



Elicker wins third mayoral term

BY MIA CORTÉS CASTRO AND YURII STASIUK
STAFF REPORTERS

Incumbent Mayor Justin Elicker won the municipal mayoral election on Tuesday night, crushing challengers Tom Goldenberg and Wendy Hamilton with about 80 percent of the votes.

In total, 9,755 New Haveners supported Elicker, while 2,210 cast ballots for Goldenberg. Independent candidate Wendy Hamilton had 223 votes. Elicker received the majority of the votes in all of New Haven's 30 wards.

Elicker ran on behalf of the Democratic and Working Families parties, while Goldenberg was a Democratic candidate endorsed by the Republican and Independent parties after failing to gather enough signatures to get on the Democratic primary ballot in September.

"We did [it]! What an awesome night," Elicker yelled, opening his post-election speech. "I want to congratulate so many people because, let's be real, Democrats took across the board in the city of New Haven."

SEE **ELICKER** PAGE 4



In Tuesday's election, incumbent Justin Elicker won in a landslide victory over challengers. / Nydia Del Carmen, Contributing Photographer

Forbidden love: Certain professor-grad student relationships banned?

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Yale's Faculty Senate is recommending that the University forbid relationships between faculty and graduate students in the same department.

Last week, the FAS-SEAS diversity committee published a five-page report containing 14 specific recommendations for Yale to update its policy on teacher-student relations.

"It came up through the Diversity Committee, which started talking about this over a year ago, perhaps two," Meg Urry, a professor of physics and astronomy who chairs the Senate, wrote to the News. "I was one of the people who brought it up, having seen too many problems across astronomy and astrophysics nationally. That made it clear that we need a clear policy where dating and advising/mentoring were not interchangeable."

Currently, teachers are only banned from engaging in romantic relationships with graduate students whom they are actively teaching or supervising, or may "reasonably become responsible for teaching."

But the Senate asserts that this policy is too narrow in scope.

"Any relationship within a department or between members of closely related departments will disrupt the educational environment for all students and will expose faculty and students to career-impacting dangers," the report states.

The report also notes that some members of the senate would like the policy to "apply across the board," regardless of

SEE **RELATIONSHIPS** PAGE 4

The new Ward 1 Alder: Kiana Flores '25



Flores will take over as the alder representing most Yalies as alder Alex Guzhnay '24 steps down. / Michael Paz, Photography Editor

BY YURII STASIUK AND BRUNELLA TIPISMANA
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Kiana Flores '25, a native New Havener and climate activist, will be the next alder for Ward 1.

Flores, a Democrat, secured the seat at the polls in yesterday's election, where she received 83 votes. The race was uncontested.

After current alder Alex Guzhnay '24 announced in July he would not run for reelection, Flores decided to run in Ward 1, which comprises most of Yale's campus and eight residential colleges. For her, the decision was the logical continuation of her upbringing in New Haven, her study at Yale and her involvement in local organizing and politics in the city.

"It's been a long time coming with the different experiences I've had at Yale and in high school, growing up in New Haven," Flores said. "Although many people consider local policy

as not very effective or important enough, it really can shape and change lives."

Flores grew up in Fair Haven, in a predominantly Hispanic immigrant community. During her childhood, local policies — like the Elm City Resident Card created in 2007 — exposed Flores to the power and importance of city government.

At Yale, studying with John DeStefano, a former mayor of New Haven, Flores gained a new understanding of the role of local immigration policies in preventing Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and ensuring that, regardless of immigration status, foreign residents can access public assistance, like policing.

As a high school student, Flores co-founded the youth branch of the New Haven Climate Movement. In 2019, she successfully lobbied for the New Haven Board of Alders to pass a climate emergency resolution.

"A lot of the activism [has been] trying to keep the city accountable in making sure that we meet those goals and are continuously working on more progressive legislation around climate change," Flores said. "[I want] to use my experience with New Haven Climate Movement to be able to work on a certain policy around climate change and things like environmental justice."

Head of the New Haven Climate Movement Chris Schweitzer, who has worked closely with Flores, described her as driven and committed to the New Haven community.

Schweitzer praised her work in passing the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution, which included organizing public events and getting over 1,000 petitions signed by residents of the city.

"She is really passionate about social justice and making the world a better

SEE **NEW ALDER** PAGE 5

Experts weigh in on diversity in higher education

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

As the University's Presidential Search Committee searches for Yale's next leader, community members and experts in higher education have urged the University to consider diversity while making its selection.

Of the eight Ivy League institutions, all but Yale and Princeton currently have female presidents. Harvard University inaugurated its first Black female president, Claudine Gay, on Sept. 29. Nemat "Minouche" Shafik became the first woman and person of color to serve as president of Columbia University when she began her term on July 1. Sian Leah Beilock became Dartmouth College's first female president on June 12.

Of the 23 presidents to head Yale in its 322-year history, all have been white. And except for Hanna Holborn Gray, who served in an interim capacity from 1977 to 1978, when then-president Kingman Brewster Jr. resigned to accept a position as the U.S. ambassador to Britain, they have all also been men.

Amid high presidential turnover nationally, Yale's presidential search may be the chance for increasing diversity in the University's highest office.

President and senior consultant at Academic Search and former president of Susquehanna University Jay Lemons wrote to the News

SEE **DIVERSITY** PAGE 5

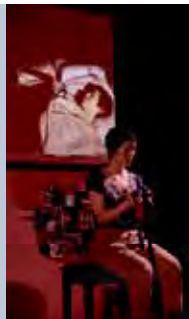
CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1978. Hundreds of students spend the afternoon pushing, pulling and grunting to gain control of the infamous Bladderball.

INSIDE THE NEWS

A one-woman show called "Moonie" ran this past weekend

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BUTTERY Buttery workers reflect on wages, staffing after Trumbull introduces pay.

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LONG COVID Yale clinic seeks to unravel the mystery of long COVID.

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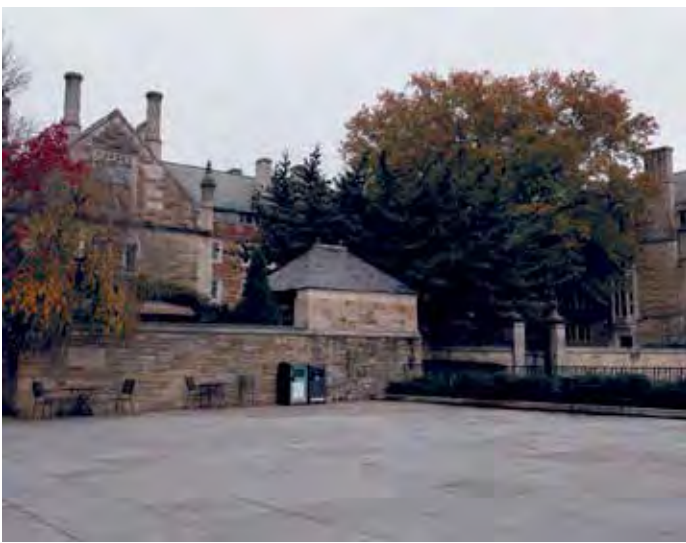
THROUGH THE LENS



Photos by **MIA TOLEDO-NAVARRO.**



Photos by **ZACK HAUPTMAN.**



OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST

ALI OTUZOGLU

Why I hate American professionalism

I had initially pictured the professional world to be monotonous and serious: bespoke suits, cufflinks, shaking hands with a firm grip. But Yale's work culture turns out to be a continent of its own.

From the tyranny of Google Calendar to the uncomfortable abundance of mass emails with meme attachments, Yale's work culture has shocked me on various levels. Despite my self-contempt at deeming these comparatively normal, what I am most surprised by is the positivity epidemic in professional spaces.

I have had my fair share of seeing people trying to market their work as quirky and relatable. Seeing my Head of College being showered with flour by students on a TikTok was unexpected. Not to mention Yale professors' go-to tactic of mentioning Taylor Swift to clickbait students into consuming memeified academic content. There was a "friendly" filter over quite formal affairs — something I am not used to.

This warm glow is definitely not universal. In Türkiye, where I am from, only serious disciplinary action warrants an administrator conversing with a student. In Switzerland, where I went to boarding school, networking comes in the form of distant politeness and an inviolable business formal dress code. But at Yale, incessant positivity and over-familiarity mark every interaction.

During the social battlefield of freshman orientation, everyone spoke as if they were reading from a script or template. Many peers and executives had molded their personality into two or three cookie cutter interests, their passions and goals reduced into marketable resume bullet points. I did get that no one owed anyone sincerity in a professional setting, but never had I ever seen pretension perfumed with such excessive friendliness.

Making connections felt like gathering tokens in a social game. I imagined the college experience to be about meeting new people and fostering relationships with professors rather than just studying 24/7. But being new to American culture, I could not help but always feel excluded. There were some people that managed to enter a room and immediately bond with everyone. I would speak twice and politely leave.

To adapt in my first two months in the United States, I believe I have mastered the subtle art of Yale formal introductions. There is a bizarre formula to be learned: a niche compliment paired with the sharing of a quirky hobby, followed by the secondary detail of

one's professional qualifications. To get acquainted means learning about how a program director adores their weekly 6 p.m. tango class or has a huge passion for orientalist embroidery. Their work seems like a footnote.

Since professional relationships appear more friendly here than anywhere else I've been, the lines blur between companionship and networking, between humanitarianism and marketing. Seminars feel like pageants, and professional gatherings are popularity contests.

I AM STILL A TOURIST AT NOTICING CORPORATE FRIENDLINESS, AND SWITCHING ON MY 9-TO-5 COLD GRIN.

To me, honesty is the purest form of kindness. I am still a tourist at noticing corporate friendliness, and switching on my 9-to-5 cold grin. Having seen the pretentious altruism of the American professional world, I realized that I much prefer a blunt "no" to forced courtesy. I would much rather be told that I cannot contact someone outside of working hours than be told that I can ask for help whenever and not get a response.

I do acknowledge my hypocrisy. The professors who give me guidance feel like valuable mentors. But when they help others and do not connect with me, it feels like nepotism. Perhaps I am overly critical, but maybe there is no need for there to be much sincerity in a professional setting in the first place. Why can't everyone do their work and move on with their day, without having the need to tirelessly expand their network?

So, what if we all just started being more honest with each other? What if we based professional success not by exclusive communities and the span of one's network, but rather through measurable skills? It's that or I just might have to schedule a meeting with one of my 20 wellness mentors.

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GUEST COLUMNIST

JUSTIN CROSBY

For empathy

This past month has been harrowing for those connected in some way to Israel or Palestine, including a large portion of Yale's student body.

I have one close friend whose favorite part of the week is Shabbat dinner. She adores Slifka, the center for Jewish life at Yale that hosts it. After Oct. 7, she saw peers feel so at risk that they elected to wear baseball caps atop their kippot. Deeply isolated and anxious herself, she felt vulnerable anywhere outside Slifka. Her unease came from multiple sources: the beginning of the war, concern about family friends and a campus that was hostile and indifferent to her mourning. The stress was so debilitating that she stopped attending classes and booked a last-minute flight to go home.

Another dear friend frequently shares warm stories about the Muslim Student Association; she has always been so proud to be a part of that community. Now, she feels unsafe walking around campus in her hijab. Unsettled by increasing stares, she leaves her room less frequently. And with the fear of being doxxed online or physically harmed on her way to class, she keeps quiet. She tells me that her experiences, though difficult, do not compare to the despair of her Palestinian peers; many are grieving the loss of family members. To her and her friends, campus has never felt less welcoming.

I do not personally know the great pain and fear my peers face. I do know, however, that I have never seen our campus more hostile and confrontational than now. A large amount of our public discourse concerning Israel and Palestine has sought to anger and alienate. The messaging — often antisemitic or Islamophobic — is vitriolic and inimical to constructive engagement.

Hateful speech is indicative of many states of hurting. Sometimes it is the product of pure

hatred; other times it is born of fear, ignorance, vengeance, or a hive mentality. We have seen alienating and upsetting rhetoric across various media, including certain protest chants, writing on whiteboards, op-eds and social media posts. Countless additional examples exist, and each has its own origin, impact, and story. What unites them is their contribution to fear and hostility on campus. Making matters worse, many responses to this speech have been uncivil and antagonistic.

Times of crisis and immense pain can make empathy for those on the "other side" incredibly difficult to attain; it may seem counterintuitive and even offensive. Though particularly challenging now, our community needs to focus on achieving empathetic coexistence. Our diversity, when accompanied by active discourse, permits us to understand peers of fundamentally different backgrounds and beliefs. The conversations we have and the bridges we build will aid us in fostering peace and trust within our multicultural campus and society.

It has been devastating to see students feel unwelcome and alienated from our community due to the spread of hateful speech. I have also been disheartened to see so many of my peers — including friends I love — champion campaigns to intimidate those behind that speech. These campaigns, absent of righteousness, are conducted out of revenge. They often involve personal attacks that pin collective stress on a few people. Such tactics demand conformity and instill fear; they do not inform perspectives or enkindle tolerance.

How should we respond to vitriolic speech in our community? To say "Yale must issue a statement" is insufficient. Top-down responses to grassroots issues usually achieve meager buy-in and accomplish lit-

tle. We, as members and stewards of this community, need to be at the forefront of crafting grassroots mechanisms of discourse.

Constructive dialogue builds mutual understanding. Without it, we will continue to talk past one another, getting hurt and hurting others, not fully grasping each other's pain. To comprehend matters of tremendous complexity, and to get to know each other as people, we need an environment that fosters thoughtful conversations. Civil discourse will allow us to share — and listen to — the feelings and concerns within our community. It will encourage reflection and the reconstruction of fractured bonds.

How do we achieve an environment conducive to healthy discourse? If we are able, we should practice civility and decency. This necessitates reflection, particularly concerning our conduct, the content of the messages we endorse and the impact our voices have. Whether acting alone or engaging in a collective effort, our words and actions touch others; it is crucial we realize that. We can also spread our impact by initiating conversations. One of the most accessible and promising vehicles for dialogue is over dinner with a few people.

Read the rest online:



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GUEST COLUMNISTS

AARON SCHORR & JAKE GARZA SEYMOUR

Heed the creed

"Put the Urim ve-Tummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of the Lord. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the Lord" (Exodus 28:30).

According to the Bible, priests would ask the breastpiece "yes" or "no" questions with two sticks — the Urim ve-Tummim. In preparation for battle, they would cast the sticks on the breastpiece. If they turned up black, the Israelites would stand down. If they turned up white, they would proceed into battle with the knowledge that they were following the will of God.

Unless you are a theologian, you may be hearing these words for the first time, yet they are enshrined on our university's crest: Urim ve-Tummim in Hebrew; Lux et Veritas in Latin. These words are Yale's North Star, and guide us beyond its gates.

Our alma mater does not merely train us to be repositories of knowledge but to think critically and pursue truth. Beneath towering spires and along elm-lined streets, we are prompted to question consensus and are reminded that truth is often hidden beneath layers of bias and ideology. We are reminded of our predecessors' mistakes, and are encouraged to bring truth to light even when it is inconvenient.

As we cast our eyes on the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the ethos of "light and truth" becomes ever more relevant. An ocean away from the fighting, we have an individual responsibility to understand this conflict before we attempt to educate our peers. Rapidly circulating infographics, viral posts and polarizing narratives — often devoid of context or comprehensive understanding — amplify oversimplified views. Platforms teem with biased and outright false information, pro-

moting simplistic narratives that maximize engagement. Yale has equipped us to fight this information war, yet as every military historian knows, no plan survives first contact with the enemy.

A few starting points, then, in my view for the soldier on the front lines of this information war:

The conflict is not about "white supremacy." Israel's diverse population, comprising Jews from Middle Eastern, North African, Ethiopian, European and various other backgrounds, alongside significant Arab, Druze and other minority communities, contradicts the notion of it being a monolithic bastion of "white supremacy." In fact, recent studies have shown deep genetic links between Israeli Jews of all stripes and Palestinians.

Catch-all terms like "colonialism" or comparisons to anticolonial struggles do not capture the reality of the conflict. Israel was established with broad international support to restore a Jewish homeland following centuries of antisemitism, unlike colonial endeavors undertaken by imperial powers in foreign lands in pursuit of power and profit. Comparisons to anti-colonial struggles from the past, therefore, do not accurately capture the goals and motivations of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

The population of Gaza did not "choose" Hamas leadership. Elections have not been held in Gaza since 2006, and nearly half of its population was born since then. Intra-Palestinian political conflicts are fierce, and many Gazans hope for a better future without the murderous yoke of Hamas leadership.

Hamas is not a "resistance organization" fighting for Palestinian liberation. Even neglecting its horrific crimes against Israeli civilians, Hamas positions military installations within civilian infrastructure, uses Palestinian civilians as human

shields and abducts, tortures and murders Gazans suspected of collaborating with Israel. Its original charter blames the Jews for the French Revolution, imperialism and both world wars, and categorically rejects any peaceful resolution in favor of armed resistance.

Our distance from the conflict inhibits our ability to understand its complexities. Many Yalies, driven by a sincere commitment to ideals of freedom and justice, admirably champion the rights of oppressed groups around the world. In the murky waters of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, however, even the noblest of observers can be led astray by propaganda and the mirage of oversimplified truths. Hamas has mastered the art of misinformation, cynically intertwining legitimate Palestinian grievances with its nefarious objectives. When students amplify certain simplified narratives — like framing the conflict in Americanized racial terms or neglecting to differentiate between civilians and combatants — they fall prey to Hamas's deception and obfuscate public discourse on the conflict.

Read the rest online:



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FROM THE FRONT

"A sunset is the sun's firey kiss to the night."

CRYSTAL WOODS AMERICAN AUTHOR

Incumbent re-elected as mayor of New Haven

ELICKER FROM PAGE 1

Elicker says the public expressed confidence in the city's direction

Elicker walked into a crowded victory party at the Da Legna at Nolo restaurant after the election was called and was met with rounds of applause and cheers from supporters. On his way through the room, he shook hands and thanked his supporters.

