



Post-affirmative action lawsuits loom

BY JOSIE REICH, CHRIS TILLEN, HAILEY TALBERT AND KARLA CORTES
STAFF REPORTERS

The demographic data for Yale's first class admitted post-affirmative may put a target on the school's back for future lawsuits, legal experts told the News.

Some legal experts said that Yale's demographics indicated an unlawful racial preference, while others said that the Supreme Court's ruling contains ambiguities or that Yale's demographic distri-

butions in the newest class may just reflect the use of other admissions factors. On Tuesday, one anti-affirmative action group indicated they may seek legal action against the University for maintained diversity.

In the Yale class of 2028, Black and Latine enrollment remained similar to previous years, while the share of Asian American students fell and white enrollment rose from the year prior. At peer institutions such as MIT, Amherst College and Brown University, the share of Asian American students increased for the

class of 2028, and the share of Black and Latine students decreased.

Princeton, however, saw demographic shifts similar to Yale's.

Yale's admissions office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The office previously declined to comment on the demographic data for the class of 2028 beyond a Yale News press release.

Unchanged demographics could raise eyebrows

In 2022, the legal advocacy group Students for Fair Admissions sued

Harvard and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and argued that the schools' race-conscious admissions discriminated against Asian American and white applicants. The case was ultimately heard by the Supreme Court, which struck down affirmative action and argued that the practice violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

In a joint amicus brief that the University submitted to the

SEE ADMISSIONS PAGE 4

Game tickets only via lottery

BY SIENNA TEJPAUL AND SPENCER KING
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER AND SENIOR REPORTER

On Monday afternoon, the Yale College Office of Student Engagement sent students the highly anticipated details on how to acquire a ticket to the Yale-Harvard Game on Nov. 23 at Harvard Stadium in Boston.

According to the email, student tickets will be \$25 each; however, they are only available through a new lottery system.

Seniors who enter the lottery will automatically be given four entries, juniors three, sophomores two and first-years only one. If a student wins the lottery, they will receive an invitation to purchase tickets within a specific time frame. Winning the lottery, the email noted, does not guarantee students a ticket.

"The weighting in the process for seniors was a direct response to students feedback, who felt that we wanted to give seniors a greater chance to attend their final Y-H game as a student, whereas, a sophomore or first-year will have several more chances to attend a Game," Dean of Student Engagement at Yale College Burgwell Howard wrote to the News.

SEE LOTTERY PAGE 5

FAS Dean Tamar Gendler to step down



BY YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

On Dec. 31, Tamar Gendler will step down after completing her second term as the inaugural dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The end of Gendler's term was announced by University President Laurie McInnis in an email to the Yale community on Tuesday. Gendler, who first assumed her role as FAS Dean on July 1, 2014, will go on sabbatical at the beginning of 2025 before returning to continue researching and teaching at Yale. The announcement did not specify Gendler's return date.

"The FAS has reached a moment of maturity; it is strong and secure," Gendler wrote in an email to FAS department and program chairs. "And so, as the second quarter of the twenty-first century dawns, I will have the privilege of passing the mantle of leadership to one of my colleagues."

The University president and provost will assemble a faculty advisory committee to select a successor for Gendler. / Yale News

The FAS dean oversees the hiring, mentoring and compensation of over 1,000 faculty members across 40 departments and programs. The dean also manages the FAS budget, whose spending totaled over \$800 million in the 2024 fiscal year.

Under Gendler's decade-long tenure, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences has seen significant transformation in its governing structure, with the establishment of divisional deans and the FAS-SEAS Senate coming within a year of Gendler assuming her position.

"It was the project, then, of my first five years as dean to build the infrastructure that is now how FAS runs," Gendler told the News. "The first five years were devoted to figuring out what systems will work, and the next five years were devoted to operating with them in a way that they became part of the fabric of the school and of the faculty."

SEE GENDLER PAGE 4

Allegations fly in YNHHS lawsuit against Prospect

BY JANICE HUR
STAFF REPORTER

The legal dispute between Yale New Haven Health System and Prospect Medical Holdings over the acquisition of three Connecticut hospitals has intensified, with both parties exchanging new allegations.

The two systems agreed on a \$435 million deal in 2022, which would transfer ownership of three Connecticut hospitals to YNHHS. Now, YNHHS argues that Prospect's alleged financial mismanagement and operational failures make finalizing the acquisition as planned impossible.

YNHHS has updated its May lawsuit against Prospect, citing concerns over patient care, unpaid taxes and violations of the purchase agreement. In response, Prospect maintains that it has complied with all federal standards and accuses YNHHS of delaying the transaction to lower the purchase price.

"By amending its lawsuit to include issues that are over a year and a half old and already fully resolved, Yale New Haven Health and its Board of Trustees are continuing their blatant attempt to extract a lower purchase price on a legally binding deal that they previously signed off on," a Prospect spokesperson wrote in an email to the News.

The acquisition was expected to significantly expand YNHHS's footprint in Connecticut by adding Waterbury Hospital, Manchester



YNHHS accused Prospect of financial mismanagement, while Prospect alleged that YNHHS is trying to delay the deal's completion. / YuLin Zhen, Photography Editor

Memorial and Rockville General hospitals, spanning over 700 beds and more than 4,000 employees.

The deal, however, has faced numerous obstacles, with YNHHS alleging that Prospect's hospitals have failed to comply with Medicare standards and have been troubled by operational challenges.

YNHHS has alleged that the hospitals have failed to meet certain healthcare standards, including issues with patient safety, sanitation and medical services, which have been flagged by federal and state agencies. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Ser-

vices, or CMS, had previously threatened to pull Medicare contracts from Waterbury Hospital due to concerns over patient abuse, failure to sterilize equipment and other critical violations.

Although Prospect claimed to have addressed these concerns, YNHHS maintains that the hospital remains in "substantial noncompliance" with Medicare standards.

In addition to patient care concerns, YNHHS has pointed to Prospect's tax liabilities as a major factor in the delays. YNHHS alleges

SEE HEALTH PAGE 5

Faculty debates neutrality

BY JOSIE REICH, YOLANDA WANG AND ADAM WALKER
STAFF REPORTERS AND UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Pro-institutional neutrality group Faculty for Yale hosted a panel discussion Wednesday afternoon on whether Yale should refrain from taking stances on current events.

Pro-institutional neutrality members of the panel expressed concerns that the University taking a stance on world issues could deter junior faculty interested in joining Yale who have dissenting opinions due to the power dynamic between University administrators and junior faculty.

A common sentiment among the Faculty for Yale panelists was that the University taking a stance would "chill" discourse and place those who oppose the University's position in an uncomfortable position.

Wesleyan University President Michael Roth, who opposes neutrality, joined four Faculty for Yale members who support the concept on the panel. The event featured panelists law professor and former dean of Yale Law School Anthony Kronman, political science professor Hélène Landemore, professor of political science and global affairs Ian Shapiro and associate professor of psychiatry Michael Strambler.

A crowd of approximately 75 community members, mostly professors, raised their hands to ask questions and voice their opin-

ions on institutional neutrality throughout the panel. Institutional neutrality is the policy under which higher education institutions decide not to take positions on current events that do not directly relate to the university.

The panelists discussed the role an institution should have in discussing world issues and how an institution taking a stance on an issue could affect professors at the University. Roth was the only member of the panel who dissented against institutional neutrality, arguing that universities should be allowed to comment on world events that affect members of their communities.

"What did Rick Levin say on behalf of the University that corrupted the conversation of free speech at Yale?" Roth asked. "What did [the presidents] say that made you feel like they're really getting in your way to pursue the truth?"

Administrators such as University Provost Scott Strobel and former Law School Dean Robert Post LAW '77 were present at the event. Most members of the University committee that will advise University President Laurie McInnis on whether to adopt neutrality were also present, including Sterling Professor of Philosophy Michael Della Rocca, School of Management Dean Kerwin Charles, religious studies professor Jennifer Herdt and history professor Stephen Pitti '91.

SEE NEUTRALITY PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1968. Yale ends weekend meals at Commons. Dining halls also begin to open doors for dinner earlier in an attempt to alleviate overcrowding.

INSIDE THE NEWS

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi reschedules book talk with Rep. Rosa DeLauro over hotel workers' strike. NEWS 11



PAGE 3 OPINION

PAGE 6 NEWS

PAGE 8 ARTS

PAGE 10 SPORTS

PAGE B1 WKND

CHEERLEADING Yale Cheerleading team prepares for the start of their season and reflects on March Madness. PAGE 10 SPORTS

LITERATURE PRIZES Yale hosts a three-day celebration to recognize writers from various genres. PAGE 8 ARTS

BULLETIN



CLARISSA TAN '26

••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

Puzzle by Ariana Borut '27

<p>ACROSS 1 O, in hangman 5 Uno + uno 8 Conductor's concern 13 Alleviate 14 Like some exams 16 Fiji competitor 17 Petri dish gel 18 Reject 19 Airplane seating request 20 *Oxygen carriers 23 Singer Sivan 24 Golf teacher 25 Oom-__ 28 *Brazilian supermodel who's a face of Maybelline 33 Wacky 37 "The Addams Family" cousin 38 Difficulty 39 Out of the loop 41 Raise 43 Continue, as a subscription 44 Mrs., in Madrid 45 Wrap served with tzatziki 46 *Hard deposits that can be found in the bladder 50 Like a fox 51 Where the cucumbers are not for eating 52 High-heat oven setting 57 Let a secret slip... or a hint to the starts of 20- and 46-Across and the end of 28-Across</p>	<p>62 Despise 64 Pill alternatives, briefly 65 Sailing 66 Vowel-heavy condiment 67 Office sub 68 Juicy gossip 69 You shouldn't get them up too soon 70 Greed or envy 71 Ballpark figs.</p> <p>DOWN 1 Shape of Instagram's "like" button 2 Looking forward to 3 South American barbecue 4 You can bet on it 5 Dummy 6 Black-and-white cookie 7 Playground area with buckets and shovels 8 Greenish blue 9 Diabolical 10 Kermit's lover 11 Bud 12 Ace's value, at times 15 Swimwear material 21 Meadow 22 Long, long time 26 Love affair 27 Winfrey's production company 29 One making a scene?: Abbr. 30 Way to go: Abbr. 31 Singer Grande, to fans 32 Diminutive suffix</p>	<table border="1" style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> <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></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>14</td><td></td><td></td><td>15</td><td></td><td>16</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>18</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>19</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td></td><td></td><td>21</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>22</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>24</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>31</td><td>32</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>33</td><td>34</td><td>35</td><td>36</td><td></td><td>37</td><td></td><td></td><td>38</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>39</td><td></td><td></td><td>40</td><td></td><td></td><td>41</td><td>42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>43</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>44</td><td></td><td></td><td>45</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>46</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>47</td><td>48</td><td></td><td></td><td>49</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>50</td><td></td><td></td><td>51</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>52</td><td>53</td><td>54</td><td>55</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr><td>57</td><td>58</td><td>59</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>60</td><td>61</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>62</td><td>63</td><td></td><td></td><td>64</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>65</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>66</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>67</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>68</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>69</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>70</td><td></td><td>71</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				25	26	27	28	29	30					31	32				33	34	35	36		37			38				39			40			41	42					43					44			45				46				47	48			49				50			51				52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59					60	61				62	63			64				65				66				67				68				69						70		71				<p>33 Hides in the shadows 34 Baseball great 35 50 Cent song with the lyric "One taste of what I got / I'll have you spending all you got" 36 Wilson of "Wedding Crashers" 40 Astonishment 41 Sibling of sis 42 Sought office 44 Christ the Redeemer and others 47 Fashion inits. 48 Gymnastics move 49 Flow back</p> <p>53 Duane ____ (pharmacy chain) 54 Camel's rest stop 55 Like helium and argon 56 Exams for future J.D.s 58 Magnet end 59 Pupil's surroundings 60 TV cable initials 61 "College GameDay" airer 62 Massage reaction 63 Book jacket blurb</p>
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THE FRANKE PROGRAM IN SCIENCE AND THE HUMANITIES

FIRE OF LOVE

A SCREENING

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OPINION

STAFF COLUMNIST
MILES KIRKPATRICK

Cross the aisle

Right now, Yale houses the future of American leadership — it always has. Beyond just the graduates who become big names in government, we also have the future political staffer class, national security apparatus and the journalists and public intellectuals who will drive national political discourse here, among us. For our future leadership, Yale is where political identities and ideologies form. For those who come in with them, Yale is where they harden.

Many have argued before that Yale is a liberal ideological bubble, but that isn't really true. Even excluding the New Right populist supervillain factory housed in the dark depths of Yale Law School, there is still a sizable population of vocal conservatives at Yale College. The Buckley program is the cliché example, but there is also the right coalition of the Yale Political Union. The Tories, Federalists, Conservatives and Party of the Right form a distinct conservative ecosystem on campus, historically responsible for producing right-wing governors, senators, judges and political commentators.

As a debating body with parties across the political spectrum, well organized and nominally more prestigious than nearly every student group on campus, to engage or not engage with the Yale Political Union — more specifically with its well-populated right-wing parties — is a dilemma for us on the left. Do we dedicate time and effort to understanding, arguing with and potentially even fraternizing with those unabashed Tories, Federalists, Conservatives and Party of the Right members?

Most Yale leftists and liberals — that is most Yale students — consider understanding the right a waste of time. To us, the exercise of debating ideas with our right-wing counterparts can seem fairly unnecessary, if not actively self-destructive. Why spend time talking politics and philosophy with the most conservative Yalies on campus? Watching their debates like “resolved: broken windows lead to broken cities” takes up valuable time. I have my beliefs and spaces to express them with like minded peers. Why engage in debate with my ideological opponents?

There's an answer for both the optimist and the cynic. For the optimist, while it is a bit overdone, it still is worth repeating that political discourse can be good for all involved. Exposure to new perspectives and new ideas makes all of us better thinkers. On more minor issues, you might find yourself agreeing with those you ideologically oppose or even persuading them to work with you on a policy issue.

I know I've enjoyed listening to the speeches of the right from the Yale Political Union. Sometimes, they give me a new way of justifying my beliefs. Other times, I've re-examined what I believed when a contradiction in my beliefs reveals itself. I hope I've also done the same for members of Yale's Right. This process helps

us develop and, by proxy, makes America's future leaders better: political discourse is a civic duty.

However, for the cynics among us — those who doubt if the right can be reasoned with or if they can act in good faith — it is still worth engaging critically with their ideas. It makes us better fighters.

Politics is a bloody conflict of ideas. We are all gladiators, and we battle in an arena where champions wield concepts instead of clubs and words instead of swords. The Coliseum is packed, and the victor of each bout is determined by a crowd that doesn't always understand each combatant's weapons or how they wield them. To lose is temporary death. Should that crowd judge that our opponents fought more valiantly, we are at their mercy until the next round.

In this view of politics as competitive instead of collaborative, engaging with our adversaries through the Yale Political Union presents us with an opportunity to spar. We get to practice our own techniques and sharpen our own strategies while also learning how our future opponents approach combat.

In essence, engaging them in debate on the Union floor or in the pages of the News is practice. It is practice for constructing our arguments and deconstructing theirs, both in writing and in debate — a skill we will need when we meet again on the Senate floor.

I know I want to jump into this fray. To paraphrase the Chairman of the Independent Party at the first union debate of the year, I'm tired of boring classroom, dining hall or common room debates where 90 percent of those involved share variations on the same left-wing principles, and the other 10 percent either keep quiet or are the most annoying person ever.

The rationales for the optimist and the cynic persuade me to seek out the opinions of the campus right. For one, I think they are genuinely good people to know, be friends with and joke with. I'll say it: very rarely should politics determine the bounds of any relationship, and, often, disagreements can be the start of a very successful one. But I also want to see what they really think and why they think it. Maybe my mind will be changed. Maybe I'll persuade some of them instead. If that's not possible, I'll at least better understand how they present their arguments. So, in 20 years, when I run for office against some member of the Tories, I will be well prepared for that battle.

MILES KIRKPATRICK is a sophomore in Saybrook College majoring in the Humanities. His column, “Looking Across the Aisle”, runs biweekly and discusses right-wing politics and spaces at Yale and nationwide. He can be reached at miles.kirkpatrick@yale.edu.

GUEST COLUMNIST
GREGG GONSALVES

Against Yale's new protest policy

A few weeks ago, I ran into an old acquaintance at the restaurant Mecha on Crown Street. She was back at Yale to start her first year at the law school and I was in town for a short stint before returning to California and my sabbatical at Stanford University. We met in January 2017 — when she was an undergrad and I was finishing up my doctorate — and we both were part of organizing a large rally in front of Sterling Library to protest the Trump “Muslim ban.” We both only half-jokingly remarked that we hoped we didn't have to start organizing again together this year.

The protest, on Sunday, Jan. 29 of that year, has been one of the highlights of my now 16 years at Yale, as an undergraduate, then graduate student and now faculty member. Over 1,000 people showed up to that rally — from almost every school on campus and from the New Haven community. Former President Peter Salovey was there, along with the deans of schools, the heads of colleges and hundreds and hundreds of students.

I will never forget the large contingent from the School of Management arriving carrying candles as they entered from College Street heading towards the gathering in front of Sterling Memorial Library. It was a moving moment during an evening I'll never forget. I was never so proud to be a Yalie as I was that night. While the event had a few speeches, it was often mostly silent. On the library's facade, one word that drew us together was illuminated in bright, white letters: “SOLIDARITY.”

Fast forward to 2024, only a few weeks ago, Yale announced new policies to restrict protests, or rather to put conditions on them that would make them more difficult to organize. Based on the new regulations, one wonders if the 2017 rally on Cross Campus would have been allowed nowadays. We sought no permission for the gathering, just invited our

friends and colleagues, then showed up with candles, a megaphone and a projector to beam that one word into the darkness.

At the beginning of September, President Michael Roth of our sister institution, Wesleyan University — just up the road in Middletown — wrote in the New York Times he'd like to see more activism on campus, not less. He was a bit more pointed on NPR when he suggested college presidents were “pricing in” a Trump victory in November, hoping their own self-regulation would keep their institutions safe from attacks from the right, from people like vice presidential candidate JD Vance LAW '13. Of course, this is what Yale history professor Timothy Snyder calls obeying in advance.

The words and decisions of university presidents matter. Jason Stanley, another Yale colleague, has written extensively on the role of higher education in the context of authoritarianism. His new book, “Erasing History: How Fascists Rewrite the Past to Control the Future,” is devoted entirely to this very subject. Universities are targeted by authoritarians because they are often the site of dissent and resistance. It's for these very reasons that authoritarians seek to control these institutions or shut them down. And before you suggest that “it can't happen here,” look towards the European Union — to Hungary, in particular, where Viktor Orban has done just that. The American right looks to Orban in this regard as a role model.

What will our new president, Maurie McInnis, do now? These new policies undoubtedly have her approval, even if they were drafted fully or in part before her arrival. At Stony Brook University, where McInnis previously served, she consolidated security on campus under the rubric of something called Enterprise Risk Management, which came under criticism from faculty and

students there. If the broad calls for law and order on campus are used to limit protest at Yale, one has to ask: to what end?

