



Law school diversity drops post-affirmative action

BY CHRIS TILLEN
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Law School class of 2027, the first admitted without affirmative action, saw a 12 percent decrease in the share of students of color.

In the first Yale Law School class admitted post-affirmative action, the share of students of color decreased by 7 percentage points, or about a 12 percent decrease.

The Law School saw a drop in students of color from 57 percent in the class of 2026 to 50 percent in the class of 2027, the lowest since 2022 and coming after an eight-year trend of increasing racial diversity.

The Law School did not share the specific breakdown of ethnicity or race for the class of 2027. According to 509 information report released by the American Bar Association, Yale Law School counts Black, Hispanic students of any race, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and biracial students in their people of color calculation.

“You have to certainly expect there’s going to be a significant reduction of Black students in our selective higher education institutions, and especially our elite ones, like Yale Law School. And that is a tragedy,” said Kevin Brown LAW ’82, a professor at Indiana University Bloomington’s Maurer School of Law.

The specific breakdown of this year’s class will be made available through the 2024 Standard 509 information report. The Law School submits demographic information to the American Bar Association in the fall every other year, the Law School spokesperson said.

Brown said that the percentage of students of color does not provide the full picture. When the American

SEE LAW SCHOOL PAGE 4



Baala Shakya, Contributing Photographer

McInnis lacks unique academic vision

BY JOSIE REICH
STAFF REPORTER

University President Maurie McInnis said that she does not yet have a unique academic vision for Yale. In an interview with the News on Thursday, she emphasized that instead, for now, she is focusing on listening to community members and propelling the initiatives Yale already has in place.

When asked whether she had to articulate an academic vision for Yale to the search committee when she was under consideration for the presidency, she responded, “not really, not an academic vision that is that distinct.”

McInnis said that when she was under consideration, she stressed her ability and desire to lead the University’s already ongoing science and engineering projects.

“We should be clear that Yale has a very clear set of academic priorities that it is pursuing right now ... broadly around our science and engineering strategy,” she said. “When I was hired, it was very clear to me that continuing with those is a really high priority of the board, and that

SEE VISION PAGE 4

Elicker proposes redirecting \$8.5 million to New Haven Public Schools



New Haven ran a \$16.4 million budget surplus in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Mayor Justin Elicker has proposed assigning \$3 million in freed funds to New Haven Public Schools in addition to \$5.5 million of ARPA funds. / Zoe Berg, Senior Photographer

BY LILY BELLE POLING
STAFF REPORTER

Amidst recent pressure for increased funding for New Haven Public Schools, Mayor Justin Elicker announced a proposal directing

\$8.5 million to NHPS’s budget to mitigate staff layoffs and improve facilities maintenance.

After closing the books on the 2023-2024 fiscal budget on Sept. 30, New Haven saw a \$16.4 million surplus in its general fund,

marking the fourth consecutive year the city ran a surplus. Elicker proposed to put \$3 million into NHPS’s operating budget. The remaining \$13.4 million will be allocated to the city’s rainy day fund — which is money set aside

in case of disruption to New Haven’s regular revenue.

Elicker also proposed that \$5.5 million of the city’s remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds, which must be allocated by the end of 2024, be given to the schools’ capital budget for building maintenance and improvement. Last year, the city set aside these funds as revenue replacement, for any potential gaps in the budget that would’ve needed closing.

New Haven Public Schools began this school year with a \$2.3 million budget deficit, after receiving only \$5 million of the requested \$17 million increase in city funds to maintain the previous year’s programs.

Elicker’s proposal will have to be approved by the Board of Alders.

Additional NHPS funds will help close the deficit

“It’s a happy day for the schools,” Superintendent Madeline Negrón said. She expressed confidence that alders will approve Elicker’s proposal because “we are surrounded by individuals that are committed to making

SEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAGE 4

Yale Corp convenes, trustee meets pro-divestment students

BY YOLANDA WANG AND JOSIE REICH
STAFF REPORTERS

For the first time, students advocating for Yale to disclose and divest from military weapons manufacturers met with a member of the Yale Corporation, one of the main demands from the two encampments and mass student protests in the spring 2024 semester.

Three students representing the new pro-divestment Sumud Coalition met with a Yale Corporation trustee on Saturday afternoon. At the meeting, students presented a proposal for the University to disclose a “precise estimate” of the percentage and dollar amount of Yale’s endowment that is invested in military weapons manufacturers and suppliers. Students also requested an explanation of how the estimate was calculated.

According to Sumud Coalition representatives, the trustee did not commit to the terms of the proposal.

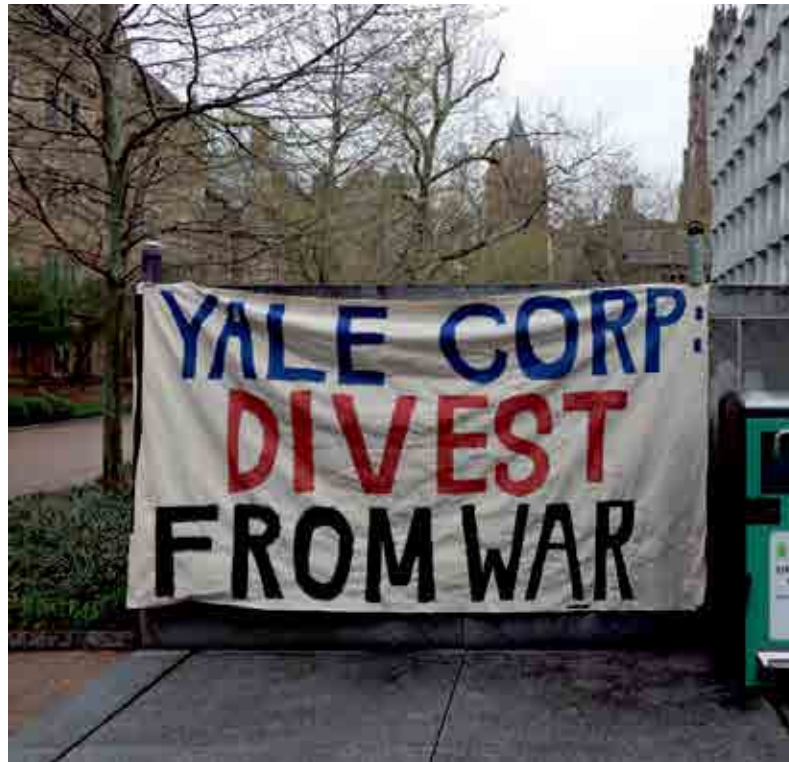
The meeting happened as trustees convened for their first in-person meeting of the academic year. News was unable to confirm which trustee met with the students. Both a University spokesperson and the student attendees declined to reveal the identity of the trustee.

The meeting was scheduled as a result of ongoing communication between Yale administrators and student organizers that started during the pro-divestment encampments in the spring semester and stretched across the summer, according to the student attendees.

The Sumud Coalition is composed of members from Yalies4Palestine, Yale Jews for Ceasefire and the Yale Endowment Justice Collective. One member of each group attended Saturday’s meeting as representatives of the coalition.

“What distinguished this opportunity from what was

SEE TRUSTEES PAGE 5



A trustee met with three pro-Palestinian students, who presented a proposal for the University to disclose its investments in military weapons manufacturing, to which the trustee did not commit. / Christina Lee, Head Photography Editor

Neutrality leaves Yale divided

BY JOSIE REICH
STAFF REPORTER

A faculty committee considering when Yale should take stances on current events concluded ten listening sessions with Yale community members on Wednesday afternoon.

Just over three weeks ago, University President Maurie McInnis announced that she had convened a committee of seven professors to solicit feedback from the community and provide her with recommendations on “when Yale, as an institution, speaks on issues of the day.”

Separate listening sessions were held for faculty, staff, students and West Campus community members. They varied in size from four attendees at the West Campus one to approximately 85 at the final student meeting, with attendance at most sessions hovering around the middle. Committee co-chairs Michael Della Rocca, Sterling Professor of Philosophy, and law professor Cristina Rodríguez ’95LAW ’00 presided over each session. Other members of the committee joined occasionally.

Rodríguez told the News that in the listening sessions, she noticed how “there are not just two views, that universities should speak all the time [or that] universities should never speak — there are a range of views, and they are actually quite nuanced.”

SEE LISTENING PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1995. Hundreds of Yalies skip class to hear the verdict of the O.J. Simpson case. Students crowd dorm and college residence rooms, listening to the events unfold through the radio or television.

INSIDE THE NEWS

Heidi’s handler is retiring. Is Yale’s public safety dog also one paw out the door?
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PRIDE An inside look into the upcoming Pride game for Yale Women’s Soccer, a culmination of the work of the team to show support of the queer community. **PAGE 14 SPORTS**

TELEHEALTH Telehealth patients at Yale and beyond may soon lose access to prescriptions. **PAGE 9 SCI-TECH**

BULLETIN



SOPHIA ZHAO '23



HELEN HYUNH '26

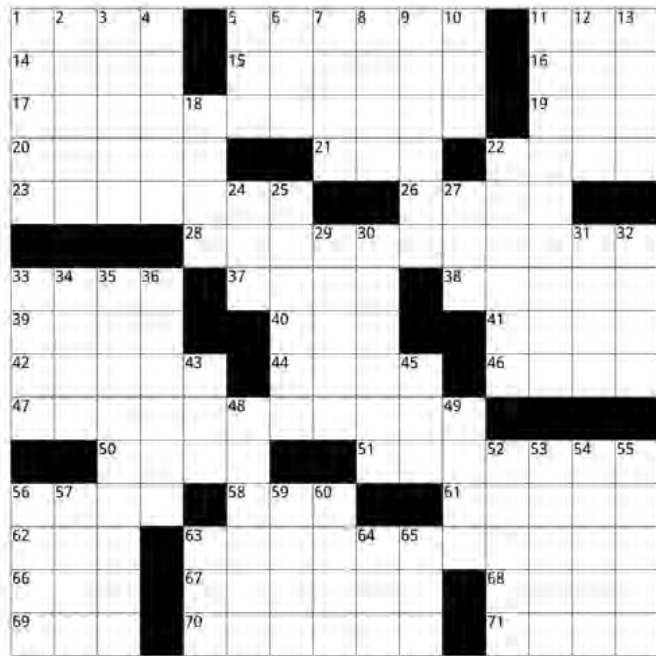
Puzzle by Ariana Borut '27

ACROSS

- 1 Eight: Prefix
- 5 Serve a sentence
- 11 Chart shape
- 14 Hair removal brand
- 15 Arctic jacket
- 16 Do simple math
- 17 *Quick matchmaking process
- 19 Sunburned
- 20 Slip-up
- 21 Govt.-issued aid
- 22 Green-light
- 23 Sniffer's boxful
- 26 Seniors' org.
- 28 *Harley-Davidsons
- 33 Part of MIT: Abbr.
- 37 Notorious Roman emperor
- 38 What a beach umbrella provides
- 39 Late-night Jay
- 40 Place to enter a PIN
- 41 Slushy drink brand
- 42 Fortnite dance move
- 44 Mickey and Minnie, for two
- 46 Lions' lairs
- 47 *No parking area
- 50 Smart ___
- 51 Event with the 2024 theme "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion"

DOWN

- 17 *Quick matchmaking process
- 19 Sunburned
- 20 Slip-up
- 21 Govt.-issued aid
- 22 Green-light
- 23 Sniffer's boxful
- 26 Seniors' org.
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- 50 Smart ___
- 51 Event with the 2024 theme "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion"




- 27 Shakespearean assents
- 29 Baseball's "Big Papi"
- 30 "You've Got Mail" genre
- 31 Genesis garden
- 32 Observes
- 33 "Okay if ___ myself out?"
- 34 Dory's friend, in a Pixar film
- 35 What a person waving their arms might produce
- 36 Final tallies
- 43 Female sheep
- 45 Opposite of WSW
- 48 Unlike this answer
- 49 Diminutive suffix
- 52 Spoil
- 53 Strike ___ (what models do)
- 54 Jungle vine
- 55 Cast member
- 56 Rush-hour sound
- 57 Taj Mahal city
- 59 Play parts
- 60 ___-Ball (arcade game)
- 63 Mens ___ (criminal intent)
- 64 Vietnamese New Year
- 65 ___ Pinafore

CLARISSA TAN '26



Hopper College Tea

HOLDING IT TOGETHER: HOW WOMEN BECAME AMERICA'S SAFETY NET



Jessica Calareo is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an award-winning teacher and expert on inequalities in family life and education. She will be in conversation with Adora Svitak (Sociology and WGSS PhD candidate, Yale). Audience Q&A will follow.

Monday, October 7
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Grace Hopper College, 189 Elm St.

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OPINION

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GUEST COLUMNIST MAX GRINSTEIN

Ben Shapiro not welcome on Oct. 7

Few people can draw a crowd on a college campus quite like Ben Shapiro. Depending on who you ask, the conservative firebrand is either famous or infamous for his Q&A sessions where he “owns” and “destroys” raucous college students — exchanges that have been clipped to oblivion on YouTube.

On Monday, Oct. 7, the Buckley Institute is scheduled to bring Shapiro to Yale for one of these events — on a date that coincides with the one year anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Israel. Hosting an inherently political event is an irresponsible way to mark a day that, for many in the Yale community, has tragically defined the last year.

Almost exactly a year ago, Hamas launched a cowardly attack against Israeli citizens on Simchat Torah — a day that is supposed to be a joyous festival marking the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Nearly 1,200 people were killed, including 43 Americans. 254 more were kidnapped.

Some members of the Yale Jewish community woke up to a barrage of WhatsApp notifications that Saturday morning. For others, who observed the prohibition on using technology on holidays, news trickled in more slowly. Yet, for nearly all of us, that fateful day and its catastrophic consequences left an indelible mark on our year.

Just last month, the Israeli Defense Force recovered the bodies of six hostages from a tunnel beneath the Gazan city of Rafah. Among those found was American citizen Hersh Goldberg-Polin z”l, whose parents became global icons in their tireless fight to free their son. Several members of the Slifka community know the Goldberg-Polin family. Even though I don’t, news of his death also struck me personally as a reminder of our collective obligation to those who have still not made it home.

With 101 hostages representing 24 nationalities now held by Hamas in Gaza, the pain of Oct. 7 is still potentially alive.

The title of Buckley’s upcoming conversation with Ben Shapiro is “how October 7 broke America’s college campuses.” The focus won’t be on the families who were torn apart. Or the hostages still in Gaza. Or the victims of sexual violence at the hands of Hamas terrorists. Instead, on the one-year anniversary of the deadliest attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust, Ben Shapiro is coming to Yale to perpetuate the culture war.

ON THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEADLIEST ATTACK ON THE JEWISH PEOPLE SINCE THE HOLOCAUST, BEN SHAPIRO IS COMING TO YALE TO PERPETUATE THE CULTURE WAR.

To be sure, Shapiro should have a place to voice his perspective on Yale’s campus. If the event was scheduled to take place on Oct. 6 or 8, I’d be in the audience. And I may well agree with Shapiro’s condemnation of anti-Israel protests at Yale and beyond — protests through which antisemitism often rears its ugly head.

Free speech is the lifeblood of a healthy university. But hiding behind its façade doesn’t absolve Buckley of any sensitivity to the impact of its event. Watching a series of verbal altercations between Shapiro and disgruntled college students eager for their 15 minutes of Internet fame does not preserve the sanctity of a horrific anniversary. Shapiro, an observant Jew, should know better.

For thousands of years, Jews have observed *yahrzeits* — a Yiddish word meaning “anniversary” — to commemorate the loss of loved ones. The Babylonian Talmud, a seminal text of early rabbinic debates, describes ancient vows where children would abstain from the indulgences of eating meat and drinking wine on the anniversary of their father’s death. [1]

Modern *yahrzeit* observances often include lighting a special candle designed to burn for the duration of the day, reciting a prayer known as the Mourner’s Kaddish, engaging in acts of *tzedakah* — charity — and studying Torah. While a loved one might be gone in the physical sense, *yahrzeit* observance allows their spirit to live on.

Because of idiosyncrasies between the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars, the *yahrzeit* date for those killed in last year’s massacre doesn’t occur on Oct. 7. That date, the 22nd of Tishrei, won’t come for several more weeks. Still, Judaism can teach us all — religious or not — about our fundamental responsibility to those we’ve lost.

Inspired by Jewish tradition, I will mark one year since the Oct. 7 attacks with silent reflection, the recitation of psalms and efforts to connect with the Yale community, both inside and outside of the Slifka Center’s walls. Through their choice of dates, the Buckley Institute and Shapiro are politicizing a sensitive day of mourning — giving not into the desire for meat and wine but rather for discord and dissonance.

Shapiro’s speech is set to occur at 7 p.m. on Oct. 7. So is the recently-announced vigil organized by the Slifka Center and Chabad at Yale.

Buckley, reschedule your event. Otherwise, Yalies, we owe it to the victims of Hamas terror to sit it out.

MAX GRINSTEIN is a first-year in Grace Hopper College. He can be reached at max.grinstein@yale.edu.

GUEST COLUMNIST ADNAN BSEISU

Update on YCC’s budget

On Sunday, Sept. 22, the Yale College Council Senate passed a nearly \$930,000 budget for the 2024-25 academic year. The Student Activities Fee, a \$125 segment of Yale’s undergraduate tuition, represents three-fourths of our annual revenues. The majority of our governing body’s budget, therefore, is entrusted to us by students. As such, the YCC is renewing its commitment to the utmost fiscal transparency. Today, I write to report the details of this year’s budget allocations — a multi-pronged strategy designed to maximize our budget for and on behalf of Yale’s undergraduate students.

The YCC’s \$930,000 this year — subject to change pending Leaves of Absence and Withdrawals — is primarily allocated to two of the YCC’s most student-facing services: funding for undergraduate organizations and Spring Fling.

Last year, funding for undergraduate organizations was tight. Approximately 520 clubs requested a cumulative \$1,141,000 from the YCC’s Undergraduate Organizations Funding Committee, or UOFC. The UOFC was able to disburse \$370,000.

This year, we are proud to announce that we have allocated \$405,000 to undergraduate student organization funding, an unprecedented one-year increase of \$35,000. This marks the second-largest student organization-specific fund the Yale undergraduate community has benefited from, surpassed only by a \$410,000 UOFC budget in the 2022-23 academic year, the product of a pandemic-induced rollo-

ver of money. Given our improved focus on expanding outreach and financing clubs without other funding sources, we hope the additional funds will go even further this year in supporting the student organizations that define our campus culture.

The Spring Fling Committee, for whom the undergraduate community is deeply grateful, has received an increase of \$20,000, bringing their annual operating budget to \$345,000. This expansion is inspired by a strategic reimagining of the role of the YCC’s Emergency Spending Fund, or ESF. Last year, the Senate voted to move \$20,000 from the ESF to the Spring Fling Committee midway through the academic year. This year, we have opted instead to provide Spring Fling with the additional \$20,000 upfront. We are optimistic that allocating money in full and from the outset will allow the Spring Fling Committee to operate with a more realistic budget and to secure lower prices with earlier planning.

Including our \$65,000 budget for events — money allocated to the YCC Events Team for planning social events for undergraduate students during the school year — \$815,000, which is 88 percent of this year’s budget, is dedicated to student events and undergraduate organizations. In other words, we are spending \$115,000 more than our approximately \$700,000 Student Activities Fee revenues to directly support student activities.

A further nine percent of our budget, including a \$40,500

Emergency Spending Fund, will be at the discretion of the YCC Senate. In recent years, the Senate’s funding priorities have included targeted subsidies to support FGLI students with non-tuition expenses, from printing to transportation to extracurricular participation.

Much of the remainder of the allocation will support the operations of the elected First-Year, Sophomore and Junior Class Councils and the YCC’s policy teams, groups of senators and senate delegates that lobby the University to implement policies addressing student concerns. Less than half of one percent of our allocation will directly support the YCC’s operations in areas beyond the above-mentioned capacities, such as communications and business expenses.

The YCC, including the finance team of which I am a part, considers its responsibility to manage student funds with the utmost seriousness. This year’s budget reflects our underwriting of a culture of impact, fiscal responsibility, and prioritizing the student body’s needs. We have placed more resources into the areas that directly equalize and enhance student life, and we invite you to partner with us in pursuing accountability. We are committed to making every dollar count for you.

