



# Yale accepts 2,275 students into class of 2027

BY ANIKA SETH  
STAFF REPORTER

Yale College admitted 2,275 students to the class of 2027 from its largest-ever pool of 52,250 applicants, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions announced on Thursday.

776 students were admitted during the early action round and 66 matched through the QuestBridge National College Match program. The remaining 1,433 received their offers of admissions Thursday. An additional 1,145 applicants were offered spots on the waitlist.

The admitted cohort overall includes students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four United States territories and 78 countries. The admissions office withholds detailed statistics about the demographics of the applicant pool as well as the group of admitted students each year, but told the News it would release a profile of matriculates in August.

“The strength and diversity of the applicant pool is much more important than the number of applications we receive,” said Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Jeremiah Quinlan in the announcement. “I am pleased that Yale College continues to appeal to promising students from a wide range of backgrounds. I am also proud that the admissions office has been able to continue its thoughtful whole-person review process of each applicant, even as the volume of applications has increased.”

The number of applicants is up by nearly 50 percent compared to the pool of students that sought entry to the class of 2024. Quinlan attributed this shift to the University’s choice to adopt a test-optional policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which the admissions office has renewed for each of the intervening application cycles. Last month, the admissions office extended its test-optional policy through to class of 2028’s application cycle, with plans to decide on a long-term testing policy in the winter of 2024.

The 4.35 percent acceptance rate for the class for 2027 is the lowest in recent history, down from 4.46 percent for the class of 2026, 4.62 for the class of 2025, 6.54 percent for the class of 2024 and 5.91 for the class of 2023.

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# Elicker bulldozes West River tent city

BY YASH ROY, NATI TESFAYE & YURII STASIUK  
STAFF REPORTERS

For Eric Pullen, a resident of the West River Tent City who has diagnosed PTSD, a shelter is not a comfortable or viable option.

Until recently, he was living in a tent city with roughly a dozen other residents off of Ella T. Grasso Boulevard. A March 10 removal order that cited city health code violations forced most of the unhoused people, including Pullen, to leave on March 15. As the sun rose the next day, police bulldozed the site and forcibly removed three remaining residents of the tent city. Officers of the New Haven Police Department arrested Mark Colville, a local housing activist, for criminal trespassing at the site on March 16.

The tent city had stood off of Ella T. Grasso Boulevard for three years. Opponents of the move have questioned why the removal was necessary after the tent city had peacefully existed for more than three years. The tent city has at times been a home to more than 40 unhoused New Haveners.

“There comes the point when, when law no longer matters. Then one has to use one’s body to simply dramatize the fact that the law is being broken by the state,” Colville said.

Colville said that he has “appealed to the law” and claimed the city violated human rights laws including the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In response to criticism from housing advocates and mayoral candidates about the removal, city officials insisted that they have constantly worked with people living in the tent city to relocate them and provide

SEE **BULLDOZE** PAGE 5



Mayoral candidates and elected officials have accused Elicker of “mismanagement” after the demolition of the tent city off of Ella T. Grasso Boulevard. /Courtesy of Sam Taylor

# Cox case officers violated NHPD policy

BY NATHANIEL ROSENBERG & YASH ROY  
STAFF REPORTERS

The officers who arrested and paralyzed Randy Cox were reckless, lacked compassion and were in violation of both state law and numerous department policies, according to a New Haven Police Department Internal Affairs report obtained by the News.

The report concluded that the officers involved were at fault in the June 19 arrest, which left Cox paralyzed from the chest down. Charges against the five officers cited behaviors including “recklessly handling” Cox during the incident, failing to turn on their body cameras, swearing at Cox while he was injured and giving “untruthful” statements to investigators.

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# New mural debuts in Murray dining hall

BY PALOMA VIGIL & ANIKA SETH  
STAFF REPORTERS

Students returned to the Pauli Murray College dining hall after spring recess to see a new mural of Murray — the first person of color to receive a JSD from Yale Law School — brightly displayed across the once-empty wall.



Muralist Mickalene Thomas ART '02 crafted a mural of Pauli Murray in the college’s dining hall over spring recess. / Michael Paz, Contributing Photographer

Contemporary American artist Mickalene Thomas ART '02 put the piece together over spring recess and officially introduced it at a celebratory event on Monday afternoon. Thomas depicted Murray as a young adult, the same age as many of the students who live in the college.

“I always knew I wanted something BIG to represent someone whose life did not obey frames: who literally imagined themselves out

of Jim Crow North Carolina, out of patriarchy, out of so many limitations that were imposed on them,” Murray Head of College Tina Lu told the News. “I also wanted a portrait that would always exist in a little bit of tension with the room itself; as Mickalene says, Pauli in the mural is looking outward.”

Monday’s mural celebration included refreshments, musical performances and speeches. Local private school Trinity Girls Choir — the choir for the Trinity Church on the New Haven Green — performed selections including Murray’s grandmother’s favorite hymn. Yale’s gospel choir sang “Amazing Grace” and their alumni song.

At Monday’s event, Lu also commended Thomas for her work on the mural, calling her an “artist for the ages” and commending her “rockstar energy.”

Murray was born in Baltimore in 1910 and raised in Durham, North Carolina. They became a prolific civil rights lawyer and activist, challenging racial segregation. Murray worked within frameworks of intersectionality decades before Kimberlé Crenshaw would formally coin the term in 1989. They helped found the National Organization for Women in 1966 and coined the term “Jane Crow,” which is used to describe the unique structures of oppression that Black women faced during the twentieth century during the twentieth century.

In the 1940s, Murray, who attended Yale Law School, wrote a paper encouraging civil rights lawyers to challenge state segregation laws as unconstitutional. Murray’s argument would go on to form the basis of the 1954 landmark Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision that overturned segregation in schools. It also would shape the basis of former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s successful arguments against

SEE **MURAL** PAGE 5

# CT hospitals report losses

BY KAYLA YUP & SAMANTHA LIU  
STAFF REPORTERS

Yale-New Haven Health lost \$240 million in the last fiscal year. They were not alone — in 2022, Connecticut hospitals faced their worst financial year since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 7, the Connecticut Hospital Association, which represents hospitals and health-related organizations across the state, released an analysis of the pandemic’s impact on the financial health of the hospitals they represent. Commissioned by the American Hospital Association, the report revealed that the median operating margin dropped nearly 67 percent from pre-pandemic levels across Connecticut hospitals, compared to a national average decline of 20 percent.

“This is not a sustainable situation,” Syed Hussain, chief clinical officer of Trinity Health of New England, told the News. “Ultimately ... we will be forced to look at programs and offerings and initiatives that we’re currently able to offer to the community and say, ‘Okay, what can we not offer?’ Because we can’t continue running in the red.”

SEE **HOSPITAL** PAGE 4

## CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 2993. Temporary repairs begin in the Divinity School after multiple students were evacuated over fears of roof collapse during spring break. \$5 million repair estimate delayed potential projects for years.

## INSIDE THE NEWS

TRUMBULL AND PIERSON GET NEW HEADS OF COLLEGE  
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**TESTING** Yale extended its test optional policy through the next year.  
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**MUSSELS** A new Yale study uncovers how mussels shape the Florida ecosystem.  
PAGE 8 **SCITECH**



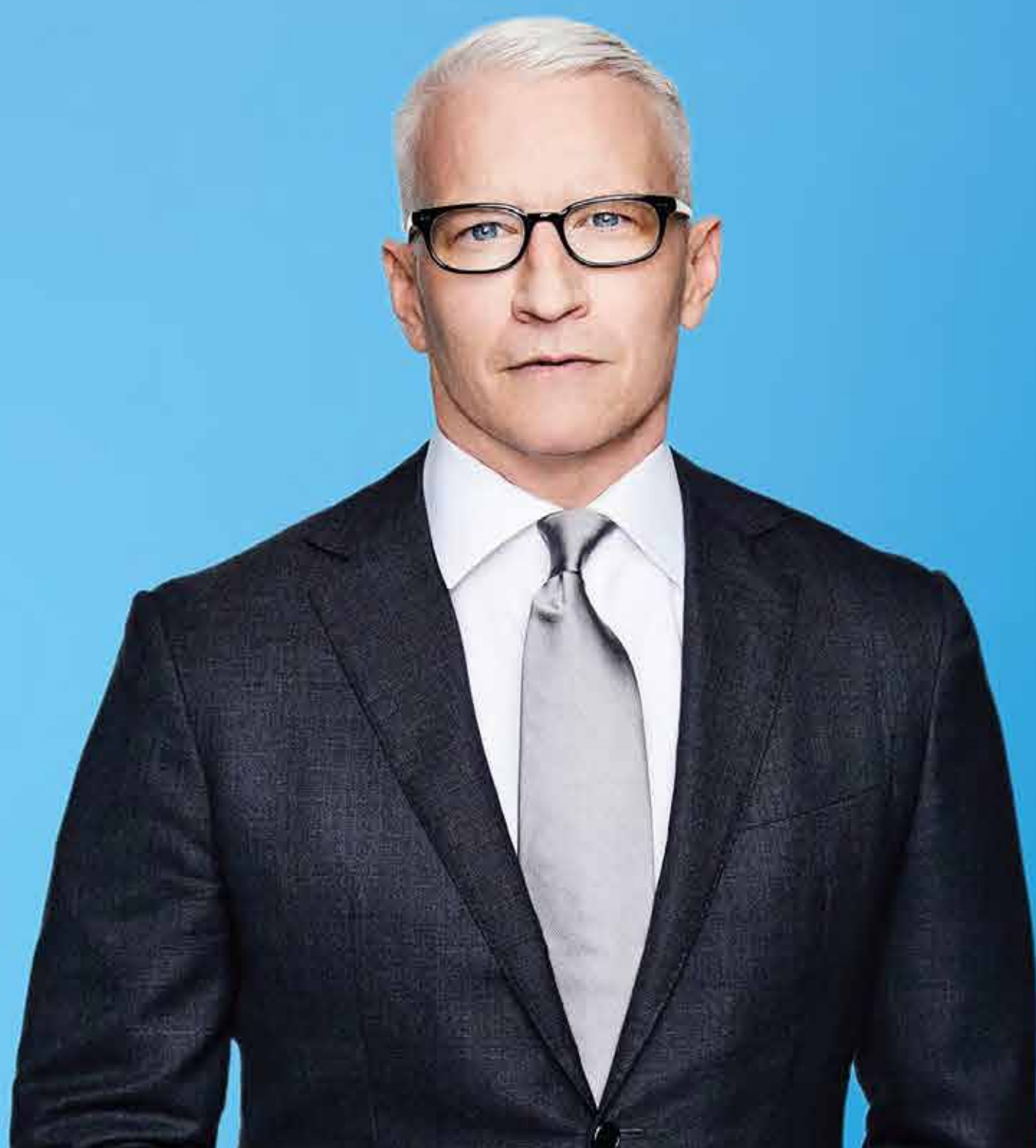


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## INTERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

MONDAY

APRIL 10

4-5:30 PM

Yale University  
Art Gallery Auditorium  
111 Chapel Street

Admission is free and open to the  
Yale Community and the General Public.

*Tickets are required*



*Register here for tickets*

Doors open for seating at 3:30 pm.

For questions email [chuybb.fellowship@yale.edu](mailto:chuybb.fellowship@yale.edu)

*Yale approved masks are required for audience members.*



# OPINION

GUEST COLUMNISTS  
JULIAN SUH-TOMA & THEIA CHATELLE

## Menstrual Equity Now

The average Yale student’s day is stressful enough without the surprise of an unexpected period. For students who menstruate, the looming stress of forgetting a pad or tampon is constantly hovering over them, regardless of whether they’re on their cycle or not. The experience is unavoidable: you wear your favorite pair of light wash jeans that suddenly become not-so light wash. Should you be lucky enough, you might be in your dorm when this happens. The unlucky, however, must depend on the spare pad that might be lingering at the bottom of their backpack or on the goodness of others. The really unlucky are forced to miss classes and meetings in order to remedy a situation they had no control over. Now, how would that change if Yale provided universal access to menstrual products in bathrooms across campus?

College students across the country face barriers to accessing menstrual products, with one in 10 students reporting an inability to afford menstrual products each month. In addition to financial obstacles, the dynamic and stressful nature of college life can lead to unpredictable menstrual cycles that surface when students are far from home and their circles of support. This inaccessibility can lead to isolation, absence from classes and social engagements and greater self-reported rates of moderate or severe depression. Yale students experience this “period poverty” a term used to describe the barriers to adequate menstrual products, education and sanitation. And yet, Yale is not doing nearly enough in response. So far, its approach has been patchwork and inadequate in meeting the needs of students.

By failing to provide menstrual products in campus bathrooms, Yale is failing to keep up with its peer institutions. As the Yale Daily News recently reported, both Middlebury and Harvard have worked to provide access to menstrual products in campus bathrooms, with a number of other universities also working to expand access. Additionally, it is now required by law that all Connecticut public schools provide menstrual products in bathrooms. As a private institution, Yale should be held to the same standard, especially because it has the financial capacity to provide this impactful service to its students. The truth is that If Yale were primarily concerned with student dignity and equity, it would already have taken this common-sense step.

Yale currently supplies menstrual products through the Office of Gender and Campus Culture. After the Yale College Council launched a pilot program in 2019 to supply menstrual products in residential college basements and entryways on Old Campus, Yale decided to sign on. While the OGCC purchases the prod-

ucts, Communication and Consent Educators are responsible for resupplying as needed. However, in this system, CCEs are expected to constantly monitor the supply of products, as there isn’t a reporting system for when products run out. The result of the decentralized nature of this restocking system is an inconsistent — and often lacking — supply of products across colleges.

To fill the gap that Yale has left, a variety of different student organizations have, at different times and to varying degrees, worked to keep campus bathrooms stocked with menstrual products. The Period Project, which is sponsored by the Graduate and Professional Students Senate, provided pads and tampons in the bathrooms in Sterling in 2019 and 2020, but it has struggled to supply products after a change in leadership. The YCC also recently sponsored the Yale Women’s Center with a grant to buy pads and tampons to supply to students. This stopgap measure, while effective, also demonstrates how far Yale has to come in improving equity on campus. Another effort currently underway is a YCC measure to install menstrual product dispensers at all dining hall restrooms, a pilot program that would improve access, especially for those who are far away from their residential colleges. However, despite full funding from the Yale College Council, we are yet to see residential colleges and Yale administration commit to this student funded and organized effort to expand access.

On behalf of the Yale Women’s Center and the YCC, we demand that Yale do better. Yale should consolidate the supply of menstrual products to Yale Facilities, which already maintains campus restrooms. They would check the supply of menstrual products during their weekly cleanings and restock as necessary. While Yale’s response to this demand has been that “it’s a difficult demand to implement,” the University cannot use its own bureaucracy as an excuse to delay change. The responsibility for providing basic hygiene products should not fall on the students, and the patchwork system of student organizations such as CCEs, OGCC, Period Product should be united into an official Yale initiative. It is time that Yale answers the call to end “period poverty” on campus and shows meaningful support to its first-generation, low income and gender-minoritized students.

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GUEST COLUMNIST CRISTIAN PEREIRA

## The death of the small school

My job as a Yale Tour Guide, reduced to one phrase, is to present the school in a superlative light while staying truthful. Among the most harped on upsides that I stress to visitors during the tour is that Yale provides the resources of a major research institution while preserving the small school experience. But I increasingly feel that this is no longer the truth.

Many initiatives unique to Yale are meant to build up this small school experience. Residential colleges and suite-style living create smaller communities and a greater appreciation for the idea of “a home away from home.” Small class sizes, a reduced student-faculty ratio, professor office hours and mandatory undergraduate instruction for tenured faculty

SLOWLY AND SILENTLY, YALE HAS BEEN INTRODUCING INCREASINGLY CENTRALIZED AND BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEMS TO REMEDY A GROWING UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION.

offer more personalized classroom experiences. Limited graduate instruction and an official university “undergraduate focus” further perpetuate the idea of Yale as a small school.

But as a student, I don’t feel like I go to a small school.

In 2011, Yale enrolled 5,349 undergraduates. According to the most recent data, our undergraduate population is now 6,536. That’s a 22 percent increase over 10 years. Further, undergraduate class sizes have increased in five of the past six years. We don’t have space for that — not even after the construction of two new colleges in 2017.

Slowly and silently, Yale has been introducing increasingly centralized and bureaucratic systems to remedy a growing undergraduate population. The abandonment of shopping period, and its subsequent replacement with a universally loathed add/drop period, is a clear sign that today’s Yale is just too big to support its previously famed flexibility with class selection. The most recent change, which prioritizes older class years over younger class years in course selection, further diminishes the idea that Yale’s small school experience will let you take the class you want, when you want. Classes have increasingly begun to require applications, pre-registration or participation in certain majors or programs (some of which require applications as well) to enroll.

I lived in Lanman-Wright Hall on Old Campus my first year. My roommate and I shared a 7-foot-by-11-foot bedroom and slept in bunk beds. I don’t know a single person outside of Yale who was confined to anything similar. Berkeley College’s website describes Lanman-Wright conditions neatly: “you should pack carefully, concentrating on the bare essentials.”

Most residential colleges indirectly pressure juniors to move off campus or risk being relegated to “annex facilities” away from their college. Pierson, my college, which does not annex juniors, is finding solutions by converting single bedrooms into doubles.

Within these so-called “dingles,” there is not enough wall space for two beds and two desks. Students are being forced to move desks to the common room or create a “desk island” in their bedroom, leaving little empty space in their rooms except enough to get from the doorway to their bed. Suites that were originally “quints” have been converted to “sextets,” “sextets” have been converted to “septets” and the number of stand-alone singles available to Piersonites has been drastically reduced. Increased demand for off-campus housing, especially among the junior classes, has caused real estate

INSTEAD OF SEEKING SUB-OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS TO OVER-ADMISSION, YALE SHOULD INSTEAD CONSIDER HOW MANY STUDENTS IT ACTUALLY HAS ROOM FOR.

pricing to skyrocket, hurting both Yalies and the greater New Haven community.

