



Former Yale student acquitted of sexual assault sues accuser for defamation

BY TRISTAN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

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

Saifullah Khan, who was originally a member of the Yale College class of 2016, was acquitted of sexual assault in criminal court in 2018, yet he was found responsible by the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Assault and ultimately expelled in 2019. The difference in the two rulings, and in the way those trials were conducted, led Khan to sue Yale in 2019 for \$110 million dollars for breach of contract, breach of privacy, emotional distress and reputational harm. Also a

defendant in the lawsuit is the woman who alleges that Khan raped her in 2015 — “Jane Doe” as she is identified in court documents — for statements she made during UWC proceedings at Yale. Usually victims of sexual assault are protected under full immunity for what they say in court, meaning they cannot be sued for defamation based on statements made

SEE KHAN PAGE 5

Admissions office sidesteps formal AI policy

BY MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTER

As current high school seniors rush to assemble their college applications, they face a new, unprecedented dilemma: whether to seek assistance from language-generating artificial intelligence tools. This application cycle marks the first time applicants have widespread access to language-generating chatbots like ChatGPT, which launched in November 2022. Some colleges, like the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, have issued formal statements on applicants’ use of AI. Yale’s admissions office informally warned against AI-generated admissions essays in an Aug. 29 episode of its podcast, “Inside the Yale Admissions Office,” but has refrained from issuing an official policy statement.

SEE ADMISSIONS AI PAGE 4

Salovey’s tenure marks an era of athletic achievement



Millions of dollars in investment for the athletic department could revitalize Yale sports for decades to come./ Tim Tai, Senior Photographer

BY JAKE SIESEL
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

University President Peter Salovey intends to step down from his post this June, after rounding out 11 years at Yale’s helm. Over his tenure as president, Yale football, ice hockey and basketball have all seen resurgences. Salovey’s emphasis on cultivating well-rounded student-athletes draws hundreds of high school stars to Yale. Alexa Drovetsky ’27, a first-year varsity fencer, told the News that she relished “the collaborative and empathetic approach to collegiate athletics.” “The coaching staff embraced me with transparency, candor, and acceptance,” Drovetsky wrote to the News. “For the first time in my 15-year fencing career, my co-ed mixture of teammates forged

authentic connections that I’m sure will last a lifetime. The shadow of embarrassment cast upon traditional fencers evaporated the moment I stepped on campus.” Athletic Director Vicky Chun praised Salovey’s “unwavering commitment” to the well-being and success of Yale student-athletes. Chun also echoed Salovey’s holistic approach to the development of student-athletes. “His leadership and support empower our student-athletes to excel not only in their chosen sports but also in their academic pursuits, fostering a culture of excellence that defines Yale Athletics,” Chun wrote to the News. Salovey spearheaded an investment of more than \$100 million dollars in athletic development, wellness services and mental health support. Yale has won dozens of national and conference titles under Salovey’s direction.

“We have enjoyed multiple national and conference titles, our student-athletes and coaches have received dozens of individual recognition awards, and Yale has completed many capital improvements to our athletic facilities in recent years alongside new initiatives to better support mental health and enhance inclusion and belonging,” Salovey said to the News. “enhance inclusion and belonging,” Salovey said to the News. Indeed, this strategy has paid dividends for the success of the Yale Athletic Department and the wellbeing of tireless and gritty student-athletes. Tony Reno, head coach of the Yale football team, arrived on campus one year before Salovey. A roster devoid of talent, tenacity and moxie morphed into an

SEE SALOVEY SPORTS PAGE 14

ANALYSIS: Race in casting at Yale



The News interviewed eight directors and actors of color about their experiences in creating undergraduate productions that center around racial identity./ Annie Lin

BY JANE PARK
STAFF REPORTER

When planning their productions, student thetermakers are often forced to reckon with the complex dynamics of casting — particularly when it comes to race. The News spoke with eight thetermakers of color about their current and previous experiences with casting for roles that center around racial identity. This year’s line-up of undergraduate theater productions includes shows like “West Side Story,” “Black N Blue Boys / Broken Men,” and “21 Chump Street,” all of which handle political and racial issues — among them policing, immigration, poverty and socioeconomic mobility. “As a director, I often work with people whose identities more closely align with the characters they are playing,” Jeffrey Steele ’24, president of Yale Drama Coalition, wrote in an email to the News. “Ultimately, who that actor is as a person and how they walk through life will always affect who they are as an actor. You have to contend with that. You picked that performer because they are bringing a valuable perspective to the table. Whatever you do, you want actors to bring that perspective and work with them to help refine the vision of the story.”

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Content warning: front page headline mentions sexual assault

INSIDE THE NEWS

Alders approve \$16 million for city’s contribution to Cox settlement
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Her Royal Majesty

Avery Lon

- ACROSS
- 1 To play D&D in real life, e.g.

5 Take two

9 Scored with a slash

14 OT who inspired The Blind Side

15 God of love and sex

16 "A Night at the Opera", e.g.

17 Type of Japanese Ash

18 Your other Starboard!

19 Buddhist liminal state

20 One of Liszt's is among the hardest to play

22 Thin decorative covering

23 Part of the haul

24 Formerly quicksilver, hydrargyrum

25 Confirm (... to)

27 A squeaky brook?

28 Thirty white horses on a red hill...

29 "It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth"

30 Acronym describing instruction through projects

33 Homes of the hammer, anvil, and stirrup

34 An argument on the water?

35 Severe

36 Of a married woman

37 Seeking prey (on the ...)

39 Jon who died and wasn't reborn

40 Long spans of time (alt. spelling)

41 Most famously there are 4, 8, or 11 of these?
- 42 Ready for a crazy little thing called love

45 A French purchase or a quick conversation

46 Those born in October, astrologically speaking

47 Of a charmed, artistic existence

50 Biblical level of culpability (guilty ...)

51 William who served as Donald Trump's AG

52 Narcissus's unrequited lover

53 Larceny

54 Regularly upped during Texas Hold 'Em

55 Three cheers!

56 Bits of hue

57 Herbal blends

58 To murder, as royalty might do
- DOWN
- 1 Tolkien acronym

2 Exclamation, anagram of 48-Down

3 Updates the media of a record, e.g.

4 Brian May's longest song

5 The act of or object which conveys information

6 To whittle down with water

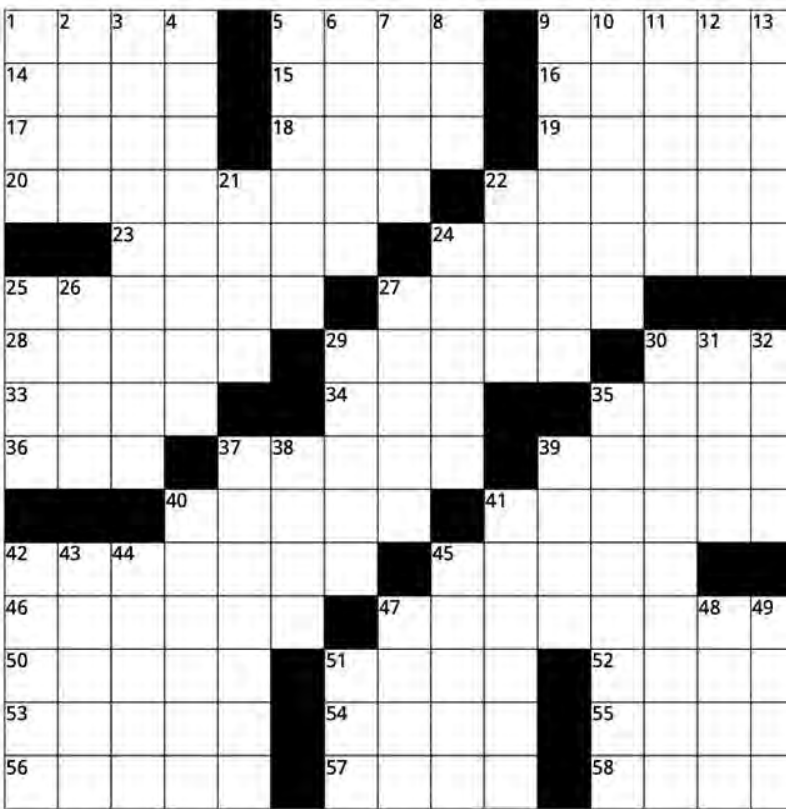
7 One who just keeps swimming

8 An original musical composition

9 Of violently opened champagne

10 A Max who figured out the minimum?

11 Star first baseman José



- 12 More crude and crass

13 Georgian university

21 Decorative shoulder strap

22 Swerve

24 Tootsie Roll mascot

25 Yu-Gi-Oh's once-nameless Pharoah

26 Shed during times of hardship

27 Eats (... down)

29 Elderly woman

30 Describing an actor from Penzance?

31 Quaker College Mawr

32 Bender of light

35 A ball for which, "I'll be right on time"
- 37 Those annoyed by the inconsistency of punctuation in crossword clues

38 Versailles monarchs

39 A dull pain

40 Unmoored

41 Earthy pigments

42 A Rascal of "Life is a Highway" fame?

43 Minister Sunak

44 Actor best known for playing Jed Clampett

45 The largest artery

47 Villain who relies on the drug "venom"

48 Exclamation, anagram of 2-Down

49 Up in other people's business

51 With "the," kenning for the hero who fights 47-Down



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS



JESSAI FLORES is a member of the class of '23.

SOPHIE HENRY is a member of the class of '23.



MARK CHUNG is a junior in Trumbull College. Contact Chung at mark.chung@yale.edu .



JOHN BOSWELL'S LIFE AND LEGACY

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- George Chauncey, Columbia University
- Kathryn Lofton, Yale University
- Hussein Fancy, Yale University

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OPINION

MICHAEL GARMAN
GUEST COLUMNIST

State of the Union

The Yale Political Union promotes itself as the best of Yale — a forum for students from across the spectrums of ideology, identity and experience to come together and address contentious issues in good faith. Yet, far too often, it fails to deliver on its lofty promises.

I love the Union and have given it my all over my time at Yale. I served three terms on its executive board, and had a handful more votes gone my way, I would be its vice president right now. These aren't just the sour grapes of a sore loser, though. I've lost multiple internal party elections and a Union-wide race. But I have remained steadfast in my commitment to strengthening the institution, regardless of my official title.

It came as no surprise that this week's debate was an unmitigated disaster. Tim Young, a self-proclaimed "comedian" who deals primarily in COVID-related misinformation, conspiracy theories about Hunter Biden and transphobia, was the guest of honor. In his remarks, he compared transgender people asking to be called by their correct pronouns to proponents of pornography bans and mocked a nonbinary person as "that dude or whatever."

All the while, he refused to engage with the fundamental project of the Union: debate. To be clear, I'm not arguing that we should refuse to engage with right-wing voices. I enjoy being pushed to challenge assumptions that often go unquestioned in other corners of campus. But constructive debate requires good-faith engagement. It requires a willingness to give and take, to not only pose tough questions to others but also let others do the same to oneself. Mr. Young did nothing of the sort. When confronted with rigorous questions, he deflected or offered circular responses.

Some Union veterans were upset to learn that Mr. Young was scheduled for such an early place on the semester's calendar. They expressed concerns that his debate would give first years and prospective recruits a misguided impression of our organization. I disagree. Far from being an outlier, Mr. Young represents a growing trend in which the Union is rejecting thoughtful, honest debate in favor of shock-value bigotry or misinformation.

Last fall, we debated with Helen Andrews, editor of The American Conservative. She told me with a straight face that she "hadn't come to debate gender" at an event whose subject was "Resolved: Build More Single Gender Spaces," — a question she had insisted on debating. In the spring, we hosted Dasha Nekrasova, a political podcaster who

didn't pretend to engage and laughed off questions instead of responding. Fringe presidential candidate Marianne Williamson, who is spending her time insisting that President Biden debate her, wasn't even willing to listen to other arguments. She threatened to cancel her engagement unless it was changed from a debate into a "speaker event," in which she was given the floor for about an hour and no one else was allowed to rebut her.

More and more, the Union isn't inviting guests suited to its mission of rigorous, thoughtful debate. Willfully turning a blind eye to the consequences, we are platforming — and refusing to even consider disinviting — people who spread outright lies and hatred.

This trend is having a downstream effect on student speeches. The responses members offer to guest speakers are becoming similarly devoid of substance, focusing on rhetorical flair, outrage bait and dog whistles, rather than persuasion and reason. Attendance at debates declines every semester, as growing numbers of members choose to only attend their parties' events and the bare minimum of two Union debates needed to qualify for voting membership. Members of marginalized communities, especially LGBTQ+ people, are particularly reluctant to attend — and justifiably so. Why voluntarily go to an event where your identity, and not your ideology, is going to be attacked?

At its best, the Yale Political Union is a forum for spirited discourse and open exchange of ideas. But for us to reach that ideal we need to foster an environment in which debate is substantive instead of performative, and people of all backgrounds are valued and heard.

How can we reverse this decline? We all need to demand more of ourselves and our leadership. This means putting in the effort to give speeches that promote a genuine exchange of perspectives instead of grandstanding and barbs, and electing leaders who are committed to this ideal. It means having the courage to advocate for reforms to the Union's byzantine electoral system, which rewards conformity with conventional wisdom and prioritizes vendettas over visions. As long as we accept an incentive structure that rewards upholding the status quo, the problem will prevail — and the quality of guests and debates will only deteriorate further.

MICHAEL GARMAN is a junior in Grace Hopper College.
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PRADZ SAPRE
STAFF COLUMNIST

Magical thinking

Like every major day in my life thus far, my first day as a Yale college senior arrived with all the clamor of a single rain-drop. I expected just as much. Sadness rarely follows the timelines that we ask of it.

PERHAPS YOU
REALLY CAN DIFFUSE
SORROW, SPREAD IT
OUT OVER ENOUGH
SENTIMENTAL
LUCUBRATIONS AND
OP-EDS. OR MAYBE,
I WROTE THE WORD
“GRADUATION”
SO MANY TIMES
OVER THE PAST
THREE YEARS THAT
IT FINALLY LOST
ITS MEANING.

Perhaps, I successfully preempted my grief. Maybe the anxiety about graduation that I carried for so long in my heart sufficiently strengthened my myocardial tissue. Perhaps you really can diffuse sorrow, spread it out over enough sentimental lucubrations and op-eds. Or maybe, I wrote the word “graduation” so many times over the past three years that it finally lost its meaning. It became an abstraction, a phonetic construct, transrational sound poetry. Cubo-futurism. Zaum.

I started my first week of senior year at Yale being disappointed in myself. Some days, it just felt like the fear seeping into the crevices of my gut was laced with something else. Other days, I'd open the folder titled “affirmations” on my desktop, and open screenshots of the kindest things professors, readers and friends have told me about my work, my writing and myself. Those days, I allowed myself to feel a modicum of pride. Until I reminded myself of all the things I could have done.

I read Joan Didion's memoir, “The Year of Magical Thinking”, earlier this summer. I've always been moved by Didion's writing, so when people told me it was about the year in her life after her husband's death, I was ready to tear up, to have my dreams haunted by images of true love torn apart by capricious fate. I didn't expect Didion's psychological hypotheses, her notion of “magical thinking”, to haunt me as much as they did.

It turns out that I've spent the last year of my life hiding in my imagination. Just as Didion refused to give away her late husband's shoes, nourishing the hope that he would need it when he came back, I, too, have nourished the notion that the last three years of my life at Yale are subject to change. I stared in the face of time and denied its direction. I tried to make the river run upstream.

I first noticed it at the end of my junior year. It was the first time I'd ever asked myself what my time at Yale amounts to and came up short. For the first time, learning, growth, friendship, joy were insufficient answers. Hollow abstractions that point to a lack of something tangible.

It started as a series of “whats?” but snowballed into “what ifs?” What if I'd auditioned for “Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812?” What if I'd turned the pipe dream of being in a college production into a reason to work on my pipes. Well, I'm not a very good singer. What if I'd joined the children's choir in Bombay. My mum took me for singing

lessons when I was eight. What if I'd stuck to them? Then I'd be like all the fictional people I'm comparing myself to in my head. I had the musical talent to be a classical pianist. I just didn't have the drive to be anything more.

What if I hadn't taken that class on Romanticism? There was nothing that wrong with it, but because of it, I might never be able to take an art history class with Tim Barringer. And even if I do, it won't be taught at the Yale Center for British Art. What kind of person claims to like the humanities and leaves without taking a class that is taught at the YCBA? Perhaps the most magical thing about magical thinking is that nothing else has ever managed to demolish the palace of your self-illusions with the ease of a flicking wrist.

There's a reason they call it a spiral. It doesn't just start to unravel the Yale years of your life-onion. It unravels the 18 years that came before.

