



Khan case allows defamation suits against assault victims

BY TRISTAN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Content warning: This article describes sexual violence.

SHARE is available to all members of the Yale community who are dealing with sexual misconduct of any kind, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence and more. Counselors are available any time, day or night, at the 24/7 hotline: (203) 432-2000.

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals remanded Saifullah Khan's lawsuit against the University to a lower court on Wednesday, Oct. 25. The update comes after Connecticut's Supreme Court ruled in June that Khan — who was originally a member of the Yale College class of 2016 — could go forward with his defamation suit against his accuser because the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Assault hearing Yale held did not qualify as “quasi-judicial.”

The case examined Yale's proceedings, which in 2019 found Khan “responsible” for sexual assaulting a female peer, who is referred to as Jane Doe, in 2015; the University expelled Khan in January 2019.

With the ruling, Khan's case now returns to a lower court, where the discovery process will begin. The ruling sets

a larger precedent that could open students who file sexual assault accusations with Title IX offices, and choose to pursue a hearing, up to defamation lawsuits similar to Khan's.

Khan originally filed his lawsuit against the University on Dec. 13, 2019, in district federal court, and the suit against Doe was dismissed in January 2021. On Jan. 14, 2021, Khan then appealed his case to the Second Circuit, who sent certified questions to Connecticut's Supreme Court.

The Second Court of Appeal's ruling allows Khan to sue Doe for defamation over statements she made in 2018, but it does not allow him to sue over claims made in 2015 made outside of court because they fall outside the time period in which legal actions can be made, called the statute of repose.

“In light of the Connecticut Supreme Court's responses to our certified questions in this case, we conclude that Khan's state-law claims against Doe for defamation and tortious interference with contract should not have been dismissed,” the justices wrote.

With the new ruling, Khan said that he plans to release Doe's identity, writing on X — the social media platform formerly known as Twitter — that the Second Circuit gave the “gift of justice.”

“In the spirit of truth, 'Jane Doe' will soon have a name,” Khan wrote in the post on Wednesday.

Khan's case dates back to 2015, when Jane Doe, then a senior in Trumbull College, accused Khan of sexual assault on Halloween night. Khan denied the allegations, saying the two engaged in consensual sex. Khan was arrested by Yale Police in November 2015 and suspended from the University indefinitely.

Khan's case went to criminal court, where a six-person jury found Khan not guilty on March 7, 2018. The University then allowed Khan to return to campus in fall 2018, until he was suspended again after new allegations arose. The University-Wide Committee on Sexual Assault found Khan “responsible” in that second round of Title IX proceedings. He was expelled in January 2019.

In his lawsuit against Yale, Khan alleged that the UWC proceedings lacked procedural safeguards such as cross-examination of the accuser and the ability for the accused to call witnesses, allowing him to sue for defamation.

He would not be able to do so if the court had deemed the case to be “quasi-judicial,” but the lack of those safeguards prompted

SEE KHAN PAGE 4

Hundreds walk out for Palestine

BY TRISTAN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Members of the Yale and New Haven communities gathered on Cross Campus on Wednesday, Oct. 25, and yelled chants including “Hey, hey, ho, ho, the occupation has got to go,” “When people are occupied, resistance is justified” and “Yale, Yale, you can't hide, you're financing genocide” as part of a national walkout calling on universities to support Palestinians. Protesters at Yale called on Israel to end its siege of Gaza and also demanded that the University divest from weapons manufacturers supplying arms to Israel.

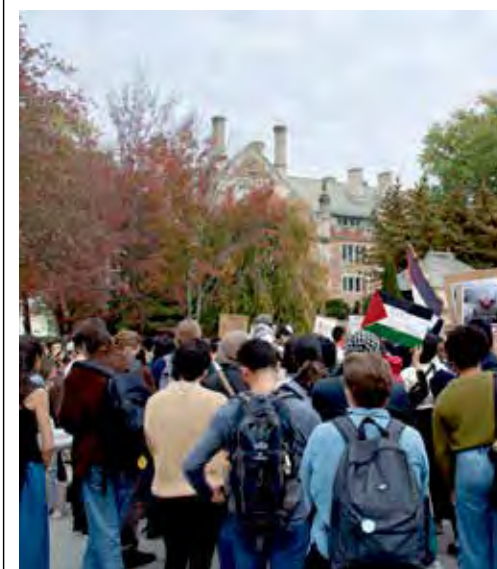
The University did not immediately respond to a Wednesday night request for comment on the allegations that protesters made against Yale. As of Wednesday night, the News had not yet independently verified whether Yale invests in weapons manufacturers.

At least one hundred students walked out of their classes to march down Prospect Street before gathering on Cross Campus in front of Sterling Memorial Library. Speakers shared stories and information about the Israel-Hamas war and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The protestors demanded that the University call for an immediate end to the siege on Gaza and to divest from weapons manufacturers like Lockheed Martin. The Yale walkout joined over 100 planned Wednesday protests in support of Gaza at universities across the country; the nationwide initiative was organized by eight groups, including National Students for Justice in Palestine.

“By walking out, we are joining classmates and colleagues across the campus

SEE WALKOUT PAGE 5



Yalies and New Haveners took part in a national walkout day. / Michael Paz, Photography Editor



The new ruling opens the possibility for alleged assaulters in Title IX sexual assault hearings to sue their accusers. / Tim Tai, Senior Photographer

Final mayoral debate focuses on city's transparency

BY MIA CORTÉS CASTRO AND YURII STASIUK
STAFF REPORTERS

New Haven's three mayoral candidates — incumbent mayor Justin Elicker and challengers Tom Goldenberg and Wendy Hamilton — faced off in their last debate of the election season on Tuesday night.

The Oct. 24 debate, co-hosted by the New Haven Democracy Fund and the New Haven Independent, attracted 40 attendees and covered many of the issues that have dominated this campaign cycle. Candidates discussed education, crime, housing, the economy and transparency in city campaign financing, ending the debate portion by encouraging residents to register to vote.

“We have done so much as a community,” Elicker said in his opening remark. “Not to mention perseverance. We know what our challenges are and we have a lot of work to do in our city. But I encourage you to focus on what the potential is for a city. To embrace the positives and confront the challenges head on and we need to do this together.”

Representing the range of political parties on the ballot, Democratic and Working Families Party candidate Elicker, unaffiliated candidate Hamilton, and Republican and Independent candidate Goldenberg all took the opportunity to differentiate themselves and articulate their positions on various issues to voters.

Candidates debate city finance and governance

New Haven received \$115 million in federal pandemic relief from the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA. Elicker said that the city used it to fund infrastructure improvements in parks, career and vocational training and the homebuyer program while only adding a few new positions to the city's payroll.

Asked how he plans to continue funding the city once ARPA money runs out, Elicker said that his administration was “very deliberate” in using that funding without increasing the long-term costs for the city.

Goldenberg pointed out that the city administration has not filled the controller position for three years — now, the role is temporarily filled

by Michael Gormany, the city budget director. The city controller is tasked with overseeing New Haven's financial planning, expenditures and information technology infrastructure.

Goldenberg criticized Elicker for what Goldenberg said were Elicker's past plans to hire a controller, among other administration officials, from outside of New Haven.

“I believe that New Haveners are capable. I've hired all the New Haveners on my campaign staff unlike the mayor, who brought people in from Washington, D.C. and Chicago,” Goldenberg said. “I see no need to go outside of the city ... to hire a top administrative role. And I certainly will not take three and a half years to fill that role.”

In 2022, according to the New Haven Independent, aldermanic staff circulated a memo in which Elicker submitted a request that would no longer have the city charter require department heads to live in New Haven if those department heads' appointments do not need to be approved by the alders. The city controller

SEE DEBATE PAGE 4

Over 1,000 rally to support Palestinians

BY MIA CORTÉS CASTRO AND LAURA OSPINA
STAFF REPORTERS

Over 1,000 protesters marched through the streets of New Haven to show support for Palestine on Sunday, Oct. 22, marking the largest pro-Palestine rally in Connecticut this month.

Hamas attacked Israel by surprise on Oct. 7 and killed at least 1,400 Israelis; Israel responded with airstrikes on Gaza and a formal declaration of war against Hamas. Protesters in New Haven on Sunday condemned the Israel Defense Force's attacks on Palestinian children and families specifically and cited the growing death toll in Gaza. As of Sunday evening, the IDF has killed 4,651 people in Gaza.

SEE RALLY PAGE 5

Coverage of community response to the Israel-Hamas War is on pages 5, 6, and 9.

Content warning: front page headline mentions sexual assault

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BULLETIN BOARD

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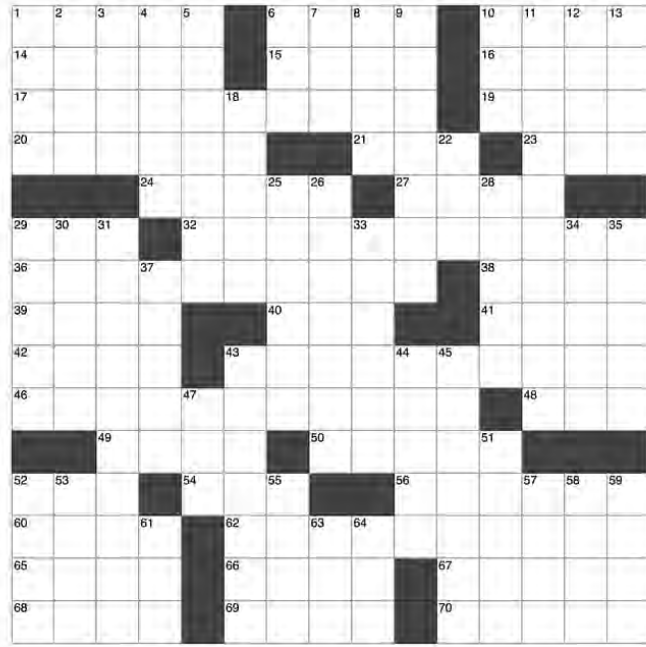
By Adam Winograd

