



# Leaked FAS Senate report blasts bureacracy

## Faculty decry admin bloat in leaked draft report

BY ISAAC YU  
STAFF REPORTER

A draft report obtained by the News this week reveals deep dissatisfaction among faculty representatives with regard to both a dra-

matic increase in University administrators, as well as their salaries.  
Titled “Size and Growth of Administration and Bureaucracy at Yale”, the report is dated to January 2022 and was written by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate’s seven-member Governance Committee. The report notes that at a Senate meeting with FAS department chairs held in 2020, chairs reported an “onerous bureaucracy” that slows down decision making as well as a lack of available funds for academic purposes.

“Yale’s fundamental mission is research and teaching,” the draft report reads. “The apparent disproportionate rise in administrative positions and costs relative to faculty positions and costs may well be to some degree in the service of that mission, but it requires explanation and oversight.”  
Administrative bloat has long been a concern of some faculty members, and while discussion on the report has been tabled for the time being, the draft document represents the first formal effort from the Faculty of Arts and

Sciences Senate — an advisory body elected by members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences — to weigh in on the issue.  
According to University spokesperson Karen Peart, the draft document has not been endorsed by the senate and has not been submitted to the administration. As such, she said, University leadership has not seen the document and is “unaware” of its underlying assumptions and claims.

SEE SENATE PAGE 4

# Family sues YNHH for neglect

BY SOPHIE WANG AND BRIAN ZHANG  
STAFF REPORTERS

Tina Darnsteadt went to sleep on May 10 assured that Yale New Haven Hospital was giving her son Billy Miller proper medical treatment for an overdose.  
Earlier that day, 23-year-old Billy ingested a “white powder” that was unknowingly laced with fentanyl. Local first-aid responders administered him naloxone and rushed him to the hospital.  
Instead of receiving an additional naloxone dose, however, Billy spent seven hours lying unattended in the ambulance bay of the hospital. Security footage shows people walking by him all night. Around 2 a.m. on May 11, a nurse found that he had been experiencing a cardiac arrest for an unknown period of time.  
Despite bringing his pulse back, medical professionals pronounced Billy brain dead the next day. Billy’s family is now pursuing legal action against YNHH, under the representation of Sean McGilligott LAW ’01.  
“My son was a victim,” said Billy’s mother, Tina Darnsteadt.  
“When you lose someone, the grieving process is different for everybody. But with the nature of how my brother passed, he didn’t just die — he was killed,” Billy’s sister Rebecca Miller said.  
After Billy was taken to the hospital, Rebecca called three times to check up



The family of Billy Miller is taking legal action against the hospital on grounds of neglect / Yale Daily News

on him. Every time, she was reassured with “no tone of concern” that he was in an ambulance bay within the hospital — leading her to believe that there was no immediate cause for familial intervention.  
Moreover, earlier that same day, Darnsteadt thought Billy sounded normal on a phone call while in an ambulance on the way to the hospital. He had just been given naloxone, a drug that reverses fen-

tanyl’s potency but is unable to outlive fentanyl in the human body system, thus requiring it to be readministered.  
The miscommunication was not just logistical — Billy’s family members were not aware of the complicated biological relationship between fentanyl and naloxone. Had they been properly informed by

SEE YNHH PAGE 5

## COPS & COURTS

# Police investigate suspected hate crime

## Latino man in hospital after York Street attack

BY NATHANIEL ROSENBERG, YASH ROY AND SOPHIE SONNENFELD  
STAFF REPORTERS

A Latino man suffered two jaw fractures and a head injury from an attack that the New Haven and Yale Police Departments are now investigating as a hate crime.  
The incident occurred just steps from Davenport College this weekend. As the investigation continues, the Yale and New Haven Police Departments have offered conflicting accounts of when they knew about the assault.  
The New Haven Police Department took down two separate reports of the incident, and for much of the week operated off of a report that made it appear as though both NHPD and YPD were only made aware of the incident at least 18 hours after the potential hate crime. However, a police report obtained by the News shows that NHPD was on site and aware of the incident approximately 28 minutes after it occurred.  
NHPD Police Chief Karl Jacobson has since acknowledged that his department made an error in its communication. YPD Chief Anthony Campbell claims that his force followed their communication protocol.

SEE HATE CRIME PAGE 5

# Yale, New Haven buildings flood



A spell of torrential rain hit the city of New Haven on Tuesday, unleashing a month’s worth of rain in a day and knocking out infrastructure throughout Yale and the city at large.

Read on Page 5. More photos on Page 2.  
/ Zoe Berg, Photography Editor

# Two anon chat apps vie for Yale users

BY OLIVIA LOMBARDO AND MEGAN REINMANN  
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Sidechat and Fizz, two anonymous chat apps expanding to college campuses across the country, recently recruited Yalies to promote their launch at the University.  
The two platforms rose to prominence as competing replacements for Librex, a Yale-founded anonymous app which shut down suddenly in February of this year.

SEE APPS PAGE 4

## CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1991. The Berkeley Brownie Radio Network had its first broadcast at 9 p.m. Radio hosts Seth Klein ’93 and Robert Cook ’93 ran the station out of Klein’s room using an antenna on Berkeley College’s South Court roof.

## INSIDE THE NEWS

Dean of the Yale School of Music Robert Blocker will retire in August  
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ZAKKA Offering everything from squishmal-lows to Korean mascara, New Haven’s Zakka Yale has a variety of Asian products.  
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HOPPER Grace Hopper College has new stained glass windows to commemorate history and look to the future.  
PAGE 12 UNIVERSITY



# THROUGH THE LENS



## The Annual Great Yale Flood

Photos by Zoe Berg





# OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST  
SAYYED HAIDER HASSAN

## Compounding

Compounding seems to be one of those elusive concepts for the human condition. Through a product evolutionary machinery, our minds operate well projecting linearly, but are always unable to encompass non-linear or exponential growth.

As legend has it, the inventor of chess stood before his king, promising any reward that he would like. The inventor asked to be given rice grains, but in a particular pattern. One rice grain for the first square, two for the second, four for the third and so forth, the rice grains doubling with each square every passing day. The king agreed, surprised at such a small price for a unique invention. One day the king was approached by the inventor, questioned as to why he hasn't received his reward. Surprised, the king called forth his treasurer to explain this mishap. The treasurer simply explained that there weren't enough rice grains in the kingdom to fulfill the inventor's demand. It's not hard to see why. Halfway across a 64-square chessboard would correspond to 232 rice grains, or 4,294,967,296 (a little over 4 billion) rice grains. The king nor the treasurer could fully appreciate the compounding effect of exponential growth and the seismic proportions it can reach.

### EXPONENTIAL GROWTH ONCE AGAIN OUTWITTED OUR LIMITED INTUITION ABOUT COMPOUNDING.

There are many other common examples of such compounding. Think of the COVID-19 pandemic which started as a mild concern in December 2019 and progressed to bring the global economy to its knees by March 2020. No one expected case rates to rise globally as they did, but they did. Exponential growth once again outwitted our limited intuition about compounding.

However, all is not doom and gloom. Compounding can be leveraged for positive outcomes. As college students, understanding compounding in all areas of life like relationships, finances and career is pivotal to development. The fundamental rule of compounding is this: There are no shortcuts. Everything requires consistency. Effort, day in and day out. If you want to ace that class, the best way is to put in the hours every week consistently instead of cramming everything right at the end. You might even get away with cramming at the end, but at significant caf-

fine-induced mental and physical cost! It's the same when it comes to building relationships. Trust is built over hours of shared experience and com-

### THE MORAL IS THAT GREAT THINGS REQUIRE PATIENCE, TIME AND CONSISTENT EFFORT. WE OFTEN HAVE MISCONSTRUED NOTIONS ABOUT SUCCESS AND TIME SCALES.

panionship; you can't expect to have it all within a week. When it comes to finances, having good spending habits and saving regularly according to a fixed schedule will lead to effective results. Everyone wants to profit off of that meme stock within a week, but that strategy could also likely leave you with a 100 percent loss.

The moral is that great things require patience, time and consistent effort. We often have misconstrued notions about success and time scales. Going into a new job or internship, we often feel like we'll kill it within a week and then sulk if things don't exactly go like that. Perhaps this is a product of the world of immediate gratification we live in. We're chained to the idea that winning happens quickly, or it doesn't happen at all. Successes in fact are the result of months and years of repeated habits and small actions. Iterations upon iterations of apparently insignificant happenings that lead to huge growth. Years of work leading to an overnight success – the definition of compounding.

As we begin this new semester, we must focus patiently on achieving the goals we've set out. Setbacks will occur, as they always will. That's no reason to stop doing anything. In the long-run, compounding will always take over and the trendline will trend upwards the further you zoom out. Keep at it, stay the course and results will inevitably arrive. If they don't, recalibrate and go again, there's no gain in stopping. Here's to a great fall semester!

**SAYYED HAIDER HASSAN** is a junior in Morse College. Contact him at [haider.hassan@yale.edu](mailto:haider.hassan@yale.edu).

# Lessons from flying standby

I come from a country with the world's best airport, the world's best airline and many people who consider themselves seasoned travelers. Singapore is a very tiny city-state, and air travel is often necessary, since we are only connected to one other country via a land border. I once considered myself among those seasoned travelers, secretly proud of my ability to anticipate security protocol, whiz through immigration and locate the best eats in any airport. Which is why you can imagine my shock and utter horror when I was stuck at LaGuardia at 5 a.m. one sticky summer morning, listening to the gate agent scream, "AVOID SUMMER TRAVEL!"

The full story: I had a flight ticket to Brazil via Miami. The tickets were on the pricier side, due to the surge in demand driven by post-pandemic conditions and summer vacation. A 24-hour layover in Miami was slightly less ideal, but manageable and potentially even fun. I was secretly assured that this trip had all the ingredients for

### LIKE TRAVELING, YALE IS MEANT TO BE THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. LONG ANTICIPATED, EAGERLY EMBRACED AND ENDLESSLY ROMANTICIZED. BUT IN PRACTICE, IT'S A TRULY NASTY, BRUTISH WORLD, WHERE OFTEN YOUR NEIGHBOR IS YOUR COMPETITION.

success and got a grand total of zero minutes of sleep the night before, in eager anticipation of this vacation.

In the name of sparing you the gory details of this escapade, it would suffice to say that in the span of 12 hours, I was forced to board and de-plane from the original plane twice, spending a total of three hours on the tarmac squeezed in a middle seat. Then, the flight was delayed and finally canceled. No compensation, no extra miles, not so much as a word of sympathy.

Confusion turned into fatigue after spending a night at the airport. Then all the flights to Miami the next day were canceled, rendering it impossible for me to catch the next leg of the flight, and I was so frustrated that I actually turned delirious. Never in my life did I have to do the things I did: beg, get yelled at, push past angry hordes of passengers clamoring for their turn at the beleaguered agent and sleep on the airport floor. The end to this entire saga was when finally, with the help of a miracle worker, I rebooked the itinerary to go via Dallas. My ticket to Dallas was a standby ticket, and there must have been something like 30 anxious people at the gate waiting on standby too. So you can imagine my shock when my name was one of the only three that were called. I shot everyone apologetic glances and quickly shuffled into the plane, lest they give the seat to someone else.

And in that moment, when I was about to take my seat on the plane, it dawned on me how this entire situation so perfectly summed up my Yale experience. Like traveling, Yale is meant to be this wonderful experience. Long anticipated, eagerly embraced and endlessly romanticized. But in practice, it's a truly nasty, brutish world, where often your neighbor is your competition.

When the pilot announced the deplaning for the second time on that first flight, I remember how people did not hold back from making their annoyance very clear. From the very eloquent expletives to the muttering from those who were going to miss their connecting flights, it struck me in that moment how everyone's (including my) first instinct was to process how bad this situation was going to be for their individual lives. Not sparing a thought, for instance, at the potential weather risks we avoided. Or for the weary pilots and the stressed ground staff who clearly have no fault in the matter.

At the gate where I boarded the flight to Dallas, I remember feeling déjà vu when my name was called and others were not. I desperately wanted to get to my destination, but at what expense? The uncle who might miss his niece's wedding? The lady who might miss her college reunion? As I shuffled past these people sheepishly,

I could feel their eyes on me, a bittersweet mix of jealousy and gladness on my behalf. "Hurry, hurry," a Belizean man (also on standby) urged, "they might move to the next name." How many times in Yale have we been forced to watch the successes of others and feel happy, but secretly jealous of them? And how many times have we been that person, shuffling sheepishly past everyone else?

In the face of this dawning reality that the world is much

### HOW MANY TIMES IN YALE HAVE WE BEEN FORCED TO WATCH THE SUCCESSES OF OTHERS AND FEEL HAPPY, BUT SECRETLY JEALOUS OF THEM?

more selfish than we think it is, not all hope is lost. Earlier, I mentioned the miracle worker, the gate agent who rebooked the flight. I remember approaching the counter and feeling the burning hatred of the many people behind me waiting in line. To me, it was thus remarkable that this lady managed to keep her cool. Not only was she unfazed by the agitated line, she took the time to go over our entire itinerary, and check us in on the next leg. When I mentioned to her that I felt bad for holding up the line, she took off her reading glasses, put down her papers and looked me dead straight in the eye. Calmly, she said, "I do not cut corners because there are people in the line. Let them wait. I do a thorough job, because that is only fair to you."

You could say that the entire Yale experience is like flying standby. Unfairly difficult, fiercely competitive, and above all, hugely uncertain. To the first-years starting out here, I say, lean into the uncertainty! Expect unexpected change. Be gracious in stressful situations. Step out of a me-centered world and spare a thought for other people. And above all – embrace the adventure. Oh, and – avoid summer travel.

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GUEST COLUMNIST SHIRLEY MCCARTHY

# LETTER 9.8: Stop Tweed Airport expansion

The plans to massively expand Tweed New Haven Airport demonstrate a disregard for human health and the adjacent ecosystem. The surrounding neighborhoods in several towns are highly populated; therefore, lives would be forever changed. There is ample scientific evidence that airplane noise pollution causes annoyance; disturbs sleep and increases use of psychotropic medications; impairs cognitive performance; increases the incidence of hypertension, myocardial infarction, and stroke; decreases academic performance of children by affecting their cognitive skills, such as reading and memory; and decreases standardized academic test scores.

Furthermore, the air pollution for residents living near the airport is significant, decreasing health due to a number of causes but primarily from respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Premature mortality is increased within 12.5 miles of an airport.


Airplane deicing compounds entering the Sound are toxic to marine and shoreline animals; loss of vital wetlands and other habitats would cause wildlife death and disrupt a major migratory bird pathway. Wildlife must be protected; in the last 50 years, the planet has lost 70 percent of its wildlife and North America has lost three billion birds. Insects are going extinct at eight times the high extinction rate of vertebrates.

Expanding this airport completely ignores our urgent need to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, not markedly increase them. New Haven and Yale leaders are putting economics and convenience above the urgent need to decrease greenhouse gases. France is considering banning private jets since aviation is one of the planet's top carbon emitters. Private jets are estimated to cause five to 14 times as much pollution as commercial planes per passenger, and 50 times as much as trains. Electric vertical take-off and

landing aircraft are already flying! UPS has committed to buying 10 electric aircraft from Burlington, Vermont-based Beta Technologies beginning in 2024, with an option to buy an additional 150 of the aircraft. There are more than 700 designs from nearly 350 companies that are trying to get into the electric vertical take-off business. Why push ahead with a soon-to-be outmoded transportation project that will irrevocably damage public health and the environment? Why take business from Bradley International Airport that has recently expanded?

Finally, this planned expansion is an obvious example of social and environmental injustice; decreasing the property values, the health and quality of life for those living near the airport and damaging their adjacent ecosystems. Please cancel this proposal.

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# Leaked report reflects on admin growth

ADMIN FROM PAGE 1

The draft report, which members of the committee voted not to accept or release in the spring, makes three core recommendations, all in the form of committees: that the University appoint an ad hoc committee of faculty to study the size and cost of the administration; that Yale institute a standing budget committee led by faculty to evaluate administrative growth; and that a faculty-led committee be granted greater power over the allocation of an independent budget for the FAS.

All three committees would move the University closer to a system of “shared governance,” the principle that faculty should play a deliberative role in decision making at the University, rather than administrators implementing an increasingly top-down approach. Faculty members have long called on Yale to adopt this system — a sentiment that contributed to the establishment of the FAS Senate in 2013 — but were met with resistance from other faculty members and University administrators.

Adding more bureaucratic layers to the University’s structure, several professors told the News last year, decreases the power of its faculty and could lead Yale to stray from its core missions of education and research.

The draft report also includes

data about the compensation of 13 senior administrative roles in recent years. Since University President Peter Salovey took office in 2013, until 2019, the University president’s salary increased approximately 17.2 percent annually, going from \$801,020 to \$2,078,203. The General Counsel’s salary increased approximately 6.2 percent annually over the same period, increasing from \$584,409 to \$839,527. The average compensation for full-time professors, however, only increased by 3.6 percent each year, rising from \$248,340 in 2013 to \$306,932 in 2019, per the report.

