



# SALOVEY TO STEP DOWN



Peter Salovey announced that this will be his eleventh and final year as Yale’s president; he intends to depart this summer. /Tim Tai, Photo Editor

BY ANIKA ARORA SETH, SOPHIE SONNENFELD, BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ AND TRISTAN HERNANDEZ  
EDITOR IN CHIEF, MANAGING EDITOR AND STAFF REPORTERS

Peter Salovey’s time as president of Yale University is set to end on June 30. Just three days into the 2023-24 academic year, Salovey announced his intent

to depart as president of the University this summer. Salovey, who is 65, did not specify a particular reason for his departure, which he did not classify as a retirement. “I’ve been in higher administration — dean, provost and president — for 21 years, and at a personal level, it just felt that the time was right,” Salovey said in an interview this morn-

ing with the News in advance of the announcement’s release. “I very much want to finish my career at Yale, and I wanted to finish the way it started. I started as a graduate student and then as a professor, teaching and writing, doing research. I want to come full circle.” Salovey wrote that should the search for his successor not be complete by June 30, he has

expressed to Yale Corporation senior trustee Joshua Bekenstein ’80 his willingness to extend his tenure to provide “leadership continuity.” Ultimately, he said he plans to return to the Yale faculty, work on writing and research projects and help with University fundraising.

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## Robert Malley under investigation

BY BEN RAAB  
STAFF REPORTER

Robert Malley ’84, currently on leave from his position as the United States’ special envoy to Iran, will teach at Yale this fall while under investigation for alleged mishandling of classified documents. Joe Biden appointed Malley to the position in 2021, but on June 29 of this year, the state department announced that he would be placed on unpaid leave while his security clearance was under review. On July 10, CBS reported that the FBI had become involved in the investigation. “I will remain on leave from the State Department,” Malley told the News in an email. “As I have said from the outset of the review of my security clearance, I have absolute faith that the matter will be resolved favorably and I will return to government service in due course.” On Aug. 15, Yale’s Jackson School of Global Affairs announced Malley as one of eight new senior fellows. As a senior fellow, Malley will spend the year teaching and mentoring Yale students; this semester, he will teach a course titled “International Politics of the Middle East: Perception and Misperception in Four Crises.” But Malley’s Jackson fellowship appointment has drawn scrutiny by American politicians and Iran scholars who believe his

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## Tenants march in protest of alleged landlord retaliation

BY MAGGIE GRETHER  
STAFF REPORTER

Sixteen fake “Notices to Quit” hung from the glass doors of the mega-landlord company Ocean Management’s offices Wednesday evening — the culmination of a march from city hall protesting what tenants see as retaliation against the Blake Street Tenants Union. The fake notices, which demanded the company “end union-busting evictions” are signed by “The Ocean 16,” which refers to the 16 renters at the Elizabeth Apartments at 311 Blake St. who were served notices to quit by Ocean Management on Aug. 19. Ocean issued the notices three days after representatives from Blake Street Tenants Union and Ocean Management failed to reach agreements amid negotiations over issues including rent increases, timely repairs and union protections. Dozens of protestors gathered on the steps of city hall before marching to Ocean’s offices at 101 Whalley Ave. Protesters were joined by state and city legislators, including Senator Richard Blumenthal LAW ’73 and the New Haven state delegation. Attendees raised hand-painted signs supporting the union and broader housing reform, including messages such as “New Haven is a Tenants Union Town,” “Rentas Justas Ahora” and “Ocean Makes Me Seasick: No Retaliatory Evictions.” At the rally, Sarah Giovanniello ’16, vice president of the union, described feeling “depressed, unsettled and uncertain” when notices to quit appeared on neighbors’ doors two weeks ago. “The Blake Street Tenants Union is here to tell every tenant in this city that even when your landlord tries to threaten

you, make your children sick or make you feel powerless, you have the power when you organize with your neighbors,” Giovanniello said to loud cheers. The Blake Street tenants union is the first legally recognized tenant union in New Haven. In September 2022, New Haven passed an ordinance officially recognizing tenants unions, and in November, residents of 31 of the 45 total occupied units at Elizabeth Apartments voted to unionize. According to union leaders, the union’s collective bargaining with Ocean is unprecedented in the state of Connecticut. Among the topics of negotiation were rent increases that Ocean first announced to some tenants in June. According to the application for temporary injunction that the union filed against Ocean Management two days ago, Ocean told 10 tenants that their rent would increase between 23 to 30 percent, or by \$220 to \$280 per month. The 10 tenants filed complaints with the Fair Rent Commission in response. Three days after the Aug. 16 negotiations, 16 renters at Elizabeth Apartments found notices to quit taped to their doors, which stated that if the renters did not vacate their apartments by Sept. 1, Ocean would evict them. Such notices to quit are classified as “lapse of time evictions” — where a landlord chooses not to renew a lease after it expires usually without citing a specific reason. “[Ocean] didn’t like the proposal, and they thought they could start evicting folks,” Hannah Srajer GRD ’25, president of the Connecticut Tenants Union,

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## Randy Cox case settles for historic \$45 million

BY YASH WADWEKAR  
STAFF REPORTER

Almost a year after Randy Cox was paralyzed by New Haven police officers, the city settled his civil suit for a record sum. Four of the officers involved were also fired for their conduct last June. The city settled with Cox on June 9, almost exactly a year after he was paralyzed while being transported to the NHPD’s detention center following his arrest at a Juneteenth block party. The final sum is the largest settlement in a police misconduct case, surpassing the \$27 million agreed to by the city of Minneapolis after police officers murdered George Floyd in 2020. “We extracted every single cent that we could possibly extract from the city of New Haven so that Randy could live life the best he can based on his current condition,” Cox’s attorney Lou Rubano told the News. “But, again, there is no amount of money in the world that can justify these horrific injuries that he has sustained.” The summer also saw long-awaited consequences for the officers involved in the case.

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### CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 2004. A Yale junior is arrested by the U.S. Secret Service at the Republican National Convention after he allegedly assaulted an agent and entered Vice President Dick Cheney’s seating area.

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**YDN** Interested in joining the Oldest College Daily? Visit us at our open house next week. PAGE 12 **SPISSUE**







# David Sacco '82, civil engineer and advisor, dies at 64

MOLLY REINMANN  
STAFF REPORTER

David Sacco '82 dedicated his life to humanitarian engineering, serving as the founding advisor to Yale's Engineers Without Borders Chapter for nearly two decades. He died earlier this month at age 64.

Sacco, a New Haven native, graduated from Yale College in 1982 with a degree in architecture and went on to earn a Master of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Washington in 1993. Since 2000, Sacco has worked as a professional engineer at TPA Design Group in New Haven. As the advisor to Yale EWB, Sacco has led students on water supply trips to Honduras, Cameroon, Tanzania and Ecuador. In 2012, he was presented with the Professional Founders Award by the Engineers Without Borders national organization.

“David was Yale's Engineers without Borders practitioner advisor and was the true force behind this successful organization,” Jordan Peccia, Chair of Chemical & Environmental Engineering and faculty advisor to Yale EWB, wrote in an email to the News. “David provided careful, kind, and effective mentorship to hundreds of Yale engineering students on international development and the practical delivery of safe drinking water.”

Fueled by his passion for humanitarian engineering, Sacco impacted communities around the world. After graduating from the University, he spent two years working as a school construction volunteer with the Peace Corps in Gabon. Later, he worked as a United Nations volunteer in Sri Lanka and spent years as an engineering advisor to agencies in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Kosovo.

Cosima Deetman '25, who leads Yale EWB's health team, traveled to Naitolia, Tanzania, with Sacco in January. She noted that Sacco was “completely in his element” while engaging in fieldwork and interacting with the local community.



YALE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Sacco, who devoted his life to far-reaching international service projects, is remembered for his compassion, community-building skills and devotion to his mentees.

“He went on trips with so many groups over the years, yet he made each group feel special, because he approached every task with the eagerness of someone doing it for the first time,” Deetman said.

In addition to Sacco's work and passion for mentorship passion for his mentees and his work, Matilda Vary '25, president of Yale EWB, admired Sacco's kind nature and community building skills.

Vary and Sacco worked closely with Sacco, she said, and were able to get Yale EWB off the ground last September after a dip in activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. She traveled with Sacco on two Yale EWB trips — one to Naitolia, and one to El Obraje, Ecuador, in August. Vary told the News that Sacco's passion for humanitarian work has

inspired her Vary to consider joining the Peace Corps.

“As an engineer who was also incredibly personable, he was so unique,” Vary said. “The way Dave could read a room or a situation was jaw-dropping. And anytime he saw someone excited about Engineers Without Borders or just about service in general, he was eager to latch onto that and help nurture a spirit like his.”

According to Jordan Peccia, Chair of the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering and faculty advisor to Yale EWB, Sacco's work for the organization directly extended clean drinking water to over 5,000 individuals across three continents.

Vary echoed the broad impact of Sacco's work this and pointed addi-

tionally to the indirect results impacts of his Sacco's time career with Yale EWB. Thanks in large part to the increased drinking-water access to clean drinking water he facilitated by Sacco's work, education rates in communities he visited often increased, while waterborne disease rates decreased.

Vary told the News that she has received an noted the influx of emails from former Yale EWB members that have been sent to her sharing fond memories of Sacco and offering to succeed him as the chapter's advisor, noting the impact of his long-standing role as a mentor and friend in the community.

Many of Sacco's former mentees, as well as his family, friends and colleagues, shared kind words about his life on a memorial website.

“Dave provided continuity and experience to a club that, — inherent to any college club, — was constantly cycling through members and leadership,” Deetman said. “He embodied the perfect mentor in so many ways. He was enthusiastic, patient, and wise. I loved hearing stories from his past projects, which clearly filled him with so much joy. I know that behind each story was a group of students or community who, just like me, feel grateful to have had Dave in their life.”

The Yale chapter of Engineers without Borders was founded in 2004.

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# Oral arguments held for mayoral ballot lawsuit



JESSIE CHEUNG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attorney for defendant calls the lawsuit a “fishing expedition” as the plaintiff rejects divisive Purcell principle.

BY HANNAH KOTLER  
STAFF REPORTER

Attorneys convened before Superior Court Judge Paul R. Doyle on Sunday morning for oral arguments in mayoral candidate Shafiq Abdussabur's primary election lawsuit against Democratic Registrar of Voters Shannel Evans, which aims to reverse the registrar's decision to exclude him from the ballot.

This session followed the defense's motion to dismiss Abdussabur's case at its initial Aug. 23 hearing. The hour-long oral arguments on Monday revolved around the validity of the controversial Purcell principle, a doctrine that courts should not interfere in ongoing elections.

“There's no need to invoke a shadow doctrine that is heavily attacked by scholars all over the United States,” Abdussabur's attorney Patricia Kane said in her argument against the Purcell principle. “Connecticut does give relief to people who are aggrieved, such as people trying to get on a primary ballot who feel valid. Signatures were rejected wrongfully, and they seek their day in court to put them to their proof.”

Abdussabur, a retired police sergeant, lost his bid to appear on the Sept. 12 primary ballot after Evans and Town Clerk for New Haven Michael Smart claimed that he failed to gather 1,623 valid signatures to qualify.

The initial court hearing for Abdussabur's motion to overturn Evans' decision was scheduled for last Wednesday, but it was deferred due to the defendant's motion to dismiss based on the Purcell principle. The defendant's attorney, Proloy Das, argued that the court could not add Abdussabur's name to the ballot because the Democratic primary election had already started on Aug. 22, when absentee ballots first became available.

“To change the ballots now would result in voter disenfranchisement,” Das said on Monday. “Again, military ballots are out, absentee voting has started and the candidates are campaigning to the voters based on the understanding of who is established on the primary ballot.”

Superior Court Judge Paul Doyle has yet to issue a verdict.

After a late start due to technical difficulties, the beginning

of the hearing stalled longer after Kane and Das squabbled over whether the online meeting could be rescheduled to an in-person oral argument. Doyle ruled to proceed with the online hearing, citing the timeliness of the case, which had suffered multiple delays.

In the presentation for dismissal, Das claimed that the election began by law when military and absentee ballots were distributed to the registered Democratic voters.

“In this particular case, we're in the middle of the election,” Das said. “Overseas ballots had to be available last Tuesday, and this election is ongoing because no one can be denied the right to vote today if they went in and wanted to cast that vote.”

When Doyle noted that there is no direct precedent for the Purcell doctrine in Connecticut, Das cited the 2018 Independent Party of CT v. Merrill case and the 2010 Dean v. Jepsen case in support of the principle.

Further, Das called the plaintiff's claim a “fishing expedition,” pointing out the lack of evidence that Evans made a mistake or that

Abdussabur succeeded in attaining 1,623 valid signatures. Evans revealed reasons for rejecting the Abdussabur, including the signatures not being from registered Democrats or New Haven voters, or signatures with illegible or missing information. Even if a mistake occurred, Das argued, the plaintiff should submit a complaint with the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission instead of pursuing a lawsuit.

“The State Elections Enforcement Commission ... does an investigation ... takes the time to be able to make the factual findings necessary, research what occurred and if there are any errors, take appropriate remedial action, which may include trading instruction and the like,” Das explained.

Finally, Das cited Connecticut election laws 9-329A and B, which allegedly authorize the court to issue an order removing a candidate from the ballot, but not to add a candidate to the ballot once an election has started.

Neither of the Democratic candidates for Mayor, incumbent Justin Elicker and Liam Brennan, have

declared any intention to intervene in the lawsuit.

On Aug. 25, Kane submitted a corrected objection to defendant's motion to dismiss that stated the application of the Purcell principle would be “an unjustified interference with Connecticut law as it relates to municipal elections,” “inappropriate in the case of a municipal election and petition challenge” and “would effectively eliminate the remedies available to aggrieved parties pursuant to CGS 9-329a.”

Citing a Yale Law Journal article, as well as two cases — the 2020 Fay v. Merrell case and 2010 Dean v. Jepsen case — where she claimed the Purcell principle was ineffective, Kane described the principle as a “pernicious doctrine” that “has primarily been applied to voter suppression cases in the South and the West.” She persisted that the signatures the Abdussabur campaign had submitted were rejected wrongfully.

David Herman writes in the Law Journal article that the Purcell principle makes it hard to stop vote denial. He added that “it also creates harmful incentives for states to delay and obstruct litigation in hopes that if courts ultimately rule against them, it will be too late for advocates to secure a remedy.”

“Connecticut is not known for voter suppression,” Kane argued, “and that's the primary use of the so-called Purcell doctrine.”

Kane also disputed that the election had started, claiming that there is no evidence that anyone has voted. To this, Das seemed unable to name individuals who have voted, but insisted that voting was well underway.

“Individual voters right now are making decisions on who they're gonna vote for in the Democratic primary based on a ballot that has been issued and set up by the town clerk,” Das responded.

The Purcell principle was formed in response in the SCOTUS case Purcell v. Gonzalez during the 2006 midterm elections.

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# FROM THE FRONT

## Robert Malley under investigation for allegedly mishandling classified documents

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ongoing investigation should be cause for concern.

“Yale should ask itself why a man under FBI investigation should teach young students about national security,” Alireza Nader, an Iran specialist and former senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense Democracies in Washington D.C., told the News. “This is a great disservice to the students and terrible for Yale’s reputation.”