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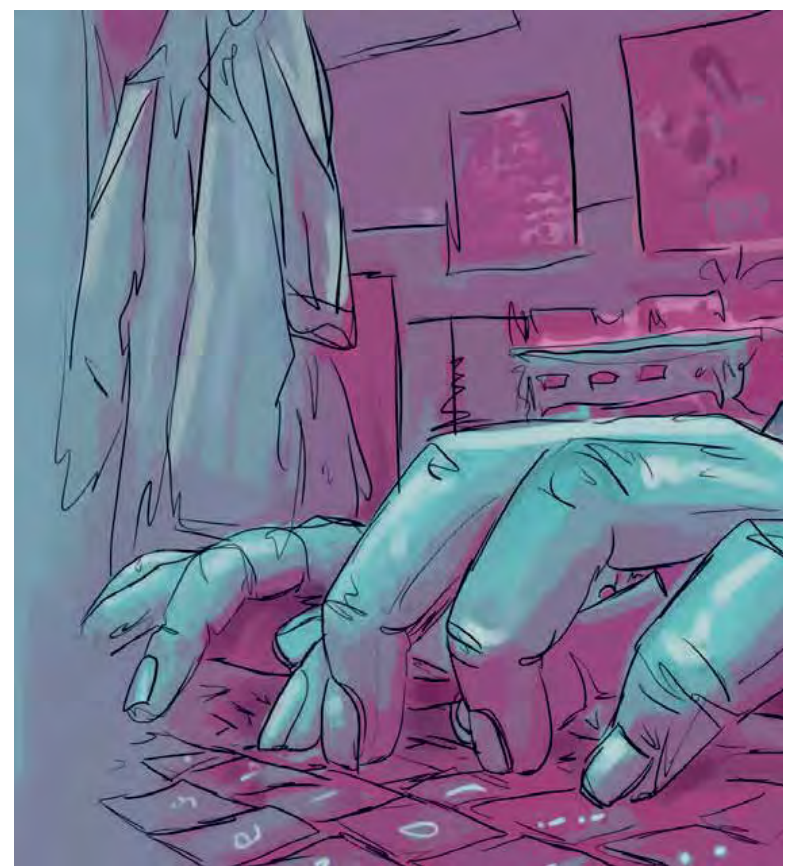


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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:



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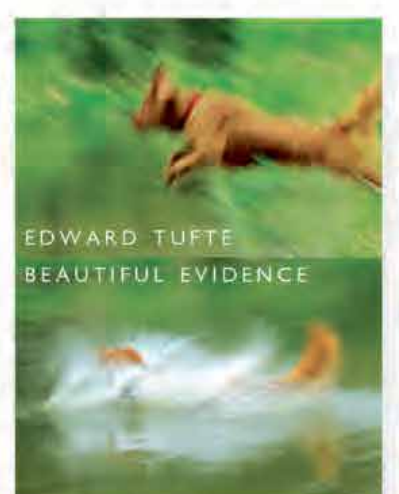
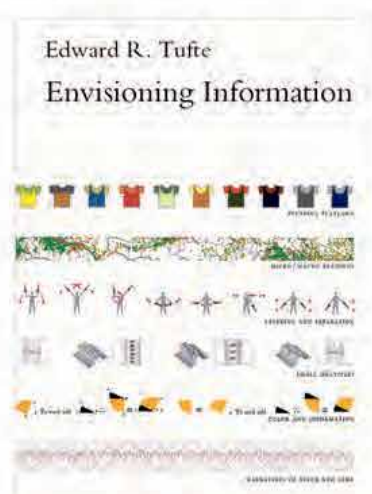
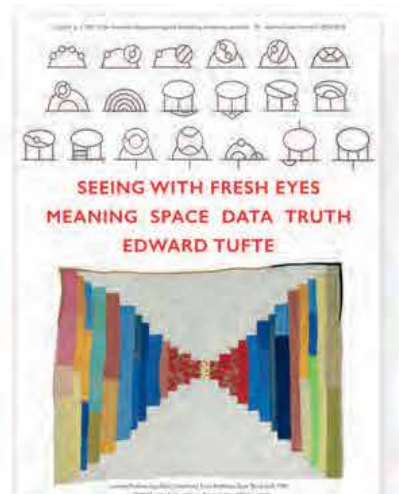
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FROM THE FRONT

“The wind outside nested in each tree, prowled the sidewalks in invisible treads like unseen cats.”

RAY BRADBURY AMERICAN AUTHOR

New ruling in Khan case means sexual assault victims may be liable for defamation suits

KHAN FROM PAGE 1

the Connecticut Supreme Court to rule on June 27 that Khan’s UWC hearings at Yale did not hold “quasi-judicial” status — as such, that Doe would not receive full immunity.

The state Supreme Court then tossed the case back to the federal district court, where justices released Wednesday’s ruling.

“We are thrilled by the ruling and look forward to holding Yale accountable for what it did to an

exceptional young man,” Norman Pattis, Khan’s lawyer, wrote to the News.

A similar court ruling in Colorado earlier this month cited “Khan v. Yale” in its decision to restrict immunity for accusers in a high school Title IX case.

The Colorado Court of Appeals ruled that a high school’s Title IX proceedings did not qualify as “quasi-judicial” and therefore the statements from the accusers — two high school students and their mothers — were not protected by absolute

immunity that is typically provided in court testimony.

The state Supreme Court’s June decision raises the question of whether university Title IX hearings might leave accusers of sexual assault liable for defamation lawsuits.

The case bears similarity to the Khan trial, as the accused, Benjamin Gonzalez, was found responsible by the Jefferson County School District Title IX proceeding but acquitted of sexual harassment in criminal court. Gonzalez also

filed a lawsuit alleging his accuser of defamation.

The judge, Dean Lum, cited Khan v. Yale seven times in the decision, acknowledging procedural safeguards that both cases lacked in their Title IX hearings. These included the ability to cross-examine the witness or having the meaningful assistance of counsel, which Lum wrote, “can potentially destroy the accused’s educational, employment, and other future prospects.”

“The right of the accused to receive fundamental fairness before

imposing such consequences is no less important than the right of the victim to seek justice,” Lum wrote in his decision.

In his lawsuit, Khan accused Yale of breach of contract, breach of privacy, emotional distress and reputational harm; he sued for \$110 million.

The Second Court of Appeals oversees the states of Connecticut, New York and Vermont.

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Mayoral candidates clash in final debate before election

DEBATE FROM PAGE 1

role must be approved by the Board of Alders and, thus, would have to live in New Haven under Elicker’s 2022 request. But, according to the Independent, Elicker “noted that the details could change” over the course of the city’s charter revision process.

Goldenberg: “This is not a good idea”

Goldenberg, who has spoken out against the Elicker Administration’s consideration of medically-supervised injection and drug consumption sites as a strategy for harm reduction, was asked what his ideal strategy would be for dealing with this issue and aiding people struggling with addiction in New Haven.

In response, Goldenberg argued that the Elicker Administration is not considering the parties that would be potentially affected by the sites they are considering creating. Goldenberg stated that the city’s involvement with the APT Foundation, a community-based treatment program that promotes recovery for those who live with substance use disorders, has promoted the unfair treatment of Black and Brown communities in New Haven. Goldenberg cited the APT Foundation’s purchase and occupation of a building in Newhallville as an example.

“I feel that communities are not being heard on this issue,” Goldenberg said. “So this is not just about the response to the opioid crisis. It is how we deal with our communities, and

especially our communities of color. They have been disrespected by this administration.”

Goldenberg referenced research he said he has done into other cities that have implemented safe injection sites, saying that he disagrees with the claim that these sites help promote safety or effectively address drug use and addiction.

Elicker rebutted Goldenberg’s statement by saying that his administration has taken public and expert opinions into account when proposing plans on how to deal with the opioid crisis. He also acknowledged the severity of the opioid crisis and substance use disorders in New Haven.

“There are many cities around the world that have safe consumption sites that will dramatically decrease the number of people dying in our community and divert people towards resources to get help,” Elicker said. “This actually reduces the amount of issues that we see out in the streets because people are coming in so that we can provide support for our community members.”

Candidates accuse each other of unclean campaign funding

Of the three candidates, only Elicker chose to participate in the New Haven Democracy Fund, a public program created to limit the impact of big money on city politics. The program provides a campaign grant and matching contributions for mayoral candidates who agree to cap individual campaign contributions at \$445 instead of \$1,000.

Hamilton chose not to raise money for her campaign and said she has only spent \$500 on business cards.

“We are in the state and the country that makes it very difficult for honest, normal people to run for office,” Hamilton said, explaining her decision not to fundraise.

Elicker said that he is “a big believer” in clean government and praised the Democracy Fund program. The incumbent mayor said his campaign raised 10 times as many individual donations as Goldenberg’s campaign; he then accused Goldenberg of lending \$50,000 to his own campaign and raising thousands in donations from outside the city.

Goldenberg, in turn, also accused the mayor of running an unclean campaign. He said that Elicker’s campaign received contributions from people including property developers and an attorney who contracts with the city.

“This mayor is beholden and propped up by special interest, and he wants to attack me for believing in myself and putting in my own money when it’s my first time running for elected office?” Goldenberg said. “If you want to attack me for putting my own money when you’re grabbing money from all these developers and special interests, I don’t know what to say.”

Goldenberg also said that 35 city employees donated to Elicker’s campaign and alleged that those donors felt “intimidated” to donate to keep their jobs.

Meanwhile, Goldenberg did not address the fact that the

majority of donations his campaign received were from people not connected with New Haven.

“You cherry-pick a handful of donors when I have had hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of community members donate to my campaign, people that are working in the city and even do work for the city and believe in the direction of the city,” Elicker responded. “It is illegal to ask any employees for funding, and I have never ever done that, and I would not.”

How to turn around low voter turnout?

Moderator and President of La Voz Hispana Norma Rodríguez Reyes posed the last question of the night.

Citing low turnout in September’s primary election, Reyes asked candidates what they think has caused poor voting rates around the city and what the city can do to incentivize voting.

“People show up for the presidential elections because there’s a lot of noise,” Elicker said. “In reality, local politics impact your life a lot more. But I don’t think all of these people make that connection. There’s just not as much advertising around local elections.”

Elicker also pointed to his successes as mayor since 2020 as a reason for low voter engagement. He claimed that people’s main incentive to vote is to make big changes and that because people, he said, are satisfied with the direction the city is moving, there is perhaps less incentive for them to vote.

Because New Haveners participate in mayoral elections every two years, the candidates suggested there is a higher likelihood that residents will not vote due to burnout or a lack of feeling of urgency.

“Finding a registered voter is like finding a diamond on the beach,” Hamilton said.

Both Goldenberg and Hamilton pointed to a “Democratic machine,” discussing the power that the Democratic party and affiliated organizations hold in swaying politics around New Haven — which they said has made both of them feel left out.

Goldenberg also suggested that the “Democratic machine” has left those in New Haven who do not align with the Democratic Party’s political views feeling ignored during election season.

“I think that people were not very enthusiastic about the choices,” Goldenberg said. “But I think this is a broader thing. A lot of people feel left out of party politics.”

During September’s Democratic primary, 23.7 percent of New Haven Democrats cast their votes either in person or via absentee ballot — 7,900 out of 33,377 registered Democrats, compared to 12,348 who voted in the last contested Democratic mayoral primary race in 2019.

The mayoral election will take place on Nov. 7.

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New Haven’s three mayoral candidates gathered at the Shubert Theater before an audience of close to 40 people for their last debate of the election season. / **Khuan-Yu Hall, Contributing Photographer**

FROM THE FRONT

"A mask tells us more than a face."

