



Ivies sued over athletic Scholarships

BY ANIKA SETH
STAFF REPORTER

Brown athletes sue Ivy League for lack of merit-based aid to student athletes

The Ivy League’s collective practice of not offering athletic scholarships violates antitrust law, a recent lawsuit filed against all eight Ivies contends.

The class-action suit was brought forth by Tamenang Choh and Grace Kirk — previous and current Brown University basketball players, respectively — on Tuesday.

Under the “Ivy League Agreement,” all eight member schools agree to neither award athletic scholarships nor compensate educational expenses for the approximately 8,000 student athletes competing across the league. The Ivies do not offer merit scholarships of



The Ivy League’s collective practice of not offering athletic scholarships violates antitrust law, a recent lawsuit filed against all eight Ivies contends. /Vaibhav Sharma, Senior Photographer

Pusha T to headline Spring Fling

BY KAYLA YUP
STAFF REPORTER

This year’s Spring Fling lineup features R&B artist Ravyn Lenae, French DJ Dombresky and rapper Pusha T.

The Spring Fling music festival will take over Old Campus on Saturday, April 29. The day-long event will kick off with performances by the three student acts that win the upcoming Battle of the Bands on April 8. Ravyn Lenae will open the line-up, followed by Dombresky. Pusha T, this year’s headliner, will close the show. Students will each be allowed to bring one guest to the festival.

“I personally was shocked when [Pusha T] said yes,” said Renée Theodore ’24, one of the four Spring Fling committee co-chairs. “Because he, in my mind, is such a legend. I’ve been listening to him since I was a kid with my parents... It’s a huge honor to have someone like that who is so storied in the world of rap and hip hop come play for Spring Fling.”

The lineup selection process began in September. The Spring Fling committee, composed of 27 undergraduates, sent a survey to all Yale students to gather feedback on last year’s festival and note current trends of student preference in terms of genres and artists.

This year, committee members built a website that compiled Yale students’ Spotify information. Called “Yale Wrappd,”

SEE SPRING FLING PAGE 4

Yale beats Brown to win conference



The Yale men’s basketball team won their third regular season championship in the last four seasons, putting themselves in position for another NCAA tournament appearance. /Yale Athletics

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men’s basketball team will be the number one seed in next weekend’s Ivy League Tournament.

The Bulldogs (20–7, 10–4 Ivy) took care of business on the road against Brown University (14–13, 7–7 Ivy) in their Ivy League regular-season finale. The Bears — and their sold-out crowd of 2,003 fans — were hoping

to gain their first ever bid to Ivy Madness, but the Elis showed no mercy, winning 84–75 and eliminating them from contention. For the Bulldogs, the win also secured the Ivy League crown and the number one seed in the conference tournament.

“It was an unbelievable college environment,” head coach James Jones said about the crowd. “Our guys played really tough. It’s a wonderful feeling to be able to win on the road in a hostile environment, and it shows the character of the guys in our locker room.”

Guard tandem Bez Mbeng ’25 and John Poulakidas ’25 led the way for the Bulldogs, with Mbeng scoring a career-high 27 points on 10–12 shooting from the field and Poulakidas adding 14 points of his own.

Mbeng is just the latest Bulldog to record a new career high over the last

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Mbeng is just the latest Bulldog to record a new career high over the last

SEE M BASKETBALL PAGE 5

New Haveners rally for childcare

BY BROOKLYN BRAUNER
STAFF REPORTER

Early childhood educators, parents and students gathered across from New Haven City Hall at 8 a.m. on Wednesday to advocate for reforms to the early childcare sector and demand appropriate funding towards the profession.

Rally participants recognized and called for action regarding what they described as the “childcare crisis.” Their actions come as a response to Governor Ned Lamont’s Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Biennial Budget Report released in early February. Lamont allocated \$14.2 million in 2024 and \$53.3 million in 2025 through the state’s child care subsidy, Care 4 Kids. Advocates at the rally, using the slogan #MorningWithoutChildcare, said this was not enough.

“Parents pay too much; educators make too little,” Executive Director of the Friends Center for Children and Co-Chair of the Childcare for Connecticut’s Future coalition Allyx Schiavone told the News in an interview. “Providers and programs can barely survive. Businesses cannot thrive, and children are stuck in the middle of that mess.”

One of the lead organizations — alongside other groups such as All Our Kin and the New Haven Early Childhood Council — Child Care for Connecticut’s Future centers around the hope that everyone can find high quality, affordable care and that childcare providers are well compensated to ensure a stable, skilled workforce.

SEE RALLY PAGE 5

Camp Yale to add two new programs

BY SARAH COOK
STAFF REPORTER

This fall, first-year orientation program Camp Yale will now feature two new “mid-orientation” programs focused on individual reflection and entrepreneurship, in addition to the six existing offerings.

Yale Reserved hopes to take incoming first years on a journey of self-reflection, while LAUNCH will center on entrepreneurship. These changes come after the University rebranded first-year orientation as “Camp Yale” and restructured the program to include an all-class orientation prior to the mid-orientation programs — previously known as pre-orientation programs. Last fall, first years chose between First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips, BUILD, FOCUS, Harvest and Orientation for International Students for their mid-orientation program.

“Since all incoming undergraduates participate in Camp Yale Programs, we wanted to

SEE PREORIENTATION PAGE 4



Two new orientation programs — LAUNCH and Yale Reserved, which respectively focus on entrepreneurship and individual reflection — will hold their inaugural sessions in the fall of 2023. /Tim Tai, Photography Editor

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1975. The Yale Blood Drive announced that the college with the highest percentage of blood donors would host two Playboy bunnies for dinner on April 25. The winning college would also be served an APO sponsored steak dinner.

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YALE SEEKS NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID
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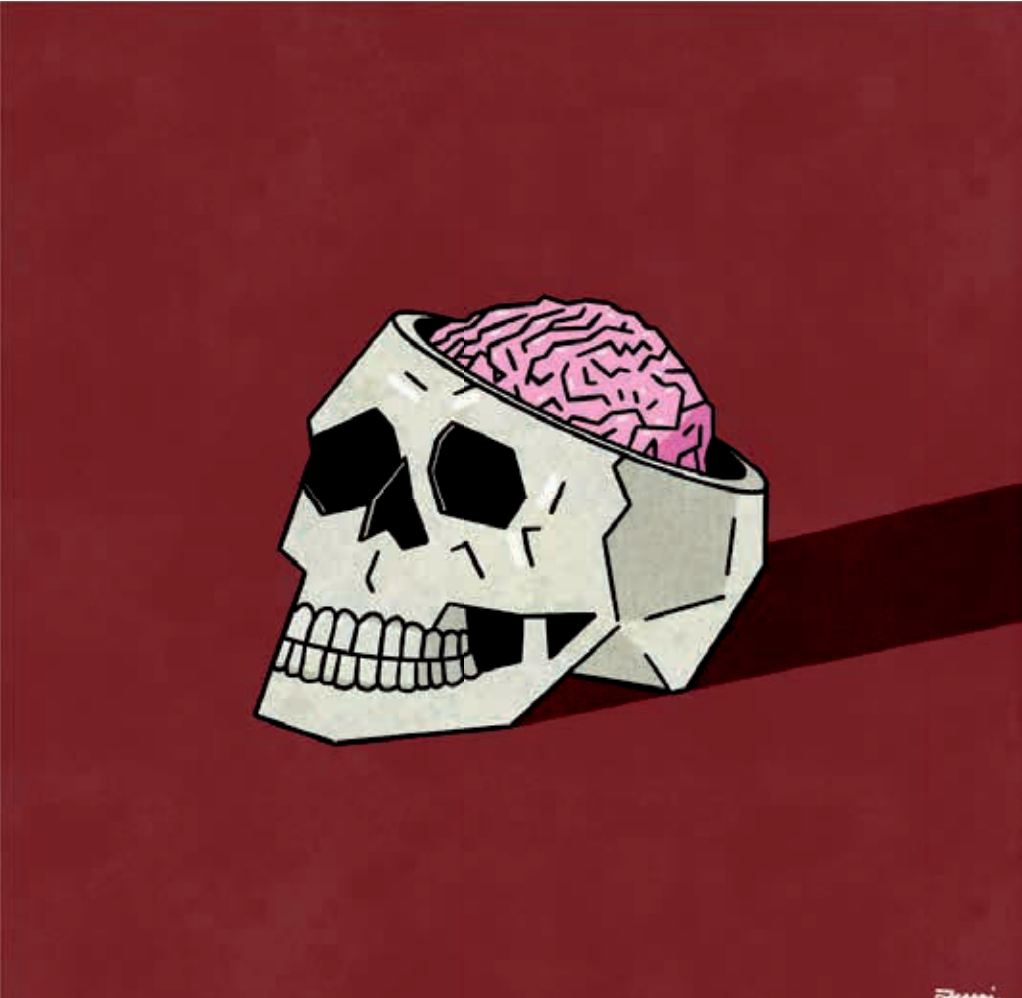


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TANDEN Senior advisor to President Biden Neera Tanden spoke on Tuesday about her life in politics.
PAGE 6 NEWS

SCROLL The Beinecke is displaying an almost 1300-year-old Japanese scroll.
PAGE 7 NEWS

BULLETIN



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This week’s crossword:

Mini 8

ACROSS

1 Fixes one's hair

6 Art of Verdi

7 Homonym of [4D], a stop

8 Fakes a pitch

9 Garden tool

DOWN

1 Tiger Ty

2 Queen of daytime talk

3 Aang's youngest grandson

4 Homonym of [7A], a stop

5 5th Avenue jeweler

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

WELL SOCIALIZED DOG

LIZZIE CONKLIN is a sophomore in Benjamin Franklin College.
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Last week’s answers:

Mini 7

ACROSS

1 Pirouette, etc.

5 Measurement equal to 14lbs.

6 Frequently found character

7 Otra ves

8 Who runs Morse, really

DOWN

1 Jacques' view of the world in As You Like It

2 Having an imbalance of electronegativities

3 Soft, mellow music

4 Gas in light-up signs

5 Traversed a body of water

	1	2	3	4
	S	P	I	N
5	S	T	O	N
6	W	A	L	D
7	A	G	A	I
8	M	E	R	E



ARIANE DE GENNARO is a sophomore in Branford College.
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OPINION

All politics is national

As we get closer to the summer, you’re probably going to hear more and more about the fight to raise the debt ceiling in the news. What’s all that business about? Nothing big, just the fate of the world economy.

Here’s the deal with the debt ceiling: roughly once a year Congress passes a big bill — “the omnibus” — that tells the Department of Treasury what taxes to collect and how much to spend. If the latter exceeds the former, then the federal government borrows to make up the difference by selling Treasury bonds. (For boring macroeconomic reasons taking on the debt in and of itself is not really a big deal.) Separately, there’s a 1917 law that limits the total amount of borrowing the government can do — that’s the debt ceiling.

If borrowing exceeds this statutory limit, one of two things happen: either Congress raises the debt ceiling or Uncle Sam defaults, which would be pretty bad. As in Second Great Depression bad: since US Treasury bonds underpin the global financial system and derive their value from the confidence lenders have in the federal government to pay its debts, a default would collapse the global economy like a house of cards.

It’s worth noting that the debt ceiling itself is kind of dumb. When Congress instructed the Treasury to spend in excess of revenue in the omnibus, it implicitly authorized more borrowing because that’s what happens when you spend more than you earn. It’s also possibly unconstitutional: the 14th Amendment says that “The validity of the public debt of the United States... shall not be questioned,” which can be interpreted as a constitutional requirement that the federal government pay its debts.

Regardless, the debt ceiling exists, and it’s going to need to be raised sometime this summer. But Republicans are threatening to not raise it unless Democrats agree to reduce the budget deficit — the amount the government borrows every year.

In principle, deficit reduction can be achieved using tax hikes, spending cuts or some combination thereof.

So, what are House Republicans proposing? Any tax hikes? Nope! Not only is the GOP proposing cuts to IRS funding (making it harder to catch rich tax cheats), they’re proposing extending Trump’s reduction in corporate tax rates, from 35 percent to 28 percent.

Then spending cuts it is — what’s on the chopping block?

Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan say that reducing defense spending is on the table; Texas Rep. Kay Granger, chair of the Appropriations committee, says

that’s a no-go. Rep. Michael Walz of Florida agrees, arguing that Republicans should pursue “entitlement reform” — i.e., cuts to Social Security and Medicare — instead. Georgia Rep. Buddy Carter is on board, but South Carolina Rep. Nancy Mace says that’s a nonstarter, as does Donald Trump.

But it’s likely that entitlement cuts are what the GOP will go with at the end of the day.

Before the midterms, top Republicans openly said as much: on Oct. 11, Missouri Rep. Jason Smith told Bloomberg that he supported using the debt ceiling as leverage to force Democrats to make cuts to welfare programs. He’s now chair of Ways and Means, the committee in charge of writing tax laws. On Oct. 18, Rep. McCarthy said that he, too, supported using the debt ceiling to force spending cuts to get the deficit down. And the deal he struck with far-right members of Congress to win the speakership (on the 15th ballot) included a clause promising not to raise the debt ceiling without spending cuts. Russ Vought, a top budget aide in the Trump administration, has been circulating a proposal to cut, among other things, \$2 trillion from Medicaid, \$600 billion from Obamacare and \$400 billion from SNAP, which he describes as ending “woke and weaponized” government. On Feb. 28, Rep. Jodey Arrington, the Republican chair of the House Budget Committee, told Reuters that the GOP budget plan would be crafted along the lines of Vought’s proposal.

It wouldn’t be the first time Republicans tried this gambit: in 2011, the United States almost breached the debt ceiling after the GOP demanded that Barack Obama agree to entitlement cuts. And they did it again in 2013.

Let me step back and translate all this jargon into plain English: House Republicans are currently aiming an ICBM at the global economy and threatening to push the red button unless Joe Biden and Chuck Schumer agree to cut spending on healthcare for the poor and/or pensions for senior citizens (both have publicly refused to consider such cuts), while still increasing the national debt, in order to pay for more tax cuts for corporations and their multimillionaire owners. For the third time in the last 12 years.

So much for the party of fiscal responsibility.

MILAN SINGH is a first year in Pierson College. His fortnightly column, “All politics is national” discusses national politics: how it affects the reader’s life, and why they should care about it. He can be reached at milan.singh@yale.edu.

Through the looking glass

There are few things better than raiding the shelves of Walgreens the morning after Valentine’s Day in search of the half-off candy and chocolate hearts. And, of course, to witness the inevitable changing of the seasons as the chocolate Easter bunnies are immediately rushed out from the back room to be put on full display.

With the end of the Valentine’s season and the warmer days that follow, the entire fiasco of the holiday tends to sharpen into focus. Traversing the aisles of Walgreens, I often find myself asking — what was that all about?

This year, I found myself thinking about the many faces of love.

During the Valentine’s season, there are many platitudes thrown about in the air. When asked how she was spending Valentine’s Day, my friend responded, “probably go out for drinks with a few friends...” The look on the face of the person who asked the question (she was attached) said it all. She responded with a half-hearted “Oh it’s fine, Valentine’s is for the girls anyway...” almost sorry that she even asked the first question.

Whether we are willing to admit it or not, in the deepest recesses of our hearts we know that Valentine’s in its modern form is not, in fact, “for the girls.” It is still very much defined “pair-wise” (as my Economics professors would say). Not that there’s anything wrong with that; I once wrote a column on how “Marriage is not dead.”

Yet, I think, it misses the point of a holiday that is meant to celebrate love. As an English

major, my professors never let me forget that words have power. But as I quickly realized in a class I took last spring on literary translation, words also limit our field of vision. Contained within the word “love” exists dimensions and planes of understanding that the English language simply cannot capture. For example, the thinker C.S. Lewis wrote about how Classical Greek has no one single word for love.

There exists, of course “eros,” love in the romantic sense that we all are familiar with. Yet, there also exists “storge,” the sort of love that exists between family members or people who are bonded by chance. Consider for a moment how this flies in the face of all the messaging that comes with Valentine’s Day or things like Data Match. These things preach that in the realm of love, choice is king. If the algorithm can somehow magically best approximate a best partner for you by asking you about your favorite foods, MBTI, etc., then you will somehow be happy. But the radical proposition of “storge” is that profound love can exist even in relationships we did not actively choose. Though I did not choose to be born to my parents, I am fortunate to be able to say that I love them, and they me.

Then there is “philia,” the love between friends. “Philia” proposes something that is radically counter-cultural too. We might think that “Galen-tines” is inferior to “Valentine’s,” and “Friendsgiving” to “Thanksgiving”. After all, the way that these words are

constructed inherently build upon and adulterate the original word. But especially to the Ancient Greeks, the sort of companionship and appreciation that one can find in friendship was not something to be belittled or cast aside.

And of course, as always, the punchline in Lewis’s writing — “agape”. Or the unconditional love of God. In Hebrew, it finds its parallel in the word “hesed”, commonly translated to mean “loving kindness” of God toward people. Whether you are religious or not, I think this idea has profound implications. The possibility that there exists a higher being whose love does not change with changing circumstances is an incredibly attractive idea. Of course, there are many nuances to this that theologians can probably explain better.

To consider Valentine’s Day, therefore, as a monolithic “eros” holiday misses the point. Love is far more complex than we think it to be, and complex beyond possible explanation in the English language. If you felt lonely this Valentine’s Day, it wasn’t because nobody loves you, as pop culture would have you believe. It’s simply that you’ve got the wrong definition of “love,” the wrong language. You are loved.

SHI WEN YEO edits the Opinion Desk. She is a senior in Morse College, majoring in English and Economics. Her fortnightly column “Through the stained glass” provides a look into campus and national issues from a religious perspective. She can be reached at shi-wen.yeo@yale.edu.

Ask an Olympian

Content warning: This article discusses disordered eating and eating disorders.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a hotline for individuals in crisis or for those looking to help someone else. To speak with a certified listener, call 988.

Crisis Text Line is a texting service for emotional crisis support. To speak with a trained listener, text HELLO to 741741. It is free, available 24/7 and confidential.

To talk with a counselor from Yale Mental Health and Counseling, on-call counselors are available at any time: call (203) 432-0290. Students who are interested in taking a medical leave of absence should reach out to their residential college dean.

Additional resources are available in a guide compiled by the Yale College Council in the QR code below.

If you are an elite athlete in the US, the USOPC provides mental health services for those both currently training and recently retired. Reach out to your NGB or health provider to inquire about additional services.



I always thought it made sense to obsess over how my body looked. It just seemed irresponsible not to.

To be an elite athlete is to strive for perfection—toward an ideal standard of performance and a standard idea of excellence. It is an athlete’s duty to take care of their body: to make it stronger, to tame its pain, to sculpt its shape, to keep it safe. I always felt a little offended when people commented on my weight, because I took myself seriously and expected others to as well. To be my own harshest critic was to protect myself. I wanted my body to be solely my business, but the nature of sport meant that business was always open to criticism.

And so I thought that after I retired, any body image issues would naturally resolve itself. No

more public to please, no more pressure to manage, no more residual shame to harbor.

But the sobering reality is that it doesn’t just go away.

When I was competing, feeling like I was never thin enough seemed productive, rational and motivational. And when I finally reached a respectable weight by the end of each season, I felt vindicated and rewarded. Having “unrealistic body expectations” never scared me, because my entire athletic career was built on meeting those expectations. “Unrealistic” was the standard that pushed me, even as it began to taunt me.

It’s hard for me to talk about my struggles even now, because I’m still working through them. How can it be hard to decide what I want to eat? It’s the most basic human function there is. Why should I complain, when I have the freedom and privilege to eat whatever I want? Being perennially dissatisfied with my body is normal — right? Because someday I’ll like it enough — right? And when I do follow through, and eat the way I “should” be eating, I will feel good about myself — right?

Around 42-65% of retired athletes struggle with disordered eating. Many of us accept our relationships with body or food during sport for the sake of our sport — but once we retire, we are forced to face old and dangerous assumptions.

As a rhythmic gymnast, I was never told outright that I looked fat. Unlike many of my peers, I was never verbally abused, weighed and measured twice a day, scolded for drinking water, accused of eating more than I should, reprimanded in front of my teammates or publicly shamed. I am forever grateful to my coaches and to my parents for supporting me in the healthiest way they could.

But I still lived in the culture, within its unspoken imperatives. I was surrounded by horror stories I was never the victim of, but always a witness to. I used to think it was unfair of me to describe my struggles with body image as anything other than ordinary, especially when compared to issues like anorexia, bingeing, purging or diuretic use. But comparison kills compassion — it hinders the ability to take a kinder and wider perspective.