The State Department has remained tight-lipped about the reasons for Malley’s involuntary leave, and the FBI has not commented on their role in the investigation. But on Sunday, the Tehran Times, an Iranian news outlet, published what appeared to be an April 21 memorandum sent to Malley by the director of the Department’s Diplomatic Security Office, Erin E. Smart.

The memo stated that the office had “received information that raises serious security concerns” in accordance with three national security adjudicative guidelines: personal conduct, handling protected information and use of information technology. A State Department spokesperson declined to comment on the matter, and the legitimacy of the memo has not been officially confirmed.

Gabriel Noronha, a former State Department adviser on Iran, tweeted Sunday evening that the published document “looks authentic” and suggests that Malley “lied about not knowing why his clearance was pulled.”

“The letter looks legitimate, as confirmed to me by former State employees,” Nader said. “If it is accurate, then it shows that Robert Malley was dishonest when stating that he was not aware of the reasons for his dismissal from the State Department.”

Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, wrote publicly that the memo “is extremely concerning” if authentic and called on the State Department for greater transparency around the “ongoing Robert Malley saga.”

After news of Malley’s suspension first broke on June 29, the professor stated that he had “been informed that [his] security clearance is under review,” but had “not been provided any further information.”

Abbas Amanat, a history professor emeritus, former chair of the Council on Middle East Studies and former director of the Yale Program in Iranian Studies, told the News that he “favors Malley’s appointment.”

“Dr. Malley is an accomplished and experienced observer of the Arab Middle East and surely Yale students greatly benefit from his

knowledge and insight,” Amanat said. “Even if he may have been suspended out of disagreement with the U.S. administration, it cannot be a cause for concern.”

Amanat pointed out that “many people have been investigated by the FBI,” and if indeed this is the case with Dr. Malley, “one should not rush to any judgment.” He also added that his favorable view of the appointment is independent of Malley’s performance as the special envoy on Iran, which he said is “open to criticism.”

But Roya Hakakian, an Iranian American journalist who is a Davenport College fellow and serves on the Council for Foreign Relations, took a harder stance.

In an email written to the News, Hakakian compared Yale’s decision to award Malley a fellowship despite his ongoing investigation to the “threats leveled at the FBI by Trump supporters.”

“Both show their contempt for our legal procedures — one by attacking our public servants, and the other by embracing those who are under investigation by our public servants,” Hakakian wrote in the email. “Both dangerously heighten the current divide in our country and further erode the trust in our democracy.”

Hakakian added that while the Trump supporters may be “misguided or ignorant,” the same cannot be said “about an elite institution such as Yale.”

A spokesperson for the Jackson School of Global Affairs acknowledged that Malley was on leave from the State Department but declined further comment.

Also on Aug. 15, Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs announced Malley as a visiting professor, where he is teaching a similar class about foreign policy this fall, the same term he will be teaching at Yale.

After the announcement, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a Princeton alumnus, took to X — the social media platform formerly known as Twitter — to voice his discontent.

“Pitiful. Look who my alma mater just made a prof,” Cruz wrote in a post. “Rob Malley was such a pro-Iran radical that he was FIRED from Biden admin & had his security clearance stripped for ‘mishandling classified docs’ (the details are still hidden).”

Malley, a Yale College graduate, gained prominence as the lead negotiator in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Malley also acted as an advisor to Barack Obama during his 2008 presidential campaign, but parted ways with the campaign after the British Times reported that Malley had been in discussion with the militant Palestinian organization Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist group.

As special envoy to Iran, Malley looked to execute President

Biden’s U.S.-Iran foreign policy objectives, particularly the effort to reenter the Iran nuclear deal, which President Trump pulled out of in 2018.

Despite substantial commentary and speculation, the only information released by the State Department so far is that Malley is on unpaid leave while his security clearance is reviewed. This technicality, according to Jason Brodsky, a Middle East analyst and policy director of United Against Nuclear Iran, is what has made Malley’s hiring at Yale and Princeton difficult to assess.

“This controversy is a symptom of a broader problem: the lack of transparency over this situation that has emanated from the State Department,” Brodsky told the News. “There has also been a lack of media and congressional scrutiny. Some of that is a function of Congress not being in session right now. But when it gets back, the American people deserve to know the facts. The sooner these come to light, the better for academic institutions like Yale to be able to make informed decisions about its faculty.”

Malley’s Yale course will meet for its first class session on Thursday, Aug. 31.

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## Randy Cox case settles for historic \$45 million, four New Haven officers fired

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Two, officers Jocelyn Lavandier and Luis Rivera were fired by the Board of Police Commissioners for their role in the arrest on June 7. Two more officers, Oscar Diaz, who paralyzed Cox while driving him to the station in a police van, and Sergeant Betsy Segui, were fired on June 28. The fifth, Ronald Pressley, avoided dismissal by retiring in January.

An internal affairs investigation released by the NHPD in March had found that the officers were reckless, lacked compassion and were in violation of both state law and numerous department policies.

As shown in body camera footage, police placed a handcuffed Cox in the back of a transport vehicle without seatbelts. They then drove 11 miles above the speed limit to the NHPD’s detention center after arresting him on June 19, 2022. The vehicle’s driver, Officer Diaz, abruptly braked en route near the intersection of Prospect Street. and Grove

Street. The resulting momentum flung Cox across the vehicle’s holding area and slammed him into its inner metal wall. Diaz later claimed this braking was necessary to evade a potential accident.

After checking on Cox and calling for paramedics, Diaz chose to continue driving to the detention center, violating NHPD policy. Once the vehicle arrived, Diaz and four other officers forcibly moved Cox into a holding cell despite his pleas for help. In one instance, Cox insisted, “I can’t move,” to which Lavandier replied, “You’re not even trying.”

Paramedics arrived 15 minutes later and took Cox to the Yale-New Haven Hospital.

A year later, the incident has left him permanently paralyzed. Cox suffered a cervical spine injury and fracture, his immune system has been compromised and he has a chronic and permanent respiratory condition. According to attorney Luo Rubano, his life expectancy was shortened by 15 years.

Rubano also estimated that providing Cox with basic day-to-day care for the rest of his life would cost a staggering \$16 to \$22 million.

Cox cited these injuries and costs in the civil lawsuit he filed against New Haven last October. The case, which was overseen by U.S. District Court Judge Maria Garcia of New Haven resulted in both parties agreeing on the \$45 million sum to resolve all claims against the city of New Haven. Cox had initially sought \$100 million in the lawsuit.

“Today’s settlement agreement is an important and sobering part of this accountability process,” New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker said at the time. “We trust that this settlement will allow him to receive the support and medical care he needs to move forward. The city of New Haven will continue to do everything we can to assist him in his journey.”

Of the \$45 million settlement, \$30 million will be covered by the city’s insurance and \$15 million will be paid by the city itself.

Although the case was settled two months ago, only \$20 million of the promised \$45 million has been transferred to Cox’s family. About \$20 million of the \$30 million insurance proceeds has arrived. The other \$15 million from the city will not be ready until October or November.

Cox is still in a West Haven facility receiving what Rubano described as inadequate care for his injuries. Rubano said Cox’s hope is to eventually use the settlement money to buy a home in the New Haven area equipped with around-the-clock care.

The firings ignited intense backlash from the Elm City Local Police Union, who represents NHPD officers.

“The Union is urging all members to proceed with the utmost caution in this post Police Accountability reality. A reality where they may be deemed ‘reckless’ just for doing their job,” the union wrote in a statement. “We will uphold our oath, but we cannot and will not do so by unnecessarily jeopardizing

our careers or personal safety.”

For Cox’s family, the firings represented long-delayed accountability after almost a year of waiting. When the officers involved were charged with misdemeanors by the Connecticut state’s attorney last November, the family blasted the charges as being insufficient.

According to Elicker, the NHPD had made changes to the department’s conduct procedures since Cox was paralyzed.

“The New Haven Police Department has instituted a comprehensive set of reforms, updated its policies and procedures on the transfer of people in custody, and required department wide training on duty to intervene,” Elicker wrote in a statement on June 9. “The officers involved are being held accountable by the police department and in court.”

Cox’s legal representation was led by nationally prominent civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump.

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## Salovey to step down this summer after 11 years

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“There is no perfect moment for one — there is always more to do,” he wrote in the announcement. “Yet, I believe the best time to search for a new leader is when things are going well. It allows for a thoughtful process and a smooth transition.”

Within the first paragraph of his announcement, Salovey noted the “very good news” that Yale’s “For Humanity” fundraising campaign surpassed a whopping \$5 billion milestone over the summer, climbing toward the University’s total \$7 billion goal.

Salovey expects his future role in University fundraising to remain similar after his departure as president, he told the News this morning.

“Beyond this year, I will stay deeply involved in fundraising, appearing at events [and] meeting with alumni and friends,” Salovey said. “I don’t think you’re going to see much change in my fundraising as president and as president emeritus.”

Before starting as president of the University in 2013, Salovey served as Yale’s provost from 2008 to 2013, as dean of Yale College from 2004 to 2008 and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 2003 to

2004. He received two undergraduate degrees in sociology and psychology from Stanford University in 1980 and three graduate degrees from Yale all in psychology. He is credited with co-developing the “emotional intelligence” framework, which is the theory that just as people can have a range of intellectual abilities, they also have a range of measurable emotional skills.

Salovey’s predecessor, Richard Levin, stepped down after 20 years as president on June 30, 2013. Levin, who was also 65 at the time, was the most senior president in the Ivy League and reportedly one of the longest-serving in University history, according to the New York Times.

Levin began to consider stepping down after securing labor contracts with Yale unions over the summer of 2012. During Levin’s tenure, clerical, maintenance and service employees went on major strikes twice in 1996 and then again in both 2002 and 2003.

In 2009, the University and its two main unions at the time — Local 35, which represents dining hall and maintenance workers, and Local 34, which represents clerical and technical workers — agreed on new three-year agree-

ments nine months before their then-current contracts expired.

The University has fought graduate students’ efforts to unionize for decades. Salovey’s announcement comes just under eight months after Yale’s graduate and professional student workers voted to unionize; the University officially recognized the election’s results and confirmed that it would begin “bargaining in good faith” with Local 33.

“I had been thinking about it, thinking it was one or two more years more, and I think once the labor contract was settled I thought at least it makes it possible to go now,” Levin told the News when he announced his intention to leave the role on Aug. 30, 2012.

Salovey was offered the position on Nov. 8 of the same year.

But four years before Salovey was officially offered the position, speculation swirled that Levin had essentially selected his own successor when he picked Salovey to serve as provost.

“Peter Salovey will certainly be one of the people that would be among those who could be candidates for the future, obviously,” Levin told the News in 2008. “He’s done all the key leadership jobs in the University at this point. I have a lot of con-

fidence in Peter, and the Corporation does as well.”

To fill Levin’s shoes, a presidential search committee directed by the Yale Corporation — the board that governs the University — considered more than 150 candidates.

Berkstein told the News that the board of trustees has already kickstarted efforts to tap Yale’s next president.

“The first thing we’re going to do is get a lot of input from the Yale community,” Bekenstein told the News this morning, discussing the process of finding Salovey’s successor. “We named eight trustees to the search committee, and we’re going to add four faculty.”

Among other accomplishments throughout his time as president, Salovey highlighted in his announcement progress on campus facility construction and renovation as well as on increasing diversity within the student body. Salovey told the News that increasing the size of Yale College, creating multidisciplinary centers like the Humanities Quadrangle, creating innovation centers such as the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale — Tsai CITY — and increasing the share of first-generation,

low-income students on campus helped to accomplish his goals.

“Of course, I respect scholarship for its own sake, but I also want Yale to have great impact on the world,” Salovey told the News this morning. “I would say we are, as compared to 10 years ago, indeed, more accessible, more unified and more innovative.”

While Salovey thanked university groups including trustees, deans, faculty members and staff in his announcement, he thanked only his wife, Marta Elisa Moret, by name. He also made note that Moret, who graduated from the School of Public Health in 1984 and is president of New Haven public health consulting firm Urban Policy Strategies, pushed off her retirement to support Salovey in his role as president.

“I appreciate that she has delayed her full retirement to help me in a role not characterized by work-life balance,” he wrote.

Salovey and Moret met during their graduate studies at Yale.

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# Tenants union marches outside City Hall

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told the News. “But the message we’re trying to send is: you actually can’t do that, the union won’t stand for that.”

After finding the eviction notices, the Blake Street tenants union sprung into action, filing a petition against Ocean Management for mass eviction on Aug. 23 and protesting outside the Ocean offices the following day. On Monday, the union moved the fight to the courts, filing for a temporary injunction to pause the eviction process and rental increases.

Giovanniello told the News that the union will not resume negotiations with Ocean until

the landlord rescinds the notices to quit and agrees not to reissue the notices again.

Amy Eppler-Epstein, one of the attorneys representing the union, said that the notices to quit were a clear move to undercut the union.

“Who’s going to join a union if they think: ‘I may be a victim and have to go to court and defend myself?’” Eppler-Epstein said. “When you get served an eviction notice, it’s an immensely stressful situation ... most people can’t risk homelessness.”

The court did not issue the requested injunctions on Monday, but did call Ocean Management to court in a hearing scheduled for Sept. 12. Ocean will also

appear in front of the Fair Rent Commission on Sept. 11.

Ocean Management is one of the largest landlord companies in New Haven, owning over 1,000 mostly low-income units across the city. Tenants renting with Ocean have spoken to the News about poor living conditions, including rodent infestations, fire safety issues and mold, which were neglected by Ocean despite repeated complaints. Last February, the city fined Ocean \$1,500 for six housing code violations, the most recent in a series of fines levied against the company.

“Ocean Management is one of many,” tenant organizer Luke Melonakos-Harrison DIV ’23 told the News. “I hope this is sending a

message and setting a precedent for what’s possible to pull off, even against a mega-landlord like Ocean Management.”

Ocean representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Melonakos-Harrison emphasized the historic nature of the union’s negotiation and the importance of partnership between tenant and labor unions. According to Melonakos-Harrison, over the summer, Connecticut Tenants Union became affiliated with the labor union Service Employees International Union.

“As far as we know it’s unprecedented for a labor union to consider a tenant union one of its locals,” Melonakos-Harrison said.

Since the Blake Street Tenants Union formed, several more unions have appeared in New Haven.

Jacqueline Bayas had traveled from Waterbury to attend Wednesday’s protest, bringing a sign that read “Come back to the table! Negotiate!”

“For us, what New Haven is doing is an inspiration,” Bayas said. “We are trying to do the same in Waterbury too, because this situation is everywhere.”

Out of the 70 rental units at Elizabeth Apartments, 45 are currently occupied.

Contact  
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After 16 of its members were served notices to quit, the Blake Street Tenants Union is accusing Ocean Management of retaliation against the union./Ellie Park, Photo Editor



*“This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.”*  
TAYLOR SWIFT AMERICAN SINGER AND ACTRESS

# Elis for Rachael reaches settlement with Yale in mental health discrimination lawsuit

BY KAITLYN POHLY  
STAFF REPORTER

As many Yalies moved back to campus on Friday afternoon, Dean of Student Affairs Melanie Boyd sent an email to the Yale community about new mental health-related reforms to University policy, following a years-long legal battle between the University and mental health advocacy group Elis for Rachael.