OSCAR WILDE AMERICAN MUSICIAN

Hundreds walk out for Palestine, demand action from Yale

WALKOUT FROM PAGE 1

and across the world to demand an immediate end to Israel's genocidal siege on Gaza, an end to U.S. funding for the occupation, and an end to the illegitimate Zionist occupation of Palestinian land," student organization Yalies4Palestine wrote in an Instagram post advertising the event.

On Oct. 7, Hamas launched a surprise attack against Israel that killed at least 1,400 Israelis, according to reporting by the Associated Press that cites Israeli

officials. Israel responded with airstrikes and a siege of Gaza, as well as a formal declaration of war against Hamas. The Associated Press reported Tuesday evening that the Hamas-run Health Ministry said that Israel's attacks have killed at least 5,791 Palestinians in Gaza. United Nations officials have called these attacks an "unprecedented catastrophe" and "collective punishment" in violation of international law.

The event was promoted on both the Yalies4Palestine Instagram account and on the "yale_walkout_

for_palestine" account, which wrote in a Tuesday post that organizers obtained a permit for the rally from the University.

Yalies4Palestine declined to comment, citing specific concerns with previous News coverage of student responses to the Israel-Hamas war and opinion pieces published in the News.

"For a university that glorifies 'light and truth,' Yale has lingered in the dark for far too long," one of the organizers told the crowd. "Yale has strayed far from the light. Part of this includes direct

contributions to Israeli businesses, grants and investments that profit from the illegal occupation of Palestine."

The organizers at the rally did not disclose their names in their speeches to the crowd.

At one point in the rally, after a speaker criticized the News' published content related to the Israel-Hamas war, several protesters yelled "fuck the YDN."

One student, who requested anonymity due to personal safety concerns and fear of doxing, said that they saw people leav-

ing from their philosophy class for the protest and decided to join them after learning about the walkout's purpose.

"I was just so happy to see so many people out here today and so many different faces supporting Palestine and all the lives that have been lost," they said.

Sterling Memorial Library and Cross Campus are located at 120 High St.

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Over 1,000 rally in the Elm City in support of Palestine

RALLY FROM PAGE 1

Dozens of families attended the rally. On shoulders, in strollers and walking hand-in-hand with community members, children held signs, led chants and wore face paint with the Palestinian flag. One sign read, "Don't bomb! Kids should be safe and happy!"

"Your tax dollars are directly going to the genocide of Palestinian people," Basel Alnajjar, a University of Connecticut Students for Justice in Palestine member, said in a speech to the crowd. "If this doesn't wake you up, what will?"

Alnajjar referenced the \$3.8 billion in military aid that the United States annually supplies to Israel in accordance with a 2016 agreement between the two countries.

After Hamas launched its attack earlier this month, Israel responded with a "complete siege" of Gaza. As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza escalates, Israel's attacks have forced one million Gazans to desert their homes; United Nations officials have called these attacks an "unprecedented catastrophe" and "collective punishment" in violation of international law. Israel's blockade of electricity and other necessities has left hos-

pitals across Gaza at risk of collapse, according to the Associated Press, and UNICEF said on Saturday, Oct. 21 that recently-allowed aid convoys would be unable to meet clean water needs.

New Haven's Oct. 22 rally for Palestine was organized by American Muslims for Palestine Connecticut, Students for Justice in Palestine at Uconn and Yalies4Palestine, with the three groups bringing together over 1,000 people during the three-hour march. The organizers led chants from the back of a UHaul truck, leading the crowd from the New Haven Green along Chapel Street and then back to the Green through Alexander Walk on Yale's campus.

"If we don't [show up], who will?" Anika Islam, a Connecticut resident who attended the march, said. "I think it boils down to recognizing your own humanity, it boils down to recognizing that there are no sides to genocide and understanding that when we come together as a community we are unified. Our voices become all the more stronger."

Across the United States, protesters have rallied in solidarity for Palestinians in cities including New York City and Washington, D.C. since Israel declared war against Hamas.

In New Haven, people dressed in red, green and black flooded downtown streets on Sunday afternoon, shouting "free Palestine" and "not another nickel, not another dime, not another dollar for Israel's crimes."

Some in the crowd held posters calling for an end to genocide, ethnic cleansing and U.S. funding for Israel's attacks. Others waved cloth or makeshift cardboard Palestinian flags. Many wore keffiyeh, traditional Palestinian head coverings that symbolize Palestinian nationalism.

"We're Palestinians," said a rally attendee who told the News they are a 20-year Connecticut resident and asked to remain anonymous due to personal safety concerns. "We have to show our support, and I think this is the least thing we can do. Considering the world's ongoing support for Israel and that we cannot send anything to Gaza, this will be the least that we can do."

One father hoisted his son onto his shoulders, revealing a sign on the child's back that read "Israeli target" with a drawing of a missile.

Resounding "boos" echoed from the protesters while passing the Chapel Street Starbucks, whose parent company is suing a Starbucks workers' union in Iowa after that

union expressed support for Palestine on its social media account. Rally organizers later encouraged attendees to boycott Starbucks, as well as McDonald's and Disney, due to the companies' support for Israel.

The rally featured a multicultural coalition, with signs including "Kurds for Palestine" and chants such as "Viva Viva Palestina!"

Javier Villatoro — an Indigenous New Haven resident who is of the Zapotec Nation, from the Oaxaca Valley in Mexico — called Palestinians his "Indigenous relatives" who, he said, share a common history of colonialism and genocide. This shared struggle has motivated Villatoro to attend several protests in support of Palestinians.

The rally's organizers also stopped on College Street, just off of Alexander Walk, to criticize Yale's support for Israel following a statement from University President Peter Salovey, in which Salovey denounced Hamas and its attacks.

One of the organizers at the rally read aloud a speech written by an anonymous Palestinian Yale student. The speech characterized Yale as an "exceptionally hostile" environment for supporters of

Palestinians, referencing a Yale student writing "Death to Palestine" on a dormitory whiteboard and student opinion articles condemning Yalies4Palestine published in the News.

"President Salovey's statement on the crisis titled 'War in the Middle East' was misguided and reinforced harmful stereotypes," the speaker read. "It is not a war in the Middle East; it is an attack by an occupying power on an occupied people ... Yale has empowered an environment that targets pro-Palestine voices."

As the crowd returned to the New Haven Green, organizers held a 10-minute break for Muslim attendees to observe daily prayer. After encouraging supporters to continue speaking out in support of Palestine on social media — in protests and in their daily life — organizers ended with prayers for the deceased, conducted in both Arabic and English.

American Muslims for Palestine was founded in 2006.

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The streets of New Haven were covered in red, green and black — the colors of the Palestinian flag — on Sunday afternoon as Connecticut residents chanted "Free Palestine" in the largest pro-Palestine rally across the state this month. / **Mia Cortés Castro, Contributing Photographer**

NEWS

"Grisly ghouls from every tomb are closing in to seal your doom."

MICHAEL JACKSON, THRILLER

Jewish Voice for Peace holds rally in support of Palestine, demands cease-fire

BY LUI PRADO AND LAURA OSPINA
STAFF REPORTERS

Over 250 Jewish protesters and allies rallied outside of City Hall last Wednesday to urge local elected officials to back a cease-fire in Gaza.

The protest was led by the New Haven Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, one of the largest Jewish anti-Zionist organizations in the world, and the Mending Minyan Solidarity Committee, a local Jewish community organization. During the hour-long rally, speakers read letters directed to New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro urging them to call for a cease-fire and send humanitarian aid to Gaza. Protesters also marched to DeLauro's office at the corner of Elm Street and Orange Street.

"It is our sacred task as Jews in the U.S. to fight for the humanity of all, to not let rage set it's blindfold upon us," Mikveh Warshaw, a co-founder of Mending Minyan, said in her speech. "We demand that the U.S. does not fuel this fire with more violent rhetoric, more guns, more bombs, and more dollars for blood. No one is safe under apartheid, under colonization. Genocide saves no one. Zionism does not protect Jewish people. Israel does not defend Judaism. If we want to protect Jews, then we need to create intersectional communities everywhere that we are."

Violence in Israel and Gaza began when Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7 and killed at least 1,400 Israelis, according to reporting by the Associated Press that cites Israeli officials. Israel responded with airstrikes on Gaza and a formal declaration of war against Hamas. The Associated Press reported Tuesday evening that the Hamas-run Health Ministry has said that Israel's attacks have killed at least 5,791 Palestinians in Gaza. United Nations



LUI PRADO / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Last Wednesday, over 250 Jewish New Haveners gathered to protest outside City Hall where they read letters calling on Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Mayor Justin Elicker to support a cease-fire in Gaza.

officials have called these attacks an "unprecedented catastrophe" and "collective punishment" in violation of international law.

After Hamas launched its attack earlier this month, Israel responded with a "complete siege" of Gaza. According to the Associated Press, the 2.3 million residents of Gaza are running out of basic supplies — including food, water and medicine — due to the blockade.

Participants chanted throughout the protest and were greeted with occasional honks from passing cars. They carried signs reading "Jews say: Stop the Genocide," "Stop killing the Palestinians: cut the billion to Israel," "End the occupation" and "Free Palestine!"

Shelly Altman, a leader with Jewish Voice for Peace, gave a speech in front of City Hall and called out Elicker's Oct. 11 letter, in which the Mayor grieved the lost life of Israelis murdered in Hamas' attack. Alt-

man criticized Elicker for not mentioning Palestinian deaths.

In the letter, Elicker wrote that he "unequivocally condemn[ed] terrorism" against both Israelis and Palestinians.

"So what now?" Altman asked rally attendees. "If the murder of Palestinians that happened over and over again in Gaza, in the West Bank and in Jerusalem, if it was going to make Jews safe in Israel and around the world then they would already be safe. So what they are doing now is not going to make Jews safe."

Altman then led a call-and-response chat with the crowd of: "What do we want?" "Cease-fire!" "When do we want it?" "Now!"

In an interview on Tuesday, Elicker told the News that he is proud of the many historical instances in which city leadership has called out injustices, and that he believes he was doing so by addressing the tragedy of the Hamas attack.

"A war is an awful, awful thing, and while Israel has the right to defend itself, it also has the responsibility to do everything possible to minimize any civilian casualties," Elicker said. "We're all praying and hoping for the safety of every civilian, whether Palestinian or Israeli, in this tragic conflict."

Katherine Breer told the News that she drove an hour from her home to participate in the rally. She said that she is neither Jewish nor Palestinian but that the issue feels personal for her because she has lived in the West Bank twice for six weeks at a time while visiting her son.

Breer said that Americans should read more and travel more to better understand the conflict.

"It's humiliating to see injustice on a daily basis at checkpoints, to see what it actually looks like to have illegal settlements in the West Bank, so I'm talking about the occupation," Breer said. "I

don't think we have a good concept in the United States that the two-state solution concept is disappearing as settlers take more and more land."

