

Yale under federal investigation after discrimination complaint

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Yale is among the most recent universities under a Title VI Shared Ancestry investigation, according to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights' most updated list of open cases.

The investigation into Yale, opened on Monday, joins investigations opened into four other institutions on Monday and Tuesday — including Northwestern University,

Arizona State University, Abraham Lincoln University and Ann Arbor Public Schools. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits recipients of federal funds from discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.

"Yale received a letter from the Department of Education seeking information about its response to complaints of alleged discrimination related to one specific event," University spokesperson Karen Peart wrote to the News. "We look forward

to working cooperatively with the Department to demonstrate conclusively that Yale's response met and exceeded its obligations to address complaints of discrimination."

The University did not immediately respond to the News' inquiry into the specific event that prompted the investigation.

A Dec. 5 complaint against the University which was sent to the DOE by the Defense of Free-

SEE TITLE VI PAGE 4

University will pay \$18.5 million in price-fixing settlement



Yale joined Brown, Columbia, Duke and Emory in agreeing to settle the lawsuit, which alleged that 17 elite universities colluded to reduce financial aid awards. / **Tim Tai, Senior Photographer**

BY MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTER

Yale will pay \$18.5 million to settle an antitrust lawsuit, per a Tuesday-night court filing.

The class action lawsuit was brought in January 2022 against Yale and 16 other elite schools, all of whom had at some point been members of the 568 Presidents Group, a consortium that collaborates to determine formulae used to calculate need-based financial aid packages for students. The plaintiffs accused the colleges of practicing need-aware admissions and colluding to reduce financial aid given to students.

On Tuesday night, Yale joined Brown, Columbia, Duke and Emory in paying a total of \$104.5 million to settle their portion of the lawsuit.

Section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994,

provided an exemption to standard antitrust law, allowing any university that makes admissions decisions "without regard to the financial circumstances of the student involved or the student's family" — or one that practices need-blind admissions — to share formulas for assessing students' financial need. Section 568 expired on Sept. 30, 2022.

However, the lawsuit alleged that, by favoring the children of donors for admission, members of what the suit dubs the "568 Cartel" did consider financial need, and were thus illegally practicing need-aware admissions.

The University denies any allegations of wrongdoing.

"Yale College's financial aid offers meet the full financial need of each student, with none of the aid in the form of repayable

SEE PRICE FIXING PAGE 4

University sends non-Yale tenants packing from Broadway apartments



After purchasing 59 Broadway in November, Yale will give non-Yale affiliated tenants one year to vacate their apartments. / **Laura Ospina, Contributing Photographer**

BY LAURA OSPINA
STAFF REPORTER

Nick Rivera, 26, had finally found stability and a home in his one-bedroom apartment on 59 Broadway. Arriving in New Haven a little over a year ago, the last of three moves in three years, Rivera has loved chatting with the downstairs business owners, decorating his first solo apartment and has loved the safety he feels living there as a transgender man.

But because Rivera is not affiliated with Yale, he must leave his apartment by the end of the year.

After Yale purchased 59 Broadway in November, the handful of

apartments in the building, as well as retailers like Campus Customs, came under new management: Elm Campus Partners, a property management company that manages Yale's residential assets.

For Rivera, a new landlord meant the threat of yet another move. Under Elm Campus Partners policy, Yale's rental properties are for Yale students and staff only. Elm Campus Partners notified Rivera and another non-Yale tenant via email on Dec. 12 that they can continue to stay in their apartments until 2025, but come the new year, their leases will not be renewed, according to initial reporting by the New Haven Independent.

"I'm a person, and I wish [Yale] would see me as one instead of an asset to move out," Rivera said. "The policy doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me, especially when they're buying up buildings that people already live in. I'm mad for myself, but I would be mad for anyone who is in this situation because a home is important to someone, it's a foundation."

Following the email, Rivera created a petition and called on Yale to make an exception to its affiliate-only policy until the non-Yale tenants could either choose to leave or commit a

SEE BROADWAY PAGE 4

Professor disciplined for sexual harassment granted trial in gender discrimination suit

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Content warning: This article contains references to sexual misconduct.

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

A Connecticut federal court ruled in favor of Yale professor Michael Simons last week, allowing him to move to trial on his claim that Yale, after finding him guilty of sexual harassment, punished him unfairly on the basis of his gender in an effort to appease media critics and campus supporters of the #MeToo movement.

Simons was found guilty of sexual harassment in 2013 and as punishment was suspended as Chief of Cardiology at the School of Medicine. He alleges that after this initial punishment, the University illegally took a series of additional, unwarranted punishments against him in response to public criticism, most notably when Simons was given and then asked to resign from an endowed professorship in

2018, as the #MeToo movement was gaining national attention.

Although Yale filed a motion for summary judgment on Simons' complaint, the court denied the motion with respect to two counts of gender discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; both counts will move forward to jury trial.

"Plaintiff was adjudged guilty of committing sexual harassment, he was punished, he executed his punishment without further violations, and then years after the completion of his punishment, he was again sanctioned for the same behavior, but this time without any process at all," U.S. District Judge Omar Williams wrote in his decision. "There is also no dispute that the University was the subject of news reports criticizing its decision to reward a sexual harasser with an endowed chair."

Simons' lawyer, Norm Pattis, wrote to the News that he was "very much" pleased with the court's ruling.

"Yale's Title IX process is deeply flawed," he wrote. "The university should look more carefully before leaping into the arms of screaming harpies again."

SEE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PAGE 5

All undergraduates on financial aid to be paired with individual counselors

BY MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTER

Amid recent leadership turnover at the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid, student dissatisfaction about its responsiveness and efficacy has remained widespread.

Now, for the first time ever, the office will assign all Yale College students on financial aid a personal counselor, to whom they can direct all aid-related questions and concerns.

Under the new model, students will work with a specific financial aid officer depending on their last name. Throughout their time as undergraduates, this personal counselor will serve as students' primary contact at the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid. There are currently eight counsel-

ors, with an additional counselor to be announced in February.

"We're just hoping for students to feel like they have deeper and more productive connections with the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid, and I think this personal aid counselor has the potential to really improve the experience that students have working with our office," Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Quinlan told the News.

Rather than dealing with general service inquiries from all students as a group, beginning next year, the office will direct all student questions and complaints to personal financial aid agents, according to Quinlan.

While all counselors will be available and able to help all students, the office's hope is that students will have the opportunity to cultivate a

lasting relationship with their personal counselor, Quinlan said.

According to Kari DiFonzo, Director of Undergraduate Financial Aid, each counselor's caseload will not exceed 500 students.

The new model was initiated by DiFonzo, who began her tenure in August; however, the financial aid office has considered a similar model for a while, according to Quinlan.

Soon upon arriving at Yale, DiFonzo initiated several financial aid reforms — many in response to long-standing student complaints about discrepancies and inefficiency in the office.

"When you keep getting that feedback, you want to provide students with a little bit more consistency and personal touch,"

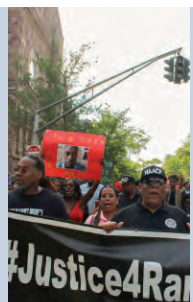
SEE COUNSELORS PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1966. A physical education expert demonstrates a new fitness regime to students in Payne Whitney Gym. The program is directed toward people who rarely exercise and primarily focuses on showing students how to run.

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State board rules to reinstate police officer involved in paralyzing Randy Cox. PAGE 8 NEWS



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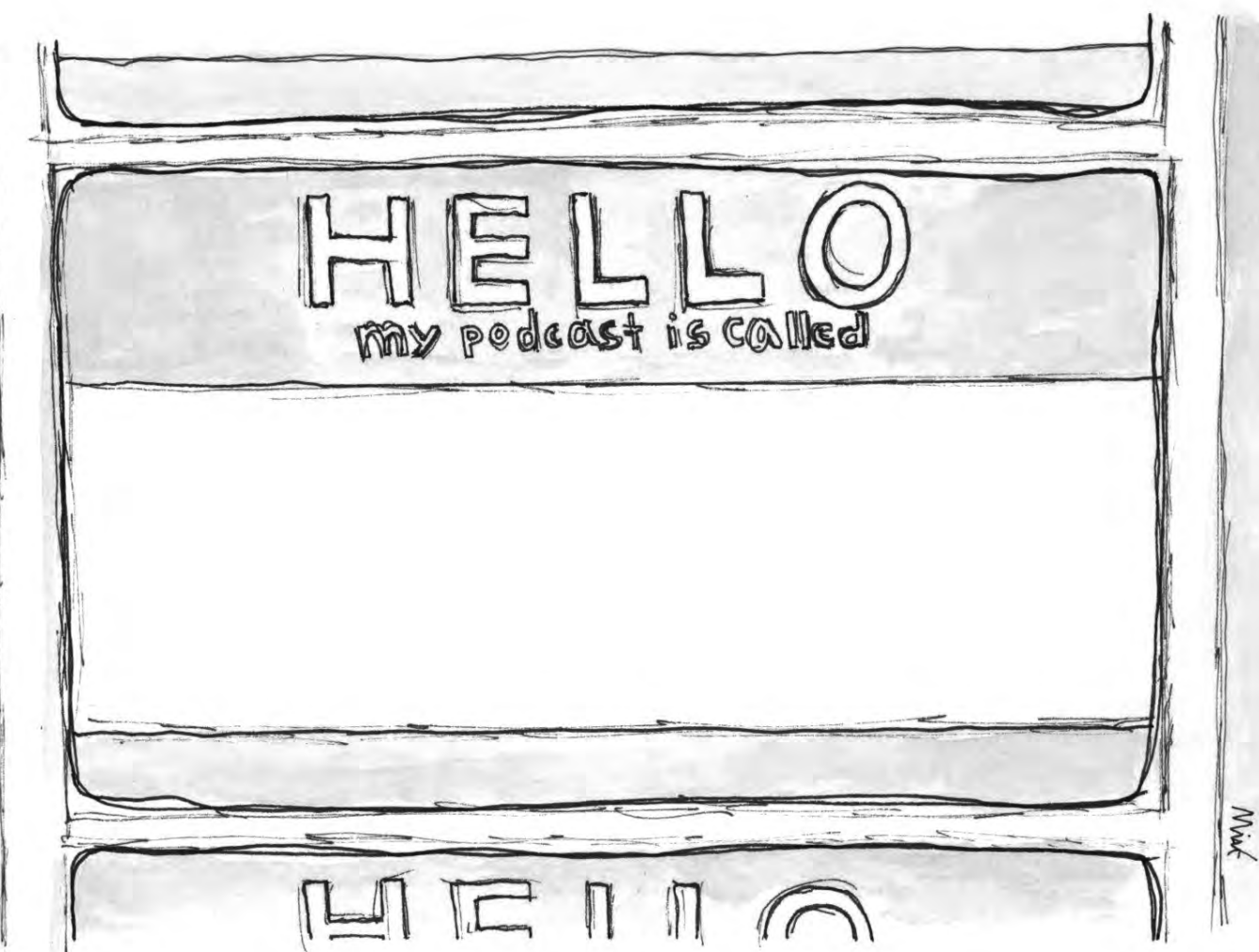
DESANTIS What DeSantis missed: students and faculty reflect on Ron DeSantis' exit from the presidential race. PAGE 6 NEWS

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BULLETIN



MIA ROSE KOHN '27



OPINION

JOINT COLUMNISTS
PUBLIUS

Learn from Harvard's mistakes. Remember Veritas.

Truth grounds Yale's mission. We emphasized as much in our September piece on Yale's presidential search process, where we mentioned it not once but six times. The imbroglia of shame, anger and disappointment emerging from recent events at Harvard is a much-needed warning call to institutions that stray too far from their mission and bend to external influences. Whoever Yale's next president may be, they should embody Yale's values, the linchpin of which is the free exchange of ideas in pursuit of truth.

To repeatedly pass off others' work as one's own is to lie. Harvard students are not allowed to do it, and neither are we. To threaten to sue a newspaper holding power accountable — no matter the political lean of the publication — is to perpetuate that lie. Leaders who obscure and lie “undermine the ideals animating Harvard since its founding: excellence, openness, independence, truth.” This is exactly how Claudine Gay described unnamed “demagogues” after her resignation. Retrospectively, the statement also appears to be an unwitting self-reflection for her and her institution.

Gay's plagiarism merited her resignation. To those who disagree, allow us to contextualize. Let's start with one of our own: journalist-pundit Fareed Zakaria '86 resigned from the Yale Corporation in 2012 after it was discovered that he had lifted a single paragraph from another writer. Former University of South Carolina President Robert Caslen resigned after using a paragraph in his 2021 commencement speech without proper attribution. Just like Zakaria and Caslen, Claudine Gay plagiarized. Or consider the resignation of Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne just last year: a Stanford committee found that several of Tessier-Lavigne's papers fell below academic standards because of errors made by others in his labs. Claudine Gay was not unique in resigning.

The problem is bigger than just plagiarism and the fact that it was overlooked by Harvard's search committee. By her own admission, Claudine Gay “fell into a well-laid trap” at the Congressional hearing. Well-laid or not, a university president's responses should amount to more than mere legalese. That Claudine Gay failed to articulate why free speech matters or reconcile it with the tensions it engenders betrays a lack of appreciation for its role as a bedrock for the free exchange of ideas. Any university president, especially one whose

institution elects to make “veritas” a part of its motto, should be able to confidently and tactfully defend this principle.

Clearly, Harvard has had its internal failings, but it would be remiss to forget that powerful figures opposed President Gay from the moment of her inauguration. Members of Congress and billionaire donors were all too happy to capitalize on her plagiarism — wielding it as a tool to serve their own agendas. We recognize that Harvard cannot ratchet down these external pressures, but it can better navigate them. More importantly, so can we.

Universities like ours are increasingly finding themselves in the crosshairs of broad and varied interest groups. Each president of Yale faces daunting challenges: demagogues who revile our campus and influential donors who seek to stifle our academic freedom, amongst countless others. At the heart of meeting these challenges is adhering to Yale's mission; at the heart of Yale's mission is an honest commitment to the ideal of truth, as sought by a “company of scholars” — one hopes “a society of friends” — who champion the free exchange of ideas.

This means holding our leaders to principled standards of integrity and refusing to cede control of our priorities and curriculum to interest groups. The only way to forge ahead in this confusing and turbulent time is to recommit to the ideal we share, or once shared, with Harvard: “veritas.”

Agree with us? Disagree with us? Find yourself even remotely interested in anything we have to say? PUBLIUS, the only joint opinion column on campus, is looking for new writers. Nothing is required except a point of view. Apply here. If you would like to contact us, send an email to publiusat Yale@gmail.com. This piece was written by a two-thirds majority of Publius. Members of the body include:

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Critical humanities could bring good trouble to AI

We took great interest in seeing the announcement of the star-studded task force on artificial intelligence at Yale. We share the feeling of excitement and opportunity at pooling interdisciplinary talent to tackle questions that have massive implications for the future of the world as we know it.