Though I have never managed to tame my self-critical tendencies, I cannot also help but think this is an inevitable reaction towards such an overwhelming entity as Yale. I wrote in my freshman year that we are always trying to live all the Yales, that joy at this school will remain asymptotic if we never stop striving. I admire my own foresight. It didn't stop me from striving anyway.

I've described walking through Yale as strolling through paradise. Arcadia. Alternatively, as the process of observing Yale's infinite paths collapse into the choices you make at each juncture in the road. I'd like to modify that. Yale's possibilities never collapsed. Mine did.

Regret is a wasted emotion. I've known that since I was 11. The first essay I ever wrote was about regret. The regret of not picking up the calls of an aunt who loved me. I was drowning in self-doubt then. I started this year still drowning. Just in a different ocean.

How long have I been adrift at Yale, falsely convincing myself that I made all the right choices? Did I do enough? Did I love enough? Should I have confessed my feelings earlier? Was practicality an excuse for abject cowardice?

We will always be questioning ourselves. Over again, and then once more for good measure. It is a product of our conscience, a moral mechanism. Sometimes it is a bulwark against arrogance. It is often debilitating.

I HAVE NOURISHED
THE NOTION
THAT THE LAST
THREE YEARS OF
MY LIFE AT YALE
ARE SUBJECT TO
CHANGE. I STARED
IN THE FACE OF
TIME AND DENIED
ITS DIRECTION. I
TRIED TO MAKE
THE RIVER RUN
UPSTREAM.

I know I am being impractical. I know that my time here has been worth something; in fact, that it will perhaps be the most valuable time of my life. But the intellectual tasting of life does not supersede its musical activity. Emerson said that. I expect we're supposed to believe him.

It helps me to know that I am not alone. In fact, it seems impossible not to question the way you've lived your college life on the cusp of its expiration. Is this how I'll feel on my

deathbed? Maybe this is how we choose to respond to the ineluctable grief of leaving this place. By reminding ourselves that there was so much more to be done. Others drown their sorrows in gin. A few don't think about graduation at all. And then, there are those few people who bring up the various things they've done so much in conversation that you know there's no hope for humility there.

I don't expect if I will ever descend into the self-interrogation that I did this summer ever again. It was a novel experience for me. Perhaps the only way to resist the blight of self-annihilation is to accept that my college life could have been completely different. I could have been an economics major in Berkeley who played club spikeball. I could have been a psychology major in Trumbull who did club gymnastics. The existence of alternate lives does not necessarily etiolate the one you've chosen. Only you have that power. But life, too, finds a way of reminding you of the things that matter.

HOW LONG HAVE
I BEEN ADRIFT
AT YALE, FALSELY
CONVINCING
MYSELF THAT I
MADE ALL THE
RIGHT CHOICES?
DID I DO ENOUGH?
DID I LOVE
ENOUGH? SHOULD
I HAVE CONFESSED
MY FEELINGS
EARLIER? WAS
PRACTICALITY AN
EXCUSE FOR ABJECT
COWARDICE?

Last Sunday night, I stumbled out of a friend's backyard at 8:30 pm — smiling, slightly drunk, starting to envision what my year would look like as a senior. I was headed home from a society meeting that ended earlier than I expected it to. As I walked past Harkness Tower, shrouded in darkness, I suddenly felt myself well up with a hope I had last felt as a freshman — the thrill of meeting new people, the excitement of academia, of being dazzled by ideas, the sense that as long as I was in this place, surrounded by these people, I could never be unhappy again.

Inspired by this ebullition, I called a friend I had just parted with and asked if she wanted to get drinks at Chacra. I headed home two hours later, the lingering taste of a Pisco Sour and the buzz of stimulating, meaningful conversation interlaced with brewing excitement for the suite horror movie tradition I was walking towards. I paused for a moment and sat on a bench at the New Haven Green. Without thinking too much about it, I opened my email address and turned down an on-campus job offer that I didn't need. Then, I opened up Yale Course Search and dropped a fifth course. I hadn't felt that happy in months. I walked the rest of the way home with a smile on my face — and with the assurance that everything would be okay.

PRADZ SAPRE
is a senior in Benjamin Franklin College. His fortnightly column “Growing pains” encapsulates the difficulties of a metaphorical “growing up” within the course of a lifetime at Yale. He can be reached at pradz.sapre@yale.edu.



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FROM THE FRONT

ANALYSIS: Race in casting at Yale

RACE CASTING FROM PAGE 1

According to state and federal anti-discrimination laws, productions cannot explicitly exclude or bar actors from auditioning for roles on the basis of their race. Thus, directors who are looking to cast actors of a certain identity or face specific casting directions from the script must use language that encourages certain actors to audition.

The Dramat audition guidelines for Care and Respect require that directors “make a statement that all roles are open to all races/ethnicities unless otherwise noted in an individual character description.” When casting for people of particular races and ethnicities, directors must, per the guidelines, use the phrases “this character has xyz identity” and not “this role is open to people of xyz identity.”

Who can play who?

Emma Ventresca ’26 is the director and playwright for the original musical production “Gaucho,” which is set in 19th-century Argentina and incorporates its literary culture and history as central narrative elements. Ventresca is holding a casting call open to all actors, regardless of whether they identify as Latine.

Ventresca and her production team made the decision to maintain an entirely open casting call because it reflects the message of the show, she said. While acknowledging the “merit” behind casting actors who share the identity of their characters, Ventresca explained that *Gauchó* offered an opportunity to those who did not identify as Latine to learn more about Latin American culture.

“A lot of the show has to do with complex themes of class and gender in a time that was not the best for multiple different minority groups in Latin America,” Ventresca told the News. “The goal would be for the actors to be able to approach the script and the history with humility and empathy, really trying to understand the complexities of the story and asking for help when needed, as well as exploring their own identities on the stage.”

The show, according to Ventresca, is a “celebration” of both musical theater and human life, and Ventresca hopes to spread the message of “universal human dignity and truth” among the actors and the show’s audience.

On the other hand, the upcoming Yale production of “West Side Story,” which also has characters from Latine backgrounds, specifically encouraged Latine-identifying students to audition.

Emiliano Caceres Manzano ’26, the musical’s director, noted that the casting process is about more than finding the right person for the role. He said that casting is also about questioning the historical white “default.”

“A lot of the time, roles that have been cast as white, weren’t explicitly written as white. And that’s a difference,” Caceres Manzano said. “When an identity is central to the role that’s being played, then it is important to cast someone of that identity in that role.”

Caceres Manzano told the News that a person of color playing “a historically white role” is different from a white person playing “a historically person of color role.”

The reasoning, he said, comes down to the ways that all roles have “historically been open to white people.” He used *West Side Story* as an example, explaining that the roles in the show “weren’t even meant to be white people,” yet, historically, white people could, and did, play them.

“And so, there’s a huge historical power imbalance to the way [roles have been casted],” he told the News.

The “scarcity issue”

Five directors of color interviewed by the News described a so-called “scarcity issue” they faced when hoping to fulfill casting parameters that call for a racially representative cast. Sometimes, the directors told the News, there are not enough actors who fit the racial identities the directors seek during casting.

For Erick Lopez ’24, director of last year’s “In the Heights” production, the “scarcity” of Latine actors was a challenge that the production team had to confront. Written by Lin Manuel Miranda, the musical tells the story of a largely Dominican-American neighborhood in Washington Heights in New York City.

“[Putting on the show] was a heat of the moment decision, like, ‘Let’s just do it, and we’ll see who auditions,’” Lopez said. “We really had no way of anticipating [who would audition] because it’s the first time that we’re really hearing about Latine shows here on campus, and I didn’t realize what the issue would be with casting until later on.”

One concern the production team faced was that the cast did not reflect the specific range of racial demographics reflected in the story nor those of real-life Washington Heights. According to Lopez and Montserrat Rodriguez ’25, the show’s assistant director, the criticism focused on the lack of Black-Latine students and Caribbean-Latine students.

While Lopez and Rodriguez emphasized the validity of these concerns, they also stressed the limitations of the casting process. Specifically, Rodriguez spoke on the need for a difference in expectations placed onto student directors and Broadway professionals.

“I don’t have the same resources that an official person on Broadway has,” Rodriguez said.

“In terms of representation and criticism, I think it is a little frustrating, because I understand where the criticism comes from, but I’m

also like, if this is who auditioned, this is who I have to work with. It’s either I work with what I got or I don’t put on the show.”

The severity of the scarcity issue varies from production to production. To three student directors, though, the so-called scarcity issue is not actually the result of a shortage, but rather a failure to challenge the traditional image of an actor and to expand casting calls beyond Yale’s theater circle.

Megan Ruoro ’24, director of last year’s production of “If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must be a Muhfucka,” told the News that the scarcity of actors of color is a notion that she wants to “push back against.”

“I think it just goes to show that maybe the Yale theater community does feel like an intimidating, exclusionary place that historically people of a certain identity don’t feel that inclined to get involved,” Ruoro said. “I think there are so many talented people of so many different identities and backgrounds at Yale ... You can find those people if you put the effort to look outside of the traditional Yale theater community.”

For “If Pretty Hurts,” Ruoro cast an actor who had never previously stepped on the theater stage but had experience in the comedy world. The production team, per Ruoro, sought out students new to Yale theater in order to make the show more accessible.

While Sam Ahn ’25, founder of the Asian American Collective of Theatermakers, agreed with Lopez that there is a real scarcity of actors, Ahn also pointed to the existence of the institutional barriers that makes it more difficult for theater newcomers to approach the stage.

“People see theater as this very time consuming, specialized activity that you need to have done for a really long time, or that you need to have some innate ability or talent to participate in,” Ahn said. “So even if we do reach out to them, there are all these doubts that they have that are very hard to overcome.”

Caceres Manzano emphasized the need to be “conscious” of the community in which the casting pool resides and its “limitations,” also noting the importance of outreach.

“I don’t know if it’s worth putting on a story if you can’t cast it properly,” he said.

The show must go on – or must it?

In addition to divided opinions on the limitations of the casting pool, interviewed theatermakers also touched upon the difficult decision of canceling a show in the case that they could not find actors that represented the characters.

AJ Walker ’26, policy director of the Dramat and one of the producers for “West Side Story” told the News that directors should reassess the purpose of the story and make the sometimes necessary decision

of canceling productions rather than going forward.

“The most important thing that I like to keep in mind in those situations is to never place the responsibility on these communities to show up and show out,” said Walker. “In those cases, if you don’t have the cast that you need, I think it’s important that we get more comfortable canceling those shows or finding alternatives that don’t just include going forward with the show without the right cast.”

For Ahn, this dilemma over casting and other production-related complications led him to eventually cancel a show that he was directing, “Kim’s Convenience.” The initial desire to put on “Kim’s Convenience” was largely motivated, according to Ahn, by the fact that it would have been the first all-Korean production in recent Yale history.

Yet, Ahn told the News, this cancellation was for the best.

“We asked ourselves, ‘Oh, what is the underlying dramaturgy behind this Black character? Like, what exactly is going on here? It was clearly an attempt to talk about Korean-Black relations in Toronto,’” said Ahn. “Just after a lot of discussion, spurred by the casting dilemma, [we decided] that the play probably doesn’t go far enough to grapple with those relations. ... Casting can lead to discussions about the greater racial dynamics that underlie a story, which can lead you in different paths that are necessary for you to take as a director or a theatermaker.”

Alongside production-related issues, Ahn stated that he was in a period of burn-out – busy with the April production of “Love Letters,” an all-Asian rendition of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, and leading the inaugural year of AACT.

The feeling of exhaustion, particularly the emotional labor of creating or revitalizing spaces like Teatro de Yale and AACT, was a common experience that directors detailed in interviews with the News. In addition to the labor of establishing these spaces, creatives of color also spoke on the pressure to be deemed “the Black show on campus” or “set a bad precedent” for Asian American theater, said Ruoro and Ahn, respectively.

“I think the fact that [If Pretty Hurts] explicitly called for an all-Black cast is something that’s exciting and something that we are celebrating by doing the show, especially by doing it as a Dramat production,” Ruoro said. “But I think it also does feel reducing to just focus on that, and it does feel like it overshadows all the other great things about the play and, more importantly, all the great things about the people who are involved in the show.”

However, these spaces, such as Teatro de Yale, provide needed representation in Yale theater, making the question of whether to cancel or not all the more difficult.

For Lopez, the decision to continue or cancel the production strikes a careful balance between the need for the right people but also the need for representation as a whole.

“But if we don’t tell the story, we don’t get Latinos involved with theater in the future, what’s that going to mean for us? No one’s going to be involved with this, nobody’s going to be making these stories,” he said.

Theater moving forward

Even with the challenges that accompany telling stories like these on stage, actors and directors told the News about the meaning and joy that can stem from putting on such productions.

For Lopez and his family, putting on “In The Heights” was an important and emotional experience as it put a Latine-centric story on a Yale stage.

“It was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done but I would 1000 percent do it again,” Lopez said. “Seeing our stories represented and watching our families see our stories represented on the stage was really such a beautiful, beautiful thing for us. My mom still quotes things from the show, she’ll still be like, ‘Piragua!’ or she’ll still try and sing the song to it, which was so sweet to me.”

Theatre entered early in Ruoro’s life, where she was introduced to an African American theater company through a family friend and learned to perform stories specifically through the lens of the Black experience. When she arrived at Yale, however, Ruoro immediately recognized a “difference in access,” where she encountered peers who hired private coaches and had Broadway experience, she said.

Ruoro describes these experiences as those that reinforced the idea that “theater at Yale [wasn’t] really for [her].” Yet, Ruoro still has hope for Yale’s theater community as an open and accessible space, where any student can make their mark.

“I’m not completely jaded with the theater community because I’ve seen a lot of my friends and a lot of great people just putting on their own show,” Ruoro said. “In the Heights’ was amazing and so fun to watch. I remember Erick [Lopez] saying, ‘Yeah, I like this show. I’m not necessarily a theater person, but I’m gonna direct the show!’ And he did, and it was great.”

Ruoro tol the News that, while it “can definitely feel hard to do theater here,” she has experienced many examples of students taking action “to create the space that they feel like isn’t already there for them.”

There are approximately 650 undergraduates who participate in activities under the Yale Drama Coalition each year.

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Admissions office sidesteps formal AI policy, refers applicants to podcast

ADMISSIONS AI FROM PAGE 1

“Given how much insight and explanation we provided in the podcast, I hope that Yale has now shared more information and advice about AI and college essays than just about any other college,” Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid, wrote in an email to the News. “The fact that we have not yet tried to reduce the complexity of this topic to a short policy statement is a reflection of our desire to share more, not less. We may add written insights on this topic to our webpage in the future. But for now, we are directing students to our podcast.”

Quinlan is referring to a recent episode of the podcast – hosted by Mark Dunn ’07, senior associate director for outreach and recruitment at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and Hannah Mendlowitz ’12, associate director of admissions – titled “AI and College Essays: Wrong Question, Wrong Answer.” In the episode, Dunn and Mendlowitz raise concerns about ethicality, plagiarism and misrepresentation when it comes to using generative AI to help construct admissions essays.

When students submit written content to colleges, Dunn and Mendlowitz said in the episode, they must sign a statement affirming that all work submitted is the

applicant’s own. Submitting work written by ChatGPT or another generative AI model violates this affirmation, they said.

“If you’re asking questions about artificial intelligence as you start approaching your college application, we think those are the wrong sorts of questions to be asking,” Dunn said in the podcast episode. “The right sorts of questions are about you, who you are and what you want to include in your application. Similarly, artificial intelligence is not going to be the answer to this bigger question of well, how do I improve my chances of admission?”

Dunn and Mendlowitz explained in the podcast episode that admissions essays are not used to assess a student’s writing ability nor can they help an otherwise unqualified student gain admission.

Rather, the purpose of college essays is to help admissions officers gain a more comprehensive understanding of an applicant, Dunn and Mendlowitz said. They added that students’ essays should resonate with and expand upon other parts of their application.

“Even if you think that AI is going to be a better composer of English language prose than you are, it is not going to be better than you are at speaking for you,” Dunn said in the episode. “And from our experience, we can tell you that speak-


ing for you is much more important than whatever levels of polish are on top of your writing.”

Alfred Guy, director of undergraduate writing and assistant dean of academic affairs at the Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, has looked extensively at the ability of generative AI models like ChatGPT to imitate student writing.

What he found, he told the News, is that AI tools cannot yet produce analytical writing that is on par with the quality of human work, largely due to the fact that AI language models draw on past writing and are trained to present objective responses.