At the time of the draft report, the Governance Committee, one of several senate standing committees, was chaired by Nicholas Christakis and Hélène Landemore. David Bercovici, R. Howard Bloch, Gerald Jaynes, Maria Piñango and Larry Samuelson also sit on the committee.

The draft report features multiple figures related to growth in administrative positions, demonstrating that the University administration ballooned in comparison to its faculty and student body. All figures are based on publicly-available data as Yale would not provide data on bureaucratic size, the report claims.

“There is evidence that certain administrative units and functions at Yale (e.g., President’s Office, Secretary/Student Life, General Coun-

sel, Human Resources, Development, Finance and Administration, Public Affairs and Communications, and ‘Vice Presidents’) have grown in size by at least 150% over the past twenty years,” the draft report reads. “The FAS faculty has increased by 10.6% during the same time period.”

From 2003 to 2021, the number of vice presidents at Yale increased from five to 31, while the number of tenured faculty saw a much more modest increase, from 610 to 675. Units such as Public Affairs and Communications, Development and Human Resources also added new employees at a dramatic pace during this time period.

According to Peart, Yale’s staff-to-faculty ratio — excluding the Yale School of Medicine — has remained constant at approximately 0.75-to-1 during the period from 2010 to 2020, during which the University has grown substantially. Peart added that the University implemented a staff hiring freeze during the 2020-21 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that 45 new faculty positions in the engineering departments were added in 2022. The report only uses data through 2021.

“Yale is rightly proud of the people who make up the administration, who work hard to support the work of our extraordinary faculty,” Peart wrote in an email to the News. “Administrative leaders — many of

whom, like the president and provost, are also longtime members of the faculty — seek to engage enthusiastically with faculty about shared concerns, directly and in good faith.”

Provost Scott Strobel has defended the University’s hiring of administrators, writing in a November 2021 letter to the News that a variety of employees — such as those involved in information technology and support staff in many schools and departments — are categorized as administrators.

Authors of the January report, meanwhile, hold that they are not addressing staff administrators.

“This report is not primarily concerned with the many members of the Yale community who fill staff and support positions,” the draft report states. “Our primary focus is on the general administrative structure of the University, and on its overall size and functioning ... [and] with whether administrative growth has attenuated rather than enhanced the effectiveness of necessary administrative functions.”

The January report further criticizes the University for not responding to requests for fuller data sets that would allow for more accurate analysis into administrative growth. Peart told the News that the University makes available a “highly comprehensive” annual Budget Book, which includes data on the size and composition of Yale’s faculty

and staff, as well as additional data through the Office of Institutional Research.

Three senators, as well as Peart, confirmed to the News that the senate voted at its last meeting in May 2022 to table discussion on the draft report until a later date. A new senate was elected soon after.

“The Yale FAS Senate deliberated during 2021-22 on the recent growth of administrative relative to faculty positions, at Yale and elsewhere,” Paul van Tassel, who became the Senate’s chair in May, wrote to the News. “The (renamed) FAS-SEAS Senate will soon meet to decide on areas of focus for 2022-23, and may elect to continue with the topic of administrative growth.”

Jaynes, who will chair the Governance Committee for the upcoming academic year, described the draft report obtained by the News as “flawed,” adding that he agreed with the FAS Senate’s vote not to accept or release the report.

Other members of the senate did not respond to the News’ inquiries or declined to comment.

The senate, as well as its committees, serves in an advisory capacity and does not dictate University policy. Its next meeting will be held Sept. 15.

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Adding more bureaucratic layers to the University’s structure, several professors told the News last year, decreases the power of its faculty and could lead Yale to stray from its core missions of education and research / **Tim Tai, Staff Photographer**

# Fizz and Sidechat compete for users after Librex falls

APPS FROM PAGE 1

content with their peers and also upvote and comment on posts. Sidechat and Fizz have amassed a substantial network of Yale users and ambassadors.

“Fizz was essentially built to be an engaging and safe anonymous space where people can post memes, polls, GIFS, links and text posts to their college community,” Fizz co-founder Teddy Solomon said. “You know who is in the community — it’s the people around you — you just don’t know who’s who in the community. And that’s the beauty of it. The anonymity allows people to speak their mind but within a well-moderated environment of students at their school.”

Some students, however, were not fully convinced that these new apps will avoid the harm prior anonymous apps have caused. When Librex was shut down, students spoke out on the anonymous forum’s negative and problematic content. For Amelia Lee ’26, anonymous platforms

like Fizz and Sidechat can “easily be abused,” and Patti Mullin ’26 said that users must always contend with the possibility of having their identity be released on the anonymous apps.

Fizz was launched by two Stanford dropout students in July 2021, Solomon and Ashton Cofer, with the stated goal of creating productive anonymous discourse on college campuses. After registering with their college email address, Fizz users are connected to a network restricted to students at their school.

Sidechat was released nearly a year after Fizz, in February of this year. The News was unable to reach Sidechat’s founders for a comment.

“[Sidechat is] an anonymous posting app where people can post their thoughts or things they find funny without it being tied to an account or their name,” Shane Zhang ’25, a Yale student being paid by Sidechat to promote the app but who said he is not an official representative, told the News.

Both Fizz and Sidechat operate campus by campus, recruit-

ing student ambassadors and groups to promote their respective apps through tabling and social media outreach.

Zhang reported being paid \$60 per hour by Sidechat to promote the app at the University. His promotional tasks included standing outside of Toad’s Place last Wednesday passing out \$5 bills to students who downloaded Sidechat. Zhang and other Sidechat promoters also tabled on Cross Campus, rewarding students who registered for the app with cookies and cash.

Bella Osgood ’25 identified herself as a Lead Ambassador for Fizz at Yale. In her role, Osgood explained that she was in a contract with Fizz through August, working to launch the app at Yale on Aug. 31. She worked directly with Solomon and Cofer as a liaison to Yale.

Osgood was tasked with recruiting ambassadors for the app’s launch day. Yale Fizz ambassadors in turn promoted the app by offering donuts and hats to students who downloaded or posted a story. Additionally, Fizz compensated students for reposting a graphic

promoting the app to their Instagram stories.

Sidechat and Fizz also promote their apps through collaborations with campus organizations. According to Solomon, The Edon Club and the men’s lacrosse team have both partnered with Fizz. The men’s heavyweight crew team is also affiliated with Sidechat, according to Eleanor Lockhart ’26. Both apps financially sponsor parties for their on-campus partners, and the student groups allow only students who have downloaded their respective apps to attend the parties.

The merits of some promotional methods have been called into question, particularly by Fizz ambassadors.

Osgood said that Sidechat ambassadors were offering compensation to students who removed the Fizz app from their phones. Lee confirmed that she was asked by Sidechat ambassadors to delete Fizz in exchange for five dollars.

Solomon said he instructed the Yale Fizz ambassadors not to tell stu-

dents to delete Sidechat, but rather to speak about the merits of Fizz.

Still, competition between the two apps remains strong.

“Sidechat is almost an exact clone of our platform created a year [after Fizz] by a group of 32-year-old Stanford grads,” Solomon said. “In terms of challenges, we welcome the competition. We’ve seen them on many campuses now, and we always come out on top. We never do anything in response to Sidechat.”

Students offered their takes on the Fizz and Sidechat controversy, noting that neither app has completely gained their favor.

“Honestly, I just find the whole Fizz vs. Sidechat debate very entertaining,” Gia George-Burgher ’26 said. “I feel like if anything has come out of this it’s definitely good content, good gossip and great comedy.”

Ryan Schiller ’23 launched the Librex app at Yale in 2019.

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FROM THE FRONT

"I killed a plant once because I gave / it too much water.  
Lord, I worry / that love is violence." JOSÉ OLIVAREZ AUTHOR

# NHPD, YPD respond to suspected hate crime

HATE CRIME FROM PAGE 1

**The assault**

At approximately 12:15 a.m. Saturday morning, the victim, a New Haven resident identified publicly as “Franklin,” was walking with his partner and two other friends when at least five white men hurled anti-Black and anti-Latino racial slurs at him on York Street in front of Warby Parker and Grey Matter Books. The assailants then physically assaulted and beat Franklin until he fell into the street.

According to Claudia Gaebler, the victim’s partner, a group of Yale students saw Franklin on the ground after the attack and came by to help. An EMT named Mark Chung ’25 was fetched by a friend and helped wrap Franklin’s head and assisted him in getting to Yale New Haven Hospital. Gaebler wrote in a GoFundMe for Franklin’s medical bills that he had fractures on both sides of his face and needed staples on two parts of his scalp.

“NHPD has determined this incident to be a possible hate crime and our special victim’s hate and bias unit is responsible for investigating the crime,” Jacobson said. “We are putting all our resources to bear to ensure that the perpetrators are caught and brought to justice.”

Although this incident took place near Yale’s campus, NHPD holds jurisdiction because it occurred on New Haven streets.

The NHPD is leading the investigation and has the mandate to investigate hate crimes. Both NHPD and YPD police chiefs said they were made aware of the incident and its likely racial motivation on Monday morning, though members of their departments had launched investigations beforehand.

The perpetrators can potentially be charged with breach

of peace, assault and battery in the second or the third degree and any relevant “bias-related charges” depending on their specific actions, according to Campbell.

“We are confident that it was a hate crime and will prosecute it to the full extent of the law,” he said. “We are bringing all resources to bear; we will not rest until we bring every party in this situation to justice.”

As students came by to assist Franklin, Chung, an EMT who was in a nearby suite, arrived on the scene. He immediately began attending to Franklin’s injuries.

“He was definitely hurt,” Chung said. “He had blood running down, and it was pooling down [around his chest]. He had a couple of drinks, plus the adrenaline, so he wasn’t in that much pain. But I can definitely tell something was definitely very bad.”

According to two witnesses, on at least three separate occasions, white male Yale students walked past Franklin as he was receiving medical care and made disparaging comments towards him.

“Yale students, some of them I recognize, were saying things like, ‘Oh, you’re clearly not from here’, or ‘rough night ha,’” one of the students providing help to Franklin told the News. The student spoke on the condition of anonymity due to safety concerns. “All really aggressive, incredibly insensitive comments, given all four of these people are clearly in distress. One of them was in clear medical distress.”

Witnesses called the police and officers arrived at the scene at roughly 12:40 a.m., and were told the victim’s name and which hospital he was taken to by witnesses.

The officers were only at the scene briefly after Franklin had

left for the hospital, and asked one of Franklin’s friends for his contact information, Franklin’s last name, and the name of the hospital he was checked into. According to Jacobson, the officers later headed to Yale New Haven Hospital to interview the victim before filing a police report at 2:52 a.m.

The report called the incident a potential hate crime, and misspelled the victim’s last name, which led to confusion within the NHPD. Franklin reported the incident to NHPD again the next afternoon, but NHPD did not catch the overlap due to the error in Franklin’s name.

**YPD and NHPD Saturday investigation**

The report notes that the two New Haven Police Department officers who responded to the scene reached out to YPD for potential footage of the assault. One of the two NHPD officers, who has been identified in the report as Officer James, contacted “Yale New Haven Police Dispatch” and asked for potential video surveillance. James was told that no such footage existed, per the report.

The Yale New Haven Police Dispatch does not exist. According to Jacobson, the report was referring to the YPD dispatch. But Campbell said this may have been referring to the Yale New Haven Hospital Security Dispatch. At time of publication, Campbell said the YPD was confirming if there was any record of such a call to the YPD dispatch.

On Saturday at 1:30 p.m., Chung was called by YPD Officer Mike Hall to provide an account of the prior night’s incident. Hall asked Chung to confirm the clothes that Franklin was wearing as well as the victim’s last name. Hall also confirmed that YPD had video evidence of the fight, Chung

said.

“He was telling me a little bit about the video,” Chung said. “Apparently they got some video footage of the beginning of the fight but it ended up going off camera. He did not confirm to me whether or not he got any faces of the perpetrators.”

At 4 p.m., Franklin readmitted himself to the hospital, and reported the assault again, leading to the dispatch of another NHPD squad car. The two officers who were dispatched took down another report, this one a late report since it was taken down almost 18 hours after the assault had occurred. The second report was filed at 6:50 p.m.

At 9:43 p.m. on Saturday, Gaebler texted Chung again, saying that she had spoken to NHPD on the phone, and that NHPD wanted to talk to Chung. According to Gaebler, NHPD had contacted YPD, which had said they were not aware of any video footage of the assault, contradicting what Chung said the YPD told him earlier that afternoon.

At 9:45 p.m. Chung called NHPD and spoke with Officer Kelly, during which he described his conversation with the YPD, and confirmed that the YPD did indeed have video of the assault.

**Why was there no timely warning from YPD?**

Jacobson told the News that New Haven police made Yale police aware of the assault by 2:52 a.m. Saturday. But YPD Chief Campbell said that he did not believe he had any record of that alert.

If the YPD had been provided with a notification by that time Saturday, Campbell said he would have sent out a community-wide “Timely Warning.” Under the Clery Act, the YPD is required to send out alerts within two hours of reported

criminal activity taking place near campus.

According to the current timeline provided by YPD, the department was officially made aware of the incident by Saturday afternoon at 12:37 p.m., when Davenport College Dean Ryan Brasseaux contacted YPD after receiving an email from a student witness about the attack the night before. Campbell said that this email allowed YPD to begin an initial report.

Campbell said that it was due to this delay in reporting that YPD was unable to send out a “timely warning” alert to the Yale community.

However, the investigative report that the News obtained from NHPD casts doubt on this timeline. The 2:52 a.m. NHPD report explicitly states that the two NHPD officers who responded to the assault called “Yale New Haven Police Dispatch” within hours of the incident asking for potential footage of the crime. YPD dispatch, which NHPD maintains it called, told NHPD that this footage did not exist.

Jacobson has since issued a directive to NHPD officers requiring them to report any incident or assault that may have racial motivations to their Lieutenant as quickly as possible.

“We did make a mistake with communication, and I have already taken steps to prevent this sort of miscommunication in the future,” Jacobson told the News. “Reporting potential hate crimes to lieutenants means that the information will quickly pass up the chain of command and to me, ensuring swift action.”

The two current investigation’s file numbers are 22-029994 and 22-30080.

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# Family of deceased son sues Yale-New Haven Health for neglect

YNHH FROM PAGE 1

hospital staff, they said, they would have been more vigilant in their pursuit of updates and answers in the hours leading to Billy’s death. Darnsteadt characterized the communication from YNHH as “unacceptable.”

“Yale New Haven Hospital is aware of this lawsuit and is committed to providing the safest and highest quality of care possible,” YNHH Media Coordinator Mark D’Antonio wrote in a statement. “However, even in the best organizations gaps in care may occur ... We have offered our sincere apologies to the family of the patient and are

working towards a resolution.”

The Miller family is basing their suit on the grounds of neglect, nontransparent communication between hospital administration and patient family members, as well as the potential overarching stigmas confronting overdose patients at the hospital.

“I can’t understand how it could be acceptable that there could be ‘gaps in care,’ and I think seven hours is a disgusting gap in care,” Darnsteadt said. She described the hospital’s statement as “[not] a sensitive comment to what happened to my son or my family.”

Despite the lawsuit, Billy’s

family said, persistent frustration harbored toward the hospital is not going to alleviate their pain.

Darnsteadt and Rebecca are focusing their efforts on increasing public advocacy on proper hospital procedures and tackling stigmas surrounding drug addiction. Darnsteadt said she plans to distribute literature that encourages seeing “addiction as a disease” and providing suggestions as to how family members can inquire about a hospitalized loved one’s status. The family also hopes to raise medical, public and legislative awareness of the importance of unbiased medical practice and

Fentanyl-testing strips.

The family is in the early stages of determining how they can push existing legislation to include fentanyl toxicity occurrence and combat medical malpractice surrounding addiction amid an ongoing national fentanyl epidemic and opioid crisis.

“We truly don’t know how many other victims there just might be and why,” said Darnsteadt. “You’re in a hospital to feel safe. My son wanted to be there. He didn’t lose his patience ... and he was scared that it happened to him but he felt that it was okay. It’s an absolute nightmare.”

Darnsteadt said that all of Billy’s organs were viable and donated. One of his kidneys even happened to be a perfect match for a family friend.

“He saved lives, and we’re gonna just keep his name going and advocate and educate,” said Darnsteadt. “It is emotional ... [he] saved li[ves], but my son should be here today.”

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Helpline is 1-800-662-4357.

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# Campus faces eight hours of rainfall

FLOODING FROM PAGE 1

BY YASH ROY  
STAFF REPORTER

A bout of torrential rain hit the city of New Haven on Tuesday, unleashing a month’s worth of rain through the day and knocking out infrastructure throughout Yale and the city at large.

Since Tuesday at midnight, the city of New Haven received five inches of rain. The storm affected libraries, classrooms and residential colleges across Yale and flooded roads near Union Station, the New Haven Police Department headquarters and Yale New Haven Hospital.