He thanked supporters, campaign volunteers, and the New Haven Democrats and the Working Families Party who endorsed him. He also acknowledged New Haven Rising, as well as local unions, UNITE HERE! Local 34 and Local 35. Elicker also thanked his family, who stood by him and who he said sacrificed a lot for his job and "for everyone in this room."

"I thought that if I could just become mayor, I could make a difference. But me just being mayor, is that what actually makes a difference? No," Elicker said. "There's

a lot of talk about the New Haven machine ... and there's kind of a tone to it. ... We put the fuel into [this machine], and that fuel is knocking on doors, ... the day-to-day grind, the partnership with our Board of Alders, with [state and federal governments]."

Elicker said that thanks to these partnerships, the city has received "unbelievable resources" over the past four years.

The Mayor boasted about the city's accomplishments during his past two terms, including the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, the creation of affordable housing, the establishment of a climate office and the adoption of the first in Connecticut tenants union ordinance. He emphasized that the city achieved them through collaboration, repeatedly asking his supporters to scream "together!"

The election results, Elicker said, reflect residents' confidence in the city's direction. He also said he believes his overwhelming victory

reflects the public's rejection of the divisive rhetoric he claimed his competitor used, referring to Goldenberg. Elicker blamed the challenger for "misrepresent[ing] so many truths about our city" and "scapegoat[ing] the people that were most vulnerable in our community."

Democrats also won all 30 alder races as well as the city clerk position and Board of Education seat. The charter revision, which Democrats drafted and supported, was approved by the voters by nearly a 2-to-1 margin.

"This city ... is all about hope and stability, both in politics and in government, and it's because of this team in this city right now," Vincent Mauro, New Haven Democratic Town Committee chair, said at the party.

Goldenberg: "This is historic"

At 8:30 p.m., Tom Goldenberg walked into his election watch party at East Rock Market. Around 10 minutes later, he called Elicker to tell Elicker he conceded.

Joined by two dozen family members, friends and campaign supporters, Goldenberg gave a speech thanking them for all of their hard work and support during the elections. He also thanked Republican Town Committee Chair John Carlson for supporting him, a Democratic candidate, which "took guts."

"When I look back at this campaign, maybe it's not the exact outcome I would have envisioned," Goldenberg said in his speech. "But I think looking at what I've put in, what my team has put in and all the people we've met along the way, we have put our heart and soul into this. We have put our 100 percent into things that we really believe need to happen in the city."

Goldenberg highlighted his campaign's attention to education and quality of life around New Haven, mentioning that his pushes toward more engagement in schools have led to Board of Education meetings

moving to an in-person format. He also referenced working with the residents of Bella Vista to achieve better living conditions.

His speech was preceded by a speech from Jason Bartlett, a veteran campaign manager and aide to former Mayor Toni Harp who agreed to help Goldenberg on his campaign in June. Both Goldenberg and Bartlett brought up the statement that Goldenberg made in which he agreed to be endorsed by the Republican Party.

"I think that statement is really powerful: Democrats working with Republicans," Goldenberg said. "If only we would see this at a national level, imagine where we would be ... this is historic."

Elicker was elected for his first term as mayor in 2019.

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Faculty Senate proposes ban on certain romantic relationships



In a new report, the FAS-SEAS Senate proposed that Yale ban relationships between faculty and graduate students in the same department, citing "career-impacting dangers." / Vaibhav Sharma, Contributing Photographer

RELATIONSHIPS FROM PAGE 1

department. But, other members recognized that "living in a small town like New Haven can make social life difficult for young faculty," who are often close in age to graduate students.

The FAS-SEAS Senate is a body of 25 elected faculty members who serve in an advisory role to the University administration. The report, though unanimously approved by the Senate, is purely a recommendation and will need to be addressed by the University provost, Scott Strobel, in order to become school policy.

"It's a good first step, we raised the issue, and we hope the provost will take it from here," Urry said.

Urry noted that Strobel would likely need to set up his own committee with appropriate representation from across the Uni-

versity in order to move forward on any recommendations.

Strobel confirmed that the report is in the review process and that he will discuss the Senate's recommendations with the appropriate faculty deans.

"I am grateful for and share the FAS-SEAS Faculty Senate's commitment to protect the integrity of the teacher-student relationship and to maintain a safe and supportive environment for graduate students," he wrote.

He also noted that it will be important to review any recommendations alongside the new Title IX regulations expected to be released by the Department of Education this spring.

Another key senate recommendation is that any faculty-graduate student relationship that emerges must be "declared im-

mediately" to the University's Title IX coordinator. Any pre-existing relationships at the time the policy goes into effect must be immediately reported, too.

Failure to disclose a relationship may result in "sanctions" specifically against the involved faculty member, who the report notes has the "primary responsibility for complying with this policy" by "virtue of their seniority."

The proposals are intended to protect all parties, including those in the relationship as well as their colleagues, "from potential unfairness or retaliation" that may emerge from the complications of a relationship's end.

In 2013, the University suspended John Darnell, a professor of Egyptology, for a relationship he sustained with one of his students. He resigned at the time, but

he later returned to Yale and still teaches in the department.

The former student, Colleen Manassa — now Colleen Darnell — was Darnell's student as both an undergraduate and graduate student; they are now married.

Urry told the News, however, that the Senate's proposal does not stem from any recent rise in incidents, noting that "even one case is too many."

"A colleague described something he heard another faculty member say, 'I can't date my students but I can date your students.' Not good," Urry wrote.

Yale banned romantic relationships between faculty members and any undergraduate students they teach in 1997, and it extended the policy's reach to all undergraduate students in 2010. Yale took this action before many peer universities, including Harvard and Stanford.

According to the report, female graduate students are particularly vulnerable to the complications that may arise from faculty-student relationships, given that the fraction of female graduate students is far higher than that of female faculty.

The report also discusses the impact of faculty-graduate student relationships on other students.

"Even successful relationships have a disturbing effect on the student's classmates, who experience the department differently because their classmate is dating their professor," it says. "That is unfair to everyone."

The FAS-SEAS senate was established in the 2015-2016 school year.

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FROM THE FRONT

"There's a special quality to the loneliness of dusk..."

ED GORMAN AMERICAN WRITER

Kiana Flores '25 wins Yale alder seat

NEW ALDER FROM PAGE 1

place," Schweitzer said. "She presents as very friendly and humble, but she is also very committed and concerned."

One of Flores' climate goals is finding ways to ensure landlords invest in energy-efficient housing for apartment complexes. She hopes to accomplish this by partially shifting the cost of utilities to landlords, both to reduce carbon emissions and to create more affordable living spaces where high electricity and utility bills do not burden the tenants.

Flores also plans to promote the creation of safe sidewalks and

bike lanes, which she believes will increase public safety and encourage people to walk or bike instead of driving. Additionally, she plans to advocate for allocating more funds toward climate education.

Flores has been involved in the Yale College Council on Yale-New Haven relations, where she promoted the city's resources among students.

"It can be really easy [for students] to just get trapped in the Yale bubble," Flores said. "A lot of our work [with YCC] was ... to open the doors for [students] to see the amazing cultural diversity of New Haven, the opportunities, the people, the community."

She expressed the need for continued conversations about

the resources and contributions Yale offers to the broader New Haven community, especially focusing on supporting high schoolers with financial barriers to higher education. Flores said that as a Ward 1 alder and native New Havener, she will be positioned to bridge two communities and advocate for increasing Yale's voluntary contribution.

Because she ran unopposed, Flores has been able to use the campaign to lay the groundwork for her coming term.

"What we've been trying to do with the campaign is just get familiar with the campus and get familiar with the people, my constitu-

ents, regardless of whether they vote in New Haven or not," Flores said. "[I have been] outlining our policy issues and having conversations with students about those issues preemptively."

Flores hopes to create a team of both students and local residents to work on city issues and research potential solutions to them.

Prior to this campaign, Flores served as a co-chair of the Ward 1 Democratic Town Committee, where she would share her thoughts and ideas on policy solutions with alder Guzhnay.

Guzhnay expressed confidence that Flores will have enough experience and connections in

local politics to push through her policy ideas.

"[She is] someone who understands community, who still ... put enough effort and work into the community, and ... who can adequately represent the needs of downtown New Haven, but also ... know about [broader] city issues," Guzhnay said of his successor. "I think she'll do an excellent job."

Flores will start her term in January 2024.

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'Despairingly slow' progress: Experts weigh in amid high presidential turnover

DIVERSITY FROM PAGE 1

that he hopes the "changing of the guard" at Ivy League schools will open doors for people from underrepresented groups.

Lemons also wrote that at his own search firm — which has completed over 2,200 executive searches, including over 685 presidential searches over the last five years — many search committees have expressed interest in compiling pools of diverse candidates.

"It is thrilling to see a new generation of extremely diverse and talented leaders emerge to lead our oldest and most widely respected institutions," he wrote. "The good news, from what I see ... is that there remain significant numbers of persons willing to tackle these tough jobs and even better, that there are exceptionally talented persons from underrepresented populations in these pools."

An increasingly diverse campus

Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Development Joan O'Neill told the News that she hopes the University will choose a candidate that mirrors the diversity of Yale's broader community.

She added that "there are a lot of good women leaders out there." According to the University's most recent data from the Office of Institutional Research, roughly 46 percent of Yale students identify as men and approximately 52 percent identify as women. Furthermore, the office's most recent data about racial and ethnic diversity indicate that 24 percent of Yale students — 31 percent of undergraduate and 19 percent of graduate students — are underrepresented minorities.

"I want the most qualified person," O'Neill noted. "This is a great time for Yale to embrace the diversity of our community."

Chair of the Library Council and co-chair of the For Humanity capital campaign Nancy Marx

Better '84 told the News that she understands there is "tremendous interest" in choosing a female president.

She added, however, that she ultimately believes the next president must be willing to handle the "tremendously challenging, complicated and difficult role." Randolph Nelson '85, who also co-chairs the campaign, told the News that the search for Salovey's successor should be an "open and fair process" that considers "diverse backgrounds."

"I assume the search committee is going to be working very hard to identify a number of very strong candidates who are women and diverse and people of color," Better said. "But at the end of the day, I think what we all want is a great president, and I just don't know that you can put very specific limitations on what that person would look like."

James M. Jones GRD '70, a professor of psychology, Africana studies and director of the Center for the Study of Diversity at the University of Delaware, wrote to the News in an email that he believes that the "commitment to advancing DEI" is "important."

Jones, a recipient of this year's Wilbur Cross Medal — the highest honor awarded to alumni of Yale's Graduate School — added that he views demographic status as less important than social identity.

"I would expect any search would value including a range of candidates who would carry forward an inclusive and creative agenda for Yale," Jones wrote. "There is no simple set of characteristics that satisfy all of this but the search process needs to be creative and committed to DEI. I think the [next president] should have a visionary and effective track record in meeting goals for creating a campus that incorporates the perspectives and focus of a diverse community in which

excellence continues to be a hallmark of the Yale brand."

"Progress is despairingly slow"

Danielle Melidona, senior analyst in the Education Futures Lab at the American Council on Education, wrote to the News that, at present, the demographics of college and university presidents do not reflect the identities of their student populations. She added, however, that high turnover provides an opportunity to diversify the presidential role.

She also told the News that those in charge of choosing an institution's leader play a significant role in ensuring that colleges and universities continue to diversify.

"With such significant anticipated change in leadership, there is opportunity for more women and people of color to ascend to these top roles," Melidona wrote to the News. "Even as opportunities are created and pathways widened, governing boards, search firms, and search committees play an important role in ensuring the continued diversification of the presidency can be realized."

Melidona added that although the higher education sector has made concerted efforts to diversify its ranks in the last several decades, the Council's findings in its American College Presidents Survey shows that "progress is despairingly slow."

It is therefore "critical," she said, for institutions to "standardize search process disclosures and prioritize communication" and transparency.

Davarian Baldwin, professor of American studies at Trinity College and author of "In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower: How Universities Are Plundering Our Cities," argued that Yale could find itself in "crisis" if it failed to adequately prioritize diversity in its search for a new generation of leadership.

He noted the opportunity for Yale to capitalize on the "calls and

claims for DEI" in a "shrinking higher education market."

"There is waning public confidence in higher education, there's a backlash against diversity, equity inclusion projects, there's shrinking enrollments," Baldwin said. "People see it as a crisis, but I see it actually as a possibility. What if [Yale] became that kind of institution fully aligned with our attempts to carve out a marketplace for itself, but in line with its principles as laid out in our state charter, and in its mission?"

But Brian Rosenberg, president emeritus at Macalester College and president in residence at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, wrote to the News that DEI considerations are already an important component of various leadership searches.

He also wrote that beyond direct racial and gender considerations, such considerations might also present themselves in a search process when committees consider candidates' track records and "commitment to DEI in their previous work."

"Consideration of racial and gender diversity is currently playing a significant role in leadership searches and will continue to play a significant role for the foreseeable future," Rosenberg wrote. "It will take a long time to address the historical lack of diversity in these positions. Having a diverse group of leaders within higher education matters, especially as the population becomes increasingly diverse."

A gap in role expectations

Executive Director of Yale's Education Studies Program Mira Debs GRD '13 told the News that she anticipates diversity, equity and inclusion considerations to play a "really important" role in the search for Yale's next president amid "concerted efforts" at other colleges and universities to hire more diverse candidates.

She added that she believes the question that follows is what environment on campus and in the

alumni community would allow for diverse candidates to succeed.

"It's notable that Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard and Penn have all appointed women to be president of their universities in the past year," she said. "We're definitely seeing universities make concerted efforts to hire more diverse candidates than in the past."

However, both Debs and Melidona noted a pattern among women and people of color in leadership roles in higher education: they often face more difficulty in their roles, with shorter tenures and higher expectations.

In thinking about literature on the tenures of K-12 superintendents, Debs — who teaches Foundations in Education Studies — told the News that tenures, especially those of women and people of color, are decreasing. She said that it remains unclear whether the trend of short tenures in K-12 will manifest at the collegiate level.

On a similar note, Melidona wrote that in its 2023 American College President Study, the American Council on Education found a 10-percentage point gap between white presidents and presidents of color when asked whether their institutions' search processes gave them a realistic impression of challenges they would face in the role.

Furthermore, the report states that roughly 54 percent of women of color and that roughly 48 percent of men of color anticipate leaving their roles within the next five years. The report calls this result a "cause for concern."

"These broader findings indicate a gap between what presidents think they are hired to do, versus what the expectations of their governing board or management may be," Melidona wrote.

President Salovey will officially step down from his post in June 2024.

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University President Peter Salovey's approaching departure from the role comes amid a national pattern of college and university president turnover. / Ellie Park, Photography Editor

NEWS

“Outside, daylight was bleeding slowly toward dusk.”

STEPHEN KING AMERICAN WRITER

Yalies4Palestine draws hundreds to protest Yale’s response to Israel-Hamas War

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ AND HANWEN ZHANG
STAFF REPORTERS

Hundreds of Yale students and New Haven community members gathered on Cross Campus last Friday afternoon to protest the University’s stance on the Israel-Hamas war.

Event organizers demanded that the University denounce recent anti-Palestinian hate speech, condemn Israel’s invasion of Gaza and divest from all arms manufacturers and defense contractors, in addition to pressuring Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy to lobby for an immediate ceasefire. The gathering, organized by Yalies4Palestine, featured a reading of the student group’s statement that expressed “solidarity with indigenous people of Palestine” and criticized the administration’s response to the “ever-increasing violence” committed by Israeli forces.

Since the start of its retaliatory attacks on Gaza last month, Israel has killed at least 10,000 Palestinians as of Nov. 6, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which is run by Hamas. Israel’s attacks come after Hamas launched a surprise attack against Israel on Oct. 7, killing at least 1,400 Israelis. On Oct. 28, nearly all phone and Internet services went out in Gaza, leaving family members and humanitarian organizations stranded. Amid the intensifying humanitarian crisis in Gaza, United Nations officials officially characterized Israel’s actions as “collective punishment” in violation of international law.

The protest comes over three weeks after University President Peter Salovey issued an Oct. 10 statement titled “War in the Middle East,” condemning Hamas’s attacks on civilians in Israel. On Friday — the day of the protest — Salovey released another statement titled “President’s remarks on compassion and civility.” In the statement, Salovey addressed antisemitism, Islamophobia and hatred toward Palestinians and Israelis as “emphatically” against the University’s values and principles and urged University members to act with “compassion and civility” toward each other.

Yalies4Palestine released its statement on the University’s response to the conflict on Oct. 17, and it has since garnered thousands of signatures from students, professors and alumni. The protest’s purpose was to deliver the statement to Yale’s administration.



ADAM WALKER/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Yalies and New Haveners joined the call for a ceasefire, greater student protection and divestment from weapons manufacturers.

“We are here together to fight against hatred,” one of the event organizers said at the start. “We’re fighting against slaughter, genocide, dehumanization and specifically against the efforts to make some people count and other people ... not count.”

The statement released by Yalies4Palestine noted that Yale, under its “guise of political neutrality,” did not acknowledge injustices perpetrated by the Israeli government. The statement also argued that the University was complicit in the humanitarian crisis through its investment in American defense contractors, such as Raytheon, which manufactured weapons that America has supplied to the Israeli military. It also pointed to the absence of “[public] support” for faculty and students who have spoken out against Israel’s invasion, which it said has in turn cultivated a “campus climate that is openly hostile towards Palestinian and other racialized students.”

Attendees were urged not to engage with any possible counter-protesters. Speakers at the event did not disclose their names.

One of the event speakers shared their grievances over the University’s “double standard” of free speech, contrasting the administration’s responses to recent Islamophobic threats on campus and pro-Palestine statements. They recounted how chalk-written statements across campus, such as “Free Pal-

estine,” were promptly erased overnight. They added that posters placed around campus featuring the Palestinian flag were removed within a span of 24 hours.

The speaker referred to the Oct. 9 incident at Grace Hopper College, in which a student scrawled a message reading “Death to Palestine” — and, later, people added Hebrew phrases reading “children of whores” and “they are pussies” — on a whiteboard outside a suite. In her email response to the incident, Head of College Julia Adams restated the importance of “academic freedom and the expression of views and dissent.”