“It’s still the case that if there’s any reflective, synthesizing or judgment quality needed in the writing assignment, you can tell the difference between student writing and ChatGPT,” Guy said. “The relationship between having an idea and expressing it in a nuanced, slightly narrower way, is still something that a sophisticated language model can’t quite get.”

Read more online:





Some universities have begun to consider the implications of AI for application essays, but Yale has refrained from outlining a formal policy./ **Yasmine Halmene, Contributing Photographer**

FROM THE FRONT

“Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing.”
AUGUST WILSON AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT

Content warning: article describes sexual assault

CT Supreme Court rules that Saifullah Khan, who allegedly raped a female peer at Yale in 2018, may proceed with a defamation suit

KHAN FROM PAGE 1

during the proceedings. But on June 27, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that Doe should not receive full immunity because Yale’s UWC hearing lacked several “procedural safeguards” for Khan’s defense, such as cross-examination of the accuser and the ability for the accused to call witnesses.

“[The decision] puts survivors in a difficult bind because they have to choose between two things that are both traumatizing,” Elizabeth Tang, a lawyer for the National Women Law Center, told the News. “Getting cross-examined by your rapists’ advisor is extremely traumatizing. Or if you don’t get cross-examined, you might get sued for defamation.”

Khan’s defamation case now is moving back to the district court, where the discovery process will start; this includes calling witnesses for deposition and presenting evidence.

In June, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that since Khan’s UWC proceedings lacked procedural safeguards, they do not qualify as “quasi-judicial” and do not afford Doe the full immunity that comes with making statements in courts, making her liable for a defamation lawsuit.

“Given the recent findings about the lack of due process and fairness in the University’s Title IX procedures, I firmly believe their ruling was not only unfair but deeply flawed,” Khan wrote to the News.

The state Supreme Court’s June decision raises the question of whether university Title IX hearings might leave accusers of sexual assault liable for defamation lawsuits. From 2014 to 2020, over 100 defamation lawsuits were filed against accusers of sexual assault.

Halloween Night, 2015

Before Oct. 31, 2015, Khan was a senior in Trumbull College. Originally from Afghanistan, he studied cognitive science and was a member of the Jewish society Shabtai, which is not affiliated with the University. According to reporting by the News in 2018, some students knew Khan as “smart” and “charismatic,” while others told the News they had previously raised concerns about his behavior toward female classmates in his role as Yale College Council representative in Trumbull.

According to Doe’s affidavit to Yale Police, both Doe and Khan attended an off-campus party hosted by Shabtai on the night of Oct. 31, 2015. Doe, who said that she had never been inebriated before attending the Shabtai event, then went to the Yale Symphony Orchestra’s annual Halloween Show with Khan, where she said she was so intoxicated that she had trouble producing her ticket and vomited before sitting with Khan, who was an acquaintance at the time.

Shabtai did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Around 12:45 a.m., Khan and Doe went back to Doe’s dorm room in Trumbull, where Doe fell asleep. The next morning, Doe said she woke up naked with Khan still in the room, with condoms on the floor. Later that day, she scheduled a meeting with Sexual Harassment and Assault Response & Education, who in turn contacted the Yale Police Department.

Khan’s account of that night, which he presented in his court testimony and in his lawsuit, is markedly different. He said that Doe had been her “usual jovial, happy” self through the night, and when he left her room after walking her home from the show, Doe called him back. Khan then said the two engaged in consensual sex.

Khan was arrested by Yale Police in November 2015 on charges of sexual assault in the first, second, third and fourth degrees and was suspended from the University indefinitely. His trial in criminal court started in February 2017.

Criminal and UWC proceedings rulings diverge

In criminal court, Khan was found not guilty on all charges of sexual assault by a six-person jury on March 7, 2017. Despite his acquittal, over 77,000 people signed a petition asking the University to not readmit Khan to Yale, according to Khan’s lawsuit.

After Khan was acquitted of all charges, then-Dean of Yale College Marvin Chun lifted his suspension from Yale and said Khan could re-enroll in classes as early as the summer session.

In the fall 2018 semester, Khan returned to the University, living off campus and taking classes including “Constitutional Law” and “The Criminal Mind,” according to reporting by the News. But, on Oct. 5, 2018, the News reported that Jon Andrews — one of Khan’s chief supporters during his trial and later romantic partner — alleged that during their seven-month relationship, Khan had sexually assaulted him and physically attacked him on two other occasions. Khan denied sexually assaulting Andrews.

“These accusations are painful and illegitimate, and Mr. Khan’s life is not tabloid fodder,” Margaret Valois, one of Khan’s lawyers at the time, wrote to the News in 2018.

Despite Andrews having no connection to Yale, Chun suspended Khan again “for [Khan’s] physical and emotional safety and well-being and/or the safety and well-being of the university community” two days after the News published an article regarding Khan’s alleged behavior toward Andrews.

On Nov. 6, the UWC held its hearing for Khan’s case, and found him responsible for sexually assaulting Doe in 2015. The committee decided to expel him from the University in January 2019.

Khan v. Yale

On Dec. 13, 2019, Khan sued Yale, alleging that the University

had harmed his reputation and violated its contract by not giving Khan his degree. Khan also contends that his right to a fair trial was violated during UWC proceedings as he was unable to cross-examine Doe or receive meaningful assistance from legal counsel in his hearing — specifically, the suit alleges that while Khan’s lawyer was present, they could not speak, pose questions or tender objections.

“The Connecticut Supreme Court decisively rejected the notion that Yale’s administrative process was a reliable fact-finding forum,” Norman Pattis, one of Khan’s lawyers, wrote to the News. “We seek to hold Yale and Mr. Khan’s as yet pseudonymous accuser accountable for all they destroyed. Yale recruited Saif and promised him the world. It then discarded him as though he were a piece of garbage. A jury will be outraged.”

Listed among the defendants of the suit are the University and administrators who were involved in the case at the time, including Chun, University President Peter Salovey and then-Title IX Coordinator Stephanie Spangler. Also included among the defendants is Doe, who would typically be exempt from being held liable for statements made during a quasi-judicial hearing, which is how UWC proceedings are classified.

In response to Khan’s suit, Doe filed a motion to dismiss, asserting that she held absolute immunity for claims made during UWC proceedings. However, the state Supreme Court’s June ruled in June that Khan’s hearings did not meet “quasi-judicial” status as he was not afforded procedural safeguards such as the right to cross-examination.

The court also asserted that the UWC hearing’s regulations minimized the role of Khan’s legal counsel.

“These restrictions effectively rendered counsel irrelevant, relegating Khan’s attorney to the status of the proverbial potted plant,” the Supreme Court justices wrote in their decision.

But the court did not decide that the University’s hearing was invalid, and the UWC decision still stands, according to Tang.

The case now enters the discovery stage, where both sides will call witnesses for depositions and collect evidence.

“The Supreme Court ruling is pivotal as it underscores the importance of due process and fairness, even within university settings,” Khan wrote. “It’s not just about personal vindication; it’s about ensuring that truth and justice prevail.”

In this stage of the lawsuit, Doe has not been found guilty of defamation. Tang said the courts will now decide whether the allegations made in Khan’s suit are severe enough for her to be sued for defamation, and Khan’s attorneys will also interview those involved during the discovery process to investigate his claims further.

Following discovery, in the motion for summary judgment stage, or the period where the judge makes a decision before the case goes to trial, Doe can assert “qualified immunity,” or protection from a defamation suit for what she said in court because they were not made with “actual malice,” according to Tang.

Going through the discovery process, Tang said, can be a retraumatizing and invasive process, given that attorneys will likely question Doe about her experiences with Khan.

“The problem with [discovery] is that it subjects survivors to a lot of trauma through the process of having to defend themselves through the lawsuit all the way to the motion for summary judgment stage,” Tang told the News. “Discovery’s very invasive. It’s a time for people like Khan and his lawyer to try to get as much as possible out of the victim.”

The discovery for the suit will not be the first time Doe is questioned by the Khan’s attorneys, as she already underwent questioning during the initial criminal trial.

When Doe was cross-examined at the criminal court hearing in 2018, the defense questioned her about the costume she was wearing that night, how much alcohol she had consumed and texts she had previously sent Khan.

In a related 2019 case, the Second Court of Appeals decided in Doe v. Colgate University that a university’s hearing did not violate Title IX regulations by not allowing cross-examination. However, unlike Colgate’s hearing, the state Supreme Court found that Yale’s hearing lacked more than cross-examination as Khan did not have the meaningful assistance of a lawyer.

It is valid for legal proceedings and university proceedings to come to different conclusions, according to Tang. The courts operate under different standards of evidence — while courts of law must prove guilt “beyond a reasonable doubt,” quasi-judicial courts like Title IX hearing panels only have to have a “preponderance of evidence.”

A preponderance of evidence is when “there is a greater than 50 percent chance that the claim is true,” according to the Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute. The difference in standards is due to the difference in possible punishments — the highest punishment at the university level is expulsion.

Tang also highlighted the fact that the University’s UWC hearing is not a criminal trial, and by adding more procedures like cross-examination, survivors may be driven away from reporting.

“Survivors are going to face a very difficult choice,” Tang said. “They might very well just say, ‘I don’t think I want to report at all, let me just stay silent.’ That’s a really harmful, awful situation to be in. To

conclude that the best thing that you can do for yourself in a situation like that is not ask for help.”

Khan is moving ahead into the discovery process with hopes to win his case.

He also told the News that he plans to continue his education and professional pursuits and “advocate for fairness, due process, and justice in all settings.”

“Winning the lawsuit would be a significant step in restoring my reputation and rectifying the immense personal and professional setbacks I’ve faced,” Khan said. “However, it’s not just about personal redemption. I hope that this case serves as a precedent, ensuring that others don’t suffer the same injustices.”

Yale’s Title IX regulations

Khan’s Title IX hearing was conducted under Obama-era regulations, which “discouraged” but did not prohibit the accused from personally cross-examining their accuser. At that time, universities were not required to allow cross-examination.

Trump’s administration reversed those rules in 2020 — a year after Khan’s expulsion — and universities across the United States are now required to include these procedural safeguards including cross-examination. Under these regulations, Yale has incorporated measures that Khan’s suit rests on for UWC hearings, including allowing advisors to question witnesses after discussing their question’s relevance with the hearing panel.

“Yale University is committed to creating a campus environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is welcoming, safe, and respectful,” Title IX Coordinator Elizabeth Conklin wrote to the News. “Yale’s sexual misconduct procedures are designed to be both compliant with the law and fair to all parties.”

Biden, though, is expected to reverse Trump’s policy changes when new Title IX regulations are released by the Department of Education.

Biden’s Title IX regulations have been delayed multiple times. The Department of Education intended to release the new rules in October, but due to procedural setbacks, they are not expected to come out until 2024 and may not take effect until the 2024–25 school year.

Once Biden’s policies take effect, the Connecticut court decision could leave future survivors of sexual assault with an “impossible choice,” Tang said, when reporting sexual assault allegations. They could either go through a possibly traumatizing procedure with cross-examination or be open to a possible defamation lawsuit.

Title IX of the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1972.

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

Scan for mental health resources compiled by the Yale College Council:



Professors weigh in on Salovey’s tenure, presidential search

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Less than a month ago, University President Peter Salovey announced his intent to step down this summer. The search committee for his replacement will include eight trustees and four faculty members, although the faculty members have not yet been selected.

The News reached out to over 40 Yale faculty members across different departments and asked them to discuss some of the qualities they would like to see the search committee prioritize in the presidential search process. Four professors responded.

“I am hoping a new president will strongly support the humanities and strongly support diversity,” English professor Leslie Brisman wrote to the News. “I hope the next president continues the Salovey soft touch – letting committees help make important decisions.”

Brisman cited three key decisions in which Salovey used his “soft touch” to make an influential decision through diplomatic means: changing the title of “master” to “head of college,” renaming Calhoun College to Grace Hopper and doing away with shopping period.

During his presidency, Salovey began the Arts and Humanities initiative, which has included the refurbishment of the Humanities Quadrangle and the Digital Humanities Lab, and will soon include the construction of a new dramatic and performing arts facility.

History professor Jay Gitlin ’71 also praised Salovey, lauding the “positive spirit” he brought to the job.



TIM TAI/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Though most declined to comment on Yale’s presidential search, professors praised outgoing University President Peter Salovey.

Gitlin quoted the historian George W. Pierson – who Salovey himself quoted at the time he accepted the presidency – and told the News that he would like to

see Yale preserve Pierson’s vision for the University as “a company of scholars, a society of friends.”

“Yale’s past and its many traditions give this place, this Uni-

versity, depth, character, and meaning,” Gitlin told the News. “I would like to see someone who knows how to honor that deep past and still be forward looking.”

Regarding the search for the next president, psychiatry professor Bruce Wexler wrote to the News that he hopes the presidential search committee will identify candidates from “among senior legal scholars and deans at leading law schools.”

Wexler added that the new president should focus on “maintaining an environment that supports intellectual and scientific risk-taking by faculty across all disciplines.”

Juan Fernandez De La Mora, a mechanical engineering and materials science professor, said he would like the University to choose someone with a background in the sciences.

“Given Yale’s current emphasis in the sciences and engineering, it would be even better if our next President and Provost would both be scientists or engineers,” De La Mora wrote in an email to the News.

Both Salovey, a psychology professor, and his predecessor Richard Levin, an economics professor, have social science backgrounds. The last Yale president associated with the natural or applied sciences was Thomas Clap, who served from 1745 to 1766 and is credited with introducing Enlightenment understandings of math and science into the University’s curriculum.

Levin, who headed the University from 1993 to 2013, declined to comment on the ongoing search.

After ending his tenure as Yale’s president, Levin served as the CEO of Coursera from 2014 to 2017.

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Ward 15 race brings turmoil and an election upset

BY MIA CORTÉS CASTRO
STAFF REPORTER

After a day of back-and-forth arguments on the corner of Chatham Street and Row Street, challenger Frank Redente Jr. secured the victory for Ward 15 alder during last Tuesday’s Democratic primary election – but not before calling the police on incumbent Ernie Santiago.

Both candidates were prohibited from coming closer than 75 feet to the polling place for the Sept. 12 primary, as required by Connecticut

law. “[Santiago’s team] keep doing it over and over again. It’s ridiculous that we’re having to call the police for elected officials.”

Despite multiple warnings from poll moderators, Santiago and two colleagues on the Board of Alders crossed the boundary and personally walked voters into the polls, upsetting Redente, who says he adhered to the boundary all day. After arguing with Santiago, Redente called in help from the New Haven Police Department to ensure what he described as an “equitable voting process.”

Santiago, who was elected to represent Ward 15 on the Board of Alders 12 years ago, had never run in a contested race. Recently, he has faced backlash for his lack of availability to residents.

Despite the criticism, Santiago remained confident of his electoral chances heading into primary day.

“This is a democracy,” Santiago said. “People will talk, but if they see what I’ve done, they’ll vote for me.”

Redente, on the other hand, built his platform on being an active member of the Fair Haven community, even though he did not hold

four corners around the 197 Chatham Street polling site for himself and his campaign team to stand on. His team, which he says was composed entirely of Fair Haveners, brought out chairs, tents and lawn signs, donning red shirts advertising Redente’s campaign.

Santiago, on the other hand, arrived at the site at around 5:30 p.m. – two-and-a-half hours before the polls closed. He was accompanied by members of New Haven Rising – a community organization that has pushed for greater financial con-

tributions from Yale to the city. The group quickly approached Redente’s team and began to claim some of the corners as their own, inciting arguments in the process.

“I can understand it can be emotional to have someone challenge you,” said Dave Weinreb, a Fair Haven educator and member of Redente’s team.

Very quickly, the two teams started to encroach on each others’ spaces, attempting to talk to constituents who arrived to vote and arguing over which of them got to talk to the voters and for how long. Redente and his team claim to have seen Santiago walk a voter into the polls at one point, in turn prohibiting Redente’s team from approaching the voter. Ward 14 alder Sarah Miller, who represents the rest of Fair Haven and works closely with the Ward 15 alder, says she saw alders Ron Hurt and Frank Douglass walk voters into the poll site as well, violating the boundary.

Douglass said he only walked his granddaughter – a Ward 15 resident – into the voting site, and Hurt denied crossing the boundary altogether. Since Douglass is not a Ward 15 voter, this is technically not a violation of state law.

Redente says he reminded Santiago of the rules multiple times, as did polling moderator Luz Colville.

Around 6:30 p.m., two NHPD police officers arrived at the polling site, attempting to moderate traffic in the area and control the conflict. One of the officers on the scene claimed to have been called by “the Ward,” though he declined to give more information to the News. “The Ward,” Redente’s team told the News, refers to Colville. Redente says he told Colville several times about Santiago’s alleged rule violations.