Boyd’s message came just on the heels of an email from Elis for Rachael announcing a settlement in the class-action lawsuit that the nonprofit filed alongside two student plaintiffs in November 2022, alleging that the University discriminates against students with mental illnesses.

When the spring semester began in January, two months after the lawsuit was filed, the University announced its first change: the redefinition of leaves due to mental health struggles as “medical leave of absences” rather than medical withdrawals — a change in distinction that expanded support available to students. Medical leave of absence includes a simplified reinstatement process, accommodations for a reduced course load and financial support, along with healthcare coverage options through Yale.

If the judge assigned to the case approves the settlement terms, those changes — along with “significant new advances” — will be officially codified and thus legally enforceable in the settlement with the University, per the Friday email from Elis for Rachael.

“Today is a watershed moment for anyone with a mental health disability, and for the entire Yale community,” Rishi Mirchandani ’19, co-founder of Elis for Rachael, wrote in the nonprofit’s email announcement. “This historic settlement affirms that students with mental health needs truly belong.”

These changes, detailed in the settlement agreement, include a clarified reinstatement process with individualized lengths of absence, continued campus inclusion during time away, part-time study, access to Yale’s healthcare coverage and a scheduled system for tuition, room and board refunds.

Alicia Floyd ’05, co-founder of Elis for Rachael, told the News the part-time study option is a particularly consequential change for Yale, a school that has historically taken an “all or nothing” approach to university life and enrollment.

“I am pleased with today’s outcome,” Yale College Dean Pericles

Lewis wrote in a statement to the News. “Students and alumni have shared constructive ideas with Yale administrators and clinicians, and my hope is that the changes that have emerged from these discussions will make it easier for students to ask for support, focus on their health and wellbeing, and take time off if they wish, knowing that they can resume their studies when they are ready.”

Lewis highlighted the expanded resources the University has worked to provide for students seeking support over the past few years. He added that he hopes students will continue to take advantage of those resources, as needed, throughout their time at Yale.

Boyd’s email referenced the “Time Away and Return” portion of the University’s academic regulations, which was updated in January. Paul Mange Johansen ’88, fellow Elis for Rachael co-founder, told the News he remains “cautiously optimistic” about the resource.

It remains unclear how the University will specifically approach implementing the policies outlined in the settlement. Floyd noted that the centralized information — which she called a “one-stop shop” — mir-



KARIN LIN/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

About nine months after filing a class-action lawsuit, the nonprofit has reached a settlement that cements recent policy changes and introduces long desired reforms.

rors existing support systems at Duke University and Cornell University, and she and Johansen encouraged Yale to look at schools like those for inspiration on execution.

Elis for Rachael’s announcement of the changes noted that while this settlement might be an important step in the right direction, the organization plans to continue its fight for mental health advocacy and policy reform.

Additional action for which the group will lobby includes preferred provider organization insurance for enrolled students, housing security and medical privacy.

Elis for Rachael will hold a fundraising event at Center Church On The Green on Nov. 17.

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# Salovey tests positive for COVID-19

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ  
STAFF REPORTER

More than 2,500 attendees — including members of the class of 2027 and their guests — gathered on Cross Campus on Monday, Aug. 21, for this year’s opening ceremony. But one of the annual event’s usual speakers, University President Peter Salovey, joined virtually after testing positive for COVID-19.

The ceremony, which takes place each fall on the first Monday following first-year move-in day, featured both Salovey and Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis as speakers. At this year’s event, Salovey addressed the new class via video message in accordance with the University’s health guidelines after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result the previous day.

In his video message, Salovey encouraged the 1,647 students in the class of 2027, who he said have “come of age in a culture of haste” with little knowledge of a world predating the instant spread of information, to “slow down and fix things.”

Salovey had COVID-19 at the time of this address, and he wrote

to the News that having COVID-19 reminded him of the need for continued caution with regard to the virus.

“I have been testing negative for COVID for several days now, and I feel fortunate that my symptoms were quite mild,” Salovey wrote to the News. “My positive COVID test last week reminded me that we all need to be vigilant for symptoms, test, follow other steps to curb the spread of the virus, and ask questions and reach out for help when needed.”

Salovey added that students should be aware of the current COVID-19 guidelines, which were sent to the Yale community this week. Most recently, Chief Campus Health Officer Madeline Wilson, who directs campus communications related to COVID-19 and other public health issues, wrote to students in an email Wednesday encouraging them to test and report any positive results given the “steady rise” of COVID-19 locally and nationwide.

Wilson wrote in an email to the News that cases of COVID-19 have risen at Yale, and at other universities, as students returned to campuses and began gathering once again.

Wilson also added that campus health and safety leaders will continue to promote preventative measures, including masking and vaccination. She also wrote that they will continue to ask the Yale community to report positive test results so the University can provide guidance for close contacts.

“While cases are up, the increase starts from a low baseline and case rates and hospitalization rates are markedly lower than in August of 2022,” Wilson wrote in an email to the News. “So while we are vigilant, we feel we are well-equipped to manage the inevitable cases on campus this fall.”

Matthew Makomenaw, the dean of the Native American Cultural Center and Yale College health and safety leader, told the News that rapid antigen testing kits are now available at no cost for students and employees with a Yale ID at all residential colleges and at other designated locations.

Several students told the News that some test pick-up locations, including the Yale Bookstore and Pierson College, had run out of tests by Wednesday afternoon. Staff at the Yale Bookstore told the



TIM TAI/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Yale health and safety leaders continue to monitor COVID-19 cases on campus following University President Peter Salovey’s virtual convocation appearance.

News that a new shipment of tests is expected to arrive today, Aug. 31.

“The big thing is for people to do what’s comfortable with them,” Makomenaw said. “[COVID-19] is still with us ... we know the precautions, do what’s comfortable for you and certainly ask [questions] to make sure that [you’re] protecting [yourself] and others.”

Under the most recent health guidelines, faculty, staff and students who test positive are encouraged to stay home, report their positive result to the University and notify close contacts.

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# Bulldog Bash rocks Old Campus with vibrant music and New Orleans flair

BY LUKAS NEL AND AMAYA NYAMWERU  
STAFF REPORTERS

Old Campus became a hotspot of music, dance and yummy eats this past Saturday, Aug. 26, as Bulldog Bash returned for its fourth year.

Kicking off at 8:30 p.m., the free back-to-school music festival had an impressive turnout. As the night progressed, students became immersed in a backdrop of lively music and cheerful conversation.

“The Bulldog Bash ... now in its fourth year, celebrates a cross-section of music styles that often share commonalities in their expression,” said Rachel Fine, who serves as the executive director of the Yale Schwarzman Center.

The Schwarzman Center and Yale Hospitality collaborated with the Yale College Dean’s Office to host the event and prepare its musical lineup.

Jennifer Harrison Newman MFA ’11, the Schwarzman Center’s associate artistic director, praised the featured bands’ artistry. She added that she thought the bands — Sol and The Tribu, Red Baraat and Tank and the Bangas — each brought a high level of musicianship and artistry. Musical styles including ska, punk and bhangra permeated Old Campus.

“I’m not that much of a party person, but since it was right outside the dorm, I visited for a bit and found it actually pretty

enjoyable,” Timothy Lee ’27 said. “I think Bulldog Bash was a good way to invite a good sense of community amongst first years. There were so many gathered in one place and we all share[d] a common experience.”

Yale Hospitality complemented the musical lineup with a wide menu of food options intended to accommodate various dietary preferences and restrictions. Guests were treated to New Orleans-inspired dishes like mufuletta, red beans and rice, satsuma mandarin salad and New Orleans-style pralines.

Evan Branham ’24 also shared his night’s rewarding experience with the News.

“The food was amazing!” Branham said. “The bands were all great, especially the last one [Tank and the Bangas], which was from New Orleans and had some real funky music.”

Tank and the Bangas was nominated in the Best New Artist category for the 2020 Grammy Awards.

Although Branham said he greatly enjoyed the Bash, he told the News that he could feel an absence of upperclassmen.

This year’s Bulldog Bash was held just one day after on-campus residences opened to upperclassmen.

“The music was hype — honestly, my favorite part,” Nick He ’25 said. “It was almost like an EDM dance floor.”

Despite a reported absence of upperclassmen, He shared that he



COURTESY OF THE COLLECTIVE NHV

Bulldog Bash brought a night of food and music for students to celebrate the coming school year.

felt the Bash was “a good way to connect with other students” and commended Yale for its impressive planning — particularly the

“breathing space” embedded into the event’s physical layout.

The festival ended before the stroke of midnight.

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## Fall is coming and the Bulldogs are running



YALE ATHLETICS

With a solid cast of returning runners, the Bulldogs are ready for the season ahead as summer comes to a close.

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
STAFF REPORTER

On Wednesday, summer officially came to an end, meaning cross country season is right around the bend.

The Bulldogs' first meet of the year will kick off right here in Connecticut, with "Big Three" Ivy League rivals Harvard and Princeton coming in town to face off against the Eli's. Having put in the hard work this summer, the Yalies are ready to see what they can accomplish this season.

"After a consistent summer of solid training and hard work, the team is confident and prepared for anything this fall," Kathryn Rodrigues '24 wrote to the News. "We are so excited to host our first meet of the season on September 9th and are looking forward to the Ivy League Championships later in the season."

Coming off solid finishes in the Ivy League tournament last

season, with the men's squad finishing fifth out of eight and the women's team sixth out of just as many, the Bulldogs are looking to build on last season day-by-day amid an increasingly competitive Ivy League.

A majority of the women's team is returning this year, including Claire Archer '26, one of the top finishers in the Northeast region last fall, Kyra Pretre '24, NCAA qualifier last spring in the steeplechase who will fill the captain's role this year and seniors Rodrigues and Sophia Karperos '24. In addition, the team is carrying ten returning second years who now have a year of collegiate experience under their belt.

"There's no question the women put in really good work over the summer, and I am excited to see where we will be down the stretch into October and November," Taryn Sheehan,

the women's team's head coach, wrote to the News. "I think in some areas we are a deeper team than in years past, but the rest of the Ivy League has also improved significantly in the past few years, so it will make for some exciting races."

On the men's side, the team returns with nearly their full squad from last year, losing senior leaders including Richard Sturtevant '23 and former Captain Cade Brown '23. Significant contributors for the Bulldogs last year returning this season include Leo Brewer '25, Owen Karas '26, Calvin Katz '25, and Sean Kay '24. Seven new first years will also be joining the team.

One name to look out for this season is Kenan Pala '26, a consistent contributor on the team last year who represented the U.S. Men's National Team at the World Mountain and Trail Running Championships. Pala finished as the USA's second highest finisher and placed 22nd overall against some of the world's best under-20 distance runners.

"To represent my country on the trails would be to represent what my parents immigrated for: the chance to prove how much success is possible with a focused and determined mindset," Pala wrote to Yale Athletics. "It is an incredible honor and a dream come true."

Yale kicks off their season on Sept. 9, and they will compete in meets throughout the Northeast and East Coast leading up to the Ivy League Championships on Oct. 28 in Boston.

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## Bulldogs prepare for season and first game on Friday

BY JOAQUÍN FERNÁNDEZ-DUQUE  
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men's soccer team will begin its 2023 season 7 p.m. this Friday at Reese Stadium with its game against West Virginia. Coaches and players alike have expressed their excitement for the season ahead, which is set to feature challenging matchups and opportunities for intra-conference revenge.

Although this is the first game of the season, the team has been preparing for weeks with preseason training and exhibition games against Vermont and North York. Jake Schaffer '24, this year's captain, expressed his satisfaction with the team's preseason work. Schaffer told the News that high levels of fitness and cohesion are standout factors for this year's squad.

"As a collective, we are the fittest team I have been a part

er's interests, including a visit to defending NCAA National Champions Syracuse on Oct. 18. Cote told the News that it is a privilege to play the national champions, and that the team has been keeping an eye on the game for some time.

Schaffer told the News that the team's Sept. 23 game at Penn is also circled on the calendar. Penn topped the Ivy League Preseason poll this year, with Yale landing in fourth place.

"They are the defending Ivy League Champions, and they beat us at home last year," Schaffer said. "It is our opening Ivy League game and a chance for us to make a statement."

Other noteworthy games include the Harvard rivalry game on Oct. 14 in Cambridge, a tough fixture hosting UConn on Sept. 8 and the Bulldogs' final regular season game against Brown on Nov. 4 in New Haven. Despite the exciting games ahead, both Cote and Schaffer emphasized



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men's soccer team begins its season at home against West Virginia on Friday, Sept. 1.

of since joining Yale," Schaffer said. "I set extremely high standards for our fitness test, and everyone exceeded the standards. This being my final season, I personally feel a special connection with everyone in the group. I know that this is a team that will play for one another."

Friday's game against West Virginia will be a critical step toward a successful season for the Bulldogs. In last year's matchup, Yale defeated the Mountaineers in Morgantown with a late goal by Max Rogers '24. This year, the Bulldogs will look to secure a win in front of their home crowd. Versatile midfielder Ryan Cote '25 says that the home atmosphere provides additional motivation for players.

"Playing at home just amplifies the excitement even more," Cote said. "Last year, we struggled at home, so winning every game in Reese Stadium is a big goal of ours this season. We're ready to battle this fall, and I hope as many fans as possible can join us — your support means so much more than you know."

Schaffer also commented on the importance of the home game.

"We take pride in defending our home field and playing in front of anyone and everyone that comes out to support us," he told the News. "The energy that [our supporters] provide in the stands is infectious on the field. I think that we have the best supporters in the Ivy League, maybe in the entire country."

Beyond their opening matchup, the Bulldogs have a schedule packed with games that should pique any support-

that the team's focus is always the next game at hand.

This year, head coach Kylie Stannard is accompanied by Assistant Coaches Trevor DeMar Banks, Drew Crawford and Ken Krolicki. Together, they hope to help the Bulldogs win another Ivy League Championship, which they last took home in 2019.

"We are excited about another very challenging schedule this year that I think has a chance to be a Top 25 strength of schedule," Stannard said to Yale Athletics. "Unquestionably, our non-conference games will prepare us very well for the strongest and deepest conference slate since I have been at Yale. With four Ivy teams in the top 50 RPI last year, and ranked the fourth strongest conference in the country, I think it has a chance to be even stronger this year."

Schaffer told the News that beyond winning games and an Ivy League Championship, his goal as captain is to have no regrets at the end of the season.

He called this no regrets mentality — "individually sacrificing for a collective goal" — an important part of the team's identity.

"I know that everyone will have given everything when it's all said and done," Schaffer said.

The Yale men's soccer team will play a total of 16 games, seven within the Ivy League Conference and nine out of conference.

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## Yale Football prepares for 2023 season

BY AMELIA LOWER  
STAFF REPORTER

Team 150, which began training for the year on Aug. 17, has worked to set itself up for a strong 2023 season.

Last season, the Bulldogs (8-2, 6-1 Ivy) took home the Ivy League Championship after a 19-14 win against Harvard, marking Yale's third championship win in the past five years. Since the Bulldogs' triumph over Harvard, Yale's players have received honors, awards and national recognition; their main focus this fall, however, is the 10-game season that lies ahead.