ADNAN BSEISU is a junior in Pauli Murray College and the chief financial officer of the Yale College Council for the 2024-25 school year. He can be reached at adnan.bseisu@yale.edu.

FROM THE FRONT

"People can live for a hundred years without living a minute."

LOGAN HUNTZBERGER FICTIONAL CHARACTER

Law School sees drop in diversity post-affirmative action

LAW SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

Bar Association releases the specific racial and ethnic makeup of the class, Brown suspects that we will see an even steeper drop in Black and Latine enrollment.

"When they lump [students of color] all together, they're not really giving you the statistics to let you see what the real impact of the end of affirmative action is," said Brown.

In the Yale College class of 2028, the share of Black and Latine students remained stable while the share of Asian American students decreased by six percentage points.

The Law School's class of 2027 comes from 86 undergraduate institutions across 38 states and 12 countries, and 24 percent of new students

are first-generation, low-income. Additionally, over the last seven years, the number of Law School students who are the first in their families to attend graduate or professional school has increased by around 50 percent to nearly a third of the class of 2027.

The class of 2027 also has 19 veterans or active duty service members, continuing a trend of increased veteran enrollment under Heather Gerken's tenure as Yale Law School dean. In the new class, 14 percent of students received full-tuition scholarships through the Law School's Hurst Horizon Scholars program.

"Yale Law School's newest class of talented and accomplished students come to New Haven with wide-ranging experiences, interests, and per-

spectives that will greatly enhance our intellectual community," wrote Miriam Ingber LAW '04, Yale Law School associate dean for admissions and financial aid.

Legal commentator David Lat LAW '99 praised the class of 2027's increased socioeconomic diversity, describing it as "robust." He noted that the Supreme Court opinion has no restrictions on considering socioeconomic status and how it reflects an applicant's overcoming adversity and obstacles.

Brown believes that while socioeconomic status is an important mark of diversity, it is not a substitute for affirmative action. While students from low socioeconomic backgrounds face obstacles to academic success, Black students face

significant additional obstacles, Brown said.

Brown spent his first year of law school at Indiana University before transferring to Yale Law School, and noted that his experience at Yale was extremely different.

Referencing his own journey to becoming a law professor, he further highlighted the importance of Black and Latine voices in the classroom, noting their impact as graduates and as professors, shaping curricula at law schools. Cutting off the "pipeline" of Black and Latine students could have the larger effect of further narrowing curricula at law schools.

"Without affirmative action, I think there was the typical sense that our law professors just didn't

care what the Black students had to say," said Brown. Now, he worries for the future.

Lat stated that he doesn't believe the decrease in people of color enrollment will significantly impact discourse and discussion. He cited Justice Clarence Thomas' LAW '74 concurrence in *Students For Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, a case that ended affirmative action, in which Thomas wrote that "members of the same race do not all share the exact same experiences and viewpoints."

Yale Law School was founded in 1824.

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Budget surplus allows Elicker to redirect funds to NHPS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM PAGE 1

and upholding the promise of public education for New Haven public school students."

To address the budget deficit, NHPS slashed \$11.8 million worth of its previous services, Negron said, including a reduction in administrative operations. Elicker's recommended additional \$3 million will aid the schools in balancing their budget.

Furthermore, the serious maintenance concerns plaguing 39 of 41 public school buildings are the result of years of failure to invest proper funds in the facilities. According to Negron, adequate facilities maintenance costs two percent of a property's value per year. The schools are valued at \$1.38 billion, meaning New Haven would be spending \$27.6 million annually on maintenance to adhere to industry standards.

By contrast, Negron said, the public school system was only able to allocate \$16.6 million to its capital budget, which is used for facilities maintenance, renovation and construction. The additional \$5.5 million coming from ARPA funding will "go a long way," she said, toward informational technology and facilities investment.

"The reality is that [the schools] ... need more, but unfortunately, because of salary increases and fixed cost increases and because of the challenges of the school deficit, they actually began with less," Elicker said.

In the last five years, New Haven has increased its contribution to the public schools' budget by 48 percent. More funding, Elicker said, needs to come from state leaders — a claim education advocates and Elicker have been pushing as concerns for New Haven's schools have worsened.

Fourth year of budget surplus

According to Elicker, the primary drivers of the budget surplus were an additional \$5.4 million in state tax funding allocation to New Haven and an additional \$2.9 million in revenue from building permits. The city also had attrition and vacancy savings as it struggled in recent years to fill its budgeted positions.

Although vacancies contributed to the budget surplus, Elicker ensured that the city was still "working very hard" to recruit people to fill those roles because the vacancies have put "a lot of pressure" on the existing city staff, who are picking up the slack from unfilled positions.

This is the fourth consecutive year New Haven has had a budget surplus, which Elicker credits to better expense and revenue initiatives.

Elicker has sworn to cap borrowing at \$30 million per year so that New Haven's debt payments will go down over time. Elicker also worked with

former Yale president Peter Salovey to increase Yale's voluntary contribution to the city from \$13 million to \$23 million annually in 2021.

Elicker said growth in New Haven has also increased tax revenue. In past years, city residents also saw property tax increases after a state-mandated revaluation in 2021.

Elicker emphasized that while the budget surplus demonstrates great progress, the city still has a lot of work to do. According to Elicker, New Haven has \$2.5 billion in unfunded liabilities — driven by underfunded pensions, \$700 million in debt and healthcare payments to retirees.

However, City Budget Director Shannon McCue emphasized that New Haven has taken great strides in developing reserve funds, going from a negative \$10 million fund balance in 2018 to more than \$50 million in reserves today.

"If we see any shortfalls, any kind of fiscal pressure, we

will have reserves in order to address those and mitigate any of those pressures and continue to deliver services to the city, which is always most important," McCue said.

Elicker is "quite confident" that the city will face "another challenging budget" when it comes time to plan the 2025-2026 fiscal year's expenses.

Most notably, Elicker said, the New Haven Police Department's union is reviewing an agreement that would ensure the police department pays competitive salaries. This would be a significant additional expenditure, ensuring the next budget season will continue to be challenging for the schools.

The next Board of Alders meeting is scheduled for Oct. 7 at 7:00 p.m.

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McInnis yet to define a new academic vision

VISION FROM PAGE 1

they care that as President, that I am sure that we are implementing those well."

She said that Yale has not been preeminent in the sciences, aside from life sciences such as medicine, in the way it has in the arts and humanities. As a result, the University has been focusing on strengthening its science and engineering programs. Acting on these priorities, McInnis recently attended a Yale Planetary Solutions summit in New York City and broke ground on a new geothermal energy development on Science Hill.

The University is in its third year of a decade-long project to improve its science and engineering programs. The project will see Yale hire 45 new faculty members and build, as well as modernize, campus buildings.

"Even when I get around to defining a vision," McInnis said, "it's not going to in any way change those priorities. We may add things, but my charge was really firstly to ensure that we're implementing that well, and take time to get to another [vision]."

McInnis has concentrated on meeting with a range of Yale's stakeholders in the first few months of her presidency in what she has termed a "listening tour."

She said that since beginning her presidency in July, she's made over 40 public speaking appearances and has interacted with the Yale community in casual settings as well, including at campus events and lunches with students and faculty.

For McInnis, having a vision for an institution means understanding its "distinctive strengths," which for Yale is its ability to support interdisciplinary work.

She said that what distinguishes Yale is how it can "bring the full breadth of all disciplines to solving the problem, and that we can create the kind of platform where colleagues from the School of Art through the School of Environment are working together on projects."



A committee of seven faculty members held ten listening sessions to hear input on when the University should speak as an institution. / Yale News

In August, McInnis told the News that she had not made any new hires and had no plans to make changes to the leadership team of the University.

Anthony Kronman, a law professor and the former dean of Yale Law School, said that university presidents have become administrative managers rather than advocates with academic visions.

"It's been a very long time since we've had a college or university president who possessed the intellect and the nerve to speak to his or her own community and to the country at large about the nature and the value of higher education," Kronman said. "It may very well be that the corporation did not particularly want or feel the need for such a person at this moment."

McInnis's first major public act as president was to convene a faculty committee to recommend whether Yale should adopt institutional neutrality.

Andy Lipka '78, an associate fellow of Jonathan Edwards College and board member of Yale Alumni College, said that having a vision is an integral part of the role of the president.

"You don't want the president of Yale to just try to survive the presidency," Lipka said. "Here is one's chance to make a difference. Yale is a magnificent institution, and a president can take this and take it to greater heights."

Long-time Yale administrator Sam Chauncey '57 said he thinks that McInnis's emphasis on listening signals that she cares about the input of others to manage the University.

He said that sharing the operating management of the school with faculty is an approach termed "shared governance," which he supports Yale's president taking.

"I believe she deeply respects the faculty," Chauncey said of McInnis.

Yale has over 17,000 faculty and staff.

Woodbridge Hall is located at 105 Wall St.

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FROM THE FRONT

"I want to get the healthy glow of someone who goes consistently to the gym without actually having to go, of course."

KIRK GLEASON FICTIONAL CHARACTER

At listening sessions, students largely oppose neutrality, faculty split on the issue

LISTENING FROM PAGE 1

At the student listening sessions, most attendees lambasted the notion of neutrality. At faculty and staff sessions, some attendees also expressed concern, while others spoke in favor of tight guidelines governing the University's voice.

The News spoke with community members who attended the discussions to gauge the feedback the committee heard before drafting their recommendations to McInnis.

Arguments opposing neutrality

In 2022, former University President Peter Salovey issued a statement condemning state violence against Iranian citizens, making Yale the first Ivy League university to do so.

Susan Kashaf, an associate professor in the School of Medicine, worked with colleagues at the time to circulate a letter requesting that Salovey make the statement he ultimately did.

"It was really meaningful to us to be able to feel that our institution saw and heard us and acknowledged the impact that this was having on our community," she said. "In particular because the vast majority of the people that were impacted could not have a voice."

Kashaf explained that some of her colleagues were concerned about retribution from the Iranian government against their families, or worried about not being able to themselves return to Iran, if they spoke up publicly.

Attendees across listening sessions echoed the sentiment that the University's statements make them feel more supported and seen in their identities when current events call for it.

Another common argument was that it is a false assumption that neutrality is possible for institutions like Yale, which make investments and encompass humanitarian values in their mission statements.

Ivy Pete '26 does not agree with the concept of neutrality because she believes Yale is inherently not neutral.

"We know that Yale has power beyond the limits of this nation and it has an impact on its surroundings. It's not this theoretical bubble," Pete said. "We're a global institution and this decision is really important and means a lot in what Yale prioritizes."

Many students mentioned that they would like Yale to issue a statement condemning Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza or supporting Palestinians.

Karsten Rynearson '26 said that the timing of the announcement to consider neutrality felt like an attempt to quell protests and dissent that have been unfolding on campus.

"These discussions about investment policy and about institutional voice have been triggered by events in the world that have been troubling among our community," Della Rocca acknowledged. "So the timing is not a mystery here, these issues are coming up for discussion for reasons that are clear."



A committee of seven faculty members held ten listening sessions to hear input on when the University should speak as an institution. / Yulin Jin, Photography Editor

Rynearson added that Yale should make statements even though there will always be some community members who disagree because it is only possible to react if the University makes it known where it stands.

"Either put your mouth where your money is or put your money where your mouth is," Rynearson said.

Arguments expressed in favor of neutrality

Many of the arguments supporting neutrality emphasized that the University refraining from taking positions would free up community members to speak and converse more freely about their beliefs.

Paul Grimstad, director of undergraduate studies in the

humanities, said that neutrality promotes the exchange of varying beliefs on campus.

"What I had to say at the listening session was mostly to emphasize that, not only does neutrality (in university subdivisions especially) work in tandem with Yale's Woodward report, it actually makes its protection of free and open discussion possible," he continued, "it allows it to happen without the presumption of a university orthodoxy or the false unanimity implied by official statements in the first person plural."

John Peters, professor of English and of film and media studies, wrote in an email to the News that in the era of social media, it's impossible to publicize an opinion on every import-

ant matter, so silence should not be viewed negatively.

He wrote that the University should take a "slow" approach and prioritize facilitating the free expression of community members.

Yash Chauhan '26 agreed that in terms of international humanitarian issues, he thinks Yale should focus on fostering on-campus dialogue.

"[Yale's] primary purpose is education, so there's only so much it can do," he said. "I don't think that the role of Yale is that wherever they see injustice anywhere in the world, they have to speak out. I would rather have a neutral Yale that fosters dialogue and real conversation about these issues."

Chauhan believes that while Yale should remain neutral about

international humanitarian issues to encourage conversation on campus, the institution should take an active role in local issues in New Haven.

Leonid Glazman, professor of physics, said that the University issuing statements reminds him of how newspapers parroted the government's positions when he lived in the Soviet Union.

"Why should universities express opinions on behalf of all these people? That's what I find disturbing," he said.

The committee plans to provide recommendations to McInnis before the end of the semester.

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A Yale Corporation trustee met with three pro-Palestinian students

TRUSTEES FROM PAGE 1

offered last spring is that activists were not required to make concessions before approaching the negotiating table," Nadine Cubeisy '25, who attended the meeting on behalf of Yalies4Palestine, stated in a press release from the Sumud Coalition.

During both encampments last semester, University administrators offered protest organizers a meeting with two Corporation trustees on the condition that students decamp. During the second encampment, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis specified that a potential meeting would include Catharine Bond Hill GRD '85, then-trustee and former chair of the Corporation Committee on Investor Responsibility, which recommends investment policy to the full Yale Corporation. Encampment organizers rejected the offer both times, and the first encampment concluded with 48 arrests.

The Sumud Coalition is a continuation of pro-Palestine Occupy Beinecke and Occupy Yale, groups that pitched encampments on Yale's campus in April to demand the University's disclosure of and divestment from military weapons manufacturing.

The first encampment began two nights after the University

announced that it would not divest from military weapons manufacturers. During Saturday's meeting, students focused on disclosure in their proposal but vocally re-emphasized divestment as one of their "core demands," per the Sumud Coalition's press release.

"Trustees often meet with students as part of their regular meetings and visits to campus. In that spirit, one trustee agreed to meet with some leaders of EJC while in town for a Board meeting," a University spokesperson wrote in an email to the News. "It was agreed it would be a private meeting."

When asked by the News, the spokesperson declined to explain why the University only mentioned EJC in its statement even though the student attendees represented three separate groups within the Sumud Coalition.

This weekend, corporation members were in New Haven for their first meeting of the academic year.

This Corporation meeting was the first for Felicia Norwood LAW '80, who was victorious in the alumni fellow election this summer. During the election, EJC publicly criticized Norwood's opponent, David Millstone '99, over his donations to right-wing politicians, the Tik-

vah Fund and startup companies that produce drones.

Exiting the meeting, Norwood told the News that it was a "great first meeting" for her in which the trustees discussed "all the things we care about, about Yale."

The trustee met with the Sumud Coalition on Saturday afternoon, hours after the board's full meeting that morning and when other trustees had already left New Haven. Michael Cavanagh '88, Maryana Iskander LAW '03, Ann Miura-Ko '98 and Norwood said they were leaving New Haven directly from the meeting.

Within the publicly disclosed 0.3 percent of Yale's \$40.7 billion endowment, there is evidence that the University invested more than \$110,000 in military weapons manufacturers as of February. The News could not determine the full extent of such investments within Yale's private holdings.

The University spokesperson and other administrators have previously written to the News that the University does not disclose its investments due to "contractual obligations" that bar disclosure as well as the strategic advantages that non-disclosure offers.

"The Board member expressed interest in a continued dialogue,

but they were unwilling to commit to a second meeting to discuss the feasibility of our proposal for disclosure," Naina Agrawal-Hardin '25, who represented the EJC at the meeting, stated in the Sumud Coalition's press release.

In addition to Cubeisy and Agrawal-Hardin, Adam Nussbaum '25 represented Jews for Ceasefire at the meeting.

According to the coalition's press release, the Corporation refused several terms the students suggested, including that the entire board be present, that the meeting be recorded or that notes be made publicly available and that more students including those previously arrested be able to attend. The press release also stated that details such as the identity of the trustee and the specific topic of discussion were provided only hours before the meeting.

The University spokesperson did not comment on any terms the Corporation set for the meeting.

The coalition's proposal states that "Yale should provide a precise estimate of the % and dollar amount of Yale's endowment that is invested in military weapons manufacturers and suppliers, with a breakdown of how the calculation was completed (asset manager names can be redacted if legally required)!"

The proposal cites the 2021 precedent: then, the Yale Investments Office estimated that 2.6 percent of the endowment, or roughly \$800 million at the time, was invested in fossil fuels. In the same month, the CCIR implemented investment principles that deemed fossil fuel companies that generate high emissions intensity, such as ExxonMobil and Chevron, ineligible for investment by the Yale endowment.

Members of the Yale community can request a meeting with the trustees when they are on campus through the Corporation's website. According to the form, "Trustees are particularly interested in meeting with groups of faculty, students, and staff with whom they do not already have regularly scheduled contact or on issues that do not have well-defined methods of communication."

The Yale Corporation will meet four more times during the 2024-25 academic year.

Ariela Lopez contributed reporting.

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"It's so satisfying to watch people exercise while you eat junk food."
LANE KIM FICTIONAL CHARACTER

JD Vance LAW '13 faces Tim Walz at VP debate

CHRIS TILLEN AND NORA MOSES
STAFF REPORTERS

In the hallowed halls of Yale Law School, where Senator JD Vance LAW '13 himself used to wander, about 50 Yale Law Students gathered with Yale Law Dems in Baker Hall to watch Vance debate Governor Tim Walz.

At this Law School event and at watch parties across campus, Yalies gathered to observe as Vance and Walz face off in the first, and only, 2024 vice presidential debate.

Native to Middletown, Ohio, Vance graduated from Yale Law School in 2013. He was offered nearly a full-ride scholarship for his first year.

"Despite him potentially having learned how to orate at YLS, he and I have much different value systems and that was made even more clear after watching the debate," Mariko Lewis LAW '26, vice president of policy for Yale Law Dems, wrote to the News.

As Americans nationwide turned on their televisions at home to watch last night's vice presidential debate, Yalies across campus followed the debate at a myriad of debate watch parties, including events hosted by Yalies4Harris, the Yale College Republicans and YaleVotes: A Student Initiative. In all, over 700 Yale students watched the debate together at these events.

The debate on Oct. 1, which was hosted by CBS News, was the first and only between Vance and Walz. Vance was announced as former President Donald Trump's running mate in mid July during the Republican National Convention, and Walz became the Democratic nominee for vice president in early August.

The debate offered both candidates an opportunity to showcase their ticket's platform, as well as their personal characteristics.

"Vance is sort of trying to push back against the certification that's built over the past few months, that he's a 'weird' guy, and Walz is holding on to this vibe that he's built for himself, that he's like 'America's dad,'" Bipul Soti '27, who attended the YaleVotes watch party in SSS 114, said.

Following the debate, Lewis noted that Walz came across as

"passionate" and "sincere," while Lewis perceived Vance as "polished" and "trained."

Lewis added that Vance's ability to dodge questions and rely on "questionable" facts served to undermine this shiny demeanor.

A few students thought Vance came across as a more polished and experienced speaker.

Kevin Wang LAW '27 said that he believes Vance was able to avoid being challenged on some of his points because his speaking style was "civil" and "polite."

"I think performance wise, people are going to be saying that Vance did a better job. JD Vance comes across as a really good public speaker, he gives off Model UN, mock trial type vibes," said Christina Oh GRD '26. "But Walz stuck to his talking points, which I thought was good, and I really liked how he used Vance's own words against him."

In reference to Vance's demeanor as a speaker, Colin Dunkley LAW '26, vice president of programming for Yale Law Dems, pointed to recent media attention. Dunkley said that Vance has had many chances to perfect answers to questions such as those focused on his previous comments comparing Trump to Hitler.

Dunkley further focused on Vance's strategy of grounding his answers in economic issues and the needs of working-class America. Dunkley said that if the Republican ticket can successfully portray themselves as the party of working class Americans, it could be "super worrisome" for Democrats.

"I think it's been a bit of a tough night for Walz, although he's gotten better over time," said Dunkley.

One student said that he thought the moderators could have done more to fact check the candidates.

"Something that stood out to me was the moderators not confirming whether or not controversial statements that the candidates said or denied are true, which is their job," said Nick Wojnar '27.

Wojnar added that he thought the moderators should have confirmed or denied Vance's assertion that Minnesota law under Walz had no restrictions on abortion in the ninth-month.

