

City pumps \$200m to stem floods

New growth halted in Long Wharf

BY YASH ROY
STAFF REPORTER

A pipe, a wall and a drain. That’s how the city of New Haven plans to fight rising sea levels.

“While this might not sound flashy to most, this project is incredibly important to people in my community in Long Wharf and City Point who have to deal with flooding on a regular basis including two weeks ago,” said Alder Carmen Rodriguez at a Monday press conference. “This is a really huge deal that will protect us down the line.”
The three projects will be funded by a new \$200 million investment in resiliency

infrastructure following a night of severe flooding two weeks ago.
The bulk of funding comes from an Army Corp of Engineers grant that will build a seawall, living shore and pump system to better protect Long Wharf. Combined, these projects will almost double the amount of water the city can drain into the harbor.

SEE **INVESTMENT** PAGE 4

IN THE GALLERIES

YCBA shows first School of Art alum



Courtesy of Njideka Crosby

Crosby exhibit will premier Sept. 22

BY OLIVIA CHARIS
ARTS EDITOR

On Tuesday, the Yale Center for British Art previewed a Njideka Akunyili Crosby ART ’11 exhibition — showcasing the center’s first pieces from a Yale alum.
YCBA Director Courtney J. Martin GRD ’09 described the exhibition, the third and final installment of a series curated by the Pulitzer Prize winner Hilton Als, as a “milestone” for the center. The exhibition opens to the public on September 22.
“This is the first time that we will have an exhibition by a School of Art alum here in the Yale Center for British Art,” Martin said at the opening. “The idea that someone who has come here would also then show with us is also a feat.”
“I don’t know that we will have one of these in my lifetime again,” she added.
The center typically showcases works from artists of British descent or those who hail from various parts of the former British empire. Not many who fall in those categories graduate from the Yale School of Art, Martin said.
Njideka Akunyili Crosby, who was born in Nigeria before coming to the United States in 1999, graduated from the Yale

SEE **YCBA** PAGE 4

Cox to sue NHPD over paralysis case

BY MEGAN VAZ AND DANTE MOTLEY
STAFF REPORTERS

Randy Cox, who became partially paralyzed while in NHPD custody in June, is now preparing to sue the department four months after the incident.
After the vehicle transporting him was abruptly stopped, causing Cox’s injuries, officers offered him little medical help at a detention facility, repeatedly dragging him into a wheelchair and later into a holding cell. The incident, captured in videos released by the city government, sparked local protests against New Haven police and the placement of five NHPD officers on administrative leave.
Now, months after the incident, Cox’s legal team has announced its intentions to sue the city sometime in the following week, despite delays in a state-level investigation of the officers’ conduct that have pushed back the official suit’s filing.
“We had hoped that today we would have a finding by the state police on their investigation of these New Haven officers,” said RJ Weber, one of Cox’s lawyers, at a Sept. 15 vigil. “We had hoped those things would have been completed by now so that we could have a federal complaint filed and presented to you today, but due to those setbacks and those delays, I don’t anticipate that that lawsuit’s going to be filed for another week to ten days.”



Lawyer Ben Crump, left, will represent Cox in court. / Yash Roy, Contributing Photographer

The Incident

On June 19, NHPD officers responded to a 911 call alleging a weapons complaint at a Lilac Street Block Party, then-Acting Police Chief

Regina Rush-Kittle said in a June 20 press conference. Several officers stopped and arrested

SEE **LAWSUIT** PAGE 5

Communications at Yale

Media access to campus has been gradually curbed



Tim Tai, Photography Editor

A SPECIAL REPORT
BY SARAH COOK
STAFF REPORTER

Last November, after an email from a Yale Law School student sparked national discussion on racism and free speech, Yale Daily News reporters attempted to enter the Law School to speak to students on the matter, but were soon met with an email barring them from entering the Law School without pre-approval.

"From an academic point of view and educational point of view, if a university is a place where the truth is thought to be found, you wonder why it wouldn't be okay for anybody to call anybody and ask what they think."

Sam Chauncey '57

The email was from Yale Law School Assistant Dean and Chief of Staff Debra Kroszner, who formerly served as managing director at the Office of Public Affairs at the Law School. Kroszner wrote in her email that the Law School had received complaints about News reporters being in the Law School building. She stated that it has “long been the policy” that members of the press receive approval from Kroszner’s office to enter the premises.

But this policy is not uniform across Yale. Interim Vice President of Communications Karen Peart said that it is unique to the Law School — which has faced a series of scandals in the past two years. The rule applies to all internal and external members of the press, Peart added.

SEE **OPAC** PAGE 4

No-go for dining to-go

BY ANIKA SETH AND WILLIAM PORAYOUW
STAFF REPORTER

Twelve of Yale’s 14 residential college dining halls are now only providing to-go boxes to students who test positive for COVID-19.
Students told the News that the policy makes accessing meals while sick challenging — a particularly pressing issue for immunocompromised or low-income students.
“I appreciate the attentiveness that Yale Dining has to COVID, but I find it odd that they won’t give to-go boxes to students who have been contacted, or students who in general feel sick and want to stay in their rooms,” Evelyn Letona Robles ’25 wrote in an email to the News. “I don’t think the varying degrees of illness on campus are accommodated through the Yale Dining experience.”
According to Yale Hospitality, take-out box options are available for students. Senior Director of Yale Hospitality Robert Sullivan told the News that sick students

SEE **DINING** PAGE 4

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1957. The News reports that at least five residential colleges have hired graduate students to enforce a new dress code in the dining halls. Undergraduate students must be wearing a formal coat and tie to enter the dining halls.

INSIDE THE NEWS

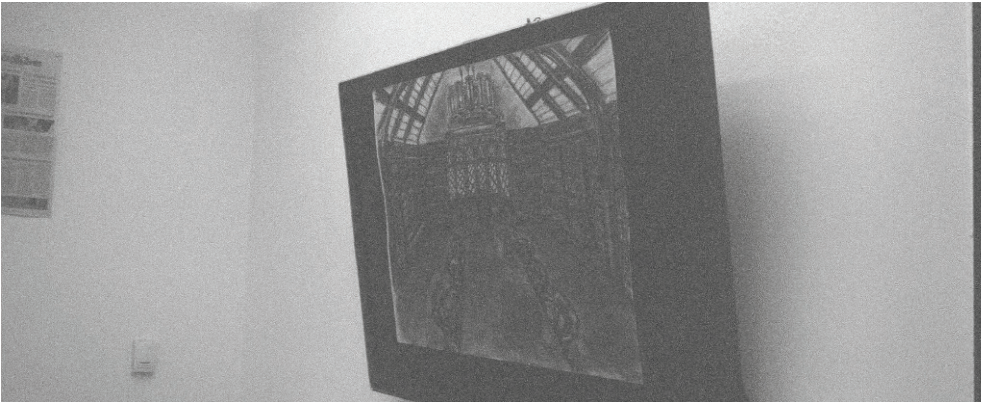
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FENTANYL A New Havener pled guilty on Tuesday to distributing nearly 300,000 potentially lethal doses of fentanyl.
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SEASON FORECAST Hear from our sports editors on this season's must-watch games and trends in Bulldog Athletics.
PAGE 11 **SPORTS**

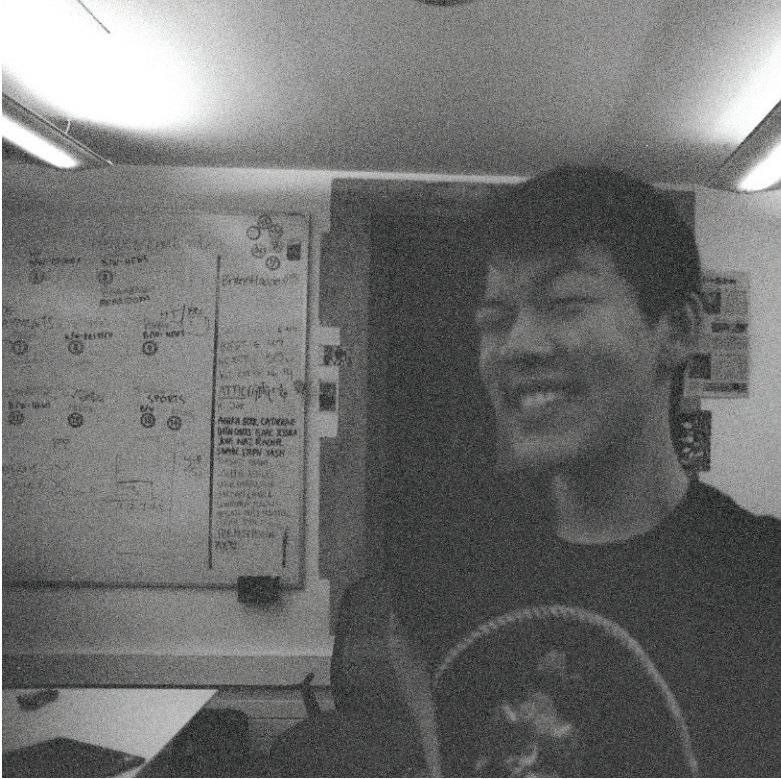
THROUGH THE LENS



I heeled the YDN in 2019.
I was an editor during the pandemic and after it.
Over the last 3 years, there were a lot of highs and a lot of lows.
And while it was all harder than I ever expected,
I am thankful for the friends I made along the way.
There is still a long way to go and a lot of work to do.
And I promise you, while I am no longer an editor, I will not stop using
my voice and my camera to stand up for what is right.

So until next time,
Zoe Berg
Senior Photographer

Goodbye, See You Soon.



OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST
ELLIOTT COOK

Can software resuscitate hospitals?

“Where’s that useless doctor,” my patient grumbled. A nurse had warned me that healthy patients love to complain, but this instance was perhaps justified. For several days the patient had been itching to get discharged. But instead of releasing him, the doctor ordered a scan of his gallbladder. Ironically, this patient’s gallbladder was removed years ago, as was noted in his chart.

Like many of my classmates, I spent time away from Yale during the pandemic. Specifically, I took a medical withdrawal because a family emergency was distracting me from college. During this time, I decided to test my fledgling interest in biotechnology, so I took two jobs in one hospital. One was a cushy internship in biomedical engineering. The other position was an “in-the-trenches” Patient Care Associate (PCA) role on the COVID-19 floor. Performing chest compressions, measuring vitals and cleaning emesis (a euphemism for puke) were regular parts of the job description. But beyond my listed role, hospital circumstances forced me to become an unofficial public relations manager.

Here’s the issue: the hospital was filled with healthy patients, such as our friend with Schrödinger’s gallbladder, who racked up huge bills and took limited resources away from sicker patients. There was an incredibly slow discharge process, which was partly by design since triage entailed focusing resources on the sick and dense bureaucracy assured patients were not discharged prematurely. However, human error and systemic disorganization exacerbated the problem.

For example, a doctor told one of my healthy patients that he would visit them in the morning to explain test results and discharge them. The patient even made dinner reservations to celebrate. When the doctor finally came by the following evening, he informed the patient that he hadn’t yet read the results.

We can’t simply blame the slow service on triage. Staff sometimes ignored the principles of triage to service the needs of the healthy. These healthier patients could advocate for themselves or complain to a manager, while those in critical condition could not. Often, relatively healthy patients complained until they successfully diverted attention away from the sick. Otherwise, they were neglected until they got fed up or walked out against medical advice, (“AMA”).

I am no expert. But even from my entry-level perspective, the problem was glaring. Healthy patients’ aggressive demands for better-tasting coffee competed with my responsibility to care for the non-ambulatory. And these

patients seemed to stay in the hospital for days longer than necessary. I often witnessed healthy patients trap doctors with long stories that took time away from their less talkative counterparts in critical conditions.

Doctors and nurses are not at fault, as criticism of the recent RaDonda Vaught verdict highlights. And the patients are certainly not at fault either. Yes, human error exists: the Harvard Gazette reported that “burn-out among doctors is costing the U.S. health-care system an estimated \$4.6 billion a year.” But human error is merely a symptom of the underlying systemic issue — a flawed bureaucracy that misallocates scarce resources. Put simply, hospital bureaucracies cannot efficiently coordinate the discharge of healthy patients, which increases the workload for staff and decreases the overall quality of care.

There needs to be some intelligent system for organizing these discharges. More generally, hospitals need software that can optimize the allocation of their limited resources. If Amazon can use algorithms in its warehouses to deliver packages at record speeds, why aren’t we using those algorithms to save lives? Indeed, software may be our best tool for handling future pandemics.

This is an issue that the Yale community can address. Developing the technology is the easy part. More challenging is the task of marketing systems in which machines make decisions affecting human lives. Media frenzy over Tesla autopilot crashes suggests society is not yet comfortable entrusting human lives to algorithms. And ethical issues such as AI demographic biases and patient data privacy further complicate the matter. But realistically, hospitals should be making constant calculations to prioritize certain patients, optimize resource allocation and mitigate risk. In the long run, machines are better than humans at this task.

Until then, I strongly recommend that every Yale spend time working in a hospital. Although it might not pay as well as a typical undergrad internship, you could massively impact understaffed hospitals and develop far more valuable human skills. My experience working on the unit forged an emotional resilience, discipline and sense of duty that I sorely lacked beforehand. For everyone involved, hospitals are arenas of adversity. But they also present unparalleled opportunities for growth and recovery. Most importantly, hospitals need help.

ELLIOTT COOK is a junior in Jonathan Edwards College. Contact him at elliott.cook@yale.edu.

An Opinion About Opinions

One of opinion writing’s greatest boons is its straightforward process: you sit in front of a blank Word document, sift through some articles across the Internet and gather your thoughts for a while until they resemble something vaguely coherent.

You do it all without ever having to leave the comforts of your dorm room. Unlike beat reporting, my sources are only a few clicks away and available at any time of the day. I have the freedom to decide both what I write and, largely, how I’ll write it. At times, opinion writing has seemed so smooth and self-sufficient it leaves me with an eerie, if unearned, sense of power. Just think: this piece, typed up some-

THERE’S PLAIN-FACED PLATITUDE. THERE’S INSIGHTFULNESS. AND THEN THERE’S RECKLESSNESS. NAVIGATING MY WAY AMONG THEM THESE PAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN MUCH HARDER THAN I IMAGINED.

time during the late hours of the night, now published and memorialized on the Internet forever. It’s a privilege to let my 700-word ramblings earn their own section on a newspaper publication.

But this opinion piece also shares the same cyberspace with Twitter firestorms and random blog entries. It’s a thought among millions of others, many of which include hot takes and questionable stances scrawled across shadowy corners. There are arguments that aim for provocation instead of persuasion, claims that prize controversy over common sense. We often don’t need to look any further beyond our daily news feeds to find them.

I have nothing against Socratic discussion, but launching inflammatory arguments for the sake of playing Devil’s Advocate is both unproductive and destructive. Yet so much of our discourse these days seems to be just that; to go against the grain is the ultimate mark of macho contrarianism. To have an opinion is to spout broad,



HANWEN ZHANG
Thoughtful spot

attention is better than nothing at all.

As Yale students, we’re often just as guilty as our pundits and politicians. Aren’t we all self-assured, cocksure and confident in our own powers? Haven’t we all been guilty at some point of arrogantly overreaching our claims in a seminar or spreading our generalizations a bit too far? We’re great at delivering arguments with big, fancy words, but not as great at calling out our own mistakes.

That’s the danger: when we stretch our opinions and let them run off the tracks of truth, we end up attacking reality. Arguments that don’t respect the facts defeat the purpose of meaningful discussion. They drown their opponents before even giving them a chance to respond.