In the end, Redente won 64 percent of the ward’s votes, excluding absentee ballots, making him the Democratic nominee for Ward 15 alder for the general election in November. Both candidates ended on good terms, thanked each other for great races and agreed to work together in the future.

Redente secured 203 votes, while 108 voters backed Santiago.

“I’m grateful to be surrounded by such great people who truly care about Fair Haven,” Redente said after the election results were announced. “I’m thankful that they believed in me.”

The general election will take place on Nov. 7.

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CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER/MIA CORTÉS CASTRO

The two alder candidates for Ward 15 spent election day arguing about alleged violations of election law, leading one candidate to call the police on the other.

cut law. The regulation is in place to prevent them from influencing voters’ decisions, and signs were placed at the 75-foot mark to indicate the boundaries around the polling site.

“We have not breached the 75-foot mark today,” Redente said.

Santiago says that he was only reminded of the rules once and afterward did not break them again.

“They started crying unreasonably,” Santiago said. “We made an agreement that we could walk to the sidewalk, but someone called that we were violating the 75 feet.”

Redente arrived at the polling site around eight hours before the polls closed, securing three of the

tributions from Yale to the city. The group quickly approached Redente’s team and began to claim some of the corners as their own, inciting arguments in the process.

New Haven Rising declined to comment on these interactions.

Yale public health researchers corroborate human rights atrocities in Sudan

BY HANNAH MARK
STAFF REPORTER

A recent report from the School of Public Health’s Humanitarian Research Lab corroborated on-the-ground reporting of alleged body disposal in El-Geneia, West Darfur, Sudan. The findings could be used as evidence of genocide.

The report, which was released Sept. 14, documented the dumping of light-toned objects — likely body bags containing human remains — at a site reported to be a mass grave. Through data from open-source and publicly available sources including social media posts and satellite images, the report confirms humanitarian volunteer eye-witness accounts of bodies being dumped into water surrounding El-Geneia.

“The situation in Sudan deserves a lot of attention and needs to be documented,” said Kaveh Khoshnood, the faculty director of the HRL at Yale. “This [report] is essential for policymakers to make correct decisions.”

Nataniel Raymond, the executive director of the HRL and overseer of the project, explained that the violence in Sudan is partly rooted in an ongoing power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary organization in Sudan. He added that the violence also stems from the RSF committing a series of ethnically-based killings of non-Arab people, targeting the Masalit and Burgo tribes in West Darfur.

The report investigated alleged grave sites the RSF used for mass burials of people from the Masalit and Burgo tribes. Though the report does not explicitly confirm who was responsible, the researchers note that the timing of their findings corresponds with credible accounts suggesting that the RSF massacred Sudanese citizens and committed ethnic violence against non-Arab communities, particularly Masalit people.

According to Khoshnood, the HRL, which operates as part of the State Department’s Conflict Observatory program, primarily monitored the Russo-Ukrainian

war until April 2023, when conflict broke out in Sudan. Since then, the HRL has released a series of reports recording human rights violations during the ongoing conflict.

Another HRL report, published Aug. 31, confirmed on-the-ground reporting of a dire humanitarian crisis in Nyala, the capital city of South Darfur. According to Raymond, civilians are caught between SAF and RSF clashes, and aid cannot enter the city. Satellite images included in the report revealed giant holes in the roofs of Nyala’s mosques, homes and hospitals — the result of artillery fire.

“Civilians can’t flee, and humanitarian aid can’t enter Nyala,” Raymond said. “The civilians are being killed and wounded with only one functioning hospital left in operation.”

Raymond told the News that the HRL uses multiple data sources to produce their reports. Open-source information — such as social media and local news stories — constitutes one portion of the data. However, Raymond noted that open-source information is especially difficult to access in Sudan because of widespread telecommunications and internet outages.

The researchers also gather information from publicly available sources, such as NASA’s thermal sensors, which detect fires. They use commercial imagery from satellites, including those by Planet and Maxar Technologies. The imagery varies from high to middle or low resolution, Raymond said. The researchers can also choose to use different sensors depending on what they want to target.

“It’s like golfing,” he said. “We use different types of clubs to hit different types of holes.”

Some of the data collected by the HRL seeks to verify open-source information. Other times, Raymond said, the researchers notice something in an image and try to find open-source information to confirm or explain what they found. They also look for evidence of an event they suspect might be happening. The image collecting hap-



COURTESY OF HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH LAB AT YALE

Reports published by the Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale corroborate evidence of humanitarian crises and body disposal in Darfur.

pens in real time, often in six to 12 hour cycles, but weather conditions, especially clouds present during the rainy season, can make it impossible to see.

David Simon, the director of the Genocide Studies program at Yale, who was not involved in the report, told the News that the HRL’s research may help the U.S. State Department make a determination of genocide in Sudan.

“There’s every indication that there’s an attempt to destroy the Masalit tribe and perhaps others as well, which is a core qualification of genocide,” Simon said. “It’s happening now, and there’s this almost inexplicable lack of reaction by global powers.”

Simon said that, though the findings from the HRL reports

are “absolutely harrowing” and describe “international crimes,” the lab cannot make legal judgments or determine policy. That, he said, is the role of the State Department and other institutions.

The State Department uses a framework, which is published on its website, to assess atrocity risk, distinguishing between war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The atrocity risk assessment framework guides government officials to examine at key actors and targeted groups case by case to help develop atrocity prevention policy making.

“It feels to me that the HRL passes on report after report to folks that have the capacity to make a policy or legal judgment, and it’s just not happening,” Simon

said. “The reports deserve much more traction than they’re getting.

Raymond told the News that the State Department has issued “multiple statements” based on the August report. Additionally, he said that the HRL’s reports have been used as part of ceasefire negotiations, investigations by the International Criminal Court into events in Darfur and for efforts delivering humanitarian aid in Sudan.

The creation of the Conflict Observatory, a non-governmental organization that analyzes evidence of war crimes and other atrocities, was announced by the State Department on May 17, 2022.

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New infection and immunity center looks at long COVID-19, chronic Lyme disease

BY CARLOS SALCERIO
STAFF REPORTER

A new center at the Yale School of Medicine is aiming to address post-acute infection syndromes including Long COVID, chronic fatigue syndrome and chronic Lyme disease.

Founded by immunology professor Akiko Iwasaki, the new Center for Infection & Immunity, or CII, was established on Aug. 18. CII involves collaboration between over 25 health care experts in fields ranging from epidemiology to vaccine development. Their goal is to enhance current diagnostic methods and treatments, with the long-term objective of developing cures and vaccines for post-acute infection syndromes.

The Center’s faculty told the News they also hope to cultivate a “patient-partner model” that includes patients’ real-time feedback and symptoms in the process of researching post-acute infection syndromes.

“I’m very excited,” said Iwasaki. “I don’t think any other centers are focusing on these post-acute syndromes, not at all.”

Post-acute infection syndromes refer to a group of chronic health conditions that can develop after the acute phase of a viral, bacterial or parasitic infection. These syndromes generally produce persistent and often debilitating symptoms such as fatigue, unrefreshing sleep, pain and cognitive impairment.

These conditions gained attention after a spike in the number of people suffering from long COVID symptoms during the pandemic, said Nicole Darricarrere GRD ’14, the Center’s scientific program director. This newfound recognition, she explained, has led to greater research funding and collaborative initiatives around post-acute infection syndromes.

“Long COVID is a great opportunity to crack the mystery that we’ve known was there but has been neglected,” said Darricarrere.

Although they arise from different diseases, post-acute infection syndromes share some common symptoms, Iwasaki explained, suggesting that these illnesses share similar biological underpinnings. As a result, the Center plans to prioritize pathobiology research to explore the biology behind the syndromes and develop targeted, effective therapies.

The Center also has a disease prevention arm that will develop new types of vaccines, Iwasaki added. For instance, her team plans to research mucosal vaccines, which are delivered at the sites where pathogens enter the body — such as the nose, mouth or gastrointestinal tract — instead of via injections. As a result, mucosal vaccines station biological guards against germs at the body’s entrances, redirecting the immune response to the locations where diseases start and potentially creating a more effective immune response.

With a traditional vaccine injection, however, those entrances remain open. After a disease invades the body, the immune system has to detect an attack and can only respond after one begins.

“If you can prevent the entry or the interaction at the mucosal site, that would prevent infection even before it goes to your bloodstream or lower respiratory tract,” said Inci Yildirim, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and a vaccine expert in the Center.

According to Darricarrere, the Center hopes to bring together experts from a wide variety of fields, from immunobiology to epidemiology to vaccine development. The interdisciplinary approach, she explained, could promote a deeper understanding of post-acute infection syndromes and accelerate the development of



ANN HUI CHING/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Yale School of Medicine’s new Center for Infection & Immunity is researching post-acute infection syndromes.

effective treatment strategies.

As a result, Darricarrere and Iwasaki said that they selectively choose scientists from a wide range of backgrounds — including early-career scientists and those from underrepresented groups.

“The collaborative environment is beneficial to any site, but particularly when we are looking at sort of diseases of unknown sort of ideology or infectious diseases that may come up in the future and cause a pandemic,” Iwasaki told the News.

Iwasaki explained that the new Center’s projects incorporate a

“patient-partner model” that uses real-time feedback from patients to shape the progress of ongoing trials. Patients can input feedback and medical records on a phone app and can sign up to provide blood samples on a regular basis.

By doing so, patients can contribute actively to the research process surrounding their diseases, rather than being passive participants, Iwasaki explained.

“I think that’s the future of science,” said Iwasaki, “The patients are their own experts, and how they perceive the disease and how they interpret it

and tell us about the disease has been incredibly informational and instructive for us.”

By 2025, Darricarrere added, the Center will have a physical space. In the interim, researchers leverage available facilities, equipment and training through Iwasaki’s lab. There are already two ongoing pre-clinical trials within the Center, but more than seven are lined up for the future.

The Yale School of Medicine is located at 333 Cedar St.

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School of Management launches technology management master’s program



KAI NIP / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new program is a collaboration between the School of Management and the School of Engineering & Applied Science.

BY ESMA OKUTAN
STAFF REPORTER

The School of Management announced a new master’s program in technology management on Tuesday morning.

The program, which starts in fall 2024, will provide students with a Master of Management Studies degree. The program will only accept applications from undergraduate students who have studied engineering — or those who have “sufficient preparation for advanced engineering” courses — and either will graduate in spring 2024 or have graduated in the last three years.

The collaboration between SEAS and SOM aims to bring together the resources of the two schools and prepare students to be “leaders in the fast-changing and widely influential domain where technology and business meet,” per the announcement.

“Humankind’s greatest achievements have always been not feats of just technology, or just management, but marriages of the two,” Kyle Jensen, Associate Dean for Entrepreneurship and one of the main coordinators of the program, wrote to the News. “An ill-organized team of engineers could no more change the world than could a team of MBAs bereft of technology. But, when science and engineering is paired with leadership and management, wonderful things are possible.”

In this morning’s, Jeffrey Brock, dean of SEAS, explained that the program will combine technical training from a SEAS degree with the resources and networks of SOM.

According to Edieal Pinker, Deputy Dean for Strategy and co-organizer of the program, the new Technology Management master’s degree was jointly con-

ceived by the leadership of both SOM and SEAS.

“Details were developed and approved by the SOM faculty with continuous dialog with SEAS deputy dean Vincent Wilczynski,” Pinker wrote to the News. “SOM has many collaborations with other academic units at Yale and this program creates yet another connection point and a basis for further developing our relationship with SEAS.”

To cultivate students’ management skills and technological knowledge, the program includes a variety of courses from both the SOM and SEAS on innovation, design, entrepreneurship, advanced engineering and finance, and students are required to take 36 credits over the year-long program.

Some of the courses offered for the master’s include “Principles of entrepreneurship,” “Advanced theories and

application of design” and “Foundations of Accounting and Valuation.”

Vineet Kumar, professor of marketing at the School of Management, will teach “AI Strategy & Marketing” and “Digital Strategy” as a part of the program.

“There is a lot of intersection between technology and business, and I think the intersection is only growing over time,” Kumar said. “And we need to have expertise. People who study that both from an engineering perspective or technology perspective, but also from a social and societal perspective.”

Career development is also a focus of the program.

In an email to the News, Jensen wrote that the curriculum will help students better prepare for leadership roles in technological organizations and in effect broaden their career choices. Students in the program will also

work with SOM faculty and the SOM Career Development Office to find internships the summer before classes begin.

Joshua Rodriguez ’26, who is majoring in mechanical engineering, told the News that he is interested in how the program incorporates business with engineering and how that might influence a student’s future career.

“It’s definitely interesting for someone looking at startups and entrepreneurship in engineering, but I do wonder how it would be treated in industry, whether it could be useful when trying to climb the management position in a well-established engineering company,” Rodriguez said.

The application for the program will become available this fall.

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‘Vault’ nightclub set to revive long-empty bank building

BY ARIELA LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Vault, a proposed downtown nightclub, is one step closer to unlocking its doors.

The Board of Zoning Appeals approved club owner Alexandra Arpi’s request to operate a nightclub, cafe and bar in the 4,992 square-foot space inside a former bank building at the Board’s meeting on Sept. 13.

The club will occupy the first floor of the long-vacant classical revival-style former bank building at 45 Church St. At its monthly Zoom meeting, the Board permitted the club to open from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Thursdays and 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, in compliance with Connecticut state law.

Arpi, the club’s owner, told the News that the club will likely open on Thursday nights specifically for college students and may offer promotions to students. On Friday nights, the club, Arpi said, will be open for “Latin people.” She envisions that Saturday will be reserved for private events.

“For now, I’m working hard to get all the licenses and permits and everything, so I’m still working on this project,” Arpi said.

Arpi emphasized to the News that the club would be open only to individuals over the age of 21, even during student-oriented events.

Broker John Pollard of Real Estate Advisors Ltd., who represented Arpi to the Board of Zoning Appeals, said at the meeting that the nightclub will have security to prevent under-

age drinking and other “nefarious operations.” He also said the club will be accessible for people with disabilities.

The club plans to offer food prepared by an outside commissary. Arpi told the News that the club has not yet determined their food provider.

At the meeting, Board member Errol Saunders ’06 expressed concern over how using the building as a nightclub “interfaces with the historical nature of the building.”

“I may have been in a nightclub once or twice, and noticed that the uses of a club are not always conducive to keeping things nice,” he said.

In response, Pollard clarified that the club does not plan to change the exterior of the building, although necessary repairs to leaks and flaking plaster inside the building are underway.

The building was constructed in the early 20th century to be the home of the Connecticut Savings Bank. Following the bank’s 1991 closure, the building was used as a Wells Fargo Bank branch location for five years. It was auctioned off to David Kuperberg, the current landlord, in October 2016 after two decades of vacancy.

The Board’s approval of The Vault’s plan to lease the bank’s ground floor follows the City Plan Commission’s rejection of a previous proposal to repurpose the bank building as a marijuana dispensary in July.

At the July meeting, the proposal for a dispensary was voted down 3-1 after encountering pushback from local residents and commissioners.

Ward 7 Alder Eli Sabin ’22, whose



ARIELA LOPEZ / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The club’s prospective owner received approval from the city’s Board of Zoning Appeals last week to operate a bar, cafe and nightclub in a space on the building’s first floor that totals nearly 5,000 square feet.

district includes the bank building, told the News that he had received more complaints about the proposed dispensary than the nightclub.

“I haven’t heard from too many folks in the neighborhood about [the club] yet, which I’d say is usually a sign that people aren’t too upset about it,” he said.

When the club opens, Sabin said that he will be making sure they follow noise ordinances and not negatively impact the neighborhood’s quality of life.

Arpi has almost 10 years of experience in the event space industry; she opened her first business, an event space, with her mother in

2014. Arpi told the News that she expects The Vault to be ready to open in a couple of months.

It is illegal to serve alcohol past 1 a.m. on weeknights in Connecticut.

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Alders approve \$16 million for city contribution to Cox settlement

BY MIA CORTÉ CASTRO & ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER &
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The New Haven Board of Alders formally approved \$16 million in city funds for the city’s settlement with Randy Cox, a Black man who was paralyzed in a New Haven Police Department van while in custody last year.

In a Monday evening meeting in City Hall’s Aldermanic Chamber, the 25 alders present voted unanimously to allocate a portion of the city’s \$22.3 million budget surplus for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to the \$45 million settlement negotiated between New Haven and Cox’s attorneys.

“The city settled this case, and it is vital that the city make good on its obligations,” Westville Alder Adam Marchand, the chairman of the Finance Committee, told his colleagues before the vote.