Housing processes, traditionally individualized by college, have been centralized within an overarching housing committee, emphasizing the growing complexity of undergraduate housing and making it excruciatingly difficult to get responses to questions and requests regarding where and how you’ll be living next year. In a recent incomprehensible decision, residential colleges with the resources to do so have been effectively banned from offering summer storage to their students to “promote equity” across the colleges. Instead of 14 smaller communities, housing is now a singular ballooned congregation attempting to mold itself into a shell of what once was.

Yale is bloated, and it can only blame itself. The undergraduate experience has become increasingly bureaucratic and decreasingly personalized. Instead of seeking sub-optimal solutions to over-admission, Yale should instead consider how many students it actually has room for. Otherwise, it will risk the complete elimination of the small school experience.

**CRISTIAN PEREIRA** is a sophomore in Pierson College, majoring in English. He can be reached at [cristian.pereira@yale.edu](mailto:cristian.pereira@yale.edu).

## LETTER 3.27: Open Letter on Awarding Pennington a Degree

Dear President Salovey and Associate Vice President Schall,

As you know, the Board of Trustees is now considering a request from the Yale Graduate and Professional Student Senate to confer an honorary degree on Rev. Dr. James W.C. Pennington as a form of restitution. The GPSS passed a resolution on February 23 calling on the University to reckon with its racist treatment of Pennington while he was a scholar at Yale Seminary in the 1830s.

As organizers of the Pennington Legacy Group, we want to ensure that our voices are heard and that you understand more about our motivations and why this is the right thing to do.

Pennington escaped slavery at age 19 and changed his name for his own physical and emotional safety as a fugitive slave. His brilliance earned him a place in the Yale classroom, but he was told he could not speak in class or borrow books from the library or formally enroll as a student.

He wrote of his time at Yale: “After submitting to this, will anyone tell me that I know nothing of oppression?”

Last year, Yale University declined an initial petition to award Pennington an honorary degree, stating that the only exceptions are

“sad circumstances” in which the recipient dies before the degree is conferred.

We ask, could there be a sadder circumstance than Yale’s oppression of its first Black student?

In this life death is inevitable. But the enslavement of other people and racialized oppression and exclusion are not. So, Yale must reckon with its past and its participation in systems of slavery and racist exclusion on its campus and in places of global power. This includes providing meaningful restitution to Pennington.

In 2022, Yale named a fellowship for Pennington to support high school graduates from New Haven who attend HBCUs. We applaud this first step toward reparations. But more can and should be done by Yale to provide meaningful restitution for injustices by Yale officials against Pennington when he studied at Yale. After he left Yale, Pennington blazed a trail as a de-segregationist of NYC public transit and early historian of African American life.

Pennington wrote of his abolitionist work, “These labors have all been performed under the embarrassments and liabilities connected with the position of a self-emancipated but unredeemed man.”

Certainly, some of these embarrassments were inflicted on him here, on our campus.

Yale preached Lux ex Veritas while at the very same time excluding a Black person from speaking in the classroom or formally enrolling as a student due to racist beliefs, so we know definitions of truth and light can change. We ask, are we engaging in actions today that reflect our “truth and light” if we are unwilling to face and remedy our past?

Therefore, we ask you to take this historic action of providing meaningful restitution to Pennington. He is gone, yet his legacy of pursuing knowledge despite obstacles and fighting for equality and justice is still alive at Yale. We know it is still alive, and we carry it forward as our “lux et veritas,” our light and truth.

We trust in your leadership to follow through with Yale’s commitment to reckon with its entanglements with slavery and racial injustice by finally giving Pennington his rightful degree.

Sincerely,  
Meredith Barges DIV ‘23,  
Noah Humphrey DIV ‘23, Lauren Maxwell DIV ‘25, Milton Gilder DIV ‘25, Kelli Hata DIV ‘25, Jon Ort DIV ‘24 and Ellen Van Dyke Bell MAR ‘24.



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FROM THE FRONT

“We sat in silence, letting the green air heal what it could.”  
ERICA BAURMEISTER AMERICAN AUTHOR

# Connecticut hospitals face record financial losses

HOSPITAL FROM PAGE 1

Trinity Health of New England, Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford Healthcare are the three largest health systems in Connecticut, controlling the majority of acute care hospitals in the state. Citing the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, Connecticut Health Association explained how plateauing revenues and soaring labor expenses have resulted in unprecedented financial strain for these health systems.

While Connecticut Health Association leaders argued that under-reimbursement for Medicaid and Medicare, inflation and expensive temporary labor were to blame for the losses, health policy experts weighed in with alternate perspectives on the situation.

### First year of deficits

After 50 years of profit, Yale New Haven Health System faced their first financial deficit in FY 2022. Last year, former YNHH vice president Vin Petrini said that YNHH was budgeting for a \$250 million deficit in 2023. Dana Marnane, YNHH director of public relations and communications, confirmed that Yale New Haven Health System projected a deficit for FY 2023, but declined to comment on the specific estimate.

“I cannot speculate at this point on how the year might end, but we are working hard to reduce costs to mitigate the deficit,” Marnane said.

According to Marnane, Yale New Haven Health System’s mitigation efforts include reducing the numbers of more expensive traveler employees, such as traveling nurses. She also cited the Prospect acquisition of three hospitals as an example of the health system’s investment in long-term growth and expansion of their clinical services across a broader geography. Some health advocates have expressed concern about this hospital consolidation, while Yale New Haven Health System continues to seek state approval of the transaction.

Marnane cited COVID-19’s negative impact on the hospital system’s finances, pointing to increases in labor costs, supply costs, average lengths of stay in the hospital and medical complexity of patients who may have deferred care during the pandemic.

However, Paul Kidwell, Connecticut Health Associations’ senior vice president of policy, explained that

hospitals negotiate commercial contracts to acquire pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and goods like electricity on a three to five year basis, meaning quick rises in inflation are not immediately factored in.

Additionally, hospital losses were driven by the erosion of federal relief funds. While government policy-makers formerly provided hospitals with CARES act funding and disaster relief payments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, relief funds have now “dried up,” according to Hussain.

In the case of Trinity Health of New England, the Catholic health system operating 92 hospitals nationally, total revenue from the Provider Relief Fund grant decreased from \$618 million in 2021 to \$141 million in 2022. Kidwell emphasized that the lack of federal assistance will continue to drive margins downward in 2023.

Trinity Health of New England, which is housed under the national organization and comprises four Connecticut hospitals and one Massachusetts hospital, emphasized challenges with workforce retention. Trinity’s dependence upon contract labor has been costly — traveling nurses, according to Hussain, can be paid up to three times the salary of normal nurses.

While revenue has remained mostly flat, increased costs associated with sicker patients, labor shortages and inflationary supply chain costs have taken their toll on the hospitals’ operating margins.

Hussain declined to provide the specific deficit amount for Trinity Health of New England. The New England system’s FY 2022 audit reported a net loss of \$1.4 billion in 2022, compared to the national organization’s \$3.8 billion net profit in FY 2021.

Hussain emphasized the need to invest in workforce growth and retainment. Leveraging newer forms of health delivery, such as telehealth and home-care service, has allowed Trinity Health of New England to supplement and support its current workforce. Hussain also pointed to a recent partnership with local colleges and schools to create a stronger recruitment pipeline. However, such investments require collaboration with the larger communities they serve, Hussain said.

“We need all folks at the table to be able to ensure that we’re able to continue to invest in our healthcare systems and services and programs that ultimately

benefit the community,” Hussain said.

Hartford Healthcare did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Some health policy experts expressed skepticism about the factors cited by Yale New Haven Health System and Trinity Health of New England. One study attributed the bulk of hospitals’ financial struggles to poor investment performances. As the economy declined in 2022, large health systems, which invest heavily in stock markets, faced similar losses. Nationally, Trinity Health of New England, which saw positive returns of 26.0 percent in fiscal year 2021, ran a negative 8.4 percent investment return in fiscal year 2022.

As a result, the Health Affairs report urged caution in pursuing large-scale policy decisions to offset health systems’ losses from “risky” investments, which it stated will likely be recovered in future years.

Hospitals, policy experts debate Medicaid/Medicare reimbursement

According to the Connecticut Health Association’s report, Connecticut hospitals lost \$1.12 billion from Medicare and \$993 million from Medicaid, with Medicaid paying hospitals “68 cents on the dollar” for healthcare costs. In a press release, Connecticut Health Association further argued that Medicare and Medicaid payment updates are not matching inflation rates, while commercial insurance contracts will take years to catch up to increases in expenses post-pandemic.

Nonetheless, Henry Dove, lecturer in health policy and former director of Yale University-West Haven Veterans Health Services Research program, cautions against taking the Connecticut Health Association’s numbers at face value. While Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements indeed pay less than those of private insurance companies, the discrepancy may be “overstated” in the report, according to Dove.

As Dove explained, each hospital sets a gross charge for each service provided to a patient, which they tally in the bill submitted to insurers. However, insurers have their own allowed amount that they negotiate with the hospital, representing the maximum amount they are willing to pay. As a result, the gross charge is hardly ever paid in full — it becomes a “meaningless number,” Dove said, which hospitals can set arbitrarily.

“The hospital will claim ‘Oh, this patient cost \$20,000,’” Dove explained. “It makes it look like

they lost a ton of money on these patients ... While they truly did lose money on the Medicaid patients, whenever they count up their losses, they often use gross charges, which is a fictitious number.”

According to Connecticut Health Association’s March 7 press conference, Connecticut ranks 48th in the nation for Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements. Kidwell argued that hospitals compensate for financial loss to Medicaid/Medicare by negotiating with commercial insurers to subsidize the deficit. As Dove explained, they depend heavily upon these privately-insured individuals to turn a profit.

However, this means that hospitals that cater to underserved patient populations find it more difficult to cover their costs, according to Hussain. He noted that the problem would worsen with the May 11 expiration of the federal Public Health Emergency, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, as some individuals auto-enrolled in Medicare may lose access to insurance altogether.

“We need increases both from a payer side, as well as other key players that are part of this problem,” Hussain said.

However, Ted Doolittle, the state healthcare advocate, said that “significant scholarship” has shown that increasing the price of Medicaid “does not ever” result in a decrease in commercial prices. He cited an article that showed that a 10 percent reduction in Medicare rates in a given region reduced private insurance prices.

Further, unlike commercial insurance rates, Medicare reimbursement rates are “rooted” in the hospital costs, Doolittle argued. Medicare sets its rates based on annual cost reports filed by all hospitals in the program.

“It is very often the case that [when] negotiating rates, the insurance companies really don’t care that much about the hospital costs,” Doolittle said. “In fact, the insurance companies generally, by the larger systems, get dictated what the price will be.”

Kidwell additionally emphasized the impact of low reimbursement rates on access to care. Specialists, for example, may not accept Medicaid patients based on pay, he explained. Kidwell reasoned that patients without access to specialty care may end up using emergency departments more fre-

quently as opposed to seeking a continuum of care at the hospital.

“For a long time, the state has very proudly talked about how they have limited the growth of their Medicaid program,” Kidwell said. “And that means really restricting payment for hospital and specialty care. That’s how you maintain such a low spending rate in your Medicaid program.”

**The deficit continues**

Kidwell said the first fiscal quarter of 2023 is “not looking better” than 2022. Hussain alluded to having to cut programs and initiatives in the future, if the deficit were to continue indefinitely. However, he said that Trinity Health of New England has not made any immediate changes because of the deficit.

YNHH wrote to the News that they have made significant investments in “recruitment and retention” as a result of staffing shortages, but did not specify if the deficit had forced them to change operations in any way. Likewise, Connecticut Health Association called for financial assistance to meet workforce needs across the state’s healthcare systems.

Kidwell emphasized that a positive margin allows systems to go beyond just maintaining current operations. Prolonged deficits threaten the ability of hospital systems to expand services offered to the community, he said.

However, Doolittle called the extent of the financial strain into question, pointing to the raft of new facilities that continue to be built across the state.

“Does that scream of a system that is strapped for cash? I don’t think so,” Doolittle said. “If I start seeing ‘for sale’ signs in front of those buildings, then I’ll start to believe that there’s a financial strain that they are coming under.”

Doolittle said he regarded skyrocketing healthcare prices as a problem in itself, noting the heightened revenue expectations of large systems. He contrasted this with the small independent hospitals in the state that run their hospitals “more efficiently” while charging lower prices. While large hospital systems may emphasize their deficits, Doolittle urged them to learn from these smaller institutions.

The Connecticut Hospital Association represents 27 of Connecticut’s acute care hospitals.

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# Investigation concludes officers involved in Cox case violated NHPD policy

COX FROM PAGE 1

New Haven Chief of Police Karl Jacobson has recommended to the Board of Police Commissioners that the four involved officers who are still employed by the department should be fired.

“The announcement that Chief Jacobson is recommending termination of the 4 police officers is but one step in the process of seeking justice for Randy Cox,” Cox’s attorney R.J. Weber told the News. “Ultimately, the justice we seek is for Randy Cox to live a full life as best he can, given the brutal, life-altering injuries he has suffered at the hands of these New Haven police officers.”

Details from the Internal Affairs report depict a chaotic scene when Cox was removed from the police vehicle after his arrest. The report documents the officers’ use of improper force to remove Cox, who was visibly injured at the time, from the vehicle. In statements given to the investigators, officers stated that they believed that Cox was intoxicated despite having no definitive proof of this.

The five officers involved in the investigation have been charged with misdemeanors for their role in paralyzing Cox, though his family and attorneys have decried those charges as inadequate.

The New Haven Board of Police Commissioners will hear the case in late April and will make a final recommendation on the employment of Officers Oscar Diaz, Jocelyn Lavandier and Luis Rivera and Sergeant Betsy Segui. Ronald Pressley, the fifth officer involved in the incident, voluntarily retired before the investigation finished.

**Inside the report**

The 70-page report details the timeline of events leading up to the collision that paralyzed Cox, as well

as his mistreatment by officers once he arrived at the NHPD Detention Center. It also includes summaries of the interviews of the officers by investigators, and ends by detailing the litany of laws and department policies that were violated during Cox’s time in custody.

The first breach of department policy that the report notes was by Diaz, the officer who was driving the van and paralyzed Cox when he stopped suddenly to avoid a collision. Diaz failed to call medical personnel to the scene of the accident and instead directed the ambulance to the detention center, delaying immediate care for Cox.

Once Cox arrived at the detention center, the report faults the officers for acting without “compassion” or “remorse” when Cox told them he was injured. The report lays out numerous instances where officers discounted Cox’s pleas for help, claiming that Cox “was drunk” and “faking it.”

Lavandier, one of the officers who received Cox at the detention center, stated in her interview that she dragged his limp body across the floor into a cell. She explained her behavior by stating that “they thought he was highly intoxicated, faking, or just exaggerating.”

The report also highlights Segui’s misconduct throughout the incident. As a sergeant, Segui was in charge of supervising the other officers’ behavior at the detention center. She did not wear her body camera during the incident.

Segui also lied to investigators about the sequence of events, according to the report. During her first interview with Internal Affairs, Segui told investigators that she had not heard radio transmissions from Diaz calling for an ambulance. But in a Word document obtained by investigators titled “Randy Cox” which Segui began writing the day after the incident at the request of the Sergeant

on duty, she wrote that she did hear the transmissions.

Segui initially told investigators that she did not know why her Body Worn Camera did not have footage, but later said she left it behind because she was rushing to the scene after seeing lights and hearing sirens. Diaz’s body camera footage shows that there were no sirens. The report cites her for misleading investigators with changed testimony on her Body Worn Camera.

The report also highlighted violations of the code of conduct by two additional police officers who were not arrested and had not previously been held at fault.

Sergeant Steven Spofford, the supervisor in charge of Cox’s arrest, was found in violation of department policy for failing to hear or react to Diaz’s radio transmission where he describes Cox’s injury.

In a previously unreported incident, Officer Roberto Ortiz, who was working in the booking area of the detention center, was recorded on camera telling Cox to “man the fuck up” while he was being placed on a stretcher by EMTs. Ortiz also violated department policy by failing to wear a body camera.

**Community reacts**

E. Gregory Cerritelli, Segui’s lawyer, wrote to the News that he was “not surprised” by the police chief’s recommendation of termination. He noted that the department has changed 50 policies since the June 19 incident and argued that the officers are being made “scapegoats.”

“I fully expect these officers to be fired,” Gerrielli wrote to the News. “There is no due process at this stage of the proceedings and the entire process lacks fundamental fairness. It is obvious to even a casual observer that these officers are being used as scapegoats for a department that had, and has, woefully inadequate training and policies.”

Jacobson told the News that offi-

cers were called in to interview with Internal Affairs and legal counsel during the process and also had one-on-one conversations with Jacobson.

According to Evelise Robero, the chair of the Board of Police Commissioners, the officers will be able to defend themselves during the public hearings slated for late April. They will also receive a minimum of a 28-day notice before the hearing takes place and can opt to make any part of the proceedings private.

Jorge Camacho, policy director of the justice collaboratory at Yale Law School, said the officers would likely fight the disciplinary action, since negative action from the police department could be used against officers during a pending criminal trial.

“I anticipate that we may see some pushback from the officers themselves or their lawyers who try to contest the firing,” Camacho told the News. “So I imagine that as part of their overall defense strategy, they’ll contest any adverse findings of any kind, including administrative findings of wrongdoing within the department.”

The five officers involved have all been charged with two misdemeanors: reckless endangerment in the second degree and cruelty to person. They were arrested on Nov. 28 and released on \$25,000 bonds. They have all pleaded not guilty to the charges, with their criminal trial still ongoing.

NAACP Connecticut President Scot X. Esdaile, who has helped represent the Cox family, told the News that the recommendation is a “move in the right direction,” but he also questioned why it took nine months for the recommendation to be made.

“When the Tyre Nichols investigation was expedited, it took 20 days,” Esdaile told the News. “This recommendation has taken nine months. Our ancestors taught us that justice delayed is justice denied, and we hope and pray that the New Haven Board of Police Commissioners does the right thing

and makes sure that Randy Cox and his family receives justice now!”