What does it mean to have an opinion in a world that’s been garbled by soundbites and pure noise? I look back at the millions who have lost their lives over the past two years even as the closest thing we have to a silver bullet sat right under their noses. Over 36 percent of all Republicans running for government positions this fall have repudiated the very democratic processes they are engaged in. Air itself has even developed a kind of uncanny sentence: “Our

WE’RE GREAT AT DELIVERING ARGUMENTS WITH BIG, FANCY WORDS, BUT NOT AS GREAT AT CALLING OUT OUR OWN MISTAKES.

good air [decides] to float over to China’s bad air,” until “their bad air got to move.” What we choose to say — and, equally, how we say it — matters more than ever, because our words have real-world consequences that can’t be entirely divorced from our seminar rooms

or Twitter feeds. Open discourse is important. Like all things, you can devote entire lifetimes to a subject and still hardly scratch the surface. But meaningful discourse requires civility. It can only happen when we are willing to engage with each other’s ideas,

NOT ALL MY OPINIONS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY REVELATORY, ELECTRIFYING OR EVEN DEFENDABLE. I WON’T GET EVERYTHING RIGHT — I MIGHT NOT HAVE ANYTHING RIGHT — BUT I’M OPEN TO LEARNING.

when we have weighed our arguments with careful thought and humility before sending them out into the world. Those who cry for intellectual freedom but never try to actually understand the world only twist the name of free speech to fit their own gimmicky ends. The right to productive debate isn’t always the right to monologic ranting — we need more voices and less clamoring.

There’s plain-faced platitude. There’s insightfulness. And then there’s recklessness. Navigating my way among them these past few years has been much harder than I imagined. Not all my opinions have been particularly revelatory, electrifying or even defendable. I won’t get everything right — I might not have anything right — but I’m open to learning.

This is my first column of the year. I haven’t found enough things yet to grumble about, and I’m only now beginning to remember the hours I’ve sometimes spent staring at a blank Word document, thinking of things to write about. After all, there’s only so much you can say. I’ll be okay with that, though. We often don’t need a hot take for everything because, usually, a simple observation is enough.

HANWEN ZHANG is a junior in Benjamin Franklin College. His column is titled “Thoughtful spot.” Contact him at hanwen.zhang.hhz3@yale.edu.

The Managing Board of 2024

This weekend, the Yale Daily News elected the managing board of 2024. We began our first week of production on Sunday and look forward to many more late nights to come.

We begin our year with an acknowledgement. The News has historically hurt communities on this campus and in New Haven, and in many cases failed the people it has sworn to serve. While our staff turns over year after year, we understand that our institutional history cannot be easily cast off, and we bear the responsibility of the paper’s legacy.

In the coming year, we hope to move the needle in a new direction. We make no lofty promises to wholly repair the relationships and trust we have broken; such appeals have fallen flat and themselves become a source of frustration in the past.

Instead, the effort starts with a hard look at our internal culture and traditions. We can no longer cling to the conventions of the past for their own sake. They must serve our members —

especially those who have been undercut and ignored — as well as the modern institution we hope to become.

This year, we will conduct a rigorous evaluation of our recruitment, retention and leadership selection processes. They have posed significant barriers to entry and engagement for marginalized peoples and time and time again discouraged many from remaining in our newsroom, or entering at all. We have fallen behind our peer publications, at Yale and on other campuses, both in the representation of diverse peoples in our management and in the infrastructure that supports them.

As campus journalists in a diverse city, it is our continued responsibility to amplify the voices of the communities we serve. Through renewed attention to all corners of New Haven, we hope to reach the individual residents of our city rather than swoop in as self-appointed saviors.

We will ground our university reporting on the student level,

striving to foster relationships with those this institution has historically excluded. We recognize that the trust of the student body is not something we are entitled to, but something we have to earn. In the coming year, we will increase the transparency of our newsroom policies and be brave enough to loudly hold ourselves accountable when we make mistakes.

As we begin our year steering the News, we are emerging from a period of rebuilding. Two years ago, our energy went toward seeing the paper through the darkest days of the pandemic. In the past year, we have returned to in-person production amid COVID-19-related staffing shortages and new print policies. Now, we have reached a moment where we can afford to be ambitious.

We hope that you will join us this year, as readers or contributors, in our efforts to cover our surrounding communities with grace, humility and fearless journalism in pursuit of the truth.

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FROM THE FRONT

“The thing about democracy, beloveds, is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet. It requires a certain relish for confusion.”
MOLLY IVINS AMERICAN COLUMNIST

New Haven to invest in flood prevention

INVESTMENT FROM PAGE 1

The city also received \$25 million from a climate change mitigation fund created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, supplemented by \$10 million in state funds, to construct a reinforced drainage system. The money was approved as part of a broader federal effort launched after a brutal hurricane season in 2017 that caused record damages.

“We’ve gotten a remarkable amount of funding to build a wall, a pipe and a pump, and that sounds really uninspiring,” Mayor Justin Elicker said at the conference. “But this is about climate resilience, jobs and protecting the city’s critical infrastructure.”

On Sept. 6, flooding brought one month’s worth of rain falling in a mere 12 hours. New Haven Police Department headquarters, Union Station, many major streets, Bass

Library and numerous Yale residential colleges all faced flooding.

As New Haven’s elected representatives gathered to announce this investment today, they reflected on the severe disruption and destruction across the entire island of Puerto Rico as all residents have lost power after another “once-in-a-lifetime” hurricane.

“We’re seeing our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico suffer because we didn’t invest in mitigating the climate crisis,” Rep. Rosa DeLauro said at Monday’s press conference. “We need to invest in our city and protect it for the future.”

According to Elicker, the wall will be built along the I-95 corridor that divides the Long Wharf and City Point neighborhoods from the rest of the city.

A live shore is a novel climate resiliency solution that replaces traditional concrete or stone barriers on shorelines with naturally

occurring plants, creating marsh-like conditions.

Transitioning back to naturally occurring plant species and geological conditions has been proven to make shorelines more resilient, according to city engineer Giovanni Zinn. These live shores better temper waves and absorb excess water caused by hurricanes or torrential downpour.

Long Wharf and City Point did not exist before the 1950s, when city planners filled part of the harbor to build the I-95/91 corridor. The growth into the Long Island Sound, Zinn said, makes the area more susceptible to flooding.

The wall and drainage system built by the Army Corps will prove important defense mechanisms during hurricanes and torrential downpours.

“When there is a big hurricane, the water in the harbor is higher than the level of the street,” Zinn

said. “The pump and wall will expand capacity and help prevent the city from flooding, because right now when there is a hurricane or torrential downpour like two weeks ago, the harbor is ‘uphill’ compared to the city and water only drains ‘downhill.’”

The project will require another three years to finalize planning until the building process can begin; the city expects the wall, pump and living shore to be completed within the next 5-7 years.

The shorter term project that the city has planned is a new pipe that will double the city’s drainage capacity. The ten foot wide pipe will run 45 feet underground, originating at the intersection of W Water St. and Union Avenue and terminating in drainage on Long Wharf.

Currently, the city’s drainage system collects water in one central location, which only has one pipe to the harbor. The addition

of this second pipe will double the city’s drainage capacity, Zinn told the News.

The project is still in its planning phase, and even though the BRIC grant has been approved, the city must finalize details on the grant over the next 18 months to receive final approval on the \$25 million in funding.

More than 700 cities applied for the FEMA grant, and according to DeLauro, New Haven is one of just 50 cities to receive funding.

“For too long, the top tenth percent of the county has benefited from government funding,” DeLauro told the News. “We are finally investing in our communities and average Americans as we prepare for the future and the potential devastation that this climate crisis can cause.” The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program was created from the Disaster Recovery Reform Act

A History of Yale’s communications strategy

OPAC FROM PAGE 1

Although this instance was specific to the Law School, numerous accounts to the News from reporters and students illustrate a tangle of similarly restrictive policies — which are prone to change on a whim — set forward by Yale’s communications officials.

University communications policies include well-developed plans by individual units as to how to deal with reporters from the News specifically, as well as protocols to funnel communications through OPAC and restrict who reporters can talk to, particularly in times of crisis. The policies stand in stark contrast

to those that existed a decade ago, through which reporters had significant access to the University president, administrators and trustees.

And they have tightened at a time when Yale’s administration is growing, suggesting to some there may be heightened control over information as the University has become more protective over its brand.

Yale’s communication strategy is determined by the Office of Public Affairs and Communications, or OPAC. The office is led by Vice President for Communications Nate Nickerson, who recently announced his decision to leave the University for a

venture capital firm. He will be replaced in the interim by former Director of University Media Relations Karen Peart at the end of September.

With Nickerson stepping down on Sept. 23, the future of communications is unclear — and some have expressed concern.

Longtime University administrator Sam Chauncey ’57 told the News that OPAC has followed the tendency, caused by the growth of the University’s “administrative bureaucracy,” to want to control what people are saying. He said that this trend “raises the issue” of censorship within the University.

“We now are at a point where the University believes that it’s a good idea to have everybody go through a central office so that if there is a University party line, the faculty member knows what it is,” Chauncey told the News.

Chauncey emphasized the role of Yale as an educational institution where policy matters should be discussed openly, and said the only issues that should be restricted in terms of sharing information with the media should be personnel and legal matters.

“From an academic point of view and educational point of view, if a university is a place

where the truth is thought to be found, you wonder why it wouldn’t be okay for anybody to call anybody and ask them what they think,” Chauncey told the News. “The university is a place in which people should be always allowed to speak their mind and say anything they want. So it raises the question of whether [OPAC] is something that actually helps people or something that tries to control what is said.”

Read the remainder of this special report on our website.

Contact **SARAH COOK** at sarah.cook@yale.edu.

Center for British Art features its first School of Art alum

YCBA FROM PAGE 1

School of Art in 2011. Her series, titled “The Beautiful Ones” is named after the 1968 novel by Ghanaian author Ayi Kwei Armah and centers around her “recalibrating” her relationship to Nigeria.

The series highlights the figures of Nigerian children, including some of Akunyili Crosby’s family, and examines identity against the backdrop of postcolonial history.

The title notes the shift in the artist’s understanding of Nigeria from “the systemically corrupt Africa” to a renaissance of her country and its identity in her generation.

The exhibition hosts seven pieces in total, including one earlier work, created by Akunyili Crosby in 2010.

Deputy Director of the YCBA Martina Droth noted the significance of including Akunyili Crosby’s earlier work in this exhibition. The piece, “The Rest of Her Remains” (2010), was purchased while Akunyili Crosby

was still studying in New Haven. That time, Droth said, is when Akunyili Crosby came into her own as an artist and “discovered how she wanted to work.”

Droth described Akunyili Crosby’s development as an artist who was initially very attached to a more traditional style and felt constrained. Instead of trying to fix the traditionalist mold, Droth said, Akunyili Crosby propelled herself forward.

This impetus of creativity is evident in this exhibition, which Akunyili Crosby described as the “most direct portraiture series that she’s done.”

Each piece utilizes a method of photocopying pictures with an acetate solvent onto transfer paper. This process creates “tissues of memory,” Akunyili Crosby said.

Akunyili Crosby collected numerous photos from her family and close friends — including two images of her sisters. In addition to the photocopied image, each piece includes a “tapestry of success and

people that were both in the culture and in her life.”

For example, “‘The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born’ Might Not Hold True For Much Longer” (2013) includes a figure that was influential both in Nigerian culture and in the artist’s life — her mother Dora Akunyili. Akunyili served as Nigeria’s Director-General of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control from 2001-2008.

Akunyili Crosby’s mother is a part of a sea of figures woven together around the figure of a girl — a common theme throughout the exhibition.

“They are not about nostalgia but they’re about memory and experience,” Akunyili Crosby said.

Another piece in the series, “‘The Beautiful Ones’ Series #6” (2018) is a second example of the artist evoking particular moments in time during childhood. The subject is seen wearing a school uniform, transposed in front of another mirage of memories and history.

Throughout her life Akunyili Crosby observed trends in Nigerian fashion tastes over time, which she then translated into the colors and patterns woven throughout her pieces.

Droth said the rest of the floor near the exhibition has been curated to complement Akunyili Crosby’s work, mirroring ideas about “collage, interiors and the figure.”

Rachel Stratton, a postdoctoral research associate at the YCBA said many of these pieces that echo Akunyili Crosby’s work in the “Interior Dialogues: Works from the Collection” exhibition represent times when “our perspective on the world and who we are and how we exist in it changes.”

As the first Yale School of Art alum showcased at the YCBA, Akunyili Crosby imparts the viewer with pieces that can to be endlessly interpreted — details interwoven, echoing her memories, and that of those and the culture that shaped her.

The YCBA will be hosting a Steve McQueen symposium from September 28-29.

Rachel Stratton, a postdoctoral research associate at the YCBA said many of these pieces that echo Akunyili Crosby’s work in the “Interior Dialogues: Works from the Collection” exhibition represent times when “our perspective on the world and who we are and how we exist in it changes.”

As the first Yale School of Art alum showcased at the YCBA, Akunyili Crosby imparts the viewer with pieces that can to be endlessly interpreted — details interwoven, echoing her memories, and that of those and the culture that shaped her.

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Dining halls deny non-COVID to-go options

DINING FROM PAGE 1

may request to-go boxes from the dining hall manager or desk attendant, no matter what their illness. But this is not the case in all — or even most — dining halls.

On Wednesday, the News visited all 14 residential college dining halls, as well as Commons dining hall at the Schwarzman Center. Of these, only Jonathan Edwards, Silliman and Commons had boxes universally available; employees at the other 12 said they were only allowed to distribute boxes to people with COVID-19.

Employees at some dining halls, however, expressed flexibility with the policy, noting that if there was a significant reason — such as a class, meeting or other conflict — they could apply their own discretion and provide a takeout container. However, the current general rule is that these boxes can only be given to students with COVID-19.

Sullivan noted that there is a 15-minute designated period before each meal time during which those who tested positive for COVID-19 can pick up their food. Students considered close contacts are required to wear masks and take their meals to-go, Sullivan said.

He also mentioned that Smart Meals, which can be ordered on the Yale Hospitality app ahead of time and picked up from a dining hall, are available to all students. But even this system has its kinks.

Letona Robles tested positive for COVID-19 earlier in the semester. While positive, she accessed her food by entering the dining hall during the 15-minute period prior to regularly scheduled meal times that Sullivan noted. Letona Robles sometimes had to wait longer than the allotted time because the food was not yet ready.

Letona Robles wrote that this “defeated the purpose” of her going to the dining hall early, as she then was in the same space as

COVID-negative students despite knowing that she was positive and could potentially spread the virus.

Letona Robles noted that since testing negative, she has not been able to use to-go boxes — and neither have several friends of hers who have been contact traced.

Students like Joseph Elsayyid ’26 and Veronica Zimmer ’25 also expressed concern about the current policy. Both spoke to the News earlier this week about general challenges they experience while being sick, but not with COVID-19.

Zimmer contracted pneumonia last semester, and for her, to-go boxes were a necessary alternative to eating in-person at a dining hall.

The News interviewed eight students for this article. All eight expressed preference for to-go boxes over sit-down meals in the dining halls when they are sick.

“There are just some dinners where I was not up to eating in the dining hall, and I just needed to go back to my room,” Zimmer said. “So

that was just helpful to get through my sickness.”

This situation poses added challenges for immunocompromised or otherwise high-risk students, faculty and other Yale affiliates who eat in dining halls. For some, the possibility of contracting COVID-19 — or another illness — from a highly-packed environment, especially a mask-free one, pushes them to access meals off-campus.

The risk is amplified when considering that some COVID-positive students, like Letona Robles, have to wait in the dining hall past the designated 15-minute window to access their food — making it less possible for high-risk students to safely make use of their meal plans.

Eating off-campus, however, is not possible for everyone. Elsayyid noted that the only “realistic option” for sick low-income students to eat is to take away food from the dining hall.