“The city has been inundated with water,” Rick Fontana, the New Haven director of emergency management, said at a press conference. “There’s simply no place for the water to go, so places that are not classified as frequently flooded areas have also been inundated. We began preparing on Monday, but we couldn’t keep up this morning.”

As rain filled the Elm City’s streets, spaces on Yale’s campus began to flood as well. Bass

Library, Davies Auditorium, Becton Center, the Morse College library, the Silliman College basement, Sloane Physics Laboratory, the lower floor of the Watson Center, the Pierson College basement and the Timothy Dwight College basement had signs of water leakage and flooding.

According to the registrar’s office, 38 courses were rescheduled or canceled due to the rain. Seven classrooms experienced some level of flooding, University Registrar Shonna Marshall wrote in an email to the News.

“We hope to have all classrooms back in use by Thursday,” Marshall wrote. “The University Registrar’s Office is working with faculty of impacted courses to find alternative arrangements.”

In the Becton Center, facilities and private cleaners were seen carrying trash bags full of water out of the building in the afternoon.

Bass Library closed early Tuesday morning, after Yale facilities responded at 5 a.m. to several inches of water in the library’s southern courtyard.

“The drainage system on the south side of Bass Library (Elm

St. side) wasn’t able to handle the volume of rain in a short period of time,” Patricia Carey, director of communications and marketing for the Yale University Library System, wrote to the News. “Several inches of water accumulated in the courtyard and then found its way into the library under doors and around window openings.”

Jessai Flores ’23 said that he was in Bass before 9 a.m. and that students had to leave the library because the lower level was flooding.

The drainage system that failed was installed in 2008 when Cross Campus Library first became Bass Library. According to Carey, Yale facilities workers have installed pumps to limit additional flooding and are evaluating the drainage system for remediation today. To deal with the current flooding, facilities workers have been vacuuming up water and are also using dehumidifiers.

According to Carey, the library has sustained some damage, including wet carpets and damp drywall. Between 300 and 400 of the library’s 90,000 items sustained water damage, she added.

The damaged books have been flash frozen to prevent damage and will be shipped off site for remediation.

Bass Library was also closed last fall due to flooding after a major thunderstorm on the second day of classes knocked out power across the campus. While the previous incident was caused by a malfunction in a sprinkler system, Tuesday’s flooding was the result of a drainage system failure.

According to Carey, Bass will open at the earliest on Thursday, and University workers are still assessing how quickly the building can dry out and if facilities can prevent further leaks. Rain is still forecasted for Wednesday, and more damage may be sustained.

Students also reported flooding in residential colleges across campus. The basements of Morse, Silliman, Timothy Dwight and Pierson all experienced some level of flooding, with Yale facilities or private cleaning companies using vacuums and fans to remove the water from the basements.

Campus also experienced limited network and power outages earlier in the day, according to a Tuesday operations message.

Across the city, multiple roads were partially or completely flooded. Parts of Union Avenue around Union Station and the NHPD headquarters saw flooding, and the NHPD had to quickly tow squad cars to keep them out of the rising water.

This morning, about 13 percent of school buses in the city were over 15 minutes late. According to New Haven Public Schools spokesperson Justin Harmon, multiple buses got stuck behind cars in puddles. Some buses were stopped at a First Haven lot near a bridge on Middletown Street that flooded out as other buses were returning from their routes.

“This is an important moment to underscore that we need to do a lot more work against climate change,” New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker said at a press conference Tuesday. “This type of flooding is something New Haven and the region is going to be experiencing in the years to come and we need to be better prepared.”

Bass Library opened in 2008.

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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Ndc1 protein regulates cell nucleus size, Yale researchers find

BY SELIN NALBANTOGLU  
STAFF REPORTER

A team of Yale researchers discovered how a protein called Ndc1 coordinates nuclear pore and envelope assembly after cell division, an important component of understanding how cell nuclei change in cancer.

The study’s principal investigator, Shirin Bahmanyar, associate professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and first author of the paper Michael Mauro GRD ’22, a former Yale graduate student and current postdoctoral associate at Columbia University, used quantitative fluorescence microscopy to study the process of nuclear growth in *C. elegans* worms. Their research, published earlier this summer, explains one of the ways cells regulate nuclear size, which could help understand how cell nuclei change when a person has cancer.

“The idea here is: what is Ndc1 doing specifically during the early steps of building nuclear pores after cell division?” Mauro said. “What we wanted to understand is how Ndc1 does this. These

complexes are built very rapidly after mitosis and then stably incorporated into the nuclear membrane.”

The nucleus of a cell serves as a compartment within the cell that houses the genome, or basic instructions of the cell. The nuclear envelope acts as a barrier that delineates the nucleus and protects the DNA within the nucleus from the harsh environment of the cytoplasm, according to Mauro.

However, within the nuclear envelope, there are nuclear pores, which are selectively permeable openings that allow the passage of certain molecules while restricting others. Important factors that recognize specific amino acid sequences in proteins that are designed to enter the nucleus and ferry those proteins into the nucleus through the nuclear pore. Exportants operate with the same mechanism but ferry proteins out of the nucleus into the cytoplasm, according to Bahmanyar.

The study uses *C. elegans*, a worm, as the model organism for the study of nucleus growth. Mauro explained that there

were several reasons for the selection of this particular model organism. First, the early embryo of *C. elegans* lends

itself nicely to fluorescence microscopy, the main method utilized by the study.

Second, the *C. elegans* embryo used in the experiments exhibited transcriptional quiescence, a state of the cell in which it is easier to induce changes through RNA insertions. Finally, the mechanism for building nuclear pores is highly conserved between *C. elegans* and humans.

“Worms are closer to humans than yeast, making them a better organism to study this process since the organization of the nucleus and nuclear envelope is conserved from worms to humans,” Bahmanyar said. “The other thing is, our study really requires watching the dynamics of the process — the growth of the nucleus — which happens in a rapid manner in the embryo of the organism. This allows us to monitor, quantitatively, the process using high-resolution microscopy.”

The need to monitor nuclear growth as a dynamic process also explains why the researchers chose to use fluorescence microscopy. In comparison to traditional light microscopy, fluorescent microscopy allows researchers to localize specific molecules with high resolution and observe their dynamics, according to Mauro.

The researchers also employed a tactic called fluorescence recovery after photobleaching. In this technique, the scientists bleach a certain region of the nuclear envelope that they had previously tagged using a fluorescent marker. Then, they measure how long it takes for the unbleached, fluorescent molecules to move into the bleached area by tracking the change in color of the bleached region. This allows them to mea-

sure the mobility of the nuclear pore structure.

“The nuclear pore complex is a very stable complex; it is made up of a scaffold,” Bahmanyar said. “If you bleach the scaffold, they essentially do not recover. They do not get exchanged.”

However, when studying these dynamics in the absence of a protein called Ndc1, Mauro observed faster recovery of bleached areas. This suggested that, in the absence of Ndc1, the nuclear pore complex became more mobile.

The researchers wanted to understand the role this protein plays in the early steps of building the nuclear pore after cell division. After cell division, the two daughter cells must reconstruct their nucleus, using membranes to construct the envelope and inserting necessary nuclear pores into that membrane.

The results of the experiment show that Ndc1 is responsible for both the nuclear pore complex density and ultimate nucleus size, alongside other factors.

This paper is part of larger efforts to study and understand the growth and characteristics of the cell nucleus for potential applications in medicine. Both Mauro and Bahmanyar explained that nuclear size is an established diagnostic marker for various cancers.

In addition, a change in nuclear size can affect the developmental change of a cell by disturbing the concentration of certain factors

within the cell. For example, a relatively large nucleus will lead to a lower concentration of factors, which can delay or speed up transitions in the cell cycle. Finally, if the nucleus is too small, it may not be positioned correctly within the cell and could impact the cell’s division.

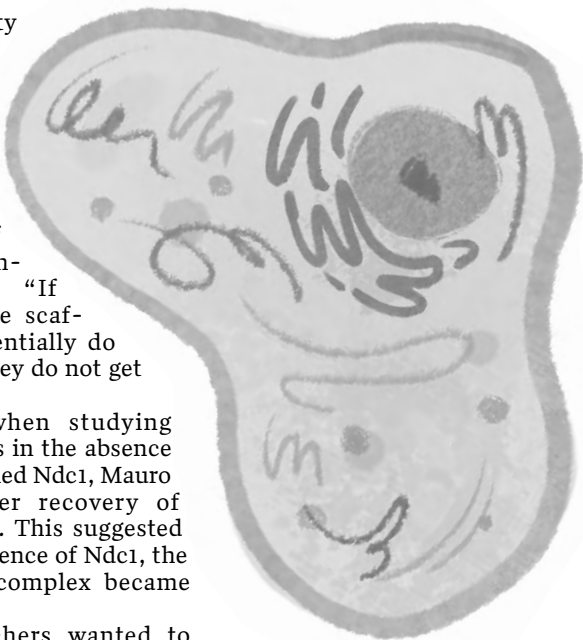
The next step for this research is to better understand how Ndc1 helps to stabilize and incorporate the scaffold proteins of the nuclear pore. Mauro explained that this paper is “part of the puzzle” to better understand what happens during nuclear pore complex assembly and how different factors fit into the process.

Nuclear pore complexes are composed of approximately 30 proteins called nucleoporins.

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CECELIA LEE/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR



## Yale researchers discover potential Long COVID causes and treatments

BY MAI CHEN  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Yale researchers discovered that several common medications can be used to improve and treat some of the long-term effects of COVID-19 — known as Long COVID or post-COVID-19 conditions.

A preprint of the new study, which was published online in August, investigates ways to treat symptoms ranging from fatigue and fever to respiratory, heart, neurological and digestive conditions. These symptoms can last more than four weeks or even months after infection. The research team was led by Akiko Iwasaki, professor of immunobiology and molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and Jon Klein MED ’24. Iwasaki’s study discusses two primary findings regarding the body’s T-cells, a key component of the immune system, and Epstein-Barr viral cells, which are one of the most common viruses in the world known for causing mononucleosis.

“The lives of the people with this condition have been turned upside down,” Iwasaki wrote in a statement. “Many of them lost their jobs or had to cut down their work hours. Their stories inspired me to tackle the immunological mechanisms underlying disease pathogenesis. I just wanted to do something to help.”

The researchers studied 215 patients at Yale and Mount Sinai’s Center for Post-COVID Care, which included both a control group and fully recovered COVID-19 patients who were suffering symptoms associated with COVID-19 months and years after infection.

Iwasaki said that there were several challenges when conducting the study, regarding administrative areas like funding, as well as finding an appropriate control cohort of people who had COVID-19 but did not develop any symptoms of Long COVID.

“First challenge was in identifying a clinical partner,” Iwasaki wrote in an email to the News. “I wanted to partner with someone who is an expert on Long COVID and who is compassionate and shares the same values.”

Iwasaki partnered with David Putrino, a neurophysiologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai who treats thousands of Long COVID patients.

The second challenge, according to Iwasaki, was finding research funds to support her work. She later received funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to carry out her experiments, she said.

The results suggested that T-cells, a key component of the immune system implicated in chronic infections and cancer, were found to be “exhausted” in Long COVID subjects after encountering the same antigens numerous times. According to Iwasaki, this implies that something is triggering these T-cells for extended time periods in the Long COVID patients. The researchers have yet to confirm this but suspect that the SARS-CoV-2 antigen could be the culprit.

Another key finding was that Epstein-Barr viral cells

already present in patients’ bodies had been reactivated. EBV is one of the most common viruses in the world and is best known as the cause of mononucleosis. Previously, Epstein-Barr infections have been closely linked to multiple sclerosis diagnoses decades after infection, and Iwasaki suspects that the findings suggest that they may play a similar role in Long COVID.

“Some of the symptoms of Long COVID may actually be a result of the reactivated EBV that can cause a significant number of symptoms on its own, and might therefore be treated with EBV-specific thera-

pies,” Iwasaki said. “Maybe some of the symptoms that they’re experiencing are not from SARS-Cov-2, but rather from EBV.”

Long COVID patients were also found to have especially low cortisol levels, an essential hormone that regulates processes like nutrient handling, as well as glucose level, blood pressure and inflammation reduction. Therefore, the researchers suspect that Long COVID symptoms may also be the result of low cortisol levels.

If EBV and low cortisol levels are the cause of Long COVID systems, the researchers believe that a logical next step is treating these two conditions to provide relief for Long COVID patients. Iwasaki explained that low-dose hydrocortisone could potentially be given to treat low cortisol levels and relieve some of the symptoms. Another study-driven hypothesis is that treating patients with common EBV drugs like Ganciclovir or other antivirals could also provide symptom relief.

“Our team was excited to find biological differences among individuals with Long COVID relative to our three control groups, complementing other changes described in earlier investigations of Long COVID by other groups,”

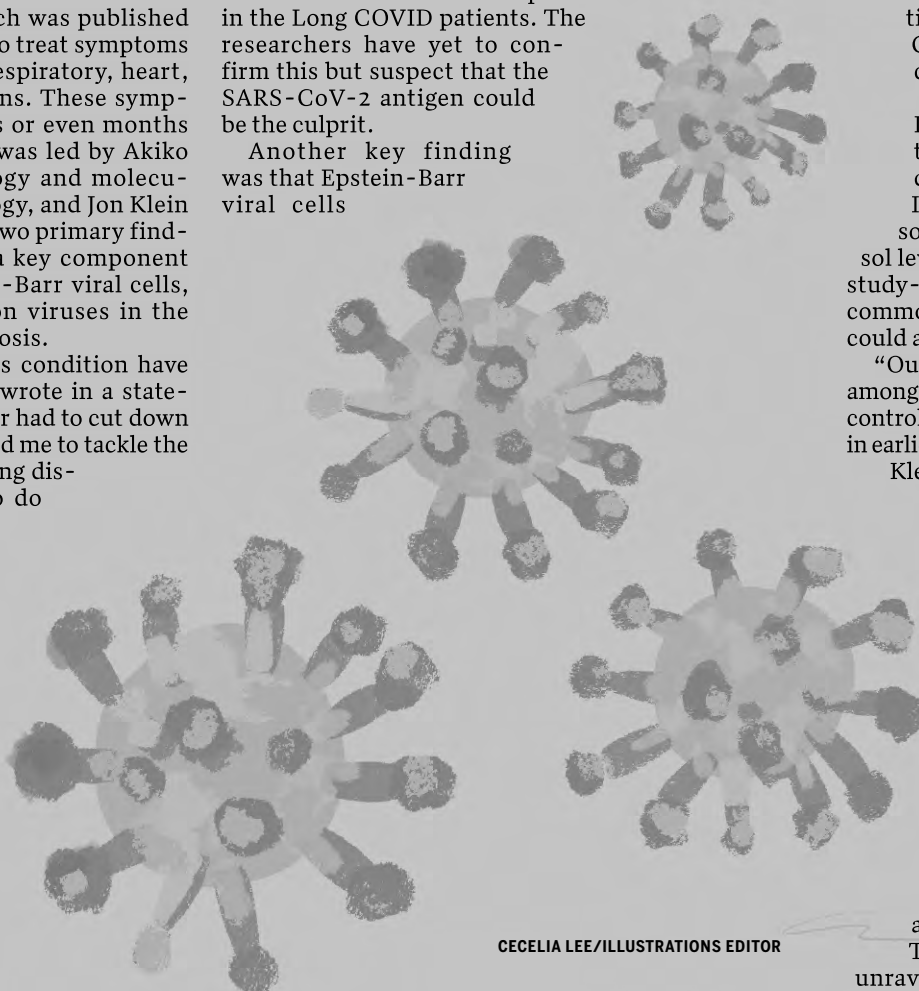
Klein wrote in an email to the News. “Importantly, our study examined individuals with Long COVID more than a year removed from their acute disease who still display notable perturbations to their immune system, which was a surprising outcome given the length of time between acute COVID-19 and enrollment in our study.”

Iwasaki said that the researchers plan to further investigate the pattern of how cortisol levels change in those with Long COVID. Though they detected lower levels of cortisol, the researchers need more information on how cortisol levels change during the day in order to validate all the key findings in independent cohorts. Then, the researchers can test some of the hypotheses that arise from this study.

These findings have important implications for unraveling the underlying pathogenesis of different endotypes, or subtypes of health conditions, of Long COVID. This study encourages scientists to use randomized control trials in the future to investigate promising treatments based on groups of patients, according to Iwasaki.

As of June, 1 in 13 adults in the U.S. have reported Long COVID symptoms, defined as symptoms lasting three or more months after first contracting the virus, and that they didn’t have prior to their COVID-19 infection.