According to the same event speaker, the administration had dismissed the incident as a political statement.

“Yale faculty assured us that these were political sentiments and that these individuals are being monitored so that there was nothing to be concerned about,” the speaker said. “Even at esteemed institutions that pride themselves on such liberal free speech policies, Yale’s responses are proof that only Palestine is the exception to activism and free speech.”

In his Friday statement, Salovey addressed the rising rates of discord on college campuses, noting that “Yale is not immune” and called on University members to remain committed to civil discourse and mutual respect.

In an interview with the News the same day, Salovey said that

“we need to use our own voices” to stand against antisemitic or Islamophobic forms of expression. He added that although the University’s free expression policy protects many forms of expression on campus, there are some forms that it will not tolerate.

“We tolerate at Yale an awful lot of expression,” Salovey told the News. “But there are some forms of speech that are not protected by our policies. And that’s really important. That is speech designed to harass. That is speech designed to directly threaten an individual’s safety. That is speech designed to incite violence. It’s not always easy to make that call about which side of the line speech is on, but there is a line, and we will do our best to enforce that line.”

Another speaker demanded that Yale apply the principles of its 2018 ethical investing policy to its current portfolio, claiming that “our tax dollars, our tuition dollars” are currently “entangled” with the production of weapons of war. They noted that more than half the annual Defense Department budget is earmarked for private contracts.

Because the Investments Office does not publicly disclose its holdings, it remains unclear whether Yale currently holds or previously held investments in weapons retailers or manufacturers. Per its investment policy, the University is not permitted to invest in public-facing weapons retailers, but the policy distinguishes

between these sellers and weapons manufacturers, which are permitted.

In last week’s email to the News, Salovey wrote that the University’s Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility — composed of alumni, faculty and students — is currently in talks to determine whether it should revisit Yale’s current investing policy toward weapons retailers and manufacturers under its ethical investment framework. According to ACIR chair Heather Tookes, a finance professor and deputy dean for faculty at the School of Management, the review began last year following a presentation to the ACIR by Yale’s chapter of Students Demand Action.

CEOs of Raytheon, General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin have acknowledged recent profits from supplying weapons to Israel. Lockheed Martin’s stock grew by 12 percent in the 20-day period between Oct. 6 and Oct. 26.

The News has not been able to independently verify the value of Yale’s shares in arms manufacturers. According to its August 2023 SEC filings, the University owns 6,564 shares in the S&P index — a stock performance tracker that includes defense contractors such as Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. However, most of the University’s holdings are in illiquid, alternate assets.

“Every conflict affects us right here,” the event speaker said. “If we can be courageous in our commitment to changing this institution, then our administrators and our Corporation can be courageous in honoring the values of this community.”

The protest concluded with a march down Wall Street and part of Prospect Street to deliver the message to the offices of the Yale administration. The offices have been located at Sheffield Strathcona Hall since 2018, when construction at the Schwarzman Center required Salovey and Kimberly Goff-Crews, secretary and vice president for university life, to relocate from Woodbridge Hall. Students chanted “Free Palestine” and “Yale, Yale you can’t hide, you’re enabling genocide” as they walked.

Yalies4Palestine was founded in 2019.

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Buttery workers reflect on wages, staffing after Trumbull introduces pay

BY CHRIS TILLEN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Trumbull buttery began paying its 16-student staff for the first time this semester, following a shift in the College’s leadership. Buttery workers told the News that the pay introduction has quickly resulted in a fuller staff and a busier buttery this semester.

Last year, Trumbull College was the only residential college with a fully volunteer-based buttery staff. The College paid student buttery managers, but all students working regular shifts were unpaid. Going into the 2023-2024 school year, following the arrival of Head of Trumbull College Fahmeed Hyder on July 1, the Trumbull buttery has shifted to paying workers.

“I discovered that buttery students weren’t getting paid ... I felt that was rather odd,” Hyder said of the change. “It was a mutual thing. We all felt that Trumbull, if possible, should do this sooner rather than later.”

Upon starting as Trumbull’s head of college — following the departure of Margaret Clark — Hyder met with students in order to understand their needs throughout the summer.

Among other issues, students frequently brought up buttery pay.

Hyder emphasized that the in-person complaints he received from students came from both buttery workers and non-buttery workers. He also noted these complaints came early and often, and he underscored the merits of open communication.

When asked why Trumbull had previously used the volunteer model, Hyder noted that it was a Trumbull “tradition” before he became Head.

“I can’t speak to the tradition of why one college behaved differently than another, but I’m glad that we resolved it,” said Hyder.

Hyder and the Trumbull Head of College’s Office began to explore re-allocating the College’s budget in order to ensure that buttery workers could get paid without sacrificing other student needs. Ultimately, when the buttery opened this fall semester, these efforts were successful.

Trumbull buttery student manager Devon Rall-Taguchi ’25 has been involved with the Trumbull Buttery since she was a first year. She was a volunteer that year and then a paid manager starting her sophomore year.

When asked by the News about advocating for payment in the past, Rall-Taguchi said previous efforts had proved fruitless.

“I tried multiple times,” Rall-Taguchi said. “I tried with the Trumbull office and asked if we could possibly pay our workers and every time it was kind of a dead no.”

Rall-Taguchi told the News that managers before her had also pushed for student payment. She also said that Head Hyder has been “absolutely amazing” this year and receptive to changing the policy.

Rall-Taguchi further said that it was difficult for the buttery to keep shifts fully staffed when operating on a volunteer basis. In the past, the Trumbull buttery often needed to close early on account of these staffing inconsistencies. Moreover, many people would want to volunteer for the same shift, leaving others understaffed.

“The thing with it being paid is there’s more repercussions for your job ... there’s a higher sense of accountability that comes with it,” said Rall-Taguchi.

She added, however, that a benefit of the volunteer-based policy was that people could work with their friends if they wanted to. Now, with a set schedule for payment, workers are paired randomly in order to ensure shifts are equally covered.



CHRIS TILLEN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

This academic year, the Trumbull Buttery began to pay all its workers, moving away from staffing the buttery with unpaid volunteers.

She told the News in summary, though, that “[finances and worker compensation] should be universal across all colleges.”

Residential colleges are individually empowered to determine buttery worker compensation.

Head of Morse College and Chair of the Residential College Council Catherine Painter-Brick noted, too, that there has not been an official agenda item on buttery pay discussed among the residential colleges.

“We know our crew works hard to put out a lot of food and keep the social aspect of late night active,” Painter-Brick said. “At Morse, we have always paid these positions to compensate for the work done for the college.”

Astou Nkouyate ’26 began working at the Trumbull buttery this year. Nkouyate said that, when applying for the position, she wanted to get to know the people in Trumbull and engage with its community. But Nkouyate added that she probably would not “have done it at all if [the position] wasn’t paid.”

Nkouyate noted that she did not see the Trumbull buttery open very often last year, and the space has been busier this year.

Ian Hughes ’25 also began working at the Trumbull buttery this year, an experience that he said has been enjoyable and “not super difficult.”

When asked by the News about the payment policy change, Hughes responded that he thinks it has been positive, adding that he “didn’t really understand why Trumbull [had been] the one outlier” among residential colleges.

Students from other residential colleges voiced similar opinions on the import of paying buttery workers. “The fact that Trumbull buttery workers were not paid is crazy to me because, in our buttery, we talk about how we are being underpaid,” said Pia Baldwin Edwards ’25, who works in the Saybrook buttery. Baldwin Edwards noted the difficulty of working in food service and the late hours of buttery shifts.

She added that she enjoys being a Saybrook buttery worker and called

the role a “prized position.” When asked if she would do the job as a volunteer, though, Baldwin Edwards responded, “Honestly, probably not.”

Currently, no other residential college operates on a purely volunteer basis; Timothy Dwight College operates on a hybrid model, in which buttery workers are volunteers for their first semester and then paid for subsequent semesters.

Samara Davis ’27 is currently volunteering in her first semester at the Timothy Dwight buttery. Davis emphasized that she enjoys the culture and community of working at the buttery and is glad she took the job. But she voiced concerns on the College’s payment policy.

“It’s a little off-putting,” Davis said. “I’d say most people would probably not want to do a full semester unpaid.”

The Trumbull Buttery is open Monday through Thursday from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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NEWS

"Dusk is the time when men whisper of matters about which they remain silent in the full light of the sun."

SIMON RAVEN ENGLISH AUTHOR AND PLAYWRIGHT

Boris Berman to perform Mozart, Debussy, Schoenberg and Prokofiev



COURTESY OF ETTORE CAUSA

Head of the piano department and long-time faculty member Boris Berman will perform the second concert of the Horowitz Piano Series on Wednesday evening.

BY TOBIAS LIU
STAFF REPORTER

World-renowned classical pianist Boris Berman will perform works by Mozart, Debussy, Schoenberg and Prokofiev in Morse Recital Hall on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The concert is part of the Horowitz Piano Series, a series of piano recitals honoring pianist Vladimir Horowitz, who left his papers with Yale before he died. Berman serves as the artistic director of the series and has performed on every series since its inception in 2000.

Berman, a professor in the Practice of Piano and the head of the Piano Department, joined the School of Music faculty in 1984. Lauded as the "pianist's pianist" by the Bos-

ton Globe, Berman, who was born in Moscow, performs regularly around the world — in six continents and over 50 countries so far.

"[Berman] is one of the greatest living pianists in the world," said Elisabeth Tsai MUS '23, a student of Berman. "He has had a profound impact on every single pianist in my generation. He's the gold standard of Prokofiev and Scriabin, and his recordings are the firsts we all go to."

Berman is also an active recording artist. He is the first pianist to record Prokofiev's complete solo works and is currently working on a recording project he is calling the "dawn of modernism." The project will focus on pieces written in the 1910s and 1920s to show how "different composers gave inspiration to following generations," he said.

Despite his storied performance and recording career, Berman said he still gets "terribly, terribly nervous" before every performance.

"Every performance, you put yourself on the line and you know your previous good concerts do not guarantee that [the upcoming] one will be good," he said. "It's very risky. But this ability to communicate with the audience, to present to them the music I care very much about — very often I do on stage something different from what I planned to do, and this moment of improvisation in public is very dear to me. When it happens, it is a fantastic pleasure."

According to Berman, each concert requires the artist to choose from various guidelines in programming. He said that these include monographic programming — choosing programming on the "basis of similarity," exploring the influence younger composers experience from their predecessors, crafting pieces on the "principle of contrast" and examining different music written in different countries at the same time.

Berman said that his program on Wednesday draws from all of these principles.

The program will open with Mozart's Piano Sonata in B flat major, K. 333 and close with Prokofiev's Fifth Sonata, a neoclassical work. Berman said he believes this "bookending" allows exploration into how the classical principles Mozart used were "modified by Prokofiev."

For the rest of the concert's programming, Berman will turn to his "dawn of modernism" recording idea with three pieces all written in the 1910s or 1920s: Schoenberg's Five Pieces for Piano from 1923, Debussy's "Six épigraphes antiques" from 1914

and Prokofiev's "Visions fugitives" from 1917.

Berman described Debussy's "Six épigraphes antiques" as "bizarre" and full of "half tints and delicate shades of expression." Schoenberg's five pieces — the fifth of which is Schoenberg's first 12-tone composition — contrast sharply with Debussy.

Berman said that he finds this contrast in its character. It is "quirkier," much less "sensual," and "rational but not dry" — and also in the juxtaposition between Debussy's "Gaelic sensibility" versus Schoenberg's Germanic tradition.

Prokofiev's "Visions fugitives," a set of small pieces written between 1915 and 1917, creates further contrast, both within the pieces and against Debussy and Schoenberg. Some of the pieces continue the Russian tradition, while others amount to "intentional rebelling" against it.

"Anytime he performs, you just feel all his experience and history coming through as a listener — there's just such an enormous depth to everything that he does," said Anthony Ratinov '20 MUS '23 who studied with Berman. "He's absolutely incredible on stage, and it's very inspiring to be able to see your teacher do all these things that he talks about himself so well."

Both Tsai and Ratinov described the impact of Berman's work, both on their personal development and on the School of Music.

They described his selflessness with his time and his care for his students as "inspirational" and essential to the culture he has created as a leader on the faculty.

"He's such a well-respected musician and teacher that any time he walks into any room you can feel

how much everyone really admires and respects him," said Ratinov. "He's succeeded in creating a really supportive atmosphere [at the School of Music]."

Two of Berman's former students, Melvin Chen '01 and Wei Yi Yang MUS '04, now serve as piano professors at the School of Music with Berman. Berman's legacy now "spans generations," Tsai added.

When Berman first joined the School of Music faculty, the overall applicant pool for the piano department was between 18 and 25 people, he said. Now, acceptance to the School of Music, the only music school attached to an Ivy League institution, Berman said, is "very competitive," with an applicant pool of roughly 250 pianists, and the faculty is "able to take the best pianists."

He cited the department's focus on collaboration between faculty members and students as integral to his approach to creating community within the School of Music. He said that he believes diversity in opinion is what "makes the environment so sterile" because "there is no absolute truth in music," and students need to be exposed to different approaches.

Berman has also published two books including "Notes from the Pianist's Bench" and "Prokofiev's Piano Sonatas: A Guide for the Listener and the Performer."

"He's just the perfect model of great artistry and intellectual artistry," Tsai said.

Tickets for the concerts start at \$17. Yale faculty and staff can purchase tickets for \$12, and students can buy them for \$8.

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'Moonie': More than just a one-woman show



COURTESY OF SUZU SAKAI

A one-woman show featuring Stefani Kuo '17 DRA '24 called "Moonie" ran at the Yale Cabaret this past weekend from New Haven.

BY EUNICE PARK
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The one-woman show "Moonie" ran this past weekend at the Yale Cabaret and featured Stefani Kuo '17 DRA '24.

Kuo, in collaboration with director Jisun Kim DRA '22, who is currently pursuing her doctorate, worked together to put on the show. Kuo played approximately 10-12 different characters to represent a mother-daughter relationship and what it is like to be a woman in America. She described the solo show as encompassing "comedy, heart-felt and womanhood." The play ran for three nights at the David Geffen School of Drama's per-

formance venue, the Cab, as part of its 56th "Sandbox" season.

"What the designers, the creative team and Kuo were able to do to expand the space while maintaining the intimacy of the storytelling felt like the perfect fit with our vision for the season," said co-artistic director of the Cab, Kyle Stamm DRA '25.

Stamm and fellow artistic director Doaa Ouf DRA '25 were "excited" about the potential of a one-woman show in the Cabaret space, and Stamm described the journey as a "road trip."

The story centers around Moonie, a 30-year old woman who makes an optimistic goal to go on 100 dates to find love, especially as her Taiwanese mother puts pressure on her to get married.

In order to tell the story, Kuo wears many hats — literally. To differentiate characters, she changes jackets, hats, locations and even her voice.

"In a one-person show, you have to imagine a lot, and you're not given a whole set of information," said Kuo.

Kuo's relationship with Kim has developed over their years at Yale.

When Kim first arrived at the School of Drama, she said that she recognized "another Asian dramaturg" in Kuo and "resonated" with her work right off the bat. They soon became good friends and have worked together on several shows since.

For this particular show, Kim wanted to ensure that all the beautiful characters, locations and

moments were "effectively portrayed," she said, and she thought a lot about how to represent specific moments in the story.

At first, Kuo was intrigued as to why one-woman shows are written and why audiences watch them. Thus, she decided to try it herself.

Aside from storytelling, Kim and Kuo took the show as an opportunity for Asian Americans to take the stage. Kim, a Korean native, shared that she hadn't seen any actors "that looked like [her]" on the stage.

"Representation is really important to imagine what it's like to be in this world and that's what theater and other art forms allow," she said.

Kuo, a Hong Kong and Taiwan native, shared this sentiment and expanded on the importance of telling stories that were "specific" to her experience, even though it may not be generalizable to Asian communities.

Both collaborators appreciated that they were able to use the Cabaret space to tell their story. Kim expressed "hope and possibility" for audience members to see themselves on the stage as well.

Kuo and Kim will be presenting more of their collaborative work at the spring 2024 Carlotta Festival.

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NEWS

"Meanwhile the sunsets are mad orange fools raging in the gloom..."

JACK KEROUAC AMERICAN NOVELIST AND POET

City economy shows promise after S&P bond rating upgrade

BY NATI TESHAYE
STAFF REPORTER

In a sign of fiscal progress for the city and for newly re-elected mayor Justin Elicker, the S&P has raised its long-term debt rating and the underlying rating on New Haven's General Obligation Bonds from 'BBB+' to 'A-', indicating that the city's \$54.6 million series of 2023 general obligation bonds have a stable outlook.

Municipal bonds are debt securities issued by states, cities and counties to finance general obligations and infrastructural projects, such as the construction of schools and highways.

"S&P's bond rating upgrade is another important validation of the financial path we're on as a city and the progress we're making from the budgetary reforms we've put in place in recent years," said Elicker. "Through a combination of increased revenues, responsible spending, proper forecasting, limited borrowing and balanced budgets, we've been able to provide residents with the essential city services they need today while also improving the city's long-term financial health and outlook in the future."

The S&P, which is one of the country's leading bond-rating agencies — along with Moody's and Fitch — uses a series of grades to determine whether the credit rating is either investment grade, speculative or high yield.

New Haven's improved rating follows three years of conservative budgeting to limit excess spending and balance the deficit.

The Elicker administration cited increased city revenue as

a reason for its optimism. Two drivers of city income — the doubling of New Haven's state Payment In-Lieu of Taxes funding from \$41 million to \$91 million annually and the increase in Yale's annual voluntary city contribution from \$13 million to \$23 million — have helped New Haven generate consistent revenue streams.

Michael Piscitelli, the economic development administrator for New Haven, discussed the measures the city has taken to reach this improved grade, such as limiting excess spending. Piscitelli noted pensions, health care benefits and the general cost of running the government as costs the city has been addressing.

After reviewing the city's self-assessed fiscal health, the rating agency used its own research and data to reach a final conclusion.

