



# SALOVEY CONDEMNS HAMAS

University President Peter Salovey took a more forceful stance than presidents of peer institutions, including the seven other members of the Ivy League.

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**Oct. 11** — In light of the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza, University President Peter Salovey released a Tuesday statement, titled “War in the Middle East,” condemning the militant group Hamas’s attacks on civilians in Israel. Salovey’s statement comes amid a week of mourning and protest at Yale and in the Greater New Haven community. The recent violence has resulted in over 1,900 deaths on both sides as of Tuesday night, according to the Associated Press.

In his statement, Salovey referred to the rising death toll in Israel and to the more than 150 hostages whose fate is “still unknown.” His statement joins a flood of remarks from other college and university presidents, including the other seven Ivy League institutions. “As a member of the Yale community, I am compelled by our shared sense of humanity to condemn the attacks on civilians by Hamas in the strongest possible terms,” Salovey wrote in his statement to the University. “I am shocked and anguished by the loss of life and the pain and suffering of so many. All of us fear for the future, and this

is devastation that directly affects so many within our community.” Of the eight Ivy League presidents, only statements from the presidents of Yale, Harvard and Cornell explicitly denounced the actions of Hamas in Israel. Cornell president Martha E. Pollack issued two statements on Tuesday; her condemnation of Hamas came only in her follow-up statement later in the day. Harvard University leadership released a joint statement on Monday after facing criticism.

SEE CONDEMNATION PAGE 5

## Slifka cancels Simchat Torah celebration

BY KAITLYN POHLY  
STAFF REPORTER

**Oct. 9** — After news broke of Hamas’s surprise attack against Israel on Saturday, Yale’s Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life canceled its long-standing preparations for Simchat Torah, a holiday celebrating the conclusion of yearly public Torah readings and the last of the Jewish High Holidays. In response to the attack, the Israeli government launched a series of airstrikes and formally declared war against Hamas, the Islamist militant group that controls the Gaza Strip. As of Sunday night, at least 700 people have reportedly been killed in Israel and more than 400

in Gaza. Hamas has also taken dozens of Israeli hostages, according to the Associated Press. “In light of the extraordinary, ongoing tragedy in Israel, the Hillel Student Board, in consultation with the rabbis, staff, and students at the Slifka Center, decided that a reflective communal event was the best way for our community to mark Simchat Torah, what is supposed to be one of the most joyous Jewish holidays of the year,” Lia Solomon ’24 and Hannah Edelstein ’24, co-presidents of the Hillel Student Board, wrote to the News alongside Mitchell Dubin ’25, the board’s Shabbat and Holidays chair.

SEE SLIFKA PAGE 4



A formal declaration of war between Israel and militant group Hamas has pushed students and University groups to reflect on and respond to the conflict. / Skakel McCooney, Senior Photographer

## Protesters rally for Palestine



On Indigenous People’s Day, the protesters supporting Palestine related their struggle to a global movement against colonialism. / Maggie Grether, Contributing Photographer

BY MAGGIE GREETHER, LAURA OSPINA AND YURII STASIUK  
STAFF REPORTERS

**Oct. 10** — Over 100 protestors rallied in front of City Hall Monday afternoon to support Palestinian resistance. The rally-goers were met by a smaller but lively protest by supporters of Israel. Conflict between the two groups caused New Haven Police to erect barricades separating the protestors half an hour into the rallies. The rally to support Palestine was organized by the Connecticut chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, in collaboration with Yalies4Palestine, Semilla Collective and Unidad Latina en Acción.

According to Jacey Long, an organizer with CT DSA, the rally had been planned before the militant group Hamas launched a surprise attack against Israel over the weekend, to coincide with Indigenous People’s Day. “This is a fight that all colonized people globally are facing,” Yasmin Bergemann ’24, president of Yalies4Palestine told the News. “We have to continue fighting back, stand with each other and uplift the resistance of Palestinians in Gaza right now.”

As the rally began, protestors on the

SEE RALLY PAGE 4

## Community mourns violence against Israel

BY KAITLYN POHLY AND YURII STASIUK  
STAFF REPORTERS

**Oct. 10** — Members of the Yale and New Haven communities gathered Monday night in two separate vigils to mourn the recent violence that has engulfed Israel. One vigil took place at the Women’s Table on Cross Campus and another at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven in Woodbridge, Conn. As of Monday evening, at least 1,600 Israelis and Palestinians have been killed as war in the Gaza Strip and surrounding region continues. “This war is impacting the Yale community deeply and personally,” Executive Director of the Slifka Center Uri Cohen said to a crowd of around 400 amassed outside Sterling Memorial Library. “Israeli and non-Israeli, it seems that almost every Jewish Yalie is at most one step from a devastating personal loss amongst the widespread death that has already occurred.” Cohen also said a significant number of Jewish Yale students have loved ones

involved in the Israeli army or being held as hostages. At a Woodbridge gathering attended by Gov. Ned Lamont, Sen. Richard Blumenthal and New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, Jewish leaders mourned the violence and called for support of Israel, both from the United States government and members of the New Haven community. **Outpouring of grief at the Women’s Table** The Yale community has struggled to reckon with the events in Israel and the Gaza Strip over the past three days. This weekend, the Slifka Center held a community meeting for students to reflect and come together in place of the annual Simchat Torah run. Late Sunday evening, Rabbi Jason Rubenstein sent an email addressed to Yale’s Jewish community sharing resources for students and announcing a candlelight vigil on Monday at 8 p.m.

SEE MOURNING PAGE 5

## Petition to oust pro-Palestine professor gains 25,000 signatures

BY BEN RAAB AND KAITLYN POHLY  
STAFF REPORTERS

**Oct. 12** — A Tuesday petition calling for Yale to fire professor Zareena Grewal has amassed over 25,000 signatures. The petition, titled “Remove Zareena Grewal from the Yale Faculty for Promoting LIES and VIOLENCE,” cites a series of tweets by Grewal about the war in Israel and Gaza. At the top of the petition is a screenshot of a tweet that Grewal posted the morning of Saturday, Oct. 7, following militant group Hamas’s surprise attack on Israel and subsequent retaliatory airstrikes on Gaza. “My heart is in my throat,” the tweet reads. “Prayers for Palestinians. Israel is a murderous, genocidal settler state and Palestinians have every right to resist through armed struggle, solidarity #FreePalestine.”

By 10 p.m., approximately one hour after author Netanel Crispe ’25 posted the petition to change.org, it reached 1,000 signatures; the original signature goal was 500. The signature count had increased to 10,000 by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11, roughly 13 hours after the petition launched. “Freedom of Speech cannot be abused,” the petition begins. “And when one is in a position of authority and power, they must be held responsible for that speech. Speech that promotes, advocates, or supports violence, murder, or terrorism cannot and should never be tolerated.” Grewal — who is a professor of American Studies, of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration and of Religious Studies — did not respond

SEE PETITION PAGE 6

<p><b>CROSS CAMPUS</b></p> <p>THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1981. Atticus Bookstore opens an in-store cafe, becoming the first bookstore in Connecticut to do so.</p>	<p><b>INSIDE THE NEWS</b></p> <p>Seven plaintiffs sue Yale fertility clinic over alleged drug diversion, patient neglect</p> <p>PAGE 7 SCITECH</p>	<p>PAGE 3 OPINION</p> <p>PAGE 6 NEWS</p> <p>PAGE 7 SCITECH</p> <p>PAGE 10 SPORTS</p> <p>PAGE 13 WKND</p>	<p><b>ENDOWMENT</b> The Yale endowment grows 1.8 percent for 2023.</p> <p>PAGE 11 NEWS</p> <p><b>VOLUNTEERS</b> Volunteers lay foundations for six tiny homes to serve unhoused New Haveners.</p> <p>PAGE 9 NEWS</p>
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# BULLETIN BOARD

## Lost In Elm City

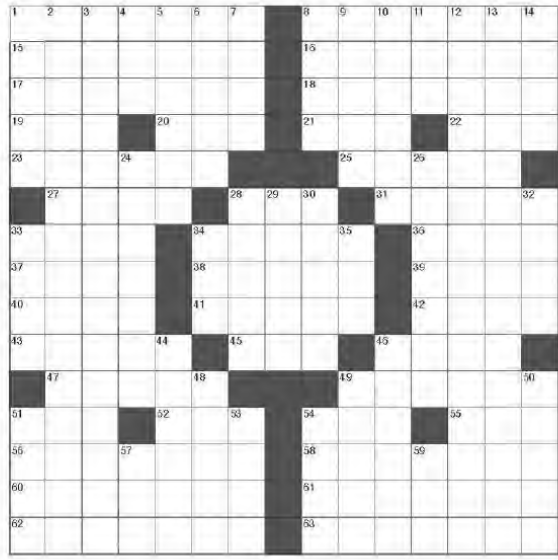
By Adam Winograd

### ACROSS

- 1 Drinks
- 8 Boycott
- 15 City in Alberta with a Scottish namesake
- 16 Ё, to Bulgarians
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ und Isolde
- 18 Cretan princess, daughter to King Minos
- 19 Mornings, for short
- 20 Available w/o prescription
- 21 Remaining
- 22 Mode of public transportation
- 23 Male Ibero-American
- 25 Shiba Inu, per internet lingo
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_ flare
- 28 With 34- and 41-across, central square of the "Nine Square Plan"
- 31 Resultant unified pantheon of the Esir-Vanir War
- 33 Combats
- 34 See 28-across
- 36 Nitrogenous excretion in urine
- 37 Second dropdown menu, often
- 38 Garlic mayonnaise
- 39 Costae, familiarly
- 40 One-hundredth of a Samoan tala
- 41 See 28-across
- 42 Vegetarian no-no
- 43 Ancient Roman getups
- 45 Caboose

### DOWN

- 1 Middle phase of a seizure
- 2 Bitter citrus thought to be a cross between a pomelo and mandarin
- 3 Mustard gas, for one
- 4 Apps for pics
- 5 Conductors' instruments
- 6 Ott-invoked Nereid whose name translates to "desired"
- 7 Match up
- 8 Pep
- 9 One-named Welsh singer-songwriter
- 10 Englishman
- 11 Ottoman commander, or a solid iron cooktop
- 12 Sambucus racemosa or pubens
- 13 Mexican spurge
- 14 Miner's hauls
- 24 Rather
- 26 Foodie
- 28 Currency of Nigeria
- 29 Sounds of Bacchic frenzy
- 30 Slavic Paganist deity of cattle and the underworld
- 32 Fitting direction which, even if the puzzle's design is deciphered, surprisingly still does not quite point in the direction of its "Rock"
- 33 Fitting direction which, even if the puzzle's design is deciphered, surprisingly still does not quite point in the direction of its "Rock"
- 34 Witch
- 35 With a domain extension and scat, the beginning of a fool?
- 44 Mark Twain's generic domain
- 46 Male household feline
- 48 Eldest daughter of Bruce and Demi, \_\_\_\_\_ Willis
- 49 Fracas
- 50 Disreputable
- 51 Work incessantly
- 53 Rxs
- 54 Vestments
- 57 Rug rat
- 59 Common nest egg



# ISAAC JULIEN

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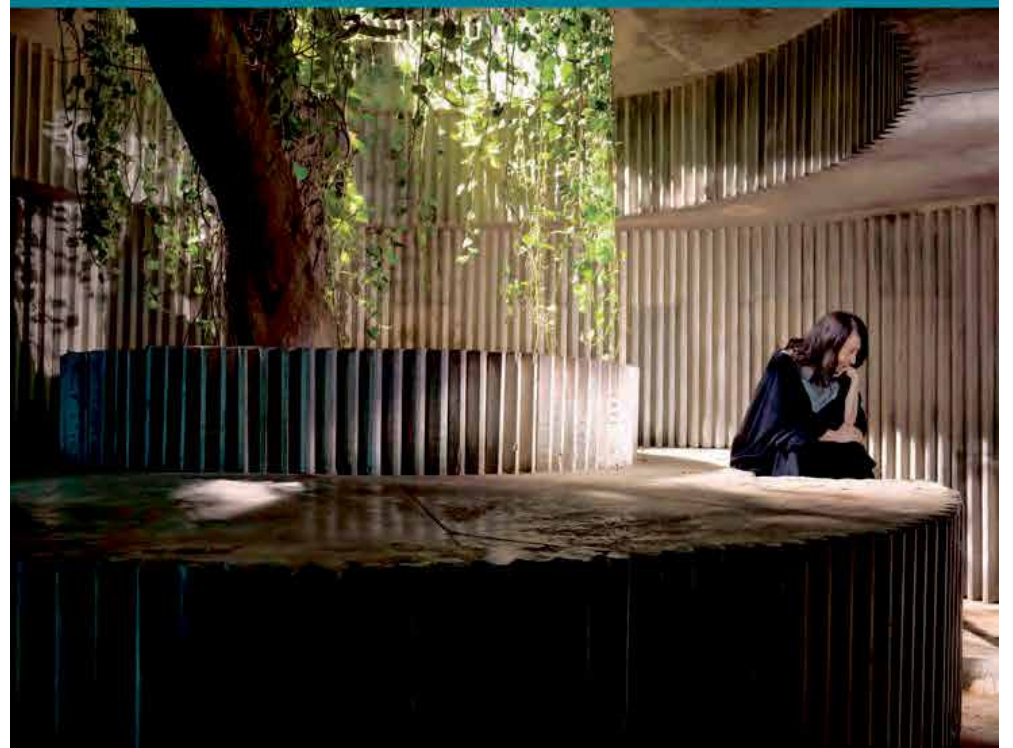
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Isaac Julien, *Soluções inventadas / Solutions Invented*, 2019. Image courtesy Isaac Julien; Victoria Miro, London; and Jessica Silverman, San Francisco. © Isaac Julien



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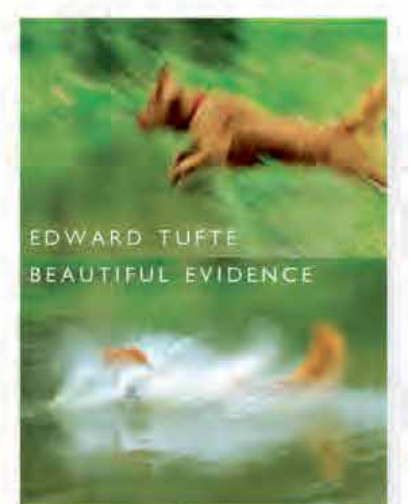
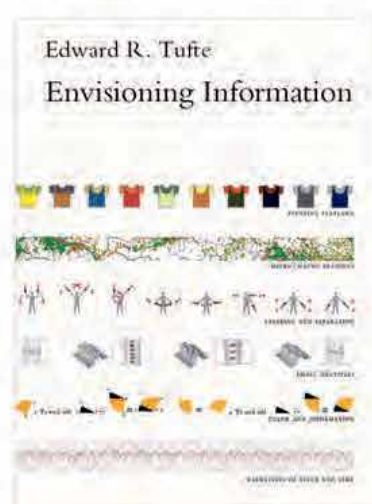
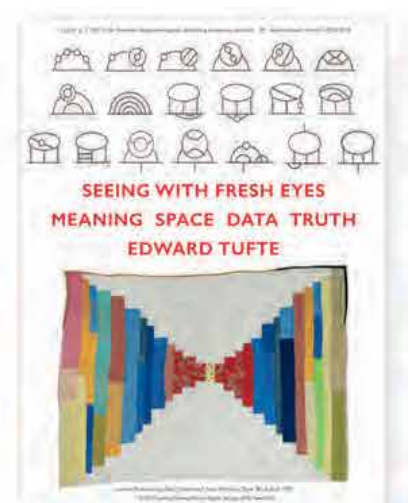
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# FROM THE FRONT

## Slifka cancels Simchat Torah celebration in response to ongoing violence

SLIFKA FROM PAGE 1, OCT. 9

In place of its planned Simchat Torah “Torah Run” — which has historically been a way for Yale’s Jewish community to celebrate with laughter, dance and music — the community came together on Saturday to discuss the weekend’s events.

Two Slifka Center rabbis, Jason Rubenstein and Alex Ozar GRD ’22, led the conversation.

“What should have been a celebration of the Torah uniting

Jews across the world, was derailed: hundreds of Israelis were killed and taken captive, and our community at Yale was fragmented between some who followed the news online and others who spent the days in prayer, with no way to reach one another or come together in mutual support,” Rubenstein wrote in a Sunday email addressed to Yale’s Jewish community.

Members of Yalies4Palestine, a campus organization focused on supporting Palestinian human

rights, directed the News to a statement posted to its Instagram page on Monday morning.

In both its Monday message and a separate post shared on Sunday afternoon, the group promoted an “All Out for Palestine” rally on the New Haven Green at 3 p.m. Monday.

“Yalies for Palestine stands in solidarity with Palestinian resistance against violent settler colonial oppression. We mourn the tragic loss of civilian lives, and for this we hold the Zionist regime accountable,” Yalies4Palestine wrote in the post.

“For 16 years, millions of Palestinians have lived in the open-air prison that is Gaza, where they have suffered a land, sea, and air blockade that restricts movement and amounts to collective punishment that blatantly violates international law.”

While some schools, including the University of Southern California and Vanderbilt University, have released official statements about the conflict in Israel and Gaza, Yale had yet to do so as of Sunday night.

In Sunday night’s email, Rubenstein said that staff members in the

Slifka Center will be available to talk to students today from 2 p.m. onward. He also invited all members of the Yale community to a vigil for “mourning and prayer” at the Women’s Table on Monday at 8 p.m.

*This is a developing story and may be updated; the News will cover both the “All Out for Palestine” rally and the Slifka Center’s vigil later this week.*

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## Pro-Palestine protesters rally in front of City Hall

RALLY FROM PAGE 1, OCT. 10

“murderers” and pro-Palestine protesters echoed the insults.

While Palestine supporters chanted “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” pro-Israel protesters blasted Israeli pop music from speakers, waved Israeli flags and danced. New Haven Rabbi Eli Raskin, part of the pro-Israel gathering, said their dancing was an expression of grief through joy.

As tensions rose between the two groups, New Haven police separated the protesters. Lieutenant Brendan Borer, downtown district manager of the New Haven Police Department, said police erected the barriers about half an hour into the protests to prevent potential violence.

“I can see that opposing sides were getting into the other faces of the other group,” Borer said. “They’re both allowed to share their side and enjoy the First Amendment rights, but what we don’t want happening is something violent like a fight.”

Yesterday’s rally came after Hamas launched a surprise attack against Israel during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah on Saturday. In response, the Israeli government carried out a series of airstrikes and formally declared war against Hamas, the Islamist militant group that has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007.

As of Monday night, at least 900 people have reportedly been killed in Israel and more than 680 in Gaza and the West Bank. Hamas has also taken dozens of Israeli hostages, according to the Associated Press.

Mayor Justin Elicker, who earlier released a statement of support to Israel on X, previously known as Twitter, denounced the protest as supporting Hamas to the News.