"What's been really fulfilling for me was at the end of last season, we really turned the page from 149 to 150, and the guys were pretty amazing," head coach Tony Reno said. "Team 150 is a new team, and we get to build it from the bottom up."

Reno told the News that the Elis trained well both on and off campus during the offseason and have had a strong start at preseason training camp.

The team gained momentum after being picked as the preseason favorite by Ivy League Media on Aug. 7, with 122 points and 13 first place votes. Princeton trailed in second place with 103 points and one first place vote.

"We have a lot of returning players back from last year with a ton of experience, but with that comes a target on our back," quarterback Nolan Grooms '24 said. "Ever since we walked off that field up in Cambridge last year, our goal has been to elevate in every aspect of our life, and it has translated into a spectacular offseason in my opinion."

Grooms was the recipient of the 2022 Bushnell Cup as Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year and is in consideration for the 2023 Walter Payton Award, given annually to the Division I FCS college football national offensive player of the year. Grooms, who threw 1,660 yards and

rushed 726 yards last season, also earned first team All-Ivy recognition.

Grooms was not the only Bulldog recognized for impressive play in the 2022 season. Running back Joshua Pitsenberger '26 was named Ivy League Rookie of the Year in addition to being selected as a Finalist for the Jerry Rice Award, which is presented annually to the best freshman in the FCS.

Pitsenberger also earned FCS Freshman All-America Recognition.

"Team 150 stands out from other teams because we are trying to elevate this program to new heights," defensive back Wande Owens '24 said. "I am most looking forward to bonding with my teammates on and off the field, creating memories to last a lifetime."

Offensive lineman Kiran Amegadjie '24 was selected for the Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List and was named to the 2023 Stats Perform FCS Preseason All-America Team. He was also selected as the Ivy League Preseason Offensive Player of the Year and First Team All American and Ivy team in Phil Steele's FCS Preseason All American Teams Selection.

Four current Yale football players earned Academic All-District Honors: punter and kicker Jack Bosman '24, running back Nathan Denney '25, offensive lineman Jack Karhu '25 and wide receiver Mason Shipp '25.

On June 1, Yale Athletics released the names of the 27 new Elis set to join the class of 2027, including six defensive linemen, six offensive linemen, two linebackers, six defensive backs, three wide receivers, one long snapper, two tight ends and one quarterback.

Yale also welcomed four new coaches to the team — Marcus Knight, Tim Janeczek, David Josephson and Stefon Wheeler have already begun to mentor Yale's wide receivers, defensive linemen, tight ends and offensive linemen, respectively.

"Preseason has been a huge growth period for our team in all

aspects," Grooms said. "As far as the season goes, I look forward to continuing building bonds and relationships with my teammates during the gauntlet that the Ivy League football season is."

Owens, who was elected captain of Team 150 last November, was named to the New England Football Writers Association All-New England team, which honored the 2022 FBS and FCS players in New England by position.

Owens played in every game in the 2022 season and was one of two players tied with a team-leading 63 tackles.

"From the last few weeks of preseason, the things that stand out are energy and effort," the captain said. "Though we all have assignments to perform each and every play, we maintain that element of having fun with each other."

Another highlight of the summer occurred when defensive lineman Adam Raine '23 signed with the Edmonton Elks in the Canadian Football League after being invited to the Washington Commanders rookie mini camp last May.

Reno, named 2022 Ivy League Coach of the Year, expressed his excitement for the season to come, the continued growth of the team and "watching this team chase elite and handle everything in its way."

"I'm really excited about what they've done so far," Reno said. "We've kind of got a long way to go in preseason camp to get ourselves ready for our first regular season game, but they've done a really good job of focusing in on themselves and focusing in on what we need to do to become the best versions of ourselves."

The Bulldogs will face Holy Cross for Yale's home opener at the Yale Bowl on Sept. 16 at noon.

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**STAT OF THE WEEK** 13 OUT OF 16

THE NUMBER OF FIRST-PLACE VOTES THE YALE FOOTBALL TEAM RECEIVED IN THE IVY LEAGUE PRESEASON POLL



# THROUGH THE LENS

Photos by Sophie Sonnenfeld



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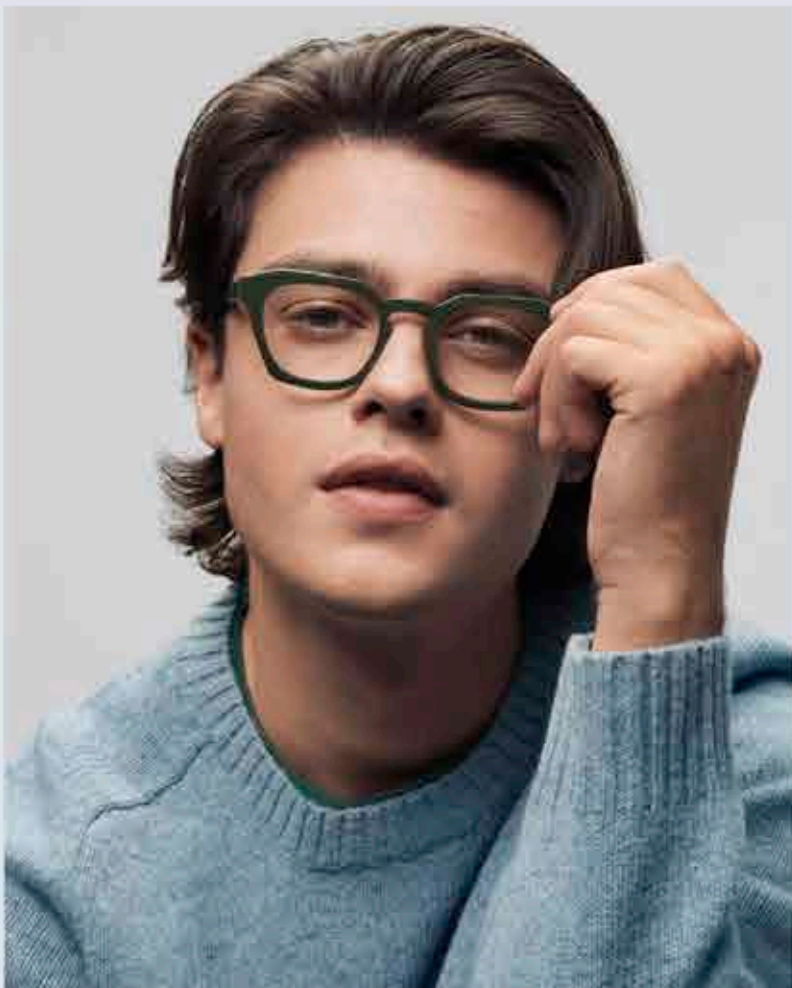
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WARBY PARKER

# A new semester calls for new glasses

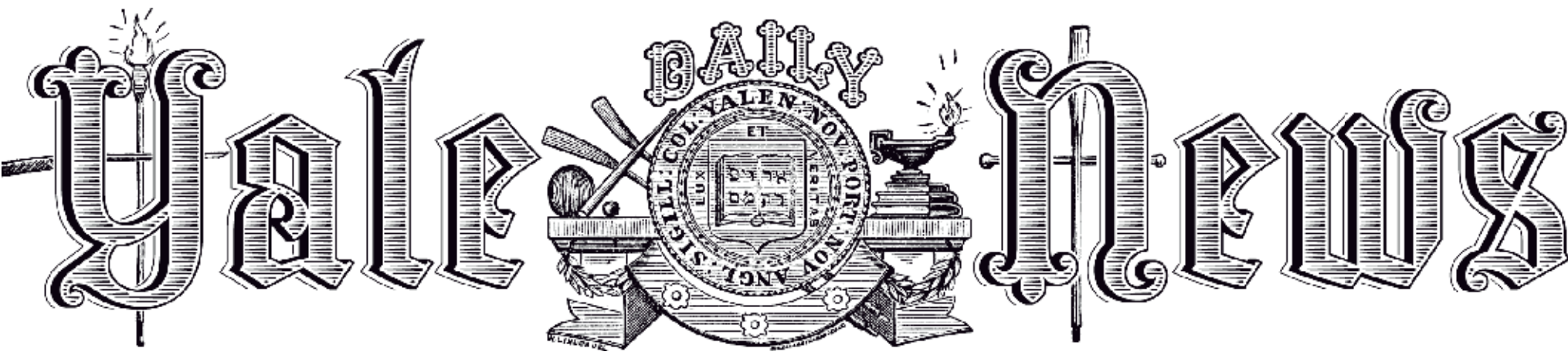
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# First-year special issue

Sept. 1, 2023





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# SPISSUE OPINIONS

## NDUBISI: You belong here

In its continued rightward march, the Thomas Court’s rulings on affirmative action have made the dream of college harder for students of color, especially at the elite universities the justices themselves attended. With each new decision, it becomes increasingly clear that this court is a long way from the day of *Griswold and Brown v. Board of Education*, and it may actually be slipping back to the days of *Dredd Scott* and *Plessy v. Furgeson*. This, along with the judicial misconduct allegations of the Court’s most senior members (who both happen to be Yale-educated and chiefly responsible for the court’s most controversial opinions), make it a uniquely difficult time to be a student of color on this campus.

The feelings of imposter syndrome, which are to be expected for many of our incoming first-years, are only intensified by our current discourse. But though all the noise and chaos wrought by this conservative court, I offer a simple message to the members of the class of 2027 who may be dealing with those feelings: You belong here, and you have earned your place at this school.

It is easy to believe, at a college that educates Olympians and Nobel Prize laureates, that you are an anomaly. That you should not be here because your parents are not wealthy, you did not attend a fancy prep school or do not come from a long line of Yalies. We begin to convince ourselves that being different means that we are unequal and that somehow we are taking the place of a better, more qualified student, but believe me when I say those feelings fade. They fade because it’s based on a lie. A lie told throughout history by those born to privilege to those of us fighting to claim our piece of pie while they fight to keep the size of theirs.

I’m sure many of you wonder, as I have, if this decision had come a few years sooner that we may very well not be here. I wrote proudly about my identity and story as the son of immigrant parents who left all they knew to flee poverty in their country and come to the United States in the hopes of giving their children a chance at a better life. I carry those sacrifices with me everywhere I go at Yale, and hope to make their struggle worthwhile with my being here. Can I ever be certain that if my admissions officer didn’t know my identity that I would be here today? No. Do I know that if I had chosen to write about an exaggerated mission trip instead of sharing my authentic life’s story, that my application would have made it past a first read? No. Do I know that after the court’s affirmative

action decision, my sister’s college admissions journey will look anything like mine? No. But I do know this: there are things we can all do to relieve the anxieties that come with being so lucky and feel more secure in our place here.

Find and join campus communities. They will be your home away from home filling you with the comfort and sense of belonging that we all crave.

Become part of Yale’s vibrant advocacy scene. We all have causes and issues we care about deeply, and these groups will provide you with a sense of purpose and remind you that there are things more important than ourselves.

Check your admissions file. You may or may not like what you read but whatever the outcome, you will come out of the reading with a greater sense of understanding of why, out of the 52,000 students who applied from around the world, the admissions office chose you. I promise that knowledge will be liberating.

Utilize new resources like the new Office of Educational Equity. While Yale was not founded for many of us who attend today, it is trying to build a more equitable and accessible campus. Those efforts must be utilized but us today and expanded for future Yalies. That is how we build a better campus and world society.

Here, everyone is equal in merit and more importantly in potential. You would not be here if that weren’t the case. But the truth is we are living in an interesting time in the history of our country. As we stray further away from the ideals that truly make America great, the task that lies before us is to hold our institutions’ feet to the fire and shape them into the forces for good we know they can be. That is how we can remain true to our individual identities while also proudly wearing the titles of Yalie and American.

Legacy and first-generation, low-icnomstudents alike are all a little more unsure of our place here and uneasy about how we might be perceived by our peers. But if we can remember and remind each other from time to time that we are peers and in this together, then we will all be okay. With that faith, let us hold our heads up a little higher, walk a little taller, breathe a little more easily and take up space here during these, our bright college years.

Welcome to Yale, class of 2027! We cannot wait to see all you do here in this wonderful, magical place.

**MICHAEL NDUBISI** is a sophomore in Saybrook College. He can be reached at michael.ndubisi@yale.edu.

GUEST COLUMNIST WILLIAM ORR

## Any hopes and dreams?

If you have ever studied in “the Stacks,” the upper floors of Yale’s Sterling Library, you have no doubt seen the notes: “We lie best when we lie to ourselves,” “HELP,” “Fuck the patriarchy,” “SURVIVED THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC JUST TO WORK IN THIS CARREL FOR HOURS ON END! #YALIE,” “JUST LIVE LIFE!!!!” — and more. Scribbled by anonymous students in colorful marker, pen or pencil, they adorn almost every study carrel. The notes themselves span diverse genres: puns, maxims, Taylor Swift lyrics, philosophical quandaries, obscene expletives and countless motivational messages. Notes so ubiquitous that one of the study carrels on the seventh floor contains only one note, “How come no one writes over here?”

BECAUSE OF THE ANONYMITY, MANY TREAT THE WALLS AND DESKS OF THE STACKS AS A PRIVATE FORUM, LEAVING ULTRA-CONFESSIONAL NOTES OFTEN CENTERING ON SEXUAL EXPLOITS (OR LACK THEREOF) OR DEPRESSING NOTES INTENDED TO RELEASE FRUSTRATION, STRESS AND FEAR.

Because of the anonymity, many treat the walls and desks of the Stacks as a private forum, leaving ultra-confessional notes often centering on sexual exploits (or lack thereof) or depressing notes intended to release frustration, stress and fear.

During first-year orientation, despite several tours, the Stacks remained on my bucket list. A day-in-the-life YouTube video of a Yale student, in which she studies in a Stacks carrel amidst a sunset glow, inspired my desire to visit this seemingly idyllic study space. Of course, gossip from other students about what happens in the Stacks—romantic

trysts hidden within the folds of bookcases—also piqued my imagination. From what I heard, none of the other libraries at Yale dared to challenge the Stacks’ notoriety. I wasn’t seeking to witness something like a (rumored) ménage à trois in the Stacks but sought to uncover some exciting secret. Feeling homesick, I decided to skip a “safety session” and visit Sterling.

Exiting the elevator, I discovered there was nothing to see but an unremarkable library with non-ergonomic wooden chairs, overhead fluorescent lights, and miscellanea scattered throughout: an unplugged vintage green desk lamp, a black-and-white photo of a NYC bridge, a print of Thomas Cromwell. I got lost in the labyrinth of bookcases, periodically startled by someone hunched over their laptop (classes hadn’t even started). Overlooking the plain gray tops of buildings, many windows lacked scenic views. Like a tourist, I took photos of one of the few study carrels with a nice view. With desolate aisles of books untouched by light, the Stacks’ creepiness grew by the second, treating me like an unwelcome guest. Finally finding an elevator, I descended to the bright ground floor of Sterling.