President Roth was able to thread the needle at Wesleyan this past year without the draconian responses we saw across the country at other institutions, in which university presidents said they had no recourse but to send in police against their own students, in what Columbia history professor Adam Tooze has called an exercise in the use of the “state as blunt force.” No one was compelled in the spring to send in the cops on students and faculty and my greatest worry is that repression of dissent as the first and best response to what is happening on our campuses is something too many academic leaders agree upon.

The new regulations on protest at Yale are regressive and self-defeating, and in the end illiberal. I am blue through and through: I'll defend Yale as an institution of higher learning to the end, even in its myriad imperfections and limitations. But when the university starts contorting itself to bow to the authoritarian impulse now on the rise in American politics, we should all call it out. I'll give Snyder the last word: “Most of the power of authoritarianism is freely given. In times like these, individuals think ahead about what a more repressive government will want, and then offer themselves without being asked. A citizen who adapts in this way is teaching power what it can do.” It is not a lesson we should be teaching here.

GREGG GONSALVES is a 2011 graduate of Yale College and a 2017 graduate of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He is an associate professor at the School of Public Health and an associate professor (adjunct) at the Yale Law School. He can be reached at gregg.gonsalves@yale.edu.

STAFF COLUMNIST
GRYFFIN WILKENS-PLUMLEY

One person, one vote

America, Abraham Lincoln argued at Gettysburg, was founded on a simple idea: “government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

The United States was the world's first large modern representative democracy, albeit one that initially failed to live up to its lofty slogans. It took the Civil War, a suffragette movement and a civil rights movement to extend that promise to all people. One of the most important steps in our national journey toward Lincoln's ideal was Reynolds v. Sims, a 1964 Supreme Court ruling that held that state legislative districts must be drawn to have equal populations — in other words, that “one person, one vote” was the law of the land, implicit in the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

But one institution continues to fall short of that ideal: the Electoral College. Believe me, I would know; I'm from Florida.

In 2000, Al Gore won more votes nationwide than George W. Bush '68, but Florida — the tipping point state in the Electoral College — was too close to call. After extensive litigation, the Supreme Court stepped in and halted the recount in Bush v. Gore, handing Bush the state by a few hundred votes and, with it, the presidency.

In 2016, Donald Trump won fewer votes than Hillary Clinton LAW '73 — but was nonetheless elected president because the tipping point state that year in the Electoral College, Pennsylvania, was a little more red than the country overall.

That might make you think that the Electoral College inherently favors Republicans. But that hasn't always been true, and it won't necessarily be true in the future. Yes, in 2016, 2020 and likely in 2024, the Electoral College will have a pro-Republican bias: the tipping point state will likely be more right-leaning than the country as a whole.

However, in 2004, the Electoral College actually had a pro-Democratic bias. If John Kerry had won just over 100,000 more votes in Ohio, he would've won 272 votes in the Electoral College despite three million more Americans voting for Bush. In 2008 and 2012, the tipping point state — Colorado — was more blue than the national average.

Early indicators for 2024 point towards an Electoral College map that still gives an edge to Republicans, but one far smaller than in the last two elections. And as voters increasingly polarize around educational attainment, that bias is likely to shrink and ultimately invert, as Democratic gains with college-educated white voters in swing states are offset by Republican improvements with non-white voters concentrated in blue states.

Reforming the Electoral College isn't a Democratic or a Republican cause, it's an American one.

The most prominent reform proposal was put forward by professor Akhil Amar '80 LAW '84 in 2001. It is called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, or NPV for short. Instead of amending the Constitution, the NPV goes through the states.

Under Article II of the Constitution, states may appoint electors “in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct.” NPV is an interstate compact that requires all states bound to it to assign their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the national popular vote — but only when the compact has enough signatories to decide the outcome of the election. In other words, the compact only activates once it reaches 270 electoral votes.

Strategists from both parties are working to get NPV over that threshold. So far, states worth 209 electoral votes have signed on. The compact has been passed by both houses of the Maine legislature and is being considered

in Michigan, Arizona, Nevada and Virginia.

Unfortunately, NPV has yet to receive enough buy-in to come into effect before the presidential election this fall. But that doesn't mean it should be ignored, and it is also the case that the 2024 election could very well be the last one where the president isn't chosen by a national popular vote.

For one, the fact that Donald Trump is almost tied in national polls with Kamala Harris should put to bed the notion that a Republican cannot win the popular vote. And this isn't actually a bad thing because voters deserve leaders who must fight to earn their votes rather than taking the vast majority of the country for granted.

My home state, Florida, is not a swing state anymore. When we were, we received enormous attention from candidates vying for our votes. Cold hard math incentivizes campaigns and candidates to ignore the voices of most Americans not living in swing states under the current system. If the Electoral College will be decided by a handful of relatively large, closely divided swing states, then why pay attention to the millions of voters outside of them? Why court the millions of Democrats in Texas or Republicans in California if it won't change the outcome?

This is the sort of dynamic that undermines citizens' trust in the system and causes young people to tell pollsters that elections don't represent them and that the political system doesn't work for people like them. Right now, they don't. The NPVIC is one way we can change that and make every voter's voice heard.

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FROM THE FRONT

"Aprender a dudar es aprender a pensar."
OCTAVIO PAZ, MEXICAN POET AND DIPLOMAT

Could Yale face post-affirmative action lawsuits?

ADMISSIONS FROM PAGE 1

Supreme Court, Yale argued that racial diversity would not be possible without directly considering race. Yet, Yale's class of 2028 did not see a dramatic decrease in diversity as the University predicted it would.

The amicus brief stated that "no race-neutral alternative presently can fully replace race-conscious individualized and holistic review to obtain the diverse student body Amici have found essential to fulfilling their missions."

Edward Blum, president of Students for Fair Admissions, the group which brought the affirmative action cases to the Supreme Court, told the News that given this argument, Yale's "results are bewildering since Yale argued ... that the racial composition of its incoming class is not possible without implementing the type of racial discrimination that the Supreme Court barred."

On Tuesday, SFFA sent letters to Yale, Princeton and Duke — three schools which saw a decrease in the share of Asian American enrollment in the class of 2028 — questioning whether the schools complied with the Supreme Court's decision. The letter expressed concern that the University did not comply with the Court's decision since their results do not align with their amicus brief which argued that the share of Black and Latine enrollment would drop without the consideration of race in admissions.

"Please explain this discrepancy, including any new, substantial race-neutral alternatives that you adopted in response to Harvard," the letter to Yale reads. "Without that information, SFFA will conclude that you are circumventing the Supreme Court's decision. SFFA is prepared to enforce Harvard against you through litigation. You are now on notice. Pre-

serve all potentially relevant documents and communications."

In a Sept. 19 email to the News, a University spokesperson wrote that "Yale's admissions practices fully comply with the law and the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling."

Richard Sander, a professor at UCLA School of Law, suggested that Yale may be deducing applicants' races from their essays and from the demographics of their high schools and hometowns.

He said that the demographics of Yale's freshman class would be impossible otherwise unless admissions offices are "inflating their numbers of minority students" through methods such as including international students and mixed-race students in the data counts.

International students are not counted in the racial demographics data released by Yale, according to Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Jeremiah Quinlan.

Quinlan added that six percent of the class of 2028 did not report their race once admitted through an optional survey sent out by Yale. This unreported racial data could change the demographic breakdown of the class.

"What Yale is doing is either they're reporting a very misleading number or they're cheating in some way," Sander wrote to the News. "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."

Direct consideration of race as a criterion for admission would violate the Supreme Court's ruling, but Deborah Hellman, a law professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, said that the court was not clear enough about exactly what constitutes consideration of race.

In the Court's majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote 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."

The fact that Yale maintained levels of diversity while other universities saw large changes "is traceable to the ambiguity in the court's opinion in the first instance about what is permitted and what is not permitted," Hellman said.

Since the ruling does not rule out the consideration of a student's lived experiences, which may include their race-related experiences, it is "not at all clear" which admissions practices remain legal. Universities therefore may have interpreted the court's ruling in different ways, Hellman said, so she's "unsurprised that there's variation" between universities.

Hellman said those differences could lead back to the courtroom: "The court's going to have to hash out what's permissible and what's impermissible."

Several lawyers told the News that Yale may face lawsuits not because the University has broken the law but instead because there are litigious groups intent on minimizing the importance of diversity in college admissions.

"Even if a university is fully complying with the law, they may be vulnerable to lawsuits if they have high levels of racial diversity in their student body simply because the groups that challenged affirmative action have said that they will bring these types of suits," Pauline Kim, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis, wrote to the News.

Richard Ford, a professor at Stanford Law School, noted that there will be continued threats or the possibility of litigation from activist groups who are unhappy with the lack of large changes in admissions statistics and who "will not be satisfied as long as any significant number of Black and Latino students are

present on selective university campuses."

Ford also wrote that he doesn't think it is "feasible" to try to satisfy all activists; instead, he insists "Yale should be prepared to defend its practices."

New Haven civil rights attorney Alex Taubes LAW '15 told the News that Yale will have to be more careful and strategic going forward given the legal constraints. But, Taubes said, "a decline in racial diversity ... should not be the inevitable result of the rulings."

Taubes believes that the nature of Yale's challenges over diversity may depend on the 2024 election. In 2020, under the Trump Administration, the Department of Education investigated Yale's use of race in admissions. The investigation ended in 2021 after President Biden took office.

Other factors could explain maintained diversity

Other factors, which do not necessarily indicate illegal or confusing admissions practices, could lead to a stable racial diversity post-affirmative action.

Kim believes that even after the ruling, it is still possible for a university to admit a racially diverse class by adjusting its admissions policies to not make race "an automatic tip."

For example, college offices can conduct more concentrated outreach to schools predominantly composed of students of color.

"So long as universities are doing holistic review rather than strictly admitting based on rank ordered numerical test scores, a wide variety of outcomes in terms of demographic distributions are possible," Kim wrote.

Burgwell Howard, associate vice president for Student Life & dean of Student Engagement, told the News that Yale made "extra outreach efforts" last year and visited schools where before it had never had a presence.

Ford wrote to the News that before the Supreme Court ruling, affirmative action was a proxy for considering how race affected opportunities and contributed to the perspective of applicants. Now, he added, universities have to look at the specific ways race affects an individual applicant.

Ford agreed that through race-neutral means, universities can achieve a level of diversity comparable to what affirmative action offered. Specifically, he recommended universities reduce their reliance on other policies that have a disparate racial impact, such as grades, test scores, legacy and donor preferences, and regional or athletic preferences.

Jonathan Feingold, a law professor at Boston University School of Law, also suggested schools reduce their reliance on criteria that inflate the credentials of white students and increase their reliance on other criteria that "help them identify students with promise and potential but do not function as a white racial preference."

But questions still linger about the preferences universities took into account for the class of 2028.

"Yale should be more transparent as to how it has adapted to the Supreme Court affirmative action ruling," William Jacobson, a Cornell Law School professor, wrote. "Only once that process is known could I opine on whether Yale has opened itself up to suit."

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

Adam Walker contributed reporting.

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The News spoke with seven legal experts who are divided on whether Yale could face litigation regarding the class of 2028's maintained diversity. **YuLin Zhen, Photography Editor**

Faculty advisory committee to select a successor for Gendler

GENDLER FROM PAGE 1

Per McInnis' email, Gendler "conceived of and implemented the current structure of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, including her own role as dean." Prior to her deanship, Gendler staffed the Ad Hoc Committee on Decanal Structures, a committee of six other faculty members who were charged by then-University President Peter Salovey to evaluate options for the administrative structure of Yale's Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

In January 2014, the Committee published a report recommending a three-dean model in which a new dean governing faculty issues would work jointly with the dean of Yale College and the dean of the Graduate School.

"Before there was an FAS dean, there was no institutional structure which enabled us to coordinate academic priorities with the resources to support those priorities," Gendler told the News. "The Yale College dean and the dean of the Graduate School oversaw the academic activities of those schools, and the Provost's Office oversaw the budget, but there was no space where those two essential aspects of administration were combined. What I feel most proud of is having developed a structure that left a powerful role for the dean of the College, that left a powerful role for the provost, but that allowed us to govern the FAS in a way where resources and academic ambitions are aligned."

According to Gendler, the process to select her successor will

likely involve an advisory committee of FAS faculty, who will recommend five or six finalists to the University president and provost to make a selection.

Gendler also said that the committee will likely set up multiple avenues for members of the Yale community to provide recommendations and feedback in the selection process, such as through a website and listening sessions. In particular, Gendler said, the committee will hold listening sessions with Yale staff members "because a lot of the work that the FAS dean does is with staff."

When it comes to the selection process, Gendler said she hopes that her successor will meet four criteria: "joy in creating community, academic excellence, readiness to manage a staff and experience managing a budget."

In particular, Gendler explained that because the FAS dean leads Tenure and Appointments Committees, her successor must be a "scholar of such stature such that the faculty will respect their leadership."

Gendler also warned of the challenges that her successor will face, especially when it comes to balancing the interests of faculty and students with broader discourses.

"My successor will face all of the challenges that universities face with regard to public conversation that range from issues around affirmative action, issues around nonprofit status, issues around free speech, issues around institutional neutrality," Gendler said. "In addition, there's a whole set of geopolitical issues that my successor will face."

In the meantime, Gendler will go on sabbatical in California, where she will study "a West Coast way of thinking about cognition and about education."

Upon her return, Gendler hopes to combine her new knowledge with Yale's new and ongoing initiatives on education and artificial intelligence.

"I'm going to come back and do what Yale faculty have the privilege of doing, which is to be a researcher, a teacher and an administrator, all at the most fascinating and supportive institution in the world," Gendler said.

Gendler graduated from Yale College in 1987.

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FROM THE FRONT

“Una es más auténtica, mientras más se parece a los que soñó de sí misma.”

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR SPANISH FILM DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER

Yale launches Yale-Harvard football game ticket lottery

LOTTERY FROM PAGE 1

Despite the explanation of the weighting in the process, many were still unhappy with the decision.

The process is now one entirely of luck, which, despite being more equitable, still doesn't seem ideal to many.

“The Harvard-Yale game is such a key part of the Yale experience, so it's a bit disappointing that getting a ticket now depends on luck,” says Amelie Liu '27. “But at the same time, having a lottery system does take away the pressure of having to click super fast, which can be stressful. It feels more fair, even if it's not guaranteed.”

The Office provided ways for students to increase their odds of winning a ticket by attending select fall varsity athletics games: men's soccer v. Sacred Heart on Sept. 21, field hockey v. Quinnipiac on Sept. 29, volleyball v. Cornell on Oct. 11 and Women's Soccer v. Princeton on Oct. 13.

Each game a student attends will earn them one additional entry into the lottery. These games were decided on by the Athletic Department.

“Yale has 35 varsity sports teams who compete at a high level, but only a dozen or so draw the crowds they deserve, so some of the games were chosen as a way to help students discover the great sports and teams that their classmates are involved with, and will hopefully continue supporting their classmates when they see the great effort and entertainment of these

other sports and teams,” Howard told the News.

The Athletic Department has incentivized game attendance to bolster support and encourage students to get involved with other sports on campus.

The plan is similar to last year when students were encouraged to pick up their tickets for The Game at a women's hockey game, men's basketball game and women's soccer game.

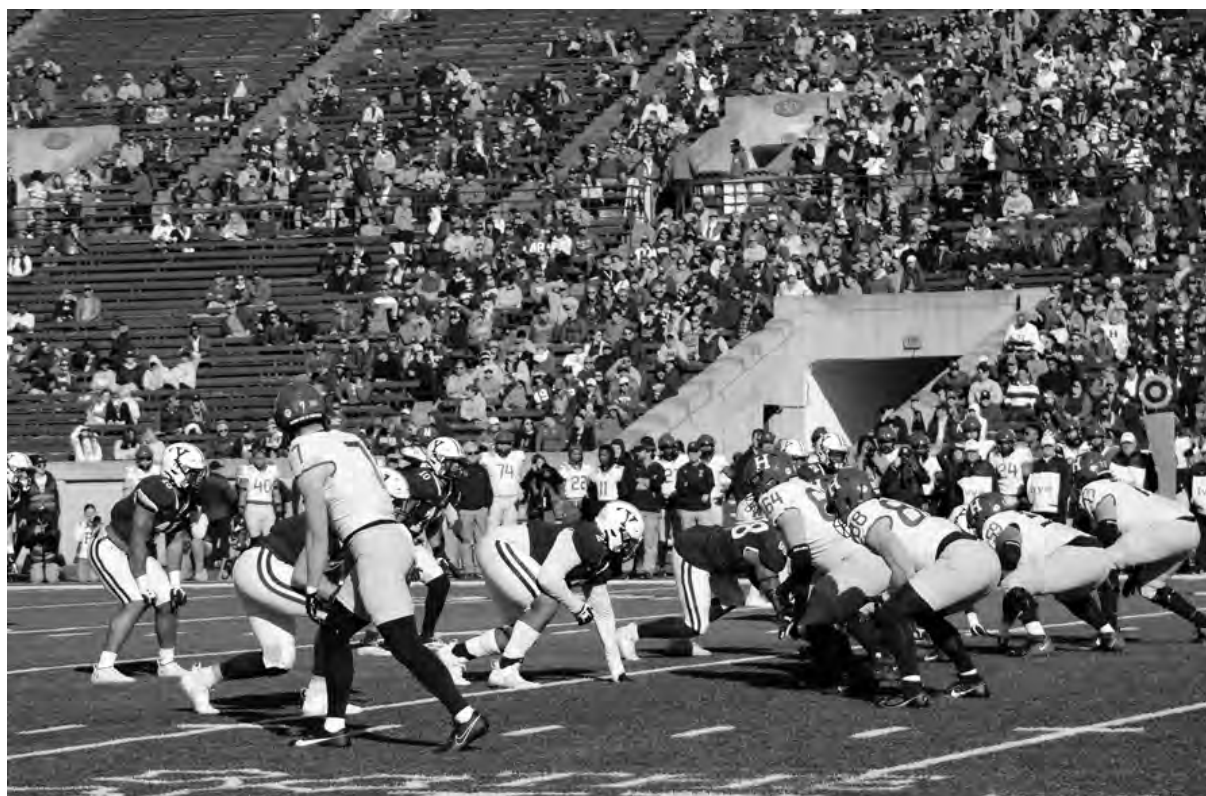
“The lottery process was designed by our colleagues in Yale Athletics, using the feedback we received from students in 2022 and 2020 who felt that they did not even have an opportunity to purchase a ticket because they had a conflict when the tickets went on sale,” Howard said.

The 2022 ticket sale process, the last time the event was held at Harvard, was especially problematic.

A link for tickets was accidentally made available to students before the set release date, causing website crashes and panic among students.

“A lottery was deemed a more fair approach to provide folks an opportunity to be in the running to secure a ticket,” Howard continued.

Harvard Stadium seats just over 30,000 people, whereas the Yale Bowl seats over 60,000. This discrepancy in occupancy, along with Harvard reserving most of the tickets for Crimson fans, means that Yale students will have a more challenging time securing a ticket this year than when The Game was hosted at home.



Yale announced a new lottery to distribute student tickets for the annual Yale-Harvard football game.. **Samad Hakani, Photography Editor**

Harvard students do not have difficulty getting tickets to The Game when it is in New Haven due to the massive size of the Yale Bowl.

Howard commented on this fact and told the News, “That is why Harvard students believe that it is much more fun to come to New Haven — as more of their student body can attend and fit inside the stadium.”