Gevin Reynolds LAW '26, president of Yale Law Dems, pointed to the concluding portion of the debate, which focused on whether the candidates would agree to peacefully hand over power regardless of the results of the election.

"J. D. Vance couldn't admit that Donald Trump lost the 2020 election ... All night long, his smooth talking helped mask the lies he was telling. He spat in the face of honesty on all issues — respect for the rule of law, democracy, reproductive freedom, immigration, and more" Reynolds wrote to the News.

Reynolds described Vance as "someone who just really lacks, in my opinion, integrity. I think we see that in how he has shifted not just his views, but his values."

Reynolds highlighted Vance's past critiques of Trump as well

as Vance's support of classmates from diverse backgrounds while at YLS as two values that have seemingly been "abandoned" as Vance has embarked on a "quest for power."

Reynolds noted that Vance's background at YLS serves to remind current students and himself to hold on to their values and model them for the future.

"We should demand more from a YLS grad, and the American people should demand more of their VP," wrote Reynolds.

After the debate ended, Walz and Vance shook hands and then, with their respective spouses, seemed to have a civil conversation.

Manu Anpalagan '26, president of Yale College Republicans, wrote to the News that the civility between the two candidates made him "excited for the

future of [the Republican] party."

"Today was a beautiful day for America. Putting politics aside, we saw something we hadn't seen for over a decade on the national stage. And that's a real discussion of policy without it getting bitter or personal," Anpalagan wrote.

Yale College Democrats President Janalie Cobb '25 wrote that the Yalies4Harris watch party, which she attended, was full of "energy" and "enthusiasm."

Cobb added that Dems is motivated to continue to work with students across campus to campaign for Harris and Walz.

Election day is on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

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Over 700 Yalies followed the vice-presidential debate between JD Vance and Tim Walz at watch parties across campus. **YOLANDA WANG / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER**

DNC Chair Jaime Harrison discusses Harris campaign

BY ANIKA ARORA SETH
SENIOR REPORTER

Kamala Harris is far from a DEI candidate, Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison '98 said on Thursday.

Harrison, who graduated from Yale College with a degree in political science, spoke to a crowd of about 40 Yalies at Yale's Afro-American Cultural Center, or the Af-Am House, on Thursday afternoon. Richard George '27, a peer liaison for the House, and Janalie Cobb '25, president of the Yale College Democrats, moderated the session and asked Harrison various questions about his time as a Black student at Yale, his experience as a Black man in politics and the upcoming

presidential election between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump.

"I have never seen an election this tight, ever," Harrison said during the scheduled program. "The election will be won or lost by seven or eight battleground states ... I think either Kamala will win them all or almost all of them, or Trump will win them all or almost all of them."

Over the course of her presidential campaign, Harris has faced criticism from conservatives who call her a "DEI candidate," dismissing her political success as unearned and contending instead that she has benefitted from some sort of unearned advantage due to her identity as a woman of color.

Harrison described these critiques as "extremely disrespectful" and said Harris — whose political resume includes the vice presidency, three years as California's junior senator and six years as California's attorney general — is likely more experienced than any historical presidential candidate, with the exception of sitting President Joe Biden.

"It's racist, it's bigoted, it's misogynistic, but it's the things that you see right now in the Republican Party," Harrison told the News after the event. "But this is the amazing thing about Kamala Harris: She knows who she is. She doesn't need anybody to tell her who she is and what she has done and what she's accomplished. She knows that, and the American people know it, too, and that's why, at the end of the day, she's going to be the next president."

During the scheduled program, Harrison recounted his favorite moments from his undergraduate years and described his political trajectory.

While at Yale, Harrison was involved in the Yale Black Political Forum — which he described as similar to the Yale Political Union but specific to issues affecting the Black community — and said he spent much of time in Pierson College and at the Af-Am House.

"My four years at Yale were four of the best years of my life," Harrison said. "I found my footing, and I found lifelong friends."

Harrison hails from Orangeburg, South Carolina, and was a first-generation college student. After graduating from Yale College in 1998, he returned home to teach at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, his alma mater. He went on to study law at Georgetown University, earning his Juris Doctor in 2004, and continued to work in local politics, including as a staffer for South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn.

In 2013, Harrison became the first African American to serve as

chair of the South Carolina Democratic Party; he headed up the party in his home state until 2017, when he launched his first bid for chairperson of the Democratic National Committee. Harrison withdrew from the race and instead endorsed former Secretary of Labor Tom Perez, who ultimately appointed Harrison as an associate chair.

Two years later, in 2019, Harrison launched a campaign challenging incumbent South Carolina senator Lindsay Graham in the 2020 election. His campaign raised \$130 million, the most funds of any U.S. Senate candidate, and broke a record set by fellow Democrat Beto O'Rourke in the 2018 Texas Senate election.

Harrison lost to Graham by more than 10 percentage points — but after Biden won the top seat in the U.S. government, he endorsed Harrison to be Perez's successor as party chair, and DNC members formally elected him to the office in January 2021.

After the event, Harrison said that he hopes young people, and Yale students, will seize "the power that they have" by showing up to the polls. Both the Harris and Trump campaigns seem to believe that young voters hold the key to the 2024 election and have taken strides to win over Generation Z in crucial swing states.

"Young voters in this country are the largest voting bloc but the least-performing — meaning that the world that they want, they can have, they have the power to make, but they got to use it," Harrison said. "You got to use your vote, you got to use your voice, you got to use your power in order to help shape the politics."

Thursday's event, which was part of the Af-Am House's alumni speaker series, was co-sponsored by the Yale College Democrats and co-hosted by the Yale Undergraduate Black Pre-Law Association. Adam Walker '26, a current University editor for the News, is the vice president of the Yale Undergraduate Black Pre-Law Asso-

ciation and was not involved in the reporting of this article.

Cobb, the president of Yale Dems and one of the two student moderators, told the News that students were excited to meet with Harrison, especially given the significance of the upcoming election.

"The fact that he made time to talk with our students and those at the House despite his busy schedule speaks to his commitment to fostering our communities in the next generation of leaders," said Cobb, who is a former staff reporter and audience editor for the News. "Chair Harrison is a strong example of political excellence — especially Black political excellence — in our country, and we are all very grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from him."

Af-Am House Director and Yale College Assistant Dean Timeica Bethel-Macaire '11 similarly commended Harrison for carving out time to speak with students amid "such a critical period for him professionally."

"His desire to return to this space specifically really speaks to the impact of The House and the fondness alumni feel for it," said Bethel, adding that she is excited to bring more alumni to speak at the Af-Am House over the year and during the House's 55th anniversary celebration in March.

"Welcome home," Bethel said to Harrison at the start of Thursday's program.

After his Thursday event at the Af-Am House, Harrison attended a Connecticut Dems event and participated in a Pierson College tea.

He previously spoke at the Af-Am House in 2022 as part of the center's celebrations for its 50th anniversary, which were delayed due to COVID-19.

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ANIKA ARORA SETH / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Harrison, who graduated from Yale in 1998, spoke on Thursday at Yale's Afro-American Cultural Center and later at a Pierson College tea.

NEWS

"Gnome kicking says a lot about a man's character."

BABETTE DELL FICTIONAL CHARACTER

Students march for Lebanon and Palestine, block traffic

BY YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

On Friday, around 200 protesters blocked the intersection of College and Grove Streets and marched through streets surrounding Yale's campus to protest Israel's escalation in Lebanon.

At 5 p.m., protesters gathered in front of Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall as protest organizers read speeches condemning the civilian deaths and displacements caused by Israel's military strikes targeting the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

Shortly after, when the crowd had swelled to about 200, protesters blocked the intersection of College and Grove Streets for around 20 minutes, standing in a large circle. Protesters ultimately cleared out of the intersection under the threat of arrest by New Haven Police officers. They then marched along College, Chapel, High and Elm streets before gathering at the Women's Table in front of Sterling Memorial Library and dispersing around 6:15 p.m.

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged low-intensity rocket strikes since the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7. Israel has killed at least 1,030 people in Lebanon since

an escalation this past week, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry as of Saturday. At least 30 Israelis were killed in recent Hezbollah attacks, according to a U.S. congressional research report as of Sept. 20.

Throughout the rally, protesters chanted slogans such as "from Gaza to Beirut, all our martyrs we salute," "Zionism is a crime, from Lebanon to Palestine" and "raise your hand, make a fist, Palestinians will resist... Lebanese will resist."

"We had marshals and police liaisons prepared, and we were only prepared to take the intersection in the case that there were enough people there for it to be safe," a protester told the News on condition of anonymity for safety reasons. "It was not intended to be an extremely disruptive action. It was planned for a specific amount of time."

During the protesters' occupation of the College and Grove Street intersection, roughly 30 officers from the New Haven Police Department redirected traffic and attempted to convince protesters to leave the road.

"We have about 30 cops out here," NHPD Chief Karl Jacobsen told a protester acting as a liaison with police. "We were very courteous last time, we gave you four hours. We're not doing that this time."



YOLANDA WANG / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Student protesters blocked a street intersection and marched around campus in protest of Israel's attacks in Lebanon.

Pro-Palestine protesters blocked the same intersection for nine hours on April 22, after 48 protesters were arrested for trespassing on Beinecke Plaza during the first divestment encampment in April.

At around 5:30 p.m., an NHPD officer told the police liaison that police would give protesters 10 more minutes to clear out from the intersection before making an arrest announcement.

Shortly after the officer's statement and before any arrest

announcements occurred, a protest organizer asked protesters to link arms before directing them to march south along College Street. The intersection was fully cleared around 5:40 p.m.

Two Free Expression Facilitators were present throughout the protest. Both facilitators and the University spokesperson declined to provide the facilitators' names.

"Free Expression Facilitators (FEFs) wear a bright yellow

badge so that they can be easily identified when supporting events or gatherings," the spokesperson wrote in an email to the News. "FEFs provide their names to members of the university community involved in an event or gathering."

The Yale Police Department was founded in 1894.

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Activists boycott New Haven hotel and restaurants

BY MAIA NEHME
STAFF REPORTER

Yale students and community members greeted guests at the Graduate New Haven hotel with chants urging them to "boycott the Graduate!" during a Saturday protest against labor abuse.

Unidad Latina en Acción, a New Haven advocacy group for immigrant workers, and student social justice group Mecha de Yale jointly led Saturday's rally. The protest kicked off ULA and Mecha's boycott against the Graduate and five New Haven restaurants — Mezcal, Te Amo Tequila, Barracuda, 80 Proof and the McDonald's on 280 Kimberly Ave. — for alleged discrimination against and exploitation of immigrant workers.

The protest was sparked by allegations of ethnic discrimination by Graduate management against a female worker, manifesting in

a disproportionate workload and verbal attacks.

Norma Rivera, a New Havener who grew up in Mexico, began working at the Graduate in 2020. She later resigned in December 2023 following months of troubling working conditions, according to ULA community organizer Jenny Cornejo.

Rivera said she was given more rooms to clean than other employees and that she experienced verbal abuse and discrimination — including threats to report her to immigration authorities — from her managers. After resigning from the hotel, Rivera sought professional mental health counseling, she told the News.

"If you were to walk into the Graduate to study on a Tuesday night, you wouldn't be able to avoid the sign on the door that states in big words, right here: 'We welcome all races, all religions, all

countries of origin, etc., etc.' — and that couldn't be further from the truth," Luciano Romero '25, Mecha community action chair, said at the protest, reading out an unpublished opinion column the group submitted to the News. "It is our responsibility to hold the Graduate to their own words and demand justice for Norma and all those affected by their exploitative and predatory practices."

Representatives from the Graduate did not immediately respond to the News' request for comment.

In early April, ULA delivered a letter to the Graduate asking to meet with the hotel manager and representatives of AJ Capital Partners, the real estate company that launched Graduate Hotels, to discuss Rivera's case. At the meeting, the hotel representatives denied that Rivera had faced discrimination — despite another employee stating they had witnessed this behavior — according to Romero. They did not respond to ULA's requests for another meeting, he said.

ULA community organizing director John Jairo Lugo said Connecticut's Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, which enforces civil and human rights laws, recently agreed to take on Rivera's case.

In Rivera's ideal resolution of her case, the Graduate would be required to implement anti-discrimination training, fire the managers that discriminated against her and provide her with compensation for the psychological toll she experienced while working at the hotel.

"It was one of the worst jobs I've done," Rivera told the News in Spanish. "The management didn't listen to us — they just left us there with the same problems ... My stress reached a point where it gave me migraines because I could not bear the job."

Saturday's rally drew about 30 protesters, largely consisting of Mecha members and other Yale students. As Lugo and Mecha leaders guided protesters through chants, guests slipped in and out of the hotel entrance. When actors and Yale parents Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner walked past the protest, Affleck raised his fist in solidarity with the protesters.

Mecha leaders decided to hold the protest during Family Weekend in hopes of drawing attention from Yale families staying at the Graduate, according to Lugo.

"The idea is to raise awareness in the Yale community that they can be agents of change when they decide to support businesses or not support businesses that exploit workers," Lugo said in Spanish.

About 45 minutes into the rally, the protesters headed to Te Amo Tequila with cries of "We'll be back!" towards the Graduate entrance. ULA and Mecha alleged that the owner of Te Amo Tequila, 80 Proof and Barracuda verbally abused, humiliated, overworked and intimidated immigrant workers.

Sonia Salazar, the restaurant's owner, denied the allegations. Salazar said ULA sent her a letter in the spring with the complaints from a former 80 Proof employee, which were ultimately dismissed by the Commission on

Human Rights and Opportunities. Another former employee from 80 Proof later submitted similar complaints; their case is still pending.

Neither employee filed complaints while they were employed at the restaurant, according to Salazar. If the employees exceed 40 hours of work in a given week, Salazar said, they were compensated with overtime pay, so she was "perplexed" by their allegation that they were overworked.

When Salazar spoke with ULA, she said it felt like "extortion" because the organizers focused solely on how much compensation she could dole out to the former employee. ULA and Mecha said Salazar never met with organizers after an initial phone call.

"I am saddened that these organizations are so quick to knock down someone in their own community without so much as hearing what I have to say," Salazar, who is originally from Colombia, wrote to the News.

Protestors repeatedly chanted "te odio, tequila," a spoof on the restaurant's name that translates to "I hate you, tequila," outside the Te Amo Tequila entrance. Salazar said one of the protesters threatened her and her family during the rally. Cornejo later denied the alleged threat occurred.

Restaurant staff asked protesters to leave, with one employee chanting "Get a job!" as the protesters retreated up Temple Street.

The Graduate New Haven hotel is located at 1151 Chapel St.

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MAIA NEHME / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Mecha de Yale and Unidad Latina en Acción organizers launched a boycott against six New Haven businesses for alleged labor exploitation.

Police Union highlights lack of wage increase

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTER

As parents flooded campus for Family Weekend, Yale's police union advocated for a higher wage increase through billboard trucks, pamphlets and an advertisement in the News throughout Friday and Saturday.

The Yale Police Benevolent Association, which represents officers and detectives in the Yale Police Department, has been negotiating a new contract with the University since February 2023. Often, its promotional materials have highlighted violent crime near Yale and around New Haven as a means of bolstering support for law enforcement. The union has historically targeted high-volume campus events like move-in day and Bulldog Days to make its presence known and advocate for its necessity on campus.

"Over the last few years or so, I will say the parents appear to be our biggest fans and some of our

biggest supporters," union leader Mike Hall told the News. "So we like to be out on Parents Weekend and let the parents know exactly what's going on around the university as far as policing goes."

On Friday and Saturday, the union commissioned sign trucks to drive around campus from around 11 a.m. to around 7:30 p.m., Hall said. The trucks displayed billboards urging the University to "support the police who protect your students" and claiming that YPD officers have had no wage increase in two years.

Joe Sarno, the University's labor relations director, did not immediately respond to the News' request for comment over the weekend. During the most recent union promotion efforts, Sarno has declined to comment on contract negotiations while they are still ongoing.

Another billboard on the truck used citywide ShotSpotter statistics to convey the frequency of crime in New Haven.

Pamphlets handed out by the union on Saturday also cautioned visiting family members of a dangerous campus. Opposite from a letter from Hall addressed to "Yale Parents and Students," the union printed a list of "headlines" of recently recorded crimes around the city. The list included three alerts sent out by Yale Police Chief Anthony Campbell and 10 articles — dated from May to September — from local news sources. Hall told the News that the union keeps a file of articles about YPD and crime around Yale's campus.

YPBA members passed out the leaflets outside the Schwarzman Center from around 10:30 a.m. to noon, as families attending the 11 a.m. family brunch in Commons trickled in and out of the building.

The union also bought a full-page ad in Friday's print edition of the News. Alongside the wage increase, the ad emphasized disability benefits as an important point in contract negotiations.

Family Weekend marks the YPBA's second major action since the start of the academic year. In August, the union commissioned billboard trucks to drive near Old Campus as the first-year class moved in — a diluted approach compared to the YPBA's move-in action in 2023, which featured inflammatory leaflets provoking widespread condemnation. Hall said in August that the "subdued" action was a response to the University's recent appointment of Maurie McInnis — who the union believed to be a supporter of the police — as its president.

When asked why the union chose to hand out pamphlets over Family Weekend, Hall clarified that the pamphlets passed out on Saturday were "worlds apart" from those printed for move-in day in 2023.

McInnis addressed students and parents in a "University Update" event with Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis on Saturday afternoon. At the event, the president was asked to answer questions about

the Yale Police Department, the University's negotiations with YPBA and crime rates.

"All I can say is we are in negotiations for the next union contract with our police," McInnis answered. "We know very much that parents are always worried about safety and security. We are as well. We remain very focused on that, understanding where incidents of crime are taking place."

McInnis said that the YPD is "only empowered" on Yale's campus and that the New Haven Police Department is responsible for what occurs off campus. She stated that Yale works in "tight partnership" with the NHPD.

The YPD's patrol route primarily covers Yale's campus and the Yale Bowl. However, the department can respond to emergency situations that occur off campus if needed.

YPBA's last contract expired in June 2023.

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ARTS

Where does the Beinecke send its damaged books?

ISABELLA SANCHEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Have you ever wondered where the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library sends books to be fixed, how new collections are processed or who combs through new book donations? The answer lies at 344 Winchester Ave.

Accessible via the red line shuttle, 344 Winchester is home to the Technical Services Unit, Special Collections Services Unit and Preservation and Conservation Unit. The 160 staff members support the acquisition, organization, preservation and accessibility of Yale library collections — both physical and digital.

Unlike typical librarians, the staff at 344 Winchester rarely interact directly with library patrons.

“Most library users never meet technical services staff and may not even know they exist — but their role is critical to maintaining the infrastructure that allows users to find and access the information they need,” wrote Martin Kurth, associate university librarian for technical services, in an email sent to the News.

Each unit at 344 Winchester oversees a different aspect of library collections. The Technical Services Unit deals in processing all general collections, such as books and journals. They also

manage the licensing and provision of electronic resources.

The Special Collections Technical Services Unit handles processing and organizing collections for the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The Preservation and Conservation Services Unit, which deals with both general and special collections, works to prolong the life of books. This includes repairing damaged items, maintaining and monitoring optimal environmental conditions for materials and digitizing collections.

The staff at 344 Winchester see a wide range of materials from different time periods and of different mediums during their work. Artists’ books, indie photo books, zines and 19th-century amateur newspapers are just some examples of the materials they work with, said Zoe Dobbs, a catalog/metadata librarian.

“Everyday you are exposed to new ideas, perspectives, and something else to learn,” Jeanette Norris GRD ’09, manager of monographic processing services, wrote. “I find making those resources discoverable, and accessible to the community by supporting colleagues who work at various stages in the process extremely rewarding.”

344 Winchester’s key functions, according to Patricia Carey, director of communica-

tions strategy for Yale University Library, are acquisitions, cataloging and metadata, processing, serial management and electronic sources management.

Acquisitions consist of purchasing, receiving and processing new collections. This includes physical materials, such as books and journals, as well as digital collections. Librarians and curators work alongside one another to decide which materials to acquire.

In the process of cataloging and metadata, specialists organize material for ease of use and access. When a collection is received, it must be organized and described so it can be made available to researchers and students.

When a researcher requests special material, they can do so through the Archives at Yale website. The website logs hundreds of thousands of entries, where items are identified through the descriptions and data.