When Elsayyid brought his own takeout box to the Grace Hopper

College dining hall, he said he was “shocked” to be stopped at the door and told takeout boxes were not allowed.

Viktor Kagan ’24, a Pierson College senator in the Yale College Council, told the News that he has received complaints from many students about a lack of to-go options at the dining halls.

A common criticism, he said, is that students who are sick and do not want to infect others are not able to take precautions due to a lack of accommodations — especially for those who are sick or immunocompromised.

“It’s just really odd — on the Yale Hospitality end and just in general — for Yale to pretend like being sick with anything but COVID-19 is something that’s not of concern,” Kagan said.

Yale College has one dining hall in each of its 14 residential colleges.

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FROM THE FRONT

“The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.” JOHN F. KENNEDY 35TH U.S. PRESIDENT

Police brutality case ends in paralysis, could now enter legal battle

LAWSUIT FROM PAGE 1

Cox following their investigation of the report, arresting him with charges of criminal possession of a firearm, carrying a pistol without a permit, threatening in the first and second degrees and breach of peace in the second degree.

Videos show an officer, Oscar Diaz — a member of the stop-texting-and-driving team the NHPD convened this spring — tapping on his cellphone as he drives the police van carrying Cox. He eventually made “a sudden stop to avoid a motor vehicle accident,” according to a letter released on Twitter by New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker.

Cox, who was sitting in the back of the police transport van unequipped with seat belts, then slipped down horizontally and slammed into a metal wall of the van head first. The vehicle was going 36 mph — 11 mph above the speed limit — at the time of the sudden stop.

Diaz verbally checked on Cox after he was heard yelling for help. After Cox informed Diaz he had fallen and been severely injured, Diaz stopped the vehicle outside of Yale’s Schwarzman Center to come to the backseat. Again, Cox informed Diaz he had been injured, but Diaz told him he could not move him and called a dispatch for an ambulance before continuing to drive.

When Diaz saw Cox slumped on the ground, he asked him, “How is your leg all the way up there?”

Eight and a half minutes after the incident, the two arrived at the detention center and were greeted by more officers. Diaz informed them that Cox said he fell and could not move, saying, “if he really, really fell, I would not even move him until the ambulance gets here, because just in case.”

One officer captured on video said, “Just be careful, he was kicking the door, and everything else.” Another officer removed Cox’s handcuffs. After he attempted to move his legs, Cox insisted that he could not move and that the officers were not listening to him.

After officers repeatedly told Cox to slide himself out of the van, Cox replied, “Look, look, if you gotta drag me, do what you gotta do.”

The officers then pulled him out by his feet and held him up by his arms, eventually placing him in the wheelchair. As a paralyzed Cox was ordered to slide himself out of the van, one officer, Betsy Segui, repeatedly yelled at him, telling him “you’re not even trying,” “he’s doing extra shit,” “move your leg,” “get up,” “sit up!” and “you just drank too much.”

Cox slid out of the wheelchair a few times, saying he “can’t feel shit.” Cox was then processed by the jail. All the while, his head and neck slumped down against his shoulder and he remained immobile. He then partially slipped off the seat of the wheelchair again, before officers took him from the chair, dragged him into a cell by his arms and propped him against a

bed. Cox then fell onto the floor. Officers shackled his ankles and Segui declared him “perfectly fine.”

None of the videos released show an ambulance arriving.

Police have offered shifting accounts of the incident over time. In an initial press conference held one day after the incident, Rush-Kittle told reporters that after being stopped by police, Cox was “uncooperative,” but in another press conference the following day, then-Assistant Police Chief Karl Jacobson ultimately told reporters Cox was “handcuffed without incident.”

Rush-Kittle also initially told the press that the van only stopped in “an invasive maneuver to avoid a motor vehicle accident”; later, it was determined the officer driving the vehicle was speeding and looking at his cellphone.

Although his condition seemed to improve in the months following the initial injury, Cox was re-admitted to the hospital last week. Elicker and Jacobson visited Cox the week prior.

“He has a fever that he can’t get rid of. It’s been really hard on him mentally, dealing with this situation,” LaToya Boomer, Cox’s twin sister, said at a Sept. 15 vigil for her brother. “At this point, he can’t even scratch his hair if it’s itching. He can’t wipe his eyes if he’s crying. He has no use of his fingers, he has a little bit of use of his arms, no movement from the chest down.”

As a lawsuit awaits filing, state police investigate

One of Cox’s lawyers, Jack O’Donnell, discussed his legal plan with the News, stating they are pursuing a claim against the city and are looking into civil rights suits. He also wants to take the issue further, pushing for laws that would prevent injuries like this from happening again.

“We need things like a medical Miranda warning where you have to ask if someone needs emergency medical attention provided if so requested,” O’Donnell said. “Making sure that all transport vans are retrofitted with seat belts so that someone can’t be thrown around.”

Yale Law Clinical Lecturer Jorge Camacho LAW ’10 told the News that Cox’s team will be able to pursue legal claims of injury easily, as there is strong evidence his injuries occurred as a result of the officers’ “at the very least negligent” actions.

“Everyone knows that’s coming,” Camacho said. “It’s just really a question of ‘what is the dollar amount?’ What is the compensation to Mr. Cox and his family going to look like?”

During a June 21 press conference, Rush-Kittle announced that the Connecticut State Police will investigate “whether there is any criminal aspect surrounding the incident.” An Internal Affairs investigation within the NHPD has been halted until the state police investigation is completed. Although the officers involved have remained on administrative leave since the incident occurred,

Boomer told those gathered at the vigil that the officers should be “fired and arrested.” As of Sept. 21, the state investigation is ongoing.

During a June 28 NAACP community meeting, Jacobson told community members gathered that the Internal Affairs investigation will “do what needs to be done” if the state-level investigation does not.

“We have fired other officers who have not done the right thing over the last two and a half years I have been mayor,” Elicker said at the meeting. “But we live in a system where people have rights, and we have to see this process through.”

NHPD officers have been fired and suspended for misconduct several times in the past few years. In April, one officer, Kenroy Taylor, was fired by the Board of Police Commissioners for “a pattern of untruthfulness and mishandling cases throughout 2020.” In August, former sergeant Shayna Kendall was fired for lying about her handling of a traffic stop to mask “road rage.” Christopher Troche, another ex-officer, was also fired this August after being arrested in November for patronizing a sex worker.

Segui, for her part, was previously placed on administrative leave in 2020 after failing to send officers on required walking tours of the detention center she supervised — the night one person, De’Sohn Wilson, died by suicide in custody. Earlier, she and her officers refused to seek out medical care for Wilson after he arrived “visibly in pain” and requested to be taken to the hospital.

NHPD policy states that officers must immediately seek and wait for medical attention after someone in custody brings attention to an injury. Driving at 11 mph over the speed limit is also typically classified as an infraction of “traveling unreasonably fast” under Connecticut state law, and law enforcement vehicles cannot speed in non-emergency situations when sirens are not used. State law also prohibits using a handheld cellphone while driving. Camacho said that determining whether officers violated specific policy may help inform conclusions on their level of culpability.

“It’s harder to prove intentionality than it is recklessness, it’s harder to prove recklessness than it is negligence,” Camacho explained. “Once there’s an official finding as to what their level of culpability and involvement was, then there’ll be a determination made on discipline or even potentially termination.”

In a July 6 statement, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut Vanessa Roberts ’96 said her office is “closely monitoring” the investigation and awaits the state’s findings. According to the statement, “if federal action is warranted, the Justice Department will pursue every available avenue to the full extent of the law.” According to Benjamin Crump, one of Cox’s lawyers,

the team has met with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Crump, popularly nicknamed “Black America’s Attorney General,” has helped litigate multiple civil rights cases. He was a lawyer for the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, which recently saw policeman Derek Chauvin sentenced to 21 years in federal prison, and he additionally represented the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown.

Camacho said that proving civil rights violations may be more challenging than pursuing a simple injury suit, as it is difficult to determine whether Cox’s injuries were sustained through officers’ negligence or intent before state investigation findings become public.

“Where they tend to intervene most is where there is a very, very clear civil rights violation that was incurred,” Camacho said. “And I think, obviously, the evidence here points to there being some kind of a violation of Mr. Cox’s rights, but the difficulty can be in articulating and proving what that right was and the responsibility the officers had.”

The state investigation may inform the lawsuit Cox’s lawyers will bring. At the Sept. 15 vigil, they announced they would need to wait another week to ten days before filing a federal complaint, as they had originally anticipated for the state to release its findings by now. Weber brought a draft of the lawsuit to the vigil.

“It makes the claims against the individual officers for negligence in the operation of the motor vehicle; it makes claims against the officers for violating Randy Cox’s civil rights in the way that they handled him and manhandled him when he was in that detention center,” Weber announced. “We have claims against the city of New Haven.”

Community response to the case

During the NAACP community meeting, several speakers called for accountability among police and the legal system and criticized the NHPD’s relationship with the Black community. Beyond the new basic police reforms announced, they called for widespread changes to how both the police and “the white general public” — as termed by Michael Jefferson, Lead Attorney for the NAACP of Connecticut — treat Black people.

“If this society does not care about the general welfare of Black people and we are devalued as human beings ... and if you believe as I do that we should expect no revolutionary changes in the mindset of the dominant culture in the immediate future, then all we have left is to build mechanisms of accountability to hold these individuals accountable for their actions — and I’m talking about the police, I’m talking about prosecutors, and if necessary, the judges themselves,” Jefferson said, drawing applause and calls of approval from the audience.

Other speakers drew on the importance of community support and political mobilization among Black people. State House representative Robyn Porter called on those gathered to show kindness and solidarity toward each other, asking mothers to imagine what they would do if Cox was their own son.

Crump and Cox’s family members also addressed those gathered. Boomer addressed the crowd solemnly as she expressed her disbelief with the officers’ treatment of her brother.

Several times throughout his speeches at the NAACP meeting and Sept. 15 vigil, Crump and activists led the audience as they chanted, “Justice for Randy Cox!” At the vigil, Crump added that when Cox receives justice, “it’s good for New Haven, it’s good for America.”

A protest was also held July 8 in New Haven, where hundreds gathered to march for Cox. Crump hopes that Yale will continue to rally.

“I hope the students at Yale will do like other young students at colleges all across America, and take a stand for justice and say that we’re better than this,” Crump told the News. “So hopefully, our community will look at that video and they will be galvanized to say this is New Haven where we are located, and we want to send a message loud and clear that we are better than this video.”

Doreen Coleman, Cox’s mother, spoke at the Sept. 15 vigil. She announced that Cox needed the support of others in the broader community.

“Pray, sing, say hello — whatever you need to do,” Coleman said. “He can see what everybody’s saying, he’s got his own

phone. We work the phone for him, so whoever wants to say hi, hello, how are you doing, whatever whatever, we’re the ones who respond with what he says.”

Reforms in police policy and culture

In the days and weeks following the incident, the city, state and NHPD moved to institute a series of reforms aimed at preventing similar incidents in the future.

Immediately following Cox’s injury, according to Jacobson, the two NHPD police vans not outfitted with seat belts were ordered taken off the road. Previously, they had used hand loops on the walls of the vans as a means of security for handcuffed people under arrest.

On Jacobson’s first day as NHPD chief shortly after the incident, the city announced a new set of standard operating procedure reforms and initiatives in a press release, including one sweeping order that took effect on July 3. One of its policies named police cruisers as the primary means of prisoner transport and required seat belts in all police transport vehicles.

The policy additionally specifies that conveyance vans — like the one that carried Cox — may only be used with a supervising officer’s authorization for court transportation in special circumstances, or in instances with multiple arrests.

The order also states that officers must not use cell phones or break the speed limit while transporting those in custody, despite state law having already established that police vehicles cannot break traffic laws while they are not using sirens. In a Sept. 15 update, Elicker and Jacobson also added that random body camera audits are being conducted in detention facilities.

A second policy established standard operating procedure in situations where medical attention is required. Officers must now ask those in their custody whether they are injured or in need of medical attention before they are transported and after they arrive at detention facilities, and officers must closely monitor their health during transport. The policy requires officers to immediately contact their supervisors and request an EMS dispatch if someone in custody reports an injury or asks for medical help.

A Sept. 15 press release stated that almost all officers had completed a training on de-escalating “critical incidents.” During the month of Oct., officers will also be required to complete active bystander training.

Aside from reforms, many have pointed toward changes in police culture. At the NAACP meetings, activists drew attention toward a culture of over-policing and mistreatment in Black communities.

“We are policed differently,” Jefferson said at the community meeting. “That’s the deal. That’s the bottom line. They go to a house in New Haven, and the neighbor calls the cops for an argument. Not only do they arrest one of the participants, but if a child is crying or screaming, they charge them with risk of injury. They go to a white couple’s house in East Rock or the Annex, no one gets arrested. And DCF is never called on them.”

Elicker stated he did not believe there was a culture of police brutality in the NHPD at a June 28 press conference, but he described police culture as “hierarchical” and added that officers must be able to stand up to each other.

Crump, meanwhile, condemned police for a broader pattern of neglecting the needs of Black people, drawing parallels between Cox’s injury and those of police brutality cases across the nation.

“They didn’t believe George Floyd when he said ‘I can’t breathe’ 28 times,” Crump said at the NAACP meeting. “They didn’t believe Eric Garner when he said ‘I can’t breathe’ 19 times. And they didn’t believe Randy Cox here in New Haven when he said ‘I can’t move my arms.’”

The NAACP was founded in 1909.

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A lawsuit filed in Illinois courts in early January alleged antitrust law by colluding to cap financial aid offers / Yash Roy, Contributing Photographer

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Yale physics professor named Deputy Director & Chief Research Officer of Fermilab

BY AKASH CHAKKA AND VALENTINA SIMON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER AND STAFF REPORTER

Yale physics professor Bonnie Fleming is leaving the University after 18 years to lead the research division of the nation's flagship laboratory for particle physics and accelerator science.

Fleming, a faculty member and research scientist in the Yale physics department, has been appointed deputy director and chief research officer of the U.S. Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, located outside of Chicago, Illinois.

She will hold a joint appointment as a professor of physics at the University of Chicago, where she will continue her Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber research. Fleming has been involved with Fermilab experiments since 1997, but is now transitioning from a research-focused role to a leadership-centric one within the organization.

"I will still be involved in neutrinos, but playing a different role," Fleming said to the News.

The new position involves administering research in the accelerator complex, scientific computing, particle physics at the Large Hadron Collider and "the cosmic frontier", as Fleming described it, including newer efforts at Fermilab in quantum electronics.

Fleming's research career has been defined by studying neutrinos, which are small fundamental particles with a near-zero mass and zero electrical charge. Now she is expanding her role from being a collaborator on neutrino-focused projects to leading the lab's entire investigation in the domain of particle physics.

One of the challenges she faces in this new role is executing the DUNE project, the largest U.S. based particle physics project ever. DUNE will extend from Fermilab, based in Illinois, to South Dakota in order to detect minute dif-

ferences in neutrino and antineutrino oscillation, with the hopes of determining how matter was produced in the early universe. DUNE is slated to finish construction by 2029.

Fleming's involvement with neutrino research, and her collaboration with Fermilab through the DUNE and MicroBooNE projects, shaped her time at Yale.

"Dr. Fleming has had a broad impact on the department," Karsten Heeger, Chair of the Yale physics department, wrote to the News. "On the research side she led the development of liquid argon neutrino detectors at Yale and R&D on these detectors at the new Wright Lab. In the department she recently served as Director of Graduate Studies and helped lead the program through the pandemic."

Eighteen years ago, when Fleming first came to Yale, she founded Girls' Science Investigations, a program designed to motivate middle school girls to pursue scientific careers. The program will continue at Yale under the leadership of Rona Ramos, a lecturer in the physics department.