The alders voted to transfer \$16 million from New Haven’s General Fund to its litigation settlement account; the disbursement to Cox is slated for next month, according to Ward 27 Alder Richard Furlow, the Democratic majority leader. The city’s insurance is covering the remaining \$29 million.

New Haven’s June 9 settlement agreement with Cox represented the largest payout to the victim of a police brutality or misconduct case in United States history. Previously, the largest settlement had reached \$27 million, which the city of Minneapolis agreed to pay after former officer Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd in 2020.

In a statement released after the settlement was announced, Cox’s attorneys, Louis Rubano and R.J. Weber III, reflected on

the importance of the settlement’s substance.

“This settlement makes a strong statement that police departments and their municipalities will be accountable for ensuring that police officers honor the lives of those they are sworn to serve and protect,” they said.

In an interview with the News after Monday’s vote, Marchand said that the Finance Committee has been focused on identifying the proper source for the \$16 million.

The committee considered authorizing a bond program to raise the money, but, Marchand said, sufficient surplus funds remained from the 2022-2023 city budget to meet the city’s contribution to the payout without issuing special bonds.

“That was not clear at the moment of the committee action, but it was clear as of today,” Marchand added.

On Sept. 27, 2022, Cox’s attorneys filed a \$100 million lawsuit in the U.S. District Court of Connecticut. The lawsuit was filed against the City of New Haven and the five officers involved in arresting Cox.

Four of the officers — Jocelyn Lavandier, Luis Rivera, Oscar Diaz and Sergeant Betsy Segui — were fired in June. Ronald Pressley retired in January. All five are facing misdemeanor charges for their role in paralyzing Cox’s, a punishment that Cox’s lawyers have criticized as insufficient.

According to the lawsuit, officers arrested Cox at a Juneteenth block party for alleged possession of a firearm, breach of peace in the second degree and carrying a pistol without a permit. Due to the arrest, the lawsuit says, Cox suffered a cervical spine injury and fracture, a compromised immune system, a chronic and permanent respiratory condition and a shortened life expectancy.

The charges against Cox were later dropped.



MIA CORTÉS CASTRO / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The transfer of funds, set for disbursement later this fall, will mark the only payment to Randy Cox directly from city accounts.

“Cox has suffered and continues to suffer great physical and emotional pain, including but not limited to mental anguish, frustration and anxiety” as a direct result of “the aforesaid negligence and carelessness of the defendants,” the 29-page suit alleged.

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker said at a September 2022 press conference, after the lawsuit was filed, that an insurance hold was preventing an immediate settlement. The city’s insurance policies, which are worth close to \$30 million, would

require an additional payout, which left officials scrambling to find a source for the rest of the money.

During the same press conference, Elicker expressed his hope that the city’s remittance would be sufficient for New Haven to finance the significant medical care Cox will need for the rest of his life.

“The City of New Haven will continue to do everything we can to assist him in his journey,” he wrote.

Monday’s Board of Alders meeting marked the final step

to completing the portion of the settlement the city is responsible for paying.

In addition to the settlement money, the alders voted on 25 other items at the meeting; among them were changes to the zoning code designed to encourage development in the Long Wharf neighborhood.

The next general Board of Alders meeting will take place on Oct. 2.

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Yale reports record-high ladder faculty headcount



TIM TAI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Science have reached a total headcount of 721, achieving a goal set over a decade ago.

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

Yale’s ladder faculty headcount in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Science has reached a combined total of 721 this year, marking an all-time high.

Each division has also hired in record numbers individually: FAS now has 617 ladder faculty, an increase from 582 last year, while SEAS now has 104 ladder faculty, up from last year’s 95.

“Yale aims to provide students with an education grounded in the tradition of the liberal arts, where they work closely with faculty who stand among the greatest thinkers in the world,” FAS Dean Tamar Gendler told the News. “Bringing the number of FAS and SEAS ladder faculty to 700+ allows us to fulfill this mission at a moment when Yale’s undergraduate enrollment numbers are at a record high.”

Indeed, recent hires have coincided with the matriculation of one of the largest classes in Yale College history: the class of 2027 is 1,647 students strong, and it has brought the College’s total enrollment to historic heights.

The term “ladder faculty” refers to faculty members who are either tenured or on the track to receiving tenure. The size of the FAS, which used to include SEAS until it became a standalone school in July 2022, had hovered around 700 until 2010. Ladder faculty numbers dipped below that mark in 2011 as a consequence of the Great Recession, which caused the value of Yale’s endowment to fall by 25 percent at the time.

Since their dip in 2011, ladder faculty numbers were around 680 until this year’s record boost in hiring, which saw 39 new faculty members join the FAS for a net increase of 24 ladder faculty members, the University’s largest ever. The num-

ber of FAS and SEAS senior departures in 2022-2023 was the lowest since 2009.

Humanities, one of three subdivisions in the FAS, recorded the highest number of new additions with 25 new hires. Within the Humanities division, African American Studies, Classics, English and Spanish and Portuguese are receiving the biggest boosts, each gaining three new ladder faculty members.

The Social Science subdivision is bringing in 17 new faculty members, including six in the Statistics and Data Science department, which has received elevated interest from undergraduate students over the past five years.

The sciences, the third subdivision of FAS, is taking on 11 new faculty, with four in the Physics department alone.

“Each faculty member represents an area of expertise, a methodological specialization, a particular way to understand the world, or a unique set of life expe-

riences,” Gendler said. “A strong faculty enables us to advance knowledge in areas that few other institutions can; and to do so at the highest level of excellence.”

Gendler noted that the current target number is at least 637 ladder faculty members in the FAS.

Meg Urry, Director for the Yale Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics and the chair of the FAS-SEAS senate, said that since the ranks of the University’s FAS and SEAS faculty have remained “pretty flat” since the Great Recession, she is “happy” to see the overall size increase. However, she noted that the increase of 9 percent since 2017 still lags behind the 15 percent contemporaneous growth in the undergraduate population.

“To provide the kind of undergraduate education Yale is known for, rich with seminar classes and hands-on research experiences, requires low student-to-faculty ratios, meaning that as the undergraduate classes grow, the faculty must grow as well,” Urry said. “Hiring new faculty also

brings new energy and ideas to campus, which strengthens our intellectual environment.”

Last week, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis told the News that, from an admissions standpoint, adaptations may be necessary to reduce the undergraduate student population to a more manageable long-term state, noting that the University would “just admit fewer students.”

But Lewis told the News that changes in undergraduate class size do not necessarily require commensurate changes in the size of Yale’s faculty.

“We don’t hire faculty based just on undergraduate enrollments by any means, because it’s also graduate programs and research interests that people have,” Lewis said. “So a lot of people spend some practical time teaching graduate students, and so we don’t allocate a new position based on how many enrollments there are.”

Lewis also explained that the demand for faculty is not always to increase the number of courses offered, but also sometimes to support areas like increased demand for certain senior essay topics.

He added, however, that some recent hires were the direct result of understaffing in the Computer Science department.

According to Gendler, Yale looks to maintain a 75-25 ratio of ladder to non-ladder faculty.

To maintain this ratio, two-thirds of new faculty are hired at the untenured level and roughly one-third at the tenured level. These tenured hires are usually people who obtained their PhD degree more than 10 years ago and have spent time teaching at another institution.

Gendler added that most ladder faculty spend only a fifth of their career untenured, enjoying tenure status for most of their time teaching.

“Faculty hiring at Yale is extremely selective,” Gendler wrote. “We are only permitted to hire as ladder faculty those who stand among the foremost leaders in the world in a broad field of knowledge, whose work significantly extends the horizons of their disciplines, and who manifest excellence in teaching and mentorship.”

The notably large class of 2027 is due to a historically high 72 percent yield rate.

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SPORTS

Chun celebrates five years

CHUN FROM PAGE 14

she has overseen approximately 150 million dollars in upgrades and building construction for Yale athletics. Instead of allowing COVID-19 to become a setback, Chun used the time to prepare and upgrade facilities for the return to collegiate athletic competition.

Although Chun has worked to improve an evolving athletic department, she has also aimed to preserve Yale's rich traditions throughout her tenure.

When asked to describe Yale athletics in three words, Chun said "excellence," "tradition" and "dedication."

"When I came to Yale, I realized very quickly [that] Yale was the first of everything," Chun said. "First live mascot, the first varsity race for rowing — there are just so many firsts that it's really important that our student athletes understand what they represent. They represent over 150 years of other student athletes."

As the first female, Asian American Athletic Director following a long line of white, male Athletic Directors, Chun was unsure of the response she was

going to face when she entered the position.

However, Chun told the News that she has received glowing feedback from athletes and staff alike.

"One of my fondest memories of Vicky was when we were hosting the Ivy League volleyball championship on the day of the Yale-Harvard game [hosted at Harvard]," said assistant athletic director Colleen Murphy. "She was in Boston watching the football game ... and it mattered to her to get back to New Haven to be able to watch our volleyball team also win the Ivy League Championship ... She values her teams and that's just her to her core."

Although Chun believes in tradition, she also pushes back against Yale's traditional focus on male sports. Chun told the News that she treats all sports alike.

The News spoke to upperclassmen on the women's volleyball team about Chun's approach to men and women's sports.

"She has been there for us as a resource," said Audrey Leak '24, outside hitter for the Yale volleyball team. "She'll come to our practices, big games, and show us that our

sport matters to her. Vicky shows how important it is to have female leaders in sports. Seeing Vicky in her role and how she is able to support all these teams and lead all these teams is really inspiring to me because I feel that women should be in all roles of sports."

Although she has completed a lot in her short time, Chun hopes to do more in the years to come.

When asked what her goals were for her upcoming years, she seemed set on one overarching objective: constant improvement.

"I'm always pushing my staff — 'What can we do better?'" Chun said. "I love for our staff at games to say, 'Welcome to Yale!' because for folks coming in, there is a certain expectation, whether we like it or not, of a certain excellence of cleanliness of organization. I think our job is to continue with that ... to keep getting better."

This spring, Vicky Chun was named one of the Cushman and Wakefield Athletics Directors of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

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Bulldogs look ahead to the season

W HOCKEY FROM PAGE 14

Hockey first team selection and All-America honors. Recently, her individual success has earned her a spot on the Preseason All-ECAC team, alongside teammate and starting goalie Pia Dukaric '25. Replacing a talented senior class from last year will be difficult, but Hartje, Dukaric, and other upperclassmen are poised to rise to the occasion.

"Graduation impacts every team at every school and we are no different," said Bolding. "Replacing [Charlotte] Welch ['23] and Dalton, in addition to [Emma] Seitz's ['23] offense, will be handled but is a difficult challenge. However, players like Anna Bargman ['25], Jordan Ray ['26], Carina DiAntonio ['25], Naomi Boucher ['25], and senior Kiersten Goode ['24] will do their best as upperclassmen to fill the void offensively and help Elle out with additional leadership."

Although the Elis have an extremely strong squad, repli-

cating their regular season dominance from last year will be no easy task. On a recent ECAC Hockey preseason media call, Princeton head coach Cara Morey talked at length about the strength of the conference.

"I think that we always talk about the ECAC as the best league in college hockey. It's definitely the deepest. It's the hardest league to play in," Morey said to the media.

Bolding will be counting on returning players to step up their games, and he will look for contributions from Yale's highly touted class of first-year recruits. The Bulldogs have brought in four U.S. born women and three Canadians to strengthen the program.

The Bulldogs will drop the puck on their 2023-24 season on Oct. 20 at Princeton.

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Athletic dept. rebounded during Salovey's tenure

SALOVEY SPORTS FROM PAGE 1

Ivy League powerhouse within five years. Salovey stood arm-in-arm with the football team as they hoisted conference trophies in 2017, 2019 and 2022.

Yale's athletic success also came into the national spotlight during the 2016 March Madness basketball tournament. Yale triumphantly defeated the fifth-seeded Baylor Bears before falling to the Duke Blue Devils in the Round of 32. Under James Jones' 24-year tenure, the Bulldogs have recently become a dominant force.

The Bulldogs Lacrosse team achieved this feat in 2018, claiming a national title in their 13-11 victory over the Duke Blue Devils.

During Salovey's tenure, which began in 2013, the University also commemorated a half-century of women's sports at Yale.

"These women have consistently demonstrated not only how Yale's athletics program reinforces the mission and purpose of the university, but also how participating in sports develops leaders

of strength and principle," Salovey wrote to the News.

Last October, Yale Athletics and the Yale Women's Athletic Network hosted a series of panel discussions and other events to celebrate 50 years of varsity women's athletics.

Chelsea Kung '23, who was a member of the varsity women's tennis team at the time, said she saw the weekend's programming as an opportunity to form connections across generations of female varsity athletes at Yale.

"My biggest hope is that current female student-athletes at Yale see these accomplished women as mentors and people to look up to when their time on the Yale playing surface comes to a close," Kung wrote to the News at the time. "It's something that has pushed me to be the woman I am today, and I only hope that this event is a catalyst for inspiring the next generation of successful women in the world."

Salovey told the University community of his plans to step down in an Aug. 31 email announcement.

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Valies split two games

M SOCCER FROM PAGE 14

Jake Schaffer '24 told the News.

"Our defense has been fantastic from front to back," Schaffer said. "We take pride in earning clean sheets."

Another objective from before the season was to win as many home games as possible, an effort that was greatly improved with the two wins this week. Adjakple referred to Reese Stadium as a fortress, and told the News that the team has the mentality that no one should beat them on their home turf. The Bulldogs are now 3-1 at home.

The Bulldogs' next opponent will be Penn on Saturday, Sept. 23. Yale's first Ivy League game will be a challenge, as Penn was voted the preseason favorite to win the conference. Schaffer reiterated his statement from a few weeks ago regarding the Penn game, saying that it's a game they've circled on their calendar. According to Schaffer, the conference as a whole is very competitive.

"Every [conference] game is going to be a battle," Schaffer said. "We plan on approaching every game with the same mindset."

In preparation for the game, the team's upperclassmen have relayed the spirit and intensity of the Ivy League to the first years. Adjakple said the older players referred to the conference as "a different beast."

Members of Yale's student body have also expressed interest in the conference games, with one supporter at the game against Colgate saying he's looking forward to Penn in particular.

"I always tune into the Ivy League games," RJ Kelly '25 told the News. "We as fans also keep rivalries in mind ... we want revenge on Penn for last year."

The Bulldogs have not beaten the Quakers since 2012.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs take on the Brown University Bears (9-1, 0-0 Ivy) to start Ivy League play this Friday, Sept. 22.



YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs have not beaten the Quakers since 2012.

ARTS

“Blessed is the nightbird that sings for joy and not to be heard.”
MARTY RUBIN CANADIAN WRITER

‘She Came to Me’ premieres at the Schwarzman Center

BY CODY SKINNER
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The unlikely combination of a creatively stunned opera composer, a Romeo and Juliet subplot, an alluring tugboat seductress and a civil war reenactment battle comes together to tell a multi-generational love story in the romantic comedy-drama, “She Came to Me,” by acclaimed filmmaker Rebecca Miller ’84.

“She Came to Me” sports a star-studded cast, including Peter Dinklage, Anne Hathaway and Marisa Tomei. The 102-minute film was screened for members of the Yale community at 3 p.m. on Sept. 16 in the Humanities Quadrangle, followed by a Q&A session and reception, during which Yale film enthusiasts had the opportunity to speak with Miller about her process behind the film’s camera.

“I have a tendency to make films almost in pairs,” said Miller about the film’s similarities to “Maggie’s Plan,” another romantic comedy-drama she wrote and directed starring Greta Gerwig, Ethan Hawke, Julianne Moore and Bill Hader. “My first film, ‘Angela,’ is very connected to ‘The Ballad of Jack and Rose,’ which has a much more melancholic tone. ‘Personal Velocity: Three Portraits’ and ‘The Private Lives of Pippa Lee’ have their own structural similarities, and in this one, I was really interested in the tradition of screwball or romantic comedy.”

The movie follows Steven (Peter Dinklage), a struggling opera composer whose near-freak wife, Patricia (Anne Hathaway), urges him to seek inspiration. Steven finds the muse of his next opera, titled “She Came to Me,” in a humble female tug-



CODY SKINNER/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Acclaimed director Rebecca Miller ’84 discussed and premiered her most recent film, “She Came to Me.”

boat operator (Marisa Tomei) who seduces him. As Steven’s play develops, so too does the relationship between two teenage lovers, Tereza (Harlow Jane) and Julien (Evan Ellison), under the authoritative rule of Tereza’s father (Brian d’Arcy James).

“I really loved the film, and it was wonderful to watch with Bryce Dessner’s music in the background just because we’ve been getting to know him better and better within the past couple of years,” said Rachel Fine, executive director for the Schwarzman Center.