“[It] is deeply disappointing that individuals came out to use language and rhetoric that is so inflammatory and misguided, supporting Hamas at a time when hundreds of people are dead,” said Elicker. “I think that

the protest that was organized today was ill-advised and sets the wrong tone. We need to support our Jewish brothers and sisters.”

Bergemann responded to Elicker’s statement Monday night.

Having grown up and lived in New Haven throughout her life, Bergemann said she found Elicker’s message disappointing.

“Our protest was to affirm the right of Palestinians to resist violent colonial oppression,” Bergemann said.

Conflict over and in the Gaza strip predates the 1948 formation of Israel as a state. This century began with the five-year “second intifada” — meaning Palestinian uprising — during which Palestinian militants carried out suicide bombings against Israel, and Israel’s more powerful military responded with home invasions and targeted killings, among other controversial and deadly measures. Over 4,000 people — roughly three times as many Palestinians as Israelis — died during those five years, per the Associated Press.

In 2005, Israel withdrew its forces from the Gaza Strip and dismantled the settlements it built in the region. By 2007, Hamas gained control of Gaza; Israel then established a blockade of the region that is still in effect, prohibiting Palestinians in Gaza from leaving the 25-by-seven mile strip of land.

Human Rights Watch calls Gaza an “open-air prison” for its 2.2 million residents.

According to a World Bank report from 2021, restrictions on the movement of goods and workers have contributed to an unemployment rate of 44.7 percent and an 80 percent dependency on international aid among Gaza residents. A 2022 UN Human Rights Council report, found that Palestinians in the region also severely lack access to clean water and electricity for more than a few hours a day.

B’Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization, has documented several Israeli airstrikes in recent years that have targeted militant leaders and killed several Palestinian civilians, including children.

**Supporters of Palestinians relate their struggle to decolonization worldwide**

On the south side of City Hall, pro-Palestine protesters held signs reading “Honk 4 Palestine” and “Not Two Equal Sides: Occupier and Occupied,” waved Palestinian flags and chanted “From Palestine to Mexico, the wall has got to go.” Multiple speakers in support of Palestine said that Palestinian resistance to Israel is part of a global movement against colonialism.

Kooper Caraway, the executive director of the Service Employees International Union in Connecticut, told the News after his speech that he came to the rally because he is Kiowa Apache. The struggle of Palestinians against Israel, Caraway said, mirrors the struggle of Indigenous people in the United States.

He also mentioned the significance of the protest occurring on Indigenous Peoples Day.

“This is what Indigenous Peoples Day is for,” Caraway said. “To celebrate the historic resistance against colonialism by Indigenous people in the United States and all around the world.”

Chris Garaffa, an organizer with the Party for Socialism and Liberation in New Haven, gave a speech in which he called on attendees to resist Zionism in the United States. After his speech, he told the News that he wants Congress to stop approving military funding for Israel. The U.S. sends more than \$3 billion in annual military assistance to Israel.

Faisal Saleh, founder and executive director of the Palestine Museum US in Woodbridge, Connecticut, told the News he was frustrated with his perception that much of the American public does not understand the his-

tory of violence against Palestinians that preceded Hamas’ recent attacks.

“I think the people of Gaza have had enough,” Saleh said. “They’ve been under siege for sixteen years, and they can’t take it anymore. They’d rather die and get it over with, than the slow death they’re experiencing with Israel.”

Stanley Heller, who spoke at the rally on behalf of Jewish Voice for Peace, denounced the state of Israel as a “fascist theocratic regime.” Heller said that the pro-Israel protesters on the other side of the rally, by waving Israeli flags, were appropriating Jewish symbols to uphold apartheid.

Debby Elkian, a Jewish New Haven resident who stood on the pro-Palestine side of the rally, said that even though she cares about Israel and has loved ones in the country, she believed the pro-Israel protesters were trying to deny Palestinians their rightful voice.

“Palestinians have every right to live in freedom and flourish as much as any Jew,” Elkian said. “I feel strongly about this: occupation is not my Judaism.”

**Pro-Israel protestors decry Hamas violence against Israelis**

On the opposite side of the police barricade, pro-Israel protestors waved Israeli flags and danced to music they played through speakers. Rabbi Raskin said the protestors gathered to show their faith in God and — despite the weekend’s violence — they are “grieving with joy.”

Several of the Israel supporters told the News that they had not specifically gathered to counter-protest the pro-Palestine rally.

Lynn Rabinovici Park and Karen Rabinovici, sisters born in Israel, traveled to the protest from Madison and Westport, Connecticut respectively. The sisters said they went to show support for Israel amid what they described as a “living nightmare” for the country.

“No matter what you think about Israel ... there is no excuse for slaughtering and kidnapping”

Rabinovici said. “It is never excusable to engage in those kinds of human rights atrocities.”

Rabbi Raskin pointed to Hamas’ human rights abuses as his motivation for attending the rally, saying he couldn’t justify sitting home and “doing nothing.” He added that according to the Book of Genesis, God gave Israel to the Jewish people, giving Israelis a valid claim to the land.

Rabbi Joshua Pernick, the director of Jewish life at the Federation of Greater New Haven, told the News that pro-Israel protesters did not attempt to engage in a dialogue with the Palestine supporters at the rally because he said they are “a fringe group” lacking legitimacy. He accused the pro-Palestine protesters of supporting the killings of Israeli civilians.

Attendees of the pro-Israel rally did repeatedly crowd speakers at the pro-Palestine rally before police separated the two groups.

“I was being physically moved and pushed by someone as I was speaking,” Bergemann told the News at the rally. “Although New Haven police was here, they did not do anything about that even though he was coming physically onto me.”

Video of Bergemann’s speech recorded by the New Haven Independent corroborates her account.

Once police separated the protest, the rallies ended after about 90 minutes. Many of the attendees of the pro-Palestine rally next went to a celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day happening on the New Haven Green.

The New Haven branch of CT DSA, formed in 2017, is the first Connecticut branch not affiliated with a university or high school.

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Maggie Grether, Contributing Photographer

# FROM THE FRONT

## Hundreds from Yale and Greater New Haven mourn violence against, deaths of Israelis

**MOURNING** FROM PAGE 1, **OCT. 10**

“No person can or should navigate this alone,” the email read. “We are coming together ... mourning and praying for the victims of this attack. This vigil is for members of the Jewish community and for every member of the Yale community who would like to share in our grief with solidarity. Please come as we find comfort and strength in one another’s presence, coming close through words, songs, and prayers.”

While Slifka welcomes approximately 100 students per week for regular programming, such as Shabbat Friday night dinner, the turnout Monday night was far greater, with over 400 members of the Yale community in attendance, including Yale President Peter Salovey.

After moments of unprompted swaying and song at 8 p.m., Cohen addressed the “grand and sorrow” gathering and gave an overview of the vigil’s events which included speeches from him and Rabbi Jason Rubenstein, remarks from Yale students, singing lead by Magevet — Yale’s Jewish, Hebrew and Israeli a cappella group — and prayer.

Cohen began his remarks with a description of the events that have taken place in Israel and Gaza over the past three days before narrowing his focus to the Yale community specifically.

“Tonight, and for many nights to come, we will grieve, and as we do so, we hope that inspiration, respect and collaboration will be born,” Cohen said to attendees.

After a moment of silence, Rubenstein tearfully addressed the crowd.

Rubenstein referred to both the Talmud — the primary text of Rabbinic Judaism — and the Jewish philosopher Maimonides in his speech, which mourned the loss of life in Israel. At the end of his remarks, he called the group to action.

“We can carry this moment in our heart. Remembering that no one can, and no one will, separate us from one another. No one can, and no one will, rob our ability to stand up for what we believe in and against those who

would harm us,” Rubenstein said. “We are surrounded by people who love us fiercely, who believe in us, today and forever.”

Two Jewish students also gave remarks to the crowd: Roeey Benya ’27 and Abe Baker-Butler ’25.

Beny, who is from Israel, delivered a heartfelt tribute for a friend from home who had died the day prior as a result of fighting. He addressed the difficulties of being far from many of his loved ones before turning to those present for support.

“I know many of us feel helpless here while family and friends suffer. We have an obligation today to see what is happening here clearly, to remember it and speak openly about it,” Benya said. “ Hamas hides behind the narrative of ‘freedom fighters,’ but their actions speak for themselves. [My friend] did not just die, he was murdered intentionally ... I am asking you to stand with me, to honor his memory, to stand with Israelis and against those who want to murder and imprison us.”

Following Benya, Baker-Butler shared similar sentiments of “disappointment, anger, shock and sadness.” He called on the “strong and diverse” community to uplift and support one another. Baker-Butler concluded his remarks with historical references to previous persecution of Jews and a call to stand with Israel.

Following the speeches, Magevet led the crowd in song, including the Israeli national anthem, Hatikva. Prayers including the Mourner’s Kaddish, a Jewish prayer of bereavement, concluded the formal vigil.

After Cohen’s closing remarks, an overwhelming majority of vigil attendees stayed. Unprompted and informally, the crowd opened up into a massive circle — filling the elevated walkway outside of Sterling Memorial — and swayed around the Women’s Table in song. Attendees tearfully embraced one another before dispersing. Many went to the Slifka Center to continue their reflection.

### Politicians and Jewish community leaders express support for Israel

More than 200 people also gathered at the Woodbridge, Conn., Jewish Community Center in a packed conference hall overflowing into the hallways.

“People were terrified, incredibly sad, very frustrated, and wanted to ... come together to mourn, to pray and to find out what they can do to support Israel today and in the future,” Gayle Slossberg, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, said to the News. “Everyone knows somebody mourning someone ... and it’s very personal to the Jewish communities across this country.”

Attendees prayed for those hurt by the war, sang songs and shared their personal reactions to the violence.

Evan Wyner was visiting his family in Israel when Hamas attacked. On Saturday, he told the crowd, the sky was cloudy and he could hear a constant rumbling sound, which he first thought was a thunderstorm. When an air raid alert sounded, he rushed to hide in a bomb shelter with his family. The next day, Wyner’s son borrowed clean clothes, threw some food in his backpack and left the house to join the Israel Defense Forces.

“It is quite something to see your son head to the war without hesitation,” Wyner said with tears in his eyes.

Today, he heard from his son, who hadn’t slept in the last two days but remains optimistic and reported that morale in Israel is high.

Gov. Lamont said he came to the event from West Hartford, where he had offered his support to the Jewish community before hundreds rallying in support of Israel.

Sen. Blumenthal also spoke at the gathering and expressed gratitude at the ability of a Jewish community to unite in what he called “a critical moment” in history.

“We [in the United States] will do whatever it takes [to support Israel],” Blumenthal said. “I will put together a package of additional aid to Israel, including Iron Dome interceptors, a precision munition that is needed for Israeli aircraft, the artillery... whatever Israel needs to win a fight against evil and against this attack.”

Mayor Elicker said that he came to the event to express his support for the Jewish community at a very difficult time. Speaking to the News, he denounced the messaging of the pro-Palestine protest that was

held earlier Monday at City Hall and said that the city government would support “our Jewish brothers and sisters.”

Elicker said that New Haven police had increased their presence around synagogues at the request of local rabbis.

Slossberg urged community members to stay safe and said that every time “something happens in Israel,” hate crimes against the Jewish community in the United States spike.

While there are Yale police cars stationed outside both Yale’s Slifka Center and Chabad at Yale, there has been “no credible threat” to the Yale community, Anthony Campbell — Chief of the Yale Police Department — told the News at the vigil.

“Our presence here is to support every student here to mourn,” Campbell said.

The Slifka Center remains open to students looking for reflection and support surrounding these events.

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Yale Daily News

## Salovey condemns Hamas attacks against Israel

**CONDEMNATION** FROM PAGE 1, **OCT. 11**

icism for its lack of timely response over the weekend. Backlash then intensified over Harvard’s failure to forcefully condemn either Hamas or the 30 student groups who signed a statement holding Israel “entirely responsible” for the unfolding violence. Harvard president Claudine Gay issued a follow-up statement on Tuesday.

“As the events of recent days continue to reverberate, let there be no doubt that I condemn the terrorist atrocities perpetrated by Hamas,” Gay wrote in the Tuesday message. “Such inhumanity is abhorrent, whatever one’s individual views of the origins of long-standing conflicts in the region.”

Although Princeton University president Christopher L. Eisgruber did not use the word “condemn” in his statement, he referred to the militant group’s actions as “among the most atrocious terrorist attacks.”

Similarly, the presidents of Columbia, Dartmouth, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania all alluded to the “horrific” attacks that Hamas unleashed on Israel over the weekend and highlighted the systems of support available on campus for members of their respective institutions.

Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life executive director Uri Cohen wrote to the News in an email that he believes Salovey’s statement appropriately identified and condemned Hamas’s actions as terrorist attacks.

“President Salovey beautifully articulated the ways in which the Yale values of light and truth should be applied in this case, and I am grateful and proud,” Cohen wrote. “This is not just another volley in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This was an atrocity, full stop. Obviously, a lot has happened over many decades that has brought us to this point, including unimaginable pain across the board.”

Cohen added that he urges members of the Yale community to support Jewish peers who may be mourning family and friends who have been killed or kidnapped in the war.

Student group Yalies4Palestine released a statement on Monday, Oct. 8, in “unwavering support of the Palestinian people’s right to return to their land and resist over 75 years of colonization.” In the statement and a separate Instagram post, the group also held Israel responsible for the violence that unfolded over the weekend.

Yalies4Palestine declined the News’ request for comment but wrote that the group will publish its own response to Salovey’s statement by Wednesday afternoon.

Cohen wrote that he invites those involved in crafting the statement for Yalies4Palestine to come to the Slifka Center to engage with the community and “join productively” in its effort to find a solution for Israeli and Palestinian peace.

“There abides a great willingness and desire at Slifka to have those conversations with thought partners who can work together,” Cohen wrote. “Blaming the victim is a trick that Jews know well from millennia of experience. Deploying it here in the face of the blatant and documented atrocities committed by Hamas cripples the potential for constructive efforts at creating peace, while piling onto the pain of those who are mourning the murder, torture, and abduction of loved ones as we speak.”

Abe Baker-Butler ’25, a member of the Slifka board of trustees and president of the American Jewish Committee’s Campus Global Board, wrote in an email to the News that he agrees with individuals on campus “genuinely advocating” for Palestinian people’s human rights.

However, he said that defending or excusing the militant group’s killing of Israeli civilians is “repugnant.”

“Hamas bears full responsibility for its brutal and intentional

murder, rape, and torture of over 1,000 Israeli children, women, elderly, and other civilians, and I thank President Salovey for his strong statement,” Baker-Butler wrote. “Let us work together on this campus to find ways for Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace together.”

In his statement, Salovey called on University members to continue to embrace “open dialogue” and a “community of respect” irrespective of personal views on the ongoing war.

He also wrote that University administrators will continue working to share resources for those seeking support and that he “expect[s]” departments and schools to hold programming for learning and reflection amid the ongoing conflict.

The Slifka Center is hosting drop-in hours with YC3 counselors each day this week.

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Ellie Park, Photography Editor

# FROM THE FRONT

## Students hold community vigil mourning civilian casualties in Israel and Gaza

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**Oct. 11** — Yale community member gathered on Tuesday evening at a vigil honoring lives lost in the war in Israel and Gaza. Attendees and organizers held candles while sharing Christian, Muslim and Jewish prayers on the New Haven Green.

The recent violence in Israel and Gaza, which began on Saturday with attacks against Israel by militant group Hamas, has resulted in over 1,900 deaths on both sides as of Tuesday night, according to the Associated Press.

According to a promotional event flier, the vigil aimed to “acknowledge Israeli apartheid” while also mourning civilian casualties and did not function as a political rally. Yalies4Palestine, a campus organization focused on supporting Palestinian human rights, did not organize the event but advertised it on the group’s Instagram account.

“I thought it was crucial to hold an event that acknowledged all of the deaths in the region,” Rosalyn Leban LAW ’24, one of the event organizers, told the News. “And I also felt that it was important to hold people of all the faiths that predominate in that region.”

Tuesday’s vigil followed a pro-Palestine rally held by

City Hall on Monday and vigils on and off campus mourning Israeli deaths.

Shelly Altman, a Jewish New Haven resident, said that the vigil provided a space to grieve lost Israeli and Palestinian lives.

“We need to stop dehumanizing Palestine and only grieving for Israel,” Altman said. “I’m hoping that after this period of intense grieving for Israel and shutting everything else out that people will have a clear vision of how important it is to treat everybody’s suffering and to stop prioritizing one person over another.”

Conflict over and in the Gaza Strip has been persisted for decades. During the five-year “second intifada,” which began in 2000, Palestinian militants carried out suicide bombings against Israel, and Israel’s more powerful military responded with home invasions and targeted killings, among other controversial and deadly measures.

After Hamas gained control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, Israel established a blockade of the region that is still in effect, prohibiting Palestinians from leaving the 25-by-seven mile strip of land.

Ellen Rubin, a Jewish nurse, said that she was drawn to the event because she wanted to acknowledge the deaths on both sides of the war.

She added that she believes the violence brought about by Hamas is a result of Israel’s treatment of Palestinians.

“I’m here because all violence on all sides is not the world we want to see, but the occupation and apartheid of Israel to Palestinian people has to stop,” Rubin said. “Oppression has generated this violence, and this violence has to stop because revenge is not the way we bring healing to the world.”

Susan Bramhell, who also attended the event, told the News that seeing media coverage focus on victims of only one side of the war encouraged her to join the vigil.

She said she believed that what distinguished the event from previous ones held on campus and in New Haven was a focus on honoring lives lost on all sides of the war.

“We’re here tonight vigiling for the victims and violence on all sides,” Bramhell said. “Violence is not one-sided. It’s horrific.”

The New Haven Green Flagpole, where the vigil was held, was constructed in 1928 to honor New Haven residents who lost their lives in World War I.

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In a promotional poster circulating on social media, organizers said the vigil would “acknowledge Israeli apartheid.” / Sarah Cook, Staff Photographer

## Over 25,000 signatories call on Yale to fire pro-Palestine professor

PETITION FROM PAGE 1. **OCT. 12**

to the News’ request for comment. Her account on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, had been made private as of 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

The University defended Grewal’s right to free speech in comments to the News.

Peart did not directly address whether the University intends on taking action or conducting a review.

“Yale is committed to freedom of expression, and the comments posted on Professor Grewal’s personal accounts represent her own views,” University spokesperson Karen Peart told the News.

Grewal is a tenured professor who teaches American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration and Religious Studies. Her tenured sta-

tus protects her from firing without direct cause, in the interest of academic freedom, per a previous investigation by the News.

Grewal did not respond to the News’ request for comment. Her account on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, had been made private as of 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

English professor Leslie Brisman said that he is “as saddened by the petition” as he is by Grewal’s tweets.

“What kind of a university would it be if everyone had to see a conflict from one side only?” Brisman asked in an email to the News.