It is for this reason that we have recently been working closely together with an interdisciplinary group of like-minded faculty, including many in the humanities, to propose an undergraduate certificate we are calling Critical Computing Studies. We humbly submit that a critical approach also has a lot to offer in University-wide deliberations at Yale about AI.

Why critical? This term can trip people up if it is taken to mean mere negativity, fault-finding, or a catch-all term for “important,” as it often does in ordinary talk. We mean to draw on three productive ways of thinking about the term.

First, criticism is a method, as in literary criticism, that involves close attention to the ways that words and ideas operate, often in mysterious ways we fail to recognize. Humanists have been thinking about core concepts such as art, artificiality, intelligence and mind for a long time. We can't just pick up these words free of their historical legacies, which can predetermine our assumptions. Indeed, there is a long history of thinking about artificial intelligence, writ large, in the western world that is at least 2,400 years old. We ignore this tradition at our peril. Humanists bring expertise in the ways that histories unconsciously preform our thoughts. The art of interpretation can be a remedy for being captive to inherited pictures. The discipline of analyzing language's stubborn, sometimes buggy meaningfulness is common to poets and coders.

Second, critique is a philosophical project of asking about “conditions of possibility.” We owe this way of thinking to the great Enlightenment philosopher Immanuel Kant. To write the critique of pure reason, as he famously did, was not to deny rationality: it was to show what it could do and where it ran against its limits. After Kant, a long line of very diverse thinkers marched under the banner of critique to ask about the limits and possibilities of society, art, politics, science and more. To be critical is to ask what are the deep grounds that make our questions possible. It is to constantly ask where our blind spots are. It is to resist an embrace of things as they are and to ask: why not? In this way, critique is not in the least opposed to scientific research; both share a deep commitment to open-ended inquiry that is not afraid to put our very starting points into question.

Third, critique is a tradition of thought that asks how our thinking is complicit with power. Whose interests are served by the questions we ask — and don't ask? Scholars in the booming field of critical computing studies are concerned with how industry hype and funding can guide research agendas. One of us has shown how the very algorithms of computer graphics encode unconsidered biases about skin color, leading to obviously racist disparities in how people are depicted in our vibrant visual culture. Historical critique can reveal how unexamined assumptions from Jim Crow-era photography got carried over into the digital age. Critique can thus play a role in bending the arc of justice.

Academic-industry collaboration can have productive synergies if we avoid mission creep. But it is the unique societal mission of the university to be able to ask big

questions, tap the brakes, puncture hype. Just as the military-industrial-academic complex brought us the internet, we need to be probing questions about the implications of AI for the distribution of power in our societies and world, including the university's role. AI is perhaps not only a bonanza to “capitalize” on; perhaps it is a trap, distraction, or the tip of the iceberg.

We admit that we critical humanists sometimes earn our reputation as troublemakers. Before we go straight to the solution, we want to know what the problem is, how it is defined, and by whom. It can feel insulting to problem-solvers and system-builders to hear their language might not be totally under their control or their taken-for-granted ideas carry implications, sometimes dangerous ones, that stretch far beyond their labs and design screens. And yet, splashing cold water on our most fundamental biases can be bracing and can uncover new scientific questions.

The first rule of inquiry in any field is check your assumptions. Interpreting basic concepts, understanding deep historical legacies, asking about possibilities, and probing power — these are the comparative advantages that critical humanists can bring to the conversation about artificial intelligence at Yale.

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Yale needs more Toni Morrison classes

In April 2015, I saw Toni Morrison speak at Harvard before her passing in 2019. My love for Morrison started after I read “Song of Solomon” when I was 17 and got an ankle tattoo of wings in her honor, celebrating the quote that “you wanna fly, you gotta give up the shit that weighs you down.”

Eight years later, I believe, with deep fervency, that Yale needs to teach more Toni Morrison classes. Currently, there is only one class entirely dedicated to the Pulitzer prize winning author “Toni Morrison & the Matter of Black Life,” which is a seminar offered by Professor Daphne Brooks. Perhaps — and I could stand corrected — just one or two other classes cover Morrison, including, but not limited to, “Literature of the Black South.” But one seminar is not enough. Yale is sorely lacking a lecture class that covers all of the author's work and doesn't skip out on the major milestones of her literary career.

Toni Morrison was, by hundreds of leaps and bounds, one of the most influential authors of all time — far more influential than Shakespeare, Camus and Hemingway combined.

According to the Yale course catalog, it is my understanding that 12 English classes are teaching Shakespeare this semester, of which five classes are exclusively dedicated to the British playwright's work. But crusty, dead, white male authors like Shakespeare no longer address the contemporary issues we face in society. These issues include, but are not limited to: racism, transphobia, homophobia, the indiscriminate shelling of Gaza, American imperialism through reckless war mongering, declining life expectancies and global warming.

Sure, some might argue that Shakespeare addresses the universal issues people have faced since the dawn of time: love, jealousy, hatred, family and friendship. But these topics are now cliché, and have been hackneyed time and time again by other authors — most of them also dead, crusty, white men.

Good literature is meant to comfort the disturbed and dis-

turb the comforted. When reading Shakespeare's plays, I don't feel either comforted or disturbed. Instead, I feel like I'm reading a fool's language and that opening one of his verses is an utter waste of time. It is also an act in comedy, no pun intended. His books need to be put in a far away cupboard or thrown into the nearest trash bin around Timothy Dwight and lit on fire after being soaked in leftover beer from DKE.

But when reading Morrison, I feel disturbed when a Black mother kills her two-year-old daughter so her child doesn't have to live in slavery. This feeling of discomfort is good for the reader and prods them to feel all sorts of difficult emotions, which is, indeed, literature's job at the end of the day.

As someone who has studied Morrison extensively in my free time, I still dedicate many hours to watching her interviews online, despite having held jobs in the defense sector and other fields not related to English. Watching and rewatching her interviews is just as paramount to reading her novels, since we can glean some cues from her speech with television personalities like Charlie Rose. I study the intonation of Morrison's voice when Charlie asks her a tough question on race. I study her mannerisms when she gets defensive of her characters. I still buy obscure books both by and about Morrison, ones in which she is critiquing novels and not writing them. I also try to pair watching her interviews with reading about her personal background: her father, her mother, her hometown, her schooling as a kid.

When Morrison's father was 15 years old, he witnessed the lynching of two African American businessmen on his street. When she was two years old, her family's landlord set fire to their house because her parents could not afford to pay rent.

I believe that Morrison was driven by a deserved vengeance towards the cruelty white people have inflicted on black folk for centuries and still inflict today. I believe that Morrison channeled

this vengeance into her writing and used it as a force for good when all of her characters were black and not white. This flips the script on the oppressor and makes white people feel like they are the minority. I believe that part of Morrison was perpetually angry — very angry, at that. I believe she channeled a silent rage in her writing that bent the reader so they absorbed the depth and breadth of the Black experience.

Writing an imitation Toni Morrison novel that mimics her style while pitting a minority against an oppressor — a trans community against a society of cis people who taunt and kill — is an alluring idea for a writer like me. But the day any human being would be able to precisely echo Morrison's style is a day Jesus would walk on water again: it would take a miracle for such a feat to happen, due to the unparalleled strength of her wise cadence and magical realism that abounds in her Nobel-winning lines.

Because of her books, I now believe that vengeance can be a tool for good, spurring the masses into worlds where people who have been trashed for centuries can still have rich inner lives. It can take people on a quest for identity and belonging, like Milkman repeatedly does in “Song of Solomon,” to the tune of a bag of gold and a flight across Virginia mountains. Trans people feel vengeance on a daily basis — we just need a healthy way to channel it.

So, to the Yale English department: it's time to teach more of Morrison. Add two to three more classes on the famed author, ones that are solely dedicated to her work.

ISAAC AMEND graduated in 2017 from Timothy Dwight College. He is a transgender man and was featured in National Geographic's “Gender Revolution” documentary. Isaac has two poetry books out, “Lost in the Desert” and “When the Sky Was a Canvas to Make Fun Of.” In his free time he is a columnist for the Washington Blade. Contact him at isaac.amend35@gmail.com.



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FROM THE FRONT

“One thing I know, that I know nothing. This is the source of my wisdom.”
PLATO GREEK PHILOSOPHER

Yale under investigation for ‘response to complaints of alleged discrimination’

TITLE VI FROM PAGE 1

dom Institute for Policy Studies — or DFI, co-founded by Yale graduate and former DOE assistant secretary for planning, evaluation and policy development James Blew SOM '92 — cites the Nov. 6 “Gaza Under Siege” event, which prompted two students to pen an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal deeming the event “anti-Israel” after being refused entry. DFI submitted its letter to the federal Office of Civil Rights, seeking a formal investigation.

Yale issued a statement two days later stating that “space constraints” kept some students listening to the event from outside the room it took place in. At least one donor also publicly withdrew his donations that he referred to as “minor” after the event.

Since the formal start of the Israel-Hamas war, there has been a slew of related protests and community events amid tensions

within the community and student safety concerns regarding antisemitism and Islamophobia.

A Nov. 20 open letter to the Yale administration signed by over 1,500 alumni, faculty and parents decried “the tidal wave of antisemitism” on college campuses across the country, including Yale. The letter added that those who signed support campus free speech, as long as that speech does not violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They cited a Nov. 7 “Dear Colleague” letter by the DOE Office of Civil Rights reminding institutions receiving federal financial assistance of their legal obligations to ensure “a school environment free from discrimination.”

Palestinian and Muslim students have also expressed concerns about their safety on campus, particularly after a man shot three Palestinian students in Vermont in November. Even before these heightened concerns, in October, a student wrote a message declaring

“Death to Palestine” on a whiteboard in Grace Hopper College.

Following the incident, Head of Grace Hopper Julia Adams emphasized the University’s commitment to “academic freedom” in an email to students. A “doxxing truck” also drove around campus with faces of students under the words “Yale’s Leading Antisemites” up to and during the annual Harvard-Yale football game in November.

“In recent months, Yale’s leaders, faculty, and staff have worked diligently to support our students; to apply our policies in a manner that is fair, compassionate and supports the educational environment; and to treat each student with the care and respect we would expect for ourselves,” Peart wrote to the News.

Peart added that the University takes student concerns seriously and evaluates each complaint under University policies to determine whether allegations are supported by facts.

In a complaint filed earlier this month, a group of Jewish Harvard

students sued the university seeking an injunction to put an end to Harvard’s alleged Title VI violations which they claim have included “rampant” antisemitism.

Since Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack in Israel, in which, according to Israel’s Foreign Ministry, Hamas killed 1,200 people and took around 250 as hostages, Israel has unleashed a full-scale military operation in Gaza, killing more than 25,000 Palestinians as of Jan. 21, according to Palestinian health officials. University President Peter Salovey and his administration have issued eight statements in response to events that unfolded on campus related to the Israel-Hamas war.

On Dec. 7, Salovey announced a series of actions to further support those in the Yale community “most affected” by the Hamas-Israel war, particularly noting measures to support Muslim and Jewish student life. The series of steps outlined by the University included increased funding for

Kosher dining at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, formalizing the partnership pilot security program with Yale Security and the Slifka Center and the promise of a space for Middle East and North African students.

In the Dec. 7 announcement, titled “Against Hatred,” Salovey also announced that the University has established a standing advisory committee on Jewish life to build on work from the Yale Antisemitism Climate Group formed in 2022, as well as increased educational programming regarding both antisemitism and Islamophobia into the Belonging at Yale initiative and in partnership with the Office of Institutional Equity and Accessibility.

At present, there are over 102 open Title VI investigations listed on the DOE site.

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The United States Department of Education opened a Title VI Shared Ancestry investigation into Yale and four other schools. / **Tim Tai, Senior Photographer**

University to settle for \$18.5 million, denies allegations of wrongdoing

PRICE FIXING FROM PAGE 1

loans,” the University wrote in a statement shared with the News. “This settlement contains no admission that Yale did anything wrong but allows the university to avoid the cost and disruption of further litigation and to con-

tinue its work in making undergraduate education more affordable for more families.”

Like Yale, Brown also maintains that it did not commit any wrongdoing, according to a press release issued on Tuesday night. Rather, Brown chose to settle in order to “focus its resources on

further growth in generous aid for students.”

The five universities that settled on Tuesday join the University of Chicago and Vanderbilt University, both of which settled in 2023, and Rice University.

“As families nationwide face the pressure of rising college

costs and student debt levels, Yale is proud of its 60-year tradition of need-blind admissions and its commitment to making undergraduate education accessible to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds,” Yale’s statement reads. “Yale College’s financial aid offers meet the full

financial need of each student, with none of the aid in the form of repayable loans.”

Yale has practiced need-blind admissions for 60 years.

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Yale will not renew leases for non-University tenants on Broadway

BROADWAY FROM PAGE 1

legitimate tenant violation. The petition has since amassed 590 signatures. Signees condemned the University for pushing out New Haven residents, characterizing Yale’s “disrespectful” behavior as a “takeover” and an example of “gentrification.”

Rivera said that a month after he created the petition and his Yale and non-Yale neighbors raised concerns with the new management, he still has not heard back from Yale, leaving him “frustrated.”

“When the purchase of 59 Broadway was completed, the two non-Yale affiliated tenants were given the option of renewing their

lease for one year in order to give them ample time to find new living arrangements,” Peart wrote in a statement to the News. “In order to provide these two residents additional flexibility, they also have the ability to terminate the lease at any time within that window if they find a better opportunity earlier.”

The University did not respond to a question about the reasoning behind the affiliate-only housing policy or about the alleged lack of response to the tenants’ concerns.

After its \$7 million purchase of 51 and 57 Broadway, Yale now owns eight of the nine buildings on the north end of Broadway. In December, Lauren Zucker, the University’s

associate vice president and director of New Haven affairs, told the News that Yale would honor all existing leases with the current tenants.

Yale’s dominance on Broadway, replete with a sign reading “The Shops at Yale” on the street island, dates back to the early 2000s, when the University began acquiring several properties in the area, according to Elihu Rubin ’99, associate professor of urbanism at the Yale School of Architecture.

“It shouldn’t come as a surprise that Yale has sought to acquire these Broadway properties,” Rubin wrote. “It is part of a clear, long-term strategy to control as much of the district as pos-

sible. Doing so reduces the risk of multiple property owners making decisions that Yale does not agree with or that do not fit its image for the Shops at Yale.”

Rivera was originally drawn to New Haven because of its vibrancy as a “walkable college town.” Although Rivera is willing to fight to stay at Broadway, he said that he is also realistic and currently looking for a new apartment in New Haven.

Rivera also said he was surprised by the number of signatures his petition has collected and touched by the support of both the New Haven and Yale communities in the comments on

the petition and the New Haven Independent article. In at least this way, Rivera has avoided what he classified as the worst-case scenario: being kicked out of his apartment and no one caring.

“I would assume that Yale would want to attract different kinds of perspectives instead of just being a bubble,” Rivera said. “They’re pushing people out that aren’t in Yale, and you’re going to get a bubble with that.”

Yale purchased 51 and 57 Broadway on Nov. 17.

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FROM THE FRONT

"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well."