Dessner ’98 MUS ’99, who lent his talents for the soundtrack of

“She Came to Me,” returned to Yale this past year for a residency with the Schwarzman Center. The breadth of his musical experience — having played for his Grammy-winning band, The National, and having collaborated with artists such as Philip Glass, Paul Simon and Taylor Swift — is on full display, scoring the emotional complexities of love.

The Grammy-winning artist’s compositions brought an extra layer of emotion to the film, especially in scenes like the reconciliation between Tereza and her mother.

Miller met Dessner through her friendship with Katia Labèque, an

internationally renowned French pianist and the pianist of the film.

“She highly recommended him as someone who had written concertos for her and her sister, and had written opera,” Miller said. “He’s in ‘The National,’ and he’s done film scores before. We had a wonderful relationship and a beautiful collaboration.”

According to Jennifer Harrison Newman DRA ’11, associate artistic director at the Schwarzman Center, in a conversation with Miller, “It’s interesting that [Miller’s] film was bookended with opera, and in the middle we have this rom-com — so its ‘rom-com’ as operatic.”

Miller responded by talking about the inspiration she took from Western tropes of classic romantic comedies, such as Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” where she said the erroneously arranged couples are reunited with their correct matches in a “magical way.”

She added that she wanted to take the side-by-side romantic comedy and opera-composing seriously, without making a joke of the romance.

After the film’s screening and Q&A portion, guests of the premiere traveled to the Well for a catered reception that allowed them to mingle with Miller, Schwarzman Center members and fellow film enthusiasts. The reception was a celebration of cinema and creativity, with conversations flowing as freely as champagne.

“I loved Yale. It was very important to me in developing my practice as an artist, learning about color, learning about composition and learning about the discipline it takes to be an artist, no matter whether you’re a painter, filmmaker or writer,” Miller said. “And then, of course, my son came here and was a painter, so I feel very connected to Yale and always love an excuse to come back here,” said Miller.

“She Came to Me” was granted an interim agreement from the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, meaning that the movie’s cast will be able to promote their film despite the fact that actors are on strike against major studios and streamers.

“She Came to Me” will open in theaters Oct. 6.

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Emerson String Quartet bids farewell to Yale

BY TOBIAS LIU
STAFF REPORTER

After 47 years together, the legendary Emerson String Quartet performed their final concert at Yale on Tuesday night in the Morse Recital Hall.

The Emerson String Quartet gave their last performance as part of the School of Music’s Oneppe Chamber Series. The Emerson String Quartet, hailed as “America’s greatest quartet” by Time Magazine, has held a central position in the genre of string quartets. After more than four decades as one of the world’s premier chamber music ensembles, the quartet will disband in October.

“With musicians like these, there must be some hope for humanity,” Jose García-León, dean of the School of Music, quoted from the London Times to a sold-out crowd. “I am not very far off

Ludwig van Beethoven, Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms, Béla Bartók, Anton Webern and Dmitri Shostakovich.

“They’ve been at the center of the entire genre for almost half a century now, recording everything, commissioning works and performing around the world,” said Gregory Lewis, a violinist of the Callisto Quartet and the Yale College’s Fellowship Quartet in Residence.

The quartet is composed of violinists Philip Setzer and Eugene Drucker, violist Lawrence Dutton and cellist Paul Watkins, who currently serves as the School of Music’s Polak Family Professor in the Practice of Cello.

As festival artists for many years at the Yale School of Music’s Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the quartet’s connections with Yale run deep. The quartet members are close colleagues of many mem-

tra under Riccardo Muti, the quartet was “struck by how beautiful it was” and knew they wanted to put it in their repertoire, said Setzer. Additionally, Setzer said Walker told him that he wanted the quartet to play the piece for him, but Walker passed in 2018 — before they could play it for him.

“Drink the Wild Ayre,” the quartet’s last commissioned work by Sarah Kirkland Snider MUS ’05 MUS ’06, was the second piece of the concert.

“We picked [Snider] from a wide range of some of the most wonderful composing talent in the country,” said Watkins. “[Snider’s] writing really appealed to us from other quartets, and she had also been composer in residence at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, which is a festival that I’m artistic director for, so we knew her pieces quite well.”

News. “They treat each other, and the composer, with consummate respect and collegiality, listening to each other’s ideas and suggestions with genuine openness and interest, with the shared goal of transforming notes on the page into magic.”

Following Snider’s piece, the quartet performed Mendelssohn’s colorful String Quartet No. 2 in A minor — one of Setzer’s top five favorite string quartets.

Then, after an intermission, they tackled Beethoven’s infamous String Quartet No. 13 in B flat major, a piece known for its beloved slow movement, the Cavatina and the visionary and monumental Grosse Fugue.

The audience on Tuesday night was aware of the gravity of the moment they were witnessing. Cheers and ovations that lasted minutes welcomed the quartet to stage well before they played their first note — a welcome not lost on Setzer, who was “very moved” by the “warmth” he felt from the audience, he said.

“I think you applauded louder before we played,” Setzer said to the audience before their performance of the Mendelssohn, leading to another round of cheers and applause.

As a professor at Yale, Watkins explained that there is a certain amount of extra pressure they feel when playing in front of colleagues and students.

The quartet was “keenly aware” that the audience on Tuesday was one of the “most knowledgeable and distinguished” that they had ever played for, Watkins said.

But to Watkins, this awareness was a positive element.

“It became a really intense performance because as performers, we can sense different levels of concentration in an audience, and it really did seem like Tuesday represented the highest level of concentration and appreciation,” he said. “So, by the time we finished the Grosse Fugue, we were invigorated by the whole thing.”

Many of the audience attendees on Tuesday night were students, and Setzer found the amount of young faces in the audience a “beautiful” reminder that classical music is not going to disappear when there are so many “wonderful young people learning and loving music,” he said.

After the Beethoven, the crowd gave the quartet a standing ova-

tion, prompting them to perform an encore — “Vor deinen Thron tret’ ich hiermit,” a chorale by J.S. Bach that was “taken by dictation, something that students here might shiver to hear,” said Watkins to the audience.

On Wednesday, Setzer and Drucker taught a masterclass freely open to the public with the Callisto Quartet.

Setzer first worked with the Callisto Quartet in 2018 at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Then, they spent a few summers at the Great Lakes Music Festival, where they had “a mentor-student relationship” with the Emerson Quartet, said Lewis.

“They are one of the reasons I wanted to spend my life playing string quartets,” said Hannah Moses, cellist of the Callisto Quartet. “They offer the rare perspective of people who have studied the vast quartet repertoire together for over four decades. After the impact they have had on my own musical life, it has been an honor to have the chance to learn from them and to be present at one of their final concerts.”

Although the quartet is disbanding, they are not retiring. All of them will continue to play and teach.

According to Watkins, “it was a farewell gift, not a retirement gift.”

Watkins said he looks forward to focusing his energies towards his professorship at Yale.

“I’m very happy that we managed to get a performance at Yale so close to our final performance as a quartet because it feels like I’m closing a circle with my time at the Emerson Quartet while opening another circle as a professor of cello at Yale,” said Watkins, who replaced David Finckel as the quartet’s cellist in 2013. “Because if it wasn’t for the Emerson Quartet inviting me over to America in the first place, I don’t think I would have had the opportunity to teach at Yale.”

Setzer, Dutton and Drucker will continue to teach at Stony Brook University, the home of the Emerson String Quartet Institute.

“The Emerson Quartet means everything to me,” said Lewis.

The Emerson Quartet will perform their final concert together at the Lincoln Center on Oct. 22.

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MIRIAM VIAZMENSKI/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
After 47 years together, the Emerson String Quartet performed their final concert at Yale on Tuesday night in the Morse Recital Hall.

in age, but I grew up listening and cherishing their recordings. I, as I’m sure many others, learned much about music from their superbly artistic performances, and for that I’m very grateful.”

As one of the biggest names in classical music, the quartet has made more than 30 acclaimed recordings and has been honored with nine GRAMMYS, three Gramophone Classical Music Awards and the Avery Fisher Prize — a prize awarded to the most outstanding American classical musicians.

Their discography includes the complete string quartets of

bers of the School of Music faculty — they have performed extensively with School of Music Professors Ani Kavafian and David Schiff. Schiff is also the artistic director for the YSM’s Oneppe Chamber Music Series and worked with the Emerson Quartet to create the program for Tuesday’s concert.

During the concert, they danced through a diverse program, opening with “Lyric for Strings” by George Walker, the first Black composer to receive a Pulitzer Prize in Music.

After hearing the piece in its string orchestra version played by the Chicago Symphony Orches-

To Snider, collaborating with the Emerson Quartet was one of the “most meaningful artistic experiences of her life,” she said.

The quartet’s interpretations of the great string quartets were like “gospel” to her, Snider said. She added that she was honored to be asked to write for such an influential group of musicians, comparing it to being asked to write for “the Beatles.”

“There’s not a whiff of ego in the room, which is astonishing for a group this legendary, but you quickly realize that is the secret to their success,” Snider told the

THROUGH THE LENS



NEW HAVEN STUDENTS PROTEST GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Read more on the News' website below



Photos by Josie Reich



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DR. VJOSA OSMANI SADRIU

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO



LECTURE

Monday, September 25, 2023 · 12:45-2 PM
Sterling Memorial Library
Lecture Hall
128 High Street, New Haven
Doors open for seating at 12:30 PM

Admission is free and open to
the Yale Community
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For questions, please email
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“Peter Salovey’s unwavering commitment to the well-being and success of Yale student-athletes during his tenure is truly exceptional. His leadership and support empower our student-athletes to excel not only in their chosen sports but also in their academic pursuits, fostering a culture of excellence that defines Yale Athletics,” VICKY CHUN, YALE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Athletic Director Vicky Chun celebrates five years

BY KATE ESTEVEZ
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

This fall, Yale athletic director Vicky Chun celebrated her fifth year anniversary in her position.

Vicky Chun, who has over 10 years of experience directing NCAA Division I athletic programs, is the first female, Asian-American athletic director at Yale. During her tenure, Chun has maintained Yale’s reputation as a top school for athletics and has led the Bulldogs to dozens of championships and school records.

She has also initiated social justice policies and programs, and she has expanded Yale’s approach to diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure that student athletes have a say in University decision-making.

Before her time at Yale, Chun was the assistant volleyball coach at Colgate University, her alma mater, where she also played college volleyball.

ball. She then transitioned to be the assistant volleyball coach at Cornell University, before returning to Colgate as head volleyball coach. Her ascent at Colgate continued when she became Athletic Director in 2012.

“While I was coaching, I really enjoyed working with student athletes,” Chun said. “And when you’re coaching volleyball, you’ve got 15. I really wanted the opportunity to work with more, [including] men and women. So I took a chance and took an internship at the NCAA and absolutely loved it. Then I stayed in athletic administration throughout.”

As the Athletic Director of Yale University, Vicky Chun has had the responsibility of overseeing the entirety of the athletic department while constantly looking for ways to expand and renovate the athletic facilities. In the past five years alone,

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YALE ATHLETICS

Vicky Chun looks back on her five years as athletic director at Yale.

W HOCKEY: Season preview with coach and captain



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale women’s ice hockey team will look to build on last year’s success as external expectations set a high bar.

BY TOMMY GANNON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Last season, the Yale women’s ice hockey team clinched the program’s first-ever ECAC Regular Season Championship and finished with a resounding 28–4–1 record. However, after falling to Northeastern University in the NCAA quarterfinals in March, the Bulldogs are looking for more.

“Being a good team can motivate you to try and touch the top of the mountain and I think that’s the plan,” head coach Mark Bolding said. “Especially after a tough loss last year in the NCAA quarterfinals on home ice.”

Since taking over bench duties in 2019, Bolding has led a complete resurgence of the program. In just a few years, the Blue and White have quickly transitioned from a mid-table team to a power-

house in the sport. This year, the Elis were selected to finish second in the ECAC preseason poll, a clear sign that coaches around the league have come to view Yale as a consistent force.

“When I came in as a first-year, Yale women’s hockey did not even make league playoffs the year prior,” captain Elle Hartje ’24 said. “Now, fast forward to my senior year, we have forced coaches around the league to recognize that we are a dominant force. The sky’s the limit for our team this year.”

With external expectations high coming off of last year’s success, Hartje and Bolding have both emphasized the need to quickly establish a new team identity for this year’s squad. In her new role as team captain, Hartje has placed a heavy emphasis on personal accountability and making sure that the team is focused on their end goals.

For Bolding, the graduation of former captain Claire Dalton ’23 left big shoes to fill in the leadership department. However, Hartje, a standout on and off of the ice, is more than capable of filling that void.

“Elle has been a key contributor since she has arrived and is really valuable off the ice as well - with her involvement in campus activities and in the classroom,” Bolding said. “She certainly has the realization that her actions are being watched - so I think you’ll see an even more focused player and leader in her this season as she serves as our captain.”

While Hartje has set the standard high for her teammates with her approach to the game, she has been equally invaluable as a dynamic, two-way player. Last season, she finished with a team high 52 points, on her way to securing an All-ECAC

SEE W HOCKEY PAGE 10

W VOLLEYBALL: Bulldogs leave even from Chicago



YALE ATHLETICS

Yale’s volleyball team goes 1–1 at Hampton Inn Invitational.

BY MEREDITH HENDERSON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

This past weekend, the Yale women’s volleyball team (5–3, 0–0 Ivy) took on the Northwestern Wildcats (6–4, 0–0 B10) and the Loyola Chicago Ramblers (2–9, 0–0 A10) in Chicago, Illinois as a part of the Hampton Inn Invitational.

After excelling at the Yale Invitational the weekend prior, the Bulldogs sought to extend their four-game win streak in preparation for the start of conference play next weekend.

Mila Yarich ’25 has been a key player for the Bulldogs this year. She told the News that the team felt elated to play against big competition.

“Chicago was a super exciting environment,” she said. “Going in, we knew we were playing challenging teams and that this was an opportunity for growth, as well as an opportunity to prepare us for conference play.”

At the invitational, Yale faced the Northwestern Wildcats, their first Big 10 opponent since 2019. Gigi Barr ’25 returned to her home state after coming off a 13-kill game against the University of Connecticut (5–7, 0–0 Big East). The Wildcats went to work against the Bulldogs, posting a 3–0 victory, with set wins of 25–22, 25–19 and 25–13. Julia Sangiacomo

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M SOC: Bulldogs look toward Ivy League opener

BY JOAQUÍN FERNÁNDEZ-DUQUE
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale men’s soccer team (3–3–0, 0–0–0 Ivy) stayed home in New Haven this week, beating the University of California, Irvine (3–2–2, 0–0–0 Big West) on Saturday and Colgate (3–4–0, 1–0–0 Patriot) on Tuesday at Reese Stadium. The team did not allow its opponent to score in either game, winning each matchup 2–0. The Bulldogs’ eyes are now set on the first game of their Ivy League schedule, against the University of Pennsylvania (2–2–2, 0–0–0 Ivy).

Yale’s victory in its first-ever matchup against Irvine was, in large part, the result of a 90-min-

ute defensive effort by the Bulldogs, as the team only saw one shot on goal the entire game. The offense proved decisive, with Simon Adjakple ’27 and Jonathan Seidman ’25 both scoring their first collegiate goals. Adjakple opened the scoring when he put away a cross from Joseph Farouz ’27 with less than 20 seconds left in the first half. Seidman made it 2–0 in the 57th minute, this time assisted by Max Rogers ’25.

“It feels amazing to have scored my first goal for the program,” Adjakple said. “Helping the team win is my number one objective and thankfully I played a decisive role in making that happen.”

The game against Colgate proved to be a similar contest, with

the Bulldogs scoring two goals to turn another great defensive showing into a win. The first goal came in the 13th minute, when TJ Presthus ’25 converted a penalty with a clinical shot to the upper-right corner of the goal. Just before halftime, Ryan Cote ’25 doubled the teams’ lead by putting away a deflected cross from Farouz. With only two shots on goal against Yale all game, and with no goals scored in the second half, Yale won the game 2–0.