Jacobson told the News that the city was not able to move as quickly as the Nichols investigation or others because of parameters set by the current police contract and the current city charter. Camacho further explained that the nine month period was “normal” for a case with heavy media coverage considering the process that must be followed in an IA investigation.

Mayoral candidate Liam Brennan told the News that while the decision to fire was a positive step, the amount of time taken for the report to be written was representative of a city administration which “remains out of fresh ideas” with “no appetite to innovate for New Haven’s public safety.”

Brennan, who serves as the inspector general of Hartford’s civilian review board, has previously criticized Elicker and the city’s Civilian Review Board — a board empowered by the city’s charter to investigate complaints of police misconduct — for not acting forcefully enough against malfeasance.

“Chief Jacobson’s decision to recommend firing the officers involved in paralyzing Randy Cox is the right move, but it also comes much delayed,” Brennan told News. “The terrible events surrounding Randy Cox’s injuries should be a cause for a full-scale reevaluation of how we conduct policing in New Haven. Instead, City Hall remains out of fresh ideas with an unsupported Civilian Review Board and no appetite to innovate New Haven’s approach to public safety.”

Cox has also sued the city for \$100 million dollars for violating his civil rights, with the lawsuit ongoing.

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# FROM THE FRONT

*“Always it’s spring and everyone’s in love and flowers pick themselves.”*  
E.E. CUMMINGS AMERICAN POET AND PAINTER

## Yale accepts 4.35 percent of applicants, marking lowest acceptance rate in history

ADMISSIONS FROM PAGE 1

According to the admissions office, the target size for the first-year class has rested between 1,550 and 1,575 students since the new residential colleges — Pauli Murray and Benjamin Franklin Colleges — opened in 2017. This year’s class of admitted students will be invited to Yale’s campus for Bulldog Days, a program that showcases academic and extracurricular life on campus, from April 24 to 26. Students admitted in the early action round who were unable

to travel to campus for Bulldog Days also had the option of participating in this year’s inaugural “Yalies for a Day” program on one of four days in February. There will be four additional “Yalie for a Day” programs on one of four days early next month for students admitted on Thursday evening. “The Yale community does an extraordinary job opening its arms to admitted students every spring,” Senior Associate Director for Outreach and Recruitment Mark Dunn said in Thursday’s

announcement. “I believe Yale’s greatest asset is its people, and my top priority in the month of April is connecting admitted students with the undergraduates, faculty, and staff who make Yale so special.” The admissions office extends travel grants to low-income students interested in participating in Bulldog Days. Last year, more than 500 admitted students received such funding. The admissions office’s Recruitment Coordinators, who are current Yalie student employees, are also running a program called “Prefrosh

Advisors.” Admitted students who opt into the program are matched to one of over 240 current Yalies who host Zooms or FaceTimes to answer questions from new admits. “I heard recently from a Prefrosh Advisor majoring in music that he has been helping his music-interested students navigate their college options for music programs, while sharing his experience as part of our music department and student performance groups here,” Assistant Director of Admissions Marty Chandler ’21 told the News. “These are exactly the conversations our team hoped would come

from the program, and we’re excited to have RD admitted students join us soon as well.” Newly-admitted students who choose to join the class of 2027 will be joined by an additional 54 students who were originally admitted to the class of 2026 — the current first-year class — but chose to postpone their matriculation for one year. Admitted students are required to matriculate by May 1.

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MURRAY FROM PAGE 1

sex-based discrimination in the 1970s, according to the Los Angeles Times. Murray wrote about and struggled with their gender identity during a time period in which words like “transgender” and “nonbinary” were not widely known. In one of their journals, Murray questioned whether they were “one of nature’s experiments; a girl who should have been a boy.” Murray also spoke with medical professionals about what they personally called “an inverted sex instinct” and sought out specific medical professionals who would agree to give them testosterone.

Based on their writings, some gender studies scholars think that had they been living today, Murray may have identified as a transgender man. However, Murray did not explicitly identify as nonbinary or transgender — perhaps due to the obscurity of these terms at the time. Some activists and historians have encouraged the use of gender-neutral or varied pronoun sets for Murray in an effort to recognize their gender journey, while others continue to use she/her pronouns to maintain the same language Murray used for themself. Incoming Murray First Year Counselor MeiLan Haberl ’25 said

it is “inspirational” to see Murray depicted as a young adult. “[Lu] highlighted the significance of [the mural] being a monument to a queer person of color, which is not necessarily the person who ends up in oil paintings at Yale,” Haberl told the News. “But I love what she said about Pauli being our age in this and dreaming of monumental things and really wanting to leave a mark [because] then that can be something for us to look forward to and move toward in the future.” Fellow incoming FroCo Aaron Weiser ’24 expressed similar sentiments to Haberl, noting in particular that it will be “beau-

tiful” for the incoming class of 2027 to look up at it every day. Thomas’ works often depict Black women and celebrities through mediums like acrylic, enamel and rhinestones, according to Artnet. Her pieces reflect themes such as femininity, race, beauty and childhood, and she is known for painting the first individual portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama. When looking at her mural, Thomas says she is most struck by feelings of “possibility.” “When you look at the mural and you see Pauli’s gaze and the direction that she’s looking toward, [it’s] the future,” Thomas told the News. “She’s

looking beyond, and she’s looking toward hope. So I think the possibility that it’s possible to do whatever it is you set your mind to [is] the emotion that I feel that is visualized.” Some of Thomas’ other pieces can be found in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Smithsonian Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C. and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Contact  
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## Elicker bulldozes Ella T. Grasso Boulevard tent city



The tent city survived an inspection in early March after the city notified people staying there that residents could not have open burn pits and were required to clean up trash and dismantle any permanent structure. /Courtesy of Sam Taylor

BULLDOZE FROM PAGE 1

them a bed to sleep in before the removal order. Tensions high between tent city and officials before eviction. Victor, the tent city’s de facto “mayor” whose last name has been withheld to protect his privacy, said he organized food distribution and held meetings to unify the community in his two years living there. Despite the tent city’s dwindling numbers this winter, Victor said he was grateful for the many “good people” that came through the community. “I usually try to keep everyone united and make sure that everyone does their part to clean up,” he said. “Hopefully, I pray to God, I will be out of here soon.” The tent city survived an inspection in early March after the city notified people staying there that residents could not have open burn pits and were required to clean up trash and dismantle any permanent structure. However, when the fire inspector and other city officials returned after the inspection, they found new evidence of burn pits, trash and construction of a permanent shower. On March 10, the city of New Haven provided a notice to the residents that they had a week to vacate. Protesters against the order gathered at the site on March 15.

The removal notice said that residents must leave by March 15 at 1 p.m. As police did not arrive at the camp at 1 p.m., activists moved to the City Hall by 2 p.m. Mark Colville, a resident of the neighborhood, told the News that the New Haven officials refused to provide him with the time when the camp would be destroyed. Colville said he felt obliged to support its residents, many of whom he knew personally. He framed the eviction of the camp in terms of human rights. He said the city was violating the right to housing of those individuals, as well as the rights to privacy and autonomy, by requiring them to “institutionalize themselves.” Billy Bromage — an advocate for unhoused people who works at the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health — also told the News about the need for the city to designate a place where people could stay and run it by themselves as long as they are following the law. During the protest at City Hall, Bromage stated that unhoused people needed a place to stay beyond shelters and pointed to the lack of available housing in the city. “Instead of always telling them ‘you have to shut down fire,’ [the city] could say ‘we can help you figure out how to make a fire’ or have facilities for people,” Bromage said.

Tenant organizer Francesca Maviglia said that instead of evicting camp residents due to “safety reasons,” the city should have focused on improving the living conditions and eliminating safety hazards for tenants. Mayor Elicker told the News that his administration worked

with residents to ensure that they had a place to stay. Five residents have relocated to another tent city, two have moved to a shelter, one returned to live with their mother in Florida and another has moved with their tent to another part of the city. Pullen, a camp resident, told the News he was treated unfairly by the city. “I am not comfortable living in those environments,” Pullen said of shelters. “A lot of people would rather be in shelters, but ... it’s not a fix for everyone.” He added that he believes there should be a designated place with drinking water and charging stations where “people can get back on their feet.” Pullen said he did not wait to be evicted by the police and packed his tent and belongings to move to another unspecified location.

**Colville’s arrest** On March 16, dozens of officers gathered early in the morning and forcibly removed the three remaining individuals, also arresting Colville who had pitched a tent at the site to protest. Coville has been charged by State’s Attorney John P. Doyle with criminal trespass in the first degree which is a class A misdemeanor charge carrying up

to one year in prison and a maximum fine of \$2,000. His first court date was on March 24. Advocates for Colville gathered outside of the New Haven courthouse to protest the arrest and removal. In his court appearance, Coville declared his intent to represent himself with standby counsel and urged Doyle and the city to not drop the charge. Elicker told the News that he believes that the State’s Attorney should not pursue charges against Colville. Colville explained that he wishes for the charges to not be dropped to force city officials to testify in public about the city’s housing crisis. “Since I was subjected to the indignity of arrest, I really would appreciate the opportunity to answer the charges in court,” Colville said in the courtroom. “Discussing [the eviction] in court would be very good for my neighborhood. ... the city should be made to justify their actions.” Currently, 30,000 families are on a waiting list for affordable housing in New Haven.

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However, when the fire inspector and other city officials returned after the inspection, they found new evidence of burn pits, trash and construction of a permanent shower. /Courtesy of Sam Taylor



# Yale extends test-optional policy for 2023-24 admissions cycle

**ANIKA SETH**  
STAFF REPORTER

Yale has extended its test-optional policy for one additional year, a policy which will apply to applicants seeking admission to the class of 2028.

The University intends to make a long-term decision on whether it will return to its pre-pandemic policy of requiring applicants to submit their standardized test scores next winter. The undergraduate admissions office told the News earlier this year that it would announce its new testing policy during the winter of 2023, so the temporary extension of the test-optional policy pushes their target timeframe back a year.

“All applicants for undergraduate admission for fall 2024 enrollment may apply with or without ACT or SAT scores,” the admissions website now reads. “The admissions office plans to announce a long-term policy on standardized testing in winter 2024. The decision will be informed by the data and insights generated from the most recent admissions cycles.”

The University announced its decision about the upcoming admissions cycle on March 8, according to Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Jeremiah Quinlan. The admissions office hopes to use the additional data gathered next cycle to help inform a long-term approach to mandatory test score submission.

The Supreme Court is also expected to rule on the future

of affirmative action this spring, which may play a role in the University’s long-term approach to testing.

Prior to extending the test-optional model, Quinlan held a “series of meetings” with University decision-makers, including the Office of Institutional Research, the faculty committee on admissions and financial aid and other University leaders.

“In these meetings, we discussed the merits of several proposals for long-term testing policies and gathered some very valuable insights that will shape our decision-making going forward,” Quinlan told the News.

This will be the fourth consecutive admissions cycle in which Yale employs a test-optional admissions model. The University first implemented this change during the COVID-19 pandemic, for students seeking admission to the class of 2025, and has since repeatedly renewed it for a year at a time in each subsequent cycle.

The University extended this approach through the 2022-2023 cycle last February. At the time, Quinlan told the News that the admissions office aimed to use data gathered from three test-optional admissions cycles to make a long-term policy choice by the winter of 2023. Last month, they then delayed this timeline to this spring.

“I know this is not what we had discussed when you wrote about the topic back in January,” Director of Outreach and Recruitment Mark Dunn wrote in an email to the News. “We



SURBHI BHARADWAJ/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Yale’s undergraduate admissions office will announce its long-term testing policy next winter.

don’t have much new to say beyond the fact that we felt that the value of gathering an additional year’s worth of data outweighed the value of finalizing a long-term policy ... We hope that we can finalize a long-term policy by winter 2024, and recognize that many younger students and college counselors are eager for Yale to arrive on something that extends for more than a year at a time.”

In April of 2021, the News reported that test-optional poli-

cies are one factor that has led to the record-setting spike in applicants to the classes of 2025, 2026 and 2027. The admissions office does not draw conclusive causal relationships between specific policy changes and applicant pool demographics. However, over the last three cycles, the test-optional approach has been linked to a general increase in international applicants – who often face greater barriers to testing – and to greater racial diversity in the overall pool.

“Because of this experience [of the past three years], we feel confident in saying that we can operate the admissions process with a test-optional policy,” Quinlan told the News when the office delayed its projected decision date to winter 2023. “The question we are now grappling with is whether we should.”

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

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# Students call for Tagalog language credit

**BY WILLIAM PORAYOUW**  
STAFF REPORTER

At Yale, there are no courses in Tagalog, the fourth-most spoken language in the United States.

Last week, Harvard University announced that it would fund a full-time instructor to teach Tagalog, the native language of the Philippines, for the 2023-2024 school year. Cur-

rently, Yale only offers Tagalog through the direct language study program, where administrators coordinate for a native speaker to offer students instruction in a language not otherwise offered at Yale. Students interested in Tagalog at Yale raised concern that the DILS program lacks the financial and staff resources necessary to truly support a formal path of study in the language, and advocated for Yale to offer formal courses in the Southeast Asian language.

“It is disappointing that there are no dedicated Tagalog courses at Yale,” Ava Estacio-Touhey ’25, who serves as president of the

campus Filipino student club Kasama, told the News. “Filipinos make up one of the largest Southeast Asian diasporic communities at Yale and have for decades.”

According to Estacio-Touhey, Tagalog is a “language of resistance and resilience that has survived hundreds of years of colonization and militarisation.” To learn Tagalog, she said, is to honor those values, which is

important to members of diasporic communities as well as those interested in sharing in their language and culture.

Filipino American student Resty Fufunan ’24 said that while there are many languages spoken in the Filipino diaspora, Tagalog is a “language of power” which is used by many Filipinos to communicate with elders as well as their families. While he said he would like to also see less prominent dialects being offered in educational settings, he encouraged Filipino youth to learn Tagalog.

Bienn Viquiera ’24, who identifies as Filipino American, told the News that his Filipino heri-

tage is a large aspect of his identity. When he moved to the United States in 2011, he did not speak English as well as those around him, and the desire to blend in with his peers made him want to avoid speaking Tagalog.

Nevertheless, Viquiera said that as he got older, his attitude toward the language changed. Now, he said that Tagalog has helped him come to terms with his identity as

the Filipino community in the United States.

Fufunan told the News that his friends who attend west coast colleges and universities generally have greater access to Tagalog language courses, while schools on the east coast lag behind. While he supports the effort to increase access to Tagalog classes at Yale, he also noted that there are fewer Filipinos in the eastern parts of the

United States.

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ners through the DILS program.

But not all students who have studied Tagalog through the DILS program feel as though it has been academically satisfying. Estacio-Touhey told the News that while she enjoyed her experience with DILS, it would “never amount to a proper language course” because it does not have the same level of financial support and resources.

Harms emphasized that when it comes to offering Tagalog, the “simple issue is budgetary.” But he added that since joining the Yale faculty, he has not been aware of a single formal conversation over the consideration of Tagalog as an official Yale language course. Still, in the 15 years Harms has worked at Yale, he said the University has not seen the “upsurge” in student interest in the language which he believes could turn administrators’ heads.

Jorge Espada, who serves as associate director of Southeast Asian Programs at Harvard’s Asia Center, told the News that the center received committed funding from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to offer Tagalog courses for three years. Espada said that an “active Filipino student community at Harvard” as well as connections with the service-oriented Harvard Philippine Forum encouraged administrators to pursue funding for the language.

“It reinforced the fact that Tagalog was one of the languages that we wanted to focus on first,” Espada said.

According to Espada, the money to fund Tagalog at Harvard comes exclusively from various gifts and endowments of the Asia Center, and that with the guaranteed financial support, there would be “no risk of money running out and in the language not being offered.”

Espada said that he imagined that for most institutions, a financial obstacle is often what prevents such courses from being offered. He added that there may be administrative challenges associated with offering new language courses, and one has to “make sure that there’s enough staff to support the increase in instruction.” Espada added that the search for the new course instructors is still ongoing.

Kasama, the Yale student group dedicated to Filipino culture, was founded in 1989.

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ZOE BERG/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

As Harvard introduces its first Tagalog instructor, students at Yale with Filipino ancestry advocated for institutional support of the Southeast Asian language at Yale.

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Bienn Viquiera ’24, who identifies as Filipino American, told the News that his Filipino heri-

a Filipino, and he is “very proud” to know the language.

Fufunan also discussed balancing his native tongue with English while growing up in the United States.

“I think Filipinos in the diaspora have a tendency to not teach their children their native tongues, whether it be Tagalog or other languages,” Fufunan told the News. “I know growing up, my parents encouraged me to speak English to navigate society as an immigrant.”

Viquiera said that teaching Tagalog at a university such as Yale offers students a chance to learn the language of the Philippines, which can bring more attention to Filipino culture and

United States, which could lead to less demand for the language to be taught. Eight of the top 10 metropolitan areas by Filipino population in the United States are located on the west coast.

Professor Erik Harms, who serves as chair of the Council on Southeast Asian Studies, said that he thought that the development at Harvard was “great news.”

“If the Yale administration was enthusiastic about supporting the teaching of Tagalog, we would be open to that conversation and trying to find a way to make that possible,” Harms said.

He added that for now, students interested in Tagalog at Yale have to find independent study part-

ners through the DILS program.

But not all students who have studied Tagalog through the DILS program feel as though it has been academically satisfying. Estacio-Touhey told the News that while she enjoyed her experience with DILS, it would “never amount to a proper language course” because it does not have the same level of financial support and resources.

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According to Espada, the money to fund Tagalog at Harvard comes exclusively from various gifts and endowments of the Asia Center, and that with the guaranteed financial support, there would be “no risk of money running out and in the language not being offered.”