Despite its “dreariness” (in the words of a friend who has never been), the Stacks eventually became my preferred study spot. I valued the privacy of the individual study carrels over the large rows of tables at the other Yale libraries, which frequently filled with loud conversation. Parsing the notes in my chosen study carrel still serves as a ritual that prefaces any reading or studying I hope to accomplish each visit, as does skimming the bordering titles—books cataloging esoteric subjects in excruciating detail. The upper shelf of a carrel usually contains a few of these volumes, standing only a foot from some of the most juvenile notes that are likely penned by the very people researching such works.

While I joined the fraternity of “Stacks regulars,” the eeriness from my first visit lingered. One day, procrastinating before starting my psych paper, I imagined a ghost story befitting the setting, centering on a first year pseudo-intellectual who, disillusioned by the lack of like-minded scholars and appalled by the debauchery at parties, finds solace in the Stacks. He abhors the vandalism that defiles the study carrels and sits rapt each day reading the books of the Stacks. Eventually, he stops going to classes in favor of simply reading the books and sleeping at the same

study carrel every night until eventually disappearing.

At times during freshman year, I found myself identifying with the protagonist’s escape into the Stacks. I fumbled through the first couple months of college with a clumsiness akin to bumping into a Stacks bookshelf, causing flurries of books to tumble onto the floor. Self doubt, a ghost from my past, held me back. Not even a Yale acceptance could erase it. The Stacks didn’t care about any of that—just a place where you hunkered down and focused, a place of refuge. Whenever I saw one of the motivational messages as I embarked on a study session, I wished I could absorb it into myself and leave the carrel ready to “JUST LIVE LIFE!!!!”

I TURNED AWAY FROM THE SCATTERED PAPERS OF ITALIAN GRAMMAR AND SPENT A MOMENT BATHED IN THE AMBER LIGHT.

While not wanting to disappear into the Stacks like my protagonist, I valued them as a place to breathe and reflect away from the bustling campus below.

In that inexorable, reassuring cycle of first years, I gradually acclimated to campus, began to feel less homesick, gained confidence, and made new friends. Before I realized, the first semester ended and reading week arrived, with much of that time spent in either Bass Library or the Sterling Stacks. After having made progress on one of my papers in Bass, I relocated myself to the Stacks for a new round of studying. Night approached and my study carrel became suffused in a golden sunset like the one from the YouTube video. I turned away from the scattered papers of Italian grammar and spent a moment bathed in the amber light. The fading orange sun mixed with the cool night blue at the horizon. Receding sunrises left their invisible ink on the windowpane—a celestial note defying categorization. Like an initiate, it was my turn to receive this gift from the Stacks.

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## SINGH: Why Directed Studies?

The spring before I matriculated, I took the Amtrak down to New Haven for a funeral. The day before the service, I had dinner in Branford with a then-first year my age that I knew through work who told me about Directed Studies. The pitch: that it’s what the smartest students at Yale do.

Now, it’s my turn to try and convince first-year students to do Directed Studies. Unfortunately this will be published too late to influence anyone in the class of 2027; the deadline to apply for the program was June 2. But I miss my time in the program, so let me try my hand at selling it to the next generation. I promise, it will teach you something far more important than the classics.

Directed Studies is a program exclusively for first-year students. Each semester, three of your classes are picked for you: philosophy, literature, historical and political thought (or H&P, for short). There is an application, but it is not difficult and serves primarily as a guarantee of a certain minimum level of interest. If you find the program is not to your liking, you may

I ALREADY LOOK BACK FONDLY ON THE DAYS I SPENT COOPED UP IN PIERSON LIBRARY WRITING OUT MY PAPERS, READING NIETZSCHE ON THE METRO NORTH BACK FROM NEW YORK, OR COMMISERATING OUTSIDE OF HQ L02 BEFORE THE WEEK’S PHILOSOPHY LECTURE.

drop it for the spring semester. You read, discuss, and write

about the Western canon, from the epic of Gilgamesh and Plato to W.E.B. Du Bois and Hannah Arendt. Each week, there will be one hour-long lecture and two 90-minute discussion sections, for each stream. You write one essay per week, five pages, due on Friday, rotating between each of the classes (every fourth week you get off). The first week, you’ll tell yourself that you’ll start the paper on Monday or Tuesday; by the spring, you’ll write every paper on Thursday night. The professors assign you about 400–500 pages of reading per week. (Most people don’t do all of it; I didn’t, and I turned out fine).

The most important thing you learn in Directed Studies isn’t what Kant thought about synthetic a priori truths or what “kleos” means (it’s Greek for “glory”). You might not think you’re getting better at writing a philosophy paper or close-reading a poem, but slowly and surely, you will. I went from submitting five pages of barely legible shlock on the Iliad to writing a short story about young Marcel Proust from Combray and Mrs. Ramsay from

To The Lighthouse having supper. You might realize that your own ideas were shared by the thinkers of the past: in the fall, I drunkenly quipped to a classmate that “mediocrity is democratic” before a party. When I read John Stuart Mill’s “On Liberty” in the spring, I realized that he had beaten me to the punch by a few hundred years.

About 100 students take Directed Studies every year. You won’t be friends with everyone, but by the end you’ll know most of them. If you’re a humanities person or planning on majoring in EP&E, DS will fill a lot of your requirements. But even for a boring old economics major like me, DS was wonderful. I already look back fondly on the days I spent cooped up in Pierson library writing out my papers, reading Nietzsche on the Metro North back from New York, or commiserating outside of HQ L02 before the week’s philosophy lecture. In 30 years, I imagine I still will.

When I went home after the funeral, I talked it over with my boss, who went to Harvard; my aunt and my friend’s mother, who teach there; and my par-

ents. They all said that I should do it. I went to the Directed Studies events at Bulldog Days — a panel and an informal chat at Grey Matter Books — and I liked what I saw and heard, so I applied (late, but I still got in). Last spring, I sat on the panel for the incoming students interested in Directed Studies.

I’ll tell you why you shouldn’t do Directed Studies. If you don’t like reading and writing often, have no use for literature or no interest in wondering what one ought morally to do, or don’t want to dedicate half of your desk to a towering pile of paperbacks, don’t do it.

If you’re on the fence, give it a go. It will teach you how to close-read an epic, reconstruct a philosophical argument, trace the history of political thought, and properly use semicolons. But most importantly, it will teach you how to think — something that will serve you no matter what you do next.

**MILAN SINGH** is a first-year in Pierson College. His column, “All politics is national,” runs fortnightly. He can be reached at milan.singh@yale.edu.



SPISSUE

*“Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures.”*  
HENRY DAVID THOREAU, AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER

# After more than 3 decades of organizing, Yale’s graduate student union won recognition last January

BY LAURA OSPINA  
STAFF REPORTER

Graduate student workers at Yale have fought for union recognition since 1990, organizing strikes, protests and unauthorized elections, as well as a virtually unprecedented 2017 hunger strike. Meanwhile, the union has faced an unmoving administration, drawn-out legal challenges by the University, and controversy among graduate and professional students.

Local 33, the graduate and professional student union, finally won recognition in January 2023 after 1,860 of 2,039 possible voters cast ballots in favor of forming a collective bargaining unit.

After decades of resisting calls for graduate union recognition, Yale agreed to hold its first official union election in Oct. 2022 following Local 33’s submission of union authorization cards from the majority of graduate and professional students to the National Labor Relations Board. Representing approximately 4,000 eligible workers, Local 33’s election filing was the second largest in the country in 2022, according to Daily Union Elections, which tracks NLRB records.

“It’s a historic day in New Haven, and there have been graduate workers organizing at Yale for decades,” Local 33 organizer Abigail Fields GRD ’24 said during the post-recognition victory party. And the win today is really the culmination, in a lot of ways, of generations of organizing, and that feels really incredible, and really powerful and moving to be a part of.”

While the pro-union election requires Yale to begin the process of contract negotiations, a contract with Local 33 may take years to come to fruition. Similar contract negotiations at other private universities have often lasted for years after elections, with negotiations lasting two and three years at Harvard and Columbia, respectively.

Some graduate students told the News that more reliable physical and mental healthcare, higher wages and protections for international students were top priorities for the new contract. Others emphasized the need for a new independent grievance system, as the current system routes some students’ concerns through direct superiors, who are often the subjects of complaints. According to graduate union organizers at Columbia, NYU and Harvard, union contracts at those universities won many of the benefits sought by Local 33, including increased yearly pay and more affordable healthcare.

As graduate and professional workers went to the polls in late 2022, Amy Basu GRD ’23 told the News that she is hopeful that a recognized and empowered Local 33 may encourage Yale to build a better relationship with the city.

“We are quite privileged in our standard lives compared to the general population of New Haven,” Basu said. “Maybe once we have greater bargaining power, we can actually utilize that to push Yale to make changes to this, improving the actual community you’re based in.”

Prior to its 2016 rebrand as Local 33, graduate students previously organized under the Graduate Employees and Students Organization and held their first major protest in 1991, challenging the University’s decision to cut library hours at the time.

Gordon Lafer GRD ’95, a former GESO staff organizer and spokesperson, wrote to the News



ABRAHAM PAYNE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Local 33 received 91 percent support in its official union election, triggering the beginning of contract negotiations with Yale.

following Local 33’s recent election and characterized the University’s administration as “viscerally hostile to all unions” during his time at Yale. Despite broad support among graduate students for a union, exemplified by a majority of students submitting union support cards in 1991 and a three-day strike in 1992, GESO received substantial pushback from the administration.

Lafer claimed that the University pressured faculty to intimidate pro-union students, pursued a one-sided “fake-court procedure” for three TAs charged with violating university rules after participating in a 1995 strike and attempted to dissuade the local fire department and a local bakery from supporting union strikers for Locals 34 and 35 in 1996. Local 34 is Yale’s clerical and technical workers union, and Local 35 represents Yale’s service and maintenance workers.

While University spokesperson Karen Peart declined to comment on the incidents involving the TA charges, fire department and bakery in the 1990s, she drew attention to Yale’s history of “labor peace” with recognized Locals 34 and 35 in the past decades.

In addition to the 1991 collection, GESO also collected union authorization cards from a majority of graduate workers in 2004, following a narrow loss in an unauthorized 2003 election, and in 2015. Despite moments of widespread support for unionization, GESO has repeatedly faced criticism for “aggressive” recruitment tactics, including from pro-union students. In 2015 interviews with the News, graduate students expressed qualms with organizers’ “mildly creepy” memorization of students’ names and faces, visitation of students’ homes and cornering of students in academic spaces.

After the National Labor Relations Board ruled in 2016 that private school graduate workers have the right to unionize, GESO held NLRB-approved elections later that year for the first time. However, instead of organizing

an election for all graduate students, GESO held elections on a department-by-department basis, running elections in nine departments and winning in eight of them.

Approved by a regional branch of the NLRB but unprecedented at the private university level, the untraditional strategy sparked backlash. Reversing its previous neutrality on what is now Local 33, the Graduate Student Assembly voted to oppose the new approach. Yale additionally challenged the validity of the election in court, arguing that they were “undemocratic.” The University later argued that its graduate students were not union-eligible workers after the NLRB dismissed its initial challenges in 2017.

While the University continued to pursue legal challenges to the departmental union election, refusing to recognize the results and begin contract negotiations, several Local 33 activists engaged in a months-long hunger strike held in a Beinecke Plaza encampment. Organization members would switch with each other when health concerns arose. In the University’s official statement regarding the 2017 strike, the administration called on protesters to end the fast for health reasons and stated that the protest was “unwarranted by the circumstances.”

Despite other private universities negotiating with graduate student unions at the time, former NLRB chairman William Gould told the News in 2018 that the University was still unlikely to recognize the unions, citing Yale’s “reputation for more hostility and antipathy towards unions” compared to peer institutions.

Following the appointment of a new conservative member to the NLRB by former President Donald Trump, Local 33 and several other private university graduate unions withdrew their petitions to unionize, anticipating increased resistance to their cause. Around the same time, 80 members signed a petition

expressing dissatisfaction with the union’s leadership and progress. Local 33 “demobilized” in the fall of 2018, according to former organizer Gabriel Winant ’18.

However, having built solidarity with Locals 34 and 35 and energized by discussions of student living standards brought on by the pandemic, Local 33 began a new campaign in the fall of 2021. This resurgence would eventually lead to Local 33’s official recognition in early 2023.

As contract negotiations move forward, Local 33 hopes to join the ranks of other private university graduate student unions that have won contracts, such as Columbia University, Harvard University, Tufts University, Georgetown University and several others. Even more graduate students unions, including those at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago, have won elections and triggered negotiation processes in recent years.

Some of Local 33’s staunchest supporters in their recent fight to unionize have been leaders from Locals 34 and 35. After Yale agreed to the Local 33 elections in 2022, Barbara Vereen, chief steward of Local 34, drew comparisons between the Local 34’s activism in the early 1980s and that of Local 33.

“When we were forming our union, Yale said we didn’t need one,” Vereen told the News. “But what we were fighting for was respect and equal pay for equal work. Now, our jobs are some of the best jobs in the region, something we are very proud of. We are thrilled to see the graduate workers file their union cards and cannot wait to celebrate with them when they win!”

In 2021, after almost 16 months of negotiations, Locals 34 and 35 ratified two separate five-year contracts with Yale. The contracts were the subject of mass protests in the spring and summer of 2020, including a more than 500-vehicle caravan in the streets of New Haven that July.

During the protests, residents and union members called for increased hiring of New Haveners and “fair contracts” that improve job stability, healthcare and retirement benefits.

The finalized contracts include wage increases and protections for employees that may have been previously laid off. Local 35’s contract includes a no-layoff clause, and an “alternative placement” system in Local 34’s contract transitions employees to a different position with salary protections.

Last February, Locals 34 and 35 union workers were awarded checks of up to \$1,300 as part of a class-action lawsuit settlement regarding healthcare conditions in the new contracts, according to the New Haven Register. The lawsuit claimed that the Health Expectations Program required workers and spouses to undergo medical testing such as mammograms, colonoscopies and diabetes screenings or pay an “opt-out” fee of \$25 a week. Test results would be shared with Yale wellness vendors, prompting concerns over privacy, as well as over lower-income workers’ true ability to opt out of testing if they could not afford to pay up to \$1,300 in annual fees.

Neither union itself was a party to the lawsuit. In an interview with the New Haven Register, Stephanie Spangler, Yale’s vice provost for health affairs and academic integrity, emphasized that while Yale designed the HEP with union partners and advice of healthcare experts, the University hoped to “resolve what would have been expensive litigation” and prioritize “[its] relationship with [its] employees.” For the next four years, Yale will not charge opt-out fees and will revise its health data sharing practices as part of the settlement agreement.

Locals 34 and 35’s contracts will expire in January 2027.

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## YTV: First-year students move to campus

*Yale Daily News Managing Editor Sophie Sonnenfeld gives us a glimpse of what move-in is like for first-year and transfer students.*





FIRST

year,

love

// BY HANNAH KURCZESKI

“Are you sure this is the right place?”

I stare up at entryway B of Vanderbilt Hall on Old Campus, skeptical. The air has the characteristic chill of New England fall that I’m not used to, and I rub the gooseflesh that raises along my arms.

My roommate Kate stands next to me, brow furrowed as she looks at her phone. “That’s what the text said. ‘Woods Pregame at 10, Vandy B51.’” She flashes me the screen.

“Well, can you text Prisha and tell her to let us in? We don’t have swipe.”

