTER

Sunlight streamed in through stained-glass windows — etched with depictions of Jesus Christ, his disciples and the Virgin Mary — illuminating Marcus T. Harvin’s face as he laid out his plans for a revitalized Newhallville.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Harvin led the “YOU Have a Dream” event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pitts Chapel Unified Free Will Baptist Church, which introduced Newhallville fREshSTARTs to the neighborhood. The nonprofit is an “all-encompassing mechanism for the whole person” that will include an innovative food pantry, debate and arts education for youth and a financial literacy course for adults, according to Harvin, its founder and president.

“When I was in prison, I had several visions of what Newhallville could be if I offered my hands and heaven offered help,” Harvin, who is a licensed minister, said at the event. “While in my bed in that cell, in my head, I witnessed Bassett [St.] and Dixwell [Ave.] serving as beacons of Black business, akin to the boulevard we’ve given the moniker Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma.”

Harvin received a 14-year sentence in 2016 but was released in May 2022. While in prison, he befriended Babatunde Akinjobi, who was released after 22 years of incarceration in August 2023 and is now the director of community engagement for fREshSTARTs.

Akinjobi and Harvin quickly connected over their shared spirituality and their love for their communities, prompting them to begin brainstorming ideas for a food pantry.

“Who’s this big-headed dude?” Akinjobi said at Monday’s event, recalling his thoughts the first time he met Harvin. “Every time I saw him, he had a book. But then I noticed that he had a Bible, too.”

During his years in prison, Harvin described feeling like an “anxious dog scratching at the door,” wanting to leave and begin his work on the food pantry.

Upon his release, he continued his studies at the University of New Haven — which he had begun in 2021 through the joint UNH Prison Education Program and Yale Prison Education Initiative — and was awarded UNH’s President’s Public Service Fellowship. The fellowship provided Harvin with an internship at Neighborhood Housing Services, or NHS, in New Haven during the summer of 2023.

Food distribution features partnership with local college

Adam Rawlings, the community engagement specialist at NHS and the vice president of fREshSTARTs, met Harvin during his internship and began working with him to set his plans in motion.

“Food can be a tool for building community,” Rawlings told the News. “It’s not only something that an individual needs to have energy to go about their day. It is something that can be an invitation to larger conversations around, ‘what else can we help you with? What’s

happened to you where you might need some extra resources?’”

Rawlings’ main responsibilities include coordinating food collection and distribution, as well as organizing volunteers for fREshSTARTs’ youth and adult programming.

He is also focused on finding grants and funding opportunities for the nonprofit, particularly through his work with NHS. In October, Harvin and Rawlings attended the NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute and received a \$4,000 grant to use as seed funding for the food pantry, allowing them to purchase two freezers and pay for an electrician to set them up.

When asked by the News how he plans to fund several ambitious projects, Harvin said that they were still seeking funding sources through a number of avenues, including individual donors and nonprofits.

“Hopefully the money starts pouring in,” Harvin told the News. “I believe that provision follows vision, so I believe that those proceeds to make the visions a reality are going to be here soon.”

Derek Faulkner, a university assistant at Southern Connecticut State University’s office of sustainability, reached out to Harvin in December after reading a New Haven Independent article about fREshSTARTs. SCSU is the first university to partner with the nonprofit.

The University’s Food Recovery Network chapter, managed by SCSU junior Chris Kowalski, plans to deliver roughly 80 pounds of excess dining hall food to Pitts Chapel every Monday between 3 and 4 p.m.

Bishop Darrell L. McClam, the pastor at Pitts Chapel, agreed to host fREshSTARTs’ food pantry at the church, citing a link between food insecurity and faith.

“We can’t even bring people to Christ until we deal with their physical situation,” McClam told the News. “Even He knew that He had to handle their physical body first before He [could] even deal with their mind and in the spirit and soul.”

Starting on Feb. 2, SCSU’s excess food will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Pitts Chapel’s fellowship hall.

Dubbed the fREshstaurant, this service aims to provide food with “dignity,” rather than adopting a traditional soup kitchen model.

“Soup kitchen has a negative connotation that you’re going to walk down pretty much a human conveyor belt, and people are going to take a silver ladle and slap stuff on a tray,” Harvin told the News. “I know how it is to eat undignified. I was in prison for six years. You get passed food through the same trap [that] you get passed a toilet brush that has been used on the toilet next door. We’re not doing that for people.”

Plans include debate team, financial literacy class, community garden

At Monday’s event, the National Prison Debate League’s Assistant Director Brittany LaMarr introduced the FRESH Debate Program, which will be rolled out in early February.



MAIA NEHME/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The organization’s founders discussed plans for food recovery and redistribution, among other subjects, at an MLK Day event.

The 12-week course will teach students in grades 5-12 oratory skills and allow them to discuss policies that directly impact their community, according to LaMarr.

“We shouldn’t have to go to prison to be able to be given the skills and the tools that you need to be successful in life,” LaMarr, who is also formerly incarcerated, said.

Moreover, the program’s students will receive a stipend that is placed in a college savings account, per LaMarr.

Credit Repair and Money Management, a financial literacy class for adults taught by Key-Bank’s Branch Manager Dwayne Hicks, will also begin in February. All courses will be taught in Pitts Chapel’s basement and in NHS’s learning lab, according to Harvin.

McClam said that he was inspired to host fREshSTARTs’ various courses at his church because he grew up with a learning disability.

“[I’ve gone] from a kid who is reading on a third grade level and graduating from high school, to achieve the things that I have done, the places that I have seen, the things that I have started,” he told the News. “Any time I can [spend] to help our community, I have to make our church available.”

In the next few months, Harvin aims to launch fREsh Farm, which will teach farming to neighborhood youth and adults. NHS will provide fREshSTARTs with plots of land for this program, according to Harvin, and Faulkner hopes it could also be held in SCSU’s community garden.

Another future project is the Make Shop, a space where fifth- to eighth-grade students can “exercise their creativity.” Akinjobi will lead the Make Shop.

“A lot of times, these kids are running around with empty hands,” he told the News. “We figured if we put tools in them, they’ll start to explore, as opposed to getting into mischief with whatever else they can pick up.”

Akinjobi noted that when he was younger, he rejected the guidance of adults in his life because they didn’t have any shared experiences.

But he thinks that he’ll be able to help Newhallville’s youth because of his shared background.

“Where you think you’re going, I’ve been,” he told the News. “I’m going to invest in all of this: myself, time, whatever is necessary to make sure that ... somebody cares enough about you to see you become [something] more ... You

don’t have to be a basketball player, you don’t have to be a rapper, you don’t have to be the neighborhood drug dealer.”

Once the guest speakers’ portion of Monday’s event concluded, Harvin invited attendees to head downstairs to Pitts Chapel’s fellowship hall to discuss the proposed programming over pizza.

Afterwards, fREshSTARTs’ leaders distributed flip charts, on which attendees were encouraged to jot down anything that they and their community needed to become the “best version” of themselves. Harvin promised that these charts would serve as the inspiration for fREshSTARTs’ future Oasis Center, a building he hopes to construct in the future to host the aforementioned programs and services.

“When we secure the funds to get this project done, to get this building built ... I’m going to take that paper, I’m going to give it to an architect and I’m going to say, ‘make this happen,’” he said.

Pitts Chapel Unified Free Will Baptist Church is located at 64 Brewster St.

Contact **MAIA NEHME** at maia.nehme@yale.edu.