PLUTARCH GREEK PHILOSOPHER

Michael Simons, professor punished for sexual misconduct, granted trial in discrimination suit against Yale

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT FROM PAGE 1

Williams' ruling was in response to Yale's motion for a summary judgment on the case, which aimed to have the court rule without a trial. Judge Williams' recent decision was in response to that motion, and it is not a finding of liability but instead means that the case must go before a jury for a verdict.

"Yale has an unwavering commitment to uphold standards of conduct essential to the maintenance of a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus," wrote Yale's spokesperson on behalf of the University. "These standards apply to all students, faculty, and staff, regardless of race or gender, and we will continue to defend this case vigorously."

Simons found guilty of sexual harassment, lost endowed professorship

Simons was initially reported to the University in 2013 by Annarita Di Lorenzo, who was at the time a younger postdoctoral associate. Di Lorenzo alleged that in February 2010, Simons penned her a handwritten letter in Italian expressing his affection for her. Despite Di Lorenzo having made her lack of interest clear, Simons continued to send Di Lorenzo emails and letters, some with sexually suggestive language.

In 2013, Yale's University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct found Professor Michael Simons guilty of sexual harassment. Simons was then suspended — rather than removed — as chief of cardiology at the School of Medicine at the recommendation of former University provost Ben Polak.

After that decision, in October 2014, the New York Times obtained leaked documents of

the case and interviewed 18 faculty members who expressed anger at its handling. A week after the Times contacted Yale, the University announced that Simons would be removed from the position entirely. Then, on Nov. 14, 2014, the New York Times reported that Yale had also removed Simons as director of its Cardiovascular Research Center.

Simons alleges that these two additional actions were taken in response to public reaction to the stories published by the New York Times and other outlets. The University disputes this claim, arguing that both subsequent punishments resulted from the findings of an internal, "360 review" of Simons' job performance.

Simons, a tenured professor, continued to work at Yale in his position as Robert W. Berliner Professor of Medicine, a \$500,000 dollar-a-year endowed professorship sponsored by the family of Robert Berliner.

In the spring of 2018, then-Yale School of Medicine Dean Robert Alpern asked Simons to relinquish the Berliner professorship and switch to a different endowed chair instead. According to Simons' complaint, this came after "one or more persons ... sympathetic to the #MeToo movement" contacted the Berliner family encouraging them to demand that the University remove Simons from the professorship. Then, the complaint alleges, "fearing a backlash from the #MeToo activists and hoping to placate them," President Peter Salovey and the Yale administration "began exploring" how to remove Simons from the chair.

On June 22, 2018, Salovey sent Simons a letter confirm-

ing his appointment to a different endowed chair, the Waldemar Von Zedwitz Professor of Cardiology, which also carried a value of \$500,000 dollars a year.

Following this decision, School of Medicine faculty members, students and alumni penned an open letter to University President Peter Salovey expressing "disgust and disappointment" with this decision. Alpern also met with various groups opposed to Simons' appointment, such as the School of Medicine's Committee on the Status of Women in Medicine.

On Sept. 20, 2018, Alpern notified Simons that he had until noon the following day to resign from his position as Waldemar Von Zedwitz Professor of Cardiology. According to Simons' lawsuit filing, Alpern also told Simons that the University was "concerned" with the public criticism directed at them.

Complaint filed in 2019

On Oct. 1, 2019, Simons and his lawyer, Norm Pattis, filed a lawsuit against Yale, Salovey and Alpern on seven counts: breach of contract, breach of the implied warranty of fair dealing, wrongful discharge, negligent infliction of emotional distress, breach of privacy, and discrimination on the basis of gender under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

In 2020, a court granted Yale's motion to dismiss three of these counts: wrongful discharge, negligent infliction of emotional distress and breach of privacy. Following the decision, Yale moved for a summary judgement on all remaining counts.

Judge Williams, in his ruling, first granted the motion with respect to counts of breach of con-

tract and breach of the implied warranty of fair dealing.

Regarding the counts of discrimination, Judge Williams elected to deny the University's motion, moving both claims to trial in front of a jury.

Gender discrimination in violation of Title VII and Title IX

Title VII prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. In count six of the suit — alleged gender discrimination in violation of Title VII — Simons argues that Yale punished him multiple times for the same conduct, which it has allegedly never done to a non-male employee.

Yale, however, asserts that this claim is unsupported by direct or circumstantial evidence.

Judge Williams, in his ruling, stated that there is no direct evidence of discrimination actionable under Title VII.

"Although Defendant Alpern did testify that the University's treatment of Plaintiff stemmed from a desire to address negative sentiment within the YSM community, he did not testify that the University adopted a clear policy of dealing with men more severely than others," Williams wrote. "Nor did he testify that community sentiment was sexist against men."

However, Williams ruled that there is enough circumstantial evidence to consider Simons' case. He found that there was enough evidence to question whether Yale's explanation for removing the professorship was pretextual, meaning it could be a cover-up for discrimination.

According to the court filing, its evidence comes primarily from procedural irregularities in Yale's handling of Simons'

case, which deviate from Yale's stated policy on sexual harassment. Yale's policy does not "explicitly" bar successive punishment for one offense but does "strongly" discourage such disciplinary measures, "particularly in asserting that the entire disciplinary process generally should take about 60 days," per the filing. The policy also states that the accused has an opportunity to object to proposed sanctions.

"Plaintiff was not given an opportunity to present any argument in opposition to the sanction," Williams wrote, referring to Simons' immediate removal from the Von Zedwitz professorship.

Neither these procedural flaws, nor the negative media coverage, can be disputed, according to Williams. Thus, there is sufficient evidence for a jury to find evidence of gender bias.

Simons also alleges that Yale acted in violation of Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. His basis for this claim is the same as it is for the alleged violation of Title VII — that Yale successively punished him for sexual misconduct without due process.

Yale argued that this Title IX discrimination claim was duplicative of the Title VII claim, but the court held otherwise. Williams wrote that Title IX applies to educational contexts with outlined compliance requirements, while Title VII focuses more broadly on employment discrimination.

A trial date has not yet been set.

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In 2013, the University found Professor Michael Simons guilty of sexual harassment and disciplined him accordingly. / Hedy Tung, Contributing Photographer

New policy to pair undergrads on financial aid with individual counselors

COUNSELORS FROM PAGE 1

Quinlan said. "That's why, when Kari came in we felt like we really needed to make that change based on the feedback that she had been getting."

Prior to coming to Yale in August, DiFonzo worked for 20 years in the Office of Student Financial Services at Wellesley College.

While at Wellesley, which uses personal financial aid counselors, DiFonzo said that she witnessed the benefits of using a counselor-based model. Then, when DiFonzo came to Yale, she knew she wanted to bring that concept with her.

DiFonzo said that the type of feedback she has received from Yale students has encouraged her to implement the new model as soon as possible.

"Students were telling me that every time they were interacting with our office, they felt like they were having to relive their trauma, to talk again and again about how under-resourced their family was, or their parent's cancer diagnosis

or a parent who had lost their job," DiFonzo said. "Fostering these lasting relationships with one person in our office, means that students don't have to constantly retell their story to a stranger."

The new counselor-based model is also helpful for staff at the financial aid office, DiFonzo said. By serving many of the same students year-over-year, counselors can become familiar with the intricacies of their students' financial situations and offer better advising, she added.

In all, she hopes the new model will shorten wait times and improve the relationship between students and the financial aid office.

"Both myself and my office and other administrators, like deans and heads of college, are always looking for opportunities for students to build relationships," DiFonzo said. "And I see this as a way for us to foster those positive interactions and those relationships for students on financial aid."

According to Yale College Council president Julian Suh-

Toma '25, the YCC has been collaborating extensively with the financial aid office this year to improve accessibility for first-generation low-income students at Yale.

The YCC has been working toward goals of increased financial accessibility and transparency for years, he said, and he is happy to see these goals begin to come to fruition.

"We hope and anticipate that the personal counselor model will make navigating the terrain of financial aid at Yale easier, but there's much more to be done to increase the actual financial accessibility of attending," Suh-Toma wrote to the News.

In addition to improving responsiveness, Quinlan said that the new model is also important in helping the office better serve the increasing number of Yale undergraduates on financial aid. As the College continues to enroll more financial aid recipients, Quinlan said, it is important that these students have supportive relationships with the financial aid office.



Starting in the 2024-2025 academic year, the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid will implement a new, personal financial aid counseling model. / Yale Daily News

Students will be notified of and introduced to their personal financial aid counselor in early February. Renewal applications for financial aid are due on April 1. Announcing this new counselor-based model at the start of the Spring semester will give students plenty of time to discuss their aid

applications with their personal counselors, DiFonzo said.

The financial aid office distributes more than \$220 million in need-based financial aid annually.

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"It is frequently a misfortune to have very brilliant men in charge of affairs. They expect too much of ordinary men."

SOCRATES, GREEK PHILOSOPHER

ANALYSIS: What's next for Yale's presidential search?

BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

This term will be University President Peter Salovey's last in the role. Salovey, who announced on Aug. 31 — just one day into the academic year — that he would be stepping down, assumed the presidency nearly 11 years ago in 2013.

Amid Yale's ongoing search, presidents at both Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania have faced controversies leading to their resignations.

The resignations followed a much-scrutinized Congressional hearing on campus antisemitism, during which the two presidents, along with Massachusetts Institute of Technology president Sally Kornbluth, were questioned on their institution's disciplinary policies surrounding antisemitic speech among students. The hearing was called in response to national student protests and a rise in campus antisemitism since the start of the Israel-Hamas War.

While Liz Magill '88, Penn's president, voluntarily resigned shortly following the hearings, Harvard president Claudine Gay's resignation came later. Gay's resignation also came after mounting evidence of plagiarism called into question the integrity of her academic record.

Stanford University announced last July that then-President Marc Tessier-Lavigne would resign the following August after a university-sponsored investigation found "manipulation of research data" and "serious flaws" in five of his research articles following reporting from The Stanford Daily.

As Yale is now one among many peer institutions searching for new leadership, the News explores how these recent events may influence the final hiring choice by members of the Yale Corporation, the University's highest governing body.

Four top-20 universities are looking for a new president. How could that change the job market?

Alongside Yale and its ongoing search, Harvard, Penn and Stanford are all in the market for a new president. Of the eight individuals on the News' presidential short-



ELLIE PARK / PHOTO EDITOR

Yale isn't the only university looking for a new leader — and recent presidential turmoil across the country may be changing Yale's search calculus.

list, five are external hires. These external candidates, many of whom already hold high-profile administrative positions, may draw attention from the three other schools in their presidential searches. Such candidates include Jennifer Martinez '93, Stanford provost and former dean of Stanford Law School, and James Ryan '88, president of the University of Virginia.

But Yale may also be uniquely positioned as a stable horse in a turbulent race. Unlike Stanford, Harvard and Penn, Yale's presidential vacancy is not the result of scandal or a pressured departure. Its last two presidents, Salovey and Richard Levin, each held their positions for over a decade.

This stability could make the position at Yale more appealing to possible candidates, especially given the increased media scrutiny at both Penn and Harvard.

University presidents manage fundraising and act as liaisons with donors. At both Harvard and Penn, pressure from donors has mounted

in recent months, as many donors have cut ties with the institutions. On the other hand, reactions from Yale's donors have been less severe. The News has learned of only one donor — Nick Gaede Jr. '61 — who publicly ceased his contributions, which he called "minor," to Yale.

Do fewer people want to head an elite university?

The American Council on Education found, in its 2023 "The American College President" report, that the average tenure of college and university presidents decreased from around 8.5 years in 2006 to 5.9 years in 2022. The change also comes as the role has grown in complexity, in part due to growing political polarization and growing demands of the role.

As Danielle Melidona, a senior analyst in the Education Future Lab at ACE put it, the job demands "a significant level" of business development and people-management skills in addition to concern for student experiences and

outcomes. Salovey put it more succinctly, noting that the job "gets hard" when speaking to the News in October, just two days before the Israel-Hamas war broke out, prompting months of campus turmoil at colleges across the country.

Salovey specifically referred to presidential travel requirements and scheduling demands when speaking about the challenges of the job.

The role of a university president has usually been a high-paying, widely respected position — yet, due to a mix of financial and political factors, it has become a difficult task of meeting many expectations, per reporting by the Washington Post. Ted Mitchell, ACE president, told the Post that there is "no question" that potential candidates are reconsidering their desires to be college presidents.

The outbreak of controversy at Penn and Harvard comes amid growing political polarization, already causing some candidates to

take stock and approach job offers with caution.

Zachary A. Smith, executive partner in the education department at WittKeiffer, an executive search firm, told the Post that some candidates are even opting out of searches due to high political tensions on campuses.

These pressures come only four years following the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to financial pressures at universities across the country, as well as the growing sense that being president is a "24/7" job, per Mitchell.

Additionally, many Americans have lost faith in higher education, contributing to the public scrutiny and pressures involved in the job. A June 2023 Gallup poll found that the public's faith in the country's bastions of knowledge has fallen to 36 percent, down from 57 percent in 2015. The poll also finds that while Democrats are largely concerned with the costs, Republicans have concerned themselves more with politics in higher education.

Will the vetting process change?

Gay was first accused of plagiarism by conservative activist Christopher F. Rufo and journalist Christopher Brunet in early December, followed by further plagiarism reporting by the Washington Free Beacon and the New York Post. In response, the Harvard Corporation, which learned of the allegations in October, expressed concerns but initially voiced its support for Gay's continued leadership.

Read more online:



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Students and faculty reflect on Ron DeSantis' exit from the presidential race

BY JANE PARK AND MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTERS

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis '01 announced his decision to suspend his campaign for president earlier this week, leaving Donald Trump and Nikki Haley as the two major candidates in the Republican field.

The News spoke with students and faculty across the political spectrum to gauge their reactions to the news. The majority were not surprised by DeSantis' decision to withdraw from the race, with many attributing his downfall to a lack of charisma and a refusal to differentiate himself from Trump. Students and faculty said the path is charted for a Trump versus Biden rematch in November.

"The premise of the DeSantis campaign was that he was a more palatable Trump, but that didn't work," Philip Gorski, a professor of sociology, said. "Something I heard that captures this pretty well is, like, 'why would you go see a Rolling Stones cover band if the Rolling Stones are still out on tour? I think that there is a plurality in the Republican base that is more interested in performance than policy. They're more devoted to a person than to an ideology at this point.'"

Gorski, who studies the role of conservative religion in American politics, said that DeSantis predicated his campaign on the premise that Republicans wanted someone who could translate Trumpism into a clear policy agenda. But DeSantis was mistaken, Gorski argues; they wanted Trump himself.

Why DeSantis fell short

Students and faculty members gave the News different hypotheses for DeSantis' lackluster performance. Some

pointed to his unpopular political stances and others argued that he should have focused on his achievements as Governor of Florida instead.

Most consistently, University members felt that DeSantis lacked the charisma of Trump and the marketability of Nikki Haley.

William Wang '26 is a registered Democrat who told the News that his choice Republican candidate would be Haley. He expressed disappointment with the lack of overt GOP pushback to Trumpism and said that DeSantis is missing the "courage" to challenge someone popular within the party.