Rabbi Jason Rubenstein, the University’s Jewish Chaplain, said that Grewal’s role as an educator at Yale is particularly important when evaluating her social media activity.

“We would like the Yale administration, while not compromising on freedom of expression and academic freedom, to also respond to these statements as what they are: fundamental challenges to the ethos of belonging at Yale,” Rubenstein wrote to the News. “We would like this professor — and everyone at Yale — to state what should be obvious: that she cherishes and would protect every member of the Yale community, including Jews alongside everyone else.”

Rubenstein added that Hamas has “murdered members of our community,” including Matthew Eisenfeld ’93, who died in a 1996 Hamas bombing in Jerusalem, and Eitan Neeman, a clinical fellow at the School of Medicine who was killed by Hamas fighters this weekend.

The Israeli government formally declared war against Hamas on Sunday, after the group launched a surprise attack Saturday morning. Hamas infiltrated more than 20 sites in southern Israel and killed over 1,000 people, including civilians and children. They are currently holding more than 150 hostages, per the Associated Press.

On Sunday, Israel ordered a “complete siege” of Gaza, the base of Hamas operations. As of Wednesday evening, 1,100 Palestinians have been killed.

University President Peter Salovey condemned Hamas’s attacks on Israeli civilians in a public statement on Tuesday, as Peart also noted.

“When a member of the Yale community — faculty or student — raises

their voice in support of Hamas, we think not of geopolitics, but of the fact that this person is advocating for an organization that not only has stated its intention to kill members of our community, but has done so,” Rubenstein told the News.

The News reached out to 23 current and former members of Yale’s faculty, seven of whom belong to one of Grewal’s departments, to comment. Of the seven, six did not respond and one declined to comment.

Grewal is currently teaching a Yale College seminar called “Muslims in the United States.”

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The Change.org petition cites professor Zareena Grewal’s social media activity condoning Hamas’s attack on Israel this past weekend. / Ellie Park, Photography Editor

## SCITECH

## Seven plaintiffs sue Yale fertility clinic, allege drug diversion and patient neglect

BY CARLOS SALCERIO  
STAFF REPORTER

Seven new plaintiffs are joining 68 other patients suing Yale over its alleged failure to secure the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility clinic's fentanyl supply at its current location in Orange as well as its previous one in New Haven.

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder, the same law firm that represents the 68 other patients, filed the new complaint Tuesday, which highlights claims that the University failed to use proper safeguards to prevent siphoning of the clinic's fentanyl supply. The complaint also claims Yale failed to notify previous patients who received treatment at the old New Haven location that investigators uncovered evidence of drug diversion in 2020.

A November 2020 Drug Enforcement Agency, or DEA, inspection revealed that one nurse at the Orange facility, named Donna Monticone, had been stealing fentanyl for her own use and replacing it with saline, from June to October 2020. Monticone admitted to swapping fentanyl for saline during fertility procedures and was sentenced to four weeks in prison, three months of home confinement and three years of supervised release in 2021.

The University agreed to pay \$308,250 to the Department of Justice last October over allegations that Yale did not maintain accurate records and procedures to prevent the theft of narcotics.

"The true scale of the mass diversion of fentanyl at Yale University remains unknown," the Tuesday complaint claims.

The patients involved in the complaint allege that while they all but on they received treatment at the clinic's New Haven location in 2019, they experienced excruciat-

ing pain that was similar to that of the other 68 patients involved in suing Yale.

According to a press release on Tuesday from Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder, the new plaintiffs began to suspect their cases were linked to those they heard about in, "The Retrievals," the New York Times podcast that dropped this summer detailing Monticone's fentanyl swapping.

"When I learned years later that the excruciating pain I experienced was a direct result of the institution's failure to properly manage controlled substances, and that nobody on my care team or administrators at Yale had reached out to tell me about this, I felt betrayed," plaintiff Kaitlin O'Connor wrote in the law firm's press release.

Meanwhile, the University maintains that the drug diversions were limited to the timeframe and facility in Orange that Monticone admitted to being responsible for.

In a written statement to the News addressing the plaintiff's claims on Tuesday evening, Karen Peart, a spokesperson from the University, emphasized that the Department of Justice's investigation, which was connected to the DEA's inspection, was thorough.

"They concluded that the diversions took place specifically from June through October 2020," Peart said.

In December 2020, Yale mailed a letter to patients who were treated at the Orange clinic, informing them of the drug diversion. According to the complaint, the letter stated there to be "no reason to believe that this event has had any negative effect on your health or the outcome of the care that you received."

According to the complaint, Yale's letter told patients they would not be able to know if they



ERIC WANG/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Yale's fertility clinic scandal continues to unravel as more plaintiffs claim they suffered excruciating pain due to fentanyl diversion.

were given saline instead of fentanyl during procedures.

"The question and answer page accompanying the letter further stated that, 'discomfort after a procedure [would not] indicate that I didn't receive fentanyl,' and that fentanyl 'doesn't play a role in reducing pain after the procedure,'" the plaintiff's attorneys wrote in the complaint.

The plaintiffs argue that the letter did not mention that Yale violated the Controlled Substances Act, as the DEA investigation included several discoveries of loose caps on fentanyl vials. The lawsuit also claims that a Yale administrator deter-

mined the security processes at the REI clinic were inadequate.

"This is a case of staggering neglect and betrayal by Yale University," Josh Koskoff, an attorney for the plaintiffs at Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder, said in the press release. "There is now overwhelming evidence that the University's cavalier dismissal of women's pain extended to both the Orange and Long Wharf REI clinics, meaning the painkiller diversion went on for a matter of years, during which they ignored evidence of diversion and left countless patients in the dark about the truth of what had happened to them."

Koskoff also sent an email to the University on April 7, 2021 requesting that Yale notify any patients who Monticone treated while she worked at Yale that she had swapped fentanyl for saline during patient procedures, according to the complaint.

In the email, Koskoff asserted that Monticone may have been engaged in diverting fentanyl before 2020, when the clinic moved to Orange.

The Yale Fertility Center is located at 200 West Campus Dr. in Orange.

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## Yale and WHO develop educational programs to improve prison healthcare

BY KINNIA CHEUK  
STAFF REPORTER

The SEICHE Center for Health and Justice at Yale announced two new educational programs for health practitioners who care for incarcerated populations around the world on Sept. 25.

The two courses will guide workers on dealing with non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, and infectious diseases like tuberculosis. Both programs, which are available online through Yale Coursera, were developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The infectious diseases course was also created with help from the United Kingdom Health Security Agency.

"[This] recent project with WHO provided a really unique opportunity to enhance education for practitioners who practice internationally behind bars," said Lisa Puglisi, an associate professor of medicine and director of Transitions Clinic-New Haven under SEICHE.

According to Filipa Alves da Costa, a public health consultant at the WHO, the organization contacted Yale faculty members at the end of 2021, hoping to create educational initiatives for healthcare practitioners who work in prisons.

In 2022, the team first developed an online training course on non-communicable diseases, spearheaded by Emily Wang, the director of SEICHE and a professor of medicine and public health at Yale.

The course was first launched as a system of virtual interaction between instructors and practitioners, including several modules, workshops and participant activities. It ran for a set period of time from May to June 2022.

According to da Costa, more than thirty ministries of health around the world nominated public health experts to participate in the program. Those experts took lessons from the course to prison health care providers in their respective countries.

Even though the course was initially designed for European countries, the team has also reached out to the Pan American Health Organization and has received requests from Asian and African prison systems to join the program as well, Puglisi said.

Building on the first course's success, the team developed another program on infectious diseases, which was launched on Coursera in September.

"Since incarcerated individuals face unique health challenges, we applaud the SEICHE Center for Health and Justice and the WHO-HIPP for helping to fill a needed gap in health education to prevent disease for New Haven residents and beyond," Brooke Logan, Deputy Director of the New Haven Health Department, wrote to the News.

The non-communicable diseases course is also in the last stages of an adaptation to an asynchronous format on Coursera, da Costa said, which would allow participants to join the course at any time and progress through the course at their own pace.

Puglisi highlighted the importance of having a centralized and flexible platform through which health care providers could access course materials.

"Practicing healthcare providers are busy, they are not given a lot of time for learning activities as often on their own time," she said. "Yale Coursera provides a really unique, accessible platform that can be used internationally."

Historically, Puglisi said, the international health community has focused on preventing infectious diseases in prison settings, such as tuberculosis outbreaks. Experts have only recently recognized the importance of the widespread health effects of non-communicable diseases, according to Puglisi.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, she added, experts have been trying to balance the amount of attention and resources devoted to both types of diseases.

"For a time, we were dropping everything and only focusing on COVID, because that's what the times called for," Puglisi said. "But it's not the only risk incarcerated people face, it's not even necessarily the most deadly thing incarcerated people face. The leading cause of death of people in prisons is actually cancer and heart disease."

SEICHE's recent program is one of the first curricula for health-care providers in prisons to center non-communicable diseases.

Puglisi also highlighted the urgency of improving healthcare

within prisons, where incarcerated people endure a disproportionate burden of illness.

"We incarcerate people who are minoritized and are often kept out of or have poor access to community health systems to begin with," she said. "Prisons have relatively poor resources to address the health needs of a population with an abundant burden of illness, not to mention

it's more related to their legislation in their countries?"

The case of hypertension, Puglisi said, illustrates the challenges of providing health care in prisons.

According to Puglisi, doctors usually recommend lifestyle modification as a first step to patients with hypertension, such as a better diet and more exercise. In prisons, though, she said, that is easier said than done.

cal systems and the difficulties of managing power dynamics behind bars, Henderson-Griffiths said she views improving health-care for incarcerated people as an uphill battle.

"As an incarcerated person, sometimes you can put in a medical ticket and maybe people are not taking you seriously," she said. "Maybe you don't know what to say in the medical ticket."



TIM TAI/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Two new programs from the SEICHE Center hope to teach healthcare providers about treating incarcerated populations.

the way that [conditions during incarceration] affect physical and psychiatric states. Exposure to the place can worsen things or create new illness."

The new courses are designed to adapt "community standards of care" to prison settings, Puglisi added, where legal, bureaucratic or physical constraints may make it difficult to use conventional healthcare practices.

Da Costa said that all the experts who helped develop the programs have had experience with incarcerated populations, which allowed them to include examples of real interventions that worked in prison environments. Still, she said that problems still persist.

"There are things which health-care practitioners cannot change immediately," she said "[P]erhaps

"If they're in a high security, solitary confinement setting, [movement] is going to be challenging; even in a very overly crowded, low security setting, that remains challenging," she said.

Puglisi said she believes that by including more previously incarcerated people in the development and distribution of health education programs, they could more effectively benefit incarcerated populations.

Shelby Henderson-Griffiths, a law student at City University of New York who was formerly incarcerated, was a fellow at Yale Prison Education Initiative at Dwight Hall for two years. During her fellowship, she worked with SEICHE on social justice and advocacy efforts.

Because of factors like the understaffing of prison medi-

She also emphasized the role of SEICHE's programs in providing knowledge about prison healthcare to medical professionals.

She said that this is especially important since information about caring for incarcerated people is rarely taught in medical schools.

"Taking more time to educate their patients, changing their terminology, and any efforts to humanize the practice of medicine in a prison facility is ultimately going to be beneficial for the people who are incarcerated," Henderson-Griffiths said.

SEICHE was founded in 2020 as a collaboration between the Yale School of Medicine and the Yale Law School.

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## NEWS

## Yalies observe Indigenous Peoples' Day



CONNOR ARAKAKI / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Students, faculty and community members celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday with performances and rallies.

BY TRISTAN HERNANDEZ  
AND CONNOR ARAKAKI  
STAFF REPORTER  
AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Indigenous students, faculty and community members joined together in celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day on Oct. 9. The Native and Indigenous Students Association at Yale, Students of the Indigenous Peoples of Oceania, known as IPO, and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, known as AISES, coordinated events including performances on Cross Campus and smudging in Branford College.

"We're reclaiming this day as Indigenous Peoples' Day to really

celebrate Indigenous joy, revitalization, resurgence, resistance and persistence," Mara Gutierrez '25 (Diné/Navajo), co-president of NISAY, told the News. "There are not many Indigenous spaces at Yale, so being in community with each other for an extended period of time, and having it be really visible to Yale more broadly, has been really great."

The state of Connecticut recognizes Oct. 9 as Columbus Day, and Yale does not include Oct. 9 as an official Yale holiday or a recess day.

In the afternoon, undergraduate students marched from the Native American Cultural Center on High Street to Cross Campus for a vigil, wearing cultural attire and hold-

ing posters to increase the visibility of the Indigenous community on Yale's campus.

This year's celebrations are the first to include the IPO, founded this fall following two years with record numbers of Pasifika undergraduates at Yale, according to NACC Dean Matthew Makomenaw. Student leaders said that because of the IPO community, there is newfound solidarity among Indigenous students at Yale.

"There's a lot of solidarity between our Pasifika community and the many other Indigenous peoples at the NACC," Joshua Ching '26 (Kanaka Maoli), executive director for the IPO, said. "It's so assur-

ing to know that there's so much support from Native American faculty and students, in really broadening the definition of what it means to be Native at Yale."

After the Cross Campus vigil and performance from Yale Native drum group RT, afternoon programming included smudging in the Branford College courtyard led by Joaquín Lara Midkiff '24 (Nahua Chilapantec). Smudging is a spiritual practice among some Indigenous peoples and involves burning sage, sweet grass or cedar.

Although Yale Hospitality previously hosted dinners dedicated to Indigenous Peoples' Day in Branford and Saybrook dining halls, this marks the first year in which all 14 residential dining halls served an Indigenous-inspired menu.

According to student leaders across Indigenous cultural affinity organizations, the menu planning required months of coordination for food sourcing with Yale Hospitality.

"It's a momentous cause for celebration for us that Yale Hospitality was willing to work with us, so that we can continue to show our visibility — facets of our home — through food, and through communal meals," said Truman Pipestem '24 (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe), co-president of NISAY.

Later Monday night, undergraduates Helen Shanefield '26 (Kanaka Maoli), Jairus Rhoades '26 (American Samoan) and Ching performed hula and traditional songs celebrating Hawaiian sovereignty in Branford College.

In preparation for Indigenous Peoples' Day, Pasifika students from IPO also hosted a lei-making

workshop at the NACC on Sunday so that students and faculty could be adorned with lei for the holiday.

"It's important to me to continue the practice of Native arts and culture into places like Yale, where it's not prevalent, or was never prevalent historically," Shanefield told the News. "It's a great reminder of who I am and where I come from—to perpetuate my culture, even in places far from home."

Events recognizing and celebrating Indigenous people will continue throughout the week. On Tuesday, Branford will have a college tea with Indigenous residential school scholar Benjamin Jacuk Dolchok, followed by an NACC dinner with Dolchok. On Wednesday, AISES and the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science will host a scientific conference panel at the Watson Center.

Wednesday will also include beading at the NACC, and on Friday, the Asian American Cultural Center will host a Zoom meeting in celebration of Fijian Independence Day with the Fijian ambassador to the U.S., Jesomi Vitusagavulu.

"If we're not invisible, we're historical or deficit-based — it's really important to also highlight that Indigenous people are succeeding and we are human, and we have humor and laughter. We're not just history and culture, but we're human beings," said Makomenaw.

Indigenous Peoples' Day falls on the second Monday of October each year.

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## Salovey's sustainability record

BY HANWEN ZHANG  
STAFF REPORTER

During the decade of University President Peter Salovey's tenure at Yale, average global temperatures hovered 1.14°C above pre-industrial baselines. That 10-year period also saw the world's hottest year and month on record.

Salovey succeeded Richard Levin, whose presidency saw the formal creation of the Advisory Committee on Environmental Management, the Office of Sustainability and a landmark 2010-13 Sustainability Strategic Plan aimed at increasing Yale's sustainability practices on campus and beyond. In 2005, Levin pledged to cut 43 percent of the University's current greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

With Salovey planning to step down this summer, the News reached out to the Office of Sustainability and program heads to reflect on Yale's sustainability work over his years in office.

## Sustainability plans

Salovey has overseen two sustainability plans during his term. His 2013-16 Sustainability Strategic Plan set goals to shave carbon emissions by 20 percent from 2005 levels, cut 80 tons off existing shuttle fleet emissions and set LEED Gold building standards as the minimum across all future construction efforts.

"Sustainability calls for new ways of supplying energy, serving food, circulating vehicular and pedestrian traffic, distributing documents, and maintaining landscapes," Salovey wrote in the plan.

In 2016, Salovey unveiled his 2025 Sustainability Plan, which sought to guide the University across nine sustainability "ambitions," ranging from health and wellbeing to construction. The plan outlined efforts to establish campus-wide standards for wastewater management, material use, technology sharing and University investments.

Since then, each of the University's departments have released individual action plans. The Athletics Department conducted electricity audits to increase energy efficiency across its facilities. As of 2015, the Yale Bowl and McNay Family Sailing Center reported as high as 39 percent and 24.5 percent reductions in electricity consumption, respectively, from the year

prior. Yale Law School pledged to host an annual New Directions in Environmental Law Conference, connecting legal experts with the latest climate research.

"There are many champions of sustainability at Yale, and we're grateful that the community is so passionate about this work," Amber Garrard, director of the office of sustainability, wrote in an email to the News.

In 2020, Yale achieved its 43 percent emissions reduction benchmark set in 2005, one of Salovey's most significant sustainability achievements, according to Garrard.

Garrard also noted the importance of the Yale Carbon Charge initiative, a campus-wide carbon pricing system that has helped contribute to the \$1 billion of funding needed to sustainably retrofit all buildings. By charging administrative units for each metric ton of carbon dioxide emitted by their individual Yale buildings, the University is able to shore up 10 percent of its investments for future renovation work in a given year while incentivizing greener practices and contributing to current global carbon pricing work.

Garrard noted that testing different carbon charge amounts has provided the University "with helpful learnings."

In 2021, Yale's campus reached a 28-percent reduction in emissions from 2015 levels despite a 10 percent expansion in size. That year, the University also set a new commitment to reach zero operational emissions by 2050. It diverted 36 percent of waste in 2022, slightly behind schedule to reaching its 60 percent goal by 2025.

According to Garrard, the University is currently studying its Scope 3 emissions — emissions with indirect causes, such as product purchases and transportation — and has plans to set new reduction targets by 2025.

"These efforts can and do take time at a place as large and decentralized as Yale," Garrard wrote, "but we know that this work is urgent, and we are excited about getting to where we need to be."

## Fossil fuel investments

Following a proposal by the Yale Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate, Salovey convened a Committee on Fossil Fuel Investment Principles in 2020 to guide the Corporation Committee of Investor Responsibility in managing its investment policies.

The Committee's formation came after years of student advocacy by Fossil Free Yale and the Endowment Justice Coalition. In 2019, students staged a protest for fossil fuel divestment during halftime of the Yale-Harvard football game.