The final — and increasingly important — function is electronic resource management. This includes acquiring, managing and licensing digital resources such as databases, e-books and other digital materials.

This process makes it so that students can easily find and access materials through digital mediums.

The often unseen work done at 344 Winchester plays a critical role



COURTESY OF ABIGAIL MURPHY

Conservation and technical services staff at 344 Winchester Ave. provide critical support to Yale libraries. Martin Kurth, associate university librarian for technical services, said.

in the library system at Yale, ensuring that now and in the future, the Yale community will continue to have access to a wealth of information and resources.

“It’s exciting to be on the front line of history, and it’s also exciting to see our students and our Yale community interact with the

materials,” said archivist Camila Zorilla Tessler.

In 2015, technical services staff moved from Sterling Memorial Library to 344 Winchester Ave.

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NXTHVN’s new showcase delights viewers

TINA LI
STAFF REPORTER

When curators Marissa Del Toro and Jasmine Agosto showed artist Awilda Sterling-Duprey their plans for her upcoming showcase, she immediately disapproved. “You need to disrupt,” she told them.

On September 28, Sterling-Duprey presented her works at a solo exhibition at the art space NXTHVN (pronounced ‘Next Haven’). Titled “Aesthetic of Dis-order,” the exhibit follows Sterling-Duprey’s exploration of abstraction since the 1970s. Community members showed up to view the showcase, meet Sterling-Duprey and mingle over refreshments.

“I think [that says] something about her kind of spontaneity and intonation and movement,” Agosto said about Sterling-Duprey’s response. “Her style is found in her emphasis and her work ... We went back to the drawing board, and we’re like, ‘Let’s play with the work, let’s really enjoy this process.’”

The resulting exhibit is an unconventional, kooky display of Sterling-Duprey’s works.

At the Miami Beach art fair last December, NXTHVN selected Sterling-Duprey to receive their Visiting Artist Prize. To support her work and foster an interchange between her and NXTHVN fellows, she was awarded a \$15k stipend and a two-month long residency.

An experimental artist and performer from Puerto Rico, Sterling-Duprey explores and challenges the boundaries of gender, identity and nationality in her work. Her work is difficult to categorize; throughout her career, she has experimented with abstract forms and processes.

Most recently, in her “Blindfolded Series,” Sterling-Duprey

dances to salsa or jazz while blindfolded, translating the music into art through her body. The bright markings she makes onto black paper are vigorous and jittery — an embodied release of anxiety and tension. Del Toro pointed to several, noteworthy pieces in the exhibit from her four-decade career.

A recently restored, untitled work from the 1970s was one of Sterling-Duprey’s first forays into abstraction. With her 1996 “El colmo de lo obvio” series, Sterling-Duprey created paintings on textiles inspired by Caribbean dance and performances. In “Casa Afro,” a charcoal on paper grayscale series from 2021, her marks span from expressive charcoal loops and scratches to obsessively ordered dots.

“We were excited to have a range of series,” Del Toro said, “they’re very different, but it’s how they speak to each other and show a continuity in what Awilda’s thinking and her practice.”

When laying out the exhibit, Del Toro and Agosto considered Sterling-Duprey’s dynamic artistry as a performer. The works became like bodies moving through space, Agosto said.

Sterling-Duprey contributed her artistic flair to the curatorial process, often suggesting they leave works hanging mid-way through the process of being put up. Two artworks were left with painter’s tape still framing their positions on the wall, one was tilted at a 45 degree angle and one piece was displayed lain on the floor.

The exhibit continues outside the main gallery room and into the halls.

Before the showcase was opened to the public, Carlos Aquino, an art handler at the Yale University Art Gallery, was sanding down holes and bumps on the other side of the gallery wall in preparation to paint



COURTESY OF TINA LI

“Aesthetic of Dis-order,” a dynamic exhibit showcasing Awilda Sterling-Duprey’s abstract work opened on Sept. 28. The works drew in New Haven’s community of artists and offered inspiration to viewers.

over it. Sterling-Duprey happened to come by and was struck by the white sanding marks that seemed to gesture out from the black wall.

People take for granted the labor that goes into exhibitions, Del Toro said, but Sterling-Duprey found art in it.

The wall, now featuring the spontaneous art from Aquino’s efforts and several works from Sterling-Duprey’s “Blindfolded Series,” is titled “La Vida.”

“You know, that’s life,” said Del Toro. “Things happen, and you try to fix it as best as you can, and then sometimes, somebody sees it as a treasure.”

Del Toro also shared an instance where Sterling-Duprey was coming down the ramp by the wall and was inspired by the movement of the sunlight reflecting off the floor. Hearing that forever changed how Del Toro saw that mundane aspect of the building, she said.

“I love that they took the space and made it a piece of art in itself. There’s a playfulness, and it feels very alive,” said Erin Michaud, an art history teacher at Cooperative Arts and Humanities Magnet High School.

Michaud praised NXTHVN for the mentorship they offer young artists in New Haven. She has two students participating in their high school apprenticeship program, which supports youth in their creative professions and provides them with studio and curatorial experience.

“The high school apprentices, they’re like the light to my life,”

Del Toro said, “They’re from New Haven, they go to school in New Haven. They’re getting to work with artists, curators, and getting to see that the arts is actually a path forward, a real possible career.”

NXTHVN aims to showcase artists that haven’t been represented before, either in prominent or smaller museums, Del Toro said. Nick Crowley, another visitor, called the art space a “hidden gem.”

Agosto said that NXTHVN has become a special space that welcomes art-enthusiasts, curious visitors and families alike.

“It’s not stuffy, it’s not tight,

the kids are running around, there’s a place to color and draw, and you’re experiencing incredible art that you might not have seen in other places.”

“Aesthetics of Dis-order” will be on view at NXTHVN until Nov. 19. Sterling-Duprey will also give a public performance of her “... blindfolded” work on Oct. 26, in which local musicians will play music, as she translates the sounds into art.

NXTHVN is located on 169 Henry Street, in Dixwell.

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SCITECH

“People are particularly stupid today. I can’t talk anymore.”

MICHEL GERARD FICTIONAL CHARACTER

How the “loneliness epidemic” is impacting Yale students

BY FAREED SALMON
STAFF REPORTER

Almost everyone feels lonely at some point in their lives. It is a part of life that’s almost inescapable. However, there comes a point where loneliness becomes abnormal with dangerous effects on the mind, body, and relationships.

America is going through a loneliness epidemic as we are becoming more disconnected and isolated than ever before, according to the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy MED ’03 SOM ’03. And on college campuses like Yale, it not only can be easy to miss due to its lack of physical symptoms but it can be misconstrued as a regular occurrence when it can and does become extreme.

“Loneliness is a fairly common human emotion and serves to tell us to engage in social behavior,” Dr. Paul Hoffman, the chief of Mental Health Counseling at Yale Health, wrote to the News. “I think what is worrying is the increase in how many people are reporting loneliness, which points to an idea that many people are feeling like there are fewer avenues to connect to others and feel a greater sense of helplessness when experiencing loneliness.”

What causes chronic loneliness?

Loneliness is not the same as being alone, according to Hoffman. Loneliness is the mental and emotional discomfort that someone experiences when they desire some form of social interaction but aren’t able to access it. People can be alone yet not feel lonely and a person can be surrounded by people yet still feel lonely.

Loneliness is reaching levels that are unprecedented in modern times. One in three American adults report feeling lonely every week, particularly high among the geriatric population. However, young people like college students have also been hit hard by the epidemic. 40 percent of college students said that they experienced loneliness the previous day. That’s higher than feelings of sadness and anger, and it was only a second to the feeling of stress.

“It’s about the threshold. As a condition, compared to other mental health issues, loneliness arises when we don’t have good communication,

or we don’t feel that social connection,” Andy Merolla, professor of communications at the University of California, Santa Barbara, told the News. “And we’re seeing a lot more individuals crossing a threshold where loneliness is extreme.”

Loneliness can be caused by a myriad of individual scenarios and experiences from moving to a new place for the first time to not being accepted by a group of people. However, according to Klemanski, what seems to have contributed to the current societal rise in chronic loneliness is two-fold.

One is technology. It seems contradictory that in a world that allows us to be connected by technology, loneliness is actually increasing. However, technology fuels superficial connections as it doesn’t usually provide a platform for deeper connections. Texting, for example, is used for quick communication that doesn’t involve features of rich, in-person communication. And social media can suggest that what matters more is how many friends people have instead of the quality of the friendships.

Second is the societal shift to hustle culture, where society has become more interested in jobs, money, and career progression than actual deep relationships. On college campuses like Yale, the grind for some students is getting into a particular grad school or attaining a great job after graduation. This can easily lead to the deprioritization of deep friendships and interactions with the community.

“In America, especially in the last decade, we have this hustle culture where you have people who are looking for side hustles to augment their jobs to make even more money,” Klemanski told the News. “At a place like Yale, where I think it’s sort of just ingrained in the culture to sort of get these great jobs after graduation, we at times, don’t prioritize friendships and social connections.”

And, according to Merolla, college campuses prove to be a hotspot of loneliness because of the life transition of moving from one’s home to a different, unfamiliar place. Especially at a school like Yale where students come from all

over the world, it can be difficult to transition seamlessly to college life.

The dangers of chronic loneliness

The effects of such extreme loneliness can be destructive in various ways, according to Klemanski. Mentally, it can lead to depressive symptoms, heighten anxiety, and increase feelings of stress and despair. Physically, it can contribute to an increased risk of heart disease, a weakened immune system and chronic conditions like obesity. Socially, it can lead to difficulty forming even more connections.

In a press conference this past May, Murthy said that loneliness can be as dangerous as smoking a pack of cigarettes every day as it significantly affects mortality.

“Loneliness is associated with cortisol, a hormone that’s sensitive to stress,” Klemanski said. “So loneliness can cause people to feel stressed for a long time, leading to elevated cortisol. And the elevated cortisol can make you weaker, vulnerable to infections, and dampen your cognition. It can do a lot of stuff at the individual level that we don’t usually correlate with loneliness.”

Now, it may seem that loneliness can be treated pretty easily. After all, all people have to do is go to a function to find new friends. However, chronic loneliness changes how we approach people as we become less confident in interacting with other people. Loneliness makes us judge ourselves all the more harshly as we think about every “wrong” thing that we say. And there’s a lot of shame in feeling lonely, for lonely people believe it shouldn’t be this hard to connect.

And this then perpetuates a dangerous loop. People become chronically lonely, they become less confident to socially interact and think it’s their fault they can’t connect with others, which leads to shame, which leads to more loneliness. It becomes a spiral.

Treatment and prevention

According to Klemanski, loneliness at times does require individualized treatment. Some people may be experiencing loneliness in addition to other mental health issues like depression and anxiety. Other people need more professional, therapeutic support to create a mindset shift

and develop healthier thinking patterns. This can be done through techniques like cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness.

“Mindfulness is great because we encourage people to focus on the present moment and really accept their feelings and loneliness without judging themselves, without any shame,” Klemanski said. “We reduce the emotional impact of loneliness, because if people get more self-compassion, it puts them in a better headspace to find those connections.”

Experts like Hoffman and Klemanski don’t believe that the growing use of artificial intelligence as a treatment for loneliness is a long-term cure. AI might be good to provide social skill training and to help one learn how to keep conversations going. But it isn’t the best tool to actually find deep connections in real-life relationships, which would be the ultimate treatment of loneliness.

One of the simpler ways to become less lonely and prevent chronic loneliness is to make social interactions more purposeful. Scheduling times to interact with friends or acquaintances in the calendar, going to third-party spaces where people have shared characteristics like the cultural centers, or getting involved in extracurricular activities where people have similar interests and passions.

“There are so many extracurricular opportunities here at Yale, and we sometimes see students feel decision fatigue so they don’t join anything or join too many things that they don’t feel connected to any one thing in particular,” Corrine Coia, director of student well-being, wrote to the News. “We work with students to think about what spaces on campus they would feel most comfortable in. We also work with students to think about other opportunities, like community engagement to give back to others.”

Yale provides various opportunities for students to interact, from the butteries to the cultural centers to religious spaces to forums of debate and discussion. Additionally, YC3 offers speed friending events for students to meet each other

in a stress-free environment, Wellness Wednesdays and Take it Easy Tuesdays, and workshops on long-distance friendships and relationships.

It is important to consider what happens after college as well. When we break out of the shell of college communities, it can be difficult to find new social connections and form deep relationships. That’s where finding community groups with initiatives that one cares about can become a good preventative measure to loneliness.

“If you’re a family with kids in school, you’ve got your school community. If you’re in college, you’ve got your college community. Sometimes you have your work community,” Klemanski said. “But when people might not fit into those traditional molds, which many people don’t, it can be hard. Groups like the community service groups can be a great way to find connections and prevent chronic loneliness.”

According to Merolla, students also have to look out for one another. Some people consistently eat by themselves in dining halls; some suitemates seem to be in the suite all the time and never go out to socially interact; a classmate in a seminar doesn’t seem to interact with anyone else in the class. These could be opportunities for students to introduce themselves, interact with the person and maybe even invite the person to sit with your friends.

“We have to feel like we are in a community that supports us,” Merolla said. “And a large part of how we do that are the small moments of interaction we share with one another each day. And I think for a lot of us, we don’t have enough of those opportunities. So when we get them, we have to take advantage of them, but we also have to realize that we have a responsibility to other people to try to facilitate those moments for others, especially people who don’t have enough.”

According to the American Psychiatric Association’s Healthy Minds Poll, 30 percent of respondents ages 18 to 34 said they feel lonely several times a week.

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Telehealth patients may soon lose access to prescriptions

BY ASUKA KODA
STAFF REPORTER

Patients like Anthony Kurz ’27 rely on drug prescriptions via telemedicine to receive their medication. However, a policy allowing for telehealth prescriptions expires in December 2024, and some patients may soon lose access to their drugs.

Under the COVID-19 pandemic policy, patients can be prescribed Schedule II to V drugs via telemedicine. This flexible policy will expire in December 2024, cutting off some telehealth patients from their current prescriptions. School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Health signed a letter led by the Alliance for Connected Care, which calls on the White House and Congress to extend the flexible policy by another two years.

Kurz has been taking methylphenidate for his ADHD since he was young. Methylphenidate is a Schedule II drug, meaning it is a substance accepted for medical use with a high potential for abuse.

“When I don’t have the drug, I can’t do work. It is like there is a 50-pound weight on your body and you just don’t have the ability to do things,” Kurz said.

After trying to find care at Yale, Kurz settled with a new psychiatrist at home via telemedicine.

The psychiatrist, based in rural Pennsylvania, is about one hour and a half from his house in Scranton. Telemedicine was the only way to meet with his psychiatrist in a regular manner that would allow him to receive his medications every month.

In specific situations, providers require physicians and patients to be located in the same state for telehealth appointments. Kurz occasionally had to take a five-hour train ride to get to the border of Pennsylvania in order to join the telemedicine appointment and be prescribed his medication for the month.

“It was worth it because it is important to speak to my specific psychiatrist who will prescribe me the right medication,” Kurz said.

But the telehealth prescription

is concerned about patients like Kurz who may be cut off from their medication when the policy expires.

Mehrotra testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Subcommittee on Health about the need for telemedicine permanency in November 2023. According to him, physicians are already grappling with how to approach care with their telemedicine patients.

Physicians currently treating patients via telemedicine do not know if they should schedule future appointments in early 2025 or advise patients to find an in-person provider. Unsure about how much medication to prescribe and whether to account for potential lapses, physicians are under pressure to plan ahead with an uncertain future, especially when the decision could be lifesaving or life threatening.

“I have a patient on buprenorphine right now,” which is used for the treatment of opioid use disorder. “They’re very stable, but I’ve never seen them in person. They say, ‘Doc, can I fill up my medication? What are we going to do in January? Am I going to have to get another provider because you’re 500 miles away from me?’ I don’t have an answer for that patient right now,” Mehrotra said. “I just hope that everything’s going to be fine, but what if it’s not?”

COVID-era policy set to expire

Kurz was able to be prescribed his medications via telemedicine because of a federal policy adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before then, under the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act, a psychiatrist had to conduct an initial in-person medical evaluation before being able to prescribe Schedule II-V drugs via telemedicine encounters.

This act was passed in response to the death of Ryan Haight, who died after overdosing on opioids he was prescribed over the phone. Since the pandemic, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has waived that requirement, allowing patients to receive prescriptions via video-audio-regulated telemedicine appointments without an initial in-person appointment

Health system joined nearly 350 nationwide healthcare stakeholders to call on the White House and Congress to intervene to ensure that patients currently prescribed medicine via telemedicine can continue to receive care.

The stakeholders, led by the Alliance for Connected Care, are also asking the DEA for a “two-year extension of [the current] prescribing flexibilities to allow for time to achieve a balance between patient access and diversion control.”

Balancing benefits and drawbacks

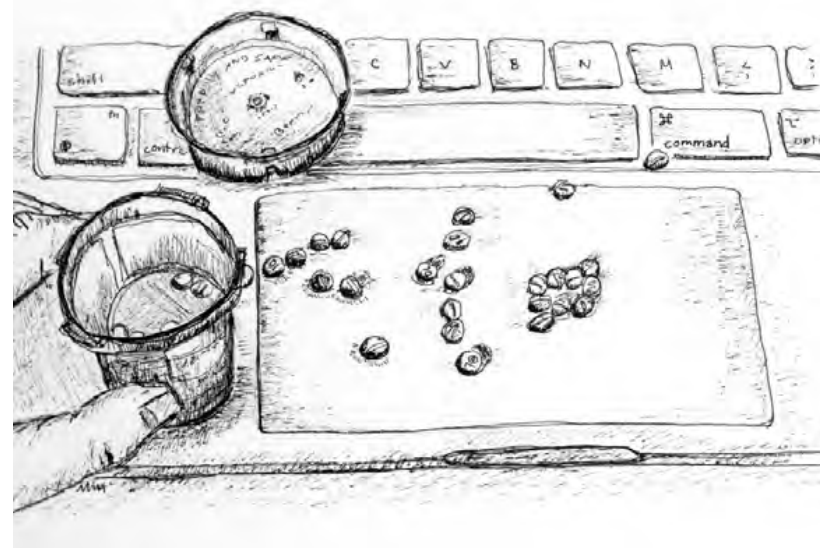
Both telemedicine and face-to-face clinical contact have their benefits and drawbacks, said John Krystal, the physician-in-chief of psychiatry at YNHH and the chair of psychiatry at the School of Medicine. Krystal spoke on behalf of YSM.

Schedule II drugs, which include fentanyl, hydromorphone, meperidine, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, dextroamphetamine, methylphenidate, methamphetamine, pentobarbital and secobarbital are the drugs that present the greatest risks among those currently prescribed via telemedicine without an initial in-person appointment.

Some Schedule II drugs, Krystal wrote, are opioids used primarily for pain control that have a risk of lethal overdose. Some are stimulants used to treat ADHD, narcolepsy and antidepressant-resistant symptoms of depression, among other conditions. When misused, these drugs may cause depression, psychosis, impaired judgment and impulsive maladaptive behavior.

The last two medications on the list are sedative and anxiolytic with risk for lethal overdose and potentially life-threatening withdrawal symptoms. Because of this, Krystal wrote, they are now rarely prescribed.

Krystal wrote that physicians get more direct information face-to-face and can perform “hands-on” physical examinations in person. However, telemedicine makes it possible for patients who are far from their physicians have mobility



MIA KOHN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

YSM and YNHH call to extend the prescription of Schedule II-V controlled substances.

Medical evaluations are important to evaluate the impact of the medication on blood pressure, heart rate and other outcomes, there are alternative ways to get these measurements such as “visiting nurses, other local physicians, or perhaps even via emerging automated technologies,” according to Krystal.

Krystal emphasized that “closing down telemedicine options would increase rather than decrease risks for these patients.”

Mehrotra, who testified in support of telehealth prescriptions in the Senate, agrees that the expiration of telemedicine prescription flexibility poses more risks for patients.

Buprenorphine, an opioid used for the treatment of opioid use disorder, testosterone used for gender-affirming care and stimulants for ADHD have been the focus of the conversation concerning the benefits and drawbacks of the in-person requirement for scheduled drug prescriptions before the pandemic, Mehrotra said.

He added that in the cases of opioid use disorder treatment and gender-affirming care, many patients live in communities where “there is no one around them who is willing to prescribe

they would not otherwise have.