It is true that an athlete cannot eat whatever they want whenever they want. But a culture of restriction misses the point. Nutrition is not just a science — it’s an art. Genetics, puberty, biological metabolism and cultural upbringing all play a part. True and proper nutrition requires every person to learn the fundamentals, and then adapt it for themselves. In the end, it’s about knowing what you need, and knowing how to care for your specific body.

Body image is inherently tied to how we eat, and how we feel about how we eat — something I’m slowly starting to heal for myself. Last year, I started working with a sports nutritionist. Ironically, only once I left sport. She specializes in helping retired athletes recover from the disordered eating patterns they’ve adopted over the years, as we constitute a much larger niche than most would think.

Eating shouldn’t be a moral reflection. But it’s too easy for “I overate today, I was so bad” to become internalized as “I overate today, that makes me a bad person.” Dieting has become a convoluted shorthand for character, with self-flagellation as a fashionable state of being. As 12-year-olds, my teammates and I would constantly flaunt how supposedly fat we all were as a toxic way to fish for compliments. When we eventually did go through puberty, the game suddenly became too real.

Girls in rhythmic gymnastics become seniors at age 15, but the ballerina’s body type — thin, flat-chested and long-legged — is idealized at every age. Though the issue of body image is exacerbated in our sport, it’s certainly not exclusive to us.

Because in any culture, being young and being female will always solicit certain expectations—just as being an athlete and no longer being one will elicit inevitable comparisons. The best we can do is tune out the noise that surrounds us, and recognize the norms that have shaped us. I’m still finding peace with my body every day, and that’s okay.

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FROM THE FRONT

"I think an artist's responsibility is more complex than people realize."
JODIE FOSTER '85 AMERICAN ACTRESS

New Haveners rally on the Green for early childcare funding

RALLY FROM PAGE 1

Schiavone reiterated numerous times during her speech at the rally that early childhood education should not be ignored or trivialized. According to the CDC, some of the most important brain development happens in the first eight years of life.

The immediate consequences of this lack of monetary support results in what speakers referred to as “insufficient” wages for early education providers. According to Schiavone, those currently employed in the public sphere earn approximately \$14.76 an hour and domestic employees, including babysitters and in-home care workers, make an average of \$8 an hour.

At the rally, retired and current teachers both commented on the “detrimental cycle” that poor compensation creates. This cycle, they said, causes individuals to leave the profession as a result of the poverty-level wages, which in turn increases the teacher shortages and may worsen burnout for those still employed.

“The current situation produces an atmosphere that almost resem-

bles ‘every man for himself,’ and I am personally horrified by the amount we are paid,” preschool instructor Ezra Cody told the News.

Jennifer Frankel, an educator at early learning institution Nest Branford, elaborated on this point, commenting that even with her master’s degree, she could earn a higher salary at a fast food restaurant.

She spoke about how the childcare crisis is playing out in New Haven. Institutions, she noted, are unable to hire and retain quality instructors, as many individuals cannot afford to perform the profession they value. Beyond the teachers, the availability of early education declines while family finances suffer from the rising costs and the marginalization of childcare workers.

“There’s such a gap for children who don’t receive a quality childhood foundation,” Frankel said.

Frankel said the Nest Branford lacks the spare funds necessary to provide scholarships to those in need of financial assistance. With a lack of the resources at the Nest Branford — as well as at numerous other facilities — these educational

opportunities remain inaccessible to many families.

“It is hard because childcare is taking a majority of our salaries and we are now unable to fulfill other ends for our children,” Patrice Rutty, an infant educator at Alphabet Academy-North Campus in New Haven, told the News.

In light of these widespread implications, the advocates called for significant investment, transformation and expansion. Among the implicit benefits of resolving the childcare crisis, leaders of the rally also emphasized the fact that investing in childcare produces better tax incentives, improves emotional regulation of the community, better neutralizes income inequality and promotes the state’s fiscal bottom line.

The early childcare rally on the New Haven Green was one of eight around the state of Connecticut on International Women’s Day, including ones in Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, Mansfield, Groton, Stamford and Waterbury.

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The New Haven community mobilized for a rally on Wed. morning to protest Governor Ned Lamont’s budget regarding early childhood education and care. / **Brooklyn Brauner, Contributing Photographer**

Lawsuit challenges Ivy League's refusal to offer athletic scholarships

LAWSUIT FROM PAGE 1

any kind, a policy which also applies to athletes. This makes Yale and its Ivy peers the only eight of the 350 total Division I NCAA schools to not offer financial awards to exceptional student athletes.

“The Ivy League Agreement has direct anticompetitive effects, raising the net price of education that Ivy League Athletes pay and suppressing compensation for the athletic services they provide to the University Defendants,” the lawsuit states.

The plaintiffs contend that this agreement violates the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 in two distinct ways. The first is functionally a price-fixing argument, in which the suit alleges that the eight universities have illegally created and implemented a joint policy resulting in tuition costs that are higher than they would be without league-wide collaboration.

The second argument is based in the League’s lack of compensation for student athletes. This legal framework draws on the 2021 NCAA v. Alston Supreme Court case, in which the Court decided that the NCAA cannot limit the reimbursement of education expenses — which could include textbooks and technology fees — that are provided to athletes for their athletic services.

The suit seeks treble damages — awards up to three times the actual damages — for a class of current and former Ivy League athletes, going back to March 7, 2018. It also seeks an end to the Ivy League Agreement, as well as to “any similar contract, combination, or conspiracy” by the Ivies, according to a press release sent to the News.

The financial aid argument

Though Yale was founded in 1701, the Ivy League did not officially assemble until 1954. Nine years prior, in 1945, the presidents of the eight Ivy League schools signed the first Ivy Group Agreement, in which they collectively agreed not to offer athletic scholarships.

In the years since, the agreement has expanded, but the general premise holds that athletes are admitted as students and are awarded financial aid on the same terms of “academic standards and economic need as are applied to all other students.”

Generally, antitrust law requires that entities not collaborate on setting prices because it limits competition and thus can artificially inflate prices, adversely impacting consumers and lining the pockets of vendors. In 1992, Congress carved out a temporary exemption in antitrust law. Per the exemption, universities were allowed to coordinate financial aid policies if they admitted all students on a “need-blind” basis — which means none of them could consider an applicant’s financial need in their admissions decisions.

Two years later, Congress passed the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994. Section 568 of the act

extended and broadened the temporary exemption, which Congress has consistently renewed for the past 28 years. On Sept. 30, 2022, however, it expired.

The 568 Presidents Group, initially a collective of 28 universities that now includes 17, formed in 1998, taking their name from the Section 568 exemption. The 568 Presidents Group members share a common methodology to calculate need-based financial aid packages, which would be anticompetitive without the 568 provision. A pending lawsuit filed against the 568 Presidents Group last year — before the exemption’s expiry — argues that the coalition is not truly need-blind. According to the suit, the 17 schools allegedly factor familial financial circumstances into admissions decisions by considering donor gifts in standard admissions as well as financial means in waitlist and transfer admissions.

Adherence to the need-blind requirements of Section 568, and the section’s recent expiration, form the basis of the financial aid argument in Tuesday’s lawsuit. Now that Section 568 has expired, the Ivies can no longer jointly calculate the amount of financial aid they offer — and accordingly, cannot jointly decide not to offer athletic scholarships. But if the League is not truly need-blind, as the 568 lawsuit alleges, then the Ivies would have always been subject to the full provisions of antitrust law.

The implications of the lawsuit against Section 568 and its expiry could have implications beyond merely athletic scholarships, as a continued collaborative league-wide policy on withholding merit scholarships — including, but not limited to, athletic awards — is no longer exempt from antitrust provisions.

The compensation argument

The second legal argument in Tuesday’s lawsuit is about the Ivy League’s decision not to compensate student athletes for their education-related expenses.

In June 2021, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in NCAA v. Alston that the NCAA barring reimbursement of student athlete’s educationally-linked fees, such as textbooks or technology, was a violation of antitrust law. Therefore, the NCAA is constitutionally prohibited from limiting student athletes’ compensation. The suit claims that the Ivy League collectively declining to reimburse or compensate student athletes’ educational expenses would not be legally permissible under Alston as it also stymies competition.

“We hope that this lawsuit will bring Ivy League athletics into the 21st century by subjecting these universities’ treatment of Ivy League athletes to the antitrust laws, just as the courts have applied such laws to all other NCAA Division I athletic programs,” said Eric Cramer, one of the lawyers for the Ivy athletes, in a press release sent to the News.

Distinguishing between the financial aid argument and the athlete compensation argument is important because Section 568 only applied to financial aid price fixing, not the refusal to compensate. If the court decides that the universities were truly need-blind, they would not be liable for historical damages under antitrust law. However, even then, the plaintiffs could still hope to win their case — and historical damages under this lawsuit — on the compensation framework.

Ivy League Executive Director Robin Harris wrote in a statement that each intercollegiate athletics opportunity “represents an individual decision and carries its own distinct features and benefits.”

Within the Ivy League, Harris pointed to the opportunity to receive need-based financial aid — which not all universities in the NCAA offer — as one such feature.

Plaintiffs Choh and Kirk allege in the lawsuit that while they received some need-based financial aid, the Ivy League Agreement precluded them from receiving the full sum of award money that they otherwise could have.

“Brown recruited, accepted, and enrolled Choh, providing him need-based financial aid, which did not cover the full cost of his tuition, room, and board, and incidental expenses,” the lawsuit reads. “But for the Ivy League Agreement, Brown would have awarded Choh a full athletic scholarship and compensated/reimbursed him for the athletic services he provided to Brown.”

The lawsuit states that Choh received full athletic scholarships from at least three Division I schools, while Kirk received at least one.

What happens next?

In anticipation of potential rebuttals from the defendants, the lawsuit includes preliminary responses to predicted counter-arguments from the Ivies.

In the late 1950s, The Overlap Group — which included the eight Ivy Leagues along with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — jointly agreed that they would not attempt to outbid each other for talented students. They determined a special formula to calculate financial aid offers, different from the Congressionally-derived standards that most universities employed at the time.

In 1991, the Department of Justice brought an antitrust suit against The Overlap Group. The Ivies all settled, while MIT went to trial. MIT lost in district court, and then the case went to a court of appeals before the university finally settled. It was this lawsuit that prompted the 1992 exemption that would eventually become Section 568.

During MIT’s appeal in the early 1990s, the school argued that it was operating with a limited amount of money for financial aid. If it did not limit awards, MIT said, then universities would have to compete for athletes and may be unable to guarantee necessary support for other students with financial need.

“That was their argument,” Robert Litan LAW ’77 GRD ’77 ’87, one of the prosecuting lawyers behind Tuesday’s lawsuit, told the News in October of 2021 after the NCAA v. Alston decision. “I did not believe that argument was valid at the time. These were rich schools then, they are much richer now.”

Litan also is one of the lawyers behind the Section 568 lawsuit and formerly was deputy assistant attorney general in the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division.

The lawsuit similarly argues that the Ivy League member universities are wealthy enough to afford offering athletic awards to their student athletes, given that their endowments collectively exceed \$170 billion. It contends that the defendants “monetize” their athletes’ performances to bolster their institutional “revenue and prestige.”

In Harris’ statement, he raised another argument in favor of the League’s current policy — the preservation of the prestigious academic environments that each of the eight member schools offer.

“The Ivy League athletics model is built upon the foundational principle that student-athletes should be representative of the wider student body, including the opportunity to receive need-based financial aid,” Harris wrote. “In turn, choosing and embracing that principle then provides each Ivy League student-athlete a journey that balances a world-class academic experience with the opportunity to compete in Division I athletics and ultimately paves a path for lifelong success.”

The lawsuit also anticipates this response, pointing specifically to other prestigious schools like Stanford University, Duke University, the University of Notre Dame and Rice University as examples of institutions where “academic excellence is paramount” and athletic scholarships are offered. At each of these schools, per the suit, student athletes receive merit-based financial aid and compensation without hindering the institution’s academic prestige, even within a competitive university market.

“We intend to demonstrate in this lawsuit that academically prestigious universities can comply with the antitrust laws with respect to their academically and athletically

high-achieving students and still maintain their institutions’ reputations for academic excellence,” Litan said in the press release.

While the lawsuit is specifically about athletic scholarships, the expiry of Section 568 calls the league-wide policy on all merit scholarships, beyond just athletic awards, into question.

However, the legal argument for damages wrought by refusal to offer athletic awards is easier to construct. Particularly with schools as selective as the Ivies, it is difficult to predict whether admitted students would or would not have received additional merit scholarships. But with Division I athletes, comparing recruitment strategies and offers from the Ivies and from their Division I peers offers a more objective way to understand the impacts of the Ivies’ alleged antitrust violations.

In other words, it is possible to identify, with a reasonable degree of confidence, past or present students who would have gotten an athletic award based on recruitment and other offers. It is harder to define or prove whether non-athletes would have gotten a scholarship, as the parameters are less objective.

However, if the plaintiffs win, it could pave the way for merit aid scholarships for a large class of people beyond student athletes.

Without the blanket refusal to offer merit scholarships, there would likely be more competition within the Ivy League. This would, in turn, likely incentivize universities to give out additional financial aid across the board to attract top students — especially for those universities that can afford to do so.

University Spokesperson Karen Peart declined to comment for this story.

“The Ivy League agreement is particularly egregious given the huge amounts of money these schools have in their endowments,” said Ted Normand, co-counsel for the proposed class, in the press release. “Where hundreds of Division I schools with much fewer resources compete without limits on athletic scholarships and compensation or reimbursement, the Ivy League schools have no excuse for not doing the same.”

While the Ivies now cannot make a collective decision, the schools may still individually decide to continue withholding merit or athletic scholarships from students.

The lawsuit was filed in the United States Connecticut District Court.

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Yale wins regular season championship with victory over Brown

M BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 1

three games. As part of Yale's 19-point comeback against Princeton University, Poulakidas scored a career-best 30 points, and the following game against Cornell University, forward EJ Jarvis '23 almost doubled his previous career high with a 34-point performance.

Forward Danny Wolf '26, also recorded a career-high eight points to go along with five rebounds. Wolf has hit at least one three-pointer in each of the Bulldogs last three games.

“We're fortunate to have some really good players on this team, and unfortunately for some of them, we've got a lot of good guys that don't get to show what they can do in a game,” Jones said earlier this week. “It's what happens with a good team, we have a lot of guys that can help us and we've been fortunate to have those players step up.”

The Blue and White got out to a 23-9 lead in the opening ten minutes, but the Bears fired back with a flurry of threes to flip the game script and take a 31-28 lead a few minutes later. A Poulakidas three put Yale back on top 34-33 with eight seconds remaining in the half, but it was clear that Brown had found new life heading into the locker room.

“Our guys played really tough,” Jones said. “We did some things out of character to let them back in the game, but we hunkered down and made the right plays down the stretch.”

As the season's final 20 minutes of play ensued, the game looked like it could go down to the wire, as the teams traded shots back and forth. But a four-point margin quickly bal-

looned into a double-digit lead for the Bulldogs as Mbeng and Poulakidas sank back-to-back threes on consecutive possessions to make it 56-46.

The Bears cut the lead to as little as five points with 2:55 remaining, but sound defense and free throw shooting kept the Elis ahead as they came out on top 84-75.

Brown head coach Mike Martin had high praise for the Blue and White after the game.

“We had some great moments, but they have really good players,” he said. “The best thing about their team is their balance.”

The win, in addition to crushing Brown's postseason ambitions, marks Yale's third regular season championship in the last four seasons and their sixth total under Jones.

For senior big man Jarvis however, the job isn't finished yet.

“I think the tour still goes until we're off to March Madness,” Jarvis said. “These are just regular season games. We want the whole thing.”

The Bulldogs have been the Ivy League's representative at the NCAA tournament each of the last three seasons, although the 2020 tournament was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Hoping to earn a bid to the Big Dance for the fourth straight year, Yale will face off against fourth-seeded Cornell (17-10, 7-7) in the semifinal of the Ivy tournament. The winner will play the winner of the other semifinal between Princeton (19-8, 10-4) and Penn (17-12, 9-5).

Yale and Cornell will face off next Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and the game will air on ESPN+.

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Guard tandem Bez Mbeng '25 and John Poulakidas '25 led the way for the Bulldogs, with Mbeng scoring a career-high 27 points on 10-12 shooting from the field and Poulakidas adding 14 points of his own. / Yale Athletics

LAUNCH and Yale Reserved to join Yale's preorientation program lineup

PREORIENTATION FROM PAGE 1

provide more options,” Assistant Dean of Yale College Hannah Peck wrote to the News. “Yale's campus has so many amazing opportunities – the programs offer students a way to connect to their peers, upper-level students, and campus communities all at once.”

Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis told the News that the overall restructuring of Camp Yale last fall – where all students moved in on the same day and attended an initial class-wide orientation – went well, but there will still be “minor adjustments” to the schedule. In addition to adding these new programs, Lewis added that the Dean's Office is still working on designing when registration will take place for first-year students.

Peck wrote that Yale Reserved is aimed at students who enjoy “moments of solitude, low-key events, and time for reflection.” LAUNCH, the other new mid-orientation program, is organized by Yale Entrepreneurial Society and Tsai CITY, and focuses on helping incoming students make an impact through entrepreneurship, according to Peck.

Yale Reserved is being organized by Matthew Makomenaw, director of the Native American Culture Center and assistant dean of Yale College. Makomenaw wrote that he hopes the program will assist students in developing skills that will help them flourish in college, including how to articulate their needs from campus communities and “express the strengths of their quiet nature.”

“Yale Reserved will recognize those who are not inherently outgoing as contributing and valuable members of our community at Yale,” Makomenaw wrote to the News. “We will emphasize reflection, wellness, and professional and academic dialogue.”

Ten student counselors will join Makomenaw in leading the program. The student counselors will lead discussions about approaches to public speaking, advocating for oneself and building personal and professional networks.

In addition, he added that Yale Reserved will include activities such as board games, movies and reading, as well as opportunities to rejuvenate after high energy activities through wellness practices including exercise and meditation. These activities, Makomenaw wrote, are all intended to help students adjust to the intim-

idating and overwhelming experience that moving to Yale can be.

LAUNCH – the other new mid-orientation program – also brings new opportunities for students, though it will focus on entrepreneurship rather than self-reflection.

Grace Gerwe '25, president of the Yale Entrepreneurial Society, wrote that YES proposed LAUNCH in July 2022 after enrollment in mid-orientation programs became mandatory for incoming students. They received official approval for the program in December.

According to Gerwe, LAUNCH attendees will get to speak with top entrepreneurs, engage in workshops on innovation, embark on day hikes or beach trips and explore Yale's campus through a late-night scavenger hunt, along with a “giant hackathon-esque sleepover.”

“I hope [attendees] leave with the knowledge that entrepreneurship is a viable, fun and supported path at Yale and beyond, develop the courage to take more risks and think for themselves and find a supportive community of awesome people at Yale that are ready to make an impact,” Gerwe wrote to the News.

Gerwe added that LAUNCH will be using Tsai CITY's space for their activities and collaborating with them to recruit speakers. In addition to Gerwe, Teo Dimov '26 and Seth Goldin '26 are working to plan the day-to-day programming, allocate the budget and hire counselors – many of which are YES members.

This past year's Camp Yale programming culminated in Bulldog Bash.

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Pusha T to head Spring Fling alongside Ravyn Lenae and Dombresky

SPRING FLING FROM PAGE 1

the database summarized Yale's top Spotify artists and created a playlist of the most popular songs among students. The committee then used those trends to predict the artists and genres that students were most interested in hearing. The pop and hip hop genres saw the most listeners.

With this year's three-artist lineup, the committee hopes to create a musical journey for attendees. Tess Levy '25, committee co-chair, said she envisions people swaying and singing along to Lenae's “more relaxed sound.” She then hopes that Dombresky will rally the crowd with electronic dance music, followed by a “high energy” performance from Pusha T.

The opening artist, Ravyn Lenae, is “one of the biggest rising stars” coming out of Chicago, according to committee co-chair Paula Toranzo '25. The 24-year-old singer-songwriter is signed to Atlantic Records and the Three Twenty Three Music Group. Her music fuses R&B and soul.

“She has a velvety voice,” Toranzo said. “Genuinely it puts you into a trance. Her latest album is literally called ‘Hypnose’ and that embraces exactly what she is.”

To Toranzo, Lenae's music is about self-love, with songs that promote “being confident in your

own body” and “embracing your life.” Toranzo predicts that Lenae will bring together the crowd at her sunset performance.

The committee judged potential artists based on their ability to connect with their audience, using videos of past performances as a metric, Toranzo explained.

“Stage presence is huge,” Toranzo said. “And Ravyn Lenae, she has that. She connects with her crowd, she makes them sway, like cry. It's really beautiful.”