For Harvard students, no such issues exist. The official Harvard website boasts one free ticket for undergraduate students.

In the face of this disparity and despite Howard's comment, many seniors still felt the process did not properly account for their seniority. This game will be their final Yale-Harvard Game as undergraduates.

“This is absurd,” Sean Davis '25 told the News, saying The Game was the highlight of his years at Yale. “It should be more than one better for juniors.”

Although securing a ticket to the Yale-Harvard Game this Novem-

ber will be more difficult than in years past, students who stay on campus at Yale can watch The Game on television. In the past, there have been watch parties on campus. The Game is also viewable on ESPN for those watching at home.

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YNHHS and Prospect spar in aquisition battle

HEALTH FROM PAGE 1

that Prospect owes tens of millions in unpaid provider and property taxes, which further complicates the acquisition.

“After identifying new information regarding Prospect's breach of our Asset Purchase Agreement (APA), Yale New Haven Health amended the original lawsuit against Prospect,” Dana Marnane, spokesperson for YNHHS, wrote to the News. “This amendment outlines additional details of violations of the APA, including lack of payment of provider taxes, as well as outstanding property tax liabilities.”

Prospect has pushed back, arguing that its hospitals are fully compliant with CMS and DPH guidelines. The company believes YNHHS is using out-

dated issues to delay the deal's completion.

Adding to the controversy, YNHHS has referenced an ongoing U.S. Department of Justice investigation into Prospect for allegedly violating the False Claims Act. YNHHS claims that Prospect inflated diagnoses on claims for government reimbursements, which further jeopardizes the hospital's participation in programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Prospect has expressed frustration over what it views as unnecessary legal maneuvers by YNHHS that are prolonging the transaction process. Prospect has placed the blame on YNHHS for the delays in closing the deal, also claiming that the ongoing litigation has resulted in increased unpaid taxes and mounting operational costs.

“The increase in unpaid taxes has occurred because Yale and its Board of Trustees have delayed the completion of the transaction,” Prospect stated. “These constant attempts by Yale and its Board of Trustees to try this case in the media while delaying the closing of the transaction are obviously intended to divert attention from their continuing refusal to live up to their word.”

State Senator Saud Anwar, chair of the public health committee, has expressed concern over the ongoing dispute and its impact on local healthcare services. He emphasized that both parties need to focus on the well-being of patients and hospital staff.

“The conversations should be held between leaders of the organizations with the mindset of working for the benefit of all the peo-

ple who work and the patients who get daily care from these systems,” Anwar wrote.

He stressed that legal proceedings could slow down critical decisions that affect healthcare access in the region, as financial instability in healthcare institutions can directly affect the quality of care.

“It is no secret that the three hospitals are going through financial challenges, some could be related to policies imposed by Prospect Medical Holdings,” Anwar wrote. “The most important priority in healthcare should be patient well-being and safety aligned with standards of care.”

While the legal battles continue, both YNHHS and Prospect have expressed their willingness to find a resolution.

A YNHHS spokesperson emphasized that the system is committed to finding a solution that ensures the future stability of the hospitals while maintaining high standards of patient care. She added that YNHHS is engaged in discussions with Prospect to identify a path forward.

The outcome of the legal battle will determine the future of healthcare for nearly half a million people served by the three hospitals.

“Time is not on our side and this would require a much more assertive position from the Governor's office to bring the two parties together and reach a solution,” Anwar wrote to the News.

Prospect was founded in 1996 by a group of physicians in California.

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Faculty for Yale panel debates institutional neutrality

NEUTRALITY FROM PAGE 1

Law professor Kate Stith, one of the architects of Faculty for Yale, said that the panel had been planned since last spring before McInnis was chosen and initiated consideration of neutrality at Yale.

Faculty for Yale formed in February, inspired by the Council on Academic Freedom at Harvard, to promote free expression and diverse viewpoints at Yale. The group does not have hierarchies or official leadership positions, and formed from “just a bunch of us sitting around,” Stith said.

Stith said that institutional neutrality was not intended to be the main focus of the faculty group, but that it's now a timely discussion since the idea is under official consideration.

“We thought it's something you could put your arms around, but then it turned out to be the issue of the day,” Stith said. “One of the missions of the group is to have serious, contested conversations. So in some ways, this [panel] is an example about what we want to see more of at Yale.”

Stith said that Faculty for Yale asked Roth to join the panel because they were interested in his public statements on the topic, including a New York Times opinion piece, and wanted to include him as “our neighbor.” Wesleyan is located in Middletown, Conn., approximately 20 miles from Yale.

Stith said that a handful of Faculty for Yale members met with McInnis before the panel and communicated the organization's goals.

“We told her we're having this,” Stith said. “She thanked us for meeting with her. She had read our statement. She said she couldn't come but she would send some people from her office.”

Beyond institutional neutrality, faculty members focused on the idea

of departmental neutrality. Kronman expressed concern for departments releasing unsigned letters, such as a 2021 statement by the program on Ethnicity, Race & Migration that recognized the “Palestinian struggle as an indigenous liberation movement” and condemned “Israeli state-sponsored attacks” on Palestinians.

“In some ways, I think institutional neutrality is even more important at the departmental level,” Strambler told the News.

While he thinks faculty members can take stances as individuals, Strambler warns faculty in administrative positions and senior faculty to be careful about “proselytizing in the classroom.”

“I think it was a good variety,” professor Steven Smith, who provided closing remarks to the panel, told the News. “It probably didn't cover the entire range of opinions, but Michael Roth certainly was a provocateur. Certainly, the panel

didn't suffer from consensus. I think there was a lively debate.”

Harvard University adopted institutional neutrality in May 2024..

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The panel featured four pro-neutrality Yale faculty members and Wesleyan University President Michael Roth, who opposes neutrality... **Adam Walker, Contributing Photographer**

NEWS

"La pluma es la lengua del alma."

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES, SPANISH WRITER

New Law School Center for Jewish and Israeli Law to pioneer research

BY CHRIS TILLEN
STAFF REPORTER

The Brodie Center for Jewish and Israeli Law, which focuses on interdisciplinary study, launched at the Law School.

On Sept. 3, the center hosted Israeli Supreme Court Justice Daphne Barak-Erez for its inaugural event. In a conversation with law professor and former Dean of Yale Law School Robert Post LAW '77, Barak-Erez discussed his new book, "Biblical Judgements: New Legal Readings in the Hebrew Bible." Going forward, the center will conduct research projects and host events about Jewish and Israeli law.

"The event was a great success because it realized many of the new Center's missions," Yair Listokin LAW '05, who leads the center, wrote to the News. "These include exploring the many interactions between Jewish and Israeli law and encouraging respectful but penetrating dialogue about the contested issues affecting the Israeli legal system."

A new addition to Yale Law School's centers, the Brodie Center supports research and engagement with Jewish and Israeli Law. The center prioritizes a social

science methodology, rather than humanities one, when applying a modern lens to the legal questions that surround ancient Jewish law, with a history spanning more than 1,200 years.

The center will conduct scholarships and research projects in addition to hosting events and student reading groups.

In collaboration with Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University, the center currently works on a project identifying large trends in the evolution of Jewish law over the last 1,200 years.

The center is directed by Listokin, the Shibley Family Fund Professor of Law. Ben Ohavi was hired as the inaugural fellow of the center. Ohavi is currently completing his doctoral dissertation at Hebrew University.

Ohavi wrote to the News that he is "thrilled" to work with Listokin and join the Yale community.

At the center, Ohavi is continuing his research on the theoretical foundations of Talmudic private law. He is specifically interested in the interconnections between Jewish legal tradition and other religious, philosophical and legal frameworks.

In an August press release from Yale Law School, Listokin noted the long tradition



CHRISTINA LEE / HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

On Sept. 3, the Howard Wexler Brodie Center for Jewish and Israeli Law hosted Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court Daphne Barak-Erez for its inaugural event.

of studying Jewish and Israeli law at Yale. He added that the center "will reestablish the Law School as an intellectual leader in these fields while pioneering new research."

"Yair Listokin is a remarkable scholar, and he brings enormous

energy and expertise to these fields," Law School Dean Heather Gerken said in a press release. "I expect the Center to play an important role in fostering dialogue, debate, and understanding at Yale Law School as it pushes forward a new scholarly path."

The Howard Wexler Brodie Center will host professor Eitan Hersh from Tufts University on Nov. 14, 2024.

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YCC leaders dive into new year ready to advocate for the student body



COURTESY OF MIMI PAPATHANASOPOULOS AND ESHA GARG

The News spoke to YCC President Mimi Papathanasopoulos '26, Vice President Esha Garg '26, Senate Speaker Emily Hettinger '26 and Sophomore Class Council President Andrew Boanoh '27 about their goals and priorities.

BY NORA MOSES
STAFF REPORTER

This past Sunday, the Yale College Council Senate passed three policy proposals inspired by student needs and feedback: expanding safety net conditions regarding course materials and travel expenses, increasing summer financial aid for FGLI students and raising daily flex plan points by 100 points.

Now, YCC President Mimi Papathanasopoulos '26 and Vice President Esha Garg '26 will negotiate, advocate and collaborate with Yale administrators to advance the implementation of these policies.

"We are focused on making the YCC a true student advocacy group by proactively reaching out and fostering collaboration with student organizations and the administration," Papathanasopoulos and Garg wrote in a joint statement to the News of their broader goals for the year.

Papathanasopoulos and Garg were elected on a joint ticket last

spring and officially started their term in May.

As YCC leaders, Papathanasopoulos and Garg meet regularly with Yale administrative leaders to discuss study body needs and propose changes to student policy. In their platform and campaign, Papathanasopoulos and Garg promised to focus foremost on student engagement, mental health and advocating for the student body with the administration.

Four months into their term and three weeks into the 2024-25 school year, Papathanasopoulos and Garg are working to fulfill these promises.

"We will work closely with Yale Health and Yale Mental Health and Counseling to address long wait times and ensure all students can access timely, high-quality care," they wrote. "We're also advocating for expanded accessibility services across campus to ensure that every student has the support they need to thrive, both academically and personally."

Papathanasopoulos and Garg wrote that dining reform and expanding financial resources available to student clubs and organizations are other top priorities for them.

Additionally, the pair said they are also focused on expanding support for first-generation and low-income students by working with the administration to institutionalize policies to "ensure the continuity and impact of YCC programs for future years" beyond temporary or pilot programs.

Papathanasopoulos and Garg said they will "prioritize carrying over successful initiatives from last year," such as reimbursement for transportation to Yale Health and meal vouchers over academic break, but will also work towards turning these YCC programs into institutionalized Yale policies.

YCC Speaker of the Senate Emily Hettinger '26 wrote to the News that "making Yale more financially accessible for low

income and middle class students," is also one of her policy priorities for the year. She also wants to ensure that menstrual product dispensers on campus are always stocked and fight for free and clean laundry.

As a speaker, Hettinger also plans to increase student involvement with the YCC, through formal and informal avenues, and work with administrators to advance policy proposals.

Sophomore Class Council President Andrew Boanoh '27 wrote to the News that he is committed to "bridging the gaps between communities on campus that have historically not interacted as much."

"I want to incentivize attendance at sporting, theatrical, musical, and other events so that students feel like their talents and efforts are just as appreciated outside of the classroom as they are inside of it," Boanoh wrote. "One thing that Yale has never failed to provide is a world-class education: I simply hope to emu-

late that quality with the extent to which we support our peers' extracurricular interests."

In his capacity as YCC cultural and religious policy director, Boanoh has already met with University Chaplain Maytal Saltiel and Yale College's Dean of Student Engagement Burgwell Howard to discuss how they can best cultivate unity and togetherness on campus in the months ahead.

Papathanasopoulos and Garg wrote to the News that working with University President Maurice McInnis, who also began her term during the summer, has been an "exciting opportunity" to bring fresh energy and perspective to their efforts.

Papathanasopoulos and Garg met with McInnis at the beginning of the semester, and wrote that she "expressed interest in hearing and addressing student concerns."

The official YCC Instagram is [@yalecollegecouncil](https://www.instagram.com/yalecollegecouncil).

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NEWS

“Un verdadero amigo es quien te toma de la mano y te toca el corazón.”

GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ COLOMBIAN NOVELIST AND SHORT STORY WRITER

Omni hotel strike ends without contract settled



CHRISTINA LEE / HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Omni hotel employees and organizers with UNITE HERE Local 217, the union that represents them, announced that they will return to work on Monday.

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Hospitality employees at the Omni hotel will return to work on Monday morning, ending their four-day strike without settling a new contract.

The workers, represented by UNITE HERE Local 217, had been picketing outside the

hotel's Temple Street entrance since Thursday morning after the Omni's management failed to meet the union's Wednesday night deadline to agree on a contract. Contract negotiations have been ongoing since November 2023, and the hotel's last contract with its over 120 unionized housekeepers, front desk agents, cooks, dishwashers,

servers, bartenders and bellmen expired in March.

Two union leaders told the News on Sunday night that the hotel employees would return to work the next morning, and that contract negotiations would continue the coming week.

“The strike of the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale has been an awesome display of unity and cour-

age,” Local 217 secretary-treasurer Josh Stanley wrote in a statement. “We will return to work Monday morning and will continue to negotiate with the Omni this week.”

The News was not able to reach Omni management for comment after the union announced the strike's conclusion. On Thursday, when the strike began, Omni Hotels and Resorts released a statement

declining to comment on the status of negotiations but affirming its commitment to bargaining in “good faith” to reach a satisfactory contract.

Omni's Thursday statement also noted that the hotel had plans to make sure guests' experiences were minimally affected by the work stoppage.

“Unfortunately, as has occurred recently in other markets, the union has determined that a strike is in its interest,” Omni Hotels and Resorts wrote in the Thursday statement. “In view of this labor action, the Hotel has put in place plans to ensure services are not interrupted and that our guests will continue to experience the genuine hospitality, personalized service and elevated experiences that are the hallmark of the Omni New Haven Hotel.”

Ian Dunn, an organizer with UNITE HERE, told the News on Sunday that negotiations between the union and the hotel will continue this week, but he declined to say whether negotiations were ongoing during the strike or whether the union was contacted by management at any point during the work stoppage.

“We're going to go back to negotiating this week and hope that we win a good contract,” Dunn said. “Not just hope, we're going to keep fighting.”

The four-day strike featured appearances from myriad local politicians, including Board of Alders President Tyisha Walker-Myers, Mayor Justin Elicker, Gov. Ned Lamont, Rep. Rosa DeLauro and both Connecticut senators. Other appearances included the Teamsters and other unions and Scabby the rat, the inflatable mascot of the labor movement.

The Omni is planning to host an event with former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who will promote her new book with DeLauro, on Sept. 22.

The Omni Hotel in New Haven was built in 1997.

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CitySeed looks ahead to a bright future

BY CHRISTINA LEE
STAFF REPORTER

A new headquarters and executive director promises to reinvigorate CitySeed's ongoing mission to support local food entrepreneurs and promote food justice for New Haveners.

In March, CitySeed — a grassroots organization committed to strengthening food networks — purchased a vacant factory on 162 James St. in Fair Haven for its new headquarters. Along with the new acquisition, the organization also appointed Sarah Miller '03 as its new executive director in July. With those recent developments, CitySeed looks forward to expanding its support for local farmers, food entrepreneurs and community members.

After an exhaustive search process, CitySeed appointed Miller as its new executive director. Miller, who also serves on the Board of Alders, has a long-standing relationship with CitySeed. As a lifelong city resident who has frequented the CitySeed's Worcester Market, Miller sees the market — and CitySeed — as a space to connect with friends and neighbors.

“The markets are not just about food, they're really about community building,” she said.

As executive director, Miller hopes to strengthen CitySeed's engagement with the community by expanding its current programs. Currently, CitySeed offers three programs: Farmers Markets, CitySeed Incubates and Sanctuary Kitchens.

Christine Kim '99, who has served on CitySeed's Board since 2012, has expressed excitement about the new energy Miller brings to the organization.

“We are just so fortunate that she is someone that so many people already trust and care and know that she cares,” Kim said. “It is serendipitous, but the right direction and step in terms

located at Wooster Square, Edge-wood Park and Dixwell Q House. The farmers markets serve a dual purpose: provide a space for both local farmers to sell their produce and for city residents to access fresh food options.

The Worcester Square Market has operated for 20 years and was the first state market to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, according to Kaitlyn Kimball, the director of agriculture for CitySeed.

Now, all three CitySeed markets are among the top SNAP benefits redemption sites in the state, Kimball said. In partnership with End Hunger Connecticut!, CitySeed markets also participate in the Connecticut Fresh Match Program, which allows SNAP recipients to double their purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables at the market.

Along with SNAP benefits programs, CitySeed's markets also participate in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), a federal program that funds WIC and eligible seniors for fresh produce purchases.

“Last year, we had over \$70,000 in redemption for those food nutrition benefits,” said Kimball.

CitySeed also equips local food entrepreneurs with the skills and resources needed to start their own business — from commercial kitchen rentals to lessons on how to apply for food licenses and loans. Around 800 food entrepreneurs have been supported through CitySeed's Incubate program, according to Vitevah Harrison, the program manager.

The Incubate program and its offerings have allowed New Haven's food entrepreneurs such as bakers, caterers and food truck vendors, to grow their businesses and flourish. According to Sheila Cain, owner of Auntie Sheelah's Cheesecakes, CitySeed played an integral role as an informational resource in the early stages of her baking business. By attending their workshops, Cain learned how to nav-



CHRISTINA LEE / HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

CitySeed's expansion into a new headquarters promises local food entrepreneurs greater resources for business development.

Heartfelt Catering LLC, reported that CitySeed's accessible and affordable commercial kitchen spaces, as well as the professional network it provides, have fostered his growth and filled a void in the food business landscape.

“They've definitely helped me build my name and brand as a chef,” Lee said. “There's a scarcity for commercial kitchens, so what CitySeed does is amazing.”

CitySeed's third program, Sanctuary Kitchens, is a catering business run by immigrant and refugee chefs that formed as a specialized track of the Incubates program. The business also functions as a social enterprise and an employment program, training its chefs in business, culinary and English language skills.

programs with the installment of six commercial kitchens, teaching and community spaces and conference rooms. The addition of new kitchen spaces, Miller hopes, will make it possible for food entrepreneurs to increase their production capacity.

“If they're able to have more access to commercial kitchen space and hours, then they can potentially scale up for it to be more like a full-time position,” said Miller. “The main goal here is to provide entrepreneurs with a physical place and services to help their businesses blossom, and then enter the business space in the community.”

Local entrepreneurs Cain and Lee expressed hopes to use the new kitchen spaces upon completion.

renovations to take place, CitySeed needs to raise between five and 10 million dollars.

The support of the New Haven community is a cornerstone of their fundraising efforts, Miller said.

“CitySeed has a long history of involvement in New Haven so we're fortunate to have a lot of supporters,” she said.

The city has also been an important source of aid. Miller noted that the Economic Development Administration has been actively involved in CitySeed's growth and has been with the organization “from the beginning.”

Tentatively hoping on a two-year timeline, Miller works to begin construction a year from now.

CitySeed was established in 2004.