"Chris Christie was the most formidable critic of President Trump, but he dropped out," said Wang. "But none of the other Republicans, it seems to me, dare to challenge this fringe candidate and say what he does is not what America can stand for. But Haley is ramping up her attack after New Hampshire — so we'll see."

Wang was referring to Wednesday's primary in New Hampshire, in which Trump defeated Haley by taking 12 delegates to her 9.

Trevor McKay '25, who described his political stance as that of a conservative who does not identify with "any modern political party," also said that he was "disappointed" but not surprised at DeSantis' exit from the race.

While DeSantis' initial appeal was that he offered Trump's far-right policies without his "brusque personality," McKay believes that DeSantis should not have run with Trump in the race.

David Bromwich '73 GRD '77, a professor of English, agreed, saying that by casting himself as a Trump alternative, DeSantis failed to focus on his accomplishments as Florida governor.

"He started to lose early because he made a wrong decision to run to the right of Trump on culture-war issues,

instead of running on his record as a successful governor with a demonstrated executive ability that Trump lacked," Bromwich wrote.

Both Gorski and Viktor Kagan '24, a liberal democrat, also pointed to the Florida governor's glaring unpopularity with young, Gen-Z voters.

Kagan said that he believes DeSantis alienated many young voters by focusing on the culture war and positioning himself far right on many social issues. Namely, Kagan referred to DeSantis' positions on public schools and abortion access as "simply unpopular" among most Americans.

On the campaign trail, DeSantis said that he would support a 15-week abortion ban, with exceptions for instances of rape, incest and the life-endangering situations for the mother. In 2022, DeSantis endorsed the Individual Freedom Act — which limited the way gender and race are spoken about in classrooms and workplaces.

"Americans, including myself, really want new faces running and that'll happen in 2028 — it'll be important that they are younger, listen to and work for Gen Z as they do for other generations, and run on issues that invest in public resources, not outsource them," Kagan said. "Hearing future candidates wanting to raise the retirement age, send public school funds to private schools, and obnoxious rhetoric about civil rights does not inspire any member of Gen Z to vote for them."

Haley, Trump and Biden: the future of the 2024 presidential race

With DeSantis officially out of the running for the Republican nomination, students and faculty also weighed in on Donald Trump and Nikki Haley, the two dominant candidates still on the ticket.

All of the individuals with whom the News spoke predicted that Trump would easily take the Republican nomination and that Haley would drop out of the race in the near future.

Daniel Romoser '26, who described himself as a "Burkean conservative" does not see a hopeful future for Haley in the upcoming South Carolina primary, especially with her loss in New Hampshire given the support she received from the governor of New Hampshire.

As a voter, Romoser would prefer to have as many options as possible, though he predicts an inevitable showdown between Trump and Biden.

For Nikki Haley to prove herself as a formidable opponent, she must confront Trump's media presence.

"Trump does have this aura around him that's hard for any other candidate to replicate," Wang told the News. "I think Trump has internalized this idea that there's no such thing as bad press. Any press is press, and his supporters see bad press and turn Trump into a martyr. I don't think Haley can play Trump's game better than him. I think to win, both her and the eventual Democratic nominee have to anchor to the better angels of our nature."

Gorski attributed Haley's relative success thus far less to an embodiment of Trumpism than to her political savvy and well-managed campaign. She is the best "retail politician," he said, and is someone who embodies the old Republican establishment.

The legacy of Ron DeSantis

Gorski describes DeSantis, by contrast, as a "very bad" retail politician. He added that he does not foresee a future in which



The News spoke with students and professors across the political spectrum about their reactions to DeSantis' departure.

DeSantis appears on another national ballot, or is a figure in national politics at all beyond his post as Florida governor.

"The perception of him, rightly or wrongly, is that he lacks charisma and people skills," Gorski said. "I don't know how true that is. But, I think anybody who burns through \$150 million and doesn't make it past Iowa is going to have a very hard time relaunching another national political campaign. I think he'll suffer a similar fate as people like Scott Walker and Jeb Bush."

Throughout his campaign for president, DeSantis said that his Yale education was marked by "unadulterated leftism." Earlier this year, the News examined these claims in an investigative profile piece.

In all, DeSantis' drop-out has churned the Republican party toward an imminent Trump nomination, Gorski said.

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"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well!"

PLUTARCH GREEK PHILOSOPHER AND HISTORIAN

'MOTW Coffee & Pastries' opens on Crown Street



PETER WILLIAMS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Muslims of the World — a coffee and pastries shop — celebrated its grand opening on Jan. 21, attracting members from all over the city.

PETER WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

A new coffee and pastries shop celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, Jan. 21 with the goal of promoting unity in New Haven.

Muslims of the World, an Arabic-inspired coffee and pastries shop, is focused on promoting its goals of creating solidarity, unity and greater understanding through a mission of "coffee with a purpose." At its opening, MOTW welcomed a crowd of Yale students and New Haven residents the minute it opened its doors.

When asked about the warm welcome from the New Haven community, Ijlal Aslam, one of four

co-owners, expressed his gratitude.

"We have such a great community around us," Aslam said. "We're not only bringing coffee, but coffee with a purpose — unity," Aslam said. "With Yale and all the other schools around New Haven showing support this morning, we are all grateful."

Muslims of the World, founded by Sajjad Shah, began as an Instagram page, eventually accumulating over 700,000 followers worldwide. MOTW Coffee and Pastries was born in Indiana when Shah and his wife decided to create a physical presence for this digital community.

After expanding to four shops in the greater Indianapolis area,

MOTW Coffee and Pastries is now spreading outside of the crossroads of America, starting with two new locations — one in Chicago and one in New Haven.

Having grown up with Shah's wife, Ijlal Aslam and his three siblings, Bilal, Usama and Zainab all began to develop the dream of opening up a shop themselves when their friends established the original shop in Indiana. Having grown up less than 20 miles away in Waterbury, Aslam said New Haven was the natural location.

"We put family first," Ijlal Aslam told the News. "To do business with siblings feels surreal. We all share a bond, we all

get to do the same thing. It's truly an indescribable feeling to get to do this with my siblings."

The menu features a variety of traditional American cafe and Arabic-style drinks and sweets. The shop is decorated with a mural depicting a Pakistani export truck with a "chai wala," or "tea seller," pouring chai into a "matka," or clay pot, in the desert.

Fawzaan Hashmi '25, a Saybrook College student of Pakistani descent, appreciated the shop's Pakistani culture and atmosphere.

"In New Haven, I haven't had any experiences of Pakistani cultures that are near to me," Hashmi wrote to the News. "However, coming here, I'm reminded of

my home, and I'm realizing that maybe I'm not so far after all."

Asked about her favorite menu options, Zainab Aslam provided some recommendations.

Aslam said her favorite drink is the Yemeni Chai, and her favorite pastry is the honeycomb.

"I love the Yemeni Chai. It's made with milk, black tea and cardamom," Aslam said. "And my favorite pastry is probably the honeycomb — dough filled with cream cheese and topped with honey and black seed."

MOTW Coffee and Pastries is located at 296 Crown St.

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Jitter Bus to open first brick-and-mortar location

BY NATI TESFAYE
STAFF REPORTER

The Jitter Bus has been serving up coffee from its eponymous mobile storefront since 2016. On a given weekday, students and faculty members commuting to work and classes can find the bus parked near the busy intersection of Grove Street and Prospect Street, outside Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall.

For the first time ever, the owners of the Jitter Bus have begun renting a brick-and-mortar site in the Wooster Square neighborhood to grow their business with a second location. The mobile Jitter Bus will remain at the Grove and Prospect Street location.

Dan Barletta, one of the company's co-founders and owners, described the move to a permanent location as a goal the group has had since opening in 2016.

"We had been looking to start a brick-and-mortar for a couple of years. We wanted to do it in New Haven for sure," Barletta said. "We looked at a couple spots and either the rent was too high or it wasn't the right location ... There aren't that many spots in the Wooster Square area, so [this location] was a great fit."

Barletta added that they found the Wooster Square site on Grand Avenue about a year ago. The building owner, Bruce Seymour, who Barletta met through a mutual friend, was "looking to add something to the neighborhood."

Although the bus is near Grove and Prospect Street on weekdays, it can already be found in the Wooster Square neighborhood during the Saturday farmers market at Conte Hills West Middle School.

The founders had been looking for a brick-and-mortar site in 2016, but they were "simply too young," Barletta said, and didn't have enough capital, so they bought the bus and began their operations.

Barletta and his co-founder Paul Crosby are excited for the new venue and what it means for the business and community at large.

"We're hoping it will become a good spot in New Haven to come, work and hangout with friends," he said.

Seymour, the landlord at the Wooster Square location, shared similar sentiments. He hopes the shop will make the "community a better place." He added that he would "never lease to cannabis dispensaries, alcohol vendors, or smoke shops."

He also highlighted the importance of respect as a pillar for a landlord-tenant relationship. Seymour, who when younger founded a DVD company that eventually failed to stay afloat, was unable to pay his rent, which Seymour said his landlord continually raised.

Barletta emphasized community as an integral part of Jitter Bus' mission. The company has a deep-rooted connection to Yale, and Barletta estimates that stu-

dents and faculty make up "70-80 percent" of the van's patrons.

The group wants to strengthen this relationship as they look to expand further over the coming years.

Students on campus are excited for the new site, even if it is far from Yale's main campus.

"I go [to the Jitter Bus] almost every day. They make great coffee and it's great to see them growing," Falco Emery '26 said. "Getting a location is a step in the right direction, but I am concerned this could lead to an increase in prices."

The brick-and-mortar site will be located at 847 Grand Ave.

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NATI TESFAYE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Building from their successful business on wheels, the Jitter Bus will open a brick-and-mortar site on Grand Avenue in the coming weeks.

"It is frequently a misfortune to have very brilliant men in charge of affairs. They expect too much of ordinary men." SOCRATES

GREEK PHILOSOPHER

State board rules to reinstate police officer involved in paralyzing Randy Cox

BY HANNAH KOTLER AND KENISHA MAHAJAN
STAFF REPORTERS

Last Friday, a state board overturned the firing of Oscar Diaz, the New Haven Police Department officer who was driving the van when Randy Cox was paralyzed.

Two of three arbitration officers on the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration voted to overturn the city's termination of Diaz, who was fired in June of last year for his role in paralyzing Randy Cox, which sparked protests in New Haven. The panel ruled that Diaz was not responsible for Cox's injuries and should return to his post with full pay after a 15-day unpaid suspension.

Cox, a 36-year-old Black man, was paralyzed in police custody after he was arrested by NHPD officers on June 19, 2022. While driving Cox to the Westchester Avenue substation, Diaz, who was speeding, stopped abruptly to avoid a crash and

Cox slammed against the back of the police vehicle, which did not have seatbelts.

Diaz did not wait for an ambulance and instead took Cox to NHPD headquarters, where he was dragged out of the van and into a holding cell before receiving medical attention. Cox repeatedly told the five officers involved he could not move but was dismissed according to footage released by the NHPD.

On Sept. 27, 2022, Cox filed a lawsuit for \$100 million in damages against the city of New Haven and the five officers involved: Diaz, Betsy Segui, Ronald Pressley, Jocelyn Lavendier and Luis Rivera. The city settled the case for \$45 million in June 2023, almost a year after Cox's arrest, marking the largest settlement in a police misconduct case in United States history.

After a criminal investigation conducted by Connecticut State Police, Diaz was charged in November 2022 with cruelty to persons and reckless endangerment in

the second degree. Both criminal charges are still pending. The New Haven Board of Police Commissioners voted to fire Diaz on June 28, 2023, on the basis of violating several general orders. Diaz also has a pending decertification request at Connecticut's State Police Officer Standards and Training Council.

After deciding that Diaz "did not commit all of the violations with which he was charged," two of three members of the State Arbitration Panel ruled that the decision to terminate Diaz's office lacked just cause.

The ruling claims that there is no evidence to prove Diaz's actions resulted directly in Cox's injuries and says that he treated Cox with respect. It also says that Diaz's use of his phone while driving was a minor violation of a general order.

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker and New Haven Police Chief Karl Jacobson released a joint statement shortly after the ruling was publicized expressing their disagreement with the panel's decision.

"We are incredibly disappointed

and strongly disagree with the ruling by the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration," Elicker and Jacobson wrote. "We strongly believe the decision to terminate Officer Diaz was the right one, and the city will challenge the ruling by submitting a motion to vacate to the Connecticut Superior Court."

Despite the ruling of the Arbitration Board for Diaz to return to the NHPD following a 15-day unpaid suspension, Diaz will not be reinstated as an officer due to his forthcoming criminal trial and motion to vacate.

The News could not reach Diaz for comment and his lawyer, Jeffery Ment, did not respond to a request for comment.

"In the immediate term, the decision of this arbitration board clears a hurdle for the officer who's seeking to be reinstated as a police officer and escape accountability for what happened to Randy Cox," said Jorge Camacho, who is the policing, law and policy direc-

tor of the Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School.

Camacho added that this arbitration ruling may have implications for Diaz's criminal trial.

"The findings of the arbitration board are pursuant to a standard of evidence and burden of proof that is lower than what a criminal prosecution would need to result in a conviction," Camacho said. "You would have to be even more certain of the conduct that this officer did to sustain a criminal conviction than to sustain his firing from the New Haven police department."

Florencio Cotto, president of the New Haven Police Union, did not respond to the News' request for comment.

The Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration is located at 38 Wolcott Hill Rd. in Wethersfield.

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New group to challenge union-backed Democratic ward co-chairs



DANIEL ZHAO, SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Over a dozen candidates are gathering signatures in an attempt to reduce the power of Yale unions over the Democratic Town Committee.

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

A group of New Haveners, unhappy with the dominance of Yale unions in local Democratic politics, is seeking to challenge the incumbent party committee members representing nearly half of the city's wards.

The new organization, called "New Haven Agenda" but offering no unified policy agenda, announced in a press release last week that 15 candidates were gathering signatures to qualify for the ballot in Democratic Town Committee ward co-chair elections set for March 5. The co-chairs, two in each of New Haven's 30 wards, canvass voters and influence Democratic nominations.

"The process needs to be opened up," Jason Bartlett, an organizer of the group and a Ward 6 co-chair candidate, told the News. "There's lots of people in the city that don't want to have to be 100 percent beholden to one particular interest group, to debate, you know, where the Democratic Party should go."

The push to dislodge current Democratic co-chairs, which

emerged from the defeated mayoral campaign of Tom Goldenberg, may face long odds against an established party infrastructure in the low-profile, typically low-turnout elections. Goldenberg ran on the Republican ticket in November after losing to Mayor Justin Elicker in the Democratic primary.

Joe Fekieta, an artist and longtime resident of the Hill, is running for Ward 4 co-chair after having volunteered for the Goldenberg campaign. Fekieta said Goldenberg invited him to a meeting with other potential co-chair challengers at the Annex Club in early January. Goldenberg declined to comment for this article.