A serendipitous event followed Lenae's selection: one day, Levy and Toranzo were eating in the Commons Dining Hall when a group of students approached them with a list of Black artists they hoped to see represented at Spring Fling. Ravyn Lenae was one of them. Though the committee had already picked her out for the lineup, this feedback made them feel affirmed that they had made the right choice.

Levy emphasized that when admitting new students to the Spring Fling committee, they aim to create a group that represents the whole Yale community, in terms of both genre interest and identity.

“I think it will be very powerful to bring a Black woman artist onto this campus and really show the communities here on campus that might not always feel seen, that they can be on that stage, that they can be a

big name,” Toranzo said. “That they don't have to follow any typical trend or stereotype.”

Dombresky will follow Lenae with a set of electronic dance music. The French DJ has been mixing and producing music for around 15 years and belongs to the Insomniac record label.

Levy credited last year's lineup with EDM's return to Spring Fling. She recalled students “dancing and feeling very free” during EDM artist Sofi Tukker's set. Toranzo corroborated this, describing the genre as one with “undeniable energy.”

“One of the big takeaways from last year... was the power of having EDM artists or a DJ where people don't need to come in knowing any lyrics,” Levy said. “All we need is people to come in with the energy to dance.”

Levy emphasized Dombresky's knowledge of music production and his popular EDM tracks, “Down Low” and “Soul Sacrifice.” Based on videos of his past performances, she said she's excited for him to rally the crowd.

Pusha T, the festival's headliner, has been in the music scene for three decades, ranking as one of Billboard's top 50 rappers of all time. Compared to previous lineups, which have tended to feature up-and-coming artists, Theodore noted that Pusha T is “very established.”

“I've never seen him live, [but] every video I've ever seen of him gives me chills,” Theodore said. “When I think about his name up on the screen, I literally start sweating a little bit. I think a big part of the reason we decided to go with him is because there's an undeniable quality to his music that is pretty much unmatched by anybody working today.”

According to Toranzo, the committee wanted to bring someone to campus whose work they respect and whose legacy was widely known. Zack Hauptman '25, committee co-chair, praised not just Pusha T but also the artists with whom he collaborates. He cited Lauryn Hill, who Pusha T has a song with, and the Pharrell feature on the rapper's recent album.

Hauptman, who is also an associate editor of the Yale Daily News magazine, said Pusha T will bring energy like “almost no other artist or rapper” could.

In light of last February's student movement advocating for Pitbull to headline the festival, the four co-chairs recommended reaching out to the committee with recommendations early, particularly around September.

“It's really helpful to have that student feedback, and we take it seriously because at the end of the day, our job is not to satisfy our music tastes,” Levy said. “It's really to make

Yale happy and to give them the day that they want.”

The event welcomes all with no specific target audience in mind, said Levy, who praised the event's accessibility. Students will not have to pay for tickets or food, and ASL translators will be present to ensure that everyone can enjoy the experience.

Throughout the school year, the Spring Fling committee builds excitement for the event through “Tiny Dorms” – a set of filmed concerts that take place in student's rooms in the style of NPR's “Tiny Desk” series – and Battle of the Bands. Their goal is to give art the space it deserves on campus, Levy said.

Theodore said that Spring Fling, as Yale's biggest student-planned event, comes at the perfect time of year, when classes have ended and reading week has just begun.

For students less familiar with Pusha T, Toranzo's message is “trust us.” She said that when Pusha T comes to campus, even if a student enters the festival unable to name any of his songs, once they hear him perform, it'll click.

“He's King Push, he's everlasting,” Theodore added.

This year's Battle of the Bands will be held on Apr. 8 at the Yale Farm.

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“We all have a gift; we all have a passion - it’s just about finding it and going into it.”
ANGELA BASSETT ’80 ACTRESS

Seniors reflect on the feasibility of double-majoring

MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTER

As their time at Yale draws to a close, graduating members of the class of 2023 pursuing a double major spoke to the News about their varied experiences.

The four students — who pursued majors across STEM and humanities fields — discussed the restrictive nature of pursuing two majors and proposed institutional changes to make interdisciplinary academic exploration more attainable.

“As an undergraduate, you should be exploring lots of different courses in different areas,” said Dash Stevanovich ’23. “But double majoring doesn’t necessarily lend itself to that. I know that can be difficult to do when one’s intent is to fulfill the requirements of a double major. Academic exploration and double majoring can sometimes be at odds.”

Stevanovich is majoring in both mathematics and physics. He originally entered Yale solely as a math major, but realized his love of physics while taking physics courses required for his math degree.

While he is deeply interested in both of his majors and expressed gratitude for being able to work so closely with both departments, Stevanovich said that pursuing a single major may have been equally, if not more, rewarding.

“At times, I feel that it might have been more productive to just major in one area and focus on getting really good at the other on the side,” Stevanovich said. “Right now, I have a nice undergraduate knowledge of

two areas. But had I devoted the time I spent studying one discipline to the other, I could have dove even deeper into that one space.”

Emme Magliato ’23 — a double major in ecology and evolutionary biology and the history of science, medicine and public health — echoed this sentiment.

Magliato initially decided to double major because she didn’t see a single available major that perfectly encapsulated her academic interests. In hindsight, though, she said she realized that the HSHM major itself fulfilled much of what she wanted to study.

“I was passionate about getting both a scientific and historical education, and, as a sophomore, I thought that the only way to do that was a double major,” Magliato said. “Now, as a senior, I don’t think that that’s the sole way of getting that kind of interdisciplinary education. But I think I was very much pulled to double major because I thought that was how I would be able to combine my interests in the most effective way.”

Magliato said that pursuing a humanities major alongside a STEM major is particularly difficult, given all of the prerequisite requirements for the E&EB degree. Throughout her first three years at Yale, she said, there was not a single semester during which she was not taking at least one prerequisite for the major.

While she enjoyed the prerequisite classes, Magliato said that they were incredibly time consuming and often restricted her from further academic exploration. For instance,

she wanted to take Spanish language courses, but could not find the time given the demands of her double major.

Stevanovich had a similar experience, citing limited room for academic exploration. Given his pre-existing interest in math and physics and the competitive post-graduate world in those fields, he said he often feels compelled to fill whatever free time he has with more major-related courses.

Students also spoke to the feasibility of completing the requirements for two majors at Yale. While it isn’t necessarily too difficult to pursue content wise, completing a double major requires meticulous planning and scheduling, Stevanovich and Magliato said.

“I don’t think it’s necessarily harder than not to double major,” said Anna Pertl ’24, a double major in molecular biophysics and biochemistry and political science. “If you have two unrelated majors, it’s definitely going to be difficult, but I think it’s ultimately pretty possible to do it. You just have to be on top of things, and really plan out what classes you’re going to take very early on.”

Pertl said that while she is happy with her decision to double major because she is passionate about both of her areas of study, she would caution students away from adding a second major only because they want a second degree.

None of the four students with whom the News spoke said that their academic advisors were a helpful resource in deciding whether or not

to double major.

“I rarely speak to my academic advisor about anything, including double majoring,” Stevanovich said. “I don’t actually know if I have one for physics. I definitely don’t think my academic advisor has played any role in this decision. I think talking to the DUS was actually more impactful, at least in terms of figuring out if this path was possible.”

Tony Hao ’23, who dropped a double major in math and psychology to pursue a major only in English, reflected on the student-specific nature of the decision to double major. While academic advisors can be helpful in guiding students through the course selection process, Hao said, they rarely know students well enough to truly help them make decisions about what major is best for them. Hao is a former editor of the News’ Weekend insert.

Ultimately, students expressed that truly making a double major option more attainable requires not just a change in academic advising, but rather more drastic institutional changes.

“I think that there’s a lot of pressure institutionally to do a double major since Yale doesn’t have an option to minor,” Magliato said. “I think the expansion of the certificate programs are incredible, as well as the multidisciplinary academic programs like global health and education studies.”

Hao pointed to the intricate requirements of certain majors that may inhibit students from completing two majors.

For example, while Hao’s focus

within the English department is on creative writing and contemporary literature, he had to take a class on medieval literature in order to fulfill his major requirements.

“I think something Yale could do to help double majors is, within the majors themselves, try to make requirements more lenient and accessible,” Hao said. “If they cut the medieval requirement in the English major, for example, the number of required classes will be lower, and double majoring might become more feasible.”

Ultimately, Stevanovich, Magliato and Pertl said that they do not regret their decision to double major, while Hao is happy with his choice to drop a second major.

Still, the students think there is work to be done to make double majoring a more fulfilling option at the University.

“I think a huge thing is just a reconsideration of how we approach education at Yale,” Magliato said. “Because if majors are the primary option for pursuing a field of study, I think a lot of people will continue to double major no matter how confining it can be. But if we can encourage people to academically explore in a more accessible way, I think more people would gain a deeper interdisciplinary education.”

Yale University offers over 80 different major programs.

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Yale seeks new financial aid director

BY ANIKA SETH
STAFF REPORTER

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions has launched its search for a new director of undergraduate financial aid.

Outgoing director of undergraduate financial aid Scott Wallace-Juedes left Yale on Feb. 17 after five years in the position. Since his departure, former senior associate director of financial aid Alex Muro has been serving as interim director. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions intends to conduct interviews this spring and hire a new permanent director this summer.

“I believe the office of undergraduate financial aid is in a great position to continue providing outstanding service to Yale students and their families,” Muro told the News. “Some of the most rewarding parts of our team’s work stem from the diversity of backgrounds and experiences our students bring with them to campus. Every family’s financial situation is unique, and this makes the process of developing and communicating solutions that make a Yale College education affordable for everyone a complex but vital endeavor.”

According to Dean of Undergraduate Admissions & Financial Aid Jer-

emiah Quinlan, the office is currently working with a search firm called Napier Executive Search — which specializes in job searches geared toward higher education enrollment management — to find “talented and experienced candidates” presently working in university financial aid nationwide.

Finalists will be identified this spring, and a committee composed of both staff and undergraduate students will conduct interviews. Quinlan told the News that the goal is to name a new director over the summer. A key priority when choosing the new director, he said, is an in-depth understanding of need-based financial aid.

“It is essential that the new director provide strategic leadership and ethical management to the team at the office of undergraduate financial aid,” Quinlan wrote to the News. “In addition to being an expert on the intricacies of need-based financial aid, the new director will need to be an outstanding communicator and listener who can engage students, families, and university leaders with empathy, respect, and a commitment to Yale’s core values.”

Muro told the News that he has almost 20 years of experience working in university financial aid, 15 of

which have been at Yale. Before his most recent role as senior associate director of undergraduate financial aid, Muro worked at the School of the Environment, the School of Management and the former Student Financial Services Center.

Quinlan pointed to outgoing director Wallace-Juedes’ work “advancing affordability and transparency” during his nearly six years in the role, which includes policy changes that reduced costs of attendance and made aid offers more legible to admitted students and families.

“Under Scott’s leadership we worked together to completely redesign and rewrite the financial aid offer letter and the materials that introduce financial aid to admitted students,” Dunn wrote to the News. “Financial aid officers have accompanied admissions officers on outreach travel and to events with admitted students.”

Mark Dunn, senior associate director for outreach and recruitment, described the importance of collaboration between the offices of undergraduate admissions and undergraduate financial aid, noting that Wallace-Juedes had brought the two teams “closer together than they had ever been.”

During Wallace-Juedes’ time at



TIM TAI/PHOTO EDITOR

Following the departure of Scott Wallace-Juedes, senior associate director of financial aid Alex Muro is serving as Yale’s interim director until a new hire is named this summer.

Yale, Dunn added that the offices made it easier for admitted students and families to ask and receive answers to questions about financial aid during Bulldog Days. Bulldog Days invites admitted students to spend a few days on Yale’s campus.

“I am excited for the next director of undergraduate financial aid to continue the work that Scott began,” Dunn wrote to the News. “I know

that the team at undergraduate financial aid will continue to be outstanding partners this spring under Alex’s leadership.”

Wallace-Juedes has since taken up a new position as assistant vice president for financial aid at New York University.

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Neera Tanden YLS ’96 discusses life in politics

BY SARAH COOK
STAFF REPORTER

On Tuesday night, Neera Tanden YLS ’96, senior advisor to President Biden, visited Yale to speak about her life in politics at an event hosted by Yale College Democrats, Yale’s South Asian Society and The Politic.

The discussion, which was held in Linsly-Chittenden Hall, was sponsored by the Traphagen Alumni Speakers Series and the Yale College Office of Student Affairs. Prior to the event, Tanden joined members of SAS and Yale Dems for dinner, where she spoke about how politics has changed since Tanden began her career as well as the importance of role models and representation.

“As a South Asian person and someone who is interested in politics, it was amazing to hear from her as someone who has had this experience,” co-president of SAS Kirin Mueller ’24 told the News. “I didn’t grow up with a lot of role models in politics and law.”

Tanden was born to Indian immigrants in Bedford, Massachusetts and began her political career volunteer-

ing on Michael Dukakis’ presidential campaign in 1988. In 1999 and 2000, Tanden served as policy director and campaign manager for Hillary Clinton, later working as an advisor to Hillary Clinton in her campaign for the presidency in 2016.

Prior to taking on this role as senior advisor to President Biden, Tanden worked in former President Barack Obama’s administration and also founded the Center for American Progress in 2003, later serving as its president and CEO in 2011.

Her appointment as senior advisor to Biden in May 2021 came after her failed cabinet nomination to be the Director of Office of Management and Budget after she came under fire for her previous criticism of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

David Acquaaah-Mensah ’25, the speakers director for Yale Dems, led the event by asking Tanden questions, then moderating the discussion. Acquaaah-Mensah told the News that while he was “flustered” by Tanden’s compliments of his thorough research for the discussion, he was grateful for her responses to his and the audience’s questions.

Acquaaah-Mensah reached out to Tanden in early January and told the News that she expressed excitement about coming to campus.

Logan George ’25, who attended the event, said she was particularly interested in the discussion about the long process of policy change, specifically discussing the Affordable Care Act, as well as longterm policy goals like universal childcare.

“I was inspired to see a woman of color working towards progressive change and enjoyed her unapologetic attitude about fighting against people who create barriers for that change,” George told the News.

In a joint statement from the board of Yale Dems provided by communications director Kate Reynolds, they wrote that they thought the event went “really well” and that they enjoyed hearing about the importance of young people getting involved in politics.

“Ms. Tanden has forged such an important path in politics, and we are all inspired by her impressive career, her advocacy for progressive policies, and her dedication to helping Democratic presidents improve



ELLIE PARK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior advisor to President Biden Neera Tanden spoke to students about her life in politics and the power of representation.

conditions for American families — all while breaking down barriers for Indian-American women interested in public service,” the statement read.

Tanden also worked on Bill Clinton’s presidential campaign in 1992.

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“That’s why I need a one dance. Got a Hennessy in my hand.”
DRAKE CANADIAN RAPPER

New “Yalies for a Day” program offers alternative to Bulldog Days

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

This year, the first-ever “Yalie for a Day” programs seek to provide an inside look at the Yale experience to admitted students who are unable to visit during Bulldog Days.

Bulldog Days — Yale’s traditional on-campus admitted students program — will once again bring over 1,000 admitted students to New Haven this April. However, for prospective students who are unable to attend the three-day affair, the “Yalies for a Day” program will now offer an alternative way to get a taste of life at Yale.

“There is truly no substitute for visiting campus, and that experience is especially important to making a well-informed decision about where to matriculate,” Senior Associate Director for Outreach and Recruitment at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Mark Dunn told the News. “But although we spend a great time planning Bulldog Days, we know that not all admitted students can visit during those three days in April.”

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the admissions office offered admitted students the option to request a personalized itinerary for a campus visit outside of Bulldog Days. The office planned to designate specific dates for



YALE DAILY NEWS

For the first time ever, the admissions office offered “Yalies for a Day” program, an alternative to Bulldog Days.

these visits last year, but was unable to accommodate any other specialized campus visits besides Bulldog Days due to COVID-19-related public health restrictions.

This year, for the first time, four days in February — open to students admitted through early action — and four days in early April were scheduled for alternative campus visits. Dunn explained that setting the dates early could make it easier

for admitted students to plan trips to campus.

During a typical “Yalie for a Day” visit, a prospective student will start their day at the admissions office, where a folder with a printed schedule and informational materials will be waiting for them.

Then, alongside fellow “Yalies for a day,” the student will embark on a campus tour before being paired with a student recruitment coordina-

tor who will bring them to a class and lunch in their residential college.

Adrian Venzon ’24, the lead recruitment coordinator for the program, is in charge of creating schedules for the prospective Yalies.

“We try to strike a balance between planning a full day out for them and leaving them room to do their own exploration,” Venzon said. “Each schedule has a list of places to visit on campus like our art galleries

as well as some fan favorite places to get coffee and boba.”

The admissions recruitment team has also reached out to student organizations to see if they would be interested in welcoming an admitted student to their meeting or rehearsal. Some students may also have the chance to meet with their admissions officers over a coffee.

Family members are allowed to join students for the tour, but typically will break off and let their children experience other activities on their own, such as attending classes.

So far, the program seems to be running smoothly in its first year, according to associate director of admissions Marty Chandler ’21.

“It seems the admitted students have really enjoyed their time on campus,” Chandler said, “I even was able to meet one of my own students who I admitted from New Jersey during his visit through the program, and he wrote to me afterwards to let me know he loved being a Yalie for a Day.”

Last year, Yale College admitted 2,234 students to the class of 2026 from its largest-ever pool of 50,015 applicants.

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Beinecke displays 1300-year-old Japanese scroll, one of world’s oldest printed objects

BY ANDRIK GARCIA HIGAREDA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Hyakumant Darani, which is regarded as one of the world’s earliest known printed objects, was added to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscripts Library’s main exhibition hall on Jan. 24.



ANDRIK GARCIA HIGAREDAE/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscripts Library hopes its almost 1300-year-old Japanese scroll tells a more complete story about the history of printing.

The Hyakumant Darani was first acquired by history profes-

sor Kan’ichi Asakawa in 1934 through his role as the University’s founding Chinese and Japanese collections curator. The Beinecke is displaying the scroll to honor Asakawa’s intent for its to be viewed and admired by the library’s visitors, according to Associate University Librarian for

Special Collections and Beinecke Library Director Michelle Light.

“People appreciate the chance to contemplate two momentous historical objects at once — from different time periods, parts of the world and faith traditions, but each so important to the history of printing and print culture,” Light told the News. “It has been great to see people looking at the case closely and sharing their observations with their companions.”

The Hyakumant Darani’s history helps explain the development of printing technology. The woodblock-print scroll was printed between 764 and 770 C.E. and was housed inside of a miniature wooden pagoda. The scroll was part of a major project commissioned by Empress K ken of Japan, which involved the creation of one million scrolls and corresponding pagodas with Buddhist incantations to be distributed to temples.

The scroll and its wooden pagoda are displayed next to one of 21 complete copies of the Gutenberg Bible, which was printed in 1454 by Johannes Gutenberg using metal movable-type.

“I’m really pleased at the thought of this pairing ... because so often, artifacts from East Asia and other non-Euro American cultures are

exhibited and analyzed in isolation,” said Sumitomo Professor Emeritus of East Asian languages and literatures and former Head of Saybrook College Edward Kamens. “But sometimes it’s really helpful to put them into juxtapositions with monuments of European and Euro-American culture. I think we start asking all different kinds of questions when we look at them side by side with objects from other cultures.”

Kamens also said that the juxtaposition of the two artifacts brings out characteristics useful for his teaching and research. He said that studying Japanese texts and artifacts in relation to those from other cultures offers opportunities to capture the objects’ origins and receptions over time.

He and Haruko Nakamura, librarian for Japanese studies, were consulted on how to convey the Hyakumant Darani’s complex history. Scholars still debate the status of woodblock printing following the empress’ commission of the Hyakumant Daranis.

“Material cultural studies or historical studies are really not necessarily [examining] what was done or made, but what was preserved,” said Denise

Leidy, curator of Asian art at the Yale University Art Gallery. “So it’s true that there is not much, that there is ... these darani and the Korean Diamond Sutra ... and there is clearly evidence for printing in East Asia in a Buddhist context at a certain point in time, and then there isn’t so much but I’m not convinced that it fell off. I just think it might have not been saved.”

Light said the scrolls are often used for classroom teaching, adding that it is a great thing to now have them on view to the public regularly.

“I am grateful to my colleagues in preservation and conservation who make sure our collections are both accessible now and taken care of for future generations to engage,” Light said. “They do a great job of making sure the Gutenberg Bible, the Japanese scrolls and all our collections are well cared for and accessible for generations to appreciate long into the future.”

