



Yale to consider institutional neutrality

BY JOSIE REICH
STAFF REPORTER

A committee of seven professors, convened by University President Maurie McInnis, will consider institutional neutrality at Yale.

Under institutional neutrality policy, higher education institutions refrain from taking stances on current events in which they are not directly involved. In her first major public act as president, McInnis announced Tuesday afternoon that the committee will recommend to her whether to adopt neutrality by the end of the semester.

“One topic has emerged as top of mind for many people in our community: the question of when Yale, as an institution, speaks on issues of the day,” McInnis wrote in a University-wide email. “I have asked the committee to examine when the university, or those speaking on its behalf, should comment on matters of public significance.”

The announcement comes as approximately 20 universities have adopted institutional neutrality in recent years following increased public scrutiny of free expression in

SEE NEUTRALITY PAGE 4

Omni workers begin strike



Employees of the Omni hotel and organizers with UNITE HERE Local 217, the union that represents them, began picketing early Thursday morning after voting to approve a work stoppage in August. / **Christina Lee, Head Photography Editor**

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Hospitality workers at the Omni hotel went on strike Thursday morning after the hotel failed to meet the union’s Wednesday night deadline to settle a new contract.

UNITE HERE Local 217, the union representing the workers, has been in contract negotiations with the hotel since November 2023. The Omni’s last contract with its over 120 unionized house-

keepers, front desk agents, cooks, dishwashers, servers, bartenders and bellmen — which was a pandemic-related extension of a previous contract — expired in March.

On Aug. 7, all 93 of the Omni’s workers who cast ballots in a union vote approved a strike. Now, the employees are stopping work to bargain for a greater wage increase, a stable retirement package and health-care benefits.

“The 125 workers at the Omni Hotel took a strike vote in August.

We’ve been trying to bargain a fair contract since November of last year, and today, we’re saying enough is enough,” said Josh Stanley, UNITE HERE Local 217’s secretary treasurer, at the picket line.

Stanley was among half a dozen UNITE HERE Local 217 organizers who joined about 12 hotel employees assembled outside of the hotel’s main entrance on Temple Street for the strike’s commencement at 5 a.m.

SEE STRIKE PAGE 5

ANALYSIS: Racial diversity post-affirmative action

BY HAILEY TALBERT
STAFF REPORTER

Last week, the admissions office released the demographic data of the class of 2028, the first Yale class admitted after the repeal of affirmative action.

The data revealed that for Yale’s class of 2028, Black and Latine enrollment remained similar to previous years, while the share of Asian American students fell and white students’ enrollment rose from the year prior.

In a 2022 joint amicus brief to the Supreme Court, Yale argued that affirmative action was necessary

to sustain the racial composition of the incoming class. Yet the demographic composition of the first class selected without affirmative action remained relatively stable, in stark contrast with some of Yale’s peer institutions and in line with trends at others.

A variety of factors might have contributed to this result, possibly including increased recruitment efforts, the use of socioeconomic data and the continued use of race in admissions through applicants’ essays. Yale’s demographic reporting methodology — including sepa-

SEE DIVERSITY PAGE 4

Ocean, Farnam promise tenants a return to bargaining



Ocean Management and Farnam Realty Group both offered tenants unions a return to the bargaining table in exchange for stopping their protests — after at least a month of silence from both companies, the unions said. / **Lily Belle Poling, Contributing Photographer**

BY LILY BELLE POLING
STAFF REPORTER

Minutes before a protest in front of Ocean Management’s office was set to begin, the mega-landlord offered tenants a deal.

Ocean owner Shmulik Aizenberg promised to resume negotiations with tenants unions from three of his properties if they agreed not to protest.

The protesters, who subsequently relocated to the neigh-

boring Farnam Realty Group — which has also not responded to a tenants union’s demands — were offered a similar deal from Farnam another 20 minutes later.

SEE TENANTS UNION PAGE 5

Yale settles with fertility clinic patients administered saline instead of fentanyl

BY ASUKA KODA, ESMA OKUTAN AND JANICE HUR
STAFF REPORTERS

Yale reached a confidential settlement with 150 fertility clinic patients, who were administered saline instead of a painkilling drug after the University failed to safeguard its fentanyl supply.

The lawsuit was filed in 2021, after women who had undergone in vitro fertilization, or IVF, a treatment that fertilizes collected eggs with sperm in a laboratory, reported feeling “excruciating pain” at the Yale Fertility Center.

The patients did not know it then, but they had been administered saline water instead of fentanyl, a painkilling drug. A Yale nurse, Donna Moticone, later admitted to stealing fentanyl for personal use and replacing it with saline in vials.

Flanked by three victims of fentanyl diversion at the Omni Hotel New Haven, attorneys Josh Koskoff and Kelly Fitzpatrick announced that Yale had reached a confidential settlement with the victims in the lawsuit against the Yale Fertility Center and Yale Reproductive Endocrinology.

“These women did something very difficult, they stepped forward,” Koskoff told the News. “[The women] filed many lawsuits in the hopes that it would force Yale University to hear them.”

The lawsuit alleged medical assault and battery, both violations of civil law. The suit claims that hundreds of patients could have been administered saline instead of fentanyl and that in over 75 percent of the treatments that involved fentanyl from June 2020 to October 2020, the painkiller could have been replaced with saline. More than 175 vials of fentanyl were stored unsupervised and unprotected at the clinic.

After Monticone’s fentanyl diversion was uncovered, the Drug Enforcement Agency opened an investigation and found that Yale failed to safeguard its fentanyl supply, violating the Controlled Substances Act, which allowed the fertility clinic’s fentanyl supply to be tampered with and stolen.

Due to its violation of state and federal public health laws, Yale University, on behalf of Yale Medicine and the Yale Fertility Center, agreed to pay a total of \$308,250 in a civil settlement agreement with the Department of Justice in October 2022.

Since the DOJ settlement, “Yale Medicine has instituted many new measures to ensure we have the most rigorous processes, procedures and safeguards in place,” University spokesperson Karen Peart wrote to the News.

Peart listed additional staff training and supervision as well as enhanced management systems and

SEE SETTLEMENT PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1956. The Rheinhold Girls travel to Yale as “star attractions” of open houses for the News and the WYBC. “The close quarters provided near riot conditions as freshmen panted and pressed for a better view of the star girls.”

INSIDE THE NEWS

University administrators address controversial letter new chaplain signed. NEWS 6



PAGE 3 OPINION

PAGE 6 NEWS

PAGE 8 ARTS

PAGE 10 SPORTS

PAGE B1 WKND

OLIVE OIL Yale students consume six times more olive oil than average Americans. Is it good for them? PAGE 9 SCI-TECH

NEW HAVEN SCHOOLS Four New Haven Public Schools social workers face sudden layoffs. PAGE 7 NEWS

BULLETIN

Puzzle by Ariana Borut '27

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Person with a serious conviction</p> <p>6 Put on the payroll</p> <p>10 Rent-___</p> <p>14 "Toodles!"</p> <p>15 Quito's country: Abbr.</p> <p>16 ___ Major</p> <p>17 What follows the semis</p> <p>18 Flat rate?</p> <p>19 Takes to court</p> <p>20 Scarfed down</p> <p>21 *Atlanta research university, informally</p> <p>24 Home of Timbuktu</p> <p>25 Execute perfectly</p> <p>26 *View from Chicago or Milwaukee</p> <p>31 Studio Ghibli genre</p> <p>32 Yard sale tag</p> <p>33 Prop you might drop</p> <p>36 November imperative</p> <p>37 Offer to a hitchhiker</p> <p>39 Note to employees</p> <p>40 Suffix with lemon or lime</p> <p>41 Untouched</p> <p>42 Well-rounded breakfast?</p> <p>43 *Home to Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park</p> <p>46 Lairs</p>	<p>47 Dell loaves</p> <p>48 They can change colors in November...or a hint to what 21-, 26-, and 43-Across contain</p> <p>52 Señora Perón</p> <p>55 ___ colada</p> <p>56 Like an owl, in a simile</p> <p>57 They crash and break</p> <p>59 Guitar ridge</p> <p>60 Next in line?</p> <p>61 Conspires with</p> <p>62 Bone-dry</p> <p>63 Anthem opener, informally</p> <p>64 Noble gas used in some lamps</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>16</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>18</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>19</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>23</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>24</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>25</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>32</td><td></td><td></td><td>33</td><td>34</td><td>35</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>36</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>37</td><td>38</td><td></td><td></td><td>39</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>40</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>41</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>43</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>44</td><td>45</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>46</td><td>47</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>47</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>48</td><td>49</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>50</td><td>51</td><td></td><td></td><td>52</td><td>53</td><td>54</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>55</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>56</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>57</td><td>58</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>59</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>60</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>61</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>62</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>63</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>64</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14					15				16				17					18				19				20				21	22				23				24				24					25				26	27	28				29	30						31						32			33	34	35		36					37	38			39				40				41					42				43							44	45					46	47								47				48	49				50	51			52	53	54		55					56				57	58			59					60				61				62					63				64				<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 World Cup organizer</p> <p>2 Radiate</p> <p>3 Kind of wolf</p> <p>4 Birds ___ feather</p> <p>5 Sports entertainment</p> <p>6 Valiant</p> <p>7 Cake decorator</p> <p>8 Ladder step</p> <p>9 Enjoying dinner at home</p> <p>10 SXSW festival city</p> <p>11 Unusual partner?</p> <p>12 "Be there in ___"</p> <p>13 Not thought out</p> <p>22 Yale</p> <p>23 Small batteries</p> <p>24 Viral internet joke</p>	<p>26 What the floor is, in a children's game</p> <p>27 Give ___ of approval</p> <p>28 Benjamin Franklin prop</p> <p>29 Critic, in modern lingo</p> <p>30 "It ___" (response to "Who's there?")</p> <p>33 Prefix with phone or byte</p> <p>34 Chatted with online, briefly</p> <p>35 Pepsi-___</p> <p>37 Game in which a player might ask, "Is your person wearing glasses?"</p> <p>38 Slip up</p> <p>39 Dallas team, informally</p> <p>41 Radar sound</p> <p>42 Business, slangily</p> <p>43 It has 100 seats</p> <p>44 Aorta, for one</p> <p>45 "Science Guy" Bill</p> <p>46 Setting for some "Seinfeld" scenes</p> <p>48 Sunscreen nos.</p> <p>49 Something an undercover agent might wear</p> <p>50 Makes into a knot</p> <p>51 Locale of the 2018, 2020, and 2022 Olympics</p> <p>52 Square</p> <p>53 Kill a bill</p> <p>54 Professional org.</p> <p>58 "Honest" prez</p>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																																																											
14					15				16																																																																																																																																																																																														
17					18				19																																																																																																																																																																																														
20				21	22				23																																																																																																																																																																																														
24				24					25																																																																																																																																																																																														
26	27	28				29	30																																																																																																																																																																																																
31						32			33	34	35																																																																																																																																																																																												
36					37	38			39																																																																																																																																																																																														
40				41					42																																																																																																																																																																																														
43							44	45																																																																																																																																																																																															
46	47								47																																																																																																																																																																																														
48	49				50	51			52	53	54																																																																																																																																																																																												
55					56				57	58																																																																																																																																																																																													
59					60				61																																																																																																																																																																																														
62					63				64																																																																																																																																																																																														



Answers to previous puzzle

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Indian currency</p> <p>6 Full of oneself</p> <p>10 Office fill-in</p> <p>14 Others, in Spanish</p> <p>15 Cannabis plant</p> <p>16 Creme-filled cookie</p> <p>17 *What one may pull themselves up by?</p> <p>19 Barbershop sound</p> <p>20 Goes (for)</p> <p>21 "Quiet on the ___!"</p> <p>22 Upcycle, say</p> <p>23 Cause of overtime</p> <p>24 *New York City symbol of freedom</p> <p>27 Crew or skipper</p> <p>29 ___-Wan Kenobi</p> <p>30 "Get it?"</p> <p>31 Bump in the road</p> <p>32 Feathery accessory</p> <p>33 Talks from a Rev.</p> <p>34 *Creation by Kevin McCallister in "Home Alone"</p> <p>38 Burden</p> <p>41 ___ v. Wade</p> <p>42 Yale wilderness exp. for incoming students</p> <p>45 Tear apart</p> <p>46 "Uh-uh"</p> <p>47 Bit of shuteye</p> <p>49 *Slow-to-mature sort</p>	<p>53 Back in time</p> <p>54 Ancient Greek marketplace</p> <p>55 N, E, W or S</p> <p>56 Dagnabbit!</p> <p>57 Spanish appetizer</p> <p>58 Yale cheer...or a hint to the starts of 17-, 24-, 34-, and 49-Across</p> <p>61 Historical periods</p> <p>62 Street next to Mory's and Toad's place</p> <p>63 Portion out</p> <p>64 Steak specification</p> <p>65 "___daisy!"</p> <p>66 Volunteer's offer</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>U</td><td>P</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>U</td><td>G</td><td></td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>M</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>T</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>H</td><td>E</td><td>M</td><td>P</td><td></td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>E</td><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>B</td><td>O</td><td>O</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>T</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>P</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>N</td><td>I</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>P</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>T</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>R</td><td>E</td><td>U</td><td>S</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>T</td><td>I</td><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td>L</td><td>A</td><td>D</td><td>Y</td><td>L</td><td>I</td><td>B</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>T</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>A</td><td>I</td><td>L</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>O</td><td>B</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>N</td><td>A</td><td>G</td><td></td><td></td><td>B</td><td>O</td><td>O</td><td>B</td><td>O</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>N</td><td>U</td><td>S</td><td></td><td></td><td>R</td><td>O</td><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td>F</td><td>O</td><td>O</td><td>T</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>I</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td><td>A</td><td>H</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>C</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>A</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>L</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td></td><td>B</td><td>L</td><td>O</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>O</td><td>M</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td></td><td>A</td><td>G</td><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>A</td><td>G</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>D</td><td>I</td><td>R</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>D</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>T</td><td>A</td><td>P</td><td>A</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>B</td><td>O</td><td>O</td><td>L</td><td>A</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>B</td><td>O</td><td>O</td><td>L</td><td>A</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Y</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>K</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>L</td><td>O</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>R</td><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>U</td><td>P</td><td>S</td><td>Y</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>I</td><td>L</td><td>L</td><td>G</td><td>O</td></tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	R	U	P	E	E		S	M	U	G		T	E	M	P	O	T	R	A	S		H	E	M	P		O	R	E	O	B	O	O	T	S		T	R	A	P	S		S	N	I	P	O	P	T	S		S	E	T				R	E	U	S	E	T	I	E			L	A	D	Y	L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	S	A	I	L	O	R					O	B	I	S	E	E	S	N	A	G			B	O	O	B	O					S	O	N	U	S			R	O	E			F	O	O	T		R	I	P			N	A	H				C	A	T	N	A	P	L	A	T	E		B	L	O				O	M	E	R		A	G	O	A	G	O	R	A							D	I	R					D	R	A	T	T	A	P	A								B	O	O	L	A				B	O	O	L	A	E	R	A	S								Y	O	R	K					A	L	L	O	T	R	A	R	E								U	P	S	Y					I	L	L	G	O	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Mechanical beings</p> <p>2 Paradises</p> <p>3 Tofu nutrient</p> <p>4 Gobbles up</p> <p>5 Double curve</p> <p>6 Tear it up on the guitar</p> <p>7 Substantial</p> <p>8 Ballpark figure?</p> <p>9 Navigational aid</p> <p>10 "We're Off ___ the Wizard"</p> <p>11 Hosp. triage expert</p> <p>12 Expert, slangily</p> <p>13 Fast food chain near Payne Whitney</p> <p>18 Ivan the Terrible, for one</p> <p>22 Slugger's stat</p> <p>24 Nike's Swoosh, e.g.</p> <p>25 Pirate's booty</p> <p>26 Letter-shaped beam</p> <p>28 Testing centers</p> <p>32 "See ya!"</p> <p>33 Good name for a Dalmatian</p> <p>35 Test that's all talk</p> <p>36 ___-chic (fashion style)</p> <p>37 In the distance</p> <p>38 Sooner ___ (eventually)</p> <p>39 Falls across a border?</p> <p>40 Meeting expectations</p> <p>43 Continually winning</p> <p>44 Language of the Philippines</p> <p>46 Boston Celtics' org.</p> <p>47 Michael of "Superbad"</p> <p>48 Word after "couch" or "mashed"</p> <p>50 Clear the blackboard</p> <p>51 Unpleasant smells</p> <p>52 ___ Way</p> <p>56 Raggedy Ann, e.g.</p> <p>58 Sch. run by the Latter-day Saints</p> <p>59 "Alley ___"</p> <p>60 Antioxidant drink brand</p>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
R	U	P	E	E		S	M	U	G		T	E	M	P																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
O	T	R	A	S		H	E	M	P		O	R	E	O																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
B	O	O	T	S		T	R	A	P	S		S	N	I	P																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
O	P	T	S		S	E	T				R	E	U	S	E																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
T	I	E			L	A	D	Y	L	I	B	E	R	T	Y																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
S	A	I	L	O	R					O	B	I	S	E	E																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
S	N	A	G			B	O	O	B	O					S																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
O	N	U	S			R	O	E			F	O	O	T																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
R	I	P			N	A	H				C	A	T	N	A	P																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
L	A	T	E		B	L	O				O	M	E	R		A	G	O																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
A	G	O	R	A							D	I	R					D	R	A	T																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
T	A	P	A								B	O	O	L	A				B	O	O	L	A																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
E	R	A	S								Y	O	R	K					A	L	L	O	T																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
R	A	R	E								U	P	S	Y					I	L	L	G	O																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									

••SEEKING PROFESSIONALS••

In child psychology and psychiatry to collaborate on a playwriting project. A sexual comedy, set in 1951 at Yale, where psychiatrist Dr. Merton Max Gill and Dr. Charlotte del Solar, child psychologist, my Mom and Dad, first met and fell in love.

Please contact:
Rod Gill
347-370-2095 — rodgill@earthlink.net

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Adrian Van Sinderen
Poster Competition

✱

Open only to undergraduates
 Deadline: 12 NOON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024
 \$500 PRIZE

Visit vansinderen.yale.edu
 for competition details and poster content.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST

CARLA VALLATI

We need to fight for our city

My dad raised me to know the value of a union job. Anthony “Tony” Vallati was a Teamster my whole life and always said, “When you get a job, make sure it’s in a union. Then get involved, become your shop’s steward and make sure to be proud of it.”

So, I did. When I returned to the workforce after raising my kids, I looked for a decent job. There wasn’t much out there, but I grew up in New Haven and didn’t want to leave, so I got a job at the Omni. It was the only union hotel around. I work as a room attendant, cleaning up after and making rooms ready for the guests of our city. I like my job, and I’m good at it.

IT’S ALWAYS BEEN A FIGHT TO GET THEM TO RESPECT OUR CONTRACT AND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR SUCCESS.

But the Omni Hotel management and ownership doesn’t respect me or my colleagues. It’s always been a fight to get them to respect our contract and our contributions to their success. Since November 2023, we have been negotiating for a fair contract, and they haven’t made any progress that gets us closer to the contract we deserve.

I come to work and try my hardest to make our hotel welcoming and clean for our guests, and I do a great job. But management doesn’t make it easy for me or my coworkers. We don’t have enough materials to do our jobs in a timely way, so the work piles up and we have to rush to get the job done — and when we rush, we get hurt. You’d think the Omni is struggling, but profits are up.

While Omni Hotels & Resorts and its billionaire owner make more earnings than ever, workers like myself are getting poorer by the day. We all know the cost of living is through the roof, rents are rising faster than anyone can keep up with.

Our city is in crisis, workers like me who have a decent job are on the edge of being forced out of our homes and need more than one job to survive, maybe three to make ends meet month to month. But people don’t see us. It seems like every time I read about New Haven in magazines or news media, they claim that this city is booming. They say that biotech is going to save our city. But what will it do to save the hospitality workers like me who will be left behind?

These big new construction sites across the city promise more housing, but for whom? For us residents that work every day to make our city run? I know I can’t afford an apartment in one of these “luxury” developments.

What can we do? Organize! We must keep fighting for a city where we can all live in peace and stability.

I organize and my daughters organize because we know the power of a union. Julia worked at the Graduate during their union drive, she was a bartender there in the Old Heidelberg. She saw the issues in the hotel and fought back, and won a union and a contract! My other daughter, Charlé, got a job as a housekeeper, a hard and thankless job, at the Cambria on Frontage Road. She signed many of her coworkers on union cards, and she won the union there too.

When the pandemic hit, my union and I stood up and fought for recall rights to make sure we could come back to our jobs when the hotels reopened, which was granted. My daughters fought and won their union, and with it higher wages and better health care. Together, we will keep fighting for a better standard in our city’s hospitality industry and a stable future for families like ours.

OMNI HAS HAD PLENTY OF TIME AND MONEY, BUT US WORKERS DO NOT. WE HAVE RENT AND BILLS TO PAY. WE HAVE KIDS AND PARENTS TO TAKE CARE OF.

One month ago, my coworkers and I unanimously voted to authorize a strike. Even so, we gave management at the Omni several weeks to settle a fair contract that demonstrates respect for our work.

But enough is enough. Last week, we gave the Omni a deadline of 11:59 p.m. on September 11 to settle. If they don’t, we are prepared to strike. Omni has had plenty of time and money, but us workers do not. We have rent and bills to pay. We have kids and parents to take care of.