Cornell and Skidmore join QuestBridge, Harvard only Ivy yet to partner

BY JOSIE REICH
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Cornell University and Skidmore College are the newest schools participating in the QuestBridge National College Match program, QuestBridge announced on Thursday afternoon.

Low-income high schoolers can seek early admission to selective colleges through QuestBridge, an organization that offers full scholarships to successful applicants. Students rank the organization’s partner schools in order of preference and commit to attending the top-ranked school with which they match. Now, 52 schools nationwide partner with QuestBridge.

Cornell and Harvard were previously the only two Ivy League schools that were not QuestBridge partners; now, Harvard is the sole member of the eight-school conference to

not offer the option to prospective college applicants.

The News could not immediately reach representatives from QuestBridge or the Cornell admissions office.

“We are thrilled to announce our newest college partners, Cornell University and Skidmore College,” QuestBridge wrote on social media around 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. “Welcome to QuestBridge!”

Cornell and Skidmore will welcome their first classes of QuestBridge scholars to campus in 2025.

In the most recent admissions cycle, 2,242 students across the country matched with 50 QuestBridge partner schools. At Yale, 72 students will join the class of 2028 next fall as QuestBridge Scholars.

Yale has been a QuestBridge partner since 2007.

Anika Seth contributed reporting.

Contact **JOSIE REICH** at josie.reich@yale.edu.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

QuestBridge announced that Cornell University and Skidmore College are the newest schools in their national college match.

SPORTS

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"I think there are several reasons for the turnaround; chief among them is that our practices have been very good. The guys have been engaged, focused and the work ethic and attention to detail has been solid. This will be the foundation for any success that we may have moving forward," KEITH ALLAIN, HEAD COACH OF MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

M HOCKEY: Bulldogs start new year on a high note

BY TOMMY GANNON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's hockey team (7-10-0, 5-6-0 ECAC) has started the 2024 calendar year off with a bang. After an up-and-down start to the season, the Bulldogs put together a dominant 5-1 victory in an exhibition match on New Year's Eve against McGill University (17-9-2) and have followed that up with three wins out of four this January.

"I think there are several reasons for the turnaround; chief among them is that our practices have been very good," head coach Keith Allain told the News. "The guys have been engaged, focused and the work ethic and attention to detail has been solid. This will be the foundation for any success that we may have moving forward."

In the win over McGill, first-year goalie Jack Stark '27 allowed

only one goal on 35 shots and proved that he is more than capable of anchoring this team on the back end. That game has sparked an outstanding run of form for the netminder, and he has been key for much of the Elis' January success.

"Jack has been very good during this stretch, when your goaltending is solid it gives the group confidence to play their game knowing that every mistake doesn't end up in the back of your net," said Allain. "We are fortunate in that both Jack and Nate Reid ['24] have the ability to be difference makers back there for us."

In the first game of the new year, Yale took on Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (7-13-1, 4-6-0 ECAC) and prevailed with a 2-1 victory in a back-and-forth affair. The Yale tallies came from sophomore star David Chen '26

SEE **MHOCKEY** PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

After a big win on New Year's Eve, the Bulldogs have so far recorded three victories out of four in January.

GYMNASTICS: Elis receive near-record-breaking score



YALE ATHLETICS

This past weekend, Yale gymnastics earned fourth place out of five teams in the Lindsey Ferris Invitational, setting the team's second-highest season opener score in history.

BY PALOMA VIGIL
SENIOR REPORTER

After many practices in the preseason, Yale gymnastics competed in their season opener on Sunday, Jan. 14, receiving an optimistic team score of 193.3250 ahead of their one-on-one competitions versus Ivy teams.

The team, which boasts five new first-year athletes, ranked third in the Gymnastics East Conference preseason poll. These projections place Yale behind the University of Pennsylvania and Brown University, although they won second place in the GEC last season.

Throughout the season the Bulldogs will fight to score well both as a team and in the individual events at the Ivy Classic, the GEC Championship and the NCAA Regionals and Nationals.

At the Charles E. Smith Center in Washington, D.C. last Sunday, the Bulldogs took to the competition floor for the first time in their 2023-24 season, competing against Penn, George Washington University, Cornell University and Temple University.

In addition to the entire team's first meet of the season, the event was three first-years' — Lily Aucoin '27, Chloe DeJoy '27, and Ella Tashjian '27 —

debut on the collegiate competition floor. Aucoin and DeJoy both competed on the uneven bars, while Tashjian took the lead amongst the Bulldogs on floor, with a whopping 9.8250.

Tashjian is also on the list for CollegeGymNews' "most anticipated on vault," with her clean yurchenko 1.5 twist stuck landing.

Yale gymnastics veterans Gigi Sabatini '26 and Emma Mangiacapre '24 both scored the highest for the team on vault and beam, respectively. The two tied on the balance beam with a 9.8520. Additionally, Sabatini took home

SEE **GYMNASTICS** PAGE 10

TRACK & FIELD: Yale to hold Ivy rivals in first 2024 meet



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale men's and women's track teams will take refuge from the cold in Coxé Cage, New Haven, where they will host Dartmouth and Columbia on Saturday, Jan. 20.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

On Saturday, Yale's men's and women's track teams will lace up for the first time in over a month at home against Dartmouth and Columbia, two Ivy League rivals.

Having last competed on Saturday, Dec. 9 in their first meet of the 2023-24 season thus far, fittingly dubbed the "Yale Season Opener," the Bulldogs look to bring their last six weeks of training into their first meet of 2024 and pick up ahead of where they left off.

"We ended in a great place before winter break, as everyone was in shape and I would hope strongly encouraged about the season to come," women's captain Isabella

Bergloff '24 wrote to the News. "The team got some much needed rest while staying vigilant in our training, and we've had two weeks of good work on campus coming into the YDC this weekend."

On the women's side of events, the team looks to continue its already-hot start to the season. Last time the Bulldogs competed in Coxé Cage, first year Gloria Guerrier '27 set a school record in the 500-meter dash in her first-ever meet as a Bulldog. Running an impressive 1:12.41, she finished just ahead of her sister Victoria Guerrier '27, who finished at 1:13.56. Iris Bergman '25 also took first place in the mile with a time of 5:06.63, and Claire Archer

SEE **T&F** PAGE 10

W BASKETBALL: Bulldogs struggle to catch fire in first battles of conference play

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's basketball team (3-13, 0-3 Ivy) continued 2023-24 season play and began Ivy League conference play over the winter break.

The Bulldogs faced the Harvard (9-7, 2-1 Ivy), Brown (11-5, 2-1 Ivy) and Columbia (12-4, 3-0 Ivy) women's basketball teams for their first Ivy games.

The Bulldogs started their conference play facing some

of the top teams in the league. Princeton University (13-3, 3-0 Ivy) recently made headlines after beating nationally-ranked University of Oklahoma (10-6, 4-1 Big 12) a few weeks ago. Harvard and Columbia joined Princeton in the top 80 of the most recent NET rankings.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, the Yale women's basketball team ventured to Cambridge, Mass. to battle the Harvard Crimson for their first Ivy game of the

season. The Bulldogs played quietly in the first quarter, answering only nine points to Harvard's 24. From there, the team seemed to wake up and compete against their rival, falling just short of the Crimson's 49 points with 45. A career-high 18 points from Grace Thybulle '25 and 12 points from Kiley Capstraw '26 were to no avail. The first quarter determined the fate of

SEE **WBB** PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale women's basketball fell 0-3 against competitive Ivy League teams.