ARTS

"El amor no se piensa, se siente o no se siente."
LAURA ESQUIVAL MEXICAN NOVELIST

Yale's fall theater season blends tradition with bold new stories

BY LUCIANA VARKEVISSER AND SKYE WU
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING
REPORTER

Yale's fall theater lineup is stacked with new works and reimagined classics across musicals, operas and original work.

This fall season is an amalgamation of genres and styles that theater nerds and theater virgins, alike, can enjoy. Students are hoping to spice up the Yale performing arts scene with a series of original content and niche productions.

Directed by Roy Kohavi '26, the upcoming CPA production, "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals," aims to challenge Yale's mainstream theater conventions by creating more accessible show opportunities for students.

Kohavi said that he aims to confront "typical theater culture of only talented actors having the chance to be in really elite shows."

The Starkid production — the company known for a "A Very Potter Musical" and other parody shows — is refreshingly comedic and open to actors of all entry and experience levels, not just extraordinarily talented ones, Kohavi said.

During the upcoming fall semester, viewers can also expect to see a few original works, such as the "Treadmill Play" by Audrey Kolker '25, "Little White Lies" by Natalie Brown '25, "Honesty Hour" by Anais Rios-Kasoga '25 and "Laid Off" by Emma Ventresca '26 and Aaron Ventresca SOM '27.

The themes of these debut performances range from a romance between star-crossed lovers to a historical drama that explores themes of racial identity and family.

Additional CPA productions this semester include more recent pieces such as "P.Y.G." and "The Effect," in addition to theater classics such as "Pippin," "Grease" and "The Seagull."

Opera at Yale also has an exciting lineup this year, including the



TIM TAI / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

With new works and reimagined classics, students strive for inclusivity and creativity.

American premiere of the Spanish language opera "Darwin en Patagonia," put on by Veronica Zimmer '25 and Abby Trejo '27.

Set to run on Dec. 5 and 6, this show follows Charles Darwin and the crew of the H.M.S. Beagle as they explore the world over the course of their five year journey. The opera examines the implications of evolutionary theory and analyzes Darwin's interactions with the people of Patagonia.

Presented by the Opera Theater of Yale College, "Six: An Opera Cabaret" will also be showcased this semester.

The opera production draws its influence from the popular musical "Six." However, rather than the six wives of King Henry VIII, the show brings together six operatic protagonists. Staging scenes from different operas, this show hopes to lend the female protagonists of operas more agency in their stories.

"To be a woman in opera is to suffer at the hands of men," wrote co-director Ava Gaughan '26 in an email to the News. "[In this show], six leading women from six different operas come together to lament their situations, commis-

erate with each other and eventually find strength in one another's company. They might even plot their revenge..."

At the Dramat, audiences can expect two exciting productions. The Fall Mainstage will be the Stephen Sondheim-created "Into the Woods." The show boasts a large cast of eighteen actors and is set to run from Nov. 13 to 16.

"Stupid Fucking Bird," a contemporary and wry rendition of Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull," will be on stage this season as the Dramat's Fall Ex Show.

More specifically, "Stupid Fucking Bird" follows a playwright as he wrestles with his identity, confronts a complex relationship with his mother and mourns his chaotic love life.

According to co-director Millie Liao '27, the piece asks audiences "to question why we create art, and what the purpose of love truly is."

The Yale Dramatic Association is Yale's largest and oldest undergraduate theater organization.

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Windham Campbell Prizes spotlight world's most innovative writers

BY OLIVIA CYRUS
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Few literature festivals would have a Division I basketball coach interview a New York Times-best-selling author.

Even fewer would have a poet do a reading alongside an improvising saxophonist.

When writer Donald Windham died in 2010, he asked his estate to be used in the creation of the now prestigious Donald Windham-Sandy M. Campbell Literature Prizes. He left room for creativity.

"He didn't ask us to pick a certain kind of writing," said Michael Kelleher, director of the Windham Campbell Literature Prizes and Literary Festival at Yale University. "He just asked us to recognize writers we thought deserved a wider audience and to give them time to write. That's really it."

With this creativity and Yale's financial resources, the Windham Campbell prizes have become one of the most generous prizes in literature in the world, an astonishing feat considering it was started only 12 years ago. The prize awards each writer with a monetary sum of \$175,000.

The three-day long festival includes events such as readings from winners, a keynote address from acclaimed writer and translator Lydia Davis, as well as community writing workshops.

The festival awards outstanding literature coming from the English-speaking world. This year, the winners of the prize are Christina Sharpe for nonfiction, Christopher Chen for drama, Deirdre Madden for fiction, Hanif Abdurraqib for nonfiction, Sonya Kelly for drama, Jen Hadfield for poetry, Kathryn Scanlan for fiction and m. nourbeSe philip for poetry.

In contrast with other international festivals recognizing talent in writing, the festival centers around the writers themselves, as opposed to promoting an individual book.

"The prizes are global in scope, and I think that becomes clear in that the writers get selected, and that becomes the basis for our festival," Kelleher says. "And it varies year to year because we have different writers every year and they all have different interests."

When the Windham Campbell prize began recognizing writers, there was an agreement between Yale and the estates left by Donald Windham and his partner Sandy M. Campbell that recipients would accept the prize in person and there would be a celebration comprised of interactive literary events.

The festival has become a community-based event aspiring to accumulate an audience of international literature fans, curious college students and families seeking entertainment in the New Haven area alike.

Flematu Fofana '28 got the opportunity to indulge in the festival's second day of programming by watching Davis' prize ceremony and keynote lecture.

"I think that it was very heartwarming," said Fofana. "I could tell [the writers] have poured a lot of effort into their careers and to be able to receive an award of this magnitude was probably very emotional for them and it made me emotional watching it."

Kelleher described the festival as a "very different kind of festival" due to its small size, local feel and lack of an attendance fee. With no singular vision, Kelleher and his staff have tried to curate events

around each writer's individual strengths and desires.

It displays like this that excite Kelleher and intrigue attendees, Kelleher said.

For instance, Hanif Abdurraqib's work, "There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension," relates to themes of basketball and American myths of success. Kelleher aimed to create an event that catered specifically towards Abdurraqib's book by having the Yale men's basketball head coach, James Jones, interview him.

m. nourbeSe philip, one of the winners at this year's festival, who enjoys performing with musicians, is set to perform with a saxophonist from the Yale School of Music.

philip, in particular, says that she was pleasantly surprised upon finding out that she was one of this year's winners.

"It just came out of the blue!" philip said. "I had no idea I was in the running for it. But it's an honor to be in the company of other wonderful writers."

philip has a degree in law from the University of Western Ontario and practiced law for seven years before deciding to write poetry professionally.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of her book-length poem titled "Zong!" which tells the story of the victims of the Zong Massacre, where enslaved Africans were murdered by the crew of the British slave ship Zong. The piece challenges traditional narrative structures and pushes boundaries in form and content to navigate historical record and creative word.

"In 'Zong!,' the form tries to replicate the drowning of the enslaved Africans," philip says. "So the words are positioned in such a way that they stand in for those Africans who weren't able to breathe, and the words begin to breathe for them."

As a female Tobagonian writer, philip says she hopes that "Zong!" and her other works empower and affirm people's individual unique traits, characteristics and backgrounds.

"What my writing intends to do is to say that we are endowed and blessed with beautiful forms," philip says. "Both in our material body and also in terms of our culture, our ways of being, our ways of loving, and our ways of living. So much in life attempts to say that to be sufficient is to be 'X, Y and Z.' I feel that 'being' ought to be sufficient."

Kelleher says that in working with artists such as philip, he is constantly trying to remain current in the ever-changing world of literature. He notes that every genre of the art form has its own "center of gravity," with the two largest ones in the English-speaking world being New York and London.

With the annual festivities, he tries to "expand outward from [these] centers of gravity" to put together a festival that is representative of the world's unique talents and their backgrounds.

"I think it's about planting seeds. I've been doing this for 12 years now. We've had people that range from completely obscure writers to very well-known writers," Kelleher says. "And I think the literary landscape has changed quite a lot. I don't think it really makes changes on a vast scale at the moment. It plants seeds that make change over time. I feel like that is what we offer, I hope."

The 2024 Windham Campbell Prizes and Festival will be held Sept. 17 to 20.

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OLIVIA CYRUS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Yale's prestigious festival honors diverse writers, creating a unique space for global voices to shine and literary traditions to evolve.

“Te espero sin plazo ni tiempo.”

GABRIELLA MISTRAL CHILEAN POET AND DIPLOMAT

Yale researchers win federal grant for AI-based mental illness



YULIN JIN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

This study, called IMPACT-MH, will bring together researchers to build a predictive machine-learning model that can enhance patient diagnoses.

BY AUDREY TSAI
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

This August, a group of Yale researchers received a \$20.6 million federal grant to conduct long-term research on mental illness.

This expansive study will bring together researchers in psychiatry, biostatistics, neuroscience and more to build a predictive machine-learning model that can enhance patient diagnoses. This project was born from the National Institute of Mental Health's new initiative, called Individually Measured Phenotypes to Advance Computational Translation in Mental Health, or IMPACT-MH.

According to Christopher Pittenger, a professor of psychiatry and one of the project leaders, there is unexplored overlap between symptoms of different mental illness diagnoses. Patients are diagnosed based on lists of symptoms instead of identifying underlying causes.

“This IMPACT program is an effort to take a big step back and say, let's not be guided by [current] diagnoses,” Pittenger said. “Let's not just study people with depression or OCD or PTSD

or addiction. Let's study them all and measure as much as we can and see if we can develop new ways to think about mental illness.”

The Yale IMPACT-MH program aims to recruit 2,400 patients over five years, divided into three waves. Each wave will follow 600 participants with a psychiatric diagnosis and 200 participants without a diagnosis for two years, tracking as many variables as possible.

The project has three main goals: finding measures that predict mental illness progression, identifying mental illness patterns over time and looking at how symptoms cluster and overlap to refine the current mental illness diagnosis system.

“Depression is kind of like pain,” Pittenger said. “If a doctor said you have pain, that would be a fairly useless diagnosis because that pain could be because of a cut versus nerve damage versus a headache. Those are totally different kinds of pain that require totally different kinds of treatment.”

The researchers are utilizing a combination of assessments that are cheap and easy to administer, Pittenger said,

helping psychiatrists avoid more expensive examinations.

According to Sarah Yip, project lead and professor of psychiatry, the project will combine traditional clinical measures like diagnostic interviews and self-report scales with new behavioral tasks. These new tasks are designed to track subtler changes in the patient's mental state. For example, researchers may task patients with choosing between risky or safe monetary gambles to assess their perception of risk and reward.

Researchers will analyze patients' spoken narrative data using artificial intelligence models specifically designed to identify trends in thought patterns and self-image, according to Yip.

“An individual isn't just their depression score,” Yip said. “Instead of this focus on single variables in isolation, by focusing on interactions between multiple variables that we think are highly relevant, the hope is that we can get a more nuanced understanding of the individual as their symptoms are changing over time.”

Beyond behavioral markers, Yip told the News, the researchers also plan to collect data from patients' electronic health records to better understand social determinants of health. For example, they'll aggregate information about a patient's available social support, insurance status and changes in their medication to have a more comprehensive view of how external factors may be contributing to their mental state.

With each wave of patients, the researchers plan to refine the behavioral markers they are testing for. As they analyze the data, they hope to identify what measures strongly relate to the patient's mental state and future trajectory.

Part of the project involves producing a machine learning model that can analyze this deluge of data, according to Yize Zhao, a Yale professor of biostatistics. Researchers will feed the data to the AI model, allowing them to analyze trends such as when patients feel better or worse.

“Based on their performance on those tasks, we can give them

a [computational] fingerprint,” Zhao said. “And the hope is eventually we can find we can eventually give a prediction of their future behavior.”

Additionally, the researchers hope the machine learning model will be able to group sets of patients together that — based on the data collected — may respond favorably to a specific treatment.

According to Yip, the project is a first step towards a broader goal to make psychiatric treatment predictive instead of reactive.

“The ideal goal would be that we end up with actionable sets of measures that can be used to more accurately predict how an individual is going to be doing in terms of their symptoms over time,” Yip told the News. “Whether or not it's realistic to expect that within the context of this first study, I don't know if that's realistic.”

Godfrey Pearlson, professor of psychiatry and neuroscience, is also leading the project.

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The overlooked quotient: emotional intelligence highlighted by Yale

BY UMA JEDDY AND ZOE BEKETOVA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

Only around 36 percent of people worldwide are emotionally intelligent, according to Forbes. Yale's Marc Brackett aims to ramp this up to 100 percent.

Earlier this September, Brackett, a founding director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, or YCEI, talked about improving emotional intelligence on the Huberman Lab Podcast, listened by millions of people. With his research, he wants to achieve “emotion[al] revolution,” he said.

“We all need emotional intelligence,” Brackett told the News.

Why? “Life's simply an emotional rollercoaster,” Brackett says.

When he was younger, Brackett experienced a tough childhood that included abuse and bullying. His uncle, a middle school teacher, stepped into his life and provided security, he said.

His uncle happened to be creating a curriculum to teach children how to understand emotions and piloted the program with Brackett. Ever since, Brackett has been fascinated with emotional intelligence.

Brackett describes emotional intelligence as a complex field that refers to human reasoning and understanding of emotions. The term encompasses skills such as labeling emotions, recognizing the emotions of others and regulating your own emotions.

Managing stress and negative emotions can lead to improved physical health, while an inability to do this can lead to mental health problems.

Emotional intelligence is also vital for maintaining healthy relationships, whether platonic, romantic or familial. Failing to understand and regulate emotions in the context of relationships with other people can lead to strained communication and weaker connections, as Brackett explained in the Huberman Lab episode.

“Our research shows that people with higher emotional intelligence are healthier, happier, more connected and more likely to achieve their goals,” Brackett said.

Brackett worked with two emotional intelligence pioneers, John Mayer from the University of New Hampshire and Yale's former president Peter Salovey, who coined the term emotional intelligence in the 1990s. Now, Brackett con-

tinues the work of his former mentors, wishing to impact individuals around the world.

“We'll come one step closer to my personal vision of creating an emotion[al] revolution in our nation's homes, schools and workplaces,” Brackett said, summarizing his research's mission.

As such, Brackett's recent work centers around infusing school systems with information about emotional intelligence through an evidence-based approach called RULER. RULER is an acronym for the five key emotional intelligence skills that Brackett has identified as vital for all ages to learn — recognizing, understanding, labeling, expressing and regulating.

As such, RULER teaches not only children, but also staff, about emotional intelligence at the schools where the curriculum is implemented. Brackett told the News that emotional intelligence is needed at every age, not just throughout adulthood.

Zorana Ivcevic Pringle, director of the Creativity and Emotions Lab at the School of Medicine, told the News that RULER is a unique program in the way it acknowledges that teachers can only effectively teach emotional intelligence skills if they work on developing their own first.

“What a kindergartner needs to make friends is different than what a teenager needs, than what a leader in my position needs,” Brackett said. “We always need to understand our own and other people's emotions. That helps us be better learners, decision makers, relationship builders and perform at our best.”

According to the Huberman Lab episode, understanding emotional intelligence develops an individual's empathy, allows them to self-regulate to feel better and improves communication.

Brackett told the news that understanding emotions and studying emotional intelligence are even more important in a digital era, as Americans spend over six hours a day online.

Currently, 30 percent of adults report feeling lonely at least once a week and 10 percent are lonely every



COURTESY OF MARC BRACKETT

Yale's Marc Brackett delved into the importance of emotional intelligence on the Huberman Lab Podcast.

day. To Brackett, this suggests that the digital age inhibits our ability to fully understand and communicate emotions, highlighting the need for improved emotional intelligence.

“I believe it is what will preserve our humanity,” Brackett said. “We are built to connect with other people, not devices.”

Brackett's colleagues attest to his commitment to the field of emotional intelligence.

Nicole Elbertson, YCEI's director of product development and implementation, has worked with Brackett for over twenty years. She described him as a “supportive and empowering leader and colleague” who impresses her with knowledge of the field.

Jessica Hoffmann, director of implementation science, added, “Working for him is inspiring and

fulfilling. I am constantly learning and growing while doing meaningful work that directly impacts people's lives.”

Marc Brackett's book, “Permission to Feel,” has sold over 500,000 copies and has been translated into 26 languages.

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SPORTS

Yale Cheer talks upcoming season, reflects on trip to March Madness

BY DAVIS ZONG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Is it a mountain? Is it a tower? Nope, it's the three-person tall "pyramid stunt" of the Yale Cheer-leading Team.

The cheerleading team at Yale hails from all grades and residential colleges, but one thing they each have in common is their shared love for cheering on the Elis at regular home games and collegiate tournaments alike.

In addition to enthusiastically waving colorful poms poms

and leading chants for those in the stands, Yale Cheer keeps the audience entertained through skillful team gymnastics and stunts.

"One really exciting thing we started doing around last year was the halftime shows at basketball games; we would do cheers, dances, stunting and tumbling to hype the crowd," Kenna Morgan '26 told the News.

Nathania Nartey '25, one of the team's co-captains, recounts the thrill of performing complex stunts.

Her favorite, she told the News, is the "back tuck basket toss:" a

stunt where one member of the team gets tossed into the air and does a backflip.

Many of the stunts involve intricate, airborne moves in the air, and members of the team have attested to the strong teamwork required to pull off their stunts.

Bernadette Nwokeji '26, who grew up doing gymnastics and color guard before joining Yale Cheer, cited the "trust team members have within each other" as the key to pulling off stunts.

Yale Cheer's members come from a variety of backgrounds and

experience levels. Dieynaba Ndiaye '28 may be a first year, but having started cheering at 11 years old, she comes from seven years of cheerleading experience.

"I always romanticized cheer when I was younger, and I practiced doing flips and cartwheels at recess. The aura that surrounds cheerleading really inspired me," Ndiaye said.

Other team members made their cheering debut on the Yale team. Alexis Doran '26 played four sports throughout high school, but cheered for the first time at Yale.

"One of my friends that I met on my FOOT trip wanted to go to try-outs and didn't want to go alone," Doran told the News. "I went with her, and now we have been on the team for two and a half years."

The cheer team runs twice-a-week practices in addition to weekly game days. Last March, when the Yale Men's Basketball team played in March Madness, the cheer team traveled to Spokane, Washington, to attend Yale's first round matchup against Auburn. In that game, the No. 13 seeded Bulldogs pulled off an upset over the No. 4 Tigers in a back-and-forth game.

Reflecting on her experience at March Madness, Doran highlighted the exhilaration of watching the Elis prevail in a close win up close.

"I love watching an underdog win, I like it better when it's Yale. It was cool to be right there in the front row, to see us win that game," Doran said.

Several members cited cheering on the basketball team at March Madness as one of the

most thrilling moments of their cheer experience.

Sydnee Hairston '26 began cheering in middle school. She noted the excitement of performing in front of a crowd of over 11,000 fans.

"It was so cool to be a part of that and perform in front of a bigger crowd. We learned a fun routine for halftime and I loved the dance elements we added," Hairston said.

An exciting year lies ahead for Yale Cheer. As the Elis look to match last year's success, the team is rehearsing new moves to keep the audience entertained during half-time, timeouts and breaks.

When asked what they were looking forward to the most this year, Nwokeji pointed to the Yale-Harvard game in November.