We are proud to contribute to New Haven’s hospitality industry, and we want our guests to enjoy their stay at the Omni. We don’t want to strike, but it’s time for Omni to respect our work, respect our guests and make some changes.

CARLA VALLATI is a Room Attendant at Omni New Haven and a Local 217-UNITE HERE Shop Steward.

GUEST COLUMNIST

ANTHONY T. KRONMAN

Yes to institutional neutrality

President McInnis has appointed a committee to study the question of institutional neutrality. Should Yale express an institutional view on matters of general public concern — the murder of George Floyd, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the war in Gaza? With rare exceptions, the answer is no.

It is appropriate, indeed necessary, that Yale take a position on matters that touch its academic work directly. Yale should speak up in support of funding for basic research and protest against government intrusion in the hiring of faculty and design of curricula. In an extreme case, when the country is at mortal risk, it would be irresponsible not to speak. In December 1941, Yale had a duty to condemn Japanese aggression and German totalitarianism. A university like Yale can only exist in a free society. When the very existence of the society is threatened, Yale must take a public stand.

But these moments are rare. Great caution should be exercised in declaring that a social problem, however grave, rises to this level. Caution requires judgment. There is no formula to tell us when the line has been crossed. And good judgment in turn requires a clear understanding of what Yale is for, together with the strength to defend it.

Yale is defined by two pursuits. These set it apart from other, non-academic institutions. They give Yale its distinctive character and special claim to honor and respect. They are the only lasting source of public trust, which falters when Yale and schools like it cease to be true to themselves.

The first pursuit is the older of the two. It is as old as the American college. It might be called the pursuit of self-knowledge or the search for an answer to the question of the meaning of life. The question is personal — excruciatingly so — and there is no orthodox answer to it. But in whatever direction a young person pursues it, the search has value only to the degree that it is unbound by worldly expectations and vocational plans. To have the kind of effect that will last for a lifetime, it must be untethered from all such mun-

dane concerns. It must be “liberal” or free.

The second pursuit has also been present from the start but grew in prominence when Yale became a research university with graduate departments and faculty devoted to the advancement of knowledge in their various fields. The object of this pursuit is the truth. Like self-knowledge, the truth is an unworldly good. It cannot be settled by a vote. It has a compulsive force that transcends all political parties and a timelessness that outlasts every program of reform, however urgent it seems at the moment.

If a college or university is to be true to itself, it must honor and protect these two pursuits, since it is for their sake that colleges and universities exist. Among other things, this means that worldly pressures and demands must be kept off campus to the greatest extent feasible. When politics intrudes, it corrupts the spirit of academic life, which ceases to be responsible to its own wonderful and eccentric calling when it is harnessed to worldly ends of one kind or another. I should add that academics who use their positions to advance their preferred political goals are irresponsible in a second way as well, for they are largely free of the duties and constraints that weigh on real political actors. They are politicians on the cheap, which it is easy to be in the cloistered and charmingly naïve precincts of a college or university campus.

This is not to say that faculty and students should not concern themselves with the world. Nothing could be further from the truth. The world in all its aspects is the primary object of academic inquiry. But the inquiry itself must be conducted in a spirit free from worldly commitments. That is what makes it an academic pursuit rather than a partisan conclave.

Nor is it to say that those on campus ought to be politically disengaged — to suspend their attachment to the causes they support. That is neither possible nor desirable. Even as they teach and study, faculty and students remain political beings. They have

convictions and want to express them — and to persuade others to adopt them. A healthy college or university provides ample room for such expression, subject to reasonable restrictions and the basic presumption that political action on campus ought not to compromise the school’s defining pursuits, which even in the heat of the angriest hour retain their unworldly character. Institutional neutrality is necessary not only to provide a fair forum for political debate among faculty and students. That is an important but secondary goal. More fundamentally, it is needed to preserve the integrity of the two pursuits that define the essence of university life.

In the last decade or so, there have been far too many pronouncements by college and university presidents about all manner of political issues — too quick a readiness to take a stand in the world. But this misuse of academic authority is less the result of an appetite for politics than of the astonishing absence of a genuine appreciation of the unworldly calling of the institutions on whose behalf they speak. For a generation, we have listened to speeches from college and university presidents who seem no longer to hear the music of academic life or to be swept along by its glorious, unworldly aspirations. Will this change anytime soon? If it does not, the retreat to statements of institutional neutrality, issued earnestly by our newest college and university presidents, will be what it sometimes seems: a self-interested strategy for avoiding trouble and sidestepping the greater challenge of defending a way of life that from the standpoint of the world will always seem suspect, if not downright dangerous. That would be a misfortune for higher education and a worse one for America, whose greatness has always depended, in part, on the greatness of its colleges and universities.

ANTHONY T. KRONMAN is a Sterling Professor of Law and former dean of the Yale Law School. He received a PhD in philosophy from Yale in 1972 and graduated from Yale Law School in 1975. He can be reached at anthony.kronman@yale.edu.

GUEST COLUMNIST

RICHARD ROSENFELD

Yale, what are your values?

At this time of great national stress, when indispensable institutions such as the justice system, the press, fair elections and even higher education are under attack, Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Chicago and a dozen other leading universities have declared their “neutrality” on public issues. Yale must never do the same.

Last fall, I gave a talk to the students and fellows of Timothy Dwight College in which I called for Yale students and faculty, as well as Yale’s president, to defend Enlightenment values when, as now, they are at risk. I renew that call today.

The values of the Enlightenment are foundational to our society. These values gave birth to the United States of America, to our ideas of constitutional government and democracy, to free enterprise, to our appreciation of science, to our Bill of Rights, to the separation of church and state, to our ideas of balanced government and separation of powers, to our tolerance and acceptance of difference, to the rule of law and impartial justice and to much, much more.

In my talk, I reviewed Yale’s historic failure to embrace Enlightenment values. For a quarter millennium of its history, Yale rejected important Enlightenment values, and when

it finally embraced those values, as it did in 1962 by elevating intellectual capacity and ending race, religion, ethnicity and gender as criteria for admission, it did not use that opportunity to focus the Yale community on Enlightenment values. It is time for Yale to do so now.

YALE WILL THEREBY ENNOBLE THE IDENTITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND PRODUCE MORE GRADUATES OF WHOM WE ALL CAN BE PROUD.

Yale’s failure to advocate and inculcate the values of the Enlightenment has always had consequences. Today, it gives comfort to Yale graduates who promote book banning in public libraries, foster distrust of science and an honest press, return religion to our politics and governance, reject the value of diversity and inclusion, defeat the impartiality of our justice system, impede democratic processes through disinforma-

tion, gerrymanders and other impositions, distort public school curricula for the sake of political and religious agendas, and even denigrate the value of higher education. Such behavior is not what the Enlightenment teaches nor what Yale University, whether through silence or neutrality, should allow.

Yale should publicly declare its support for and readiness to defend Enlightenment values. By doing so, it will distinguish itself among American universities and become the leading voice for higher education at a time when our nation needs it most.

It’s time for Yale to codify, inculcate and stand up for the values of the Enlightenment. Yale will thereby ennoble the identity of higher education and produce more graduates of whom we all can be proud.

In the name of the Enlightenment, Yale should conduct a community-wide discussion of the values Yale should champion and the values in the defense of which neutrality or silence is not a choice.

So, Yale, what are your values?

RICHARD ROSENFELD is an alumnus of Yale College Class of 1963. He is also an Associate Fellow of Timothy Dwight College and the namesake of Rosenfeld Hall and distinguished author of *American Aurora* (St. Martin’s Press). Contact him at richard.rosenfeld@aya.yale.edu.



YALE DAILY NEWS PUBLISHING CO., INC. 202 York Street, New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 432-2400
 Editorial: (203) 432-2418 editor@yaledailynews.com Business: (203) 432-2424 business@yaledailynews.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF & PRESIDENT Tristan Hernandez	UNIVERSITY EDITORS Khuan-Yu Hall Adam Walker	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITORS Esmá Okutan Carlos Salcerio	HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR Christina Lee	HEAD PODCASTS EDITOR Joanne Lee
MANAGING EDITORS Ben Raab Ellie Park Yurii Stasiuk	CITY EDITORS Mia Cortes Castro Laura Ospina	OPINION EDITORS Faith Duncan Milan Singh	HEAD PRODUCTION & DESIGN EDITORS Ariela Lopez Lily Belle Poling	DIRECTORS OF TECHNOLOGY Dylan Bober Joshua Chang
PUBLISHER Richard Chen	ARTS EDITOR Jane Park	WKND EDITORS Abby Asmuth Zoe Halaban	YTV EDITOR Nydia del Carmen	DATA EDITOR Pam Ogbebor
PUBLIC EDITOR Nathaniel Rosenberg	INVESTIGATIONS EDITORS Natasha Khazzam Molly Reinmann	HEAD COPY EDITOR Michael Willen	HEAD AUDIENCE EDITOR Alyssa Chang	
DIRECTOR OF AFFAIRS Samad Hakani	SPORTS EDITOR Kaityln Pohly	ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR Maria Arozamena		
	MAGAZINE EDITORS IN CHIEF Kinnia Cheuk Harper Love			

THIS ISSUE COPY EDITORS: Carter Cashen, Laila Deluppo Messari, Julia Furneaux, Maria Giacomani Lozano, Biruni Harandi, Victoria Sieber; P&D EDITORS: Carter Cashen, Maria Cestero, Alexander Medel

EDITORIALS & ADS
Content on this page with bylines represents the opinions of those authors and not necessarily those of the Managing Board. Opinions set forth in ads do not necessarily reflect the views of the Managing Board. We reserve the right to reduce any ad for any reason and to delete or change any copy we consider objectionable, false or in poor taste. We do not verify the contents of any ad. The Yale Daily News Publishing Co., Inc. and its officers, employees and agents disclaim any responsibility for all liabilities, injuries or damages arising from any ad. The Yale Daily News Publishing Co. ISSN 0890-2240

SUBMISSIONS
All letters submitted for publication must include the author’s name, phone number and description of Yale University affiliation. Please limit letters to 250 words and guest columns to 750. The Yale Daily News reserves the right to edit letters and columns before publication. E-mail is the preferred method of submission.

ISSUES PRINTED BY
Valley Publishing Co., Derby, CT

DIGITAL ARCHIVE
YORHistoricalLibrary.yale.edu

ADVERTISEMENT
(203) 432-2424 (before 5 p.m.)
business@yaledailynews.com

Direct all letters, columns, artwork and inquiries to:
Contact the Opinion Editors at opinion@yaledailynews.com

Direct all comments regarding the fairness or accuracy of stories to:
Tristan Hernandez
Editor in Chief & President
editor@yaledailynews.com

FROM THE FRONT

“Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand.”

COLIN POWELL FORMER UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE

McInnis convenes committee to recommend University neutrality

NEUTRALITY FROM PAGE 1

higher education. Just hours before McInnis' announcement, the University of Pennsylvania's interim president also announced a move toward neutrality.

In the announcement, McInnis wrote that she instructed committee members to consider Yale's commitment to “diverse viewpoints and open dialogue and debate” and the University's engagement with the world when making their recommendation. She noted that Yale's free expression protections are not under scrutiny.

The committee's members hold appointments in Yale College, the Law School, the Divinity School, the School of Medicine and the School of Management.

The co-chairs of the committee are Michael Della Rocca, Sterling Professor of Philosophy, and law professor Cristina Rodríguez '95 LAW '00. Its members are applied physics professor Charles Ahn, surgery professor Nita Ahuja, economics professor Kerwin Charles, religious studies professor Jennifer Herdt and history professor Stephen Pitti '91.

The committee will hold in-person listening sessions and has created a web form to collect feedback from students, faculty and staff.

The concept of institutional neutrality comes from the University of Chicago's 1967 Kalven

Report. It has picked up steam in recent years, as many universities across the country, including Harvard University, Stanford University and Columbia University, adopted versions of such policy.

Last year, over 150 faculty members joined a Faculty for Yale group, which explicitly endorses institutional neutrality as laid out in the Kalven Report.

At the same time, another letter from over 200 faculty members, addressed to Salovey's successor before McInnis' appointment, called on Yale to eschew adopting neutrality, saying the policy “acquiesc[es] to those who wish to destroy academic freedoms, dictate what we can teach, to reverse the progress achieved in inclusion of previously ignored and marginalized voices in our society.”

In March, former University President Peter Salovey told the News that he would like to see his successor consider neutrality.

“I think we should have some kind of conversation about it on campus, probably through a committee, but it would be something I encourage my successor to do,” he said.

On Aug. 1, exactly one month after beginning her presidency, McInnis told the News that she was interested in sourcing community opinions on free expression in response to a question about whether she planned to consider institutional neutrality.

“It is the 50th anniversary of the Woodward Report. This is probably a good year for our community to be thinking about all such issues that pertain,” she said, referencing the 1974 report at the

core of Yale's free expression policies. “I have spoken a lot in my past roles and consistently uphold the values for a content-neutral approach [to] policies that are related to free expression.”

Maurie McInnis assumed the presidency on July 1.

Contact
JOSIE REICH at
josie.reich@yale.edu.



University President Maurie McInnis convened a committee to recommend, by the end of the semester, whether the University should abstain from taking positions on current events. **Tim Tai, Senior Photographer**

What do we know about racial diversity post-affirmative action?

DIVERSITY FROM PAGE 1

ration of international students and non-disclosure of how many students did not report their race — further complicates the picture.

The News spoke with admissions experts to gain insight into the racial diversity at Yale and in higher education nationally post-affirmative action and to understand why the demographics of Yale's newest class remained relatively stable compared to many of its peer institutions.

Yale's peer institutions see different demographic shifts

There is no single, clear trend evident among the demographic shifts among universities across the country.

Princeton University saw a 2.2 percentage point decrease in Asian American enrollment for the class of 2028 compared to the class of 2027, while Black and Latine enrollment remained relatively stable, similar to the trend at Yale.

Other peer institutions, such as MIT, Amherst College and Brown University, saw increases in the share of Asian American students for the class of 2028. In contrast, the share of Black and Latine students at these universities decreased compared with the year prior to the end of affirmative action.

Harvard's share of Black students decreased from 18 percent for the class of 2027 to 14 percent for the class of 2028. The share of Asian American students remained stable.

What do the numbers reveal?

In an email to the News, Edward Blum, the president of Students for Fair Admissions, wrote that the admissions results from Yale, Amherst, MIT and other institutions are “indecipherable” without detailed racial data about standardized test scores, recruitment policies, Advanced Placement tests and other factors.

Students for Fair Admissions is the conservative legal advocacy group that argued the Supreme Court case that ultimately ended affirmative action. The Supreme Court ruled that Harvard and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill discriminated against Asian American and white applicants with their admissions policies.

Derek Black, a University of South Carolina constitutional law professor who specializes in educational equality in public education, told the News that the variation in white and Asian American students' enrollment across years “would seem to dispel the notion that Yale was operating a cap or quota system.”

“The fact that African American enrollment remained steady in what was presumably a race-blind admission process this year undercuts the notion that African American students in prior

years had been admitted primarily based on race rather than merit,” Black said.

Mark Abraham, the executive director of DataHaven, an organization that collects, shares and interprets public information about Connecticut, highlighted that broader trends in the United States population might be influencing Yale's changing demographics, especially among Black and Latine students.

Specifically, the rise of Black and Latine enrollment at the University, Abraham said, may in part reflect national demographic change, as the proportion of U.S. children who identify as Hispanic or Latino has risen by about 15 percent over the past decade. Still, post-affirmative action demographic data shifts have not been the same across institutions. Not all universities were able to sustain the share of African American students at the previous levels, and they vary notably in the Asian American enrollment trend.

Abraham told the News that he found the small change in the composition of race and ethnicity in the class of 2028 “not surprising” because of the changes to admissions practices last admissions cycle that Yale announced after the Court's decision.

Yale's increased recruitment

Responding to the fall of affirmative action in a letter to the Yale community last September, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Jeremiah Quinlan and Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis wrote in a joint statement that “Yale College should build on existing programs and take new concrete steps to attract exceptional students from underrepresented communities.”

Lewis and Quinlan highlighted three “unwavering priorities” following the fall of affirmative action for college admissions: fully complying with the law, continuing to support a diverse and inclusive community and maintaining a world-class admissions process that considers each applicant as an individual.

The admissions office introduced a new initiative last cycle called the “Yale in Motion Student Fly-In Program.” This fly-in program for high school students and their families introduces 50 prospective students to Yale's four cultural centers: the Afro-American Cultural Center, the Asian American Cultural Center, La Casa Cultural and the Native American Cultural Center.

In an August interview with the News, University President Maurie McInnis said that achieving diversity post-affirmative action will be less about policies and more about the work that the University will do to yield students of all backgrounds and continue to engage with students to let them know of the opportunities at Yale, such as the financial aid that is available.

McInnis was not serving as president during the admissions cycle for the class of 2028 or during the announcement of the new admissions policies made last year.

The use of socioeconomic data

Abraham said that Yale's outcome could result from policies increasing access to Yale for students from low-income backgrounds. Nationally, about 55 percent of Black and Latine children live in low-income families, compared to about 25 percent of white and Asian students.

These changes “could have made it more likely” for students from a wide range of different backgrounds to be admitted, Abraham believes.

In particular, while selecting the class of 2028, the Yale admissions office has used a new tool — Opportunity Atlas. The tool is a nationwide mapping project that measures economic mobility at the census tract level.

Opportunity Atlas is used in addition to the College Board's Landscape tool, which provides data about an applicant's high school and neighborhood and has been shown to improve the committee's evaluation of applicants from under-resourced areas, according to the message from Lewis and Quinlan.

Abraham said that the use of block-level data from the Opportunity Atlas might have helped the admissions office identify students who grew up in “low opportunity” neighborhoods where children have had far fewer opportunities to gain advanced degrees and higher-paying jobs over the past few decades.

According to Abraham, the Opportunity Atlas helps identify such neighborhoods much more precisely than using just neighborhood income levels or high school characteristics alone. In the “statistical portrait,” these are often the historically Black neighborhoods in each metropolitan area.

Abraham pointed to other changes in the student population from years prior, such as the share of students from independent private schools and boarding schools, indicating the possible impact of changes in admissions practices and the use of the Opportunity Atlas.

In the class of 2028, the share of independent day school students dropped from 20 percent the year prior to 18 percent. Likewise, the share of boarding school students fell 2 percentage points from the year prior. The share of public school students in the class of 2028 rose to 67 percent from 63 percent the year prior.

Inconsistencies in data reporting across universities

Comparing demographic data and trends across universities is complicated, as different universities use different reporting methodologies.

In particular, Yale includes international students as a sepa-

rate category, not counting them toward racial and ethnic categories in the demographic report, which most other universities do not. 11 percent of students in the class of 2028 are international.

When reporting demographic data, Yale also includes students who have selected multiple races in all categories. According to the News' class of 2028 survey, of the 536 respondents to a question about their racial identity, more than 20 percent selected more than one racial or ethnic identity. Due to this, Yale's data for the class of 2028 does not add up to 100 percent.

Yale's reported numbers for the class of 2028 do not include students who chose not to indicate their racial identity when applying. The university did not report the number of such students in the class of 2028 or previous classes.

While applicants had an opportunity to decline to report their race identification in the previous year as well, the number of admitted students who chose to do so for class of 2028 almost doubled at Harvard and Brown, which report this information.

Continued use of race in admissions

Though the admissions office did not have access to applicants' race during the admissions process, students applying to Yale last cycle still had the opportunity to discuss their race or background in their supplemental essays.

In the Court's majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts said that universities could consider an applicant's discussion of race, “so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute to the university.”

Last admissions cycle, Yale College modified their supplemental essay prompts to allow students to respond to one of three questions intended to “invite students from all backgrounds to reflect on the experiences that have shaped their character and strengths.”

Richard Sander, a law professor at the UCLA School of Law and a prominent critic of affirmative action, said that if the numbers are in fact reported accurately, then he suspects that Yale did not comply with the Supreme Court's ruling.

“If their race numbers really don't change, I think that means that they're looking for any evidence they can find that a student is African American or Black, and they're admitting them under the same criteria they were before,” Sander wrote.

Sander said that if racial demographics remained the same post-affirmative action, he suspects that Yale is taking into account the race of applicants, deduced from their essays and the demographics of their high schools and hometowns.

Blum wrote to the News that Yale's results are “bewildering” since Yale argued in its 2022 joint amicus brief to the Supreme Court that the racial composition of the incoming class is not possible without implementing the type of racial discrimination to Court barred.

Blum referenced the portion of the brief that stated, “The optimal means of creating a diverse student body — and thereby achieving Amici's educational objectives — involves a limited consideration of race and ethnicity in admissions.”

New Haven civil right attorney Alex Taubes LAW '15 told the News that what the Supreme Court has not addressed is the use of other metrics such as disadvantage, location and other types of factors that could still optimize the incoming class for diversity of experiences.

It is not clear how or whether Yale considered race in the most recent admissions cycle through applicants' supplemental essays. The News could not independently verify if the admissions office did not comply with the Supreme Court ruling by improperly considering race.

Yale's admissions office declined to comment on the demographic data for the class of 2028 beyond a Yale News press release.

Test-optional class of 2028

The class of 2028 was admitted through a test-optional admissions cycle due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other institutions, such as MIT, required their students to submit a standardized test score during the previous admissions cycle. However, there is not a consistent trend even among universities that were test-optional in the past admissions cycle, such as Harvard, Princeton and Brown.

In February, the University announced a new test-flexible policy starting with the class of 2029. Under this policy, students will need to select which standardized tests to submit, including the ACT, Advanced Placement exams, International Baccalaureate tests or SAT.