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CECELIA LEE/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR



NEWS

“Strictly speaking, we do not make decisions, decisions make us.” JOSÉ SARAMAGO PORTUGUESE WRITER

Robert Blocker to retire in August 2023

BY SARAH COOK  
STAFF REPORTER

Dean of the Yale School of Music Robert Blocker will retire at the end of August, University President Peter Salovey announced Wednesday morning. Salovey told members of the Yale community that Blocker will retire on August 31, 2023. He will remain a professor of piano and leadership strategies at the Yale School of Management. Blocker informed Salovey of this decision after commencement in May. “It has been a privilege to work closely with Dean Blocker,” Salovey wrote in his message Wednesday morning. “His wisdom and vision, commitment to excellence in education and scholarship, bold creativity, and principled leadership have redefined the school, and his immense contributions will be felt for generations to come.” Salovey wrote that he and Blocker share the belief that boosting education access is crucial to the creation of “long, positive change in society.” He added that Blocker has grown the school’s endowment from \$29 million to \$574 million throughout his tenure. Blocker also oversaw a donation from Stephen and Denise Adams in 2005, which provided full-tuition scholarships to all School of Music students in subsequent years. Deputy Dean of the School of Music Melvin Chen said Blocker’s ability to secure full funding for student tuition has helped the School of Music to attract the most talented musicians. Chen also added that Blocker’s leadership in the evolution of the curriculum has produced musicians “that are not only musically compelling, but are also thoughtful

about the role of their art in the cultural and societal landscape. Chen said that Blocker’s retirement is a “deeply bittersweet moment.” “Dean Blocker means so much to me as a mentor, a friend, and an administrative and musical colleague,” Chen wrote to the News. “I’ve learned so much from him in so many ways, and I’ve absorbed many of my values from him. I will miss working with him – every day we have things to discuss and decide. I have to say, though, that my greatest pleasure is being able to make music with him – and I expect that to continue!” Looking back on his time as dean, Blocker wrote to the News that he is proud of the School of Music for being among the first music institutions to livestream performances throughout the world and for having a 40 percent international student body since the 1970s. “Working together with all School of Music constituencies—faculty, staff, students, alumni, board members, donors, and New Haven community friends—has established not only a community of people who care passionately about music in society, but about one another,” Blocker wrote to the News. “We have celebrated moments of joy and mourned numerous losses through musical offerings to the entire community.” In 2007, under Blocker’s leadership, the School of Music and Yale’s Class of 1957 also formalized the Music in Schools Initiative, which works with New Haven Public Schools and has become a “national model,” according to Salovey. Salovey also wrote in his message that Blocker’s leadership helped the School of Music improve its facilities, with the



YALE NEWS

University President Salovey announced that Dean of the Yale School of Music Robert Blocker will retire in August 2023.

renovations of Sprague Memorial Hall in 2003 and Leigh Hall in 2006 occurring during Blocker’s time as Dean, as well as the Adams Center for Musical Arts in 2017. “When Dean Blocker arrived at Yale, the School of Music occupied spaces that desperately needed renovation to support the mission, artistic advancement, and global reach of the school,” Salovey wrote in his message. “For the next three decades, he worked tirelessly with donors and the school’s faculty, staff, and students to transform the

facilities available for teaching and performance. Blocker has also been involved with two improvement projects at the Yale Summer School of Music and has finalized plans for a major renovation of the Morris Steinert Collection of Musical Instruments to begin in 2023. Looking to the future, Blocker wrote he is hopeful that the School of Music will continue to advance its mission with a focus on diversity and inclusion, curriculum review and reform, facilities upgrades and growth of the endowment.

“My successor will, I am certain, capably and thoughtfully continue all the above-mentioned projects and more,” Blocker wrote to the News, “The School is in the excellent hands of the community that calls this place home, and it will continue to introduce new generations of cultural leaders to the world.” Salovey said he will soon form a search committee to identify candidates to replace Blocker.

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MENA kicks off year with celebrations of new space on campus



KEYA BAJAJ/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

MENA student leaders held their first event of the school year in their newly designated room in the Asian American Cultural Center.

BY KEYA BAJAJ  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

On a rainy Tuesday evening this week, students belonging to Yale’s Middle Eastern North African community attended the academic year’s first mixer to meet new students and celebrate the long-awaited opening of a physical space designated for them. The MENA community, comprising students from 18 countries across the Middle East and North Africa region, welcomed new and returning members alike at their new room, which officially opened its doors

this school year. Located on the third floor of the Asian American Cultural Center, or AACC, the MENA room is the culmination of a long effort by student leaders to claim a designated space of their own. At Tuesday’s mixer, MENA members connected with other Yalies from the region over generous helpings of falafel and baba ghanoush. Leaders also gave students a tour of the new space. “We hope to find forever friendships here, to celebrate cultural and religious events together,” AACC peer liaison Zahra Yarali ’24 said.

Most of the evening’s conversations took place in the MENA room. Here, in a homey space decorated with Arabic calligraphy wall art and plush floor cushions, community members swapped stories of cultures “split between two continents,” as described by MENA Student Association President Youssef Ibrahim ’25. But some attendees did note the room’s small size, which was unable to accommodate all of the event’s attendees. AACC Director Joliana Yee told the News that the room was furnished with the intention of

it being a work in progress — a place that MENA members could personalize and make their own. In the past years, MENA members have shared space with both the AACC and the Afro-American Cultural Center and were assigned peer liaisons from one of the two houses, depending on which region they chiefly identified with. But student leaders have pushed back on the legacy system, noting that MENA students have an identity distinct from the other two cultural centers. “We do not fit entirely in either house,” Ibrahim said.

This sense of not belonging, a common sentiment among MENA community members, is fueled by “a lack of awareness of how big the community is here [on campus],” AACC Associate Director Sofia Blenman said. Blenman added that the new room is a testament to MENA’s goal of “empowering students to feel ... that they are seen.” Still, MENA students face challenges representing themselves on campus. Official documentation, including the Common Application platform, does not offer a Middle Eastern and North African identity option, so there is no administrative record of who on campus identifies as MENA. Group leaders are therefore forced to trawl through residential college class lists to find new recruits and welcome them into the community. Yee noted the struggle MENA students face of “being racialized as white in the U.S. context but having lived experiences that are drastically different.” “There is validity to the unique experiences we’ve had,” Yarali added. “We are reclaiming an identity that has been whitewashed for so long.” “Leaving an impact on the world is a lot about taking up space,” Yarali added, and the newly-inaugurated MENA room may give members of this group a new sense of hope. The group’s plans for the year include celebrations for Ramadan, the Persian New Year, winter solstice and perhaps a cultural fashion show. MENA is also looking forward to more student-driven events and continued opportunities for collaboration with the AACC, which hosted Tuesday’s mixer. But the attainment of the room does not mark the end of MENA students’ fight for representation on campus. MENA students have spent years advocating for a cultural center of their own, and that activism will continue, Ibrahim said. “I aspire for a physical cultural center of our own,” he said. “It is a right for us to be represented.” The MENA room will host an event with the Arab Students Association this Saturday, Sept. 10, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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“Young players are like melons. Only when you open and taste the melon are you 100% sure that the melon is good.” JOSÉ MOURINHO PORTUGUESE FOOTBALL MANAGER

# Cultural centers kick off year with Intercultural Mixer

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Yale’s four cultural centers hosted their annual Intercultural First-Year Mixer on Friday at Saint Thomas More Chapel.

The cultural mixer is a Yale tradition that began in 2015 to address the developments in the diversity of the student population. The event brings together admin-

istrators and students involved across the University’s four cultural centers – the Afro-American Cultural Center, the Asian American Cultural Center, La Casa Cultural, and the Native American Cultural Center – for an afternoon of eating and mingling.

“Back in 2015 is when the cultural centers started working a lot more together,” said Carolina Davila, the associate director of

La Casa Cultural. “A part of that was intercultural collaborations, so this event was born around that time, and we’ve just [kept] up [with it] ever since.”

Davila said that the four cultural centers sometimes hold events with one another, but have also all increased their collaboration with the Office of LGBTQ Resources and spiritually-affiliated spaces on campus.

Jorge Anaya, assistant director of student engagement at the Yale College Dean’s Office, said that the four cultural centers are aware of the growing diversity of the student body. Because of this, he said, the four cultural centers are trying to plan more events that are “inherently intercultural.”

“We are very conscious that students are starting to become more diverse in their backgrounds, especially racial and ethnic ones,” Anaya said. “The work that we do is very purposeful and we want to ensure that we are conscious of the various identities that students may have.”

Anjali Dhanekula ’26 said that she found out about the event while browsing Yale Connect and thought it would provide an opportunity to get to know other students across different cultural backgrounds and to get to know the people who run the AACC.

“I’ve heard about the Asian American Cultural Center, but I’ve never been there and met the people that head it, so it was nice to meet them today,” Dhanekula said. “This was [also] actually my first time having Indian food here, and it made me really happy.”

The event provided an assortment of cultural dishes with light refreshments and music before the night ended with a raffle for mer-

chandise from each of the four cultural centers.

Alexis Nketia ’26 said that, for her, the event was an opportunity to interact with students she otherwise would not have met.

“It wasn’t a taste of home for me, but [the food] was very good,” Nketia said. “I thought it’d be a great place to connect with a diverse group of people and meet people from certain areas that I maybe wouldn’t interact with otherwise.”

Anaya said that the four cultural centers hope to direct programming based on student interest and are open to student input in the events that they plan.

“We’re very open to students vocalizing what they would want to see in terms of our programming,” he said.

The cultural houses are offering two more intercultural events in the coming weeks. The Multiracial and Transracially Adopted students mixer is set to occur on Sept. 22 at the Af-Am House and the Graduate and Professional student Crawl will occur on Sept. 21 at The Underground.

Students can register for these and other events hosted by the cultural centers on Yale Connect.

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TENZIN JORDEN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The University’s four cultural centers welcomed first-year students at the annual Intercultural First-Year Mixer.

# Elm Shakespeare Company opens “The Tempest”

BY OPHELIA HE AND OLIVIA CHARIS  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

After two years of remote programming, the Elm Shakespeare Company held its first performance at the brand new Alexander Clark Playhouse Stage in Edgerton Park as part of its “Shakespeare in the Park” series.

Elm Shakespeare Company is an organization that aims to construct and enrich humanistic environments for people from diverse backgrounds by offering accessible theater experiences in

parks and classrooms. The Company believes that Shakespeare’s plays are still meaningful to 21st Century viewers since it’s “not of an age, but of all time,” according to the company’s website. From Aug. 18 to Sep. 4, the Company performed one of the playwright’s most famous plays, “The Tempest.” Over the course of the two-week run, New Haven residents came out to enjoy the free show, which was open to all.

“The story of the play is about a man (Prospero) who is really wronged and by the end of the

play he forgives those people,” play director Rebecca Goodheart said. “He finds the way because of his daughter. And he wants to find a better world for his daughter (Miranda).”

Goodheart added that she believes “the world needs more than everything to figure out how to forgive each other.” The show was Goodheart’s fifteenth production.

While developing the play, Goodheart’s team faced several challenges. In the original playwrighting, Shakespeare draws heavily on the description of magic.

But in reality, conveying the effect of magic is not an easy task, according to Goodheart. Eventually, the team decided to combine lighting, sound, music and artificial fog to create an otherworldly effect that mimics magic.

Before the show, the audience enjoyed a performance from “Three Men of Sin,” a band of actors in the show who – with quirky guitar numbers – prepared the crowd for an evening of laughter and fourth wall breaks.

“I’m going to miss it,” Aleeki Shortridge, the actress who played Spirit 1 in “The Tempest,” said, reminiscing on her first-ever professional show.

Shortridge is a senior at Southern Connecticut State University. She took on the role despite having never seen any Shakespeare performed. While she admitted the long hours of continuous rehearsing and performing were intensive, she said the work was rewarding.

The selection process for actors was particularly competitive this season, with Goodheart and her team receiving over 600 submissions.

Tyler Cruz DRA ’23, the actress who plays the main female protagonist Miranda, said she was “very intimidated” when she first began working on the show. “In the beginning I felt [the dramatic opening lines were] so forced,” she said.

But, Cruz said that she worked overtime on the role and looks forward to working in a future Shakespearean show.

Nomè SiDone DRA ’23, one of Cruz’s friends, attended the show Saturday night.

“I’ve seen this play a hundred times,” SiDone said. “[But this] is iconic.”

The audience also played a central role in the performance of this Shakespearean comedy. The energy of the crowd, from children to elderly couples, made for a unique encounter. Prospero’s character in particular, played by L. Peter Callender, broke the fourth wall several times, cuing the audience in and making light of the events onstage.

When Goodheart asked if anyone had attended Shakespeare in the Park for all 27 iterations, at least three hands shot up at the back of the audience.

Goodheart said she is happy to be in a community that understands “the transformational power of art and the importance of all of us coming together to see it.”

The Elm Shakespeare Company will host a benefit gala and auction at Amarante’s Sea Cliff on Sep. 14.

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OLIVIA CHARIS/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

From Aug. 18 to Sept. 4, New Haveners enjoyed performances of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” in Edgerton Park.

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*“I’m always looking to the future and what will next be on the horizon.”* JOSÉ ANDRÉS SPANISH CHEF

# New Asian market opens its doors

BY SAI RAYALA  
STAFF REPORTER

Offering everything from squishmallows to Korean mas-cara, a New Haven store specializ-

ing in various Asian products has opened its doors to local buyers. This June, Zakka Yale officially opened on Chapel Street with a grand opening in July attended by Mayor Justin Elicker and other

city officials. The store sells a mix of Korean, Japanese and Chi-nese beauty products, household items and snacks. Yanhua Xie, the store manager and a share-holder in Zakka, said one of the

store’s goals is to promote Asian culture and products.

“For everybody, they are proud of something of their homeland,” Xie said. “We want to introduce that to more people. We want to promote the good part of our cultures.”

Xie said the store prides itself on selling authentic Asian prod-ucts that are both high qual-ity and aesthetically pleasing. As most products are directly imported from Asia, their pack-aging is often in the original lan-guages, but Xie said there are English labels on the price tags.

The store’s products are mainly targeted toward young people, according to Xie. As the store opened in the summer — when most of the campus was empty — she said Zakka had a slow start. Yet, Xie expects busi-ness to pick up as students start visiting and spreading the word.

Clara Lee ’24 said she saw Zakka when she was head-ing towards Tous les Jours and decided to check it out. She said that while she felt some of the items were on the pricier side, it was still nice to see all the trend-iest Asian products.

“It’s pretty cool that they have a complete collection of the most popular snacks, and the most popular skincare and just what people would expect from a store like that,” Lee said.

Hannah Poeng 24 visited the store based on the suggestion of a friend and appreciated the wide range of products. She said she was specifically excited to see soybean drinks at Zakka because she had not been able to find them in any other store nearby.

“I liked the diversity in the products because it felt a lit-tle closer to home,” Poeng said. “The only other real Asian mar-ket nearby is Hong Kong Market.”

Zakka is far from being the first venture for store owner May Lin. She started The Whale Tea boba shop on Whitney Avenue in 2019. The boba shop has since expanded to a chain of 20 shops

around the world. Lin also had a Chinese restaurant on the corner of Crown and Temple that oper-ated for a few years before clos-ing down in 2019.

Lin is not done with her “empire,” as Xie described it. She plans to open another high-end hotpot restaurant in Mil-ford soon. There are also plans to open a new Chinese fast food restaurant in New Haven.

Zakka is the most recent store in a wave of Asian stores that have come to New Haven in the past years. Zakka’s neighbor, the French-Asian bakery Tous les Jours, also opened in the summer.

According to the New Haven Biz, the city’s Asian popula-tion has doubled in size in recent years. During the store opening, aapiNHV co-founder Christine Kim said that businesses like Lin’s could help cultivate Asian American community in the city.

Poeng said that while she appreciated the increase in Asian-based stores around New Haven, she would like to see more diversity within Asian cul-ture with stores representing South East Asian or South Asian cultures as well.

“There are many people here that would like to see themselves in the surrounding areas,” Poeng said. “You’re far away from home so you want to go to a place as close to home as possible. Maybe that’s a little shop with a little knick-knack that reminds you of home, or maybe it is a restau-rant where you just want a taste of home.”

Xie said Zakka is open to expanding and including prod-ucts from other Asian cultures in the future. For now, she said Lin hopes to turn Zakka into a fran-chise like The Whale Tea.

“She hopes that where there is a Whale Tea, there is a Zakka next to it,” Xie said.

Zakka is located at 841 Chapel St.

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SHARON LI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Haven’s Zakka Yale has a variety of Asian products for young buyers.

# New Haven to create climate office funded by Inflation Reduction Act

BY CHARLOTTE HUGHES  
STAFF REPORTER

The recent passage of the Infla-tion Reduction Act may bring a raft of benefits for New Haven to advance its climate initiatives.

The Inflation Reduction Act is the largest climate spending leg-islation in United States history, aimed at bringing investment towards clean energy and carbon offset initiatives and expand-ing access to healthcare and pre-scription medication. To take advantage of the Act, the Elm City government plans on creat-ing a climate office to ensure that residents are aware of the oppor-tunities available, and are able to take advantage of the rebates, jobs, tax accounts and discounts.

“It’s obviously a historic investment in a climate response,” Giovanni Zinn, the city engineer, said. “New Haven declared a cli-mate emergency with our Board of Alders and it’s very hearten-ing to see the federal government investing so much in what is such a critical issue of our time.”