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“Sorry, it’s tight,” Prisha apologizes as she leads us through the crowd. It smells like mangoes; she must’ve picked up fresh produce. We follow her to the window bench that overlooks the Vanderbilt courtyard. I’m sure the view is stunning in the daylight, but now it’s obstructed by a stack of red solo cups and a near-empty bottle of Tito’s. Prisha frowns as she picks it up.

“What the fuck. This was full when I left.”

“You only got one?” Kate asks.

Prisha’s cheeks flush. “Well, now we know for next time.” She grabs two cups and splits the last of the Tito’s between them before she hands them to us.

“Here. That’s about a shot, right?”

I stare at the clear liquid at the bottom of my cup. It’s definitely more than a shot, but I’m not complaining. I clink cups with Kate, imitating the partygoers from all of the teen rom-coms I used to watch, and we link arms.

“Bottoms up.” Together, we toss the shot back.

For half a second, I feel fine. Then my throat is burning and I’m coughing oh my god why is it burning I’m gagging I feel funny my entire body is shivering and Kate is hitting me on the back and it’s gone. The feeling passes, and I’m fine.

Kate and Prisha stare at me, concerned. “Are you good?”

I let out one last tiny cough, then nod.

Kate grabs my empty cup and stacks it inside of hers. “Geez. You took that like it was your first shot.” When I don’t say anything, she laughs.

“It was. Of course it was.”

Someone next to Prisha strikes up a conversation with her, and Kate and I huddle together.

“So,” she says, as the song changes to some weird club remix of Love Story by Taylor Swift. “You ready for our first Woods?”

My mouth opens to respond until I see him: Connor McCoy, the tall, brown-haired soccer recruit from my froco group.

Kate follows my gaze, and a grin spreads across her lips.

“Oh, this is too perfect.”

“I’m not going to talk to him.”

“Why not?”

“Because.” I struggle to find an explanation that bold, pragmatic Kate will understand. “I don’t think he’s into me.”

“We’ve barely been on campus for a week. How would you know?”

“It would be froco-cest,” I try again as she nudges me towards him. “Isn’t that, like, a big no-no?”

“Not if it works out!” She gives me one last nudge before turning away. I make a mental note to kill her later as Connor turns and looks at me.

I’m not sure if it’s his easy smile or if the Tito’s is finally kicking in, but suddenly my body feels all tingly. “Hey. Fancy seeing you here.”

“You too?” I reply. I force my feet to keep moving until I’m standing right next to him. Someone turns up the volume of the music as “Starships” comes on and everyone around us starts singing. I wince. “They better keep it down or we’re gonna get busted.”

His mouth moves, but I can’t hear what he’s saying.

“What?”

He leans in closer to me, and I try to ignore how small the gap between us is. My stomach ties itself in knots as he whispers in my ear.

“You want a hit?”

“What?”

He holds up a plastic rectangle. A vape.

That explains the mangoes. “No thanks,” I say as he takes another hit. He exhales, and his breath smells like mango and alcohol. A stack of empty cups sits on the table next to him, and I find myself wondering if they were all his.

I try to force the conversation, but I don’t have to. “I like your top.” He nods at the black tank top I’m wearing.

“Thanks. It’s Kate’s.”

“Really? It looks like it was made for you.”

I try to fight the fire that rushes into my cheeks at his words. “Thank you.”

He leans in a little closer. “How’s your night been so far?”

I shrug, my face still aflame. “Pretty good. I mean, it just started, we didn’t really know if we were gonna come until like half an hour ago.”

“Well I’m glad you decided to come.”

“Yeah?” A smile spreads across my face.

“Why is that?”

“Because if you hadn’t, I wouldn’t have gotten to see you.” He threads his arm around my waist, and the rest of the pregame seems to fall away. All I can hear is my pounding heart and all I can see is Connor McCoy and his perfect smile and perfect jawline and perfect lips that are inching ever so closer to mine, and then we’re kissing and it’s perfect. He is perfect. We are perfect.

Needless to say, I don’t make it to Woods that night.

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“Hey, Connor!”

Connor looks over his shoulder as I jog to catch up with him and his roommate, Stephen. He waves at Stephen to go ahead, and we fall in step. His smile doesn’t quite reach his eyes.

“Hey. What’s up?”

I do my best to ignore the tsunami that’s terrorizing my stomach. “I just wanted to catch up, after the other night. I had a lot of fun,” I say quickly.

He hesitates before replying. “Yeah. Me too.”

“And I was just wondering if you maybe wanted to grab a meal sometime? I know I texted you about it the other night, but it’s been a few days and you haven’t replied, so I figured maybe it didn’t send or something.” The words pour from my lips faster than sand through a too-big sieve. They have to, or else I might not have the courage to say them at all.

I try not to stare as Connor runs a hand through his hair.

“Yeah, I’ve actually been meaning to talk to you about that.”

“About... the other night?”

“Yeah.” He stops walking and angles his body to face mine. “I just want to make sure you didn’t get the wrong idea.”

“The wrong idea about...”

“I mean, you know.” His gaze darts from tree to tree, from building to building, but never meets my eyes. “I just... I think you’re really cool and all, and I’d love to be friends and get to know you more. But I’m not really looking for anything serious right now.”

A sharp pain shoots into my chest, right where my heart is. Every thought leaves my brain and every bone in my body aches, exhausted as the weight of his words settle over me.

I’m not looking for anything serious.

So that was it. The moment that I’ve been reliving every day since it happened was “a one time thing,” never to happen again.

My entire mouth has gone dry, but I pry my lips open and force myself to speak.

“That’s fine.”

“You understand?”

“Yeah. I’m not looking for anything serious right now, either.” The lie tastes sour.

Connor flashes me another smile, this

one more relaxed. Relieved. “Good, glad we’re on the same page. See you at the next froco meeting?”

“Wouldn’t miss it for the world!” Stupid stupid stupid, my brain repeats as he strides away. Of course I wouldn’t miss our froco meeting. It’s mandatory.

When I finally reach my dorm, Kate is perched on our common room couch, grinning. “So? How’d it go, Mrs. McCoy?”

I open my mouth to reply, but the words get caught in my throat. Tears prick my eyes and I try to blink them away, but one spills out and onto my cheek.

Kate’s smile falters and in an instant she’s by my side, wrapping her arms around me as my tears wet her shoulder. “He’s an idiot.”

“He’s not an idiot. He just doesn’t like me.”

“Which makes him an idiot.” She pulls away and puts her hands on my shoulders, forcing me to look at her. “We might not have known each other for long, but already you’ve become one of the most incredible people in my life. You’re kind, smart, funny, gorgeous—the total package. And any guy who doesn’t see that is an idiot.”

“Idiot or not, I’m still gonna have to see him all the time.” I wipe my eyes with the back of my hand. “I mean, he lives two floors below us. Plus there’s froco meetings, family dinner... what do I even say to him?”

“All you have to do is say ‘hey’ and move on. You don’t owe him anything.” She gives me a smile, but all I can do is sigh.

“No, like ... how am I supposed to even look at him after this? It’s mortifying.”

“It’s not mortifying. You did nothing wrong.” My eyes start to sting again. “I just feel so stupid.”

She pulls me close again, and I bury my head in her shoulder. “You’re not stupid. And I promise you, it won’t feel like this forever. One day, you’ll meet someone who is worthy of all the wonderful things you have to offer. But until then, we’ll get through this together.”

I squeeze her tight. “I don’t deserve you.” She squeezes me back.

“He doesn’t deserve you.” We stay like that for a few seconds longer, just holding each other, before I pull away and wipe my eyes.

“You know, maybe this isn’t all bad,” she continues. “I think we learned a valuable lesson from this.”

She hands me a tissue, and I take it. “Yeah?”

“Yeah. Yale men suck.”

Despite my tears, I let out a laugh—not because it’s funny, but because it’s true. “You’re right. Yale men suck. But let’s be real: we’re gonna keep pursuing them.”

“Oh, of course. And we’ll just keep getting our hearts broken.”

“Probably.” I take her hand and give it one final squeeze. “But with you by my side? I think I can get through anything.”

Contact **HANNAH KURCZESKI** at [hannah.kurczeski@yale.edu](mailto:hannah.kurczeski@yale.edu).

The Yale survival guide - no, not that one

// BY ELIZA JOSEPHSON

Class of 2027, welcome! You are probably hearing this word everywhere, from your eager FroCos and blown-up blue and white banners alike. You all have already unpacked, but as I’m writing this, my suitcase is still empty.

It’s hard to believe that a year has passed since I, myself, walked through the gates of Old Campus with starry-eyed wonder and a furiously beating heart. I remember packing my bags weeks in advance. But not this year. Now, two days before I leave, I rummaged through my Google Drive hoping to remind myself what essentials to bring. Finally, I came across a document titled “College Checklist.”

I’m met by a custom color-coded system of gold highlighted categorization. It was pieced together during frenzied late-night research across blog posts, indicating what to bring, what my roommate was already bringing, what was packed and not, what was in my Amazon cart and what might not fit in the trunk.

Looking back at this admittedly very neurotic packing list, I can see my excitement in the bolded words, my anxiety reverberating in the italics. Maybe if I brought enough hangers and the right picnic blanket, the unknown trials and tribulations of first year would feel less daunting.

One year later, and I’ve learned that college is about more than a memory foam mattress topper (although that definitely helps). Truthfully, I didn’t need half of what I thought I did. Instead, I would have appreciated some thoughtful advice and a comforting push in the right direction.

Let me tell you what I missed the first time around. I’m tailor-making you, first-years, a new list that covers anything you need and not a whole lot more, given that your closet-sized room will be a tight squeeze already.

Instead of just welcoming you to campus, I also offer you my The Standardized Yale Survival Guide: semester one edition. To be clear, this is not the campus police union one with the grim reaper that got distributed to you upon arrival. Actually, its intent is quite the opposite. This is everything I wish I knew in your position, all in an attempt to make college seem a little less scary.

**Google Calendar**

Forget all the incoming frosh you were buddy-buddy with during Bulldog days — your real best friend is your geal. Whether or not you use the Google one specifically, an electronic calendar will save you from the classic first year blunder of double booking your dining hall meals.

You can ensure your discussion section doesn’t overlap with club meetings. You can plan ahead for papers, projects and final exams. You can even send and receive email - invites to grab cof-



fee or to study in Sterling through the greater yale.edu network. Organizing your life online is a must.

**General cold medicine**

Anticipate illness. It doesn’t matter how healthy you think you are. You’re going to get sick. The Yague (Yale plague) does not discriminate. Your friends will get you sick and you’ll infect them back, it’s unavoidable. And it’s not going to go away quickly

— sometimes you’ll be under the weather for months at a time.

I suggest preemptively picking up Advil, cough drops, Tylenol PM and anything else you think might help you get through an undiagnosable combination of coughing, stuffy nose, sore throat and feeble limbs. Rest up and recover, and thank your lucky stars you’re not stuck with COVID in Arnold Hall.

**Curiosity**

This is getting more and more abstract, but just work with me here. You have to want to and be willing to enjoy your college experience. The best form of satisfying healthy curiosities is posing and answering questions. An easy one is: What dining hall has the best food? And you can only formulate a valid answer by trying food at all fourteen residential colleges. And don’t forget Commons!

So go beyond just wondering what would happen if you struck up a conversation with that girl who looks like friendship material in your Psych 101 lecture. Decide from experience what on-campus publication you want to write for (wink, wink). Comfort zones are not set in stone; they’re meant to be expanded.

**Moderation**

You might think this seems contradictory to the point I just made, but I think it is necessary to regulate curiosities. If you do seek out new experiences, you might end up a little overwhelmed. Amongst a sea of countless First Year seminars, interesting clubs and Red Solo cups, you might need a lifeboat.

And moderation is just that. Don’t take on more than you can handle, that will just overburden you during this exciting time of transition. Sometimes a movie night with friends is just as important as a night spent in a Lake Place backyard. If you fill your plate to the brim with activities and social engagements, you’ll be too full to enjoy it all.

I’ll finish off with the lightning round. Skip the P.O. box at the Elm Street post office and send all your mail to the Barnes and Noble package center instead. Bring a couple more fancy outfits than you expect to need, there will be a slew of formals you might want to attend. Exercise extreme caution whenever opening the washer doors in the Farnam Laundry room — sometimes the machines are inexplicably full of water.

So be curious. Stay organized. Take time for yourself. You might just survive underclassmen-hood to welcome the next batches of first years with your own newfound wisdom.

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WKND Hot Take:

First-years are not annoying.



# A Very Reliable Ranking of the Residential Colleges

// BY ELIFNAZ ONDER

It's been a few weeks since the class of 2027 got the email assigning them to their residential colleges.

For the first years, now begins a wonderful four-year journey with the classic icebreaker along for the ride: “Let’s start going around the circle with everyone’s residential college, intended major, hometown and one fun fact about themselves!”

If the person initiating said ice-breaker is adventurous enough, you might even partake in the infamous “rose, bud, thorn,” or “everyone share your favorite Yale Dining dessert.”

So as the class of ‘27 starts exploring their colleges, I offer you a completely objective and scientific list of residential colleges ranked in several categories. Upperclassmen, please just entertain yourselves and let me know if you have input.

### Category 1: Butteries

I have two criteria for butteries: first, how often they run out of things/ have extra menu items and, second, the confinement of their chairs! The joy of Yale is that the sadness of the Berkeley buttery running out of cheese can readily be offset by Davenport suddenly having key lime yogurt to make up for it. You have to be willing to go from buttery to buttery, munching on nummy snacks to truly discover the wonders available to a hungry college student around midnight. Anyways, here is a quick rundown:

**14. Saybrook:** I’ve never been there or heard anyone talk about it. Should I doubt its existence?

**13. TD:** If they’re holding you there without your will, send me a sign and I’ll rescue you. I don’t see any other reason as to why you’d be in TD that late into the night.

**12. Stiles:** The colorful sofas have proven themselves to be terrifically comfortable. However, I have never eaten in the Stiles buttery. My friends’ food all looked very appetizing but myself scanning pages at 11:50pm for a pset due at 11:59 is not very reliable critic, so I encourage you to give it a try for yourselves.

**11. Trumbull:** THE place to go for a milkshake! No further commentary required.

**10. Pierson:** I honestly don’t see how it is different from the Davenport buttery, but it’s usually harder to find someone to open the door for you so I’ve always gotten my late night snacks from Davenport., Sorry, Pierson!

**9. Davenport:** The challenge in accessing this buttery does not end with finding people who can swipe you into the college. You also have to find someone to let you inside the Dive! Practice your loud knocking skills and most adorable smile as you point toward the door frantically. The antics are worth it; the quesadillas are delicious.

**8. Benjamin Franklin:** The must-go location for both great cheese fries and a view of the pool tables where I will inevitably lose every game I play. They do occasionally run out of certain flavors of Snapple, but who needs Snapple when you haven’t started your essay?

**7. JE:** Small, cozy, and always has fries! What else would someone want from a buttery?

**6. Branford:** Small but mighty – if you can find it (though the way there is also very aesthetic and enjoyable). One



// DORA GUO

of the best places to munch on snacks comfortably.