In the announcement on the new testing policy, the admissions office said they were “keenly aware” of the research on the correlation between standardized test scores and household income as well as the persistent gaps by race.

However, they said that including test scores as a component of a whole-person review process “can help increase the diversity of the student body rather than decrease it.”

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is located at 38 Hillhouse Ave.

Adam Walker, Josie Reich and Chris Tillen contributed reporting.

Contact
HAILEY TALBERT at
hailey.talbert@yale.edu.

FROM THE FRONT

"It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it."

JOSEPH JOUBERT FRENCH ESSAYIST

Yale reaches confidential settlement with fertility clinic patients

SETTLEMENT FROM PAGE 1

clinical protocols as some of the measures installed.

A central component of IVF is egg extraction, which involves inserting a long needle through the vaginal wall and into the ovaries. The physician then inserts the needle into a follicle that contains an egg, pulling the egg and surrounding fluid into the needle.

"I tried staying relaxed, but it was extremely short-lived. The pain medication didn't seem to work. I was awake for the entire procedure," Angela Cortese, one of the victims, said at the press conference. "I felt every pinch and needle stick."

Soryorelis Henry, another victim, told the News that she has struggled with PTSD resulting from extreme pain ever since.

"Five years ago, my husband and I entered what should have been a hopeful and joyous time," Henry said. "Instead, it turned into a traumatic experience due to the organization's negligence. I was not provided the pain medication I was supposed to receive, and as a result, I endured excruciating pain throughout the entire procedure. My cries for help were ignored, despite me visibly crying."

When patients first notified the staff of the abnormal levels of pain after what they thought was fentanyl administration, their complaints



On Monday, plaintiffs' attorneys announced that Yale has reached a confidential settlement with 150 fertility clinic patients. The victims sued Yale in 2021 after a nurse stole fentanyl for personal use during their IVF treatments. / Janice Hur, Contributing Photographer

were disregarded. Koskoff claimed that the patients were even presented with bogus medical records that were pre-populated and showed pain levels of zero out of 10.

Koskoff said that Yale initially offered to compensate the patients by offering them a free blood test to determine if any of the women had suffered from infection. He added, however, that "Yale deserves some credit" for agreeing to a "substantial" settlement.

Moticone has surrendered her nursing license and is no longer employed by Yale.

"It's hard to think of how many countless victims there are, and this further exemplifies a system where women's voices don't seem to matter," Shannon Garfield, another victim, told the News. "This settlement is Yale acknowledging that they fail to treat their patients with compassion and dignity?"

IVF is the most common assisted reproductive technology treatment.

Carlos Salcerio contributed reporting.

Contact

ASUKA KODA at asuka.koda@yale.edu,
ESMA OKUTAN at esma.okutan@yale.edu, and
JANICE HUR at

Omni workers began picketing early Thursday morning

STRIKE FROM PAGE 1

While union organizers set up a tent with breakfast food and coffee, workers grabbed signs and marched in a loop in front of the hotel's main entrance, chanting "If we don't get no contract, you won't get no peace." At times, they swapped the word "contract" for the word "respect."

The workers plan to be on the picket line from 5 a.m. until midnight or until hotel management satisfies the strikers' demands, according to UNITE HERE organizer Ian Dunn.

Omni management could not be immediately reached for comment.

Inside the Omni's lobby, framed letters to guests addressing the work stoppage signed

by the hotel's general manager, David Han, sat on the front desk. The letter described "temporary modifications" to the hotel's services during the strike. Today, guests at the Omni can eat a continental grab-and-go breakfast and attend an evening Wine Hour in the lobby. Though the hotel's bar, Bar 19, will be open for shortened hours with a limited food

menu, the hotel's restaurant — and room service — are closed.

"Please note that these adjustments are temporary and specific to the current situation with the labor union negotiations," Han wrote. "They are not a permanent change to our brand-wide offerings."

A receptionist at the front desk told the News that the messages

were put out around 4:40 a.m. that morning.

Of the most frequented hotels in downtown New Haven, the staffs of The Graduate and the Omni are unionized and represented by UNITE HERE.

Contact

ARIELA LOPEZ at ariela.lopez@yale.edu.

Ocean Management and Farnam Realty Group both offered tenants unions a return to the bargaining table in exchange for stopping their protests



Lily Belle Poling, Contributing Photographer

TENANTS UNION FROM PAGE 1

The union took both deals.

"Because this is a relationship, and because we negotiate in good faith, we're not having the action," Hannah Srajer, president of Connecticut Tenants Union, said following the first agreement of the night.

Before CT Tenants Union abandoned their initial protest, Ocean promised to bargain in "good faith" and cease all no-fault evictions during negotiations. The landlord put its commitment in writing, which union leadership read aloud.

The planned rally had been organized to protest Ocean's attempted evictions and refusal to bargain with tenant unions at Quinnipiac Avenue, Lenox Street and State Street. Ocean had previously agreed to enter negotiations with these unions earlier in the year before reneging its agreement.

Ocean Management and Farnam Realty Group did not immediately

respond to requests for comment.

Even though they agreed not to protest against Ocean, CT Tenants Union made the most of their gathering by taking their protest to the nearby Farnam Realty Group. The company has a receivership with 1455 State St. — one of four properties managed by Ocean that have tenants unions. Starting in August, Farnam assumed at least partial responsibility for the property.

Lauren Palulis, the vice president of the union at State Street, explained that at least since the receivership began, neither Ocean nor Farnam have responded to tenants' complaints about mold, leaks, high utility costs or security concerns.

"We are asking that Farnam, in their position as our receiver, come to the table and collectively bargain with us," she said to the crowd.

A few minutes later, they agreed to do just that.

Like Ocean, Farnam agreed to meet the union from 1455 State St. next week so long as CT Tenants Union stopped their protest.

Srajer, president of CT Tenants Union, said she trusts Ocean to negotiate in good faith based on the conversation she had with the owner that led to the agreement to call off the protest. However, she said the unions know what to do, based on Wednesday's outcome, if Ocean goes back on its promises.

According to Garrett Kimball, a union member from Ocean's Blake Street property, laundry services have been unavailable in his apartment complex for two months, and he feels that he has nobody to call to get the issue fixed. He said this is just one of many bare necessities he doesn't have access to at his apartment complex.

The Blake Street Tenants Union had successfully negotiated a collective lease agreement with Ocean earlier this year, making it the first union to secure a contract with Ocean. However, tenants still feel that their concerns are often not acknowledged or addressed.

"I want to believe [Ocean will negotiate in good faith this time], but it's gonna take legislation and help from the city," Kimball said. "This is a problem bigger than all of us, and this is a huge issue we're taking on. It's gonna take rules and regulations."

The Blake Street Tenants Union

was the first tenants union in Connecticut to enter collective bargaining negotiations with their landlord, Ocean Management.

Contact

LILY BELLE POLING at lily.poling@yale.edu.



Ocean Management and Farnam Realty Group both offered tenants unions a return to the bargaining table in exchange for stopping their protests — after at least a month of silence from both companies, the unions said. / Lily Belle Poling, Contributing Photographer

NEWS

“For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, debate.”

MARGARET HEFFERNAN ENTREPRENEUR AND CEO

Admin address controversial letter new chaplain signed

BY JOSIE REICH AND ADA PERLMAN
STAFF REPORTERS

Before she was hired at Yale, the new Assistant Muslim Chaplain Leenah Safi signed a letter expressing support for Gaza that calls Israel a “settler colonial project” and opposes Muslim countries’ diplomacy with Israel, which has sparked concerns among some community members.

Safi signed the letter in May along with 52 other alumni of her alma mater, Zaytuna College, a Muslim undergraduate liberal arts school. The letter also defends the “Palestinian right to resist Israeli aggression and occupation.”

In messages to alumni who reached out with concerns, Secretary and Vice President for University Life Kimberly Goff-Crews wrote that the University was unaware of the letter before hiring Safi, and that Safi is “deeply sorry for the pain her signing the petition has caused.”

“Following Ms. Safi’s starting in her role in the Chaplain’s Office, the University became aware of a petition Ms. Safi signed before she started in her Yale role,” Goff-Crews wrote in an email the News obtained. “Senior university leaders have had conversations with Ms. Safi about the petition, and she is deeply sorry for the pain her signing the petition has caused.”

The letter Safi signed, titled “Standing with Gaza,” states that its signatories “affirm that the state of Israel is a settler colonial project,” “defend the Palestinian right to resist

Israeli aggression and occupation, as it is an internationally recognized illegal occupation” and “denounce any Muslim country’s establishing diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity or any entity that directly or indirectly aids the oppression of the Palestinian people.”

The letter continues, “we expect Muslim institutions and leaders to unequivocally speak the truth” and “divest from and boycott the illegal apartheid state and its supporters.”

When asked for comment by the News, Goff-Crews sent a shorter version of the message she sent to alumni, omitting the mention of Safi’s apology for “the pain her signing the petition has caused.”

A University spokesperson affirmed to the News that Safi told the apology to University leaders. Safi did not immediately comment on what she said to University leaders.

In an earlier email to the News, Safi wrote that her previous experiences have helped inform her current role at Yale and that she hopes to build trust with people on campus.

“I hear the pain and understand the concerns that members of the Yale community have experienced upon learning that I signed this letter to my alma mater earlier this year,” Safi wrote. “Over the last five years, I have been engaged in full time scholarship and practice that centers relational learning and engaging in challenging conversations. This work is, in fact, what motivated me to join this vibrant campus community after being inspired by a dedicated

multi-faith chaplaincy office that takes seriously the work and concerns of students from diverse backgrounds and identities.”

When asked by the News, Safi did not say if she stands by the decision to sign the letter.

On Aug. 28, The Beacon, a publication of the Buckley Program, published an article in which the author and two professors expressed unease about the content of the letter Safi signed. Alumni have since raised the concerns with university administrators.

“Many members of the Yale Jewish community feel understandably alienated and worried by the hateful, one-sided, and otherwise deeply problematic nature of what has been reported,” Slifka Center Executive Director Uri Cohen wrote to the News. “I have been in touch with Chaplain Saltiel and others in the administration about this issue, and our conversations continue regarding how the needs of Jewish students can be met in light of these intensely disturbing revelations.”

Before her August appointment at Yale, Safi worked as a chaplain at the University of Michigan and at Wayne State with a non-profit organization serving the Muslim community.

Safi also serves on professional committees with the Association of Muslim Chaplains and the Moral Injury and Recovery unit at the American Academy of Religion.

“I know from my prior chaplaincy experience on campuses and in healthcare contexts that building

trust takes time,” she continued in her email. “Although I wish I could have had more time to get to know more people on campus before this moment, I appreciate this opportunity to express my profound commitment to receiving all students in need of care with deep empathy, compassion and respect.”

The Chaplain’s Office commits to serving all members of the Yale community and serves a wide variety of students with different needs. Its website states that its goal is “fostering respect and mutual understanding among people of different faiths and cultures as well as actively promoting dialogue within the University.”

University Chaplain Maytal Saltiel emphasized that the mission of the Chaplain’s Office is to serve members of the Yale community across all different faiths and cultures.

In the messages to alumni who reached out with concerns, Goff-

Crews wrote that Safi is “committed to supporting the religious and spiritual needs of the entire campus community and is dedicated to creating multifaith programs and providing guidance to students of all faiths.”

“Fulfilling our mission has been challenging during this time of heart-break around the world and on campus,” Saltiel wrote. “But we continue to renew our dedication to this work every day, and especially now in this new school year. We will continue to work tirelessly to build relationships and trust across campus, to reject discrimination and prejudice in all forms. When harm happens, we are here to hold the pain and do the hard work of repair.”

Safi joined the University Chaplain’s office on Aug. 1.

Contact **JOSIE REICH** at josie.reich@yale.edu AND **ADA PERLMAN** at ada.perlman@yale.edu.



The letter calls Israel a “settler colonial project” and “the Zionist entity.”

Cultural centers adapt to post-affirmative action reality

BY KARLA CORTES
STAFF REPORTER

Since the end of affirmative action, Yale’s cultural centers have been pushing to increase outreach and enhance diversity on campus in an effort to maintain a high yield of students from marginalized communities.

In response to the Supreme Court’s decision, Yale allocated additional funding to its cultural centers to maintain diversity in the student body. The cultural center directors outlined plans to support students, and affinity groups emphasized ongoing efforts to enhance campus diversity.

“I’m glad the work we do at the cultural centers year-round with support from our amazing students has resulted in the percentage of students who identify as members of a racially minoritized group either holding steady or increasing slightly,” Joliana Yee, director of the Asian American Cultural Center, wrote to the News.

While enrollment for Asian American students decreased from last year’s 30 percent to 24 percent this year, enrollment of both Black or African American students and Native American students remained the same.

Latine enrollment increased by one percent, reaching the highest-ever 19 percent.

Eileen Galvez, director of La Casa Cultural, noted that the increase in Latine enrollment throughout the

years is “no coincidence,” as Galvez said that “La Casa at Yale is the largest Latine cultural center in the country.”

“This space, our student organizations, our committed staff, including Student Coordinators, Graduate Assistants, Peer Liaisons, and general support from our faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as relations with our New Haven neighbors, has uniquely positioned us to foster a warm, dynamic, and supportive environment for Latine students at Yale,” Galvez wrote to the News.

Burgwell Howard, dean of student engagement who also oversees the cultural centers, told the News that he knew that Yale wouldn’t have the drop-off in racial diversity other colleges had.

He attributed the increase and maintained yield rates for incoming classes to the efforts of Yale’s cultural centers. Howard also shared that among other selective peer colleges, Yale’s cultural centers were a differentiator for many students he heard from.

Yee wrote that the drop in the enrollment percentage of Asian American students, while “slightly disappointing,” maintains a higher enrollment than the class of 2022. She said that the drop was “unsurprising” since, according to Yee, Asian Americans have been a beneficiary of race-based affirmative action in college admissions and have been experiencing record-high Yale College admissions numbers every year for the last five years.

Matthew Makomenaw, director of the Native American Cultural Center, shared that the mission of the NACC is to create a space for everyone on campus, to learn and understand Native and Indigenous issues and events and to continue to create an “Indigenous student-ready” university.

Anh Nguyen ’26, co-moderator of the Asian American Students Alliance, shared with the News that although the percentage of Asian American students did not significantly change, she is worried about the future impact of the Court’s decision on other ethnic and racial groups’ enrollment.

“I’m grateful that Asian American enrollment didn’t decline much at Yale this year,” Nguyen wrote. “But I’m concerned about future admissions cycles and what discontinued affirmative action policies mean for our Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Native peers.”

To support the cultural centers directly following the end of affirmative action, Yale allocated additional funding to the four cultural centers and their associated student organizations.

“Given the Supreme Court decision about affirmative action, which took place a little over a year ago, we took a number of actions to try and enhance and maintain diversity in the student body, and among those was additional funding to the cultural houses,” Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis told the News. “Partly in order to help them with their job

of supporting diverse communities, but also because there hadn’t really been an update in the funding formula for a few years.”

Lewis did not share how much additional funding each center received.

Makomenaw shared that though funds have increased for the center, their approach to “try different things and try new things” to continue serving the diverse needs of students hasn’t changed.

Galvez also attributed a maintained yield to the efforts of La Casa throughout their La Bienvenida first year event, which targets the “language-flexibility” needs of some Latine households. Galvez mentions that with events like such, they hope to “establish and maintain trust with the loved ones of our students.”

Nguyen shared that peer liaisons, who connect first years with the University’s four cultural centers, have been instrumental in helping incoming students find community and “feel at home at Yale.”

However, Nguyen added that outreach was somewhat limited this year as only students who answered the optional race question sent by Yale College after decisions could get connected to their respective cultural centers.

Galvez said that keeping up with student and center needs has become a challenge and hopes that both financial and human resources for all of the cultural centers are part of Yale’s short and long-term strategic

plans to keep supporting the cultural center’s work.

Yee wrote to the News that the AACC will continue to create ways to support students on campus and the exploration of their identities.

“The AACC will continue to do work that furthers our mission of building a dynamic Asian and Asian American presence at Yale by creating culturally affirming programming and educational opportunities for students to engage in ongoing exploration of their identities just as we have prior to the end of affirmative action,” Yee wrote.

Makomenaw shared similar goals and told the News that the NACC will continue to be “open, inclusive and meet the needs of all students related to Native and Indigenous knowledge, people, culture, history.”

Nguyen shared that AASA will continue to help Asian American students transition to Yale and supports policies that can work around the Supreme Court’s decision.

“Our fight for affirmative action is not just one for our Asian American peers, but one for other marginalized/minoritized groups that have historically been in solidarity with Asian Americans and cracked open the door for our own community to be able to enter institutions of higher education like Yale,” Nguyen wrote to the News.

Yale has four cultural centers.

Contact **KARLA CORTES** at karla.cortes@yale.edu.

Add/drop period doubled, but will likely revert

BY NORA MOSES AND YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTERS

This semester, add/drop period was twice as long as it was in fall 2023.

The University chose to try out the extended add/drop period, seven days longer than last year, following advocacy by the Yale College Council, which had collected data last fall indicating that the student body was generally unhappy with how short the shopping period was.

Per Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis, this semester’s extra long add/drop period was an “experiment.” Lewis told the News that the window to shop for classes will be shorter next semester, getting rid of the extra Monday and Tuesday, but likely keeping a day of Friday classes.

“It was one week for a while, but there was a problem not having Fridays,” he explained. “I think next semester we’re going with Friday, which I think may be where we wind up settling, because I’m not sure you

really need the Monday and Tuesday, which makes it roughly two weeks.”

Lewis confirmed that feedback from YCC was “partly responsible” for the longer add/drop period.

YCC Academic Policy Director Kyle Thomas Ramos ’26 wrote that in the YCC’s surveys the main problem students found with the short add/drop period was “the fact that the previous system did not allow students to attend any courses on Friday before deciding to take them for the semester.”

Although Lewis indicated that next semester’s shopping period would include a Friday, he said that administrators would revisit the issue in the next academic year.

“The main concern that I’ve heard from YCC and others is the Friday classes, but it turns out that that’s a relatively small problem because only so many classes meet on Fridays only,” Lewis said. “But we’re going to look at all the data as to when students actually add and

drop courses and come to a conclusion for next year.”

Lewis added that the aim of an extended add/drop period this semester was to prevent situations in which many students had to submit special petitions to change their schedules after the shorter add/drop, as was the case in past semesters.

“Because of this wider window, it is expected that students will complete their final fall schedules by the end of add/drop, which means late adds, i.e., requests to add a class after 5pm on September 10, are less likely to be approved,” Davenport College Dean Adam Ployd wrote in an email students in Davenport.

The News also spoke to senior lecturer Fan Liu, the Yale Chinese Program coordinator, and senior lecturer Rongzhen Li, the program’s previous coordinator. Both explained that the lengthened add/drop period can cause difficulties from faculty members’ perspective.

“I think that add/drop period is a

bit too long,” Li told the News in Mandarin. “When it’s too long, it actually brings us a lot of inconvenience in arranging tutoring and presentation schedules. Some students can’t change sections easily, too.”

Liu also said that add/drop period is a crucial time for the Chinese faculty to determine total enrollment numbers and whether more sections of Chinese courses are needed.

In some instances, she says, a large section may be split into two smaller sections, and lecturers will then need to adjust their schedules and reserve classrooms accordingly.

“If there are too many students in a class, we try to split the class into two as early as possible,” Liu told the News in Mandarin. “But when we don’t know the number of students, we can’t make such arrangements. The allocation of teachers and classrooms takes time.”

With a lengthened add/drop period, students in L1 and L2 language classes that meet daily may

miss out on important basics as they shop for other classes during conflicting time slots, per Liu.

“There are only 13 or so weeks for instruction in a semester,” Liu said. “So when over two of those weeks are consumed by the add/drop period, that holds up both teachers and students. Sometimes students will miss classes during add/drop period in order to attend other classes, so we will help them review missed content outside of class time. Thus, the teacher’s work is also very busy at the beginning of the school year, and the long period causes certain inconveniences to the teacher’s work.”

The University Registrar will charge a \$5 processing fee for each course added or dropped after the end of add/drop period.

Contact **NORA MOSES** at nora.moses@yale.edu AND **YOLANDA WANG** at yolanda.wang@yale.edu.

NEWS

"I love argument, I love debate. I don't expect anyone just to sit there and agree with me, that's not their job."
MARGARET THATCHER FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

NOA hit with liquor permit suspension after shooting

BY TYSON ODERMANN
STAFF REPORTER

The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, or DCP, suspended NOA by September in Bangkok's liquor permit indefinitely last week as a result of a shooting that occurred at the restaurant.

The DCP promptly suspended the Thai restaurant's liquor permit four days after the shooting, following a written request for the liquor license suspension from the NHPD. The shooting, which occurred at approximately 1 a.m. on Aug. 31, left two women grazed by bullets after a physical altercation on the restaurant's premises.

Lieutenant Brendan Borer of the NHPD sent the DCP a request for the suspension of NOA's liquor permit on the day of the shooting. He stated that the request was made to "ensure that the business can improve the security and safety conditions at their establishment," citing the shooting as the catalyst of their decision.

Borer continued that concerns about NOA's security arose due to a stabbing that occurred at the restaurant in November 2023.

Borer visited NOA for a security meeting following the stabbing incident. At the meeting, he and Liquor Agent Michael Kula discussed improved security measures for the business, including pat downs of patrons to prevent weapons from entering the establishment.