STAT OF THE WEEK

9.5

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF REBOUNDS PER GAME FOR TWO TIME IVY LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE WEEK YALE BIG DANNY WOLF '26.

City negotiations electrify New Haven’s tiny homes

BY YURII STASIUK
STAFF REPORTER

With a winter storm fast approaching, the city decided on Monday, Jan. 15 to allow the Rosette Neighborhood Village Collective to turn on electricity in tiny homes constructed for unhoused people.

Although officials originally demanded the removal of the tiny homes in December, activists have since achieved concessions from the city. Following a protest on Friday, activists and residents of the “village” publicly met with city officials in the mayor’s office and reached a final agreement that allowed them to turn on electricity.

“These are folks who have been refugees of your own creation,” organizer Sean Gargamelli-McCreight addressed Elicker during Friday’s meeting. “You have bulldozed their property, their homes, their communities, you’ve broken down their encampment and they fled to gather together in community.”

After the city evicted unhoused people from the Ella T. Grasso Boulevard tent city last spring, some of them moved to the backyard of activist Mark Colville, where volunteers constructed six tiny houses. The homes comprise what is now the Rosette Neighborhood Village Collective.

Initially, the city ordered the Collective to take down the new construction.

“We have the same expectation for [the Rosette Village Neighborhood Collective] that we have for every other property owner in the city that follows the law,” New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker told the News in October. At the time, he said that the homes did not abide by the city’s zoning regulations.

Since then, with the help of fifteen lawyers from multinational law firm Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher LLP — which assisted pro bono — and New Haven Legal Aid, the Collective had a series of meetings with city officials to review regulations and find a way forward, said the Collective’s organizer Jacob Miller. But what ultimately swayed Elicker’s decision on tiny houses, Miller believes, was “losing in a court of public opinion.”

During Friday’s meeting, Elicker said that the city tried its best to collaborate, but the process required time. According to him, construction like the one in Colville’s backyard did not fit into the existing legal system, and novel



YURII STASIUK/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Although the city originally ordered the removal of the tiny homes, they have reversed their decision after pushback.

regulations and procedures had to be created.

With the support of lawyers, activists submitted 20 modification requests to the State Building Code, which the state originally rejected, as tiny houses do not fit into the legal definition of the single-family building code. Instead, the state officials recommended classifying them as temporary structures with less “onerous” regulations, according to Miller.

But the activists accused the city of not doing enough. So they protested at the City Hall on Friday.

“We are pissed off, we are angry. Cold people are not comfortable, [uncomfortable] people are not happy,” Christina Del Santo, resident of the Village, told the News. “Help your citizens. [Elicker] is the most powerful man in the city. He can do something.”

During the meeting at the mayor’s office after the protest, Santo said that she lost her voice and was continuously sick because of the cold and lack of heat in her house.

According to Elicker and New Haven building inspector Bob Dillon, the city had to develop safety and management regulations for the construction jointly with state officials and could not proceed until they received the approval of the finalized list on Thursday from the state’s building inspector.

“Normally, we would not entertain a project like this when it was built without permits. We’ve been working really hard on this,” economic development official Mike Piscitelli, who also participated in Friday’s meeting, said Thursday.

Originally, activists expected to wait until the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting to be allowed

to turn on the electricity. The next special meeting, scheduled specifically for the Rosette Neighborhood Village, will be held on Jan. 30.

But given the extreme cold weather approaching in Connecticut — which may pose safety issues to Village residents — activists argued that the electricity had to be turned on immediately. Following back-and-forth talks, the city agreed to allow the electricity for the houses to be turned on right after the inspection confirmed that they met outlined safety standards.

Since activists had previously worked with the city on the preliminary safety requirements, most of the regulations were already implemented by Friday’s meeting, according to Gargamelli-McCreight. The city’s building inspector and fire marshal inspected the houses on Saturday, and electricity

was officially turned on on Monday, Miller told the News.

The agreement between activists and the city legally defined tiny houses as temporary construction allowed for 180 days. After that, the Collective will have to find a way to fit the houses into permanent zoning and building codes.

“The state’s perspective was, this is not the first time we’re gonna see something like this, so there really needs to be a building and zoning code framework for it,” Miller said. “So our hope is that the state, hopefully in conjunction with us, will continue to figure out what that framework looks like.”

The Rosette Neighborhood Village Collective is located in New Haven’s Hill neighborhood.

Contact **YURII STASIUK** at yurii.stasiuk@yale.edu.

Maytal Saltiel becomes first Jewish Chaplain of Yale

BY KAITLYN POHLY
STAFF REPORTER

Maytal Saltiel began her religious work at Yale in 2013, and since then, she has become a powerful force in bolstering religious life on campus. When Sharon Kugler — the University’s first female chaplain — retired in June, Saltiel stepped in as interim leader. Now, after a six-month search, Saltiel is stepping into the post permanently.

“I am honored to be named the 8th chaplain of Yale University,” Saltiel wrote to the News. “I have been here for times of sorrow and pain, and times of joy and celebration, through it Yale has been a place where people care deeply for one another and the world.”

Saltiel began her career at Yale as the assistant chaplain for special programs in 2013 before becoming associate chaplain in 2017, and then interim head chaplain last year.

In her time at Yale, Saltiel said, she has worked heavily with the Buddhist, Sikh, Baha’i, Indigenous and Pagan communities. Under her interim leadership, the Chaplain’s Office has seen considerable growth in student engagement numbers.

Religious leaders on campus support Saltiel’s appointment because of her “compassion, care, advocacy, and concern for all,” Director of Muslim Life Imam Omer Bajwa told the News. Buddhist Chaplain Reverend Sumi Loundon Kim agreed, citing how supportive Saltiel has already been of the growing Buddhist community on campus.

Bajwa also shared that Saltiel’s commitment to hospitality and excellence will make her a fantastic leader, “especially in these heart-breaking times.”

“I think Maytal will help Yale and the Chaplain’s Office respond to the

rapidly changing character of young adult religious identity in America and around the world,” Senior Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life and Pastor of the University Church in Yale Reverend Ian Oliver wrote to the News.

Uri Cohen, the Executive Director of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life, called Saltiel an “outstanding campus leader and supporter of students of all faiths.”

“I could not be happier that she has been appointed as Yale’s very first Jewish University Chaplain,” Cohen told the News. “This groundbreaking appointment — especially now — is an affirmation that Jewish identity can flourish in its own right and serve others at the same time. We are excited to work with Maytal and her whole team in the years to come to build a strong, vibrant, and supportive Yale community.”

Odessa Goldberg ’25, a student leader at the Slifka Center Odessa, echoed Cohen, voicing excitement at the Jewish representation in broader religious leadership on campus.

Looking toward the future, Saltiel said that she is excited to continue innovating new ways for students to connect with their religion and religious life on campus.

Regardless of religiosity and a student’s connection with faith, Saltiel noted that all were welcome for “free ice cream or a cup of tea.”

“The Chaplain’s Office is a place where everyone is welcome exactly as they are,” she said.

The Chaplain’s Office is located at 300 College St.

Ada Perlman contributed reporting.

Contact **KAITLYN POHLY** at kaitlyn.pohly@yale.edu.



COURTESY OF MAYTAL SALTIEL

In an announcement to the Yale community on Jan. 16, Maytal Saltiel was named the new University Chaplain.