Allan Bryson, a former alder for East Rock and member of the Green Party also told the News that he wants to urge the U.S. to stop funding Israel, saying DeLauro's support for the funding was "terrible." He was holding a sign that said "shame" with pictures of DeLauro and Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy.

The U.S. sends \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel every year.

Unison Kelner, another rally attendee, also expressed frustration with DeLauro's response to the conflict.

"I came out to basically tell Rosa DeLauro that we need her to listen to us," Kelner said. "I feel like the most important thing for all of us in the U.S. to do is to let our voices be heard about what we think about what our government is doing by providing arms and money to the Israeli military!"

In an email to the News, DeLauro restated her support for Israel.

She also said that she is working to ensure that Palestinians in Gaza receive humanitarian aid and that her "ultimate goal" is for peace and a two-state solution to end the conflict.

"Israel has our unequivocal support as they seek to defeat Hamas," DeLauro wrote. "While they engage in that effort, they should take every precaution to protect innocent lives. Palestinians have also lost communities and even loved ones because of Hamas's atrocities. That Hamas militias were firing rockets right by a hospital, which confirms that the status quo is not tenable. Everyone will be hurt if Hamas remains in control of Gaza."

City Hall is located at 165 College St.

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Student safety concerns, social tensions swirl as Israel-Hamas war continues

BY JOSIE REICH AND TRISTAN HERNANDEZ
CONTRIBUTING AND STAFF REPORTER

As war rages on between Israel and Hamas, students say that tensions are running high across campus, contributing to heightened fears for personal safety and social consequences among students.

On Oct. 7, Hamas launched a surprise attack against Israel that killed at least 1,400 Israelis. Israel responded with airstrikes and a "complete siege" of Gaza, killing at least 2,800 as of Monday night. As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to escalate, United Nations officials have described Israel's attacks as "collective punishment" in violation of international law.

In the nearly two weeks since war officially broke out, Yale has been the site of rallies, vigils, petitions and opinionated social media posts. Last week, messages saying "Death to Palestine" were written on a whiteboard outside a Grace Hopper College dorm room, before being reported to Hopper administration. In an email to Hopper students on Oct. 14, Head of Hopper College Julia Adams expressed support for "academic freedom and the expression of views and dissent," but she did not explicitly mention the whiteboard message.

The News spoke with eight Yale students about their concerns for safety and emotional well-being.

"I haven't really been using my voice because I'm worried about being doxxed," an Arab Yale student said, speaking on the condition of anonymity due to safety concerns and fear of losing career opportunities. "My friends, whenever they protest, have been wearing masks and hiding their identities. They've changed their Instagram handles online."

Graphic videos and images capturing the violence in Israel and Gaza have circulated on social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. Six students reported that their Instagram feeds are blanketed with strongly worded support from their peers for both Israel and Palestine.

Samad Hakani '26, a photo editor for the News, said he has seen that his peers are scared to talk to their friends about the war because they are wor-

ried they might differ in opinion from one another in a way that could complicate their friendships.

He said he has appreciated that organizations like the Muslim Student Association and the Asian American Students Alliance, both of which he is a member of, have offered spaces for students to discuss their feelings relating to the war.

"Palestine is majority Muslim, and I feel their suffering," Hakani said. "I share a community with these people."

Tal Sheffer GRD '29, who has been at Yale for a month and a half as a first-year doctoral student in the Physics program, said that the political posts he has seen online have felt divorced from the humanitarian issues he views as being at the heart of the continuing violence.

Sheffer lived in Israel until age 12 before moving to the United States. Almost all of his family remains in Israel, and he said that his cousin is currently stationed as a soldier on the border with Gaza.

"Online, it's easy to press share on an infographic," he said. "But in person, if you see me crying, it's easy to see that this is a personal issue, not a political issue."

Mika Bardin '26, also said that important emotional context has been missing from unfolding political conversations on campus.

Bardin moved to the U.S. from Kamrei Yosef, Israel, at age six. Many of her friends and family still live in Israel, and she said that she has lost contact with her friends at various points throughout the past week.

"I feel like I can't mourn for people who have died because Americans think it's 'too political,'" Bardin said. "I'm scared that there will be justification when I find news reports of my friends who are dead."

Sheffer said that if he were to see a post he found insensitive, he would reply to it and try to explain his perspective.

Other students expressed more hesitance to engage in political conversations.

"It has so much weight for both Jewish and Arab students, and it's hard to bring up but it has to be talked about," the anonymous Arab student said. "It's an odd issue because people who are usually on the same side of political beliefs



TIM TAI / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

At several Ivy League universities and across the country, the Israel-Hamas war has generated tensions and unrest. The News spoke with eight Yale students affected by the war about their concerns for their safety and emotional well-being.

diverge on this. It's been difficult in friend groups."

Events similar to the white board messages in Hopper are not isolated to Yale. On college campuses across the country, unrest this week has raised concerns about student safety.

At Harvard University, a statement last week from the Harvard Undergraduate Palestine Solidarity Committee saying that they "hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence" generated backlash from politicians and alumni.

As of Tuesday, Oct. 10, at least four online sites listed the personal information — including names, past employment, photos and hometowns — of students associated with the 34 clubs that originally co-signed the statement. On Oct. 11 and 12, a "doxxing truck" displaying pictures and names of Harvard students in those clubs drove through Cambridge, the Crimson reported.

At Columbia University, a woman assaulted an Israeli student on Oct. 11 while the student was hanging up posters of Hamas-held Israeli hostages; the woman now faces hate crime charges in Manhattan criminal court.

Administrators of Columbia and Barnard College then restricted access to their New York City campus to only those with active school IDs in

advance of protests planned in the area for Oct. 12. That same day, hundreds of Columbia affiliates showed up to protest against escalating violence in Israel and Gaza on Columbia's South Lawn.

Events like these have affected Yale students' sense of security. A Jewish Yale College student, who spoke to the News on the condition of anonymity due to personal safety concerns, said that she and her family were afraid of the possibility of violent attacks on Friday, Oct. 13, after seeing viral social media rumors — since disproven — that a former Hamas leader called the day a planned "global day of jihad." The student decided that it would be safest to travel home to spend the day with her parents.

Hate crimes across the country and off of campuses are also impacting Yale students' outlook.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, a landlord stabbed a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy in Illinois 26 times, killing him and wounding his mother. The landlord attacked the boy and his mother "due to them being Muslim and the on-going Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis," the Will County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Yash Roy '25, a former staff reporter and production editor

for the News, grew up in Illinois, 15 minutes away from where the stabbing took place. Roy said that as an Indian-American, he feels tense whenever there is violence that targets Muslims because "people associate all people who are brown."

"Muslim and brown Americans are very scared right now because when something like this happens it threatens all of our safety," Roy said. "It's not like you can turn off being brown. You're always easily identifiable."

Yale Police Chief Anthony Campbell wrote in a statement published online on Oct. 13 that many members of the Yale community have reached out to the YPD in recent days over concern about their safety on campus.

He said that he has been in contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and "other agencies."

"They are unaware of any credible threat against Yale University or any members of the Yale community," Campbell wrote.

Yale College's October recess concludes on Oct. 23 at 8:20 a.m.

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ARTS

"We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones."

STEPHEN KING AMERICAN NOVELIST

Lauren Marut '25 and Soleil Singh '24 on their theater journey

BY JANE PARK
STAFF REPORTER

When Soleil Singh '24 and Lauren Marut '25, originally of the undergraduate class of 2024, first arrived at Yale, neither wanted anything to do with theater — despite doing it all throughout high school. Singh joined the Yale Entrepreneurial Society and wrote for the Yale Daily News, while Marut signed up for Directed Studies and planned to major in Ethics, Politics and Economics.

However, as Singh grappled with reduced artistic opportunities during the pandemic and Marut with a gap semester during her first year, both performers realized just how much they "wanted theater in their lives," according to Marut. At the beginning of the following year, the duo decided to co-found the Yale Artists Cabaret with the mission of creating a low-stakes and accessible musical theater experience.

"We designed this organization with the hopes of making theater a place of joy, instead of stress, anxiety and insecurity," said Marut. "Because as performers, we have a lifetime of that ahead. So why not take these opportunities that we have now and make them work for us, and make people relish in the fact that they get to perform? That's what we really hope to spotlight."

Singh, who is Indian American, said that her initial reluctance to do musical theater in college stemmed from her experience at her arts high school. Because none of her high schools' productions "fit an Indian demographic," Singh said that she felt limited by the types of performances in which she could participate.

Singh was only able to rediscover her love of theater after realizing how many opportunities were available to her at Yale. Marut, who is also Asian American, said that it was "really nice" having a collaborator who shared a vision to "create opportunities for Asian American artists" and carve out new paths in theater.

"In some capacities, I consider YAC to be original work because we are curating brand new shows,

which is really extremely exciting," Singh said. "Something that I've always wanted to do is not just do traditional theater, kind of because most of my high school experience was trying to fit into a box. I wanted to think outside of that and create new opportunities elsewhere, which led me to YAC."

Marut also recalled how her high school experiences inspired her to make theater spaces accessible through YAC. Marut attended a public school in Chicago, which offered a liberal arts education but did not teach her how to film self-tapes or select songs for auditions, she said.

According to Marut, these barriers of access require "a lot of self-education" on the part of the performer, which can make it more difficult for people to consider careers in theater. In order to combat these challenges, the pair decided to offer auditions through both live performances and video recordings.

"I think what's really unique and fun about our audition tapes is we truly just require that you sing something," said Singh. "We have casted people who have filmed a cool video of them singing in their car or acapella videos or they can sing in their bathroom. It can be any genre. It does not have to be musical theater. It can be pop, it can be anything that your heart desires, because we really just want to see what you want to bring to the show."

Isabella Walther-Meade '25 said that YAC was the "reason [she] started doing theater at Yale." She added that Marut and Singh were able to create a special environment due to their "understanding of the social aspect of theater."

Throughout Walther-Meade's Yale career, YAC has played a large part in introducing her to different performers and communities.

"Because of the lower commitment and more flexible rehearsal model, it was such a welcoming entry point," she said. "It's been such an important way to build community in the Yale theater space — I've met people through YAC who I've ended up working on so many other projects with."



COURTESY OF SOLEIL SINGH AND LAUREN MARUT

The News spoke to the Yale Artists Cabaret co-founders about their and upcoming show, "10:59."

Since its founding, YAC has welcomed performers from every part of the Yale community, said Marut. The casts represent various theatrical backgrounds, majors and extracurricular groups.

As YAC enters its third season, Singh and Marut have seen previous performers grow and enter new performance spaces.

"Because of how frequent our shows are, we've really gotten to see certain performers develop over their tenure," said Marut. "It's cool because this organization is one that can stick with a performer through their career at Yale and one where we hope to see people come back."

While YAC highlights solo performances from students across the University, the organization also strives to create community between the performers, members of production and audience members, said Singh. At the end of the semester, YAC hosts a "YAC

Formal" that celebrates everyone involved in production.