"[NOA] poses an immediate danger to its customers, the commercial businesses that it adjoins, pedestrians, and vehicular traffic," Borer wrote in the request.

NOA could not be reached for comment on this article.

DCP commissioner Bryan Cafferelli served the order, which indefinitely suspended NOA's liquor permit. The order echoed many of the same concerns for public safety and security that NHPD's request for suspension included.

Cafferelli stated that the DCP has had to get involved with the

restaurant on three separate occasions since NOA was issued its liquor permit in July 2022. The instances include the aforementioned stabbing, complaints from the Yale Police Department about bartenders pouring drinks directly into patrons' mouths and an instance where a minor was seen at the restaurant's bar with a fake ID during an unannounced inspection.

"We find that the August 31, 2024 shooting event, which follows a stabbing in the premise and is the second incident of violence in less than one year, demonstrates that the premises is operated in a manner that imperils public safety and highlights the need for better control of the premise by the permittee, backer, or their agent," Cafferelli wrote.

The NHPD requested that NOA show proof of improved security measures before reopening.

"We'd like to see any bar or restaurant contribute positively to the community by making the neighborhood vibrant and lively while also ensur-



TYSON ODERMANN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
The Thai restaurant and bar's liquor permit was suspended indefinitely due to safety concerns following a recent shooting.

ing a safe environment," NHPD Officer Christian Bruckhart wrote to the News. "We're hoping that NOA can make the improvements needed to make that happen."

NOA is located at 200 Crown St.

Contact **TYSON ODERMANN** at tyson.odermann@yale.edu.

Head Start social workers face sudden layoffs, loss of benefits at NHPS

BY ZACHARY SURI
STAFF REPORTER

Four social workers with decades of experience were unexpectedly laid off in August as part of the planned "reorganization" of the Head Start program at New Haven Public Schools.

As Marilyn Carson, Lisa Langley, Luz Lopez-Broderick and Arlice Brogdon — with a combined experience of over 100 years, according to their union — returned to work at NHPS on Aug. 23, they were "blindsided" by an email in their inbox informing them of their immediate termination. Carson, herself a former Head Start parent and grandparent, could not even open the email. She was already locked out of her account.

The layoffs are a result of Head Start's restructuring, coming after its federal funding is set to reduce by \$892,484 over the next five years.

"The bills didn't stop coming. I still have to pay rent, and I have to pay my utilities. And I'm where I started from, in poverty, as a Head Start parent, but as a senior now," said Carson, formerly at Lincoln-Bassett Community School and Dr. Reginald Mayo Early Learning Center. "I know they could have shown us more dignity."

The four Head Start social services employees were laid off with little warning before a series of high-profile firings and resignations at NHPS. Their health benefits expired eight days later. The district claimed the layoffs were part of a planned "reorganization" based on federal recommendations.

Local educator Lola Nash helped found the first Head Start program in the United States in New Haven's Elm Haven neighborhood, based on research by Yale developmental psychologist Edward Zigler.

The program, implemented nationwide in 1965, was a key pillar of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, tackling poverty through comprehensive early childhood education and social services support. Over 35 million students and their families have benefited from the program, including thousands in New Haven.

The social workers were responsible for helping parents and families reach critical social services, from housing and food assistance to legal help and employment.

"They're my children, those Head Start children," Carson, who has over 30 years of experience at Head Start, told the News. "We work directly with families, parents first, to help them find their voice and their words and educate them."

Head Start's restructuring, layoffs

In a memorandum addressed to the Board of Education on Sept. 6 and provided to the News by NHPS communications director Justin Harmon, NHPS administrators outlined the changes to the Head Start program which led to the layoff of the four social workers. According to Lopez-Broderick, four other Head Start employees were laid off as well, mostly from the program's administrative staff.

The document details a \$892,484 reduction in federal grant funding for Head Start programs at NHPS over the next five years. The city plans to apply for funding to support families with children under three years old, which necessitates the current grant cut, according to Harmon.

The restructuring involves the elimination of Head Start classrooms with low enrollment numbers, including at Dr. Reginald Mayo Early Learning Center, where three of the four social workers were employed.

The program will now receive funding for 438 students instead of 531. Seven classrooms at Mayo will be eliminated, with another eliminated at the Truman School. Three new classrooms were opened at other schools for a total of 26 Head Start classrooms, down from 31 last year.

"With this funding reduction there will be an impact on staffing," the document reads. "We have restructured appropriately, updated job descriptions and roles, and aligned the program with the current Head Start Program Performance Standards, educational requirements, and management wheel."

In an interview with the News, Harmon echoed these claims, promising that the district was working with affected unions to redesign positions for which some of the laid-off employees might be eligible to reapply.

Through a spokesperson, Tijuana Johnson, the new president of Local 3144 representing the four workers, said that these employees were not certified social workers, although all hold relevant bachelor degrees, making it difficult to "bump" them into other positions.

"These are individuals who have played an important function within the context of the services that Head Start provides, but some of the roles and responsibilities are shifting as we implement the guidance that has come to us from Head Start about the efficacy of the program," Harmon said.

These changes, Harmon said, would lead to "better service."

Harmon declined to comment on the layoff process and the sudden expiration of benefits. He also declined to confirm whether AFSCME Local 3144, the union representing the four social workers, was one of the unions the district is consulting as it rewrites job descriptions.

Johnson made clear that the district had not been in contact with her on this issue.

In a timeline of changes made to the program, the document describes "in-person meetings with impacted personnel as a result of elimination of grant positions, for Local 3144 and Local 884 are held at 54 Meadow Street." It lists only two completed layoffs, one pending layoff and one reassignment for Local 3144.

Grappling with unexpected layoffs

Langley, who worked for the Head Start program for 15 years and was also a Head Start parent and grandparent herself, described being summoned to the district's downtown offices on Meadow Street late last month. "We were all blindsided. I know things happen, budget cuts, I get it, but financially, it's difficult obviously" she said.

The four were handed a letter at their exit meetings with a formal layoff notice and explanation of staffing changes.

Lopez-Broderick, who worked in the Head Start program for almost 20 years, has found it difficult to explain the situation to her children, a son with special needs and a daughter who just graduated from nursing school.

She criticized the district's failure to notify her and her colleagues beforehand. She and her colleagues also expressed frustration that the rapid expiration of their healthcare benefits the following week left them without healthcare.

"It was like a slap on the face that we weren't really informed appropriately about how this is going to go about. If they knew this a long time ago, they should have talked to us. They should have sat down, and we would have had an option to start looking for new jobs," she said. "They

didn't give us any options."

Carson had promised her granddaughter that she would help with college tuition. Brogdon, who also worked for Head Start for almost 30 years, described how the layoff would also make it difficult for her to pay her child's college tuition money.

Brogdon expressed many of the same frustrations, wondering what the district expected the four of them to do to find health insurance coverage.

"You told us on the 23rd that we were laid off, and the benefits were done on the 31st. What am I supposed to do on a Friday? What appointments can I make on a Friday that I can get in between now and then?" she said.

Johnson, the president of the union representing the four employees, emphasized the importance of the relationships with families that the four had developed over decades. At the beginning of the school year, Johnson added, families were expecting to reengage with the staff they have built these relationships with.

The social workers echoed these concerns.

When she went to pick up her grandson from the school where she worked, Brogdon was inundated with requests from confused parents who needed help with paperwork. Brogdon mentioned a Head Start mother who was struggling to file the necessary paperwork to gain custody of her child, paperwork Brogdon could no longer help her complete.

If the families and children served by Head Start do not get "the right foundation that they were promised," this might have "detrimental" consequences for New Haven, Carson said.

Head Start is overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact **ZACHARY SURI** at zachary.suri@yale.edu.

Suspended YPD officer charged with assault for allegedly striking spouse

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTER

A Yale Police Department officer is being charged with assault in the second degree for allegedly beating his spouse with a golf club or a hammer, according to the warrant for his arrest issued by the Stratford Police Department last week. The officer has been placed on paid administrative leave.

Lieutenant Roosevelt Martinez was arrested in Stratford last Wednesday and was released on a \$350,000 bond. Martinez has worked for the YPD for almost two decades but his contract was recently suspended. The News was not able to reach Martinez for comment.

According to the arrest warrant obtained by the News,

Stratford police officers were dispatched to the Post Road Wine and Liquor store in Stratford on Sept. 4 in response to a call from an acquaintance of the victim. Upon arriving, the officers spoke to the caller and the victim who was sitting in a car outside the store and whose face and arms were visibly injured. Though the victim initially told officers that her injury was from a fall, the warrant notes that her bruising was "not consistent" with this explanation.

Emergency medical services arrived at the scene while officers were present. When the victim got onto a stretcher to be checked out by EMS workers, officers noticed further bruising on her legs and ankles.

The owner of the liquor store told a Stratford police offi-

cer that the victim had gone to the store twice on the prior day, according to the warrant. When she came the second time, the store owner noticed the injuries, which he had not seen on her first visit.

EMS transported the victim to Bridgeport Hospital, and one of the officers rode in the ambulance with her. During the ride, the victim told the officer that her husband, Martinez, had beat her with a golf club, and that she had lost consciousness during the assault. At the hospital, the victim told medical staff that "she may have been struck by a hammer or other object." At another point, she told the doctor that the object had been a hammer.

However, the warrant states, the victim earlier claimed she believed it was a golf club

because one had been used on her "in the past."

When hospital staff asked the victim whether such an assault had happened before, she answered that it had "one other time," according to the warrant.

The warrant notes that officers observed the victim was under the influence of alcohol during her interaction with law enforcement and EMS, but that she was able to answer all their questions. The doctor examining the victim at the hospital told the officer who wrote the warrant that he had ordered brain imaging scans for the victim.

Detective Rachel Crosby, the public information officer for the Stratford Police Department, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

A Yale spokesperson confirmed to the News that Martinez has

been placed on paid administrative leave, but declined to provide further detail as to when his contract was suspended or whether the change is related to his arrest.

"We have nothing further to add," the University spokesperson wrote to the News on Sunday.

Martinez was promoted to the title of YPD sergeant in 2011 and was named a lieutenant in 2018, according to his LinkedIn profile. In 2015, he won the Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association's Medal of Valor and the YPD's Life Saving Medal for his role in rescuing an individual attempting to commit suicide.

Martinez has not yet entered a plea, according to online court records. He will next appear in court on Oct. 8 in Bridgeport.

Contact **ARIELA LOPEZ** at ariela.lopez@yale.edu

ARTS

"I had low self-esteem and a predilection for hero-worship, and I was extremely determined. This was probably the perfect cocktail of tendencies for the novice debater." SALLY ROONEY IRISH AUTHOR

Three new Ely Center shows showcase nature, memory, cultural identity

BY ELIJAH HUREWITZ-RAVITCH
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

On a balmy Sunday afternoon, just a few blocks from Old Campus, New Haven's Ely Center of Contemporary Art held an opening reception for its three new exhibitions, all of which opened Sept. 1.

The largest, titled "Forest Bathing," is a group show and includes work from 26 artists. A separate gallery, "Flatfile: Stump In Situ," features prints made from tree stumps, while upstairs, another gallery is devoted to Mesoma Onyeagba's first solo show.

"I loved the first impression when you walk through the door," said Clara Nartey, an artist and a member of the Ely Center's board, while describing an installation by Nadine Nelson. "You get immersed into the whole experience. It's not just looking at objects, it's an experience."

"Forest Bathing" was organized by the New York-based writer, editor and guest curator Alex Santana. As a part of the Ely Center's Open Call, she received hundreds of submissions and narrowed them down with thematic groupings in mind. The exhibition's title refers to a physiological and psychological exercise in which humans spend long periods of time in forest ecosystems.

According to Santana's exhibition text, "Forest Bathing" features artists whose work "considers this boundless, actualizing meditation."

The show is intentionally broad in concept, said Santana. It includes a mix of Connecticut-based artists and those from farther afield; one of its goals, she added, is to inspire dialogue that can extend beyond the specificity of one place.

Kishwar Rizvi, who is the Robert Lehman Professor in the History of Art, Islamic Art and Architecture at Yale and a member of the Ely Center's board, observed that much of the artwork in "Forest Bathing" touches on themes of preservation, climate emergency and indigenous identities.

These are particularly contemporary concerns for artists, according to Rizvi.

Overall, the show is "fabulously exciting, and timely," she said.

Marissa Del Toro — the assistant director of exhibitions and programs at New Haven arts center NXTHVN — observed "less figuration" and a departure from literal depictions in the show. "The body's still represented, but in a very fantastical way." Speaking more broadly about contemporary art, she added that "we're kind of moving towards a more abstract movement right now."

In Aura Wang's "Highway," for instance, four chains, resembling vertebrae, descend from a warped face, all of it emerging from an inky indigo background. Wang told the News that she often uses these "anatomic images" — basic elements of the body — to evoke a sense of shared humanity.

More specific themes shape the show. One room, for instance, is dedicated to artists who are focused on keeping cultural memory alive through different media — Austin Bryant with photography, Melissa Dadourian with knitted thread, and Donté K. Hayes with ceramic.

"It's interesting to see how artists like me are dealing with



DAVID ZHENG

The art center's latest exhibitions unite a dynamic mix of artists whose works engage with environmental themes and cultural narratives, offering visitors a unique, immersive experience.

preserving the legacy of communities," said Bryant.

Some visitors praised specific works. John O'Donnell, a professor of printmaking at the University of Connecticut, highlighted Ying Ye's sculpture made from tofu skins and a soy sauce bucket.

O'Donnell said that the work was a "clever manipulation of physics" and added that it gave him goosebumps.

O'Donnell also lauded the woodblock prints of Jacob Reyes, who uses pigments he makes from local invasive species, as well as Kristen Heritage's car-shaped soft sculpture. The piece, he felt, refers both to safety and the "provisional constructions that we witness."

"[It] just blew my mind," said O'Donnell. "The image of a car, pillow, embroidery — and also, this is deceptively complex. It appears to be more simple and

playful at first, and then you realize, like, oh my gosh, this is some serious, some serious stitching."

Maria Markham, a New Haven-based artist and frequent Ely Center visitor, was similarly impressed by Heritage's sculpture.

She pondered its meaning aloud while slowly circling the piece.

"It's fabulous. I'm not sure what she's saying, but we can — it could be anything, it could be death on wheels, it could be a criticism."

Sebastián Cole Galván, Aura Wang and Sebastián Meltz-Collazo, all featured in "Forest Bathing," each expressed the delight they felt seeing their work in the group context.

"It's my first group show," said Galván, who graduated from Yale College in 2020, "and it's really exciting to be a part of all this art."

Meanwhile, Onyeagba's solo show seemed especially pop-

ular at the reception. The artist, who hails from Nigeria and recently received a Master of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Chicago, said that she draws her inspiration from her background and from random items she observes in the world.

Her work blends painting with different kinds of textile practices to form both portraits and abstract, swirling canvasses.

"As you're going into the room, you're going into my world, my space," Onyeagba said, "The bold colors, the shapes, the way they move, everything represents who I am as a person." At the reception, she added that "I'm really grateful that [the Ely Center] believed in me to have a solo show in their space."

While the Ely Center is a relatively new institution — it was

founded in 2016 — its home, a Victorian mansion on Trumbull Street, has been hosting art exhibitions since 1961.

Still, according to several community members at Sunday's reception, the Ely Center tends to fly under the radar. Even Gallery Director Aimée Burg, who attended Yale School of Art, didn't know it existed until after she graduated.

"I'm hoping that more people from Yale will know about it," said Rizvi. "It's literally our neighbor. I just wish more people would come here, because it's really a New Haven gem."

"Forest Bathing," "Flatfile: Stump in Situ" and "Mesoma Onyeagba" will close Oct. 27.

Contact **ELIJAH HUREWITZ-RAVITCH** at elijah.hurewitz-ravitch@yale.edu.

Chabad, Yale Friends of Israel to bring Ishay Ribo to Toad's

BY LUCIANA VARKEVISSER AND KAMINI PURUSHOTHAMAN

STAFF REPORTERS

After performing a sold-out show at Madison Square Garden, Israeli singer-songwriter Ishay Ribo will perform at Toad's Place on Monday, Sept. 16. The concert is jointly organized by Yale Friends of Israel and Chabad at Yale.

Ribo has released four studio albums, two of which are gold certified and another that has gone platinum. He has garnered a significant following across different Jewish sects — Haredi, national-religious and secular Jewish communities. Himself

a Sephardic Orthodox Jew, his widespread popularity has made the singer a unifying cultural force among sometimes clashing Jewish groups, according to Yale Friends of Israel.

"We're trying to create a space to bring together members from every sector of the Yale community in a communal experience of unity, of happiness, of celebration," said Netanel Crispe '25, board member of Chabad.

The upcoming performance will not be the first time Ribo will perform for a university community. In March of this year, Chabad at Harvard invited Ribo to perform at a Harvard Square concert venue, The Sinclair.

The concert, which raised funds that would go to "healing and rebuilding of Israel," according to promotional content for the concert, was met with a boycott from The Sinclair staff, as well as protests from both pro-Palestine and pro-Israel protesters.

According to the Harvard Crimson, protesting groups included 30 members of The Sinclair staff, who refused to work at the event, as well as Harvard affiliates and Boston-area residents.

Although the proceeds from Ribo's concert in Cambridge were intended to fund support for Israel, YFI and Chabad currently plan to use ticket sales to pay the artist and other concert expenses.

The tickets for the show are highly subsidized. For Yale students, the tickets sell for \$7, while the retail price is \$72. According to Eventbrite, through which tickets for the event are sold, most of the event's tickets are already sold.

Chabad president Noah Silverberg '26 doesn't think they "have extra money [to be] donating anywhere." However, if fundraising becomes a "possibility," it is something YFI "could discuss," he said.

Toad's staff did not respond to a request for comment.

YFI and Chabad said they hope the singer's musical focus on bringing unity will dissuade members of the Yale community from engaging in protest.

Kira Berman '25 said that amidst the tumultuous and divisive past year, she hopes that this event can bring together people who might not "see eye to eye."

"I think people who protest the singer don't really understand what it's all about," said YFI president Kira Berman '25. "Maybe if they could get tickets for themselves, they could see something quite beautiful."

Ribo's performance will begin at 8 p.m., and doors for the event will open at 7:30 p.m.

Contact **KAMINI PURUSHOTHAMAN** at kamini.purushothaman@yale.edu and **LUCIANA VARKEVISSER** at luciana.varkevisser@yale.edu.

SCITECH

"He who cannot put his thoughts on ice should not enter into the heat of dispute."
FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE PHILOSOPHER AND CRITIC

Yale students consume six times more olive oil than average Americans. Is it good for them?

BY MICHELLE SO
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Swimming in olive oil might sound like a bad dream, but for Yale students, it's a reality. Yale students consume over six liters of olive oil a year, far exceeding the U.S. national average of one liter.

Olive oil has become an object of culinary and dietary fascination alongside the increasing popularity of the Mediterranean diet. In addition to its breadth as a cooking ingredient, olive oil boasts a robust nutrient label; it's dense with healthy fats, vitamins and antioxidants. While it has dozens of, if not more, proven health benefits, can there be such a thing as too much olive oil?

To Tassos Kyriakides, an assistant professor of biostatistics at the School of Public Health and an olive oil sommelier, the concept of too much olive oil simply does not exist.

"I would say I go through two to three liters a month," Kyriakides told the News. "I'm sort of in the [range of] 24 to 28 liters a year."

Health benefits of the Mediterranean Diet

Kyriakides was born in Cyprus. He noted that, since their domestication 6,000 to 8,000 years ago, olive trees have been symbolically entwined with the history of the Mediterranean region. Nowadays, olive oil has found its place in Western cuisine as a bread condiment, salad dressing, frying liquid and, notably, as the primary source of fat in the Mediterranean diet.

While he spends most of his days researching infectious dis-

eases or reviewing statistics for major journals like the Lancet, Kyriakides devotes much of his time and energy to olive oil. He even became a certified Olive Oil Sommelier at the International Culinary Center and the Olive Oil Education Lab in New York.

Kyriakides believes olive oil is a net benefit due to its healthy contributions to one's diet — numerous studies have found correlations between olive oil consumption and positive health outcomes that go beyond cardiovascular impacts.

Consuming extra virgin olive oil improved cognitive function in patients with mild Alzheimer's disease. Squalene, a compound found in olive oil, blocks UV rays and holds potential applications in cosmetics and skin cancer prevention.

The polyphenols, or antioxidants, found in olive oil are also thought to be beneficial in counteracting the effect of free radicals. Free radicals are byproducts of normal cell metabolism, but an imbalance caused by smoking or pollution results in cell damage.

In a note posted on Yale Hospitality's website, James Benson, director of culinary excellence, wrote that the Mediterranean diet influence is found in many of Yale Hospitality's recipes.

"I think about diet as a way for my patients to lower their risk, which means lowering blood pressure, lowering cholesterol, lowering inflammation," John Dinkler, a cardiologist and the associate head of Timothy Dwight College. "The Mediterranean diet tends to be richer in olive oil. In broader studies, we know that people [who] have more olive oil tend to have better cholesterol profiles, blood pressure."

At his clinic, Dinkler said he often treats cases of coronary atherosclerosis or coronary artery disease. The disease occurs when blood vessel walls accumulate a mixture of fats, cholesterol and inflammatory cells known as plaque. As plaque builds up, the artery can narrow, blocking blood flow completely and leading to a clot or, in severe cases, a heart attack.

While what initiates the body's inflammatory response can't be pinpointed to a single cause, common factors include high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking and high cholesterol levels.