Espada said that he imagined that for most institutions, a financial obstacle is often what prevents such courses from being offered. He added that there may be administrative challenges associated with offering new language courses, and one has to “make sure that there’s enough staff to support the increase in instruction.” Espada added that the search for the new course instructors is still ongoing.

Kasama, the Yale student group dedicated to Filipino culture, was founded in 1989.

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“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep Spring from coming.”  
PABLO NERUDA CHILEAN POET-DIPLOMAT AND POLITICIAN

# Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz launches 22-state reproductive caucus

BY YASH ROY  
STAFF REPORTER

With access to Mifepristone — a medication that is used in roughly 50 percent of abortions — on the line in a Texas lawsuit, Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz has formed a 22-state coalition as a “fire-wall” for reproductive rights.

Launched on Monday at the State Capitol, the Reproductive Freedom Coalition consists of lieutenant governors who represent 165 million people in total. The coalition will serve as a space for state leaders to share executive orders, legislative ideas and legal strategy after the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* through the *Dobbs* decision. The group is inspired by Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont and other governors launching a similar reproductive coalition in February.

“Each of our states has individually advocated for impactful and innovative legislation to protect and expand access to women’s health care, and this coalition will work together to share best practices, and fight together against those wishing to restrict access to essential care,” Bysiewicz told the News. “We have many female lieutenant governors, and I thought that we should use our platform to amplify that effort and try to further expand and protect women’s reproductive rights.”

According to Bysiewicz, an important component of the coalition will be sharing legislative strategy between states. Most lieutenant governors, she explained, serve as the presidents of their state senates and thus have a crucial legislative role in their respective states.

Bysiewicz told the News that she looks forward to working with leaders in Connecticut and across the country to implement stronger protections in the state after the passage of the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act, which codified and expanded access to abortion in Connecticut.

“Most of these states are Democratic states that pass legislation that we can look at and mirror to strengthen our own reproductive freedoms,” Bysiewicz told the News. “I think there’s a real sense of urgency and I know the other lieutenant governors who join me also share the urgency.”

Connecticut’s legislature is currently debating legislation



COURTESY OF SAM TAYLOR

Bysiewicz and other lieutenant governors plan on sharing legislative and executive proposals to protect reproductive rights.

that would expand access to abortion care by creating vending machines for abortion pills on college campuses, expanding the state’s Medicaid program to fully cover abortions and protecting Connecticut doctors from out-of-state legal action from anti-choice areas.

Connecticut is also debating legislation proposed by State Treasurer Erick Russell and State Reps. Jillian Gilchrest and Matt Blumenthal to create a fund that would pay for transportation and living expenses of any pregnant people living in anti-choice states who travel to Connecticut for an abortion.

“Since the *Dobbs* decision we’ve seen about a 30 percent increase in patients coming from states that have banned abortion,” Gretchen Raffa, vice president of public policy, advocacy and organizing at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, told the

News. “We think that that number is going to continue to go up because the reality is, as our neighboring states become kind of the go to for people that are traveling from the states that have banned abortion.”

Bysiewicz told the News that she has also been working with the lieutenant governor of Delaware, Bethany Hall-Long, on the state’s recent push to codify the right to abortion in the state’s constitution. While the state’s legislative Reproductive Caucus is currently not planning on pushing for a similar amendment in Connecticut, Bysiewicz believes that it is an important area to study in the future.

The creation of the coalition also comes as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Texas hears a case from anti-choice groups who hope to restrict access to Mifepristone. Bysiewicz told the News

that the lieutenant governors have been working to create safeguards in their respective states in case the Fifth District revokes FDA approval for the drug.

In Connecticut, Lamont, Bysiewicz and Attorney General William Tong are working to create legal backstops to protect access to the drug as well as ensure continued access to other safe methods of abortion.

The reproductive coalition will meet regularly over Zoom and has already held briefings with the national Planned Parenthood about the Mifepristone lawsuit. According to Bysiewicz, the lieutenant governors have begun trading policy briefs between their staffs about legislative and executive policy that can be enacted on the state level.

The group also plans on working with federal legislative and

executive leaders to help increase healthcare funding to states and protect access to reproductive medication like Mifepristone if the Texas lawsuit results in the revocation of FDA approval for the drug.

“It is paramount that state leaders work together to ensure that women have the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions,” Delaware Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long wrote to the News. “The Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* was an offense to all women. We must lead by example in every State to ensure reproductive rights for women.”

Three Yale Law School alumni voted to overturn access to abortion on the federal level in June.

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# Yale-based hiring initiative hosts Employment Readiness series for New Haveners

BY MEGAN VAZ  
STAFF REPORTER

Several New Haveners gathered at Dixwell Community House, or Q House, on March 27 for a presentation on open job positions at the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center.

Since November 2022, the Yale-managed New Haven Hiring Initiative has hosted several employers seeking to hire local residents as part of its inaugural Career Readiness series. During each session, hiring recruiters and managers share a variety of application resources with attendees such as resume and cover letter tips, apprenticeship programs, information on ideal qualifications for candidates and descriptions of position responsibilities in their respective workplaces.

During Monday’s meeting, the Cornell Scott-Hill Center — which serves nearly 50,000 residents in the Greater New Haven area and nearby areas — stated that it aims to make primary and behavioral health care services accessible to the region’s diverse population.

“They know about Cornell Scott, but then they’ll come here for appointments — they don’t know that they can work for us, too,” Cornell Scott-Hill Human Resources Manager Cheryl Garner said at the session. “We’re a community-based health organization, where our board of directors is comprised of community members. We want to see people that we’re serving be a part of our force.”

The session shared information on the Center’s mission and open human resources

positions for Complex Care Management care coordinators and call center customer service representatives.

Garner first spoke about the educational backgrounds, experience levels and skills required for each position. She also walked attendees through the hiring process from the perspective of recruiters and hiring managers at the Center, listing specific components of an application that are given the most consideration.

Before recommending candidates to hiring managers, recruiters look for proper spelling and grammar on application materials and want to ensure an applicant is “not a job hopper,” according to Garner. Before determining whether to interview or reject a candidate, hiring managers often consider whether they possess skills like bilingualism and high levels of relevant experience.

“It’s helping you find a job and actually be able to find something that fits your experience,” attendee Tanikki James told the News after learning about the consideration process. “And it’s also good to be able to rub elbows with people that you could possibly be working for.”

James, who shared that she will “absolutely” apply for an human resources position at Cornell Scott-Hill, has also attended other series events and found a recent session led by Albertus Magnus College’s Career Services office particularly helpful.

Prior sessions in the Employment Readiness series have included employers such as Yale Library Collection Services and



DANIEL ZHAO / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

This week’s job presentation, led by the Cornell Scott Hill Center, was the latest installment in a series of employment information sessions.

Operations, Yale Hospitality and Yale-New Haven Hospital. Yale Security most recently presented several position openings on March 13.

Jeffrey Moore, who works at the employment assistance program Workforce Alliance, attended Monday’s session and several previous events in search of opportunities for his clients. He lauded the NHHI’s new pro-

gram and Cornell Scott-Hill’s efforts to make employment more accessible to the community it serves.

“They’re looking to take care of our community by offering job opportunities that a lot of people wouldn’t be able to access by themselves,” Moore said. “It’s great, because now we know that there’s different opportunities that are available

all over the city. And they’re looking to grow the talent here locally, in New Haven.”

On March 30, the NHHI will host a community conversation with Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Program, a college preparatory program for local high schoolers.

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# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Yale study investigates ecological impact of mussels on coastal marshlands

BY HANWEN ZHANG  
STAFF REPORTER

Some of nature’s fiercest filter-feeders might also be its unlikely landscape engineers. A study published last month by researchers at the Yale Carbon Containment Lab and the University of Florida quantified the ecological impact of ribbed mussels on coastal marsh wetlands. One of the first of its kind, the project found that these mollusks crucially maintain marsh bed levels by depositing sediment into the water.

“Mussels are playing a critical role in helping maintain the stability of these wetlands,” Christine Angelini, professor at the University of Florida and member of the study, told the news.

The research — a yearslong culmination of fieldwork — quantified the impact of mussels on a variety of experimental levels. The team hypothesized that mussel mounds were the greatest source of the sediment deposition in the marsh, finding that when selectively sampled in marshes, mussel mounds drove “two to 10 times more sediment deposition than any other area type,” explained Sinead Crotty, associate director at the Yale Carbon Containment Lab.

Mussels’ abilities to excrete extraordinary amounts of sediment is a side-product of their filter-feeding habits. As mussels sieve through the water, they draw out suspended particles in the water column. According to Crotty, the particles that don’t reach their gut end up mingling with mucus to create “pseudofeces” — dense, nutrient-rich sediment that often settles in the marsh bed and provides habitats for a wide range of aquatic creatures.

The mussels’ large role in sediment deposition was a theme that repeated itself at every ecological scale. The team conducted a battery of other experiments — fluorescently tagging mussel pseudofeces, running mathematical models and even transferring roughly 200,000 mussels by

hand from one marsh to the other — finding their hypothesis confirmed time and again.

For Crotty, the mussels’ significance was clear. Not only did the pseudo feces “spread” across the marsh, she explained, but they substantially increased baseline soil levels. The most “surprising result” was the extent of the changes in elevation: the creek to which they transported the thousands of mussels had seen a 0.4-centimeter increase in ground level per year, while the site of removal sank by one centimeter over the same time.

“We found this critical link where the mussels, by filter feeding and then depositing sediments ... can really enhance the deposition onto the salt marsh and help them gain sediment at a quicker pace,” said Hallie Fischman, PhD student at the University of Florida.

The ecological importance of these bivalves will only increase as sea levels continue to rise. Wetlands can store up to 1,940 pounds of carbon per acre each year, and yet figure among the most vulnerable ecosystems to flooding. Crotty and Angelini noted that marshes currently comprise about 750,000 acres of the South Atlantic Bight, with the ribbed mussel occupying anywhere from “0.1 to about 10 percent of the landscape.” These “critical interactions” between mussels and their marsh habitats will likely dictate whether “[the marshes] keep their heads above water or drown.”

Angelini also cited the study as one of the first to credit fauna with the ability to shape their environment. Most existing research on coastal wetlands has only investigated the relationship between plants, water flow and sediment accumulation. The experiment’s results add to proof that animals are driving ecosystem responses to changing environmental conditions.

Crotty added that mussel sediment accretion isn’t the only instance of “rapid” animal-led ecosystem engineering. Marsh crabs, for instance, have been known to migrate into wetland ponds that have



TIM TAI/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Research in partnership with the Yale Carbon Containment Lab has evaluated the impact of mussels on stemming sea level increases.

been overtaken by floods. By consuming wetland grass and mud, they also “increase [the pond’s] capacity to drain the platform.”

“What we’re seeing is ... that more innocuous species that were historically just components of the community are emerging in new roles and helping systems to adapt to climate change,” Crotty said. “We ... suggest that folks studying these other ecosystems be aware of this and identify those animals ... and incorporate them into ... management goals.”

Crotty expects to improve model predictions across future studies. The current model accounts only for the direct effects of sediment accretion, and Crotty looks forward to including their indirect consequences for a more comprehensive understanding.

But for a creature as versatile as the ribbed mussel, their contributions to sediment accretion might still just be the tip of the iceberg. Fischman’s current research seeks to study the role of mussels in nitrogen

cycling, in which they pull nitrogenous materials out of the water column and release it as nitrogen gas. Angelini expressed a similar interest in measuring their effect on water quality and profiling the composition of their filtered material.

The Yale Carbon Containment lab was launched in January 2020 under the Yale School of the Environment.

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## Researchers emphasize equitable approach to combating cholera

BY DAVID T. ZHU  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Assistant professor of computer science Cholera is an acute diarrheal disease caused by ingesting *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria through contaminated food and water sources, and can become fatal when patients are severely dehydrated and left untreated.

Traditionally, only two manufacturers, Shantha Biotechnics and EuBiologics, have been responsible for the world’s entire emergency stockpile of oral cholera vaccines, or OCVs. However, the former has recently ceased its production of OCVs, further restricting the sparse global supply chain and accelerating the resurgence of cholera worldwide.

“The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that we need to build vaccine infrastructure in many more countries—it cannot just be the U.S., India and a handful of others that we rely on to provide [cholera] vaccines,” said Kaveh Khoshnood, an associate professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health.

Destructive social and health consequences of a pandemic tend to fall disproportionately upon the world’s most vulnerable and underserved communities. Researchers say many of these communities also face intersecting political or humanitarian crises, creating unique challenges tied to the social environment like displacement, economic instability and limited access to healthcare resources.

“There is humanitarian complexity related to [pandemics], which I think deserves more attention and lessons learned,” Khoshnood said.

Khoshnood believes more granular and local methodology may therefore be necessary, as a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach does not suffice when it comes to global health. This locally-based

approach is supported by research evaluating the global response to COVID-19, among other global health crises.

### A response to cholera

According to a review in *Social Science & Medicine*, there is a need for international organizations such as the World Health Organization to establish more consistent and robust funding agreements and partnerships with local manufacturers in cholera-endemic countries to meet the vaccination needs of their local populations.

Such “global-to-local partnerships” are promising strategies to facilitate crucial technology transfers with local scientists and vaccine manufacturers, as well as increasing investments into physical infrastructure — for example, local vaccine manufacturing facilities and distribution channels near cholera hotspots to strengthen the autonomy and capacity of low- and middle-income countries, or LMICs, to produce their own OCVs.

However, simply producing more vaccines in LMICs does not necessarily mean that they will fall into the hands of those most impacted by cholera outbreaks.

Jack Parham JGA ’23 and Marie-Fatima Hyacinthe SPH ’26, two graduate students involved with Yale’s Global Health Justice Partnership, suggest prioritizing the development of resilient social infrastructure for vulnerable and medically-underserved populations in tandem with expanding our vaccine supply. Political refugees, for example, need adequate roads and transportation systems to allow for OCVs to reach them, while climate refugees need not only OCVs but also shelters that are resilient to floods and other natural disasters to reduce their exposure to contaminated water. Prison populations also need pro-

tection from the dangers of overcrowding, which creates a breeding ground for cholera and other communicable diseases.

“The people that are most impacted [by cholera] are those with the least social resources,” Hyacinthe said.

Khoshnood emphasized that global-to-local partnerships should invest more into local organizations dedicated to advancing social justice and health equity for populations that are disproportionately impacted by cholera.

“This progress won’t happen overnight, but it’s doable ... it just requires investment,” Khoshnood said.

For instance, Haiti is currently experiencing one of its worst cholera outbreaks in history, fueled by political unrest and violence. Organizations like the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti and Health Through Walls are advocating for better living conditions and access to health services for those living in Haitian prisons and detention centers, which has reduced the burden of infectious diseases. Although promising, these local initiatives have limited funding and resources. Therein lies a call-to-action for international organizations to jump in and support local causes.

Ahmad Saleh SPH ’22, Ehsan Abualanain SPH ’22 and Madison Novosel SPH ’23 started a non-profit organization called MakeDeathsCount, driven to bridge gaps in mortality surveillance in settings that frequently lack official death records.

MakeDeathsCount trains local health workers and community members to conduct “verbal autopsies,” which typically involve interviewing the family members of recently deceased individuals to collect information



GRAPHIC BY ZOE BERG

Yale researchers called for an equitable approach to building vaccine infrastructure in cholera-endemic countries.

about their causes of death. Abualanain adds that they have newly gained interest in training local stakeholders to conduct “social autopsies,” which extends these verbal autopsies to inquire about the social determinants underpinning these deaths.

“The long-term benefits are that social autopsies will drive investments ... for example, mortality [from cholera] is more prev-

alent in low socioeconomic [settings], so they need more funding for prevention and treatment,” Abualanain explained.

The Global Health Justice Partnership, an initiative jointly led by the Yale School of Public Health and Yale Law School, was established in 2012.

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# Program in Judaic Studies to be renamed as Jewish Studies

**BY MIRANDA WOLLEN**  
STAFF REPORTER

The Judaic Studies major was introduced to Yale less than a decade ago as an interdisciplinary study of the histories, cultures and philosophies of Judaism and the Jewish diaspora.

Last fall, the program’s leaders moved to change its name.

“The major adopted in 2015 ... focuses not on texts and religion but on the broad experiences of Jews in many arenas, on multiple continents, over three millennia,” read a November 2022 proposal to update the program’s name to Jewish Studies.

Yale’s Judaic Studies major emerged in its first iteration in the 1970s. At the time, it focused primarily on the textual and philological aspects of Judaism as a religion, preparing students for rabbinical or graduate study.

But much has changed since then, and the modern Yale program is intended to be “multi-dimensional and multi-directional” rather than pre-professional. It

focuses on Jewish thought, cultural practices and histories rather than adopting a theological bent.

“Increasingly students are interested in the various ways in which Jewish identity has been constituted,” wrote Eliyahu Stern, director of undergraduate studies for the program. “Jewish Studies includes much of the meaning attached to the previous name, but emphasizes the social and global aspects of Jewish life.”

Members of the program researched the topic for roughly a year before proposing the name change, with purported goals of expanding the program and allowing it to take on a modern, interdisciplinary bend.

In fact, program leaders now encourage students to take on Judaic Studies as a secondary major, in combination with other various humanities and social sciences majors, in order to foster an interdisciplinary study of global Jewish historical and religious culture.

“The name change shows that Jewish studies at Yale has come of age,” wrote Paul Franks, professor of philosophy and Judaic stud-

ies and a committee member in the program. “It cements the central role of the Program in Jewish Studies within the university.”

Indeed, other modern programs follow a similar trend. The proposal listed a number of private universities, including five of the seven Ivy League Schools, which use the term “Jewish Studies” rather than “Judaic Studies.” Of the 23 American and Canadian universities and colleges surveyed, only six — Yale included — employ the latter moniker.

Stern noted that when the Judaic Studies program was first founded, most of its faculty and courses were associated with the Religious Studies Department.

“Over the last few years our faculty and course offerings have expanded and now includes those studying not only Ancient texts, but a wide range of Jewish communities, cultures, and literatures across space and time,” Stern continued.