Piscitelli said that the city's completion of recent infrastructure projects and residential housing units intimate its fiscal strength and ability to meet debt obligations.

The S&P report, which focused extensively on the city's fiscal policy, emphasized the importance of New Haven's budget.

"The stable outlook reflects S&P Global Ratings' view of New Haven's stabilized budgetary conditions and expectation that management will likely continue to budget conservatively and make timely budget adjustments if necessary during the two-year outlook," the report from S&P reads.

Despite a strong trend so far, the city is not entirely in the clear. There are still some underlying concerns raised by the S&P that



DANIEL ZHAO/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

After years of economic growth and disciplined spending, New Haven has seen a rise in its S&P Global Credit Rating from BBB+ to A-.

could cause the city to return to its low ratings of years past.

The S&P called into question the city's "social capital factors," like economic inequality, which pose a risk to its economy and finances. The report also noted that economic growth is concentrated in just a few parts of New Haven.

Additionally, given the significant number of "tax-exempt" institutions and properties, some of which are owned by Yale, New Haven has a high reliance on state aid. This in particular "could constrain the affordability

of tax increases" and exacerbate long-term budgetary risks, per the report.

The S&P does, however, believe that the city has put the right measures in place to mitigate these potential causes for concern.

Following this achievement, Piscitelli thinks that New Haven is now in a position to be on par and compete with cities in New England and nationally to attract new residents.

"When people are looking at investment decisions or life decisions, asking where to move or

live, then New Haven is a competitive destination," Piscitelli said.

Recently, New Haven has used the proceeds from bond issuances to fund public infrastructure projects, although the News could not confirm what new projects this rating upgrade may enable.

In 2021, Fitch, another prominent rating agency, raised New Haven's grade from BBB to BBB+.

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YCC proposes changes to course registration, advising, Credit/D/Fail

BY KENISHA MAHAJAN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Yale College Council academic policy team has proposed several policies to bring to the administration regarding course registration, advising and Credit/D/Fail reform.

The proposals span a variety of issues, but many seek to reform the current course registration process. Some key policies the YCC has put forward include expanding the permitted course load on Yale Course Search to 7.5 Credits from 5.5, improving academic advising for first years and extending the add/drop period.

Many students raised concerns not only with the course registration process but also with the advising system — both of which have remained a source of student ire in recent years.

"There's not a ton of guidance about course registration," Irene Raich '27 said. "Especially for [first years], no one tells you what you should do, and so I think it's just super overwhelming."

In the past few years, the course registration process has undergone numerous reforms, including a recent add/drop period extension. This year, registration for the spring semester opens on Nov. 13 for the class of 2024, Nov. 14 for the class of 2025, Nov. 15 for the class of 2026 and Nov. 16 for the class of 2027. Organizing course registration by class year began last year. And prior to March 2021, Yale's course registration took place during the weeks immediately preceding the semester — known as "shopping period" — but course registration now takes place a semester in advance.

Echoing a similar sentiment to Raich, First-Year College Council representatives Carrie Lange '27 and Paul Park '27 both added that course registration for first years in particular was especially stressful this past fall because of its short timeline and a lack of University guidance.

"I think Yale has the responsibility to support its students as much as possible," Branford College Senator Birikti Kahsai '27 said. "It can be very stressful being in this environment. It's very hard to navigate Yale, and so far, with the support that's being offered, there's a lot of room for improvement."

In addition to course registration, students also expressed

frustration with the lack of academic support through advising, particularly first-year advising, which has often been a source of discontent. First-year advisors are assigned through residential colleges and do not always match students' academic interests.

Raich and Kaylee Pierre '27 both mentioned the need for more structured academic advising for freshmen — particularly the creation of more formal advising structures or more useful advising groups based on

semester by amending the Credit/D/Fail policy.

Ramos was a lead on the proposals to extend the registration window for the class of 2027 in the fall and is a lead on a current proposal to expand the permitted course load on Yale Course Search. Although both of these proposals were approved unanimously by the Senate, he said that the former could not be implemented due to time constraints and implementation of the latter is in the discussion stage.

The YCC is currently working

their options before settling on a final schedule.

Similarly, he said that allowing retroactive Credit/D/Fail, another current proposal approved by the YCC Senate, would better foster academic exploration compared to the current system.

The YCC has long worked to reform the Credit/D/Fail policy. The current policy allows students to Credit/D/Fail classes until 5 p.m. on the last day of classes.

When asked about potential reforms presented previously by

tration, Ramos underscored the importance of students making their voices heard by the YCC so their perspectives can be reflected in the policies the YCC develops.

Whether students exercise their views by taking the YCC's Fall Survey or by reaching out to individuals on the YCC, he emphasized the importance of cultivating a greater connection between the student body and the YCC.

"No big changes to report about registration, which is



TOIA CONDE RODRIGUES DA CUNHA/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Yale College Council has proposed several academic policies to reform the course registration and advising process.

students' intended majors and academic interests.

"Academic advising could be great if, one, we had more time during add/drop to explore classes and, two, if we were able to choose our academic advisors," Pierre said. "Because my advisor is not really tailored toward my interests, it's not always the most helpful."

Kyle Thomas Ramos '26, the policy director of the academic policy team of the YCC, emphasized the need for greater flexibility in both the course registration process by extending add/drop period and allowing students to shop more classes on their course registration worksheet and throughout the

on an add/drop extension proposal, which has yet to be voted on by the senate, per their policy tracker. The current add/drop period lasts around eight days and takes place before the start of classes.

Lange also expressed an interest in the extended add/drop period. Pierre had a similar view about the course preference selection period this semester. The period ran from Wednesday, Nov. 1 to Friday, Nov. 3, compared to the six-day preference selection period over the summer, which ran from Aug. 8 to Aug. 14.

He added that the proposal to expand the number of permitted credits on a student's registration worksheet would enable students to shop more classes and explore

the YCC, Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis expressed concern that retroactive Credit/D/Fail would lead to students putting little effort into their coursework.

"The proposal would allow an individual to see their final grade before deciding whether or not they'd like to Credit/D/Fail it because we realized that a lot of students, right before a final, will choose to Credit/D/Fail because they're afraid of possibly not doing well on the final exam," Ramos said. "We don't think that credit to fail should be turned into essentially some sort of academic game."

Although no policy changes have been made to course regis-

unchanged this semester," Senior Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Communications Paul McKinley wrote in a statement to the News. "We want to let the current process settle before making any adjustments, although the goal is to fine-tune it so that it runs smoothly."

In addition to the YCC's current proposals to reform course registration, they are also discussing the addition of certificates for Economics, Directed Studies, Geography and American Sign Language.

The YCC's policy tracker can be accessed online.

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SCITECH

“And dusk fell because it suited his skin.”
ANNE ENRIGHT IRISH WRITER

Yale clinic seeks to unravel the mystery of long COVID

BY CARLOS SALCERIO AND HANNAH MARK
STAFF REPORTERS

Long COVID patients run a gauntlet of uncertainty. Many wonder whether their lives will ever be normal again.

Loved ones, medical staff, and the patients themselves doubt the reality of their symptoms. Doctors struggle to offer them explanations.

At the Yale Multidisciplinary Long Covid Clinic, however, medical workers try to unravel the mystery of long COVID. The center is directed by Lisa Sanders, associate professor of general medicine, who is no stranger to medical mysteries like long COVID. She currently writes the “Diagnosis” and “Think Like a Doctor” columns for the *New York Times*, and she previously published two medical books, “Every Patient Tells a Story: Medical Mysteries and the Art of Diagnosis” and “Diagnosis: Solving the Most Baffling Medical Mysteries.”

In her role as director, Sanders is essentially a detective in a white coat. When a patient is referred to the clinic, Sanders first investigates whether the culprit is long COVID. This process involves ruling out other factors that may cause similar symptoms. For example, if a patient reports feeling fatigued, she checks that the patient does not have sleep apnea. According to Sanders, by repeating this process, the researchers remove some uncertainty from a long COVID diagnosis.

From there, Sanders told the *News*, she tackles the downstream effects of the disease. Because the symptoms of long COVID are known and treatable, Sanders said she can treat the effects, despite not understanding the root cause.

“If you can’t treat the actual disease, just treat the symptoms that are tormenting people and reassure them that at least some people get better,” Sanders said. “Depending on who you read, 80-plus percent of people don’t have symptoms after a year.”

The Yale Multidisciplinary Long Covid Clinic is on the third floor of Yale New Haven Hospital’s St. Raphael Campus. Patients enter a waiting room adorned with long COVID support group flyers and prints of beach paintings. A narrow hallway connects Sanders’ office, an examination room and a physical therapy room.

Sanders said that next month the Center will move to a larger space.

“Our patients say ‘oh my god, this is such a small room, this is such a small space! Like really?’ Sanders said. “It’s gonna be so luxurious.”

Despite its small size, the Center provides each patient with help from social workers, physical therapists and Sanders.

Early in the pandemic, this level of treatment was not available to long-haulers, a colloquial term for people with long COVID. Instead, patients in New Haven with long COVID symptoms had to seek out specialists in separate departments that best aligned with their symptoms, Sanders said. Sanders said that eventually, specialists realized that the best way to help people with long COVID was not with specialty care, rather, it was with a specialized long COVID Center. Sanders was immediately interested in leading the center.

“The thought that I could learn about this, and maybe help people with it seemed appealing,” Sanders told the *News*.

Part of this learning is trying to define long COVID.

Characterized by persistent symptoms long after initial infection, long COVID remains a puzzling challenge for patients, healthcare professionals and researchers. However, common symptoms include fatigue, brain fog, cough and shortness of breath after their initial COVID-19 infection, Sanders told the *News*. For many patients, these symptoms can become physically and emotionally debilitating, Sanders said.

“You had COVID, and then something bad happened,” Sanders said. “But that’s all we can say now because we have no idea what the pathophysiology is.”

Parallels to polio

COVID-19 is not the first epidemic to leave a wake of people experiencing lingering symptoms, said Naomi Rogers, a history professor at Yale who studies 20th and 21st-century medicine and disability.

In the middle of the 20th century, the United States weathered



ERIC WANG/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

At the Yale Multidisciplinary Long Covid Clinic, researchers and clinicians are racing to help patients and uncover the biology behind post-acute syndromes.

a series of polio outbreaks, a virus that primarily affects children and can, in rare cases, cause long-term paralysis. One 1955 polio epidemic infected 3,950 people in Massachusetts. Of those infected, 2,771 were paralyzed, some for a few weeks or months and some permanently.

“Polio was seen as a really scary disease because of its disabling effects,” Rogers said. “Everybody feared that if their child got it, they would never be able to work independently or live independently.”

According to Rogers, some patients with polio also developed “post-polio” syndrome. These people had polio as children and fully recovered, but then, decades after their illness, became paralyzed.

Rogers pointed to similarities between post-polio syndrome and long COVID. Like patients with long COVID, people with post-polio syndrome continued to have symptoms of the disease long after the actual infection had passed, Rogers said. Some patients with post-polio were dismissed by their doctors because the doctors had never heard of the disease, according to Rogers. People with post-polio syndrome, like those with long COVID, Rogers said, had to advocate for themselves in medical settings and seek ways to alleviate their symptoms outside of traditional medicine.

Rogers also highlighted similarities between long COVID and diseases such as chronic Lyme and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. For people with these conditions, she said, it is difficult to make friends, family or doctors aware that there is an actual disease behind what she said are relatively vague symptoms.

“You can’t see pain. You can’t see weakness. There are a lot of chronic responses that are not visible,” Rogers said.

In addition to vague symptoms, Rogers said that long COVID is complicated because nobody knows exactly what it is or how to think about it.

Unlike other chronic diseases such as cancer or AIDS, she explained, long COVID is too recent for the public to have a clear picture of what it is like.

“When we say long COVID, we don’t have in our minds what long COVID looks like,” Rogers said.

Studying long COVID

A group of interdisciplinary researchers at Yale are working to

uncover what long COVID is and how it can be treated.

During the pandemic, researchers at Yale, including Akiko Iwasaki, Sterling Professor of immunobiology at the School of Medicine, noticed that some patients who had COVID-19 developed chronic symptoms that lasted for a long time after their infection. Iwasaki and her lab also noted that some people who got the COVID-19 vaccine had an immune response.

As the pandemic progressed, Iwasaki established a network of researchers studying COVID-19 who also wanted to understand the unusual immune responses caused by COVID-19. This collaboration became the Center for Infection and Immunity, or CII, which opened in August 2023.

The center, which Iwasaki directs, seeks to understand how chronic diseases develop and uncover links between infection and chronic disease. It also tries to connect immune responses to factors such as sex, genetics, age and environment, and develop therapies for treating chronic disease.

Iwasaki said that, because post-acute syndromes, such as long COVID, are difficult to understand and quantify, studying them requires an interdisciplinary approach.

Patient-centered approach

In studying chronic disease, the CII seeks to include patients as full participants in their research. CII partners with the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, or CORE, to enhance their patient-centered research approach.

“We’re trying to create a different spirit around the research,” Harlan Krumholz, a professor at the School of Medicine and the director of CORE told the *News*. Krumholz is also on the CII leadership team.

Krumholz said patients with post-acute syndromes are “desperate for answers.”

But because chronic syndromes like long COVID are poorly understood, he said many patients feel “abandoned” by doctors, caregivers and the medical system.

“There’s not one evidence-based therapy,” Krumholz said. “We even have trouble defining the condition, because there aren’t any diagnostics.”

To combat this feeling of neglect, CORE and CII developed a new model for doing patient research which Krumholz called “highly participant-centric.”

One way the researchers study long COVID is through the Yale LISTEN study, which stands for Listen to Immune, Symptom and Treatment Experiences Now. The LISTEN study follows a pool of participants with long COVID who share health data and specimens like blood or saliva with researchers.

People participating in the LISTEN study can opt to participate in different research projects. For example, the CII is also conducting a trial on the effect of Paxlovid — an antiviral drug used to treat COVID-19 — on long COVID.

The trial is being conducted virtually, to make it easy for people to participate in research. Patients involved in the study receive drugs or placebo pills by mail, then fill out surveys online and electronically transmit their data to researchers.

The trial organizers also hold regular town hall meetings, where study participants can ask questions and suggest changes. When researchers learn new information through their research, they share it with the participants.

New long COVID study gives hope to researchers, patients

In September, researchers from the CII and Mount Sinai Hospital published a paper in *Nature* that identified biological markers associated with long COVID. By analyzing blood samples, the researchers found that hormonal dysfunction, exhaustion of certain immune cells and the reactivation of latent viruses are key factors in long COVID.

“To us, that means that there is an immunological underpinning to this disease,” Iwasaki said.

According to Iwasaki, the evidence that long COVID is a biological disease is an important discovery not only to understand the disease but also to validate patients’ struggles. People suffering from long COVID and other chronic diseases are often perceived as inventing or exaggerating their illness, Iwasaki said.

The idea that patients are making up their symptoms, Iwasaki said, is one of the major misconceptions that the CII seeks to debunk. Iwasaki added that the identification of biological mark-

ers helps dispel the belief that long COVID is only a psychiatric illness.

Sanders said she believes there should have never been a need to prove long COVID patients had an actual disease.

“I never thought they needed any validation. I thought that people who saw it as psychiatric alone were nuts,” Sanders told the *News*. “Eleven million people have long COVID in the United States alone, and there’s so many more than that in the world. Over a million people don’t just come up with the same problem.”

Long COVID is not the CII’s only focus. Researchers at the Center also study diseases such as chronic Lyme disease, which is a disease spread by ticks, and myalgic encephalomyelitis chronic fatigue syndrome, or ME/CFS.

While post-acute syndromes are complex and tricky to study, long COVID provides a unique research opportunity, Iwasaki said. People with the disease became ill around the same time and from the same virus, which allows researchers to simultaneously study a large number of people who have a similar chronic illness.

Iwasaki said that it is difficult to find this kind of continuity with other post-acute viral syndromes because most chronic diseases occur in small numbers and at different times.

Research developments often come up in conversation during visits to the Long COVID Clinic. Patients frequently tell Sanders about new research they have encountered, and Sanders will follow up on it. Sanders even has a Google alert that sends her every online publication that has to do with long COVID.

Like Iwasaki, Sanders views long COVID as a unique opportunity to develop our understanding of chronic illness.

“It would be terrible to waste this and not learn anything from it, like we have done with so many other infections,” Sanders said. “We have the technology and the curiosity. God only knows what other factors allowed this to be an active area of research, but I’m so glad it is.”

Adults aged between 35 and 49 exhibited the highest prevalence of experiencing long COVID.

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SPORTS

Keys to victory against Gonzaga

M BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

The Zags recorded the nation's second-highest effective field goal percentage (57.6%) last season and were top 10 in shots made at the rim (66.9%).

In their three regular season games against opponents from high-major conferences last season, the Bulldogs struggled mightily to contain opposing big men in the paint.

6'9" Colorado forward Tristan da Silva scored 20 points against the Bulldogs off of 7-12 shooting from inside, Butler's 6'11" Manny Bates had 22 points on 9-15 and Kentucky's 6'9" Oscar Tshiebewe recorded a dominant 28 points on 13-18 shooting.

The Elis would do themselves a big favor this time around by limiting Gonzaga bigs Anton Watson and Graham Ike on touches inside the paint. Yale's seven-foot-tall sophomore Danny Wolf '26 will need to play strong, physical defense, especially against the 6'9", 255-pound Ike. First-year center Samson Aletan '27, who impressed in his Yale debut, could also make an impact off the bench.

Three-point efficiency

Offensively, the Bulldogs are at their best when its pair of sharpshooting guards, August Mahoney '24 and John Poulakidas '25, are on target. Last season, they combined to shoot 42 percent from three on 277 attempts. Each of them have the ability to get hot from

deep on a moment's notice; when they're both hot, Yale's offense can appear unstoppable.

In the eleven games during which Mahoney and Poulakidas combined for five or more three pointers last season, Yale had an average point margin of +14.5. When they didn't, that number decreased to +6.2.

Additionally, three-point shooting defense may be a chink in Gonzaga's armor. Last season, they allowed opposing teams to score at a 35-percent clip from behind the arc, a mark that put them at 257th in the country.