"Harvard-Yale is always exciting because it is a rivalry that spans over a century, so it's the game with the highest attendance from the student body," Nwokeji told the News.

Yale Cheer's members also emphasized the important role of audience engagement in their cheerleading experience, encouraging the student body to show up to as many games as possible.

"One of the best things is when you start a cheer and the whole crowd joins in and it just resonates through the Yale Bowl or John Lee Amphitheater," Jayson Wright '26 said.

The Yale Cheer team will perform for the first time on Oct. 5 at the Yale Football opener versus Holy Cross.

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CHLOE EDWARDS / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Yale Cheer looks forward to another year of stunting, tumbling and cheering on the Bulldogs in competition.

FOOTBALL: Yale to open against Holy Cross this weekend

BY SPENCER KING AND SIENNA TEJPAUL
SENIOR AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

When the Yale football team (0-0, 0-0 Ivy) takes the field this Saturday at 2:00 p.m., they will face a familiar opponent — the Holy Cross Crusaders (1-2, 0-0 Patriot).

Since 2017, the Bulldogs have always played their first game of the season against the Crusaders. They have won only two of those matchups and enter this year's edition having lost the last three.

The Bulldogs, however, are coming off a successful season, ending as 2023 Ivy League co-champions with Dartmouth and Harvard. This should bolster their confidence going into the game as they set their sights on their first victory against the Crusaders since 2019.

Although they fell to the Crusaders last year, the Bulldogs had success with their offense running the ball, as Tre Peterson '25 finished the game with 95 yards on 17 carries. The team might use this tactic again or focus more on long-range passes.

Over the past few weeks of pre-season and a summer spent in off-season training in New Haven, the Bulldogs have been preparing for this very moment. The high level of competition for a spot in the starting lineup has been motivating the Bulldogs to push each other and keep getting better every practice.

The question of who will be this season's starting quarterback has been a popular topic of conversation, but we won't know for sure until the first whistle blows.

The rest of this year's lineup has also been under speculation as the Bulldogs are aiming to fill a couple of key positions on both offense and defense. The Bulldogs graduated some big playmakers on both lines of scrimmage in Kiran Amegadjie '24 and Clay Patterson '24. They've brought in 29 first years to help rebuild the roster.

On the Holy Cross side, this team will look very different from the squad that the Bulldogs played last season.

New head coach Dan Curran will lead the Crusaders, replacing former head coach Bob Chesney, who was hired away to James Madison last offseason. Curran secured his first win at Holy Cross last Saturday in a 43-22 win over Bryant. This followed a pair of close losses at the start of the season — 20-17 against Rhode Island and then 21-20 against New Hampshire.

The Crusaders' passing attack that gashed the Bulldogs defense

for 275 yards last year is also nearly unrecognizable.

Matthew Sluka, the 2023 Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year, is gone, starting for the undefeated UNLV team that upset Kansas last weekend. The Crusaders'

all-time leader in career receiving yards and receiving touchdowns, Jalen Coker, has bounced between the Carolina Panthers active roster and practice squad.

One thing the Bulldogs' defense will need to be ready for is the

Crusaders' balanced attack. Holy Cross averages 150 rushing yards per game and 209 passing yards per game.

This weekend's match will kick off at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Cross and will be streamed live on ESPN+.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale football team will open its 2024 season on the road this Saturday against Holy Cross.

NEWS

"Hay momentos para recitar poesías y hay momentos para boxear."
ROBERTO BOLAÑO CHILEAN NOVELIST

Justice dept. has youth correctional facility to end disciplinary isolation

BY MAIA NEHME
STAFF REPORTER

Manson Youth Institution is shifting to a rehabilitative approach for its dozens of incarcerated boys, per a recent agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and Connecticut's Department of Correction.

Under the agreement, MYI — a correctional facility in Cheshire, Connecticut, that houses male offenders under age 21 — will phase out disciplinary isolation, launch an incentive-based behavior management program and strengthen mental health treatment for children in its custody. About 17 percent of people incarcerated at MYI are children, according to a state DOC population tally from the start of the month.

Heather Panciera, who works for a state oversight agency for children in government care, has visited MYI multiple times and spoken with incarcerated minors about their experiences in the correctional facility. She noted that the punitive approach MYI has relied on in the past often complicates children's transition from prison to the outside world.

"They're all coming back to their communities," Panciera said. "You don't want them to come back being more damaged ... And the more that you seclude them and lock them up and treat them like animals, that's going to be the result that you have."

The agreement marks the end of a yearslong DOJ investigation of MYI's conditions for youth offenders, prompted by a 2019 OCA report that

discussed the treatment of incarcerated children throughout the state.

The report found that in a six-month stretch in 2018, 56 incarcerated youth were placed in solitary confinement — ranging from three days to a month of isolation. The boys were either confined for disciplinary reasons, such as fighting with other incarcerated youth, or for their own protection.

Some youths were classified as members of a security risk group and were placed in isolation for multiple months. These were generally boys with alleged gang affiliations who might pose a threat to MYI's staff and other incarcerated youth.

William Carbone, a University of New Haven professor specializing in juvenile justice reform, emphasized the negative psychological impacts of disciplinary isolation, particularly for children. Prolonged isolation worsens anxiety and depression, as well as increasing paranoia and aggression.

After the 2019 OCA report, MYI stopped placing incarcerated children in the security risk group. Youth now spend no more than seven consecutive days in isolation, according to Panciera.

Both Carbone and Panciera shared their relief about the end of disciplinary isolation at MYI. But criminal justice advocate Barbara Fair is skeptical about the agreement, which she worries won't be carried out quickly.

Fair pointed to the 2022 PROTECT Act, which established independent oversight of Connecticut's DOC. Though lawmakers and Gov. Ned Lamont were required to submit recommendations for the new prison

watchdog role a month after the law passed, the interim ombudsman won't step into the oversight position until Sept. 23. A permanent ombudsman still has not been selected.

"I've just seen too much of this state ... having laws that they should be enforcing around incarcerated people, and they just don't, and there seems to be no repercussions for disobeying the law," Fair said.

The state DOC did not respond to the News' request for clarification about the timeline for the agreement's implementation.

New behavior management, mental health support

MYI will also implement an incentive-based behavior management program, underscoring the facility's shift from disciplinary isolation and other punitive measures to a rehabilitative focus. The agreement does not specify what the programming will involve.

Carbone hopes incarcerated youth will have activities scheduled throughout the day, such as job skills training and art workshops. He also wants the agreement to improve MYI's educational opportunities, especially for children with learning disabilities.

Though MYI provides five hours of instruction per day, most youth don't consistently attend full days of school, according to the 2019 OCA report. Children attended between 28 and 66 percent of full school days during the 2018 to 2019 school year.

Panciera would like to see MYI facilitate connections between incarcerated youth and their communities,



ZACH SURI / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

A recent agreement between the Justice Department and Corrections Department will end disciplinary isolation and improve conditions at Manson Youth Institution

such as by organizing visits from local police, firefighters and paramedics.

"When they leave, you want them to be able to go to those authority figures and not run from them," she said.

The agreement also calls for more thorough mental health assessments and treatment.

MYI staff classify incarcerated youth based on whether they've experienced mental health issues in the past and prioritizes treatment for those with preexisting conditions, Panciera said. But she argued that any teenager who is incarcerated in an adult facility should be experiencing counseling, regardless of their mental health history.

Panciera pointed out that mental health treatment, such as music therapy, can be incorporated into MYI's new programming for incarcerated youth.

"When you consider all of this together, it's bound to have a more positive effect on the outcomes we all want, which is that these young people will emerge from these facilities at some point, more likely not to come back," Carbone said.

Manson Youth Institution currently houses 49 boys and 247 young men between the ages of 18 and 21.

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Pelosi book event moved from Omni amid labor dispute

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will not hold her book talk with Rep. Rosa DeLauro at the Omni New Haven Hotel on Sunday afternoon as originally planned, because of unresolved contract negotiations in the wake of a four-day strike by the hotel's workers.

The high-powered pair of Democrats will instead discuss Pelosi's new book, "The Art of Power," at Southern Connecticut State University's John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts.

The new location appeared on Wednesday on the websites of SCSU and RJ Julia Booksellers, which is

organizing the event. The Madison-based bookstore announced the switch in a Wednesday evening email blast, which called Pelosi "the most powerful woman in American political history."

RJ Julia spokesperson Liz Bartek wrote in a statement that the venue change occurred "due to ongoing agreement negotiations between UNITE HERE Local 217 union leaders and the Omni New Haven Hotel."

The Omni's 120 unionized hospitality workers began a strike early last Thursday morning, after 10 months of fruitless contract negotiations with hotel management. DeLauro, who has represented Connecticut's New Haven-centered Third Congressional District since 1991, visited

the Temple Street picket line on Friday morning to show solidarity with the striking workers.

Omni employees returned to work on Monday morning, as contract talks continued. Local 217 and Omni management had not reached a resolution by Wednesday when RJ Julia publicly changed the venue four days before Pelosi's book talk.

"Strike issues have not been resolved," read a statement from UNITE HERE Local 217 late Wednesday afternoon. "Negotiations are ongoing, and more strikes are possible at any time should issues remain unresolved. The union urges guests not to eat, sleep, or meet at any hotel that is on strike."

Pelosi, the first female speaker of the House, who stepped down from her second stint in the role in January 2023 after two decades leading House Democrats, released "The Art of Power" on Aug. 6. She has since embarked on a nationwide book tour. Simon & Schuster, the book's publisher, describes it as an account of the author's "transformation from housewife to House Speaker."

DeLauro, who is running for reelection in November, has been Pelosi's colleague in the House of Representatives for 33 years and a longtime friend. The duo's onstage conversation is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

General admission tickets for the event cost \$75 and include a copy of

the \$30 hardcover volume. The difference, Bartek told the News before the venue switch, would go toward the Omni's hefty space rental fees.

She declined to share the financial arrangements for the relocation, but wrote, "The Omni has been very accommodating throughout for which we are grateful."

As of Wednesday, SCSU students, faculty and staff could purchase \$20 tickets that do not include a book. The Lyman Center's main auditorium seats 1,500 people.

The center is located at 501 Crescent St., just over two miles from the Omni.

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Mayor-backed candidate edges out businessman for Hill alder seat

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

Angel Hubbard, a Democratic organizer backed by many of New Haven's elected leaders, beat the maverick restaurateur Miguel Pittman in a closely fought election to represent part of the Hill on the Board of Alders, per the total vote tally announced Monday night.

The count in the Ward 3 special election — incorporating ballots cast Monday at the Hill Regional Career High School and early and absentee votes — was 162 for Hubbard and 146 for Pittman. An election official told the candidates, gathered in the school gymnasium after polls closed

at 8 p.m., that the sub-20 margin of victory would set off an automatic recount in the next five days.

"I am blessed," Hubbard said when asked for her reaction to the results. She later added, "I just want to thank the community for coming out, supporting both sides. It's a humbling experience. I'm thankful that they're entrusting me to move forward with the vision of the ward."

Hubbard continued, referring to her opponent and his wife Sandra, "And I just look forward to still working with the Pittmans and also on their vision."

Monday's special election came a month and a half after Ward 3's previous alder, Ron Hurt, resigned

following the revelation of his dismissal from a drug rehab center for a sexual relationship with a patient. Hurt appeared among Hubbard's supporters at the polling place on Monday but declined to share whom he voted for or his response to the results.

During the short campaign, Hubbard and Pittman each canvassed extensively in the ward, where voter turnout typically ranks among the lowest in the city. Drug use, public safety and housing costs came up as priorities for the two candidates.

Mayor Justin Elicker and several alders threw their weight behind Hubbard, a Ward 3 co-chair for the Democratic Town Committee. Pit-

tman cast himself as a community advocate untethered to New Haven's political establishment.

Pittman told the News he had not conceded the race and would wait to comment on the outcome once the recount occurs. "At this point I'm tired, ready to go home and just chill out with the wife," he said.

Hubbard said that, assuming the recount confirms her victory, she was not sure when she will be sworn in to the currently vacant seat. The term lasts until the end of 2025, and both Hubbard and Pittman said they plan to run again in that year's municipal elections.

The race to replace Hurt was the second local election this year for Ward 3 — and another triumph, albeit by a far narrower margin, for a ruling Democratic apparatus allied with Yale's UNITE HERE unions. In March, voters in Ward 3 and seven other wards rejected an effort to unseat incumbent DTC ward co-chairs including Hubbard. She did not seek UNITE HERE's backing in the aldermanic campaign.

"There are so many people that came out in this election compared to the number that usually come out in Ward 3," Elicker said in an interview. "I congratulate both candidates on running such a proactive and engaged race."

The candidates arrived before sunrise on Monday to set up neighborhood tents for their campaigns. Pittman also had two golf carts, adorned with posters, that he had used while canvassing. Allies of each candidate stopped by throughout the day, as the atmosphere beside the school parking lot mixed friction and friendliness.

Ward 3 resident Moses Rodriguez, a 69-year-old retired flooring salesman who voted for Hubbard, said she was the only candidate who visited his home during the campaign.

"She seemed pretty honest. At least she showed up," Rodriguez said.

Sarina Richardson, a 41-year-old chef, said Hubbard came to her home, but that the Pittmans' longstanding role in the neighborhood earned Pittman her vote.

"I'm not impressed by what somebody tells me they can do, when I just grew up seeing these people, seeing how they treat people, and I already know what they can do," said Richardson, who added that she eats at the Pittmans' popular soul food restaurant, Sandra's Next Generation, two or three times a week.

As sunlight waned, each campaign made a final push to bring voters to the ballot box. Elicker made calls for Hubbard. Some nearby Pittman supporters took issue with the mayor's decision to take a side, saying they had voted for Elicker but might not in the future.

Elicker told the News he spoke with residents in the opposing camp during a visit to the polling place earlier in the day. He pledged to continue addressing Ward 3 voters' concerns about drug use and homelessness.

The Hill Regional Career High School is located at 140 Legion Ave.

Ariela Lopez contributed reporting.

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ETHAN WOLIN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Angel Hubbard beat Miguel Pittman, 162 to 146, in the vote count announced after Monday's special election for Ward 3 alder. The close margin triggers an automatic recount.

NEWS

"Te espero sin plazo ni tiempo."

GABRIELLA MISTRAL, CHILEAN POET AND DIPLOMAT

Yalies4Palestine holds vigil honoring Palestinians killed



CHLOE EDWARDS / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The vigil, which drew around 200 attendees, saw organizers leading Jewish and Muslim prayers and attendees placing around 500 Palestinian flags on the Cross Campus lawn.

YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

On Sept. 12, around 200 Yalies gathered on Cross Campus to mourn the Palestinians killed in the Israel-Hamas war.

Attendees initially gathered around the Women's Table in front of Sterling Memorial Library to hear speeches, poems and prayers from vigil organizers. Afterward, students staked around 500 small Palestinian flags on the Cross Campus lawn before forming a circle around the space.

"This was a vigil to mourn all of the lives that have been lost in the colonial genocide that has been going on in Gaza not just since Oct. 7, but for the past 75 years," an attendee of the vigil, who requested to remain anonymous out of fears of doxxing, told the News.

According to the attendee, the flags at the vigil were inspired by a similar vigil held by Students

United for Palestinian Equality & Return at the University of Washington on Oct. 19, 2023, in which attendees placed thousands of flags, each corresponding to one Palestinian killed during the war in Gaza.

"Because of the sheer number of people who have been martyred [since then], we were unable to print 186,000 flags," the anonymous attendee said. "So we chose to have each flag represent hundreds of lives."

Organizers printed a message on the back of each flag reading "OVER 186,000 LIVES STOLEN." According to a vigil organizer affiliated with Yalies4Palestine, who also requested to remain anonymous for fear of doxxing, attendees placed 500 flags.

The count of 186,000 refers to a research article stating that the total death toll could be up to 186,000 based on indirect deaths, a claim not confirmed by other sources. According to Gaza's

Ministry of Health, more than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war as of Aug. 15.

The vigil coincided with a national day of action organized by National Students for Justice in Palestine, in which chapters of SJP at institutions across the country held protests and vigils in support of Palestine.

Nina Fattore, assistant director for university life, was present at the vigil with a badge identifying her as a "free expression facilitator," or FEF. Fattore declined to comment at the vigil, instead directing questions to the University spokesperson.

According to the University spokesperson, Fattore was also present as an FEF at the Shabbat table hosted by Yale Friends of Israel on Sept. 6 to call for the release of the remaining hostages in Gaza and mourn six hostages recently killed by Hamas.

"FEFs cover events across the

university, both large and small, and are assigned based on a variety of factors including location, size, and the information we have in advance of the event," the University spokesperson wrote to the News. "Event planners often reach out in advance so that the Office of the Secretary and Vice President for University Life can help with planning."

During the vigil, organizers also mourned the death of Ay enur Ezgi Eygi, an American citizen who was killed by an Israeli soldier in the West Bank during an anti-settlement protest.

Miguel Monteiro GRD '27, a doctoral student in Near Eastern languages & civilizations, read a statement that he and other students in his department wrote concerning Eygi's death.

"Our project, and Ay enur's project, was one of an internationalist solidarity that recognizes how every person is rooted in their land, in their commu-

nity, in their dreams, while also being part of a larger human and non-human community that includes people, rivers, mountains, skies, languages and birds which we will never meet and will never know, but whose liberation is necessary for our own," Monteiro read in the statement.

Attendees of the vigil also heard organizers read poems and lead prayers. A member of Jews for Ceasefire recited Kaddish, a Jewish mourning prayer, for the Palestinians who have been killed during the war in Gaza. Organizers also led Dua Nasiri, a Muslim prayer for the oppressed.

The Women's Table was designed by Maya Lin '81 ARC '86 in 1993.

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New "democracy liaisons" aim to help Yalies vote



ELLIE PARK / MULTIMEDIA MANAGING EDITOR

Yale Votes' new initiative aims to streamline the voting process in the upcoming election for undergraduates.

SASHA HUROWITZ
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Democracy Liaisons Program, launched this fall, aims to help Yalies vote in the upcoming presidential election.

Democracy liaisons, a branch of the Office of the Secretary and Vice President for University Life's Yale Votes Initiative, are student employees dedicated to supporting Yalies in the voting process for the upcoming presidential election, helping with tasks such as voter registration and absentee ballot requests and submissions. Stationed in the Head of College offices across all residential colleges, each college

has four liaisons, who were primarily hired from the existing group of college aides.

"It feels like every state and circumstance comes with different deadlines and restrictions, which can be hard to navigate, especially on top of academic, extracurricular, and social obligations," Sonja Aibel '28, democracy liaison for Davenport College, wrote to the News. "I think centralizing all of the information and resources necessary to navigate voter registration and vote-by-mail ballot requests in members of residential college communities could make voting more accessible, simple, and easy."

There are two separate organizations helping students to vote on campus. Yale Votes is run by the University, while Yale Votes: A Student Initiative is unaffiliated and led entirely by undergraduate and graduate students.

Alex Moore '26, president of Yale Votes: A Student Initiative, told the News that while the organizations are separate, they work very closely with one another.

"We were involved with the [Yale Votes] website development and early stages of brainstorming related to what became the Democracy Liaison program," he wrote.

Moore added that the Office

of the Secretary and Vice President for University Life also contributes to funding some of Yale Votes: A Student Initiative's work.