SPORTS

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"I think there are several reasons for the turnaround; chief among them is that our practices have been very good. The guys have been engaged, focused and the work ethic and attention to detail has been solid. This will be the foundation for any success that we may have moving forward," KEITH ALLAIN, HEAD COACH OF MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

M HOCKEY: Bulldogs start new year on a high note

BY TOMMY GANNON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's hockey team (7-10-0, 5-6-0 ECAC) has started the 2024 calendar year off with a bang. After an up-and-down start to the season, the Bulldogs put together a dominant 5-1 victory in an exhibition match on New Year's Eve against McGill University (17-9-2) and have followed that up with three wins out of four this January.

"I think there are several reasons for the turnaround; chief among them is that our practices have been very good," head coach Keith Allain told the News. "The guys have been engaged, focused and the work ethic and attention to detail has been solid. This will be the foundation for any success that we may have moving forward."

In the win over McGill, first-year goalie Jack Stark '27 allowed

only one goal on 35 shots and proved that he is more than capable of anchoring this team on the back end. That game has sparked an outstanding run of form for the netminder, and he has been key for much of the Elis' January success.

"Jack has been very good during this stretch, when your goaltending is solid it gives the group confidence to play their game knowing that every mistake doesn't end up in the back of your net," said Allain. "We are fortunate in that both Jack and Nate Reid ['24] have the ability to be difference makers back there for us."

In the first game of the new year, Yale took on Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (7-13-1, 4-6-0 ECAC) and prevailed with a 2-1 victory in a back-and-forth affair. The Yale tallies came from sophomore star David Chen '26

SEE **MHOCKEY** PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

After a big win on New Year's Eve, the Bulldogs have so far recorded three victories out of four in January.

GYMNASTICS: Elis receive near-record-breaking score



YALE ATHLETICS

This past weekend, Yale gymnastics earned fourth place out of five teams in the Lindsey Ferris Invitational, setting the team's second-highest season opener score in history.

BY PALOMA VIGIL
SENIOR REPORTER

After many practices in the preseason, Yale gymnastics competed in their season opener on Sunday, Jan. 14, receiving an optimistic team score of 193.3250 ahead of their one-on-one competitions versus Ivy teams.

The team, which boasts five new first-year athletes, ranked third in the Gymnastics East Conference preseason poll. These projections place Yale behind the University of Pennsylvania and Brown University, although they won second place in the GEC last season.

Throughout the season the Bulldogs will fight to score well both as a team and in the individual events at the Ivy Classic, the GEC Championship and the NCAA Regionals and Nationals.

At the Charles E. Smith Center in Washington, D.C. last Sunday, the Bulldogs took to the competition floor for the first time in their 2023-24 season, competing against Penn, George Washington University, Cornell University and Temple University.

In addition to the entire team's first meet of the season, the event was three first-years' — Lily Aucoin '27, Chloe DeJoy '27, and Ella Tashjian '27 —

debut on the collegiate competition floor. Aucoin and DeJoy both competed on the uneven bars, while Tashjian took the lead amongst the Bulldogs on floor, with a whopping 9.8250.

Tashjian is also on the list for CollegeGymNews' "most anticipated on vault," with her clean yurchenko 1.5 twist stuck landing.

Yale gymnastics veterans Gigi Sabatini '26 and Emma Mangiacapre '24 both scored the highest for the team on vault and beam, respectively. The two tied on the balance beam with a 9.8520. Additionally, Sabatini took home

SEE **GYMNASTICS** PAGE 10

TRACK & FIELD: Yale to hold Ivy rivals in first 2024 meet



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale men's and women's track teams will take refuge from the cold in Coxé Cage, New Haven, where they will host Dartmouth and Columbia on Saturday, Jan. 20.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

On Saturday, Yale's men's and women's track teams will lace up for the first time in over a month at home against Dartmouth and Columbia, two Ivy League rivals.

Having last competed on Saturday, Dec. 9 in their first meet of the 2023-24 season thus far, fittingly dubbed the "Yale Season Opener," the Bulldogs look to bring their last six weeks of training into their first meet of 2024 and pick up ahead of where they left off.

"We ended in a great place before winter break, as everyone was in shape and I would hope strongly encouraged about the season to come," women's captain Isabella

Bergloff '24 wrote to the News. "The team got some much needed rest while staying vigilant in our training, and we've had two weeks of good work on campus coming into the YDC this weekend."

On the women's side of events, the team looks to continue its already-hot start to the season. Last time the Bulldogs competed in Coxé Cage, first year Gloria Guerrier '27 set a school record in the 500-meter dash in her first-ever meet as a Bulldog. Running an impressive 1:12.41, she finished just ahead of her sister Victoria Guerrier '27, who finished at 1:13.56. Iris Bergman '25 also took first place in the mile with a time of 5:06.63, and Claire Archer

SEE **T&F** PAGE 10

W BASKETBALL: Bulldogs struggle to catch fire in first battles of conference play

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's basketball team (3-13, 0-3 Ivy) continued 2023-24 season play and began Ivy League conference play over the winter break.

The Bulldogs faced the Harvard (9-7, 2-1 Ivy), Brown (11-5, 2-1 Ivy) and Columbia (12-4, 3-0 Ivy) women's basketball teams for their first Ivy games.

The Bulldogs started their conference play facing some

of the top teams in the league. Princeton University (13-3, 3-0 Ivy) recently made headlines after beating nationally-ranked University of Oklahoma (10-6, 4-1 Big 12) a few weeks ago. Harvard and Columbia joined Princeton in the top 80 of the most recent NET rankings.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, the Yale women's basketball team ventured to Cambridge, Mass. to battle the Harvard Crimson for their first Ivy game of the

season. The Bulldogs played quietly in the first quarter, answering only nine points to Harvard's 24. From there, the team seemed to wake up and compete against their rival, falling just short of the Crimson's 49 points with 45. A career-high 18 points from Grace Thybulle '25 and 12 points from Kiley Capstraw '26 were to no avail. The first quarter determined the fate of

SEE **WBB** PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale women's basketball fell 0-3 against competitive Ivy League teams.

STAT OF THE WEEK

9.5

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF REBOUNDS PER GAME FOR TWO TIME IVY LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE WEEK YALE BIG DANNY WOLF '26.

HOMETOWN HOOKUP

BY HANNAH KURCZESKI

“So... are you ready to see him?”

I don’t take my eyes off the road before me as Inez asks the question from the passenger seat. “See who?” I ask, straining my eyes to read the street signs through the quickly-falling dusk.

Inez sighs, and I don’t have to look at her to know she’s rolling her eyes. “Don’t pull that shit with me. You know exactly who I’m talking about.”

Goosebumps rise along my arms as I put on my turn signal and make a left onto the main road of Pineridge, which cuts right through the small town’s center. On the left stretches a row of white and beige houses, one after the other in a patterned line. On the right stretches hometown landmarks: Billy’s Diner, which was home to dozens of late-night pancakes with friends and the place where I worked my first job; the Methodist church where my parents always took my brother and me on Christmas; and finally, Pineridge High School. It all looks so, so familiar, and I feel so, so different from the girl I was when I called these places my home.

Inez grumbles something under her breath, and I do my best to ignore it as I park my car right between the Methodist and the school that used to be ours. I turn the key in the ignition and open my door, and the frigid December wind whips my hair into my face. Inez curses and comes to stand next to me, staring at the white house in front of us. “Been a while since we’ve been here, huh?” she says.

I nod. “Over a year, for me.”

“Do you think you’re ready to see everyone?” The last word dangles from her lips, the sentence unfinished. Him, I know she wanted to say again. Are you ready to see Christopher?