Forward Matt Knowling '24, last season's leading scorer and first-team All-Ivy selection, will enter as Yale's primary weapon on Friday, looking to use his athleticism and finesse around the rim to score. If the Elis can also be efficient from deep, they will be better suited to match the Zags in offensive firepower.

Team chemistry

Yale Coach James Jones told the News after Monday's game that this year's team is one of his strongest ever from a depth perspective.

In addition to their core four players retained from last year, the Bulldogs have several new faces with the potential to take key roles. Wolf brings size and shooting to the starting five, forward Nick Townsend '26 led all scorers in Monday's win, off-season additions Casey Simmons '25 and Aletan will add athleticism and defense off the bench — all in addition to the team's role players from

last season.

But can they put it all together so early in the season?

Yale's offense looked sloppy at times on Monday, and many of its 11 turnovers came off of miscommunications and errant passes. On defense, they were often slow to close out on open shots. And Friday's competition will be far more robust than that of the Division III Brewers.

But if it's any consolation, Friday will also be a tough battle for the Zags, which have yet to play an official game this season. They also lost their two leading scorers from last season, Drew Timme and Julian Strawther, to the NBA draft.

In an interview after an exhibition game last week, Gonzaga coach Mark Few called Yale a "scary" opponent.

"It's not an ideal opener for us," he said. "They'll be smart, they'll be tough, they're super, super well coached. They're picked to win the Ivy [League] and they have their whole team back."

Yale earned 14 of 16 first-place votes in the Ivy League's annual preseason media poll. They've also caught the attention of college basketball analysts outside the conference, ranked ninth on collegeinsider.com's mid-major poll and named to ESPN and The Athletic's mid-major watch lists.

On paper, Yale's team looks like a force to be reckoned with. Tonight is their chance to prove it.

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Bulldogs eye playoff matchup against Harvard

M SOCCER FROM PAGE 14

heard the news," Presthus said. "That being said, I know there is still a lot to play for this season. As great as it feels to get personal accolades, nothing will compare to lifting an Ivy League trophy."

The team's next game is in the Ivy League Tournament semi-finals on Friday, Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. against Harvard. The game will be held in Philadelphia, as Penn's regular season title also granted them the advantage of hosting the tournament. Penn and Brown will face off for the other semi-final, to be played at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. Each game's respective winners will then face off in the championship game on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Presthus expressed, on behalf of the team and coaching staff, his appreciation for Yale fans and their continued support throughout the season. Students wishing to continue to support the team at the Ivy League Tournament get free admission with a student ID. Presthus told the News they are hoping for as much support as possible in Philadelphia, and reminded those who cannot make it that they can watch the games through ESPN+ and support the team on social media.

"Hopefully we make everyone proud while we're away," Presthus said.

The last time Yale and Harvard played each other was in Cambridge for their regular season matchup on Oct. 14. The Bulldogs outperformed their rivals in both shots and shots on goal, and even managed to take the lead in the 61st minute. Despite a strong performance throughout most of the game, the Bulldogs struggled in the last half hour and eventually fell to the Crimson 3-1.

If a semi-final matchup against their rivals wasn't moti-

vating enough, the players are sure to also be seeking revenge. Schaffer told the News the team is emphasizing a complete 90 minute performance this time around, while coach Kylie Stannard mentioned the importance of key moments.

"Both teams have good players and will be well prepared so it really comes down to who makes the necessary plays in the penalty boxes as that is what the game always comes down to," Stannard said.

Speaking about their preparation, Schaffer commented that there has been a higher level of intensity in training for the tournament. Specifically regarding their defensive preparation, Presthus said that the main objective is to stay compact and win the second balls throughout the match.

According to the Defensive Player of the Year, disrupting the Harvard style of play will be key to Yale's defensive success. As for key matchups, the Crimson's star player is #10 Alessandro Arlotti, who had the most offensive production on the team with six goals and six assists and won Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year.

The Bulldogs are ready to take on Harvard, and have their eyes set on silverware as they hope to win the first ever Ivy League Men's Soccer tournament. With glory in sight, the stakes are as high as ever.

"It's simple - win or go home," Schaffer said.

Edwards leads the league in minutes played as the only player to play every minute of his team's games.

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YALE ATHLETICS

On paper, Yale's team looks like a force to be reckoned with. Tonight is their chance to prove it.

Elis to play penultimate game against Princeton

FOOTBALL FROM PAGE 14

over Harvard, and Princeton fell 20-19 to Penn, giving Yale the outright win.

In its game against Brown last week, the Bulldogs saw success, tallying a 36-17 victory over the Bears in Providence. Yale led 410-334 in total yards of offense and 190-68 in rushing yards, while going 10-of-19 in third down conversions and limiting Brown to only 5-of-17.

Grooms was 15-of-27 on passes and tallied four touchdown passes, while Tipton had three touchdown receptions, which places him at second in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision, or FCS.

"[In unsuccessful] games, a lot of times, we were waiting for a big play, waiting for something to just happen our way," Tipton said. "It's just not how it works in this league."

Wide receiver Joey Felton '24, who was named to the Ivy League Honor Roll last Monday, ended the game with 129 yards on three returns, including his season-best 47-yard return, and Vaughn led the defense with eight tackles and four solo stops. Safety Osise Daniyan '27 had six tackles and forced a fumble in the second that gave Bosman the opportunity to kick a 21-yard field goal.

Other key moments in the game were linebacker Jermaine Baker's '24 recovered fumble at the start of the contest, Joshua Pitsenberger's '26 4-yard run into the end-zone and defensive back Phoenix Grant's '27 blocked punt in the third quarter, which led to one of Tipton's three touchdowns.

"Mason's having a heck of a season, but he's doing everything we need to do to win," Reno said. "He's got an extraordinary year for us this year, as a leader and a player."

With just two games to go in their season, the Elis look forward to taking on Princeton, which currently match Yale's 3-2 conference record, and securing their next win.

This season, Princeton has a split season record and is tied for second place in the Ivy League.

The Tigers won 23-12 against the University of San Diego on Sept. 16, 10-7 against Columbia on Sept. 29,

21-14 against Harvard on Oct. 21 and 14-3 against Cornell on Oct. 28. Princeton fell 16-13 to Bryant University on Sept. 23, 12-9 to Lafayette College on Oct. 7, 28-27 in overtime to Brown on Oct. 14 and 23-21 to Dartmouth on Nov. 3.

"They're obviously very well coached," Reno said. "I have a lot of respect for their coaches and the way they run their football program."

In their game against Dartmouth last week, the Tigers won by a 47-yard field goal, kicked by Big Green kicker Owen Zalc with 1:28 remaining in the contest.

Despite finding themselves in a 10-point deficit early into the game, the Tigers fired back with two unanswered touchdown drives, completed by running back John Volker. Quarterback Blake Stenstrom also made a 62-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Luke Collela in the third quarter, but Princeton was unable to secure the win.

"They're very aggressive on defense," Reno said. "They've got a system in place on both sides of the ball they recruit to and they build to and have success with ... To win these games, you've got to out-execute people."

Stenstrom ranks in many areas of Princeton history — seventh in touchdown passes (26), third in completions (420), sixth in completion percentage (65.2) and fourth in passing yards (4,638) and passing yards per game (201.7).

Princeton leads the FCS in fewest touchdowns (10) allowed and points allowed (60) this season. AJ Barber and Collela are tied to lead the team in catches (36), and the two have earned career highs in total yards — 530 and 461, respectively.

"We talk about it a lot," linebacker Dean Shaffer '25 said. "[If] you do everything the right way, someone at the end of the season hands you a trophy."

Comparing the opponents of Yale and Princeton, the only similarity the two have is a win against Columbia. While Princeton fell to Dartmouth and Brown and won against Cornell, Yale fell to Cornell and claimed victories over Dartmouth and Brown.

Because of their strong, consistent play over the past couple of weeks, the Elis are more than ready to take on Princeton and pave their way toward the Ivy League Championship.

"We're playing better than we had in other weeks because of the intentionality and the ability for us to play with a ton of emotional energy but calmness," Reno said. "There's a ton of trust in each other."

The Bulldogs lead the Ivy League and rank 21st in the FCS in red zone offense (.893), and Grooms leads the Ivy League with 19 touchdown throws, which ranks 11th in the FCS.

Grooms also leads the Ivy League in passing efficiency (155.4), ranking 12th in the FCS, and his career 49 touchdown passes rank second in Yale history.

"Nolan and I played together for, by the end of the season, it'll be two and a half years," Tipton said. "The time on the field is very small compared to what we've done off the field to be able to perform and have the trust ... in the big moments. It speaks volumes about the relationship that Nolan and I have outside of football that allows us to play the way we do on Saturdays."

Tipton is tied for fourth in school history for touchdowns received in a season. Felton also ranks ninth in school history with 768 kickoff return yards.

Yale's defense also tallies an average of 19.1 points per game, which ranks 14th in the FCS. Vaughn's 66 tackles this season place him at third in the Ivy League, and defensive lineman Clay Patterson '24 ranks second in the league in sacks (4.5).

"I've just learned so much being around Coach Reno and just great guys in the program," Tipton said. "The relationships built outshine any of the moments I've had on the field. It's a blessing to have a program like that."

Kickoff is slated for noon this Saturday in Princeton, New Jersey, and will be nationally televised on ESPN.

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Bulldogs begin season play



YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs are set to face Saint Joseph's this Saturday, which is their last home game until Nov. 28.

W BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

the Panthers 10 extra points off free throws. At the half, the Bulldogs trailed 34-42.

The third quarter began with Clark back on the court and the energy high. Though the Bulldogs continued to trail, it was clear that they were not backing down without a fight. Six of 10 total points by McDonald and four from Grace Thybulle '25 cut the deficit to six with a score of 52-58.

At a minute in the fourth quarter, Yale cut the deficit against Pittsburgh to 74-76. Despite a continuous battle, a three-pointer by Pittsburgh's Bella Perkins sealed the deal for the Panthers as they went on to defeat the Bulldogs 74-79.

Though they came up short against the Panthers, the battle from the Bulldogs remained evident, pushing for every point and rebound. Clark led the team both in points and assists, with 19 and nine, respectively. McDonald led with seven rebounds, while Capstraw was not far behind with five. Thybulle was seven for nine for field goals.

Mackenzie Egger '25, who had two rebounds and four points against the Panthers, told the News

that she is excited to demonstrate what Yale women's basketball is capable of this season.

"I'm most looking forward to the camaraderie and teamwork this season," she said. "We are collectively working towards an Ivy League Championship. I'm also excited about our non-conference games, as we play a lot of strong teams, and to showcase what Bulldog Basketball is all about."

The team returns home for a few more days of work before their next game.

Egger said that these practices have been crucial for the team's success.

"Practices have been essential in honing our skills and getting us in the right mindset," she told the News. "They've helped us focus on our strengths and address areas for improvement, ensuring we're well-prepared for the start of the season."

The Bulldogs are set to face Saint Joseph's this Saturday at the John J. Lee Amphitheatre inside the Payne Whitney Gymnasium. This is their last home game until Nov. 28.

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NEWS

"Clouds come floating into my life, to add color to my sunset sky."
RABINDRANATH TAGORE INDIAN POET AND WRITER

Unidad Latina en Acción hosts annual Día de los Muertos celebration

BY LAURA OSPINA AND MAIA NEHME
STAFF AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

New Haven's annual Día de los Muertos celebrations included a parade to celebrate the city's Latine community and a vigil to mourn essential migrant workers who died during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Saturday's parade, a skeleton — crowned with red and yellow flowers and cocooned in a homemade corn husk — towered over attendees, propelled forward by a bicycle. Other marionettes perched on the sides of grocery carts as attendees with skeleton paint on their faces chatted and danced, waiting for the parade to begin.

"[The parade] is absolutely original," Genoveva Trujillo Palmieri, who is originally from Colombia and has been attending the Día de los Muertos event for years, said in Spanish. "It's a very Latin American thing to host parades. It's truly of our people and culture."

For 13 years, the Día de los Muertos celebration — hosted by Unidad Latina en Acción — has invited immigrant families and the New Haven community to remember loved ones by placing framed photographs on an altar, puppeteering colorful skeleton marionettes in the parade and dancing until evening. Around 500 people attended this year's celebration at the Bregamos Community Theater, according to John Jairo Lugo, ULA's community organizing director.

With marionettes draped in shirts with phrases like "People and planet before profits" and "No home is illegal," ULA members link the celebration to their advocacy for the rights of immigrant workers and families. This year's parade was dedicated to the lives of Dean Peckham, a former attorney and ULA member who passed away in August, and Daniel Ramirez, an immigrant worker who lived in Norwalk and died from a workplace injury in September.

ULA collaborated with the National Day Laborer Organizing

Network, which ULA is a part of, to build an altar and hold a vigil during the pandemic in front of City Hall on Saturday evening.

The New Haven vigil is part of a nationwide movement by the NDLON, which supported vigils in Trenton, N.J., Oakland, Calif. and New York City. The network is pushing for a federal investigation into the migrant workers who died during the pandemic and for President Joe Biden to enforce protections for migrant workers.

"We want to remind President Biden of the historic phrase: We mourn the dead. And we fight for the living," Erik Villalobos, spokesperson for NDLON, wrote to the News in Spanish. "President Biden, fight for the living. Because today there are many working amid the same abuses, the same unsafe working locations, the same exploitation."

At the Día de los Muertos celebration, giggling children danced with their parents, volunteers set up decorations to the sounds of "La Llorona" and "Encontré la Cadenita" and waves of attendees adorned themselves with lights, florals and bright colors.

Silvana Deigan — who is originally from Perú and has been collaborating with ULA since 2019 — was one of several attendees wearing an elaborate costume. She donned a skeleton bodysuit, a glow-in-the-dark beak and iridescent wings, representing a hummingbird.

"The hummingbird is sacred and divine," she said in Spanish. "It's a messenger of the gods."

For Juana Islas, who is originally from Mexico and has been a ULA member for 10 years, the teamwork of ULA members is what made the celebration possible, especially given the workload of their day jobs.

During the last five years, ULA members have worked with a Guatemalan artist to create the marionettes used in the annual parade.

Islas, Deigan and other members began working with the artist two months before the parade. Deigan said they repaired the marionettes used in previous



COURTESY OF ERIK VILLALOBOS

ULA — a New Haven organization for Latine immigrants — dedicated their parade to community members who have recently passed.

years' celebrations and created four new puppets, one of which was modeled after Peckham.

"[Peckham] would accompany members of the community when they needed to go to court," Islas said in Spanish. "When there was a protest for wage theft, he was there. In every moment, he was helping us."

According to Lugo, ULA also hoped to honor and preserve the memory of Ramirez, who has no family members in Connecticut.

Some ULA members brought trays of rice, carnitas and pan de muerto, which were distributed to attendees after the parade. As the night continued, attendees danced to live cumbia and salsa music.

Sergio Infante GRD '27, who is Colombian, and Jordan Foster GRD '27 were two of the

event's attendees. Infante had attended the event while he was an undergraduate student at Yale until six years ago, whereas Foster was a newcomer.

"I'm looking forward to stepping out of the Yale bubble for a little while and talking to new people," Foster said.

Looking to the future, Lugo said that ULA plans to expand its Día de los Muertos programming by both securing a larger venue and collaborating with organizations based in Guatemala and Colombia to create parallel parades. Lugo said that many of the family members of Connecticut's migrant community still live in Latin America, so in order to fully highlight the lives of migrants, ULA hopes to expand their "desfile de muertos

con carácter social" to occur in other countries on the same day as the New Haven celebration.

Karen Escalera, who is Mexican, helped her mom and other ULA members set up the food station a few hours before the parade. Escalera emphasized how the event brings together New Haven's Latine community and allows them to embrace their cultures.

"For us younger kids [and the] younger generation, we can continue on with these traditions as we get older so we don't forget where we come from," she said.

ULA was founded in 2002.

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The Friends Center for Children expands free housing facilities for low-wage educators

BY BROOKLYN BRAUNER
STAFF REPORTER

Members of the Teacher Housing Initiative, a program that is run through the Friends Center for Children, have expanded their free housing facilities for early childhood educators and are prepared to welcome two single mothers into their newest housing complex.

The Teacher Housing Initiative provides rent-free housing to early childhood educators on a need basis. The early education sector, both within Connecticut and across the country, organizers told the News, experiences a constant give and take between pushing for increases in teachers' wages and pushing to reduce the expensive cost of childcare.

"We operate in a system that is designed for all of the constituents to fail," Allyx Schiavone, executive director of Friends Center for Children, said. "It fails the parents, it fails the teachers, it fails the providers, and most importantly, it fails the children."

Schiavone said that the current early education system fails because it is "based on the premise of a free market system," and because of this, providers can typically charge consumers the total cost of producing a good or service.

She added that this free market system is not present in the early education sector because the cost of running a quality childcare system far exceeds what local families can afford. As such, Schiavone said, the wages of early childhood educators are significantly cut to offset the difference between what it costs to run a facility and what the community can pay.

"Because of this situation, where we do not have enough cash coming in to pay educators fair wages, the women who work in childcare are actually subsidizing the entire country, the entire

economy, and the entire state," Schiavone said.

In light of this dilemma, the Friends Center for Children began to instead look at ways to reduce teachers' expenditures.

In 2019, the Friends Center for Children assembled a council of 29 teachers and asked them to each list their four biggest expenses. After consolidating their answers, the top expenses included housing, food, transportation and utilities.

The Friends Center for Children decided to address these expenses in that order to reduce financial stress on low-paid early childhood educators.

Organizers told the News that after speaking further with these teachers, whose ages ranged from 22 to 65 years old, they came to realize that only one of the 29 educators owned their home.

"In an economy where wealth is transferred through property, these teachers were unable to invest in themselves and their future," Schiavone said.

Through donations from Greg and Susan Melville, the Friends Center for Children was able to establish the Teacher Housing Initiative, a program launched in 2021 that offers eligible teachers rent-free housing as a salaried benefit.