At the gathering, Goldenberg discussed "how the New Haven political scene was kind of hijacked" by Yale unions, Fekieta recalled. The organizers distributed copies of a New Yorker article from October detailing the power of UNITE HERE unions in city government, dating back to 2011, when a slate of union-endorsed candidates won election to the Board of Alders.

It was Fekieta's first time hearing about the unions' influence, which

he called a "political machine." After sleeping on it, Fekieta agreed to run to be a co-chair. In three hours on Saturday, he collected 10 of the 43 signatures he needs to reach the ballot, he said.

Vincent Mauro Jr., the Democratic Town Committee chairman, disputed the "political machine" characterization, noting that union leaders did not initially back Elicker but have built ties with the mayor over time. He also expressed confidence in the current co-chairs' reelection prospects.

"Everyone wants to blame UNITE HERE for things," Mauro said. "I think what UNITE HERE has done to get voter engagement in this city is remarkable."

Besides endorsing Democratic candidates, ward co-chairs interact with voters and drive turnout, Mauro said. To him, the incumbent Democratic Town Committee members will be crucial to getting out the vote for the federal elections in November — to ensure a strong showing in New Haven that boosts President Joe Biden's popular vote tally, even if Connecticut's Electoral College votes are all but certain to go blue.

The three new co-chair challengers who spoke with the News are animated by a variety of issues, ranging from education to housing to neighborhood cleanliness, and they will not sign on to a common platform, Bartlett said. But they share at least one stance: dissatisfaction with the city's current Democratic leadership. For Fekieta, the ultimate objective is no less than to "unseat the mayor."

The New Haven Agenda candidates also differ vastly in their levels of political experience. Bartlett has a long history in New Haven politics, including time as a state representative, work for former Mayor Toni Harp and a controversial stint as youth services director that ended with his firing by Elicker in 2020. In the fall, Bartlett was a paid advisor for Goldenberg's mayoral campaign.

But the vast majority of the candidates are political outsiders. Joe Fekieta said he had not heard about the position of ward co-chair before Goldenberg suggested he run for it. Martha Dilone, a self-employed bookkeeper and Ward 3 co-chair candidate, said she was waiting for future meetings to learn more about the role.

One of the co-chair contenders listed in the New Haven Agenda press release, Solomon Maye in Ward 19, said in an Instagram message that he withdrew because he was too busy working with boxers at his gym, Get'em Boy Boxing.

Two other candidates have signed on since the press release came out, bringing the total number of candidates to 16, Bartlett said Wednesday. New Haven Agenda has not found candidates to run for co-chair roles in Wards 1 or 22, where most Yale students live.

As of Wednesday, no candidates other than incumbent co-chairs or their chosen replacements have yet been certified for the ballot, Democratic Registrar Shannel Evans told the News.

Co-chair hopefuls have until Wednesday, Jan. 31, to collect the signatures of at least five percent of the active registered Democrats in their wards — ones who have not skipped several elections or left official mail unanswered.

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ARTS

"There is nothing permanent except change."

SOCRATES GREEK PHILOSOPHER

New semester, new shows: Dramat looks toward spring season



TIM TAI / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Yale Dramatic Association begins its spring productions in February.

BY LUCIANA VARKEVISSER
STAFF REPORTER

The spring semester is here, and, with it, a brand new season of shows from the Yale Dramatic Association — the largest undergraduate theater association at Yale.

The spring season of the Dramat will feature three new productions from February through April, titled “Delicacy of a Puffin Heart,” “Every Tongue Confess” and “Dance Nation.” With themes including American identity, magical realism and growing up, these three plays explore the nuances of theater with shows spanning from comedic to dramatic, and ensemble-led to intimate.

“This season, the shows look so fun!” past performer Cameron Nye ’27 said. “Last semester, I was a part of shows, and it was a great experience.”

The first show to premiere this season will be “Delicacy of a Puffin Heart,” which follows a lesbian couple in the 1990s as they navigate in-vitro fertilization and bipolar disorder. However, this couple’s story is not the only one that the play highlights. The show, which is inspired by the New York Times’ “36 Questions to Fall in Love,” jumps forward and backward in time and documents the couple’s daughter’s experience battling cancer.

The Yale Asian American Collective of Theatermakers, or AACT, is producing this show in

collaboration with the Dramat. This will be the AACT’s third show since its founding in 2022.

The show was a finalist for the 2019 National Playwrights Conference and will be playing from Feb. 15-17.

“Dance Nation” will be this season’s second production and the annual FroShow of 2024. The FroShow will follow the traditional path of this type of production as it will be staffed, crewed and performed entirely by first-year students at Yale.

“The show is going to be very crazy, very funny, and we want to get across the feral-ness to the audience,” said “Dance Nation” producer Robert Gao ’27.

“Dance Nation” tells the story of a group of pre-teen dancers who

navigate the chaotic world of competitive dance and adolescence. The ensemble production won the 2015 Relentless Award, the 2017 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

The show will premiere on Feb. 22 and run through the weekend until Feb. 24.

The third show of the regular spring season will be “Every Tongue Confess,” running from April 3-6.

The annual spring mainstage will feature a blend of folklore, magic and American history to tell the story of a group of parishioners caught inside a burning church. As the church burns, those trapped inside tell stories spanning generations — stories that could

just unravel the mystery of who is behind the arson.

This production received nominations for the Steinberg New Play Award and the Charles MacArthur Award, and also won the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

“I just love the community that it embraces, and I love to see the enthusiasm ... it makes me enjoy the performance even more,” said Bella Le ’27, explaining why she’s excited about the Dramat’s new season.

The Dramat will put on all its productions at the University Theater.

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Local art store Artist & Craftsman Supply to close

BY KAMINI PURUSHOTHAMAN
STAFF REPORTER

For nearly a decade, Artist & Craftsman Supply has provided local creatives with an array of materials spanning the visual arts, but come March 3, the chain’s New Haven location will close its doors.

Located at 821-825 Chapel St., the store is part of a national chain headquartered in Maine. On Jan. 8, the New Haven branch announced its imminent closure on Facebook and Instagram. The announcement was immediately met with dismay from the arts community in New Haven.

“The loss of Artist and Craftsman leaves a hole in the New Haven arts community without a doubt,” said New Haven-based multimedia artist Susan Clinard. “There is nothing like it in this region.”

Clinard told the News that the store satisfied her needs as an artist who works with multiple mediums, from wood to paint to clay. She noted that she has been able to find both essential items and obscure supplies at the store, making it particularly convenient.

Jisu Sheen ’20, an artist and an associate at Artist & Craftsman Supply, has worked at the store since 2021. Sheen said her favorite part of working at Artist & Craftsman Supply is connecting with her coworkers. Mentioning their shared humor and camaraderie, she spoke about how her coworkers have helped each other through difficult times.

“We understood each other deeply and supported each other as artists,” she said.

According to Katro Storm, a portraitist based in Connecticut, the store stands out because of its employees’ dedication and warmth. Storm recounted a recent trip to the store he made in search of large canvases. The

store only had two canvases left in stock, so the employees ordered the remaining 13 for him.

Clinard shared Storm’s admiration for the store’s associates.

“The employees are artists and makers which makes a huge difference in many ways,” she said. “They’re always kind and knowledgeable about materials.”

But for Storm, the employees’ congeniality is particularly special because of the suspicion he is often met with in other art stores. He emphasized that as a Black artist, Artist & Craftsman Supply has always been a welcoming environment.

“When I walk into art stores, employees tend to follow me around and ask if I need help every few minutes, but at Artist & Craftsman, they make me feel like they know me,” he said.

Artist & Craftsman Supply sells materials for experienced artists and beginners alike. They also sell Crayola-brand clay and other products geared towards children, fostering creativity for artists of various skill levels and ages.

Highlighting the store’s universal appeal, New Haven-based artist Raheem Nelson said the store will be missed because of its “support for artists of all ages.”

Kai Chen ’26 conveyed similar feelings of disappointment about the store’s closing.

“I’m really sad to see Artist & Craftsman Supply go,” he said. “There’s been multiple times when I’ve asked the staff for their assistance or advice on a project I’m doing, and the staff has always been friendly.”

News of the store’s forthcoming closure has created a wave of new business that leaves Sheen conflicted, she said. While she is glad to see young artists taking advantage of the store’s closing sale, she is disheartened by the



KAMINI PURUSHOTHAMAN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The downtown New Haven art store on Chapel Street is set to close in March after a decade in business.nations.

customers with significant buying power, who she wished had been shopping there all along.

Mentioning how some customers have cleared out sections at a time, she said that her workload has grown to several times what it was before the branch announced its closing. She said that shoppers can be impatient because of the store’s recent busyness, but she loves seeing her regular customers.

“If I could tell anything to customers, new and old, it would be, ‘Please be nice to us! We are going through a lot,’” she said.

Without Artist & Craftsman Supply, Hull’s will be the only remaining art store in the downtown area. While also located on Chapel Street, Hull’s tends to draw more Yale students because of its proximity to campus.

Sheen said that Pike International, a rental company in New Haven, recently tripled rent for Artist & Craftsman Supply. Sheen speculated that the increase in rent was triggered by the development of luxury apartments across the street. Pike International did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sheen mentioned that the Dollar General on Chapel Street is also closing which an employee confirmed to the News when reached by phone on Monday. The New Haven Independent reported that the nearby Rite-Aid on Church Street closed down just last month after the company filed for bankruptcy earlier in the fall.

“Some people have told me this is just the start, that the whole block is in trouble now,” she said.

Sheen said that she and her coworkers are already nostalgic about their time working at the store, especially with the recent influx of customers. Still, she said she has let go of the sadness she initially felt about Artist & Craftsman Supply’s closure, instead choosing to look forward.

“Nothing is permanent, and I think we all have bright futures ahead,” Sheen said of her and her coworkers. “I’m a bit worried about where the people of New Haven will get certain art supplies, but I think we’ll find ways to fill in the gaps.”

Through January, all products at Artist & Craftsman Supply are discounted by 30 percent, which will be increased to 40 percent in February.

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SPORTS

Elis shoot for gold in Paris

SAILING FROM PAGE 14

only was he a four-time ICSA All-American Skipper, but he was also named NEISA Sailor of the Year twice, and ICSA Sailor of the Year in his senior year. Now, Barrows will continue to go for the gold in Paris.

Similarly, McNay is a two-time All-American, the 2002-03 NEISA Sportsman of the Year and a finalist for the 2004-05 College Sailor of the Year. However, he is also a seasoned Olympics competitor, with these qualifiers leading him to attend his fifth consecutive Olympics.

Down South, he and his partner — Eckerd College graduate and fellow seasoned Olympian Lara Dallman-Weiss — placed first in the mixed 470, never dropping

down from first place over the entire eight-day period.

McNay has competed with Team USA in both Beijing and Tokyo and even helped the team secure ninth overall in 2020 in the 470 men's race. When not training for an Olympics, he has been an assistant sailing coach at his alma mater during the fall semester of 2005 and 2009, as well as during the Spring of 2006.

Now, he is serving his third season as the Davis Emma Assistant Coach Chair for Brown University Sailing in 2022-24.

These seasoned competitors were not far ahead of Cowles in the mixed 470, as she placed third, just enough to barely miss qualifying.

Once a NEISA Women's Rookie of the Year, Cowles has since been Ivy League Women's

Champion, Quantum Women's College Sailor of the Year Finalist and Women's All American Skipper. Soon, she may be able to add an Olympic qualification to her accolades.

Similarly, Baker, who finished fifth in the 49er event back in his hometown of Miami, was named NEISA Open Sailor of the Week, earned First Team All-NEISA and was honored with an All-American Honorable Mention all last season.

Nonetheless, Barrows, and likely McNay, will proudly represent the United States in Paris from July 26 to Aug. 11, hoping to take home the gold on the world's biggest athletic stage.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Nonetheless, Barrows and likely McNay, will proudly represent the United States in Paris from July 26 to Aug. 11, hoping to take the gold on the world's biggest athletic stage.

Bulldogs earn first Ivy win of the season

W BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

Jenna Clark '24, giving the Blue and White an early lead. Though the Big Green stayed ahead, rebounds by Clark and Nyla McGill '25 helped to assist in baskets and keep Yale close in the game. The end of the first quarter had Dartmouth ahead by just two points, 15-13.

In the second quarter, the Bulldogs fought back to tie the game at 19-19, thanks in part to a Grace Thybulle '25 free throw. From there, the two teams battled neck and neck, tying at 22-22, 24-24, 26-26, before an end-of-the-quarter layup from Kiley Capstraw '26 pushed Yale ahead, 28-26.

The second half proved to be a tight race. Though the Bulldogs outscored the Big Green in the first half, Dartmouth quickly bounced back, out-scoring Yale 9-6 in the third quarter and snatching the lead away, 35-34. The comeback for the Blue and

White would prove challenging, but never impossible.

At 4:50 in the fourth quarter, back-to-back three-pointers from Capstraw and Clark propelled the Bulldogs in front of the Big Green, building momentum and establishing the confidence they needed to win. The two players for the Blue and White were the sole scorers of the fourth quarter, with Capstraw's posting seven points and Clark's posting eight. In a storybook ending of a hard-fought game between teams so far unsuccessful in conference play, the Yale Bulldogs proved their bite was just as big as their bark, howling victoriously over Dartmouth, 48-46.

Rebounds abounded during this defensive clinic of a game, with the Bulldogs' racking up 28 to Dartmouth's 32. Though points were scarce for either side, both Clark and Capstraw

were able to put up 16 points each to aid their team's cause. McDonald led the team with seven rebounds.

This victory marked the seventh straight success over Dartmouth for the Blue and White.

Head coach Dalila Eshe told Yale Athletics that this win could be just what her team needed to excel in the rest of Ivy League conference play.

"Our narrative is, we've been saving the good stuff," she said. "Any way you can come up with a win works. This gives us a chance to find some confidence."

The Bulldogs play again at home at the John J. Lee Amphitheater against Harvard (10-7, 3-1 Ivy) for the second time this season on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m.

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YALE ATHLETICS

This victory marked the seventh straight success over Dartmouth for the Elis.

Head baseball coach position endowed

BASEBALL FROM PAGE 14

to Vincent Jr, it was his ownership of a large sum of Coca-Cola stock that allowed him to endow the baseball coach position at Yale.

Vincent Jr. added that the plan was cemented after Hamm and Hutchison visited his home in Florida last month and pitched him the idea.

"This is about a son trying to do something that would memorialize his father," Vincent told the News. "And I'm doing it for

my father in a way that I think combines his great interest in sports with the fact that he was a poor kid who had a scholarship at Yale and turned out to have a very fine life and career."

According to the University's For Humanity capital campaign site, Yale has endowed 20 head coaching positions in the past few years.

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YALE ATHLETICS

According to the University's For Humanity capital campaign site, Yale has endowed 20 head coaching positions in the past few years.

Bulldogs slow to start Ivy play

M HOCKEY FROM PAGE 14

up a shorthanded goal. Yet, the Elis countered with their own shortie at the midway point of the second period when Will Dineen '25 found the twine after intercepting a dangerous pass by the Clarkson netminder.