Franks noted the impact of the institutional antisemitism which plagued Yale for much of the twentieth century.



TIM TAI / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

In response to a modernized major and curriculum, and in keeping with the majority of programs in the USA and Canada, the program will be renamed on July 1.

“It appears to have been thought at that time that the term “Jewish Studies” sounded “too Jewish” for Yale,” he explained. “This sort of move is no longer necessary or justifiable, and it is time for Yale to use the standard term.”

The program’s website was updated in November to reflect the “more diverse and inclusive notion of Jew-

ish Studies,” but the official change in name will not occur until the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

Yale’s Judaic Studies program is located at 320 York Street in the Humanities Quadrangle.

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# Law and Racial Justice Center to present symposium on prison life sentences

**BY BROOKLYN BRAUNER**  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

According to 2020 data by The Sentencing Project, more than 700 people are currently serving effective life sentences in Connecticut.

The Yale Law School’s Law and Racial Justice Center and The Visiting Room Project will present the Facing Life Symposium on March 30 and 31, discussing the ramifications of a life sentence without the possibility of parole, how advocates are working for change in Connecticut and Louisiana and what attendees can do for their incarcerated neighbors.

The two-day event will feature the voices of formerly and currently incarcerated people who were interviewed as part of The Visiting Room Project’s digital archive — the world’s largest collection of first-person testimonials from people serving a life sentence. The organization’s slogan reads, “each of us has the power to disrupt mass incarceration,” reflecting the core role of advocacy in the organization’s mission.

“Long sentences are pretty common today, but public conversations about what, if anything, they accomplish, are not,” Kayla Vinson ’11, executive director of the Law and Racial Justice Center, told the News.

She emphasized the importance of contemplating and analyzing the impact mass incarceration has on an individual and their family, in hopes of finding a way to “collectively chart our way to a different world.”

Before returning to New Haven, Vinson worked as a staff attorney in Montgomery, Alabama, where the majority of her clients served lengthy sentences with very minimal avenues of relief.

“The disconnect between what I knew about our clients as people and the conditions of their lives in prison was jarring,” Vinson wrote. “It is important to have conversations about the sheer scale of the carceral system, how many people get ensnared, and the percentage of our public resources devoted to the criminal legal system.”

Annie Nisenson, director of public programming of The Visiting Room Project, shared similar sentiments as she described the reasons for bringing the project to New Haven.

One of the project’s contributors, Jimmy Robinson, is a New Haven resident who finally made it home after 42 years of incarceration at Angola, a maximum-security prison in Louisiana. The organization continues to screen their testimonial videos and hold conversations in the hometown communities of the project’s contributors.

Ariane Lewis, program manager for storytelling at the Law and Racial Justice Center, commented

on the need to integrate such discussions into the New Haven community, bringing “the stories of the incarcerated out from the shadows.”

“It is virtually impossible to hear the voices of people locked away for the rest of their lives,” Nisenson wrote. “This calculated erasure robs the public of the opportunity to grasp the human toll of this historical and present-day catastrophe.”

As such, the goal of the symposium is to provide an opportunity for open and transparent dialogue surrounding incarceration and the criminal justice system at large.

However, the organization also stresses the scale of this endemic issue, utilizing quantitative data to reinforce their mission. According to statistics provided by The Visiting Room Project, the ‘life without parole’ population in the United States has more than quadrupled in the past three decades, totaling 55,000 people. Of this number, two-thirds are Black, Indigenous or other people of color.

“Life without parole is distinguished from other punishments by its sheer hopelessness,” states The Visiting Room Project’s website. “It is a sentence to die in prison; yet, despite its extreme nature, life without parole has been imposed with increasing frequency in the United States over the last four decades.”

Conversations on the reality of life sentences will be led by The Visiting Room Project’s co-creators Marcus Kondkar and Calvin Duncan at the symposium. Kondkar currently serves as the chair of the sociology department at Loyola University New Orleans, where he researches incarceration and sentencing patterns. Duncan is an expert in post-conviction law — after being wrongly convicted and sentenced to life without parole, he served 28 and a half years in Louisiana prisons before winning his freedom in 2011.

Additionally, many other contributors are scheduled to join the event, including Arthur Carter, Daryl Waters, Everett Offray and Jimmy Robinson. All four men were sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, and have since unexpectedly come home due to changes in their legal circumstances. Taken together, these panelists served more than 130 years in prison in total.

“Despite declining incarceration rates in the U.S.—still the highest in the world—the proportion of incarcerated people sentenced to die in prison has continued to grow and shows no sign of retreat,” Nisenson wrote.

Co-sponsors of the symposium include Freedom Reads, the Liman Center and the Afro-American Cultural Center.

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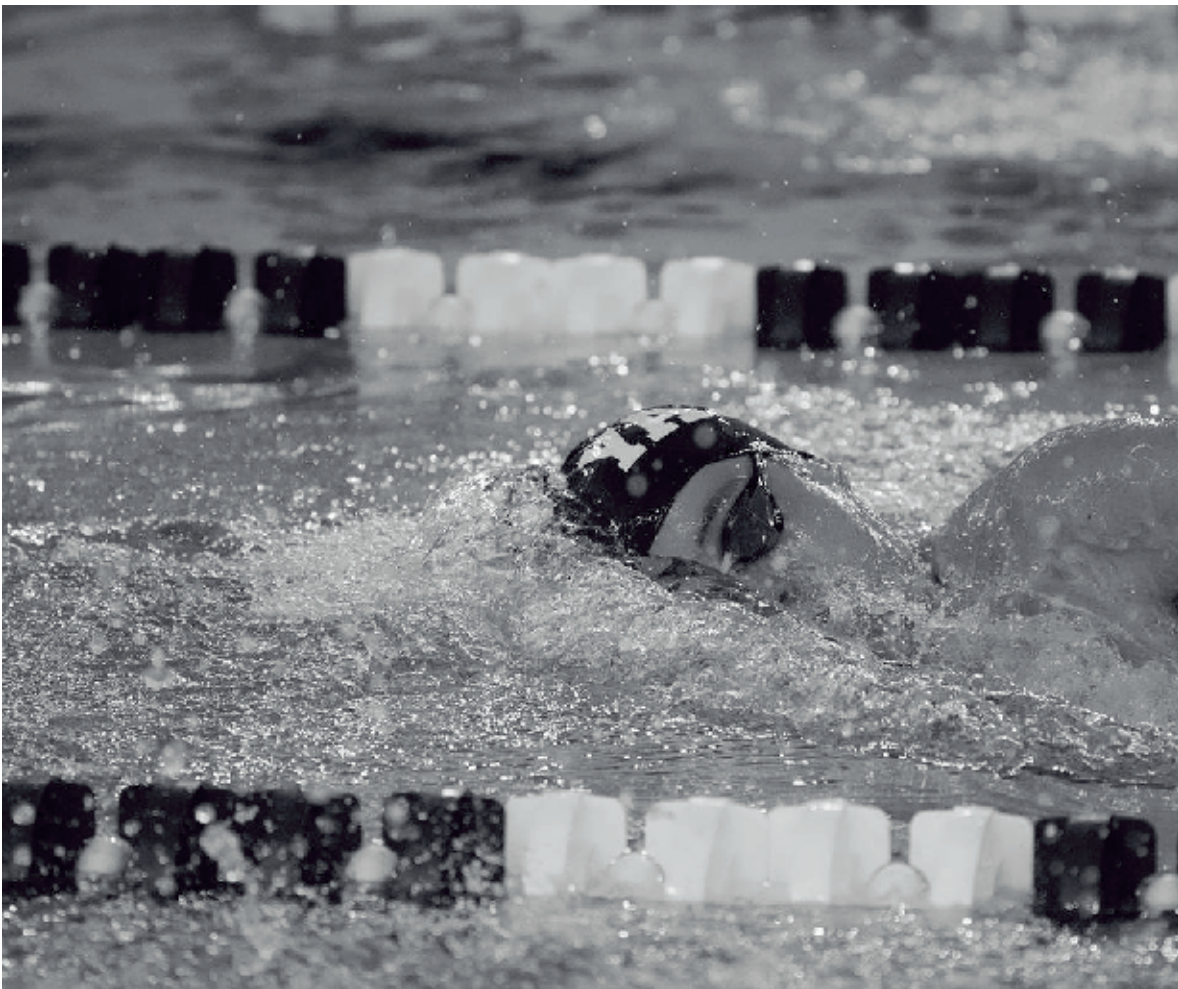
CHRISTIAN UNION



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

Valies' first time competing in NCAA



YALE ATHLETICS

Lee was a 2019 Philips National Championships and 2020 Olympic Trials qualifier.

SWIM FROM PAGE 14

“Just being there was such a privilege and eye-opening experience, and I hope to be able to take what I learned this year and bring it into the upcoming seasons, hopefully with a couple more teammates alongside,” she said. This was Lai’s first season at Yale, saying she now feels more prepared to train for the upcoming season and “plan[s] out when to hit that peak level of competition performance.” Back in Minnesota, Millard capped off a strong season at the second NCAA championship event of his career. He missed the cut-off for the top-16 finishers that advanced to

finals in the 500 freestyle, placing 23rd. He finished 39th in the 200 freestyle and 34th in the 160 freestyle. Teammate Lee, the school record-holder in the 100-yard butterfly, finished 24th in the event. “I went into the meet excited because I felt that I had little pressure on myself to do well. I was able to just race and enjoy the moment,” he said. Later in the competition, he placed 39th in the 200 butterfly, but he is “proud” of his performance, considering that he had Tommy John surgery on his left elbow last year. The surgery put him out of the pool for 8 months, so he could only finally start swimming again last spring.

Looking ahead, one diver is looking to work “harder than [he] ever has” ahead of the 2024 Olympics, as Ditto can possibly represent the Turkish National team at the 2024 Olympics in Paris. “I learned that my diving can hold up against some of the greatest in the sport,” he said. Lee is deciding between NCAA’s again, the Olympics or both, ending on the note that “everything is up in the air at the moment, but anything is possible.” Lee was a 2019 Phillips National Championships and 2020 Olympic Trials qualifier.

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Elis drop first Ivy series against Cornell

BASEBALL FROM PAGE 14

’24 on the mound, and right-handed pitcher Colton Shaw ’25 had four strikeouts in 2 innings. In their first game on Sunday, the Bulldogs got their season back on track with a dominant 12–2 victory. The Bulldogs blew the game wide open in the first inning, driving in eight early runs. Shaw had a two-run single, bringing Davis Hanson ’26 and Chatfield home. Williams also had a two-run single in the first, bringing Ben Metzner ’23 and Shaw home. “In the second game I felt we had a lot of energy and came together as a team to bounce back from the game one loss,” Hayden Sobecki ’25 said. Easterly started on the mound for the Blue and White and pitched a strong game. In the top of the eighth, Cleary took over for Easterly. In their night game on Sunday, the Bulldogs fell with a close loss of 7–5. Cornell started strong in the first two innings, scoring five runs and taking a 5–1 lead into the third. In the bottom of the third, Williams singled to center field, bringing Alec Atkinson ’24 home and scoring the second run for the Bulldogs. Atkin-

son homered for the Blue and White in the bottom of the fourth, bringing the score to 5–3 against the Big Red Bears. The score stayed 5–3 until the top of the seventh when the Big Red homered to left field to bring a run home, making the score 6–3. In the bottom of the eighth, Shaw doubled, bringing Pierantoni and Hanson home. Pierantoni and Hanson scored the last two runs for the Blue and White, finishing the game with a close final score of 7–5. “We have been attacking the little things because we know that is what will win us games,” Shaw wrote to the News. “Executing the small details on both sides of the ball has been crucial for our success so far, so if we can hammer those things in now we will be in good shape for these upcoming games.” Looking ahead, the Bulldogs will continue their season with a game against Sacred Heart (11–9, 7–2 Northeast) on Wednesday. The Blue and White will then continue Ivy play with a three game series against Brown University (3–14, 1–2 Ivy) this weekend.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Blue and White will then continue Ivy play with a three game series against Brown University (3–14, 1–2 Ivy) this weekend.

Bulldogs falls to Univeristy of Central FL

W TENNIS FROM PAGE 14

6–0) and (6–1, 6–0), respectively. Against Fordham, Cheng and Shrivastava won the Blue and White a doubles match, defeating the Rams 6–4. Chelsea Kung ’23, Ann Wright Guerry ’26, Zaslow and Lynn earned the Bulldogs singles points against Fordham with scores of (6–1, 6–3), (6–1, 6–4), (7–6, 6–4) and (6–0, 6–4), respectively. Following their victorious weekend, the team ventured to Orlando for their first match in their unsuccessful Florida tour. “The highlight of the Florida trip was being able to spend so much time together without the usual pressures from classes and homework,” said Guerry. “We also got opportunities to play very talented teams and see how we measure up.” The Bulldogs fell to the University of Central Florida (7–9, 0–0 American) 0–4. The Knights took two lines of doubles and three lines of singles to shut out the Blue and White. Yale looked for redemption in their match against East Tennessee State (12–5, 3–0 SoCon). Kung and Guerry were the only victorious Elis against the Buccaneers, winning both singles and doubles. The duo defeated Fernanda Carvajal and Daniela Rivera 7–6, but the Blue and White lost their other two doubles matches, forfeiting the doubles point. In singles, Kung defeated Mariya Shumeika in a third set tiebreaker (6–7, 6–4, 12–10). Guerry also took until the third set to crank out her (6–4, 1–7, 6–0) victory over Carvajal. The Elis looked to their match against No. 31 Florida International University (12–3, 2–0 USA) as their final

chance at a victory in the Sunshine State, but ultimately fell 5–2. Kung and Lynn were the only two Bulldogs to mark the score board, tallying scores of (6–0, 2–6, 6–3) and (6–3, 5–7, 10–8), respectively. Back in Connecticut, the Blue and White had one final opportunity to tally a win ahead of Ivy conference play. They welcomed Boston University (12–4, 1–0 Patriot), who ultimately clenched a 5–2 win against their hosts. Kung and Guerry followed their doubles victory against East Tennessee with a win over BU’s top doubles pair. Kung continued her success with a singles win by toppling Terrier Michelle Kleynerman (3–6, 6–1, 1–0). Shrivastava also posted a win, routing Shelly Yaloz 6–0, 7–5. “Rhea played really well in the BU match and was able to execute what we were working on from Spring Break,” head coach Rachel Kahan said. This weekend, the team will travel to Brown to take on the No. 57 Bears in their first Ivy League competition of the season. Yale is currently ranked sixth in the Ivy League, ahead of only Dartmouth and Cornell. Among Ivy League schools, Princeton ranks highest in the national rankings, coming in at No. 46. The Tigers are followed by Brown at No. 57, Harvard at No. 66 and Penn at No. 74. “I am most looking forward to our Columbia match because we have been very close with them in the past,” said Mirabelle Brett Kelly ’25. Conference play will continue until the Bulldogs’ April 23 match against Cornell.

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Strong scoring at start of outside racing

TRACK & FIELD FROM PAGE 14

have a far mark to chase in competition makes it easier to go all out.” On the women’s side of events, the three days of competition were marked by many near and new personal records. On the first day of competition, Kathryn Rodrigues ’24 ran a time of 36:32.79, narrowly missing her PR of 36:26.81. On the second day of competition, Claire Archer ’26 kicked things off with a first place heat finish of 4:33.61 in the 1500m, while Kyra Pretre ’24 ran an impressive time of 4:30.75 in the same event. Other notable finishes on day two

included Sophia Karperos’s ’24 time of 11:22.24 in the steeplechase — a 19-second PR — and Bella Bergloff’s ’24 nearly one meter PR in the discus with a throw of 39.56m. Finally, Maria Leskovec’s ’24 PR of 47.87m in the hammer throw highlighted day three for the Bulldogs. When asked about how the transition from indoors to outdoors would affect performances, Archer explained that the larger outdoor tracks were better for distance runners and cited her excitement to see where the outdoor season leads. “I’m looking forward to racing outside under the sun as we

head into the spring,” Archer wrote to the News. “Outdoor tracks are twice as large as indoor tracks (400 meters vs. 200 meters), and I feel like this makes a noticeable difference, especially for distance runners, since you have to run twice as many laps to cover the same distance.” After the three-day meet in Raleigh this past weekend, the Elis will head to Storrs, CT on Saturday, April 1 to compete in the UConn Dog Fight.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Elis will head to Storrs, CT on Saturday, April 1 to compete in the UConn Dog Fight.



“When in the storm, if you watch the tree turnk, you will see stability.” ALEJANDRO G. INRITU BIRDMAN

# Fahmeed Hyder announced as next Head of Trumbull College



DAVID ZHEN/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Hyder, a professor at the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the School of Medicine, will be succeeding Margaret Clark in her role as Trumbull Head of College.

BY KAITLYN POHLY & MOLLY REINMANN  
STAFF REPORTERS

On the evening of Mar. 29, Yale students and staff gathered in the Trumbull College dining hall to welcome Fahmeed Hyder GRD '95 as the college's next head. Hyder — professor of biomedical engineering at the School of Engi-

neering & Applied Science and professor of radiology & biomedical imaging at the School of Medicine — will begin his five year term on July 1. Anita Sharif-Hyder, will join him as Trumbull's next Associate Head. Hyder succeeds current Trumbull Head of College, Margaret Clark. “Both Anita and I embrace the prospect of hospitality and con-

nection,” Hyder said in his speech to the Trumbull community. “We bring our cross-cultural celebrations to this vibrant and diverse Trumbull community. We look forward to enriching your memories by creating a warm community at Trumbull college.” As a founding member of Yale's Department of Biomedical Engineering, Hyder's research focuses on using brain mapping to identify degeneration and cancer. Hyder earned his doctoral degree in biophysical chemistry from Yale in 1995. He has been a faculty member at the University since 1999, currently serving as a professor of both diagnostic radiology and biomedical engineering. In his opening address at Wednesday's ceremony, Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis spoke about Hyder's Bangladeshi background and the path that led him to become a scientist. “Professor Hyder's long journey to Yale has included periods of living as a refugee, seeing first hand exposure to climate change, encountering religious disparities and experiencing life as an immigrant during the 9/11 tragedy,” Lewis said at the announcement. Sharif-Hyder, who currently serves as associate secretary for the University-Wide Commit-

tee on Sexual Misconduct, will join Hyder as the next Associate Head of Trumbull College. Sharif-Hyder has a background in psychology and international affairs. She has been a member of the Yale faculty since 2006, previously serving as Assistant Director of Programs and Admissions at Yale World Fellows. Hyder and Sharif-Hyder's two children, Leila and Arman Hyder, will join them in the College. Erin Foley '26 expressed excitement about having a head of college whose specialty lies in her realm of interest: STEM. “I find his story and the outcomes of his academic pursuits particularly inspiring, as he has contributed to the molecular imaging techniques relevant to the topics that I learned about in Applied Physics class at Yale this fall,” Foley said “I'm excited to have someone so immersed and instrumental to a field that I'm interested in as my Head of College.” At the end of his speech on Wednesday, Lewis bid a farewell to outgoing Trumbull Head of College Margaret Clark, thanking her for her work. Clark has held the position of Head of Trumbull College since 2013, completing her second of the two standard five-year terms over break.