**5. Morse:** The Morsel! This college loves neon signs, especially if there is food involved.. For those who can’t get enough of the neon ax in the dining hall during the day you can check out the neon Morsel sign at night while munching on your fries or nuggets... or both.

**4. Pauli Murray:** A wide range of food options, a comfy sitting area and an all-around great stop after Hill-house office hours, Murray is a buttery for the STEM kids who seek comfort in greasy food after late-night office hours near Prospect or those seeking a little treat on the way back from dropping of p-sets in SPL. I used to be somewhat biased as a Frankinite, but can’t find anything objective to complain about. I surrender.

**3. Silliman:** I love cheese (maybe cheese quality and availability should have been a metric) and Silliman has the best mozzarella sticks! So far, they’ve never run out. I haven’t tried anything else there, so I’m working on very limited data, but Silliman is a 10/10 if you love mozzarella sticks.

**2. Berkeley:** A quick stop on the way home from Sterling (or Bass, depending on how terribly your night is going). You can also work in the common room upstairs, which is cozy with pretty carpets and a study spot you should definitely keep in mind. I have experienced a few cheese shortages, but Berkeley is almost always a wonderful spot for a study break.

**1. Hopper:** You can watch people play pool as you wait in line. The food is great – always. There’s good music, comfy, nap-worthy chairs and I’ve never seen them run out of any item. With high reliability and stellar atmosphere, Hopper is a clear winner!

### Category 2: Gyms

I tend to go to the gym only if I can’t resist the peer pressure and have been known to run away from workout sessions when my friends aren’t looking. (Don’t take me as an example, work out regularly, it’s healthy, it’s good for you...apparently...)

As such, my key criteria for the gyms is the ease of running away from your friends when you don’t want to lift your legs for the 20th time as a huge metal cylinder tries to amnihilate your quadriceps.

**11. TD:** I’ve never been but rumors say it is pretty hard to leave without your friend seeing you.

**10. Morse/Stiles:** You just need to make sure your friends are working out facing the wall as you run away. If they’re facing the huge glass windows then I’m afraid you’ll have to do the rest of the workout.

**9. JE:** Not very hard to get out of yet still requires a bit of skill – the mirrors aren’t doing you any favors.

**8. Trumbull:** Trumbull is on the smaller side of the gyms so you might want to wait until your friend leaves for a water/bathroom break. Otherwise, count on waking up sore.

**7. Hopper:** It’s a maze. Only try to ditch if you know your way around underground.

**6. Davenport/ Pierson:** Easier if you know where you’re going, but you’ll have to be quick. There are two floors you can certainly make use of.

**5. Franklin/Murray:** It’s pretty open, but if your friends are in one corner and you just happen to leave your water bottle on the Murray side, you can weasel your way out through the tunnels (I love navigating the Murray tunnels but have heard many do not, so try at your own risk).

**4. Silliman:** It’s huge! You can hide behind people and move one step at a time towards the exit. Some risky sneaky moves might be required, but trust that once you get to the stairs you’re essentially free.

**3. Berkeley:** Unless you are tempted by the buttery, you can speed-climb your way up the stairs (if you still have the leg strength) et voila! You’re free!

**2. Branford:** It’s a fun gym. As such, you can use the punching bag to distract your friends as you make good use of Branford’s underground tunnels.

**1. Saybrook:** It is small, it is dark, it is empty. What else can you ask for? Turn around and run on the count of three (and not on the treadmill)!

### Category 3: Dining Halls

Introducing the bitter truth of dating in college: you will run into your ex at every random point on campus! Unless, of course, you find the love of your life during your first week and proceed to date them for your entire time at Yale and live happily ever after. Yeah...I thought so...

So, here are dining halls ranked according to the probability of running into your ex (from low to high):

**14. TD:** I have been twice and only saw TD friends on both occasions. It is a very safe place to eat without running into your ex (unless you are in TD). If this is the case and your ex is in TD, you might want to cross the street to Silliman to experience the wonderful (and occasionally annoying depending on how short you are for time but mostly wonderful) crowd and wait in a very long line to get the same picante chicken you would’ve gotten in TD).

**13. Branford:** You can’t possibly swipe into the entryway unless you’re in Branford, so no risk unless your ex is in Branford. It’s a dining hall that’s easily avoidable and also saves you a flight of stairs.

**12. Saybrook:** Say who? Now that Saybrook doesn’t have hot breakfast, I don’t see why you would run into your ex here. With this said, it still doesn’t hurt to be careful in case they are a fan of the exhilarating experience of procuring their meals next to complete strangers, like that one girl they were in a seminar with but never interacted on a personal level and now have to smile politely and awkwardly at for the entirety of their meal whilst subtly glancing at their phone (because Instagram, as always, is deeply pressing).

**11. Morse:** Can you even see your ex through the glare of the giant fluorescent ax? I don’t think so. Keep staring at said ax and you’re safe.

**10. Trumbull:** It can get dark in there, so if you’re sneaky you can go unnoticed at the small booths to the left of the dining hall. Every time I eat in Trumbull I see the same people, so unless you have dated one of these devotees you’re good.

**9. Pierson:** Very bright (particularly relative to Trumbull). As soon as you walk through the door you are instantly recognizable. You have the spotlight, main character energy, whatever you want to call it. But Pierson is also at the farthest corner of campus, so I’m not entirely sure who goes there for food. You should be on the safer side.

**8. JE:** I don’t know many people who go to JE to get meals. However, they do have great formals and other food-including events, so if you’re going for those there is a relatively high possibility of running into not only your ex but also the guy you accidentally ghosted about a P-set weeks ago from your Econ class and a few of those orientation friends you haven’t talked to since the first day of classes. Main idea: JE events are great places for awkward encounters and good food.

**7. Hopper:** If you get breakfast on weekends and if your ex gets breakfast on weekends you’ll definitely run into each other (what are the chances, right? If you were that compatible, you might want to consider getting back together, but of course, that’s none of my business). Otherwise, pretty safe.

**6. Stiles:** If your ex is an athlete you will see them here and will want to avoid Stiles at all costs. If not, there is no way you’ll run into each other thanks to the entire football team will inevitably form a wall of large humans between you two. Thanks guys!

**5. Murray:** For some reason Franklin is always more crowded

during lunch but you’re bound to see almost half of the STEM majors there for lunch. Oh, and the entire crew of Dynamic Earth on their semesterly visit.

**4. Davenport:** There are always a lot of people in Davenport and every time I go there I run into the most unexpected acquaintance. If you get one of the window tables you might have enough time to hide under said table as you see them enter the courtyard.

**3. Franklin:** You’ll most definitely see them at lunch if you’re a STEM major or taking your distributional requirement science course up on Science hill. Safer for dinner.

**2. Berkeley:** Risky dining hall for dinner, mostly because it’s great for a Sterling study break and has the lovely upstairs balcony for people-watching but also has a very long 6pm line where you’ll be exposed to many individuals. Is it worth it? Maybe.

**1. Silliman:** “6 pm, Silliman?” might be one of the texts you’ll see most often as you make plans for dinner. There is a great chance that your ex got the same text at the same time as you along with a hundred other Yalies. Very, very, very high possibility of undesirable encounters.

Also, as a disclaimer, the author of this piece does not endorse awkward interactions between exes. Please know how to say hello and keep walking. No need to hide under tables or anything of the sort.

### Sources of joy!

Yale is full of joy, but Yale is also full of stress. When you find yourself in need of the former, here are my recommendations for each college:

**Berkeley:** Massage chairs in the South courtyard.

**Branford:** The little study space as you enter the dining hall from the common room – a great secluded corner to write.

**Davenport:** The library and its window seats where you can look outside as you work.

**Franklin:** The courtyard near Canal Street with the hammocks.

**Hopper:** The tables in front of entryways J and I.

**JE:** The beautiful old table in the common room.

**Morse:** The underground tunnels. Murray: The elevated courtyard.

**Pierson:** The walkway between the York Street gate and main courtyard.

**Saybrook:** The round tables in the smaller courtyard, especially in spring as flowers bloom around them.

**Silliman:** The common room and its mahogany walls. The aesthetic is calming.

**Stiles:** The common room, with its great acoustics and occasional piano players.

**Trumbull:** That one specific vantage point in the courtyard where you can see the turret of Sterling Memorial Library

**TD:** Under the big ginkgo tree in the courtyard, after sunset but before it gets too dark. It’s the perfect place to read and scribble thoughts.

Class of 2027, Yale is yours. I hope you enjoy all of the beauty of Yale and find your own sources of joy, wherever they may find you.

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# Frat crawls, fall break in New York and failed long-distance love: Yale’s first-year cliches

// BY PO EIC QUAH

Something magical happens at Yale with the arrival of a new class. Remarkably, every first year recreates a set of unwritten traditions that have been passed along from one class to the other. Here are some of the most infamous first-year cliches that no student has managed to escape from:

### 1. Saying “resco” instead of residential college

The term “residential college” only consists of two words and six syllables. But when freshmen have to say it again and again while meeting new people, they find the term “resco” handy. Then, like clockwork, these freshmen meet upperclassmen who mock them for saying “resco.” First years, save yourself the time and never let “resco” enter your vocabulary – you will retreat to “residential college” by the end of the year anyway.

### 2. Hunting for frat parties in large groups

The first-year experience is defined by the constant struggle to find a frat house that will let freshmen in. The slow march from High Street to Lynwood Place, and then to Lake Place, is a journey that the unwilling first year is forced to take every Friday and Saturday night. This march also usually comprises groups of at least five people, led by someone who swears they know where AEPi is or knows a brother who can get everyone in. Some even pull up to frat houses with their Yale ID on a lanyard.

### 3. Bragging about getting into other schools

The college process is a formidable experience that only time can heal. As their college journey begins, many first years cope with

the college application process by constantly reminding themselves of their Yale acceptance. The problem with doing that at Yale is that everyone else also got into Yale. To differentiate themselves, these freshmen resort to bragging about their acceptances to other schools. Some even make it constantly known that they turned down Stanford or ignored a likely letter from Columbia.

### 4. Trying and failing to maintain long-distance relationships

Every first-year suite has at least one person who never misses a FaceTime with their high school sweetheart. As others go through frenzied hookups, these steadfast souls vow to do everything they can to keep their long-distance relationships. By October break, after attempts at open relationships and the occasional infidelity, most of these relationships fall apart, quite predictably.

### 5. Hard launching friend groups during fall break

First-year fall is a long scramble for belonging. Friend groups dissolve as quickly as they are formed. The friend groups who make it through the chaos of the first few months announce themselves on Instagram around October break, the same time of the year when the entire first-year class makes a pilgrimage to New York City. It is not a real hard launch if the Instagram post does not include tags of at least ten people. Speaking of New York City...

### 6. Aggressively Instagramming that first trip to New York City

Every first-year who goes to New York City for the first time has the same sequence of Instagram Stories. The day starts with a

shot of Grand Central’s starry ceiling and is quickly followed by a shot outside of the Chrysler Building. Many head to Times Square, where they get photos for their obligatory NYC photo dump later that week, while some end up posing contemplatively in front of famous paintings at The Met. These stories always include a geotag too, as if no one knows what New York City looks like.

### 7. Taking club applications too seriously

The first few weeks of Camp Yale are all fun and games, but everything starts to shift after the Extracurricular Bazaar. Anxious first years start taking over Bass Cafe, typing away on their Macbooks to craft the perfect responses for their investment club or consulting group application. Whispers of nepotism in the selection process of certain clubs begin to be passed around. Friends even start to drift apart as some latch onto the professional or social groups they are accepted into.

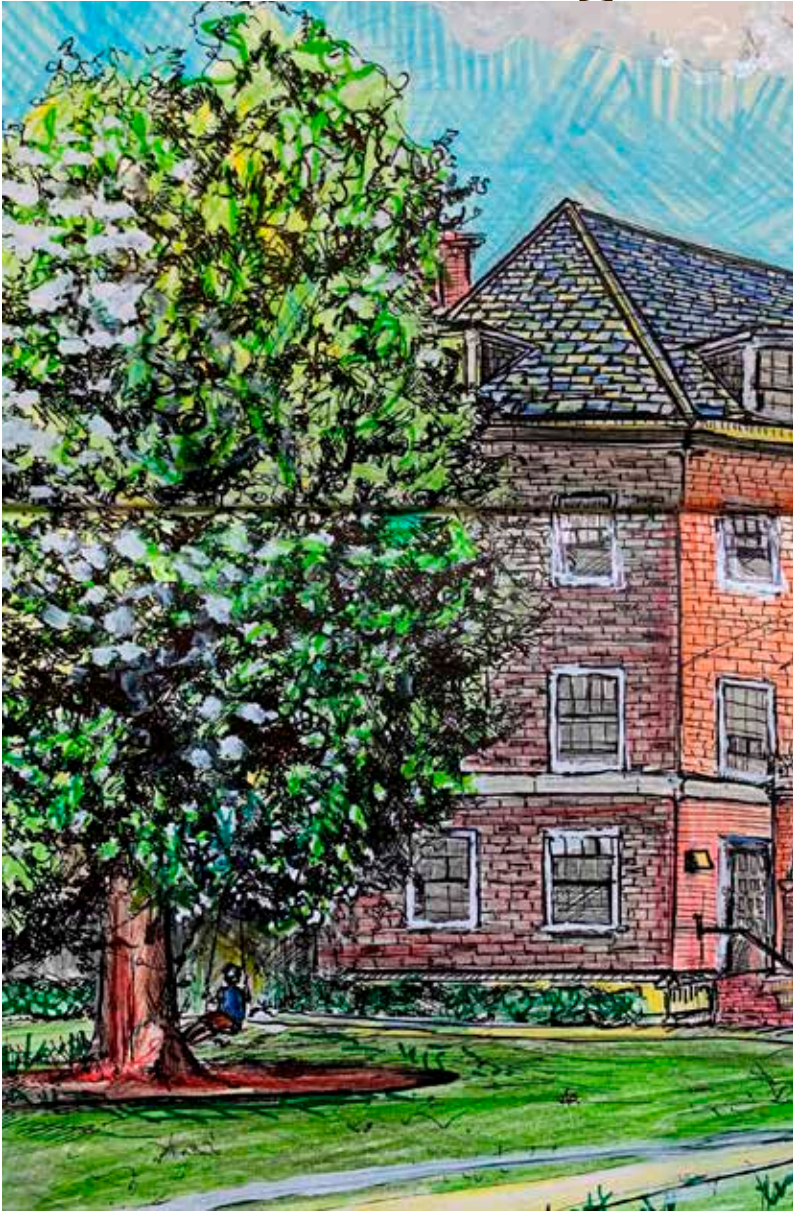
### 8. Crying over an A-

Having breezed through high school with straight As, many freshmen struggle to cope with their first A- during midterm season. The “Cr/D/Fail” option suddenly seems appealing, while some even entertain the thought of dropping the class entirely. For the overachieving first-years, the failure to maintain a 4.00 GPA is the worst thing that can happen to them, for the time being.

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# "YALE": From Myth to Memory



// WINNIE JIANG

// BY JANE PARK

On August 21, 2022, I stepped onto Yale’s campus as an official Yale student. Ever since getting into Yale in April, introducing myself as an incoming freshman at “Yale University” felt foreign. My idea of “Yale” was composed of distinguished and eyebrow-raising alumni, sprinkled media references (my favorite Yalie is Teddy from “Good Luck Charlie”), and Yale’s 300-year history of being an elite institution.