“[Physicians] need to meet patients where they are,” Mehrotra said.

The drawbacks of telemedicine prescription are most pronounced in ADHD stimulant prescription, according to Mehrotra.

Research has shown that stimulants are often not abused by people who were prescribed the medication but rather by their friends. There is a lot of diversion of stimulants but “we don’t really know whether diversion is more likely with telemedicine prescribing versus in-person,” Mehrotra said.

Another significant concern is that companies that prescribe drugs only via telehealth may care only about growth and prescribe inappropriate drugs.

“There are many patients in the United States who will be cut off from their medications, and in particular the treatment of opioid use disorder buprenorphine, worries me most,” Mehrotra said. “That means they could lapse and then go back to using, say, heroin and die.”

The CDC reports that in 2021, 37 percent of adults used telemedicine.

Update, Oct. 1: The article has been updated to include that

SPORTS

FOOTBALL: Bulldogs fall to Cornell in Ivy opener

BY SPENCER KING AND SIENNA TEJPAUL
SENIOR REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Saturday was a day to forget for the Yale football team, (1-1, 0-1 Ivy) as they were soundly beaten by Cornell (1-1, 1-0 Ivy) with a score of 47-23. The Big Red racked up 475

yards of offense on the Bulldogs, with quarterback Jameson Wang throwing for 278 yards and four touchdown passes.

The biggest issue for the Bulldogs' defense was the big plays of the Cornell offense, something that plagued them in their season opener against

Holy Cross as well. Four of the Big Red's touchdowns were on plays of 30 or more yards, including a 68-yard touchdown pass.

The Bulldogs' defense left some large holes in some crucial areas of the field. They had trouble holding the middle, as Wang was able

to run through the defensive line for multiple first downs along with running back Ean Pope squeezing through for a touchdown in the second quarter.

"Give credit to Cornell," Yale head coach Tony Reno said to Yale Athletics. "They outplayed us in all phases today. We were inconsistent in all areas and made mistakes that keep you from winning football games. We have a lot of work to do this week to improve in all areas."

The offense put up 23 points but also didn't play well, as quarterback Brogan McCaughey '26 went 14 for 21 through the air for only 172 yards. McCaughey also appeared to be dealing with an injury throughout the game, flexing his hand often and sitting out for one drive that was led by Marshall Howe '26 instead. McCaughey already replaced Grant Jordan '25, who was pulled from the season opener due to injury.

The highlight of the day was the return of running back Josh Pitsenberger '26, as he sat out week one against Holy Cross. Pitsenberger carried the ball 18 times for 70 yards and two touch-

downs, showing that he deserves the lead back role every week if he's healthy.

David Pantelis '25 also led the Bulldogs in receiving yards again with five catches for 86 yards. Six different Bulldogs caught a pass on Saturday, highlighted by tight end Ry Yates '25 first career touchdown.

The Bulldogs will certainly need a big week of practice to tighten up the mistakes that cost them against the Big Red. Looking towards their home opener this weekend against Central Connecticut, it's expected that lots of work will be done to make sure the Bulldogs come out hot and secure their first home win.

In the only other Ivy League game of the weekend, Brown (2-0, 1-0 Ivy) defeated Harvard (1-1, 0-1 Ivy) 31-28 on a touchdown with only 21 seconds left in the game. This was the first time Brown has won against Harvard since 2010.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale Football team lost to Cornell 47-23 in their first Ivy League game of the year.

TENNIS: Strong showing for men's tennis at Yale Invitational

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

This past weekend, the Yale Men's Tennis team hosted the Yale Invitational at the Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center. Penn State, Cornell, Buffalo and New Jersey Institute of Technology were among the teams competing.

On Friday, the Bulldogs racked up three wins to start the invitational strong. In doubles, the seasoned duo of Luke Neal '25 and Renaud Lefevre '26 defeated Alexander Sterin and Denys Forgaci of Penn State 7-5. In singles, first-year standout Edward Liao '28 continued with his dominant start to his college career, winning his match 6-0, 6-2 against Aman Sharma of Cornell. Lefevre also picked up another victory in singles, defeating Sam Bossem of Penn State 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-1. Krish Gupta '28 and Luke Neal were defeated in their singles matches.

Looking to build off the momentum of the first day, the men's team had an impressive second day of the Yale Invitational. In doubles, Liao and Gupta beat Charl Morgan and Sam Bossem of Penn State 6-3. Neal and Lefevre defeated a duo of Nittany Lions, winning their match 7-6(1).

In singles on day two, the Bulldogs won three of their four matches.

Gupta led the way, bouncing back from a loss on Friday to defeat Soma Fukuhara of NJIT 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. Lefevre continued with his impressive weekend, winning his match against Buffalo's Theodoros Mitsa-



YALE ATHLETICS

The men's tennis team continues with their strong start to the fall season while hosting the Yale Invitational

kos 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. Neal rounded out the team's scoring by overpowering Penn State's Alexander Sterin 6-4, 6-3. Liao fought hard but fell to Peter Teodorovic of Cornell 3-6, 3-6.

On the last day of the Yale Invitational, the Bulldogs came up victorious in three of their five matches, solidifying the weekend's success.

In doubles, the dynamic duo of first-years Liao and Gupta defeated Nolan Ranger and Shrikeshav Murugesan of Penn State 6-3. On the singles side, Neal won a super tiebreaker over Penn State's Ranger 6-1, 6-7, 10-3.

Gupta racked up his second victory of the day as well, defeating Charl Morgan of Penn State 6-4, 6-3. Lefevre and Liao both came up short against their opponents from Cornell.

"It was definitely a tough weekend. I had a busy week leading up to the tournament so trying to balance studying and practicing was extremely tough mentally," Gupta told the News. "It showed the first day when I was extremely sluggish on court and overall energy was not there but after talking with Coach Lalo, I was able to push myself the last two days and get the results I wanted."

The Bulldogs have some time off before they jump back into action at the ITA New England Regional, hosted in Cambridge, Massachusetts from Oct. 17 to Oct. 21.

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FIELD HOCKEY: Bulldogs win two over the weekend, off to best start since 1998

BY AVA JENKINS AND MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTERS

The Yale Field Hockey team is off to its best start to a season since 1998.

The Bulldogs (6-2, 1-1 Ivy) edged past the University of Pennsylvania (1-7, 0-2 Ivy) on Friday at Johnson Field in a thrilling overtime game. On Sunday, the Bulldogs took down Quinnipiac University (2-8, 0-2 Big East). With these two victories, Yale's overall record of 6-2 is the team's best start since 1998.

"This season, we're on a mission to rewrite the history books and take down the Ivy teams that beat us last year," Hettie Whittington '27 wrote to the News. "Penn was the first—now we have five more regular season games to set things right."

On Friday, the Quakers struck first, with a goal sending them up 0-1 just before the 15 minute mark. Poppy Beales '26 hit back at the 26 minute mark, tying the game 1-1. Beales received a long pass from Captain Keely Comizio '25, before firing a shot past the Penn goalkeeper.

With six minutes left in regula-

tion, Colette Staadecker '25 had a critical save, deflecting a Penn penalty corner, and the game went into extra time.

Just over five minutes into overtime, Beales caught a pass from Chiara Picciafuoco '28 in stride and backhanded the ball straight past the Quaker's goalkeeper, winning the game for the Bulldogs 2-1.

Beales now has five career game-winning goals, all in the last 13 games.

"I try to keep my mentality the same for every game," Beales wrote to the News. "But I think for conference games there's always more of a competitiveness to win so that helps me do my part on the pitch and hopefully score!"

This is the fifth time in seven games the Elis have held an opponent to one or no goals, highlighting their strong defense. Yale held Penn scoreless the final 51:20 of the game.

Whittington wrote to the News on the team's mindset for the remainder of the regular season as they prepare to take on #11 Harvard on Oct. 4.

"Every game in the Ivy League will

be a battle; nothing is guaranteed. As a team, we talk a lot about how we can control the game's momentum and stay consistent for the full 60 minutes. On Friday, we didn't play our best, but we still found a way to win," she wrote. "The next step for us is to deliver our best performance across all four quarters, and I believe if we do that, we have a real shot at upsetting #11 Harvard."

Following their match against Penn, the team only had one day to rest before turning to face Quinnipiac on Sunday, Sept. 29. Head Coach Melissa Gonzalez wanted to ensure that her team made the most of their off day, prioritizing "recovery and growth."

"Regardless of outcomes, we stick to our processes, which include reviewing film, participating in active release sessions and performing targeted exercises on pitch," Gonzalez wrote. "We've found that this structure has helped us maintain our performance while preparing effectively for our matches."

The next day, the Bobcats traveled down to New Haven. The Bob-

cats have been unsuccessful in their matchup against the Bulldogs three years in a row, having not won a game since 2021.

The first period put both team's defenses on display. Although the amount of shots taken by Yale significantly outnumbered their opponent's, neither team could close in on the goal. Then, Lily Ramsey '25, weaving through defenders, passed to newcomer Victoria Collee '28, who drove the ball home. Going into the half, the Bulldogs held a tight lead, 1-0.

The third period showcased the Bulldogs' offensive prowess. After being granted a penalty stroke, Whittington secured a 2-0 lead for Yale when her shot escaped the reach of the Bobcat goalie. Not long after, another first-year, Picciafuoco, got her opportunity to extend the Yale lead with her second goal of the season. Finally, to cap off the roar of Bulldogs capitalizing on offensive momentum, a turnover and drive down the field by Beales led to a 4-0 lead when she passed to teammate Lauren Venter '26, whose shot passed by the goalie much too fast to save.

Although the Bobcats would rally the troops and score twice before the game ended, it could not offset the powerhouse that was the third period.

Comizio wrote to the News that the key to a high-scoring period is trusting that success will come and relying on each other.

"We stayed consistent with our play and never got down," she wrote. "We knew the goals would come eventually, so we just kept pushing. We focused on encouraging each other and maintaining our effort."

After the weekend, the Ivy League named Beales as Offensive Player of the Week. With her two goals against Penn and her assist against Quinnipiac, she now has 12 points on the season, placing her second overall in the Ivy League.

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NEWS

"That makes me so mad and so sad. I'm smad!"

SOOKIE ST. JAMES FICTIONAL CHARACTER

Alders allege nepotism in Wilbur Cross management

BY ZACHARY SURI
STAFF REPORTER

As the third hour of a contentious meeting of the Board of Alders Education Committee approached on Wednesday night, Alder Frank Redente Jr. posed three simple questions to Jamar Alleyne, executive director of facilities at ABM, the private corporation New Haven Public Schools contracts with for custodial management.

Redente asked Alleyne to name the assistant director of custodial operations at ABM responsible for hiring. "Lisa Hopkins," Alleyne responded. And who is the building manager at Wilbur Cross High School? "Heaven Hopkins," Alleyne said.

Redente then asked Alleyne to clarify the relationship between the two. Alleyne replied that he believes Heaven is Lisa's daughter.

Speaking to the News after the meeting, Redente, Alder Sarah Miller '03 and the president of the custodial union expressed concern about potential nepotism in the hiring process.

Wilbur Cross has been plagued by serious facilities crises and decades of deferred maintenance. Wilbur Cross teachers, parents and students showed up in full force at

the Board of Education's meeting on Monday to speak about these dire conditions.

On Wednesday, Alleyne quickly added that Lisa Hopkins was not involved in the hiring of her daughter, insisting there was a "layer of supervision" put in place to prevent a potential conflict of interest. He had previously told the committee that Lisa Hopkins was the one responsible for reviewing applicants' resumes and making hiring decisions.

Heaven Hopkins did not respond to a request for comment. Lisa Hopkins could not be reached for comment.

Justin Harmon, director of marketing and communications for New Haven Public Schools, initially declined to comment on Thursday. On Friday, he forwarded a comment from ABM to the News.

"I have been asked by ABM to respond to your query," he wrote. "Both mother and daughter were originally hired by ABM as part-time employees. The mother had nothing to do with the hiring of her daughter. They are both productive employees."

Lisa Hopkins ran unsuccessfully for Ward 22 alder in 2007 and 2009. She served as director of the Haven Group supporting affordable housing in New Haven in years

prior. According to a profile from the News in 2007, Hopkins raised her daughter Heaven — now 29 — as a single mother.

Civil service exams for building manager positions were recently eliminated to help fill the 17 vacancies in the district, according to Tom DeLucia, president of Local 287, which represents the custodial workers in the school system not replaced by ABM employees. He expressed opposition to the rollback of the exams, arguing that loosening merit-based qualifications would lead to corruption and nepotism.

"Basically what it does is it lets people's friends get hired," DeLucia said.

Heaven Hopkins is currently listed on the Wilbur Cross staff directory as the building manager for the district's largest comprehensive high school.

According to Redente, her only previous experience was as a "part-timer" for the previous private custodial management contractor, AFB. Lisa Hopkins was also previously employed by AFB, according to Redente and DeLucia.

"If she was a part-timer at that company, what qualifies her to be a building manager at Wilbur Cross High School, our largest high school in the district?" Redente asked.

Wilbur Cross has been plagued by facilities and maintenance crises in recent weeks, a common issue in schools around New Haven. The library and music room are shut due to mold. The staircases are in dangerous conditions. Teachers have been forced to clean up puddles of cleaning chemicals and floodwaters themselves.

Alder Salvatore Punzo, education committee chairman and former New Haven Public Schools principal, questioned why critical facilities issues at Wilbur Cross were not addressed before the school year began last month.

"It doesn't make much sense if you're a building manager ... to allow that building to open or to not send up a red flag to the powers-that-be that this work needs to be done. That is unacceptable. How did that happen?" Punzo asked Alleyne.

Building managers are not responsible for completing the work, Alleyne told Punzo. They only submit the necessary work orders to the ABM system.

Several Wilbur Cross graduates and a former teacher voiced their frustration with the maintenance crisis at Wilbur Cross to the committee.

DeLucia, himself a Wilbur Cross graduate and a custodian

in the school system, expressed anger at the state of the high school's facilities. He placed much of the blame on the privatization of custodial management and the reduction of union custodial jobs.

"It's disgusting," he told the News. "Back then, it was all unionized, the facilities department, the custodians, everything was taken care of."

Redente, a youth development coordinator at Fair Haven School and a New Haven Public Schools employee for over 30 years, believes that the hiring process at Wilbur Cross and "the leadership of maintenance" there is "absolutely" responsible for the facilities crisis.

Alder Sarah Miller also expressed concern that the hiring process at Wilbur Cross was not above board.

"I think we should look at it," she said. "There's a long history of hiring family members who are unqualified in the New Haven public schools."

ABM Industries is headquartered in New York City.

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New Haven police union enters tentative contract

BY MAIA NEHME AND ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTERS

Following almost two years of negotiations, the New Haven Police Department's union has reached a tentative agreement on a new six-year contract for officers.

The collective bargaining agreement has been submitted to the union's members for review, Officer Florencio Cotto — president of the union, Elm City Local — and Mayor Justin Elicker announced in a Tuesday press release. If the 326 police officers currently covered by the union vote to ratify the contract, Elicker will send it to the Board of Alders for approval.

The agreement comes after the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration imposed binding arbitration on the city and the police union in early August — a move

that assigned a state-appointed third party to oversee contract negotiations. Tensions subsequently increased between Cotto and Elicker, who criticized each other for delaying the process.

The union members will meet on Monday for an informational session, according to NHPD Officer Christian Bruckhart.

"We encourage all our members to review the details carefully and participate in the upcoming vote scheduled within the next few weeks," Cotto said in the press release.

The tentative contract boasts a nearly \$20,000 increase in officer starting salaries, a 25 percent salary raise over a six-year period and new, less time-intensive work schedules. Other proposed changes include altered pension and healthcare plans, an online tool for reporting non-emergency

crimes and stronger disciplinary procedures for officers charged with felonies.

New police recruits will be paid \$70,000 each year, marking a nearly 38 percent boost in starting salary from the previous contract. Elicker said this pay raise makes new NHPD officers "among the highest paid" in comparably large Connecticut cities.

The starting salary for Bridgeport police officers is over \$71,000, while new Hartford police officers have an annual salary of over \$63,000. New recruits for the Yale Police Department make over \$76,000 each year.

The contract's proposed salary increases total \$7.5 million, in addition to \$5.6 million in retroactive pay. Officers would receive 2.5 percent in retroactive pay increases for the past two fiscal years since the last contract ended and 5 per-

cent annual pay increases leading up to 2028.

The pay raises aim to "reward and help retain" current officers, according to the press release. The NHPD has struggled with officer recruitment and retention in recent years.

"Part of the problem with recruiting was you're two years out of contract, and our pay and benefits were low, certainly, compared to neighboring municipalities," Bruckhart said.

The agreement also updates the work schedules for patrol officers and administrative staff, with the goal of providing them with a "better work-life balance," the press release states. Under the tentative contract, patrol officers would work five days "on" followed by three days off. Their current contract has them working a 5-2, 5-3 schedule — five days on,

two days off, five days on, three days off.

Under the tentative contract, officers charged with felonies could be placed on unpaid leave to ensure "appropriate accountability."

"Every day our police officers do an outstanding job under very challenging circumstances and put their lives on the line to keep our residents and streets safe," Elicker said in the press release. "This is a contract that all sides can be proud of and one that I hope both the union membership and the Board of Alders will support."

The current city budget funds 389 sworn police officers for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

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High Street conversion design takes shape

BY TINA LI
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Designers set to convert a section of High Street into a pedestrian-friendly walkway welcomed community input — from New Haveners and Yalies alike — in a webinar on Tuesday evening.

The meeting, hosted by representatives of the University and SCAPE, the landscape architecture firm chosen to transform High Street between Chapel and Elm Street, provided updates on the project. After designers presented preliminary sketches, attendees were invited to voice concerns in smaller groups.

"Everything you see tonight, I will caution you, is a napkin sketch," Jason Hickey, a University planner, said. "We're at a very early point in the design process. It's the perfect time to speak and to listen, and that's what we're here to do tonight."

SCAPE's initial plans feature foliage for stormwater management, abundant seating nooks and plazas for community use.

The High Street conversion was jointly announced by New Haven and Yale in 2021, alongside a historic \$52 million increase in the University's voluntary contribution to the city. Since then, almost 100 conversations about the project have occurred among stakeholders, Hickey said.

Unlike past conversions of sections of High and Wall streets, New Haven will retain ownership of the new space. Hickey framed the project as a "true partnership" between the city and the University.

But the webinar shone a light on recurring concerns among

New Haveners over Yale's dominant influence in the project and whether the space will be truly welcoming and accessible to non-Yalies. Live polling responses expressed a desire to include city residents in the pathway's design — from the name to the signage.

Sixteen New Haven residents and two Yale students attended the meeting, according to a poll.

During a brainstorm for possible names, many attendees advocated for a name that respected the street's origin as a New Haven place and that was inspired by local history and culture. "High Walk" was suggested several times.

Yale professor Karen Seto shared concerns raised in her smaller group. Outreach about the space should be far-reaching and welcoming, members of her group said, and the on-site signage should not be Yale branded or Yale colors.

"The space is couched between Yale buildings, and so we want to make sure that people understand, whether it be the messaging or the signage, that this is a space that's open to all," Seto said during the webinar.

Erin Michaud, teacher at Cooperative Arts and Humanities Magnet High School, did not attend Tuesday's webinar. She still raised concerns to the News about whether non-Yalies will feel welcomed in the new space.

There is a noticeable divide between Yalies and New Haveners, Michaud said. Though she praised the progress toward pedestrianization, she characterized previous buy-outs of city streets as unequal transactions between Yale and New Haven.

"I feel weird about it, like I understand it, but it feels like a lot to surrender to a university that doesn't already give the city much," Michaud said, referring to the University's tax-exempt status.

Other residents encouraged SCAPE to include sustainable materials in their construction plans, as well as water sculptures and a play area for children.

Robert Grzywacz, a New Haven resident that attended the webinar, raised concerns over the loss of parking spaces.

"People that need cars will have a harder time using them. That's not so important about losing High Street, but we've heard plans for Chapel Street, which can imply that maybe half the parking on Chapel is going to be lost. That would be deadly," Grzywacz said, referring to traffic safety improvements on Chapel Street slated to begin in 2027.

In her presentation, Laura Marett, principal at SCAPE, emphasized the need to uphold High Street's significance as a connective corridor. Student residential and academic buildings lie adjacent to the street, and the gateway on Chapel Street links the space to a thriving commercial district, she said. Thirty attendees said they cross through High Street by foot, while about twelve attendees each said they biked and drove on the street.