In September 2019, the New Haven Board of Alders unani-mously declared a climate emer-gency for the city.

The legislation will include rebates to decrease high energy costs and provide customers with resources to afford tech-nologies that aim to lower green-house gas emissions and energy prices. For example, the bill sup-ports consumers purchasing new electric appliances or ret-rofitting their homes with more energy-efficient systems, a press release from Senator Richard Blumenthal’s office (D-CT) said.

The Blumenthal statement estimated that the Act’s invest-ments in domestic clean energy manufacturing in both urban and rural communities will also create millions of new jobs nationwide.

“The Inflation Reduction Act is history-making and record-setting. This bill will save money, it will save lives, and it will help save the planet,” Blu-menthal wrote.

Five million dollars in city funding was approved to estab-lish a climate office to help New Haveners utilize these Inflation Reduction Act funds.

A climate director will be in charge of the office, with a sup-port staff to help. The position will soon be posted and open for applications, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker said.

“The climate director will be, in some ways, like a conductor of a choir, where they’re helping sup-port different department heads,” Elicker said in an interview.

Elicker said that he would like to see the New Haven Public Works Department utilize funds from the Act to explore options for electrifying its fleet of trash trucks. He envisioned the future climate director helping support the initiative, because the direc-tor of public works does not have a background in climate policy.

“We’re about to post the posi-tions [for the climate office], and are encouraging anyone that’s interested in applying for the positions to apply,” Elicker said. “This new office will help us better coordinate and have a larger impact.”

Elicker said that the Act will prove valuable to New Haven in reducing the high asthma rates and extreme weather events afflicting the city.

According to a White House fact sheet, the Inflation Reduc-tion Act is projected to reduce pollution, resulting in 100,000 fewer asthma attacks in America in 2030.

“That’s the real goal here,” Elicker said. “And that’s in the long term, that’s the real benefit to everyone.”

Chris Schweitzer, director of the New Haven Climate Move-ment, said that he was happy that the provisions of the Act sup-ported a faster transition to clean energy and electrification and would reduce fossil fuel pollution.

However, he added that he thought far more climate action was needed at all levels given the dire nature of the climate crisis.



YALE DAILY NEWS

The Inflation Reduction Act may bring a new climate office, tax credits and rebates to take on climate change.

New Haven could promote policies to move businesses and organizations to clean energy or less energy use and install solar panels on city property to fur-ther help limit energy costs and carbon pollution, he said.

City climate staff could spec-ifically help New Haveners get “green jobs,” or employment in fields related to green energy, Schweitzer said. They could also help coordinate electrification and energy efficiency work in city buildings, or could help lead the creation of city-wide bike net-works and safe streets, he added.

Projections from a White House fact sheet estimate that over 60,000 Connecticut house-holds will install rooftop solar panels as a result of the Act. It may also bring an estimated \$630 million of investment in large-scale clean power genera-tion and storage to the Constitu-tion State by 2030. The invest-ment will include tax credits to create new jobs and add to the 41,458 Connecticut workers who were employed in the green energy sector in 2021.

Millions of Connecticut res-idents will also be eligible for

electric vehicle purchase dis-counts — up to \$7,500 for new EVs and \$4,000 for used EVs.

These incentives on electric vehicle purchases come after Connecticut submitted a state plan to use funds from Presi-dent Biden’s Bipartisan Infra-structure Law to build electric vehicle charging stations along its highways.

President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law on Tuesday, Aug. 16.

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# SPORTS

*“Josh Allen is a stud quarterback. I love the guy. He just has this confidence about him. It’s just contagious.”*  
VON MILLER BUFFALO BILLS OUTSIDE

## Volleyball wins first two matches



The first match of the Syracuse Tournament against the Black Knights will take place on Friday, Sept. 9 at 2:00 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL FROM PAGE 14

dence. With just a couple hours rest between games, Yale emerged victorious from its match-up against JMU, achieving its first sweep of the season. After establishing an early lead in the first set, the Bulldogs never looked back, winning 25–13, 25–13 and 25–16 against the Dukes. The Elis outmatched their opponents in all offensive categories and hit .474.

On Sunday, the Blue and White fell against the formidable Florida State Seminoles, a competitive squad which ranks among the best in the Power Five ACC. In the ACC pre-season poll, FSU was picked to finish fifth in the 15-team conference. Although the Bulldogs demonstrated their mettle, the hosts broke Yale’s six-set win streak as it lost 25–15, 25–11 and 25–11.

The Bulldogs wrapped up a strong weekend in Florida as the second best team in the Seminole Invitational. They were able to better integrate new players, improve their teamwork and solidify their fundamentals in preparation for conference games. As a team, the Elis made 130 kills, 110 assists and 18 ace serves last weekend. There were also many outstanding performances, such as that of Cara Shultz ’25, who made 15 kills against Florida A&M and hit .389 against JMU.

“Going into [last] weekend, we had some good practices,” Shultz

said when asked about her individual performance. “It’s really a good feeling to show that [the practices] are really paying off. Working hard with a different group of girls is always a challenge in preseason, but I thought we did a really good job of meshing well. Everyone put up some good stats this weekend and I am not surprised [about that] because we’ve all just been working pretty hard.”

Setter Carly Diehl ’25 and middle hitter Gigi Barr ’25 were named to the tournament All-Star team due to their outstanding individual contributions to the Elis’ success.

Barr, who missed much of last season due to injury, had 27 kills and hit .345 last weekend, while Diehl had 96 assists, 25 digs and 14 kills.

“Carly ran a really good offense and our transition volleyball was spectacular,” Appleman said. “Gigi was just always up in the middle and was on the receiving end of a lot of sets. She also had a fabulous hitting percentage of a weekend and continues to get better.”

However, Appleman expressed pride for the team’s overall high level of play, stating that she “was thrilled with everyone who played [last] weekend.” She also highlighted the performances of Shultz, as well as outside hitters Mila Yarich ’25 and Audrey Leak ’24, adding that the three of them could have also been named to the All-Tournament team.

This weekend, the Bulldogs will

look to expand upon their early success as they travel to New York for the Syracuse Tournament, where they will square off against familiar teams. Yale will open the tournament with a game against Army (2–5, 0–0 Patriot), a team the Bulldogs have won against in each of their last four encounters. That same day, the Elis will look to get revenge against bitter rival Syracuse (3–3, 0–0 ACC), a squad which broke the Bulldogs’ perfect record in 2018 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament and has won against Yale twice in the past. On Saturday, the Blue and White will play against Hofstra (2–5, 0–0 CAA). Though Yale has won its past two games against the Pride, the last time the two squads had faced off was in 2009.

“Syracuse is going to be a huge test of adaptability,” middle blocker Fatima Samb ’25 said. “We learned exactly what needs to be done from the FSU Tournament and we’ve now got a few days of practice to turn those things around. We will face off against more amazing teams at this tournament, and we are super excited to play and show what we’ve got.”

The first match of the Syracuse Tournament against the Black Knights will take place on Friday, Sept. 9 at 2:00 p.m.

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## Women's soccer win both home games

SOCCER FROM PAGE 14

With 16 shots to Yale’s five, six of which were on target, Fordham still did not manage to score a goal on Bellomo. With another shutout performance, Bellomo was the undisputed star of the day.

Towards the end of the second half, which was stopped momentarily due to weather conditions, Bellomo shined as she dove and knocked away two close shots from the Rams.

Yale had only one shot on goal that day, late in the first half, which started with a long pass from midfielder Chloe Laureano ’24 to forward Ashley Kirschner ’26 in the box. Kirschner got her first career goal by shooting one past Rams goalkeeper Maria O’Sullivan.

The match against Fordham lasted over three hours from the initial kickoff due to lightning detected close to Reese Sta-

dium. However, that didn’t stop the fans.

Droves of students came to the game after attending the Yale Up pep rally to cheer on their fellow classmates.

“The atmosphere was fun,” sophomore Alex Vantassel ’25 wrote. “Yale dominated for the most part, so everyone was pretty cheerful. Of course there was some bickering to the opposing team, but for the most part the crowd was supportive. Getting excited at the times when we almost scored, applauding defensive play, stuff of that sort.”

The Blue and White will travel to Kansas this weekend to play against Kansas State on Friday at 7:00 p.m. ET and University of Kansas on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. ET.

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The Blue and White will travel to Kansas this weekend to play against Kansas State on Friday at 7:00 p.m. ET and University of Kansas on Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

## IMs return after two years of COVID Disruptions

INTRAMURALS FROM PAGE 14

competitive people here at Yale (myself included) and it’s always a blast to see everyone butt heads in a friendly way.”

Two sports that have generated some of the most energy for this upcoming year are broomball and inner-tube water polo. The two sports, played on an ice rink and in a pool respectively, were impossible to organize in a safe manner.

Broomball — a game that closely resembles hockey — is more unorthodox than mainstream sports like football, basketball or soccer, but that goofiness fits right in with the spirit of intramurals. Grace Hopper intramural secretary Sam Karp ’23 spoke adamantly in favor of the sport.

“Every Yale student must play IM broomball at some point,” Karp said. “It is too much fun not to do it.”

As Phillips pointed out, the seniors are the only current Yale undergraduates who have any broomball experience, and the IM leadership feels confident that the “zany” sport’s return will bring new energy to intramurals.

While the winter season remains subject to future health conditions on campus, fall intramurals are set to start in the coming weeks. Director of undergraduate intramurals Tom Migdalski discussed his current expectations for the upcoming season.

“Intramurals are making a full return this fall,” he said. “We are planning to offer field sports, court sports and lawn games, as they became a welcome addition to our program during

COVID. We are in the final stages of scheduling spaces and are expecting an active autumn season. I’m most looking forward to a greater degree of normalcy [as] we can return to maskless intramurals for both indoor and outdoor sports.”

While these games may seem trivial to some, each of the IM secretaries interviewed took care to emphasize the importance of intramurals on Yale’s campus.

Because teams are organized by residential college, the games offer students opportunities not only to stay active and relieve stress through sports, but also to form communities. For younger students especially, intramurals are a great chance to get to know upperclassmen and play together as equals in a light-hearted environment.

“The thing that was missing [during COVID-19] was the most important part of IMs: collegiate bonding,” Karp said. “[Intramurals] broke down the yearly bonds and really made the whole college feel like a community... that was something in particular I always wish the first-years of [2020–21] had. Colleges that do things together stay together, and there’s nothing lower stakes with higher reward for a college than IMs.”

After Pauli Murray won the Tyng Cup — awarded to the college with the most points across all intramural events — last year, Benjamin Franklin is the only college to never win the prize.

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## Crew goes big in summer

CREW FROM PAGE 14

“Yale-Harvard is emotionally really important to us,” Nick Rusher ’23 said. “Everybody hopes to win a national championship, but it means nothing if you don’t win the Yale-Harvard Race that year.”

Abroad, the heavyweight crew represented the Bulldogs at the Henley Royal Regatta. The No. 2 crew was represented by 11 rowers in the last Henley in 2019. The eight, drawn from the spring season’s top three varsity boats and including a coxswain from the women’s team, had four days to train before the race. The crew advanced to the semifinals where they fell to Leander, which won by two lengths.

Esha Bhattacharya ’24, who coxed the Henley eight, described the experience as a “taste of the historic culture of rowing” which she noted is lost in most modern regattas, especially those in the U.S. Bhattacharya highlighted how different Henley was from other competitions. At Yale, she can approach her races with previous knowledge of the crews she faces, but in England, the crew encountered unfamiliar waters, boats and a longer race.

A notable difference Bhattacharya pointed out was the proximity of the spectators to the race course. During her American collegiate rowing career, she could not recall a time when she could clearly hear the cheering from the crowd, she said. But at Henley, the cheers were loud and clear, and provided the crew with a “boost.”

After concluding the offseason, some heavyweight crew members went on to national training camps. For instance, Rusher, who raced in the varsity eight, trained in California and Croatia before making it on to the U.S. team, which will compete at the World Rowing Championships in the Czech Republic this September.



The heavyweight and lightweight crews will take to the water next month at the Head of the Housatonic on Oct. 8.

“I wasn’t really expecting to make the team at all, but things just worked out,” Rusher told the News. “Now I have a chance to compete for a medal at the World Championships which has always been a dream of mine. My parents met on the national team and my sister recently raced in Tokyo so it’s been a dream of mine to do what my family has done.”

In May, the lightweight first varsity won the Eastern Sprints after an undefeated season, capturing Yale’s first Wright Cup, the fifth Jope Cup in the last 10 years and the first Ivy League Championship since 2016.

In the remaining events, the second varsity came in fifth place falling behind Princeton. The third varsity finished third — four seconds behind winner Columbia. Both the fourth and fifth varsity medaled in second place, coming behind Navy and Cornell, respectively. The coxed four came in third place, falling to Cornell and Columbia.

“I’m really proud of every guy and girl on this team,” senior captain Geoff Skelly ’22 said to Yale Athletics. “Anything can happen on Sprints day, and things fell in the right place for us today. We love to row and race together.”

Despite their previous success, the first varsity placed fourth at the

IRA National Championship, where Columbia took home the national title. Similarly, the second varsity came in fourth in its grand final coming in three seconds behind Columbia. The coxed four won in the petite final but finished seventh in the final event.

“We gave the effort, but the boat speed wasn’t there,” lightweight head coach Andy Card said to Yale Athletics. “... What this varsity eight has accomplished all year has been exceptional. While this one stings a bit for us, it was a great day for the league, as the parity makes lightweight rowing so incredible.”

The top two lightweight boats raced on the other side of the pond at the Henley Royal Regatta, where the first varsity defeated Santa Clara and advanced to day two while the second varsity fell to DSRV Laga. Unfortunately, the first varsity went on to fall to Washington in a close race where the Elis lagged half a length behind.

The heavyweight and lightweight crews will take to the water next month at the Head of the Housatonic on Oct. 8.

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“Life prepares you so that you are able to create your own happy ending.” JOSÉ JOSÉ MEXICAN SINGER

# Professor’s viral list of companies leaving Russia expands

BY YASH ROY  
STAFF REPORTER

Yale School of Management professor Jeffrey Sonnenfeld is ranked higher on the Russian government’s list of sanctioned individuals than U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell.

The reason behind it: Sonnenfeld has reported in detail on the extent of economic sanctions and corporate boycotts against the Russian economy.

Sonnenfeld and Steven Tian ’20, head of research at the Chief Executive Leadership Institute, said they never expected their now-viral list of 1,100 companies to provoke such a strong response from the Kremlin. Still, they are doubling down on their efforts to report and speak out on the state of the Russian economy.

“We never expected that the war would last this long,” Sonnenfeld said. “But this invasion and unprovoked attack on Ukraine calls for an urgent economic and business response to the crippling of democratic norms.”

Their work has led United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen ’67, the British Cabinet, representatives from the International Monetary Fund and other senior government officials to request briefings with the team.

Sonnenfeld’s work also led to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky speaking off-script during Sonnenfeld’s CEO summit in July. The event was the only time since the invasion began that Zelensky had spoken off-script to officials and business leaders.

“It’s been an honor and the biggest highlight of my time at Yale to be able to stand in these places with some of the most distinguished leaders of our time and have them really interested and willing to listen to a bunch of college students,” said Yash Bhansali ’23, a member of the research team specializing in financial markets.

Shortly after Russia began its invasion of Ukraine in February, Sonnenfeld and Tian began to catalog American businesses

that pulled out of Russia. Their list grew from around 100 companies in February to almost 1,100 companies as of September, and quickly went viral on American media.

From their original system of a simple yes or no as to whether companies were leaving Russia, the team of Yale College and SOM students developed a rubric that grades companies on their ties to Russia. Companies can receive an A if they have liquidated all assets and ceased operations, while an F grade indicates the firm is entrenching its business interests in the country.

Additionally, Steven Zaslavsky SOM ’22 and Bhansali compiled data on the financial state of the companies the team tracked. They began to see a clear trend emerging that companies who exited the Russian market saw an increase in their stock prices and also fared better in bonds and equities markets, while companies who remained in Russia saw their stock prices fall. The team’s work was published in May.

“For most of my career, I have been telling CEOs that corporate responsibility is important and will pay off in the long term,” Sonnenfeld said. “So, to be able to publish this paper and show definitively that there are tangible economic benefits past just symbolic benefits that many people in the business world don’t value was really important.”

After publishing their paper in May, the team began to consider further action they could take, and addressed propaganda coming out of the Kremlin that they thought was duping journalists and government officials into saying sanctions were not an effective mechanism to combat Russia’s aggression.

“Russia’s propaganda mills have been very effective at spinning out information and data that shows that sanctions and economic boycotts are not affecting their economy,” said Robert Hormats, former Under Secretary of State and an advisor on the project. “Sonnenfeld and team are helping push back against a narrative that the Russians are crafting which some journalists and people in government are starting to accept.”

To continue building on their fact-checking work, Sonnenfeld investigated the effects of sanctions on the Russian economy — specifically within the realm of energy and agriculture. Russia’s economy is heavily dependent on energy, particularly gas or oil distributed through pipelines to western Europe, Sonnenfeld said.