During its research process, the Committee solicited input from the Yale College Council, Graduate Student Association and Graduate and Professional Student Senate. Yale community members were offered an opportunity to provide their opinions through a webform.

In its issued report, the Committee acknowledged that "climate change is an urgent, existential threat to humanity and a grave social injury" and produced a new set of investment policies. According to the new standards, invested corporations must not "explore for, produce or supply fossil fuels" in the presence of "feasible alternatives." They must also comply with industry standards — with an aim at eventually phasing out carbon emissions — and cannot engage in misleading climate communications.

However, neither the Committee nor the Corporation settled on full fossil fuel divestment, citing that the withdrawal of "responsible institutional investors" en masse would enable less environmentally conscious entities to "fill the void." According to the report, well-intentioned divestment practices might inadvertently lead to more greenhouse gas emissions.

"Divestment and engagement can work in tandem to put pressure on companies to make necessary changes," the report added.

Yale has since divested from 64 fossil fuel companies, including Chevron, Exxon and ConocoPhillips.

However, Naina Agrawal-Hardin '25, an Endowment Justice Coalition organizer, noted that Yale continues to lag behind peer institutions in fossil fuel divestment.

Even if divestment would attract bad actors, Agrawal-Hardin said, there are also other, more impactful avenues for limiting corporate misbehavior, such as regulations, laws and judicial action.

"The next president should commit to disclosing the University's investments in fossil fuels and other extractive industries to the Yale community," Agrawal-Hardin wrote in an email to the News. "They should then announce a



TIM TAI / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

University President Peter Salovey's 10 years at the University's helm have seen challenges and changes in sustainability goals.

plan for full divestment, on a timeline consistent with what science and justice demand."

## Scientific research

During University science discussions in 2018, faculty emphasis on "additional university investment in evolutionary and environmental sciences and climate solutions" resulted in the Yale Planetary Solutions Project, or YPS, according to Tanya Wiedeking, the Project's interim assistant director.

The multi-organizational effort combines research from disciplines across the University to address the social and scientific issues posed by climate change. Members include the Yale Animal Welfare Alliance and Yale Sustainable Food Program.

"Over the last three years, YPS has facilitated Yale's greatest assets — its people and their drive to produce knowledge to improve the world — to design, catalyze, and realize solutions for beneficial impact within our own community and across the globe," Wiedeking wrote in an email to the News.

Wiedeking added that over 40 interdisciplinary projects have earned roughly \$3 million in grant funding since the program's inception in 2020. Early last month, the University appointed Julie Zimmerman, professor at the Yale School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Yale School of the Environment, as vice provost for the program.

According to Dave Bercovici, a professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, the Planetary Solutions project has paved the way for other new initiatives as well.

In 2021, the University unveiled its Center for Natural Carbon Capture, which Ber-

covici co-directs. The Center is dedicated to exploring natural atmospheric carbon removal. The Yale School of the Environment-partnered initiative brings together faculty and scientists, providing funding for projects, connecting researchers to labs and hosting climate events.

The program was made possible by a \$100 million donation from FedEx — and, more recently, additional funding from Southwest and Boeing — after the company expressed interest in mitigating its carbon footprint.

Unlike other research efforts in direct air capture, the program prioritizes ecological carbon dioxide removal. Thus far, the Center has primarily focused on forest management, silicate weathering and marine carbon absorption.

"We're trying to get the Earth to do what it does anyway, just faster," Bercovici told the News.

The Center, which has hired four new faculty members in the past year, will be housed in Yale's Osborn Memorial Laboratories after its upcoming renovation.

Bercovici said that the Center's recent growth is a reminder that Yale is both a "living lab" for local sustainability initiatives but also a globally recognized institution that "should look outwards to how it can help solve real world problems."

"When [Yale's] put its mind to it, it's taken leadership, and I think we could continue to do that with sustainability," Bercovici added.

A 2023 UN report projected the world to exceed the 1.5 degree Celsius temperature limit set in 2018.

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## NEWS

## Volunteers lay foundations for six tiny homes

BY MAGGIE GREETHER AND  
NATASHA KHAZZAM  
STAFF REPORTERS

Volunteers broke ground last Saturday at the Rosette Neighborhood Village Collective, clearing wheelbarrows of damp earth to lay the foundations for six tiny homes that will be operational by Thanksgiving.

The tiny homes will provide shelter for between eight and 12 unhoused people currently living in tents at 203 Rosette St., located in activists Mark Colville and Luz Catarineau's backyard.

According to Suki Godek, who has been living in a tent at Rosette with her husband since last spring, there will be two larger tiny homes intended for couples, as well as four smaller units.

"I thought [installing tiny homes] was a great idea because it gives you back your sense of privacy and dignity — things that you've missed out on when you're in a homeless situation," Godek said.

To clear space for constructions, the Collective moved tents previously erected in Colville and Catarineau's backyard, which have been there since 2022, to a community garden directly next to the house. Volunteers from various organizations including Amistad Catholic and Benicasa

Community gathered Sunday to construct the foundations.

The Collective also installed a 10-foot fence last week, which will provide privacy for residents of the tiny homes.

According to Godek, the Rosette Collective fundraised around \$80,000 for the tiny homes project. The tiny homes will be installed by Washington-based company Pallet, and the total value of each unit is estimated to be around \$10,000.

Colville and Catarineau are now interviewing Rosette residents looking to move into one of the tiny homes. The decision, the couple said, will be made based on individuals' needs, level of interest in the tiny home and commitment to the Rosette project. Colville said that he would prefer people to commit to living in one of the homes for around three months.

Godek and her husband told the News that they hope to be among the first people selected to move into one of the tiny homes. The couple moved to Connecticut during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they became unhoused after losing their dairy farm. Godek and her husband decided not to enter a shelter because they would have had to live separately. Additionally, shelter curfews were incompatible with their work schedules, which left them

juggling multiple jobs at odd hours. Godek and her husband were living at the tent city in West River until the city bulldozed the encampment last March, and the couple have since been living in a tent at Rosette.

Colville said he has been in communication with the City Planning Department and is currently working with the city to secure permits for the tiny homes. Colville said the city has expressed support for the tiny homes, which he sees as "the first real substantive cooperation that the city has expressed towards this movement."

Luz Catarineau described the tiny homes initiative as a "pilot program," the success of which she said she hopes will lead to more widespread construction of tiny houses funded by New Haven. She also noted that a benefit of tiny homes is eliminating the need for unhoused people to "downsize" their living spaces, which entails getting rid of possessions in order to fit all their belongings into a single tent.

According to Colville, maintaining the relationships with neighbors in tent cities is essential to establishing peaceful and cooperative encampments. Colville said that Rosette seeks to advocate for public use of city land by providing an example of what a "supported tent city could look like." Much like the

community at Rosette, a supported tent city would include government-provided access to services including running water, heating and electricity.

"[Tiny homes are] one piece of an overall project that we've been involved in now for over ten years," Colville said. "And that is countering and resisting the criminalization of homelessness."

Colville started helping set up makeshift tent cities in 2014. In 2020, during the outbreak of the pandemic, Colville helped form the West River encampment. Colville is an advocate for the legalization of encampments on public land. He told the News that he would ultimately like to see the city build tiny homes on public land.

Godek estimated that Rosette currently has 13 tents with 26 residents, although the number of residents has fluctuated in the past year, ranging from 10-60. Besides herself and her husband, Godek said that roughly three or four other residents of the bulldozed tent city still reside at Rosette.

Shane Santiago, another resident of Rosette, moved into his tent two weeks ago. Santiago, who has a disability that makes it difficult for him to move, said people at Rosette had been "very helpful" in accommodating him. Residents cleared

space for him to use his walker and also installed a temporary ramp for him to use near the lockers, which were added to the space last spring for community members to store personal items.

Sean Gargamelli-McCreight, a volunteer from Benicasa Community, said that people formerly living at the encampments that were bulldozed lost a community in which "people are living alongside each other, supporting one another."

Rico, a resident at Rosette who told the News that he preferred to be identified by his first name only, expressed support for the tiny homes project. He referred to the project as a potential solution to homelessness that seems to be more permanent than transient forms of housing like shelters.

"When you're homeless and you have all your belongings with you, you're looked at — no matter how clean you are, you're looked at," Rico said. "This right here gives someone a chance to sit back and feel a little different about themselves."

The Rosette Neighborhood Village Collective is located in New Haven's Hill neighborhood.

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## High schoolers and counselors discuss applying to college with race-blind admissions

BY MOLLY REINMANN  
STAFF REPORTER

Since the Supreme Court's decision to axe race-conscious college admissions in June, many colleges — including all eight Ivy League schools — have added application essays asking students to reflect on their backgrounds and lived experiences.

The News spoke to two high school seniors and three high school counselors to gauge how they are approaching college admissions in a post-affirmative action era and how they plan to tackle new essay prompts.

"I don't feel like I'm losing space in my essays or on my application to talk about other things by having to talk about race," Samara Wijesekera, a Sri Lankan American high school senior from Seattle, Washington, said in an interview with the News. "I do feel like I'm more aware of incorporating my race, but also, my race is a big part of who I am, along with my background and the different stories and experiences and accomplishments that have made me who I am and the person I will be in college."

The Supreme Court's ruling against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill declared it unconstitutional for a university to consider an applicant's race when evaluating them for admission.

However, in his majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the ruling does not prohibit applicants from discussing their own race in spaces like application essays.

"Nothing in this opinion should be construed as prohibiting universities from considering an applicant's discussion of how race affected his or her life, be it through discrimination, inspiration, or otherwise," Roberts wrote, later adding that "universities may not simply establish through application essays or other means the regime we hold unlawful today."

Following the SCOTUS ruling, many schools — including Yale — have modified existing essay prompts or added new ones inviting students to reflect on how their upbringing or background has affected their life and ability to contribute to their college community.

### New essay prompts at Yale and other Ivies

Yale's supplemental essay topics for the 2023-2024 application cycle fall into three categories: three required short answer questions, four required "short takes" and one required essay, in which students can choose to respond to one of three prompts. Students applying to Yale with the Questbridge application, according to their website, will not respond to the short takes or longer essay.

These three categories of supplemental essays have remained consistent

in recent years, with small changes sometimes made to specific "short take" prompts. This year, however, Yale added an additional prompt option for the longer essay. In addition to two prompts asking students to reflect on community membership and the exchange of ideals with someone holding an opposing view — which appeared in similar language on last year's application — there is a new prompt, asking students to reflect on an element of their "personal experience" that they believe will "enrich their college."

In an episode of the "Inside the Yale Admissions Office" podcast titled "2023-2024 Application Update," Yale admissions officers discussed this year's essay questions and addressed these changes.

In the episode, Mark Dunn '07, the senior associate director for outreach and recruitment at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, said that the most common reason for an essay question to be dropped or edited is because the previous year's applicants did not respond to it in a way that the admissions office hoped.

"We added a new prompt this year," Dunn said, referring to the prompt about students' personal experience. "Our goal here is just to give the most direct possible route to personal reflection and to tie that reflection specifically to something that you will bring to college."

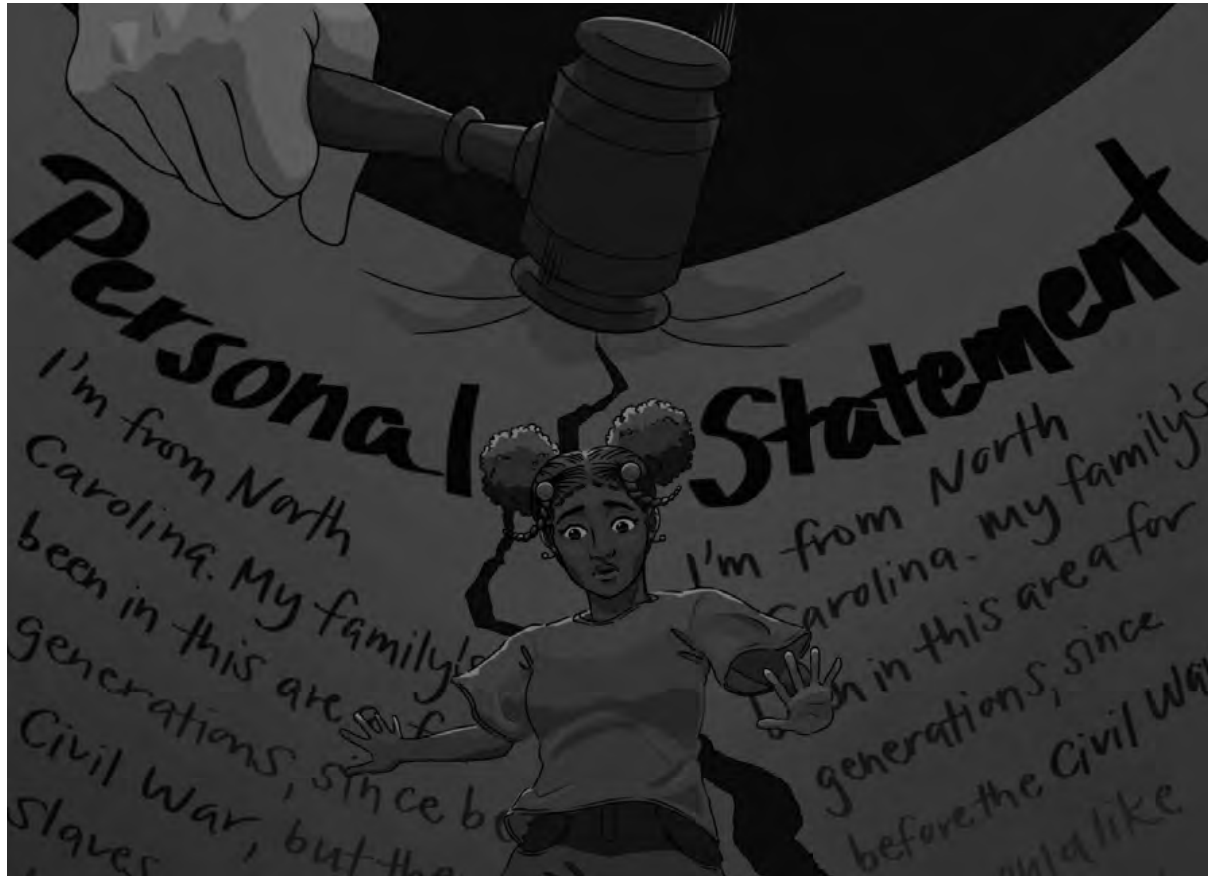
The University is not alone in its addition of a new prompt that offers students the formal opportunity to reflect on their experience in their application essays. Every other Ivy League college has included a prompt this year asking students to reflect on some variation of their lived experience, upbringing or something that makes them different.

Harvard, Princeton University and Cornell University all included new prompts this year asking students to reflect on how their "life experiences" have shaped who they are or how they will impact their college community.

This is the first time Harvard has included short, required essay prompts on its application. In the past, students were asked to include an additional long essay answering one of many suggested prompts or responding to one of their own. For Cornell, this is the first time the application includes a university-wide supplemental essay question. In past years, applicants have had to answer supplemental questions specific to the undergraduate college at Cornell to which they were applying.

Brown University now has a prompt inviting applicants to reflect upon how "an aspect of [their] growing up has inspired or challenged" them. This question is new, replacing a prompt from past years asking students to reflect on discussing a topic with someone who held an opposing viewpoint.

Dartmouth College has replaced two of its supplement essay prompts



YOLANDA WANG

Despite new race-blind admissions counselors and students said that their approaches to applications have not changed significantly.

from last year. The first new prompt asks students to embrace their "inner Kermit the Frog" and reflect on how "difference has been a part of your life." The second asks students simply what they would like the college to "know about them."

While Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania both include prompts of this nature — the former asks students about adversity and their "lived experience," while the latter asks students about how their "experiences and perspectives" will shape the university community — these prompts are not new and existed for both schools on the 2022-2023 application as well.

In the Yale admissions office podcast episode, co-host Hannah Mendlowitz '12, associate director of admissions, advised students on how to formulate an answer to Yale's prompt about personal experience. She suggested that applicants begin by considering an aspect of their background that other students their age may not have experienced and analyzing how that has changed them.

"We do want you to think about how something you've experienced, something that has shaped you would be an asset in a college environment where students come from a wide range of backgrounds with lots of lived experiences, and the whole environment is set up to encourage students to learn from each other," Dunn added in the episode.

### Are students and counselors changing their application approaches?

The News spoke to two high school seniors and three counselors about

how their application and essay approaches are changing in the midst of the Supreme Court's decision to reject race-conscious admissions.

While the two students said that race has been more heavily on their mind since the SCOTUS ruling, they added that, ultimately, they have not changed how they are approaching their college applications.

Each of the counselors with whom the News spoke said that they have always been supportive of students discussing all aspects of their backgrounds in their application essays, and this support has neither increased nor diminished in the wake of the Court's decision. They added that they have not noticed a significant change in the topics students choose to pursue in their essays.

"I don't think my counsel changes now as the Supreme Court hasn't infringed upon a student's ability to tell their story, however they desire," Emmi Harward, a former high school counselor and current executive director of the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools wrote in an email to the News. "It's up to each student what they choose to talk about and what elements of their story or identity make it into an essay. I think any counselor would support a student who chooses to talk about their experiences through the identity lens of race."

Grace Little, a high school senior from Dallas, Texas, told the News that she is applying to 15 colleges, including Yale. She said that over half of these applications have a supplemental essay question asking about their lived experience. Samara Wijesekera, who is also applying to Yale, said that she has seen many prompts in applications asking

about students' backgrounds.

Wijesekera said that she likely would have talked about her race somewhere in her essays even if race-conscious admissions were still legal. But with their repeal, she said it was on the forefront of her mind.

"I am trying to structure those lived experience essays around how, as a Sri Lankan American, I can bring diversity and unique perspective to the schools I'm applying to, especially for more elite schools that have been historically white," Wijesekera told the News.

Before the SCOTUS ruling on affirmative action was announced in June, Wijesekera said that she was not concerned with writing about her race or culture in her admissions essays, focusing instead on her character and accomplishments. With the fall of race-conscious admissions, she said that she has made a deliberate effort to talk about her racial upbringing, usually in at least one essay per college.

Read the rest of the article on the website or scan the QR code below.



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# SPORTS

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*"Before the touchdown, they kept running a lot of out routes, so the whole time I was just waiting for it to come, waiting for them to throw it. They finally threw it and I jumped in front of it,"* SEAN GUYTON '25, YALE CORNERBACK AND IVY LEAGUE DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

## MEN SOC: Elis dominate Dartmouth and Boston College, look towards Harvard on Saturday

BY JOAQUIN FERNANDEZ-DUQUE  
STAFF REPORTER

This week, the Yale men's soccer team (6-3-2, 1-0-2 Ivy) picked up wins against Dartmouth (4-5-1, 2-1-0 Ivy) and Boston College (3-5-4, 0-3-2 ACC).