"Thinking about High Street in the context of both New Haven and Yale," Marett said, "It's serving as a connective space, both within the New Haven network of bike trails and parks and greens and public spaces, and it's also a critical connection within the fabric of Yale's campus."

Marett identified sustainability as one of SCAPE's core priorities for the new space; designs include stormwater management, cooling infrastructure for hotter summer months and biodiverse greenery.

Through polling, attendees ranked a "welcoming, active, social space" as their highest priority. Additional requests included internet connectivity, trash cans and public art. While several attendees stressed that the space should not feel exclusive, two responses said that given the residential dorms in proximity, Yale student experience should be prioritized.

Marett asked attendees for feedback on events and activities that they would like to see in the space. Concerts and performances, seasonal festivities and farmers' markets were all popular suggestions.

Greta Ruedisueli, project manager at SCAPE, raised the pragmatic limitations of needing to accommodate service and emergency vehicles, as well as move in day for Yale students.

SCAPE plans to delineate a 15 to 20 foot corridor that accommodates pedestrians, bikers and necessary vehicles, flanked by seating nooks and bioswales — depressions filled with vegetation that filters stormwater runoff. A prominent welcome plaza will be erected near Chapel Street, as well as smaller gathering areas by Harkness Tower.

"Yale and New Haven are both spaces that are continually changing, evolving and growing," Kiana Flores, the alder for this section of High Street, said. "High Street is a really great example of ideal collaboration between the city and Yale, given that it's multi-purpose, it achieves both of our goals and it's really a team effort."

A second community conversation will be facilitated in the spring. The conversion is slated to begin next summer and be completed by fall of 2026.

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XIMENA SOLORZANO /CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Yale and design firm SCAPE brainstormed ideas for the High Street pedestrianization with community members.

NEWS

"It's big, fat, happy sunshine day for me."
LUKE DANES FICTIONAL CHARACTER

Is Yale's public safety dog one paw out the door?

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTER

It took Yale Police Officer Richard Simons 27 years to persuade his department to hire Heidi. As Simons makes plans to retire, the labrador retriever might be leaving with him.

Heidi, a trained support dog, has worked for Yale Public Safety since 2020. Though she was originally hired to help strengthen relationships between officers and the Yale community, her role has expanded to that of a therapeutic service animal, first responder support pup, social media celebrity and companion to Yale's official canine mascot, Handsome Dan. Trained as her handler, Simons spends his days responding to calls for Heidi's service around Yale, New Haven and surrounding towns.

But with a new police union contract on the horizon, Simons — who has worked as a YPD officer for over three decades — is planning to retire. When he leaves, the YPD has no plans to continue Team Heidi, the program Simons built.

"I'm not saying that Heidi is the best thing since sliced bread, but close," Simons said. "Because I love her, and because this was an idea that turned into a dream, and now is my legacy."

In April, after learning about Simons' plans to retire, students and community members involved in Heidi's programming reached out to the Yale Police Department and Yale Public Safety inquiring about the future of the program. YPD and YPS did not respond to these emails. The University also did not respond to the News' requests for comment for this story.

"Bridging the gap" between students, police

When Officer Simons first joined the Yale Police Department in 1993, he was assigned to Branford and Saybrook colleges as a community-based officer, tasked with interacting with students and serving as their liaison to the department. He noticed, however, that students were reluctant to talk to him when he was in uniform.

One day, Simons got permission to bring his two Rottweiler puppies to work.

"I brought the dogs in, and they were an instant hit," he recounted. "Everyone knew who I was. Everybody wanted me to bring the dogs back. So I went to my chief's office and I said, you know, this is an idea. I think this can bridge the gap between the students and the police department."

But even after several presentations on how a dog could benefit community-officer relations, department leadership was not convinced. It wasn't until the spring of 2020 that Rennell Higgins and Anthony Campbell, then the YPD chief and assistant chief of police, accepted Simons' proposal for a department facilities dog.

After researching potential avenues for purchasing a pet, Simons settled on Puppies Behind Bars, a non-profit organization that allows incarcerated individuals to train canines as service dogs for veterans and first responders, facilities dogs for law enforcement departments or explosive-detection dogs.

Gloria Gilbert Stoga, the founder of Puppies Behind Bars, met Simons at a facilities dog symposium in New York around March 2020, she recalled. That summer, Simons attended a 14-day training to learn how to handle Heidi and her 40 to 60 commands. Though the trainings are usually held in a prison, so that the dog's original trainer can interact with its new handler, Simons was trained remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In September 2020, Heidi took her first steps onto campus.

"Heidi plays a couple of roles," Stoga said. "One is to help with community-officer relations. Two is to help with stress and mental health issues with students. And then three is to help with stress and mental health issues with officers."

Stoga said that she has not heard of plans to replace Heidi.

Since being appointed as Heidi's handler, Simons has responded to calls for Heidi to provide support for individuals in need. Many of these calls have taken him off of Yale's campus — to a school grappling with student death in Hamden, a pediatric burn victim in Bridgeport and survivors of sexual assault testifying against perpetrators in court, Simons said.

Simons said that he feels "blessed and lucky" that his chief allowed him to do so much work outside of the immediate Yale community. He added that his work off campus benefits the University too, as it "makes Yale look good."

By the time Simons succeeded in bringing Heidi to Yale, he knew that he would soon retire. He initially planned to onboard another officer to take over as a service dog handler.

Because — at five years old — Heidi is young, Simons still plans to continue providing support to nearby communities with Heidi, even if there is no place for him to do so at Yale.

"The good thing about Heidi being as popular as she is, she's probably one of the top dogs of her type in New England," Simons said, pointing to Heidi's large social media following. "She is very visible."

Community effort, community loss

Margaret Kuo SOM '25 met Heidi and Simons in September 2023, when Heidi participated in orientation programming at the School of Management, where Kuo is a student.

After Simons mentioned to Kuo that his son had been encouraging him to expand Heidi's reach over social media, Kuo volunteered to help. She now works for a couple of hours each week, making Tik Tok videos and Instagram Reels showcasing Heidi's activities and the services she provides to the Yale community.

When Kuo originally learned that Simons planned to retire from the police department, she thought Simons — and Heidi — would be transferred to a civilian agency at the University to continue their work in mental health and student services.

But after hearing that the University intended to terminate Heidi's program, Kuo and other students sent "at least 20" emails to Duane Lovello, the head of Yale Public Safety, and other administrators. Many of the emails, obtained by the News, share personal stories about Heidi's positive impact during times of stress.

Corinne Coia, Yale's student well-being director, shared that Heidi has been a "warm and car-



ARIELA LOPEZ / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The beloved labrador retriever has spent four years on campus supporting students and helping the Yale Police with community engagement.

ing addition" to programming at the Good Life Center, a University wellness initiative.

"Students always share with us that seeing Heidi and getting to engage with her is the highlight of their day," Coia wrote. "Heidi will be missed but we are so excited that she will now get to relax, retire, and hopefully go on lots of slow mindful walks."

Ella King '28, a student who has post-traumatic stress disorder, told the News that she emails Simons her schedule each week, and he finds time for her to meet with Heidi. Before coming to Yale, King had not worked with therapy dogs, but she finds her informal meetings with Heidi to be "extraordinarily helpful."

Pam Hartigan, a recently retired resident of Colchester, drove out to New Haven on Tuesday to attend an event in front of Yale Health with Heidi and police department dogs from around the area — many from Puppies Behind Bars. Hartigan is a survivor of a heart condition and says that being around dogs is beneficial for her health, especially after her own labrador retriever passed away. Hartigan has seen Heidi at canine events around the county.

"I love Heidi, she's a savior dog. She brings people together," Hartigan said. If Yale terminates the program, "I'll be devastated," Hartigan continued. "Rich worked so hard all these years. They better keep it going."

Heidi also has a regular presence on the medical campus, where she greets students after their first time in anatomy lab, where stu-

dents practice skills on cadavers, according to Simons.

Students get to spend time with Heidi after their anatomy exams, Omar Qureshi '20 MED '26 told the News. Exams can be particularly uncomfortable, Qureshi explained, because students must work in a room with multiple cadavers.

"Heidi's pretty hard to miss," Qureshi said. "You walk out and she's waiting for you. It makes you happy. Just seeing her there is like a guaranteed dopamine hit, just a guaranteed moment of joy!"

Qureshi said that Heidi had a meaningful presence on the medical campus during difficult periods for students, such as after a student suicide last year. He described Heidi as "very therapeutic" and said that he was sad to hear the program would not continue.

Acquiring Heidi in 2020 made the YPD the first Ivy League campus police department to have a facilities dog. Public safety departments at Harvard University, Brown University and Princeton University, as well as municipal and campus police forces across Connecticut, have since hired service dogs.

"It would be super sad if we lost Heidi and all these other schools still had these amazing programs that Officer Rich inspired," Kuo said.

Simons is a former president of the Yale Police Benevolent Association, the union of YPD officers and detectives.

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Yale to offer Filipino (Tagalog) courses in fall 2025

BY YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

Last week, the Council on Southeast Asian Studies at Yale posted a job advertisement for a lecturer in Filipino (Tagalog) who will begin to teach courses next fall.

The new course offering comes after months of formalized student advocacy from Tagalog @ Yale, an initiative within Yale's Filipinx club, Kasama. Since fall 2023, students in the initiative have been working with faculty in CSEAS and the Center for Language Study as well as members of the Yale College Council to make the course offerings a reality. Previously, students were able to learn Filipino (Tagalog) through the Directed Independent Language Study, a program that matched students to a language partner, rather than a professor, and did not offer course credit.

"Tagalog is the fourth most-spoken language in the US," Janina Gbenoba '27, a Kasama member active in the initiative, told the News. "So we feel very strongly about it having a place at Yale, both for members of Yale's Filipino community and because we really do believe that even people outside of the Filipino culture would have an interest in studying it."

According to Gbenoba and Marissa Halagao '27, another advocate in Tagalog @ Yale, students were in contact with CSEAS Chair Erik Harms throughout the 2023–24 academic year to demonstrate high student interest in the Filipino (Tagalog) language. Harms filed a formal proposal for the language to be taught at Yale, which was approved by CLS and the Yale College Dean's Office.

While the government of the Philippines designates Filipino, a standardized version of Tagalog, as

its national language, Halagao said that the label "Filipino (Tagalog)" is meant to recognize a broader set of experiences with Filipino languages and culture.

"We called it Tagalog @ Yale because a lot of us grew up referring to the language as Tagalog," Halagao said. "Filipino (Tagalog) gives the distinction that it's not the only Filipino language."

Outside of Filipino (Tagalog), there are over 180 other languages spoken in the Philippines, such as Ilokano, Cebuano and Ilonggo, according to Halagao.

Halagao later told the News that she hopes more languages from the Philippines can be "represented and celebrated," pointing to her family's history of speaking Ilokano in addition to Tagalog.

"Yale, like any institution, is an evidence-based place," Harms told the News. "So the smart thing that Kasama students did was actually start to generate numbers and things like that to show there's a strong interest among students."

The Tagalog @ Yale petition garnered over 380 signatures from students and faculty last year.

While members of Kasama said that student activism and interest in Filipino (Tagalog) have been long standing, according to Samantha Fajardo '27, this advocacy coalesced into a formal initiative last fall.

"Our formal advocacy began in fall 2023 with the petition, but informal discussions among Filipino students have been ongoing for years," Fajardo wrote in an email to the News. "Prior efforts were mostly individual — students inquiring about Tagalog courses or expressing interest to language departments. The petition marked our shift to organized, strategic advocacy."

According to Harms, there have consistently been around two to

four students enrolled in the DILS program for Filipino (Tagalog) since 2010.

Per Harms, however, these enrollment numbers do not necessarily represent the full extent of previous student interest in Filipino (Tagalog) because aspects of the DILS program, such as its self-driven nature, lack of instruction from a professional language instructor and ineligibility for course credit, may have discouraged students from enrolling.

"Anecdotally, students have been happy that DILS existed, but also, as they get more into it, they get a little bit disappointed that it's not the same thing as a regular language class," Harms said. "It's hard to have the same motivation versus if there's a class that's available, in which case the numbers would be much higher."

According to the job posting, the Filipino (Tagalog) lecturer will teach six courses each year and initially will be appointed for three years, with the possibility of renewal. The lecturer will also work with lecturers

in the Vietnamese and Indonesian languages to further develop Southeast Asian Studies programming at Yale, including study abroad opportunities.

Beyond language course offerings, Gbenoba and Halagao said that there is still a need for courses in Filipinx studies more broadly.

"I really hope that the momentum that we have from Tagalog @ Yale will lead to more departments offering Filipinx Studies," Halagao said. "I'm an ER&M major — ethnicity, race and migrations — and even though ER&M is a very interdisciplinary field, there is still not one class that is dedicated to Filipino studies, and there's also not a hired professor who is Filipino in our department."

Both Gbenoba and Halagao also expressed hope that Yale may offer courses in more Filipino languages in the future, as well as other languages that they say currently lack academic support at Yale, such as Cantonese and Bangla (Bengali).

This Saturday, Kasama will be hosting a workshop in collabo-

ration with the Asian American Cultural Center on Filipino language empowerment and colonial linguistic suppression. During the workshop, students will celebrate the new Filipino (Tagalog) course offering and learn about Yale's role in colonial histories in the Philippines.

Going forward, Tagalog @ Yale plans to continue their Filipino (Tagalog) advocacy and work with relevant faculty and administrators to ensure that next year's language offerings will meet student needs.

"Tagalog at Yale is very much a testament to the power of student voice and the power of coming together as a community," Gbenoba said. "So Tagalog at Yale is not the end. It's just something that we'll be able to draw inspiration from as we continue our advocacy efforts moving forward."

Southeast Asia Studies at Yale was established in 1947.

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COURTESY OF MARISSA HALAGAO

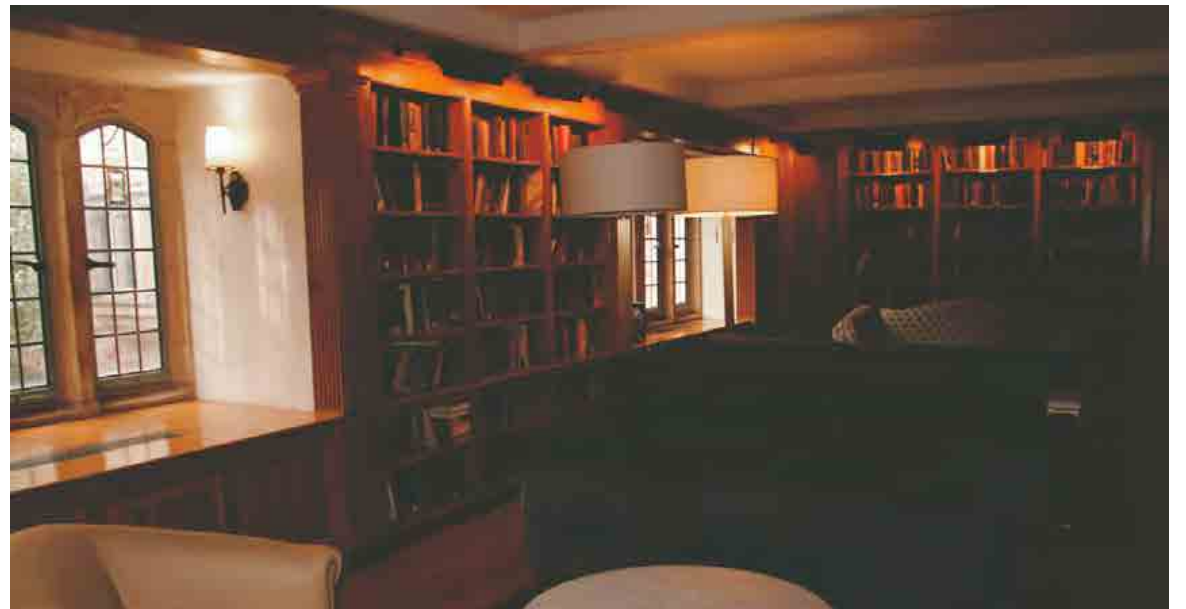
The Council on Southeast Asian Studies has posted a job advertisement for a Filipino (Tagalog) lecturer.

THROUGH THE LENS



HIDDEN LIBRARIES

*Photos by Baala Shakya,
Contributing Photographer*





“Every game in the Ivy League will be a battle; nothing is guaranteed. As a team, we talk a lot about how we can control the game’s momentum and stay consistent for the full 60 minutes.”

HETTIE WHITTINGTON '27, A MEMBER OF THE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM, WROTE TO THE NEWS.

Women’s soccer at Yale: where pride runs deep

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

In 2020, change was in the air. Amongst the surging momentum surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, the eight Ivy League Women’s Soccer teams seized the opportunity to form the Ivy League Justice Coalition. Made up of players and coaches from each school, the organization looked to unify the League by educating teammates and fans on social justice through their games. One of these games is Pride night, which the coalition decided to host on the same day every year. Each team also donned the same shirt with their school’s logo. This year, Yale will play against the University of Pennsylvania (1–5–3, 0–0 Ivy) on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. at Reese Stadium

The idea of a Pride night is not unique to Yale or the Ivy League. Countless schools around the country host Pride events for their athletics programs, often throwing up a rainbow flag haphazardly. An entirely performative charade is something Head Coach Sarah Martinez said she and her team look to avoid, instead looking to uplift LGBTQ+ people at Yale and in New Haven. “Last year, [the coalition] thought it would be really powerful to do something together,” she said. “It’s just becoming bigger and more meaningful and impactful other than just saying ‘we support this.’” Ellie Rappole '25 was one of the campaign leaders for this league-wide Pride night. She wanted the event to be meaningful for those on and off the field who identify as queer.

According to Rappole, this year’s Pride night, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 5, is a “year in the making.” “After our Pride night last year, I set to work making sure this year’s would be less performative and would help elevate the queer communities within both Yale and New Haven,” she said. Rappole credited Assistant Athletic Director Abby Reynolds, Grayson Vives '25 and the on-campus group Athlete Ally for their support in putting the night together. Mia Levy '25, president of Athlete Ally and member of Yale Women’s Crew, said that the organization wanted to ensure the event stayed away from the typically performative Pride showmanship and truly support queer athletes.

“Yale Athlete Ally is a safe, queer space where athletes can come to feel appreciated as their full selves, and hopefully then bring that confidence back to their field of play,” Levy wrote. “We encourage teams to add more substance to their Pride nights by adding a fundraiser component for a local LGBTQ organization, inviting the Yale LGBTQ Center or other organizations to set up tables, or spreading educational information about how spectators and athletes can make their teams more inclusive spaces.” The women’s soccer team chose to enhance their Pride night through fundraising efforts. With Rappole’s help, the team is raising money for A Place to Nourish Your Health, an LGBTQ-friendly organization focused on the care of people at risk of HIV, substance abuse, and mental illness. Nana Yang '25, this season’s captain and an international student from Espoo, Finland, is openly queer.

Her experience in Finland, where her club team had an “accepting and empowering culture,” shaped how she carried herself in the team’s locker room, as she “didn’t think twice about who I can and cannot be.” “I think me coming in confident changed the locker room to be similar to my club team’s,” Yang told the News. “In other words, me being so open and comfortable with who I am I think showed others that it’s okay — and actually pretty awesome — to break the norm.” She considers herself very fortunate in her upbringing near Finland’s progressive capital city and the openness of her club team. Yang emphasized that she knows not everyone can be themselves, but she is grateful that she can because she chose Yale Women’s Soccer, where “anyone can be themselves in [the] locker room.”

Both Yang and Martinez have worked to ensure the locker room stays as welcoming as possible to the teammates who walk in it, no matter who they are. Martinez told the News that the best way to do this is to set the tone from the start. “I say this to my team a lot: when the first years walk in the door, they’re often wide-eyed and a bit naive,” Martinez said. “Right away being able to set that tone: whether it’s standards, whether it’s expression of yourself, whether it’s tolerance to any type of discrimination, I think ... that’s something that our program has taken a lot of pride in.” Coach Martinez told the News that because sports games are entertaining by nature, they can use that to draw people in and educate the community. Pride night specifically is a responsibility she and her

team take seriously because, as Martinez pointed out, “to be a gay soccer player is not abnormal in women’s soccer.” A 2023 Washington Post article called the Women’s World Cup “the gayest World Cup ever” because the 32 teams had a combined total of around 100 openly queer athletes on their rosters. “[The Pride night is] one of our team’s favorite games of the year — they get cool shirts, that’s probably part of it — but I think they know how much it means to so many people within the locker room, how much it means to myself, and how much it can impact others,” Martinez said. This Pride night is not just for out and proud athletes. It’s also for the allies, the curious, the closeted and everyone who takes pride in a part of themselves because, Yang emphasized, “it’s okay to be anything and everything all at once.”