These small allusions combined to create the great, impenetrable mythology of “Yale.” Everyone who is reading this has probably had their own legends about this place. Soon, the mythologies will be replaced by my own memories of Yale, I thought. “Yale will roll off my tongue” and I’ll tell personal anecdotes until everyone back home gets sick of me. But days passed and classes started, and yet I was far from my mildly diabolical plan of falling

headfirst into Yale. In fact, it felt as if both my body and my memory were rejecting Yale entirely. No matter how much I dragged my tired body back to Old Campus, my feet couldn’t find their way back to L-Dub without resorting to Google Maps. Conversations with new friends were awkward and stiff, following the generic script of: “What’s your name? What residential college are you in? What’s your major? Where are you from?” As I walked past Cross Campus, I watched friends reunite and catch up with one another. Dogs raced across the quad as their owners read peacefully on picturesque benches. My mouth would subconsciously contort into a slight pout-smile as I passed the green chock-full of people and dogs that seemed more in love with Yale than I would ever be. Inwardly, I was jealous and frustrated, wondering if I could ever sit on the grass, laugh with my friends and become an indelible part of Yale’s scenery. Outwardly, I wanted to succeed in the role of “happy, excited Yale freshman.” I wanted to be the girl who found her first few days of Yale to be everything she expected and more. As I called old high school friends and received the Big Question of “How’s Yale,” I struggled to find an adequate and exciting answer. How could I possibly answer that question when my perception of Yale hadn’t changed at all. My “Yale” was as emotional and personal as the Google Search images of Yale: the aerial shot of the bustling Schwartzman Center dining hall, the postcard-like images of the Sterling Library and its formidable, stone body and the headshots of famous and affluent alumni. I began to despise Yale. The first week festivities and ceremonies washed over me like a wave of East Coast, Ivy-League prestige and elitism. The Open-

ing Assembly, with its parade of gown-wearing trustees and flags, highlighted Yale’s rich institutional history. It is not difficult to forget that Yale was built for and by white, wealthy men. Its traditions and reputation are built on this foundation. The line of extracurricular activities and clubs at the Extracurricular Bazaar was dizzying and overwhelming. Returning Yale students knew exactly where to go and how to get there, both metaphorically and literally. Most of all, I hated that I wasn’t a part of this world of ceremonies, events, and Yale buzz. But regardless of whether this school accepts you, the fact does not change that you are now a physical part of Yale. And when you finally internalize that this far-off, distant image of Yale now includes you, whether you like it or not, the seemingly impenetrable mythology begins to disintegrate little by little. It might be during your first year or in your very last semester as a senior, but at some point in your Yale career the school becomes real. Just as you can’t pinpoint the moment when you’ve fallen in love with someone or determine exactly when the season changes from winter to spring, I don’t know how or when Yale became “real” to me. I just looked around me, and Yale came alive. The rooms of the Asian American Cultural Center now hold memories of roughly-made kimbap and tearful conversations about grief and silent K-drama watching sessions. Elm Street conjures chaotic montages of running and singing with friends as the nearby frat party music blares in my ears. The table closest to the wall at Saybrook dining hall will permanently be imbued with the memories of some of my favorite conversations: those painfully intimate and bare, full of tears and intensely joyful. Every once in a while, I look

around Yale as I sit on Cross Campus with my friends. It turns out that even as I laugh with those around me, in a position I once envied, my ideas of belonging and familiarity at Yale inevitably fluctuate, ebbing and flowing throughout the semester. Perhaps “Yale at Home” is a precarious dynamic rather than a state of permanence. But if it is, I’m really, really okay with it. I’ve found home in the most unexpected places. The stony gothic facades of Yale’s historic buildings no longer intimidate me. In fact, even the Sterling Memorial Library feels rather homey and familiar now. It houses one of my favorite places on campus: the stacks. Often considered the “heart” of Sterling Library, the stacks house a vast majority of the university’s books. If you climb all the way up to the sixth floor, where I go most often, you’ll see rows of isolated desks and chairs, each separated by a wall of volumes. Pull the chair out gently; otherwise, it’ll squeak. Look directly in front of you. You’ll meet the many scribbles of students who have sat at the same desk. Some are neat and encouraging: “You can do it!” or “I believe in you!” Others are explicit or mildly entertaining, ominous clue-like messages from obviously bored students of the past. The stacks are but one illustration of the fact that the history of Yale—the glamorous, the elite, the ugly, the exclusive, all of it flows through the veins of this campus. But as much as this school and institution touches you, you too touch it. You inscribe your memories, words and personal history into Yale—just like the thousands of inscriptions next to the millions of books. Whatever the hell Yale is — it’s yours.

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## AGAINST ADVICE

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

Yalies — especially the older ones — love to offer advice. The pretentious ones might even refer to it as imparting wisdom. That’s all well and good, as long as you don’t trust them. Oh, don’t get me wrong, you should listen to their advice. But it will contradict itself. Consider this course review: “I wouldn’t recommend this course to another student. It was boring and not well organized. I don’t feel like I actually learned anything; it was more of a fun story hour with [REDACTED]. That being said, he’s a great lecturer but the course was poorly facilitated.” If your friend told you this, you might write off that class. The small issue is that out of the other 51 reviews, 49 fall between “Yes!” and “Definitely!” with two cowardly “Maybes” who never learned to make up their minds about anything. Take a new scenario. It’s 8:55 p.m. on a Monday night. Friend A tells you that you oughta come to The Yale Record meeting in LC 317 because it’s the most fun you’ll ever have and a great group of people. Friend

B, your pal from econ, tells you that the pset is really hard and you should try to get ahead on it. And Friend C, an upperclassman, tells you that there’s a lowkey party on Dwight Street—welcome to college, kid; this degenerate junior goes out on Monday!—they can try to get you into. What do you do? You could despair and pick randomly. You could trust the upperclassman (much to the chagrin of your parents) and find this underground Monday night rager. Or—and bear with me, because this might sound crazy—you could trust yourself. Those unreliable friends don’t know your taste. Everybody I knew told me not to join the YDN, and I believed them for a while. Look at me now: a washed up writer imparting unsolicited wisdom to the next generation. Things surprise you. They told me I simply had to take a first-year seminar—that it was crucial to the Yale experience. It was my least favorite class at Yale thus far. They told me I would hate CS201. It was one of my favorites. They told me not to hang out at FroCo duty for hours on end, but it’s

where I met some of my best friends. They said to try to be besties with your suitemates, except some of them said to be loose friendly acquaintances so you don’t risk getting into a fight, and they were all wrong because relationships aren’t that simple and evolve over time and I just happened to get lucky enough to have a roommate who said “Good night, buddy!” every night before bed. They—the vague masses of Yalies who think they know stuff—are wrong just as often as they are right because they don’t know who you are, who you want to be or what brings you joy. They know themselves. As every incoming first year hears from every adult in their life, college is about exploring and finding yourself. So listen to advice. Get multiple viewpoints if you can. Weigh it all as carefully as you want. But when it comes time to make a decision, trust yourself. If you feel strongly, blow off all the wisdom and set your own course. That’s just my advice, though.

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// MICHELLE FOLEY

### WKND's Underrated Song:

All Night Parking (with Erroll Garner) by Adele





// BY MAYA ASHABOGLU

I open my eyes as the sun shines through the small, round window of my ninth floor dorm room. (Yes, I know, I live on the 9th floor of a building. Yes, we do have an elevator; no need to worry.) I have come to embrace Bingham Hall. I especially love the people, and living in such an enchanting building has made joy every time I walk out the glamorous doors of one of the tallest residential buildings on campus.

When I come to think of it, walking around campus in general makes me feel exhilarated; bumping into familiar first years,

listening to the bells of Harkness Tower, and even trying to pull open the heavy gates of Old Campus, all bring me a sense of safety and comfort. As I wait for the traffic lights, I imagine what it will be like next year to finally move into Trumbull College. I think of the first snowfall of the season and how we went outside to the courtyard to take pictures after our Sunday night family dinner. I felt at home as we sat at the long dinner table by the fireplace, watching the gentle dance of the snowflakes. I remember all the early mornings I curled up on the comfortable blue couch in the common room, trying desperately to

meet yet another essay deadline. Despite the slightly pitying tone I often get after saying I'm from Trumbull, I have grown to absolutely adore the modern gothic architecture of our college. I pour myself another cup of coffee to shake off my reminiscent mood as I get ready to leave the dining hall and head to class.

Once I'm a sophomore, my trip to Science Hill will be much shorter. The idea of being only two minutes away from Sterling Library and Cross Campus is enough to put a smile on my face. It's a sunny day, which only means everyone I know will be hanging out on Cross Campus. I stop in

front of the majestic Sterling Memorial Library as I take a moment to admire the view; I stand soaking the warmth of the sun, look up at the bright green leaves of the Elm trees and make way for the athletes on scooters to pass by. Cross Campus is the best spot on campus to appreciate the changing seasons; during fall, red and orange leaves lay below your feet, whereas in winter the biggest snowman is always standing right in the middle, spring brings all the brightly colored flowers and the smell of freshly mowed grass, and summer welcomes the chirping of birds alongside the naive giggles of first year students.

I walk quickly to avoid the crowd and take one last look at Sterling, remembering the first time I witnessed a Naked Run, yet another Yale Finals Week tradition. We were deep into studying in the Main Reference Room, which could only mean we had serious work to get done, when I heard the announcement from the loud speakers. I had never thought I'd experience such enthusiastic energy in a mesmerizing building closely associated with quiet, concentrated studying. The memory is accompanied by the loud laughter and supportive chants echoing across the library, reflecting from the tall Sterling ceilings. I also remember when, the last night of Reading Period, we ran all the way from the Berkeley common room to join the crowd in Cross Campus to scream at the top of our lungs, in hopes of relieving built up stress. I am filled with a sense of belonging as I am reminded of the special traditions that unite us even during the year's most depressing period.

In an attempt to shorten my trip, I decide to walk through

Schwarzman Center. I pass Beinecke Library, studying the carefully designed marble exterior in awe. Last semester, our English professor had taken us to examine books from centuries ago, some of which we weren't even allowed to touch ourselves. There it is again, the childish excitement and pride of slowly beginning to comfortably call this place home. I smile to myself, and to all the familiar faces I walk by as it's lunch time and I'm right by Commons, and pick up my pace.

I am met with the elm trees once again as I make my way through Hillhouse Avenue, the prettiest street on campus. (This is not just my opinion, apparently both Charles Dickens and Mark Twain have described Hillhouse Avenue as "the most beautiful street in America.") The imposter syndrome starts to kick in as I am greeted by the Admissions Office, but I quickly allow myself to get distracted by the President's House on the other side of the boulevard. Once again, I am in awe of the combination of the ethereal nature and alluring architecture. I climb up Science Hill and finally arrive at Marsh Lecture Hall. This is where I took both Introduction to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. In all honesty, the big lecture hall can be quite intimidating, but I do like the balance of seminars and lectures in my program. The hall does, however, have anxiety-inducing memories since it is where I took most of my exams. I tell myself it's fine, trying to maintain my positive perspective as the professor starts speaking. Time to concentrate on class.

One of my very first memories at Yale is completing a scavenger hunt during international orientation. I was extremely worried I'd never learn my way around campus. Now, after only one year, I cannot believe I have memories associated with so many different spots.

As it's almost time to move back in, I finally feel like I belong. I can't wait to make so many more memories in this new place I have begun to call home.

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# FIRST-YEAR SWEETIES

// BY ROSE QUITSLUND

I think everyone remembers their first night after move-in, unsure of whether to run around old campus with those new friends from your froco group (but you're so tired), toss and turn in your twin XL bed (can't sleep), or knock on your suitemate's door (they seem really nice!). At least that's how it went for me. Thankfully, her door was already open and I didn't have much decision to make in the matter to forgo going to the bathroom to brush my teeth; I was called in and promptly took a seat on the pink plush carpet, a position that I would soon become well acquainted with. That night I got to know one of my suitemates, and a few people who didn't actually live in my suite, but in a purely technical sense. Some weeks it seemed as if they did. But that was only the first of many nights sharing secrets with these people who quickly shed the title of strangers.

Nearly everyone who knew all five members of my first-year suite was somewhat surprised at how well we co-existed. First, let me set the scene: the basement of Vanderbilt hall with its low ceilings and white washed walls. What we lacked in sunlight trying to trickles its way in through the overgrown window wells was made up for in floor space, an extra couch and an aesthetic that can only be described as confusing. We had a poster of Ravi and Ms. Kipling from the Disney

channel show "Jessie" with the line from Kendrick's King's Dead ("I took her to my penthouse and I freaked it"), a wall of wavy mirrors, the iconic "For God, for Country, and for Yale" flag, a disco ball, as well as a basketball hoop duct taped to the wall and a can of spaghetti-  
tios to hold the door open. We would lovingly say: "it's not a frat house, it's a frat home."

And now that the scene is set, I present a very pared down exposé of each member. The girl I met the first night: hailing from a part of Maryland that is "geographically the Northeast but culturally the south," inhabitant of the cleanest and coziest room I've seen at Yale, a good bit of a TikTok following (that doesn't inflate her ego), a proud owner of all things light pink and a buddhist who loves a party. Then there's the art major at the end of the hall. She's from Los Angeles and blonde, but her paintings express exponentially

much more depth of character than you might assume from that first description. She was late for Italian three out of five days a week for two semesters,

Now some suites, as I'm sure many come to find out, have that one person who just doesn't associate with the rest. We had that suitemate. The most I really



know is that she's from New York City. I think the furthest we ever got in a conversation was "how was your day?" "good" but that's fine. It's not that she was rude either, the suite was just more of a functional place of sleep than a buzzing social meetup for her. But because of this indisputable fact of unso-ciableness, I unfortunately lack further data on this particular suitemate.

The only double in our suite belonged to my roommate and I, a pairing that I'm unsure would have crossed paths if we hadn't been blindly matched. She's the most fashionable engineering major I've ever had the pleasure

and agonized over the exams but inevitably passed with flying colors. I believe our sleep schedules were nearly perfectly opposite, and I'll never understand how she would suddenly decide to go to the library to study just as I was getting ready for bed.

of meeting, coming from London and making up the international demographic in our geographically diverse suite. Which brings us to myself: redhead from an island in Alaska (cue response: Alaska? Cool, my parents took me on a cruise there when I was 8), an Environmental Studies-English double major, a lover of both high heels and rubber boots. And of course there were numerous platonic and romantic friends that became honorary suitemates of the Vandy basement due to how often they frequented our common room. I was more surprised to come home to empty couches than I was the time I received a FaceTime call from my friend sitting alone inside our common room, asking where we were.

As you've probably gathered, there wasn't a lot in common between any of us, except for the fact that it somehow just worked. Our suite didn't become one independently homogeneous friend group, we all sustained our exterior friends, but that never dissuaded us from spending time with each other. We struck upon the balance of having friends outside of your suite, but being friends with the people in your suite. I'm glad: we're going to be suitemates again this year (minus the one, plus a few new additions), and I suppose only time will tell where second year takes us.

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## WKND Recommends

Put up fairy lights above your bed.