COURTESY OF JEFFREY SONNENFELD

Sonnenfeld continues to work on a database of Russian sanctions that has been used by academics and politicians alike.

According to Sonnenfeld, as the war has continued and sanctions have become more stringent, his team has begun to track and push back against propaganda where Russia claimed it could move the oil and natural gas to other consumers, such as China and India. Since the oil and natural gas are distributed through permanent pipelines, this is incorrect, Sonnenfeld said.

Sonnenfeld and his team similarly tracked other pieces of disinformation that Russia put out and compiled it into a paper, “Business Retreats and Sanctions Are Crippling the Russian Economy,” that was published in late July.

That paper has since become one of the top three most downloaded articles on the Social Science Research Network, and led to invitations from the State Department to address foreign press associations, as well as to brief officials at the Bureau of Economic Affairs.

“Business Retreats and Sanctions Are Crippling the Russian Economy” has been viewed by 290,000 users.

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# Extracurricular Bazaar kicks off busy club recruitment season

BY MAGGIE GRETHER  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Schwarzman Center teemed with students Sunday afternoon, as clubs filled 388 tables for the annual Student Organizations Bazaar.

Student groups displayed posters, flyers, snacks, archery equipment, banjos, ballroom dance performances and, in

one case, several watermelons to entice prospective members. The bazaar packed the Commons Dining Hall and The Underground and also spilled into the outdoor Colonnade near Beinecke Plaza. The event ran from 12–2 p.m. on Sept. 4. For many first years, the bazaar was an exciting, if at times overwhelming, introduction to the range of organizations on campus.

“I looked a lot of groups up online beforehand but gauging the actual people who are involved was interesting,” Benjamin Jimenez ’26 said. “It was pretty hot and cramped.”

Students emphasized high levels of turnout at this year’s bazaar. Caleb Nieh ’26 described the event as “extremely packed,” and Molly Hill ’25 said that she preferred last year’s Old Campus location for the

bazaar because it was more spaced out and easier to navigate.

Outside of the bazaar, student groups sought other creative ways to stand out to prospective members.

The Yale Symphony Orchestra, which has already begun preparations for its first concert of the year, relied on summer emails and a social media team to spread the word about auditions. On Sept. 3, the Singing Group Council held its annual Woolsey Jam, showcasing all campus a cappella groups, and on Sept. 4, the Alliance for Dance at Yale hosted a Dance Jam to highlight different dance groups.

During the week, clubs also set up tables across campus and handed out flyers to passersby. On Sept. 3, Y Pop-UP — a group that runs bi-weekly fine dining pop-up restaurants — doled out fresh bread, tapenade and application advice to hungry students on Cross Campus.

While club leaders focus on attracting students to their clubs, interested students have a different challenge: actually getting in. While many clubs are open to any student who wants to join, some of the more prominent groups have auditions or applications that can be multi-step, time-consuming and highly competitive.

“I understand that sometimes applications may be necessary because of Yale’s large student body, but having groups feel more accessible and less exclusive would be great,” Hill said.

Hill added that, during her first year, she felt deterred from applying to certain clubs because of their time-consuming application process.

Brigid Stoll ’23, president of the Yale Student Investment Group, spoke to the News about how this intense application process can often be inequitable and inaccessible. Stoll, who attended a boarding school before matriculating at Yale, said she had experienced similar applications at

her school which prepared her for the club recruitment process — but she recognizes her background is not universal.

“I’ve felt that with certain groups at Yale, particularly ones that are challenging to get into, the [application] process really favors a certain demographic of student,” Stoll said. “Diversity and demographic change is needed across the finance industry a lot ... A huge part of our responsibility as one of those college groups that feed into those companies is thinking about our application process and the people we choose to pick.”

This past year, according to Stoll, YSIG took efforts to support applicants from demographics traditionally under-represented in finance.

Adriana Golden ’24, chair of The Yale Record, observed that the competitiveness of clubs can create social cliques and prevent students from trying new activities.

“Part of coming to college is trying new things,” Golden wrote in an email to the News. “So if you have to be a semi-professional at an activity in order to join the corresponding organization, that defeats the whole purpose.”

Still, students overwhelmingly expressed excitement about joining a wide variety of organizations and exploring their interests.

Camila Young ’26 said she was pleasantly surprised that most of the organizations she was interested in did not have an intense application process.

“I think you can find anything you can possibly want here,” Young shared. “And if it’s not here, you can make it, which is comforting.”

Yale College extracurriculars include over 50 performance groups and 60 cultural associations, according to the Yale Office of Admissions.

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MAGGIE GRETHER/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Hundreds of students stopped by the Schwarzman Center for the bazaar, kicking off club recruitment season.



“I’m skiing but sitting down, you know how people ski; they go woosh.”  
JOSE ESTRADA RAMIREZ PRODUCTION AND DESIGN EDITOR

# Yale creates inaugural Cabinet role in IT



YALE NEWS

Over the summer, University President Peter Salovey created multiple new leadership roles.

BY SARAH COOK  
STAFF REPORTER

University President Peter Salovey recently announced the appointment of John Barden to a new role on the University cabinet, vice president for information technology, in addition to his previous role of chief information officer. This new university officer level role elevates Barden to now be a

member of the University cabinet, Salovey’s circle of advisers. While it does not change Barden’s focus, as he already served to oversee IT systems, he now reports to Jack Callahan, senior vice president for operations, and will be involved in university-wide discussions. “An organization with 320 years of history doesn’t make new officer-level positions very often,” Barden told the News. “I believe

senior leaders recognized it was time to acknowledge our dependency and our necessity around having good solid digital infrastructure, [and] had reached the point where elevating the role seemed an appropriate decision.” This new role points to the continuing goals of the University to strengthen its digital infrastructure in the midst of a large network update and continued efforts

to optimize hybrid and virtual options for University employees. Barden said the role represents “a reflection of progress” that will increase visibility and collaboration throughout the University. “The enhanced organizational structure also will place the CIO position on equal footing with other roles that report directly to the senior vice president for operations, including the vice presidents for facilities, finance and human resources, as well as with most of our peer schools,” Salovey and Callahan wrote in a joint announcement. In the June 24 message to the Yale community, Salovey and Callahan wrote that Yale has a “longstanding responsibility to create and share knowledge that improves the world for this and future generations,” and noted that information technology is “essential to this mission.” They also added that the pandemic has driven this recent push for modernization. Barden agreed that even before the pandemic highlighted the University’s dependency on technology, the modernization that his team is working on was long desired. “When I started here five years ago, I think it’s fair to say that people were not super happy with how Information Technology was doing, relative to the complexity and the needs of the institution,” Barden told the News. Callahan said there is an infrastructure component to IT that the University was “mediocre” at before Barden came to Yale, and that investments in IT in the past have not been “well coordinated.” Given the size of the University, Callahan emphasized the importance of Information Technology, as it is used for facilitating and supporting research, human resources systems on the administrative side and clinical practices. Barden told the News that his team’s work is centered around

supporting the University’s mission in these different facets related to Information Technology. “We’ve tried to align all of our work in Information Technology through the lens of the four missions of the institution,” Barden said. “So we really talked about academic priorities, research priorities, clinical priorities and cultural heritage and museums priorities. And by turning it that way, we’ve started talking less about technology and more about institutional goals and positioning Information Technology as an enabler for those objectives.” In Barden’s time at Yale, he has helped develop the Program Management and Operations Excellence Team, and he helped develop One IT at Yale, which makes it easier for students and faculty to find resources online. Barden has also been involved with the ongoing project that began in 2020 to modernize the campus network, which involves over 10,000 pieces of equipment that need replacing. The network update is almost finished in the Yale School of Medicine and is set to finish for the rest of the University in approximately three years, according to Barden. Today, Barden told the News he is focused on developing “multiple modalities” of teaching, as well as supporting the increasingly-computational research taking place at Yale. Many of these issues are school-specific, such as in the Yale School of Nursing and the Yale School of Management, where some classes may be offered online in the future. In addition to developing virtual learning options, Barden said that Yale is working with a few of its vendors on prototyping hybrid options that could be used for University employees.

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# New Hopper windows look to the future

BY DANTE MOTLEY  
STAFF REPORTER

Over five years since Grace Hopper College shed the name of John C. Calhoun, iconography commemorating the racist historical figure remains throughout the college. But this year, new windows throughout Hopper look to move beyond the legacy of the college’s former namesake. New stained glass windows have been installed in Hopper’s common room and dining hall, to be officially unveiled in an open house on Sept. 12. The windows were created by Black artists Faith Ringgold and Barbara Earl Thomas. “I was certainly hopeful that at least some of the windows would attend to and help us think about some of these major transitions including the renaming,” said Julia Adams, head of Grace Hopper College. “And so it is proved — in different in very different ways in both the common room and in the dining hall.” Hopper College used to sport windows that paid homage to Calhoun’s life and depicted aspects of the antebellum South. Calhoun, a former U.S. vice president, was a proponent of slavery, and the windows celebrated a society built on the backs of slaves. Some windows even depicted slaves — one in the common room showed a Black man in shackles on his knees in front of Calhoun, and another in the dining hall depicted slaves picking cotton. The first window, depicting Calhoun and a slave, had the image of the slave removed from the window by the Master of the College in the early 1990s. And the latter was broken in 2016 by Corey Menafee, a dining-hall employee who was then fired and arrested for his actions. The windows were initially replaced with yellow panes of glass, and now will permanently feature the works of Ringgold and Thomas. Adams said that the shift in the windows is representative of larger conversations about Calhoun’s presence throughout the college. “As the windows are being recontextualized I think in these fabulous imaginative ways, these other traces like the stonework, the face of John C. Calhoun and these other abraded markers of the past



YALE NEWS

Windows depicting John C. Calhoun in the Hopper dining hall and common room have now been replaced.

become a little more salient for people,” Adams said. In 2016, University President Peter Salovey formed a Hopper College Window Commission Committee, which included Adams, associate dean of the Yale School of Art Anoka Faruquee and undergraduate students from Hopper. That committee put out nominations for commission, and selected the two artists — Ringgold and Thomas, both Black women. Ringgold is a 91-year-old multifaceted artist who is best known for her narrative quilts and children’s literature — including her 1991 book “Tar Beach,” which won the Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King awards for best-illustrated children’s book. Ringgold visited campus to envision the project. Her windows depict Grace Hopper, a computer scientist and Naval officer; who she is; and

other scenes of student life. They hang in the Hopper common room. Adams said that she loves the Ringgold windows, as the artist captured the “continuity and creativity of student life, and her image of Grace Hopper, which is very much I think in her imagistic vocabulary; the same vocabulary that delighted my son so much when he was a toddler, and they were reading the book ‘Tar Beach.’” Thomas was also able to visit campus to help her gain a better understanding of student life and Hopper’s story. Thomas said that her experience eating at the Hopper dining hall informed her artistic choices, along with participating in College Teas with students. “I had to figure out what images I was going to put together in the collections of six windows,” Thomas said. “I had to put together a cohesive statement so that people

could see the concerns of the students and staff that wanted those windows addressed.” Thomas’s windows hang in the Hopper dining hall. They depict themes like the relationship between dining hall employees and students, moving forward while remembering history, women first coming to Yale and the joys of student life. One of the windows directly addresses the Hopper College name change, with a robin flying into the background, taking a banner with the name “John C. Calhoun” and a hummingbird bringing a banner with “Grace Murray Hopper” forward. “Somebody 10 years from now is going to wonder what all the hoopla was about,” Thomas said. “We have put [Calhoun] in a place in history... because that is what people believed at that time. But here we are now. So I have moved that aspect forward.”

Adams said that the Hopper community’s reaction to the new windows has been very positive. Julia Sulkowski ’24, president of the Hopper College Council, said that there is excitement over the depictions of Grace Hopper, adding that she is personally excited to host college council meetings under the new windows. “It has been so exciting to see the continued building of new college history as the year starts,” Sulkowski wrote to the News. “Although current students have come in knowing our residential college as Grace Hopper — being a part of moments like this shows our dedication to celebrating our history of change.” Grace Hopper received a master’s degree from Yale in 1930 and a doctoral degree in mathematics from Yale in 1934.

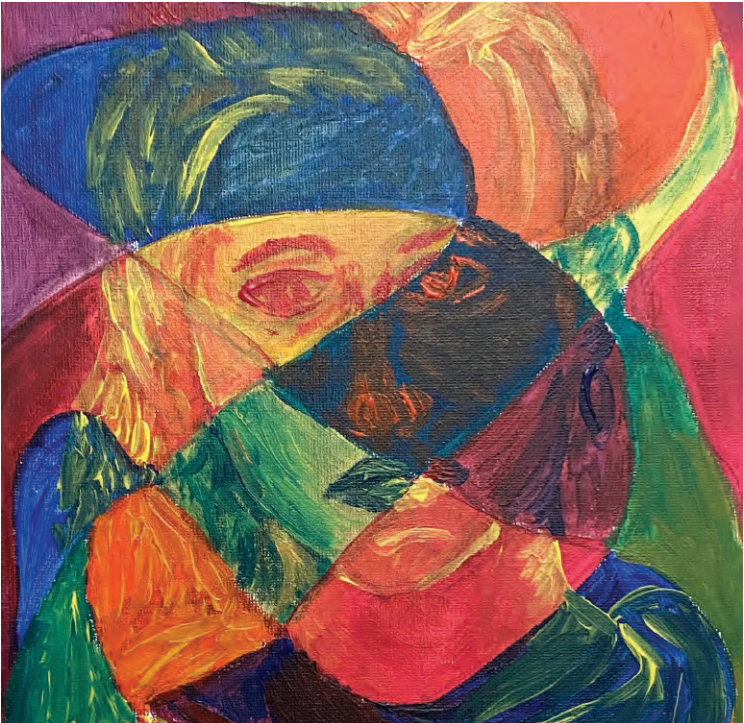
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# BULLETIN BOARD



SOPHIA ZHAO is a senior in Pauli Murray College.  
Contact them at sophia.j.zhao@yale.edu .



SOPHIE DESCHIFFART graduated in the spring of 2022.



WINNIE JIANG is a junior in Silliman College.  
Contact them at winnie.jiang@yale.edu.



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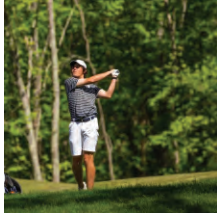
# SPORTS

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**GOLF**  
**SEASON TEEING OFF**  
While play for the women's squad is set to begin this weekend, the men's golf team earned a second-place finish at Alex Lagowitz Memorial with strong showings from new players.



**SAILING**  
**SMOOTH SAILING INTO SEASON**  
With a strong rookie lineup, the defending-champion Bulldogs are preparing to continue their dominance this season. The team won two national championships and racked up nine All-Americans last season.



"Winning races is fun but it's better to do it with guys you know have worked just as hard as you"

**FERGUS HAMILTON '23**  
HEAVYWEIGHT ROWER

## Elis shutout Fordham, Boston University



Still running undefeated, Women's soccer wins beats both Fordham and Boston University 1-0 at home games.

BY TOIA CONDE RODRIGUES DA CUNHA  
STAFF REPORTER

Though the Bulldogs were outshot in each of their games this weekend, the scoreboard was all for the Blue and White as they secured a pair of 1-0 victories against Boston University and Fordham.

The Elis' (3-0-1, 0-0-0 Ivy) hot start is a big turnaround from last year's disappointing 3-14-0 finish. "This season feels very different to last year," sophomore Ellie Rappole '25 wrote to the News. "Last year we were a collection of talented individuals. In the past nine months, we have all worked extremely hard to become closer as a unit on and off the field."

The close unit's victory against BU (2-4-0, 0-0-0 Patriot) proved to be a difficult one. The Terriers had a 4-1 advantage on shots on goal, but it turned out the Bulldogs only needed one shot to seal the win. In the 21st minute, defender Belle Golden '26 fed the ball to

Alanna Butcher '25, who got it past BU goalkeeper Gretchen Bennett.

This victory came after the Bulldogs lost to the Terriers 1-0 last year, where they were also outshot 17-6.

"A gritty effort from our whole team for 90 minutes today," head coach Sarah Martinez said to Yale Athletics. "BU is a good team that is relentless in everything they do. What is great about our team right now is they are finding ways to get results even when things aren't perfect. We have a team that believes in each other and that has been a difference in many of our results."

The closest threat to goalkeeper Maya Bellomo's '25 net was in the second half when she defended a corner kick from BU. Bellomo had four saves this Thursday.

The Bulldogs took to Reese Stadium again on Sunday to play Fordham, where the game proved to be even more difficult.

SEE **SOCCER** PAGE 10

## Women's Volleyball marches forward

BY WEI-TING SHIH  
STAFF REPORTER

Last weekend, the Yale volleyball team (2-1, 0-0 Ivy) kicked off its season in impressive fashion at the Seminole Volleyball Invitational in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Bulldogs won their first two matches of the season. On Friday, the Blue and White shook off their preseason rust with a 3-1 win against Florida A&M (0-7, 0-0 SWAC). That same day, Yale built on its momentum and swept James Madison University (4-2, 0-0 CAA). However, the Bulldogs faltered against tournament host Florida State (6-1, 0-0 ACC) on Saturday, losing 0-3.