Fleming hopes to continue promoting girls' science education through programs at Fermilab and potentially also at the University of Chicago. In fact, Fleming's involvement with Girls' Scientific Salon as a Fermilab Lederman Fellow was what sparked Girls' Science Investigations.

At Yale, Fleming has conducted research in neutrino detection mechanisms. Liquid Argon Time Projection Chambers, initially prototyped in Europe, were brought to the U.S. for the first time in 2007 by Fleming's lab.

The devices have since been incorporated into both the MicroBooNE and DUNE experiments due to their incredible precision in detecting neutrino oscillations. Fleming will continue her neutrino research at the University of Chicago as a professor in the physics department.

Peter Littlewood, Chair of the Department of Physics at the University of Chicago,



FERMILAB CREATIVE SERVICES

is looking forward to welcoming Fleming to the university's physics community.

"The fact that Liquid Argon detectors are the detectors of choice is very much being propelled by Fleming and all of her research," Littlewood said. "Having that program here is tremendous for us. Accelerator-based neutrino physics is the premier thing being pushed by the U.S. high energy community. Having that work here puts our department at the center of what is going to be a very exciting few decades of research in this area."

The particle physics community is currently in the midst of a planning process that occurs every decade with the critical P5 process subpanel, a conference meant to advise U.S. investments in particle physics.

Scientists are gathering to question the future of U.S.-based and international particle physics, and the subpanel will soon begin multiple months of meetings. With Fermilab involved in these talks, Fleming will be at the forefront of new projects that emerge from the discussion.

Fleming described her role as a "real eye opener in terms of the breath of science that encompasses the lab's mission."

Fleming began her role as Fermilab's chief research officer and deputy director on Sept. 6, 2022.

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Yale researchers study the effects of yard waste management

BY HANWEN ZHANG
STAFF REPORTER

One of the sneakiest carbon culprits might be sitting right on the curb, according to a recent study by Yale researchers.

Led by Yuan Yao, assistant professor of industrial ecology and sustainable systems at the School of Environment, the study assessed the environmental footprint of urban tree waste and evaluated the effects of different disposal methods. The study indicates that diverting tree waste from the landfill can significantly reduce carbon emissions.

"Our study highlights the strong need to divert urban tree wastes from landfilling and incineration to valuable utilization," Yao wrote to the News.

The research team conducted a Life Cycle Assessment that quantified the environmental benefits of reusing, repurposing or recycling organic material. They tested a combination of different pathways to treating waste — ranging from "low utilization" like landfills to "optimal utilization" like biochar production — and determined that even "fair utilization" methods such as incineration could drop the amount of carbon emissions by roughly 115 megatons.

Overall, wood chips and mulch are good options for dealing with fallen trees, but converting them to durable wood products can further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Yao wrote.

"Our study demonstrates the potential benefits of applying circular economy principles to biomass waste in the urban environment to potentially combat with climate change," postdoctoral researcher and co-author of the study Kai Lan said.

The amount of yard waste in landfills has declined since 1990, but the U.S. continues to discard about 10.5 million tons each year. While urban areas are not usually thought of as significant contributors of tree waste, they still leave a sizable footprint. The U.S. urban forest generates over 25 million oven dry metric tons of leaf waste and over 20 million metric tons of tree waste per year. That is more than 20 megatons of carbon mass and minerals which, once left in the landfills, can enter the atmosphere or water streams as they decompose.

Some of the cities that would see the greatest global warming potential reductions from diverting urban tree waste include New York, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia. The team's study found that "full utilization" of tree waste through lumber, wood-chip or compost use could potentially offset about

127.4 to 251.8 megatons of overall carbon dioxide each year. It would also remove anywhere from 93.9 to 192.7 kilotons of nitrogen in bodies of water annually.

Even so, the most effective waste treatment methods may vary by state. Differences in geography mean that certain regions would benefit from approaches tailored to their local flora. Northeastern regions with dense, deciduous forests would decrease their carbon outputs most by using fallen leaves as compost or mulch. On the other hand, states like California would see the greatest global warming potential reductions by repurposing lumber.

For many cities though, putting these findings into practice is expected to be a long-term project. The research paper recognizes that illegal dumping, a lack of municipal facilities and infrastructure stand in the way of maximizing urban yard waste's potential.

Efficient use of tree waste is a joint effort between individuals, government and communities. The trees on private property vastly outnumber those on public land, explained Colleen Murphy-Dunning, lecturer in urban and community forestry at the School of the Environment and director of the Urban



CECILIA LEE/ILLUSTRATIONS CONTRIBUTION

Resources Initiative. Applying this circular economy concept to urban forests will require raising awareness about tree waste disposal methods to not just the public work department, but private landowners as well.

Some of the furniture industry is responding to this trend. In an effort to decrease waste, a handful of companies like Room & Board and Brick + Board have cropped up over the past decade, which repurpose fallen trees into high-end fixtures.

Local businesses like CityBench have meanwhile collected trees throughout New Haven and given fallen timber a second life in dining tables, chairs and shelves. CityBench co-owner Zeb Esselstyn was inspired to start the company after reading that "35-40% of hardwood lumber that's used each year could be replaced if you just tapped into the urban forest." Since 2009, he and his brother have made thousands of furniture pieces from salvaged urban hardwood.

The city of New Haven has approximately 29,000 street trees.

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

What is New Haven’s Board of Alders?

BY YASH ROY AND
CHARLOTTE HUGHES
STAFF REPORTERS

Six months ago, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker nominated Renee Dominguez to be the city’s police chief. The Board of Alders resoundingly shot down her nomination, setting up a bitter court dispute over power-sharing between the mayor and his co-equal branch.

On Monday morning, Elicker announced \$200 million in climate resiliency funds for the city. Eight hours later, the city’s Board of Alders — its legislative council — retroactively approved his ability to announce the funding.

New Haven’s municipal legislative process is said to have been the blueprint for the modern day federal legislative process. In fact, it was chartered 150 years before the United States Congress was founded.

In one of their bimonthly meetings on Monday night, the Board of Alders met to discuss moratoriums on city construction, climate investment and disability-inclusive language.

An Alder may be a title from a time long past, but today, in New Haven, a set of 30 elected Alders help determine the city, Yale’s and New Haveners’ future.

For new and old Yalies, this is what you need to know about your city’s system of government.

What is the Board of Alders?

New Haven has a mayor-council form of government where Mayor Justin Elicker is the chief executive of the city, but he must cooperate on almost all budget and personnel issues with the city’s legislative council called the New Haven Board of Alders.

“Think of the President of the United States and Congress,” Al Lucas, director of legislative staff for the Board of Alders, told the News. “Actually, Connecticut is the Constitution state. Cities like New Haven were the forebears of the congressional system we have today.”

Alders create, pass and amend New Haven laws as well as review and approve the city’s annual budget. They vote on all major appointments to city staff and ensure that the city budget and ordinances are adhered to by city officials.

“Alders are integral to the functioning of the city,” Elicker told the News. “They amend and create city ordinances to improve public safety, transportation, make housing more important while also approving my candidates for city jobs. Without a strong relationship between the alders and mayors, the city could not function.”

How many alders does New Haven have?

The Board of Alders has 30 geographic districts which represent roughly 130,000 New Haven residents. Each of the 30 districts represents close to 4,500 residents

with redistricting occurring every 10 years in conjunction with the federal census.

Who are you represented by?

Yale students who live on Old Campus or in one of the eight original residential colleges are represented by Ward 1 Alder Alex Guzhnay ’24. Ward 1’s representative has traditionally been called the Yale Alder because they represent the oldest part of the University’s campus in New Haven.

Guzhnay is the sixth Yale student to serve as Ward 1 alder, according to Sabin, with a Yalie representing the seat for the last 40 years.

Yale students who live in Timothy Dwight, Silliman, Stiles, Morse, Pauli Murray and Benjamin Franklin Colleges are represented by Ward 22 Alder Jeanette Morrison, while students who live in Rosenfeld Hall are represented by Ward 7 Alder Eli Sabin ’22.

How does a proposal become law in New Haven?

Just like Congress, almost all legislation is initially referred to the President of the Board of Alders, Tyisha Walker-Myers, who then assigns it to one of the 10 aldermanic committees.

This committee will then hold a hearing on the bill, called the bill’s first reading. During the first reading, alders on the committee can amend the legislation, ask city officials to testify on the feasibility of the bill and invite members of the public to also testify on the bill’s necessity.

Once the committee votes on the legislation, it goes to the full Board of Alders for a second reading and final vote. If passed, the mayor can approve or veto the legislation.

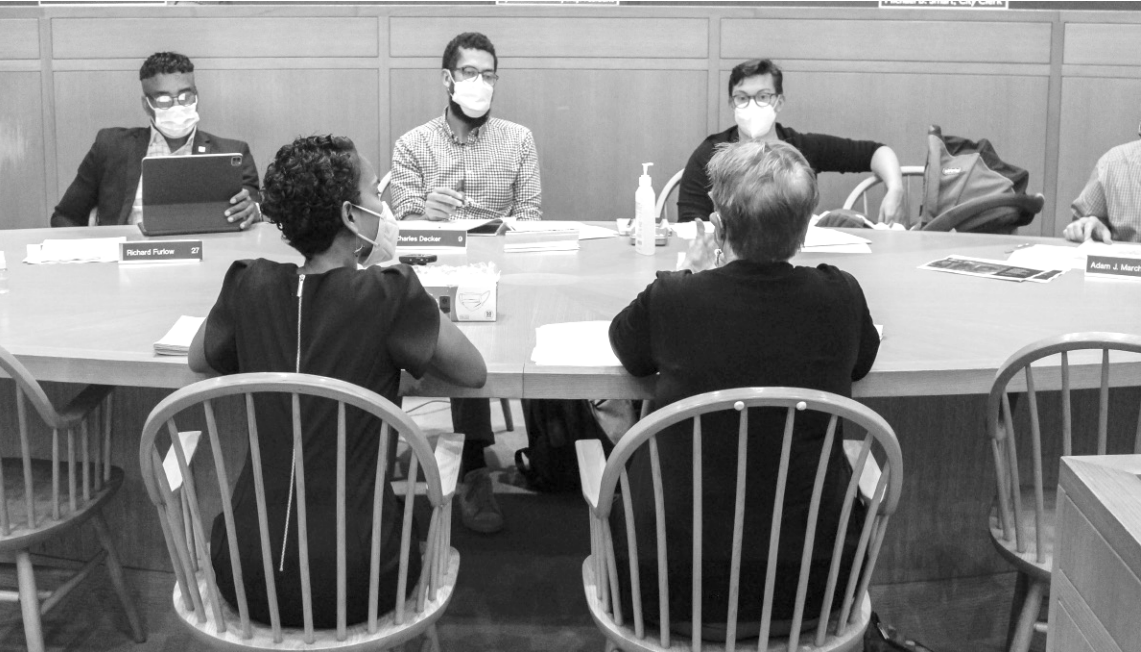
The 10 standing committees include the Aldermanic Affairs Committee, the City Services and Environmental Policy Committee, the Community Development Committee, the Education Committee, the Finance Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, the Legislation Committee, the Public Safety Committee, the Tax Abatement Committee and the Youth & Youth Services Committee.

Anyone can propose legislation. According to Ward 14 Alder Sarah Miller, a large portion of the actionable items alders vote on originates with New Haven residents. Residents can direct ideas or legislative text to either their alder or the Director of Legislative Services Al Lucas.

What are New Haven’s biggest priorities right now?

The city currently has a five pronged legislative agenda that was unanimously approved in March 2021: jobs for New Haven residents, a safe city for everyone, quality affordable housing, health equity and vibrant communities and environmental justice.

“My two biggest priorities have been and continue to be housing and transportation,” Sabin told the News. “We’re trying to make New Haven



YASH ROY/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

New Haven’s 30 Alders pass its budget, writes its laws and holds city officials to account.

more affordable. More and more students are living off campus, and we’re trying to make sure that there’s more housing and more affordable housing getting built.”

In January, the Board of Alders passed an inclusive housing ordinance for the city’s center that requires any new housing in the central city to include affordable housing for people that make 50 percent of the median income of the area, according to Sabin.

According to Guzhnay, the city has also added new bicycle routes downtown including on Wall Street. He hopes to make New Haven’s streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

“Yale students can provide a lot of helpful information on things like safer streets and bike paths,” Guzhnay told the News. “But, at the end of the day Yale can support its students so a lot of my work is supporting non-affiliated constituents and also giving more opportunities to people who frequent downtown to work, eat or go out.”

Sabin and Guzhnay also both spoke of deepening the university’s relationship with New Haven. They both acknowledged that the university had increased its contributions to the city, but pointed to the wide disparity between the support system Yale has for its students while many New Haveners do not have the support or help they need.

During their most recent meeting, the alders approved an amendment to the New Haven Code of Ordinances that would update city law with language that is more respectful and inclusive of people with disabilities.

The new “person-forward” language will change references throughout the code from “handicapped person” to “person with a disability,” and remove all language around “mental retardation.”

Budget woes

Each year, the Board of Alders passes a budget for the next fiscal year. According to Lucas, city

departments first determine their fiscal needs. Then, the Mayor presents a budget to the Board of Alders in February.

The Board of Alders and Finance Committee mark up the bill — running through the text of the bill line by line making edits — as well as hold two public hearings for New Haveners to testify on the budget. The budget is then traditionally passed in May.

Yale’s role in the city has historically been a problem during the annual budget season.

In 2021, New Haven was on the precipice of fiscal collapse. Haunted by the specter of unsustainable pension payments and a drop in tax revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Elicker made the unprecedented move of unveiling two budgets. The first was a crisis budget with a 7.25 percent increase in property taxes, millions in cuts through layoffs and the shuttering of city buildings. The second a more optimistic budget that banked on an increase in state and Yale funding.

By the end of the 2021 budget negotiations, the city was able to pass a budget that did not make severe cuts but relied upon a \$51 million increase in funding from the state and Yale.

The city’s bet paid off with New Haven State Senator and Senate Pro Tempore Martin Looney shepherded through a bill redistributing funding from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or PILOT, program which more than doubled the state’s contribution to the city from \$41 million to \$91 million.

The state provides a large chunk of funding through PILOT since Yale takes up more than half of the city’s property without paying taxes to the city. Yale instead pays taxes to the state which then distributes the money to cities like New Haven where large portions of the property tax base cannot be accessed.

Moreover, in 2021 after years of New Haveners advocating for Yale to

provide more funding to the city, Yale increased its voluntary contribution by \$10 million.

Combined, these two funding sources have now alleviated most budgetary concerns in the city according to Elicker.

How to get involved

The Board of Alders meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of every month in the Aldermanic Chambers in City Hall, on 165 Church St. During the summer, they meet only on the first Monday of the month.

Residents — including students — are encouraged to attend and raise suggestions, questions or concerns.

“Yale students should be good neighbors to try to contribute and be part of the community,” Sabin said. “Respect the city and community that will be your home for at least the next four years.”

Elicker invited students to attend Aldermanic meetings and to apply for the city commission if they will be in New Haven during the summer. However, he cautioned students to not sign up for city responsibilities for the novelty, but only if they can truly commit to serving the city.

Yalies can also work through the Presidential service fellowship to work as an intern in the Board of Alder’s office, city departments or for an Alder, according to Lucas.

“Get out of the Yale Bubble,” Guzhnay advised his fellow students. “Yale has at times helped craft a problematic narrative that the city is dangerous, but go out of downtown to explore all of our beautiful communities. That will help you better give back to the city.”

Specific committee meetings are outlined on the City of New Haven’s website.