“I asked some young alumni about Head Clark, and they mentioned her hospitality at all times, including during school recesses and study breaks,” Lewis said. “People also mentioned how supportive Head Clark has always been one-on-one with students whenever they are facing hard times.” Clark then took to the stage to comment on her decade of service to Trumbull College and welcome Hyder to the community. Clark emphasized the importance of building relationships with students as a Head of College. She also addressed Hyder directly, sharing tips and her favorite memories from her tenure in the position. “You will build lifelong ties with students, fellows, staff members and several long lines of donors to the college,” Clark said. “Getting to know your students and your fellows over good meals is part of your job. Supporting your students is part of your job, and it's so gratifying to be able to do that.” Trumbull College is located at 241 Elm St.

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# Crystal Feimster announced as Head of Pierson College

BY TRISTAN HERNANDEZ  
STAFF REPORTER

Crystal Feimster stood alongside her family as she spoke to the Pierson community for the first time on Tuesday night as their next Head of College. The associate professor in the Departments of African American Studies and History will start her on July 1, 2023 after the current Head of College Stephen Davis finished after serving 10 years term in the role after this semester. “I was thrilled when I heard the news that I would be the next Head of Pierson College,” Feimster wrote in an email to the News. “I've heard so much about the excellent work Head of College Professor Davis and Associate Head of College Rev. Jenny Davis have done to create and maintain an inclusive and socially engaged community and I am very much looking forward to building on their legacy.” Feimster is a historian of 19th and 20th century African American history, U.S. women's history and the American South and teaches popular courses on Critical Race Theory and The Long Civil Rights Movement. Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis spoke at the announcement about Feimster's dedication to residential life. She was a residential counselor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and served as a fellow for two of Yale's residential colleges. Given her

experience, Lewis said that she is “well-prepared to lead Pierson.” “When I received the news that professor Feimster would be the next Head of College, I jumped for joy,” Davis told an audience of Piersonites Tuesday evening during a welcome ceremony in the college's dining hall. Davis described Feimster as a “person of deep, deep integrity and someone who inspires trust in everyone.” He thanked the Pierson community, including facilities, fellows and dining hall staff, for supporting him and his wife throughout their term, stating, “we are so grateful to have been able to share so many moments and to have forged friendships ... it is a gift to be able to work with people that you love to work with and whom you love ... thank you.” Feimster, who was greeted by rousing applause, started her speech by thanking Stephen and Jenny Davis. Feimster then spoke about how the new role came at a “pivotal” time in her life: her grandmother, a mentor and leader in her family, passed away in January. She noted that, as a Black woman growing up in the Jim Crow South, her grandmother did not have the privilege of a college education, but taught her many lessons. “It was she who taught me the art of listening and the power of being heard,” Feimster told the crowd. “She taught me that it's okay to ask for what you need. That depending on family, friends and community is part of the deal. One does not have to be in a state of emergency to ask for help getting from point A to point B.”



MIRANDA WOLLEN/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The history professor will begin her five-year term this summer as current Head of College Stephen Davis steps down.

Behind her stood her partner, Daniel Botsman and their two sons, who will move into Pierson's head of college house with their cat, Stanley, later this year. Botsman, a professor in the art history department, will join Feimster as the new associate head of Pierson. In Lewis's email to the Pierson community, he described about how Feimster's research “analyze[s] some of the most elusive and traumatic facets of human experience.” She earned her doctorate in history from Princeton University and authored a prize-

winning book, “Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching.” “I can hardly wait to learn more about Pierson's traditions and culture,” Feimster wrote to the News. “I am especially excited about the Halloween Party — Professor Botsman and I are dancing fools and love any opportunity we can get to dust off our dance shoes. And of course I cannot wait to snatch Davenport's gnome!” Pierson students packed into the dining hall, cheering and clapping for their new head of college. One Pierson student, Norah Laughter '26,

said she is already happy with Feimster's appointment. “She showed a commitment to making Pierson as welcoming as possible and as a transfer student, that's very important to me,” Laughter said. “She's also involved in southern studies and critical race theory, and it's nice to have someone who's in your field leading your college.” “Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching” was published in 2009.

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# Dallas Symphony Performs Negrón and Tchaikovsky at Woolsey Hall



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRIAM VIAZMENSKI

Led by Music Director Fabio Luisi, the acclaimed Dallas Symphony Orchestra performed at Woolsey Hall on Tuesday evening.

BY TOBIAS LIU  
STAFF REPORTER

Usually, the stage during orchestral performances in Woolsey Hall is occupied by either the Yale Symphony Orchestra or the Yale Philharmonia. But on Tuesday evening, Fabio Luisi, music director of the Dallas

Symphony Orchestra, stood facing Woolsey's Newberry Organ, leading the acclaimed professional orchestra with neither music nor baton. He danced across the podium, coaxing the music out of the musicians. “It was one of those rare moments when an orchestra transcends the collaborative efforts

of its musicians and speaks as a single entity, projecting its own artistic voice,” said Miranda Werner MUS '24. As part of their first tour in a decade, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra appeared in Woolsey Hall on Tuesday for the first time, performing DSO composer-in-residence Angelica Negrón's “What Keeps Me Awake” and Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony in E minor. “Professional orchestras don't often come to Woolsey Hall,” said Atticus Margulis-Ohnuma '25, a member of the Yale Symphony Orchestra. “Having played in Woolsey Hall, I know how hard it is to hear in the space, which made the DSO's performance all the more impressive—I was struck by the sonic unity of the string sections and the tone and color of the brass.” Following performances in New York's Carnegie Hall and Boston's Symphony Hall, the DSO's performance in Woolsey Hall was the third and last performance of their east coast tour. “It's so special to be able to perform at Woolsey, especially

knowing how many students are going to be at the concert,” said Katie McGuinness, the vice president of artistic operations at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. McGuinness said that the DSO performed at Woolsey Hall primarily because of its strong relationship with Peter Oundjian, the principal conductor of the Yale Philharmonia. Oundjian has conducted subscription concerts with the DSO before. In addition, a large number of DSO musicians are also alumni at Yale, said McGuinness. Principal cellist Christopher Adkins, who graduated from the Yale School of Music in 1984 and has performed in Woolsey “innumerable times,” mentioned how special it was to return after nearly 40 years. “Woolsey Hall has this warm, welcoming tone — it was like returning to a familiar friend,” he said. Before the performance, principal players in the Dallas Symphony participated in a side-by-side rehearsal with musicians in

the Yale Philharmonia and conducted by Oundjian, where the Dallas Symphony musicians “got to pass on decades of hard-accumulated wisdom” to the students, said Adkins. “It was a thrilling and illuminating experience. It's not every day that you get to work alongside professional orchestral musicians,” said Werner, a violinist in the Yale Philharmonia. To Adkins, participating in a side-by-side under Oundjian at Yale was a “full circle moment” — Oundjian's very first coaching at Yale 38 years ago was with a string quartet composed of Adkins and three fellow School of Music students, he said. Margulis-Ohnuma hopes that the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's appearance at Yale “will pave the road for more professional orchestra concerts in the future.” The concert was open to the public for free.

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“Being genius is not enough, it takes courage to change people’s hearts.”  
DON GREENBOOK

# Connecticut Voting Rights Act on the brink of passage

BY YASH ROY  
STAFF REPORTER

As federal efforts to protect voting access have stalled amid Republican opposition, Connecticut advocates are pushing the state legislators to protect voting rights in the state.

The Connecticut Voting Rights Act, which has been dedicated to late Civil Rights Leader John Lewis, was passed by the Government and Elections Committee on Monday and now faces a vote in the State House. The bill will expand language accessibility at polling sites, require preclearance for voting rule changes in municipalities with a history of voter intimidation and allow voters to sue municipalities for laws or actions that are intimidatory or discriminatory.

Meanwhile, advocacy groups across Connecticut are working with state legislators to pass legislation to enact the state constitutional amendment allowing for early voting. The amendment was proposed in a referendum in the 2022 midterm elections where state voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of the change.

Prior to the referendum that authorized the amendment, Connecticut was one of four states that did not allow early voting. Legislators and advocacy groups are currently working to decide if the early voting period will be 14 or 18 days and if cities with larger populations will have more than one early voting location.

“The CVRA will make Connecticut a national leader in protecting the right to vote which is something we have been lagging behind on,” Jess Zaccagino, ACLU Policy Council, told the News. “This is happening as voters across the country face honestly the greatest assault on voting rights since Jim Crow, so this is a really important time to cement robust voting rights on the state level.”

Currently, only 10 towns in Connecticut are required to provide accessible language services for people who do not speak English, according to Yanidsi Velez, the New England regional director for the Hispanic Federation.

New Haven and other cities across the state have seen an increase in residents who do not speak English in recent years thus causing an increased need for accessible language services at polling booths.

“The expanded language provision is intrinsic to the work that we do because we always want to ensure that Latino voters have access to their own language,” Velez told the News. “The Latino population has increased by 30 percent in the last ten years which means for the first time in Connecticut’s history there are more than half a million Latino Connecticut residents.”

The CVRA also includes preclearance requirements under which towns and cities with a history of voter disenfranchisement or intimidation will be required to clear any changes to election rules

with the Secretary of the State or the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford.

According to Steven Lance, a Policy Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the CVRA preclearance requirements mirror the federal model enacted during the Civil Rights era that required many states with a history of voter suppression to clear any changes to their election rules through the Federal Justice Department. Their requirements were later struck down by the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder* decision.

“This bill speaks to some of the unique challenges in Connecticut where we have hyper local government,” Matt Lesser, a State Senator who is a cosponsor of the bill, told the News. “We have no counties and each of our 169 towns does something differently so ensuring uniformity is really important and that’s particularly important in terms of making sure that local decisions are done fairly.”

The bill also empowers citizens in a town or city to bring concerns about voting practices or rules to their municipality and settle the dispute out of court, according to Valencia Richardson, legal counsel for voting rights at the Campaign Legal Center. In this process, voters would write a letter to their municipality and then negotiate a settlement with their municipality.

The bill requires this step to occur before a formal lawsuit is filed.

Through this process, citizens will be able to arbitrate disputes with their municipalities while avoiding an often onerous legal process. Instead, the municipality and citizens will negotiate a settlement and enter it with the local judicial authority.

“This goes beyond the federal Voting Rights act since it is encouraging negotiations between voters, and this entire section does not even exist in the federal Voting Rights act so it’s a real innovation,” Richardson told the News.

The bill also empowers citizens to sue municipalities and people who engage in voter intimidation.

Lesser told the News that in his constituency there have been instances of former elected officials threatening baseless investigations if college students in his district registered to vote.

“This bill would penalize anyone who knowingly used any deceptive or fraudulent devices with any elector’s right to vote,” Co-Chair of the State Legislature’s Government and Elections Committee Representative Matt Blumenthal told the News. “For example, people who distribute incorrect information about when an election is occurring or where it is located.”

Finally, the bill will also create a statewide database about voter statistics and intimidation information. In total all of these proposals are expected to cost roughly 2.5 million dollars.

Zaccagino told the News that the bill will potentially provide information and data for lawsuits to help fight long lines in Black and Brown communities in New Haven.

“Even for large organizations like the ACLU, it is onerous to see and collect information about voter statistics and intimidation for lawsuits to ensure that all citizens have easy access to the ballot,” Zaccagino told the News.

The state is also currently working on finalizing details around early voting. Currently, three bills have been put forward by the Government and Elections committee. The state is deciding if there will be 14 or 18 days of early voting.

Advocates including Melvin Medina, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at The Connecticut Project, who told the News that the current bill also only requires one early voting place even in cities in New Haven with tens of thousands of early voters.

“It’s important for larger cities to have more voting locations because accessibility is accountability,” Medina told the News.

Both the early voting bills and the CTVRA will now go to the Appropriations committee since they will both have an impact on the state’s spending.

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# Six months after opening in New Haven, Tibetan Kitchen thrives

BY SARAH BEN TKHAYET  
STAFF REPORTER

Tsering Yangzom and her husband Sherab Gyalsten cook all the food that is served at their restaurant.

Tibetan Kitchen opened its doors in October and is located on Chapel Street. While the restaurant’s cuisine is authentically Tibetan, featuring dishes like gyathuk ngopa, shamomo and thenthuk, Gyalsten explained that the restaurant’s cuisine is also heavily influenced by Indian spices. He and Yangzom were born and brought up in India, he said, and their food therefore contains “hybrid” elements that combine Indian and Tibetan flavors.

Yangzom and Gyalsten said that they enjoy every minute of their collaboration as they work as a duo to prepare meals for New Haven customers.

“Some people say when you work with your spouse, you argue and you have a lot of problems but we work really well together, so it’s been fun,” said Yangzom.

Tibetan Kitchen was initially supposed to operate as a take-out-only restaurant, but Gyalsten and Yangzom eventually decided against it. Instead, they chose to integrate several Tibetan cultural pieces into the decor.

Gyalsten said that he would have liked the restaurant to be completely vegan, because of his love for animals, but also recognized that many cus-

tomers come for the dishes that contain pork, beef or chicken.

“Tibetan cuisine usually consists of a lot of meat,” Gyalsten told the News. “There’s no vegetation [in Tibet], so people usually eat more meat.”

As a compromise, the restaurant offers a combination of vegan and vegetarian options in addition to the meat dishes, catering to a wide range of customers.

Before opening their current restaurant in New Haven, Yangzom and Gyalsten used to own another Tibetan restaurant in Middletown, Connecticut. This restaurant — also called Tibetan Kitchen — was featured in the New York Times and had a loyal clientele. Even when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, clients that were native to Middletown continued going to the restaurant, left good tips and supported the business, according to the owners.

Yangzom and Gyalsten ran their Middletown restaurant for 10 years before choosing to move to Woodbridge, Conn. to be closer to New York. The move prompted them to open Tibetan Kitchen in New Haven.

Gyalsten and Yangzom’s decision to venture into the restaurant business was not coincidental: Yangzom’s family has a restaurant in India, while Gyalsten’s mother used to run a vegetarian restaurant in 1989.

“All the customers were Westerners, tourists,” Gyalsten



SARAH BEN TKHAYET/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Tibetan Kitchen, which opened its doors in October, has attracted a large following among Yale students and New Haveners.

said. “So I had an experience working in a restaurant.”

Before opening their Middletown restaurant, the couple owned a Tibetan store where they sold gift items like singing bowls, prayer flags and Tibetan jewelry. Eventually, however, they decided to switch industries.

Gyalsten said that this change turned out to be at just the right time. He recalled the rise of Amazon soon after the store’s closure and the subsequent impact it had on several local businesses in the area.

In the beginning, owning a restaurant proved to be challenging.

“I’d never cooked for customers before, so when we initially opened the restaurant, we were supposed to open from five to nine, but we had to close at seven,” Yangzom said.

Clara Lee ’24 said that Tibetan Kitchen is “definitely one of the hidden gems in New Haven.” Lee is not alone in this perspective, as the owners said that Tibetan Kitchen has become a favorite for many Yale students.

“If you come during the weekdays at night, it probably looks like a Yale dining hall,” joked Gyalsten.

The restaurant was selected as one of Connecticut Magazine’s Best Restaurants of 2023 in the “new restaurants” experts’ picks.

As the couple looks to the future, they hope to potentially open a vegan or vegetarian food truck, as well as serve Sunday brunch and have weekly specials.

“Right now it’s really busy, so I don’t have extra time to make weekly specials,” Yangzom said. “And we always visit our daughter [at her boarding school] every Sunday. But once my daughter goes to college, it’s not like we can visit her every week, so we’ll have a lot more time.”

Tibet Kitchen is located at 1217 Chapel St.

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# SPORTS

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## M. LACROSSE

**TIGERS CHASE BULLDOGS OUT**  
The No. 20 Bulldogs fell to Princeton in Yale's second consecutive loss in Ivy League men's lacrosse as the Tigers won 23-10 with a strong defensive showing.



## W LAX

**ELIS EXTEND STREAK**  
The Yale women's lacrosse team extended their win streak to three by clinching a 11-9 victory against Dartmouth at home this past Saturday, racking up their second conference win.



"I am so glad I chose to come here when I was 16 years old, it was the best decision I ever made."

**CLAIRE DALTON '23**  
W HOCKEY

## Elis compete at NCAA Swim & Dive Championship

BY PALOMA VIGIL  
STAFF REPORTER

Four Bulldogs represented Yale at the men's and women's swim and dive NCAA Championships this past weekend.

Diver Paige Lai '26 represented the Bulldogs at the University of Tennessee from Mar. 15 to Mar. 18 for the women's meet. And swimmers Noah Millard '25 and Connor Lee '24 and diver JP Ditto '23 headed to the University of Minnesota's Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center from Mar. 23 to Mar. 25 for the men's.