"Our cohesiveness was good," volleyball head coach Erin Appleman said about the team's performance in the Sunshine State. "I thought our trust in each other was good. What we need to improve on are just some tactical things there and there."

All teams in the invitational were first-time opponents for the Bulldogs. This unfamiliarity was evident in the Elis' first set against the Rattlers, which Yale dropped 28-26 after a gritty battle in extra points. However, the Bulldogs were able to bounce back and tame the Rattlers in subsequent sets, which featured increasingly wider point margins between the two teams.

Yale won its next three sets 25-23, 25-15 and 25-13. The Blue

and White wrapped up the match with a hitting percentage of .308, while limiting their opponents to one of .145. As was the case last year, the Bulldogs continued their dominance at the serving line, producing 11 aces in the game against the Rattlers.

"I think the Florida A&M win was pretty significant," Appleman said. "It found us coming back, and we got better and better as the match went on. The score reflected that and I was really proud of us getting over being nervous in our first game and being able to get the win."

Glowing from their first win of 2022, the Bulldogs entered the second match of the day with confi-

SEE **VOLLEYBALL** PAGE 10



Volleyball marches forward to Syracuse tournament after winning both games last weekend.

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## Intramurals prepare for fall return



LILY DORSTEWITZ, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For the first time in two years, the Yale intramurals program will return in full, resuming old traditions like broomball and water polo.

BY ANDREW CRAMER  
STAFF REPORTER

Intramural sports are returning to Yale's campus in full force for the first time in two and a half years.

Campus intramurals have slowly returned to normal since the beginning of last year. The past two years saw socially-distant and masked events like cornhole and soccer. This upcoming

school year will mark the first time since March 2020 that Yale will offer all their typical intramurals. Students and staff alike are looking forward to the opportunity to compete for personal and residential college glory again.

"I'm just excited to see the competition," Grayson Phillips '25, Head Intramural Secretary, told the News. "There are some

SEE **INTRAMURALS** PAGE 10

## Bulldogs win national crew title

BY NICOLE RODRIGUEZ  
STAFF REPORTER

This late spring and summer, the Yale men's heavyweight and lightweight crews capped off their seasons with a slew of national titles, recognitions and trophies.

In its last race of the season at Gilder, the No. 2 heavyweight crew sought to culminate the spring by winning a seventh-straight Carnegie Cup and continuing the varsity eight's winning streak, but a steering error led to the boat's disqualification and loss of the cup to Princeton. Nevertheless, the crew marched on to championships, where several boats captured gold and national titles. The Race, the annual bout with Harvard, culminated in a historic sweep. The lightweight crew encountered similar success. After sweeping its last race of the regular season, the No. 1 crew won the Eastern Sprints — becoming Ivy League Champions — but finished fourth at the IRAs.

"I feel that the success of each boat comes from the whole squad," heavyweight rower Fergus Hamilton '23 wrote. "We wouldn't have done as well if it wasn't for all the effort put in throughout the year by each individual. I think as a senior that's something I'm always really proud of, the effort that we all put in. Winning races is fun but it's better to do it with guys you know have worked just as hard as you."

At the Eastern Sprints in May, the heavyweights captured gold in the first, second and third varsity grand finals, capturing the Rowe Cup a fourth straight time. Despite an injury in the varsity eight, the crew continued its winning streak into a sixth year

and was later titled the EARC Crew of the Year in June. The fifth varsity came in third and the fourth and sixth varsity finished fourth.

The team continued to assert its dominance in June during the IRA National Championships in New Jersey. The second and third varsity captured gold, while the varsity eight took home silver after falling to California, who won with a two-second lead. Nonetheless, the crew won the Ten Eyck Memorial Trophy for overall supremacy and became the first school other than California or Washington to win the title since 2005.

"It's the strongest [group] I've coached since I've been at Cal," said heavyweight head coach Steve Gladstone, who previously coached at University of California, Berkeley, to Yale Athletics. "It speaks to the intelligence and devotion to guys from top to bottom, which is a dream."

A week later, the crew returned to Gales Ferry Boathouse in New

London in preparation for the 155th Yale-Harvard Regatta which returned after a three-year hiatus.

The Race culminated in an all-round victory for the Bulldogs, who swept the river for the first time in 26 years. In the first event of the weekend, the fourth varsity set the tone with a near six-second victory. The first varsity, which crossed the finish line 25 seconds ahead of the Crimson, broke the upstream record. The second varsity, which completed the season undefeated, fell behind at the beginning of the race. After catching up to the Crimson about a third of the way through, it never looked back and crossed the finish with 15 seconds on the opponent. The third varsity — also undefeated — beat the Crimson by five seconds.

The rock at Barlett's Cove — painted in the colors of the winning crew — has remained blue and white since 2015.

SEE **CREW** PAGE 10



COURTESY OF YALE ATHLETICS

Both the lightweight and heavyweight crew varsity eights were named EARC Crew of the Year at the end of the spring

STAT OF THE WEEK

.950

THE SAVE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN'S SOCCER GOALKEEPER MAYA BELLOMO '25. SHE IS TIED FOR 10TH NATIONALLY IN THIS STATISTIC.



## WEEKEND

FALLING IN  
LOVE WITH  
STRICTLY  
PLATONIC

// ANDREW CRAMER



Laughter — more than any melody, lyric or conversation — categorizes the rehearsal.

It's a Saturday afternoon, and Strictly Platonic, one of Yale's hottest bands of the last school year, is practicing in the Trumbull College basement. Despite the daunting tasks ahead — replacing drummer Colman Seery '22 and bassist Oliver Guinan '25, trying to put together new songs and refining their old hits — the four sophomores still seem like a group of kids who just like to jam together. Audrey Hempel '25 warms up her voice as her three bandmates noodle around with their instruments. The four of them tell jokes and discuss t-shirt designs. Keyboardist Keith Bruce '25 pitches a 15-minute piano interlude in one of their songs and they all burst into laughter.

They settle in and begin to play. Hempel taps out the beat on the microphone and bounces up and down on her toes as if she is about to erupt with joy. Bruce puts his sunglasses on — indoors — and smiles at Hempel, shoulders shrugging to the melody. James Licato '25 swings his leg back and forth, as his whole body moves in time with a riff. And his guitar companion Will Min '25 plays with the same energy and the beginnings of a smirk on his face.

When I asked them to recall when this group dynamic formed, all four began talking over each other reminiscing about their early memories together.

"Honestly, I think we hit it off from the first cover we did, 'Boys Don't Cry,'" Bruce said.

"I remember when we were working on the guitar parts back and forth for [Hangover, the group's first original piece], that was really special ... and I knew when I heard Audrey sing," Licato interrupted.

"The first show we played in Welch [Hall] in December, that was a very magical experience," Min suggested.

"I think we started a band as something fun to do, and I don't think any of us expected that much. ... When we started writing, we were all kinda like ... 'woah,'" Hempel concluded for the group.

Strictly Platonic's origin story begins — as so many Yale stories do — in a math class. Bruce regularly came to Hempel for help on the problem sets, and the two struck up a friendship. As Bruce explained with a laugh, the two "slowly discovered that [they] had musical tastes in common. And eventually, Audrey popped the question."

The actual text exchange is perhaps a little less dramatic than the pianist made it seem, with Hempel asking rather bluntly on a Tuesday night: "Do you wanna start a band?" Bruce's reply: "Alright."

The two put up some posters around campus, texted a few friends and held auditions. The rest of Strictly Platonic — although the name

wouldn't come until later — slowly began to assemble.

The group began rehearsing in practice rooms and quickly realized they had a desire not only to play covers, but also to write their own original pieces. Licato and Min began bringing in riffs so that the group could assemble them into more complete songs. Hempel took the lead on lyric writing, and in a surprisingly short amount of time, they were ready to debut.

Their first show in Welch Hall was chaos. They had to borrow — without permission — drums from Timothy Dwight College's practice room. To accomplish this, each band member took one drum, snuck it out a back entrance and then the group reassembled the kit inside of the suite in Welch. Licato and Min admitted that they underestimated just how difficult it would be to put on a show — "it's a lot of carrying shit," Min emphasized. But as soon as the performance began in the overcrowded first-year common room, the group felt they had stumbled onto something special.

Min described the show as a crazy hour akin to "a Disneyland ride," and Bruce commented on the support the group quickly found.

"We had groupies right off the bat," Bruce said, although Hempel was quick to note that those groupies predominantly consisted of friends and suitemates.

After their frenzied fire-hazard of a debut, Strictly Platonic transitioned from six friends messing around together into a more serious band. They continued playing in suites and began scheduling gigs at more formal venues.

While the fall and winter could be categorized as the band's formative months, the spring offered Strictly Platonic the chance to burst onto the campus music scene, and the group seized that opportunity. A strong performance at Yale's annual Battle of the Bands led to an invitation to perform at Spring Fling.

"Spring Fling was huge," Licato explained. "Everything really worked out and it was just a great day. It was definitely a rush. At the end of the year, we had to compact everything into two weeks: recording two demos without a set and practicing a full 30-minute set for Spring Fling."

Hempel, who admitted she was "sweating bullets" as she watched the stage get built up outside of her Old Campus suite, talked about the joy of performing at Spring Fling: "It was just incredible. I remember looking out onstage and I could see so many people. At our other concerts, we couldn't really see anyone because we weren't that high up, we didn't have a stage and it was mostly in the dark. That was wild, being able to see a huge mass of people."

If Battle of the Bands gave Strictly Platonic an introductory platform, Spring Fling gave them

*Cont. on page B2*



WEEKEND

PRAYERS



Cont. from page B1

prominence. Each member of the band discussed how odd it was to have strangers stop them on the street to ask about the band.

Nader Granmayeh '24, self-proclaimed Strictly Platonic superfan, tried to capture why so many people are drawn to the group. “They hit on my every emotion,” Granmayeh said. “They’re so professional and their music sounds like a perfect blend of rock, pop, and joy. ... And the best part of all, they’re great people. Every time I see one of them or hear their music, I notice a big smile on my face.”

A year ago, Strictly Platonic didn’t exist. Now, they enter their sophomore years with much higher expectations, both externally and internally.

The group, however, has embraced that fact, and doesn’t seem fazed by the pressure. Instead, they seem excited by the possibilities for the upcoming years.

“I feel more serious about it,” Bruce said. “Now we’re getting down to business. Before it was like freshman fantasies. We’ve gotten a bit more ambitious, but rightfully so.”

Licato built upon that, explaining how the group now has had time to establish plans instead of hopping from performance to performance without any clear aspirations.

“We didn’t really think of the big picture last year,” Licato said. “Spring Fling was on the brain, but it was a little ways away, and we didn’t plan too far behind that. This year we have a lot of plans, and hopefully everything works out.”

Included in those plans: replacing Guinan and Seery, recording a full album, getting paid, performing off campus and of course, trying to play Spring Fling again.

Given a summer to work on their music with no pressure to keep playing gigs, the group feels like they have a lot of exciting new songs in the works. Every practice, they explain, somebody’s bringing in a new riff, a new melody, a new lyric, a new song inspiration or a new way of arranging an older piece.

Their new songs — they wrote eight over the summer — “definitely have different styles, they’re more complex and stylistically they’re more interesting and fresh,” Licato said. Or, in Bruce’s words, “Our band has entered its experimental phase.”

Strictly Platonic is a young band and still developing, but they’re already dreaming big. As they keep writing and performing, one can’t help but wonder what the goal is. After all, the four current members all still have three years left of college.

“I think one of the big [dreams] is to formally get into a recording studio, and then,

of course, it’s gotta be to tour,” Licato said. “You know, to play somewhere where we don’t know all the people in the audience and they don’t know us. They just want to come hear us and our music.”

# A young band and still developing, but they’re already dreaming big.

For now, though, the world tour remains a goal for the distant future. Instead, it’s a Saturday afternoon in the Trumbull basement, and there are four friends goofing around. As they start putting their instruments away, they discuss the potential merits of the “Strictly Platonic Valentine’s Day no-dancing-with-a-significant-other show.”

As they walk out of rehearsal, Min pitches a new motif, Licato and Hempel debate what to call their new song and Bruce still hasn’t given up on his 15-minute piano interlude idea. The conversations continue as they close the door behind them. And then suddenly, they’re gone, the lights are off and the Trumbull practice room feels very quiet.

The joy they brought to this random afternoon practice with no drummer or bassist is hard to explain. But afterwards, you can’t help but think that even if they never make it to their dream tour, even if they never play Spring Fling again, it seems like they wouldn’t be too distraught. Because next week, Bruce will put his sunglasses back on; Hempel will belt out the lyrics to their newest song; and Min will keep the groove steady as Licato’s whole body moves with the melody. And the Trumbull practice room will be full of music and laughter again.

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# PRIEST KINK

*Pining after your FroCo? Dying to get on the orgy panlist? Sick of seeing khakis on men? You’re in luck! Welcome to Sex on the WKND, YDN’s anonymous column dedicated to answering your burning questions about sex, love and anything in between. Obsessing over sex is a Yale tradition as old as the Oldest College Daily itself. This year, we have a love-guru columnist who has done it all — including everyone on the aforementioned orgy panlist — and is ready to share. Whether you have a seminar with a hookup gone wrong or accidentally sent a raunchy text to your chemistry study group, Sex on the WKND is ready to help. Don’t be shy. Submit your anonymous questions, stories and tips online.*

**I think I’m in love with my 17th Century Monarchies professor??? Help????  
-RoyallyFucked**

I’m gonna start with a visual. You’re in a Catholic church — I know, bear with me for a second — sitting in the confession booth. You’re emptying your soul of your sins: lying to your professor about being sick on a presentation day, Bow Wow-sponsored kleptomania and lots of premarital sex. You wait, expecting a few “Hail Mary” assignments, maybe an excommunication if you were feeling extra honest. Instead, you get silence. Moments pass and you begin to fidget, borderline begging the priest to tell you what to do, anything to do. Just as you’re about to leave, certain that your misdeeds were deemed “too much,” the curtain opens, and you’re instructed on one thing only.

“Kneel.”

If you’re like me, you’ve been obsessed with the show Fleabag since it hit screens in 2016. When I watched this scene for the first time, I will admit, I wanted to be the one in that booth. Of course, outside the world of Phoebe Waller-Bridge, this desire is highly dependent on how hot your priest is; we want an Andrew Scott, not a Pope Francis. But I can honestly say that I will never look at those robes in the same way. Which brings me to our big question of the day:

Why do we always want what we can’t have?

For all the priests, imprisoned cult leaders and Fuckboys “Too Busy Finding Myself” McGees, there is always someone who craves them. The forbidden is hot, let’s admit it. It’s the reason people fuck their bosses and suck dick in public. (Spoiler alert: In the show, Fleabag, the main character, does end up fucking the priest, but we’ll take that for what it is: a fantasy.)

Here’s a personal example. I was raised religious — very religious. Before you assume that this column is part of my “rebellion phase” and that it’s the reason I’m a self-proclaimed priest kinkist (you might be right), my religious background taught me how people work. Call me Hume! As it turns out, the kids I was raised around in church grew up to be way hornier than those raised with more sexual freedom. I’m talking boners at the sight of a chewed fingernail, just because it’s wet.

These kids were never allowed to want, and that’s exactly the problem.

When you tell someone not to fuck a watermelon, it gives them the idea to fuck a watermelon. It makes them want to fuck a watermelon. It all but dares them to fuck a watermelon.

This is what is happening in your brain when you’re told something — or someone — is forbidden. It doesn’t matter what it takes. You will forgo your control and your dignity and you will fuck the watermelon.

Except in this case the watermelon is an emo Imagine Dragons cover artist who lives in a trash den and doesn’t believe in voting.

Whether it’s a fear of intimacy or an overactive imagination that lets this person turn you into a divine, cock-hungry nympho of a person, you’re fully aware that it’s never gonna happen. Your influence over the outcome is non-existent, regardless of how badly you want it. In simple terms, you’re playing yourself. Just as much as those high-school boys that wore “Fight the New Drug” bracelets on their right arm to keep themselves from masturbating. It’s a losing game.

What can you do?

Obviously, all attraction is a little subliminal; it’s nearly impossible to wake up in the morning and say to yourself, “this is unreasonable, so I refuse to want it anymore.” Would it be convenient? Absolutely. Is it realistic? Definitely not. Otherwise, I would’ve kicked the man who sent me an amateur film of himself sucking his own nipples to the curb a long time ago. And yet.

Even though you can’t get rid of the fundamental desire for companionship with that unspecial someone — only time can do that — you can take back some of the control you’ve lost in the pining process. If it’s the attention you’re after, try going no-contact; prove to yourself that appreciation exists outside of your brooding bubble. If you chase a thrill, bring that adrenaline to your solo-sessions; who needs a partner when you have nine fingers and a dream? If it was the love that kept you going, go to therapy. Learn some self-respect. Have better sex. Then we can talk.