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New Haven Pride Fest is back to New Haven Green

BY YURII STASIUK
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The annual New Haven Pride Fest took place on the Green on Sept. 17 with music, performances and food. New Haven residents, Yale students, performers and speakers all joined in celebrating the city’s LGBTQ community and drawing attention to the issues that affect it.

The celebration was part of New Haven Pride Week, which was celebrated from Sept. 11 to Sept. 17. It was organized by the New Haven Pride Center, a nonprofit offering various programming and services for the LGBTQ community. During the event, participants danced, listened to live music, watched drag performances and ate various fair foods. Attendees also had a chance to become familiar with Connecticut advocacy and community organizations, listen to speeches from city, state and national representatives and receive vaccinations against monkeypox.

“[We have been organizing Pride Fest] in September for 10 or 15 years, if not longer,” Patrick J. Dunn, executive director of the New Haven Pride Center, told the News. “We wanted it to be during the school semester so that ... all of our incredible students from around the city could participate.”

Dunn said the organization started planning the event in early spring of 2022. While the majority of the staff working on the event were employed by the Pride Center, some professionals were also hired to help organize the festivities. Dunn said that the Pride Center is particularly proud that they contributed and gave back to the community. Among the performers at the Fest were many local queer artists, including musician Erycka Ortiz and drag performers like ChibiCon and Rory Roux Lay. Local businesses were also able to work at the Fest without any fee.

This year, for the first time since 2004, Pride Fest was held on the New Haven Green. In previous years, the festival has typically been held in North Haven.

“It is a lot more expensive,” Dunn said. “But it was nice to have a big space for us, to really enjoy being in the heart of the city.”

He added that the organization plans to organize the next annual Pride Fest on the New Haven Green as well.

Many volunteers at the event were available to help visitors with all their needs. Linda Young, one of the volunteers, told the News she wanted to support her daughter, who came out as transgender last year.

“I like the diversity of people not only of cultures, but of age and

personality,” Young told the News. “[There are] both allies and those on a whole spectrum. It is good to see the whole city come together.”

Different community organizations, like Stonewall Speakers, Anchor Health, Triangle Community Center and others had their tents at the Fest, where visitors could learn more about support and resources available to the LGBTQ community in New Haven and Connecticut.

“Today, [at the Pride Fest] we share the resources and information about HIV, ask people to fill out questionnaires about their experiences of HIV,” Michael DeWolfe, head of communications and events at Anchor Health, Connecticut’s health center for the LGBTQ, told the News. “I love the Fest. It is always amazing. There are so many amazing organizations and volunteers here.”

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker also came to the Fest to express his solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

“The most important thing is making absolutely clear that our values in New Haven are to welcome everyone because we recognize their humanity,” Elicker told the News. “On a practical front, so many city departments help make these types of events happen.”

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont and Rep. Rosa DeLauro



YURII STASIUK/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

New Haven community joined in celebrating LGBTQ during the annual Pride Fest on the New Haven Green.

also spoke at the Fest about Connecticut’s leading role in ensuring LGBTQ rights and were applauded by the audience.

“It is a great effort that deals with equality, tolerance, respect, contributing to people and I am a strong supporter of it,” DeLauro told the News about the Pride Fest. “I always try to go [to the Fest] when I can.”

Many Yale students visited the Pride Fest as well.

“I especially appreciated the energy and openness that was

palpable in the air,” Graham Litz ’26 told the News. “Everyone really seemed to be enjoying themselves with no care in the world, and it was really amazing to witness that sense of community and dedication.”

According to the Movement Advanced Project, as of 2020, there were 133,000 LGBTQ community members in Connecticut.

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“Power does not corrupt men; fools, however, if they get into a position of power, corrupt power.” **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW** IRISH PLAYWRIGHT

Possible Futures bookstore opens up on Edgewood Avenue



COURTESY OF HANWEN ZHANG

A new arrival on the bookstore scene promises to serve the community.

BY HANWEN ZHANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Lizzo blasted from a set of Bluetooth speakers as shoppers wandered through the brand new Possible Futures bookstore, perusing shelves and taking in the artwork. New Haven’s latest independent bookstore opened its doors in the Edgewood neighborhood on Aug. 22. It offers a space where shoppers are free to crack open book covers, work, wander or simply relax on one of its many upholstered chairs. For Lauren Anderson, Possible Futures has been the culmination of a 10-year journey. Anderson left her job as a formerly ten-

ured professor to pursue a lifelong dream of running a bookstore. After running a previous store, Anderson decided to move her business closer to her own community. She started looking for new places and drafting business plans in January. Following a monthslong wait for zoning approval, the space was finally approved for business. Possible Futures is conveniently located at the heart of the Edgewood neighborhood, with both the 246 CT Transit bus line and bike lanes traveling right past its doors. Possible Futures sells books, but Anderson made its priority as a community space clear. She explained how the store has com-

mitted to making itself open for all. The airy storefront, with plush sofa chairs and tables scattered between bookshelves, features an ADA-accessible bathroom and a rear parking lot. The store is a place where “people in the neighborhood can come in just to hang out, talk,” Anderson said. Its spirit of open doors also extends to its shelf space. Books are curated to showcase underrepresented authors, with an emphasis on titles that have not always received the limelight of New York Times reviews and best-sellers lists. In a publishing industry dominated by white authors, too many books often slip through the cracks, Anderson explained.

“What’s here reflects our community and offers a little bit of connection to certain books in other places,” Anderson told the News. To maintain a selection of works that best reflects the community’s diversity, she regularly seeks out advice from customers and neighbors alike. Today, shoppers walking in for the first time can find titles ranging from W.E.B. DuBois’ “Black Reconstruction in America” to Anthony Veasno So’s “Afterparties.” Books by up-and-coming authors are lined cheek-by-jowl beside familiar bestsellers, offering readers an opportunity to explore. On the rightmost wall, the store exhibits artwork from a rotating selection of local artists; featured artists get to choose book titles that center around the theme of their pieces. Anderson kept returning to connection and community as the cornerstone of her work. While Possible Futures emerges as yet another bookstore in New Haven’s literary landscape, Anderson firmly reiterated that it is rooted in her neighborhood. When speaking about the store’s role in the Edgewood community, Anderson stressed the importance of “listening to people...about what they would want the space to be.” Keeping the space open for everyone has also encouraged her to partner with organizations like the Pride Center. The store’s intimacy has not gone unnoticed. “Smaller stores are more personal than Barnes and Noble,”

said Ben McManus, local Edgewood resident. “The store has its own personality ... and having the option to actually sit is a big plus.” Local residents trickled in. Some had wandered in while walking, some had visited after biking past it, and others had recently discovered the store on Instagram. Among them, local resident Mark Abraham had been impressed by the store’s selection of children’s books as he scanned new titles for his kids. “I found a newfound enjoyment of children’s books ... about race and gender, and stuff I didn’t get to read about as a kid,” Karolina Ksiazek ’15, another local resident and bookstore customer added. Multiple shoppers admitted that the intimacy of the in-person book-shopping experience has also given them freedom to stumble across new titles and authors for themselves. “It’s just convenient to be able to stop on a lark and go look for books without having to be on a screen all day,” said Abraham. The store has been finding new ways to engage with the community. Just two weeks into business, Possible Futures already has plans to host “book lunches,” author readings and more local events. “I believe in living where you work and working where you live, and knowing people,” Anderson said. Possible Futures is located on 318 Edgewood Ave.

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Man pleads guilty to distributing nearly 600 grams of fentanyl

BY SOPHIE SONNENFELD
STAFF REPORTER

A New Haven man pled guilty on Tuesday to distributing 599 grams of fentanyl — around 299,500 potentially lethal doses — to an undercover government investigator. The plea deal comes as drug overdoses, in particular fentanyl busting cases, have skyrocketed in the state in recent years. 86 percent of overdose deaths in Connecticut were connected to fentanyl use, far above the national average and up from just 4 percent in 2012. The case represents an above-average bust for law enforcement in the state, though it remains unclear what percent of the distribution was pure fentanyl. “[These dealers] are more probably on the middle level, but lower level probably right above street level kind of dealer,” Bobby Lawlor, a drug intelligence officer with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, explained to the News. “The problem with that at all is because fentanyl is so powerful that you need a small amount, so 600 grams of pure fentanyl would be a massive amount,” Lawlor added. “Without the lab results from the federal government, it’s kind of hard to tell just how much of that 600 grams was fentanyl.” In 2021, 1,524 people in Connecticut died from drug overdoses, up by 150 in 2020 and more than quadruple the 357 recorded in 2012.

According to a DEA report, the agency seized somewhere between 1 and 66 kilograms of fentanyl in Connecticut in 2019. Investigators seized over 16 kilograms of fentanyl from two Hartford men in March, which marked one of the largest fentanyl busts in the state. The New Haven man, Ismael “Junie” Heredia, was arrested in April alongside his alleged co-conspirator, Luis “Bebe” Salaman under fentanyl trafficking charges. Investigators first learned in October 2021 that Salaman, 40, may have been distributing “large quantities of narcotics” throughout the city. Just two milligrams of fentanyl is potentially lethal to an adult human. The FBI’s Safe Streets Task Force launched an investigation that revealed that Salaman had been working jointly with Heredia, 29, to distribute heroin and fentanyl. After the arrest, Salaman was detained and Heredia was released on a \$100,000 bond. Before announcing his new plea, District Judge Jeffrey Alker Meyer reviewed what the plea



SOPHIE SONNENFELD/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Undercover FBI investigators met with the man multiple times earlier this year and purchased nearly 300,000 potentially legal doses of the synthetic opioid.

might entail for Heredia come sentencing. The charge holds a maximum penalty of life in prison. The minimum mandatory sentence is 10 years in prison and probation between five years and life, with a maximum fine of up to \$100 million. The two factors that would play into Heredia’s sentencing, Meyer explained, would be the quantity of fentanyl and an acceptance of responsibility. Police and court records indicated that Heredia has what Meyer said qualified as the “lowest level of criminal history.” This means that in one potential sentencing calculation, Heredia could receive 70-87 months, or six to seven years, in prison. Of course, the mandatory minimum sentencing of 10 years in jail would still apply unless the sentencing judge decides to grant Heredia a “Safety Valve.” A safety valve applies only in drug trafficking cases where the defendant has a minor criminal history, did not use violence or possess dangerous weapons, was not the organizer of the activity or any continuing criminal activity, has cooperated with prosecutors and did not cause serious bodily harm or death to another person. “I can’t tell you what the court will implement,” Meyer said at the US District Courthouse in New Haven Tuesday morning. “There are a lot of factors up in the air.” Heredia kept his head bowed and adjusted his glasses. Meyer asked Heredia a series of questions, establishing that any

plea would be of his own will with a full understanding of the legal implications. Heredia waived his right to a trial and the right to challenge the conviction. The prosecutors, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Conor M. Reardon and Robert S. Ruff, signed the plea agreement and passed it over to Heredia and his lawyer, West Haven-based attorney Steven B. Rasile. The nearly-empty courtroom was silent as Heredia bent over to sign the deal, pleading guilty to “Conspiracy to Distribute and to Possess with Intent to Distribute 400 Grams or More of Fentanyl.” Meyer then called Reardon to summarize the evidence prosecutors had planned to present in trial. Reardon said prosecutors had collected physical evidence and witness testimony as well as video and audio footage showing Heredia’s intent to distribute fentanyl. Heredia met with an “undercover government source” on eight occasions spanning from November 2021 through April 2022. In these controlled purchases, Heredia sold 599 grams of fentanyl to investigators. Investigators also recorded phone calls with Heredia and Salaman related to these transactions. The FBI’s Safe Streets Task Force includes FBI agents and specially trained local police from departments including the New Haven Police Department. The FBI has three of these task forces operating in Connecticut — based in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport.

Lawlor said the severity of such trafficking depends on the chemical concentration of fentanyl investigators tested. Lawlor said it’s hard to know if the nearly 600 grams of fentanyl in Heredia’s case contained 100 percent fentanyl or if it was cut with other substances. With 100 percent fentanyl, the men could have cut their supply into more hazardous though less potent pieces, allowing for a larger scale operation. “You know, we’ve seen people who sell mainly in their own little neighborhood because they’re smaller dealers, and we’ve seen more probably what we’re talking about when somebody’s buying or selling 600 grams of fentanyl, more middle-of-the-road, higher level dealers who have a reach probably county-wide, if not further,” Lawlor explained. Public health experts note that disrupting the drug market can be harmful if people depend on a specific dealer to provide a stable supply with consistent drug potencies. When Lawlor was a sergeant with the NHPD in 2011, he said the drug market was “pretty stable” in terms of consistent potencies for drugs like heroin. These batches of heroin largely contained the same concentrations and additives each time. This could allow people to use harm reduction practices, using the drug relatively safely without overdosing. On rare occasions, when dealers might get a new “connect,” these factors could change and produce dangerous “hot batches.”

With fentanyl, nearly every dose could be a hot batch — with varied additives and concentrations in each pill. Lawlor said that when his agency tests substances that are seized by law enforcement in Connecticut, they see a “mish-mash of drugs” in each sample. Additionally, unlike other illegal narcotics, fentanyl carries a higher risk of overdose and death because of its chemical structure. According to Lawlor, the drug, which is a bit of a “heavier powder,” tends to cling to itself more than other narcotics, making it difficult for dealers to crush it uniformly into pills. “The problem is in today’s drug market, that it’s so volatile, and it’s so dangerous to the point where you’re kind of playing Russian roulette with every dose of drug you take,” he said. Heredia and Rasile declined to comment for this story. Near the conclusion of the trial, Meyer mentioned he heard that Heredia has been “doing well” on probation. In the next few weeks, Heredia will have to meet with a probation officer, who will interview him and compile a pre-sentencing report. Meyer noted that this report will contain more specific details about the case and about Heredia as a person. The sentencing trial date for Heredia is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 13.

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“Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.”
MARILYN MONROE AMERICAN ACTRESS

Yale to lift classroom mask requirements



The University relaxed its COVID-19 policy, announcing on Tuesday that masking will soon be optional in classrooms.

BY WILLIAM PORAYOUW
STAFF REPORTER

Masking will be optional in most campus spaces — including classrooms — beginning next Monday. The decision, announced via University-wide email on Sept.

20, follows the number of new reported COVID-19 cases rising in the beginning of the semester before falling over the past month. While the University continues to mandate vaccinations and booster shots, students are no longer required to test regularly.

“Masking is welcome anywhere on campus, for any reason, and the university will continue to make high-quality masks available to its community members,” COVID-19 Coordinator Stephanie Spangler wrote in the Tuesday email.

Last semester, immunocompromised students raised concerns that Yale’s decision to resume in-person classes, albeit with masks, made them feel “left behind” in Yale’s COVID-19 policy. However, Yale will continue to require masks in healthcare settings and among students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for the virus. In addition, masking requirements may be reinstituted by state or local agencies.

In a previous statement to the News, Yale College Health and Safety Leader Julie Sweigard noted that the mask mandate had not been lifted “for the first weeks of the first semester” due to the arrival of students from all across the world. Now at Yale, instructors may choose to require masks in their own classrooms or instructional spaces.

Jordan Fischel, who teaches an undergraduate lecture titled “Gender, Justice, Power, Institutions,” said he was sympathetic to the administration’s decision to lift the mask mandate in classroom settings.

“I don’t envy the difficult decisions our administrators must make for our learning communities,” Fischel wrote in an email to the News.

Fischel further went on to explain that he believed that it was “a quite reasonable calculation” to lift the mask mandate in classrooms because he believes that the costs of continuing the mandate “exceed” the costs of lifting it. He told the News that while he will not be requiring masks in the classrooms, he will “certainly reconsider” if students inform him that optional masking makes them too anxious to learn effectively.