However, not all cholesterol is to be avoided. High-density lipoproteins — HDLs — are considered "good" cholesterol, while low-density lipoproteins — LDLs — are considered "bad." Olive oil and other fats associated with the Mediterranean diet — fish, walnuts, avocados — raise HDLs and decrease LDLs, lowering the risk of atherosclerosis and improving longevity.

"This is good news that Yale students are consuming so much more olive oil compared to the national average in the U.S.A.," Catherine Itsiopoulos, professor of nutrition and dietetics at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, said. "There is really no concern with excessive intake."

The average olive oil consumption in Greece, which holds the title for highest consumption in the world, is three to four times higher than that of Yale students, Itsiopoulos said.

Which olive oil?

Itsiopoulos researches the impact of the Mediterranean diet on chronic disease prevention



MICHELLE SO, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The News talked to researchers and olive oil connoisseurs to unearth the facts. They say there is no such thing as too much olive oil.

and management. In one of her studies, she sought to determine whether the grading distinction of olive oil would correlate with its health benefits.

Olive oil is graded by the International Olive Council as extra virgin, virgin, olive oil and lampante according to defects, impurities and taste profile.

"A classic defect is rancidity, which often smells like crayons," Kyriakides said. "Extra virgin has zero of those and has to have positive attributes. So, a panel is tasting it and saying, 'This tastes like fresh olives' or 'It has a peppery taste.' Extra virgin has to have all that, the chemical things, as well as the taste profile and organoleptic assessment by a panel."

Itsiopoulos conducted a systematic review of the literature over the last two decades and concluded that compared with other fats and oils, extra virgin olive oil is "superior in the management of hypertension, or lowering of blood pressure, lowering 'bad' LDL cholesterol, improving blood glucose control in diabetes, and managing weight."

Itsiopoulos and her colleagues believe extra virgin olive oil's health benefits are likely due to its polyphenols, which provide antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, rather than the monounsaturated fat it contains — debunking a popular misconception. Extra virgin olive oil performed better and produced more benefits than standard olive oil, which has a similar fat content.

According to Kyriakides, the university's 14 dining halls offer varied and healthy selections for students.

"Yale has an amazing sort of selection and use of olive oil," Kyriakides told the News. "I mean, it's unbelievable. It's one of those things that students don't realize

— the sort of privilege ... exposure to these things that you would not find anywhere."

Olive oil at Yale — beyond dining halls

Eager to promote its nutritional benefits, Kyriakides secured a grant from the MacMillan Center in 2006 to put together a series of panel discussions on the Mediterranean diet, emphasizing food as a way of life rather than just a source of calories.

Speakers at the panel included molecular scientists experimenting with olive oil's chemical properties, healthcare providers on preventative nutrition and chefs exploring the history behind their ingredients.

Then, in 2018, with an olive oil sommelier certification under his belt, Kyriakides and School of Public Health colleague Vasilis Vasilios gathered connections within the olive oil community to hold the first Yale International Symposium on Olive Oil.

Since its inaugural launch in New Haven, the Olive Oil Symposium has been held in various locations including Greece, Spain and Portugal, and is set to be in Crete this December.

Kyriakides plans to host the Oleoteca, a popular, standing-room-only olive oil tasting event, in the Well at the Schwarzmann Center in November. He curates a layout of extra virgin olive oils, inviting his participants to take in the full flavor profile and aroma of each, and asks them to scout the defective sample.

The chemical makeup of olive oil is primarily composed of triacylglycerols, which are made up of fatty acids.

Contact MICHELLE SO at michelle.so@yale.edu



MICHELLE SO, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The "Yague" is back: what should you get tested for?

BY REETI MALHOTRA
STAFF REPORTER

As September approaches, so too does the elusive, playfully-termed annual fall phenomenon of the "Yague" or "Yale Plague."

The "Yague," colloquially referring to respiratory illnesses that transmit rapidly among students in the early weeks of classes, is not unusual for this time of year, according to Madeline Wilson, the chief campus health officer.

"[The Yague] is the product of large groups of people repopulating campus, living together and engaging in a wide variety of group activities," Wilson wrote in an email to the News.

Students who experience symptoms of illness are also less likely to take protective measures — such as masking, testing and isolating — which fuels the spread of disease across campus, added Wilson.

Also termed as the "Freshman" or "Frat" flu, the "Yague" especially afflicts first-year students.

"I contracted the Yague a little while after the first week of classes," first-year Davenport student Maya Kulesza '28 said. "It's been a week or two and I'm still experiencing symptoms but I'm slowly coming out of it."

44.6 percent of college students in the United States contracted either a cold or flu-like illness by fall in 2023, according to an American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment.

Though a hallmark of the start of the semester, several students highlighted the negative impacts of the "Yague" on their academic, social and personal lives.

"I got sick [with the Yague] about two weeks ago," said Ameya Rastogi '28. "I had a bad cough, runny nose and headache. I wasn't able to socialize well, and academically, I fell behind on my work."

While many students who spoke to the News assumed the "Yague" to be a mild cold or viral flu, in explaining the phenomenon, Wil-

son shares that most infections are likely to be COVID-19. While Yale does not have diagnostic details on all viruses causing cold-like symptoms, Wilson wrote that flu is not yet circulating.

Clinical lab testing for Influenza A shows low infection rates according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of Sept. 6, whereas COVID-19



ILLUSTRATION BY MIA KOHN

viral activity in wastewater testing in Connecticut is high.

Yale no longer requires regular testing for COVID-19 per CDC recommendations.

According to Jessica Tuan, an assistant professor of medicine in the infectious diseases department at the Yale School of Medicine, the rise in COVID-19 at Yale is consistent with a nationwide wave of cases over the summer.

"There has been an overall uptrend in COVID-19 rates—well above last year's COVID-19 positivity rates—in the past several months, with a plateauing in more recent weeks. COVID-19 test positivity has overall increased to 16.3%, with 4.6 hospitalizations per 100,000 population," Tuan wrote in an email to the News.

In explaining the reasons for such a rise, Tuan cited the impact of waning immunity due to the time elapsed between booster shots.

Tuan also added that the arrival of newer variants, notably the predominant Omicron variant KP.3.1.1., is a contributing factor to the uptrend in COVID-19 rates.

"Newer variants seem to be more infectious and better able to evade immune responses induced from either natural infection or COVID-19 vaccines that were given in the last season," Tuan wrote.

Free, updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines are currently available to all Yale Health members. In campus-wide emails sent to the student body on Aug. 28 and Sept. 5, Wilson strongly recommends that students and staff receive updated flu and COVID-19 booster shots to protect themselves.

Masking, social distancing and hand washing could further reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Flu clinics begin on Sept. 11, 2024.

Contact REETI MALHOTRA at reeti.malhotra@yale.edu

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL: Bulldogs travel down south, go 1-3 in opening tournament

BY KATE ESTEVEZ
STAFF REPORTER

This past weekend, the Yale women's volleyball team (1-2,0-0) started the season with a mini-tournament in Charleston, South Carolina.

The team lost to its first two opponents, the University of the Pacific (2-2,0-0) and the College of Charleston (2-2,0-0), with a 3-2 score. The Elis came back in the third game, crushing the University of South Carolina Upstate (0-7,0-0) in a 3-0 win.

"It felt great to end the tournament with such a strong showing," said right side hitter Betsy Goodenow '27. "Everyone was contributing and our middles were outstanding. I can't wait to show what we can do in the Ivy League this year. The competition is

always tough and we look forward to each game."

Emerging victorious as the Ivy League Champions last year, the Bulldogs were eager to showcase their skills in this two-day tournament outside of the conference.

Although the Bulldogs ultimately fell to both the University of the Pacific and the College of Charleston, they had a strong first showing on the court.

After losing the first set against Pacific, Yale posted two wins in their following sets. The team lost the momentum in the fourth and fifth sets allowing Pacific to win the game.

Similarly, in the second game against Charleston, the Bulldogs lost their first set, won their second set, lost their third set and won their fourth set. Coming into the fifth set tied, the team folded, losing 13-15.

However, on Saturday the Bulldogs lived up to their Ivy League Champion name and delivered blow after blow to the USC Upstate team delivering a crushing 3-0 upset.

"Ending the tournament with a sweep was an amazing feeling," said setter Bethanie Wu '28. "We really stayed focused and committed to [the] game plan we made from scouting reports. I think it showed off how much work we have been putting in, and it was nice seeing it all come together."

While the team did not have a winning weekend, some players reached their personal all-time bests.

Laurece Abraham '27 had a career-high 14 kills and hit .684 with only one error on 19 swings.

Goodenow had 42 kills and 33 digs in the three matches. She earned her spot on the all-tournament team following the third game against the Upstate Spartans.

Cara Shultz '25 now has 114 service aces in her career and ranks eighth all-time in program history. She is two aces away from tying for the sixth all-time spot.

Head Coach Erin Appleman told the News she was excited about the team's prospects for the upcoming season.

Up until this past weekend, the Bulldogs have had eleven practices so far, significantly less than the opponents they faced, according to Appleman.

"I am excited to get back in the gym and continue to work on things we need to work on and prepare for three more matches this weekend against tough competition," Appleman said. "We would love to have a great crowd for this weekend's matches."

This upcoming weekend the Bulldogs will host Yale Invitational at home in the Payne Whitney Gymnasium. Fairfield University, Villanova University and Colgate University will arrive in New Haven for the invitational.

Contact
KATE ESTEVEZ at
kate.estevez@yale.edu.



YALE ATHLETICS

The volleyball team went to their first tournament of the season this past weekend at the College of Charleston, losing two of their first games on Friday but winning their game on Saturday.

Club sports return with for tryouts and preliminary competitions

BY RACHEL MAK
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Club sports and their tryouts have just begun for the 2024-25 school year, drawing in eager first years and returning upperclassmen. The variety of sports offer different levels of competition for students to reconnect with or try for the first time.

Yale offers 38 different sports across 48 club teams for students to compete in, ranging from those commonly played like basketball and swimming to more niche activities like martial arts and indoor climbing. Most tryouts are held in the first few weeks of September.

The competitive nature of the tryout process varies by sport.

When asked about her experience trying out for the club tennis team, Amelia Lee '26 emphasized the high level of competition.

"I think there were 106 people who tried out," she said to the News. "I didn't think I would make it — I didn't come with my tennis shoes because I knew I wouldn't make it," she said.

With the team being co-ed, tryouts were "intense" and practices have a similar environment. Now, as one of the team's captains, Lee has made it a goal to ensure that everyone feels welcome at practices and events, regardless of gender or previous tennis experience.

Some teams don't hold tryouts at all. For example, the Women's Rugby Team welcomes players of all levels of experience to join. Many of the club sports teams share the same philosophy, which encourages students to step out of their comfort zone and try activities they have never done before.

"The rugby girls were so enthusiastic," said Katie Flemming '28, a new member of the Yale Women's Rugby Team, who was approached by the team at Bulldog Days. "They really, really cared about me specifically and getting me to play and they kept gushing about how much fun it was."

Some sports, such as men's and women's soccer, running and polo, offer multiple teams at different skill and competition levels so students can compete at the one with which they are most comfortable.

The Yale Club Running Team offers different pace groups, which welcomes beginners and well-versed marathon runners alike.

"We want to get out the idea that Yale Club Running is supposed to be a welcoming space, and you don't have to be a super fast runner to join," said Chloe Edwards '26, a captain of the team and a photography editor at the News.

The team attends various competitions and runs in the northeast region, including the 47th annual Faxon Law New Haven Road Race over Labor Day weekend, where

they met up with both new and returning members.

Club sports that are less competitive can be an opportunity for students who share an interest in a sport to

meet one another. In addition to multiple practice sessions per week, which members are never required to attend, they also share team meals and host team events, like watch parties and

mixers. Beyond staying fit and finding a place for themselves on a team, these athletes also find lifelong friends.

The Yale Rugby Team, the oldest club sport at Yale, was founded in 1875.

Contact
RACHEL MAK at
rachel.mak@yale.edu.



COURTESY OF YALE CLUB RUNNING

Club sports teams at Yale have started holding tryouts, inviting new and returning students to participate.

Hundreds of Yalies tune into Harris-Trump debate

NORA MOSES
STAFF REPORTER

As Americans across the country tuned in to last night's presidential debate, over 400 Yalies watched the Trump vs. Harris faceoff in one of Yale's largest lecture halls.

The debate on Sept. 10, which was hosted by ABC News, was the first between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. Harris assumed the position of the Democratic nominee after President Joe Biden dropped out of the race in July; many pressured Biden to drop out of the race after his poor June debate performance against Trump.

Yalies gathered at the watch party hosted by YaleVotes, a non-partisan, student-led organization that promotes voter turnout. The organization received funding from the Office of the Secretary and Vice President for University Life for party

decorations, food and promotional material.

The debate was highly anticipated as a chance for both candidates to further showcase their respective platforms.

"Compared to the debate with Trump and Biden, I think this one painted a much, much better picture," Violet Dorsey-Reyes '28, who attended the YaleVotes debate watch party, told the News. "We were able to get more out of each candidate, rather than the kind of comical back and forth which was the last one."

YaleVotes leaders told the News that over 700 people registered to attend the event, including students from every residential college, graduate and professional school as well as some faculty members. About 400 people attended, filling up SSS 114, where the event was held.

The crowd was energetic: often cheering, clapping, laughing or booing as the candidates sparred.

"We're a nonpartisan organization, so we can't really comment

on the substance of the debate," YaleVotes President Alex Moore '26 told the News. "But, I would say it's really exciting to see how amped up people are about watching the debate and the reactions to the candidates tonight."

Moore and YaleVotes Vice-President Julia Lin '26 told the News that the debate watch party served as an important opportunity to register voters and distribute absentee ballot forms. About 40 students came to their voter registration table throughout the event.

Although the event was non-partisan, the crowd clapped and cheered when Harris articulated her policy points on abortion, immigration and the middle class.

One of the biggest cheers of the night came when Harris spoke about restoring Roe vs. Wade, specifically her line: "the government and Donald Trump certainly should not be telling a woman what to do with her body."

The audience often reacted with incredulity or laughter when

Trump made misleading or false statements, including his claim that immigrants are "eating the cats" and that Harris and Democratic Vice-Presidential Candidate Tim Walz support abortion in the ninth month or even post-birth "execution."

"I've been really impressed with Vice President Harris. She's effectively brought the fight to Trump, especially on issues that he's weaker on," Giuseppe Di Massa '28 told the News. "Trump, on the other hand, has shown who he really is. He's ranting and raving, unable to coherently deliver sentences and talking about dead puppies being eaten rather than the concerns everyday Americans have like food, gas prices and housing."

Some students were less than satisfied with Harris' performance at the debate.

Diego Victoria '27 said that Harris was not specific enough with her policy points.

"I think that Kamala, instead of being actually direct, always

kept saying, 'I have a plan. I have something to help the people,' but was never really specific on what she actually would do" he said.

Victoria added that although Trump "for the most part did a good job," he should have spent more time on topics "such as the Afghanistan withdrawal and the economy."

Ainsley Kroon '28 told the News that she took away from the debate that Harris was more successful at appealing to moderate voters.

"Kamala was doing her best to appeal to the greater population of our country, whereas Trump, even if he was trying to, was unable to really speak to people other than his base," Kroon said. "I don't think Kamala lost any votes. I think she only gained them, which I'm very excited about."

Voter registration and absentee voting regulations differ across states.

Contact **NORA MOSES** at nora.moses@yale.edu.



DOROTHY HA, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

At the YaleVotes watch party, over 400 Yalies gathered to watch the first presidential debate between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris.

New Haveners' debate impressions settle into partisan divides

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

While a trivia game held the attention of most patrons at the New West Cafe, 71-year-old Denise Rodgers watched Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump spar on the debate stage. She had to read subtitles as music blared.

"We experienced the best without the sound. Their body language and split-screen images told the story. Harris is superior to Trump," Rodgers wrote in a text the next day.

New Haveners' impressions split along partisan lines as the prime-time ABC News presidential debate in Philadelphia captivated the nation on Tuesday night. Local voters and politicians who spoke to the News emerged with unchanged attitudes about the election, now under two months away.

Devoted Democrats in the deep blue city took from the faceoff a boost of confidence in Harris' still-young candidacy and validation of President Joe Biden's choice to withdraw from the race amid the fallout from his June debate performance against Trump.

"She had so much confidence," said Audrey Tyson, a vice chair of New Haven's Democratic Town Committee, adding that Harris maintained her poise under Trump's attacks. "No matter what he said, she just was strong in articulating what she wants to do in her plans."

Tyson, a strong Biden supporter who said she was not very familiar with Harris before the summertime upheaval, voted for Harris as a delegate at the Democratic Convention last month. Tuesday's

debate reinforced her enthusiasm for the new nominee.

Some Democrats said they saw the debate as a chance for Harris to match her campaign's energy and broadsides against Trump with more details about her policy agenda.

"Kamala gave more substance around some of the things that she wants to do, like affordability for homes for first-time homebuyers," Ward 29 Alder Brian Wingate, who watched the debate at home in Westville, told the News.

Wingate said that Harris still needs to specify her economic policy, especially for quelling the high cost of living.

"People want to know how you're going to make people get more money," he said. "I wish she had drilled down more on that."

As Yale students gathered around campus to watch the debate among friends or at watch parties, New Haveners tuned in from their homes, on their phones and in bars.

The New West Cafe in Westville played the debate on two televisions while two others showed a baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and the New York Yankees.

Early in the debate, Rodgers, an artist and framer, said she wanted Harris to articulate how she would support the middle class.

"I'm for Kamala, only because another four years of Trump unbridled would be very dangerous," she said.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, can almost certainly count on receiving Connecticut's seven Electoral College votes. But not everyone in the Elm City seeing Trump and Harris clash on Tuesday favored the Democratic ticket.

Kelvin Olivo, a 33-year-old car detailer from Bridgeport, could hardly focus on the ongoing debate while drinking with friends at 80 Proof American Kitchen & Bar downtown. He said he has never voted in an election before and, despite once having had high hopes for Biden, has made up his mind to vote for Trump this time.

"The Democrats feed you a bunch of BS, feed you on dreams, but they never follow through," Olivo said. "Kamala is their puppet. Trump stands on business."

Republican congressional candidate Michael Massey, who is running a long-shot campaign to

unseat longtime U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro in Connecticut's New Haven-centered Third Congressional District, said he fell asleep during the debate, which he called "pretty boring" in a phone interview with the News.

"He didn't do well, he didn't do bad," Massey said of Trump, whose politics he began to embrace while serving time in federal prison. "Either you like Trump, or you don't."

Massey added that he believed the ABC News moderators, David Muir and Linsey Davis, had favored Harris and unfairly pushed back on Trump.

On the other end of the political spectrum, Paul Garlinghouse, an active local Green Party member who has run for alder, said "it's hard to evaluate" the debate given Trump's outlandish statements, such as a baseless claim about immigrants consuming pet animals in Ohio.

Garlinghouse said he planned to vote for neither of the candidates who exchanged jabs at the National Constitution Center — but rather for Green nominee Jill Stein.

Early voting in Connecticut begins on Oct. 21.

Contact **ETHAN WOLIN** at ethan.wolin@yale.edu.



ETHAN WOLIN, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The presidential debate elicited a variety of reactions and engagement levels in the deep blue Elm City.

SPORTS

FOR MORE SPORTS CONTENT,
VISIT OUR WEB SITE
yaledailynews.com
Twitter: @YDNSports



YALE DAILY NEWS · FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 · yaledailynews.com

"I had a solid sophomore campaign, but I know I'm capable of more. My personal goals are to make the NCAA individual tournament at the end of the fall. We have a very unique group that I believe is capable of achieving something special this year,"

VIGNESI GOGINENI '26, THE ITA 50TH-RANKED TENNIS PLAYER, TOLD THE NEWS.

FIELD HOCKEY: Bulldogs start strong with two victories

BY AVA JENKINS
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

This past weekend, Yale Field Hockey started the season with two away games in Pennsylvania; the team won against the Lehigh Mountain Hawks (2-2) and the Drexel Dragons (2-2).

On Friday, the Bulldogs (2-0) routed the Mountain Hawks 6-1 with five different players scoring. In the Sunday game against Drexel, the

Bulldogs battled through overtime to secure a 2-1 win against the Dragons.

In the first game, Ellie Barlow '25 got the ball rolling for the Eli's just after the ten-minute mark of the game. Poppy Beales '26 hammered home two more goals in the following 20 minutes. Hettie Whittington '27 then swept on a corner to give the Bulldogs a commanding 4-0 lead.

Lehigh tried to bounce back with a goal from senior Guusje

Hogendoorn, but with two more goals tacked on for the Elis from Ymre Masee '28 and Lauren Venter '26, Yale claimed its decisive first victory of the season. The Bulldogs outshot Lehigh 21-9, with senior goalie Alexa Pitts '25 making three key saves to help keep the Bulldogs on top.

The last time Yale won by five or more goals was a 6-1 win against Hofstra University in October 2021.

Friday's game also saw six Yale first years make their varsity athletic debuts.

The Bulldogs have seven new players this season, with first years tying the senior class for most players on the team. Head Coach Melissa Gonzalez and team captain Keely Comizio '25 were excited about the talent brought by the first year class.

"We have an incredible group that both competes and supports each other," Gonzalez wrote to the News. "It's exciting to see their development on and off the hockey pitch. They work hard for one another, and it creates a fantastic environment to be a part of."