The two victories were important to the team beyond the result, as they were able to actualize some of their pre-season goals. For one, the team showcased their strong defense, as defender and captain

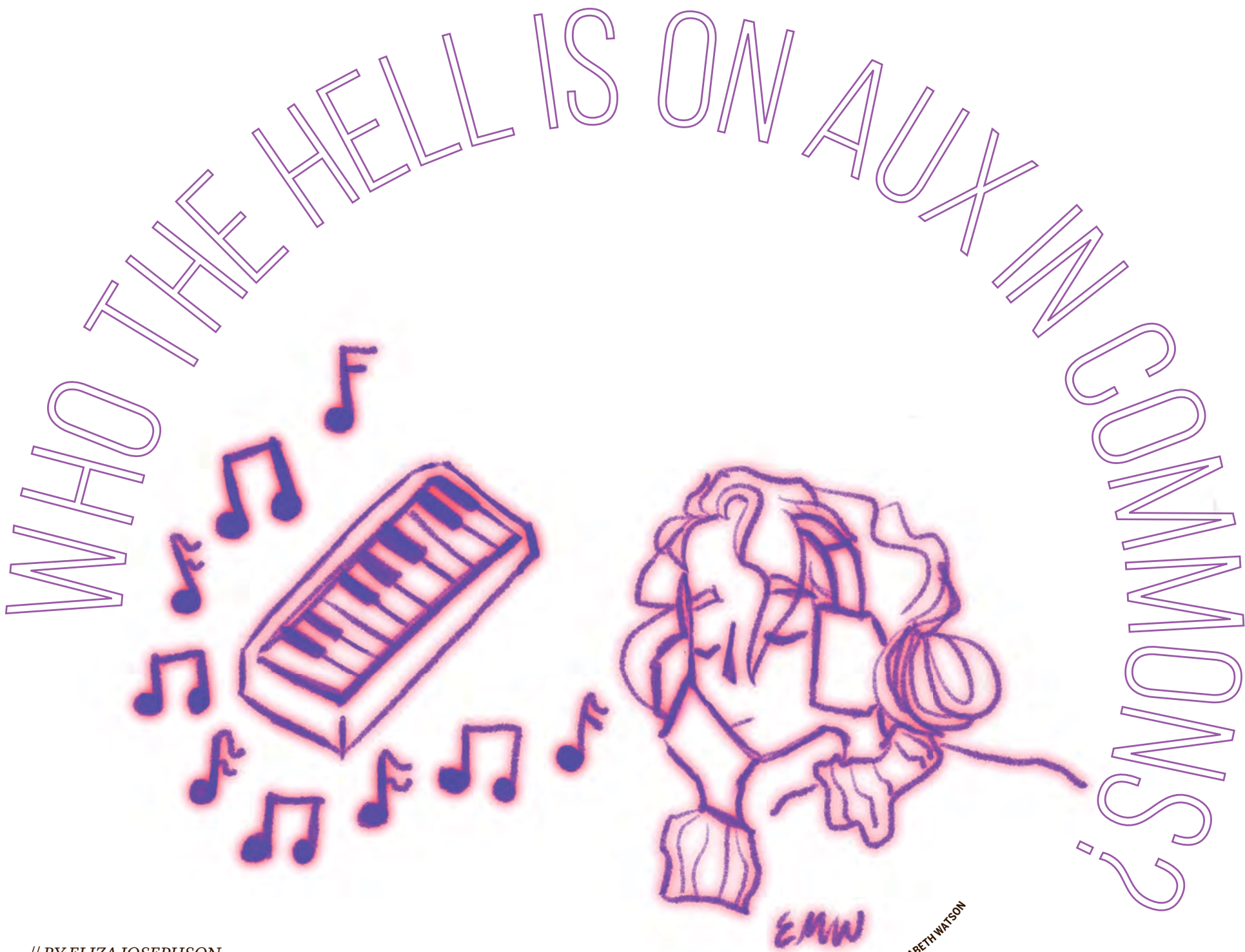
SEE M SOC PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men’s soccer team secured two home wins with clean sheets, and hope to carry the good form into the first Ivy League Conference game.

WEEKEND



// BY ELIZA JOSEPHSON

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

Hi! My name is Eliza, and I'm a sophomore in Pier-son studying Comparative Literature. Additional fun fact: I'm trained as a butcher. During my senior summer, I was slicing skirt steak by day and curating my cottagecore Pinterest boards by night.

I'm one of many Yale students with puzzling back-grounds. I'm Jewish, and my mom's last name is Church. I'm American, and I went to an international school for 10 years. I quote Proust just as much as I quote Season 8 of Love Island.

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

...

I've decided to start this column by talking about Corinthian columns. That's right, we're talking about Commons. Or rather, we're listening.

The Schwarzman Center is located at the heart of all campus activity. And at the center of the center is its dining hall, Commons. This infamous late-lunch spot on campus has it all: elaborate chandeliers and wood beamed ceilings, circle and square tables, pork dump-lings and vegan crab cakes.

And this wealth of options all works together because you, the Yalie, are in control. Until you sit down. Then, you have to face the music. Or whatever song happens to be playing in the background. But what song would that be?

Sean Pergola '24 and I tried to brainstorm an answer, but it only resulted in more questions. "How am I going to best sum up the music at Commons?" he wondered. "Like, I should have examples for that, right? But the thing is, it's difficult to even provide examples because the music is so all over the place that it just exists in my mind as a messed up mishmash."

All over the place. Chaotic. Musical vomit. Friends of mine had a lot to say about the music in Commons that ranged from confusion to outrage. The consensus is that none of the songs in Commons seem to have, well, anything in common. But why is this?

So I did what any seasoned investigative journalist would do. I got in the Pasta e Basta line at Commons, grabbed my chocolate chip cookie and clementine, sat down, whipped out Shazam and began compiling evi-dence in my Notes app.

And the results were astounding. Within less than two hours, I heard a myriad of genres: soul, EDM, folksy indie, 2010s pop, showtunes, '80s classic rock and more. Also, beatboxing? Who is the audience for that (aside from a cappella or something)? You name it, Commons has played it.

My enough research proved the music played in Commons is "consistently inconsis-tent," a pithy descriptor coined by Sean. And I, for one, can't ignore it. But is it just me? Are there others who've noticed? Who care?

It's safe to say that Jesse Bross '26 does. "I always think about [the music] when I come here," he told me. "I feel like Commons just gives, like, fantasy vibes ... Last year they would do a lot of musicals or Disney songs." His wide smile suddenly transformed into a dis-tant expression of melancholy as he remarked, "Now it's soft rock and pop, I feel like it doesn't hit as hard."

And he's not the only one with complaints. Agnes Sjoebled '26 and I eat lunch in Commons together from time to time, and when we're not reminiscing about our Virginia Woolf days in Directed Studies, we focus our analytical skills on the background music. She believes there's often a significant mismatch between musical vibes and student mood. "[Sometimes] you're basically eating lunch at 11 alone, and it's a Monday, and you feel really bad and then you're like, oh yes! Katy Perry! Friday Night!"

Aside from Jesse's ambivalence and Agnes' critique, most people I spoke to agreed that the music in Com-mons was utterly unpredictable. Thus, my responsi-bility as a reporter is to investigate the question that directly follows these observations: Who the hell is on aux in Commons?

In pursuit of an answer to this seemingly simple question, I sent out a slew of emails to all of the rel-evant Schwarzman employees. Shout out to Stacy Cacace, the Hospitality Guest Experience Manager for the center, who did all she could to point me in the right direction, even though music isn't her department.

After many dead ends, I thought I'd hit the end of the road. I felt discouraged. In my dejected state, I scrolled through all the songs I'd compiled while researching this article. Then I started to wonder, what do P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) by Michael Jackson, Ironie by Alanis Morissette, Omigod You Guys from Legally Blonde: The Musical, and The Cupid Shuffle have in common? Well, nothing. Except for the fact that they have all, at some point, played in Commons.

I couldn't give up. So I tried a different approach. I returned to Commons the next week and I gathered theories from credible sources.

"A six year old is on aux. I think a six year old is grab-bing everyone in Commons phones, plugging them into the speakers, and that's how we get the Commons' music." Thomasin Shmults '26 provided me with my first bona fide conspiracy. And she wasn't the only one who had ideas.

I sat down with the heavyweight crew team and Danilo Rosich '24 jumped right into theorizing. He and

his friends suspect the Spotify AI DJ, minus the voice intermis-sions. Danilo continued: "It could be Schwarzman. I think he found something harder than running Black-stone ... that's why he's not responding to your emails, he's very insecure. I think he's just afraid of the truth."

At this point, Danilo's Stephen A. Schwarzman the-ory was a guess as good as any other. I was just about ready to accept that I'd hit the proverbial brick wall with this mystery.

And then I got a notification about a new message in my yale.edu email account.

Maurice L. Harris Ph.D. is the director of marketing & communications at the Yale Schwarzman Center. In response to my questions, he writes, "As we enter into our second season of in-person programming, we've learned that creating music playlists that strike just the right tone for more than 2,000 students and vis-itors who come through the Schwarzman Center daily can be both exciting and daunting."

Fair enough. Commons services thousands of people, all who have their own preferences. I sympathize with Maurice — it's not easy to please everyone. But what was clearly a deliberate attempt to cater to every demo-graphic ends up feeling random. So random, in fact, that it feels impossible that humans could be in control.

And that's because they're not. "For the time being, we are taking advantage of algorithmic playlist tools," Mr. Harris shared. There it is. The answer I was looking for. It turns out heavyweight was onto something with the Spotify AI idea.

Like with most major bombshells, this one didn't hit me right away. Later that day, I sent a follow up email asking if I could see this algorithm up close and per-sonal. I have yet to receive a response.

Usually, when I'm ghosted, I assume it's for the best. But this time, it hurt more than usual. I guess I won't always be able to neatly close the case when it comes to Yale's mysteries.

But here's what we do know: Commons is a peo-ple pleaser.

This dining hall does everything it can to accommo-date everyone in it, offering you choice after choice to customize your experience. But musical inclusivity is near impossible to achieve, so they've passed off the job to an algorithm. That definitely explains the con-sistent inconsistency.

I've now reached the last stage of grief: acceptance. The music in Commons is what it is. Knowing that the song in the background wasn't chosen by a person doesn't make your experience any less personal.

This enigma has led me to exciting conversations with people I'd never have expected. So, I suggest we embrace the unpredictability. Next time you're in Com-mons, do what I do. Listen. Take note of the song play-ing. Then, guess what genre you think will come next.

I doubt you'll be able to.

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THE BATTLE OF THE BEANS

// BY HAILEY TALBERT

Welcome one, welcome all. Tonight, in the ring, we have two coffee shops you know and love. In one corner is the Acorn, the prized gem of Silliman College. In the other, much further away (approximately a 10-minute walk from Old Campus depending on how long your legs are) stands the underdog: the Beanjamin. Although the Beanjamin is the new kid on the block, it makes up for years lost in experience with its punny name.

Yale is fortunate enough to have two student-run coffee shops: the Acorn and the Beanjamin. Instead of appreciating each shop for its unique characteristics, we must create arbitrary competition. And, as any sane coffee addict would (which I recognize is an oxymoron), I have to know which shop to turn to when I need my afternoon caffeine fix. Thus, I set out to create an incredibly objective review of each shop to determine once and for all which one is better.

First, I have to make a set of criteria with which to evaluate each coffee shop.

The first point of evaluation is the ambiance of the shop, aka the vibes. Where do you want to sit for hours with a friend chatting? Which shop has the coziest nook to curl up in with your assigned reading for the week? Which shop has clearly created a Pinterest board of aesthetic coffee shop inspo? All of these were critical questions that I asked myself when visiting the Acorn and the Beanjamin.

Next, I decided to judge the shops on their ability to make one drink: the infamous espresso. Though minimal in nature, this drink is a complex insight into the care taken to extract flavor from the coffee beans. It is easy to mask the acidity of coffee with heaps of cream and sugar to make a delicious drink, but much more difficult to allow the beans themselves to shine.

My final criterion on the list was the breadth of offerings of each coffee shop. This ranged from what pastries or sweet treats were offered to the number of drinks available as options.

Finally, I had developed a perfect list of criteria — completely devoid of my subjective preferences and biases — and I was ready to visit each shop for the showdown of a lifetime.

Ever aware of the need to maintain anony-

mymity as a famous contributing reporter from the Yale Daily News, I donned the elaborate disguise of my headphones, the oversized Yale™ sweatshirt and a backpack. Next, I took the (approximately 15 minutes because my legs are short) trek up to the Beanjamin.

As I stepped into the Beanjamin, I was immediately transported into the most peaceful, lovely place I have been on campus. Perhaps it was the nostalgia from the piano cover of the “My Neighbor Totoro” theme song floating through the space, the twinkling fairy lights lining the room, or the plush reading nook set in the win-



dow, but whatever it was, the Beanjamin made me swoon. In short, it was clear someone here had created an elaborate Pinterest board.

Often an underrated feature of coffee shops, the Beanjamin was perfectly populated. It felt natural to step into a space that had five solo studiers, two friends meeting up and a study group occupying one of the tables. I felt at home instantly.

When it came to ordering, I stuck to espresso, although I was tempted by the seasonal offering of a pumpkin spice latte and tiramisu. After a customer who had ordered the tiramisu exclaimed “It’s so good!” to her friend over bites of the sweet treat, I regretted the simplicity of my order.

When my espresso was brought over to me by one of the Beanjamin’s friendly student staff, I worried that the drink might spoil my impression of the shop. Espresso is difficult to pull off: my worst experience with the drink

was a cup that tasted like Clo-rox. At its best, espresso is mild and refreshing, with a golden froth at the top called crema. Personally, I have only been able to pull an espresso with crema once. I celebrated with a little happy dance upon seeing the delicate layer of foam. Although the cup I was served lacked crema, the espresso was very solid. I expected to cringe from acidity but was pleasantly surprised by a smooth sip that quickly gave me the caffeine boost I craved.

The Beanjamin seems to be a space designed for introverts, extroverts, study groups, book nook lovers and most of all, the pumpkin spice latte girlies. With an extensive list of drink offerings, fun seasonal treats and a bookshelf stocked with classic board games, the Beanjamin has something for everyone. I plan to return and bring my roommate who is a self-proclaimed lover of all things pumpkin spice.

Next came the Acorn. Although the Beanjamin had

to agree with Tally. The ambiance is pleasant, with a large wall of mugs displayed and an intricate tapestry at the entrance.

Even though I was simultaneously a bit confused and intrigued by the wall decoration reading: “play, share, clean up, laugh, take turns, imagine, create, no fighting, giggle,” the other aspects of the space such as large comfy couches and sprawling floor rugs were enticing. The Acorn was double the Beanjamin’s size, which can either be a plus or a minus depending on your preference.

I was impressed with the Acorn’s offerings as well. They boasted a lengthy list of drink options and various toasts. I appreciated that they gave me the option to have lunch with a drink.

When I ordered my espresso, the barista mentioned that the beans the Acorn uses have citrus notes and are locally sourced. The Acorn’s barista went through the espresso-pulling process with care, and handed me the drink in a beautiful, faceted glass cup with the perfect weight to it. Resting at the top of the espresso was the most pleasant surprise: the crema!

Indeed, the espresso did not disappoint. The golden crema was perfect and the subtle citrus notes came through. Wow, wow, wow. It was the holy grail of espresso. I was floored.

Left blown away by my experience at both coffee shops, I knew the looming decision would be difficult. With two amazing shops, which one would be the winner? I felt as if I was splitting hairs, and knew that there could only be one winner. However, I ignored the goal of this article to reach a conclusion that is going to make you, the reader, very mad at me.

It’s a draw!

I fell in love with both shops and could not choose one. However, the Beanjamin wins on ambiance. It is something straight out of a Studio Ghibli movie. The Beanjamin is where I can picture myself spending an entire afternoon studying, curled up in a cozy nook. If you want a stellar cup of coffee, choose the Acorn. Next time I visit, I will be ordering an avocado toast and perhaps trying out Tally’s coffee order. Then again, the espresso has me hooked.

This has been the battle of the beans, a tale as old as time with an incredibly predictable conclusion. My apologies if you have stuck with me through this caffeine-induced blur of a review in hopes of a satisfying conclusion, but that just cannot happen with two coffee shops as stellar as the Acorn and Beanjamin. I urge you to give both of them a try this fall, whether it is to study with a friend, read a book or pretend to be a pretentious coffee critic reporting for the Yale Daily News.

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THE YALE ARCHETYPES

// BY KARLA CORTES

By people-watching outside of my suite window, navigating Commons traffic jams or scanning into Marsh Hall before Economics 115, I’ve been able to identify boxes to categorize Yalies into — even as quirky and unique as they may claim to be. Don’t feel targeted if you’re on this list. If anything it’s a compliment; it just means you’re my daily entertainment on my way to Science Hill. The admissions office “doesn’t make mistakes,” but they do have a pattern to who they admit each cycle, and here are the archetypes:

Coddled kid who learns their limit first semester

This is the person you saw on a three-day bender or you witnessed begging their TF to extend the pset just “one more day.” But none of these problems are their fault. These kids’ loving parents set rules and boundaries that made them holed up in their rooms, memorizing their resume for their Yale interview. Either way, you know they’ll learn to navigate college the hard way, but at least they’ll help the curve in your lecture!