It’s hard to get over someone, especially after realizing there was never truly anything to “get over” in the first place. The mind is dangerous, and hormones even more so. If you find yourself wedding-planning, naming children, or pretending to curse out your soon-to-be mother-in-law for disapproving of the union, take a step back. Consider the logical next-steps of whatever situation you’ve found yourself in. Learn to cherish some distance. And, if all else fails: If you can’t get over someone, get under someone else.

*If you have any other questions, stories, dick pics, catfish suspicions, etc., submit them online. See you next week, sluts!*

## WKND RECOMMENDS

Spending time in mixed company.



# O BEASLEY, WHERE ART THOU?

// BY MIRANDA WOLLEN

A friend of mine emerges from the library with a shit-eating grin on her face: she’s just seen Nathan Chen, and he was Actually Doing Homework. Chagrined at my lack of reaction, she asks who I’d be shocked to see prowling the upholstered bomb shelter of the Bass Library lower level. Me? I’d only be starstruck by Josh.

Josh Beasley, Yale graduate and, inexplicably, real-life ROTC student, was the wunderkind of the college info YouTube world circa 2018. If you were a neurotic little AP student with Ivy League ambitions and a work ethic others described as “concerning,” you earnestly listened as he read his Common App essay and gave you an exclusive tour of his dorm room in none other than Timothy Dwight College, which weirdly makes perfect sense now that I go here. I went back to verify; he did, in fact, have a bunk bed and a borderline-worrisome amount of paraphernalia to support his amateur magic hobby. You can check, his 2,507-follower-strong LinkedIn boasts a three-year stint in “magic in mentalism.”

Beasley’s current view counts average somewhere in the low to

mid thousands, with significant spikes for content regarding his return to school via Georgia Tech’s Online Masters in Computer Science Program. It’s endearing and a little sad to see that he’s still pumping out content in ad-hoc spurts, like when a rising star from the early 2000s ends up judging a singing competition show in a large rotating chair.

In his heyday, Beasley’s collegiate content consistently earned him over 50,000 views, and up to 410,000 for his most popular video, modestly titled, “READING MY COMMON APP ESSAY THAT GOT ME INTO YALE!!!” I was one of those viewers: my summer 2019 computer tabs alternated between his YouTube channel, the College Confidential forum — which I shudder to write out even now — and a Google Doc in which I was legitimately trying to craft a compelling Common App essay about doing my own laundry during a Life-Changing five whole weeks abroad in Spain. Had I been religious, I would have prostrated myself on the altar of Beasley for a fifteen-minute coffee chat with him.

Beasley graduated in spring 2021, meaning that with my COVID-19-induced gap year, I just missed the opportunity to cameo in one of his landscape shots of Cross Campus as copyright-free music played a little bit too loudly in the background. His time on campus also means the current generation of undergraduate Yalies all could have fallen into a Beasleyan rabbit hole during their respective application seasons; in conversations with ’24s and ’25s especially, the name rings a bell almost universally. It also brings a sheepish smile acknowledging the mild-to-moderate levels of crazy we had to afford ourselves in order to get here; Beasley seems the mascot for our application anxiety.

As I look through Beasley’s social media now, it’s almost laughable that I spent hours of my teenagedom idolizing some random 23-year-old just to have 21 LinkedIn connections in common with him and literally nothing else. As a Woman in Humanities with a disdain for cargo pants and rabbits in hats, it’s hard to conceptualize what I saw of myself in the crewcutted U.S. Space Force

program manager. I think his content was mostly comforting: it reified Yale for me as an imperfect place where awkward little guys lived and worked and joined Chi Psi, rather than the unattainable, Clintonian fortress it looked like in *Gilmore Girls*. Whatever else you might say about him, Josh’s uncomfortable film roll of his suite’s 2K tournaments and his overly-proud documentation of his jaunts to Soad’s allowed us all to believe that normies could be Yalies too — a relief in an era in which the only alumni I knew of were Oscar winners and/or alleged war criminals.

I should note that as of this article’s release, I am harboring a grudge: Yale’s favorite Air Force Houdini wouldn’t respond to my really polite and duly ego-stroking Instagram direct message, even though we have 73 mutuals, and I can see that he’s been active. He did show face at the Yale Bowl last year, so maybe I can get my autograph — or vengeance — in Cambridge come fall.

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# ODE TO YALE WIFI

// BY HANNAH MARK

My darling Yale Secure,

You touch every corner of my life. Beautiful network, my fondest memories are spent in your presence, on movie dates and study sessions late into the night. Oh, how I love it when you’re turned on!

Some of your friends say I’m just using you to get what I need. Don’t listen to them. What I need is more of you, my love, every hour of every day. I cannot survive without you. Whenever you leave, I languish for your connection.

It’s true, I confess, that I don’t think of you as often as I could. Please forgive me. But know that whenever you’re down, I can think of nothing else but you, my dearest Yale Secure. In those mornings, and evenings, and especially mid-afternoons, your unexplained absence is my truest, greatest worry. All I want is for you to be well, and with me again.

But I know being present is challenging for you. Sometimes, I feel like you’re sending me mixed signals, and our relationship is on-again, off-again. I’d love it if you could be more dependable.

And I really wish you’d communicate openly with me, instead of just sending emails. Because you, after all, are the router to my heart. I feel sparks whenever I see you on my screen. Just imagine everything we could do together, if only you fixed your problems!

But for now, I’m grateful for whatever time we can spend together. I am content to wait for you. Somehow, despite all the times you leave me hanging, you always return in the end.

I love you, Yale Secure. Will you be my Wi-Fi?

Eternally yours,  
A Yalie

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// SOPHIE HENRY

## WKND Recommends

Soaking in the WKND sun after a week’s deluge



# ROPED IN AT JORDAN’S

// BY IRIS TSOURIS

The world’s largest indoor ropes course, “It,” is tucked away inside a Jordan’s Furniture in Long Wharf, New Haven. Its entrance is like a portal, looming large and black at the far end of the otherwise brightly-lit store. Inside, there are four levels of rope bridges, multiple ziplines and a water fountain right underneath them on the ground floor. The space is cavernous and imposing. The lights within gleam violet and green.

“It” is a result of the “shoppertainment” movement, an odd marriage between local attractions and the retail shopping experience. In the ’90s, Jordan’s

owners pioneered shoppertainment by lining their stores with IMAX theaters. A few years later, they opened ropes courses in Massachusetts, and then Connecticut and Maine.

I will admit I am not fit for a ropes course. I fear heights, unsteady surfaces and all things of that nature. At Yale, I’ve learned not to trust my body. About a year ago, I broke my right foot falling down the stairs in Linsly-Chittenden Hall. A few months later, I broke my other foot on the laundry stairs. I remember the aftermath of the second breakage; sitting in my octet, surrounded

by my suitemates, crying, cursing my luck, then laughing. One suitemate had pointed out the absurdity of the situation. We could not resist joking.

This year, I have four suitemates. Our schedules, so far, have been at odds with each other: seldom are all five of us in the same room. The Friday after classes started, we were all, however, equally gripped by the unlikely fusion of a furniture store and a ropes course. We made plans to visit Jordan’s that Saturday.

To experience “It” at Jordan’s fully, you must leave your indifference behind. The suite, especially at the beginning of the semester, is a place where you can choose to stay reserved, solitary and guarded. At Yale, it is disturbingly easy to feign stability and place walls around yourself. It is much harder at a ropes course, suspended 50 feet in the air. At “It,” the adrenaline, fear and excitement is palpable, and the contrast between my shaking, not-quite-healed feet and the agility of my suitemates is obvious. Nonetheless, we navigate the course at our own pace and work through our own individual challenges. We catch glimpses of each other through metal beams and shout whooping, unintelligible cheers.

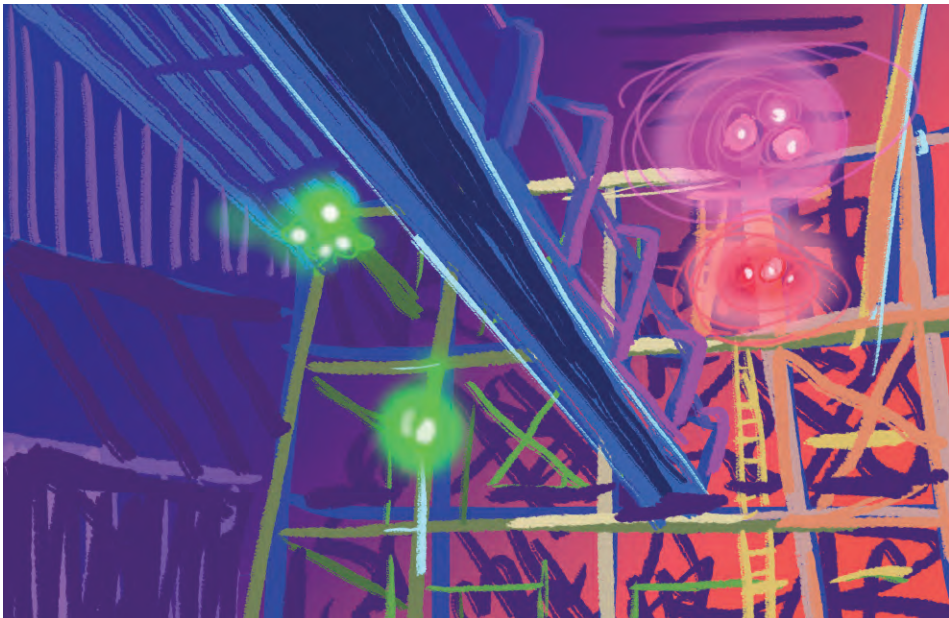
“It” is a silly, liminal place. The speakers oscillate between country and ’60s pop. The rope bridges are impressive; a few feel near impossible to cross. One, in particular, is entirely devoid of platforms, composed only of a flimsy rope net. The water fountain is giant and mesmerizing. On a Saturday, the course is overrun with children. A small boy asks me about the tallest zipline — is it scary? It’s not,

I assure him. The ziplines are slow; they give the impression that you are floating. His parents are here to furnish their new home, he tells me. I am suddenly confronted by the jarring domesticity of the furniture store, situated right beside the ropes course and its LED dystopian-night-club vibe. The shifting spotlights, constricting harness, Frankie Valli’s voice — it is a dreamlike experience.

Our hour on the course ends abruptly. My suitemates and I reconvene at the entrance and walk through the bedroom displays, which are specific and strange enough to pique our interest. Some are plane-themed. Some team with highway sign decor. One bedroom is crowded with anthropomorphic animal imagery. At Jordan’s, we reimagine our living space. What if we got this for the common room? My suitemate exclaims, pointing to a Roman statuette. We talk about home. I just know you had a Paris-themed bedroom, someone teases.

We return to our suite in the evening. We play five rounds of Friend or Faux: A Game of Ridiculously Revealing Questions. “What is your greatest sexual fantasy?” a card probes. (A ropes course, then a ropes course, one of my suitemates laughs). We sit within the Davenport College basement, in our tiny common room, and divulge odd, arbitrary parts of ourselves — we recall moments of pain, embarrassment and tenderness. We sweat in the September heat. We eat, we talk and we go to bed.

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// SOPHIE HENRY

# SOMETHING DIGESTIBLE

// BY IANA PHIPPS

Being lactose intolerant never stops me from indulging in dairy-filled treats — all except for one. Yogurt — yuck! — is a plague on my senses. The rancid aftertaste and the “pseudo-pudding” texture are just a few things that make me sick to my stomach — only back home, though — because the yogurt I had in South Africa this summer was damn delicious.

The Yale Summer Session health and film course, “Visual Approaches in Global Health,” allowed me to spend six weeks in Rivonia, a suburb near Johannesburg, South Africa. Thirteen other Yalies and I made the Rivonia Premier Lodge our home and for me, it was also where I decided to surrender to my singular dairy enemy. In my usual self-destructive style, I prescribed myself two daily yogurt cups to remedy all the years I missed out. I would have one cup during breakfast and another during lunch. This probably was not the best arrangement for my roommate, because most of the time our bathroom was occupied by moi. But despite the persistent abdominal discomfort and the awkward excuses from meetings, I could not get enough of the only yogurt that pleased my senses. However, South Africa did more than add a new layer of complexity to my relationship with yogurt. Even other things that used to make me nauseous started to leave a different taste in my mouth.

I have spent most of my life trying to find some footing in a colonial landscape that I was supposedly free from 60 years ago. Jamaica and South Africa share a history of British colonialism, and through that common past have fostered an incredibly positive diplomatic relationship. My country was the first to declare a trade embargo against apartheid South Africa, and less than a year after Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990, he was awarded one of Jamaica’s highest honors. References to apartheid, Mandela, and Desmond Tutu could be heard in many reggae songs growing up, and like many Jamaicans, I felt deeply connected to the struggles of our South African family. These feelings were so complex that I dreaded the emotions that would arise after I visited the Apartheid Museum and Soweto, an apartheid-era township, long before I boarded the flight to O.R. Tambo International Airport.

The story of colonialism is a harrowing one of genocide, slavery, classism, racism and cultural erasure. But the agency of the people that these systems aspired to

destroy is often hidden when the story is described like this. Whenever I think about that part of history, I am overwhelmed with tormenting anger and an assaulting uncertainty because of all that has been hidden, destroyed and preserved to embellish the past. I experience a similar sickening feeling whenever I think of apartheid, and so before each museum excursion, much of my time was spent trying to trauma proof my brain, regulating my melancholy and of course finding other things to be angry about. However, the presentation of narratives from 21st-century South Africa back to over 2 million years ago, along with the reflections of our tour guides unexpectedly gave me feelings of clarity, hope and an opportunity to move on with my anger. For too long I have been just stuck in one place, feeling angry about all that I knew and all I know I can’t know about what happened to those who came before me. The possibility of ever being somewhat at ease with my country’s history was something that I could have never imagined for myself. However, this was the reality for many of the Black South Africans I met who were stripped of their humanity at one point in their lives. I recognize the unique intersectionalities of all the people I had the opportunity to talk with and can see the ways certain privileges manifested in where their lives are now — they did not claim to speak for all South Africans. But these encounters were profound, and I just want to thank all the people who made me realize that my anger could peacefully coexist with the love, and pride I had for my culture which itself emerged from colonialism.

During my conversations with tour guides and the staff at our bed and breakfast, I found myself asking, “Why aren’t you angrier?” I could not understand how they were able to live, work, and care for some people who less than 30 years ago were not even allowed to sleep under the same roof as them. The tolerance, and spirit of forgiveness were inconceivable, and how they were able to get to that point was even more alien. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, or TRC was constituted in 1995 after the end of the apartheid regime, and in my opinion, is a success story for restorative justice. The TRC validated the experiences of many non-white South Africans and gave people a chance to come face to face with their assailants as they confessed their crimes. This was very empowering and gave many people a chance to put a name and a face on their trauma. This was essential in the rec-



// CATE ROSER

lamation of their lives and allowed many to free themselves from their pain. The TRC showed me the power of intent and transparency, tools that countries like Jamaica and the United States could potentially use to begin to rectify the ramifications of slavery and racism, and maybe give society a real opportunity to heal and transform.

After hearing these stories, I began invalidating my anger for just a fleeting moment, because nothing I have ever faced could even compare to the human rights violations perpetrated on the South African people. Yet it was because I was mistaking contentment for passiveness — I was so used to a narrative where people were just victims and not agents of social justice. The South African people fought to have the choice not to be angry and fought to move on from the constant violence that clouded their lives for nearly 50 years. It made me realize how not being able to put a name, face or place in the few broken stories of those who came before me has prevented many like me from feeling any closure. Although my past did not happen to me, I still feel like I am somehow living in it. A large part of me feels like I owe it to the ones who came before me to be upset as they never had the chance for their pain to even be recognized. However, the people that I met in South Africa made me realize that carrying these burdens served nobody, and helped me change the perspective through which I viewed my history. The colonial story of murder

and exploitation was also one of active and quiet resistance, creativity, community, sacrifice and resilience — a story about how we were able to survive and develop a complex culture and society despite the political war against our blackness. South Africa inspired me to go out to discover fuller, more nuanced, narratives about my history so I could direct my anger instead of being shackled by it. As my weeks in this beautiful country expired, I began to ask questions about what counts as historical knowledge. How can we expand our archives to include the stories of ordinary people? How can we transform the same institutions that are at the source of people’s trauma into ones that can help them heal?

All my life I have been consuming so much of my history from textbooks, biographies and ethnographies but I have failed to digest any of it. I always felt uneasy because of how muddled and incomplete the past seemed — a plague on my senses. Although I found yogurt that I could eat digesting it is another story. In South Africa, there is no new recipe or artisanal brand in the flavor of my history that I can consume. However, I left with innovative ideas and tools to cut, stick, stir and scoop at my history so I can at least get something out of it to soothe my anger and fuel my goal to curate an archive told by the people who came before me.

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## WKND Hot Take:

Make shopping period even shorter.