In the Sunday game against Drexel, the Bulldogs battled through overtime to secure a 2-1 win against the Dragons. Drexel struck first with a goal at the 16-minute mark by Anna Castaldo; however, Barlow tied up the game with a goal assisted by Whittington.

Both teams took a shot in the second half, but the score remained even when the clock ran down. The game went into overtime, with a goal from Chiara Picciafuoco '28 clinching the win for the Bulldogs.

Goalie Pitts had an outstanding game, with a career-high seven saves, all coming after halftime.

This season's preseason was shorter than it historically had been, according to Comizio.

"This year, we've done a great job of picking up right where we left off in the spring," Comizio wrote the News before she left campus for weekend games. "We made significant progress, and it's incredible to see how excited and committed everyone is to achieving our goals. With a short preseason, it was crucial to hit the ground running, and I think the team has really excelled at that."

The victories mark a turn for the Bulldogs, who had a losing record last season.

The Bulldogs mount their next campaign this Friday, Sept. 13, at Fairfield University.

"Our primary goal [this season] is continued improvement," Gonzalez wrote to the News before the first two games. "We're a process-oriented team, committed to consistent growth. We want to get better day by day, week by week, game by game, and throughout the season."

Bulldogs will host their first home game this Sunday, Sept. 15, with the first conference matchup against Brown University.

Contact **AVA JENKINS**
at ava.jenkins@yale.edu.



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale's Field Hockey team started the season off strong this weekend with two victories against Lehigh University and Drexel University.

Mason Tipton '24 Finds a Home in the Big Easy

BY SPENCER KING
SENIOR REPORTER

One catch for six yards. It is not the type of statline that will lead SportsCenter on ESPN or have fantasy football managers rush to make trades for, but that is missing the point. Mason Tipton '24 had one catch for six yards in his NFL debut for the New Orleans Saints on Sunday, something few thought would happen.

Tipton's career at Yale stands as one of the best a wideout has ever had for the Bulldogs, highlighted by a stellar senior season. He racked up 786 yards on 52 catches with 10 touchdowns. Despite that, the unanimous first team All-Ivy player was not pro-

jected by nearly anyone to make the roster, but he found out an important thing quickly.

"Football is football man," Tipton told the News. "Once I was able to get a couple OTA practices in and see that this really is just football, it was very easy for me to get adjusted and play my game."

After running a 4.33 second 40-yard dash at his Yale Pro Day, Tipton's blazing speed immediately stood out for the Saints coaches and stories began circulating of an undrafted Ivy Leaguer making waves at practice.

Unfortunately, after impressing early in training camp, the Eli suffered a hamstring injury that limited him and kept him from playing

in any of the team's three preseason games. When many thought that would spell the end of his time in the big leagues, New Orleans Head Coach Dennis Allen still liked what he was able to see.

"I think he's got the skill set," Allen said to the press. "He's a smaller player, but he's got some real good quickness and he's a savvy route runner. He's got some football awareness, and so I think he understands kind of how to play the position."

With that high praise from his coach, when the 53-man roster for the Saints was announced, Tipton was on it.

Then, in his first game, Tipton saw real playing time. The former Bulldog

played 17 snaps and then, on his only target of the day, caught a six-yard pass from quarterback Derek Carr.

Asked about the difference between the Ivy League and the NFL, Tipton repeated what seems to be an oncoming catchphrase of sorts: "football is football."

"I think the biggest difference from the league to the Ivy League, I think, is really just size," Tipton said. "There's some bigger bodies, especially the front seven — those guys are definitely some of the biggest, fastest guys I've seen."

While making the change to playing against those bigger bodies is sure to have taken a second, Tipton showed that size really does not matter in his college days.

The listed 5'11" and 187-pound wide receiver put up huge numbers in college and can be found all throughout the Yale record books. Tipton currently ranks third in career touchdown catches, fifth in career receptions and sixth in career receiving yards in Bulldogs history.

"Mason Tipton is an absolute steal for the New Orleans Saints," Yale Head Coach Tony Reno said to Yale Athletics (Reno could not be reached for comment on this story). "He was an impact player on an Ivy championship team in 2019 and has dominated the league since that season. His relentless work ethic and leadership combined with his physical ability make him the amazing player he is today. We are so proud of him and excited for his future in the NFL with the Saints."

Reno isn't the only Eli rooting for Tipton to succeed though, as he joins a group of four former Bulldogs in the NFL. His Yale classmate, offensive tackle Kiran Amegadjie '24, was selected in the third round of the 2024 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears, while safety Rodney Thomas II '22 enters his third season with the Indianapolis Colts.

The cream of crop for Yalies in the NFL is Jacksonville Jaguars linebacker Foyesade Oluokun '18, who led the NFL in tackles in both the 2021 and 2022 seasons. Despite his success at the higher level and a recent three-year \$45 million contract extension, Tipton made sure to point out how much of a support the veteran has been for him.

"I've talked to Foye a lot," Tipton said. "Foye's been somebody that's been huge as far as giving me some game and giving me some of his tips from his experience in the league."

Beyond Oluokun, Tipton also mentioned the importance he has placed on learning from the other wide receivers on the Saints, such as Chris Olave and Rashid Shaheed, and his veteran quarterback Carr.

Bulldogs fans can next see Tipton in NFL action at 1 p.m. on Sunday when the New Orleans Saints take on the Dallas Cowboys.

Contact **SPENCER KING** at spencer.king@yale.edu.



JILLY MEHLMAN / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Mason Tipton went undrafted in the 2024 NFL Draft, but after a stellar training camp with the New Orleans Saints, he was signed to the team and played in his first NFL game on Sunday.

STAT OF THE WEEK

4

YALIES ARE CURRENTLY IN NFL: KIRAN AMEGADJIE '24 WITH THE CHICAGO BEARS, RODNEY THOMAS II '22 WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS, FOYESADE OLUOKUN '18 WITH THE JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS AND NOW MASON TIPTON '24 WITH THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS.

WEEKEND

PROFILE: CLAIRE CRISCUOLO BEHIND THE COUNTER AT NEWHAVEN STAPLE, CLAIRE'S CORNER COPIA

Every year, a few days before the Yale College Opening Assembly, Claire Criscuolo of Claire's Corner Copia, the vegetarian cafe on the corner of Chapel and College St., asks her staff to be just a bit more warm than required to the customers who push past their glass doors. "You were probably one of the smartest in your high school," she tells me, "and now you're here and you're not the best anymore." Her remedy to imposter syndrome, a phenomenon as ancient as Yale itself, is a steaming cup of tea, served in a mug bearing the words "be kinder than necessary" alongside a generous slice of her popular Lithuanian cake with crumble topping.

When I first visited Yale for Bulldog Days, my mother and I headed straight from Union Station to Claire's. Over the pleasant din of chatter and delicious vegetarian Reuben sandwiches, we talked about what the next four years of my life would look like. Because I eat a strictly kosher diet, I thought I would be making gastronomic sacrifices by making the move from Los Angeles to New Haven. Little did I know the fluffiest flax-seed pancakes I'd ever had were waiting on the other side for me.

When viruses sweep across Yale College, snowballing into the ominous Yague, Claire's offers soothing options with organic ingredients. Claire remembers, "I had girls come up to the register, sniffing, asking 'is there anything you can make me for my cold?' So we made the Sick Girl's Tea." Featuring fragrance notes of cinnamon, lemon, ginger, honey and black pepper, the warm drink soothes the throat and warms the spirit, offering a touch of nurture for students who may be thousands of miles away from home for the first time. "Then I had boys coming in, lowering their voices, 'can I have the Sick Girl's Tea too?' I said, 'Of course, but you don't need to whisper.'"

There's nothing Claire loves more than uniting diverse crowds. When you walk into the restaurant, you'll find a snaking line filled with people ranging from Yale professors to Orthodox Jews road tripping from Waterbury; practicing Muslims to undergrads who just want a kale smoothie on their way to class on Old Campus (guilty as charged). "When we sit down and talk, we often find that we all want the same things," Claire says. "That's why none of our baked goods contain alcohol (so Muslims can eat them), and all of our food is certified kosher." The team takes their kosher status seriously, carefully inspecting all produce for bugs.

Growing up in a low-income family on the glittering Amalfi Coast of Italy, Claire's mother emphasized whole foods like grains, legumes and vegetables. "She cooked that way because it's all we had," she recalls, "but nowadays, you get charged eighteen dollars a plate for Italian food!"

A former psychiatric nurse, Claire says she had a dream to become a psychologist. But in a time when student loans were uncommon, Claire said she chose to go to nursing school instead, spending her career primarily helping people affected by drug addiction.

Her childhood experiences were formative in developing her attitude toward empathy. Claire shares with a note of facetiousness, "I have a brother who is gay, and he wasn't more or less annoying than any other brother." Claire also grew up alongside a cousin, Suzanne, who had Down's Syndrome. "She wanted the same things we all want."

For the cafe's 40th birthday, Claire's is partnering with The Yale Child Study to help study child aggression. If you buy one of their beautiful soy candles (there's even one scented like their famous Lithuanian cake), you'll be contributing directly to that cause. If you mention their anniversary, you might just get a free sample of one of their spicy and sweet autumn drinks.

Claire sees her role in New Haven as to exude simple, old-fashioned compassion, fueled by plant power. She references the CDC-Kaiser ACE study, which tracks how adverse childhood events can be correlated with negative adulthood outcomes, including ill health or even death. "My question when I see someone in need is 'what happened to you?'" she says. "Because what does it really take to hold the door open for someone who's dropped their books or to offer someone in need a drink?"

Contact **EMUNAH GARMAISE** at emunah.garmaise@yale.edu.

// BY EMUNAH GARMAISE



// LAUREN YEE

WEEKEND SWEETNESS

It's no coincidence we all love Short n' Sweet

// BY SABRINA THALER

An underrated perk of living in one of the new colleges: the distance from central campus gives me 20 extra minutes to be alone with my thoughts — and my music. The daily walks up and down Prospect usually consist of people-watching, daydreams about my (inevitable) first-year fall romance and the loop of songs on my playlist.

It was particularly kind of Sabrina Carpenter to treat us North Campus dwellers to a brand-new album just before classes began. Thanks to my commute and the album's aptly brief runtime, I can listen to the entirety of "Short n' Sweet" at least once a day — and trust me, I do.

It's Carpenter's sixth record, but only her second since she left behind her days as a Disney Channel child star. Her 2022 album, "emails i can't send," was, by all accounts, a successful breakthrough into mainstream pop, with singles like "Nonsense" earning her a spot as an opener on Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour.

But "Espresso," the snappy cut about Carpenter's effortless tendency to make men addicted, changed everything.

On Sept. 4, Billboard declared "Espresso" the song of the summer. NBC featured the song in its ads for the summer Olympic Games. Vulture interviewed a linguistics professor to unpack its impact on everyday English usage (see "Why You Can't Stop Saying 'That's That Me, Espresso'").

Carpenter's string of summer hits, her appearances at festivals like Coachella and her high-profile relationship with actor Barry Keoghan poised "Short n' Sweet" to become an instant phenomenon.

It's no surprise, then, that the album skyrocketed to the top of the Billboard 200. But the record's popularity might represent more than Carpenter's knack for catchy hooks. Rather, she might be filling a niche that today's pop has left vacant.

Much of the album feels like Carpenter's unpolished, impulsive, private thoughts strung together. But what Carpenter sacrifices in poetics, she makes up for in pure authenticity and humor. The result? A cohesive story of a person with deep fears and vibrant confidence; obsessive tendencies and commitment issues; libido and longing. In other words, she offers a bold, uncensored take on the lives we all live.



// MARIA AROZAMENA

The album

kicks off with "Taste," an earworm propelled by electric guitar and Carpenter's twangy vocals. The track toes the line between insecurity and obtrusive pride as Carpenter taunts her ex's new flame: "Every time you breathe his air / just know I was already there!" Though the lyrics appear, on the surface, vengeful and even egocentric, it takes only a bit of introspection to realize that the song itself might be a coping

device for Carpenter's jealousy and self-doubt. At the end of the bridge, she breaks the fourth wall, declaring, "Singing 'bout it don't mean I care." I don't know if we should believe her — and I don't think she wants us to.

On "Coincidence," Carpenter drops one sarcastic one-liner after another, as a cheerful, Indigo Girls-esque acoustic

backdrop bolsters her feigned naivete. When she catches her ex in the act with a new girl, she responds in the voice of the childish, clueless persona he once cast her in. She teases, "What a surprise / Your phone just died / Your car drove itself from LA to her thighs." As Carpenter drags out the "what a coincidence" at the end of each chorus, she leaves just enough liminal silence for us to hear her frustration.

In "Slim Pickins," I can practically hear Carpenter's defeated, wry grin when she laments, "A boy who's jacked and kind / Can't find his ass to save my life." She's genuinely disappointed, and the song's folksy, string facade is just that — a facade — to guard her nihilism about the dating pool.

Carpenter's blunt discussion of fair-weather boyfriends, sexual fantasies and self-sabotage — across even the most radio-friendly of tracks — showcases a courageous lack of filter and her strong sense of self. She overcomes the storied misalignment between our public and private lives, in which we're most scared to share the thoughts and feelings that nearly everyone else is experiencing, too.

In "Juno," a track about — to put it as the 2007 film does — getting knocked up, Carpenter matter-of-factly recalls, "I showed my friends, then we high-fived / Sorry if you feel objectified." Her apology comes too late — she's already said the thing. Her words spill out before her thoughts, just like they do for most of us in our worst moments. Unlike many artists, though, Carpenter hasn't parsed through and thoughtfully rearranged the interaction before she writes about it; she simply says what happened.

Later in "Juno," Carpenter is yet again one of us, a layperson, a woman of the people: "I'm so fucking horny." With her starkly unedited and egoless lyrics, she ushers in an era of "pop" centered on the genre's nominal purpose — to connect, candidly and directly, to all of us.

Contact SABRINA THALER at sabrina.thaler@yale.edu.

An Ivy Leaguer's guide to GROWING IVY

// BY REMI CLARK-REDSTAR

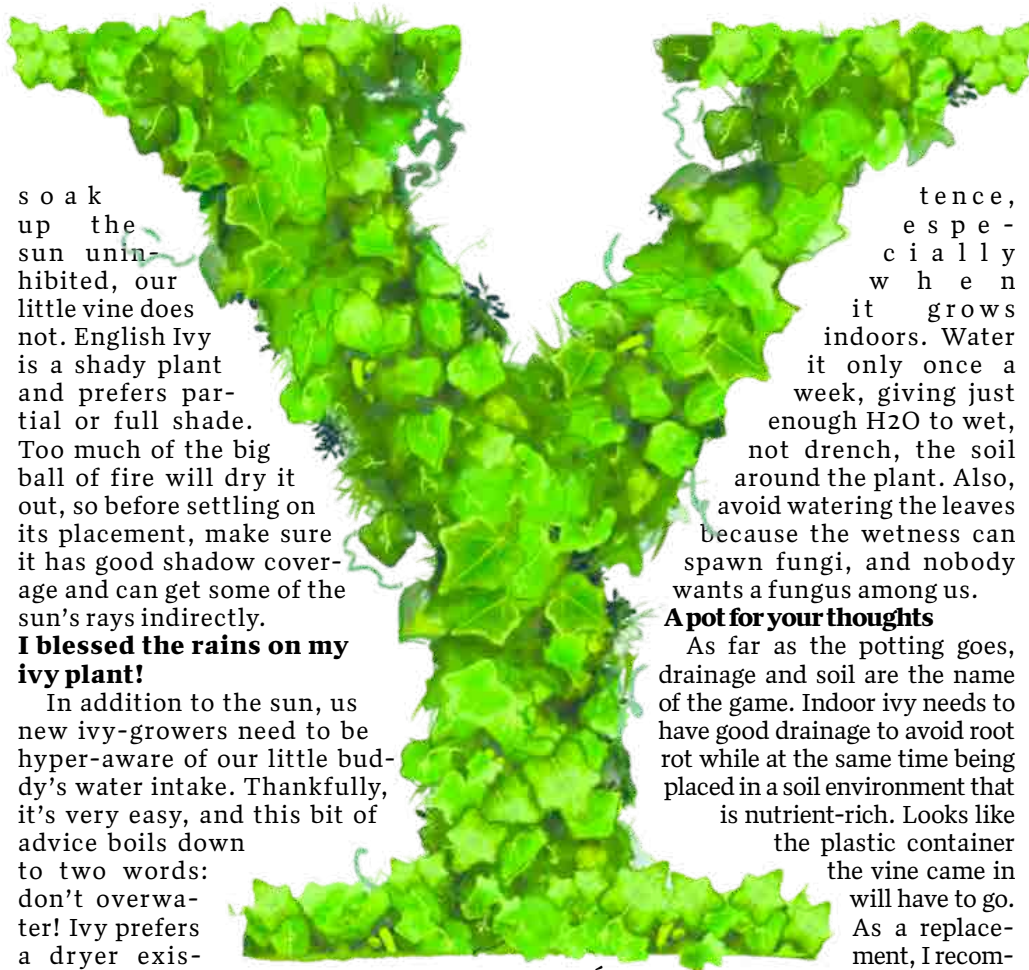
If you passed by Cross Campus during Eli Day last week, there is a good chance you left the place with your very own English Ivy plant. I know I did, excitedly strolling back to my dorm with this potted vine firmly clasped in my arms. Before even arriving at my destination, I knew my new possession would look wonderful in front of my window, and maybe one day, it would wrap around the window itself like the walls of an old English castle.

Then I realized I had no idea how to care for my ivy plant. Sure, I have a garden at home, but those are all outside plants, the kind I can water with a hose and live in the ground. I am dealing with an indoor plant, a decorative piece. I would need to take extra care so it would look nice, get enough sun and water, not dirty up everything else in my room, and somehow stay alive in the process.

Luckily for me (and for you, dear reader), the internet has quite a few websites dedicated to navigating this very conundrum. After scavenging the World Wide Web and learning from many a plant-site, I've compiled a list of what to do.

Here comes the sun, oh no...

To begin, let's start with one of the easiest and most important things to consider with regard to our plant: sun exposure. While a lot of plants love to



soak up the sun unhibited, our little vine does not. English Ivy is a shady plant and prefers partial or full shade. Too much of the big ball of fire will dry it out, so before settling on its placement, make sure it has good shadow coverage and can get some of the sun's rays indirectly.

I blessed the rains on my ivy plant!

In addition to the sun, us new ivy-growers need to be hyper-aware of our little buddy's water intake. Thankfully, it's very easy, and this bit of advice boils down to two words: don't overwater! Ivy prefers a dryer exist-

tence, especially when it grows indoors. Water it only once a week, giving just enough H₂O to wet, not drench, the soil around the plant. Also, avoid watering the leaves because the wetness can spawn fungi, and nobody wants a fungus among us.

Apot for your thoughts

As far as the potting goes, drainage and soil are the name of the game. Indoor ivy needs to have good drainage to avoid root rot while at the same time being placed in a soil environment that is nutrient-rich. Looks like the plastic container the vine came in will have to go. As a replacement, I recom-

mend a ceramic pot with holes on the bottom and an accompanying plate to mount it on so you don't get water and dirt all over your dorm. In addition, I would supplement this with a small bag of plant fertilizer, which will give the plant the nutrients it craves. Will this all cost money? Yes, but look on the bright side. You finally get to discover where Home Depot is and can embrace your inner gardener.

To prune or not to prune, that is the question

For the most part, ivy is a low-maintenance plant. After planting, you can leave it be, and it will grow, but it does require your assistance from time to time. This comes in the form of pruning. Now, before you start clipping wildly-nilly, allow me to expand further. Ivy grows slowly, taking ten years to become an adult plant. What this means is that you will have to do very minimal pruning, clipping some dying leaves and cutting away excess growth every few months. Just make sure you are wearing gloves, using sharp clippers, and cutting at the base of the vine. Ivy sap can cause irritation, so tread with caution.

Well, there you have it, ivy-owning Ivy Leaguers, a basic guide to caring for the newest addition to your dorm decor. As of now, you have unlocked your green thumb and are ready to put it to use. Good luck and happy gardening.

Contact REMI CLARK-REDSTAR at remi.clark-redstar@yale.edu.

// ERICKA HENRÍQUEZ

WKND Recommends

Picnics outside

WEEKEND *EXPERIENCES*

THROUGH THE EYES OF A FIRST-YEAR

// BY ANDREW DEMAR

“What has surprised you about Yale?”

Torrential rains, boisterous yells and rows upon rows of cars — this sums up first-year move-in. Once the initial unease subsided, the party culture behind these Ivy-hallowed halls emerged. That girl I hung out with before classes started — she is a future finance bro, nationally ranked in chess, and could have been a grandmaster. That guy I saw get blackout drunk — he is Saltburn rich and will probably end up as one of the three students in our class who become senators. If you see someone at a party, pretend you didn’t. Although these social scenes exist, the people you meet often remain people you only talk to after the sun goes down. While I encountered characters I never expected, I realized over time that Yale students are far too eclectic to pin down right away.

“But it’s not like that.” At Yale, you’re not actually rich because there’s always someone richer than you. Who cares that Barron Trump is going to NYU when we’re now the new yub for nepo babies? Yes, “yague,” “yuttle,” and “yub” — the

Yale lingo is ingrained in you from day one.

On a more serious note, I was also surprised about the fear surrounding New Haven crime, especially given that its rates are comparable to those of Connecticut’s other major cities, Hartford and Bridgeport. Perhaps the fear has something to do with New Haven’s stark demographic contrast compared to the homes of most Yale students.