To accomplish this task, the initiative partnered with the School of Architecture through the Jim Vlock First Year Building Project program to construct five adjacent houses for the Friends Center by 2027.

Construction began in May, and the first of the five newly built houses is now ready for move-in. The organization held a furnishing event in the first home on Wednesday. Two new single mothers and their children will move into the newest complex.

Volunteers at Wednesday's furnishing event commented on the collaboration between the early education teachers and the architecture students.

"Here we have students from an elite institution interacting

she meets with the single mothers for monthly tenant meetings.

ing costs have put on early childhood educators.



BROOKLYN BRAUNER/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Two new single mothers and their children will move into the newest complex sponsored by the Teacher Housing Initiative.

with women who have been historically ignored and marginalized, so there is an inherent power differential," Schiavone said. "It was amazing to see the architecture students listening to the input of our teachers, and furthermore, watching the shift in the teachers after their ideas were validated and implemented."

Aundrea Tabbs-Smith, the Friends Center's emotional well-being coordinator, emphasized the importance of these interactions, calling attention to the benefits of such community support.

Tabbs-Smith said that through her role with the housing program

These meetings, she said, will last throughout the housing process to help the new tenants navigate their new environment.

"My job is really to build relationships and be part of the community," Tabbs-Smith said. "I am here to support in any capacity possible as people are experiencing all the things that life brings. It is important for all of us to feel cared for, nurtured and valued."

In an interview with the News, program volunteer Steffi Frias, who owns a home-based family daycare, spoke about the burden that housing shortages and ris-

Frias said she believes that rent-free housing is one of the most effective ways to mitigate the negative consequences of low wages.

"Learning from the lived experiences of those directly impacted is the most important thing our program can do, and I truly hope that we can alleviate some of the obstacles currently facing early educators," Frias said.

The newest complex is located in the Fair Haven Heights area, walking distance from the previous complexes.

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NEWS

“The redness had seeped from the day and night was arranging herself around us.”

SUE MONK KIDD AMERICAN WRITER

Indigenous students organize benefit concert for Maui wildfire relief

BY CONNOR ARAKAKI
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Over the past several weeks, Indigenous student leaders and other cultural affinity groups have been organizing fundraiser events in response to the summer wildfires in Maui.

At the start of fall semester, Maui native Kala'i Anderson '25 (Kanaka Maoli) and Hawai'i locals Joshua Ching '26 (Kanaka Maoli) and Jai-rus Rhoades '26 (American Samoan) — all members of the student group Indigenous Peoples of Oceania — organized the fundraising initiative. However, as the semester continued, the fundraiser evolved into a collaborative effort, involving the Chinese American Students Association, Japanese American Student Union, Kasama and Native and Indigenous Students at Yale.

On the evening of Aug. 8, a series of wildfires broke out in Lahaina, Maui, along with other parts of Western Maui. Due to the island's historically arid environment, along with high winds from recent Hurricane Dora, the wildfire rapidly spread throughout the island — most of all, on the coastal town of Lahaina.

The Hawai'i state government issued an emergency declaration hours later, on the morning of Aug. 9. The next day, President Joe Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration on Aug. 10 in order to secure federal funding for relief.

The Lahaina wildfires alone claimed 99 lives and have displaced at least 7,200 Maui residents.

From the Lahaina wildfire alone, the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that over 2,200 buildings were destroyed, many of which were cultural or historical preservation sites, as Lahaina was chosen as the capital of the Hawaiian kingdom by King Kamehameha II in 1820. According to FEMA, the overall damage caused by the wildfires has been estimated to be \$6 billion.

The August wildfires have been named the deadliest natural disaster in Hawai'i and modern U.S. history.

For Ching, executive director of IPO, the purpose of the fundraising efforts was to spread awareness of the historical causes of the wildfire. Ching called the wildfires “a reckoning with the colonial histories and legacies of tourism, of water diversion, of climate change, that all culminated into this moment of devastation and tragedy.”

Indeed, numerous sources have found the wildfires to be caused by Maui's extractive agricultural his-

tory, during which sugar plantations destroyed restorative waterways and created competition for water rights on the island. These land and natural resource issues were later exacerbated by the proliferation of golf courses, rental homes and hotels on Maui for the sake of Hawai'i's tourist economy.

Native Hawaiian sovereignty groups have been fighting for water restoration and control on Maui for decades.

In order to engage the University community with this history, Rhoades decided to direct and organize a benefit concert spotlighting Pasifika arts, hosted at Sudler Hall on Nov. 4. Performing arts groups at the concert included forms of Pasifika dance such as hula and Siva Samoa, and traditional songs of Hawaiian sovereignty, such as Pule A Ka Haku and He Mele L hui O Hawai'i, written by the last reigning monarch of the Hawaiian kingdom, Queen Lili'uokalani. In addition, Lux Improvitas, The Alleycats and WORD performed at the concert in solidarity with the impacted communities of the Maui wildfires.

Rhoades believes that music and the performing arts have been a medium for understanding personal identity and history and, prior to the concert, said that he hoped the benefit concert would similarly be a medium to understand the historical context of the Maui wildfires. What's more, Rhoades credits supporting student organizations, such as NISAY, JASU, Kasama and CASA, for contributing to fundraising efforts and creating diverse ways for the Yale community to support wildfire relief efforts.

“As far away as Yale is, I want the benefit concert to create an atmosphere that gets conversations started and gets people wondering how they can give back to Hawai'i's community,” Rhoades said. “We have people selling artwork, bags, food and we're hosting the benefit concert — we're actively gathering different types of engagement for students to support and fundraise.”

For family weekend, the Yale Symphony Orchestra, the Yale Glee Club and the Yale Concert Band hosted a benefit concert on Oct. 7 to aid the reconstruction of 'Aha P nana Leo, a Hawaiian immersion school that stewarded the growth of Hawaiian language and culture.

In addition, on Saturday, Oct. 28, CASA organized a sale of li hing mui



CONNOR ARAKAKI/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

In light of the recent Maui wildfires, the Indigenous Peoples of Oceania and other cultural affinity groups spearheaded fundraising efforts.

candy containing salted dried plum powder — a popular snack in Hawai'i. On Halloween at the Asian American Cultural Center, Kasama sold halo-halo, a Filipino iconic dessert frequently made in Hawai'i, to support Maui wildfire relief efforts.

Later in November, JASU will be selling tote bags and NISAY will be selling beaded earrings in support of the Maui wildfires, per the leaders of IPO. Additionally, IPO will be selling Hawai'i local snacks and stickers at a separate fundraising event at the end of the month. All proceeds from these cultural affinity groups will be donated to the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund.

Before the benefit concert, many Pasifika performers told the News that they felt called to support the Maui community in light of the wildfires and emphasized how the concert bridges performing arts across Indigenous communities.

For the concert, Angela Chen '26 decided to perform Siva Samoa, a traditional dance of her home community in American Samoa that she has been practicing since childhood.

“I hope that events such as this concert will spark more interest and participation in Polynesian arts. There's so much variation — whether in song or dances — that I think [students] don't see as much here at Yale,” Chen said. “This isn't a problem that the Hawai'i community has to bear alone — it's import-

ant for different Pasifika cultures, especially within Polynesia, to band together to fundraise for Lahaina and the wildfires.”

Echoing Chen, Hawai'i local Erin Nishi '25, who performed at the benefit concert, wrote to the News that although she is from the island of O ahu, she feels “strongly connected” with the community and culture that makes up all of the islands.

Along with other YSO members, Nishi decided to perform string quartet and piano duo arrangements of Queen Lili'uokalani's music, including songs that were composed during her imprisonment in Iolani Palace and the overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom.

“We wanted to showcase some of these songs [written by Queen Lili'uokalani], which deliver a powerful message about standing together during times of crisis,” Nishi wrote to the News. “The Queen's music remains important because it inserts into the world of music the essential themes of Hawaiian culture, kinship and hope.”

The benefit concert's attendance was free, however, event organizers and speakers from IPO encouraged audience members to donate in support of wildfire relief efforts. According to IPO leaders, the benefit concert alone raised more than \$3,000, of which all proceeds will be donated to the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund.

After attending the concert, Anderson said that he's encouraged by the positive reception of the benefit concert, and hopes the event is a gateway to Pasifika issues such as Hawaiian sovereignty, which IPO will continue to support throughout the school year.

“I was surprised by how many people were reposting IPO's videos and posts to promote the benefit concert, and by the turnout of people at Sudler Hall — there were many faculty members and graduate students, which was so encouraging to see,” Anderson said. “After the concert, I believe that the student body is more aware of Pasifika students and community issues at Yale. Not only because there are more Pasifika students at Yale now, but because these Pasifika students are involved in making a community.”

The Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund aims to provide financial resources to support the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the devastating Maui wildfires. In distributing these funds, the HCF is working in close collaboration with state and country leaders, nonprofit organizations and community members to better understand evolving wildfire relief priorities.

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Presidential Search Student Advisory Council to host listening sessions

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

The Presidential Search Student Advisory Council, or SAC, announced on Tuesday a series of listening sessions over the next several weeks for undergraduate, graduate and professional students to share their visions for the University's 24th president.

The SAC has 15 student members and is composed of four undergraduate, four graduate and four professional students; The acting presidents of the Yale College Council, the Graduate Student Assembly and the Graduate & Professional Student Senate serve as ex-officio members of the committee. In the email, the SAC wrote that the listening sessions represent their “second part” of gathering student input, following the announcement of an anonymous form which the SAC announced Nov. 1. This input will inform their report to the Presidential Search Committee, which Yale's next president will also receive.

Yale College members of the SAC will host listening session for all undergraduate students today at 8 p.m. in the Silliman College buttry and on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Additionally, they will hold a session specifically for Eli Whitney, non-traditional and veteran students this Friday at 5 p.m. in room 215 in the Annex at the Schwarzman Center. Graduate School members will host listening sessions for GSAS students at 7 p.m. this Thursday in room A-51 at the Watson Center, on Wednesday, Nov. 15, in Room 208 at William L. Harkness Hall and on Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Room 136 at the Humanities Quadran-



TIM TAI / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Presidential Search Student Advisory Council will hear students' priorities about the University's next leader at listening sessions.

gle. The SAC's Graduate and Professional Student Senate members plan to hold their in-person sessions today at 4 p.m. and on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. in room L115 at the Sterling Hall of Medicine room A-53 of the Watson Center, respectively. They

will also hold two Zoom sessions this Thursday and on Monday, Nov. 13.

“We hope these peer-to-peer sessions will provide an opportunity for candor and transparency, and we encourage all students to attend one of these sessions,” the

SAC members wrote in Tuesday's announcement email.

Jamil Rahman GRD '27 told the News that the SAC was working to finalize the details of the listening sessions at their weekly meeting on Monday night, but that the members decided to

leave the listening sessions “pretty open” and dependent on the number of students who show up.

He added that although last week's anonymous form has received significant traffic, he believes that the listening sessions will be even more important in working toward the SAC's goal of getting the most student feedback.

“People are filling out the survey in pretty good numbers,” Rahman said. “But there's just something about face to face interaction that gets people to speak out more and be a little more open about what's on their mind.”

Milton Gilder DIV '25 told the News that as of last night, the SAC's form had over 870 responses.

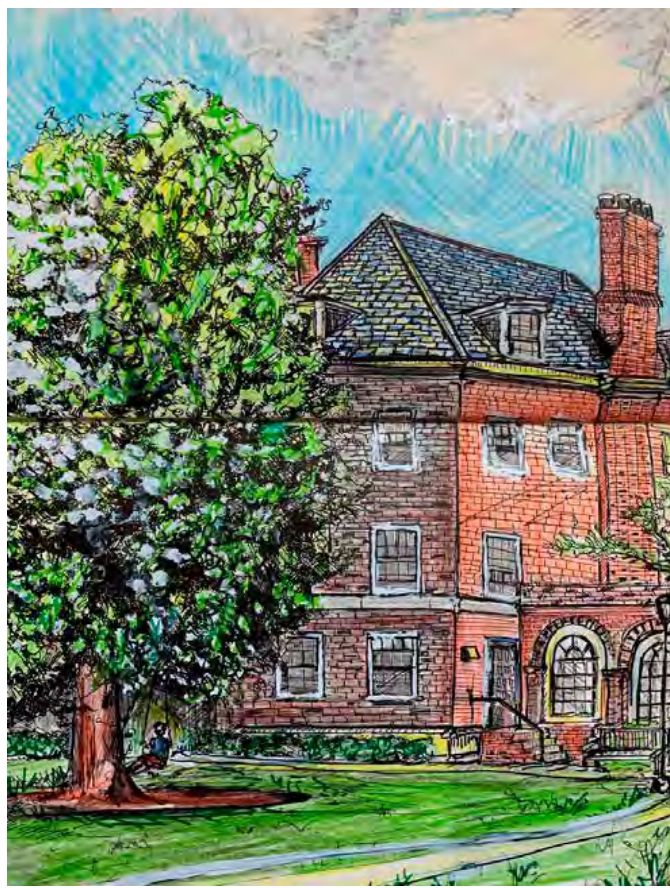
Gilder also said that he anticipates the SAC to begin analyzing the information that it has collected from the survey and will collect from the listening sessions, adding that “it's been a pretty rapid timeline” and that the Search Committee is “signaling” that they are moving quickly with interviews.

“I would hope students would engage honestly and not hold back and act and speak with candor, both in the survey and in the listening sessions,” he said. “It seems incidental, but it's actually quite important to have a collective mass to show what actual students care about in this process as we search for the next president.”

Per the email, the Presidential Search Committee has provided funding for “light refreshments” to be provided at each in-person session.

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BULLETIN BOARD




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Sorensen Lecture

**Exile: A Refuge
from History**

Stan Grant
Indigenous Australian
journalist

Wednesday, Nov. 15
5:30 PM
Niebuhr Hall
Divinity School
Reception to follow





JESSAI FLORES is a member of the Yale class of 2023.



SOPHIA ZHAO is a member of the Yale class of 2023.

SPORTS

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“This weekend’s NCAA regionals is just another step in our season - we have prepared for the length of the race since day 1 and so were excited to show our strength and continue the season strong. Our goal from the beginning of the season has been to be a top 5 team in the region, and we still believe we can do it.” SEAN KAY '24, MENS CROSS COUNTRY CAPTAIN

M BASKETBALL: How Yale can take down No. 11 Gonzaga

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Yale men’s basketball took care of business against Division III Vassar on Monday with a 102-53 win. Now, the real test begins.

The Bulldogs are listed as 14-point underdogs ahead of Friday night’s matchup against No. 11 Gonzaga. Yale will need to be in top form against the nationally ranked Zags, an especially tough task given that Gonzaga is Yale’s first Division I competitor of the season. Here’s what the Bulldogs may have to do to pull off the upset.

Slow Gonzaga in transition

Gonzaga led the nation in adjusted offensive efficiency last season. At approximately 87 points per game, they’ve also led the nation in scoring for each of the last five seasons.

Specifically, the Zags thrive off of a fast-paced offense. Per kenpom.com, a college basketball data site, they have consistently ranked among the country’s fastest offenses over the last five years,

always seizing chances to push the ball down court after a missed basket. Last season, 28 percent of their shots came in transition.

Yale guard Bez Mbeng '25, the Ivy’s reigning defensive player of the year, will have his work cut out for him against opposing point guard Ryan Nembhard, who helped lead Creighton to the Elite 8 last season before transferring schools. If Mbeng can keep Nembhard from pushing the pace in transition, Yale could be better positioned to stifle the Zags’ offense in the halfcourt.

Strong interior defense

Gonzaga stands out among nationally top-ranked teams for their low dependency on three-point shooting, which does not account for a high percentage of their points; they ranked 309th nationally in 3PA/FGA last year at just 26.4 percent. Instead, they thrive on shots inside the arc — particularly in the paint.

SEE M BASKETBALL PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs have their work cut out for them against nationally ranked Gonzaga.

M SOCCER: Elis prepare for Harvard semi-final



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men’s soccer team will now travel to Philadelphia for the inaugural Ivy League tournament.

BY JOAQUÍN FERNÁNDEZ-DUQUE
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men’s soccer team (8-5-3, 3-1-3 Ivy) faced off against Brown University (5-4-7, 2-0-5 Ivy) for their final regular season game on Saturday, a game that ended in a scoreless tie.

Before the game’s 4 p.m. kickoff, fans and players alike celebrated the members of this year’s graduating class for Senior Day. Chris Edwards '24 (GK), Jake Schaffer '24 (D), Kai Moos '24 (D/M), Max Rogers '24 (F), Olivier Van Spaendonck '24 (F), and Eric Lagos '24 (F) were commended for their time on the team and their place in the Yale soccer community.

The Bulldogs had a chance to clinch the regular season Ivy title, but the outcome was not fully in their hands. In order to do so, Yale needed to win against Brown and have the University of Pennsylvania (7-3-5, 4-1-2 Ivy) not win

their game against Princeton University (4-8-3, 1-4-2 Ivy).

The game was tightly contested throughout, with swings in momentum seeing both Brown and Yale have periods of sustained attacking. Both teams recorded nearly the same amount of shots, 10 to nine in favor of the Bulldogs. Yale almost converted a couple of shots from within the penalty box, but in the end did not score. The game ended 0-0.

With Penn defeating Princeton, the tie was not as consequential as it could have been. Still, the ever competitive Yale players were left hoping to prove themselves in the post-season tournament.

“Sometimes the game is cruel,” Schaffer said. “I thought we had several good chances to score, but the game didn’t go our way. Although we didn’t score, we were able to keep a clean sheet and look forward to securing another on Friday against Harvard.”

With the regular season coming to an end, a handful of players received special recognition for their play. Five Bulldogs earned All-Ivy honors, with players featured from every positional line. TJ Presthus '25 and Rogers made the All-Ivy First Team, while Edwards and Lagos made the All-Ivy Second Team. Schaffer earned an Honorable Mention conference selection.

Lagos led the team in goals with five in 12 games, while Rogers led the team in assists, racking up six in 16 games. Edwards’ goalkeeping and Schaffer’s defense contributed to a strong defensive line that only conceded one goal in their last three games.