The Beinecke Library’s main exhibition hall is visited by around 150,000 people each year.

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Arielle Baskin-Sommers announced as head of Silliman College

BY SARAH COOK
STAFF REPORTER

Arielle Baskin-Sommers tearfully accepted her role as the head of Silliman College alongside University President Peter Salovey, Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis and the Silliman Sillimander on Tuesday night.

Since July, the associate professor of psychology has served as the interim head of Silliman while professor of psychology and former head of Silliman Laurie Santos took a leave of absence. But Santos officially stepped down in January, leaving the head of college position vacant. Now, Lewis has announced that Baskin-Sommers will serve as head of Silliman for the next five years.

“I could have never imagined being in this role,” Baskin-Sommers said. “It’s not something I thought of when I arrived at Yale. I didn’t even know what a college was.”

An award-winning clinical psychologist and researcher, Baskin-Sommers currently teaches “The Criminal Mind” — the second most popular course offered this semester — serves as the director of the Mechanisms of Disinhibition Lab and leads the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study at Yale.

Baskin-Sommers began her speech in the Silliman dining hall by thanking Santos for her friendship and leadership as Head of College, describing her predecessor as

a role model and someone who has changed her life.

“We go on hikes together, we lay on the floor together in the HoC house, thinking about all the things we can do together,” Baskin-Sommers said. “We get pedicures together. She even continues to go hiking with me when I am ranting up the hill.”

Baskin-Sommers then thanked both Salovey, Lewis and members of the search committee for their dedication and leadership. She said she often encountered Salovey walking down Hillhouse Avenue and added that she hoped to emulate his warmth during her tenure.

She also thanked the staff and students of Silliman, noting how welcoming they have been since she arrived at Yale and how honored she feels to be part of the Silliman community.

“They literally hugged me and opened their home and hearts as I came in every day to learn all the things we do here at Silliman,” Baskin-Sommers said. “It is the most fun group and dedicated group that I have worked with, and I want to make sure every person on the staff knows how loved they are and how much they are appreciated.”

In Lewis’ Tuesday email to the Silliman community, he wrote that Baskin-Sommers, best known for her work on psychopathy, has spoken at The Royal Society of London with members of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and Her Late Maj-

esty’s High Court of Justice in attendance, as well as on Bill Nye’s podcast “Science Rules!”

“Professor Baskin-Sommers is proud of her commitment to working toward more humane and scientific approaches to mental health and crime,” Lewis told the News.

Lewis also noted how Baskin-Sommers has created a specialized mental health clinic for those released from incarceration and serves on the American Psychological Association’s Presidential Task Force on Adolescent Death Penalty.

Baskin-Sommers told the News that her background has been helpful so far in helping students navigate mental health options in New Haven and at Yale. She is clear with students that she cannot provide them with treatment herself, but she said she helps students work through conversations such as how to talk to their therapist about certain issues or how to find a therapist.

Taking on this role in July, Baskin-Sommers said one of her goals was to foster community, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, she said, they send out emails for Silliman students who have birthdays, inviting them into the Head of College’s office for a birthday treat. She also said they offer other opportunities for students to connect such as college teas and study breaks hosted by the Silliman graduate affiliates.



COURTESY OF YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Arielle Baskin-Sommers accepted her role as the head of Silliman College on Tuesday night, alongside University President Peter Salovey and Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis.

Baskin-Sommers said her team has also fostered larger events such as a fall harvest celebration and continuing to host the winter wonderland event created by Santos. Silliman even kicked off the fall semester with a beer pong tournament for seniors, where Baskin-Sommers defended her “championship status” from college.

This sense of community, Baskin-Sommers said, also centers around an “open door policy” in the office of the head and dean where there are couches, music playing and even dog breaks with her dog Brooklyn and Handsome Dan, who lives in Silliman.

As Baskin-Sommers spoke, Silliman students filled the dining hall, cheering loudly at her introduction.

“I was very happy with the announcement,” Emma Madsen ’25 told the News. “I have a feeling our sillicrops be sillibountiful this silliyear thanks to our sillinew silliHoC SilliBaskin-SilliSommers. She’s a silligreat fit amongst us Sillimanders!”

Silliman College is named after Benjamin Silliman, Yale’s first science professor.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As endometriosis bills reach CT state assembly, patients and doctors weigh in



COURTESY OF ANTHONY TOKMAN

Patients, doctors and a state representative spoke on the future of endometriosis advocacy in Connecticut.

BY KAYLA YUP
STAFF REPORTER

22-year-old Dianna Garzon '24 would lose her vision at the start of her menstrual period. The world would black out and return a different color, Garzon said. Last time, everything was blue.

The symptoms started when she was 16. Things felt cloudy during these episodes. She chronically vomited and was unable to walk. Then a high school sophomore, she sought out doctors for help. They gave her Tylenol. Her blood tests were normal, her scans were normal — nothing seemed out of the ordinary, so she left the doctor's office, unchanged, and the episodes persisted.

Garzon recalled being “shut down a lot” when she visited doctors. From a low-income background, she turned to clinics for patients with low-incomes, where she was repeatedly told to take pain relievers like Tylenol or Midol. They told her “you’ll be fine... like, you’re not gonna die, basically,” Garzon said. Even when she went to the hospital, she was told her pain was just “the menses” and was “normal.”

Then when she was 18, she collapsed in the shower.

“It was the start of my menstrual cycle, and again, I couldn’t see, I started shaking,” Garzon recounted. “It’s just a pain that I can’t necessarily describe to you. It’s just horrible. Like, even looking back, I can’t even imagine the pain myself.”

Her boyfriend drove her to the hospital, where doctors performed scans and ultrasounds. Everything came back normal. They referred Garzon to a gynecologist, who — noting that her pain coincided with her menses — wrote her a prescription for birth control. She still didn’t have a diagnosis.

It takes an average of seven to 10 years to diagnose endometriosis, a condition where tissue that usually lines the uterus grows outside of it. Endometriosis affects one in 10 women worldwide.

When endometrial-like tissue sprouts in irregular places, such as the ovaries or the intestines, common symptoms include painful periods, excessive menstrual bleeding, pain during bowel movements and intercourse, chronic fatigue and infertility. These growths can also cause inflammation, leading to scarring and adhesions between organs.

The recently launched endometriosis working group of the Connecticut General Assembly hopes to ease the burden of this disease. Since their first legislative session in September 2021, the group has passed and proposed bills, ranging from establishing a biorepository to training school nurses. Three patients, two doctors and the working group’s chair lawmaker weighed in on key priorities for endometriosis advocacy and action in the state.

Patient stories inspire state policy

State representative Jillian Gilchrest has now heard hundreds of women’s stories of endometriosis, but it all started with one. A female colleague reached out to Gilchrest about her experience being told that her symptoms were “all in her head”

and were “normal.” 15 years into these symptoms, the colleague found out that she could not have children due to her endometriosis.

“As a feminist who has worked on women’s health and safety issues for quite a while, I was angry,” Gilchrest said. “I then started doing my own research and realized that endometriosis impacts one in 10 individuals with a uterus and that, as a predominantly women’s disease, is under-researched, underfunded and there’s just a complete lack of knowledge amongst healthcare professionals about what endometriosis is.”

This motivated Gilchrest to form a working group in 2021 to promote awareness of the condition and try to pass policy to improve patients’ experiences.

The working group meets once a month with a composition that ranges from patient advocates to associations like the Connecticut Hospital Association. According to Gilchrest, state agencies such as the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services also participate because many individuals with endometriosis turn to self-medicating, linking chronic pain to suicide risk. This year, the working group introduced two policies in front of the state legislature’s public health committee.

Training school nurses

On Jan. 19, Gilchrest introduced a bill before the Connecticut General Assembly to require endometriosis training for school nurses. The proposal called for school nurses to be taught about endometriosis, including information on systemic racism, bias and racial and gender-based disparities related to the condition.

The policy would establish a school nurse training program through which nurses would receive continuing education credits. The program was designed by an organization of patient advocates, known as Endo What? According to Gilchrest, the intent behind this legislation is to build awareness of the condition and get individuals into treatment sooner.

“Our hope is that if school nurses can have this knowledge when a young person presents in the nurse’s office because they’re doubling over in pain, or is missing a lot of school because of the pain associated with their period, they might be able to say to them, ‘Hey, you might have endometriosis. You might want to get that checked out,’” Gilchrest said.

Garzon remembered going to her school nurse for menstrual pain, who “wouldn’t know what to do.” She was offered an Advil, ice pack or heating pad or asked if she wanted to call her parents. Garzon found it invalidating for her pain to be treated “as if it were any other thing.” The pain was draining, and would take her out of school for two days each cycle. She learned from these experiences to avoid the school nurse altogether. Instead Garzon would call her parents to take her home.

“So many young girls are just sent home from school because of severe period pain usually, and they’re told that it’s all normal, but they keep missing school, they keep missing out on social life,” Veronika Denner ’24, an endometriosis patient advocate, said. “There’s currently a lack of

education, not just among nurses but also of the students.”

Given how common the condition is, Denner believes that if a school nurse knows about diabetes and asthma, then they should also know about endometriosis.

Terri Huynh, a Yale Medicine obstetrician-gynecologist and assistant professor at the Yale School of Medicine, emphasized that endometriosis symptoms tend to present in women starting in their teens or early twenties, with painful periods that could stop them from attending class. In dealing with this pain, their first line of access may therefore be the school nurse, she explained.

Huynh thinks it’s reasonable for school nurses to be educated on endometriosis as a possible source of painful periods and pelvic pain. Rather than nurses managing the condition alone, they could realize when a student’s experience is concerning and recommend them to a gynecologist, hopefully shortening the typical lag in care.

“It’s such a complex disorder that it may be out of their scope,” Huynh said. “But it’d be reasonable for them to have some understanding of maybe ‘this is the source of why you keep coming in all the time to see me for pain around your periods and you should be referred to a gynecologist or provider who’s comfortable with managing endometriosis.’”

Yonghee Cho, a Yale School of Medicine obstetrician-gynecologist and assistant professor, emphasized the variability of the disease’s presentation as a cause for delay too. Often patients may get diagnosed with conditions like irritable bowel syndrome or fibromyalgia, when really they have endometriosis.

Denner echoed this, having previously only heard of endometriosis in the context of periods and reproductive issues. She found endometriosis is commonly misrepresented as a “menstrual disease,” which is not always the case. Her own cyclical symptoms were never the worse during her menses — they primarily struck during ovulation and coincided with gastrointestinal symptoms. Her doctors did not even consider that she could have endometriosis, and instead say she was just “bloating” or perhaps had a stomach ulcer.

“Like most people with endometriosis, I was told that it’s all in my head,” Denner said. “That cyclic pain is just part of being a woman, that my problems are just really trivial, and it’s not really pathological for many years until in December 2021 I had so much pain that I could not get out of bed, some days. I couldn’t eat, some days. I was just absolutely incapacitated.”

To Cho, despite the disease’s prevalence, it remains under-discussed across “all medical education.” Some of her patients may have never heard of endometriosis prior to diagnosis. Others had done their own research and had been suggesting it to past providers for years, but “couldn’t get somebody to listen to [them] about it,” Cho said.

“It is an incredibly painful and crippling disease for some patients, but I don’t think it’s viewed in the same way that you would view other chronic conditions,” Cho said. “I think these women are also stigmatized, when

they’re having these really significant episodes of pain and it’s bleeding into other areas of their work.”

Gilchrest has met with the Connecticut School Nurses Association, who she says understands the issue of the lack of endometriosis training. She hopes to partner with the organization in efforts to expand the quantity of continuing education credits nurses are required to have.

Last year, the working group successfully passed a policy to require physicians to receive continuing education on endometriosis. The group also hopes to eventually integrate endometriosis into the statewide sex education curriculum.

Establishing a biorepository

On Jan. 20, Gilchrest introduced a bill to establish an endometriosis data and biorepository program. Biorepositories are collections of biological samples used for research. This proposed program would enable research to promote earlier diagnosis of endometriosis, new treatments for the condition and early access to therapeutic options for patients in Connecticut.

Last year, the working group passed legislation to create a study on how a biorepository program could be created.

“We’re hoping that Connecticut can be a hub for innovation with regards to diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis,” Gilchrest said.

According to Gilchrest, the biorepository would be a partnership between University of Connecticut Health and Jackson Laboratory with the hopes of expanding to other hospitals in the state. They will collect tissue samples from individuals who have endometriosis.

To Dora Koller, a postdoctoral scholar at the Yale School of Medicine, the diversity of the United States makes it an ideal place to start a biorepository. She had previously done research on endometriosis through the UK Biobank, which she found had around 9000 endometriosis patients. However, she noted that the majority of major biobanks with endometriosis patients are based in Europe. This means most samples come from people of European ancestry, leading to inequality across other ancestry groups, she explained.

“I think the US is the perfect country to actually collect samples from different ethnicities,” Koller said. “Because if you think about Europe, it’s getting more and more diverse, but many countries are quite white only ... We really need to make an effort to also make this inclusive.”

Koller had researched the psychiatric comorbidities of endometriosis. She noted that funding for endometriosis is “really, really low,” despite its high prevalence among women. She did not receive funding to do this study — it was a side project. To her, the most important policy would hold government leaders accountable for opening discussion of endometriosis.

“Many times they call these diseases invisible, [but] they are not invisible, we make them invisible,” Koller said. “Because they make us feel uncomfortable ... This is an epidemic, and it has to be talked about. If we talk about it more, if we advocate for it more, more money will be available for this research.”

She noted that the same situation happened with breast cancer, which was “also invisible.” But when people started to advocate for it, money and awareness increased.

Koller herself has endometriosis, and faced a diagnostic delay of 15 years before finally receiving surgery.

According to Cho, the gold standard — and only definitive option — for diagnosing endometriosis is laparoscopic surgery, which entails removing and pathologically diagnosing lesions of tissue from the abdomen and pelvis. Understanding the biology of the disease could enable better and earlier diagnoses, especially given the disease’s heterogenous presentation. Gilchrest hopes research using the biorepository could inform new diagnostic tools.

Yet even with a diagnosis, there remains no cure. Huynh described the disease as a chronic pelvic pain disorder. Treatment options for the disease all revolve around managing pain.

“Regardless of medicines and surgeries and other interventions out there to treat the symptoms of endometriosis, it is not a curable

disorder,” Huynh said. The array of treatment options is for symptom management, in terms of achieving whatever quality of life, whatever pain goal the patient may have.”

Koller endured 15 years of symptoms and a series of contraceptives and pain medication before having to receive major surgery to remove the severe endometriosis lesions that spread to her intestines. Denner revealed that she had to go on a 10-month medical leave from Yale due to excruciating pain, after birth control failed to alleviate her symptoms. Garzon remains on birth control, but despises the side effects and hopes to get surgery after graduation.

Gilchrest hopes Connecticut can be at the forefront of developing and implementing endometriosis treatments — upping the state’s available expertise on the issue. According to Gilchrest, the biggest challenge would be getting the funding for this policy, but she does not think it is “insurmountable.”

The story continues

Last October, Garzon received a call from her gynecologist that she most likely had endometriosis. It was “very emotional,” she recalled.

“I was scared because again, I’m low income — I don’t have many resources to go off and get the best surgeon in New York City or California to fix me,” Garzon said. “And it was also really scary because I want to have all the kids like I want to have a big family ... so to see that that could potentially be affected and I could maybe never have kids.”

Huynh noted that many of her patients are on Medicare or Medicaid, which makes it hard for them to get treated for infertility. She hopes the working group pushes to expand coverage to infertility treatments. Gilchrest’s goal is to have endometriosis patients explicitly referenced in a state law that covers infertility treatment for cancer patients.

Gilchrest is also working with the Connecticut Hospital Association to figure out the insurance coding for endometriosis treatment. Currently there is only one code for endometriosis treatment, meaning doctors would only get paid for ablation surgery — where the endometriosis is burned off with a high chance of regrowth — and not excision surgery — where the endometriosis is excised with a lower risk of recurrence. Patients may have to go out of network to find a doctor willing to do excision surgery. Some doctors will not accept patients’ insurance because they cannot afford to be paid “so little” to do the excision, Gilchrest said.

Denner said she is “still in a lot of financial difficulty” from having endometriosis, especially as a first-generation, low-income student. Without insurance, she had to take out a loan to pay \$5,000 dollars for her first surgery — and will need another surgery soon for remaining endometriosis on her diaphragm.

Garzon herself had a job in high school. It was the only way she could flush out \$400 to \$500 dollars each visit to the gynecologist every four weeks. Koller noted that not everyone has the “luxury” of being able to deal with endometriosis symptoms, let alone reach a diagnosis.

“I experienced menstrual poverty myself,” Koller said. “I didn’t have money to buy tampons, and I had extremely heavy flow because I have endometriosis.”

The working group has seven priorities listed in total, from menstrual equity to access to medical care. Though the other proposals will take time to build for future years, Gilchrest believes the two current policies have momentum behind them, and are “ripe” to pass.

“Many of the women do finally feel heard,” Gilchrest said. “But it’s also just so sad that so many women have experienced a life of being denied care and made to feel like they’re crazy... a lot of my colleagues who didn’t know what the disease was [have shared] that they themselves maybe had experienced or were experiencing endometriosis or their wives or their children. It does seem like a disease that most people know someone it’s touched.”

The endometriosis working group’s next meeting is on Mar. 13 on Zoom.

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“I only love my bed and my momma, I’m sorry.”
DRAKE RAPPER

First administration of gene therapy clinical trial for Wilson’s Disease completed at YNHH

BY ALEXANDRA MARTINEZ-GARCIA
STAFF REPORTER

For decades, Wilson’s Disease has evaded comprehensive treatment. The wide-ranging physical and neurological symptoms of the condition have upended afflicted patients’ lives, with no potential cure in sight. However, a new clinical trial at Yale has provided one of the most effective treatments to date to control the disease and its symptoms and has the potential to alleviate some aspects of life with Wilson’s.

A groundbreaking new gene therapy clinical trial headed by Michael Schilsky — professor of medicine and medical director of adult liver transplant at Yale New Haven Transplantation Center — was administered to its first patient in the world at Yale New Haven Hospital.

The treatment aims to enable the patient’s body to produce the copper transporter protein that is missing in those with Wilson’s Disease — the absence of which causes toxic levels of accumulation of copper in the body. In fostering the presence of the protein, the hope is to alleviate some of the symptoms associated with Wilson’s Disease and empower the patient to be able to return to different physical and emotional aspects of their lives before their Wilson’s diagnosis.

“We have limited treatments for Wilson’s Disease ... [that] are just to control the disease, not to cure the disease,” said Dakshi Hettiarachchi, primary care coordinator of the clinical trial. “If this gene therapy works, if they don’t have to take this [D-penicillamine] treatment, it’s going to be a huge, huge plus for them.”

A rare inherited condition, Wilson’s Disease is expressed at various levels from patient to patient. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, jaundice;

Kayser-Fleischer rings, which are copper-toned rings in the eyes; speech and physical coordination problems; and fluid buildup in the legs and/or the abdomen.

Schilsky explained that the signs and symptoms of the disorder may be present in a patient for a long time, and the disorder is best treated when diagnosed early at a time of minimal to no symptoms. Upon diagnosis, he continued, patients may either feel relieved to learn the cause of their illness or undergo a life-changing reckoning if they experience disabling symptoms.

“Some of the physical impairments due to the neurologic expression of the disease may make work impossible and create difficulty with activities of daily living,” Schilsky said. “The mental health changes may cause disruption in relationships and isolation and even require hospitalization if severe.”

Due to the nature of the impact of Wilson’s Disease on patients’ personal lives, interest in conducting an increased number of new clinical trials to combat the symptoms and causes of Wilson’s has exploded over the past decade, according to Schilsky. He explained that novel treatment agents are not the only center of attention in this effort; previously-existing copper chelator treatments, such as choline tetrathiomolybdate and trientine tetrahydrochloride, are undergoing comparison testing to assess their effectiveness in combating Wilson’s and alleviating the deterioration of neurological disease seen in some patients whose symptoms unexpectedly worsen upon receiving treatment.

Schilsky said one stand-out example of this increased interest was found at the University of Navarra in Spain, where Gloria Gonzalez-Aseguinolaza, director of innova-

tion and transfer at the university, and her colleagues were able to build and test a small construct of the Wilson’s Disease gene inside a viral vector, a tool used to deliver genetic material into the cell.

Desiring to support a gene therapy project, Schilsky spoke with colleagues who had heard of Gonzalez-Aseguinolaza’s work and wanted to bring it into clinical practice.