Greek professor Maria Kaliambou wrote in an email to the News that she was “pleased” with the announcement and expected not to require masks in her classroom — although she said she understands if some of her colleagues might want to do so. As a language teacher, however, she feels the use of masks poses a challenge to classroom instruction.

“It was challenging to teach with a mask a foreign language, because especially at the elementary level seeing the lips for correct pronunciation is important,” Kaliambou told the News.

Greta LaFleur, who teaches a course called “American Scholars,” told the News that she will “definitely” continue to require masks in the classroom.

Another professor, Langdon Hammer, wrote in an email that he was “happy” to leave the decision of whether or not to wear a mask to the student.

As of Sept. 19, there is a 99.6 percent vaccination rate for Yale College undergraduates.

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Being sick at Yale, but not with COVID

BY WILLIAM PORAYOUW
STAFF REPORTER

Felice Dong ’25 came down with a bad cough and fever earlier this month. But she didn’t test positive for COVID-19. As a result, Dong said she had to attend class in person despite falling ill — otherwise, there was no other way to absorb the material other than to “read the textbook.”

“I feel like you kind of just have to push through it, because you’re expected to do the work anyway,” Dong said.

Students who do test positive, meanwhile, are expected to miss classes and extracurriculars, and are subject to a quarantine policy, making them more likely to receive dean’s extensions.

As the school year begins, students are voicing concerns about the University’s sickness policies.

Christine Chen, who serves as chief of Student Health, noted that Yale Health generally sees higher cases of respiratory illness every fall. Last September, Yale Health saw an unprecedented number of visits and calls by students.

Yet, with crowded dining halls, a lack of virtual class options and a wave of incoming first years, accommodations for students who are sick are worrying many who point out a gap between resources for those who test positive for COVID-19 and those who do not.

“[There’s] this perception that the only sickness that Yale should care about is COVID-19,” said Viktor Kagan ’24, who is a senator for the Yale College Council.

The News spoke to five students who reported flu-like symptoms, but did not test positive for COVID-19, about their experiences with classes and Yale Health as they transitioned into the fall semester.

Going to classes

Dong reported that she was ineligible for a dean’s extension, forcing her to attend class with a severe cough.

“Sometimes you’ll get a really nice professor who understands and will give you an extension, but I know that for most instances where I’m sick, but not bedridden sick, I can’t even get a dean’s extension. So it’s kind of like you have to suck it up and do it anyway in order to not fall behind.”

Yale College policy describes an “incapacitating illness or incapacitating condition of any kind” as a potential instance for the issuance of a dean’s extension. Extensions do not apply to class absences for less severe illnesses, however.

Students also described classes as unaccommodating for those who claimed to be sick.

Kagan said that professors do not always understand the public health implications of wanting to miss class and avoid spreading their illness. He added that missing class actually creates more difficulty for a student than attending would.

“[If] you’re going ... to miss a lecture, and you will have to rely on other people’s notes rather than being able to watch a recording of that lecture,” he said, “that’s a huge problem.”

Olivia Bell ’25, who had a fever and sore throat, said that while reading the textbook and having a friend explain concepts to her was a sufficient alternative to attending class, she still “would have preferred recorded lectures.”

One of her courses, “Queer Writing Before Stonewall,” is one such class which does not offer recorded lectures. Though the course does include a Zoom option for watching lectures live, there is no way for a student to view them asynchronously once they are feeling better.

Michael Warner, who serves as professor of Bell’s “Queer Writing” class, wrote in an email to the News that he sets up the Zoom at the request of any student who falls ill for any reason.

Veronica Zimmer ’25, who was sick with pneumonia, maintained perfect attendance during her illness. She said that she “really powered through” each day, because “there was such an emphasis on [going] to class.”

Additionally, she told the News that when she had COVID-19 in a previous semester, she was instructed not to go to class at all.

“There’s not much of a space to be sick at Yale,” Zimmer said. “It just seems like everything here moves really fast, academic-wise, extracurricular-wise, social-life-wise ... it’s hard to find time to just recover.”

Joseph Elsayyid ’26 mentioned that the “pressure” to attend courses in person manifested behind a fear of falling behind. He added that a lack of virtual recording options served to the “detriment” of those who did not feel comfortable attending events in person.

Yale Health recommends that students do not return to classes and extracurriculars until they feel better, Chen told the News in an email.

Going to the doctor

Chen described Student Health’s treatment advice for respiratory viruses as “support-

ive” — with a reliance on rest, fluids and over-the-counter medicines such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen for symptoms.

However, students expressed reluctance to contact Yale Health.

Dong mentioned that she had a poor experience with the system last school year, playing a game of “phone tag” where she would receive a call at an inconvenient time, such as during class, and would call back later only to receive no answer.

This back-and-forth continued for a while until she was finally reached by Yale Health — by which point, her case was quickly dismissed. She was told to purchase cough suppressant on her own, and that her case was not “severe enough” to necessitate a visit.

“You have to really, really advocate for yourself in order to be seen at all,” Dong said. “And I don’t know, when I’m sick, I just don’t have the energy to do that.”

When she grew ill again last week, she did not contact Yale Health.

With regard to communication with Yale Health, Chen advised “to pick up the phone” when a student nurse calls “so that discussion is not delayed.”

Zimmer, who was sick last year with a cold-like fever, mentioned that she felt “gaslit” by Yale Health when she had experienced symptoms.

“They were telling me that it’s just that I’m a college student and I’m overextending myself,” Zimmer said.

Zimmer said that she had gone to Yale Health multiple times over the course of the semester. She saw a different doctor each time, leaving her feeling like “each individual person didn’t get a full grasp of what was going on.”

After being sick for five months — during which she was given cough drops and allergy medicine before she finally convinced Yale Health to give her a chest X-ray — Zimmer was finally diagnosed with pneumonia.

Zimmer added that the Yale Health system is her only insurance plan, so she “wouldn’t have any other option” for receiving care.

Some students who are able to pursue other care options choose to do so.

When Kagan was sick last October, he did not go to Yale

Health. Instead, he scheduled an appointment with a doctor at home. He believed he would receive better care and treatment since they know his medical records.

Kagan said that based on the experiences he heard others recount, he was worried he would not receive sufficient health care with Yale’s services.

“[My doctor] know[s] me, and I think they’ll take me a lot more seriously than my friends were taken at Yale Health,” Kagan said.

Elsayyid, who is a first-year student, noted that “not fully understanding” which resources are available can disincentivize new students from reaching out to Yale Health.

Chen told the News that Student Health is “always happy” to assist any students who have questions and concerns, either over the phone or through MyChart.

Student Health can be contacted at (203) 432-0312.

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Students who report symptoms of respiratory viruses but do not test positive for COVID described difficulty accessing class and hospitality resources as the semester shifts into gear.

SPORTS

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M SOCCER

FOUR FOR FOUR

The Bulldogs (4–0–2, 0–0–0 Ivy) picked up two more victories against Marquette and Stony Brook last week and extended their winning streak to four games. They play next this weekend.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

RTH FOR RECRUITMENT

Over the summer, Yale Athletics recruited three new staff members and promoted five members to director positions to assist with sponsoring 35 varsity teams. This is part of a larger push to expand the sport's staff.



““We open with arguably our toughest opener we’ve had since I’ve been here in my 10 seasons,”

TONY RENO
YALE FOOTBALL
HEAD COACH

Men’s tennis battle at Duke, women prepare for Bulldog invitational

BY GRAYSON LAMBERT
STAFF REPORTER

Last weekend, four members of the Yale men’s tennis team traveled to North Carolina, where they kicked off the team’s fall season at the Duke Bonk Invitational. There, they joined powerhouse programs like Indiana University, the University of Miami and Virginia Tech for a weekend of tough competition.

First-year Vignesh Gogineni ’26 took home his first collegiate wins at the tournament, ultimately winning the B flight via a 6–2, 6–2 victory over UNC Wilmington’s Davide Innocenti in the singles final.

“I’m obviously very proud of my results but definitely there are some lessons to be learned and things to improve,” Gogineni wrote to the News. “I’m mostly going to work on consistency and focus throughout matches and having a routine/rituals before and during matches.”

Duke University hosted this weekend’s invitational at the Cary Tennis Park. The invitational is named in honor of the late James Bonk, a long-time professor of chemistry at Duke.

Walker Oberg ’25 also boasted a successful performance at the tournament, advancing to the final in the C flight before losing to Miami’s Antonio Pratt in a tight third set victory (6–3, 3–6, 5–7).

“Playing more matches than usual for collegiate matches, I physically took care of myself to be able to perform to the best that I could for three days in a row,” Oberg said.

Luke Neal ’25, the only other sophomore that traveled to North Carolina, noted the high-level competition from the eight schools present.

All four Bulldogs played both singles and doubles this weekend, with Gogineni playing with Dean and Oberg with Neal.

“I’m going to keep working on aggression and trying to start points on the offense, and I’m looking forward to regionals in October and getting another opportunity to compete,” Neal said.

Gogineni, Oberg and Neal were joined by the team’s captain Theo Dean ’24 in competition this weekend.

“Looking forward, we will continue to focus on maintaining a process-oriented mindset as opposed to a result-oriented mindset,” Dean wrote to the News. “While winning and getting nice results is always fun, we are



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The men’s tennis team kicked off competition at Duke Bonk Invitational; Women train in preparation for the first competition of the fall season.

going to do our best to place more emphasis and value on the process: being professional with our training, having good competitive energy and doing the hard work.”

Eduardo Ugalde, the assistant coach of men’s tennis, also traveled with the team to Duke, where he spent one season as a volunteer assistant coach.

Head coach of Yale men’s tennis Chris Drake highlighted Gogineni and Oberg’s successes in their respective fights, as well as Neal’s strong wins over players from UNC Charlotte and Virginia Tech.

“I think all four players showed a high level of play over the weekend,” Drake said. “Also, Coach Ugalde

did an excellent job keeping the guys focused on the right things throughout the weekend. We try to hold the guys to a high standard with things they can control and I think Ugalde really helped keep their minds focused well all weekend.”

The team will next compete together at the Dartmouth Invitational in late October. However, Dean and Michael Sun ’23 will also compete in the ITA All American qualifying competition in early October.

This weekend, the women’s tennis team will kick off fall competition with the Bulldog Invitational. They will host Rutgers on Friday, followed by Boston University on Saturday

and Brown on Sunday. Although the results of the Yale-Brown match-up will not count towards season standings, the Bulldogs will get a glimpse at what this spring’s Ivy competition may look like.

Sasha Wood ’24 said she looked forward to her first competition with the Bulldogs after competing as a Columbia Lion for her first two years of college.

Most days, Wood’s summer training consisted of double sessions: one “technical and tactical” block in the morning and a second consisting of matches in the afternoon.

First-year student Ann Wright Guerry ’26 shared that most sum-

mer days she played four to five hours with conditioning and lifting mixed in. Additionally, she competed in clay court and hard court nationals.

“I can’t wait to compete as a team! In junior tennis,” Guerry wrote to the News, “it’s almost entirely individual, so I’m super excited to be competing alongside some fantastic players.”

Looking ahead, ITA competition for the women will begin the last weekend in September, and the team will next compete together at the Brown Invitational on Oct. 21.

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Splintered travel format to remain for Ivy Basketball

BY JACK HE
STAFF REPORTER

As the stimulating scenes of last year’s men’s Ivy League Championship linger in the minds of fans, Yale’s men’s and women’s basketball teams are gearing up for the new season.

Last week, the Ivy League officially released the men’s hoops season schedule, with the women’s schedule soon to follow. Despite the first game for both teams being more than a month away, this year’s schedule will still follow an adjusted travel format. Coaches and players, excited for the new season, shared their most anticipated matchups and thoughts on the Conference ahead of play.

“The history of it is that Princeton’s finals schedule prohibited us from playing in early January,” men’s head coach James Jones said. “They have since changed their finals schedule which added a lot of versatility to what we’re able to do as a league. And in doing so, some of the coaches in our league felt like the travel partners and playing games back to back were too much for the student athletes.”

The Ivy League has discontinued the traditional travel partner schedule since last season. Previously,

teams would go on weekend road trips to play back-to-back against a pair of rival teams in the area. But now, games against two schools in the same area have been spaced out.

Forward Isaiah Kelly ’23 said he appreciated having the time between games to recharge and lock in on the team’s next opponent. Kelly noted the difficulty of long travels during the season, while women’s guard Jenna Clark ’24 said the traditional system made it difficult to scout the second team on the back-to-back schedule.

A benefit of the traditional travel-partner schedule that Clark pointed out was the convenience for parents to see two games in a short period of time. Jones and women’s captain Camilla Emsbo ’23 both noted the traditional schedule’s intensity as another upside, which Emsbo said “definitely took a lot of grit.”

“I enjoyed that I found a way to build the team through it and how to prepare the team for league play,” Jones said.

Whatever comes of this new schedule, Jones pointed out that it remains a work-in-progress.

“What we did last year and what we’re going to do this year isn’t going to be what it’s going to turn out to be,” Jones said. “The coaches feel like there are ways

to make it better so we’re going to explore ways to make it better.”

On the men’s side, the Bulldogs will be traveling to Lexington on Dec. 10 to play the Wildcats, the first time the two teams will meet in Rupp Arena since 1961. A trip to Denver in late November will feature a reunion with former team captain Jalen Gabbidon ’22, a graduate transfer at Colorado.

Kelly said the Diamond Head Classic in Hawaii this December is his most anticipated string of games.

“Hawaii is a big thing I’m [really] looking forward to,” Kelly wrote to the News. “My family [is] gonna be there, my extended family [too]. Just to have family there [is] such a nice vibe... It’ll be a great opportunity for us.”

For the women’s team, the Bulldogs hope to avenge nail biting losses from the previous season to Saint Joseph’s University and the University of Maine.

“Those were games we could’ve won so ... having those rematches would be super cool for us,” guard Clark said. “Our goal with all games is to play hard and win, and I think with every game [this year] we have a chance to do that.”

Clark and Emsbo both expressed enthusiasm for the



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As the new season inches closer, Yale Basketball players and coaches share their thoughts on the recently released season schedule.

game against Syracuse, a Big Five School which will prove to be a test for the team.

Despite mixed sentiments about the new schedule, coaches and players were united in their optimism about the new season.

“I’m an optimistic person, and I’m normally quite optimistic, so I feel good about what’s ahead of us,” Jones said.

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SPORTS

“WHERE THE FOUR LOKOS AT?!!” AJA WILSON FORWARD FOR THE LAS VEGAS ACES, ON THE MORNING OF THE TEAM’S CHAMPIONSHIP PARADE

What to watch for this fall sports season

BY ANDREW CRAMER
STAFF REPORTER

A few weeks into the fall athletics season, many Yale teams are preparing for the start of Ivy League play. Here are the most important things to know for each sport.

FOOTBALL: The football team opened their season with a stiff test against No. 13 Holy Cross, falling 38–14. Predicted to finish fourth in the Ivy League, the Blue and White open up conference play against Cornell this weekend. There is reason for optimism, as last year’s leading passer, receiver and running back are all back with another year of experience under their belts. Quarterback Nolan Grooms ’24, especially, is expected to take a step forward.

“[Grooms] has really progressed, he’s really grown,” head coach Tony Reno said. “The game has really slowed down for him.”

On Nov. 19, the team will go up to Boston to try to avenge last season’s loss to Harvard.

GOLF: After strong seasons last spring, both the men’s and women’s golf teams are looking to continue their dominant spell. The men’s team won last year’s Ivy League Championships with rookie Ben Carpenter ’25 winning the Bulldogs’ third straight individual title and men’s head coach Colin Sheehan ’97 earning his second consecutive Ivy Coach of the Year.