"It was enlightening being at that level of competition," said Ditto. "I learned that I was able to hold my own against the greatest divers in the nation, and it has given me a new view on the sport and a greater sense of confidence in my abilities."

Ditto scored 321.40 on the 1-meter dive and placed 28th in the prelims. The next day he took on the 3-meter dive, scoring 324.70 and placing 35th all-around in the event.

It "was not [his] best performance," he said, as he missed a couple of the dives he set out to do.

On the morning of his departure from New Haven to Minneapolis, he slipped off the end of the diving board and injured his foot. Luckily, the pain subsided in time for his first event, but he said that he still felt "timid" on the board.

"I managed to ease up and enter a focused and confident meet mindset as the rounds advanced," Ditto said. "Going into future meets, I plan to remind myself to start the meet off in such a mindset, where I am controlled yet aggressive in my diving."

Fellow diver Lai was the only representative from the women's swim and dive team at the University of Tennessee. Lai, who was named to the USA Diving National Team late last year, scored 254.25 off the 3-meter board and 231.95 in the 1-meter.

She was "shocked" when she made it past the zones part of the season, not even expecting to qualify for championships. However, the turnaround was quick after zones — only four days — so she had to plan her dives before leaving for Tennessee.

SEE **SWIM** PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS  
The women's and men's swimming and diving teams each sent competitors to the NCAA Championships during Spring Break.

## Yale drops first Ivy series against Cornell



YALE ATHLETICS

During spring break, the baseball team continued their 2022-2023 season with 11 games against five universities across the country.

BY BESTY GOOD  
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's baseball team (5-12, 1-2 Ivy) hit the road over spring recess.

They started in California, playing games in San Francisco and Stockton before going south to play in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Finally, they returned home to New Haven to continue their season play.

The Bulldogs competed in non-conference games against the University of San Francisco (10-10, 1-5 AAC), University of the Pacific (8-14, 1-5 WCC), McNeese State (16-8, 1-2 Southland) and Quinnipiac University (7-13, 1-2 MAAC) before opening conference play against Cornell University (2-13, 2-1 Ivy).

In the first game of their doubleheader against San Francisco on Saturday, the Blue and White rallied from an early 1-0 deficit to beat the Dons

3-1, but fell in the next two matchups 4-3 and 13-6.

Their early-season skid continued against the University of the Pacific, as they fell to the Powercats in a high-scoring nail-biter by a score of 11-10. During the southern portion of their road trip, the Bulldogs dropped all three games against McNeese.

Even after returning home to New Haven, the Blue and White's struggles continued in a tight 1-0 loss against Quinnipiac.

"The most challenging part of our spring trip was the amount of time that we spent on the road," head coach Brian Hamm wrote to the News. "We had three very difficult travel days that took a lot out of us, and we played against good competition which is down more than we had anticipated. It took a couple of days being back during the second week of break for us to catch our breath."

In the last series of the long break from classes, the Bulldogs competed

in three games against Cornell. The two teams had a game on Friday and a doubleheader on Sunday at the George H.W. Bush '48 Field in New Haven. The Elis hoped to rebound as they opened conference play, the most important part of their season.

In the first game of the series, Jimmy Chatfield '24 got the scoring started with a homer to left field in the fourth inning to bring Jeff Pierantoni '24 home, giving the Bulldogs a 2-0 lead. In the fifth, Pierantoni singled to right field to drive teammate Jake Williams '24 home, scoring the third and last run for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs held the lead until the top of sixth, when the Big Red scored four runs to take a 5-3 lead. The Bulldogs were not able to even the score with any further runs and the game ended 5-3.

In the top of the eighth, Daniel Cohen '26 relieved Reid Easterly

SEE **BASEBALL** PAGE 10

## Bulldogs beat St. John's and Fordham, fall in Florida



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

Over spring break, the Yale women's tennis team (8-9, 0-0 Ivy) took on six opponents, beginning and ending in Yale's Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center and traveling to Florida in between.

The Bulldogs kicked off spring break victorious, taking down St. John's Uni-

versity (10-6, 4-0 Big East) 4-2 and Fordham University (6-6, 0-0 Patriot) 4-3. Yale lost the doubles point to St. John's but took four lines of singles. Rhea Shrivastava '23, Vivian Cheng '23, Sophia Zaslow '26 and Rebecca Lynn '26 trounced the Red Storm in singles with scores of (6-1, 6-2), (6-2, 6-3), (6-2,

SEE **W TENNIS** PAGE 10

## Raleigh Relays kick off outdoor season

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Three weeks after the track and field IC4A and ECAC championships in Boston concluded their indoor season, Yale's men's and women's track teams headed to Raleigh, North Carolina to begin their outdoor season at the Raleigh Relays.

In their first meet of the season, despite the lack of team scores, both Yale's men's and women's teams had strong showings across the board. Amid a competitive field featuring teams from conferences such as the SEC, ACC and the Big Ten, many Yale athletes were able to land finishes on the podium and log new PRs.

"We showed some encouraging signs across all event areas," coach David Shoehalter wrote to the News. "The ability to train for a week in good weather is paramount to our later season success. I am excited for the weeks to come."

On the men's side of events, some of the same names from the indoor season led the charge for the Bulldogs.

Matt Appel '24 placed fourth in the shot put with a distance of 17.87m and third in the discus with a distance of 55.16m and Brian Di Bassinga '26 placed sixth in the triple jump with a distance of 14.71m, just short of his personal best of 14.84m. In addition, Cade Brown '23 started off his senior season strong with a finish of 29:58.18 in the 10k, bumping him up to sixth

on Yale's all-time list, and Calvin Katz '25 took first in his heat and set a new PR in the 800m with a time of 1:52.05.

When asked about his performance against a competitive field this past weekend, including one of the top three discus throwers in the nation, Appel expressed appreciation for the challenging environment.

"Competing against throwers at a high level is what allowed me to grow so fast in high school and college alike," Appel wrote to the News. "You get better by watching other people to see what they do better than you do and trying to implement bits and pieces of what they do into your own throw. Also knowing that I will absolutely

SEE **TRACK/FIELD** PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

This past weekend, Yale's track and field team kicked off their outdoor season at N.C. State's Raleigh Relays.

STAT OF THE WEEK

13.9

YALE WOMEN'S CREW'S VARSITY BOAT CLOCKED A 16-SECOND VICTORY OVER OHIO STATE.



# WEEKEND

// BY JESSAI FLORES

The Nintendo 3DS — one of the most popular and beloved gaming consoles of the past decade — is dying. As of March 27th, 2023, the Nintendo 3DS eShop (a digital storefront for the system) has closed its doors permanently, ushering in the stage in a gaming console's life cycle that signals its incoming obsolescence. This is not surprising given the process a console goes through as it ages and is eventually replaced, but the death throes of the 3DS come at a time when video games and game consoles are transitioning into a digital-only atmosphere. In this new stage of video games, digital storefronts present consumers with an easy way to purchase everything from triple A titles to indie gems. Yet, the slow death of the 3DS has once again reignited the ultimate question pertaining to digital gaming, namely: where do the games go when the console dies? What happens to a digital library when a console has reached the end of its product life cycle? The answer is one that underscores the need for video game preservation and the hurdles that consumers face when trying to preserve their games against the onslaught of the years.

In short, the answer is that when consoles die, so do their digital libraries. The closure of the Nintendo DSi shop and the Wii Shop Channel — the predecessors to the 3DS and WiiU eShops — provides consumers with clues for what Nintendo's process for putting aging consoles out to pasture looks like. This process is new thanks to the transition into launching console-specific digital storefronts like the Playstation Store or Nintendo's various iterations of the eShop, but it plays out in similar ways across aging consoles. As with the Nintendo DS, the 3DS first lost the ability to use credit cards and gift cards in the eShop application on the system, forcing users to jump through hoops to add funds to their systems. Up until Nintendo ended the ability to make purchases on the 3DS, players had to add funds using a computer or the 3DS's successor, the Nintendo Switch. And while Nintendo has not yet announced when the 3DS will lose internet functionality, one can assume that given how the DSi was abandoned that the 3DS will inevitably meet the same fate. Losing internet functionality, or the ability to play online with others, is the final moment before a game console ascends to the big video game store in the sky — but it hardly does the same amount of damage that the closure of its digital storefront does.

The 3DS has an immense library of games thanks to its backward compatibility with the Nintendo DS, allowing players to treat the 3DS — as Nintendo did in 2011 — not as a new console, but rather as an upgraded DS. To play 3DS exclusives would not require one to sacrifice their DS game library. The 3DS library was made even more expansive because of its digital storefront, where developers like Level 5 or Game Freak could release digital exclusive content that now, thanks to the eShop's closure, are inaccessible. The issue with the closure of the eShop and other video game digital storefronts is not that it pushes players to buy newer consoles, but rather that it complicates efforts to preserve one's games and video game history at large.

The concept of video game preservation was easy enough to understand when video games came in the form of cartridges and disks. To preserve an old console's library would simply entail preserving a collection of physical media. Now, as consoles like the 3DS, Wii, and Playstation 3 — which helped to launch an era of digital gaming libraries — lose internet functionality and developer support, the question of preservation has become a question of survival. In Nintendo's case, the closure of the 3DS eShop has allowed hundreds of digital exclusive games to disappear forever, or at



//ARIANE DE GENNARO

least until Nintendo decides to bring them to newer consoles, which may very well never happen. Even so, Nintendo has left consumers with no official means to preserve their digital purchases. For the Nintendo 3DS, eShop downloads are tied to a Nintendo account connected to a player's system and saved to their SD card. Hypothetically, one could simply back up their digital games by preserving their SD card data on a computer, but this does not work for the 3DS. The files are console-exclusive, which means that only the system where the game was bought could gain access to the files. To move exclusive games to a new system would require one to transfer their account information to a new system. This seems like a simple obstacle to overcome, but now that the 3DS is no longer being manufactured and will inevitably lose Nintendo's support, players' collections can be threatened if anything happens to their console — causing them to lose their games forever. Some players have prepared themselves for something like this by hacking their systems to preserve their games, but it should not have to be this way. Nintendo's convoluted, and frankly anti-consumer, process of digital game preservation is perhaps the biggest hurdle video game preservationists and everyday players must face now that the 3DS has reached the end of the line.

Closing the 3DS eShop while providing consumers with no official means to preserve their digital games without relying on an aging console's ability to not break any time soon is like if Nintendo set fire to a library and locked all the exits save for one. Consumers then had to scramble to save what they could. It is not fair to consumers and it does not respect the place the 3DS has in history. It is one of Nintendo's best-selling consoles of all time and is an icon of the 2010s. To see it go out this way, with the hollowing-out of its game library, is disappointing. Yet, no one expected the 3DS to get this far when it first released in 2011. It was treated like a fluke, a gimmicky system with a 3D gimmick that did not catch anyone's attention. It was its gaming library that saved it and let it become loved by its players for almost twelve years. The Nintendo 3DS, against all odds, has lived a long and spectacular life. Its inevitable death, however, raises concerns for how video game history is preserved and treated. Physical games, with their cartridges and disks will continue to be enjoyed for years to come. Digital games on the other hand will be left to the mercy of corporate decision-makers, unless people decide to emulate the games or preserve them in some other way. The fact of the matter is that when video game consoles die, not all games go to heaven. Some of them are lost to time, unless consumers and preservationists are given the official means to save and enjoy the games as they are intended to be played and saved. The 3DS — the system that was once laughed at — now enjoys a spot in history after a surprisingly long life of defying expectations. And what a life it was.



# “DAISY JONES AND THE SIX” Strikes a Chord

// BY ELIZA JOSEPHSON

Everyone has fantasized about being a rock star. We’ve all put ourselves center stage in these visions, imagined ourselves playing music to packed stadiums and writing songs that define generations. Admit that rubbing shoulders with household names at glamorous parties and donning outrageously bedazzled jumpsuits wouldn’t intrigue you — I’ll wait. Personally, I channel my inner 70’s celebrity when I thrift camel suede fringe jackets and listen to the Classic Rock radio station on the reg.

I know I’m not the only one who loses themselves in reveries of musical recognition. However, I can acknowledge that my narrow idea of stardom is not one-size-fits-all. Maybe the only microphone you’ve even belted ballads on is your detachable shower head. Maybe decade fashion doesn’t spark your fancy the way it does for me. But don’t lie and say you’ve never thought about what it would be like to be famous.

I first encountered “Daisy Jones and the Six” in its original written form. As a devout Taylor Jenkins Reid groupie, I spent my high school career reading all of her bestsellers, from “The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo” to “Malibu Rising.” I was ecstatic when I heard that an adaptation of “Daisy Jones” was coming to Prime Video. For one, I salute the show creators for going the TV route. The complex storyline would not have been explored in enough depth in a film with a two hour run time.

The story is told through interview format with the band members and people they interacted with along the way. The chorus of many voices creates a fuller picture of what really happened, recording crucial moments as the band rose to fame for posterity’s sake. The speakers, now older and wiser, can look back on their experiences retrospectively and provide valuable insight into why they might have made certain decisions.

The show begins by flip flopping between Daisy Jones in Los Angeles and The Six in Pittsburgh. And while it makes sense to flesh out each origin story from its inception, I couldn’t help but feel overwhelmed. “Daisy Jones” spends the first few episodes jumping between past anecdotes and present confessionals, California and Pennsylvania, a solitary songwriter and a band rooted in family. This constant panning between different eras, settings, and protagonists was jarring even for a viewer familiar with the source material.

Until the groups eventually intersect, which solves the initial confusion, the plot felt like two parts and not a whole, Daisy Jones ... and the Six. But the seemingly disjointed narratives are actually tied together right out of the gate by an established common atmosphere. The show maintains a consistent vibe bolstered by decade-accurate fashion and subtextually brilliant soundtrack.

In the overarching plot, as Daisy Jones discovers her appetite for sex, drugs, and rock and roll with the backdrop of Los Angeles, her soulful blue eyes and wild auburn bangs hold the audience captive. While we follow an older Daisy reflecting on her childhood, the show flashes back in a rapid transformation occurring all in one episode, strung together by three different actresses. But the consistent throughline is the styling.

She begins as a little girl in a pastel floral nightgown perched beside a red record player soulfully singing along only to be vio-

lently hushed by her absent parents. Then we watch her venture outside of what she knows, a naive teenage girl in a brown mini-dress, still floral, sneaking backstage into music clubs steeped in cigarette smoke, only to be taken advantage of by powerful men in the industry. Floral print evaporates entirely, along with Daisy’s innocence.

And then we finally are introduced to an adult Daisy Jones, portrayed by Riley Keough. I’m in support of this casting choice. I’m all for reducing nepotism in Hollywood, but she just has that star quality that’s necessary for a character like Daisy to be believable, a certain je ne sais quoi I can’t put my finger on. It is possible her “it factor” trickled down from her grandfather Elvis Presley. But because I’ve only ever seen her in this project, dressed to the nines in fur paneled coats, platform cowboy boots, and flowy see-through caftans looking straight out of the post-Woodstock era, I’m inclined to forget she’s entertainment business royalty. That’s the power of decade fashion.

Simultaneous to Daisy’s coming-of-age development, The Six, known as the The

or even 20 years old. And considering the recent “The Hunger Games” revival mania online, I can’t get his younger role of Finnick Odair out of my head while I rewatch the show. I know this sounds like a me problem, but I don’t think I’m alone. I assure you, it’s not Ben Platt in the movie adaptation of “Dear Evan Hansen” bad, but it’s not great.

Nevertheless, I braved my qualms with Billy Dunne in hopes of watching the other characters find their respective musical identities. When Daisy and The Six eventually merge into one whole band, the show’s score becomes dominant with new songs unique to this story. Reid admits that Fleetwood Mac influenced the band’s distinct 70’s sound, as well as their romantic dynamics. And that is evident in the bouncy single “Look at Us Now (Honeycomb)” and the rousingly passionate fury of “Regret Me.” It would not be a jump to say that the Aurora album sessions in the show, with moody duetting vocals and encoded messages reeking of forbidden love, are directly inspired by Fleetwood Mac’s notorious “Rumors.”

Fans of “Daisy Jones and the Six” in its novel

into a paternal role for the band as a whole.

And how can I forget Graham Dunne’s sweeping guitar solos and Karen Sirko’s rebellious turtle-necks? Or Camila Alvarez’s cinematic photography and gorgeous maternity dresses? All of these characters contribute to the meteoric rise of the band in their own ways. But let’s zoom out from all of the action of music production, the drama of love triangles, and the heartbreaking twist ending. For any of these moving pieces to come together in a coherent oral history, every moving piece must play its role to amount to a finalized symphony. The many voices recounting their perspectives act as instruments, and the flashback dialogue composes the multilayered lyrics. The many places across multiple years give the depth of a melodic tone. Fashion offers visual intrigue, and the soundtrack stimulates oral engagement.

The series itself is a song. No adaptation of a fan-beloved book can keep everyone happy. Some of my other complaints were that the hiatus in Greece felt too long, and the character of Eddie Roundtree somehow managed to come off as both underdeveloped and overdeveloped in his motivations. Also, his hair in later episodes needed some serious work. All that to say, what fell flat for me might have hit the note for other people, the same way songwriters argue about the necessity of reprising a chorus here or omitting a bridge there.

“Daisy Jones and the Six” strikes a chord with me, and I know it will with you too. The plot, fashion, characters, instruments, decade, soundtrack, and overall trajectory over ten episodes creates a near perfect harmony when mapped out in chronological succession. But even more, it does what every good piece of media should do: momentary wish fulfillment. You get to follow along the exhilarating journey of a band until they reach their peak, from mundane and empty childhood bedrooms to electric arena performances for thousands of fans. Viewers get to taste the most enticing aspects of fame through musical notoriety. And thankfully, the privacy violations of nosy journalists and addiction-related pitfalls of multiple rehab stints will not be following you beyond the screen.