“My answer was yes, and I thought that since the disease has available treatments, the patient could be given the treatment and then assessed for its function before their standard of care treatment was withdrawn — making it safer for the patient,” Schilsky said.

Bringing and testing a Phase 1 clinical trial treatment at Yale necessitated the establishment of strict criteria for selecting which patient(s) could be viable candidates for the trial. According to Hettiarachchi, the rigorous screening process to ensure that the patient’s disease condition is stable takes about three months to complete before treatment can begin.

Upon passing the screening criteria, Hettiarachchi continued, the patients receive an IV treatment of the gene therapy, which goes into immediate effect.

“I think immediately, [the liver] starts to produce the copper transporter protein that we expected for the gene therapy to produce,” Hettiarachchi said. “And then we have a lot of frequent lab work to assess that the gene therapy is working, whether the protein is being produced [...] After three months, we do a radio copper assessment on these patients. And then that’s where we definitely know whether the gene therapy is working.”

The timeframe for the entire clinical trial will likely take three to 10 years due to its dependence

on the success of early Phase 2 treatments, according to Schilsky. He explained that one of the key components of the trial’s success is to see whether there is a dose response in human patients, as was observed in pre-clinical animal testing, and that the dose level is safe and effective during and following treatment.

Upon receiving the novel treatment, Warren — the Wilson’s Disease patient treated at Yale — has seen improvement in symptoms associated with the disorder and looks to return to a normal diet instead of the restrictive one that Wilson’s patients undertake due to complications associated with copper buildup in the body.

While the safe administration of the gene therapy and preliminary symptom alleviation seen in Warren is promising, Ricarda Tomlin, clinical research manager for the trial, noted that the same success needs to be seen in multiple patients to call the trial as a whole successful.

“A single treatment is not scientifically very convincing, and we don’t know if the treatment for Warren was successful yet or not, we just know it was safely administered,” Tomlin wrote in an email to the News. “The study needs to enroll 16 patients for this Phase 1/2 segment and follow them for a number of years, before we have enough data to call it a success.”

Tomlin noted that the trial is currently recruiting more patients at Yale and around the world, and that if overall success was observed in those 16 patients, the trial would enter Phase 3, after which the FDA would review it and determine whether it could be offered as a widespread medical treatment for Wilson’s Disease.

For those that may not see success following participation in the trial, Schilsky explained, future options

include going back on the most common medication for Wilson’s Disease, D-penicillamine, and potentially gene repair or replacement via CRISPR-based technologies.

According to Hettiarachchi and Schilsky, as the only Center of Excellence for Wilson’s Disease in the Northeast, experienced adult and pediatric hematologists, neurologists, psychiatrists and transplant specialists can work with clinical researchers to apply their expansive banks of knowledge to developing and administering novel powerful treatments.

“Yale has a clinical trials unit dedicated to helping support the infrastructure to be able to do innovative treatments with close monitoring and obtaining the necessary biosamples that are inherently needed to measure safety and outcomes of treatments,” Schilsky said. “So yes, these partnerships are invaluable.”

Tomlin recognized the important contributions of many different departments at Yale in bringing this clinical trial together, including ophthalmology, neurology and MRI experts, Yale’s Positron Emission Tomography Center, YNHH’s investigational pharmacy, the Hospital Research unit, and members of the ethics boards.

She also emphasized their gratitude towards patients with conditions like Wilson’s who willingly participate in complex, time-intensive clinical studies to help the research team determine that the trial will be safe and efficient for everyone.

Wilson’s Disease occurs in about 1 in every 30,000 people.

Contact **ALEXANDRA MARTINEZ-GARCIA** at alexandra.martinez-garcia@yale.edu .



ERIC WANG/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

A new gene therapy for Wilson’s Disease hopes to provide patients with alleviation of severe symptoms associated with the condition.

SPORTS

"I can't go on without talking about the person and the face that I don't see, [Kobe Bryant]. The brother that elevated me, challenged me, inspired me to be a better player." PAU GASOL LAKERS LEGEND

Yale ends season with win over Brown



YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs will return to the court next winter for the 2023-24 season.

W BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

on their roster, for her contributions to the program. Emsbo could not play this year due to an ACL injury which she suffered over the summer. Last season, Emsbo was a unanimous All-Ivy First Team player. She led the Bulldogs with 14.1 points, 10.2 rebounds, and 2.2 blocks per game. "Senior night was incredibly special," Emsbo told the News. "To reflect on my career here at Yale with my teammates past and present was a very full circle moment. Despite my senior year going very differently than I had planned, I am so grateful for everything that I have learned in my time here. The Yale Women's Basketball program will always mean so much to me and I hope to do them all proud next year!" The NCAA permits athletes five

total years of eligibility. Because Emsbo has played NCAA basketball for four years, she still has one more year of eligibility. Earlier this season, she committed to spend her fifth season playing as a graduate transfer on the Duke University women's basketball team. The Blue Devils (25-6, 14-4 ACC) are currently ranked 13th in the nation, according to the AP Top 25 poll. "She still is a superstar and is such an important member of this program and always will be," Lee said. "I think everyone knows what she can do on the floor, but off the court she's just someone who deeply cares about the people she loves and the things she loves, and she puts everything she has into everything she does every single day. I admire the way she carries herself and this season especially she's been a great leader for us."

Yale will miss Emsbo's presence next year, but the Bulldogs will relish the return of the rest of the roster. The 12 returning Bulldogs, in addition to the team's incoming recruits, will build off the progress they made this season under first-year head coach Dalila Eshe. "I am so proud of them," head coach Dalila Eshe told Yale Athletics. "It would have been easy to check out [the last two weeks] after we were eliminated [from playoff contention], but they stayed locked in and played for the love of the game. There's a lot to build on and I'm excited to get back out on the court in the off-season." The Bulldogs will return to the court next winter for the 2023-24 season. Contact **HENRY FRECH** at henry.frech@yale.edu.

Women's Hockey falls in heartbreak

W HOCKEY FROM PAGE 14

Clarkson tied the game at 3-3 late in the third period on the powerplay. The game remained tied at the end of regulation, resulting in overtime. "It's very nerve-wracking, but as long as it doesn't go in, that's all that matters," Clarkson goalie Michelle Pasiecznyk said about Yale's plentiful opportunities in overtime. In overtime, the Bulldogs battled and had many chances in front of the net, but failed to convert. With 11 minutes left in sudden-death overtime, Yale was caught on a line change and Pia Dukaric '25 found herself facing two Clarkson players alone. Dukaric, ECAC Hockey Goaltender of the Year, made a clutch glove save to keep Yale in the game. Dukaric is also a top-three finalist for the Hockey Commissioners Association (HCA) National Goalie of the Year Award and a top-10 finalist for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial

Award. She made 27 saves for Yale in Friday's game. After a full extra 20 minutes of play, the game remained tied. Just 30 seconds into the second overtime period, Clarkson scored off the faceoff to win the game, marking Yale's third loss of the season. "We'll be ready," Yale head coach Mark Bolding said after the loss. "We just have to get back to work and clean up some details." Bolding, named the ECAC and Ivy League Coach of the Year, is already looking ahead to the next game in the Bulldogs' fight to return to the Frozen Four. The Bulldogs will have the opportunity to host No. 5 seed Northeastern in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championship on Saturday, March 11 at 3 p.m. This is the second time in program history that Yale has made the NCAA women's ice hockey tournament. Contact **ROSA BRACERAS** at rosa.braceras@yale.edu.



MUSCOSPOTSPHOTOS.COM

The Bulldogs will have the opportunity to host No. 5 seed Northeastern in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championship on Saturday, March 11 at 3 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse best Princeton

W LACROSE FROM PAGE 14

were our only Ivy League loss last year and beat us in the Ivy League Tournament championship, so there was definitely a motivation for revenge going into it," said Sophie Straka '25. "We worked so hard in the off-season, so I would attribute the win to that combined with the extra motivation we had." Yale exercised this motivation by scoring four goals in the first 2:26 minutes of the game. The early offensive outburst propelled them to an early 6-1 lead, which concluded with their first win versus the Tigers since 2007. "They compete every day in preparation for our opponents, especially in our formidable league," head coach Erica Bamford told Yale Athletics in an interview. The team controlled possession early in the game, winning the first three faceoffs and forcing Princeton to call a timeout less than two minutes into the game. After the break, the Bulldogs kept their momentum going, getting six goals from six different players, the last being recent Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week winner, Collignon.

Collignon received this award for the second time this season this past Monday. She currently leads the Ivy League in goals (26) and points (29), as well as being fifth nationally in goals per game and 20th nationally in points per game. Marymegan Wright '25 remarked that Collignon's six goals were a highlight of the game for her. Collignon credits their win to the "fun, supportive, amazing" team culture she said her and the rest of the team's leadership have "worked so hard to cultivate." To add another honor to her belt, Collignon was awarded the National Co-Offensive Player of the Week by IWLC, just a day after winning her Ivy League accolade. This was due to her major role in the Bulldogs' historic win against Princeton. While the win was a big moment for the Blue and White, they know they have a long way to go to achieve their ultimate goals. "The biggest challenge heading into the next few will be consistency — we have a long period where we have two games each week, which is pretty exhausting," Straka said. "Maintaining consistency is going to be a huge focus these next few weeks — going into every game with the same mindset and playing our game no matter who the opponent is."

Post-Princeton showdown, Straka faceted her best friend and teammate Taylor Everson '25, who is in the ICU suffering a lacrosse-related kidney injury. The team dedicated their win to Everson in their Princeton game. On Monday, the team followed up on their success with another win against CCSU at Reese Stadium with a 16-6 win. The game featured nine goals from individual players, three of which were their first-ever goals in their Yale careers: attacker Chloe Conaghan '24, midfielder Alex Hopkins '25 and rookie attacker Megan Kitagawa '26. All three goalies on the roster played in this game — Clare Boone '23, Cami Donadio '25 and Luanna Summer '24 — the third of whom has been a goalie for the Yale field hockey team for the last two fall seasons. "We have a tough stretch coming up and 'a target on our backs' ...seeing as we've had so much success towards the start of our season," said Wright. Prior to this game, Yale had not defeated Princeton since they won 6-5 in 2007. Contact **PALOMA VIGIL** at paloma.vigil@yale.edu.



YALE ATHLETICS

Prior to this game, Yale had not defeated Princeton since they won 6-5 in 2007.

Bulldogs onto quarters against No. 2 Q'pac

M HOCKEY FROM PAGE 14

The Engineers, however, soon answered back. Within two minutes of Yale's second goal, RPI forward Ryan Mahshie received a puck in the right circle from forward Jake Gagnon on the left wing and took a wrist shot that found the back of the net, narrowing the score to 2-1. "It was great to see our team play a full 60 minute game and get rewarded for it," forward Briggs Gammill '25 said. "Everybody played their role and came together." Just over four minutes into the second period, Wooding sent the puck towards the net, which forward Ian Carpentier '24 attempted to grab in a scramble. Connors ultimately secured the puck and slotted into the goal, bringing Yale's lead back up to two. The two goals marked Connors' third multi-point game this season. The contest against RPI also marked his second game with two goals during the 2022-23 season. The remainder of the second frame and the start of the third were scoreless, yet the Bulldogs and Engineers maintained a high level of intensity throughout the final period, with a total of 17 shots on goal between the two teams. "Our forecheck was hard, our transitions were quick and our goal-

tending was solid," Conroy said. "We played the right way and got rewarded for it." As the Engineers grew desperate in the waning minutes and pulled Watson from the goal, the Bulldogs forced the puck out of their defensive zone, and, at 17:47, forward David Chen '26 added another tally to Yale's lead, scoring in the open net. The goal was the first career assist for goalkeeper Luke Pearson '25, who finished the game with 25 saves, outnumbering Watson's 22 for the Engineers. Chen led the team with four shots over the course of the game, closely followed by Gammill, Sullivan and Carpentier, who tallied three shots each. "We are excited to advance to the next round where everyone in our locker room truly believes we can be successful," Allain said. The Bulldogs will next face the Quinnipiac Bobcats (28-3-3, 20-2-0 ECAC), who are the first seed in the ECAC tournament and the second-ranked team in the country. The quarterfinal matchup will be a best-of-three series at M&T Bank Arena in Hamden. Contact **AMELIA LOWER** at amelia.lower@yale.edu.



YALE ATHLETICS

The quarterfinal matchup will be a best-of-three series at M&T Bank Arena in Hamden.

“Normal is not something to aspire to, it’s something to get away from.”
JODIE FOSTER ’85 ACTRESS

Animals relocated amid New Haven Animal Shelter investigations



HANNAH KOTLER/CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Following investigations by the state Department of Agriculture and New Haven police, animals found in “poor health” in the New Haven Animal Shelter have been relocated.

HANNAH KOTLER
STAFF REPORTER

Just months after police closed one investigation of the New Haven Animal Shelter, the NHPD and state Department of Agriculture are looking into more evidence of animal illness at the shelter — igniting questions from activists and state legislators about how oversight of these facilities should be handled.

Last February, New Haven police received an anonymous complaint of animal neglect which triggered an NHPD Internal Affairs investigation. Details of that investigation were first revealed in a Civilian Review Board meeting in September. The investigation was sparked after the Department of Agriculture received photos of “malnourished dogs” at the shelter and allegations that Animal Control Officer Joseph Manganiello had been classifying animals as “dead upon arrival” when these animals were dying

after getting to the shelter. The investigation has further exposed flaws in Connecticut’s shelter system to activists and lawmakers.

Since then, about 20 animals have been relocated from the shelter. Animal Haven, the North Haven animal shelter, has pulled two dogs from the New Haven shelter, while Branford has taken in at least eight, according to Jo-Anne Basile, executive director at CT Votes for Animals, a Connecticut-based animal advocacy organization. Basile said the issues in the New Haven animal shelter stem from a lack of the financial support necessary to provide adequate facilities and ensure animal welfare.

“Communities have limited budgets,” said Basile. “They don’t want to spend it on animal shelters. It’s been one of the reasons why it’s so difficult to get their facilities to be safe and sanitary.”

In addition to a lack of fiscal resources, Basile also pointed to

outdated regulations and poor official advocacy for change, which hinder improvements for municipal shelters.

“The rules governing municipal shelters... date back to 1964,” Basile explained. “If a shelter has never done any updates, they are grandfathered. Those 1964 regulations, they’re pretty minimal and don’t really provide the type of protection that you would like to see for animals.”

The News obtained emails from state DOA Legislative Liaison Kayleigh Royston to the state General Assembly’s Animal Advocacy Caucus on Nov. 28, 2022, confirming that there are 53 shelters statewide that are subject only to the 1964 regulations. As Royston notes in the emails, the grandfather status applies to any shelters built prior to 1993. DOA Representative Rebecca Murphy told the News that she could not confirm the exact number of current grandfathered shelters to be 53.

Basile said that the DOA has planned to revise these regulations since 2018 and 2019 without success. According to Basile, it took five years for DOA to set new regulations for private nonprofit shelters or commercial kennel facilities. The regulations which were passed in November emphasized sanitation; detailed expectations for ceilings, walls, temperature and ventilation; and outlined criteria for allocating space for dogs according to their weight.

The DOA has not implemented regulations for municipal shelters. In an email to the News, Murphy wrote that proposed revisions to the regulations are “under review” at the Office of Policy & Management.

“Municipal shelters that are grandfathered are not subject to enforcement,” Murphy told the News. “The Connecticut Department of Agriculture continues to take action to protect the health and welfare of all animals

in municipal shelters regardless of grandfather status.”

CT Votes for Animals is currently advocating for state lawmakers to pass Bill HB5575 — sponsored by Representative Dorinda Bore — which would push for updating municipal animal shelters. According to Basile, the bill was spurred by several shelters across the state exceeding 90 degrees last summer.

“It was not a healthy environment for the animals, nor for the people who work in the shelter, both the volunteers and the animal control officers,” said Basile. She told the News that the shelters operating at 90 degrees were “perfectly in line with 1964 rules.”

David Michel, state representative from Stamford and co-chair of the Animal Advocacy Caucus, which reviews animal cruelty cases throughout Connecticut, explained that state Animal Control Officers are responsible for inspecting municipal shelters every six months. In their investigations, officers are required to ensure each shelter meets a list of criteria ranging from walls without chipped paint to air conditioning, and remedy any violation so that facilities do not deteriorate to extremes that necessitate the removal of animals. The News acquired email correspondence from the Animal Advocacy Caucus to the DOA from February of 2022 that contained critiques of DOA policies.

In an interview with the News, Michel expressed concern that the DOA might be neglecting their responsibility in enforcing regulations and reporting violations to the Attorney General. Over 20 shelters in Connecticut failed DOA inspections last year, according to Michel.

“There are municipal shelters in our state that fail it every six months,” said Michel. “The DOA is failing on the enforcement and this year we are adding standards for

municipal shelters, which are very basic but necessary. But my concern is they can’t even make the previous standards be respected.

However, Michel noted that appeals to the Attorney General’s office have seen little result. He proposed that the solution to animal shelters’ continuous violation of state regulation is to implement fines. Michel suggested high fines for first time offenders, and even higher ones for second time offenders.

“We can give them an incentive to do their duty,” said Michel. “I think it’s very shameful that a municipal shelter or a municipality decide not to improve the conditions of the animal that they’re actually responsible for caring for.”

NHPD Chief Karl Jacobson told the New Haven Register that the NHPD plans to implement changes such as photographing and weighing dogs upon their arrival at the shelter, making updates to shelter facilities and hiring two civilian animal control officers. The NHPD is now hiring a municipal assistant animal control officer.

Manganiello, the former animal control officer, has been transferred from duty although he is still listed as the shelter’s animal officer on the official website. Manganiello did not respond to the News’ request for comment.

The New Haven Animal Shelter declined to comment on the ongoing investigations, and the News was turned away from the shelter by staff when asked for comment. NHPD Internal Affairs Officer in Charge Lt. Manmeet Colon also refused to comment, as it is an open internal affairs investigation.

The New Haven Animal Shelter is located at 81 Fournier Street.

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NHPS assistant superintendent Paul Whyte ’93’s climb up the educational ladder

BY MEGAN VAZ & KALA KEATON
STAFF REPORTER &
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

When Paul Whyte ’93 was a kid, he wanted to be a doctor or lawyer. Education, he said, was not on his radar until college.

Nevertheless, throughout his 31 years in the field of education, Whyte has touched countless lives as a non-profit founder, teacher, principal and the assistant superintendent of instructional leadership for New Haven Public Schools.

Drawing from his decades of experience, Whyte said he believes that “learning how to learn,” and not simply how to memorize or recite facts, has been the key to the success of his students. With a focus on reading “authentically” outside of standardized exams, Whyte told the News he wants his students to unlock a “world of possibilities” for themselves.

“That’s what drives me, that’s what gets me up,” Whyte said. “So that the 19,000 kids we have here, have the tools [so] whether it be Yale, or whether it be the school that’s right for them, or the job that’s right for them — that they are able to get that. That they get to live out lives that they’re happy with and able to support themselves and their family.”

Whyte’s parents immigrated from Jamaica to the Bronx before he was born, adamant that their children receive a good education. Whyte attended New York public schools through his entire K-12 career, walking the packed halls of Harry S. Truman High School alongside 4,000 other students. It was in Truman’s magnet program that he began to cultivate his interests in math and science in Advanced Placement courses, Whyte said.

He then furthered his interest in STEM as an undergraduate student at Yale. Intending to major in biology, he “sawed off” the majority of the pre-med requirements by his sophomore year. When it came to tackling the other distributional requirements, however, he noticed a shift in his passions.

When he took the social sciences course “Child Psychology” — now known as “Child Development” — which was offered through the Yale Child Study Center, his career trajectory took a turn towards education.

“I got that moment where something comes natural to you, and that was it,” Whyte recalled. “I realized

the difference between an interest in something and a passion for something. So I had an interest in sciences, but it wasn’t the passion that I had immediately for education and doing this sort of work.”

Living in and making life-long friendships in Silliman College, Whyte said, was one of the highlights of his college experience. He also frequented the Afro-American Cultural Center to study, attend parties and find support amongst the Black Yale community. He joined Yale’s Zeta Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a historically Black Greek organization that is part of the Divine Nine.

Whyte said he felt the tensions between Yale and New Haven as a Black student on campus. During a time when Yale still used physical keys to access residential colleges, he described instances of gates being intentionally closed on him, even when he had asked someone to hold them open.

In the summer after his sophomore year, Whyte lived off-campus for a fellowship hosted by Dwight Hall. He said that living and working away from Yale remedied any disconnect he felt as part of the “Yale bubble.”