Additionally, Presthus won Ivy League Defensive Player of the League, an honor he said he was proud to have received.

“Winning Defensive Player of the Year was a goal I set for myself before coming to Yale, so I felt a great deal of pride when I

SEE M SOCCER PAGE 10

FOOTBALL: Elis prepare for Princeton

BY AMELIA LOWER
STAFF REPORTER

The Bulldogs (5-3, 3-2 Ivy) will continue their season on the road (4-4, 3-2 Ivy) at Powers Field in Princeton, New Jersey, at noon this Saturday.

The Yale football team tallied a strong 36-17 win against Brown (4-4, 2-3 Ivy) last weekend, when Yale’s defense forced four turnovers and saw their special teams block a punt, helping to secure the victory. Following their strong performance last week, the Elis have won five of their past six games and are still in the running for the Ivy League Championship.

“My team remains very driven and really focusing on being the best version of themselves every day and having the best day of the week each day,” head coach Tony Reno said. “Excited to see us move forward and play a great team this week at Princeton.”

The Bulldogs lead the all-time series 79-55-10 against Princeton, and this will be the 145th time they meet. Since 2003, the Elis have held a 12-7 advantage in contests against the Tigers. Their most recent meeting was on Nov. 12, 2022, where Yale saw a 24-20 win.

Despite the Tigers going undefeated in Ivy competition in the 2022 season, the Bulldogs won by a four-point margin because of Tigers quarterback Black Stenstrom’s incomplete pass into the endzone with seconds left in the fourth quarter.

“I think every year we play them down there, it’s a battle [and] every

time we play here it’s a battle,” Reno said. “We’re just excited for the opportunity.”

Last season, the Elis protected their strong conference record in their play against Princeton at the Yale Bowl; they defeated every Ivy League challenger except the University of Pennsylvania. Pivotal plays made in the third quarter — such as a 14-yard touchdown by wide receiver Chase Nenad '24, a 44-yard field goal by kicker/punter Jack Bosman '24 and a 19-yard touchdown run by quarterback Nolan Grooms '24 — brought Yale back from a 14-7 deficit and gave them a 10-point advantage.

The Bulldogs had 297 yards of rushing offense, 152 of which were traveled by Grooms and 108 by running back Joshua Pitsenberger '26. Yale’s defense limited Princeton’s attack to only 76 rushing yards, defensive back Brandon Benn '24 made two interceptions and linebacker Joseph Vaughn '24 led the team with nine tackles.

“It was really the mindset change,” wide receiver Mason Tipton '24 said. “We have to make the game go, we can’t wait for big opportunities to happen ... if we want to win, we have to take the game over.”

Last year’s contest tied Yale and Princeton in the lead of the Ancient Eight, leaving the Ivy League Championship title up to both of their final games. Ultimately, the Bulldogs claimed a 19-14 victory

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 10

W BASKETBALL: Bulldogs kick off season

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Yesterday, the Yale women’s basketball team (0-1, 0-0 Ivy) faced the Pittsburgh Panthers (1-0, 0-0 ACC) away at the Petersen Events Center to begin season play.

The team returns almost every single player from the previous season, including recently-elected captain Jenna Clark '24. Clark, the point guard for the Bulldogs, looks to add on to her impressive numbers. She currently ranks seventh in assists in school history at 318 and had 293 points last season alone. At the end of the season, she was announced as a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, awarded to the top point guard in the country.

The Bulldogs also return Ivy League Co-Defensive Player of

the Year Nyla McGill '25 and five-time Ivy League Rookie of the Week selection Kiley Capstraw '26. Last season, the Bulldogs went 13-14 and 7-7 in the Ivy League, placing them fifth overall.

The Panthers went 10-20 overall and 3-15 in the Atlantic Coast Conference last year.

The game on Tuesday against Pittsburgh welcomed Clark and Haley Sabol '24 back home as they looked to begin their season with a win.

McGill told the News of the team’s excitement ahead of their trip to Pittsburgh.

“Going into Pitt, it’s Jenna and Haley’s hometown, so that in itself is very exciting,” she said. “Just being able to play again after a long preseason is exciting enough. I am looking forward to getting back on the court in general because games

are the best part of a season, but also definitely making a comeback from last year in terms of team performance.”

The game began with Pittsburgh winning the jumpball in the first quarter. Though they gained first possession, the Panthers had no answer for Clark and Capstraw, who combined for 13 points in the first quarter. By the end of the first quarter, Yale led Pittsburgh 23-18.

The second period continued the aggression from the first. Halfway through the second, Clark was substituted to avoid fouling out of the game. Shortly after, the Bulldogs’ lead began to shrink. Points from Christen McCann '25 and Brenna McDonald '24 helped Yale stay in the game, but consistent fouls against the Bulldogs gave

SEE W BASKETBALL PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs are set to face Saint Joseph’s this Saturday at the John J. Lee Amphitheatre Gymnasium.

STAT OF THE WEEK

10

THE NUMBER OF TOUCHDOWNS MASON TIPTON '24 HAS CAUGHT THIS YEAR FOR THE BULLDOGS. THAT NUMBER RANKS FIRST IN THE IVY LEAGUE AND SECOND IN THE ENTIRE FCS.

WEEKEND

Christian womanhood at Yale

// BY MICHAELA WANG

// MELANY PEREZ

WEEKEND PERSPECTIVE

Contd. from B1

“Oppressed, doesn’t show her ankles, only reads the Bible, is not edgy,” Amelia Dilworth ’23 lists off when I ask her about popular perspectives on Christian women. Amelia, who grew up in a Christian household and now serves as a campus ministry intern, laughs as her big gold hoop earrings sway. Amelia laughs because she, with her punchy one-liners and critical awareness, is the last person to be considered boring.

As a woman of color who grew up around Christianity and chose to follow the faith in college, I’ve always wondered why I turned to religion at Yale, among all places. On our left-leaning, cis-heteropatriarchy-smashing campus, the voices of Christian women do not necessarily strike as savory. Anti-abortion, anti-vaccination and Trumpism represent some of the movements Christian women are associated with nationally, just to name a few. As a result, I’ve always been curious as to how Christian women practice their faith amidst this noise: a current cultural moment where the media portrays them as problematic typologies and a college campus placing immense pressures on students to perform socially and academically.

According to a Chaplain’s Office Survey analyzing religious affiliations in the 2010s, Christians represent the largest faith group on campus. However, from my own observations, Christian women also seem to be the most spread out not just physically, but ideologically.

What I find from my interviews with Christian women across various spaces is the immense breadth of opinion on core issues such as modesty, relationships and careers. But they all share a commitment to pursue what God has called them to do on campus. This steadfast love for God and for others is what roots them all — and what ultimately sets them apart.

Yale, Christianity and women

Christianity has indelibly shaped the foundation of Yale, and its traces persist and impact the experience of all women and gender minorities today.

In 1701, Congregationalist clergymen from the Connecticut Col-

ony established The Collegiate School in Connecticut’s Branford. The third-oldest institution of higher education trained men in theology, classical languages, leadership and later on, in the sciences and humanities. It was from this highly male and Christian foundation that a new Yale began to form. As early as 1892, women matriculated into graduate-level programs, and in 1973, undergraduate women began sitting in the seats only male ministers once could.

To some degree, the historic exclusion of women from higher education can be attributed to Christian perspectives on motherhood and homemaking — or at least subjective interpretations of the Bible. In “The Making of Biblical Womanhood,” historian Beth Allison Barr unpacks the socio-political construction of Biblical womanhood: the belief that God designed women to remain in the home and become virtuous wives and mothers. This idea has pervaded North American Christianity and emerged in particular social contexts throughout history. Hannah Turner ’24, who grew up in a Christian household and now leads a women’s bible study group, calls this “bad exegesis.”

“The idea of wearing gingham aprons and making muffins everyday — that’s not biblical,” points out Dilworth. “That’s highly popularized by the Industrial Revolution, as well as the 1960s during second wave feminism. Men would go out and work and women were expected to tend to the home, which is a race and class-based concept.”

Though the addition of women came relatively early, the transition to coeducation was not easy, and to some degree shapes the archetype of college women today. The culture of higher education bred a hyperfixation on professional or academic work and a devaluation of any other forms of labor; this was normal for men, but women had to assimilate to this environment. In proving their place in the Academy, women invested their full attention in school and also began to critique anything that did not relate to it.

This sentiment lingers today.

“College is still very much a man’s world,” Dilworth theorizes. “College makes everyone work in a culture where it’s impossible to be a homemaker and hold a job. It

trains us to have all of our food prepared for us; there is no reproductive labor that Yale students have to do. The only thing is to take out the trash. And maybe even not.”

Lily Lawler ’23, who serves in the same internship as Dilworth, elaborates on the rise of the girlboss archetype. “In order to be successful in the world, you have to give up everything that is feminine. Anything that is feminine is bad. You need to be a girlboss.”

Alongside girlboss, the ideal college woman is at the same time cool girl. Turner explains: “she’s at the top of her clubs, goes to the gym everyday, shows up to all of the social events, eats healthy ... she constantly gets something out of her body.” I think this is a sentiment that most female college students can identify with: the constant need to produce something, whether a material product or an immaterial feeling for others.

Overall, this complex of religious and political factors creates the ideal college woman archetypes that many Christian women battle.

Freedom from...

Christian womanhood on campus is developed within this secular ideal.

“For Christian women, the connection between worth and success is severed,” Lawler explains. “You can be a hustler and work hard, but your value is not linked to that anymore. You are willing to sacrifice things about your career to care about the wellbeing of yourself and others. A Christian woman at Yale knows that the most important thing about being here is not me or Yale but what God is doing through me at Yale.”

Turner extends this idea of humility: the ideal Christian woman “makes Jesus’ desires her desires.” Why would a woman cede her agency to the desires of a man who lived 2,000 years ago? In seeking after Christ’s desires, does a woman not lose her freedom to make her own choices?

From a non-Christian perspective, Christianity is based on the practice of putting a man first: women are expected to place the desires of Jesus above their own. But, for the Christian woman this does not equate to

a lack of agency. Understanding what compels Christian women to the discipline of faith requires a redefinition of freedom, maybe one that is unconventional to the secular eye.

The women I spoke to invoked the distinct Christian perspective on freedom.

“The central difference lies in what freedom means to you,” Turner explains. “Secular freedom is having endless choice, whereas Christian freedom is being free from something — whether sin, punishment, guilt or anxiety.”

When I asked a similar question to Kat Matsukawa ’23, who also serves as a campus ministry intern, she added something very similar: “Believers have a very different understanding of freedom. Secular people may look at my life and say, based on the way you live, you are not free. On the outside, I do have a lot more boundaries. But I know that I am free from sin and shame.”

Here, Matsukawa and Turner present the paradox of Christian freedom. By championing what their faith calls them to do rather than what the world, what men, what capitalism and what they instruct themselves to do, a woman experiences true freedom. This, to them, is the only passage through which women can free themselves from the oppressive past and the trappings of ideal college women.

It is important to note, though, that Christian women are not bound to a universal set of rules.

One of the central areas in which subjective rules form is modesty. Many of the women I spoke to have differing relationships with clothing. Some girls wore bikinis while others stuck to one-piece suits. Some found kissing before marriage okay because it did not provoke sexual thoughts for them, while others would only kiss at the altar.

“I still wear crop tops and yoga pants,” Hannah describes. “Modesty is not a moral standard, but something that we are figuring out now in this broken world. It is not universal.”

What matters seems to be intention. Are you dressing to provoke sexual desires and to commodify your body, or to honor God and express yourself creatively?

Another area in which rules are developed is relationships.

While Christian women are often seen as husband-obsessed, the women I spoke to were comfortable being single.

A sophomore, who chose to remain anonymous, pointed out a distinction in how her non-Christian and Christian friends talk about dating. “My friends are all boy crazy, whereas conversations about guys in Christian spaces are a lot more intentional and also less frequent.” The sophomore could only point to one conversation she had about men, when her friend discussed the premarital counseling she and her fiancé were undergoing. She said that most of her conversations with other Christian college students pass the Bechdel test.

An anonymous junior’s remarks were similar. While she grew up going to church, it was only until college that she learned to let God lead her relationships, which has made her more intentional about her interactions with non-Christian men. Christianity ultimately has encouraged her to embrace singlehood as a gift from God, a season of her life where she can focus on her faith and what God has called her to do as a student and in her career.

Finally, Christian women at Yale follow God’s calling throughout their careers. Some girls are called to ministry, others become full-time mothers or to CEOs. This is not an I Can Be Barbie fantasy, but one that is dictated by God’s sovereign plan and their God-given gifts.

“We live in a culture that celebrates novel things,” Kat reflects. “For Christians, we are not trying to reinvent the wheel, we are just trying to be obedient to Jesus. Sometimes that means he’s calling us to a path that has already been well-trekked. Do we have the humility to accept that?”

There are still infinite topics to discuss and perspectives to illuminate, particularly those of gender minorities in Christian spaces, worth another decade of articles. But I would like to posit a larger argument that maybe it is because of, not in spite of, the disjunctions between religion and college that draw women to faith.

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A24’s magic merch machine

// BY IDONE RHODES

Last weekend, I received an email from A24 alerting me to the new merch they had just released for “Priscilla,” Sofia Coppola’s take on Priscilla Presley’s relationship with Elvis. About 10 minutes later, I purchased the Priscilla Rhinestoned Babytee, a tiny t-shirt with “Priscilla” written on the front in rhinestones and the film’s credits in a dainty floral graphic on the back.

Is it too strange to buy merch for a film I haven’t even seen yet?, I wondered to myself.

No, I decided hastily, reasoning that it was the kind of shirt I’d wear whether it were for a movie or not.

Anyways, I’m going to see the movie this weekend, at which point it won’t matter when I ordered the top. No one, except all of you, will ever know.

Though A24 is best known for films like “Lady Bird” and “Hereditary”; their merch website is a sight to behold unto itself. They have something for everyone — the standard fare: hats and hoodies bearing the company’s logo, as well as more specialized items dropped for their major releases. Other independent production companies also sell merchandise, but A24 has been particularly successful at turning itself into a brand independent of the films it makes.

Though A24 has become incredibly mainstream, it still retains its status as indie, a bit quirky, a tad intellectual. The company has found a way to package what

Twitter would call an “A24 core” or “A24-coded” aesthetic into a genre-themed candle or even a dog leash. To my understanding, A24 core describes things that are generally mainstream (like “Lady Bird”) but are just left of center enough to resist the mainstream label.

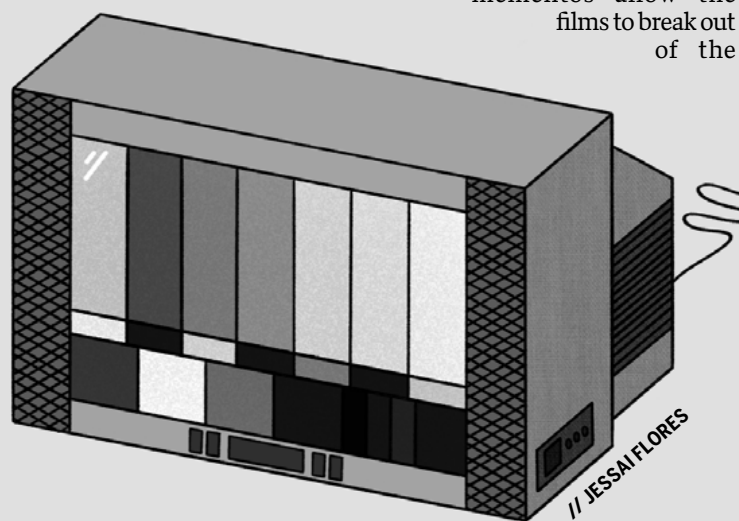
The tote-bag-ification of engagement with the arts — a term I’ve just coined to explain people’s need to not only consume art but let people know they’ve consumed it, ideally through a tote bag — is, in my view, at the heart of A24’s merchandising strategy.

When A24 sells a t-shirt with their logo made up of googly eyes à la “Everything Everywhere All At Once” or embroidered flowers in reference to “Midsommar”, they are giving people the opportunity to tell the world that they have engaged with a film and therefore deserve credit for being something of a cinephile. Even when someone wears a generic A24 beanie, they signal that they are the kind of person who cares about film. If this assessment sounds cynical, let me be clear: I really appreciate the effort A24 puts into letting people interact with films beyond the movies themselves. But if I pretended that the company wasn’t at least partially capitalizing on their audience’s pretentious urges, I would be obscuring my own motivations for buying some of their items

Aside from the general film-lover vibe A24 cultivates, the

company also lets audiences buy into the particular aesthetics of their films. For instance, along with the girly, vintage style of the “Priscilla” apparel, A24 also partnered with Half Magic, a cosmetic line by Euphoria makeup artist Donni Davy, to create a makeup kit that allows you to achieve Priscilla Presley’s iconic winged-eye-liner look. Sofia Coppola is known for the frilly, hyper feminine style of her films, so it makes sense that A24 would target the film’s merch towards young women eager to

best. These items, though certainly silly and perhaps frivolous, allow people to claim a piece of the films for themselves. For my birthday this year, a friend got me a tiny figurine of Marcel the Shell and his miniature matchbox house. He lives on a bookshelf in my bedroom, and every time I see him up there, I am reminded of an endearing film that I love and now have a sense of ownership over. The distance between the audience and the film shrinks when you can see and feel the materiality of a movie right in front of you. These iconic mementos allow the films to break out of the



take part in the film’s girlish glitz and glamour.

The participatory element of some of these more niche items — like a tiny “Mid90s” fingerboard or a “Hereditary” Gingerbread Treehouse Kit — is A24’s merch at its

screen into the real world. On the flip side, to what extent does the instantaneous commodification of a film detract from the art itself? When a new A24 film comes out, there is a contingent of viewers who are perhaps as eager

for the coincident merch drop as they are for the film itself. The individual particularities of any film become secondary to it being an “A24 film” which comes pre-packaged as a consumable product. After all, I literally bought the merch for a film I haven’t even seen yet — and may not even like — simply because it appealed to me aesthetically. As much as I truly enjoy endlessly browsing the A24 site, I can’t shake the feeling that the company’s marketing team is almost too clever for its own good, ultimately facilitating a disingenuous engagement with the wonderful art that it consistently puts out. At the end of the day, a company needs money to create wonderful movies, and A24 has found a way to make that money off of its natural audience — film lovers; fair enough.