Since his return from injury, Dineen has provided some much needed secondary scoring. He has notched four goals in ten games played this season.

"Will missed time early in the season due to injury but is now starting to hit his stride," said Allain. "He is a big-body who can play with pace and has a high compete level. He is a guy that we trust in all situations and is really the anchor on his line."

The game was tied 2-2 going into the third period, but just two minutes in, Ryan Conroy '24 had trouble with sticky ice behind his own net and Clarkson was able to capitalize on

when he buried his own rebound behind first-year Bulldog goalie Jack Stark '27.

In a scary moment later in the first period, first-year defender Rhys Bentham '27 appeared to skate off injured after a high hit by SLU captain Josh Boyer. Bentham has had a terrific first-year campaign so far, and is one of the Bulldogs' most offensively minded D-men.

Yale evened the scoring at one apiece on a David Andreychuck '27 wristler under the glove of Saint goalie Ben Kraws. SLU then countered with a tally in six-on-five play with the goalie pulled due to a delayed penalty. However, David Chen '26, the Bulldogs top scorer of the season, evened the game at two just minutes later.

In the third, Yale came out all over the Saints but were unable to beat Kraws. The Saints scored a third goal after a scramble in front of Stark and



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale faces off against Quinnipiac in the opening game of the CT Ice at the XL Center on Friday, Jan. 26.

an unlucky turnover. In a scrappy third period, the Golden Knights went up 4-2 on a tally by Michigan State transfer Jesse Tucker.

But the Bulldogs stayed in the hunt and Dineen potted a second goal when he redirected a point shot from Conroy late in the third. Unable to find the back of the net the rest of the game, the Bulldogs fell 4-2 after giving up an empty netter.

With the lack of offensive production a key reason for the Bulldogs' loss against Clarkson, Allain told the News what he believes can help generate more scoring.

"I believe the best way for our group to sustain more offensive zone time is to break out of our end more cleanly and navigate the neutral zone with more authority," he said. "Right now, we are turning pucks over in those two zones and that not only limits our offense, but it helps the offense of our opposition."

The following night, the Bulldogs took the ice against St. Lawrence, a team who came into the game 4-1 in their last five ECAC home games.

Both teams came out skating hard, and junior Saints forward Tomas Mazura scored the game's first goal

then finished with an empty-netter to make it 4-2.

For the second night in a row, the Bulldogs struggled to produce goals and high quality chances against a very solid defensive team. Nevertheless, with Chen's line as a consistent goal threat, and Dineen finding success as well, Yale should be poised to ramp up the offense. One forward that has been playing well but has been snake-bitten in the last three games is senior forward Ian Carpentier '24.

"Carp is a big driver for our offense, and I believe he is due for a big scoring outbreak," said Dineen, Carpentier's linemate. "He is an elite skater. As a center man, when you play with a skilled winger like Carp, you always want to try and get him the puck in space as much as possible to give him room to make plays and allow him to use the great release he has on his shot"

Carpentier and the Bulldogs will look to get back on track when Yale faces off against Quinnipiac in the opening game of the CT Ice at the XL Center on Friday, Jan. 26.

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Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen to expand

NATASHA KHAZZAM
STAFF REPORTER

Community leaders knocked down boundaries at an inaugural "wall-breaking" ceremony on Tuesday morning at a press conference celebrating Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen's, or DESK's, plans to expand and renovate its 266 State St. location.

Alyse Sabina, the president of DESK's board of directors, said that these developments will allow DESK to "move beyond the traditional soup kitchen model and provide comprehensive homelessness services for our community."

DESK, a nonprofit organization that provides services to New Haven's unhoused and food-insecure community, opened its State Street location as a low-barrier drop-in and resource center in 2021. Renovation plans will expand the organization's capacity to provide relief services by allowing more room to accommodate clients and service providers as well as constructing a new kitchen and clinical facility. The construction will begin next week and is scheduled to be completed in July 2024.

According to Steve Werlin, DESK's executive director, the new construction will expand the building's existing dining area and install a new servery along with an energy-efficient kitchen. Other additions to the building will include shower facilities, a computer station, consultation spaces for outreach workers and a medical clinic staffed with providers from the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center.

In addition to providing clients with immediate relief resources, Werlin shared that the center's staff members will also connect people to additional resources like shelters and housing, medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and mainstream services that can provide stability for personal finances.

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker discussed the city's support for the DESK initiative, explaining that

ous services under a single roof. Elicker also mentioned that the city has supported DESK in its

contributions from organizations including the State of Connecticut, The Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, Connecticut

ing out to other donors who might help cover the remaining cost.

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro expressed her support for DESK's commitment to promoting "health, community and equity" in New Haven. She also explained how DESK has adapted to providing services amid changing conditions within New Haven. She noted that the organization was initially formed in 1987 and has since expanded services through "progressive strategies and empathetic approaches," including the addition of a program that serves dinner to unhoused people five nights a week as well as a weekly food pantry program.

After elaborating on plans for the upcoming construction and expressing their enthusiasm for the expansion, DESK representatives and elected officials took turns breaking down a wall on the first floor of the building with a hammer to inaugurate the construction project.

Werlin explained how the walls symbolically represent barriers to accessing life-saving basic needs and stigmatizing unhoused and food-insecure people.

"Here at DESK... we knock [walls] down, and we build bridges," he said.

In addition to providing services at State Street, DESK distributes meals at other locations in downtown New Haven including 311 Temple St. and 57 Olive St.



NATASHA KHAZZAM / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen announced plans to expand its 266 State St. location.

groups like DESK have influenced other non-profit organizations to "think differently about how to provide services."

Werlin explained that DESK's resource center encompasses a novel multifaceted approach to addressing homelessness by consolidating vari-

efforts by contributing \$150,000 to the construction project.

Other sources of funding for the construction have come from several public and private resources, including \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and additional contri-

Foodshare, Yale University and Yale New Haven Health Systems.

Funds raised for the construction amount to roughly \$3.2 million. However, given that the total expense for the construction is expected to be roughly \$3.9 million, DESK coordinators are still in the process of reach-

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Marc Robinson appointed FAS Dean of Humanities

BY HUDSON WARM AND
EMILY AIKENS
STAFF REPORTERS

In a Jan. 17 message to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences community, FAS Dean Tamar Gendler announced Marc Robinson's appointment as the next FAS dean of humanities.

Robinson — a prize-winning drama historian and scholar — will serve a five-year term, succeeding Kathryn Lofton, the current FAS Dean of Humanities. A committee of faculty headed by Joanne Meyerowitz, a professor of history and American studies, began its selection process last fall.

Robinson has previously held other administrative positions at Yale — serving as the chair of the Theater, Dance and Performance Studies program as well as acting chair of the English Department — but his role as FAS Dean of Humanities presents the opportunity to work on a larger scale.

"I am eager to gain a panoramic perspective on subjects that before I've understood only in the context of one relatively small program and one vast department," he wrote to the News.

When Robinson assumes the position on July 1, Lofton will resume her role as a professor of religious studies and American studies.

Lofton, who was appointed in February 2020, expressed her confidence in Professor Robinson's appointment and emphasized his commitment to leadership in the humanities.

"Professor Robinson is an astute and deeply humane leader who thinks about scholars and scholarship with the same level of perception he thinks about drama and dramatists," she wrote to the News.

During her time as dean, Lofton oversaw the division through times of transition, as well as large development projects. In her job, she oversaw the opening of the Humanities Quadrangle at 320 York St. in 2020, consolidating two-thirds of the humanities departments into a single building.

Robinson also expressed admiration for Lofton, praising the work of his predecessor.

"All 27 departments and programs in this division are stronger thanks to [Kathryn Lofton's] stewardship," Robinson wrote to the News. "I aim to maintain that strength by support-



COURTESY OF THE YALE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Marc Robinson will begin his term overseeing the humanities division of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in July.

ing my faculty colleagues in every aspect of their work, and by helping to attract pathbreaking new scholars and artists to our ranks."

Robinson began teaching at Yale in 1993 as an adjunct assistant professor of theater studies and drama. Since then, he has participated in several committees ranging from the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct to the FAS Creative Arts Advisory Committee.

Robinson has also published and edited acclaimed criticisms and studies of theater, including "The Other American Drama" and "The American Play."

Robinson told the News about the process leading to his appointment, which involved interviews with divisional deans, the deans of Yale College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University Provost Scott Strobel and FAS Dean Tamar Gendler.

In an email to the News, Robinson praised his colleagues on their lively teaching and rigorous research.

"I hope to ensure that faculty have the resources and the freedom to continue creating the knowledge they share with students," he wrote.

As dean of humanities, Robinson will oversee hiring, including recruitment and retention. He will also be responsible for managing faculty lifecycle issues, including tenure, promotion and retirement.

In addition to his daily responsibilities, Robinson will sit on several committees, including the FAS Steering Committee, which oversees FAS policy matters, and the Faculty Resource Committee, which oversees FAS faculty searches.

Robinson will report to FAS Dean Tamar Gendler.

"[Robinson] has a deep and nuanced understanding of the workings of the University and the needs of Yale faculty and students," Gendler wrote to the News. "He is a scholar of incredible intellectual breadth and vision. I am excited to see the FAS Humanities division continue to thrive under his leadership."

Robinson's term will last until 2029.

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SCITECH

"He who steals a little steals with the same wish as he who steals much, but with less power."
EPICURUS GREEK PHILOSOPHER

Yale faculty member's therapy program seeks to remove barriers to PTSD care

BY HANNAH MARK
STAFF REPORTER

An online program launched by a clinical faculty member at the Yale School of Medicine hopes to break down barriers to evidence-based therapy for survivors of trauma.

In 2021, Sofia Noori, an instructor at the School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and a graduate of Yale's psychiatry residency program, founded the platform Nema Health. The program uses intensive therapy, delivered virtually, to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

Noori said she hopes that the virtual model, coupled with intensive, standard-of-care therapy options that few mental health providers offer, could make headway in making trauma care more accessible.

"By doing it remotely, we're trying to take away one more barrier for a patient to come and do trauma therapy," Noori said.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, is a debilitating psychiatric illness that millions of Americans suffer from each year, including veterans and survivors of sexual violence. The condition often goes undiagnosed and untreated, even though many patients experience psychological distress, nightmares and intense flashbacks, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Individuals experiencing PTSD might try to ignore their symptoms, a practice that Noori described as "avoidance."

As a daughter of refugees who survived the Vietnam War, and as a survivor of sexual assault in college, Noori knows firsthand how trauma can impact health. Based on her own experiences, she acknowledged how difficult seeking treatment can be for survivors.

During her psychiatry residency at Yale, Noori looked for ways to combine healthcare innovation with evidence-based trauma treatment. However, while there were effective treatments for PTSD, it was nearly impossible to find providers who offered them, she said.

Then, as the pandemic forced mental health care to shift online, Noori realized a virtual model could be an answer to delivering accessible, effective care to community members. As the first chief resident of digital psychiatry at Yale, she helped found the Center for Digital Psychiatry at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, which focuses on integrating digital health into treatment for patients with serious mental illness.



COURTESY OF NEMA HEALTH STAFF

Created by psychiatry residency graduate Sofia Noori, Nema Health aims to make "gold-standard" care for post-traumatic stress disorder more accessible.

Shortly after she graduated from residency, she started Nema Health.

Noori said that Nema Health's clients experience relief from PTSD symptoms in as little as two weeks. By program completion, she pointed out that nearly 80 percent of patients no longer meet the criteria for a PTSD diagnosis.

But these impressive results, Noori pointed out, are not unique to Nema's program: PTSD is a highly treatable condition with long-term results.

"Treatments for PTSD are actually super effective," Noori said. "They generally take 10 to 12 sessions to complete. And they lead to generally permanent recovery."

Nema Health uses what Noori refers to as one of the "gold standard" PTSD treatments: a method called Cognitive Processing Therapy, or CPT, in which therapists guide patients to challenge and reframe harmful thought processes linked to their trauma. But according to Noori, many providers don't offer CPT, creating a scarcity of therapy options for patients.

As an evidenced-based treatment, Noori said, CPT has been shown to be highly effective when delivered virtually — just as Nema Health intends to do.

The program uses an "intensive model:" instead of meeting once a week, the program advertises that Nema clients are matched to a dedicated therapist with whom they meet for three to five sessions per week over three to four weeks.

After the initial course of treatment, Nema continues to provide regular check-ins, medication management and peer mentorship, said Noori.

"If you actually look at the research, Nema's outcomes are consistent with what people see," she added.

Despite promising approaches to telepsychiatry, Nema Health still faces challenges in scaling its model and making care accessible. Right now, it only operates in three states: New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, though Noori's goal is to eventually expand coverage to all 50 states.

The cost of Nema's virtual therapy can also be prohibitive, admitted Mariam Malik, co-founder and COO of Nema. Without insurance coverage, the program costs \$400 for an initial evaluation and \$250 for each individual session.

Nema's treatment is only covered by a few health plans in the Tristate area, including United Healthcare, Optum, ConnectiCare

and Oxford. According to Malik, the company is working to expand coverage, though negotiating pricing with insurance providers has proved time-consuming.

"A lot of people who need our care wouldn't be able to afford it out of pocket," said Malik. "Our care needs to be accessible, especially with people who struggle from complex trauma. Being covered by their health benefits is part of Nema's mission."

Noori acknowledged that virtual therapy can't fix every gap in mental health access, and it might not be the appropriate approach for every patient facing mental health challenges.

For Walter "Stan" Mathis, a former colleague of Noori's and a clinical psychiatrist who directs the Connecticut Mental Health Center's Assertive Community Treatment team, telehealth options are incompatible with the needs of clients he treats each day.

Mathis works primarily with clients who have psychotic disorders — visiting them in their homes or out in their communities. For people who are experiencing psychosis and have trouble differentiating what is reality, he said, virtual care is seldom a good option.

"There's a real fantasy of treating mental illness homogeneously," Mathis said. "But person to person is different, and there are big picture diagnostic differences."

Beyond differing treatment needs, there are also technical and structural barriers that make accessing virtual care difficult. At the Center for Digital Psychiatry in 2019, Noori and Mathis helped develop an initiative to teach clients to use their smartphones for telehealth.

But instead, the program ended up teaching clients basic technology literacy skills.

"Our training sessions were like, how to charge your phone, and that's what they wanted to talk about," Mathis said.

Still, Mathis said he believes that programs like Nema Health are a great way to increase the availability of mental health care.

"I think we'll end up using telehealth as a way to make the spectrum of care have more options," he said.

The Connecticut Mental Health Center was founded in 1966.

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New Haven artificial reef continues to grow

BY ALISA REINER
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Located offshore near the Sound School in New Haven, the "New Haven Harbor Living Laboratory" is an artificial oyster reef that works to protect local marine species biodiversity and guard the shoreline from storm surges and erosion.