The 2-0 win against Dartmouth brought them to second place in the Ivy standings. The 1-0 victory over Boston College extended their undefeated streak to seven games.

The Bulldogs faced off against Dartmouth at Reese Stadium on Saturday night hoping to get their first conference win of the season. The game started out favorably for Yale as BC defender Orrett Maine was sent off with a red card in the 25th minute, leaving the Bulldogs a man up for the rest of the game. With six minutes left in the first half, Max Rogers '25 scored a beautiful free kick from the right side of the box. The curved shot into the upper left corner gave the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead.

Asked about the goal, Rogers told the News it was no coincidence. "Believe it or not, I was practicing that exact freekick from the same angle during the week leading up to Dartmouth," Rogers said. "Guess it helped!"

The Bulldogs defense proved stifling throughout the 90 minutes as Dartmouth only managed to register two shots -- neither one on target. A goal in the 74th

minute by Yasin Aly '25 made it 2-0 and assured Yale would pick up a crucial Ancient 8 win.

With the win being Dartmouth's first Ivy League loss, the Bulldogs are now within one point of first place. Coach Kylie Stannard said that the team's success against Dartmouth could partially be attributed to the pressure and motivation associated with the game.

"We were disappointed that we hadn't put together a full 90 minute performance in our Ivy games to that point so we talked a lot about that," Stannard said. "Additionally, we felt we let one get away from us last year at Dartmouth and we were further motivated to avenge that performance."

The team looked to improve their away record with their game against Boston College on Tuesday. The Bulldogs had another strong first half showing. In the 23rd minute, TJ Presthus '24 converted a penalty won by Eric Lagos '24 to give them a 1-0 lead. Just five minutes later, Diego Zaffanella '26 was denied by the post as his shot was inches from doubling Yale's lead.

The second half went by without any additional goals, and Yale secured a 1-0 win away from home. Stannard told the News before the game that it was one of the team's objectives to improve their performances on the road. Not only did they accomplish



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men's soccer team took down Ivy-leading Dartmouth before picking up an away win against Boston College.

that, they also extended their recent good form. The team is undefeated over the last month, picking up five wins and four clean sheets over seven games. Captain and defender Jake Schaffer '24 said that the team takes pride in earning clean sheets.

"It took us a few games to gel as a team, and now we've figured out our identity," Schaffer said. "It isn't just the defenders, but all 11 guys have worked incredibly hard defensively over the past seven games."

The team picked up momentum at the right time, as they face Harvard (2-3-6, 1-0-2 Ivy) this Saturday for one of the season's most anticipated games. The teams have the same Ivy record, meaning that the rivalry game will be important for the conference standings.

It will be the first Yale-Harvard game played in Cambridge since 2018, which seems to be bringing out the team's competitive nature. "We're especially excited to play at Harvard," Schaffer said.

"We've done well at home this season, but we're looking to prove that we can dominate on the road. We're all looking forward to playing in front of the hostile crowd and taking the game to them."

Harvard is 0-1-6 at home this season.

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## FOOTBALL: Yale to face Sacred Heart in final non-conference game

BY AMELIA LOWER  
STAFF REPORTER

The Bulldogs (2-2, 1-1 Ivy) will face Sacred Heart (1-5, 1-3 NEC) at the Yale Bowl at noon this Saturday in their final non-conference game of the season.

The Yale football team tallied their first conference victory last weekend against Dartmouth, adding a second win to their season record. The Elis will return home this week to the Yale Bowl to face Sacred Heart with aspirations to continue their strong play and add to their winning streak.

"It's great for us on both ends, playing a really good football team in-state," head coach Tony Reno said. "It's great for Connecticut, hopefully for the fans as well. They're a really good team."

This is the first time the Blue and White will face the Pioneers, despite the schools being less than 25 miles apart.

The most recent Bulldog contest against a Connecticut university was on Oct. 16, 2021, when Yale fell 21-15 to the University of Connecticut. The Yale football team has not hosted a Connecticut university in the Bowl since facing the Huskies in 1998, a 65-21 loss for the Elis.

In their game against Dartmouth last Saturday, the Bulldogs secured a win in a back and forth contest. In the fourth quarter, quarterback Nolan Grooms '24 threw a 69-yard pass to wide receiver Ryan Lindley '24 to raise the score to 31-24 with under six minutes remaining.

"Winning games on the road is difficult, especially at Dartmouth," Lindley said. "Once you win, the team's having a good time... it was definitely a fun trip back!"

Yale's victory over Dartmouth was Yale's first win at Memorial Field in Hanover since 2010 and marked milestones for multiple players.

Game-changing interceptions were made by both linebacker Hamilton Moore '24 and defensive back Sean Guyton '25, with 3:35 and 2:14 remaining, respec-



YALE ATHLETICS

The Elis will face the Pioneers at the Yale Bowl this Saturday for their final non-conference game of the season.

tively. Guyton's interception was his second of the afternoon, the first being an interception off Big Green quarterback Nick Howard's pass that he returned 70 yards to a touchdown.

"It just felt really exciting to be back out there," Guyton said. "I just basically saw the ball coming and went to attack it and go for it."

Lindley posted a career-high 128 receiving yards, and wide receiver Mason Tipton '24 caught a 4-yard touchdown pass that put him in the lead of Team 150 with five touchdown receptions this season. Guyton's 70-yard interception was the 10th longest in school history.

Several Bulldogs also made it back onto the field after being sidelined with injuries. Guyton returned to play last Saturday after missing the beginning of the season due to a pulled hamstring, and running back Joshua Pitsenberger '26 also made his return to the field in style -- converting a touchdown in the second quarter -- after missing the past two games.

"It's really hard to keep really good players off the field," Reno said. "We just try to find ways to get

them on the field and the opportunities they need to be successful."

Sacred Heart began their season with a series of three losses, 19-14 against Lafayette on Sept. 2, 27-10 against Georgetown on Sept. 9 and 17-10 against Wagner on Sept. 16. Following their only season 37-34 win against Saint Francis University on Sept. 23, the Pioneers fell two more times, 17-7 against Merrimack College on Sept. 30 and 23-13 against Long Island University on Oct. 7.

In their most recent game, the Pioneers were only down by four points going into the second half but then lost their steam and fell by 10. Leading the offense, Sacred Heart quarterback Cade Pribula passed for 151 yards and had 15 carries, and running back Malik Grant had 15 carries for 44 yards. Grant now has a career rushing total of 3,061 rushing yards and 24 touchdowns.

Defensively, Pioneer linebacker DeAndre Byrd had eight tackles -- one for loss -- and a sack, and linebacker Ernest Howard had eight tackles -- two for loss -- and a sack. Defensive lineman Tyreke Brown also had five tackles and two forced fumbles.

"Up front, on both sides of the ball, they're physical," Reno said. "Their offensive line and defensive line have really impressed me."

In the NCAA FCS rankings, Sacred Heart ranks first in passing yards allowed, second in team passing efficiency defense, 14th in third down conversion percentage defense, 15th in fumbles recovered and 18th in kickoff returns.

Sacred Heart wide receiver Jon Moccia ranks 19th in combined kick return yards with 324, and defensive lineman Bayo Gbowu and linebacker Ernest Howard are tied at third in the FCS in fumbles recovered with two each.

On Sept. 25, kicker Sam Renzi was named the NEC Special Teams Player of the Week after Sacred Heart's victory over Saint Francis. Renzi went 3-for-3 on field goals and 4-for-4 on extra point attempts, converting two 40-yard field goals and racking up 13 points throughout the contest.

"It's going to be a challenge for us offensively," Reno said. "They're really tough against the run... They've got two receivers... two guys that are really dynamic, so it'll be a heck of a journey."

The Bulldogs, coming off two consecutive wins, are ready to

face their last out of conference opponent before finishing their Ivy League schedule.

In their last two games, the Yale offense has been explosive, tallying 796 yards of total offense and 71 points. The Elis lead the Ivy league with five interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns.

"Our guys up front do a really good job of pass protection," Reno said. "Nolan, the receivers, the tight ends do a great job of ... making plays, getting themselves open."

Tipton leads the Ivy League and is seventh in the nation with five receiving touchdowns, catching at least one touchdown in every game this season. Tipton has made a total of 20 catches for 315 yards.

Grooms is seventh in the nation in passing efficiency (170.0) and has completed 66.3 percent of his passes, leading the Ivy League with nine touchdown passes and one interception. Lindley has also made a strong contribution to the passing game, making 22 catches for 245 yards.

"Between quarterbacks and receivers, chemistry is a real thing," Lindley said. "Being able to get those reps with Nolan [Grooms] last year versus this year in practice through spring ball ... he and I really built that chemistry."

The Elis are also 12th in the nation in turnover margin (1.0) and 14th in the nation in third down conversion percentage (.481).

The Bulldogs are excited to return to their home turf and defend it in their first matchup of all time against Sacred Heart.

"We talk about effort all of the time," Reno said. "It's in practice ... We try and train that ability to play fast, play through whistles, we replicate it in practice [and] it shows up on Saturday."

Kickoff is slated for Saturday at noon at the Yale Bowl and will be streamed live on ESPN+.

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STAT OF THE WEEK

10

THE NUMBER OF GOALSCORERS FOR THE YALE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM, MOST IN THE IVY LEAGUE.

## NEWS

## Yale endowment grows 1.8 percent for 2023

BY BEN RAAB  
STAFF REPORTER

The University's endowment grew 1.8 percent for the 2023 fiscal year, a slight improvement from last year's 0.8-percent return.

The return represents \$759 million in investment gains, which the Investments Office reported Tuesday evening. After accounting for an additional \$292 million in gifts to the endowment and a \$1.8-billion endowment disbursement to Yale's annual operating budget, the total value of the endowment dipped to \$40.7 billion for 2023, down from \$41.4 billion last year.

This year's return is Yale's second lowest since the Great Recession, outperforming only figures from last year, when Chief Investment Officer Matthew Mendelsohn said that he expected "challenging times ahead as rising interest rates, inflation, and the geopolitical environment provide stiff headwinds."

The modest growth this year lags behind the S&P 500, which has risen approximately 18 percent over the same period. Last year's report coincided with the index's 12-percent decrease.

"It's difficult to evaluate performance on the basis of a single year, especially one with some pretty big surprises," William English '82, a professor at the Yale School of Management, told the News. "That said, over a longer horizon, the Yale endowment has performed very well."

English said that the "surprises" he was referring to include bank failures last spring and economic difficulties in China.

Mendelsohn, now in his third year as Yale's CIO, did

not include a statement in this year's press release. He included statements for the Investments Office's 2021 and 2022 press releases.

Many of Yale's peer institutions have not yet released their endowment returns for 2023. But the University's 1.8-percent return runs ahead of peers that have also reported, including the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which have reported returns of 1.3 percent, -1 percent and -2.9 percent, respectively.

Among the broader landscape of American university endowment performance, though, it is less clear if Yale is outperforming.

Compared to the other 13 endowments currently listed on the Pensions & Investments "U.S. Endowment Returns Tracker" — which also includes Penn, Duke and MIT — Yale falls short of the 3.9-percent median gain for 2023. The University of Colorado Foundation, University of Minnesota Foundation and Ohio State University top the list with returns of 7.8 percent, 7 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively.

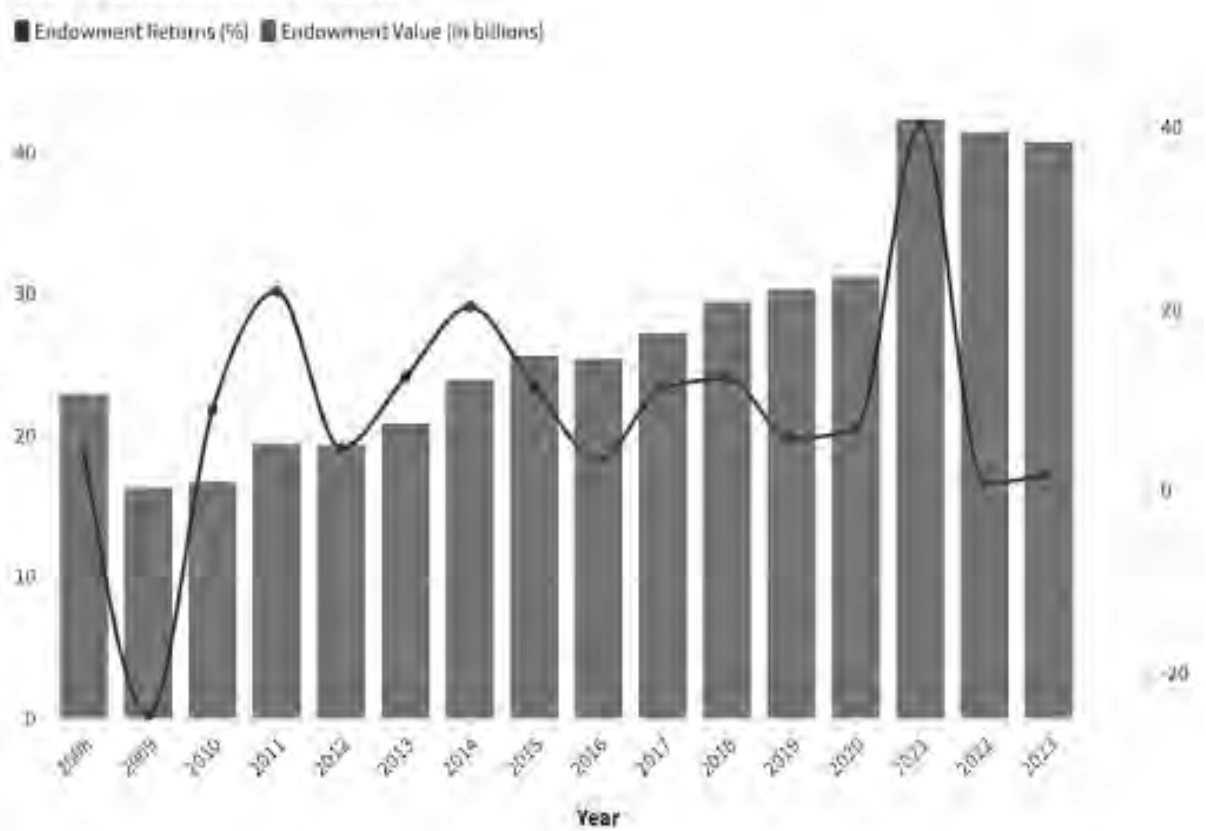
David Yermack, a finance professor at New York University's Stern School of Business, called Yale's 2023 return "a dreadful result."

"It is almost certainly a result of Yale grossly over-weighting alternative investments in its portfolio," he said.

Charles Skorina, an endowment expert who leads a recruitment firm for investment officers, said that Yale did "fine" considering peer performance so far.

He also pointed out that Yale's investment strategy is prone to "cyclical" performance, which makes it difficult to draw

## Yale's Endowment Returns



COURTESY OF BEN RAAB

Although Yale's investments grew this year, the value of the endowment dipped after accounting for budget disbursements and gifts.

conclusions about long-term performance in any given year.

"They run an alternative heavy portfolio," he wrote to the News, citing venture capital and private equity as examples of alternative assets. "These are cyclical performers. Over a 10 [year] period, they deliver excess returns. But every now and then, you look like a goat."

According to the press release, Yale pursues an investment strategy designed to "achieve its goals through the careful consideration

of risk and return across asset classes," which includes public equities, marketable alternatives, leveraged buyouts, venture capital and real assets.

Under the leadership of former chief investment officer David Swensen, Yale pioneered an industry-wide shift from investing primarily in traditional assets — stocks and bonds — to "alternative assets," such as international stock funds, emerging market funds and real estate.

Swensen held the position from 1985 until his death in 2021. The School of Management recently announced the establishment of the Swensen Asset Management Institute, which Skorina previously speculated could become a "pipeline" for the Yale Investments Office.

Mendelsohn is a fellow of Yale's Berkeley College.

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## Joseph Solodow, beloved professor of Latin literature, dies at 76

BY BEN RAAB  
STAFF REPORTER

Before taking Joseph Solodow's "Roman Dining" seminar, Anya AitSahlia '25 had no intention of becoming a Classics major. Within weeks, she changed her mind.

"It only took a few class sessions for me to realize I wanted nothing more than to study Classics here," AitSahlia wrote to the News. "And, more, to study Classics with him."

Solodow, a Latin professor in Yale's department of Classics, died of cancer on Wednesday, Oct. 4. He was 76.

Solodow was born on Nov. 13, 1946, in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Erasmus Hall High School in Flatbush, a neighborhood home to many working-class Jewish families.

At Erasmus Hall, Solodow briefly considered a career in architecture but quickly developed a love for Latin from his teachers — a feeling he would later look to recreate in his own students. He was no stranger to foreign languages at home. His father, Philip, was a Russian-American Jew who spoke Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew, Polish, German and English. His mother, Yetta, spoke French, German and Latin.

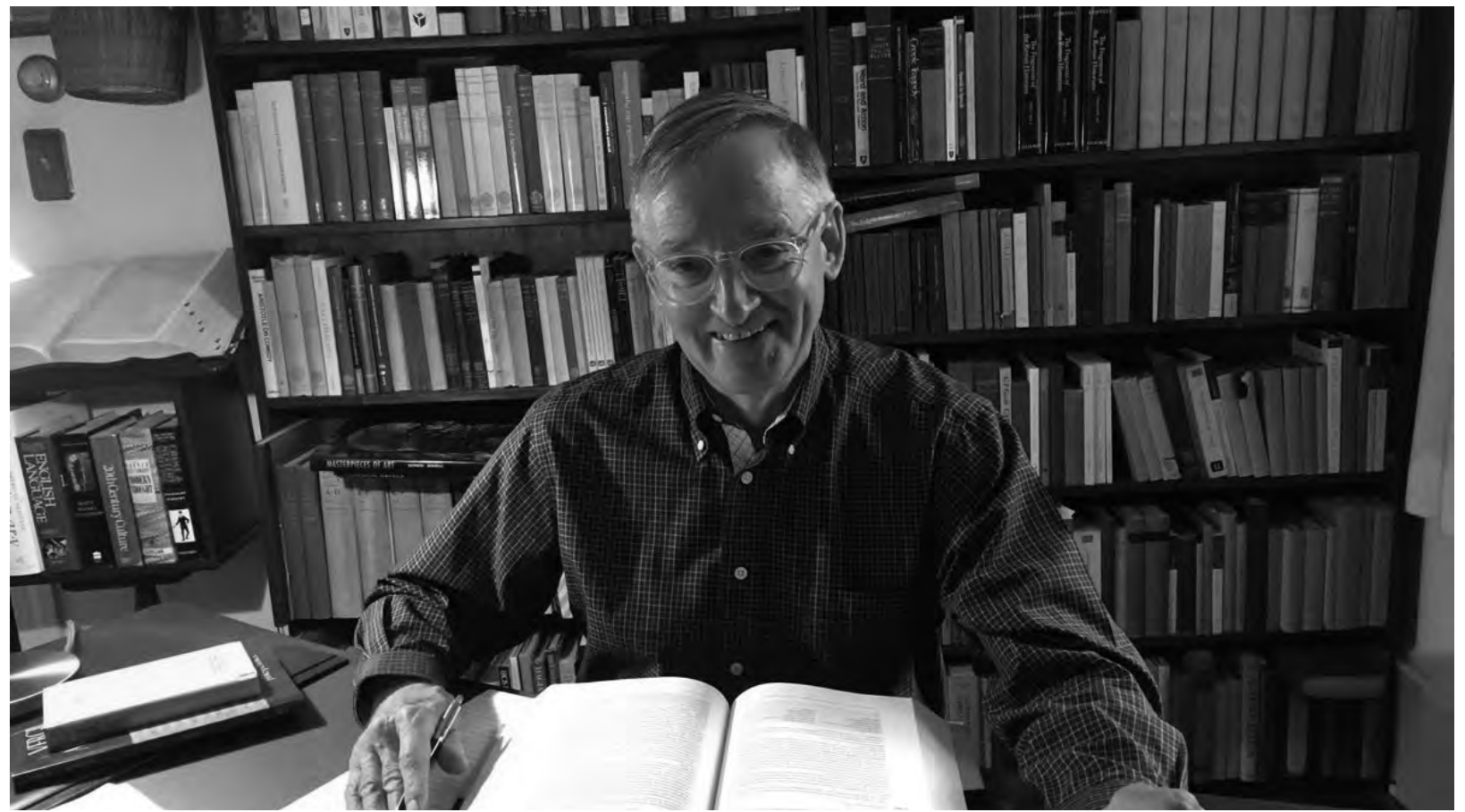
Solodow spent his undergraduate years at Columbia University and earned a doctorate in Classics from Harvard University. His doctoral dissertation, "The Latin particle quidem" — which analyzed a single Latin word, "quidem" — is regarded as a "masterpiece" by Victor Bers, a professor emeritus of Classics.