What pushes all of this over the edge for me is other A24 marketing strategies like their AAA24 membership program (of which, I must admit, I am a part) and their newly released A24 App. These tactics, combined with their robust merchandising efforts, glaze a capitalist sheen over their artistic output, one which feels incongruous with the company’s genuinely indie roots. Somewhere along the way, A24 became a cult of personality, one it knows we all want to wear on our sleeves, preferably written in rhinestones.

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WKND Recommends

Cheer for the Tottenham Spurs!

WEEKEND *SPIRIT*

Are you tired of the hassle of a fully committed relationship, with its shared responsibilities, mutual respect and genuine emotional connection? Do you prefer the thrill of wondering where you stand with your partner and if they're secretly in love with someone else? If your answer to both of those questions is yes, congratulations, you might be ready to become — as Ken puts it in the Barbie movie — a long term, long distance, low commitment, casual girlfriend. So, without further ado, I present you with the "Long Term, Long Distance, Low Commitment, Casual Girlfriend Handbook."

Chapter 1: The art of being mysteriously, unreasonably unavailable

To master the art of being a long-term, long-distance, low-commitment, casual girlfriend, you must always keep your partner guessing. Start by sending cryptic text messages that leave your partner deciphering your intentions. To keep things exciting, you might consider disappearing for days at a time; the more frequent this happens, the better. Nothing says "casual" like an air of mystery, leaving your partner wondering whether you're dating each other or are just in a real-life game of hide and seek.

Chapter 2: Emphasizing the virtual relationship

In today's world, physical proximity is overrated. You don't need to spend quality time in person to keep the relationship alive. Your after 11 p.m. visits to their place are more than enough. Now, you must embrace the digital age, just think about how many apps you have to choose from. Snapchat sounds like the ideal tool for conveying feelings in 10-second snippets, and sending Instagram reels of cute pets is unbeatable in maintaining a low-level connection. Don't worry, you don't need to have any meaningful conversations for this to work out. Turn technology into your playground, minimize discussing deep thoughts and feelings so you can free up more time for endless scrolling through TikToks together.

Chapter 3: The power of non-commitment

Commitment is for the weak, and you obviously know that since you're reading this guide, so avoid it at all costs. The moment your partner starts talking about "the future" or "where this is going," change the subject, or better yet, start a monologue that goes for hours without actually saying anything. You can talk about anything here: your childhood, your favorite flavor of ice cream, if you're feeling it you can even go for a rose-bud-thorn of your day ... After all, how different is this conversation from your nightly FroCo meetings, right? You might also want to go back and change your mind about what you said last week to keep things spicy and your partner's head spinning. Remember, the best relationships are those that always leave you wondering if you're wasting your time.

Chapter 4: Building the emotional rollercoaster

Every successful long term, long distance, low commitment, casual girlfriend knows that emotional rollercoasters are the key to healthy situationships. One day, be sweet and affectionate, showering your partner with love and attention; the next day, become distant and unresponsive, leaving them confused and desperate for your attention. It's like playing a game of emotional Jenga, always on the verge of collapse. If your partner starts becoming distant and unresponsive too, don't worry — this is where the game gets more fun (healthy, I meant, healthy!). Now you get to convince them that nothing is wrong and the list of creative excuses for a Yale student is endless: will you choose to be busy with coursework, caught up by side projects, or maybe your dog needs a haircut ... As I said, the opportunities are endless.

Chapter 5: Maintaining the self-doubt diet

In a healthy situationship, you must stay perpetually uncertain about where you stand. Regularly question your worth, attractiveness and desirability. This will ensure that your self-esteem stays as low as your commitment level. This sense of self-doubt is at the heart of your relationship, making sure neither you nor your partner gets too sure about where things are going. Don't forget to check this metric regularly, as it's the foundation for the charming push and pull that characterizes your one-of-a-kind connection.

But more importantly, have fun! After all, you're everything and he's just Ken.

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A movie for midnight

// BY ALEXANDER MEDEL

It is midnight on a warm weekend in November. The clouds sail sleepily by your window. The shadows of leaves dance on the wall. The lights are low, and the room is illuminated by starlight and the screen in front of you. You have a remote on one hand, and someone special on the other. And you wonder, as the screen loads, about what movie the two of you should watch. You ponder for a while, considering the options in your mind after a voice by your side tells you to decide.

In this moment of indecision, ambivalence or simple cluelessness as to the perfect film to watch tonight, I offer a suggestion: "Casablanca."

A 1942 romantic drama starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid, "Casablanca" is set during the Second World War in the city of Casablanca in French Morocco. Bar owner Rick Blaine (Bogart) comes across an old flame, Ilsa Lund (Bergman) and her husband Victor Laszlo (Henreid), a resistance fighter against the Nazis. The story revolves around Rick's attempts to help Ilsa and Victor escape as they attempt to flee.

Despite its age, "Casablanca" remains a tour de force of American cinema. Indeed, quotes and scenes from the film find themselves as allusions in the modern-day lexicon and as parodies on shows and sketches, respectively. Its theme has been recorded by countless singers and has been heard by millions as the Warner Bros. theme. In all, the film has become an enshrined part of American culture.

The film's actors can be praised for their masterful approach. The plot can be lauded for its intricacy, or the cinematography for its quality and style. These are a few of the many reasons why this film from the 1940s remains relevant to the modern viewer in the 2020s, yet the most important reason is that it offers a unique insight into love and the human spirit.

In helping Ilsa and Victor escape, Rick not only puts his life on the line, but he also loses the love of his life. Hidden beneath his sharp and cynical persona lies a selfless individual who has the ability to see the big picture. He understands that if he pursues a relationship with Ilsa, it would devastate Victor, who will not find the will to continue his resistance against the Nazis. In turn, if he helps them, he would be assigned to a dangerous life of eluding the Nazis and fighting against them.

He weighs his options and discards self-interest by replacing it with love. Rick sums up his intentions in the iconic dialogue between him and Ilsa near the end of the film perfectly: "I'm no good at being noble, but it doesn't take much to see that the problems of three little people don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world." A tragic hero, he sacrifices his own happiness for Ilsa's life and Victor's cause.

The relationship between Rick and Ilsa is reminiscent of that of star-crossed lovers,

of the likes of Romeo and Juliet, Tristan and Isolde and Abelard and Heloise: two people who shared a strong and genuine love torn apart by the pressures and politics of the time, assigned to live separate lives whereupon they exist only in each other's memory.

"Casablanca" offers no happy ending. Instead, it offers the right ending. Love is a complicated emotion, one filled with varying levels of nuance on a spectrum felt by many yet indescribable at the same time.

Its depiction in "Casablanca" will leave anyone, especially those in love, with a profound respect for its realism, but also for its sentimentality. The audience is left to dream about an alternate reality where Rick and Ilsa have a picture-perfect romance. Similarly, they are led to mourn the sad reality of their battle against the fate of the times. Their romance is complex and complicated but most importantly, human. And that humanity in their love allows us to connect with them, whether from a stance of sympathy or empathy, regardless of whether we watched "Casablanca" shortly after its release, or decades after at midnight with your special someone.

Thus, my recommendation stands. "Casablanca" is the right movie — the perfect movie — to watch with that special someone at midnight. Not because it is a storytelling masterpiece, even though it is. Not because it is a cinematic classic, even though it is. Watch it simply, from beginning to end, because it will lead you and your special someone to a deeper wisdom and appreciation for the nature of love.

As you contemplate that newfound understanding and the credits roll in the background, those three special words you whisper as you look into the eyes of that someone should take on new meaning and allow you both to drift into the young and tender night, enlightened and hopefully deeper in love.

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WKND Recommends

"If it Wasn't for the Nights" by
ABBA.

WEEKEND *DISTRACTION*

Before You Bagel:

A guide from an experienced connoisseur

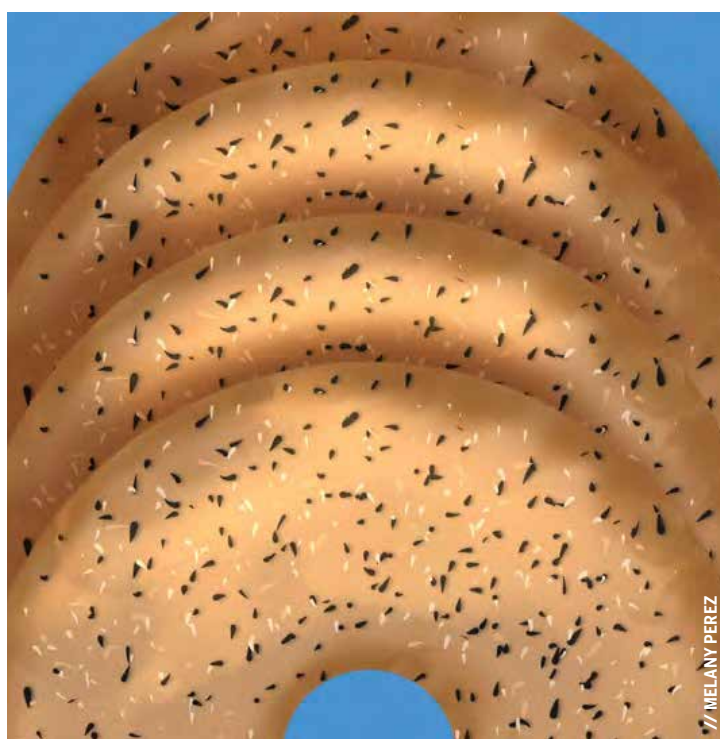
// BY EMILY AIKENS

With New York City just a train ride away, writing an article defending New Haven's bagel selection feels like a lost cause. Nevertheless, as an ardent bagel enthusiast — and someone who understands that it would be impractical to go to New York City for the sole purpose of getting a breakfast pastry every day — I have intimately familiarized myself with New Haven's bagel market. Lucky for you, readers of the WKND, I am ready to share that coveted knowledge. Read on for intel on the best and worst bagels in town.

First, Book Trader Cafe. I will die on the hill that this is the best bagel spot in New Haven. For under five dollars, you can get a delicious bagel and a quality cup of coffee to accompany it. Book Trader gets crowded during the day, but if you go early, you can snag a spot in the greenhouse-style main room — an ideal place to procrastinate your work by people-watching through the massive windows. Although I would love to convince everyone who reads this article that Book Trader is supreme, in the interest of staying impartial, I will disclose that the spotty WiFi and loud crowds make this a difficult spot to do anything productive. Also, although the bagels are from Pepperidge Farm, you can pretend that they are homemade if you don't watch the barista pull them out of the bag.

Next up, Olmo. When a Yalee suggests going out for bagels, they're probably going to drag you to Olmo. The cafe, which was established in 2018, claims to "have given New Haven its own style of bagel." They have. And it's bad. I'll be the first to say it: I don't understand the fascination. Maybe Olmo's underwhelming coffee selection taints my view of their bagels. Maybe the trek down Whitney Avenue is too demoralizing, especially in the cold New Haven winters. Maybe I'm the one with bad bagel taste. But, to me, Olmo's bagels are always stale and disappointing. Supporters will try to justify Olmo by telling you that it just won "Best of the Fest" at the NYC BagelFest, but, as someone who was not on the award committee, I can tell you that I have my suspicions about this honor.

If you are still reading after I bashed Olmo, thank you! I appreciate it. As a reward, I'll reveal another gem of a bagel spot: G Cafe. If you are looking for something beyond the regular bagel,



// MELANY PEREZ

head over to G Cafe, where you can purchase the pragel — a delicious hybrid between a bagel and a pretzel. Eating a pretzel can feel a bit strange in the early hours of the day, so I'd recommend G Cafe for when you're craving a savory afternoon snack. While they only have two options, plain or everything, G Cafe has mastered the basics and is consistently delicious.

Regrettably, I feel that I must address the bagels at Koffee. I like Koffee. Or, rather, I want to like Koffee. From the eclectic music selection — you never know whether you will get Faye Webster or death metal — to the fashionably clashing couches, Koffee exudes a certain coolness that keeps me coming back. Unfortunately, I do not harbor the same enthusiasm for Koffee's bagels as I do for its interior design. If G Cafe is consistent, Koffee is the exact opposite, handing customers different bagel renditions based on how the barista is feeling that day. Did he just break up with his girlfriend? If so, your bagel might be overstuffed with cream cheese. Did he have a fight with his parents? You're lucky if you receive your bagel at all.

I'm unsure about this last recommendation given the ridicule it might garner. Still, I cannot deny that Gheav's bagels are my go-to. Open 24 hours a day and located near central campus, it's no secret that Gheav is convenient. Gheav knows it's convenient, too, which is why a single bottle of Pure Leaf iced tea costs almost five dollars. However, I recently discovered that Gheav bagels cost only three dollars — a revelation that has drastically changed my late-night snacking habits. While they aren't the best in New Haven, their price and accessibility secure Gheav's bagels a place on this list.

There you have it, one girl's (correct) opinion on five New Haven bagel spots. Whether you follow my advice is out of my hands, but, before you bagel, do keep these thoroughly researched evaluations in mind.

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I don't know you, but I bet I can predict your love life

// BY HANNAH KURCZESKI

It's a Saturday night. The pounding bass and flashing lights from the Bulldog Bash on Old Campus have turned your brain to mush. You're a first year who is straining to hear your friends amidst the carefully-crafted Yale-sponsored chaos, and that's when you see him: the guy from the laundry room.

One bag of popcorn later, you've worked up the courage to talk to him. Two bags of popcorn later, you're heading back to his suite and texting your roommate not to worry if you don't come home that night. The next morning you trek across Old Campus back to your dorm, praying that it's early enough for no one to be outside and perceive your first walk-of-shame. For the next 24 hours, you wait for him to text you and ask to hang out, or even grab a meal because after last night, he is undoubtedly in love with you. You wait to hear something — anything — but you don't. And you're crushed.

This happens several more times over your first semester. You swear you're not a hookup person, but you've never made out with the same person twice. But that's not on you, that's on them. They're the ones missing out. You'd be an incredible significant other.

By second semester, you've realized that no first year is actually looking for anything serious, which is fine. You're secretly in love with one of your best friends anyway, so you engage in the occasional dance floor makeout to distract yourself. Your delusion reaches its peak just as you're about to leave for the summer — how convenient! Out of sight means out of mind, so you'll have the next three months to get over him in peace.

But distance makes the heart grow fonder, and by the time you're moving in for sophomore year, you're actively looking forward to seeing him again. You grab lunch together and after the initial butterflies have worn off, you suddenly realize that he's ... different. Or maybe he's not; maybe you just spent your entire summer romanticizing the idea of him so much that the real him will forever be pale in comparison. Either way, your delusion has shattered and it's back to the drawing board. How will you find love at Yale?

Now, you're a sophomore, so surely people are looking to settle down, you think. And they are: left and right people are coupling up, soft-launching and hard-launching on Instagram until you can't tell what's platonic and what's not. And you don't really care, because to you, it's all just annoying. Where is your relationship? Where are they hiding?

Your friends convince you to download Tinder and Hinge, which is fun for approximately two days. Then you watch "La La Land" with your best friend (your other best friend, who you're not in love with), and you promptly delete both apps because they will never help you find what Seb and Mia had.

Then you get busy. You forget about love.

And that's when it hits you. The guy from the buttery who always gives you extra mac-n-cheese bites asks if you want to grab coffee, so you do, and it's great. It's more than great, actually; he's kind and he's funny, and you have great banter (you're a sucker for banter). A few dates later, you make it official: you're in a relationship.

You spend your second semester of sophomore year bouncing back and forth between his dorm and yours. Study session in his, wine night in yours, reverse next week. You get to know his suitemates, and he gets to know yours. While snow falls outside the gothic windows in your common room, you take turns sipping from a mug of Keurig-made hot chocolate. When spring comes, you flock to Cross Campus with the rest of the student body and lay in the sun, talking about what you're going to do over the summer.



// SOPHIA ZHAO

And then summer comes, and you realize just how difficult long distance is. You talk less and fight more than you used to. You promise yourselves that when you get back to campus in the fall, things will be better. And for a little while, they are.

But junior year is hard. You're both incredibly ambitious, taking six-and-a-half credits to try and finish the requirements for your major, all while serving on the boards of several clubs. You don't get to see each other often, but when you do, you try to make the most of it.

It's not enough. Right before Thanksgiving, everything falls apart. Suddenly, you're canceling your flight to Michigan and calling your mom to tell her yes, actually, you will be home for the entirety of November break, despite what you told her three weeks ago. No, you don't want to talk about it. Yes, you'll be okay until then. She gives you an extra slice of pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving, and your friends from home help remind you that this isn't the end of the world.

You throw yourself into your work for the rest of junior year, which isn't hard. And you only hook up with your ex twice, which rounds down to zero, so you're really quite proud of the self-restraint you've been showing. Other than that, you swear off dating. You don't have time for it: a conveniently true excuse.

By the time senior year starts, you've got one foot out the door. It's not worth it to start anything new, you think, because you're about to be gone anyway. You spend your last few months on campus doing all of the things you never got to do, and making as many memories as you can. Love isn't romantic anymore — it's platonic, and it's intoxicating. You will never again live so close to so many of your friends. You spend every waking moment with them, clinging to college life as it slips through your fingers.

One night, you get a little drunk and tell your best friend — yes, that best friend — that you used to be in love with them. They confess that they used to be in love with you, too. You sit in silence for a few moments, wondering what might have been, before laughing it off. You don't tell them that a tiny part of you will always be in love with them, even if the rest of you has repeatedly denied it.

Then you graduate, single. You go off into the world, single. You watch your underclassmen friends go through the same romantic cycle that you did, and you realize that all along, the only person you ever needed was yourself.

Because let's be honest: you will not find the love of your life at Yale University.

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