“I saw Betty last summer,” I say instead, looking both ways before stepping into the street. Days-old snow sloshes under my feet like a melted 7-Eleven Slurpee. Inez sighs and falls into step beside me as together, we approach the house.

His house.

I’m about the knock on the door when Inez puts up a hand to stop me. “Before we go in, you need to promise me that you won’t be weird with him. I’m serious, Thea.” I look at her, and there isn’t a trace of humor in her eyes.

I swallow my saliva, and my pride along with it. “I promise.”

“Okay.” She hesitates. “Because I don’t think you realize how much your leaving affected him. I think he still has feelings for you.”

“That’s bull—,”

“It’s not. He hasn’t so much as looked at anyone else since you guys ended your ... whatever it was.”

“I like to call it a one-time situationship.”

She cringes. “Maybe don’t call it that to his face.”

I knock on the door before she can say anything else. Moments later, it’s flung open by a girl with a face full of freckles and a large grin. Even though they’re fraternal twins, August looks so much like Christopher that it’s momentarily painful. She tackles us with a hug, giggling and tugging us inside. “Finally, you guys are here! You’re the last ones to arrive.”

“It’s good to see you, August,” I say, detaching myself from her grasp. She leads downstairs to the basement, already filling Inez in on the hometown drama. As the only two people who left the state for college, Inez and I are consistently out of the loop.

I skip the second stair from the top out of habit, but they don’t. The resounding creak seeps through all of my mental walls as the memories hit me one after the other, like fat droplets of freezing rain: running footsteps, hands entwined, whispered giggles. Talking on his black leather couch until 3 a.m., and hearing him say the words I’d dreamed of for so long. The door slamming behind me as I left, unable to look back. My going away party the next day, where his face was the only one missing.

I haven’t seen Christopher since that night; I haven’t been here since that night, at the end of last summer before I left for my first year of college. I’d skipped the annual New Year’s Eve party at his house, because four months was too short to erase the leftover guilt from that night. But here I am one year later trying again, because Inez had spent hours convincing me to come with her. “Don’t come for him,” she’d said. “All of our friends will be there, just like old times. You can’t spend another New Year sitting at home alone and eating grapes under your table.”

And she was right. That was lame, and I’d hated it last year. So I paste a smile onto my face as the basement comes into view, and everyone turns to look at us. “Now the party can really start!” August whoops, leading us deeper into the room, which has been frozen in time. There’s the leather couch right across from their unfortunately placed dartboard and flat-screen TV, which still bears a tiny crack on the left side of the screen where a stray dart thrown by a drunk Christopher permanently scarred it. Along the walls hang photos his parents put up years ago and never switched out, of him and August grinning at the camera at all different stages of adolescence.

Before I can get too lost in my surroundings, Betty’s arms are around me, with James right behind her. “I am so glad you came,” she says, pulling away. She looks me up and down. “Also, you look great. College looks good on you.”

“Thanks,” I reply, as James pulls me in for another hug. I try to live in the moment, but I catch a flash of Christopher’s blond hair over his shoulder, and it takes all of my willpower not to stare.

But I am weak, so I do stare, and then his blue eyes meet mine and I can’t remember why I’m here. I should leave, right now, if I could only find my car keys. Where did I put them? Why did I ever listen to Inez? Why did I ever like Christopher in the first place, why am I here, I shouldn’t be here—

“Thea?”

“How are you?” he says, staring at me with those blue eyes that I’ve never been able to resist.

Betty is staring at me with a furrowed brow, like she can see every single thought that’s in my head. And knowing her, she probably can.

I glance over my shoulder at where he’s standing, engaged in conversation with our friend Rebecca. His back is to me so he can’t see me staring, thank goodness. For a moment I let myself remember what it was like to be around him, even just as friends. I remember the way his eyes crinkled when he laughed, and how intensely he’d make eye contact with someone when they talked, so you knew he was giving you his undivided attention. He had the ability to make me feel like I was the only person on the whole planet who mattered, and I missed those little moments just as much as I missed the idea of a romantic “us,” if not more so.

Betty puts her hand on my shoulder. “You should talk to him,” she says, giving me a little shove in his direction. I let the motion propel me forward step by step until I’m right behind him and it’s too late to talk myself out of it. What do I really have to lose?

The second Rebecca sees me, her eyes widen. She immediately excuses herself to go talk to August and Inez, and then Christopher turns around.

My legs turn to lead and refuse to move as he stares at me. The smile that had been on his lips moments before drops a little at the sight of me, and he runs his fingers through his dirty blond hair. He’s grown it out since I last saw him into a medium-length middle part, rather than the close-cropped buzz I knew so well. It suits him, I can’t help but think as his eyes search my face. I wish I knew what he was thinking.

“Hey,” he says, after what seems like forever but is probably just a few seconds.

My entire mouth feels like it has been swabbed dry with a cotton ball. I force my jaw to squeak out a “Hi.”

“How are you?” he says, staring at me with those blue eyes that I’ve never been able to resist.

Read more on B2



WEEKEND

PAGES

Cont. from page B1

“I’m great,” I reply quickly. It’s not a lie, but I say it so unconvincingly that it sounds like it is. “I’ve been so great. Like, really and truly, everything has been going really ... great.”

I am an idiot. I am such an idiot, I think as he stares at me. If his insides have also turned into a pile of mush, his face doesn’t show it. He just nods and says, “That’s great to hear,” and I think that I never want to hear the word “great” again.

I fidget with the hem of my sweater, picking at the white stitches as I try to think of something else to say. “Um. How have you been?”

“I’ve been good,” he says, a little slowly. “College is fine. I’ve been working.”

“That’s good,” I say. “Where—?”

“The diner,” he says before I finish. “I’m the assistant manager now.”

“That’s great,” I say, nodding just a little too vigorously. “Congrats, Chris. That’s really—”

“Great?” He gives me a small smile.

I am crashing and burning. This whole conversation is a dumpster fire. I should be muzzled like a dog that bites people too often; I shouldn’t be allowed to speak, because all I am doing is word vomiting all over him, too drunk on the thoughts in my head to say anything even remotely coherent.

Betty must see me struggling because she and James insert themselves into the conversation. She hooks her arm through the crook of my elbow and leads me over to the other side of the room. “He doesn’t hate you, you know,” she says, dropping her voice to a near-whisper.

I can feel his eyes on the back of my head. Don’t turn around, my brain repeats in a silent mantra. “What?”

“Christopher. He doesn’t hate you. Not even close, so you can stop acting all awkward.”

Heat blooms across my cheeks. “Does he still ... you know?”

“Like, does he like you?” Betty hesitates. “It’s hard to say. But I think you should talk to him.”

“I can’t,” I say immediately.

“Why not? What’s the worst that could—?”

“Because I’m not over him.” The words spill out of my mouth before I can stop them.

Betty blinks at me. “What?”

My stomach pulls itself into a Gordian knot. Before I can think better of it, I’m telling her everything. “I’ve had a crush on him for years. You know that.”

“Of course. But he professed his love to you and you turned him down.”

“Because I thought it would be stupid to go to college five hours away with a brand new relationship. It was awful timing, and I said we should wait until break or something at least, when we had a little more time together in person. But it broke his heart because he thought that meant I didn’t have faith in us, so it never happened, not even over break. And I’ve felt so guilty about it ever since, because it’s my fault that we’re not together. It’s my fault that it never worked out.”

Betty blinks at me, long and slow. The seconds seem to drag on, until finally she breathes, “What?”