Originally founded in 2017 by multiple seniors at the Sound School, a vocational aquaculture high school, as part of their capstone, the reef currently consists of thirteen "reef balls," each of which is two feet in diameter and made of a combination of cement, sand, gravel and oyster shell. Beyond its environmental advantages, which includes improving the local water quality by filtering it through oysters, the reef serves as a living laboratory for both the Sound School and Yale students, who can conduct scientific research and gain technical skills.

"The mission of the school is to help students become stewards of the environment and aquaculture," said Peter Solomon, the aquaculture coordinator at the Sound School, referring to the reef's practical and learning value.

The reef grew in size and scope after James Nikkel, a research scientist in the Yale Physics Department and the director of the Wright Lab Advanced Photocopying Center, helped the school in 2022 secure a seed grant from Yale Planetary Solutions, a program that aims to



COURTESY OF PETER SOLOMON

The New Haven Artificial Reef received funding from the Yale Planetary Solutions seed grant in spring of 2022.

raise awareness about climate change and biodiversity.

After receiving initial funding, the reef project sought to secure an environmental permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the state Department of Agriculture.

"You need to go through a bunch of hoops to get permitting to put something into the water," Nikkel said.

In collaboration with John Buell, the chair of the New Haven Harbor Foundation, Nikkel worked with an independent engineering firm to develop project-design drawings for the

expanded reef. Ultimately, the team hopes for the project to become a self-sustaining reef. While recruitment of species from the wild stocks is high, the current die-off levels exceed the natural birth rates.

According to Nicole Bouve, the environmental and underwater science teacher at the Sound School and the project lead for the reef, they hope to build and install 100 new balls by 2027, when the permit ultimately expires. Importantly, Sound School students are the ones building the new reef balls.

"The students are really bought into the program because they are the ones doing all of the work," Bouve said.

Still, the project faces some time and weather constraints. Due to low water temperatures in the winter, the balls can only be installed in late spring and summer and students have to organize their data collection around the oyster growth cycle, from May through October. Further, given that the seed grant funding was completed in October 2023, the project leaders need to pursue more grants.

According to Arina Telles, a graduate student who works in the Advanced Photocopying Center and is involved in the project, students' inability to dive during the winter months hinders reef monitoring

and data collection. For Telles, systematic dives would help account more consistently for the growth of oysters.

Solomon noted that the team installed a data logger prototype on a reef ball to ensure continuous remote collection of data, such as water pH levels, temperatures and oxygen concentrations. The logger is connected through cables to a battery charged from a buoy-based solar panel.

The team expressed optimism about the reef's future. Though he acknowledged that this will take several years, Buell hopes for the development of "a very extensive oyster reef that will build on itself."

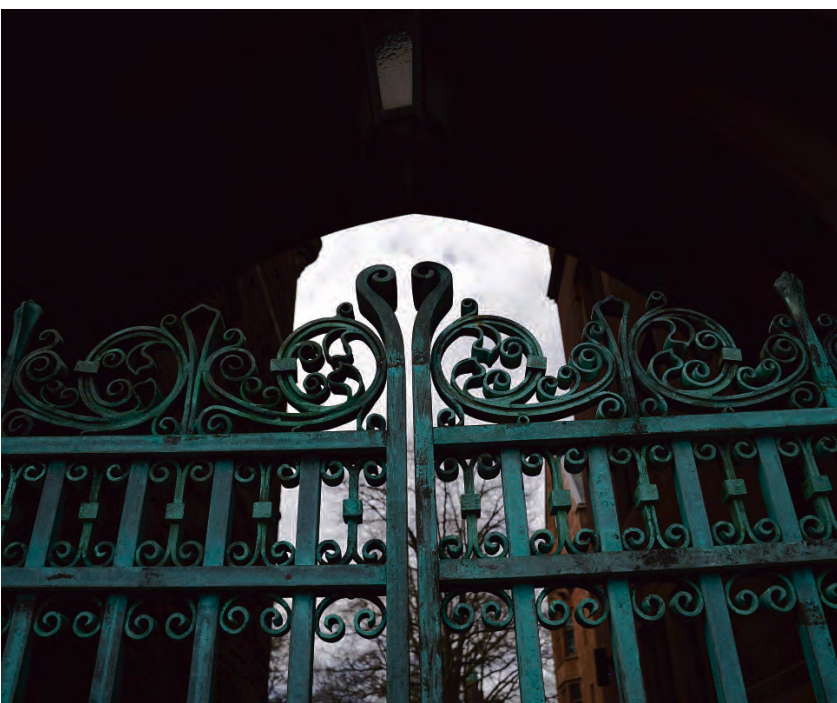
The reef aims to connect the broader New Haven and other state communities with their history, traditions and the environment. Solomon hopes that the reef will join one of the many service-based aquaculture projects being developed across Connecticut with different educational institutions. According to Buell, there is a growing national interest in similar reefs, such as the Billion Oyster Project in the New York Harbor.

"It's a really exciting time, I think we're headed in a very positive direction as a state," Solomon said.

The Sound School is located at 60 South Water St.

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THROUGH THE LENS



Photos by **Tim Tai, Senior Photographer.**

SPORTS

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"This is about a son trying to do something that would memorialize his father. And I'm doing it for my father in a way that I think combines his great interest in sports with the fact that he was a poor kid who had a scholarship at Yale and turned out to have a very fine life and career," FRANCIS "FAY" VINCENT JR. LAW '63, SAID OF HIS ENDOWMENT OF THE YALE BASEBALL HEAD COACHING POSITION.

SAILING: Yale's Team USA legacy continues

BY PALOMA VIGIL
SENIOR REPORTER

Both past and current Yalies competed in the U.S. Olympic Sailing Team Trials from Jan. 6-13, with two alumni, Ian Barrows '17 and Stuart McNay '05, successfully securing spots in Paris this summer.

The five sailors — Ian Barrows '17, Stuart McNay '05, Louisa Nordstrom '20, Carmen Cowles '25 and Stephan Baker '26, all competed in the eight-day event in Miami, Florida. Although not Olympics qualifiers, current sailors Cowles and Baker put on strong performances in the mixed 470 class event and the 49er class event, respectively. Nordstrom placed second in the mixed 470 as well.

Barrows is guaranteed to compete in Paris in a couple months with his non-Bulldog partner, while McNay and his partner will still need to qualify the U.S. as a nation for the Olympic mixed 470.

Miami boasted sunny conditions for Barrows to add another accolade to his belt: qualifying for Team USA. After being in second place for the first two days of the event, he and his partner, Hans Henken, took the lead on day three and carried it all the way to the end of the race, securing their Olympics spots.

During his time at Yale, Barrows was a leader and top competitor for the Bulldogs. Not

SEE SAILING PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

Ian Barrows '17 and Stuart McNay '05, both Yale Sailing alumni, competed for the 2024 Summer Olympics at trials.

Yale-grad, former MLB commissioner endows baseball coach position to memorialize father



YALE ATHLETICS

The head coach position for the Yale baseball team was endowed by Francis "Fay" Vincent Jr. in honor of his father.

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ AND YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTERS

Former Major League Baseball commissioner Francis "Fay" Vincent Jr. LAW '63 has endowed the head baseball coach position at the University, Yale Athletics announced last week.

Vincent Jr.'s father, Francis Vincent Sr. '31, was captain of the baseball and football teams during his time at Yale. Vincent Jr. ascended to the role of MLB commissioner following the death of Angelo Bartlett Giamatti '60 GRD '64 — Yale's 19th president — and resigned three years later after facing criticism from Major League team owners for his handling of labor issues.

The endowment will assume the costs from Yale paying for the baseball head coach's salary. According to Yale's For Human-

ity capital campaign site, which outlines minimum gift levels for endowed funds, a minimum of \$1,500,000 is required to endow an athletic coach's position.

"We are grateful for the generous gift that Fay Jr. '63 made," Victoria Chun, the director of athletics, wrote to the News. "This will not only provide great support for Yale Baseball but honors the memory of Fay '31 and his tremendous legacy as a Yale athlete and student."

Baseball head coach Brian Hamm pointed to the Vincent family's "rich history in the baseball community," lauding the endowment as a "tremendous honor."

Hamm added that the endowment allows Vincent Sr.'s legacy to be "embedded into the roots" of Yale's baseball program.

"Fay Jr. '63 wanted a way to honor his father's leadership, commitment, and love for Yale, and with this gift, Fay '31 and

his legacy will live on through the Yale Baseball program," Hamm wrote.

Vincent Jr. attributes the seeds of his present-day donation of "several million dollars" to a moment that occurred about 30 years ago when, after delivering a talk about former renowned Yale swimming coach Robert Kipphut, then-undergraduate student and baseball player Thomas Hutchison '94 approached him to seek mentorship.

After graduating from Yale Law School, Vincent Jr. went on to become the president and chief executive officer of Columbia Pictures in 1978. When the company was acquired by the Coca-Cola company in 1982, he later became the senior vice-president of Coca-Cola as well as president and CEO of its entertainment sector. According

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 10

WBASKETBALL: Bulldogs steal a win from Dartmouth



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale women's basketball team earned their first conference win in a hard-fought battle against the Dartmouth Big Green.

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's basketball team (4-13, 1-3 Ivy) battled Dartmouth (6-10, 0-4 Ivy) at home in the John J. Lee Amphitheater inside Payne Whitney Gymnasium on Saturday, Jan. 20.

Coming off a tough loss against Columbia (12-5, 3-1 Ivy) the Monday prior, the Bulldogs hoped to fashion together their first conference win of the season. The game against Dartmouth was the fourth conference game of the season.

The game versus the Big Green also celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day by hosting a clinic in the morning with women from a variety of Yale's athletics teams, inviting kids from around the New Haven area to participate in fun activities with the athletes. The match-up occurred soon after the event at 1 p.m.

Quickly into the first period, Yale post Brenna McDonald '24 sank a jumper, which was followed by a three-pointer from point guard

SEE W BASKETBALL PAGE 10

M HOCKEY: Bulldogs drop two hard-fought games

BY TOMMY GANNON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's hockey team (7-12-0, 5-8-0 ECAC) dropped two games this past weekend on a roadtrip to upstate New York. On Friday night, the Bulldogs fell 5-3 to Clarkson (12-9-1, 6-3-1 ECAC). Then on Saturday, the Bulldogs lost 4-2 against St. Lawrence (7-12-3, 5-4-1 ECAC). However, both games were back-and-forth affairs that could have gone either way.

"The real positive here is that the games have been very close

with both tied going into the third period," head coach Keith Allain told the News. "It's tough to win on the road in our league but we had a real opportunity to win both games right up until the final whistle. We are a good team when we play with confidence and consistency in our structure, whenever we stray from that we reduce our chances for success."

The Elis came into their matchup in Potsdam against Clarkson one point behind the Golden Knights in the ECAC standings. Nathan Reid '24 started in net for Yale and was tested early

on by a Clarkson team revved up by a passionate fan base.

The Bulldogs potted the first tally of the game on a textbook three-on-two offensive rush. Nik Allain '24 picked up the puck in the center of the ice, headmanned it to Briggs Gammill '25 who then kicked it back to Allain on the wing. Allain found the back of the net under the glove of the Clarkson goalie.

Clarkson tied up the game in the second period on a powerplay and then made it 2-1 when Yale gave

SEE M HOCKEY PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale dropped two ECAC away games this past weekend as the offense struggles to get going.

STAT OF THE WEEK

8.56

SECONDS IT TOOK LUCIJA GRD '27 TO RUN THE 60M HURDLES, A YALE SCHOOL RECORD.

Learning to Let Go

// BY MARIA AROZAMENA

Stuck in traffic, I watch the cold rain brush against the windowpane's surface; a drip leaves its misty blush on the glass barrier that separates me, my boyfriend and my father from the dimming skies and endless cars that lay out on the horizon of the Connecticut I-95.

After spending 13 (!!!) hours in the car that day and a slightly more manageable ten hours the day before, I struggled to laugh even at the bizarre Italian film that played before us. Traversing from Tampa, Florida to New Haven, Connecticut via car was not exactly my preferred mode of transportation, especially given the direct flight from Tampa INTL to Tweed with a duration of a mere three hours. Driving back to Yale that Nov. 19, I was tired. I was anxious. I was craving a dining hall dinner. But most of all, I was bitter.

My father has a deathly fear of flying. From a young age, especially after moving to the United States, I've watched him try to protect my brother and me like his life was on the line — which, in a sense, I guess it was. No touching frogs because warts, no stepping near the lakes because gators, no walking the dog because kidnapping (and dognapping?), no sleepovers, no driving with anyone (except him) and absolutely no planes porque te va a morir.

I think, really, what my dad struggled with was control. When he isn't the one on the one on the wheel, he doesn't feel like we're safe. Given the options, he once chose a 24-hour train ride over flying from JFK to Tampa, despite already having purchased a return ticket on the plane.

When I chose to leave the sunshine state for the northeast, my dad declared that he would be driving me to and from campus for all eternity.

What could have been six hours of travel turned into a 40-hour round trip, stripping days off my time with family at home, costing my dad days off work and hotel fees. Thanksgiving recess wasn't eight days — it was four. And those four days were shadowed by bickerings, disagreements about my traveling restrictions and jaded by the unfair, often strained position as the eldest daughter in a Latinx family.

Even my former-priest - (another story for another day) extremely-kind-like-literally-saint-like boyfriend had to admit that it was all a bit much.

So when it came time for winter break, I refused to make the drive down to Tampa again. Two airports, a couple white lies about when my final exams ended, an Avelo flight and one very, very flabbergasted father later, I was back home, safe and sound. To my surprise, my dad didn't scream. He didn't yell. I mean, he didn't talk to me for a couple of days, but to save my mother's sanity and his own, he pulled a "classic dad" moment: he wasn't upset, he was just disappointed.

I had big plans for winter break. For as long as we'd been together, I wanted to visit my boyfriend's home in San Diego, and I hoped to do so this break. On New Year's Day, I decided to break the news to my father, only to be met with an angry uproar — my father isn't himself when he thinks his children are at risk, and to him, my flight to California was a plea for the death sentence.

To say the least, I did not end up going to California. In fact, I spent the majority of my break at home, visiting

nearby family and spending time with my baby cousin (my favorite being and mini-me), all pretty much within a five-mile radius. But when it came time to come back to Yale, I swallowed my pride as I stepped forward and tried to compromise with my dad.

"I need to fly!"

"No."

"There'll be snow. You're not used to driving in the snow."

"You can take the train."

Eventually, my father agreed to let me fly to New Haven with my boyfriend and a friend — but only after a couple hours of lecturing on the safety of planes, begging us to let him drive us and strict instructions on how to proceed through the airport.

But as I watched from my window seat 30,000 feet above the earth's surface into the mounds of opaque white jellies to my exterior, I didn't feel proud. I didn't feel angry. I felt sad. Sad at his inability to let me go; I was grateful for the immense love that he holds for me — enough to nearly drive the both of us to the brink of insanity. I felt a twinge of guilt for my desire to travel and freely venture the world, for I don't know if he will ever find peace with my actions. I realized I would have to follow my ambitions without his support.

Once heard it said that growing up is realizing that your parents are messy, hurt people too. And sometimes, that means forgiving them for the things they can't change.