"Joe was universally admired," Kirk Freudenburg, Classics department chair, said. "He was very interested in the mechanics of language and had this ability to really research the points of nuance and tiny details that are really the last frontier of knowing a language well."

Among Solodow's most popular courses were "The Greek Historians," "Roman Comedy" and "Ovid's Metamorphosis."

In his courses, Solodow offered his students the opportunity for close textual engagement both in and outside of the classroom.

"Even after I stopped taking classes with him, we frequently updated each other over email or the occasional coffee at Atticus," Ait-



COURTESY OF LAURA HARRIS

Solodow is remembered for his commitment to teaching and his love for the intricacies of Latin language.

Sahlia said. "When I decided not to take a Latin class at all last semester, we made plans to read Ovid, a favorite author of ours, together."

In addition to being a virtuoso of Latin syntax, Solodow was an expert "Ovidian" — one who studies the poetry of the Roman poet Ovid. His second book, "The World of Ovid's Metamorphoses," published in 1988, is still read by students in Yale's Directed Studies program.

Solodow's impact as an academic reached beyond just the department of Classics. William Cho '25, a Physics major, said that every semester he considers taking a Latin course because of his memories from "Roman Dining" with Solodow.

"I am saddened to learn of his passing," Cho said. "Professor Solodow was the kindest professor I have ever had at Yale."

Solodow began his teaching career as a professor of World Languages and Literatures at the Southern Connecticut State University, where he taught Spanish in addition to Latin.

He was awarded the Rome Prize Fellowship in 1980 and spent

the year abroad at the American Academy in Rome. Shortly after, in 1985, he joined Yale's department of Classics.

His broad knowledge in world languages would be reflected in his final work, "Latin Alive: The Survival of Latin in English and the Romance Languages," published in 2009. The book details Latin's influence on modern French, Spanish, Italian and English.

John Matthews, a professor emeritus of Classics and Roman History, said that he remembers Solodow often connecting words across languages.

Matthews recalled a time when Solodow pointed out that the Italian and French words for 'eat' derive from the Latin word 'manduco,' which means 'work with the jaws,' rather than the more common Latin verb for eating, 'edere.'

"[Solodow] was an extraordinarily observant reader of Latin and knew a huge amount about the role of Latin in the formation of medieval Romance languages," Matthews said.

Laura Harris, Solodow's partner, said that outside of his aca-

demic interests, Solodow had a passion for classical music and art, particularly Renaissance and Baroque styles.

He avidly supported Music Haven, a New Haven organization with the mission of providing free music education and tutoring to local students.

He wrote multiple letters to the Connecticut Appropriations Committee after the state budget dropped its funding for Music Haven in 2019, using passionate language to demand the restoration of funding.

"Music Haven is an exceptionally inexpensive and at the same time priceless way to improve the lives of young people," he wrote in one 2021 letter. "They ENJOY learning to perform classical music, a skill and a pleasure that will continue through their lives."

Solodow also had a passion for the outdoors.

He had a particular liking for birds, and Harris recalled the meticulousness with which he maintained bird feeders in his garden.

"He filled those feeders so much, it got to the point where

we had bears wandering around in our yard," Harris said with a chuckle. "But he kept doing it."

Both Harris and Solodow's students remember him as particularly "old-fashioned." He seldom used his iPhone, wore a jacket and tie to class and was known to celebrate the arrival of autumn by, in his words, "bringing out the tweeds!"

He encouraged students to meet with him for coffee chats but was steadfast in his commitment to scheduling every meeting in his calendar book rather than online.

"He wanted to get to know us personally as well as academically through the course, and as such, he led his class as a collaborative discussion instead of a simple lecture," Henry Demarest '25 recalls. "His enthusiasm about the ancient world brought stories, poems, and speeches to life."

Solodow is survived by his partner, Laura, and one brother. A public memorial service will be held by the department of Classics later this fall.

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# THROUGH THE LENS

## JOURNEY HOME



Daneshbodi travels home to Southern California through New York City.  
Photos by **ARMIN DANESHBODI.**



# Three easy steps to clean your room without procrastinating

// BY WILL GONZALEZ

When studying for a midterm or working on a difficult p-set, nothing is more distracting than a messy room. It can be so easy to get sidetracked when you're surrounded by random junk and clutter, and it can be even harder to clean it up. But by following these simple steps, you'll be able to focus on cleaning, so you can focus on your work.

**Step one:**

Before you start cleaning, you have to get all your supplies ready. So go into your closet or wherever you keep your cleaning supplies and — wait, okay, you don't see supplies in the closet. Maybe they're in one of the boxes you never unpacked even though it's now October. Speaking of which, what are you gonna be for Halloween? Look at what you have in your closet now. There's a lot of black. Maybe you can be a vampire? Or maybe you can go for a country theme with the denim jacket? Wait — did your friends want to do a group costume? You should probably check the group chat. Open your phone and — oh, wow, looks like someone posted something to their Close Friends story. Haha, that's a funny Reel. Let's scroll to the next one. Haha, bed bugs in France really do be like that. Next one. Woah! That French guy made a life-size car out of chocolate — that's so cool! What's for dinner? Open the Yale Menus app. Eh, you're not really in the mood for marsala chicken. You'll probably go to the Ivy and get the Gochujang chicken bites. Mmm. Those are so good! Maybe you'll get some fries? Oh, and you can get a mango dragon fruit lemonade at the Elm! Let's go right now. It's a little cold, so go into your closet and — oh, fuck, cleaning supplies.

Right. Go look under your bed for the cleaning supplies box. There's that pen you lost. Put that in your backpack real quick before you forget. Oh shoot! Hunter's book is still in your bag. Text him that you still have his book. And while you're at it, you should probably respond to Kelly about lunch plans for tomorrow. What's for lunch tomorrow? Open Yale Menus again. Yes! It's Chicken Tender Thursday, you forgot it was Wednesday today. You have that reading response due at 7 p.m., and it's almost 6 p.m. You should really get on that. There's a lot of shit on your desk, but you can just push it aside and deal with it later. Alright, two pages on the reading about clean energy.

Cleaning supplies! You never got the cleaning supplies. Okay, first you'll grind out this response, and then you'll clean. Oh, no, but you still need to get dinner and take a shower. So maybe after that? But you did promise yourself you'd go to bed at 10 p.m., and you've kept that up for almost two weeks. You can't ruin your streak now!

**Step two:**

Do it tomorrow.

**Step three:**

Or whenever.

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// MELANY PEREZ

# Don't ignore the common room piano



// SOPHIE HENRY

// BY NORA RANSIBRAHMANAKUL

Give a moment of grace to the brave soul who struggles on the common room piano.

Pay no mind to a misplaced note or stochastic rhythm. Do not let them disturb your walk to the dining hall.

In between getting lost in basements and figuring out how to open doors, one of Yale's quirks that stood out to me was its abundance of public pianos. They can be spotted in the more well-furnished dining halls and in every common room. In the Hopper common room, I even found two: placed back to back in anticipation of their next duet.

My problem with Yale's pianos is that they don't get played. I was sitting in the Silliman common room a few weeks ago, doing my anthropology readings and waiting for the dining hall to open. It was dead quiet. Everyone was engrossed in their work — headphones in and marooned on isolated couches.

Two people entered the room, and the silence was interrupted by their announcement: "We apologize for the disturbance. We've been asked to tune the piano. It's going to be noisy in here for an hour or so."

One sat down on the piano bench, and the other at a table nearby. They began to ring out the notes one by one, repeating each a few times before moving on to the next. Most common room inhabitants were polite enough to stay for a minute or two before they got up to flee.

So, yeah. No one wants to listen to a piano get tuned. But this was the first time I had heard any notes at all from one of Yale's common room Steinways. In the weeks since, I've been on the lookout for the common room piano players. One night, when the notes of a concerto floated up through the floorboards of the

Saybrook library, I dashed down the stairs to see who was there. By the time I opened the door to the common room, the bench was empty.

I've been lucky enough to hear one or two pop renditions during my walks to lunch. Some of my more musically-inclined friends have humored me when I begged hard enough. And there was one night in JE when we took a break from studying to drink cider and dance to someone's music. But most of the time, the pianos sit still and silent in the corners — mere decorations for passersby.

Before my high school days, I too was a pursuer of the fine arts. I practically grew up in a classical ballet studio. I was training for 20 hours a week at my peak. Miss Pam, my instructor, was a Royal Ballet School trainee and ex-professional dancer. She imbued us with good technique, all else be damned. I learned how to not rush the arms of the port de bras and to time a turn such that you looked suspended, floating in the air for a split second before landing. I waltzed across the floor and launched myself into daring jetés. The music ruled you, and you had to rule the technique.

We rehearsed for hours on end with our old studio speakers until it was time for the real deal. For our last week of rehearsals and final performances on the community college stage, we were graced with a real pit orchestra. Live music creates a relationship between the dancer and the orchestra. The dancer is at the whim of the musicians, but the conductor may take cues from what happens onstage. These were my first tastes of rhythm and music — of watching and listening and being watched.

I left dancing behind when I was 13, along with other arts-y childhood phases: trumpet, guitar and yes, even piano. I wanted the time to do other things, and the arts faded into hindsight.

My residential college dean was the first person who explained how Yale is the school of "and." A capella and rugby and orchestra and debate; whatever your heart desires, you can pursue it here. I resisted this ethos of the liberal arts. It felt too idealistic, too impractical. And yet, something about those silent common room pianos still nagged at me. It's not like we're lacking in talent — I've met many trained musicians in these halls. Maybe they prefer to have their trials and tribulations in private. I wouldn't know.

My time here has just begun. I applied to Yale without knowing anything about this place, something I am usually too scared (or embarrassed) to admit. But there's something to be said for the idea that nobody knows what Yale is really like until they're here.

I hope that my time at Yale does embody the "and" in the sense of the coordinating conjunction: linking together all of our passions and interests. But I also want to use "and" as a response to a question; use "and" as artillery against the pressure to perform in a place where most everyone is the best at what they do. As in, I don't know anything about playing the piano — yes, AND? Here we have these beautiful instruments at our disposal. It would be a shame not to use them.

In this school of "and," it's easy to get caught up in how good Yalies are at what they do. But I also want this place to embrace my not-so-perfect exploration. For the first time in five years, I took a ballet class again. I stumbled through it — yes, AND? I'll be back again next week. When I think no one is listening, I might attempt a quick tune on the piano, too.

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WEEKEND *SNIP*

## HAIRDRESSER AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

// BY ROSE QUITSLUND

On a Wednesday, an hour after the Declan McKenna concert at Toads, I gave my boyfriend a haircut. Declan McKenna had good hair.

The trim was premeditated. This story doesn't end in heartbreak. He'd asked me a few days previously if I knew how to cut hair — I don't — so of course said yes. I've cut my own bangs for over a year, but a snip here and there barely qualifies as a haircut. While waiting for a friend outside of the Trumbull dining hall, I watched a 15 minute Youtube video detailing how to cut men's hair. It was narrated by an Irish man whose kind voice and lilting accent I trusted. He would not lead me astray.

After the encore, the lights turned on, and the mass of bodies moved towards the exit. My group parted down the middle to our respective destinations: homework, or haircutting. From my dorm room I grabbed my only pair of scissors and set out on my mission. Walking down the streets crawling with the convergence of the post concert crowd and pre-woods lineup, I felt suspect holding a pair of scissors in my bare hands. I imagined the college kid crowd outside of Toads seeing me, eyes focusing on the potential weapon in my hand, judging me for not putting my scissors in a bag. I should have bought a bag.

The ridiculously nerve wracking walk finally ended at the

Morse gate. My ragamuffin of a boyfriend greeted me at the door with locks grown so long I could barely see his eyes, and he could barely see me. We mobilized to the shower. We set up a chair and stole a comb. Borrowed a

made it easier; if I messed up, I wouldn't have to look him in the eyes, and he wouldn't be able to

see the anxious look I made with every chop. I started in the back, recalling the technique I'd learned earlier. Brushing out small sections at a time, holding them taut and snipping off the ends in an

started to feel confident. It looked good. It looked like his hair, just a bit shorter.

The power of it — to cut hair — is intoxicating to me. It was fun. Snip snip snip, and before I knew it, the haircut was done. The pressure of forming his new look for the next few weeks lingered, but when his hair dried it was barely noticeable — just more groomed. Since then his hair has grown out a bit. It's almost back to the length it was before; I'd really been quite frugal with the length I cut.

In all truth, haircuts can be emblematic of identity — an expression of self as much as clothing styles are. The day before I left for college, I got a haircut. My long hair became a ginger bob with bangs, a silhouette now synonymous with my persona. I've sustained the look since then, it seems to fit this time of my life. I often wonder if one day, I'll look back on this era the way I look back on all past style choices I've since moved on from. I've never cried at a haircut but I've mourned with those who have. It's just hair. "It grows back," I said, a reassurance that fell flat in a moment of distress well beyond rationality. At least that's what I told my boyfriend.

even line. I'm sorry if these are incorrect hair cutting instructions. After the first section of hair, I

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comb. When he sat down in the chair I couldn't see his face — only a carpet of wet curls waiting to be cut. It



## HOMECOMING

// BY LUCY HARVEY

In high school, I would wake at 6 a.m. to a freezing cold room, practically frigid, for it only being October. I would dread putting on my uniform, how cold my bare legs would feel in my kilt because I refused to wear itchy tights.

I didn't understand why everyone was obsessed with fall — I wasn't a pumpkin spice aficionado. Falls in Vancouver are wet, in the tenth grade it rained every single day of October and November. "Gilmore Girls" seemed like a fantasy, made up world. I didn't actually understand that Connecticut was a real place.

Now, I relish fall in New England. Those perfect late September days where it is sunny and warm but the leaves fall like snow and the air smells of honeycrisp apples.

It is for this reason that I haven't once gone home for October break.

As a true West Coaster, through and through, I know I only have so many east coast falls. So I relish the brief time that I get here.

Of course, I also haven't gone home for fall break because it is too far, too expensive and too overwhelming to visit my emotionally-loaded hometown.

But, this year, senior year, I am finally going to have a fall Homecoming.

I didn't fly home for October break when I was so depressed I didn't think I would make it through the semester. When I called my mom begging her to put me in an in-patient facility.

I didn't even fly home for October break when my mother was doing her last three months of a year of chemotherapy.

I imagine my Homecoming will look something like this: I will wake with my sweet crusty little white dog in my bed, and my mom will have already gotten up to go to work at 6 a.m. I will suddenly be overwhelmed with a sense of panic, that something is truly and deeply wrong. I will rush out of bed to my parents room to check if my dad is still breathing. He will be, hopefully snoring, sound asleep. Since he got sick, I have been overcome with visions of the moment I get "the call."

This is why I am home for October break for the first time in my Yale career. My dad will be upset when he reads this. He will hate to hear that I'm coming home because I fear that every moment I get to spend with him will be my last.

I am not going home to wake up to my mother baking cinna-

mon rolls and to frolic with home friends and play in the changing leaves. Most of my home friends have moved away.

Any sense of Homecoming, to me, has become deeply bittersweet over the years. New Haven and Yale, despite their many flaws, have become home. They've become my escape for the past four years. There was a brief wobble in this sense of home, a significant breakup which sent me running to Sweden. But that's the problem with running from what you know and are too scared to face, your fears will only catch up with you.

The last Homecoming I had was before my dad got sick. I flew home from Stockholm, after an extremely dark and cold semester. I slept the entire flight from Sweden to New York, and then sat and stared out the window the entire flight from New York to Vancouver. The air in Vancouver is scented by years of old growth forests which have been carefully preserved, tinged with crisp snow and sweet salty ocean tang. It smells like home.

Never before have I felt ecstasy like when I landed in Vancouver after my four months in Sweden. I surprised my pseudo-sister at her 24th birthday party. I had more energy than I



// VIRGINIA PENG

had had all year. I knew everything was going to be okay.

Now, I come home to a much sadder reality, for a much more significant purpose.

Of course, I must shamefully admit that I am not just returning home because of my duties as a devoted and loving daughter. I want to see Hillary, my beloved nail tech, Sam, my sweet old Prius — and of course, there's a boy.

Despite the sad and tormenting circumstances that resulted in me forking over an arm and a leg on Jet-

Blue red-eyes to Vancouver, there is a hopeful reality in which my October break is sweet and sentimental.

I wake in my childhood bed with my crusty white dog; my mom has already left for work at 6 a.m., and I check on my dad to find him sitting in bed, reading as he always is. He smiles at me, and I remember that despite the ever volatile circumstances of life, at least I am home.