Levy emphasized the importance of being loud with support. “When we get members to show up to a pride game, queer athletes feel supported and cared for and those are the foundations of the community we are trying to build with Athlete Ally,” Levy wrote to the News. “The prouder and louder we are, the easier queer athletes, both out and closeted, can find us, get connected with us, and feel more supported as their whole queer selves.” Martinez, Rappole, Yang and their team want to state that everyone deserves to feel proud of who they are. The team’s fundraiser for A Place to Nourish your Health is available here.

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MARIA AROZAMENA

An inside look into the upcoming Pride game for Yale Women’s Soccer, a culmination of the hard work of the team to show their support of the queer community.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Bulldogs trump Dartmouth in first Ivy League game

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

On Saturday night, the Yale Women’s Soccer team (6–3, 1–0 Ivy) etched their first conference victory in the books against Dartmouth (6–3–1, 0–1 Ivy) at Burnham Field in Hanover, New Hampshire. For the past three years, the Bulldogs have failed to defeat the Big Green, with two of those three games ending in home losses. It was their turn to give Dartmouth a taste of their own medicine. “1–0 each game has been our approach all season and this team has stayed so focused on that throughout the year,” Head Coach Sarah Martinez told Yale Athletics. “But I know this one was circled on the schedule wanting to set a tone in the Ivy League.” Quickly into the first period, Dartmouth attacked Yale goalkeeper Kyla Holmes '27. Despite pressure from the opposition, Holmes maintained the sanctity of her goal, making three saves in just the first period, keeping the Big Green at zero. Although just a sophomore, Holmes has started more games for the Bulldogs than any Yale in the roster and has been a staple for their defense. At 37:38 in the first period, Tanner Cahalan '25 scored the first goal of the game on a strike from

outside the box, assisted by Ashley Kirschner '26. This was Cahalan’s second goal of the season. The team maintained that lead going into the second period until 56:01, when Dartmouth’s Daisy Granholm pushed past Yale defenders and tied the game, 1–1. As the clock dwindled, both teams desperately fought to avoid a tie in their Ivy League opener. At 84:29, Ellie Rappole '25 raced down the far side of the field and shot the ball high over the head of the Big Green goalie, securing the game-winning goal. This was Rappole’s third goal, a total that leads the team. This marked the team’s third win in a row. Martinez told Yale Athletics how impressed she was by the way her team performed. “I am so proud of our team for this result,” she said. “The first half quality, the second half grit, and finding a way to get three points on the road is a huge accomplishment in this league.” The Bulldogs match up against the Boston University Terriers (2–6–3, 2–0–1 Patriot) on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at Reese Stadium in New Haven.

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MEN’S SOCCER: Bulldogs take down Cornell



YALE ATHLETICS

On Saturday, the men’s soccer team defeated the Big Red 1–0 in their first conference match of the season.

BY LILY BELLE POLING
STAFF REPORTER

This past weekend at Reese Stadium, the Men’s Soccer team kicked off conference play against Cornell with a final score of 1–0, in a first win in an Ivy opener since 2019. The Big Red lost for the first time this season. Midway through the second half, TJ Presthus '25, the team’s captain, capitalized on a penalty kick opportunity, securing a victory for the Bulldogs and three points in the Ivy standings. “I thought our mentality and belief coming out of the second half was excellent and felt we were on top of them for the first 30 minutes and certainly earned the goal,” Head Coach Kylie Stannard said. “As with any tight game, and especially in conference play, things get hectic in the last few minutes, but our guys stayed disciplined and found a way to get it done. That is who we can be.” The first half was a defensive battle between the two squads. Both sides only managed one shot on goal, and neither was able to secure a corner kick. The Bulldogs picked up pace in the second half, securing six corner kicks within 15 play minutes. At the 65th minute, things looked promising for

the Bulldogs when Teague McCammon '28 nearly scored a header off one of those corners. The sixth corner proved fatal for the Big Red, whose Danny Lokko was called for a handball inside the box. This gave Yale a golden opportunity with a penalty kick. Presthus blasted a shot into the top left corner, out of reach for Cornell keeper Ryan Friedberg. “Yale had a spell at the beginning of the second half where we couldn’t clear our lines from a couple of corners, and that’s ultimately where their goal came from,” John Smith, Cornell’s head coach, said to Cornell Athletics. After that, the Bulldogs locked Cornell out of securing the equalizer. Goalkeeper Chris Edwards '25 had three saves, picking up his first clean sheet of the year. Edwards wrote to the news that Saturday’s win was “huge” for the Bulldog’s season, as every game in the conference is difficult. “Overall, it was a great team performance and is something we can use to keep building,” Edwards wrote to the News. “Over the past few weeks, a lot of guys have stepped up. Right now, we’re playing solid team soccer with

everyone working hard and playing for the teammates beside them.” Monday afternoon, Presthus was recognized for his recent outstanding performances and was named the Ivy League defensive player of the week. Presthus has not only held down the Bulldogs’ back line but has also scored two game-winners in Yale’s last two contests. Presthus’ four goals this season lead the team’s tallies and account for half of his eight career goals for the Bulldogs. At the beginning of the season, he was named a “player to watch” by the United Soccer Coaches — one of 16 Division I defenders named to the list, and one of two Ivy League players. Back in August, he was also named a preseason All-American by Top Drawer Soccer. In Saturday’s contest, Yale improved to 8–0–1 against Cornell over its last nine matchups against the Big Red. The Bulldogs will next face Albertus Magnus College at home on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

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STAT OF THE WEEK

THE YALE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM IS OFF TO ITS BEST START TO A SEASON SINCE 1998.

WEEKEND

From vision to reality: The rise of Yale's MENA community



// MARIA AROZAMENA

// BY SHADY M. QUBATY

Reflecting on the transformative journey of the MENA community at Yale over the past eight years — four as a student and four as an alumnus — I am drawn back to the fall of my freshman year. Entering Yale as the first Yemeni undergraduate in its 320-year history brought a profound sense of responsibility. Representing “Arabia Felix” — the happy land of Arabia, known for millennia by its historic significance — was both an honor and a heavy burden. Many of my fellow Yemeni citizens continue to endure a dire humanitarian crisis amid the country’s prolonged conflict, which at that point deepened my resolve to shatter the stereotypes associated with our beautiful yet misunderstood region.

In September 2016, I was fueled by youthful ambition to complete the audacious goal of orchestrating an undergraduate-led Yale Conference that would eclipse even Harvard’s renowned, annually graduate-driven Arab Weekend. As a newcomer, I stood before the board of the Arab Students Association to propose this ambitious initiative during my election speech to become a first-year liaison. The room erupted in laughter; some board members viewed me as just another first-year student attempting to conquer the world. Yet, this vision was far from a mere flight of fancy — it was the first determined step toward a much greater goal. Initially met with skepticism, this idea became the catalyst for a broader movement that aimed not only to celebrate our cultural heritage but also to secure a tangible, respected space for it at Yale.

My sophomore year, I became co-president of the Arab Students Association, and as we embarked on planning what would become the inaugural Yale Arab Conference titled “‘Amalna’ - Paving the Road Ahead,” my personal stake in our community’s success deepened. I became acutely aware of the disparities in resources available to our group compared to other cultural associations. This realization cemented my commitment to propose the establishment of a MENA Cultural House at Yale — a dedicated space where our voices could be heard and our heritage celebrated.

Stepping onto the stage of the Yale College Council debate in April 2018, awareness of the MENA region around campus had grown given the massive efforts deployed in the lead-up to our conference that month, elevating expectations. More than just an appeal, my words that day were a declaration of our community’s right to recognition, resonating deeply across campus. This pivotal moment not only garnered support, but also laid the foundational stone for what would eventually lead to the establishment of the MENA Cultural Room at 305 Crown Street just a few months later.

The Yale Arab Conference in April 2018 was far more than just an event; it served as a powerful pronouncement of our community’s presence and a vibrant celebration of our heritage that underscored what we could accomplish together. The momentum from the conference propelled me to address the Yale Council of Representatives in October 2018, fervently advocating for our cause. This speech set the stage for the formation of the MENA Students Association, which championed two crucial causes: advocating for the recognition of a separate MENA racial category and establishing a MENA Cultural House.

Another related ambitious project centered on acquiring the Luther building at 27 High Street, where I resided during my senior year. Positioned strategically among three cultural houses, my vision as Founder and President of the MENA Students Association was to transform that space into what could become the MENA Cultural Center at Yale. I planned to independently raise a fund of donors to purchase the prop-

erty from Pike International, its landlord, compelling Yale to acknowledge it as our official cultural space. When I proposed this to former Dean of Yale College Marvin Chun, he responded with a shrug, seemingly overwhelmed by my relentless pursuit of MENA visibility in every interaction. I took his nonchalant gesture as tacit approval: “Proceed as you see fit; we won’t obstruct you.” The project was building momentum, on the verge of becoming a decisive transformation for MENA representation at Yale, when the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly halted our plans in March 2020.

In June 2023, I met with President Salovey at The Savoy Hotel in London during a Yale for Humanity Campaign event. Serving as a board member for both this campaign and the Yale Alumni Fund, I assertively advocated for the establishment of a cultural center, underscoring its necessity as a vital bridge for diverse thoughts and perspectives, particularly crucial amid the escalating regional tensions that preceded the climax of Oct. 7. President Salovey promised me to take decisive action before the year’s end. His commitment became public in early December, coinciding with my strategic trip to the region aimed at engaging potential donors. President Salovey’s public affirmation of Yale’s dedication to a MENA space and appointing full-time staff to enhance MENA life on campus was not just a promise but a definitive signal of Yale’s resolve to enrich its cultural landscape and acknowledge the vibrant contributions of its MENA students.

Today, as we celebrate the official recognition of MENA as a separate racial category at Yale, the unveiling of the newly renovated MENA Cultural Suite and the appointment of an associate director of the MENA Cultural Community at Yale, these milestones transcend mere achievements; they symbolize the culmination of years of relentless advocacy and concerted community effort. From no designated space to a single room at 305 Crown Street, to two rooms at the Asian American Cultural Center, and now an expansive suite back at 305 Crown Street, each step has been a stride towards our ultimate goal: the establishment of a full-fledged MENA Cultural House.

Each new experience has enriched the future of our MENA Cultural House, much like the layers of color that vivify a painting. The journey of our cultural house mirrors a vibrant shady mosaic — a dynamic work of art in progress to which we all continuously contribute, enhancing its depth and beauty with every shared experience and breakthrough.

Serving as an Alumni Chair of the MENA Students Association, I am honored to continue nurturing the seeds we initially planted. The unwavering support from our diverse community, including students, faculty, mentors, alumni, World Fellows, university administrators and New Haven neighbors, has been crucial to our progress. While we take a moment to celebrate these significant accomplishments, we recognize that our journey is far from complete.

I am immensely proud of the robust roots and flourishing branches that our community has cultivated over the years. Our narrative — from a bold vision sparked by a freshman’s ambition to a vibrant cultural movement — mirrors the growth of a sapling into a majestic oak. Similar to a mighty oak that begins as a humble acorn, the strength of our community is rooted in our unity, shared vision, and steadfast commitment to one another. Here’s to the ongoing growth of our community as we reach new heights, building upon the solid foundation we have laid together.

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WELCOME TO AMERICA... YOU'RE UNDERAGE AGAIN

// BY MARIA GONÇALVES, LAURA BINENBOJM, INEZ CHUIDIAN, MINA ASHABOGLU

Arriving in the U.S. for college comes with a whirlwind of new experiences — classes, dorm life, dining halls and, of course, parties. For many international students, nights out in America feel like stepping into a completely different world. It's not just the places or the people that are new, but the entire going out culture: from what we wear, to how we get ready, to what we carry with us. Back home, whether it's in Brazil, Portugal, the Philippines, Turkey, or wherever we're from, the night starts late, the fashion is excessive and getting ready is a ritual of glamor, chaos and excitement.

But here in the States, it's jeans instead of dresses, cramped dorm rooms instead of clubs and most importantly — no one's fussing over the details. The famous words "Let's go out tonight" stand as an uncertain invite, opening doors to the best and the worst of nights.

This is a reflection from us, four international students — Laura from Brazil, Maria from Portugal, Inez from the Philippines and Mina from Turkey — on how we navigate the differences between the nights out we are used to with the distinctly American experience of college nightlife.

Dressing up! — or down?

In Rio, getting ready for a night out feels like an event in itself. Around 11:30 p.m. my friends and I are just starting to gather at someone's house, turning it into a mini fashion hub. The music is playing, laughter fills the room and the energy is high as we pull out our carefully chosen outfits. It's always something bold — dresses that make a statement, skirts with just the right cut or cool pants that fit perfectly. Everything is stylish and a little daring!

No look is complete without accessories. We look through high-heeled boots and search for the perfect necklace, a chic pair of earrings or the right purse. Hair is a whole production, with someone straightening, someone else curling and makeup being refined. Before we head out, there's that final check: someone always shouts, "Does everyone have their ID, tickets, cash, lip gloss?" because you can't leave without those essentials.

At Yale, the scene is totally different. By 11:30 p.m. we're already out, so the frenzy begins earlier in a cramped dorm room filled with clothes piled on beds and chairs. The vibe is laid-back — jeans and a casual top are totally fine. Hair and makeup? Not as scandalous. A quick swipe of mascara and blush before we're good to go. We usually borrow tops from each other last minute and might do a quick touch-up in front of a shared and foggy dorm mirror.

All you need for a night out here is your dorm key, Yale ID and maybe your phone — right? But just in case, Yale Secure or your FroCo are always a call away — though you might want to avoid that! Sure, American night outs may feel worlds apart from Rio's glamorous vibes, but there's a certain charm to both get-ready rituals.

—Laura Binenbojm, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Music and dancing

It struck me when I walked into my first college party and saw everyone around me standing and talking. Back home, in the darkness of the Manila evening, it is rare to see a body that isn't consumed by music. I would routinely look at my friends with wide eyes on nights out; as the opening beats of our favorite songs played,

we assumed our positions on the dancefloor like clockwork. Holding hands, colliding and twirling under each other's arms — if you weren't on the dancefloor, you weren't at the party.

But, the drumbeats of house music back home recede in my ears as I sing "Party in the USA" with my suitemates. I forget my choreographed dance numbers from home as I raise my arm to awkwardly "frat flick" with those around me. We pause mid conversation to shout song lyrics to each other. The conversation continues. The atmosphere of Philippine and American gatherings each hold a unique sense of inti-

listening to us; looking outside the window, and seeing the sun steadily rise... there is no comparison. My friends and I open the door of the chosen home of the night and tiptoe our way into the kitchen for a late-night — or rather, early-morning — snack to mark the official end of an amazing night.

I now find myself walking "home" from GHeav carrying an overpriced — but worth it — Ben and Jerry's, to mark the official end of an — amazing? — night. Everything is a "5 minute walk" distance. And, although I appreciate the convenience, I miss standing outside of

At Yale, the morning debrief feels completely different. My personal favorite is Sunday brunch at Slifka, where the bagels hit the spot. I meet up with my friends, tired but ready to recap the night before.

But the biggest difference is that here, there's always an added tension — you never know who might show up. One minute, you're laughing over something ridiculous that happened, and the next, the person you were just talking about is right there, standing in line behind you. There's that frantic glance exchanged between friends, and a silent agreement to keep the debrief light, just in case.

Yet after brunch, reality kicks in. We gather our things and head to Bass, because as much as we'd love to continue rehashing the night, Yale isn't going to let us off that easy — we have to lock in!

—Laura Binenbojm, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Universal Pregame Experience

The feeling you get when you're with your closest friends, listening to music, feeling good about yourselves and excited for the rest of your thrilling night is one that I think transcends different cities, countries and even continents! Coming to college, I was nervous about meeting new people, parting ways with my friends that I had known my whole childhood. Would I fit in? Would I find groups I click with?

All these questions rushed through my mind as I stepped onto campus for the first time and began — what seemed like hundreds of — small talk conversations introducing myself to new people. To my blissful surprise, I soon met a group of friends who invited me to come over to their suite before going out on our first college adventure. I was relieved to hear that they too were experiencing the same shock I was as international adjusting to a whole new world far from home. Seeing people with different dress, routines, and music preferences all felt very new. I started to realize that this feeling was the experience of just about every other international I met. Sitting in the common room of my new friends, for the first time my sense of belonging quickly grew.

The more we talked, the more I realized how we had the same taste in clothes, music, activities and overall the same understanding of fun. Maybe everything wasn't that different? Maybe it was all the same experiences but in new ways? Hanging out making game plans for the rest of our night, getting ready, listening to music and of course gossiping about our endless new stories, I began to see the most fun part of my college experience. As we completed our finishing touches and decided to head out for our first night out, I got the very familiar exciting feeling, knowing that I found the people who make a whole new world feel familiar to me.

—Mina Ashaboglu, Istanbul, Turkey

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// LUCY KOERNER

macy, whether this be through shaking your hips on the dance floor, or getting to know the boy across the hall. While my friends back home would go hours into the night without saying a word to each other — a simple smile across the dancefloor would suffice — my friends here at Yale find themselves in the most engaging of conversations with people they have just met. There's an unspoken intimacy within these conversations, a yearning to connect with those around us.

Perhaps while we go out to be seen in Manila, we go out to be heard in college.

—Inez Chuidian, Manila, Philippines

Going Back "Home"

In Lisbon, the hours of pure fun I just had make me momentarily forget how cold the wind is and how my makeup is not nearly as pristine as it was after dinner. What seems like a great night's end is the beginning of a new — and I dare say better — adventure: Ubering back home.

Although sometimes a party Uber is appreciated — who doesn't love some good house music and disco lights in a car to keep the party going — my favorite rides are the reflective ones. My friends and I, all squished into the recommended "4-person" vehicle, recap our questionable decisions and unexpected encounters. Laughing at everything, because everything is hilarious during the Uber ride back home; being vulnerable with my best friends pretending there isn't a literal stranger

the club as someone requests the Uber; walking around aimlessly waiting for a driver to accept us; laughing and talking the whole ride; and discovering the ever-surprising next-day Uber ratings.

—Maria Gonçalves, Lisbon, Portugal

The Morning Debrief

In Rio, the night rarely ends when the music stops. Sometimes, after hours on the dance floor, my friends and I will head straight to a brunch spot, still in last night's outfits and smudged makeup.

The debrief begins as soon as we sit down, plates of "pão de queijo," or cheese bread, in front of us. We rehash every detail of the night — who said what, the wild moments, the random encounters. The city's just starting to wake up, and here we are, sitting in a bright café, while the sun rises around us.

Other times, if we're too tired, the debrief happens later in the afternoon after a much needed sleep-in. FaceTime calls happen from our own beds, piecing together the night's events. Since Rio is chaotic, we're often scattered across the city, and unless you're lucky enough to have a best friend as a neighbor — which, by chance, I did — seeing each other right away isn't always possible.

But on perfect mornings, after a few hours of sleep, we'll all head to the Rio beach. There's nothing like sinking your feet into the sand, feeling the sun on you, and letting the waves wash away the exhaustion from the night before.

Applying to Yale in the most competitive application year in history: a reflection.

// BY REETI MALHOTRA

"1 month until the Single-Choice Early Action deadline!"

The post glares at me from my screen, the little stars at the corners of the graphic twinkling with glee. I still follow the Yale Admissions Instagram account, though I'm not exactly sure why. Perhaps it's a latent trauma-based attachment bond or a strange form of Stockholm syndrome. Or maybe it was never something so serious.

The entire admissions process feels like a dream, rather a hazy nightmare that I've long moved past. It exists in a box locked away in my mind. After all, I'm here now. What does it matter how I got here, or what the process was like?

Yet, as the endless procession of eager, wide-eyed high school seniors pass me in my glorious two-day-old midterm outfit in Silliman's courtyard, I am impelled to reflect upon how incomprehensible it is that I made it here.