The knot pulls itself a little tighter. “This is awful of me, I know—,”

“No, I— Thea, this changes everything. I didn’t know any of that. He never told any of that to me or James.”

It’s my turn to stare at her. “He didn’t?”

“No. I mean, he didn’t really want to talk about it at all, so we all thought you’d told him it was too late and he was still pining. But if you’re still into him, if you’re also still pining for him, then ... this is lowkey perfect.”

It takes me a moment to comprehend what she’s suggesting. “You think we should rectify things now? Make amends and get together, when, tonight?”

Betty shrugs. “Why not? At the very least leave this all in the past, and go into the new year with some closure.” She nods to where he’s standing behind me, and when I turn around he’s staring back at me, still talking to James. I wonder if they’re having a similar conversation.

Before I can decide whether or not I’m ready, Betty’s arm is entwined with mine and she’s leading me back over to where Christopher and James are standing. She says something to them and they laugh, but I can’t hear a word over the cacophony of voices in my brain, each one shouting commands and debating what to say, how to act, whether or not I should just give up and run.

Then I blink, and Betty is leading James away. It’s just me and Christopher again, and his eyes ask a thousand questions that I’m not ready to answer. I remind myself to breathe. In, out. In, out.

I speak. “Hey. Or, well— hey again.”

He gives me a small smile back. “Hey again. Do you, um. Do you want to sit down?” He nods at the couch.

That stupid black leather couch.

“Sure,” I manage, following him over. We both sit down, several inches apart. I almost don’t hear him when he says, “Where were we? How’s college?”

It would be so easy to just tell him the basics: that college is great, that I’ve made a lot of friends, that my classes are interesting. It would be so easy to never mention that night, to just pretend that it never happened and we can just go back to being friends, the way we were before. But that’s not why I’m sitting here on this couch, talking to him for the first time in over a year.

He keeps looking at me, and I realize he’s waiting for me to speak. I take a deep breath. “Honestly, I—,”

“Midnight in ten seconds!” August shouts from the front of the room. “Everyone grab someone to kiss! Or if you’re single and lame, here’s a bowl of grapes.” She pops one in her mouth as next to her, Betty and James — our friend group’s resident couple since sophomore year — lean into each other. “Ten!”

Christopher and I look at each other.

“Nine!”

“What were you gonna say?” he asks me.

“Eight!”

I can’t do this, I think. My whole body tenses as I take another deep breath.

“Seven!”

“Dorothea?”

“Six!”

“I want to apologize for that night,” I start. I don’t need to specify which, because he knows exactly when I’m talking about.

“Five!”

“I never lost feelings for you. Five hours and a million miles could never change the way I feel, and I wish I’d been able to say that then, but I wasn’t ready.”

“Four!”

I finish my thought before I can chicken out. “I don’t expect you to still feel the same way or anything, but I just wanted you to go into the new year knowing. And I needed to say it, so at the very least, we can both move on.

“Three!”

His gaze is so intense that it takes all of my concentration not to squirm. “Are you ... gonna say something?” I ask.

“Two!”

“Do you really mean that?” he says, so softly.

“One!”

Everyone shouts “Happy New Year!” as I nod and wait for something to happen. He keeps staring at me.

Then I blink and his hand is cupping my face and we’re kissing the way we only dared to that one night before, when the reality of us felt possible for the first time. I kiss him back, and not a single New Year’s Eve fireworks display could compare to the fireworks that are currently exploding in my brain, whistling and popping and filling my heart with warmth and light and color.

When he pulls away, he’s grinning, and I can’t tell whose smile is wider: his or my own. “Sorry,” he says, a little sheepish. “I couldn’t help it.”

“Happy New Year to us,” I say, letting my fingers entwine with his.

He squeezes my hand, his eyes never leaving my face. “Happy New Year to us,” he agrees, before pressing his lips to mine once more.

“I’m sorry, then he said what?”

Betty and Inez stare at me in disbelief over our joint Face-time call. I fold another pair of jeans and put them into my dorm room dresser, then shrug. “I don’t know. It was actually insane. Like, we spent the entire rest of break together, all for him to drop right before I leave that he’s been talking to a girl from the diner this entire time?”

“That’s so fucked,” Betty says, outraged. “What an asshole.”

“I’m shocked, personally,” Inez adds. “Like, I swear I thought he’d been into you this whole time. August said he was always moping around the house and that he never, ever talked about another woman. He certainly never mentioned an ‘Esty from the diner.’”

“She said the same to me,” Betty agrees. “She said her twin-tuition told her he was still in love with Thea. Isn’t that a thing?”

“Apparently not,” I sigh, grabbing a T-shirt from my open suitcase. “But seriously, guys. I appreciate your concern, but I’m over it.”

Inez raises her eyebrows. “You sure about that?”

I roll up the T-shirt and place it into my open drawer. “I promise. Like, of course it sucks, and of course I’m mad at him, because what the hell was he thinking?”

“Men don’t think,” Betty chimes in. Inez chuckles.

“But at least we tried it, you know?” I continue. “Like, we tried again, and now we know. We’re not meant for anything more than friendship. And honestly? That’s probably for the better.”

“I guess,” Betty frowns. “But it would’ve been so cute. Like, you guys have been waiting for this for so long.”

“Is it gonna be even more awkward when we try to all hang out on breaks now?” Inez whines.

I shut my drawer and hop onto my bed, picking up my phone from where it was propped against my pillow. “It doesn’t have to be. Like I am genuinely one hundred percent over it, so as long as he doesn’t make things weird, I won’t make things weird.”

“If he does, I’ll give him a piece of my mind,” Betty threatens. I can’t help but laugh.

Inez sighs. “Well. I guess this just goes to show that you should never hook up with someone from your hometown.”

“Absolutely not.” I stare outside my dorm room window where snow has started falling, tiny white flecks tumbling down from a gray sky. They seem to multiply as I stare at them, and I marvel at the idea that somehow, they’re all unique, even if I can’t tell them apart from here. There’s an infinite amount of crystal combinations, and for a moment, I let myself believe that the snowflakes outside my window are as numerous and different as the experiences of the year ahead, of the opportunities I’ll have. Of the places I’ll go, and of the people I’ll meet.

Without thinking, I smile. “Besides,” I continue, not tearing my eyes from the fast-falling flurries. “There’s a long year ahead. Who knows what could happen?”

Contact **HANNAH KURCZESKI** at hanmah.kurczeski@yale.edu.

Reading Rut

// BY LANDON BISHOP

Can a single book bring you out of a reading rut? I’ve been in a reading rut for the past 19 years.

While this is an exaggeration, finding a good book and keeping a consistent reading streak has never been my strong suit.

My “endless” amounts of homework and over-booked extracurricular schedule were always to blame. I felt like I just never had the time to enjoy a book. I was always occupied with something else. Then again, even when I would have the time, there seemed to be some other activity that called my name with a voice that yelled louder than the pages of any book ever did.

Reading for pleasure felt like a chore.

I constantly tracked markers of progress: how many pages I’ve read, how many pages I had left in a chapter, how many minutes have passed. Pleasure reading just always fell out of my grasp, no matter how hard I tried to hold on.

However, over winter break, I think I found the panacea for anyone that, like me, would diagnose themselves with a case of chronic reading rut. The medicine? “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens.

I borrowed this book from a friend one day after explaining to her that I needed a good book to read. So that night after she gave it to me, I curled up on the cozy blue chair in the corner of my room, and I began reading...

... and I did not stop.