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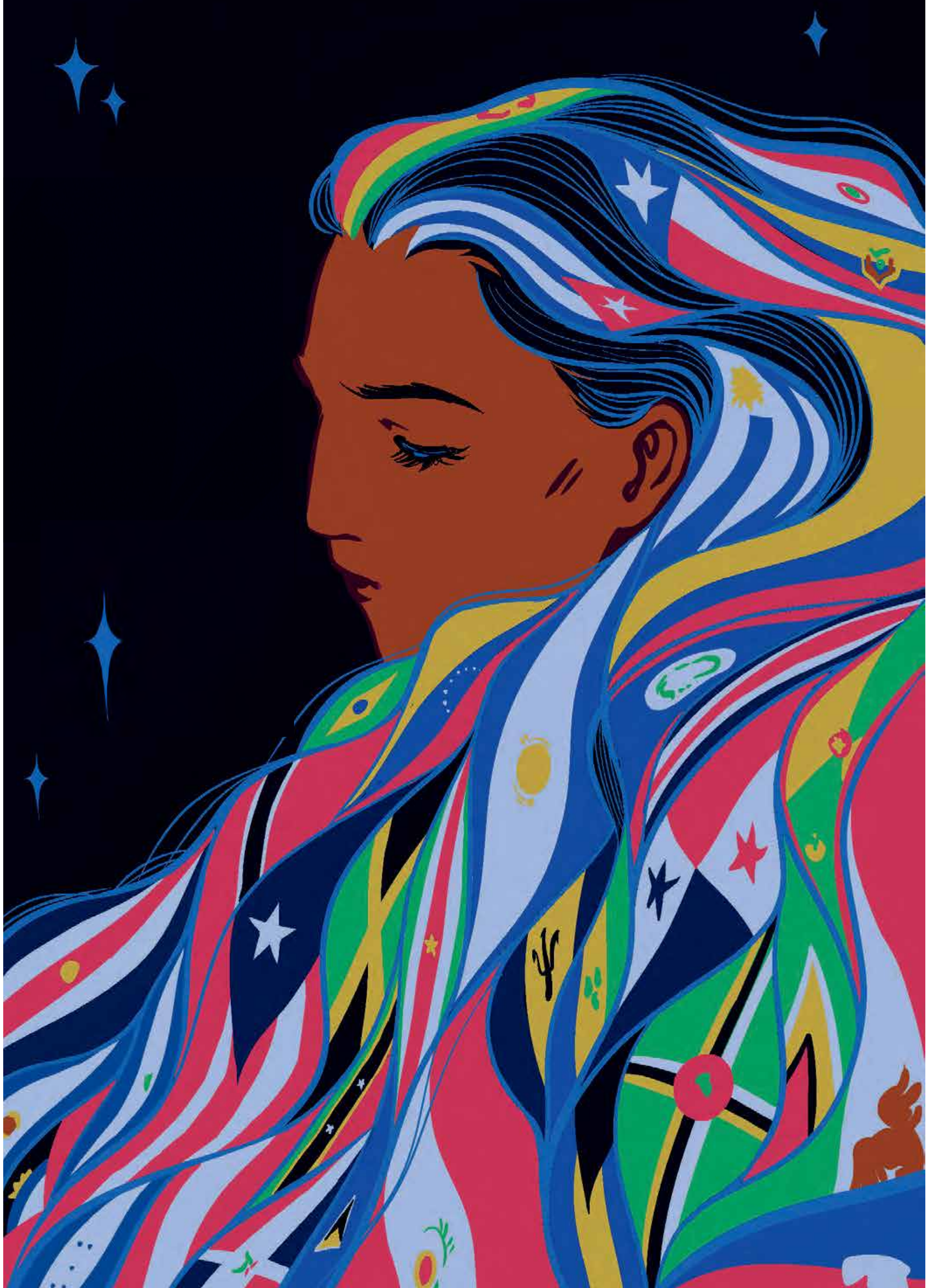
## WKND Hot Take:

Completely burnt marshmallows are the best kind.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

*The* Yale *Daily* News

# LIVING LATINIDAD



MICHELLE FOLEY/ ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

# LATINE HERITAGE MONTH

Aló, hola y bienvenidos a todos to the News' Living Latinidad special issue. We want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate Latine voices during this month and wish that everyone had a happy Indigenous Peoples' Day.

When it comes to witnessing Latinidad at Yale, there are multiple things to celebrate this year. The number of undergraduate students that identify as Latine or Hispanic have increased from 14 percent to 18 percent — a record number. This fall, Jocelyn Naranjo '25 founded Yale's first Andean dance group, with the aim of fostering a space for members of Indigenous Central and South American tribes to dance and find community. Last weekend's LATIN-Excellence showcase was sold-out, as audience and family members danced together to salsa and merengue played by La Orquesta Tertulia.

We want to thank all the writers within and outside of the News who submitted content for this special issue, especially our guest contributors.

Latinidad spans across continents and intersects with multiple identities, and the idea of what it means to be Latine or Hispanic at Yale is still expanding. We hope this special issue uplifts Latine and Hispanic voices across campus. Our goal is to contribute in fostering a space for students who feel compelled to share their stories, whether that be through the News or through other forms of media.

Thank you to the News' reporters, desk editors, copy editors, production and design editors, audience editors, photographers, illustrators and management who contributed their time and efforts in producing this special issue.

And, most importantly, we want to thank our readers. We welcome feedback and encourage you to reach out to us.

**ISA DOMÍNGUEZ** is a senior in Timothy Dwight College. She is an Opinions Editor for the News and the Spissue Lead Editor. Contact her at isa.dominguez@yale.edu.

## GUEST COLUMNIST

**CAUÊ RIBEIRO PASCARELLI LOPES**

# A nation submerged in flames and suffocated by silence

What comes to mind when you think of the Amazon? One may think of lush jungles filled with colorful birds and animals. Some might imagine the magnitude of its river sea, with pink river dolphins and all kinds of fish. Others who are more politically inclined might think of deforestation and its dangers to humanity's future.

What if I ask you to imagine the people who live within it? Most answers, including those I have gotten at Yale, revolve around indigenous villages, where people subsist on pre-agricultural practices and live in communion with nature. Very few will mention urban centers, and fewer still will talk about big cities and active economic activities.

THE WHOLE WORLD WISHES TO HAVE A VOICE ON WHAT HAPPENS WITHIN IT, YET ITS OWN VOICE IS NEVER HEARD.

In this logic, the Amazon is always an object and never a subject in the syntactical sense. It is but an amalgam of natural, geographical, and biological features. It is a place to be spoken of, but never to speak for itself. It is a place where disparate states anxiously assert their sovereignty over, and yet its own sovereignty is never acknowledged. The whole world wishes to have a voice on what happens within it, yet its own voice is never heard.

I was born and raised within the Brazilian Amazon, in Manaus, a metropolis with over 2.6 million inhabitants. It is a bursting city with tall buildings and a vibrant cultural life, and its size is comparable to that of Chicago or Los Angeles. My city is not the only of its kind; we have numerous cities, laid out among an infinitude of river valleys, whose connections transpose the limits and borders set on a map. We are connected through our rivers, which serve as networks of our cultures and trades, making up for the neglect we receive from our respective states. This virgin jungle of people's imagination is home to over 30 million people with different languages, religions, and customs, many of which are unique to the region.

On Sept. 20, I woke up with my mother calling in panic. She had woken up to the smothering smell of smoke filling her apartment. When she looked out the window, a greyish haze covered the entire city. Manaus has been submerged in ashes and smoke from the burning forest for the past week. Coupled with record-

high temperatures and what seems to be the worst drought in recorded history, this summer has been shaping up to be one of the worst ever documented in the Amazon.

These conditions have completely disrupted life in the region. The extreme drought of the rivers is making transportation within the Amazon an almost impossible challenge, exposing the neglect and lack of investments in infrastructure within the region for the past hundred years. Communities reliant on agriculture, fishing, and other natural cycles are being put at significant risk, as well as those who depend heavily on interfluvial transport to acquire essential goods like food and medicine. This is especially true for riverside populations, who often engage in traditional living styles.

If you search for news about the Amazon online, you are sure to find articles documenting a recent death wave of the river dolphin and fish populations due to the recent drought and heat, most of them dating from today, the 2nd of October. We (Amazonians) have been noticing and reporting on this for over a week, receiving almost no immediate attention from national or international media outlets. While it is of major importance to report on this massive ecological event, incredibly few of these articles will even mention the effects of these droughts on the region's human population, such as the one linked above.

Amazonia has for too long suffered from this ideology, which posits it as a "Counterfeit Paradise." An ideological view that derives heavily from a colonial mindset, which seeks to appropriate from its natural resources without considering the human element. The Amazon is an anthropological space, thrives not merely in biological diversity but also in its sociological, cultural, and civilizational makeup, all of which are essential to its overall identity.

It is time for our people to speak up, for our voices to be heard, and for our lives to be considered. We no longer want to be held as a reflection of the nature surrounding us, but to be recognized as an integral part of our region. This is not an empty land to be colonized and exploited, nor is this an ecological reserve to be kept for international audiences. It is the homeland of millions of individuals whose lives are just as dependent on the environment as it is dependent on them.

I wish to end this piece by quoting a poem that captures our people's hope and resilience — written by one of the greatest Amazonian artists of the 20th century, Thiago de Mello: "It is dark, and yet I sing, for the morning will come..."

**CAUÊ RIBEIRO PASCARELLI LOPES** is a Junior in Branford College. Contact him at caue.ribeiro@yale.edu.

## GUEST COLUMNIST

**MARIA CESTERO**

# On being Puerto Rican

When I moved from Puerto Rico to Miami, I never thought I'd spend so much time clarifying something as simple as my phone number. Miami is known for its iconic 305 area code, so I was surprised to find out that another shares the stage with it: 786. Since I chose to keep my 787 Puerto Rican phone number after I moved, this made it especially interesting when giving others my contact information:

"I think you mean 786."

"Did you say 786?"

"787? I've never heard of that."

A trivial situation to most, I often can't help but find this representative of the Puerto Rican experience: though similar to a citizen born in the continental United States, there is something that makes us different. The more I had to clarify where I came from, the more I started questioning my identity. What makes someone an 'American?' Where do I fall into? Am I less Puerto Rican because I moved? Am I less American because I'm Puerto Rican?

In a way, Miami — a community overflowing with immigrants from all over the world — made answering these questions more complex. Being surrounded by students whose parents fought against all odds to make it to the United States, I often found myself silencing my questions so as to not seem ungrateful for the

opportunities I was born with. But as I sat in history classes and learned about the complex political relationship Puerto Rico and the U.S. share, my perception of what it means to be an American citizen and a Puerto Rican continuously shifted.

HOW CAN SO-CALLED "CITIZENS" BE DENIED A RIGHT THAT IS CONSIDERED "INALIENABLE" FOR MOST IN THE COUNTRY? ARE WE EQUAL IN THE EYES OF THE GOVERNMENT?

In an attempt to gain clarity on this topic, I would frequently turn to my relatives on the island who, out of instinct, will use buzzwords like "colony" and "oppressed" to explain their feelings. For most of my life before I moved, this was the perspective

I accepted, my family telling me about how they cannot vote in U.S. elections only feeding into this ideology. How can so-called "citizens" be denied a right that is considered "inalienable" for most in the country? Are we equal in the eyes of the government?

Yet having only recently moved to the continental United States, I am grateful that my journey entailed just a two-hour flight accompanied by my family. I acknowledge that most cannot share the same sentiment. When confronted with this fact, I face a crossroads: to what extent can I protest the conditions I grew up with? Is Puerto Rico truly a modern example of a colony? Or is that an umbrella term most used to emphasize the discrepancies between both places?

As I continue to live disconnected from my community, I still have not settled on a definition of "citizen" that I am content with. Rather than fit into an already-existing identity, I try to create my own, one in which being Puerto Rican encompasses all of the complexities and feelings that arise when asked why my number starts with 787, not 786.

**MARIA CESTERO** is a first-year in Silliman College. She can be reached at maria.cestero@yale.edu.

## OPINIONS EDITOR

**ISA DOMÍNGUEZ**

# What does it mean to have Latine representation?

I finally watched "Jane the Virgin." I know the series released nine years ago. I know it has a predominantly Latine cast, an accomplishment for American television at the time. I know it's set in my hometown, Miami, and that the three most prevalent characters — Jane Villanueva, her mother Xiomara and her abuela Alba — are Venezuelan, like me. It's the exact show I'd want to see.

I just couldn't get around to watching it because of its unfamiliarity.

There is no shortage of TV shows set in Miami. A couple of the first Miami shows I learned about were "Miami Vice" and "CSI Miami" while I was in elementary school. They were just pop culture references in my mind. No one would let a child watch a detective or police show, especially when said child had nightmares for a month after watching one of the Chucky movies. The first Miami show I sat down to watch was Disney Channel's "Austin & Ally."

When it first aired in 2011, I was ecstatic. We made it on Disney. Every time the scene would cut to the b-roll where they would feature shots of colorful lifeguard towers on South Beach, I tried spotting the same towers when my family made the 30-minute drive from Doral (minus traffic).

Even though the setting looked familiar, there was something off about the show. Maybe it was the classic-and-ever-omniscient-Disney laugh track, or the bright yellow Mall of Miami, or the upbeat Disney-style pop songs that sounded eerily similar to the other upbeat Disney-style pop songs.

Then I realized: Trish De La Rosa is the only visible, recurring Latine character in the show.

Trish is useful as comedic relief. Her job: Ally's best friend. The token best friend who identifies and presents as a person of color was a common television trope then. It was useful. On the "black best friend" trope, critic Eric Deggans writes, it "[made] the cast of a TV show or film look diverse, while ensuring non white characters never really steal the spotlight for long."

But wait! Trish is also a professional! She's Austin and Ally's manager! And that's not the only job she has! She has many, but

nearly all of them seem to be minimum-wage jobs that she often gets fired from because she's a "terrible" employee and she "lacks discipline"! And they are funny jobs at funny companies that make her wear funny costumes! "Sausage cart," "Suzy's Soups," "Meatballas," "Mailboxes and So Forth" — do you get the joke? Do you?

Alas, it's not "Austin & Ally's" responsibility to be authentic. After all, they could have changed the setting and nothing in the storyline would have been impacted (I don't think any musical artists are concerned whether Austin and Ally's experience of breaking into the music industry is authentic either). What makes me critical about "Jane the Virgin" is the fact that Miami and Venezuela are characters in the show, but they sit in the background.

"Jane the Virgin" doesn't subscribe to any tropes except that of the telenovela, which it does so intentionally and with comedic and dramatic effect. It doesn't scream "Hey, did you know these characters are Venezuelan? Because they are and you should know that they are sooo Venezuelan." I respect that.

Apart from using certain phrases and mentions though, the show doesn't put much effort in leaning into Venezuelan culture. From the show's first scene, it's clear Jane loves three things: her "family, God and grilled cheese sandwiches." Oh, and abuela's arepas, but that's revealed later in the first season (can't get more Venezuelan-American than that). I remember Alba saying the word "chévere" in the way it's used in Venezuela once (which isn't exclusively Venezuelan, but I was still surprised). And throughout the entire show, it is never forgotten that Alba immigrated from Venezuela. The fact that she arrived in the U.S. undocumented is a major plot point in her arc. Where specifically, you ask? I wonder the same thing.

Behind the camera, the representation is not much better. The three actresses that portray these strong, determined Venezuelan women are Puerto Rican. I'm not saying that only Puerto Ricans can play Puerto Ricans and Venezuelans must play Ven-

ezuelans. That is a different conversation that I think depends on the production and its resources. My play, "Mango," has Venezuelan characters. Although it had a predominantly Latine cast the time it was read for the Yale Playwright's Festival, only one actor identified as Venezuelan.

WHAT MAKES ME CRITICAL ABOUT "JANE THE VIRGIN" IS THE FACT THAT MIAMI AND VENEZUELA ARE CHARACTERS IN THE SHOW, BUT THEY SIT IN THE BACKGROUND.

But for a show that seems to have the budget to include celebrity cameos like Isabel Allende, David Bisbal, Juanes, Britney Spears and Bruno Mars, I find it hard to believe that there is a lack of talented Venezuelan actors perfect for the roles. The only Venezuelan actor I can name whom I think Americans would recognize from TV is Fred Armisen, who played a Venezuelan parks department vice director in "Parks and Recreation." That's a problem.

It's not enough to say that the show "proves diversity is more than skin deep," as a 2015 Atlantic headline reads, and give the showrunners a gold star for Latine representation that feels complex and human. When a show presents characters that identify with underrepresented cultures in American media, it is key to treat that culture with intentionality, respect and the specificity that it deserves. Our culture is more than skin deep. It's in our blood.

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# SPISSUE

## Class of '27 has highest Latine population in College history

BY KARLA CORTES AND ELBA HEDDESHEIMER  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

Marking a historic high, 18 percent of first-year students in Yale's class of 2027 are Latine.

There was a four percent increase in matriculating Latine students in the 2023-2024 school year than in the 2022-2023 school year, according to numbers released by the University's admissions office. With the increase in Latine representation on campus, several students told the News that there is now a greater need for a wider net of support for student clubs from Yale and affinity groups including La Casa.

Eileen Galvez, director of La Casa and assistant dean at Yale, said she commends the growth in the amount of Latine students on campus.

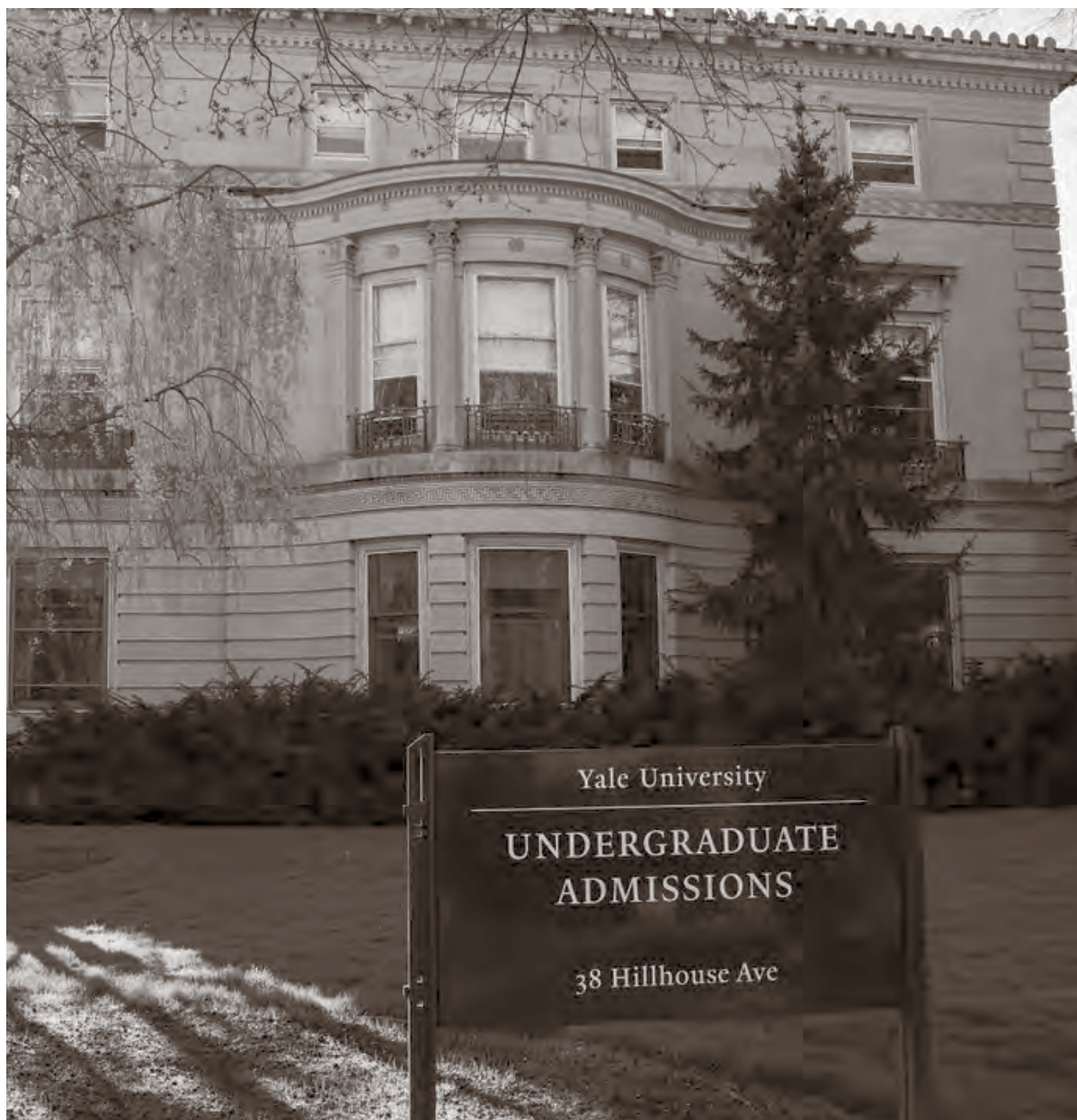
"I'm actually quite excited to see how much space Latine students are taking up at not just La Casa, but at Yale overall," Galvez said. "The growth of this year is certainly a major accomplishment for our current students and future generations to come."