After all, a year ago today, I was one of them. I was in the same ugly sweatpants, except losing sleep over my impending IB exams and college applications, rather than my ECON 115 midterm.

A year ago today, I felt the weight of the world bearing down on my shoulders as I attempted to navigate the next phase of my life, the questions of my future swirling in my head. Where would I end up? How do I make myself palatable to colleges? How could I make my parents proud?

It would have been unfathomable that I would eventually be able to proclaim that I was one of the 3.7 percent admitted for the Yale Class of 2028. In fact, it still is unfathomable to say aloud.

So, as application season rolls around again, maybe it is indeed time to think back: what was the process of applying for the Class of 2028 like?

The first word that comes to mind is hard. The 2028 admissions cycle was akin to getting dealt the worst possible hand in what felt like the most consequential poker game of your life. You were responsible for fighting for your future amidst an endlessly-shifting array of circumstances.

The overturning of affirmative action, for one, spurred a new series of supplementary essay questions that required extensive introspection. Though you couldn't be asked about race, every application seemed to be prompting the same question: how has your community and identity shaped your experiences? As an international student forever perplexed by her cultural identities, navigating these questions proved to be a Sisyphean feat. How could I possibly deliver a valuable reflection on my life in less than 400 words, when I had hardly processed it myself?

Eccentric essay prompts designed to identify my manner of thinking and personality posed similar challenges. The words of an admissions officer who visited my school echoed in my mind constantly

while I attempted to showcase the intricacies of my personhood in 35-word prompts: "If you don't have a personality in your responses, I just think, why did you even bother applying?"

Nevertheless, it was not the essays alone that caused my heart to race as it did through the admissions process. Holistic applications, too, resulted in an acute dilemma of feeling I needed to be the best I could in every aspect of my life with limited margin for error. I needed to prove myself worthy of investment by a university. As I juggled 1,001 activities, racing from meeting to meeting and skipping meals in between, I hoped that my passion and ambition — outlaid in boxes of 150 characters — would be acknowledged and enough.

And perhaps most daunting of all: the academic elephant in the room. Though I applied test-optional, I was not exempt from the ever-so-familiar test anxiety that pervaded my high school experience. The onslaught of my IB exams left my chest tight and pupils constantly dilated in a state of fight-or-flight. Every exam felt like do-or-die. Both my mocks — which would yield the predicted score that I would apply to colleges with — and my finals — which would determine if said colleges still saw me fit to go here — could radically change my outcomes.

More so, as a Singaporean international student, my peers' frequent excellence

was not lost on me. How could I possibly measure up, when my counterpart at one of the most prestigious schools in the country was scoring the same as I was, whilst also committed to the same plethora of extracurriculars? And likewise — how would I compare to the thousands of other international and domestic students applying from various unique and brilliant contexts? How could I prove myself to be "special" enough to be considered a prospective student?

In the 2028 admissions cycle, there was no room for anything less than perfection.

But perhaps this is true of every cycle, and any admissions process where one is fighting for a place at some of the most selective universities in the world.

The only solace that I may offer any overzealous high schooler potentially reading this article: when you wind up — hopefully — where you are meant to be, the memory of this harrowing process will dissipate just as quickly as it came. You will no longer think of hours spent pouring over your essays or activities boxes, proofreading and tweaking until your eyes seem to cross over. You will only think of how fortunate you are, how grateful, to be where you are now, because ultimately, it was worth it.

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MY YALE PEOPLE

// BY MARIA AROZAMENA

We landed in the same FroCo group. A few days later, the same FOCUS group. As I dragged myself up to the fifth floor of Vandy and witnessed a familiar figure scurry to a room in the same entryway, I felt an inkling: the universe wanted — no, not wanted, needed — us to be friends.

Two and half years, 15 grave “misunderstandings,” three soul-crushing delusions and one pseudo-priest boyfriend later, Alastair remains one of my closest friends at Yale. I wonder how I was lucky enough to meet him. I didn’t really have to go searching, after all.

But how do you find your Yale people, especially since — more often than not — they don’t spawn right in front of you?

In the vastness that is the Yale social scene, you encounter all sorts of figures. From your seasoned theater kid rushing a cappella to CS major by day, Sig Nu man by night to living, breathing encyclopedias of Egyptian hieroglyphics and fifteenth century lore, every genre of person imaginable seems confined within the gates of Old Campus. Yet this diversity often overwhelms and obscures the ways of navigating the social scene here. At least it did for me.

As I wavered through the inevitable frat phase and endless mixers of my first semester, I found myself relying on categories to split up the kinds of people I’d met that day. Every “what’s your name, what are you majoring in, where are you from” turned into a systematic basis for how I understood people: New York kids, STEM baddies, Econ majors, the ones who already knew they wanted to go into consulting — see: “sellout.” In order to try to find where I stood in this new social stratification, I even tried to apply these categories to myself, trying on new personas to see where I fit in best. I even cosplayed as DS for a whole semes-

ter before realizing I did not, in fact, enjoy classics besides the Greek gods in “Percy Jackson.”

I thought that through identifying with others around me I would be able to find my “niche” and fit in. With the heavy-laden anxiety of a first year watching the world spin in a chaotic attempt to navigate friendships, I watched others slip in and out of friend groups like a wet water balloon. Wait, throw me a bone, imagine trying to hold on to a wet water balloon for longer than a few seconds — you can’t.

It was only through a few spontaneous — misguided, even — sequences of events that I would begin to find the people I consider my best friends today. It was in the pre-

frish summer orientation program ONEXYS, intended for students looking to get a sense of what math classes at Yale were like, that I would meet the grounding presence of my time at Yale. Through sheer fate and a dash of the delusion that I wanted to be a STEM major, I met Catalina.

Through Catalina, I met Hannah. Through Hannah, I met Abby, and through Abby, I met Caroline. A conveyor belt of friendship that magnetized us; an aura of comfort and tenderness that stabilized my Yale experience. Through our pajama and PowerPoint parties, “Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” movie

have you as a friend!” holds testament to the foundations of our friendship in Math 115. By Halloween, I had met Emme’s suitemates Maggie and Zahra and their friend Sam, who would grow to be my best friend, fellow Pitbull enthusiast and the roommate I know and love today.

I like to believe that the universe has batches of surprises, often in the form of friendships from the unexpected. Unexpected meetings, unexpected crossings with that person who introduced you to her suitemate, who then brought her boyfriend and his friend over, and you thought the friend was super sweet and

now you hang out every night. Who would’ve thought?

But alas, we do have free will. And friendship, I’ve come to realize, is not merely about the unexpected. In fact, you often have to make space for it — because without expecting it, without allowing yourself to soak in your time with others and make it a part of your routine, you end up missing out.

I love my Yale people, the nooks of comfort from close friends and the warm feeling of coming home to a suite full of your best friends munching on late-night Taco Bell. But my most joyful times at Yale have come not only in these late nights, but also in the meal I finally grabbed with that one person from a seminar first year and in the giddy hellos I wave to my old PL. My Yale people are not just the best friends I’d love to claim as my own for forever, but they’re the new friends who make me wonder how I could have gone a whole two years without them. They’re the characters who skipped a season or two and are only now leaving their mark on the show: catch-up meals and get-to-know-you coffees. They’re the familiar faces I walk past every day, passing smiles in the autumn breeze.

If you ask a student what their favorite thing about Yale is, most will tell you that it’s “the people.” I never knew what this meant until I celebrated my 21st birthday surrounded by a crowd of smiling faces in bald caps and “Mamma Mía” outfits in the low blue lighting of my suite. Living with my favorite people, loved by my favorite friends, watching my favorite faces dance and jive, having the time of their lives.

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// MARIA AROZAMENA

THE WORK HARD, PLAY HARD IMBALANCE

// BY ANDREW DEMAR

“Isn’t your Econ midterm on Monday?”

“Yeah, and what about it?”

Yale practically invented the econ-finance bro grind — where everyone’s doing everything, all at once. But when Thursday hits 10:30 p.m., the go go go academic hustle dissipates at the pre. At Yale, no matter what, there are plans every weekend.

A Thursday-Friday-Saturday marathon of parties might sound insane to the outside world, but at Yale, it’s a carefully honed art form. Especially if you’re an athlete who can get the quickest Dean’s Extension because “practice is interfering” with that deadline for the paper you haven’t started. The weekday is for curling up in bed pretending you’re “reading.” And the weekend? That’s for running the streets like the world’s most overqualified marathoner.

In all seriousness, Yale makes it far too

easy to bounce back from the weekend’s carnage. Who cares if your last-minute assignment was co-authored between you and ChatGPT? When 78.9 percent of us are cruising on an A or A- (love you, grade inflation!), we’re living proof that inflated grades pair perfectly with the inflated egos Yale has us primed for.

Being at Yale is an odd paradox: you put in just enough effort to convince yourself you’re working, and yet the payoff is enormous — pretentious partying with the side of a degree that will forever convince strangers you are far smarter and capable than you actually are.

And when the night finally winds down, GHeav’s is right there to nurse your regrets with a bacon, egg and cheese sandwich so greasy it’ll clog your arteries and your shame. By morning, when the hangxiety kicks in, you’ll be hunched over in the back corner of Atticus, whispering the night’s confessions to friends

over overpriced lattes. It’s a ritual — cleanse your soul, ready your liver, and prep for Round 2 (or 3, depending on how many parties bounced around) that night.

It doesn’t matter if midterms are around the corner or the weather outside feels like New Haven’s freezing over — there’s always a function. Mysteriously, every house on campus is hosting, even when you’re scrambling at 10 p.m., convinced that you’ll be stuck in your suite forever.

Although we can’t “balance” it all, shame creeps in on those rare nights you choose to stay in. You tell yourself you’re being responsible, catching up on work, yet all you can think about is the FOMO gnawing at you. The quiet noise in your room, which was meant to bring you peace now becomes unbearable. The weekend’s endless clamor feels like it’s mocking you, and for a brief moment, the Yale hustle catches up — not because

you’re overwhelmed by it, but because you’re missing it. Then comes that inevitable moment when schoolwork sneaks up on you like a delayed hangover. You’ve dodged deadlines long enough with half-baked excuses and lucky breaks, but now the work piles up faster than you can push it aside. And still, there’s always that voice in your head: “Isn’t everyone else out right now?” So the cycle repeats: you run to catch up just in time, driving back into the grind, knowing full well that by Thursday night, it’ll all start again.

In true Yale spirit, work hard and party even harder — there’s always time to recover because if there’s one thing this place teaches you, it’s that you can absolutely take the whole week off to recuperate, finding shortcuts and excuses no matter what.

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// LIU ALANA

WEEKEND *HOROSCOPES*

Libra Season

// BY KIVA BANK

Looking for an excuse to overanalyze your existence? Look no further. As of Sept. 22nd, it's officially Libra season — which means it's time to embrace harmony as the scales swing your life back into balance.

During this period, you'll need to reassess your priorities and your relationships, especially after midterms. Mercury isn't currently in retrograde so you can't blame your failed exam on its wacky orbit. It's entirely your fault that you procrastinated and ended up cramming at Bass until 2 AM.

Here's your WKND horoscope based on your sun sign — aka the only sign that matters. You're a Yale student, which means there is absolutely no depth to your personality. None of that ascendent or moon sign crap counts.

This is what the stars have in store for you:

Aries

Life has been hectic for you and lately, you've been skipping the gym. Maybe take a step back and channel your abundant energy into your workout routine rather than beer-chugging contests.

Taurus

I'm not sure why you're still reading this article. You don't believe in this stuff, so stop wasting your time and go read something more productive. Perhaps the George Orwell novel you've been avoiding?

Gemini

You are in your peaceful era and you hate it, but now is not the time to start drama. Your GCal is booked this semester, so you need to work through your commitment issues and follow through on your plans.

Cancer

You've been neglecting self-care, and you should treat yourself to a spa night with your friends in your dorm. Try to make it an authentic Yale experience by incorporating blue face masks and using olive oil to moisturize.

Virgo

You've meticulously planned every minute of this month. Just make sure to actually complete your New England fall bucket list this year. Visit a pumpkin patch so you can post about it on Instagram like a true Gilmore girl.

Libra

This is your time to shine. Your birthday is right around the corner! Take the chance to celebrate all month long and go out with your friends as much as possible. With Venus in your favor, you might get lucky in love. Just don't look at your bank account.

Scorpio

After putting on a facade for your parents last weekend, you're ready to party. Embrace the real you and start building up your stamina for Halloweekend.

Sagittarius

You may think the frat flick is a form of flirting, but don't fall for it and abandon your friend at a party for the sake of a hookup. It won't work out anyway, so focus on saving your friendship instead.

Capricorn

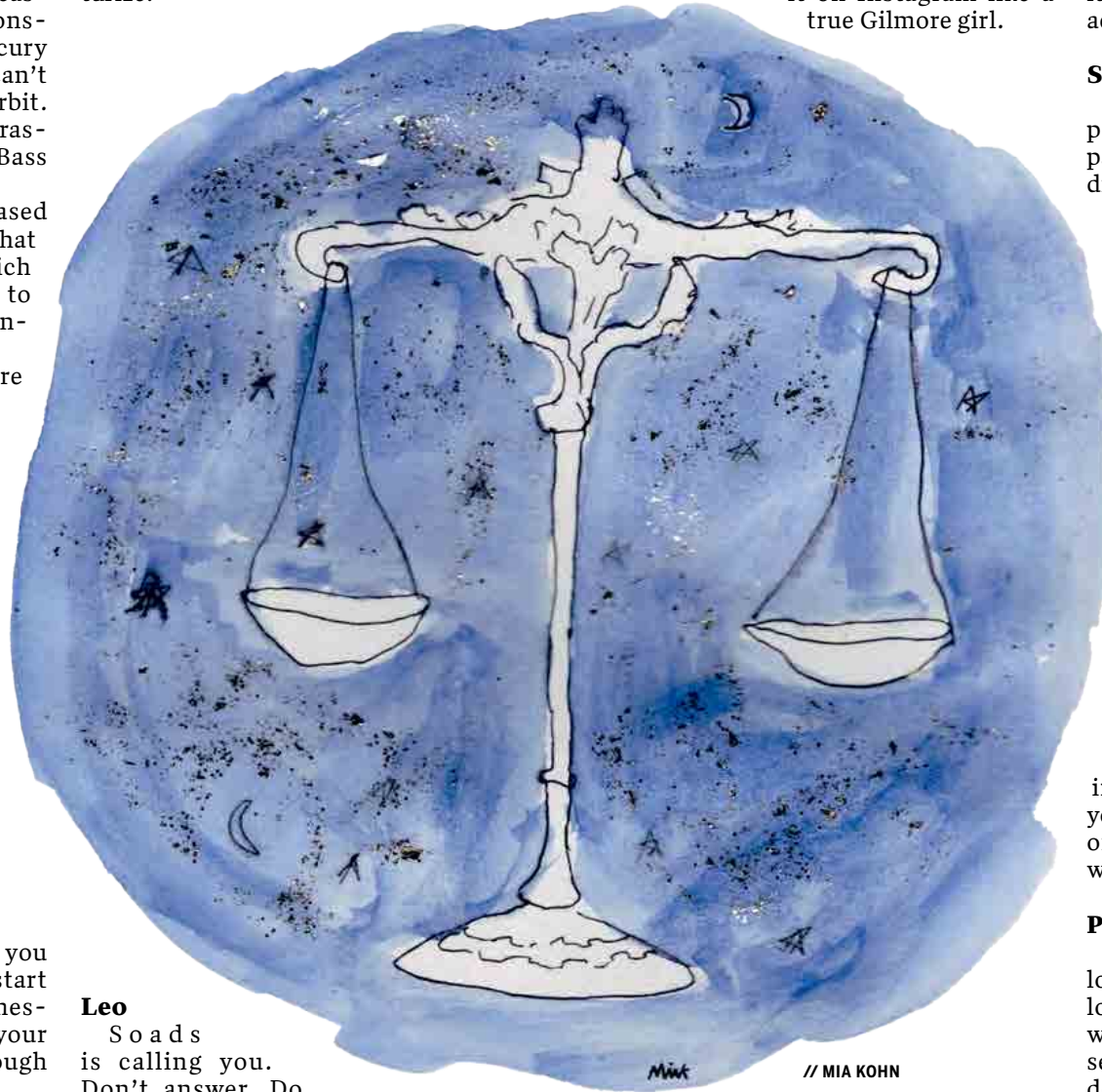
After failing to get into a consulting group, you've probably been a little down lately and not feeling like yourself. Instead of hiding away, try to reconnect with your suitmates. They miss when you had a personality.

Aquarius

Ghosts are lurking everywhere this month, but try not to become one and instead start responding to the emails you've been ignoring. You're missing out on important opportunities and timely warnings from Anthony Campbell.

Pisces

You came here for love, but now you're losing hope. That's because you've been looking for "the one" at frat parties. You won't find them there, but your Econ section may yield better prospects. Stay delusional babes.

**Leo**

So ads is calling you. Don't answer. Do yourself and everyone around you a favor by staying in this weekend and focusing on self-improvement.

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GREEN-A-TO-TO AND BRINGING PREDICTABILITY TO CAMPUS

// BY KATE SOO HYUN KIM

After long days downtown on Old Campus I always appreciate my bedroom in Pauli Murray, a cozy sanctuary in the suburbs of Schem Street. After a 9 a.m. class followed by back-to-back lectures that steal away my lunch, and an average of 20,000 steps per day, falling back into the sky blue comforter and Amazon mattress pad feels like drifting on a cloud.

Among the many throw pillows my mom packed is my beloved Green-a-To-To, with his name proudly stitched on his green cotton coat. The pillow-shaped cat was a worthy purchase from the streets of Namdaemun, Korea in 2021. After successfully haggling, my mom presented my sister and I with one blue and one green matching Green-a-To-Tos. When I returned to the States, he got a prime spot on my mountain of stuffed animals, much to the shagrin of my sister, who I shared a bed with.

As a decently sized pillow, Green-a-To-To is as functional as he is cute. Throughout high school, he carried me through a bout of pneumonia, a rainy camping trip in Cape Cod and — of course — the college application process.

So, when I hastily packed for Yale, a day after I got back from a summer trip to South Korea, Green-a-To-To seemed like the most practical choice: a pillow that's also a stuffed animal, a two-in-one.

I was correct, but beyond how I previously understood his functionality. When I return to my dorm, covered in dust from the stacks or chalk from Phelps Hall, his closed-eyed, sleepy smile greets me with a familiar embrace; my Green-a-To-To is a piece of home I can tangibly cling to, a comforting respite from overwhelming college life.

When I asked my friends if they brought a stuffed animal, many of them said yes! A friend interes-



ted in marine biology proudly presents her octopus, another friend gushes over her love of pigs.

For the few who didn't pack a stuffed animal, a new group goal has supplied them with their own little friend. Whales of Yale, an Instagram account that holds a scavenger hunt for crochet whales hidden on campus, may have started posting a little over a week ago, but my FOOT group has made it our mission for all of us to get one. So far, we've gotten seven out of the eight whales. Some of us still haven't gotten a whale, so watch out Yale! These whale watchers aren't done yet.

There are few "practical" reasons to bring a stuffed animal. For those traveling more than four

hours by car, you might have thought to utilize the space with more functional items: perhaps a desk fan — God knows you need it — or more command hooks — because why are they the most useful thing ever? For the students traveling by plane, you might have even laughed at the idea of filling your precious luggage space with a fluffy friend.

But for college students, a small item of luxury cannot be underestimated.

For the next few months, you'll be one of the "locked-in," headphone-wearing students in the ever-crowded Starr Memorial Library — or if you really hate yourself, holed up in Bass with a Vitamin D deficiency.

You'll crack jokes about how the "Ivy League school is really Ivy League-ing" and maybe hit up the occasional Woods to feel something other than the clangor of silence in the Gilmore Music Library.

You'll forget your umbrella the day it rains, because New Haven weather is so predictably unpredictable, and bomb a test you were so sure you fully prepared for.

For the next few months, a small slice of comfort can feed you until tomorrow. And the day after, and the day after that, and on and on and on.

Whether it's a crusty little bunny you've had since you were a baby, or the 20th Squishmellow that you just had to get, your stuffed animal is a familiar friend that asks you for nothing more than a warm embrace and a memorable-yet-probably-not-very-creative name.

And although it's a little silly, or maybe I'm just at a level of whimsy you cannot comprehend, I like to think they wait for us too.

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WKND Recommends

Apples and honey!