Audience members who have attended a certain number of YAC shows are also invited to these formals, as Singh and Marut check their attendance records through YaleConnect registration.

Marut said that she hopes for this sense of community to extend beyond her and YAC members' time at Yale.

"The idea of building an alumni network, for example, is really exciting. Because it doesn't have to be a formalized process, but it can be a way that we build community beyond Yale," Marut said. "Yale Artists Cabaret's mission of cultivating artistry and community, we can scale it beyond college."

Every YAC performance either begins or ends with a duet from Marut and Singh. Most recently, the pair has made their cabaret debut at 54 Below

— a New York City supper club featuring cabaret shows.

As Singh enters her final year at Yale, the duo's next project will be a joint solo show at Old Heidelberg on Nov. 8. While each singer will perform solo on stage, the duo will still share the show, said Marut: "It's just us two."

"Our friendship has grown so much through doing this organization," said Marut. "YAC has afforded us a really unique collaboration, in the sense that we've really had to rely on each other for a lot. When you're working so closely with someone on so many projects, you naturally get to know each other and come to depend on each other for nonprofessional things."

YAC's next show is "10:59" at the Off-Broadway Theatre on Oct. 27.

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Yale graduates more STEM than humanities and arts majors

BY LUKAS NEL
STAFF REPORTER

Yale is witnessing a shift in student major preferences.

For the first time since public records started at the Office of Institutional Research in 2000, the number of graduates in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields has outpaced the number of Yale College arts and humanities graduates.

Yale has seen a consistent decline in humanities enrollment — which includes majors like English, history and classics — since 2007, reflecting a broader national trend toward STEM.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there appeared to be a moment of revival in the number of humanities and arts majors at Yale. The overall trend, however, still leans overwhelmingly toward STEM, and more Yale students are registering for STEM courses than ever before.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, registration in arts and humanities were at 320, compared to 340 and 579 in physical sciences and engineering and social science, respectively. STEM encompasses majors like Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Computer Science and Mathematics.

National data reflects the same trend; the National Center for Education Statistics found that the number of graduates in the humanities declined by 29.6 percent from 2012 to 2020, as students have increasingly come to view college as an investment rather than an experience.

In part driven by a desire to attract and retain more STEM students, Yale has made landmark investments in some of its science and engineering sectors in recent years. The University

is investing \$550 million in a new Physical Sciences and Engineering Building and Yale's expansion of its School of Engineering & Applied Science is planning to add 45 new faculty members.

In February 2022, Yale also announced plans to distinguish the School of Engineering & Applied Science faculty from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The admissions office's keenness for prospective STEM applicants and the University's overall institutional emphasis on STEM is not new. Nine years ago, in 2014, although the University aimed for a first-year class that consisted of 40 percent STEM majors, only about 25 percent of the class of 2014 graduated with a STEM major.

In response to concerns that other higher learning institutions were offering more rigorous STEM programs, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Jeremiah Quinlan assured prospective students that they would not miss out on opportunities for cutting-edge research and funding opportunities if they chose Yale.

"If it happens here, it's just a sign of how bad it is in the country because you know, Yale is a great university across the board," said Lucas Bender, the director of undergraduate studies, or DUS, for the East Asian Languages and Literatures major. "But historically, Yale's strength has been in the humanities and the arts. It's one of the only universities that has top ranked music programs, drama and opera programs."

Bender said that applicants often self-select when they choose Yale. He gave the example of someone having a choice between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale, commenting that if the applicant were a science person, they would probably have chosen MIT. However, the increasing emphasis on



TIM TAI/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

In 2022, more undergraduates received degrees in science and engineering than in any year since 2000.

STEM at Yale reflects much larger national trends that merit further exploration, he added.

Another reason for these patterns, according to Bender, is economics — he said that students with art or humanities degrees may be concerned that they will not get high enough paying jobs to cover the costs of college.

But an overall trend within arts and humanities does not necessarily reflect individual trends on a major and degree basis. According to the former art DUS, Lisa Kereszi, the number of art majors increased from 2013 to 2023. She cited the eradication of course fees and a surge in interest in "self-expression" and "artmaking" as a possible cultural reac-

tion to current events and the political landscape. This in turn could have driven increases in art majors, she explained.

The options and flexibility offered by double majors might also explain the rise of STEM. According to Kereszi, there were more arts major students who also had another major last year than ever before: about 40 percent in 2022-2023, compared to the usual 25 to 30 percent, she said. Bender echoed that students who are double majoring have a high tendency to choose humanities as their second if their first is STEM-oriented.

Some students remain hopeful about the future of arts and humanities at Yale, calling atten-

tion to the importance of studying what speaks to one's interests.

"While there is a place for the pre-professional, I find it more rewarding to study our intrinsic humanity through the words and deeds of the world's greatest thinkers, and seek the roots of the beauty of our shared culture," said Camillo Padulli, '25, who is majoring in history. "Yale has traditionally been a nexus for learning about the classic tenets of high western civilization, and I would feel loath to miss out on that."

In 1861, Yale conferred the first doctorate of philosophy ever awarded in America.

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THROUGH THE LENS



Hundreds of Yalies and New Haveners took part in a national walkout for Palestine on Oct. 25 as the Israel-Hamas war continues. Protesters at Yale called on Israel to end its siege of Gaza and also demanded that the University divest from weapons manufacturers supplying arms to Israel.

Read about the walkout on page 5.

Photos by **TRISTAN HERNANDEZ AND MICHAEL PAZ.**

WEEKEND

//HELEN HUYNH

A WOMAN

or

contributing to the atmospheric friendliness perceived at Yale.

To exist is to be perceived; to be aware of perception is to act. Everyone at Yale plays a role to a certain undeniable degree. Do you act exactly

you're a youthful college girl ready to mingle, or partake in the hookup scene?"

Telemaque also commented on the same social pressure, her initial response not only pertaining to platonic relationships but also romantic ones.

// BY ROSE QUITSLUND

I don't lay awake in bed at night thinking about my femininity. I don't wake up taking score of how I will be perceived by the world. I don't sit in class drumming my pencil to the sound of my thoughts reminding me that if I were born 50 years earlier, I wouldn't be sitting here. The table beneath my notebook may bear generations of men's names carved into the wood, and although it perpetuates them, my seat at the table is an opposition to the very notion that Yale is only for men.

We are remarkably self-centered as a species. Humans of our age demographic have notably ephemeral attention-spans. You'll forget about this article within the coming week. It's eerily easy to let the fraught past of women and Yale drift into the background. Yale rectified its blatant lack of women undergraduates, in many ways, it seems a past left far behind. The acceptance of women at Yale is now celebrated, Maya Lin's elegant Women's Table reminds us daily. But it's a quiet reminder, it's rarely anything more than an underlying ambivalence. I suppose the tension of a woman's place is so integrated into living that you don't notice it except when asked to.

To be a woman at Yale is to be a woman. I do my duties. I celebrate Women's Month, I contemplate my place in this world and this academic institution as anything but a white man. But I can only imagine the change in the student demographic between 1968 and 1969. Imagine yourself to be a man attending Yale College, class of 1971. The year is 1969, the first that Yale admitted women undergraduates. It's your junior year at Yale, you walk into an English class and a woman is in the classroom. Do you strike up a friendship with her?

When I was a high school senior on the college search, Yale was advertised to me as one of the institutions with the kindest student population, a university in which people are accepting and foster a friendly atmosphere between peers. I remember hearing sentiments along the lines of, "Yeah, the education is great, but it's the relationships you'll really remember."

When I asked Olivia Telemaque '26, if she had any thoughts about what it means to be a woman at Yale, her mind first went to relationships too. She commented on a perceived difference between female and male friendships: "Women, I love the way we have friendships. I've been noticing that [men] cannot seem to reach that level of depth of friendship with a man unless it's with a lifelong friend."

These deep, long lasting connections aren't always easy to make. At Yale, many people come from backgrounds where, Telemaque says, "It wasn't the coolest thing to be really smart and proud of it, where you had to be some kind of humble and downplay your accomplishments," a sentiment pertaining to women in particular.

There's an understanding there. One of shared experience, resulting in a mutual respect for other academic women rather than a condemnation of intelligence. This sense seems to foster a sort of sisterhood, perhaps

the same here as you do at home? Do you perform for your classmates? Do you plan the exact wording of your comment in section before it leaves your mouth? The groups touring our movie set glance at us out of the corner of their eyes. You walk past Sterling Memorial Library and catch a snippet of a tour guide preaching about the Women's Table to a semi-circle of glazed eye high schoolers and bright-eyed parents: "built for the 20 year anniversary of accepting women at Yale college, it serves as a daily reminder for ...," you hear a tour guide say.

When we are in Starr Reading room, in Bass Library, in Commons, we're perceived, we're observed and we act. Judy Nguyen '26 noted that there is a certain expectation to "perform the Yale experience." Whether you want to or not, being a Yale student puts you on display. Nguyen commented on the performative aspect of the Yale experience, particularly that of a woman, an identity that casts certain elements into an even harsher stage light.

Effort — aesthetic, academic, social — and interpretation of it is a function of perceived gender. It's the classic double standard: a woman works hard for grades, social standing and visual appearance, yet she's condemned as a tryhard, type A, OCD. A man does the same and he is exalted for being a go-getter, a real productive guy.

Nguyen referenced the Gone Girl monologue: the expectation to be perfect but God forbid you put any effort into it. It should come naturally, being the cool girl. But this is an image that is largely contingent on class. Why is a cool girl cool? Maybe she does a capella, maybe she's really nice, maybe she has the money and connections to dress a certain way, to have "name-brand experiences," and to be cultured in the arts and sciences. Nguyen states that "a lot of people play into their femininity with money."

Furthermore, Nguyen noted the social pressure that "to be a fulfilled Yale woman, you have to be pursuing something romantically. It's part of the performance, part of being a well-rounded woman fulfilling the college lifestyle. If you're not coupled, you have to perform the image that

There's a pressure to always have something going on, whether in a relationship, talking to someone, or searching for someone. Being a woman with no romantic interests is seen as an anomaly, even at an academic institution. "We're not anti-relationship! We just don't have time," Telemaque exclaimed. Focusing on one's studies at Yale is not necessarily an aversion to relationships, but this perception is a testament to the pressure.

Hook-up culture and intra-institutional relationships may well have existed long before women were accepted to the college but not in the same way that both homosexual and heterosexual relationships are now. Pressure to date within the institution's student body is a newfound phenomenon yet still one that seems to more keenly affect the demographic that causes it.

Implied in dating is the question of physical attractiveness. Yale's official website's timeline of Women at Yale includes the quote from April 1969: "Jokes about the looks of women are popular. Dean of Admissions R. Inslee Clark responds by declaring that the beauty of an applicant is not important except in contributing to the 'attractiveness' of the applicant as a whole."