In previous election years, Yale Votes mobilized undergraduate volunteers assigned to each residential college. While their role was similar to that of the current democracy liaisons, they were unpaid and not officially recognized by the University.

Dean of Yale College Pericles Lewis told the News that he is working with Yale Votes to ensure students are registering to vote. He highlighted that because many students are from different states, he thinks having resources to help register is important.

The liaisons received training and are fully compensated by the Office of the Secretary and Vice President for University Life. Liaisons are prepared to assist students in navigating varying state voting rules and will provide envelopes and stamps for submitting ballots or other necessary documents.

"I am excited about the University's investment in hiring democracy liaisons because they will function as an important resource for students as they prepare to vote during this election cycle," Julia Lin '26, vice president of Yale Votes: A Student Initiative, told the News. "Students who are interested in facilitating civic engagement on campus can be compensated while helping to ensure that their peers feel ready to vote."

Moore shared that while on-campus students cannot receive mail at their residential college's package center, they can receive government mail. He wrote that students living on campus should request their absentee ballots to be sent to their

residential college's address. Democracy liaisons will notify students by email once the ballots arrive at the college's office.

Yale Votes has also coordinated with Yale Mail to ensure election-related mail is separated from regular mail, with plans to expedite its delivery to college offices as the election nears. This effort aims to prevent delays in receiving important election materials.

"My group, Yale Votes: A Student Initiative, has many of its own efforts to make voting accessible to students!" Moore wrote to the News. "Democracy Liaisons are a great resource for students, and we believe it's also important to proactively seek out students who might not voluntarily visit the Liaisons, and help them vote as well."

Democracy liaisons' work hours vary by college and are posted outside the Head of College offices and in the dining halls. Each college will have three two-hour shifts between 5 and 7 p.m. on weekdays and one three-hour shift on Saturdays. The jobs will end right around election day, Nov. 5. Yale Votes: A Student Initiative leaders said the program will be assessed to determine whether it will be brought back in upcoming years.

"I'm excited about being a democracy liaison because I care a lot about the upcoming election, and I particularly hope that youth and Gen Z turn out and have our voices heard this November," Aibel said.

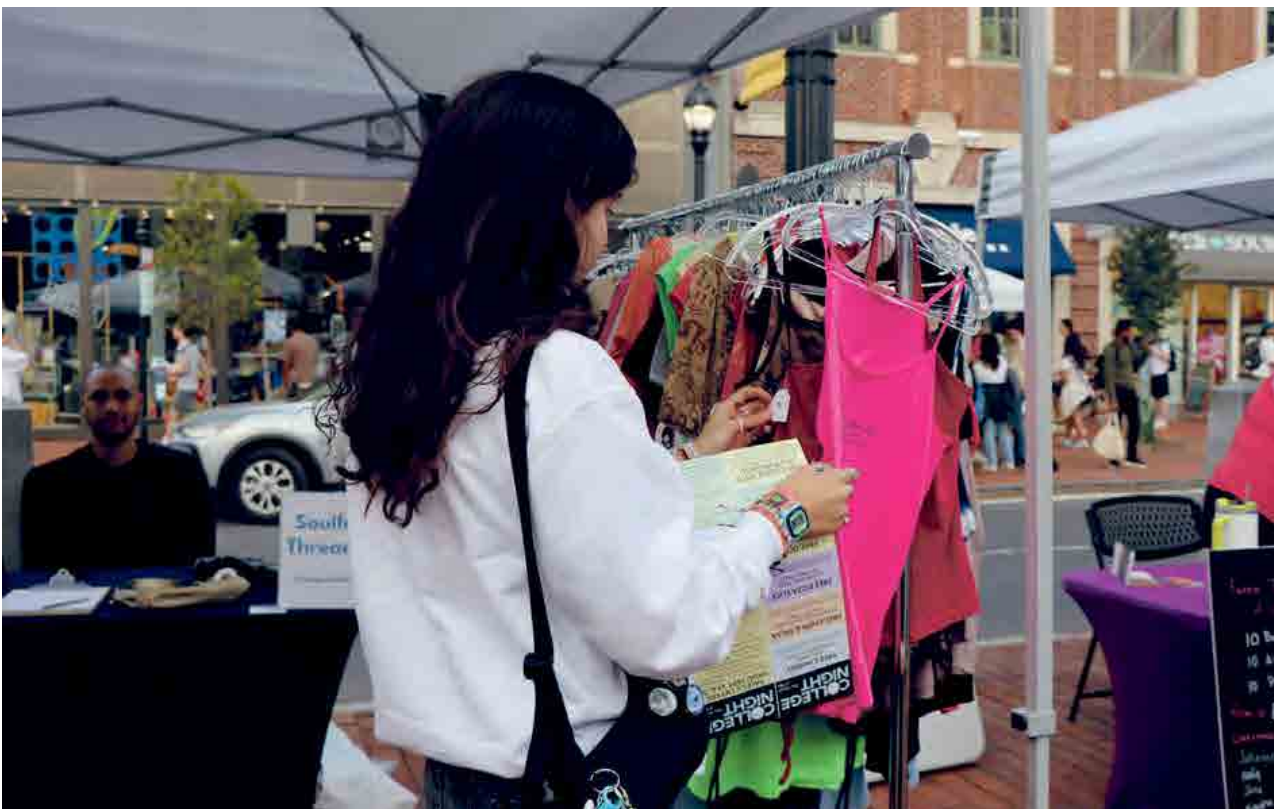
The 2024 U.S. presidential election is scheduled to take place on Nov. 5.

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THROUGH THE LENS

COLLEGE NIGHT

*Photos by Christina Lee,
Head Photography Editor*



SPORTS

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"I'm always hunting, I'm always hungry. I would talk to Nick Miller before the game [and say]: 'We're gonna get one. Keep your head up,'"
JOSEPH FAROUZ '27, SAID WHEN DESCRIBING HIS MENTALITY ON SCORING.

FIELD HOCKEY: Bulldogs triumph over Fairfield, fall to Brown

BY AVA JENKINS AND MEREDITH HENDERSON
STAFF REPORTER

After starting the season 2-0 for the first time in six years, Yale Field Hockey continued their stretch of away games with a match-up against Fairfield University (1-4, 0-0 NEC) on Friday night.

The Bulldogs scored with a rebound off of the opposing goalie's pads from senior Lily Ramsey '25 in the game's first minute.

The rest of the game was a defensive masterclass from the Elis, with Fairfield's having a 10-7 shot advantage throughout the game. Despite the Stags' 11 penalty corners, the Bulldogs held strong with help

from goalie Alexa Pitts '25, who had her first career shutout. Fairfield's last chance at scoring came from a corner in the final 15 seconds of the game, but due to the Bulldogs' tough defense, they sent the ball out of bounds as the clock expired. Ramsey's goal in the opening 30 seconds remained the only point on the board.

Pitts wrote to the News about the team's mindset during defensive games. "There definitely wasn't a mentality switch in the game on Friday," she wrote. "The mentality is always to play as a team, support each other and play our game."

This was the fourth straight game against the Stags, which was decided by one goal, but the first in which Yale came out victorious. This was the first of four games against rival Connecticut teams. The Bulldogs will face Sacred Heart (2-4, 1-0 NEC), Quinnipiac (2-4, 0-0 Big East) and UConn (5-1, 0-0 Big East), ranked 16th, later in the yearly campaign.

Head Coach Melissa Gonzalez wrote to the News about her team's ability to grow.

"As the season progresses, I hope we see continued growth in both our attacking and defensive strategies," Gonzalez wrote. "Our team is incredibly coachable and receptive to feedback, which sets a strong foundation for improvement."

That Sunday, the undefeated Bulldogs played their first Ivy League matchup of the season against Brown University (1-3, 1-0 Ivy) at home at Yale's Johnson Field. Yale sought their seventh straight win against the Bears.

The battle proved to be hot and intense, both in outside temperature — with spectators fanning themselves in the stands — and in fervor on the field.

Despite multiple shots on goal from each team, the first half remained scoreless. At the start of the third period, about 35 seconds in, Hettie Whittington '27 received a pass from teammate

Poppy Beales '26 and scored, putting the Elis up by one. Yale found themselves able to maintain this lead going into the fourth quarter, thanks to a save by Pitts.

However, the Bulldogs were not out of the dark just yet. Just five minutes before the end of the regular period, Brown tied the game with a goal by Juliette Meijaard, sending the match into overtime.

Though both teams put up a strong fight, the first overtime ended with nothing to show for it. As the second overtime rolled around, the question of which team could pull through and secure victory remained.

At 70:53 in the game, a yellow card on Beales awarded a penalty corner for the Bears, giving them the opportunity to score. With a goal by Brown's Katie McCallum, the Bulldogs took their first loss of the season in a devastatingly hard-fought battle.

Gonzalez wrote to the News about her team's execution.

"We were impressed by our team's ability to maintain possession and implement the press," Gonzalez wrote. "We created quality team opportunities from these two areas. We look forward to building on this performance throughout the remainder of the season."

The Bulldogs remain at home to face Sacred Heart University on Friday, Sept. 20.

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AVA SEYMOUR / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The field hockey team secured one win, but notched one loss after a tough weekend.

VOLLEYBALL: Bulldogs triumph in three thrilling wins

BY KATE ESTEVEZ
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale women's volleyball team delivered a spectacular performance this past weekend at the Yale Invitational as they emerged victorious in all three of their matches.

The Bulldogs, who had a challenging start to the season in Charleston, demonstrated their resolve and skill

by defeating Colgate, Fairfield and Villanova, each with a 3-2 scoreline. The team's resilience and adaptability were on full display as they navigated through a series of hard-fought matches, and they showcased their potential as they head into the thick of the season.

In their opening match of the Invitational, Yale faced off against Villanova.

The game was a thrilling back-and-forth battle, with both teams displaying their strengths. Yale emerged victorious after a gripping five-set encounter. The Bulldogs' ability to execute crucial plays in the final set, coupled with strong performances from key players, such as Isabella Mendoza '26, Laurece Abraham '27 and Betsy Goodenow '27, secured their first win of the tournament.

"Even though it's my second season, the excitement never fades," Abraham told the News. "It's always a great feeling to get back on the court and see all our hard work pay off. I think we have a really strong team this year. We've been working well together, and there's a lot of potential for us to have a great season. We're all focused on improving and supporting each other."

The second match saw Yale square off against Fairfield. Again, the Bulldogs were pushed to the limits, but their determination and tactical acumen shone through. Yale managed to clinch the match with a 3-2 victory, demonstrating their ability to maintain composure under the pressure of going to the fifth set multiple times.

Yale's final match of the weekend was against Colgate. The Elis' performance was marked by their exceptional teamwork. The Bulldogs' versatility and depth were evident as they battled through a closely contested game, ultimately securing a decisive 3-2 win, closing the Invitational on a high note.

"It is really early in the season; we need to work on our consistency," Coach Erin Appleman said. "We worked really hard this weekend; [we] did not always play our best but found a way to win. We did have some great moments, especially from the veteran players."

The Bulldogs' successful weekend at the Yale Invitational sets a promising tone for the remainder of the season. With a blend of experienced leadership and emerging talent, Yale appears poised for a strong showing in the upcoming Ivy League matches.

As they look ahead, the Bulldogs will carry the momentum from this invitational into their future games, with high expectations and a renewed sense of confidence. The team's next challenge will be to build on this success and continue their upward trajectory as they prepare for the competitive season ahead.

Next weekend the Bulldogs travel to Penn State University for the Penn State Classic where they will face James Madison University and Penn State University.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs showcased resilience and skill in a series of 3-2 victories, setting a positive tone for the season ahead.

STAT OF THE WEEK **2021**

KINGMAN HAS BEEN THE HANDSOME DAN MASCOT SINCE 2021

WEEKEND

Jackson Arn on what an Art critic ingests

// BY LIZZIE CONKLIN

Jackson Arn always wanted to end up in New York. After he came to Yale for a college tea and visited my class on “writing about figurative painting,” and students from the class pestered him for meetings, feedback on the work and interviews for the News, I talked with him at a Think Coffee — one of his spots in the East Village — to ask about replacing Peter Schjeldahl as The New Yorker’s newest art critic, and find out what this guy actually does.

In the poster that advertised his Pierson College Tea, he appeared to have a ponytail, which he must’ve shorn on his Metro ride over. Though we expected to greet someone dripping in a slouchy designer pashmina, he talked to us like a normal guy, patiently dignifying our questions, going overtime, until he was rushed to his next on-campus appointment. I sought him out in New York City, where I took the subway alone for the first time and got lost in New York like some wannabe Macaulay Culkin, until I stumbled into the right coffee shop.

Very few parts of this interview are edited, save the number of times I used the word “like.”

LIZZIE CONKLIN, INTERVIEWER

Can you tell me about your life? Maybe an abridged version?

JACKSON ARN

A Brief History of me. Okay. Yeah. Well, let’s see, I am from Arizona. I always wanted to be in New York eventually. I never appreciated Arizona until I moved to New York, and then would come back and go on hikes and appreciate the sunsets and the purple mountains and all that good stuff.

CONKLIN

Do you have a daily routine?

ARN

It involves waking up. Oh, yes, that’s the key one. Everything else follows from there. Waking up, fiddling around on my phone for far longer than I should. Reading ideally 20 to 30 pages of whatever paperback is by my desk. At the moment it is “To The Lighthouse.” Quick side note. There aren’t really that many works of art that rock your world when you’re 16 years old. And then rock your world again when you’re in college and then rock your world a third time when you’re in your early 30s. Yeah, but “To The Lighthouse” is certainly one for me. Wow.

Where was I? I get up, I make coffee from my French press. I eat a light breakfast, which is usually the leftovers of whatever dinner I had the night before. I walk to the Brooklyn Public Library and go up to the third floor where all the art books are. And I work, usually from 9:30 to 5:30 or 6:00. I say usually because that’s the time that I aspire to. But admittedly, sometimes what happens is that I’ll go home early and then end up working far too late. It sounds like a lot of other writers write at night.

CONKLIN

What do you read?

ARN

Oh, gosh, yes. I read a lot of poetry. Yeah. I think prose writers probably should read a lot of poetry just so you’re always reminding yourself of the absolute capacity of the English language. So I always come back to Larkin, Murray, Heaney, Wallace Stevens, John Ashbury. Those are my big people. For whatever reason, I always go back to Arizona for Thanksgiving and just read poetry for like a week. I can’t read novels when I’m with my family. But I read a lot of poems. Probably something to do with attention spans and there being lots of people in the house and being sort of loud.

I got really good at tuning people out because I grew up in a house with two loud siblings. I would always just be reading by myself in the corner. But it is definitely easier to focus on a one-page Wallace Stevens poem than, you know, a 300-page standalone novel for the week. But yeah, I don’t know any other authors who I love. I’ve been rereading a lot of Amis’ novels since he died this past year and “Money” is even funnier than I remember it being. What else, what else? I read “The Line of Beauty” once a year. I like to dip back into that one every once in a while and I’ve never read anything so good: “The Line of Beauty” by Alan Hollinghurst. Yeah, I read it for the first time in college or a class. So the novel was in one of the best classes I took with Nick Dames as the professor; a spectacular, spectacular teacher. But yeah, it’s a sort of novel of manners. So there is like the young friend who goes to the big English country house, and he gets involved with people who are there. And it’s very inflected, like Henry James, and evil and blah, and all those fun people. But it’s also set in the 1980s. So there’s a ton of cocaine and partying and decadent sacks and they go see “Scarface” and all that. But just sentence for sentence. I think it’s one of the best books by a living author, for sure. And because I aspire to write like this person. And you know, Amis and Hollinghurst would definitely be examples of that. I also really love the more recent Coetzee’s books, though, like, do you know like the “Schooldays of Jesus” and “The Childhood of Jesus?” Yeah, the Jesus Trilogy, I guess they call it?

CONKLIN

Do you have any particular kinds of works that you remember not being published? Did you ever write a secret novel or something?

ARN

Oh, boy. I’m trying to think how much I can tell you. Let’s see. I wrote a series of unpublished love letters. Of course, they’re unpublished. I wrote a series of love letters to a girl who I met at camp when I was about 15 years old. And I am pretty sure they’re somewhere in my closet in Arizona still. And if I ever read them

again, I would have a heart attack and die of embarrassment.

CONKLIN

Are you a wordy person?

ARN

My theory is that I have an aural memory. Yeah, it’s slightly different from having a literary memory. I think in the way that you’re describing, but yeah, I’ve always had a really good memory for voices and pronunciations, and accents and things like that. I come from a family that has the magical gift of accents and impressions. I remember when I was a kid, my mom would read all sorts of books, and she would do voices for all the different characters. And she was always tremendously good at that. Having said that, I am terrible at doing accents and impressions. But I have come to realize that the thing that I remember best in life is sounds and voices and things like that. So, yes. And I don’t know, I suppose when I’m writing, I do imagine the sentences being spoken. And I will be walking down the street or I’ll be on the subway or chewing my dinner. And I’ll think of a quotation that I particularly like, but I won’t just think of it. I’ll sort of pronounce it to myself muttered under my breath.

CONKLIN

Do you make art, or did you ever make art?

ARN

Yes, definitely. Yes. I mean, I definitely wanted to be an artist when I was younger. I suppose that’s a pretty common thing for kids to want to be. In third grade, I was obsessed with drawing noses. Noses were always the tricky thing. You had to get the curvature just right. And even trickier in your head to get the shading at the edges of the noses just so. So when I see Rembrandt sketches or Leonardo drawings or things like that, I immediately clock the noses.

CONKLIN

What is your role as an art critic? Are you voicing public opinion? Are you influencing public opinion? Or are you trying to give a voice to an opinion that you think exists already? And that might be publicly held?

ARN

Yeah. I have to be strategic in how I think about my job. So I don’t like the idea that I am influencing public opinion. I really tried. I really make an effort not to think about my job through that lens at all. ‘Cause in my head, what I’m doing is looking at a painting and figuring out how I think about it, and trying to explain how I think about it to myself as much as to other people. But no, I don’t think it’s useful for critics to dwell too much on their influence or their control over public opinion, in the same way that if you try to write an original book, then you’ll never actually write anything original. You sort of have to turn off that switch in your brain. And then maybe you do write something original. But if the goal is to be original, or if the goal is to



influence public opinion, then I don’t think that’s going to turn out too well. Yeah.

CONKLIN

What is it like to succeed Peter Schjeldahl as an art critic for The New Yorker?

ARN

I try not to think about it. I feel sometimes like I’m walking across a tightrope and I’ll be okay as long as they don’t ever look down. But yeah, thinking too much about Schjeldahl would be like looking down. It’s tricky because I love his writing and I think about his writing all the time, and I’ll be walking down the street or waiting for the subway, and sentences come unbidden to my head. Schjeldahl was very funny actually. And all his humor — or at least my favorite humor in Schjeldahl — is about the academics not having a clue what art is. There’s a review that he wrote about some Picasso show, where he talks about some show where the academic who organized the show was speculating on whether it was this mistress or this mistress. So [Schjeldahl]’s like: “having carefully weighed all the evidence and considered all the available data. I don’t care.”

CONKLIN

Hahahaha.

CONKLIN

As someone who works at The New Yorker, this question has an obvious answer, but is New York your home now?