It may sound like I’m singing the same refrain over and over

again at this point, but fashion and music are the two things that kept me enthralled with “Daisy Jones,” and that stuck with me beyond it. On my Spotify account, I’ve liked practically every song on the show’s album Aurora. Some of my favorite more underground original songs are “The River” and “Let Me Down Easy.” And I’ve rediscovered some classics thanks to the show’s soundtrack, so of course I’ve been on a Fleetwood Mac, Boston, Aerosmith, and Earth, Wind & Fire kick.

And you can’t channel the show and live out your rockstar fantasy without the appropriate outfits! I’ve already put the silver studded belt and the burnt orange high waisted flare corduroys from the Free People The Daisy Jones & The Six Capsule Collection in my cart. My aforementioned camel suede fringe jacket has come out in full force, so if you see a bundle of flipping tassels and thigh highs stomping her way over to Sterling Memorial Library, that’s me.

And don’t let my anachronistic AirPods fool you — I’m probably listening to the “Daisy Jones and the Six” soundtrack.

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Dunne Brothers in this era, become local sensations, prompting frontman Billy Dunne and his bandmates to expand their musical ambitions. They began their journey to stardom as five high-school age boys in a cluttered garage tuning their guitars in dusty plaid button-ups. These look like knock offs of the amps and equipment from the more legitimate LA concerts Daisy frequents, connecting the two worlds but also commenting on a stark divide between them.

There are also two layers to the show’s music, which I think is a necessary complexity to develop a sonorous story. There’s the soundtrack sung by other artists, and then there’s music consciously created by the characters within the show. The first category is carried through seamlessly. Daisy embodies her artsiness with the backdrop of strong female vocalists of her time, like Violet Hall and Carole King, before she even ventures into songwriting herself.

The Dunne brothers sing covers of pop songs by notable bands like The Byrds and The Animals before endeavoring to write their own material. I’ll note here that Sam Claflin, the actor portraying frontman Billy Dunne, looks way too old to be in a high school band,

form might notice that the lyrics of some songs are altered almost beyond recognition. But I care more about if the music conveys the adequate feeling of the scene, and also whether or not I can listen to the song recreationally outside of the moment’s context. If the exact wording and proposed melody needed to be reworked so Daisy and Billy could better emulate the chemistry latent drama between Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham, then I’m on board with any changes necessary.

Fashion and music keep “Daisy Jones and the Six” consistent, even in its somewhat disorienting moments. Beyond the obvious focuses of the band, Daisy and Billy, the characters on the periphery shine through these same atmospheric choices. Some of my favorites include drummer Warren Rojas, often found making a comedically off color comment, who strikes high hats and cymbals in skin tight graphic tees. Simone Jackson, whose fringy, leathery, metallic, and shiny aesthetic undeniably marks her as a pioneer of disco, acts as an key older sister figure, guiding Daisy through rough patches. Teddy Price, a famed music producer with a perfectly coiffed afro, has a clear vision for uniting talented musicians, and in doing so, falls

## WKND Recommends

Trying songwriting.





// LIZZIE CONKLIN

// BY BRIAN ZHANG

On her most study-heavy days, Aimee Catherine '25 likes to dress semi-formal and put on a little makeup even if she has nowhere to go. At first glance, this is just further evidence of her put-togetherness.

Balancing a rigorous schedule for maintaining her YouTube channel of over 20,000 subscribers with running daily, writing political science papers and juggling a vibrant social life, Catherine leaves others wondering how to be “self-disciplined and organized” and how to find the motivation to be “a certified menace to society again,” as some of the comments underneath her videos put it.

However, for Catherine, authenticity reigns above all in her day-to-day as a college student who is giving the world a glimpse into her private life, especially in the way she presents herself through fashion. It is an unapolgetic rulebreaking that she values in herself and hopes to communicate — the feeling that while fashion and makeup are important, they are accessories on an overarching personality trait of being honest with oneself.

“People think that us vloggers and YouTubers are always so put together ... but my philosophy [is] ... that less is more,” she said, revealing that many of her favorite outfits are thrifted, sewn or pieces from her grandmother’s vintage collections. “I usually don’t spend more than five or ten minutes doing my makeup in the mornings ... [and] my go-to makeup style would be more of a simple, natural ... subtle look, little things that accentuate my features.”

Authenticity and minimalism are not synonymous with a lack of effort or sacrifice of organization, however. Catherine enjoys preparing and choosing her outfits the night before, with the exception of last-minute changes on a “few chaotic days.” It puts her in the mindset that she has already accomplished a task when she wakes up in the morning. Likewise, the reason she chooses to wear

more uncomfortable clothes while studying, a habit that she picked up back in high school during pandemic remote learning, also goes back to self-productivity and finding a way to jumpstart the day.

Her fashion journey throughout freshman and sophomore years has been about developing her own unique style and cultivating confidence instead of succumbing to any fashion pressures in the social media or real world, she said. She expressed pride in the fact that at Yale, student makeup culture doesn’t seem to lie at the extremes of uniformity or total individualism to the point of making it a competition, but rather a happy place in between. Walking to and from classes or coming home from parties, she notices all styles from casual street wear and classic crop tops to more preppy expressions and professional-looking makeup designs. While she admitted that going full blown with makeup is not her thing, for her, seeing other people putting in the effort to do so is a reminder of just how talented and diverse the campus is.

Prior to starting college, Judy Nguyen '26 thought most of her fellow classmates would be dressed in collegiate or New England prep with the occasional lazy groutfit for exam season. While her assumptions have mostly proven to be true, she said, the fashion scene here is more empowering than intimidating for her — she is grateful that students mostly “wear whatever pleases the heart.” If she had to capture the Yale makeup and fashion identity, it would be somewhere along the lines of “elevated” comfort.

Even Brock '25 agreed that makeup is less about being able to “defeat other people in a style war” than it is about breaking stereotypes, except when it is about “doing masculine things better than the men do it,” they wrote to the News. As a queer student, they said that it almost feels as though other people have elevated conceptions of “fashionableness” for them.” On a “normal day,” however, they have

# Rejecting the style war: What students have to say about DRESS UP at Yale

fewer reservations about wearing their prettiest outfits and putting on the best makeup designs, which are skills that they called among their proudest talents.

“I also feel like I’m carving my own path in terms of my specific gender expression, which makes me feel like an utter badass,” they said, noting that they have made it a habit to remind themselves to not feel affected by outside pressure to use makeup and to define their choices by boldness rather than expectation. “I love wearing clothes that typically fit into a gender binary but wearing them in a non-binary way.”

The relationship between makeup and identity hits close to home for Zara Belo '25 as well, whose commitment to fashion is rooted in its being among the most “outermost ways” that she can portray her Blackness and personality to others. Unlike the more spontaneous methodologies that Catherine and Brock have adopted, the excitement of her makeup routine lies in its organization, consistency, military schedule and product names themselves.

Here’s a first-hand look into her routine:

Belo’s mornings usually start with priming her face with the NYX Bare With Me jelly. Then, she color corrects with Neutrogena orange in hyperpigmented spots and sets them with brown powder, going over them with her Elf and LA Girl concealers. After this, Belo blushes the apples of her cheeks to the top of her brow bones, adding freckles or beauty spots around her face. Her Blend Bunny cosmetics eyeshadow palette and About-Gace liquid eyeshadows are frequent favorites; she dabs them as she likes with maximum pigment, using trusty black or dark brown NYX eyeliner pencil as a lip liner and swiping her Fenty gloss bomb in the shade “Hot Chocolit” on her lips. Finally, she ends with an inner and outer eyeliner wing and a dewy setting spray on her face.

At times, Belo’s desire of sticking to habit and routine is challenging, or even chaotic, but in a fun way. Her CV of notable makeup

moments includes attempting a full face beat while encountering turbulence on a plane, an experience that she “was indeed holding [her] breath” throughout.

Nonetheless, despite the impressive range of products, Belo makes it “her thought process to never buy something more than 25 dollars ... when it comes to make-up.” If certain brands are expensive, she resorts to makeup dupes, which she said are the best way for her to get the look and feel she wants while protecting her wallet. Aside from concealers and setting sprays, which fall on the cheaper end, her makeup purchases are otherwise few and far between.

For first-generation college student Kayla Wong '25, true makeup is safe, affordable and a “total game changer.” It’s possible to be the main character and “it” person without worrying about fitting into costly makeup trends or products, she said.

“There are a lot of products out there that are affordable and create the same look — I would recommend finding a product that you like and sticking with it,” she said. “As for budget, I get my products at Target or a drugstore, and makeup usually lasts a long time, because you don’t need a lot of it each time you use it. I’ll occasionally replace my mascara or eyeliner, but I don’t find myself worrying about buying expensive makeup too much because drugstore products get the job done.”

In Wong’s beauty routine, health and comfort take center-stage. She remembers her SPF “every single day of the year” and she has never missed the tightlining step in her routine, ever since an unfortunate incident when a lady in Bloomingdale’s had asked to try makeup on her stabbed her eye.

Protective steps are oftentimes forgotten amid the relentless pressure to keep up with the fast-paced fashion world beyond Yale, a feeling that Wong sympathizes with but rejects. Even at a college with heightened hookup, party and formal culture, she, Catherine and Belo are remembering to have

fun in the small moments while letting go of the larger environment that can leave students feeling lost or overwhelmed.

As a high schooler, Parade model and body activist Betty Kubovy-Weiss '25 used to wear makeup every day, feeling “bad about [herself]” whenever she didn’t. Now as a college student, she mostly goes outside “bare-faced so that she can feel extra special when [she does] choose to wear it,” urging other young women to find comfort in seeing their own bodies and faces as they are and resist the pressure of having to present a different version of themselves publicly. Looking back on some of her earlier memories, like when her father made her take off a super intense makeup look before going to a Yom Kippur event, she was glad that makeup had its revolutionary and funny breaks despite being a largely gendered practice.

For Catherine, the best part of going out is the GRWM — get ready with me — stage, where friends who are nowhere near makeup and fashion experts chaotically borrow each other’s tops and help one another in hopes of finishing half-done faces in time for frat openings. Meanwhile, Brock discusses only “offering” to others what they are most comfortable with, especially during events where a certain type of look might be the standard. Sometimes, dysphoric lipsticks and floral prints are the answer to feeling the “most epic, confident, beautiful, and spectacular,” they wrote.

“What I wear and look like every day is a part of who I am. It’s how I express myself,” Wong said, though she did mention that one of her biggest cautions for anyone is to never overdo a smokey eye. “My favorite thing that people say about my makeup or clothing I wear is when they’re like ‘That’s so you...’ Fashion, in that sense, is art — it’s a token of individuality and I love that we can each own a piece of the fashion realm.”

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# COMING HOME... TO CAMPUS

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

After a Spring Break that featured lots of showers without flip-flops and sleeping in my own bed, I returned to Yale with fears of rats in our room and four essays due before Tuesday.

As I walked back into my suite, the first sight that greeted me was the second- or maybe third-hand dark brown couch in the C21 common room. It is, by most objective standards, not much to look at. To me, it’s perfect.

Last year, I rarely spent time in my suite. I liked my suite-mates just fine — actually, I would go as far as to say I actively enjoyed spending time with them. But I was busy. They were busy. And for whatever reason, we just never put in enough effort to make it happen. Homer Simpson could count on one hand how many times we all hung out together.

Our common room reflected this reality. It was sparsely furnished with the standard Red Yale Couches and Chairs™, one plant and a few of my homemade “art” pieces on the walls. We didn’t mind. We were usually out and about, making friends, engaging socially, being good first years.

But now, my current suite-mates and I — wizened, old sophomores that we are — have retired to domestic bliss. The decorations make our suite feel downright homey. Our ratty couch is a centerpiece. Sections of the couch hide under excessively large, still kind of ugly blankets. A framed and signed polaroid of the six of us from move-in day sits above the fireplace next to far more bags of almonds, cashews and peanuts than we could possibly want or need.

In spite of one noble suitemate’s efforts, our cleanliness has waned over the course of the year. Code Names, Seven Wonders and a chess board lie around and remind me of game nights together. A sheriff’s hat, a pink LED hat and a Fizz hat that

nobody quite knows how we acquired lie around. They’ve gotten more use from each of us than anybody could have imagined. Food containers lie around in varying states of disgusting. We’ve gone through too many boxes of cookies, bags of popcorn and cups of ramen than any six human beings should consume, but somehow, these remain.

These items aren’t inherently valuable. In fact, some might argue that they’re gross, especially the one Cup o’Noodles that I’m afraid to touch. But they’re indicative of something that does hold value.

We’ve actually lived in our suite. We’ve watched movies and sang way too loud at 2 a.m. We’ve welcomed friends in to share the place with us. We’ve stayed up until 3 a.m. talking about our strong desire to avoid thinking about the future. We’ve cried over boys and we’ve cried over girls and most of all we’ve cried over computer science.

Over the break, don’t get me wrong, I was thrilled to shower without my shower shoes. Thrilled. And seeing my parents finished in a close second in terms of things that made me happy.

But each night, as I exited the shower and got ready for bed alone, something felt wrong. Nobody called to me from a common room couch, asking me to come hang out for a little bit, singing their siren song of gossip.

Screenagers that we are, the suite kept in touch over the two weeks. We texted updates and sent selfies to properly express our reactions. We hyped each other up on social media. But you can’t quite replicate the midnight popcorn bag offering or the “goodnight” call-out as you shut the door to your room.

So while that Sunday afternoon arrival was filled with dread that was only heightened in the library at 4 a.m. the next night, it was also filled with warmth and excitement. Oddly enough,

after a train ride from my childhood apartment, I felt like I was coming back home.

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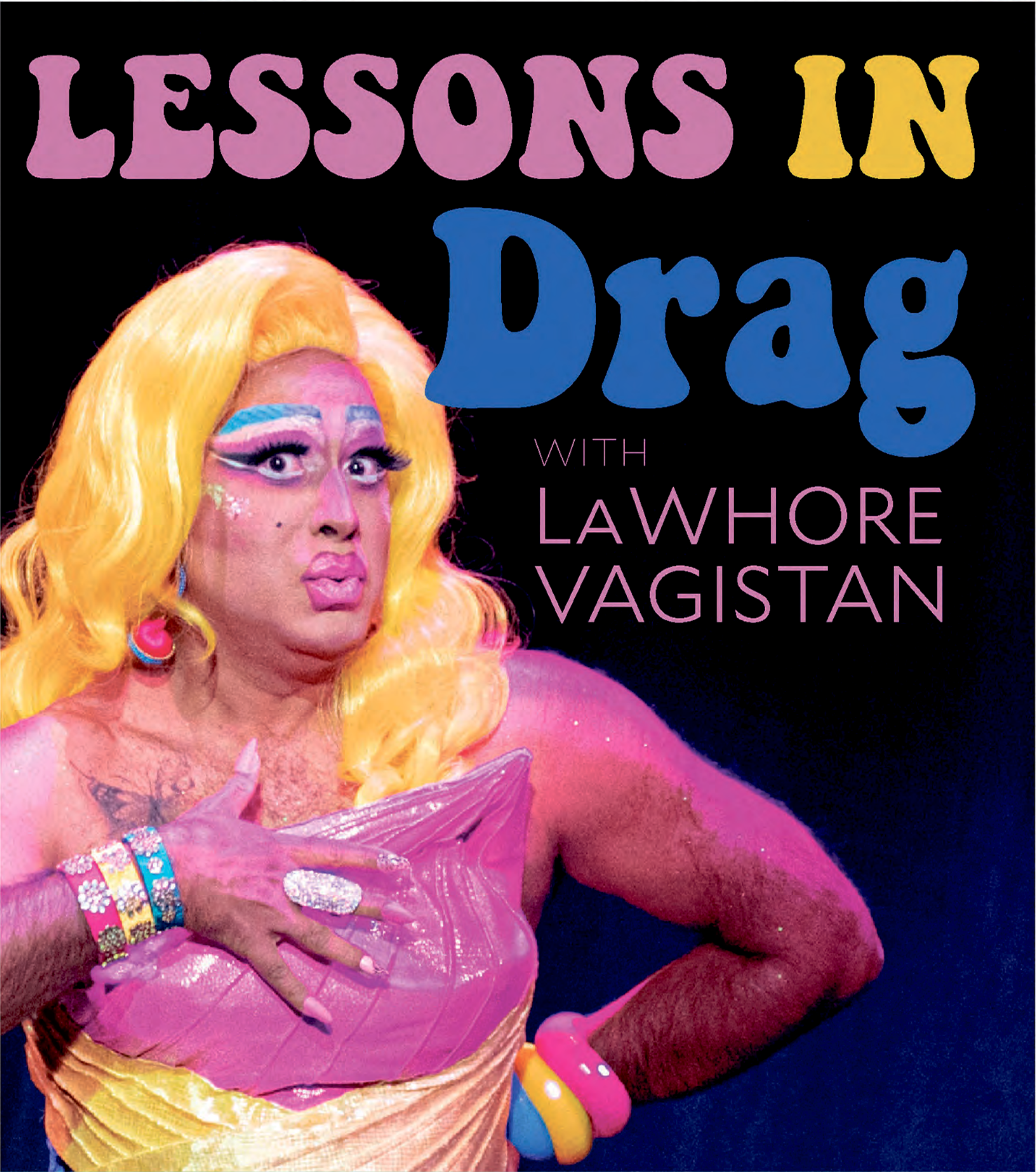


// CECILIA LEE

## WKND Recommends

Dance until the morning.





# LESSONS IN Drag

WITH  
LAWHORE  
VAGISTAN

**Dr. Vagistan,** your favorite South Asian drag aunty, brings the nightclub to the classroom (and vice versa) to explain how critical social theory matters in queer nightlife. Touching on themes that include globalization, feminist theory, and Islamophobia, she stages the nightclub as a site of politics and pleasure, where drag teaches us—even requires us—to be in relation with the rest of the world.

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LaWhore Vagistan is everyone's favorite overdressed, overeducated, oversaturated desi drag aunty. She has performed at festivals around the world. You can find her on YouTube delivering a TEDx talk titled "How to Be an Aunty" and serving looks on Instagram at @lawhorevagistan.



WKND Hot Take:

French is not an attractive language.