Over the summer, second-time women’s captain Ami Gianchandani ’23 played the USGA’s Women’s Open Championship and Women’s Amateur Championship, the latter of which was also played by teammate Kaitlyn Lee ’23. While the women’s team will be competing away in Princeton this weekend, fans can watch the men’s squad host the MacDonald Cup nearby at the Yale Golf Course. Both teams play a fall and spring season that is capped off by the Ivy League Championships.

SOCCER: The women’s squad won three of their first four games and tied in the other. Since then, they have lost four straight away games against tough competition. All of that goes out the window as the Bulldogs open up Ivy League play at home against Princeton this Saturday.

Coming off a second-place Ivy League finish last year, the men’s



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With several teams hoping to win Ivy League titles this season, here’s what you need to know about fall season sports.

team has picked up right where it left off. After draws in their first two matches, the squad has won four in a row, including a thrilling upset against West Virginia, which was then ranked 23rd in the nation. In a preseason media poll, Yale was picked to finish second in the conference, trailing only Princeton. They have one more tune-up next week at Duke before beginning conference play.

CROSS COUNTRY: The Bulldogs have only competed in one race so far this season, falling in overall scoring to foes Harvard and Princeton. Seniors Cade Brown ’23 and Kosana Weir ’23 secured top-10 fin-

ishes on the men’s and women’s side respectively. There are several events remaining before postseason play and several talented first years, this team has the potential to be more competitive this year.

TENNIS: While the women’s team has yet to compete this season, expectations are high as the team showed flashes of potential last year and now welcomes in the twelfth-ranked recruiting class in the nation. On the men’s side, the team competed in the Duke Bonk Invitational last weekend, where Luke Neal ’25 and Theo Dean ’24 advanced to the semifinals. Following a 10–12 season

last year, the Bulldogs hope that the strong performance was an indication of improvement to come.

FIELD HOCKEY: With a 4–2 record, first-year head coach Melissa Gonzalez has led the field hockey team to their best start since 2010. Ellie Barlow ’25 has already netted two-clutch game-winning goals, and the team looks ready to take a step forward from last year’s 9–8 record. The team opens up Ivy League play when they go to Providence to take on Brown on Friday.

SAILING: The Bulldogs won both the Women’s Team Race Nationals

and the Open Team Race Nationals last year, in addition to the Fowle Trophy, awarded at the end of the season to the best overall sailing program in the country. Two weekends into the regatta, and it appears as if the top-ranked team in the nation is on pace to continue their dominant ways. Although last year’s College Sailor of the Year Shawn Harvey ’22 graduated in the Spring, a strong first-year class has already picked up the slack, securing several first-place finishes already.

Hamera Shabbir contributed reporting.

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SAILING: Bulldogs’ success continues

BY PALOMA VIGIL
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Sailing team competed in four regattas this past weekend. The team placed well in each event, highlighted by a victory at the Hatch Brown Trophy in Boston.

The Yale co-ed sailing team competed in the Hatch Brown Trophy, the Single-Handed Nationals Qualifier and the Yale Invite, while the women’s team sent a boat to compete for the Regis Trophy.

At the Hatch Brown, Carmen Cowles ’25 and Ben Markert ’23 finished first in their division, and their success was a driving factor in their team’s narrow overall victory. Head coach Zachary Leonard told the News how “pleased” he was with how the weekend went.

“We are making progress in practice and everyone on the team is working really hard to improve,” Leonard said. “That is our primary goal, but I’m always happy when the regatta results show that we are on the right track with the practice we are doing.”

The women’s team also dominated the podium during their turn on the Charles. Carmen Berg ’26, Emma Cowles ’25, Mia Nicolosi ’25 and Sarah Moeder ’26 competed in the event, and the two boats finished first in each division, carrying the Bulldogs to a dominant overall victory for the second year in a row.

Additionally, three Bulldogs competed for a spot to qualify at the men’s singlehanded



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nationals. Nicholas Davies ’24 finished second in the event, likely earning a spot in nation-

als later this sailing season. First years continued to make their mark early into the sea-

son as Stephan Baker ’26 came in ninth and Alex Adams ’26 came in sixteenth place at the

same qualifier event.

With two weeks of regattas under their belts, the team is continuing to build confidence and chemistry.

“We had a really successful second weekend,” Allison Rice ’23 said. “We’re excited by the way our team is growing and improving as we look to the rest of the fall season and beyond.”

The Bulldogs also hosted the Yale Invite this past Saturday at the McNay Family Sailing Center. The team was able to earn second and third place finishes in the Flying Junior fleet and 420 fleet events respectively.

Notably, Ximena Escobar ’25 performed well in only her second race as a skipper. Escobar was also on the 2022 NEISA Watch Lists for Coed and Women’s Sailor of the Year, Babineau Crew of the Year and Women’s Crew of the Year.

Alongside her on this list are teammates Berg, Cowles, Mia Nicolosi, Jack Egan ’25 and Teddy Nicolosi ’24.

“Carmen and I stuck to keeping it simple and working on our boat handling,” Cowles told the News. “We were happy with our boat speed and tactical decisions, especially when climbing back through the fleet in such shifty conditions on the Charles.”

This weekend, the Yale co-ed team is set to compete at the Hoyt Trophy and Salt Pond Invite in Rhode Island and at the Hood Trophy in Massachusetts.

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STAT OF THE WEEK

45

THE NUMBER OF GOALS THE YALE MEN’S LACROSSE TEAM SCORED ACROSS TWO GAMES LAST WEEK. THEY BEAT BU 22–15 AND DARTMOUTH 23–6.

“Power is always dangerous. Power attracts the worst and corrupts the best.”
EDWARD ABBEY AMERICAN AUTHOR

Yale’s global strategy takes ground-up approach

BY WILLIAM PORAYOUW
STAFF REPORTER

Since its most recent global strategy report in 2019, Yale is shifting its international focus from administrative-led initiatives to smaller faculty-led projects.

The University, which in the past decade has prioritized several high-profile global strategy projects, including Yale-NUS, the Africa Initiative and most recently the Jackson School for Global Affairs, has not yet announced plans for any new projects on such a scale.

According to Steven Wilkinson, the new Vice Provost of Global Strategy, the University does not have any “big” global initiatives on its agenda, although he will work with faculty to develop a plan for the near future.

“Global strategy doesn’t talk down,” Wilkinson told the News. “It really is a product of discussions with members of the [administrative] faculty with people in the schools about what they’re interested in doing, so Yale can help them do more of it.”

Wilkinson took over the role from former President of Yale-NUS, Pericles Lewis, who will serve as the new Dean of Yale College.

Wilkinson explained that most schools and centers at the University generally operate as an individual “unit,” led by a director, when it comes to its international strategy. However, such units often collaborate with others if they intend to broaden their audience and “forge links.” They also frequently contact the Office

of International Affairs when they need help with projects.

Wilkinson told the News that Yale’s international reach intersects with various disciplines, citing the Yale School of Public Health’s international COVID-19 response as well as international development research conducted by the economics department. Because of this, Wilkinson said the University is looking to strengthen its global strategy plans with unique, diverse people, from “artists, activists [and] politicians.”

“We don’t want [just] this one kind of person coming in,” Wilkinson said. “We want people who are going to stretch all of our understanding about the international world.”

This approach to global strategy marks a shift from larger initiatives led by administration over the past decade. Yale’s most recent global strategy plan, which was adopted in Dec. 2019, listed the University’s “aspirations” to invest resources in its large projects, including Yale-NUS, the Africa Initiative and the Jackson Institute. While the Jackson School for Public Affairs officially opened its doors this fall, Yale has not announced any new plans for collaborations or global projects.

Yale-NUS was a large-scale collaboration between Yale and the National University of Singapore which opened its permanent campus seven years ago. In Aug. 2021, NUS announced the closure of Yale-NUS in 2025. Lewis has previously said that there are no current plans for a campus-building project of a similar scale in the works.

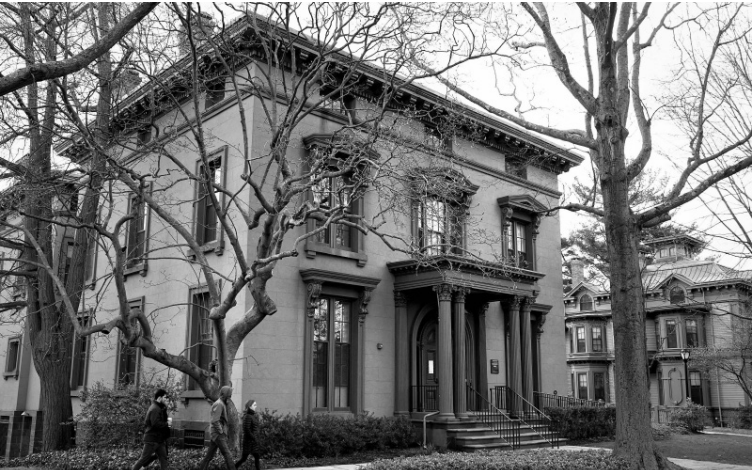
The Africa Initiative, which was launched by President Peter Salovey in 2013, has continued with its collaborations. While the senior administration initially placed great emphasis on expanding its efforts such as through the hiring of a “point person” for the Africa Initiative, a more recent statement to the News noted that at least at the School of Medicine, relationships with African countries was a result of “individual faculty partnerships.”

Over the last year, it has been students and faculty — not administration — who have launched many of the University’s newest initiatives that address international affairs.

Asia Neupane, the program director for the European Studies Council, told the News in an email that a graduate student Maksimas Milta GRD ’23 reached out to program faculty about organizing a talk with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis. Landsbergis met with Salovey and students on Monday.

After speaking to several members of the department, Milta described the response toward his suggestion as supportive and said that there was “significant effort” put into making his idea a reality.

In general, the European Studies Council makes decisions about events and speakers in collaboration with the chair and faculty directors of specific programs within the council — including the Baltic Studies Program and EU Studies Program. It does not, however, necessarily always consult with the administration.



TIM TAI/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior administrators say the University is taking a step back from larger global strategy initiatives, instead focusing on smaller, faculty-led projects.

Faculty at the Schwarzman Center also frequently plan arts events around international themes.

Jennifer Newman DRA ’11, the associate artistic director of the Schwarzman Center, told the News that she thinks of Yale as a community that is “global” in nature. Incorporating the arts into Yale’s international strategy can help Yale build relationships with a “global industry” of artists and presenters who serve to “promote culture,” Newman said.

“I could see the Schwarzman Center being a place for international artists who want to come [to the United States] because it allows them to be in conversation with the thinkers and the learners and the makers here on campus,” Newman said.

The center’s latest performer, Toto Kisaku, is a Congolese playwright who wrote a one-man play entitled “Requiem for an Electric Chair” following his persecution in the Congo. His play touches on international themes — including criticism of the Congolese government, who exiled him, after which he received political asylum in the United States in 2018.

Kisaku told the News that Yale has been able to use the arts as an opportunity to raise international issues.

“Yale is [a] platform that can explore those kinds of topics and inform the world about what’s going on [outside] of the US,” Kisaku said.

Approximately 22 percent of the Yale University student body is international.

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Lithuanian Minister: West must stop trading with autocratic nations



MILAN SINGH/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Gabrielius Landsbergis spoke about the Russian invasion, China’s sanctioning of Lithuania and the need for the West to stand firm against autocracy.

BY MILAN SINGH
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The United States and Europe must reduce their economic and energy dependencies on China and Russia, Lithuania’s chief diplomat argued on Monday.

Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis gave a talk in the Humanities Quadrangle hosted by the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies discussing Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and its global implications.

Landsbergis argued that many European nations had ignored the threat posed by Russia in order to gain access to cheap commodities — such as energy. For example, while shutting down its nuclear power plants, Germany built pipelines to import natural gas from Russia.

Lithuania, Landsbergis said, had been charged by Russia — for political reasons — the highest rates in Europe until Lithuania decided to build its own liquified natural gas terminals to secure energy independence.

The minister argued that the idea that trading with autocratic nations would make them freer and more democratic had been proven false. After China sanctioned Lithuania for allowing Taiwan to open a representative office — a diplomatic outpost that is not an official embassy — Lithuania made trade deals with democracies such as Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Landsbergis added that the West needs to be willing to pay the extra costs that it will take to not be reliant on authoritarian regimes. By diversifying economically — such as by having contracts with multiple countries for key commodities — democratic nations will gain more leverage over autocracies.

Prospective Global Affairs major Luca Girodon ’26 expressed approval for the minister’s argument for decoupling, but noted the need to temper idealism with pragmatism.

“Despite Minister Landsbergis’ optimism, one needs to keep in mind the reality of diplomacy — that there will always be some form of hypocrisy,” Girodon told the News. “For the United States to continue as a first world power and check Russia and China, it is inevitable that we will need to trade with nations with less than stellar backgrounds, such as Modi’s India or Bolsonaro’s Brazil, in order to maintain our economic advantage.”

The foreign minister spoke approvingly of the Western response to Putin’s invasion, especially President Biden’s push to sell weapons to and appropriate aid for Ukraine.

Landsbergis also noted that while European reliance on Russian natural gas has given Putin a potent short-term weapon, the European Union’s acceleration of plans for the transition to clean energy would weaken the punch of supply reductions in the medium- to long-term.

During the question-and-answer segment, some attendees asked about the possibility of American foreign policy moving

in a more isolationist direction in the near future.

According to Landsbergis, American support for Ukraine and sanctions against Russia have been essential in the war effort. To him, victory in Ukraine — which he defined as restoring the pre-2014 borders — is an essential first step in promoting democracy in neighboring Kremlin-aligned nations such as Belarus, and ultimately achieving regime change in Moscow.

But Landsbergis noted that Lithuania’s precise foreign policy objectives may not necessarily be shared by the United States or NATO, the latter of which will meet for a summit in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, next year.

“[The event was] wonderful,” said Steven Wilkinson, director of the MacMillan Center. “One of the big things we do at MacMillan with this speaker series is bringing world leaders and international scholars to Yale and having students and faculty meet them is really just an important part of a liberal arts education.”

Landsbergis served as a member of the European Parliament from 2014 to 2016 and has served as Lithuania’s foreign minister since December 2020.