I was hooked. I couldn’t put this book down. I finished it over the course of two days.

I can’t remember the last time this happened to me. So, do yourself a favor and read this book.

“Where the Crawdads Sing” tells the coming-of-age story of Kya Clark, a girl who is forced to raise herself in the marshes of North Carolina after her family abandons her. She spends most of her days out in the marsh collecting plants, bird feathers and shells, amassing an impressive collection and cataloging her findings. After years of isolation, she becomes romantically involved with two men from a nearby town. However, when one of the men is later found dead, Kya is accused of his murder and must try to prove her innocence to a town that’s against her. Simultaneously a bildungsroman, a love story and a murder mystery, this novel is exciting, enthralling and everything you could ever want in a book.

While I could discuss this novel endlessly, I’ll break down this review into my three favorite aspects of the book: structure, themes and characters.

Structure: Throughout the novel, Owens alternates between timelines of the past and the present, almost as if they are two different stories, until they ultimately converge into one. This feature makes the book so engaging and difficult to put down because as you read, the timeline from the past starts to catch up to the one in the present, and it becomes evident how the stories overlap. What makes these alternating timelines easy to follow is that each chapter is marked with a year, so you always know exactly where you are in time.

Themes: Owens also does a masterful job of addressing a variety of themes into one book without it feeling forced. She demonstrates how nature, isolation, love and family contribute to one’s growing up and maturity. Her use of setting effectively ties together each of these themes. The marshes illustrate Kya’s separation from society, the importance of nature in her life and her need for love.

Characters: As I read the novel, I felt as though I was living alongside Kya and experiencing everything she was experiencing. It was impossible not to empathize with her. Owens’ characterization of Kya also made me look at my life from a different perspective. The way that Owens describes Kya, her actions and her situation made me do some introspection and think about the things that I sometimes take for granted, like holidays and time with family.



// ANA PAPAKIRK

So whether you’re an avid reader or someone who needs a little motivation, this book will surely cure your reading rut.

Contact **LANDON BISHOP** at landon.bishop@yale.edu.

WKND Recommends

Pronouncing FDOC correctly.

On Confidence

// BY BRI ANDERSON



Being at home, especially at the start of the year, always causes me to reflect on where my life is at and where I want to improve. In years past, particularly since I started at Yale, this period of reflection left me feeling lost, uninspired or comparing myself to others. Coming into 2024 was the first time where I have genuinely felt like I have it together. That’s not to say there aren’t things I still want to work on (I am of the opinion that self-improvement is a lifelong journey), but there isn’t the insurmountable feeling that I am doing something wrong. Maybe this is from the perspective that a particularly difficult 2023 gave me — in a twisted “the beatings will continue until morale improves” type of way. But nonetheless, I’m in a spot in life and my Yale career where there are few things left that I could want. I have found a wonderful and kind group of friends, my first ever best friend in my roommate, fulfillment with my academic achievements and a very busy schedule of extracurriculars that make me feel like I’m dedicating my time to things I really enjoy. I feel like the adult I wanted to be with my own apartment and a job. Yet, every time I had this feeling of confidence and fulfillment last year,

// MALIA KUO

something in my head kept telling me I was jinxing it or that I was being arrogant. So my 2024 is about being okay with being okay with myself. The line between believing in your abilities and boasting about them can be a difficult thing to parse. I think being young is a particularly turbulent time: you swing between the feeling that you float above it all and massive insecurity. I don’t doubt that being at Yale magnifies this experience. I’ve written before about how it is hard to step back and stop comparing yourself to those around you because everyone has achieved great things to get here, but at the same time you have to be mindful of thinking that your life exists within the Yale bubble. It’s certainly an odd paradox that at the same time your brain is saying you can’t fit in with the crowd, it seems to feel like those are the only people that understand your lifestyle. All that said, it isn’t a crime to believe you are deserving of what you have earned and to be proud of your achievements. Maybe for me, coming from a small town where I knew maybe two people that had gone to Ivy League universities or even universities outside of the south, it did feel like boasting. Talking about Yale seemed to elicit such a reaction that saying where I went to college felt like pulling teeth. I never really understood where the line is between arrogance and confidence, and I was so afraid of crossing it that I don’t think I ever took stock in myself. But in the past few months, I realized that I had been selling myself short for far too long. My roommate constantly said that I would get further if I just believed in myself more, but I didn’t feel like I could allow myself to do that for fear of what others would think. Then, something clicked over break. Prioritizing kindness doesn’t mean being a doormat or putting yourself down. Self-help books and podcasts talk about the impact of negative self-talk on how you carry yourself, and I finally realized just how true it is. Living my life keeping grace and kindness in mind while still knowing my own capabilities has already made me so much happier. After all, at the end of the day, it’s more important to be happy with yourself than to have made yourself small to accommodate others.

Contact **BRI ANDERSON** at bri.anderson@yale.edu.

Perfect Crystals in an Icy Haze

// BY ANNIE SIDRANSKY

As a child of the Sonoran Desert, I grew up cherishing snow. It would only come once every few years, and it was an event. Not in the social sense — we didn’t get snow days at the first sign of frozen precipitation, which often seems to be a stereotype of the southern states. In Tucson, Arizona, I never got a snow day. I did, occasionally, get snow. On those special days, a flurry of icy clusters would float down from the sky. They were never quite flakes — I didn’t realize that actual snowflakes were real until I came to Connecticut — but they were something softer than hail. It was hauntingly beautiful, the way this ice would coat the landscape. I say coat and not blanket, since this film of snow never seemed to rise more than a millimeter or two thick. Attempts to roll snowballs off the ground resulted in clumps of what were mostly pebbles, but I still made tiny, rock-filled snowmen whenever I could. When it snowed in the evening or night, there would be a winter wonderland in the morning, in its rarest form. Even if the white crystals struggled to stick to the ground, they always seemed to manage to encase the vegetation, of which there is surprisingly plenty in the Sonoran Desert. Cacti spines became horizontal icicles while palo verde trees and creosote bushes transformed into giant white feathers bowed down by the frost. Everything sparkled, the sun transforming the flora into disco balls while simultaneously melting the scene away. The desert snow was a paradox, witnessed only by the early risers. The snow was crisp in Arizona. Temperatures rarely dropped below freezing, so while it was certainly cold for me, someone who is most comfortable at 95 degrees, it was never unbearable. In Connecticut, it’s entirely excruciating. The snow bites in New Haven. Logically, I was prepared for this, knowing to bundle up in my thickest coat before I ran outside to see the first snowfall of my time at Yale. I was awed at the insistence of this frozen downpour, uncompromising in its mission to obscure the already novel grass in a crunchy shroud. The glamour, however, quickly dissipated as my body registered the burning pain of just how cold it was. It was somehow even worse when I finally got back inside, assaulted by the heater and left dripping as