Does the presence of beautiful women at academically rigorous institutions make the institution itself more attractive? Does it draw in a crowd of lookers? Is it the external validation? External to ourselves that affirms our beauty, and external to Yale that affirms some sort of superiority.

I've been mulling over how the female experience at Yale is particular to Yale. It seems to me that being a contemporary woman at Yale is more dependent on the former than the latter. In many ways Yale has naturalized gender diversity — but with the change brought the same complicated questions bubbling under the surface tension of being a woman at a university created for and by men.

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A HORROR HATER'S TRAUMATIZED REVIEW OF 'SAW X'

Spoilers ahead!

// BY IDONE RHODES

A few weeks ago, I made my final journey to the now-closed Bow Tie Cinema in hopes of seeing a horror movie. Do I like horror movies? No! Do I usually avoid such films like the plague? Yes! Ever since seeing “Hereditary” — and struggling to sleep for weeks afterwards — I’ve made it a rule to engage with horror as little as possible.

However, it’s almost Halloween, and I thought that in the spirit of spookiness, I should give one a go. After doing careful research into the “right” horror film for me, I decided that “When Evil Lurks” was the best fit. Though supposed to be utterly terrifying, the film had good reviews and even premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. One Letterboxd reviewer advised potential viewers not to see the film in an empty theater, so a friend kindly agreed to go with me.

To our dismay, Bow Tie wasn’t showing “When Evil Lurks” (though I’m pretty sure I saw it on their website). Nevertheless, I was determined to see a horror movie, so I chose the next “best” thing: “Saw X.” I bought some Sour Patch Kids and steeled myself.

I haven’t seen the first nine Saw movies, and I had no idea what to expect beyond the bicycling puppet of Twitter lore. (I later learned the puppet is named Billy the Puppet, and my primary critique of the film is that he didn’t get nearly enough screen time.)

I was on edge as soon as the movie began. The veneer of normalcy over the opening scenes of a horror film always makes me uneasy; I sat waiting for the next shoe to drop. Quickly, I figured out the film’s premise: John Kramer, an older man with terminal cancer, conceives of himself as an arbiter of vigilante justice. He crafts “jigsaw” traps, torturous puzzles intended to match his victim’s crime. If the person can escape their trap, they are absolved and free to continue their life. Desperate for a cure for his disease, Kramer is seduced by the promises of Dr. Cecilia Pedersen, an exiled doctor who claims she can fix him with a “drug cocktail” and surgical intervention. As soon as Pedersen said “drug cocktail” for the fifth time, I knew her miraculous

cure was a scam — the film could have done away with about half of the build-up to the betrayal we all knew was coming.

Things soon took a turn for the gross. Each person involved in Pedersen’s scam was kidnapped and brought back to the scene of their crime — the warehouse where Kramer was supposed to receive his treatment — and attached to a jigsaw trap. I watched the next hour or so of the film with my head inside of my sweatshirt and my hands over my ears. Every once in a while, when the screaming quieted, I would peer out of the safety of my hoodie, only to be met with severed limbs and singed skin. Eventually, I was so desensitized to the blood and bone dust that I couldn’t help but watch with disturbed fascination as a man cut open his own skull and removed some of his brain tissue. It was the most disgusting thing I have ever watched, but the magic of the film is that you can’t really look away no matter how much you want to. “Saw X” was never really scary, but the relentless gore was certainly horrific in its own terrible way.

In the interstices of each violent challenge, Kramer and his sidekick Amanda Young, a reformed drug addict whom Kramer “saves” in the original Saw film, argue about whether their ambitions are just. From my Google searches, I learned that Shawnee Smith, the actress who plays Amanda, is honored among the ranks of “scream queens” — actresses known for their contributions to horror.

Amanda is positioned as the moral foil to Kramer’s project: she believes in his games but wants to play them fairly. But Kramer is so deep in his own world of right and wrong that he is cut off from the humanity that Amanda represents. The clash of their ethical codes was initially interesting, but the conversations never went beyond surface level complaints from Amanda that what they were doing “wasn’t right” and Kramer’s insistence that she fully commit herself to his project. These conversations started to feel more like filler than a catalyst for change. Again, I must stress that my knowledge of this franchise is isolated to this singular film that I watched mostly through the cracks between my fingers, so I can’t really judge Amanda beyond the fact she had a terrible haircut and was

perhaps a bit too quick to cry for someone in her line of work.

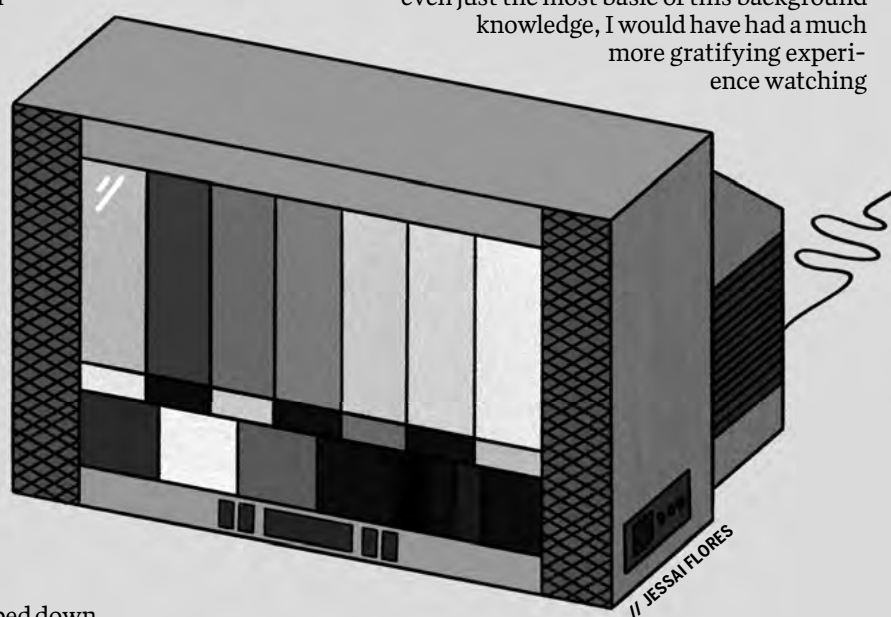
For all of my confusion about and criticism of this film, I will confess to thoroughly enjoying the final twist (spoiler alert): Parker Sears (initially introduced as another of Dr. Pedersen’s betrayed patients) is actually the doctor’s boyfriend and accomplice. This revelation was genuinely surprising and gave the ending an energy that was lost in the earlier slog of torture.

The penultimate trap of the film raises the stakes even further, putting both Kramer and a young boy named Carlos (roped into the drama by Dr. Pedersen) in mortal

danger. They are strapped down at two ends of a metal platform and blood begins pouring down from the ceiling, relentlessly bloodboarding them. The platform acts as a see-saw, and each person has a lever which can raise or lift their side to put them out of harm’s way. For a moment, it seems like Kramer is going to sacrifice himself for Carlos and drown in a torrent of red, but he is, of course, always one step ahead. He uses Dr. Pedersen and Parker’s unifying greed to exact his revenge on both, poisoning them with gas when they inevitably try to steal back their money. Whether the doctor lives at the end of the film is unknown. Though I could have done

without the gallons of spilled blood, the intricate logic and suspense of the ending was frankly the most interesting puzzle of the movie.

If body horror is what you seek in a film, I cannot recommend “Saw X” enough. What the film lacks in well-paced plot it makes up for in blood and guts. I’d also suggest watching the first few Saw films before skipping ahead to this one, and I’ll readily admit not doing so was my first mistake. As the encyclopedic Saw Wiki page can attest to, the films are riddled with easter eggs and minute references to other iterations of the Saw universe. Had I been able to tap into even just the most basic of this background knowledge, I would have had a much more gratifying experience watching



the film. Nevertheless, this film is not for the faint of heart no matter how you slice it. “You are a warrior, my boy,” Kramer tells Carlos at the end of the film. I, too, felt like a warrior after surviving nearly two hours of gore that tested my capacity for taming my own nausea. From now on, I look forward to keeping my Saw exposure limited to tweets about Billy the Puppet attending a screening of Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour.

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SEX ON THE WKND: THINGS THAT SCARE ME

A few weeks ago, my therapist broke up with me, if that’s even something that can be legally done. Apparently, she no longer felt adequately prepared for my personal problems that were “near unsolvable” and recommended a few local fortune tellers and that girl in Silliman with tarot cards as a last resort. But before we called it quits, she taught me something that I shall now teach you: that it’s of the utmost importance to talk through your fears. In fact, simply speaking about one’s anxieties is proven to reduce their scariness dramatically. According to a 2017 Stanford study, when students wrote poetry about their fear of murderers, they had 10x higher chances of overcoming their anxiety and becoming murderers themselves! So, I thought: why not make this week’s article productive for once, and work through my own personal fears (although if I wake up tomorrow as a condom, I’m suing Stanford).

1. People on Hinge who put voice memos on their profiles.

There’s not too much to say about this fear, except that nothing should be said on your profile. Ever. For those of you who are culprits: first, I’d suggest the Yale New Haven Psychiatric Hospital for a lobotomy, and second, an IV needle to extract the pure

confidence coursing through your veins (and then a request to give me some). But yeah, your putting a voice behind “best vacation story” just makes your trip to Ibiza sound even lamer.

2. Chlamydia.

Honestly, a character building experience. But who really needs their character to be more built at this point? And yes, out of all the unwanted byproducts that sex

can give you, Chlamydia is probably the best case scenario. But those sweet Yale Health nurses won’t ever look at you the same. Perhaps Chlamydia’s true scariness lies in the fact that it’s always lurking, just around the corner. Like, Chlamydia the Friendly Ghost?

3. And yet, condoms.

Okay this is a joke. Everyone practice safe

sex! But they also look like clear ghosts when put upside down. Boo.

4. Post nut clarity.

What your professor won’t mention in your Directed Studies seminar is that the term “Post Nut Clarity” first appeared in the original copy of Plato’s Allegory of the Cave, when he describes those philosopher kings who finally make it out of their disillusionment. To quote exactly: “When

people finally free themselves from their intellectual darkness, they will experience the same enlightenment and freedom that one experiences post-nut, you know, that sort of clarity. You know what I’m talking about Socrateete, right?” And this ancient dogma still haunts me today — because dude, what the fuck are you thinking about right now? Has your clarity made you realize my underwear

has two holes and like three ambiguous stains? Don’t answer that.

5. Whether the sweet boy you ghosted was actually the love of your life.

Spoiler alert: he probably was, and that idea will most likely haunt you for the rest of your life. But hey, they don’t call it a “ghost” for nothing! And besides, he could’ve equally also been a vampire, or a murderer, or someone who likes the voice memo feature on Hinge, or the 36th great-grandson of Socrates. Who needs love when you have chlamydia?