“I felt like I became a citizen of New Haven as opposed to being a Yale student,” Whyte said about the city where he has lived for the last 15 years. “It’s been a wonderful journey and I’m grateful for the experience of Yale and how it gave me an experience in finding a second city that’s become home.”

Whyte stayed in New Haven after graduating Yale in 1993. He founded his nonprofit organization, the Young Voices Initiative, as a fellow with social impact startup incubator Echoing Green. Young Voices offered career-planning, college preparation, athletic and academic programming for local students.

He described his nonprofit as part of an entrepreneurial boom period for New Haven where Yale students and others began startups in the community. Even decades later, Whyte said he still sees the impact of Young Voices.

“These kids who were 13 and 14 in our program, now have kids of their own and in our schools here in New Haven,” he said.

After five years of leading Young Voices, Whyte realized he needed to study education more in-depth in order to lead organizations through informed practice. He returned to school, earning his Masters in Education from Harvard University before

leading other nonprofit organizations out of his home of New York.

He initially partnered with Park East High School in Harlem as part of his nonprofit work, but when the principal learned Whyte had a Master’s degree, they told him to “pick up some classes.” As a result, Whyte taught math, science and technology at Park East for three years. Teaching and being part of traditional education, he said, was “totally accidental.”

However, his “accidental” entry into the traditional education pathway led him to what he said is one of the best jobs he has ever had.

Whyte served as principal of New Beginnings Family Academy in Bridgeport for five years, where he focused on fostering a “family community” for the parents, faculty and students. He had the experience to help the small public charter school operate smoothly on a day-to-day basis, but from his perspective, culture was key. Even simply calling each student’s name during carpool duty made a difference, he said.

Ronelle Swagerty, who has served as NBFA’s executive director and chief executive officer for the last 20 years, remembered Whyte’s legacy amongst staff who worked alongside him.

“Dr. Whyte is a gentle giant with an incredibly kind soul,” Swagerty said. “That does not mean he doesn’t have a backbone. He does, but he has a way with people that endears them to him. He is even tempered and never seems to get upset ... to

this day, NBFA alumni remember Dr. Whyte fondly.”

Today, Whyte works to support NHPS principals so that they can be the best instructional leaders for their teachers and, most importantly, familiar faces to their students. As he knows intimately, the job is not easy.

“Sometimes the start of the day can be interrupted very quickly by what’s happened the night before,

or what happened on the bus slide to school,” he said. “So it’s easy for that to absorb a whole day, sometimes figuring all those pieces out. The role is to make sure we have all principals — the whole leadership team — and make sure the right people are in the right place to handle things so that principals are leading the instruction.”

Edith Johnson has worked with Whyte for five years as the former principal of Wilbur L. Cross High School and the current director of professional learning and leadership development for NHPS. Johnson said that Whyte, who was her supervisor when she served as a principal, constantly challenges leaders to think strategically.

Part of this approach, according to Johnson, includes listening to the principals he works with, being approachable and helping his colleagues maintain their cool under pressure.

“Dr. Whyte often supported me as a building leader. Whenever we met, he knew if I needed coaching, directives or just a venting session,” Johnson told the News. “He is always a

calming presence, especially during turbulent times.”

Johnson described Whyte as a “great thought partner,” sharing that she frequently meets with him to discuss professional development and other plans related to leadership.

Currently, Whyte is spearheading a new collaborative principal audit review, which aims to support principals in effectively using their resources. Under the initiative, principals from around the district will gather to delineate the challenges faced at their schools, discuss with and observe other schools and develop strategies based on their findings.

For those interested in entering education, Whyte emphasized that the work is not easy, but is rewarding. Seeing his students and their families years later, whether they are from the Young Voices Initiative or one of his schools here in New Haven, is the reward.

“I remember one time a parent, when she was aware of my credentials, said, ‘I want to feel like your parents felt seeing you walk across the stage,’” Whyte remembered. “[My vision is] giving those experiences to the next generation.”

Whyte has served as assistant superintendent of instructional leadership for five years.

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COURTESY OF PAUL WHYTE

Whyte brings three decades of experience to a role as New Haven Public Schools’ assistant superintendent of instructional leadership.

“Passionate from miles away.”
DRAKE RAPPER

City awards \$1 million to local organizations

BY MEGAN VAZ
STAFF REPORTER

A female first-year student wTen organizations received grants as part of New Haven's Career Pathways Initiative, which looks to provide young people with educational and training opportunities.

According to New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, the grants will total about \$1 million, and the programs will connect over 1,000 young residents with career opportunities. Recipient projects include a studio music scholarship and internship program, a construction and landscaping apprenticeship for formerly incarcerated people and a one-on-one career mentorship program for at-risk youth.

Some of the organizations' leaders joined Elicker at a press conference Monday morning announcing the recipients.

“Our youth already have an entrepreneur mindset — they are creative, they’re innovative, they’re solution-driven, they’re geniuses,” said Laquita Joyner-McGraw, founder of recipient organization Youth Entrepreneurs. “Our job as agents of change is to create a new process and system so that our kids will no longer be left behind or left out of conversations.”

The Youth Entrepreneurs' program plans to launch an after-school career preparation program in partnership with Southern Connecticut State University, focusing on training in biosciences, coding and entrepreneurship. According to a press release from Elicker's office, the grant selec-

tion process also gave special consideration to sectors including construction, health care, creative economy and manufacturing, among others.

The city also looked to support programs that aim to close the racial wealth gap.

The Connecticut NAACP was another recipient organization that received funding, which they will use to meet regional goals of the greater country-wide One Million Jobs campaign. Corrie Betts, president of the Greater Hartford NAACP, spoke about how the program specifically targets those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system with career opportunities. In the past, city partners have included Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven.

“We are committed to advancing policies and practices that eliminate discrimination and accelerate the wellbeing of our people in education and economic security — for Black people and all persons of color,” Betts said at the press conference. “We look forward to partnering with the city of New Haven and making a significant impact on the lives of people we serve.”

Elicker emphasized the residents' collective support for government initiatives that do more to empower the city's young people.

He also spoke about the importance of providing people with career training opportunities that span a broader variety of skill sets and education levels.

“Today's work is about ensuring that it's not just a four-year college



YASH ROY/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Recipient programs look to support the city's youth and young adults through equity-focused education and training.

degree but a lot of different preparations and that training,” Elicker added. “It's awe-inspiring — that's the foundation of the word awesome — what we are going to be able to accomplish as a community.”

MATCH Inc., another recipient organization, will use the grant money to support its manufacturing training program. Areas of training include work in sheet metals, electricals and assembly.

Another vocational program that received funding was EMERGE Connecticut, which provides formerly incarcerated people with

career training in construction-related trades. The grant will help add 10 new students to its construction and landscaping apprenticeship initiative, which also aims to give young people the space to talk through their experiences with the legal system.

“Our results-based programming has given people an 11 percent recidivism rate over the past ten years,” EMERGE President Erik Clemons said. “We know that a job's not enough to help someone who's fallen into the criminal justice system. And what this does is it allows us the

capacity to really tailor our program to the younger folks who work with us.”

The \$1 million in program support ultimately comes from funds issued to the city by the White House's American Rescue Plan, which funneled about \$115 million into New Haven's budget in total.

These programs constitute the first round of grants to be allocated by the Initiative, with the second round set to be announced this summer.

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New Haven's unhoused population endures a winter with decreased shelter capacity

BY NATI TESFAYE AND MAGGIE GRETHER
STAFF REPORTERS

Amid an uptick in homelessness and a decrease in shelter capacity, more New Haveners are facing winter conditions without stable shelter.

Following the closure of the Immanuel Baptist Shelter on Grand Avenue, New Haven has significantly fewer shelter beds this winter than before the COVID-19 pandemic. With 285 beds in pre-pandemic years, the city's 175 shelter beds currently available are in high demand. According to Kelly Fitzgerald, senior director of financial stability for United Way of Greater New Haven, there are currently 64 individuals and 51 families on shelter waitlists in the Greater New Haven area.

To compensate for the reduction of shelter capacity, the city has increasingly turned to warming centers, or spaces where people can take temporary overnight refuge from the cold. There are currently five warming centers across the Greater New Haven area, including one operated by Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen on State Street, which opened last November.

“This is just a place for people to go and be in a warm environment that keeps them from not freezing to death,” said Steve Werlin, executive director of DESK. “It is a very poor substitute for having an actual shelter and actual bed to sleep in. But this is where we as a city currently are in terms of the state of the need and our resources to address it.”

According to Werlin, DESK's overnight warming center is a “lowest-barrier program,” meaning the center does not turn people away for substance use and allows unhoused people to come and go throughout the night. Werlin said that the center often serves those who struggle to follow the stricter rules of other warming centers and shelters — earning DESK's warming center the moniker “The Wild West.”

Norman Clement, site specialist at DESK, told the News that the center has been operating at maximum capacity — 42 chairs — almost every night. In one of these chairs, Lynn, whose last name has been omitted to protect her privacy, had taken shelter from last Monday's winter storm.

“It was stable, the place stays warm — as warm as I think it could be,” Lynn said. “There's a lot of people here, and they manage. They manage to get from dusk to dawn.”

Brad Corson was also at DESK last Tuesday, eating dinner and



NATI TESFAYE/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

As waitlists for shelter beds grow, people experiencing homelessness turn to warming centers and tent cities as alternative means of surviving the cold.

taking refuge from the cold. Corson has been staying at different warming centers around New Haven throughout the winter; before the centers opened in November, he was living on the streets. He has been on a waitlist for a shelter bed since December.

When assessing the city's response to homelessness in New Haven, Werlin emphasized that people experiencing homelessness have a range of different needs.

“I'm a big believer in flexibility. I think there needs to be lots of options for all sorts of different situations,” Werlin said.

He also pointed out that the curfews and substance use rules shelters put in place make them inaccessible to some, adding that “there are some people who frankly, cannot get through the night without using, and that doesn't mean that we should condemn them to death.”

Tent cities provide one alternative for people experiencing homelessness who cannot secure a shelter bed or otherwise choose not to live in a shelter. Robert Long currently sleeps in a tent in the backyard of Amistad Catholic Worker House on Rosette Street. Long has stayed at shelters across New Haven, and while he appreciates the services he received at the shelters, he expressed frustration at the stringent rules.

“They give us dinner, supplies and they give us a shelter, but the way the rules are set up, it's in the form of a halfway house,” Long said. “They're giving grown folks regulations and curfews.”

Suki, whose last name has been omitted to protect her privacy, began living in the tent city at Ella T. Grasso Boulevard with her husband in July. During the summer, Suki said, there were around 40 residents — now, during the winter months, numbers have dwindled to around 16.

Last Friday, city officials visited the tent city on the Boulevard for an inspection. In a notice from the Community Services Administration, posted to residents a week before the inspection, the city ordered residents to clear trash, take down a newly-built shower and remove heating appliances and grills.

After receiving the notice, Suki said she gathered a team of friends and volunteers to pick up trash for up to seven hours a day to prepare the tent city for inspection.

“Every couple of months or so the city comes in and kind of hassles us a little bit and tells us we got to do this or that, and if it's not done they're gonna bulldoze everything we own,” Suki told the News. “We just want the right to live like everybody else. Everybody's here for a different rea-

son, and has trouble getting housing. We just need somewhere legally to be.”

Organizers with New Haven's Unhoused Activist Community Team have pushed city officials to legalize tent cities and provide infrastructure such as running water, bathrooms, electricity and heating to residents. Mayor Justin Elicker has stated multiple times that the city will not promise to end evictions from tent cities.

New Haven Community Services Administrator Mehul Dalal MED '09 said that the city is looking to expand shelter capacity using non-congregate shelters, which provide more privacy and individual space for unhoused people. Last year, the city tried to purchase Long Wharf's 112-room Village Suites hotel to convert it into non-congregate shelter space; the plan ultimately fell through.

On Tuesday night, the Board of Alders approved a plan to allocate a \$4.8 million federal grant to address homelessness. The plan included an amendment introduced by alder Alex Guzhnay '24 to allocate \$1 million toward the establishment of non-congregate shelters.

Guzhnay said he was inspired to propose the amendment after hearing testimony from unhoused people and non-profit providers during a previous hearing about funding allocations.

“Non-congregate shelters provide a lot more privacy,” Guzhnay told the News. “Non-congregate shelters help provide generally more safe and supportive environments for everyone.”

He added that unhoused people had raised concerns about the lack of privacy in warming centers.

Guzhnay's amendment also establishes an advisory committee to guide the implementation of the federal grant. The committee will be composed of alders, members of the city's Community Service Administration, representatives from the Greater New Haven Regional Alliance on Homelessness and U-ACT.

Dalal said that while the market “hasn't been favorable” to purchasing hotels, the city is still looking for other facilities that could provide increased shelter capacity. However, there are no specific updates at this time.

“In an ideal scenario, you would actually have expanded shelter capacity by next winter,” Dalal said. “But in case we don't, I think we have to plan for increased capacity for warming centers.”

DESK's overnight warming center is located at 266 State St.

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BULLETIN BOARD

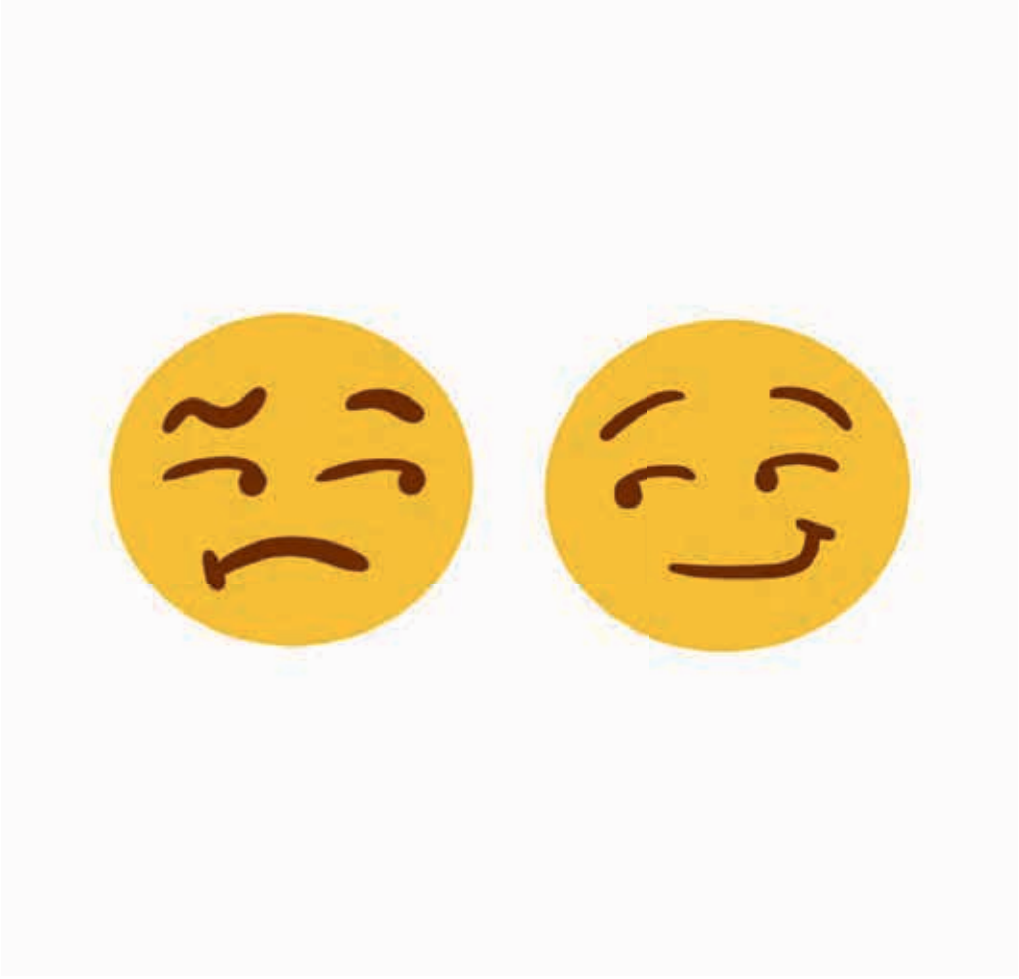


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YALE DAILY NEWS · FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023 · yaledailynews.com

M. LACROSSE
BRANDAU '23 RECORDS 200TH POINT IN WIN
The men's lacrosse team had an 18–9 victory over UMass. Senior attackman Matt Brandau had four goals and four assists, surpassing 200 points for his career.



TRACK AND FIELD
WARD '24, FRIBORG '23 EARN SILVER IN SEASON FINALE
Chris Ward '24 and Samatha Friborg '23 highlighted the efforts, finishing second in the shot-put and 800m, respectively. Nationals Championship. Men's finished fifth and Women's nineteenth.



"We are hoping to improve on our season last year as the team matures. We should have competitive meets on the weekends leading up to Nationals,"
MEGAN GRIMES '24
SAILING

No.15 Bulldogs top Princeton for first time since '07



YALE ATHLETICS

The women's lacrosse season started off strong as they defeated Princeton and CCSU on Saturday and Monday, respectively.

BY PALOMA VIGIL
STAFF REPORTER

With back-to-back wins over the weekend, Yale women's lacrosse (4–1, 1–0 Ivy) moved up to the 15th spot in the national rankings. The Bulldogs, who fell to the Tigers at last year's Ivy League Tournament championship game, were not playing to repeat history. On Saturday, Mar. 4, against Princeton University (2–2, 0–1 Ivy) — who entered the game as the No. 15 team in the country — Yale scored 15 goals to pick up the first win against the rival Tigers since 2007. Two days later on

Mar. 6, they avoided a letdown, coasting by Central Connecticut State University 16–6 (0–2, 0–0 Northeast). In games this past Saturday and Monday, they moved up from No. 22 to No. 15 in the national rankings and are determined to see the dedication of their training come to fruition in May's tournaments. Additionally, attacker Jenna Collignon '25 continues to earn accolade after accolade for her offensive play.

"The Princeton win was so awesome largely because they

SEE **W LACROSSE** PAGE 10

Bulldogs advance to ECAC quarterfinals

BY AMELIA LOWER
STAFF REPORTER

Yale men's hockey played a strong game against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on Saturday, winning 4–1 in the opening round of the ECAC tournament. The 10h-seeded Elis (8–18–4, 6–14–2 ECAC) defeated the Engineers (14–20–1, 9–13–0 ECAC) on the road at the Houston Field House in Troy, NY. The victory ended RPI's season and propelled the Bulldogs to the ECAC quarterfinals next weekend. "Saturday was a great team win for our group," head coach Keith Allain '80 told the News. "We got

contributions throughout our line-up for a hard-earned road playoff victory." Yale entered the game following a win against Colgate University and a loss to Cornell University in the final weekend of the season. The Engineers also came into the game right after a split weekend, with a 6–4 win against Princeton and a 4–1 loss to No. 2 Quinnipiac University. While the two teams were fairly evenly matched on paper, the Bulldogs came out firing on all cylinders, with two goals tallied in the first frame. Just over six minutes into the game, defenseman Connor Sullivan '25 drove from the half wall

and tipped the puck past Engineer goalkeeper Jack Watson, scoring his fourth goal of the season. "Against RPI, everyone was on the same page," defenseman Ryan Conroy '24 said. "We all knew we could trust one another to do their jobs and, when that happens, everything clicks together." Just over six minutes later, forward Teddy Wooding '24 left the puck inside the zone for defenseman Kieran O'Hearn '25, who one-touched it to forward Reilly Connors '24 at the left faceoff circle, who then fired the puck past Watson.

SEE **M HOCKEY** PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men's hockey team triumphed over RPI in the first round of the ECAC tournament.

Elis defeat RPI, advance to ECAC quarterfinals

BY HENRY FRECH
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's basketball team (13–14, 7–7) ended their season on Saturday with a 63–53 win against Brown University (11–15, 4–10). Before the game, the Bulldogs celebrated the career of their only senior, Camilla Emsbo '23. The Bulldogs fell behind by nine points with five minutes left in the second quarter, but a jumper from Avery Lee '25 sparked the team into a 10-point run, which helped the Bulldogs end the half ahead of the Bears 33–28. Mackenzie Egger '25 started scoring in the second half with a three pointer. Yale went on to shoot 57 percent from three in the second half of

the game, but Brown went on to shoot only 16 percent from three. Yale rode their momentum to a 63–53 victory over the Bears. Egger led the team with 12 points. Jenna Clark '24 racked up seven assists and 11 rebounds, her career high in rebounds. "My teammates were boxing out really well and I was able to make reads and find the ball that way," said Clark. The win over Brown put the Bulldogs' Ivy League record at 7–7, making them third in Ivy League standings. Before the game, Yale celebrated Camilla Emsbo '23, the only senior

SEE **W BASKETBALL** PAGE 10

Yalies fall to Clarkson in double overtime



YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs plan to host Northeastern in the NCAA Championships.