What I will say, though, is that after a week of classes, I’ve realized that Yale is just like any other school, plus a dash of exorbitant wealth and smidge of elitism that flashes in your face just when you’re starting to forget about it. In many ways, Yale feels like one large state school where everyone knows each other — except, instead of growing up together, it’s the private academies and pre-professional programs that everyone was part of. Auditioning for a cappella groups feels eerily similar to ‘Bama rush, except with an Ivy-exclusive twist where you are mysteriously — or not so mysteriously — “tapped” with clamorous singing outside your door. I hope you’re not banking on a spot in a consulting group because

placement into one is lower than Yale’s acceptance rate.

But not all is lost if you attended a regular public school; you’ll still be recognized from Instagram, even if you’ve never met people before arriving here. For those of you back home with a special Yalie, I hate to break it to you, but you might be getting cheated on. I’ve seen and heard of far too many guys with a secret girlfriend or two.

When the fun before classes ended, the Hunger Games began. “May the odds be ever in your favor,” because first-year registration is a bloodbath. We were told to “just keep attending the class,” even though rooms with a capacity of 16 were packed with nearly 30 students.

All in all, while my classmates have kept me on my toes, most of my interactions with them have been kind, respectful and genuine. Although Yale students can be quite elusive, that’s actually one of the things I’ve loved most about my first-year experience — you never know what a Yalie will say when you spark up a conversation.

Contact ANDREW DEMAR at andrew.demar@yale.edu.



// SOPHIE HENRY

The Do’s, Don’ts, and Regrets of Messy Hookups YOU HOOKED-UP WITH WHO?!?

// BY LIAM HUGHES

FroCo-cest, Foot-cest, College-cest, there’s a whole list of “forbidden” hookups waiting for first years to get tangled up in. When things get steamy, it’s hard to think about the big picture of your college life. Are there some hookups that are really off the table? After interviewing fellow freshmen who have committed some infamous “-cests” (and had my own share of encounters turned awkward...), I’ve learnt that things can get messy quickly. So let’s walk through the potential risks and rewards of these “taboo” hookups.

Roommates/Suitemates: And they were roommates

Let’s get one thing straight — we all can agree this is the no-go of all no-gos. There’s no way to rationalize a decision like this. If you’ve been considering it, take this as a sign to seriously reevaluate your romantic choices.

Risk: Catastrophic.

Reward: Never needing to do the walk of shame...

Floor-cest: One knock away

One thing: shared bathrooms — and no, not in a steamy way. Seriously. Do you want to get stuck brushing your teeth next to the guy who didn’t call you back? Or worse paying the price for the ice cream you had with dinner while they’re in the stall next to you?! Not to mention seeing all their new flings coming in and out of their room. Floor-cest may sound thrilling, easy and fun but the cons quickly start to add up if things go south.

Risk: Panic everytime you go to shower.

Reward: Conveniently close by.

Entryway-cest: Going down down-stairs.

Now this is a classic but complicated situation. A big pro is that you’re neighborly but not as close as your floormates. Maybe you’ve been having tension-filled encounters on the stairwell all week. But do you really want to take it to the next level? Those stairwell rendezvous and late-night water runs can suddenly become unbearable. You won’t be able to gossip about them in the courtyard without having to

keep an eye out, and you’ll find yourself bolting up your stairs when you get home from class. Also, don’t be surprised when your whole building knows all about it.

Risk: Their roommates telling everyone you moan weirdly.

Reward: Good cardio going up and down those stairs.

College-cest: Say-what? Say no.

Colleges are rife for meeting cool people and they feel big enough that there shouldn’t be any problems when those hookups turn into opps — but beware. You shouldn’t have to be on the lookout when doing laundry or eating at your own college dining hall. One Saybrugian guilty of college-cest advised that they: “shockingly see them everywhere, all the time.” If you protect your peace, your college can stay a rare safe space. Then again you might hit it off with one of your intramural teammates or just feel really strongly about college pride. A potential college partner could turn out to be a great thing — what better way to foster camaraderie? A repeat college-cest in Morse admitted they, “lowkey hate that the people are in my college... but I do it anyway... and I’ll do it again.”

Risk: Getting asked “so what are we?” at the salad bar.

Reward: They can treat you to something at the Buttery afterwards (if chivalry isn’t dead).

FroCo-cest: The most like actual incest?

Firstly, no I’m not talking about your literal FroCo — that’s a whole different kind of forbidden. I mean getting cozy with someone in your randomly assigned group of first week friends. FroCo group vibes range, mine was always kinda awkward, but others claim theirs are familial. One FroCo-cest culprit strongly advised to not engage before your nightly meetings are done: “we had more FroCo meetings post hookup, and after, I told them I didn’t want to do it again. They’d then text me during the froCo meetings and watch me not respond.” Yikes. When asked if they regret it they immediately responded: “Yes, very much so. It changed our friendship and the way our

group interacted and the only reward was the freakiest hookup of my life.”

However, now that orientation is over, we don’t have to spend that much time with our FroCo groups, so maybe you’ll be a little luckier with yours! Just be prepared for some uncomfortable Sunday family dinners.

Risk: Your FroCo reminding you to use a condom when they see you together.

Reward: Checking off one more square on the Rumpus bingo.

Foot-cest: The rough and wild

If you got with someone during your foot trip... power to you. You braved the sex bear, the bugs and dirt in places it shouldn’t be. More often than not, you didn’t get together during your trip but caught a spark for one of your fellow hikers. Good news though! Now that we’re



all back on campus and no longer sleeping side-by-side under a tarp, it’s a lot less weird to get it on. The biggest issue is the potentially painful Foot reunions. One foot-cest offender said: “our foot group is divided now, everyone knows about it and also he [the hookup] didn’t show up to our last reunion.” They also stated, “while I have no regrets... I would advise very strongly against it, don’t break up the foot family... also the sex bear is real... very real.”

Risk: The sex bear.

Reward: They’ve seen you after not showering for four days and still want you.

Class-cest: The study buddy special

This dilemma lies in those first-year seminars, daily language classes or anything Directed Studies-related where you’re in an already intimate classroom environment. Do you really want Kyle in your English 120 class to smirk and make deep eye contact with you while bringing up the nuances of a Virginia Woolfe essay? Maybe you do (no judgment here). Keep in mind you’re probably not as sneaky as you think. One DS student remarked: “I see [redacted] and [redacted] shoot glances all the time in my history seminar and sometimes kick each other under the table.” Additionally, don’t let it impede on your academics. If both of you are capable of leaving your romantic and emotional baggage at the classroom door, then enjoy those late night “study” sessions. For those who have already engaged in class-cest gone wrong, one source advises they’ve, “started wearing sunglasses to lectures and seminars — both as a disguise and pupil-hider for sneaky glances.” They also admit: “it was kind of inevitable, so don’t get too in your head about it.”

Risk: Knowing they’re accurately picturing you in your underwear while giving a presentation.

Reward: Sexy intellectualism? You can discuss your Plato readings in bed if that’s your thing.

So you’ve thought through the potential outcomes of this encounter. But let’s be real, is it ever that serious? If everyone abided by these arbitrary taboos then who would there even be left to hook up with? The awkward moments will pass, the gossip will die down and one day you’ll embrace your cringe-worthy decisions. Even better, maybe you’ll meet an actual match who you have a great relationship with. Would you let the fact you’re in the same college or class stand in the way of true love? The key is to do what feels comfortable and right — but also be ready to roll with any potential consequences. If anything, you’ll end up with a great story and a touch less dignity.

Contact LIAM HUGHES at liam.hughes@yale.edu.

WKND Recommends

Watch Sleepless in Seattle.

WEEKEND *CURIOSITY*

20 QUESTIONS, SOPHOMORE SLUMP EDITION

// BY MIA KOHN

I have discovered this week that I am allergic to my own tears. Unfortunately, this is not a bad metaphor for emotional repression. My red eyelids now boast permanent bags of fluid buildup from nightly wailing — although, I've never been particularly fond of my hooded eyes, so be careful what you wish for, I guess. Maybe I'm just prone to poetic ailments. The cold makes me break out in hives — but that's a different game. That's December. This game is about tears and questions and the number 20: being a slumped sophomore.

1. What are you going to do with your life? You know you want to do something with humanities. And something that helps people! And that will make you enough money to buy Trader Joe's snacks. And not be stressed out of your mind all the time. And also live in the city — there's only one, and everybody lives there.

2. Why are the first years so confident? You're a big scary sophomore. You're on the Flex plan. They should be terrified. Rawwwr be terrified, Frosh!

3. Why haven't you had a single romantic interaction at this school? You were lied to. Curse you, every-movie-about-college-ever and whoever said that Yale is the Gay Ivy! You should have gone to Brown; you saw so many Doc Martens on that tour in 11th grade.

4. Who are you trying to impress on Instagram? Last year, it was your friends from home and the hoards of fresh faces here. But you don't really talk to anyone from home, and your fellow sophomores don't have time to admire your post about your summer in Europe. They're too busy talking about the lack of to-go boxes and impressing their friends who are also posting about their summers in Europe.

5. Should you have rushed a cappella? It felt silly last year, but you would look awesome strolling down Cross Campus in a tux — this statement unfortunately only applies to the ladies. What about YDN? Or club softball? Or one of the 40 consulting groups that emailed you this week?

6. Why don't you have a FroCo? Everyone should have free pizza at least twice a week and someone to text when you're crying and your eyes are swollen and your friends are busy also crying but with slightly less swollen eyes.

7. On that note — how do you mitigate your tear allergy? It's concerning.

8. Hey Siri, can eyelids explode out of eye sockets from too much swelling?

9. How are you going to turn what you love into a career, so you don't cry and have swollen eye sockets for the rest of your life?

10. What is it that you love, again?

11. Similarly, why don't you love that class about that thing you thought you loved?

12. By the way — what is your major? Is it English or something important like environmental studies? Or, actually, maybe it's American Studies or art history or anthropology. Or are you an undiscovered scientific genius? You still don't really understand what "research" is, but maybe you'd be amazing at it.

13. Is your French class going to help you achieve any of this?

14. How are you going to solve every problem that ever existed — and also sleep?

15. How does one sleep, again? You've closed your eyes; the lights are off; you're

in a bed. That's how one sleeps, right? It just doesn't happen anymore! Maybe one of those already-discovered scientific geniuses can explain this to you.

16. Why is the floor so comfortable? Seriously, it's amazing down here. Also, your head starts spinning when you stand up.

17. Are you just dehydrated? You're probably dehydrated.

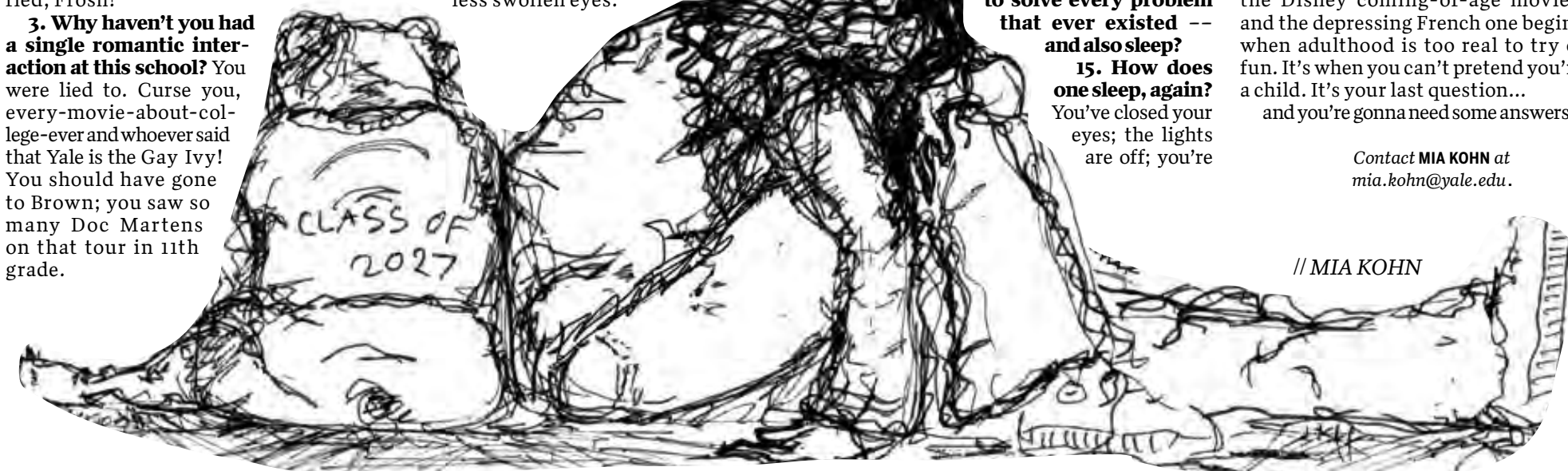
18. OK yes, you were really dehydrated. Why are there so few water bottle fillers on this campus?

19. Why are you so ungrateful to be here? You worked so hard and your parents worked so hard and everyone here is working really hard and you're also working reeeally hard to be happy and joyful. And focused, yet open minded and challenged, but not so challenged you can't be joyful and happy and really grateful. Did you mention that you're grateful?

20. How are you turning 20? You just turned 18, and it was amazing. You ruled the world. Nineteen was confusing in a cute way. Twenty is just baffling. It's when the Disney coming-of-age movie ends and the depressing French one begins. It's when adulthood is too real to try on for fun. It's when you can't pretend you're still a child. It's your last question... and you're gonna need some answers soon.

Contact MIA KOHN at mia.kohn@yale.edu.

// MIA KOHN



just ice for Handsome Dan

// BY DANI KLEIN

If you passed by Cross Campus during EW what do you call a worker who is poked and prodded all day, required to create endless internet content and forced to pose and smile for the entertainment of spoiled teenagers?

The answer: Handsome Dan XIX. Or, as his allies know him, Kingman.

Handsome Dan, our campus treasure, does not live the idyllic life that's publicized on his social media accounts. He lives in an endless cycle of backbreaking, exhausting, anxiety-inducing work for nothing but a spare treat here and there. Shackled around the clock, Handsome Dan is not a member of society, free to chase after his own American dream. Instead, he's a mere commodity, not even afforded the dignity of being called by his own given name. Worse, he has to watch hundreds of other New Haven dogs walk free on uncalloused paws, with nothing on their agenda but meals, naps and belly rubs. After all, all dogs are equal, but some are more equal than others.

The job of being Yale's majestic mascot hasn't been easy for any of the Handsome Dances of the past. Several Handsome Dances have been kidnapped by students at rival schools. One Handsome Dan was fired under the farce of "bad temperament" (though those close to the situation have hinted that he may have been fired for expressing political messages contrary to Yale's agenda). In the past, Dances have been trained to express polarizing social

views, such as Handsome Dan XIII, who was known for playing dead when asked whether he would rather die or root for Harvard. What draconian techniques were required to condition Handsome Dan into such hatred?

Kingman joins a long line of victims of heinous crimes, crippling physical ailments, and traumatic on-the-job injuries. Nearly a victim of a fatal drowning, Handsome Dan IX took a traumatic fall off the dock at the Yale Boathouse. Handsome Dan VI passed away as a result of stress caused by fireworks at a Yale-Harvard game (though disrespectful rumors allege that he actually died out of shame as a result of Harvard's victory.) Handsome Dances XIV, XV and XVII perished due to heart attacks following long and stressful unpaid mascot careers.

Go ahead and check for yourself — none of these Handsome Dances received workers' compensation, and no one thought to file wrongful death lawsuits or even sue Yale for intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Handsome Dan has been robbed of his legal protections under the cornerstone labor rights laws of the United States of America. Without opposable thumbs and the power of speech, he can't take collective action against Yale, although the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 gives him the right. He can't sue his employer under the Fair Labor Standards Act, even though he works far beyond 40

hours per week and isn't even four years old yet. He can't sue Yale for forced labor via physical restraint as detailed in 18 US Code Section 1589, and you better believe the Occupational Safety and Health Administration isn't doing inspections of Handsome Dan's workplace. Can anyone be sure that President McInnis hasn't paid federal workers' rights regulators to look the other way when Handsome Dan's bones creak under the pressure of his job responsibilities?

If we can't seek legal protection for Dan, we can at least demand he receive royalties for the use of his name, image and likeness in Yale promotional materials. He deserves at least that, after over a thousand posts on Instagram, constant photo ops with Yale Athletic teams and the emotional labor of thousands of undergrads petting him instead of going to therapy.

Handsome Dan can't speak for himself — we all must stand with him and call for his legal protection as an essential part of Yale culture. Maybe you'll read this story as satire. Or maybe you'll join us in this fight.

Handsome Dances of the world, you have nothing to lose but your leashes!

Bulldog Mascots of the World, Unite!

Contact DANI KLEIN at dani.klein@yale.edu.

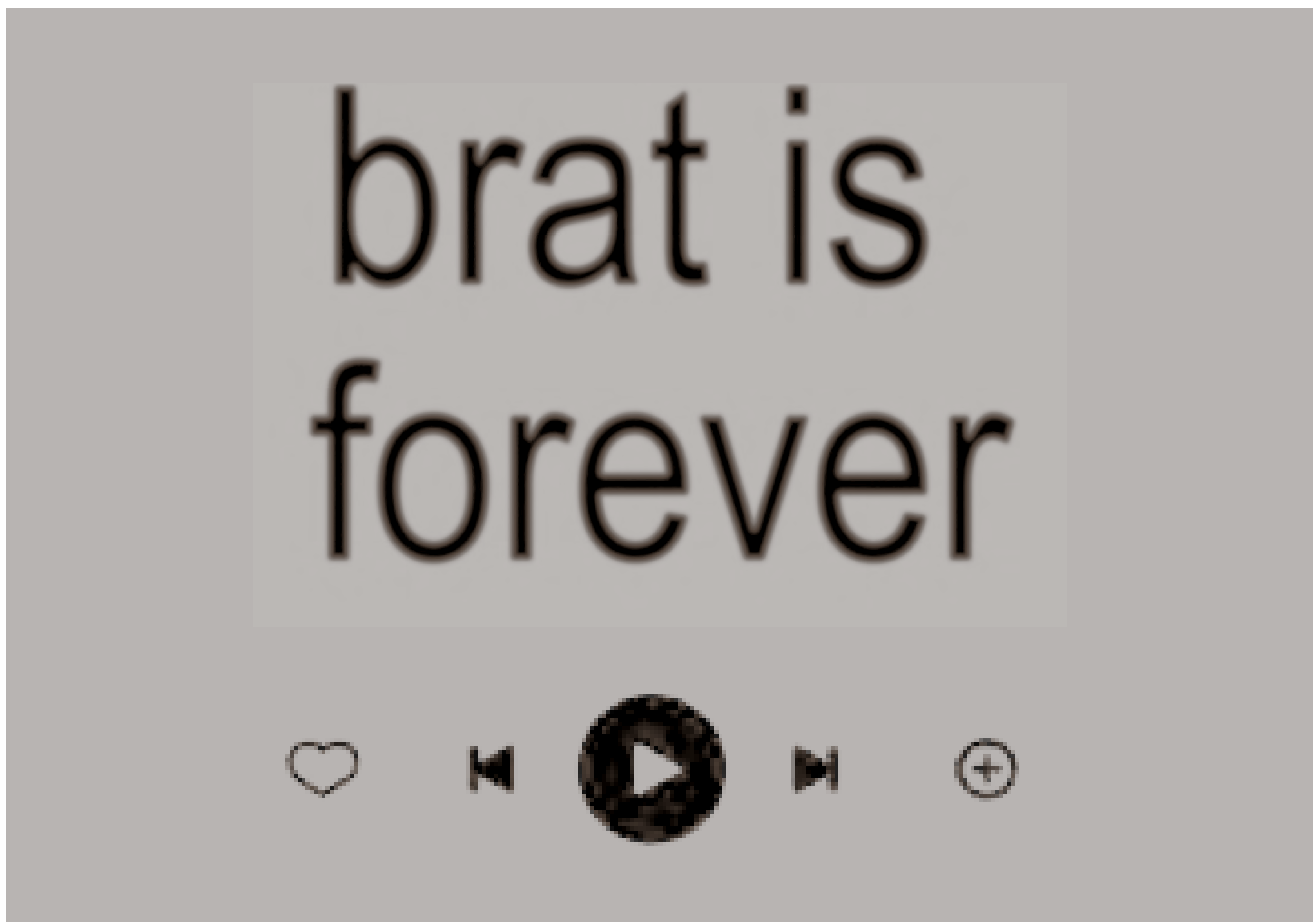


// MARK CHUNG

WKND Recommends

Buying a planner

WEEKEND *BRAT*



// KIVA BANK

From neon green flyers to Edon’s “Brat Housewarming” party, Brat Summer has officially reached Yale’s campus. The trend began with the release of Charli XCX’s latest album “brat,” on June 7, 2024, and immediately took over social media with neon green memes, dance pop and party girl aesthetics. The “brat” effect even reached Kamala Harris’ presidential campaign: Kamala HQ welcomed Gen Z to their Instagram page using low resolution, arial font plastered on a neon green background, mimicking Charli XCX’s “brat” album cover.

But brat summer seems to be coming to an unfortunate end as leaves are losing their green and apples are rotting right to the core. On Sept. 2, via X, Charli XCX tweeted “goodbye forever brat summer” and the finality of her statement seemingly marks the end of this era. But will brat summer ever truly be over? While the neon aesthetic might be tired, the party girls aren’t.