Okay that’s it, five fears are more than enough right now. Some honorable mentions: being attracted to a first-year, middle age mediocrity, the men’s lacrosse team, a grown man calling me “mommy”, the couple that makes out in the Stiles library, seeing my situationship talk with literally anyone at a party, chlamydia a second time.

I wish you a safe and sexy Halloween, especially to those virgins reading (which, if you’re reading SOTW, you’re most likely a virgin). You know what Halloween means: sacrifices and seances. I really don’t want you to get sacrificed! So please, I implore you to keep one eye open, or just have sex already.

WKND Recommends

Putting ketchup on pizza.

Ranking 185 Taylor Swift songs by when Travis Kelce should listen to them

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

I didn't want to write this article, but I follow the news. I can see the trends, and I know what it takes to win clicks through search engine optimization these days. I asked my editors, "How could the Yale Daily News, as a 'reputable' news organization, not have at least one headline with the words Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce in it?" They didn't know, so here we are.

The cumulative length of T-Swizzle's discography is around 21 hours; I, doing my humble duty to both my readers and Travis Kelce, listened to all of it. And I now have the definitive ranking of all of Taylor Swift's songs, from 1–185, grouped by how Travis should listen to them.

The formula for calculating this ranking included several variables: (1) Subjectively, do I like the song? (2) Objectively, is it a banger? (3) Was it a cultural phenomenon? (4) Do I think the 6'5", 250-pound Travis Kelce would love it? (5) Would the Swifties come for me if I didn't rank it higher?

There will be some songs that make you say, "There's no way you ranked 'Betty' at No. 141, Andrew!" But I did, because the first 140 were just that awesome. It is the price Taylor pays for a prolific discography.

My editors warned that classic clickbait rankings save the top spot for the end, but a clickbait artiste like myself need not depend on such gimmicks. So no, I won't sell out my audience so shamelessly. Instead, I offer you nuance and dignity.

1–20: The first touchdown! Songs we all developed a crush to

1. Fifteen
2. Fearless
3. Love Story
4. Speak Now
5. Hey Stephen
6. Red
7. Forever & Always
8. State of Grace
9. All Too Well (10 Minute Version)
10. White Horse
11. The Best Day
12. You Belong With Me
13. Tim McGraw
14. Teardrops On My Guitar
15. Our Song
16. Breathe
17. Stay Stay Stay
18. When Emma Falls In Love
19. The Story Of Us
20. We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together

This was supposed to be a list of when Travis should listen to these songs, but, if we're being perfectly honest, we all know he developed his crush because of these masterpieces.

Sure, you might be asking, "Hey, don't a whole bunch of these involve breakups or disrupting somebody else's wedding?" They sure do. But who cares? The vocals ... the storytelling ... the guitar ... magical.

21–49: The emotions are building (like the start of a Chiefs touchdown drive)

21. Mean
22. invisible string
23. Sparks Fly
24. How You Get The Girl
25. Better Than Revenge
26. Blank Space
27. 22
28. Enchanted
29. Mine
30. I Knew You Were Trouble
31. Tell Me Why
32. Lover
33. Mr. Perfectly Fine
34. You're Not Sorry
35. I Almost Do
36. Never Grow Up
37. Dear John
38. Change
39. Paper Rings
40. London Boy
41. The Way I Loved You
42. Message In A Bottle
43. Getaway Car
44. Daylight
45. Last Kiss
46. Long Live
47. Nothing New
48. Begin Again
49. That's When

That first cutoff was made by the thinnest of margins, and I realize it might seem questionable to exclude songs like "Mean", "22" and "I Knew You Were Trouble" that all dominated the radio for years. But like I said, this list isn't about caving to the opinions of the masses. This is about dissecting the romantic timeline of the most over-dissected couple on the planet through music.

While this group features another batch of heartbreak anthems, including

a grave reminder of the stakes of the relationship in "Dear John", it also features some of Taylor's best songs to listen to as you daydream about falling in love, including "Lover," "Blank Space" and "Paper Rings."

50–73: Taking it public: songs on the pregame playlist right now

50. I Forgot That You Existed
51. Back To December
52. Picture To Burn
53. Cruel Summer
54. gold rush
55. Death By A Thousand Cuts
56. Cornelia Street
57. Jump Then Fall
58. Style
59. illicit affairs
60. Shake It Off
61. Treacherous
62. Should've Said No
63. You All Over Me
64. Forever Winter
65. Mary's Song (Oh My My My)
66. The Very First Night
67. Starlight
68. this is me trying
69. the 1
70. Don't Blame Me

89. Sad Beautiful Tragic
90. Cowboy Like Me
91. exile
92. 'tis the damn season
93. Bad Blood
94. Holy Ground
95. Today Was A Fairytale
96. Delicate
97. If T'96, his Was A Movie
98. Stay Beautiful
99. Soon You'll Get Better
100. Labyrinth
101. The Archer
102. Safe And Sound
103. Haunted

Exactly 40 percent of the way through our list, there is a noticeable shift in the energy. As their relationship continues to mature, Travis will want to hear Taylor's music develop as well. These more recent melancholy melodies don't dominate every college boy's playlists like the first 73 songs undoubtedly do. But when you sit and give them a real listen, they can hit you right in the feels, like Mahomes might hit Kelce for a big score.

104–135: Songs to hate-listen to after the first fight, but he just falls even more in love

104. Cold As You
105. cardigan
106. We Were Happy
107. I Did Something Bad
108. This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things
109. New Romantics
110. The Lucky One
111. ivy
112. happiness
113. Clean

Have Nice Things" and "Gorgeous" — well, maybe those are, in fact, knocked down a peg on the grounds of "not being as good." I said what I said.

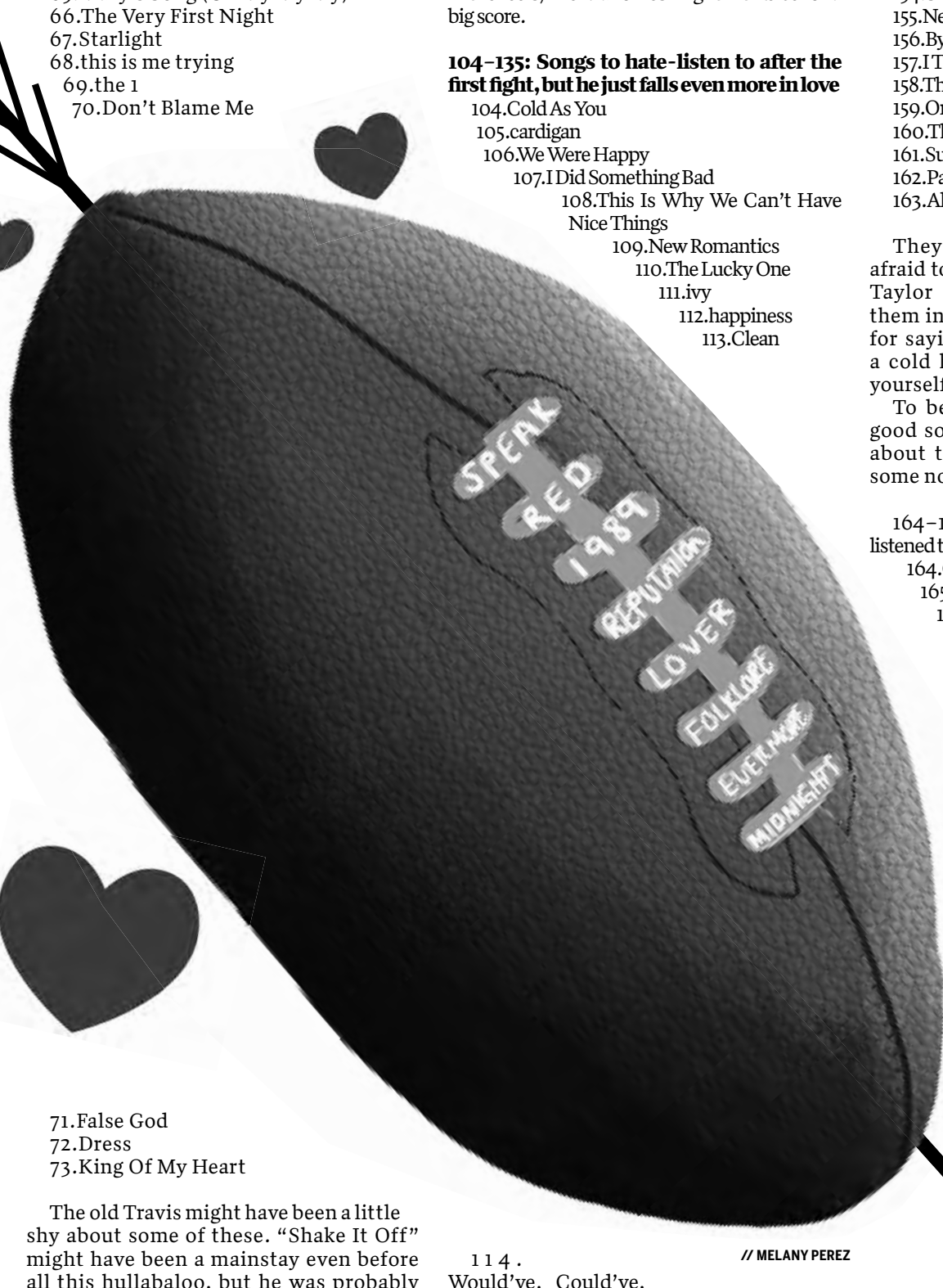
- 136–163: It's the offseason, so he might as well
136. Run
137. Ours
138. I Can See You
139. End Game
140. mad woman
141. betty
142. I Know Places
143. closure
144. evermore
145. the lakes
146. Hits Different
147. Dancing With Our Hands Tied
148. Question...?
149. long story short
150. It's Nice To Have A Friend
151. marjorie
152. seven
153. The Great War
154. Snow On The Beach
155. New Year's Day
156. Bye Bye Baby
157. I Think He Knows
158. The Last Time
159. Only The Young
160. The Outside
161. Superman
162. Paris
163. All Of The Girls You Loved Before

They're not bad songs. But I'm not afraid to speak the truth. If these weren't Taylor Swift songs, we wouldn't hold them in such high regard. If you hate me for saying that, maybe you need to take a cold hard look in the mirror and ask yourself if you can genuinely disagree.

To be abundantly clear, they're still good songs. But we wouldn't be talking about them at all if they were sung by some nobody like John Mayer.