I just hope that one day, he will forgive me too.

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Yale DAILY **News**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024

WEEKEND

ON THE

WKND

The Rule of Threes

Calling attention to
(sexual) institutional
memory loss.

Pining after your FroCo? Dying to get on the orgy panlist? Sick of seeing khakis on men? You're in luck! Welcome to Sex on the WKND, the YDN's anonymous column dedicated to answering your burning questions about sex, love and anything in between. Obsessing over sex is a Yale tradition as old as the Oldest College Daily itself. This year, we have a love-savvy columnist who has done it all – including everyone on the aforementioned orgy panlist – and is ready to share. Whether you have a seminar with a hookup-gone-wrong or accidentally sent a raunchy text to your chemistry study group, Sex on the WKND is ready to help. Don't be shy. Submit your anonymous questions, stories and tips here.

When you decide to go to college, you are promised—or so I thought—certain discoveries. You pack your bags and leave home with the anticipation of finding “yourself” and “your people.” More excitingly, college promises that you find yourself in bed with people. People plural. If the innuendo wasn't clear: I'm talking about threesomes.

Your Mom and Dad have probably had threesomes. And not just together, in marital union, but separately with strangers unbeknownst to you. Multiple times. Oh, don't be a prude—it was the eighties! How do you think woke college students celebrated the Berlin Wall collapsing? It's simple Reaganomics: the more to trickle down, the merrier.

People blame COVID-19 for accelerating a penetrative institutional memory loss at Yale. Traditions have been insufficiently passed down, and at times forgotten altogether. People have lost their enthusiasm for DS toga parties, head of college teas, and most importantly, threesomes.

And it's a shame too. Collectively quitting threesomes means turning our backs on an activity that has served important cultural significance. In fact, threesomes are practically written in our constitution. Ever wonder when and where Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and TJ came up with the three branches of government?

The French were wrong about a lot of things—monarchy and sober cigs, to name a few—but they were right about eating cake. In fact, King Louis IV was notorious for eating multiple cakes at a time, Marie Antionette's, and her sister Maria Carolina's. When you participate in a ménage à trois, you in turn become a global citizen. Put that on your LinkedIn profile.

So where have all the threesomes gone? Who is to blame for the death of this cultural practice? Well, the admissions office, for starters. It seems that every year they have a way of sniffing out 1,700 virgins whose only definition for the word “sex” involves the inverse of cosine. It's basic etymology: when the Yale class is mostly composed of people who didn't get any in high school, there is no such thing as sexual “experimentation”—then the act of sex itself becomes the “experimentation.”

I fear that we are witnessing an important custom—one that has helped uphold community values like collaboration, selflessness, and generosity—fade away into the realm of cultural myth. Before you know it, threesomes will be the new “stable, loving boyfriend”: everyone “knows” a friend who's had one, but deep down, you know they're probably lying.

You've heard it before: good things come in three. Still not convinced? This will turn even the most reluctant Yalies to the sacred custom: threesomes prove to be a fantastic networking opportunity. Think about it—you'll be performing your team-oriented, problem solving skills with the future leaders of countries and corporations of the world.

WKND Recommends

Watch an Adam Driver movie!

Time travel



// BY NORA RANSIBRAHMANAKUL

This fall, I read an article written 10 years ago. It included a quote from a college student torn between banking and opening a restaurant. Compulsively, I switched to a new tab and searched her name up. It took me seconds. She ended up doing what she had hoped, by the way. She runs a restaurant in NYC now.

This internet search reflex has become a means of time travel. There is freedom in experiencing the future as the present. While the next screen loads, I hope they had their questions answered, doubts assuaged or dreams realized. I hope you made it.

If I read an interesting quote in an article that is over five years old, there is a high chance I will Google the author.

Pulling up a stranger's digital footprint is akin to grabbing a random bag from the baggage claim and rummaging through its contents. When I do my research, I go on Incognito mode. This is undeniably silly, since no one is looking through my search history. But it does feel like I'm committing an invasion of privacy. It feels like flipping to the last page of a book or skipping to the last scene of a movie, like I'm cheapening the years that have passed. Almost, but not quite.

It's hard for me to connect those words, frozen in the annals of the internet, to the former versions of people. The publication date is irrelative; their words are there,

sitting right in front of me. I can see them! The author and the quote are facing off, just on the other side of my screen. They exist in the now.

I am more likely to research people if they staked a claim, were young when speaking (my age, preferably), or expressed uncertainty about their future.

We do not know each other and will likely never meet, but I recognize them. I like to see that the strangers in the articles had some sort of path that they went down, good or bad. As a self-professed worrier on these issues of the future, it is comforting to know that the murk clears one day.

Yet, for all of my peeking into the futures of strangers, I pay surprisingly little mind to my own digital footprint. With all of the talk about the newest heights that technology has reached, the internet has always felt new and present, even though I've spent almost 20 years growing up with it.

In person, I give more attention to my image. I am more likely to be swept away by my stream of thoughts. I am scatterbrained and a touch more serious. I do think about my clothing, my makeup and how I speak. I am more selective with my words and less likely to speak in certainties. I've pieced together different conversation scripts and ways to introduce myself. I return to self-curation again and again because I want this version of myself to be exactly what I choose.

While online, I must be several orders of magnitude less high-strung. In doing so, I've left a paper trail (haha). At Yale,

I hope you make it.

I've met people who remember me from group chats or online competitions or some other place I decided to park myself to kill a few hours.

As I begin writing more in college, I imagine my pieces collecting like snow drifts on the side of a road. I find myself at my most honest in writing, both online and in my notebooks.

It's still awkward to find someone who's seen part of my digital footprint, but the appeal of the imperfect introduction online is interesting. To exist online is to relinquish some control over the separation between your past and your future. All of those different versions of me, at once, together.

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Touching your toes

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

I don't really believe in New Year's resolutions. For the past several years, I have failed to maintain a consistent workout schedule, to cut down on desserts, to read for pleasure during the school year or to eat vegetables and fish to get my essential vitamins and proteins.

But this year, I believe in myself. I've recently made it my retroactive resolution: I'm going to touch my toes.

It's a practical goal, really. It takes a little bit of work, or maybe a lot for me, but you can feel your progress as you go and touching your toes is a meaningful end goal for me. Sure, it's not sexy — I don't think — and it's not going to get my name in the newspaper — unless... — but it's a meaningful benchmark. Everyone always tries to tell you to reach for the stars, but I prefer to aim for the ground. It seems a little more achievable.

I've realized the folly — the foolhardiness really — of tying myself to the commitment of going to the gym every day or denying myself the privilege of indulging in that delectable Ashley's cookie dough, fudge and vanilla ice cream cake at a birthday party. These resolutions of abstinence only cause pain. Toe touching is merely uncomfortable. I'm all in on baby steps — nay, baby reaches. It's a few minutes of uncomfortably reaching in various directions as a Youtube guru tells me I can do it. At the rate I'm progressing, the middle mad will be cut out pretty soon.

Now I know that you, my condescending reader, are probably thinking to yourself: "I can touch my toes.

and achieving the achievable

Most people, most children, heck, everyone can touch their toes. Why is this an issue?"

Well, I thought you'd never ask. I've always believed I'm fighting genetics when it comes to flexibility. Neither my parents nor my brothers can touch their toes. And maybe because of that, I've never really believed in the idea of actually trying to become flexible. It seemed like a lost cause, and until recently, it was.

But more important than the reasons for why I haven't been able to do it is my villain origin story and the horrors I endured that steeled my resolve. If you remember the Presidential Fitness Test, you're likely familiar with the concept of the "Sit and Reach." If you're not, look it up.

While my peers all leaned forward and dropped their hands at the 10-, 15- or 20-inch marks, I couldn't make it to the start of the measurements. Many moments of humiliation stemmed from that Fitness Test (being unable to do a pull-up, slow on sit-ups, etc.), but missing the bare minimum on the sit-and-reach always cut a little bit deeper.

While I want to redeem myself for those failures, I do believe that there is something a little bit deeper to this than a godforsaken feat of flexibility. Big goals are awesome. I tried to set a half-hour social media screen time limit last semester, but once I passed that hard

cutoff, thereby making the day a failed attempt, I figured I might as well get some bang for my buck, and I stayed on for well over my previous average. By comparison, the growth-oriented, novel, continuous and aspirational goal of becoming flexible enough to touch my toes allows for no failure. There is only progress.

Perhaps this exuberance and confidence is both misplaced and premature. I've been burned before. I've made it through previous Januaries eating vegetables and dragging myself to the gym before failing on Feb. 1. But the energy seems different this time. My goal — as well as my toes — feels nearly within reach, and I am eager about the process, rather than reluctantly wading through it to reach a desirable outcome.

By no means am I trying to oppose the practice of setting lofty goals. Aiming for the moon is tempting, especially when they tell you that if you miss, you'll still end up in the stars. But the reality is that you never get the moon or the stars, because all you do is reach up and get your hand about seven-and-a-half feet off the ground. The bar is literally on the floor. I know I'll make it one day.

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WKND's Song Recommendation:

"Slow Dancing in a Burning Room"
by John Mayer

ON THE ROAD: Five Miles East of Soledad

// BY ALEXANDER MEDEL

There is no sight more gratifying to me than the open road, for the open road allows the body to wander and the mind to wonder. It offers an escape for the imagination and a way of life governed by freedom and fueled by curiosity.

My name is Alexander, and I am a first year in Timothy Dwight College studying political science. Naturally, my day is complete with writing papers, reading research articles and attending lectures. And as much as I am a Yale student, I consider myself a student of the world with the open road as my classroom.

This travel column, On the Road, recounts several of my adventures on asphalt and all the lessons I have learned from the people, places and things I have encountered on all roads, from those well-traveled to those not taken.

Five miles east of Soledad, nestled in the Gabilán Range, lies a series of unique rock formations. These formations — these so-called “pinnacles” — pierce through the azure sky in shades reminiscent of rust and of tangerines growing in the late summer. They gaze out on the valleys below them as wise and austere sentinels. While static today, they were, in their youth, travelers. Over the course of 23 million years, these pinnacles traveled 200 miles

north from Southern California as a result of tectonic movements along the San Andreas Fault. Today, they grace the Gabilán Mountains in quiet and gentle magnificence.

The rock formations are one of the many natural wonders to behold at Pinnacles National Park. Though only designated as a national park by then-President Barack Obama in 2013, it has spent nearly a century as a national monument. While it stands in the shadow of its more famous sister parks in the Golden State, such as Yosemite and Joshua Tree, its pinnacles cast a greater impression on hikers entranced by its splendor such as I.

Earlier this month, my parents and I took a day trip from the Bay Area to hike at Pinnacles for my birthday. With the park offering a western and eastern entrance, each one hosting a different set of features, we opted for the more popular eastern side. On the way to the park, we followed the highway across endless stretches of farmland and vineyards. A few minutes into the drive, what was flat and soon

became mountains that slowly climbed higher within the frame of my car window.

The last time I visited a national park was the summer after my sophomore year of high school; my parents and I took a road trip to the Grand Canyon. While I recall the beauty of the park, I also vividly remember the line to get in. From the perspective of a Yale student, the wait was as long as the TD butte line at 10:30 in the evening. In comparison, at Pinnacles, a line was non-existent. It took us three minutes to get into the park, in stark contrast to the nearly 40 it took in Arizona.

Driving into the interior of the park on the floor of Bear Gulch, the cliffs grew taller as the valleys grew deeper. Despite arriving on a weekday in early January, many of the parking spots were already full. Stumbling on an open space, we prepared for the day's adventure and walked to the trailhead.

Pinnacles offers a variety of trails on a spectrum of effort and exertion. From the slate of options, my parents and I decided to hike the Moses Spring Trail and the Rim Trail. This path would take us to the Bear Gulch Reservoir and offer a loop that features some of the national park's popular sites. We began the steady climb on the Moses Spring Trail, slowly gaining in elevation as we meandered through the rich canopy of oaks and pines watered by the rain days

earlier. The rock formations on the facade of the gulch loomed over us, their orange tint proudly bursting through the brush that scaled the heights. From a distance, we saw rock climbers on a cliffside. Some were bouldering. Others wrapped the cliffs with their ropes with an expertise akin to that of veteran fishermen casting their lines on the steady sea. I paused often to dissect their voices sifting through the air and to hear their laughter, cheers and words of encouragement disguised as echoes in the wind.

Continuing the trail and following a stream, we found ourselves parallel to the edge of a cliffside overlooking the gulch and its fallen boulders below. High in the sky, the sun illuminated the rocks across from us, gleaming them in a humble and radiant golden glow. Stopping for a while to immerse ourselves with the sight before us, we kept on hiking until we reached the entrance to a talus cave on the way to the reservoir.

Talus caves, a well-known feature of the national park, are formed when large boulders fall into a chasm; these giant rocks form the roof of a cave tunnel. Given the varying shape of the boulders, windows of light would allow sunlight to pass through the rocks. For the most part, however, these caves would encapsulate any hiker in absolute darkness in the blink of an eye. Additionally, this haphazard arrangement makes it so that tight squeezes are all but necessary to make it through the cave. In short, navigating a talus cave is a lesson in acrobatics in the dark. Mustering the best of our agility and vision, we moved through the cave without much difficulty and with much fun. Shortly after this rocky ordeal, we climbed a staircase hewn into a cliffside and reached the Bear Gulch Reservoir.

The reservoir was clear and sharp. A family was there before us. The kids were

running around, hopping near the trees and walking on the edge of the water. The parents tried, in vain, to assemble a family portrait. Watching the scene before us unfold, we relaxed and sat on a set of rocks above the reservoir and gazed at some of the pinnacles. The spires seemed to touch the clouds drifting by, forming a cathedral of stone that would inspire anyone to admire them from a place of awe and reverence. Rested and ready for the next stage of our hike, we followed the Rim Trail. Owing true to its name, it led us through the rim of a mountainside that offered breathtaking views of Bear Gulch. The landscape before us prompted us to stop and pause. In doing so, it offered us a respite from our busy lives and an opportunity to ground ourselves in the sights surrounding us. Overhead, a solitary falcon soared above, flying over its domain with an air of majesty. Its dark wings danced as it traveled through the fresh and rarefied air. It dove behind a mountain shortly after and disappeared from my sight.

Moving downward to complete the trail, we hiked through chaparral and back into the cover of oaks and pines that welcomed us hours earlier. By the time we returned to our car, the trailheads were packed by hikers ready to start their own adventures. Campers were bundling their tents in their backpacks. Families were preparing their sandwich lunches on the benches at the picnic grounds nearby. Packing up and heading home, I resolved to return someday. Perhaps I might finesse myself through another talus cave. Perhaps I might climb a taller peak or tougher trail. Perhaps I might strain my eyes skyward in the hopes of sighting the rare California condor that calls the park home. Till then, one day at Pinnacles was enough for me to consider the park a hidden and humble gem of the California landscape and a site worthy of a visit by any adventurer, wanderer or admirer of what beauty the world has to offer.

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// ALEXANDER MEDEL

WKND Hot Take:

Failing your license exam twice is okay <3