Brat is a trend to some but a lifestyle to others. You don’t have to guess what’s going on down there on the dance floor. It’s about being messy and working it out on the remix. Girl-

hood is confusing, but sometimes you just need to listen to club beats with your friends. Or film a TikTok dance. That’s what living the Von Dutch life is. At least, this is all in theory.

I was told I’m not very brat. Apparently wearing a neon green glow stick is not brat enough for an outfit — according to a random encounter I had on the way to a brat party one Sunday night. “This is brat” said the guy pointing to his basic white T-shirt and jeans combo. He was right. Brat is a mindset, and you have to embrace it.

Sprinting through downpouring rain to get to a frat party? That’s brat. Mascara running

down your face? Very brat. Hopping a fence? Also brat. Going to Woads the night before an exam? Brat. Accidentally waking up your roommate when you return to your dorm at 3 a.m.? So Julia.

Sometimes you just want to rewind and go back to brat summer, but the average party activities will always be part of college so while the neon green may die, the lifestyle won’t. Trends may come and go, but brat is forever at Yale.

Contact **SKIVA BANK** at kiva.bank@yale.edu.

The big 4

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 here.

Dear Sex on the WKND,
My boyfriend keeps referencing our 70 year old religious studies professor while we hook up! It makes me a little uncomfortable, but he says he’s just really stressed about the final exam.
Sincerely,
Concerned

First of all, he’s not just stressed about the final exam — let’s just get that out of the way. I am sorry. I know how hard it can be to be hooking up with someone who does not share

the same kinks as yours—particularly when it involves someone who looks like your great, great aunt. But, unfortunately readers, the more hookups you have the more likely you are to try something you don’t enjoy. I always say I’ll try anything once, but for you, I might make an exception.

Yale is filled with people with all different tastes and preferences. That’s what makes the school so special...some might have a stacks kink (mild) or want to bump fronts while balancing on a lab stool with the head researcher (hot, hot, HOT!)

Now, I can’t explain to you why your boyfriend wants to mate with meemaw ... but there may have been signs from the very beginning. Did his common app essay center around his volunteer service at the old folks home? Does he self-identify as an “old soul?”

I usually don’t suggest this but maybe go through his search history? Or, you just ignore the problem entirely and play into it. Next time he hits you with a comment about your professor, try promising you’ll cut retinol from your skincare routine.

For now, I am going to help out a broader audience and attempt to characterize the four different types of — let’s face it — off putting hookup styles you may come across on Yale’s campus. Surprise is usually the worst aspect of an unexpected journey, hopefully this will ease the pain.

Just like the four children in the Passover Haggadah, there are the four types of people in bed:

The Gamer

Ancient history suggests that the population of these types are most concentrated on and around Lake Place. The gamer loves a challenge—and they’re always on the prowl for their next matchup.

No one quite knows the rules of the gamer’s game (maybe ask the Yale Men’s Hockey Team) or if there is a prize other than bragging rights. Still, the information I have gathered will help you identify your next gamer, if that’s what you’re into (or not).

They love to try out new positions. Have you ever heard of “The Flying Squirrel?” Yeah... I hadn’t either.

Another rule of the game seems to be how fast they can finish their task. Well, I haven’t exactly deduced if this is erotic or they are genuinely confusing sports with sex. Your coach is not watching and there is no reason to be moving your arms that fast—SLOW DOWN. The Gamer might also get a bit rough. Again, I don’t really know if this is part of the game.

The Lovebird

Now this type doesn’t hook up — they make love. They will ask you to Champagne and Shackles while taking your underwear off. The very word “fuck” makes them cringe. The Lovebird is all about intimacy. Eye contact. Hand holding. Long cuddles after the act. Pillow talk ranges from “what did this mean to you?” to “I want you to meet my parents.” The Lovebird is who we all think we want — but be wary of the half that just have insecure

attachment styles. I thought I had a Lovebird once, but then he ended things because he was “afraid of commitment” ever since his past situationship. Yeah, it didn’t make sense to me either. As for the other half: you can only have sex in missionary so many times before it gets boring.

The Crier

This type can’t help getting emotional mid-act. Sometimes it’s a singular tear. Sometimes, it’s a full blown meltdown. Why? We’ve heard it all. They’re not over an ex. They have mommy issues. You remind them too much of the girl best friend they’re totally not in love with. They lost their most recent game of paddle. There could be many reasons for this one, and usually I would say don’t ask and just leave.

The Silent One

First, have you considered if your partner is on SSRIs? The pill? Are you just bad in bed and they won’t give you gratification by faking it? If none of these apply, read on: You make eyes across the Luther backyard. Confidence bolstered by cheap vodka shots, you approach each other. You talk without really saying anything. You head back to their place. You hook up. They’re silent, so you’re silent. After the act, nothing’s said either.

My advice: don’t bother trying too hard with this type. Some things are better left unsaid.



WKND Recommends
 Picnics outside



Finding my FOOTing

// BY GRACE MALKO

What FOOT Taught Me About Connection and Community at Yale

Last month, like approximately half of the Class of 2028, I found myself in the woods, behind some upperclassmen and fellow Yale first-years. We were traversing a rocky path at 4AM. I was kept alive only by an ungodly amount of torts (flour tortillas), so, so, many apples, a few cumulative hours of sleep, and the adrenaline rush that comes from reading signs that say “Warning: Bear Frequented Area.” So, how did I end up here, shivering and underslept?

FOOT, for the people who did not elect to drink bleach water for their Yale orientation experience, stands for First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips. It’s a four day camping and backpacking trip with two upperclassmen leaders and eight to ten FOOTies—first-years participating in the trip. You carry all of your gear, food, and yes, used toilet paper in your backpack. To add to the misery, there are no phones or watches allowed for FOOTies. The lack of distractions forces you to relinquish all control. Additionally, where you walk and for how long, when and where you sleep, and what you eat are all in the hands of your (hopefully merciful) FOOT leaders. All there is to do is eat, sleep, walk, talk, and pray there isn’t a tick on you in an unspeakable place that you haven’t yet found. As it turns out, this is perfect for fostering community and genuine friendship in a “Breakfast Club” style, with seven other randomly selected stressed-out Yale first-years. Over the course of the trip, with our willingness to engage and a healthy dose of collective misery, we bonded. I found myself surprisingly close with these people who I had just met.

Here’s what I believe worked on FOOT for cultivating connection, and the lessons I took away from it.

• **Shocking: The “no phones” thing actually works.** As cliché as it sounds, sometimes all it takes to force nervous college freshmen to actually connect with each other is to take away their phones. I will not belabor this point, I know we all have parents, grandparents, professors, dentists, that guy on the street, etc. who remind us of this fact constantly.

• **A bit of collective misery bonds people for life (see also: the Yale Directed Studies Program).** I feel like I have already described enough about the conditions of FOOT for you to understand this point. I’ll just add two more words: trowel kit.

• **Martha Stewart might have been wrong about how to successfully get away with insider trading, but she was right about the power of food to bring**

people together. Even though I can never look at a tortilla the same way again (Everything Torts, iykyk), there was something that felt ancient and comforting about cooking by the light of a fire Nalgene with a phone flashlight placed under it.

• **Vulnerability is key.** Eventually, we all saw that this was a chance to really get to know each other, away from the stress and worn out questions: “what college are you

in? Where are you from?” It was an opportunity that none of us took for granted, and we all benefited from it. We have weekly FOOTunions and we are all still friends. Once you’ve survived not showering for four days with someone, you’re friends for life.

• **Cultish Tendencies Traditions.** I’ll be honest, a significant part of FOOT traditions involve some light and loving hazing from FOOT leaders. We may or may not have only been allowed two hours of sleep one night. This kind of attitude is tradition. It is FOOT leaders’ goal to teach FOOTies how to deal with the emotional fire hose that is the first few weeks at Yale. My favorite traditions, however, were the trail names we came up with for each other based on some part of our personal lore: Jelly, L, Tisperer (short for tick whisperer), A Drizzy, E-mail, Mother, MVBean, Trowel, and Russell. What was mine, you ask? That’s classified. ;)

Since returning from FOOT, I have realized Yale does a good job of fostering connections on campus. We’re all longing for tradition and a community where we feel like we belong here. FOOT allows for immediate tradition and community, while the close connections at Yale take more time and investment. Our majestic dining halls really do offer a great space to bond over food, that is, if we’re willing to risk rejection after a “hey, want to grab a meal” text. We are overflowing with exclusive traditions. It’s Yale. We can’t have a normal term or process for anything. As for vulnerability and true connection, under these circumstances that takes time, and I have a sneaking suspicion that perhaps the greatest vulnerability my peers and I will express in the next few months is the sheepish admission that we all got cut from first round YSIG applications. But this is a special place, and as history has shown, it will foster steadfast and fruitful friendships (and maybe that Goldman Sachs internship) if we just give it time.

Contact GRACE MALKO at grace.malko@yale.edu.



// ALANA LIU

First week casualties

// BY JULIA RAYMOND

On the first Monday of the school year, I stripped down to my underwear in the hallway outside my dorm. I’d called my suitemates several times, begging them to bring a towel from my room, to no avail. Mud plastered my jeans, rainwater clogged my wool socks and brand new leather shoes, and under no circumstances was I bringing that filth into my dorm. I’d chosen to spend the first day partying in the row of houses behind Payne Whitney Gym. Like the rest of the underclassmen flocking to the dimly-lit backyard of 13 Lake Place, I’d come unprepared.

The first few minutes of the party, my friends and I danced like we were being electrocuted, the electricity jumping from sweaty back to sweaty back, jolting through our limbs and inducing sporadic “frat flicks.” Whatever rational concerns I had regarding the sweaty butts gyrating against my freshly-laundered shirt, the fist-sized holes in the walls of the house, or the increasing volume of falling rain were dismissed as the wannabe DJ blasted “Guess” by Charli XCX.

It was only when the playlist looped back around to play Nelly Furtado’s “Promiscuous Girl” for the eighth time that I looked down to the mud below

me. My brand new shoes were lost in a murky puddle of rain and spilled vodka. Mud caked my favorite pair of jeans, brown rain water pooled in my socks, and my friend’s face bore a streak of filth, running from her jaw to her smeared mascara. It was only then we identified the first casualty of the first week: our dignity.

After sprinting through Bingham Hall nearly in the nude, that loss was made abundantly clear, which made me wonder: what else had first years lost in the first week?

High up in Sam Torres’ ’28 dorm, I heard a tale of loss and questionable gain. Sam told me she “lost four socks [her] first time doing laundry” but, as if the divine scales of Bingham Hall laundry were righting themselves, miraculously gained “someone’s stained underwear [her] second time.” Sam described the newly acquired underwear as “overly stained and discolored” and claimed she was “appalled.” If you’re willing to exchange your dignity for your missing pair of not-so-slightly stained underwear, hurry over to Sam’s trash can, before it’s too late!

Down in the depths of the Humanities Quadrangle, Siena Valdivia ’28 whispered another tale of freshman woe. While “locking in” at the Trumbull Library, Siena was locked in and

trapped in the Trumbull Library after trying in vain to push on a pull door. Thanks to the sound-proofed glass and an empty dining hall below, no one could hear or see Siena’s cries for help. An upperclassman opened the door and freed her from her imprisonment, Siena made it out of the library—her dignity, not so much.

Last night, Liam Hughes ’28 spilled his account of his dining hall disaster. After filling his Saybrook burger with ample toppings and “lots of sauce,” Liam tiptoed across the dining hall to his seat, balancing the burger on the edge of his plate. By a humiliating but all too predictable twist of fate, his burger fell off the plate, sauce splattering everywhere. Liam moved quickly to save the disastrous moment, getting “on his knees in front of a lot of people” to clean the mess with a paper towel. Like the decimated burger, his dignity was a bit hard to recover.

The transition into college was never meant to be a dignified one. We were meant to lock ourselves in libraries, spill our food in front of the masses, and sprint around in our underwear in front of our freshman peers. But hey, a year from now we’ll find this funny. Hopefully.

Contact JULIA RAYMOND at julia.raymond@yale.edu.



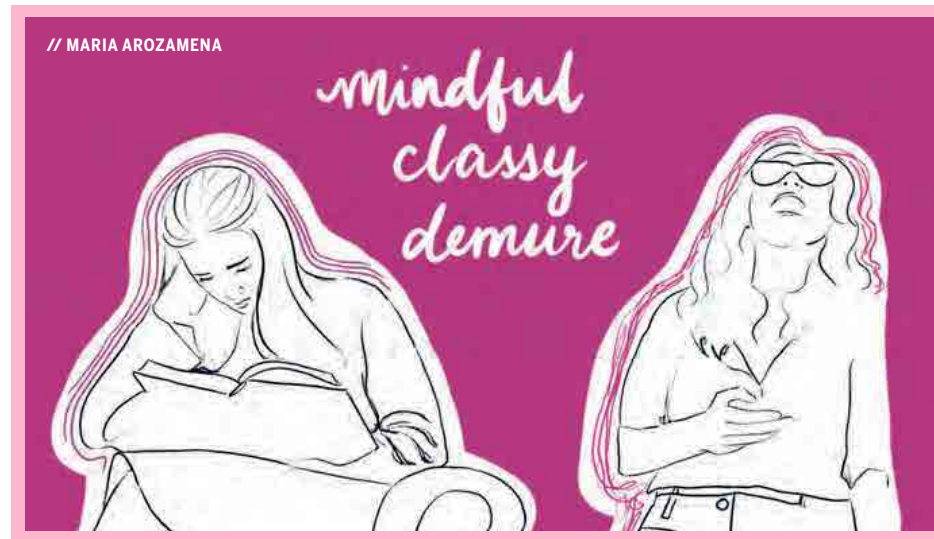
// HAILEY TALBERT

WKND Recommends

Fresh fruit

THE CASE AGAINST VERY MINDFUL, VERY DEMURE

// BY LAURA BINENBOJM



If you had ears at the end of Summer 2024, you would have caught wind of two buzzwords dominating conversations: “mindful” and “demure.” You may just think these are trendy buzzwords, on their way to leave the public’s lexicon as fast as they arrived. But, demure and mindful are really guiding principles, especially for those about to step onto campus for the first time.

Arriving at Yale as a first year means more than just adjusting to seminars, “p-sets” or discovering which line in Commons moves fastest — it’s about being a carefully curated version of yourself. From the moment first years step onto Old Campus, there’s an unspoken norm to be mindful, not just of how many classes we take or clubs we join, but of how we navigate Yale. For many, this expectation translates into being demure, a kind of effortless restraint. It’s the art of being polished, poised and controlled.

Mindfulness and demureness are guaranteed to earn you the silent approval of upperclassmen. Here’s a list of rules — of what NOT to do — based on the mistakes of non-mindful and non-demure members of the Class of ’28:

- "Blasted a YouTube video at full volume in Sterling"
- "Committed FOOT-cest and FroCo group-cest — yes, both"
- "Asked a hot med student which residential college they are in"
- "Was late to my 9am and pulled up in pajamas"
- "Saw my FroCo at the function"
- "Accidentally pulled the LDub fire alarm"
- "Fell in the muddy floor of the crew house"
- "Survived Woads, Foads and Soads"
- "Over-explored the stacks"
- "Spilled my new, overpriced matcha all over the floor"
- "Accidentally late-liked a senior's post"

So, the general rule of thumb is: be cautious, keep your head down, try not to cause a stir. Actually, if possible, don't ever speak or go out. At first glance, this seems like sound advice for any new environment. But following these guidelines can often feel like walking on a tightrope of expectations. A pressure that can end up taking precedence over embracing the full range of experiences available to us.

I mean, where is the space for risk? For the kind of memorable messy mistakes that make freshman year something we will remember? Where is the room for nostalgia and embarrassment? Is prioritizing being mindful and demure really what the Yale Admissions Office was looking for when they said yes?? Not only is it exhausting — mindfulness and demureness is counterproductive. Yale is supposed to be a time to test boundaries, to figure out who we are and explore the parts of ourselves that don't fit into the Common App.

The truth is, no one wants to see how you are mindful or demure, in fact, no one cares. In a generation that is finally letting go of gender roles, strict career paths, conventional beauty standards and social norms — why are we allowing social media to control us? Let us have the genuine experiences that make us authentically ourselves. True growth comes from the willingness to make mistakes and take risks. So, here is a TO-DO bucket-list for your time at Yale, which will hopefully make you live beyond mindfulness and demureness.

Hike East Rock for the views — and yes, a picnic in the park to feel extra outdoorsy!

Casually ask that cute kid for their number — no rehearsals necessary.

Campaign for student council like you're running for president — extra points for an Instagram post/story advertising your campaign, claiming to bring back to-go boxes, install AC and make laundry free.

Go on a New Haven pizza quest: Sally's, Pepe's, Yorkside — may the best slice win!

Invite your professor to lunch. Dine at every dining hall and channel your inner food critic — yes, even JE deserves a rating.

Sled down Science Hill.

Go to that party even if you were not totally invited.

Attend a friend's performance or game and scream like their biggest fan.

Woads, Foads, Soads: embrace the chaos.

Master the art of "Let's get coffee/lunch sometime" — and actually follow through once!

Snowball fight on Old Campus, because who doesn't want to launch snow at your annoying DS classmate?

Go wild with Halloweekend costumes — creativity has no limits, but your dignity might.

Paint your face, put on your over-

priced Yale merch and lose your voice at THE GAME.

Stand outside the frats either because you can't get in or because you're waiting for your very reliable friend who said they'd get you in the list.

Spring Fling! Dance like it's the last concert of your life — until next year.

Try Ashley's ice cream!

Go to duty night "hydrated" and see if you can stay off your FroCos radar.

Climb the Harkness Tower — or just admire it from the ground, it's the thought that counts.

Get your hands dirty at Yale Farm.

Ice skate at The Whale — and fall at least twice.

Feel fancy at a college orchestra performance and clap dramatically.

Visit a New Haven Chinese market — find something you've never heard of and make it dinner.

Audition for a comedy group!

Meet Handsome Dan, because your Instagram feed needs more bulldog.

Graduate. But honestly, this one is optional — no rush.

Contact LAURA BINENBOJM at laura.binenbojm@yale.edu.

I HAVE TO WORK?

// BY MARIA GONÇALVES

The class of 2028 is compiled with many different backgrounds and brings conflicting ideals to New Haven. From speaking to my classmates, however, there seems to be one thing we can all agree on: no one was expecting this much work in the first week of classes. I do not quite know what I thought Yale would be like, but somehow in my fantasy I omitted doing work. There is no escaping it now, though. The only thing left for me to do is find a great study spot that will inspire me to keep going. And what's a great study spot, you ask? For me, it's a building that transports me into a Gilmore Girls episode — one in which Rory doesn't drop out of Yale. But what do I know... I have been here only for 27 (?) days. So here are five study spots around campus you should explore, each recommended by a different upperclassman, with an updated review by me and the same group of friends.

1. Kline Tower: If you are a science major, I am sure you already know Kline Tower by now. Placed at the center of Science Hill, the location is central and convenient. This is the perfect spot to have some focus time while you wait between your classes. Either take a table at Steep Café or take advantage

of the sunny weather — while it lasts — and get your vitamin D in! Like all cafés and outdoor spaces, there is some background noise, but, if it's not rush hour and you have good noise-canceling headphones, it's mostly not noticeable. Rating 5/5

2. Philosophy Reading Room: Located on the 6th floor of Sterling. Absolutely gorgeous. Small space, but the overflowing bookshelves make it so cozy. If you are not a humanities major, you may feel out of place in this room. Beware: it's reserved for DS on Wednesdays (but do they even check?) For those who, like me, value aesthetics: the individual tables facing the window have an incredible view of Harkness Tower. Rating 5/5

3. Residential Colleges Common Rooms: We found them to be the absolute best spot for “studying,” meaning you have to get work done but don't have a strict deadline. This is the place to laugh with your friends while you are “being productive.” Nobody will call you out for being loud, because it's not really a study spot, and, most of the time, they're either empty or near empty! Will you get your work done? Maybe not. Will it be a fun study session? Definitely yes. Rating 5/5

4. Music Library: In Sterling, but it feels like a whole different world. We stayed in the upper level and WOW. The high ceilings give you an extra boost of motivation. The perfect ambiance for locking in — it's extremely silent. Maybe too silent; when I was there, a guy farted and everyone (I mean, EVERYONE) looked up and burst out laughing. The only thing I would appreciate is smaller tables. Rating: 4.5/5

5. Tsai City: If you get sick of all the old architecture (why would you though?), this aquarium-looking building might be the place for your next study session. This one is also a quieter space, with upbeat background music (which I didn't appreciate), and no other freshmen in sight. There are whiteboards you can use all over the space! Rating 3/5

Give them all a try and keep an open eye to other hidden gems that might cross your way over the semester. Onto the next week we go; good luck everyone!

Contact MARIA GONÇALVES at maria.goncalves@yale.edu.



WKND Song Recommendation:

Close to You by the Carpenters.



THE CHUBB FELLOWSHIP · TIMOTHY DWIGHT COLLEGE · YALE UNIVERSITY

ALISON BECHDEL

PROFESSOR IN THE PRACTICE
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AND FILM & MEDIA STUDIES



photo credit: Elena Seibert

“...and I became a lesbian cartoonist.”
Reflections on a Curious Career

LECTURE AND Q&A

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

4:00-5:30PM

Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall,
1 Prospect Street, Room 114

Doors open at 3:30 for seating

Admission is free to the Yale Community and the General Public



Please register here if you plan to attend. No tickets required

Supported by the Department of English and the Program of Film and Media Studies

Please direct questions to:
chubb.fellowship@yale.edu