BY ROSA BRACERAS
STAFF REPORTER

The No. 4 Yale women's hockey team (28–3–1, 19–3–1 ECAC) fought hard against No. 9 Clarkson University (29–10–2, 15–6–1), but turned up short in the 4–3 double overtime loss at home. The Bulldogs entered Friday's game as the No.1 seed in the ECAC. With a win against Harvard University on Feb. 18, Yale won the ECAC regular season for the first time in program history. The team had also won both regular season competitions against Clarkson. "The second game when we played here, I actually thought that was probably one of the better games we played," Clarkson head coach

Matt Desrosiers said after Friday's game. "I think the confidence level in ourselves, knowing that we can get the job done against any team in the country kind of helped us through it." The heartbreaking loss saw Yale drop from No. 2 in the nation to No. 4 while Colgate, the only team to have beaten Yale this regular season, moved into third place in the NPI rankings. Colgate won the ECAC Championship for the third year in a row. On Friday, Clarkson took the lead early in the game, scoring within the first three minutes. Midway through the first period, Elle Hartje '24 tied up the game at one. Extending her point streak to 18 games, Hartje, in the corner, sent the puck to the front of the

net where it was tipped into the goal by Clarkson's netminder. Early in the second period, captain Claire Dalton '23 helped the Bulldogs gain the lead as she passed to Charlotte Welch '23, who slid the puck past the Clarkson goalie. Dalton holds Yale's career assists record with 89. Hartje, at 87 assists, and Welch, at 83 assists, are close behind. Yale's lead did not last long, as Clarkson scored just 12 seconds later. Less than three minutes after that, Emma DeCorby '25 fired one home, leaving four Clarkson players lying in the crease after a scrum in front of the net. After two periods of play, the score was 3–2.

SEE **W HOCKEY** PAGE 10

STAT OF THE WEEK

13.9

THE YALE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM IS OUTSCORING OPPONENTS BY AN AVERAGE OF 13.9 POINTS PER GAME, NINTH BEST IN THE COUNTRY, AND FIRST IN THE IVY LEAGUE BY MORE THAN 6 PPG.

WEEKEND



TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

// BY BENJAMIN GERVIN

About a week ago, I finally arrived at Mory’s.

Mory’s Temple Bar is a private club on York Street and a staple of the Yale tradition. Surrounded by varsity memorabilia and echoes of Whiffenpoof medleys, it’s where Yalies have their most revelrous and unforgettable nights. It’s even been inducted into the National Register of Historic Places.

And yet, almost a year into undergrad, this was my first time here. More strange, I had not been invited by friends or teammates in good spirits, but by an alumnus I had met in a steakhouse the night before The Game. Isn’t this place supposed to be “the dear old Temple bar we love so well?”

The club was hosting an alumni event to celebrate a Yale–Cornell hockey game. I was the only student there. The guests graduated as far back as 1973 — Yale’s first co-ed class.

The night ensued with laughter and story after story. Apparently “JE Sux” — the Jonathan Edwards motto proudly parodied in fairy lights across Farnam Hall — comes from another staple of the Yale tradition: “bladderball.”

The rules were simple. A ball was rolled into Old Campus. Teams then fought to retrieve the ball by any means necessary — including fishing gaffs and actual helicopters. Classic. But the legendary antics came to an end in 1982 when bladderball was finally banned by the administration. Truth is, I don’t think I had ever even heard of it.

This is the great divide between Old and New Yale. Some students know the vestiges of decades past — the legacies of TD’s Head Robert Thompson or Wall Street’s Naples Pizza — but so many do not. As with the JE motto, the Yale tradition has delivered countless trivia that we constantly hear. But how much of that tradition lives today? And — as with bladderball — how much will die tomorrow?

This piece evolved from a much simpler prompt. On Monday, I journeyed To the Lighthouse — Five Mile Point Light, overlooking the Long Island Sound — and was asked to “profile the historic landmark” for the News. Before I left, I did some research. It seemed promising.

Five Mile Point Light is also on the National Register of Historic Places, and for good reason. Our story begins in July 1779. British troops invaded New Haven Harbor during the Revolutionary War. American militia eventually beat them back. A mount that commemorates the battle lies just behind the lighthouse. It reads:

THIS ENGLISH CANNON IS MOUNTED HERE
BY MARY CLAP WOOSTER CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
OF NEW HAVEN CONNECTICUT.
1913

No cannon remains.

Before defeat, the British managed to burn down several nearby homes. One victim was America’s Captain Amos Morris, who fought alongside his son, Amos Morris, Jr. In 1804, Morris Jr. sold an acre of the land to the federal government. Congress ordered the construction of a wooden lighthouse with a keeper’s quarters. The first keeper was Morris Jr. himself.

In 1847, the lighthouse was replaced with a new stone lighthouse — the one that stands today. As early as 1877, it was rendered ceremonial when the nearby Southwest Ledge Light superseded its navigational functions.

Since then, the vicinity — now known as Lighthouse Point Park — has been brought to life. In the early twentieth century, the site was transformed into a trolley park with myriad attractions. Though almost all were demolished by 1957, the Lighthouse Point Carousel still stands behind the keeper’s quarters.

The carousel is historic in its own right — it’s also on the National Register of Historic Places. It even boasts one of only three seats worldwide shaped like a camel instead of a horse.

I close my laptop and set out for an afternoon of scenic lighthouse views and cheerful carousel rides. Alas, my Lighthouse Point Park is not the one from the stories.

The place is nearly abandoned. I see the lighthouse in the distance, but decide to leave it for last. One of my first snapshots from the site depicts a dilapidated door with “STAFF ONLY” written in what is either red spray paint, or blood. Inviting. After a perfectly timed “BANG!”

from a nearby coiling door, I crack a joke about how haunted this place feels.

Next, I find these strange stone constructions all over the beach. Naturally-cut boulders form massive walkways that stretch far into the sea. They’re far too craggy to make for good fishing, and I can’t imagine how any human could have moved rocks so heavy and numerous. I blurt out the first explanation I can think of. “Aliens.”

The rest of my exploration is much of the same. Empty buildings, locked doors. Even the carousel sits quietly behind a thin glass wall. At one point I take out my phone and play the soundtrack from *Twin Peaks*. Maybe this will help me find something. Then — what’s this?

A coin-operated tower viewer. But no one carries change anymore.

Perhaps the sheer mundanity of the park can be summarized in my first interview. A few minutes after I arrive, a tetrad strolls out to the beach to take a few pictures. “What makes you come here?” I ask one of them. He ruminates for a beat. “I don’t know.”

Finally, I go To the Lighthouse. Granted, it’s imposing. I realize this is my chance — scenic views don’t require people or payment. I reach for the doorknob to enter. Locked. I turn around and scan the beach. “Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare the lone and level sands stretch far away.”

I’m about to call it quits when I see someone walking his dog. I prepare my notebook for one last interview. To my surprise, his Lighthouse Point Park sounds as grand as the one from the stories.

He recalls a wedding of all things. I can imagine it. There’s a quaint wooden structure by the water. Maybe that’s where the altar was. The historic lighthouse, the merry carousel, and the scenic sea — all within view.

He brightens up as he continues his stories. “The lightshow!” I inquire. Every year, they adorn the area with Christmas lights around the holiday season. “And they make the horses look like ships!” I don’t know what he’s talking about.

Suddenly, I get it.

Lighthouse Point Park isn’t abandoned. It’s just the wrong season. A friend later told me that Yale Outdoors had dared students to take a “Polar Plunge” at the same beach a few weeks prior. A frigid Connecticut March afternoon spent by the water is a feat, not a pleasure.

My Lighthouse Point Park wasn’t the one from the stories. Still, much of the tradition lives. Five Mile Point Light stands tall like Harkness Tower. The carousel is seasonal, but that makes it special — an annual fixture is how I ended up at Mory’s, after all.

That’s why I asked to qualify my prompt. I’ve heard story after story of haleyon Old Yale. Alumni and professors reminisce about faculty members long gone. Friends fantasize about living the tradition themselves. I admit, I went to Mory’s hoping to reclaim a touch of that lost magic.

“My Yale isn’t the one from the stories.” True, but that neglects what we’ve kept, and more, what we’ve gained.

Some Yale traditions have died, but few have passed without memorial. Head Thompson has his own room next to the TD dining hall. Other traditions live on. Naples Pizza is gone, but we go to Sally’s, Pepe’s and Modern all the time. Best of all, some traditions have evolved. Sure, a game of bladderball sounds fun, if not a little rambunctious. Its ban, however, gave rise to the Spring Fling — now one of the most anticipated events of the year.

As I close my notebook, the man continues with his dog. He faces the historic lighthouse and smiles, seemingly content with the memories. I start in the other direction.

I end on the pier. It’s the only structure that looks new. Overlooking the water, another joke about a piece of debris that protrudes from the sea. “That’s the topmast of the ghost ship. It’s where the spirits that haunt this place come from.”

Though not as active as I had imagined, it’s been an afternoon of adventure enabled by Lighthouse Point Park only as it stands.

I glance back. As the man turns the corner, I realize — he couldn’t walk his dog amidst cannonfire and burning houses. He couldn’t walk his dog in a bustling trolley park. He spends his time here not for what it was, but for what it is.

That’s why he comes To the Lighthouse. That’s why we go to Yale.

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SUCH A CLICHE

// BY CLARA LEE

Generic. Typical. Overused. Not worth writing about.

Most Asians in America had to cross the Pacific Ocean and disperse to California. More to the point, there's a smaller niche of Bay Area Asians who are the bread and butter of every college counselor's fat, juicy wallets, those Common App seniors poised to tell the story of their family's immigrant experience. No matter how formulaic this essay may seem, the storyline is still in fact the truth... So how can I write a personal statement while neglecting this central part of my identity?

Maybe it would be easier if I could quickly explain every part of my identity using a modified version of any of these stereotyped statements, but that wouldn't be true. My parents didn't come to America as visa-seeking graduate students; no, my extended family doesn't sell Chinese food; and yes, I am from the Bay Area, but my life wasn't filled with STEM and prep courses.

Growing up in China didn't make me a foreigner to America. In 1989, my grandmother bought a one-way ticket to San Francisco and eventually settled into the boroughs of Silicon Valley. Every summer since the age of two was spent by the pool, on a trampoline, chasing down ice cream trucks or memorizing planet-themed street signs. My heartbeat never quickened out of fear of being denied access to this country, but that didn't erase the foreigner label attached to me.

Just like the gooey melted popsicle I could not wipe off my hand on a hot summer day, I could not detach myself from the sticky label of "foreigner." I quickly became fascinated by my second-grade class after moving from diverse Silicon Valley, past the hills of Berkeley, into the uncharted territory of white suburbia known as Walnut Creek.

In 2008, I was a transfer student and the only Asian in my classes. I was Sherlock Holmes, surveying Walnut Creek through a magnifying glass, except it felt like I was the one under the microscope. The heaps of comments from good-intentioned classmates signaling cultural differences made for a rough adjustment.

Over time, I became the teacher's favorite, my desk neighbor's snack buddy and ruler of playground four-square and freeze tag. With each additional Lunchable consumed, the gap between my classmates and me shrunk until one recess.

"We can pretend to swap bodies."
"Ok! I'll be you and you be me."
"Wait... It's hard for me to try being you because of your accent."

I had personified an American second-grader with such perfect accuracy that I failed to remember the invisible line sepa-

built an American armor for protection in the harsh environment, determined to paint the outside in a color-matching tone.

From then on, seemingly innocent comments from my childhood friend about the classroom smelling like Chinese food raised flashing red alerts on my beacon. I built this

I lost everything I knew of Chinese history and culture. In Chinatown, San Francisco with school friends, I would respond with the same wonder and amusement as locals spoke to us in Chinese. During volleyball season, I would be just as entertained and impressed as my teammates while watching another white girl, learning Chinese since the age of five, speak Chinese like a slowed-down tape recorder of textbook conversational phrases. At least I could avoid the harmless entertainment of "Say something in Chinese."

Just like the chalk from the blackboard of my first English class, I wiped away a central part of my identity. These intangible emotional sacrifices in rejecting every unique trait and becoming solely the "American" found in dictionaries continue to haunt me. All the history that's been neglected with each rejection of culture and identity. Ultimately creating a new identity that will never fit into any clear-cut box of race or status.

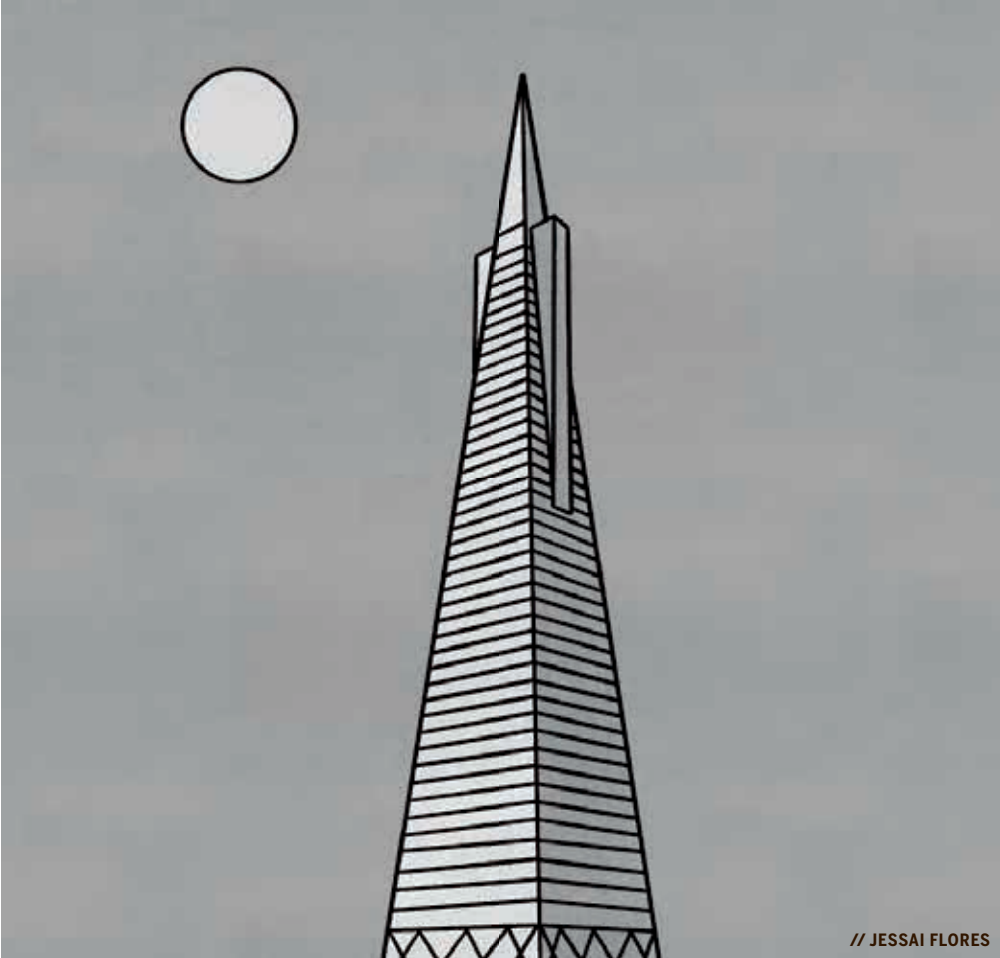
The proximity of Chinatown as a 40-minute BART ride away meant nothing when I barricaded myself within the reinforced walls of Walnut Creek. My innate rejection of Chinatown physically and symbolically turned out to be a rejection of being classified as separate. Chinatown was not a place of home or even a close resemblance of one, but rather a place of slight familiarity while maintaining enough exoticism to garner outside attention. I could never go home to Chinatown, but its association clings to me.

A classification that is never clearly sorted into the American landscape but instead sorted away into its own miscellaneous box, tucked away in the outskirts of any city, blasted with the name Chinatown.

I can only ever see myself as an outsider, like a line splitting my past and future. A border that can be crossed but never fully integrated. My own personal San Andreas fault. The clearly marked separation by dragon-lined gates and strings of paper lanterns between the streets of San Francisco. The formation of a Chinatown within every Asian that remains barricaded, just like the place itself, stunted from developing a sense of identity. The loss of nuance for something in between international, American and Asian. A never-ending search for the feeling of being at home.

Such a cliché.

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// JESSAI FLORES

rating us. The comment left a mark, but like any other child, all was forgotten by lunchtime, nothing an Uncrustables PB&J sandwich couldn't fix.

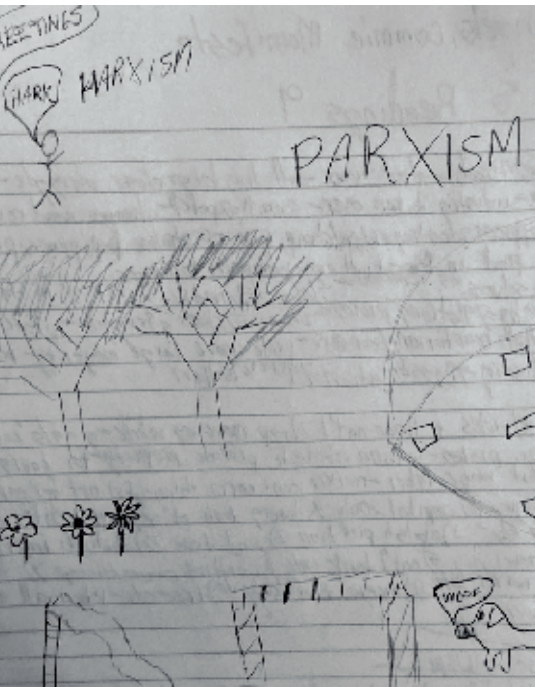
Then came the "Age of Painful Self-Awareness" — middle school. During an action-packed volleyball practice, I felt out of place shuffling across the gym floors. The sudden realization that I was different from my classmates hit me yet again during the car ride home when I cried to my mom that I didn't belong there because I looked different. Paranoia about sticking out and being different due to my Chinese background seeped in. I

persona, and they were trying to assassinate me; I had carefully glazed over my exterior, and it felt like they were trying to sweep it away.

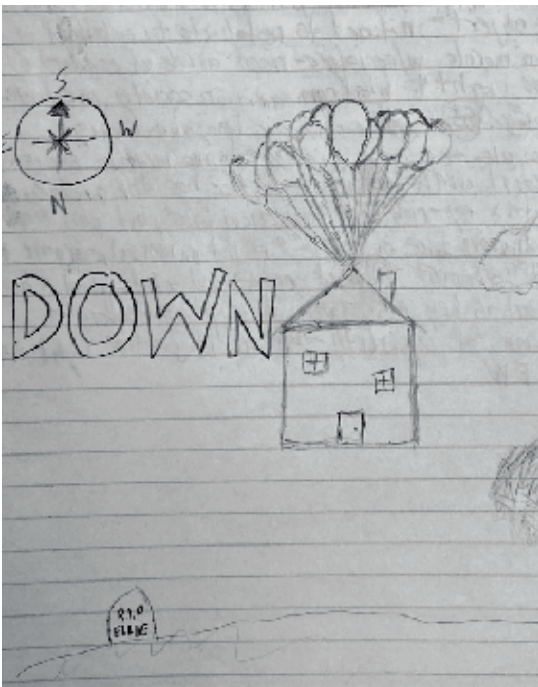
I told them I couldn't smell anything. And when they asked me what I ate for dinner last night, I gave the decoy answer — "pizza." I assumed a defensive position. And it never stopped.

I pretended to not understand the histories of Chinese people or the cultural customs of Chinese New Year, despite fond memories of setting off fireworks at night while watching 春晚, the Chinese New Year Gala.

Soon enough my armor was patched up, and



In Defense of the
Dwindling,
Dawdling,
Doodling
Distractions



// BY ANDREW CRAMER

Over the past two semesters, several of my professors have outlawed technology in the classroom because it's too distracting. I support their crusade.

They are correct: technology is insanely distracting. If my computer is open in front of me, there's no way I'm paying atten— I mean, of course, I'm paying attention no matter what, but I'm sure computers make it really hard for other people to pay attention.

However, these professors don't quite seem to understand that we will always be distracted in class. Even if the material is extremely interesting, humans were designed to be hunters and/or gatherers, not sitting-at-deskers.

If you think outlawing technology is going to stop me from ignoring a lesson, you are gravely mistaken. I will try to calculate the thirtieth element of the Fibonacci

sequence, make escape plans in case of a fire or rank my favorite people in my seminar before I pay attention for an entire hour and fifteen minutes. If you claim otherwise, you're lying to us and to yourself. Mom and Dad, if you're reading, I know for a fact that you've responded to my texts and calls during meetings at work, so don't come after me.