Daisy Garcia '27 said she was surprised to discover that Yale is just 7 percent away from being recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution, which recognizes schools with at least 25 percent of their student body being Latine students.

Galvez said that this recent increase in Latine first years serves as a "testament to the talent and strength of Latine students across the country."

Several students told the News that there is now a greater need for Yale to provide spaces for the diverse Latine identities represented on campus.

Erick Lopez '24 said that these spaces allow students to not feel



MADelyn KUMAR / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Several campus groups and clubs have more Latine students interested in joining, prompting asks for more funding.

"ostracized" and provide "a sense of community and space to fall back on."

La Casa works to provide a support system through their peer liaisons, or PLs, program,

which pairs one upperclassman student per residential college with first-year students. Through La Casa, two co-head PLs organize campus-wide

events including the Latine Student Mixer at the beginning of the semester. La Casa has also aimed to continue building community through its affili-

ated cultural clubs, ranging from Sabrosura, Yale's premier Latin dance team, to Contigo Peru, a Peruvian student group.

"It's just about coming into these spaces and enjoying it," co-president of Sabrosura Michael Santos Paulino '26 told the News. "We're in charge of curating and creating that."

Paulino told the News that the group saw an increase in interest from first years this year. While they have a competitive recruitment process, Paulino said Sabrosura also aims to maintain a welcoming space open to all interested Latine students.

According to Lopez, there has been a resurgence in clubs that previously disappeared during the COVID-19 pandemic such as Club Columbia and Teatro de Yale. Because of the rise in the number of Latine students, Lopez said, there has been a heightened enthusiasm for these clubs, allowing them to return to campus.

Despite efforts by La Casa and affiliated organizations to support the expanding Latine community at Yale, there remains uncertainty regarding the future growth of the Latine population at the University given the Supreme Court's decision to strike down affirmative action ruling in June.

The admissions office did not respond to the News' request for comment.

"I'm worried a little about affirmative action and things like that, obviously, but I'm really happy to see the Latine community growing," Garcia said. "It's wonderful to see us be successful."

La Casa is located at 301 Crown St.

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The full Living Latinidad Special Issue can be found online at this QR code:



## Searching for my Latinidad

BY MAYA FOSTER

Apparently, I'm Latine  
 But that part of my heritage is lost.  
 So I feel a little disingenuous...  
 How can I claim what I do not know?  
 But I'm still curious,  
 And find myself wondering,  
 About the past and the lives of who  
 came before me  
 Choices, and decisions, and doubts,  
 and interests  
 Crazy that my being is defined by a  
 history I'll never truly know  
 Its both frustrating and scary, and  
 honestly unfair  
 Well life has never been fair  
 So I take my longing as leverage,  
 To discover and rediscover,  
 Lineage lines of my dad and of his  
 dad's dad  
 Out of touch—  
 That's what I am, with a culture my  
 ancestors knew well  
 I am determined one day I'll visit  
 Can feel it in my unsettled soul  
 That I'll find comfort in a place fam-  
 ily before me,  
 Had once called home.  
 Cuba.

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## SPISSUE

## Danza Andina: Yale's first Andean dance group

BY LUCIANA VARKEVISSER  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The latest addition to dance at Yale, Danza Andina, is bringing Andean dance to the University as the first group of its kind.

Jocelyn Naranjo '25 founded the group this fall. Naranjo is from New York City, where she grew up participating in local Ecuadorian dance groups. Unlike other Latine dance groups at Yale, Danza Andina features dance specifically from the Andean region.

"It is a way to build community," Naranjo said. "Being Ecuadorian, specifically from the Andes, is a very unique experience as an indigenous person."

Upon her arrival at Yale, Naranjo said she noticed a need for spaces where people could connect with the nuances of Latine culture.

The University-wide student body is 11.4 percent Hispanic, according to Yale's Office of Institutional Research. Out of over 400 clubs at Yale, approxi-

mately 18 are geared specifically toward the Latine community; of those, four cater to individual Latine ethnic groups.

The term Latine, according to Kassie Navarrete '25, is often used as a "blanket term" to describe the dozens of individual cultures of Latin America. She added that while there are some similarities between them, the nuances of each culture can sometimes get lost.

"Mexican folk dance and Andean folk dance are very different," said Naranjo. "[There are] different movements and different instruments used. And culturally ... I feel like Andean dance is still very much connected to its roots in indigeneity."

Aside from Danza Andina, Yale has two other Latine dance groups: Ballet Folklórico and Sabrosura.

Ballet Folklórico, as a genre, has its roots in indigenous Mexican folk dance. However, as a result of Spanish colonization, it has evolved over time to include some elements of Spanish dance.

The Yale dance group Sabrosura combines different dancing styles from a variety of Latine cultures. Some of the styles practiced are cumbia, merengue and bachata and salsa — Colombian, Dominican and Cuban dances, respectively.

"Having dancers from Andean regions can bring a new perspective to dance culture and also contribute to the cultural knowledge and exchange that we have here on campus," said Navarrete, who is a member of several Latine cultural groups on campus.

Just 12 years ago, Yale's total Latine population was under 500 students. Yale's report for the fall of 2022 counts over 1,500 Hispanic students. As that number continues to grow, the need for campus student spaces also grows.

As a member of the Ecuadorian indigenous group Kichwa-Kañari, Naranjo wanted to create a space where members of indigenous Central and South American tribes could find community.

Naranjo mentioned that while a very welcoming space, she feels that the Native American Cultural Center caters more toward North American indigenous groups.

The percentage of indigenous people at Yale is 0.4 percent of the student body. Cultural initiatives are largely student-based, so representation depends on the leadership of students.

"A lot of people will meet with me, and ... they'll say something more or less along the lines, 'Do I belong here? Do I fit in here?'" Matthew Makomenaw, director of the NACC, told the News. "We definitely do our best to try to make sure that ... the NACC is open, and not just for people who identify as indigenous."

While there are no concrete plans in place for specific Latine-Indigenous programming, the NACC welcomes students who might be interested in collaborating with them to represent their specific indigenous culture, Makomenaw added.

Naranjo's new group received positive support from the Yale

community. After promoting the group, she said that she received interest from dozens of undergraduate students, along with members of the graduate and medical schools.

She hopes that this group will be able to perform at events associated with La Casa Cultural, host dance workshops and help teach the Yale community more about Andean culture. Additionally, she said she wants the influence of her group to spread beyond New Haven.

"[My goal is to] promote indigenous Andean culture, unite us all through dance and create a space for us to praise our ancestors," she said. With Danza Andina, she said she wants Andean people to "reclaim their own identity."

Naranjo encourages students of all backgrounds to join Danza Andina.

Yale admitted its first Latine student in the early 1970s.

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## Ay! Arepa returns to New Haven after seven-year hiatus



YULIN ZHEN/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The popular food truck has now opened a physical location on the Broadway Island, replacing Bulldog Hotdogs.

BY LICHÉL JOHNSTON  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Nestled in the heart of Yale's campus, an old-favorite arepa joint has made its return as a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

Ay! Arepa, once a well-known food truck, opened its first physical location on July 7 of this year. The restaurant is located beside the Shops at Yale, at the former site of Bulldog Hotdogs. Owner Ernesto Garcia — who also owns the Latin American fusion restaurant Rubamba — told the News that he had his eyes set on the highly coveted strip of land in the middle of the city since he opened his first food truck 11 years ago.

"We used to have a food truck on Broadway between 2012 and 2016," Garcia said. "Since we were there, the cart was pretty

popular and students were very excited. The city made some changes in 2016 which forced us to move. Now, after seven years, we are coming back to Broadway."

In 2016, New Haven raised the licensing fee for food trucks from \$450 to \$5,100 a year.

Although Garcia had been in the food industry since 2008 and had owned several food trucks, his businesses took a hit during the pandemic, leaving the chef and entrepreneur with just one food truck, Ay! Arepa, in front of the Yale School of Medicine.

But the pandemic did not stop Garcia from pursuing his dreams of opening an Ay! Arepa storefront location in addition to the food truck, which still operates today.

"So far, so good," Garcia said of the restaurant's move onto

Broadway. "The area is great. The location is great. The store is great. The community is great. I can't complain."

Arepas are a staple street food in South America, particularly in Colombia and Venezuela. The cornmeal cakes are often stuffed and topped with meats, cheeses, vegetables, in addition to a variety of sauces. Ay! Arepa is not just cooking up this staple, though — the location offers a wide variety of Latin American foods, such as burritos, quesadillas, empanadas and even fresh churros. Yale students can receive a 10 percent discount on meals by showing workers their school-issued ID card.

Taina Hilario, a New Haven resident, was holding a bag of fresh churros as she shared her excitement about the opening of Ay! Arepa. Hilario said she is "a

big fan" of the truck operating on Cedar Street.

"I'm definitely going to come back and try more food," Hilario said.

Prior to Ay! Arepa's arrival on Broadway, Bulldog Hotdogs occupied the same kiosk. The popular hot dog joint abruptly closed its doors after just two years in business, leaving some in the Yale community devastated.

Ava Saylor '24, a former WKND editor for the News, told the News that she felt the weight of Bulldog Hotdog's departure.

"The day I saw that Bulldog Hotdogs was not there anymore, it was the worst day of my life," Saylor said.

Saylor's love for hotdogs left her questioning where she would be able to satisfy her cravings without breaking the bank.

Garcia said that he got a good deal on the rent. He also

reported having a good conversation with the owners of Bulldog Hotdogs about the transition. He told the News that Bulldog Hotdogs wanted to leave, making the swap mutually beneficial, per Garcia.

Bulldog Hotdogs did not respond to a request for comment.

Garcia, known informally as the "Arepa Master," is also the owner of Rubamaba, a popular Latin American restaurant at 25 High St. that opened in 2012. He often splits his time between Ay! Arepa and Rubamba and enjoys being able to share both his talent and culture with Yales and the residents of New Haven.

Ay! Arepa is located at 56 Broadway and is open seven days a week, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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## SPISSUE

## LATINExcellence showcase highlights Latine student artists

BY KAMINI PURUSHOTHAMAN  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Underground came alive this past Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. as Latine students joined together to share their visual art, spoken word poetry, song and dance at the Schwarzman Center.

Audience members and family weekend visitors entering the Elm were first welcomed with easels depicting the works of various student artists, at the sold-out Latinexcellence showcase, organized by La Casa Cultural and the Schwarzman Center. Later on, they were able to enjoy spoken word from students as well as Oye members, performances by Ballet Folklórico and Teatro de Yale, as well as a serenade from Yale's salsa and merengue ensemble, La Orquesta Tertulia.

"The showcase has been around since before me, but I've taken it on as my project over the last few years," said master of ceremonies Jaden González '25. "It's really just a chance for us to provide a platform for Latine creativity and art and talent, sharing that with the community during family weekend."

With help from Sebastián Eddowes Vargas MFA '24, González revived the showcase last year as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. This year's event, planned in collaboration with Dean Eileen Galvez from La Casa, marks the third annual showcase after its inception in 2019.

González put particular emphasis on the "importance" of the event taking place on a central part of campus, he said. "It's like we're taking up space at Yale with our art."

Multiple students underscored the significance of creating an outlet for Latine artists on campus, referring to past mishaps, like an instance last year when a Lighten Theater manager unexpectedly told student performers to shut down their performance of "In The Heights" mid-scene.

Montserrat Rodriguez '25, co-founder of Teatro de Yale, discussed the University's role in supporting Latine artists.

"Given the lack of institutional support Latine organizations face,



MICHAEL PAZ/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The third annual LATINExcellence Showcase featured visual art and performances from a myriad of original student artists and organizations.

it is that much more important for spaces like La Casa, BF, Sabro and Teatro to exist," Rodriguez said.

The event centered on established groups as well as more recent student-writers.

Emma Ventresca '26 performed "Leave My Life Behind," an original song from a musical she and her brother wrote. The musical, set to debut next spring, centers around her protagonist's dilemma about staying in her home of Buenos Aires or leaving to seek more opportunity.

Andrew Aaron Valdez MFA '25, fellow artist and Assistant Director of Marketing at the Yale Repertory Theatre, also shared selections from his original play, "Los Barqueros." He explores themes of substance abuse, identity and masculinity, such as in a poem in which he embodied the voice of a boy haunted by his older brother's drug addiction.

Several poets took the stage, including Zenaida Aguirre '24 and Lexa Pulido Rodriguez '24, co-founders of the spoken word poetry group ¡Oye!

"I'm trying to make the language dance," said poet and performer Diego Faria '27. Faria emphasized the importance of rhythm and meter in poems meant to be heard. "It's kind of like reading the lyrics to a song — it doesn't truly make sense until you feel the music."

Throughout the showcase, students felt the music with songs and choreographed dances. Odyssey Mann DIV '26 sang "Un día a la vez," which her grandfather taught her, and Aaron Custodio '26 performed "La nave del olvido," citing it as his favorite Spanish song. When Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Yale, a traditional Mexican folk dance group, took the stage, audience members

bopped their heads along with the music to which the group set its performance.

Paloma Vigil '25, an arts editor at the News, introduced Claro Que Sí, a magazine she created for all Latine undergraduates at Yale. Isabella Walther-Meade '25, Montserrat Rodríguez '25 and Kassie Navarrete '25 all performed pieces they had written for the Magazine's first edition, which came out last spring.

Additionally, Ángela Pérez '24, a former managing editor for the News, presented her photography at the visual arts display near the front of the space.

"I recently found a box of negatives in my house that used to belong to my grandfather," she said.

Inspired by this discovery, Pérez combined her interest in journalism and photography, traveling to Cuba and Mexico to report on "la décima," a poetic verse structure

she learned about from her father. "Every country in Latin America uses a version of it," she said.

La Orquesta Tertulia, Yale's only Latin band, gave the show's closing performance as guests rose from their seats to dance along to the salsa and merengue music.

Curating the event and finding performers proved difficult last year, González reflected, but memories of that show's success spurred an enthusiastic uptick in submissions this year.

"We had incredible spoken-word pieces that were very moving, and we had music pieces that were staples of classic Latino music," he said.

The Underground is located at the lower level of the Yale Schwarzman Center.

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## Latine dance studios flourish in New Haven



COURTESY OF JEFF HUDSON

As Latine Heritage Month comes to an end, the city's Latine dance studios continue to flourish, grow and reflect on the significance of Latine culture in the New Haven community.

BY NATI TESFAYE  
STAFF REPORTER

Baila Con Gusto, founded in 2017, and Rumberos, founded in 2005, have created hubs for dance and Latine culture for the New Haven community.

The two studios, which offer bachata, salsa, kizomba, tango and other Afro Caribbean dances have provided lessons to thousands of New Haven locals and hope to continue their steady growth through the end of this

calendar year. Jason Ramos, Baila Con Gusto's founder and one of its current dance instructors, highlighted the significance of having these spaces.

"In the lens of Connecticut, it creates a safe space for people to exchange culturally and socially," Ramos said. "You are able to play in that environment and receive a sense of information and representation. You are also able to connect to a different community that might feel out of reach."

In addition to teaching dance, Baila Con Gusto explores the more nuanced histories of Latine rhythm, music and dance, which have African roots.

Jeff Hudson, the owner of Rumberos, echoed the role these studios play in cultural awareness and exposure.

"The studio provides an organic form of access," he said. "Sometimes people are timid to explore other cultures or they may not feel like they have access to people of that culture.

It really provides an opportunity for exploration."

Hung Pham, who was born and raised in Vietnam and works at the School of Medicine, has been going to Rumberos since 2021 to "broaden" his understanding of dance.

According to Pham, it was love at first dance.

"It's one of those things where everyone no matter the age, no matter where they come from, once they hear the Latine beat, everyone is on the floor enjoy-

ing themselves," Pham said. "I've been meeting new people both Yale-affiliated and locals, and I really have been able to make meaningful connections."

Dani D'Oliveira, who resides in East Haven and has also been taking classes at Rumberos, appreciates the fact that it offers an escape from work and an opportunity to "get in our bodies."

D'Oliveira said that in our growingly tech-heavy world, these spaces offer a healthy reprieve.

The studios have also attracted experienced dancers, such as Amanda Duvall, who is a student-instructor at Baila Con Gusto.

After graduating from college, Duvall began working with Ramos and joined the team after the pandemic.

"Coming from a dance background, it's really great because he had a couple of different instructors come, and it's really nice to have people learn from each other," Duvall said. "And I have been able to continue being a student, which is so important to me."

As an instructor, Duvall has been able to infuse her experiences learning dance in Barcelona with the teachings of guest instructors, who help run workshops and trainings throughout the year.

For Duvall, Latine dance is a "celebration of life," and there is nothing more special than being able to perform and teach "in front of the community."

Both Baila Con Gusto and Rumberos plan on hosting weekly dance workshops and training sessions for the remainder of the year.

Baila Con Gusto and Rumberos are located at 57 Olive St. and 216 State St. respectively.

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# THROUGH THE LENS

## *LATINEXCELLENCE SHOWCASE*

Photos by **MICHAEL PAZ.**