// JESSAI FLORES

the little white flecks on my clothes and hair turned to water. When it’s below freezing, the last thing I want is literal ice slapping into my face. This is especially true when I’m half-running to class, straining my muscles in a desperate attempt to stay upright on the side-walk-turned-skating-rink. When I express this sentiment to my peers, I’m often told to be grateful that it’s not just cold, that at least the snow is pretty. It is stunning, for those few morning hours before footsteps and tires turn it to a grayish mush that quick-sands my boots every time I step off a curb. At least in Arizona, the snow doesn’t stick around long enough to succumb to this fate. Connecticut snow dampened my wonder at the phenomenon, though I must admit that the snowflakes themselves — they’re perfect. Literally, of course, with their delicate arms extended in mathematical symmetry, edges and corners microscopically proportionate. The first time I saw one land on my mittened hand, it was as if a film had been removed from my eyes. I’ve always been a fan of fantasy, of opening a book and entering a realm of magic and mythic. When I beheld my first real snowflake, that magic entered my world. I wished that I could string that tiny crystal on a chain and wear it as a necklace, but its beauty, by form, resisted capture. In a way, nature is otherworldly. Human civilization pushes the wilderness over a line, making it something to enter on hikes and beach days, rather than something to live in full-time. But the snowflakes, speaking their language of wet murmurs and hissing smacks, shooting stars come down to Earth, structurally harmonious, always unique, are generous enough to grace us with their presence, even in our sprawling cities. I may not love the snow anymore, but I am the snowflakes’ biggest fan. Fleeting on a smaller scale than the desert flurries, these northeast snowflakes write poetry across my jacket sleeves. When I’m freezing, when I’m slipping, when I’m half convinced I’ve succumb to frostbite or hypothermia or some other ailment of the cold, these little crystals land softly, catching my eye for just a moment with their fantastical perfection, before they’re lost again amid the storm.

Contact **ANNIE SIDRANSKY** at annie.sidransky@yale.edu.

WKND Recommends
“Even Flow” by Pearl Jam.

The Cranes of Colusa County

// BY ALEXANDER MEDEL

Shortly after returning to the San Francisco Bay Area for winter break, I received a curious invitation from an old friend of mine at Stanford. An ornithologist, he was organizing a birding trip to the Sacramento Valley to show our high school biology teacher and her fiancé the birds of the Pacific Flyway, most notably its geese, herons and cranes. With wanderlust — that burgeoning restlessness born out of youth, curiosity and an addiction for adventure — and an excuse to explore more of my home state, I decided to join. Accompanied by a mutual friend from Princeton, the three of us set off. Our primary objective was to hit a series of birding spots on the road to Colusa, a town in the Sacramento Valley roughly 120 miles north of San Francisco, where we were going to meet the rest of our party.

Beginning the journey, we spent the car ride sharing the latest from our lives. Then, we immersed ourselves into adventures of our own in search of birds. We waded through the rushing, waist-deep torrents of Putah Creek, splintering our hands on the thorny bushes that lined its banks. We climbed a short and steep mountain near Monticello Dam on a whim, using slippery deer trails as paths, where we inadvertently sighted a record-worthy rare bird: a blue-gray gnatcatcher of an eastern subspecies. By late morning, we were driving through the rainy farmlands of Yolo County in search of more birds before reaching Colusa.

By the time we made it to the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge,

the sky began to clear up. Gaps appeared between the clouds, letting rays of sunshine pierce through and encapsulate the wetlands around us in brilliant streaks of silver and gold. After getting recent sighting updates from some aged bird-watchers on the side of a pond, our group was joined by our teacher and her fiancé. After briefly catching up, we packed into a car and drove the refuge's auto trail with windows rolled down and binoculars at hand.

The horizon was flat, save for momentary interruptions from an occasional grove of trees. Wetlands extended far into the distance on both sides of the car. Herons glided on the surface of the ponds, surrounding us while ducks drew ripples in the water like masterful artists painting on a blank canvas. Meadowlarks crooned charming melodies from the side of the road, performing for any fortunate listener able to catch their sweet song. Swallows flew through the trees on the trail, gliding like dancers using the air as their ballroom. The wildlife reserve at Colusa was at once both a refuge for migratory birds and a refuge for someone like me — someone seeking an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and a place of serenity born out of the gracefulness of nature.

Adding on to the humble charm of the landscape around us, we heard a faint sound in the distance. A symphony ever-increasing in volume. A cloud ever-changing in form. A frenetic shape miles away, what was once a cloud evolved suddenly into an approaching forma-

tion of thousands of snow geese. Dotted the sky, passing above us and landing in the ponds before us, they floated in the sky like snowflakes waltzing in the air on a wintry New Haven day. This scene, one of great magnitude, was a masterpiece of Mother Nature's majesty. I was left awe-struck, as was our entire group.

We proceeded to finish the auto trail and walked a short hiking trail in the refuge. By now, the sun was setting. The final streaks of day shone through the trees and glinted off the ponds, silhouetting the birds in flight and at rest. To the west, the Coastal Ranges rested drowsily, blanketed with snow like beignets topped with powdered sugar. To the east, the Sierra Nevada loomed over the Sacramento Valley with the Sutter Buttes standing as chocolate-colored promontories cast against a velvet and vermilion sky. A picture-perfect ending to a wonderful day, we all drove to our hotel in the small town of Willows where we ate dinner, shared stories, played board games and settled into the night.

At daybreak the next morning, we set out for the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge in hopes of sighting cranes as well as bald eagles. Driving on another auto trail, the cold valley air wrestled through our car as we gazed patiently and squinted our eyes across the wetlands in our midst. Vultures soared through the air while hawks were perched on the trees we passed. After a few good hours, we sighted multiple bald eagles to our great delight, yet cranes rema-

ined elusive. Intent on finding them, we drove east to the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, a place where they were often sighted. Driving through a series of country roads meandering through vast apricot and almond orchards, we came across a group of cranes resting on a farm pasture. Stopping the car immediately, we signaled the discovery to the rest of the group. Satisfied with the sighting, we continued east and spent the rest of the afternoon at the Gray Lodge reserve, staring at more birds and finding a charming group of river otters. By the early afternoon, after much birding, we began the long drive back home.

Content and weary from much fun, I let my eyes wander out the car window and stared out, taking a mental picture of Colusa County. Just then, in front of us on the open road, there was a flock of cranes hovering in the air. Having just seen thousands of birds in hundreds of formations, this handful of flying cranes would have stirred no excitement. However, this flock was different: the cranes were suspended in the air, beating their wings against a headwind. They progressed neither forward nor backward. They maintained their same altitude in the sky despite the tireless flaps of their tired wings. Their feathers were free to let them fly, yet they were moored by the unyielding wind.

Through the sunroof of the car, I saw the cranes keep up their fight, persisting in the pursuit of gaining an inch if lucky, a foot if fortunate or a yard if blessed. Fighting to move forward and to stay airborne,

their wings continued beating ceaselessly and passionately. The cranes responded to the strength of the headwind with the strength of their resolve, believing that the direction of the wind would change in their favor soon. And, sure enough, as they receded into the car's rear view mirror, I caught them freed from the headwind and moving forward, vanishing into the skies over Colusa County.

Imparting wisdom, the cranes demonstrated the importance of flying against our own headwinds — our own challenges. The obstacles we all face in life, by nature, will etch away at our tenacity with the aim of tiring us relentlessly. We could easily decide to turn away in retreat from the problems we are facing. Yet, like the cranes, we must press on despite great demands and difficulty. The cranes maintained their course, and, in doing so, illustrated that keeping an unbreakable and unshakeable spirit is not a sign of foolishness or symptom of stubbornness, but simply one's determination and courage at work. This same spirit can empower us to carry on and find hope in the promise that we will overcome what problems we set out to face. So, we must persist and beat our wings always, so that when the wind changes, when a window of opportunity presents itself, we will find that in the same way cranes can progress forward in their journey, we too can move forward beyond our own troubles and simply soar.

Contact **ALEXANDER MEDEL** at alexander.medel@yale.edu.



// ALEXANDER MEDEL

WKND Hot Take:

Saltburn is a good movie.