Comedian who insists you go to their stand up routine or sketch show

The friendly DMs begging for an ounce of support have already started, sending invites and Instagram posts that read, “Red Hot Poker’s First Show!” You’ll see them humble themselves, resorting to self-depreciation or criticizing the audience when a joke doesn’t land. With dreams of being on SNL, they’ll work hard to make it big and refuse to accept their class clown role is over.

NYC school groupies who eat every meal together

Taking up two tables in the Jonathan Edwards dining hall, you can’t help but stare at their perfectly crafted outfits and cool unachievable aura. They’re absent from any weekend event because they can just take the train back home. Instead, on weekends they can be caught exploring the Upper West Side because they miss good bagels and NEED to bring back new clothes for the season. They seem to have a never ending web of connections, not limited to the Yale bubble.

Guy who insists on playing “devil’s advocate” in your political science section

He’s annoying, he takes up time and he never gets to the point. He’ll warn you that how he acts in class doesn’t reflect his true values, so you just endure the 50 minute discussion for the sake of participation.

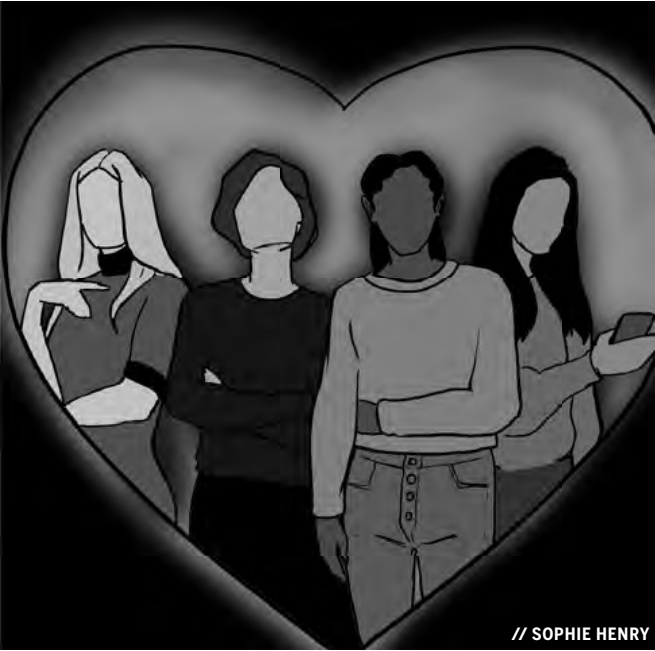
Artsy girl whose dad is a billionaire and funds her creativity

An enigma and someone you just wish you could be born as, she mimics a “manic pixie-dream girl” aesthetic in her outfits and is way too talented for Art 114. She keeps her dorm in just the right balance of messy and artsy, always sure of where her supplies are. But when the conversation turns to wealth, it seems her bright and bouncy demeanor changes. “We were pretty comfortable” is her phrase to escape the discussion, and it works pretty well for her mysterious image.

Heavyweight rower who you have never seen in class

He’s genuinely nice and a little confused at times, but he has better things to do, right? Whether he doesn’t come to class because of the night before or from being too tired from practice, he never fails to ask for notes from the last class. If you’re lucky, you’ll spot him in the very back of the class during the midterm, not worried because “I can just Credit/D/Fail it.”

Footballer on pink razor scooter swinging his leg to class



The bright magenta scooter he’s riding on makes seeing his trip to class funnier than it should be. He will come close to running you over with no remorse except a mere “my bad!” You wonder if he chose that color or if it was the last one in stock, in a pinch from the “no electric scooters” mandate.

“Educated in London”

With various types of accents, the “London educated” are an unique set of students with their own distinctions. In the group, there is a clear distinction between original London kids and those who grew up in the United States but were shipped to British boarding schools. The posse will branch off into two but you’re bound to run into one, probably in your “Shakespeare in Literature” class.

Kids who “know each other from some summer program”

College prep programs with a cohort that all ends up at Yale: the best kind of cult. They are so much more prepared than any of us when it comes to juggling the stress of school, programs and a social life (they are already equipped with their own built-in friend group!). They have inside jokes denoting their shenanigans sneaking out of programming or re-telling summer drama. I’m slightly jealous.

Theater kid who overcommitted to multiple shows and is now stuck in Bass

The start-of-the-year extracurricular frenzy gets to us most of us, with a passion to join all the clubs and activities we can, but theater kids take it to a new dramatic extreme. Joining three productions on campus and needing to practice whenever they can, I’ll see them with headphones, reciting lines and acting out the socially acceptable parts in public. Now, after realizing they are backed up with work, they hole up in Bass and have the play’s soundtrack as study music.

That one kid who “is an actor” but has no more than two listings on IMDb

They might be labeled as the “campus celebrity,” but do not be fooled. Soon, everyone will discover that their acting credits are made up of voice-over roles in Nickelodeon shows or as an extra in an indie film. They’ll insist that they will major in theater, or at least do improv on the side, but they eventually meet their fate and sell out to a more “lucrative” major (as their dad suggested).

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WKND Recommends
Taking an art class for fun.

Let’s Buckle Down and Tackle the Button-Down: What Constitutes Dressing Like a *Grown-Up*?



// LIZZIE CONKLIN

// BY ANNA PAPAKIRK

It wasn’t until middle school — when I didn’t have to wear a uniform — that I realized I dressed like a grown-up. Maybe it was the professionalism of a crisp white polo paired with a navy skirt. Perhaps it was the effortlessness with which I didn’t have to think about what to wear in the morning. Either way, something about that uniform (and the many years of wearing it) may have actually influenced my style. From the fairly young age of 11 years old, I would say that I had a precocious fashion taste. I don’t mean in the sense that I had a keen eye for haute couture or the latest trends, but I gravitated towards “mature” clothing. On Friday afternoons at the Kenwood mall, my friends would flock to edgier, more youthful stores, such as Free People, while I would wishfully sneak a peek into the windows of J.Crew and admire their new fall collection. My propensity for choosing chino shorts over ripped jean shorts never bothered me. In fact, I embraced my grown-up taste in clothing. I never turned down the opportunity to wear a button-down shirt, whether it be with jeans, leggings or even a skirt. I

loved the way it made me feel: professional and put together. Until one fateful day. A group of friends and I were going out to dinner one night, and we met up at one of their houses. When I knocked on the door, eager to see my friends, I was taken aback when my friend’s mom answered the door, wearing the same white blouse I had just bought a week ago. At that moment, it hit me like a truck: do I really dress like a mom in her mid-forties? She looked impeccable, but you can imagine that this was a jarring experience for a middle schooler. When I went home that night, I told my mom I needed a wardrobe makeover. No more trips to J.Crew. I needed to venture into the uncharted seas of Pacsun and navigate my way through the ripped jeans and crop tops that I wasn’t accustomed to. As I started to wear the same styles of clothes that all my friends wore, I realized that it never felt right. I may have been “dressing for my age,” but it didn’t feel like me. Fast forward to now, and I honestly couldn’t tell you what my style is. I just don’t know anymore. I’ve stopped trying to follow the latest fashion trends and instead started exploring a range of styles. I’m no scientist, but I love experimenting with varied looks. In fact, just the

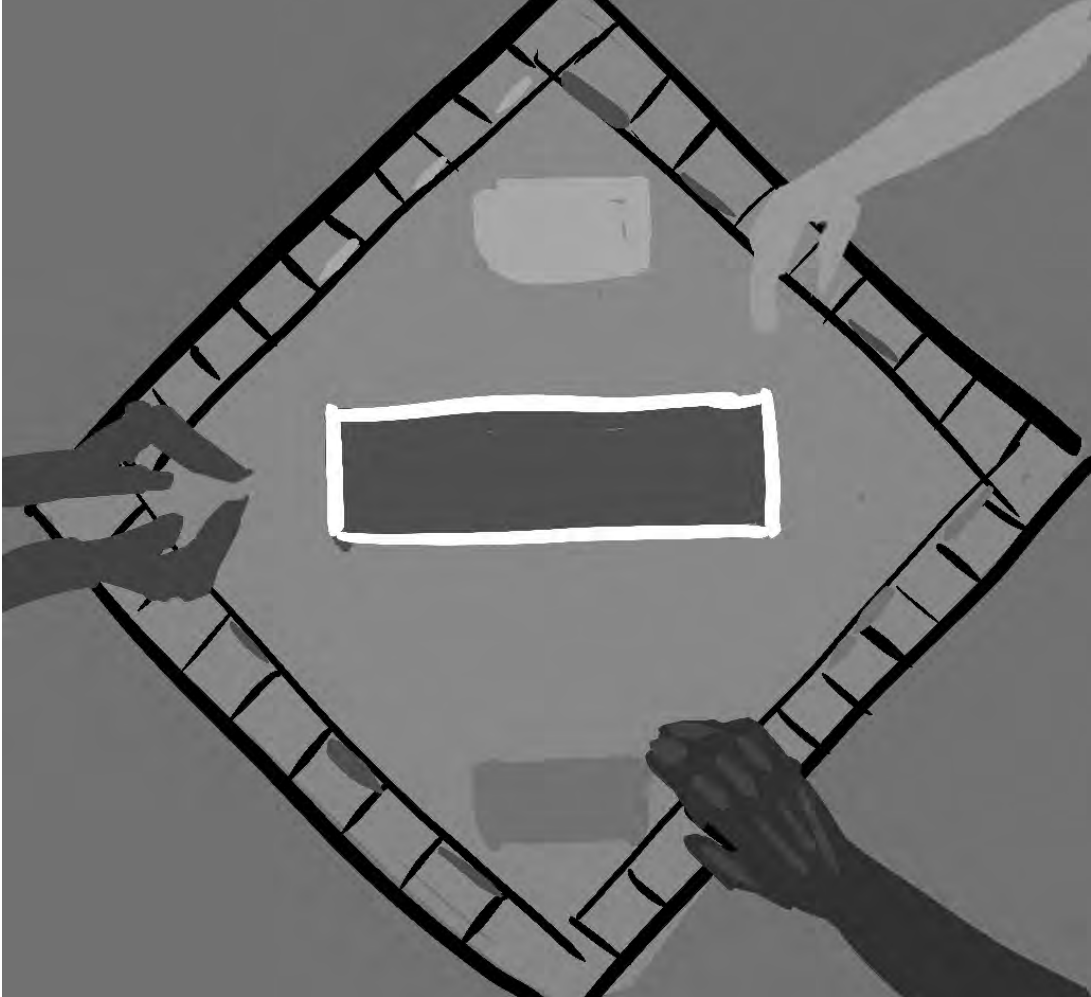
other day, I decided to conduct an experiment. I wore a button-down for the entire day to see what people would say about the shirt, if anything at all. All of the other variables were the same: white jeans shorts, my white Adidas Superstars and my hair pulled back into my everyday low bun. I went through the entire day without receiving a single comment on my shirt. It came to the point where I almost forgot I was wearing it. Then, my roommate commented on how dressed up I looked. Another friend said I looked like I just came from a summer in the Mediterranean. At dinner, someone even asked where the shirt was from because she was looking to buy one! All of this is to say, a button-down shirt does not automatically make you grown-up. It has nothing to do with age and everything to do with a vibe, a mood or an aesthetic. So, now that I’m older — and arguably a bit wiser — I have come to learn that clothing has no age to it. If “dressing like a grown-up” makes me feel sophisticated, put together and mature, then I will never relinquish my love for a classic button-down shirt, whether I’m 18 or 80.

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The Suite Life

of Zach and Cody:
& Nico from New York City,
Maia from Miami
and Bree from a "small town
outside of Boston"

// BY ANNA CALKINS



// LIZZIE CONKLIN

- You’re settling in with your suite — whether self-selected or randomly assigned, you might be feeling some awkwardness as you get used to living with your suitemates. Perhaps your towel fell down on your first trip to the shower or maybe everything has gone off without a hitch. Either way, it’s never a bad idea to dedicate some time to suite bonding. The WKND has been there, done it all and is here to offer insight into the best ways to get to know your new best friends!
- 1. Movie nights**
A night in the common room crowded on the couch with eyes glued to a 12-inch computer screen is perfect for suite bonding. It’s a foolproof way to learn some important details about your suitemates. Do they talk during movies? What’s their favorite movie genre? Don’t forget to buy some snacks but not before chatting with your suitemates about what to get! If everyone can come to an agreement about what movie to watch, it’s sure to be a great night.
 - 2. Debriefs**
Chances are you and your suitemates don’t spend every waking minute together. A lot can happen in the time everyone is apart, so debriefs are necessary. After a long day (or night), reconvene in the common room to catch up. This can be a great way to stay up to date on your lives — social, academic and romantic.
 - 3. Game nights**
“Catan,” “Codenames,” “Uno” and so much more from Mattel™. With any luck, the games won’t get too personal and everyone will have an excellent time. Bring out your suitemates’ competitive sides with a game like “Scattergories” or work together to save the world in an exhilarating game of “Pandemic,” with a side of “It’s Not That Deep.” Throw in some games like “Never Have I Ever,” “Truth or Dare” or “Cards Against Humanity” to relive the middle-school sleepovers you secretly miss but that feel oddly similar to college life.
 - 4. Interior decorating**
Read in a posh British accent. Getting decorations for the common room or bedroom is at the top of many students’ to-do lists at the beginning of the year. Expedite the process and board an Uber or shuttle to visit Target, Ikea or another furniture acquisition destination. Brainstorm your vision en route, then pick out decor and practical trinkets to make your common room really feel like a curated home. This outing serves two purposes: bonding and aesthetic satisfaction. We cannot imagine a more splendid option.
 - 5. Suite Spotify playlist**
Skip back across the pond. Hopefully, your suite lives in harmony and everyone uses Spotify. If this is not the case, contact your dean ASAP. Otherwise, get your suitemates together. Compare music tastes, debate your favorite Taylor Swift era and create a group playlist! Throw in some wild card songs, personal and group favorites, classics and anything else you come up with. Now, you have a perfect playlist that you only like one-sixth of. Also, what 18-year-old listens to Steely Dan?
 - 6. Suitemate trivia night**
Pick a night, but not a Tuesday. Trivia Tuesday is overdone. So last Tuesday. The WKND has moved on, and so should you. Have each suitemate prepare a few questions of varying specificity about themselves then set up a Kahoot! or a Jeopardy-style trivia game to test each others’ knowledge. You’ll get to learn how little you know about each other! To increase the stakes, choose a prize for the winner. This could be dibs on a chore-free week. Or, punish the loser. Register the loser for Coursera’s CS50 class. The emails will never stop.
 - 7. Suite deep clean**
If you and your suitemates have a tendency to put off cleaning, a suite cleaning session might be for you. Blast your new playlist, roll your eyes and get scrubbing. Organize your own rooms, then work together on the common room. You’ll come out of the experience with a much cleaner suite, a sense of accomplishment and tighter bonds. And be confused as to how anyone ever made it to college with these Swiffer habits.
- There are plenty of other ways to get to know your suitemates. Whatever you choose, enjoy it and embrace any and all awkwardness! If you do in some terrible universe drop your towel, be grateful you cleaned the floors.

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WKND Song Recomendation:
"Closer to Fine" by Indigo Girls

I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING 'BOUT MY LIFE
MAYBE GIVE ME INSIGHT BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE
AND THE BEST THING YOU EVER DONE FOR ME
IS TO HELP ME TAKE MY LIFE LESS SERIOUSLY
IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL, YEAH

Jonathan Edwards College



Head of College Tea



Alexandra Auder Author of “Don’t Call Me Home”

Alexandra Auder is a writer and actor. Born in New York City to mother Viva, a Warhol superstar, and father Michel Auder, an award-winning filmmaker who directed Chelsea Girls with Andy Warhol. Alexandra has been a featured character in HBO’s High Maintenance and has acted in the films of Wim Wenders and Jodie Foster, among others. She resides in Philadelphia with her two children and husband, filmmaker Nick Nehez, with whom she co-produces and collaborates.

In DON’T CALL ME HOME: A Memoir, Auder meditates on the seedy glory of her childhood being raised by two counterculture icons, to co-parenting her younger sister actress Gaby Hoffmann, to eventually finding her own way and starting her own family. Flitting between this world and her present-day with an aging and always difficult Viva, Auder weaves a stunning, moving, and hilarious memoir of a family, and what it means to move away from being your mother’s daughter into being a person of your own.

September 28

JE Head of College House

4:00 pm Tea

4:30pm Conversation

Sponsored by Yale School of Art and Yale Creative Writing of the English Department