164–185: "We're married, of course I've listened to all her songs!" To sing the kids to sleep

164. Glitch
165. willow
166. Tied Together With A Smile
167. A Place In This World
168. Anti-Hero
169. epiphany
170. Wonderland
171. Lavender Haze
172. ...Ready For It?
173. Look What You Made Me Do
174. Carolina
175. Midnight Rain
176. All You Had To Do Was Stay
177. tolerate it
178. You Need To Calm Down
179. Castles Crumbling
180. So It Goes...
181. ME!
182. The Man
183. Karma
184. Bejeweled
185. Vigilante Shit



// MELANY PEREZ

114 .
Would've, Could've,
Should've

115. The Last Great American Dynasty
116. Eyes Open
117. Afterglow
118. You're On Your Own Kid
119. Right Where You Left Me
120. I Wish You Would
121. The Moment I Knew
122. Timeless
123. Electric Touch
124. peace
125. Ronan
126. Maroon
127. Welcome To New York
128. It's Time To Go
129. Mastermind
130. hoax
131. Gorgeous
132. my tears ricochet
133. Sweet Nothing
134. Call It What You Want
135. Miss Americana & The Heartbreak Prince

While the title might seem overly negative, this group is barely even a notch below its antecedent. However, with many of these titles lacking the name recognition power from the top 100, Travis' knowledge of these tunes will show he's all the way locked in.

As for some of the well-known songs here — "Welcome to New York," "This is Why We Can't

These ones just aren't great. That's okay. 88 — one number above Travis' jersey number 87 and one number below 89, the year Taylor was born, that can't be a coincidence — percent is a really good hit rate, especially if you're going to churn out as many songs as Taylor. By the time these two tie the knot, surely Travis will have found a blank space in his schedule to give even these lesser songs a listen.

To everyone out there ready to write hate mail, do it. I yearn for it. I treasure it. Such is the life of a clickbait journalist. And it's okay if you disagree with all of these rankings. There's no shame in being wrong.

To everyone out there ready to write fan mail: Hi, Mom.

To everyone who "only clicked on the article because they're NFL fans," it's okay to give TayTay a chance. Put those headphones in and cue 'em up, 1–185. You won't stop 'til you've heard them all, I guarantee. They'll make you a better man.

And to Travis, you're welcome for this, buddy. I've done all I can, but now, you're on your own, kid.

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WKND Song Recommendations

"Firefly" by Mura Masa, Nao

WEEKEND **WOADS**

// MELANY PEREZ

ENIGMA: Do 'Woads Scholars' actually exist?

// BY ELIZA JOSEPHSON

Yale is a mysterious place. From whispers of society parties to screams from the Bass Naked Run, there always seems to be some campus tradition that's equal parts confusing and intriguing.

Hi! My name is Eliza, and I'm a sophomore in Pierson College studying comparative literature. I'm one of many Yale students with puzzling backgrounds. I'm trained as a butcher, and I love tofu. I'm Jewish, and my mom's last name is Church. I'm American, and I went to an international school for 10 years. I quote Proust just as much as I quote Season 8 of *Love Island*.

I know all too well that there's a lot more to people, places and things than meets the eye. And that's why I love Yale. You can never fully understand everything going on here, but you can try! And that's what *Enigma*, this column, is all about — digging deeper into these pressing questions and providing much needed answers.

If you only had one word to describe all of the Yale student body, what would it be? Hm. This is a question that nobody asked me, but I'm still going to give my answer anyway: committed.

We commit ourselves to crafting an insightful discussion point in our Henry James seminar, to setting distance running records in track & field, to conducting cutting edge research on climate change. But what about other kinds of commitments that are less publicized, but equally celebrated?

Our mystery begins to unfold at 300 York St., a.k.a. Toad's Place. According to its website, the concert hall has been "hopping" since 1975. For 50 years, many notable touring acts have rocked their stage, including David Bowie, Declan McKenna, Drake Bell of Nickelodeon's "Drake & Josh" and also Drake, the rapper. And those are just the ones that start with the letter "D".

Aside from live music, Toad's also specializes in what they self-describe as "college dance parties." Toad's hosts these Yale-only nights every Wednesday. It's free for students over 21 and typically five bucks for the unfortunately underage.

If you're asking around about people's mid-

week social plans, Wednesday Night Yale Dance Party at Toad's Place is kind of a mouthful. Instead, we coined the perfect portmanteau: "Woads," which has stuck ever since its first recorded use in a September 2013 issue of the *Yale Daily News*.

The inaugural Woads, held during the first week of fall semester, is always filled to the brim. On the sweat slicked dance floor, expect to find overeager first years looking for trouble on the tails of Camp Yale revelry. They, and the upperclassmen present, will be relishing in the lackadaisical character of syllabus week.

Unlike the blissfully unaware first timers, Toad's Place veterans know that a homework-free weekday is a rarity. Truly once in a blue moon. As more Wednesdays pass, the throbbing crowd tends to taper. You start hearing a chorus of explanations like "I have a PSET due" or "I have the Yague" or "It's a Wednesday?!" — or just a simple "No thanks. Maybe next week?"

But not every Yalie can think in terms of a "next week." There is a small, but committed cohort who attend every Woads of the academic year, sleep schedule and deadlines be damned. Instead of, say, pledging Greek life in the Spring, these zealous few sacrifice all of their Wednesday evenings to the deities of Toad's Place. Every week, they attend the academy of penny drinks, where they study under the greats, mainly Dua Lipa and Bad Bunny.

Legend has it that they don't just bleed Yale Blue, they bleed Toad's green too. You might think to call them something as simple as luminary, genius or hero, because sure, they are all those things (and more). We call them Woads Scholars. And if you were thinking, "Hey! Doesn't that rhyme with the oldest graduate scholarship in the world?" — well, let's call that a happy coincidence.

But who are these dance floor savants? Are they just a campus myth? That's what I'm focusing on in this week's column of *Enigma*. I'm probing the ever important question of whether Woads scholars actually exist.

The most logical place to start would, of course, be going to Woads. But not just any old Woads. Midterm season posed ideal circumstances to observe a naturally whittled down

crowd. If someone claims they go every week, then they have to be in attendance.

Wednesday evening rolled around, and I started prepping for my investigation. Armed with questions on my Notes app and a pocket-sized recording device, I walked in a straight line from my dorm in Pierson until I reached the iconic green awning and joined the meager line.

After cashing in \$10, my friend Linden and I found a table in a covert location and got to work. We spotted Jacob Kao '25, and when I asked why he was Woads-ing, he told me, "I just turned 21 yesterday, so I'm just here for penny drinks and the vibes." But even though he was celebrating a major milestone, he wasn't a Woads scholar, so we went back to the drawing board.

I started to think, where would the elusive Woads scholars even be hiding? Then, it dawned on me that I was asking the wrong question entirely. They wouldn't be hiding at all! I had to hit the dance floor — for research purposes, of course — to scout for any potential scholars.

I approached Kenan Collignon '24 to the beat of "Lean On" by DJ Snake and Major Lazer, and I asked him the crucial question: "Are you a Woads scholar?" To which he said, "So far, yes. But I was a full year Woads scholar in the 2021-2022 year."

We've got a live one, boys! I asked Kenan to share his favorite Woads memory. Because, if he spent every Wednesday of his sophomore year at Toad's, he must have notable stories to show for it. "I was with a friend one time when he got kicked out of Woads," he told me. Basically, Kenan's friend brought in outside alcohol that a bouncer attempted to confiscate.

When the friend didn't cooperate, Kenan recalled, "the [security] dude, like, grabbed him and shoved him up against the wall and then threw him out, so that was kinda funny."

If that seems excessively violent, it might be because the anecdote is missing a key fact: "My friend lowkey slapped the dude in the face a little bit, not hard, but it was not what you should do to a bouncer, for sure."

I finished off our conversation by asking Kenan how he was able to balance the chaos of a weekly trip to Toad's with his schoolwork as a computer science major, and he looked at me earnestly. "You just make time. If it's a priority, you find the time, y'know?"

When I asked him if he knew any other Woads scholars, he nodded. I wasn't surprised, especially since they all basically attend an unofficial club meet up once a week. Club like extracurricular, but also club like oontz oontz. He pointed to someone in the crowd, who from a distance, looked like a fast-dancing blur in some kind of hat.

Intrigued, I cotton-eye-joe'd my way past the polo team, none of whom were in any state to comment due to the seriousness of initiation tasks. I approached the mysterious figure, and he playfully tipped his cowboy hat in my direction.

Ravi Balasubramanian '24 is recognized around campus for his distinctly Western look, which he told me serves as the ideal icebreaker, and more pertinently, his esteemed Woads scholar status. What motivated him to pursue this achievement? He tapped his pointed leather boot and gave me the short answer: "I just wanted to have fun."

And then, the longer one: "I mean, I came in 2020, so [my] first year was COVID, [my] second year was COVID. I only get two real years of college, so I was like, eh. Why not? And yeah, I just did it!" He attended with astonishing consistency, becoming so well-known to the bouncers that they stopped checking his ID.

"Last year, during the last Woads, I'm just minding my own business, I'm just dancing, and someone came up [to me]." When the employee said the manager wanted to meet Ravi, he was suspicious; he thought he must be in big trouble. "I went to the office, and they gave me free stuff, and they made me the Woads Scholar." If you search for Woads Scholar on Fizz, the first result is Ravi smiling from ear-to-ear in a Toad's hoodie.

You might ask, what kind of major would the unofficial representative of Woads be pursuing? "I'm doubling in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and Comparative Literature." I knew better than to be surprised. Ravi is an enigma personified, a Yale student actually succeeding at the typically aspirational work hard, play hard lifestyle.

Ravi showed me that Woads and academic achievement can exist simultaneously. "I come here to think, to clear my head. The good energy gets my gears turning. Some-

times I'll spend an hour here, then go write an essay." And this isn't the only instance he remembers Yale students using Woad's as part of an unconventional study process.

Once, he was dancing at Woads with some friends, "then suddenly, a massive circle appeared behind us, and we had no idea what was going on. Turns out someone brought in their computer as a joke, sat down on the floor with a group of friends, and they all started working on a computer science problem set together," Ravi said. A true only-at-Yale moment.

I finished off the interview by asking him this crucial question: What does he have to say to Yalies who have never spent a Wednesday at Toad's Place? "If you've never been to Woads before, it can be intimidating," he remarked. "Just see what it's like. And if you don't want to come back, that's fine. But you might find you have a good time, you might make friends, see your old friends as well. And it's a good place to blow off steam. Come and try it once."

I felt exalted after cracking the case. Woads scholars do exist! And not only are they extremely kind, they're some of the most committed members of the Yale community.

To celebrate our findings, I pocketed my recording device, and Linden and I decided to enjoy the end of our evening with Ravi and Keenan. We lip synced along to "Love You Like A Love Song" by Selena Gomez & The Scene and tore up the dance floor to "On the Floor" by Jennifer Lopez ft. Pitbull. For the first time in a long time, I felt truly free. It felt like the night was never going to end.

And then, they cut the music. At 11:45 p.m., I found this overly dramatic voice note I'd recorded that said, verbatim, "Oh my god. This is a travesty. I think that this is a horrible, horrible end to my night." Ravi consoled me, "Yeah, it is a shame. Usually they close around 1. This was a travesty. But hey! There's always next week."

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WKND Song Recommendations

"Style (Taylor's Version)" by Taylor Swift