I can tell you're wondering, "Andrew, if you think we're going to be distracted regardless, why outlaw screens in schools? They're so cool and fun and at least you can be productive while you're not paying attention."

I admit, the appeal of scrolling through Twitter, LinkedIn, ESPN or whatever your drug of choice may be, is strong. But we already do that for a more-than-reasonable number of hours per day. What happened to the Big Three that is pen, paper and the power of your imagination?

That's right, I'm a staunch believer in the power of a good, ole fashioned doodle.

I made some of my best friends at Yale when they peered over to copy my Econ 115 notes but instead found doodled superheroes — Abstracto, the Mobster Lobster and Lanky Man, to name a few.

If my political philosophy professor has the nerve to mention Marxism, how could I not doodle mock-ups for propagandist images of some rhyming alternative theories like a nature-lover's Parxism, the ocean's law of Sharxism and Joe Biden's very own Malarxism?

While these might be like the most pointless graphite scratches to ever cross college-ruled paper — who knows about wide-ruled, though — I believe they still possess a shocking amount of value. So much of our energy at this school is devoted to productivity. We write coherent papers and spend hours staring at difficult psets.

Creativity — not for publication or posting on Instagram or building a portfolio — but merely for the sake of creativity, is a joy. We all can look back to our childhood and fondly remember our made-up language or the crippling fear of the ground in "the floor is lava" or scoring the game-winning points of a championship game when we were only playing with our siblings in an empty park. For me, doodles are a way to preserve the joy of those imagined worlds.

In a tragic twist of fate for such a passionate "creative spirit" like myself, I possess no artistic ability. Zero. Not even a little.

Half of my drawings of humans are identical and oddly lanky depictions. The other half are stick figures. With regard to faces, they get a smiley or frowny face, two dots for eyes and a semi-bowcut that resembles my own hair. For reasons I don't have enough time to explain, dachshunds feature

prominently and are perhaps my most accurately drawn creations.

Some days, I stray from "realism" and lean into my abstract side. I draw lots of hearts regardless of whether or not I'm feeling smitten at a particular moment. I still haven't quite figured out how to make a circle look good, but I'll get there eventually. The margins of my notes always hold lots of cubes, irregular polygons and random squiggles.

A third-grader would be embarrassed by the quality of any of these drawings. To some degree, I am as well. But they're not for you to look at. They're not even for me to look at. I make them for the process of creation. So thank you professors for taking a stand. A "Just Brew It" Nike mug design, a few stray dinosaurs, HillBilly Clinton and I support you.

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WKND Recommends

ACTUALLY catch up on sleep over the break.

WEEKEND *LAUGHTER*

WHAT I SAW IN THE WATER

// BY BRIAN ZHANG

Everything we say is a draft, and it never comes out the way we want it to on our first try.

I never believed that first drafts had to be messy, because I always thought that mine looked kind of good. In 2012, the world felt as close to perfect as it could get. The soundtrack of my childhood was Rihanna’s forever hit “Diamonds” and according to my grandmother, I had a shiny heart-breaker smile to match my favorite song.

Beyond that, I had a mother who cooked dinner for me most days of the week, a father who would mimic every animal in existence to make me laugh like crazy and a new fake wife every other week in school. I wrote stories in my free time, I celebrated my birthdays like all the other kids and I only told the truth when promised brownies and toys and candy and kisses on the cheek and trips to the beach. I had people who made me feel happy, people who told me over and over that happiness was everything.

So then, I guess one of the questions that I’ve always wanted to ask Dad — and every other person I’ve ever liked being around — was why they ended up lying to me. Because if happiness was everything, then something must be very wrong with me, now that I’ve learned that my everything was always short of enough. One minute, I was lying at the top of the world. The next, I’d lost it all: a place to live, people I cared about and myself. For the first time, I worried about what my final draft would look like, because every moment before then, I thought it would be the same as my very first, with the same people around me and the same feelings that kept me warm and protected and cared for. Instead, the world left me with a pair of headphones, a disease of the mind that I couldn’t live without and more thoughts than I could handle. I was on my own, and all I remember seeing was a back, dressed in a yellow Polo shirt, turned against me and swimming into a crowd of New Yorkers who all walked a little too fast for my brain to process.

I kept waiting for someone to come by and save me, someone to tell me that I was going to make it through February, but when that never happened, I tried finding happiness in the wayfaring and impermanent. The more people and the more things the world took

away from me — for reasons that are my fault and for those that are not — the more I learned to adapt. I found love and warmth in hopeless places. I fell in love with winter, because he welcomed me home when the last Christmas lights turned out on me. He asked me to sleep with him, and I said yes, because I was so desperate to remember what touch felt like.

I don’t know if being with him felt good, but what was important to me was that I had someone. Anyone.

Moving on is the hardest thing I had and

person who will leave in-depth comments on an essay at 3 in the morning. That’s what I love about people in general — they’re kinder than you think, nicer than you believe, talented in ways you can only imagine in your wildest dreams. But that also means that you also fall in love with them fast, even when it’s not right or meant to be.

This past year, I fell for a guy that I knew I could not, and would not let myself, have. We will call him T. I liked T because he was kind and because little seemed to stress him out — something that I admired in a strong, honest person. But I had to kill those butterflies.

The closer I got

thing for once, and it hurt. It hurt really badly, because I didn’t have a good track record with love, but I was starting to like T a lot, in his own right even.

I never had to look back. Then, all of a sudden, I had to. I wanted to, for just a moment. One night, sprawled on my common room couch, listening to “Diamonds” with the volume cranked up in my headphones and lying next to a person I had then been in a situation with, I watched as the earth’s crust beneath me crumbled away into a rippling waterfall. Somehow, I managed to pull myself together and sit cross-legged on a piece of blue construction paper the size of the sea. I closed my eyes.

I looked down into a gaping abyss whose bottom I could not make out and I saw a boy — at most seven or eight years of age — swimming up to greet me. His face was a deep turquoise blue, and I read his dreams like a magazine, so alive and fluid in the frigid water. His dreams were the color of hourglass sand.

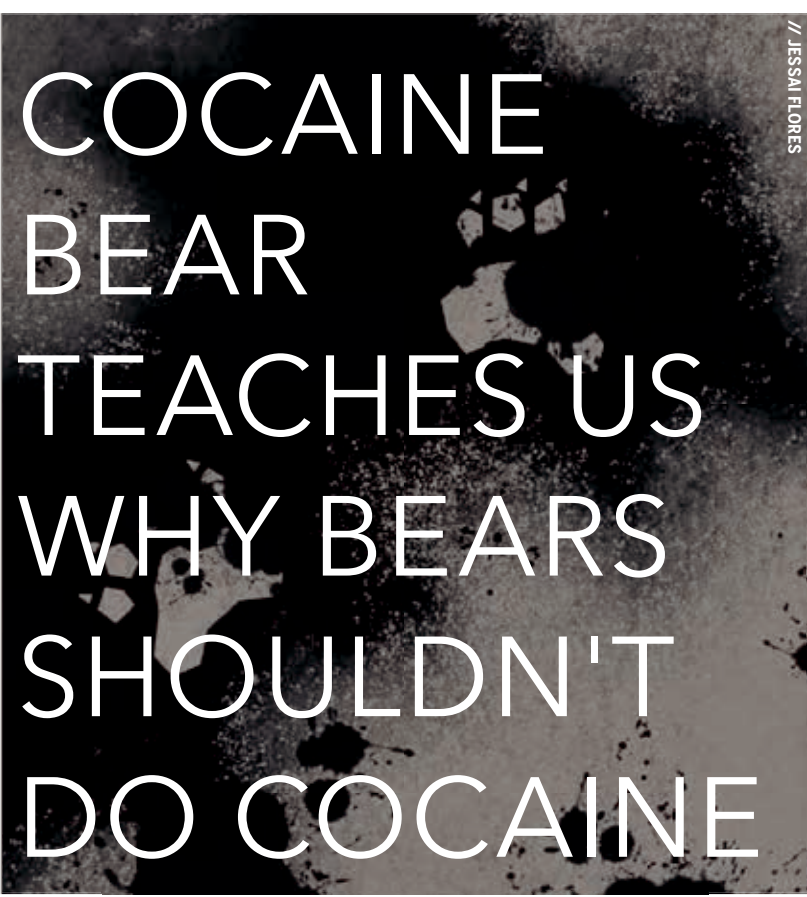
He told me that he was happy. He said that he came from a place with lots of happy people. He said that he wanted to be a cardiothoracic surgeon when he grew older and that one day, he would like a family of his own. Children, too — two boys and a girl. He told me that he had just come home from the supermarket with his mother and that he planned to call his father, who was having a bad day at work.

I sat at the edge of my giant abyss, listening to him, writing down some of the favorite things he said and watching the baleen whales dive in and out of the heart of the ocean. A familiar song played around us, and we satiated our empty stomachs with the occasional dose of nearby atmosphere. It tasted like birthday cake batter. I let him finish, admiring the way he got so excited about the tiniest things. At one point, we touched fingertips, and then I finally let go. It wasn’t fiction. This was happening in real time, and I wanted to tell him as he swam away that he had the best smile I’d ever seen before in a person.

I gave myself permission to move on — not because I wanted to or because I’m so used to it, but because I saw that my past is not for me to keep. I opened my eyes, smiled and realized that I had made it to March.

That little boy I saw never changed, and the purpose of our encounter was never to show me who I truly was. He simply told me that whatever I was becoming, he would be there to remind me that I had made it this far. And that is always something I can hear a second time as I keep rewriting my drafts, over and over until I finally know what it is that I have to say.

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// JESSA FLORES

COCAINE BEAR TEACHES US WHY BEARS SHOULDN'T DO COCAINE

// BY LIZZIE CONKLIN

If you’ve ever wanted to watch a being without any ability for complex reasoning do amphetamines, go to the stacks during finals week. If you want to watch enemies become friends, a mother heroically search for her captured child, and a story of redemption, go see Cocaine Bear.

On Feb. 24, 2023, “Cocaine Bear” premiered, grossing \$8.6

million on its opening day. To put that in perspective, “Avengers: Endgame” made approximately \$60 million on its opening day in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic emptied theaters. Obviously, the tactical marketing of the Avengers franchise attracts a greater audience, but if \$60 million is the ceiling, “Cocaine Bear” is a footstool.

At first, these statistics worried me. Maybe people didn’t want to see a bear do cocaine. Maybe the movie just didn’t have “the juice.” Maybe the newfangled CGI cinema tricks have worn audiences out.

The bear looked pretty real to me, though. If PETA sees this movie, they’re going to be really mad, because Cocaine Bear is loosely inspired by true events. In 1985, a 175-pound black bear bear ingested cocaine dropped by smugglers in the middle of the Georgian woods. The bear did this for the headline. Maybe the bear was a real actor. We’ll never know, and there’s no way for us to find out.

In the movie, [SPOILER] the bear kills a lot of people. In real life, the bear overdosed before it could. Either way, bears shouldn’t do cocaine.

That shouldn’t stop you from seeing the movie, so why are the numbers so low? What’s stopping people from seeing this bear go crazy? Then I remembered what every review I’ve read since 2020 has said: the pandemic wounded the theater-going industry, shutting down many AMCs and Cinemark. Netflix releases movies on the streaming platform instead of in a theater. You can

rent movies in theaters for \$20 from home. The first day in theaters doesn’t matter anymore.

My faith was restored. I watched “Cocaine Bear” with an open mind and open heart, wondering only if the bear would have a heart attack or try to write a screenplay. Would it snort the cocaine or just gum it? Does the bear have a Canada Goose jacket and hate its parents? Would the movie end with the

bear’s friends getting it some water and putting it to bed? No. If it did, it would’ve been two hours shorter. The filmmakers had a story to tell.

On the day a bear tries cocaine (in the comfort of his own home), everyone decides to explore the woods. One girl drags a boy into the woods, because she’s mad that her mom has a boyfriend, terrifying her the poor woman who follows them into the woods alone. A drug lord and his son independently venture into the woods to find the cocaine that fell from a plane and started this hullabaloo. A policeman waits for them. Some foolish park rangers do nothing. Everyone goes “Into the Woods,” but nobody sings. If Stephen Sondheim were alive, he would watch this and die again.

Nobody guessed that animals on substances could supply an exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution, for a whole movie, but director Elizabeth Banks made it happen. The movie didn’t seem realistic; I’ve never seen a bear do drugs, but Winnie the Pooh’s “honey” addiction comes pretty close, and he’s definitely fictional. It felt like an authentic thriller nonetheless, with long shots of gory wounds, jump scares galore and kids swiveling around really slowly in sync when they hear growling behind them. Because the shock of a scary bear attacking people wore off after she slaughtered her first victim, the jump scares began to rely more and more on gore. This was an inhumane bear.

The cast breathed life into the film, especially Keri Russell, the (potentially) bereaved mother hunting her daughter down. The movie should’ve been called “Mama Bear.” Where the story lacked heart, she infused it with familial devotion, elevating “Cocaine Bear” from thriller to heartfelt thriller with her hero’s journey. Isiah Whitlock Jr. warmed the film as the cop hunting the drug lord, but also made fun of the people he arrested.

Ultimately, the film told an exciting story, keeping audience members on the edge of their seats, leaving little to the imagination, and letting us know why bears shouldn’t do cocaine.

“Cocaine Bear” is in theaters now.

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WKND Recommends

Doing a Rihanna marathon on your way back home.

WHAT I LEARNED FROM BECOMING A FEB CLUB ALL-STAR

// BY CHRISTIAN ROBLES

On a cold Valentine’s Day night, dozens of seniors and their guests stopped by Pierson’s lower courtyard. There, Yalies iced shots in beer pong on a white table signed by fellow Pierson 2023ers. The sound system blasted love songs like Kiss Me Through the Phone by Soulja Boy as seniors chatted among themselves in circles, pausing to sip on vodka Swiss Miss hot chocolate. People hugged and dapped each other up, making sure to take group photos on their iPhones under the bright orange string lights after reuniting. On this Valentine’s Day, a different kind of love was in the air.

As I pushed my way through the bustling courtyard with a Canon Rebel T7i in hand, multiple groups stopped me to utter the phrase that I would hear virtually all of February: “can we get a photo?” (I had started bringing my camera around with me to snag photos for my photography class but kept doing so after I recognized that my photos instill joy in people and produce a sense of community). Every time, I obliged. Sometimes, I did so begrudgingly, because other groups had just asked me to take a photo for them.. At this point in the night, my social battery had started to drain from the sheer number of photo-op requests. I decided to make my way toward the courtyard entrance, in the hopes that I could have a brief moment of calm before going back into the sea of seniors.

I soon spotted Marc Bertoni ’23 and one of his friends lean against a red brick wall and smoking weed. The last time I had seen Marc was during my first year when we briefly met at a student group concert. With the little energy I had left, I reintroduced myself and asked Marc if I could take a photo of him blowing a cloud of smoke for my photography class. He agreed. We soon began to share how the last three years of our Yale experiences played out. Marc ended up majoring in Film & Media Studies and told me how he hopes to enter the industry, or at least adjacent careers. I, on the other hand, stuck with Political Science and pursued a career in journalism.

As I stepped out of the conversation to throw myself back into the fire, I couldn’t help but think: “I wish I had gotten to know people like Marc sooner.” And that was the theme for my February — all of the friendships that could have been during my four years at Yale but just didn’t pan out.

The event in Pierson’s lower courtyard was hosted by the senior society Desmos as a part of “Feb Club.” The tradition, which began in the 70’s, grants seniors access to a party a day for the entire month of February. Tickets are \$30. This year, each party occurred at a different location, ranging from the Founder’s Room in Benjamin Franklin to Elm City Tap House.

You may be wondering what the heck a “Feb Club All-star” is. An “all-star” is a senior who attends every single Feb Club party and completes a photo challenge at each one. The challenges varied — one night can require a wholesome photo of you and a new friend, while another can ask you to dress up as Dobby from Harry Potter. A few days even included video challenges where “all-stars” had to sing lines from Drake and 21 Savage’s “Rich Flex” and hit the Shmoney Dance. Only a fraction of seniors actually attempt for all-star status — even fewer manage to attain it. You may be wondering: why on earth did I decide to go to a random spot on campus every night to take a silly little photo? For that, I’ll give you three reasons. Firstly, Desmos traditionally gives all-stars a flask with their name engraved on it (it hopefully won’t be a t-shirt this year). Secondly, I had finished my thesis and was currently taking three classes, so I had the bandwidth to scurry around campus each night. Thirdly — and most importantly — Feb Club offered a strong sense of community, and fulfilled my desire to enjoy the end of my Yale career.

I have no regrets about becoming an “all-star.”

By the last Friday of Feb Club, I was sick and tired of having to make the trek to a random location on campus. When Desmos announced that Zeta would host an Among Us-themed party, I had little interest in sticking around for very long. “I’ll only be there for a quick five minutes. I’ll just take my photo and then dip,” I thought as I walked over to Zeta. Upon arriving at approximately 10:30 pm, I noticed that the normally busy basement was relatively quiet. A few people grabbed mixed drinks. Others played beer pong on a large white table. No one danced on the dance floor that occupied about half of the grimy basement.

Fortunately, I knew that one of my friends was a sober monitor for Feb Club that night so I struck up a conversation with them, congratulating them on getting tapped by Whim ‘n Rhythm. I asked for and took a photo with them holding a red solo cup for my photo challenge, believing that it matched the day’s “sussy” theme. I thought this was the end of the night, but the other sober monitor standing next to my friend seemed so familiar. I soon checked Desmos’s daily email on my phone to figure out what her name was. Amelia Dilworth ’23. The name felt faintly familiar.

I decided to swallow my pride and admit to Amelia that I recognized her but wasn’t sure from where. We soon figured it out. We were in the same presentation group for Child Development at the end of last semester. I felt embarrassed that I had not remembered her. Amelia, fortunately, gave me a pass, pointing out that we were all wearing masks in the class and our group did not meet in person before the last presentation (sorry Professors Horwitz and Close).

But I was more struck by the fact that Amelia remembered that I took Foundations in Education Studies my junior Fall. And she remembered exactly where I sat — to the left side of the classroom in the middle of the row. Apparently, I said something incredibly profound that made me stand out in her mind though she was not sure. We continued our conversation for another 10 minutes, talking about her interest in the impact of urban development on the sense of community and my interest in education journalism.

I ended our conversation by promising to say hi to Amelia if I saw her roaming around campus. I stuck around Zeta for another hour, greeting friends, both old and new, as they arrived. This is probably the first and last time I will ever utter these words — but I am glad that I stayed at Zeta that night.

Marc and Amelia are just two examples of people I reconnected with during Feb Club. I enjoyed post-Three Sheets Dominican food with Jocelyne Arguelles ’23 and Sofia Godoy ’24. I had a conversation about the absurdity of having a Bobby Shmurda day with my old Multivariate Statistical Methods TA, Tai Michael ’23. Matt Weisenberg ’23, someone I met through Health Economics and Public Policy my junior Fall but largely forgot about, joined me and Daniel Lu ’23 for our final Feb Club photo challenge. And so on. There were other people, mostly all-stars, who I got to know during Feb Club. Sara Laufenberg ’23 took a photo of me doing a handstand at Branford’s God Quad after recovering from COVID. Annie Giman ’24 allowed me to fake propose to her for a Feb Club all-star photo challenge.

When Feb Club ended, seniors trickled slowly out of Elm City Tap House. As if to say “it’s really over,” a crowd of us stuck around the bar’s entrance to mingle for a little longer. It was a bittersweet moment. Sweet in that I no longer had to run around campus on a random Tuesday to stay in the running for an engraved flask. Bitter in that I wouldn’t get to see many of the people I had met or come to know through Feb Club often. I now have to be intentional about seeking out the people that were so omnipresent during my Feb Club. My time at Yale has been the same. Over the last four years, there have been countless people who I met and thought were cool but never followed up with. No coffee run. No meal. No check-in. Just the unfulfilled potential of a friendship.

If Feb Club has taught me anything, it’s that intentionality is the key to fostering lasting relationships at Yale. Instead of waiting for a silly senior year tradition to help nurture friendships, I wish that I reached out to more of my peers over the last four years.

I understand that even with intentionality, friendship is not always in the cards. But at least we should try. Feb Club showed me that for all of the times I have become jaded at Yale, people still have lots of love to give. Let’s show each other that love — not just in February.

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“Tell me what you see.”

// LIZZIE CONKLIN

WKND Hot Take:

Abolish spring break.