ARN

It is yeah, it is. But I have a theory about this which is that people for whom New York truly has their home, always complain about New York. To truly love New York is to hate it at least a little bit. So the archetypal New Yorker is not someone who goes around like Gene Kelly singing “New York, New York.” The archetypal New Yorker is someone who complains about New York all the time and constantly threatens to live. And there is definitely a lot of that in me, for sure. You’re calling me after I don’t know how many inches and days of snow, and however many horrible bleary-eyed subway rides home at two in the morning.

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// ZOE HALABAN

No one at Yale Gets My Hometown Like I Do

// BY LAURA BINENJOBM

Over the last few weeks of endless introductions, I have come to appreciate the moment when someone asks, “Where are you from?” and I get to say, “Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.” I watch their eyes light up, followed by the unmistakably American exclamation, “That’s cool!” Trying to appear humble, I respond with a casual “Yeah ...” while secretly enjoying the praise. When more questions are asked, I engage with people’s curiosities, describing Rio through its best features: no seasons other than summer, amazing music, happy people and food so fresh it puts the sweetness of Crumbl Cookies to shame. I am usually content with their dreamy version of my city as if my life is spent under the shadow of Christ the Redeemer or lounging on the Copacabana beach — to them, I’m living in a postcard.

But beneath that surface, sometimes, I feel a quiet kind of loneliness. Because no one here really understands my hometown. Not like I do.

It was Sunday the first time I noticed this. I found myself tucked away in one of those dull, gray, cubicles in Bass Library — the kind that seems designed for desperate cramming. My arms ached from carrying the “Iliad” and my laptop across

campus, and the weight of an endless to-do list pressed down on me. I stared at my blank screen, trying to force out words for my Directed Studies paper, but everything felt off, stiff, each word completely wrong. Frustrated, I slumped in my chair and flipped through the “Iliad” again, hoping for a spark. And just as inspiration finally hit me, I reached for my keyboard, only to find my laptop was out of battery.

I stormed out of Bass, my frustration boiling over. As I made my way back to Old Campus to grab my charger, I slid my earphones in and let my MPB — Brazilian popular music — playlist wash over me. When “Velha Infância” by Tribalistas started playing, something inside me shifted. I found myself struggling to hold back tears, overwhelmed by a deep, inexplicable emotion. Then it hit me: for the first time since arriving at Yale, I felt saudade — a word unique to the Portuguese language that describes that longing for a place, a moment or a feeling that the English language cannot convey.

But it wasn’t the postcard-perfect image of Rio that I missed. It was the essence of home, the mundane yet cherished places that made up my everyday life. I missed the supermarket where I’d buy snacks late at night, the cozy hair salon where gossip and laughter flowed

as freely as the coffee. I longed for Solo, the brunch spot where lazy weekends were spent over endless conversation, and Itahy, the slightly rundown pub that, despite its old furniture and dirty appearance, was the perfect hangout. I missed walking into my grandma’s house, where every corner was steeped in childhood memories, and I longed for the barbecues with my family, where the aroma of grilled meat and the sound of laughter wrapped around me like a welcoming embrace.

I missed the warmth of routine. Walking home from school to a plate of arroz and feijão, rice and beans, the kitchen alive with the sound of my sister and I debriefing our days. I missed wandering downstairs at 3 a.m. knowing I’d find my dad still awake, ready to help me brainstorm ideas for my latest essay. I missed my mom, always keeping every detail of our lives in order: waking me up just in time for school and offering me a cup of tea before bed. I missed my teachers, the sense of stability and warmth of their familiarity. I missed the relatability of my hometown friends, who not only know Rio — but know it like I do.

As I finally returned to my dorm room, I fumbled for my keys with a mix of impatience and relief. After a few deep breaths,

I unlocked the door and grabbed the charger, but before heading back to Bass, I took a moment to press play on my MPB playlist again. The familiar music began to soften my sadness, with the strains of Chico Buarque and Marisa Monte renewing my sense of connection to Brazil.

Slowly, as the music erased the edges of my frustration, I began to realize that while most people at Yale cannot fully grasp the depth of my hometown, that’s okay. Rio de Janeiro lives in me, in the songs I listen to, in the memories I cherish and in the quiet moments of saudade that remind me of where I come from.

As I sat down at my Bass cubicle, I couldn’t help but smile at the absurdity of it all. Here I was in a dimly lit library on the other side of the world, trying to wrestle with ancient Greek epics, while my heart was still dancing to the rhythms of Rio. As the words finally began to flow, I couldn’t help but think that maybe, just maybe, the next time I tell someone about Rio, I’ll add a little note about how its magic doesn’t just come from the beaches or the carnival, but also from the deep, quiet spaces where saudade lives.

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// LAURA BINENJOBM

What is a “YUMP?”

// BY ANDREW DEMAR

As we wander through Yale’s campus, whether eager or not-so-eager to start classes, there is one activity most of us could not be more excited about: getting ready to lie on Instagram about how enjoyable our lives are.

The perfectly handcrafted photo dumps were in abundance after that first week of classes, but what was the common thread among all of these posts? Digital cameras. Digital cameras give the perfect vintage Anna Delvey vibe, where you can seamlessly curate a lie about who you really are on the internet. Here, there are far too many spots and people you’ll need to capture. But fear not — if digis aren’t your thing, someone in your friend group will undoubtedly become the designated photographer.

Now, what makes the cut for the oh-so-sacred Instagram dump?

- Iced lavender lattes from Atticus: yes — adds the perfect dash of indie mystique to gaslight your followers.
- Blurry drunk picture from Lax: hard, hard no. Pray no one ever recalls that night.
- The cute “candid,” where you were pretending to study: yes, but maybe do a “liberal arts 360” the next time you start a debrief with your friends.
- Dining hall food: no. Unless it’s a Yale waffle,

for the slightest touch of Ivy-League elitism. Dining hall food can be hit or miss, and maybe brunch is more of a miss than a hit. Someone, please start a petition to remove it.

- Random scenery you stopped to take a photo of in the middle of the sidewalk for: yes, but only as filler photos. I’m guessing we all have a picture of Sterling and Harkness in our camera rolls at this point.

- The dirty underwear on the ground outside of Lawrence last Saturday: hard pass. Funny for a memory, but maybe not for its wearer.

- Mirror pictures: yes — especially if you’re with a group. They make the perfect, “kids, I told you I was hot in college” photo.

- Pictures of your homework: no, please don’t. No one cares that you’re a narcissistic STEM major.

Include one or two food pictures, definitely a scenery shot, and plenty of photos of friends. While photo dumps don’t need to be perfect — because Instagram should never be that serious — they should be well-curated and a perfectly deceptive snapshot into your life at Yale.

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// ZOE HALABAN

WKND Recommends

Hiking at East Rock.

WEEKEND EXPRESSIONS

The Right way to Love

// BY MARIA GONÇALVES

Love – scary concept, right? This word has gained such a heavy connotation that people avoid using it at all costs. I am a big believer that this is the wrong approach.

Each person has their way of expressing love and their preference for how to receive affection. According to specialists, these tastes can be divided into five categories: acts of service, sharing gifts, quality time, words of affirmation and physical touch. At first glance, these subdivisions seem artificial. Isn't love supposed to be mysterious and somewhat confusing? In the words of Camões, "Amor é um fogo que arde sem se ver" – love is a fire that burns, yet burns unseen.

Moving abroad for college, I was genuinely scared of how I could keep nurturing my relationships back home. I have been surrounded by the love of my family and friends all my life; this would be the first time I wouldn't have them nearby as my safety net. And, even though they went above and beyond to support me during this process, I still feel some guilt – leaving them behind so that I can pursue something of my own. What I realized very early on is that even though I don't talk to my friends on a daily basis and I am not sitting around the dinner table with my parents and brother debriefing our days, I – and them – never question whether there is love between us. Of course there is! I know I love them, and I know they love me back no matter what. There is no urgent need for service, gifts, quality time or anything. Knowing they are and will always be there to return to is sufficient.

When you reach true love these analyses truly become trivial. You get to a point where knowing you love and are loved is simply enough. There is no need for surprise matcha, a silly text or an uplifting sentence – although these are

Don't get me wrong, these "love languages" definitely have their utility. When you are building a relationship, it is fundamental to understand what makes you both feel good. Now that you are starting from scratch in college, take this



always appreciated! You know you have your people; people you can count on for anything – and that is the only satisfaction you need.

how the people around you feel best and to see what works for you too. Keep an open eye to the small details. I leave you with a list of things I considered

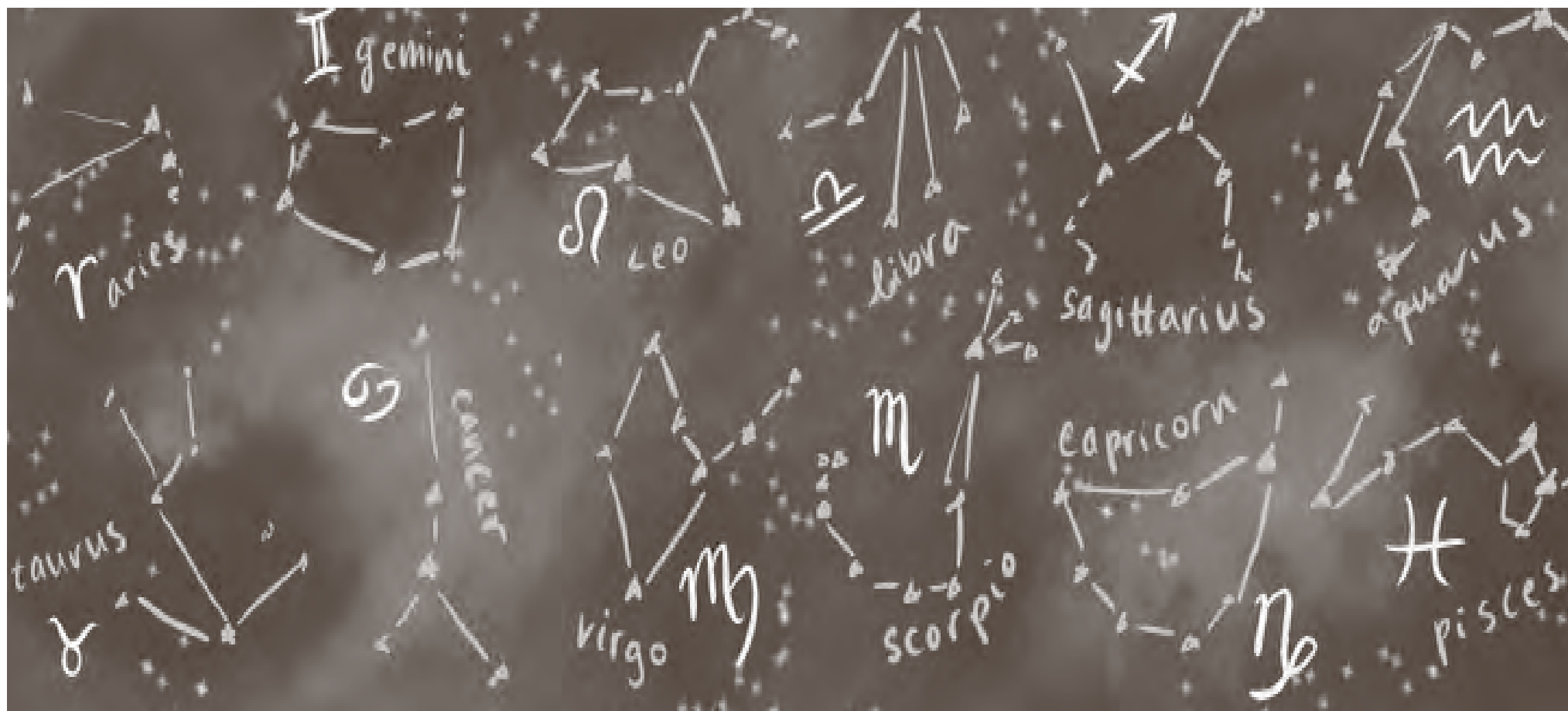
small acts of care from this last week – to inspire you to start showing small bits of love here at Yale!

- Writing a Post-it note wishing me a good day before I wake up
- Saving me a slice of pizza
- Agreeing to run a 5k with me
- Giving me sips of water when I forgot my Owala
- Waiting for me on the other side of the crosswalk when I refused to jaywalk
- Going to the knitting circle with me
- Walking me back to my dorm late at night
- Proofreading my essays – and YDN WKND articles – MULTIPLE times
- Taking candid pictures of me
- Giving me a new umbrella
- Sharing AirPods during our gym sessions
- Filling up my water bottle
- Saving me a free sticker
- Killing a cockroach that I was terrified of
- Dancing it off after a long day
- Getting ready to go out with good music and vibes

At the end of the day, you should do what feels right. There is no such thing as "the right way of loving." If it feels natural and comes from the heart, do it. Love your way.

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"WHAT ON EARTH?!"



// CLARISSA TAN

// BY ANNA PAPAKIRK

Do: Sunglasses, Electrolytes, Write it down
Don't: Snooze button, Zero chill, Dead weight
On what planet would these random collections of dos and don'ts make sense? Well, based on where I got this info, I think all of the planets.

At the end of last school year, I was invited to a birthday dinner for one of my friends. It was a beautiful evening in April, and we were all sitting outside. As the sun slowly set and the night sky descended upon us – filled with stars and a shining moon – all of a sudden, many of the other guests began talking about their stars and moons, and I was incredibly lost in space.

The only thing I've ever known about astrology was that I'm a Scorpio. I never knew what that really meant, though. I just thought it was some fun birthday categorization, but apparently, there is so much more to it – in fact, an entire universe more.

I was curiously listening in on the conversation around me. People were sharing their zodiac signs – even their Venus and

Mars signs – and I sat there, fascinated by what I was hearing. And amongst all of the sharing, some of the dinner party guests would comment, "Oh, that makes so much sense!" or "I could definitely see that!"

I went back to my suite that night, skeptical yet intrigued by the whole idea. Do our zodiac signs truly reflect our personalities? Should we care what they tell us?

After that night, between being busy with finals and end-of-year festivities, I honestly didn't give much thought to all of those questions. Not until one day over the summer when my friend and I were trying to decide what activity we wanted to do, and she suggested, "Let me check what my Co-Star says today!" I thought to myself, "What on Earth is a Co-Star? And why should I let it dictate my day?"

For those of you who don't know, it's an app that gives you a "guiding" statement of the day and a list of three "dos" and three "don'ts" based on your birthday and time of birth. Essentially, it outlines a daily horoscope for you given your zodiac sign, your moons, your stars and whatever other celestial bodies are involved – I'm a novice when

it comes to this whole astrology thing, so frankly, I still don't understand how it works. My friend decided that amongst Co-Star's dos and don'ts, we could determine what would be the best activity for the day. I don't even remember what her Co-star said; that's how much of an impact it had on our agenda.

However, I was still so intrigued by the possibility that it could have been helpful. Had something resonated with us, would that have altered our decisions and choices? The next day, I decided to download the app. That's how I got those two lists for today:

Do: Sunglasses, Electrolytes, Write it down
Don't: Snooze button, Zero chill, Dead weight
But let's be candid: Will drinking a Gatorade make my day any better? Will I be doomed if I hit the snooze button just once?

If you're curious, this morning I hit the snooze button – twice – and so far, I feel fine.

Nevertheless, I did have office hours that I wanted to attend at 9:30 a.m. for a pset due at noon. So, if I did hit the snooze button more than twice, and I didn't attend those office hours and I didn't finish that pset before noon, then yes, I

guess my day would have been doomed. Right?

Is that how it's supposed to work, though? Am I supposed to connect all of the dots and conjure up my own line of reasoning to justify what the app has forecasted?

I haven't latched on closely to what Co-Star tells me because for all I know, the lists could be randomly generated and recycled from person to person. Yet, sometimes there is a part of the daily horoscope that resonates with me – that feels relevant to my present situation – and I wonder: should I listen?

No matter what your beliefs may be – whether or not your life revolves around your suns and moons – here is my WKND -star for you:

Do: Silliman brunch, Koffee? date, East Rock hike

Don't: Wake up early, Bass Library, Dirty laundry pile

Trust me, if you follow this advice, you're fated to have an amazing weekend!

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WKND Recommends

Watching the sunset

BOOK REVIEW: STONER – JOHN WILLIAMS

// BY ALEX GELDZAHLER

“He felt himself at last beginning to be a teacher, which is simply a man to whom his book is true, to whom is given a dignity of art that has little to do with his foolishness or weakness or inadequacy as a man.” - John Williams, “Stoner.”

I am not positive how I came across this book, but I am exceedingly grateful that I did. Among all of my favorites, I have

found this book to be one of the best but hardest books to recommend.

First, people are immediately suspicious as a result of the name: Stoner. The truth is, the book has nothing to do with what many, especially on a college campus, would suspect it is about. Sorry to disappoint. Second, there is no enticing way to summarize this book in a quick conversation. For a book like Moby Dick, it's easy to dramatize the 600 pages of whale facts interspersed with fragments of action and pursuits of glory. The same can not be done with “Stoner.” If you asked me to give you my honest summary of the book, I'd tell you: “It's about the entire life of a man who goes to school and falls in love with literature.” It's not an easy sell, but please keep reading.

William Stoner was born on a cash-strapped Missouri farm to traditionalist parents at the inception of the 20th century. He grew up learning the disciplined ways of farm life and carried those tenets with him as he aged. The book itself is written accordingly; the language, although beautiful, is regimented and thus manages to encapsulate a life within 200 pages.

At around the age of many readers of the YDN, Stoner's parents confront him with their ambitious, though expensive, plan to send him to the local college to learn

agriculture. He is largely uninterested in his soil chemistry and agriculture courses and is weeded out from those STEM classes, akin to the experience of many a Yale student. However, he finds moderately more success in English literature. Like Stoner, I found it comforting many years ago to retreat into the warmer embrace of the humanities. As part of a dying breed here at Yale, this book reminded me why the humanities are endlessly important, no matter what your friend on Science Hill says.

It is refreshing to watch a man like Stoner fall in love with literature, a field his parents would have indeed disapproved of had they been informed of their son's plans. Under the tutelage of an indifferent English professor, Stoner's barren life of farm labor and agronomy blooms with a secret passion. Literature, for him, is the academic escape he did not know he needed from the difficult realities of poverty in the early 1900s.

I chose to read “Stoner” during my first days at Yale because I thought reading about a protagonist who loved literature would help me embrace the liberal arts. I was wrong about this. Now, I only really want to love literature. Even still, I could not help but appreciate just a sliver of the absolute beauty Stoner regarded the works he studied. Being an academic is hard work, as John Williams shows us (not the legendary “Star Wars” composer, hence another difficulty in recommending this book). Still, Stoner makes his work worth the pain despite adversarial professors and insolent graduate students. I found it fascinating as well how the book sheds light on the experiences of professors, those who we may tend to assume lead very simple and straightforward lives within their studies, when, truthfully, they may be as nervous, confused and excited as we are.

Beyond topics like the early Medieval lyric tradition in England – which Williams does not dwell on, thankfully – Stoner's life is quietly rich and vibrant. Stoner grew up in Dust Bowl isolation, slowly becomes a familiar and consistent reality of life

in Columbia, Missouri, where he teaches at the University. He makes fewer friends and just as many enemies despite being a resolutely kind and dedicated teacher to the students.

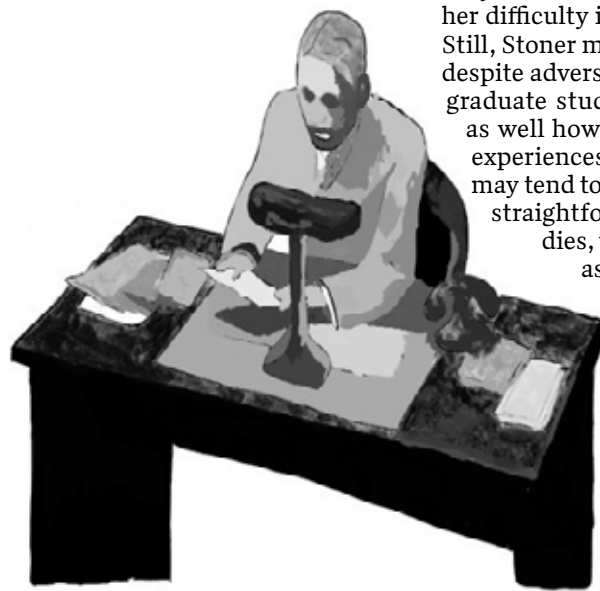
As a lonely student of literature, Stoner falls in love with a woman whom he admits he had no business consorting with in the first place as a result of Southern class differences. The book moves two young, innocent and shy characters together through life and the many difficulties they incur through their own tragic flaws. Stoner errs in his relationship, as does his wife, but, as Williams shows, that's life. Many may view their relationship as lifeless, but Stoner does not mind. He falls in love again.

Through reading “Stoner,” I came closer to understanding the humble and often rare pleasure discovered among our passions. It is easy to forget, among the maelstrom of clubs, fraternities and distributional requirements, that we applied to this school as interested and dedicated students; the curiosity I cherished and nurtured coming into Yale has been adulterated and occluded behind more concrete assignments, classes and, ultimately, distractions. Don't forget that subject you love, especially while you're here.

I would not blame you if you thought Stoner's life, to the extent that I have revealed so far, incredibly dull. By modern standards, that may be true. Williams, who I am proud to say taught English at a school down the road from my hometown for many years, imbues each facet of the story with exceeding beauty and sensibility. Through his incredible and award-winning writing, he creates an intensely powerful beauty within a simple life – one that I suspect keeps the book popular as a reaction to the complexities of today that Stoner hardly foresaw.

After I finished the novel, I was left staring at the wall for a long time. I was floored. For Stoner, I felt a degree of respect and admiration fictional characters would seldom attain, but he would indeed reject such praise if I were able to share it with him. To all students who seek beauty in their daily readings, essays and seminars or those who long for the spark of curiosity for a class they once had, I have found the book for you.

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LIVING IN OUTLINES

// BY ISOBEL MCCLURE

The word outlines has, over the past few weeks, been consistently on my mind. It is a simple noun, composed of only two short syllables – a cadence limited to two abrupt beats. But in it, still, there exists almost an expansiveness – a contained sense of possibility and a receptiveness to change – that is entirely unique.

It begins with an out. A harsh word, demanding attention. Delineating the margins of its subject – a plan, a picture, a person – the noun immediately establishes an interior and an exterior: an in

and an out. It marks a distinction between these two worlds, offering a parameter, an individuality almost, to the figure that it contains. But these borders are only lines.

Lines are flimsy and fluid. They are rough sketches and bullet points and coarse marks made by a flattening pencil, pressed precariously against the page. They are the initial thoughts – uncertain opinions and eclectic questions, ready to be prodded, altered, erased and moved. Lines are subject to revision.

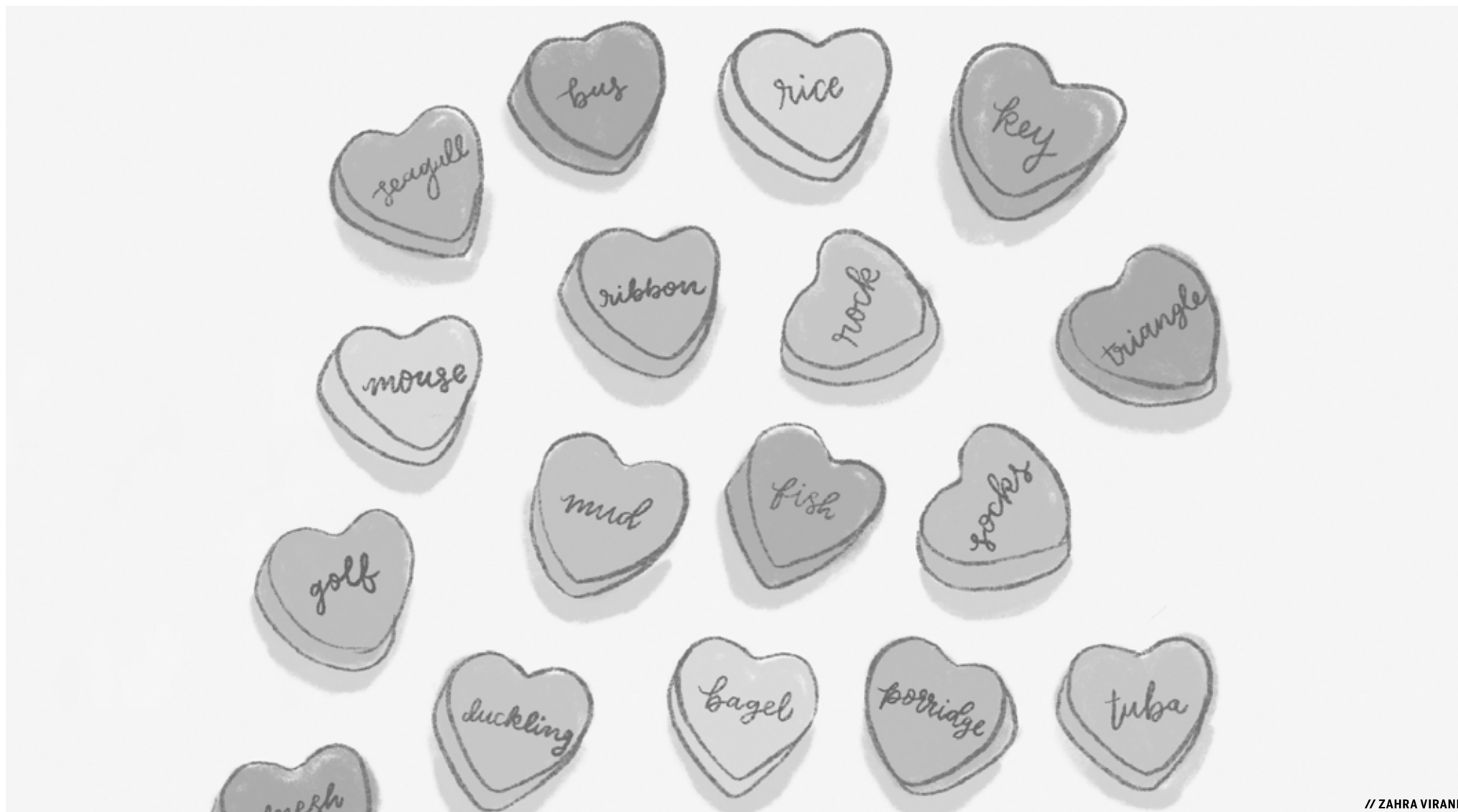
And so, the in and the out become faded. Bleeding into one another, the content con-

tained within these two worlds is too changing – moving, constantly. It is uncertain of itself, but still struggling, trying to find its features. It plays within the margins of the in and the out, exploring and adding and subtracting: messy.

I like this imperfection. I like this sense of fluidity and uncertainty and compulsive chaos, contained and yet continuing to play with the parameters of the lines. An outline stretches across the defined and the undefined, in a manner particular to itself.

To live in outlines is to embrace this fluidity and to simply accept the lack of a stable definition. It is to consider oneself as an aggregate of moments and memories – of individual instances and maintained habits – each building upon one another. It is to allow for revision and exploration – to jump unknowingly into an uncertain messiness – knowing that it's all going to turn out ok.

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// ZAHRA VIRANI

WEEKEND *GAP YEAR*

AN ODE TO COMMON ROOMS

// BY INEZ CHUIDIAN

When we come to Yale in the fall, there is an inexplicable void of emptiness that sits in our chests. Whether this be our yearning for summer to return or our longing for our family back home, it is our duty to fill these voids. As Yale students, we make no delay in ridding ourselves of this empty feeling. We come to campus and pull ourselves around tiny circles that keep us company. We come to campus and find homes in random places: a capella groups, sports teams, cooking clubs.

But there's someplace else where I find fulfillment, someplace special that I call my home.

The common room of suite A42. At this huge school that elicits loneliness, I feel a longing fulfilled in the 20 square meters of my common room. A loneliness rectified. In the crevices of the plush love seats, and the ceilings adorned with fairy lights, I find serenity. This is an ode to all common rooms.

From the coffee mug stains on the table, to the decorative pillows on the couch, I find no greater joy than in simply sitting. When my eyelids grow heavy as I sit reading beside my best friend, there is no place I'd rather be. As I leave my suite in a hurry to class, the scattered shoes by the doorway subtly remind me "you are not alone."

There's something ironic about how our common room, the room outside of my private place, is the space I feel most at home. With its ornate fireplace that houses our contraband can-

with open arms. When the men of New Haven — time and time again — break our hearts, our common room becomes our safe haven. As my suitemates rush home, their stories are welcomed

stuck to the wall, signs of life and love in my common room fill my void.

Now I'm well aware that not everyone has such affections for their shared spaces. But in this ode, I hope that everyone reading

tiny circles that keep us company. Whether these be people, groups or places, I hope we all find family in these circles that we call home. This is not just an ode to my common room, but to



// AMELIA SHAW

dles, the common room is where both people and things seek refuge. When my roommate returns home, drunk off the stress of Intermediate Macroeconomics, the ottoman welcomes her

by my eager ears and the walls of our common room.

And slowly, the emptiness that weighed down on my chest grows lighter. With every hoodie left on the coffee table, and every poster barely

has filled their void with something special. With something as warm and inviting as the common room of A42.

When we come to Yale in the fall, we pull ourselves around

whatever tiny circle your common room may be.

Contact **INEZ CHUIDIAN** at inezchristina.chuidian@yale.edu.

WHY I RENEGED ON MY GAP YEAR

// BY CLARISSA XIAO-YANG TAN

The very first day of junior year, a classmate yelled at me from across the High Street — Elm Street intersection: "OMG, hey! Why are you back on campus??"

I froze in the middle of the street. Oops! I had totally forgotten that last spring, I told about a hundred people that I would be taking a gap year — AKA, I'm not supposed to be at Yale right now. Just last week, I received this email reminder from my dear Jonathan Edwards college: "LOA Deadline TODAY, 5pm sharp," sending me into a reflection of what might have been.

**

Way back during freshman year, after a particularly-difficult ECON 115 exam, I declared to my suitemates that I was going to "drop out" for one year and travel the world. I spent that night holed up on the top floor of Farnam B, researching Yale's fellowship websites and reading strangers' blogs.

Flash forward to ECON 121 in sophomore year. I began seriously considering, how do you actually take a gap year? Can I just... up and leave?

Long story short, pretty much! Every Yale student I've talked to who has taken a "Leave of Absence" has had their request approved — no questions asked.

My first step was figuring out what to do during my gap year, and so I made a Google Doc titled "genius ideas :)" that included: carnival in Brazil, learn how to surf, get my scuba-diving license, shark cage diving, visit underwater waterfall in Mauritius — look it up, it's super cool — learn how to cook, get a job w some company, intern?? — or honestly — just spend some time at home / with family / in China?

My second step was deciding when to leave. As a freshman, it seemed a bit odd to attend Yale for only one year, then take a gap before I even got to know the place. Besides, all the deadlines had already passed. After speaking to Light Fellowship recipients and other gap students, I was recommended to go at "the halfway point."

Third, and perhaps most difficult: How was I going to afford this? I scoured every inch of the OCS webpage, attended MacMillan Center info sessions and scheduled countless Zoom meetings with advisors. I came to the conclusion that the only Yale Fellowship that supports academic term-time gaps — and not just summer projects — was the Barry Fellowship. To qualify, you have to propose an independent research project in a foreign country.

As I figured out how to justify this to my parents, I began asking myself... why exactly did I want to take this gap?

In all honesty, I have always wanted a break from education. I've been nothing but a full-time student for the past 12 years, and I haven't had longer than 3 months at a time — the equivalent of summer break — to be in the real world.

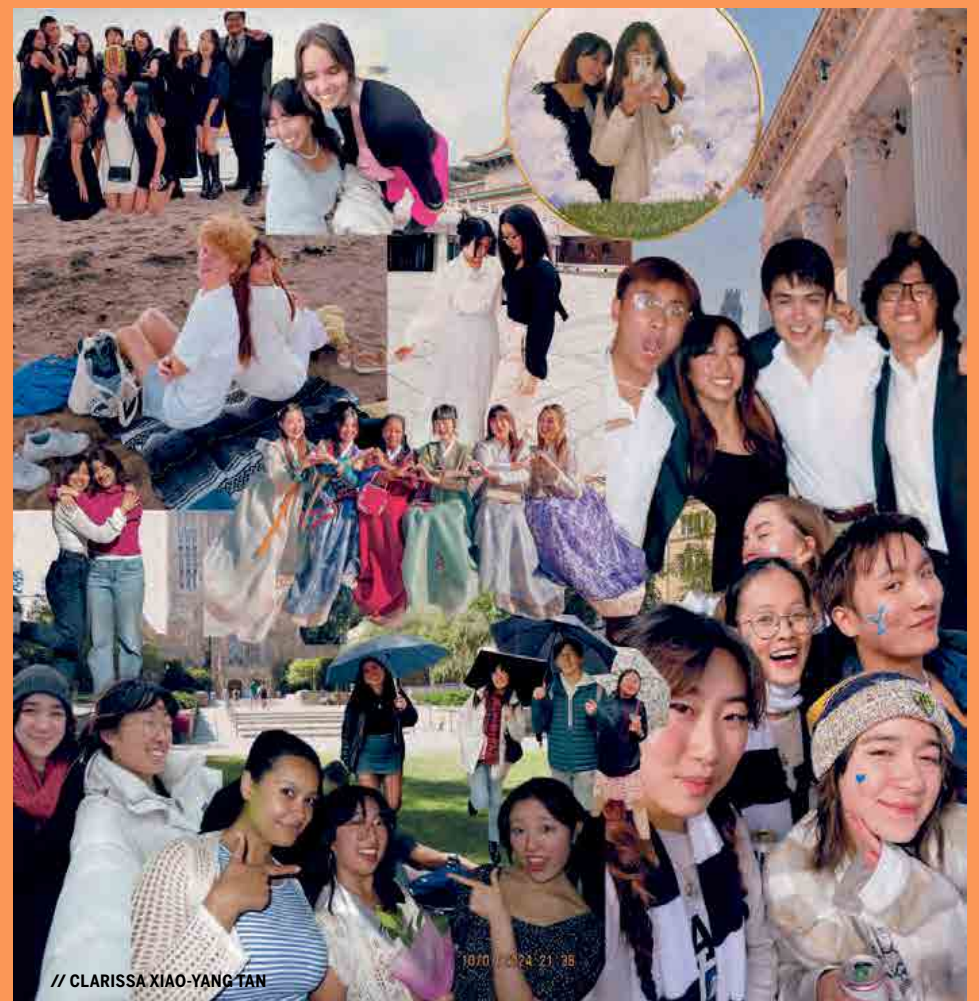
Besides, the looming thought of graduation filled me with dread. There's a difference between being in the real world on a gap year versus as a post-grad. As a gap student, I'd have the whole world at my fingertips — I can dive into new adventures, work odd jobs and backpack to remote places, all while having the safety net of Yale to return to. But taking a gap year after graduation feels different — it just means I'll be unemployed, filling the void of adulthood with random side quests.

It was decided. I would take my gap after sophomore year, and come back as a class of '27. I came up with a brilliant project that would combine my majors in Global Affairs and Art, taking me to former Indochina and North Africa. I drafted a \$17,000 budget, wrote a 1,000-word research proposal, asked my French professor for a letter of recommendation and submitted it on Feb. 14 by 11:59 p.m. EST to Yale Student Grants.

Everything was set. Now, all I had to do was wait.

**

I got funding. But I'm no longer taking a gap year.



// CLARISSA XIAO-YANG TAN

If you ask anyone what their favorite part of Yale is, I've only ever heard one answer — "the people." And I would say the exact same thing. Though I'll credit my friends for trying to convince me to stay last semester, it took the past four months of solo backpacking to really put things into perspective.

It's simple. Yale is my favorite place in the whole world. If the best part is the people, then why am I fighting so hard to leave?

I'll admit, it's slightly embarrassing to show my face on campus again after telling everyone that I'd be gone. I guess that's why you don't broadcast your hopes and dreams to the public — in my defense, I did it for accountability reasons.

Now that I'm back for good, junior year feels like a new beginning. Almost everyone I've talked to has dropped half of their original commitments, making space for unexpected developments. Personally, I'm taking this time to prioritize academics, enjoy our beautiful

campus and deepen my existing relationships while branching out. In recognizing that I'm halfway done, I want to make the most out of Yale — which means being present.

I still believe gap years are an amazing opportunity, and I still want to go shark cage diving. Ultimately, for me, it was just a matter of priorities. The Mauritius underwater waterfall will always be there, but the Yale experience is temporary. After graduation, the class of 2026 will scatter around the country and the world. We only have these ephemeral moments to be gathered together in one place.

I guess I'll never discover the conclusion to my Barry research project, but it doesn't matter anymore. The most valuable experience Yale could ever award me is these four short years.

Contact **CLARISSA XIAO-YANG TAN** at clarissa.tan@yale.edu.

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John Donatich



LIFE IN THE HYPHENS: How should a person who loves books be? Or what should a person who loves books do?

*John Donatich has served as the Director of Yale University Press since 2003. He was VP, Publisher of Basic Books from 1997-2003. He earned a BA and MA from New York University. His articles and essays have appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, Harper's, The Village Voice and many other periodicals. He has published two books, a memoir, *Ambivalence, A Love Story* and a novel, *The Variations*. He is currently at work on a new novel.*

*At Yale University Press, Donatich raised funds for the Press endowment and published many award-winning, bestselling and prestigious books, by authors such as Michael Fried, T. J. Clark, Edmund Morgan, Janet Malcolm, Richard Thaler/Cass Sunstein, Leo Damrosch, Patti Smith. He is the founding editor of the underwritten Margellos World Republic, a series of literary works in translation, including authors such as Adonis, Can Xue, Norman Manea, Pierre Michon, Serhiy Zhadan and three recent Nobel laureates: Elfriede Jelinek, Patrick Modiano and Annie Ernaux. Donatich conceived several successful book series including the sets of short thematic biographies: *Jewish Lives*, *Black Lives*, *Ancient Lives*, *Why X Matters* and *Why I Write* series – as well as the relaunch and digitization of the Yale Anchor Bible.*

Thursday, September 26
JE HoC House
4:00 pm Tea
4:30pm Conversation