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DAILY NEWS

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✱

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\$500 PRIZE

Visit vansinderen.yale.edu
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Jonathan Edwards College Presents:

Head of College Tea with Poet Charles North

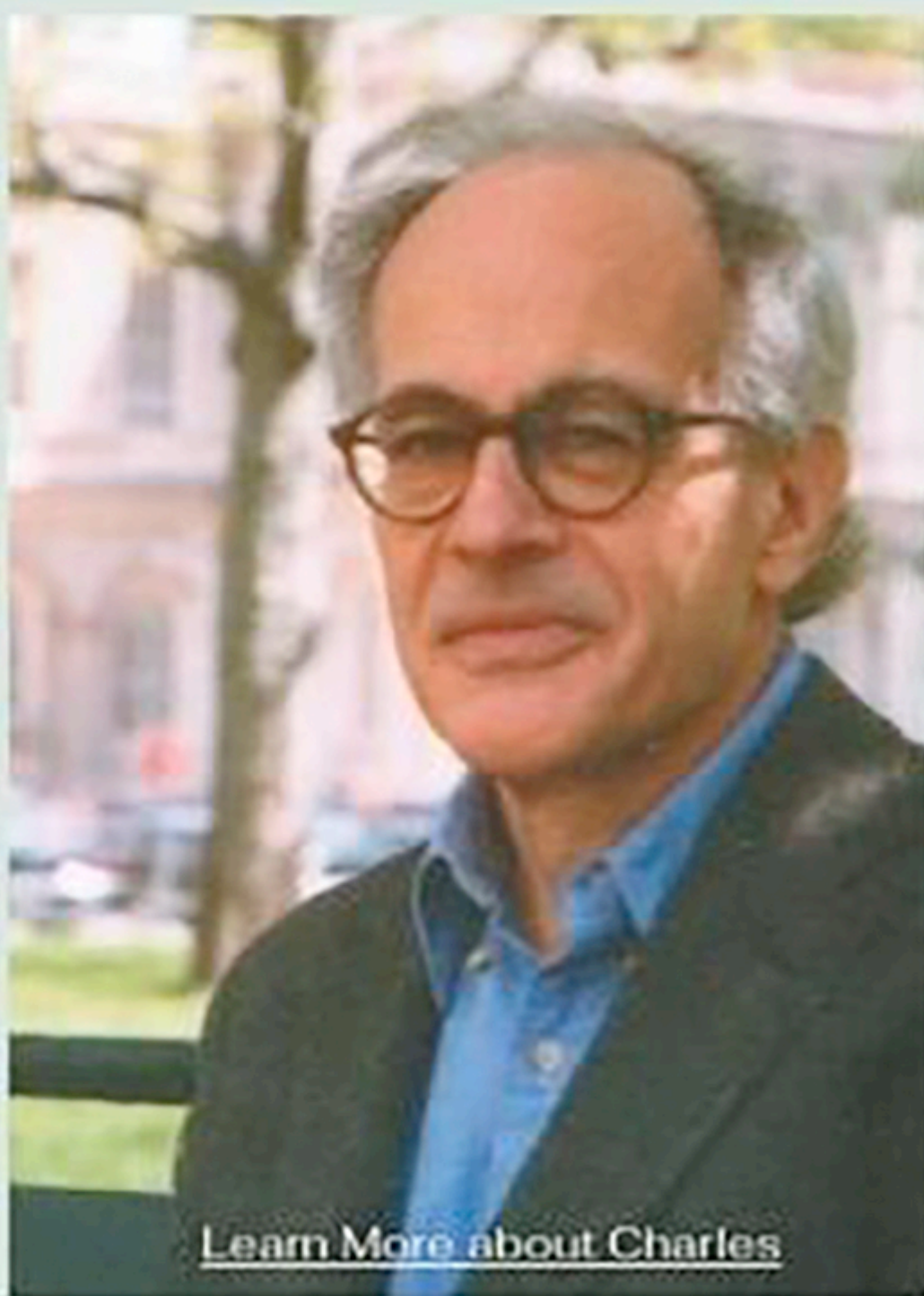
Thursday, September 29th, 2022

JE Head of College House

Tea: 4:00 pm

Conversation: 4:30–5:30pm

Born in Brooklyn, poet and writer Charles North has published twelve books of poems, and his poems have been collected in over 40 anthologies. Associated with writers of the New York School, including Kenneth Koch, North was also involved in the beginnings of the famed Poetry Project. Known for his close collaboration with the artist Trevor Winkfield and fellow poet Tony Towle, North frequently blurs genres, forms, and subjects in his work.



[Learn More about Charles](#)

North received a B.A. in English and Philosophy from Tufts University in 1962 and an M.A. in English and American Literature from Columbia University in 1964. He is Poet-in-Residence at Pace University in New York City, where he has held various Faculty and Resident positions since 1967.

ARTS

New coalition seeks to revitalize Yale’s student art scene

BY KAYLA YUP
STAFF REPORTER

Sensing a “gaping hole” where the arts community should be, students are banding together to establish the Yale Visual Arts Collective.

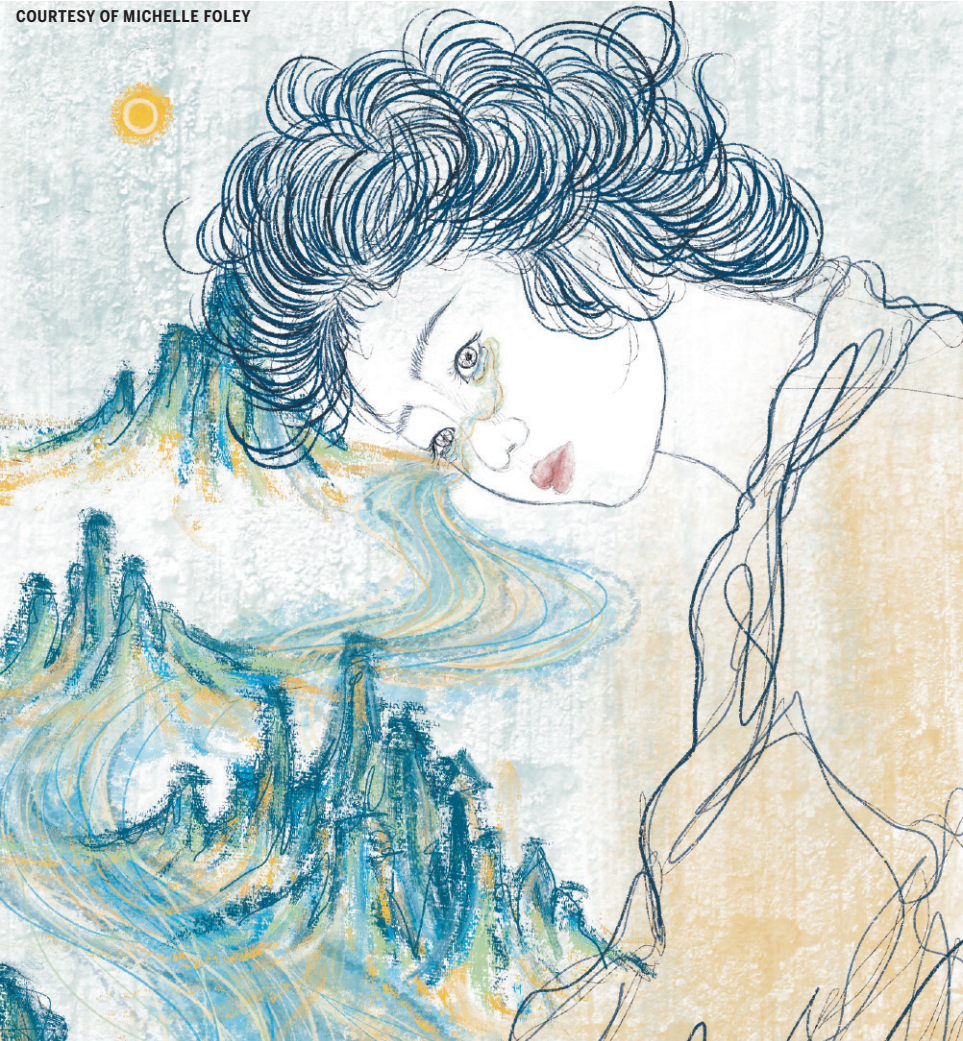
Formed last spring, YVA Collective will be the first to unite students across all visual arts disciplines on campus. Last Wednesday, the coalition organized a public exhibit on Cross Campus to advertise their presence.

“We’re sick and tired of having no community for visual artists on campus,” YVA Collective President Ariel Kim ’25 said. “We want to show that we’re here.”



The YVA Collective hopes to bring in speakers ranging from art directors at major animation companies to gallery curators at exhibits in Manhattan. By connecting students with people in the arts industry who have succeeded, the new coalition hopes to show artists and other creatives that they do not have to choose between financial stability and pursuing the arts.

More than 100 students signed up at this pop-up event, Kim told the News, adding to the group’s existing roster of 80 members.



Kim said she searched extensively for a visual arts organization at the extracurricular bazaar last year — yet came out empty-handed. She found that student artists would instead try to find a literary magazine or dramatic arts organization where they could contribute as a graphic designer or as an illustrator.

This was no substitute, Kim said, for an all-encompassing visual arts organization centered around the creation of visual art.

Although visual artists at Yale have tried to start a club for the past several years, the plans generally fell apart due to a lack of institutional support and a lack of organization, according to YVA Collective treasurer Alex Taranto ’23.

The “Yale Art Society” was an unofficial club that sprouted in 2018 but was defunct by the time Taranto matriculated in 2019. However, it is still listed online as a Yale undergraduate organization. She noted that at the time, there were only four other first years who entered as art majors — making it difficult to garner support for another attempt.

“The visual arts has grown into a more, perhaps ‘viable’ major since I’ve entered Yale,” Taranto said. “I think more and more people are recognizing the fine, visual arts as an actual career path.”

The undergraduate art major is disadvantaged in that it receives its funding through the Graduate School



collaborating with other organizations that employ Yale artists in order to vet their working conditions. Kim expressed concern that artists may be overworked, not provided proper credit, or otherwise undervalued in their supplementary roles in other organizations.

Michelle Foley ’25, YVA Collective board member, found that it was easy for student artists to feel “lost” on the sidelines and invalidated in these auxiliary roles at Yale publications. Foley hopes that by making art the main focus, students can find different artistic opportunities, dig deeper into the art major and make connections in a solidified community.

“I was a little bit hesitant about choosing Yale because [there was] no art club in the area I wanted to pursue fully,” Miye Sugino ’26 said. “So I ended up talking to Ariel, she said ‘Oh, we’re starting our club. If you come to Yale, we can really change the arts scene.’”

Nuttle came to the rescue by designing and assembling a large paneled display through cross-hatching styrofoam in a “W” shape. He labels his work as “three-dimensional art,” with many projects centered around building objects that have both form and function.

While the perception of visual arts is typically restricted to the two-dimensional fine arts, the collective seeks to provide a space for a wider range of visual arts.

“Everything is art, everything is designed and you see it all around us,” Kim said. “And yet we have this outdated belief that you cannot make a living through the arts.”

YVA Collective board member Ron Cheng ’25 emphasized that the collective is also a space for people

who are not necessarily art majors but still desire to continue pursuing creative work. The YVA Collective hopes to continue hosting art sessions every Saturday.

“For me, I think our natural yearning for art is like our innate desire for something divine,” Kim said. “It’s something that you can’t express through vernacular. It’s like a search for the truth. It allows us to transcend beyond our material reality.”


The group hopes to eventually register as an official club to be able to apply for funding from the University.

The YVA Collective’s next meeting is on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in room G01 at the Yale School of Art.

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Book Discussion

The
**TRAYVON
GENERATION**



Elizabeth Alexander

Author of
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Friday, September 23
4–5 pm ET
Lecture Hall / Livestream
1080 Chapel Street
Book signing and
reception to follow

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER
(Yale BA 1984)

in conversation with

JORDAN CASTEEL
(Yale MFA 2014)

and

GLENN LIGON

moderated by

COURTNEY J. MARTIN
(Yale PhD 2009)

britishart.yale.edu

**YALE
CENTER
FOR
BRITISH
ART**

WEEKEND

THE REDNECK DILEMMA

// CATE ROSER

I did not have a summer fling.

In the late-August drought, the only thing drier than the withered grass was my phone. Even with the slight stat boost — I went from a 6/10 in New Haven to an 8.7/10 in Montana — I could not find a single person on Tinder who I would even consider looking in the eye. I’m queer, but it seems all of the women-loving-women or non-binary-loving-women in Montana have wisely vacated the Tinder arena.

As a result, Montana Tinder consists of a cohort of mostly straight, beer-guzzling, cowboy-hat-wearing, Very Country men. Unfortunately, I view that population with the same vague curiosity incurred by admiring a newly-painted beige wall or flipping through a waiting-room tabloid — which, incidentally, is not the desired emotion for selecting a potential partner.

I couldn’t exactly put my finger on what made these Montana Men so ... unappealing. Perhaps it was the subtly-homophobic energy exuded from every snapshot of a jacked up truck. Perhaps it was their identifying odor, a delicate combination of feet, sweat, musty sheets and Axe body spray, which was so strong it diffused through my phone screen like the “before” part of a cologne ad. Perhaps it was the not-so-subtle bloody fingers and proudly grubby cheeks, sure markers of a blue-collar worker with a hunting hobby. One remarkable profile contained no less than five pictures in which a smiling occupant cradled a raw fish between his meaty palms.

Whatever the reason, I was swiping left on every profile. The summer dragged on and still, I was as far from flung as it was possible to be.

B u t
t h e

more I swiped, the more I realized the profiles followed a pattern. In fact, many seemed nearly identical. They contained similar phrases like “just looking for a mom for my dog,” or “I can out-smoke you.” Like any good scientist, I figured this pattern merited investigation. If I could just pinpoint the issue with Montana Tinder men, perhaps the lack of eligible partners could be rectified for other male-attracted people. I wasn’t getting a date, but at least I could get some data.

Emboldened by this new, noble, highly scientific goal, I drafted a spreadsheet containing variables I found to be common across profiles. Then, when things were slow at work, I swiped left until my thumbs hurt, taking care to mark each data point on the spreadsheet. Co-workers became invested in the survey once they saw my lengthy tables. Every week, they would demand a status update on Montana Tinder men and ask when my findings would be analyzed and presented.

After a few hundred swipes, I’d exhausted every single match — not just in my town, which contains fewer people than Yale’s campus, but in my entire region of the state. That’s when I knew my work was near completion. I had only one task remaining: to collect all of this raw (lol) data and share my findings with the world.

Without further ado, I present the capstone project of a summer spent swiping:

The Redneck Dilemma: An Analysis of the Behavior and Mating Rituals of Montana Men with Implications for Declining Birthrate in the United States

Introduction

It’s a well-known fact that Montana faces severe population shortages. A recent study of the state reveals that the cow-to-people ratio has now reached a striking 2.5 cows to every person. This survey seeks to uncover factors behind the falling birthrate by examining a primary mechanism by which Montana Men — in Latin, Montanus idiotus — seek a mate.

In nature, male members of a species often produce an auditory signal in order to attract females to a breeding site. This phenomenon, called a “mating call,” is best witnessed in several species of songbirds. However, Montanus idiotus dwells in a state where fifty miles is an acceptable, nay, convenient distance for a match. Such remote-

n e s s

means that the auditory signals of males often go undetected by potential mates.

Montanus idiotus has developed a unique biological adaptation to combat this setback. Instead of auditory mating calls, the mating calls of Montanus idiotus are produced in the form of photography and short blurbs, and distributed via the online dating site Tinder. Thus, Tinder provides a vital mechanism for Montanus idiotus to attract a member of the preferred sex. Tinder profiles serve as the latest evolutionary adaptation in a long line of mating calls. But are they the most effective?

The mating practices of Montanus idiotus are vastly understudied. While initial results of this survey appear promising, additional research, especially into the field of female receptiveness to the mating cries of Montanus idiotus, is required to truly understand this peculiar species.

Methodology

In this study, 103 Tinder profiles were analyzed: 30 in a preliminary survey and 73 in the principal survey. In the preliminary survey, subjects were scored in 12 categories. In the principal survey, this metric was expanded to 16 different categories, encompassing both photographic and written aspects of each profile. In addition to survey statistics, several profiles which warranted specific attention were chosen as the focus for case studies.

Results

Part A: Survey

The primary demographic for the principal survey was overwhelmingly white males, aged 19-25. 73 profiles were surveyed.

We theorize that the following categories are reflective of many Tinder users. Out of the respondents:

- 36% had a picture with dog
- 16% wrote their height in their profile
- 29% contained at least one shirtless picture
- 27% mentioned the gym in their profile or had a picture in the gym
- 11% had a picture containing a blunt or a smoking occupant, and an additional 5% mentioned smoking
- 23% had a picture where the occupant was holding or drinking alcohol
- 4% explicitly stated they were looking for hookups or friends with benefits — we believe this number is low compared to other demographics of Tinder users

We theorize the traits analyzed in the following section are more specific to Montanus idio-

tus:

- 3% mentioned hunting or fishing in their profile, and an additional 12% had a picture involving hunting or fishing

- 23% had a picture with cowboy hat and/or horse, including one profile with four pictures in four different cowboy hats

- An additional 4% mentioned farming or ranching in their bio

- 16% had a picture of a vehicle — car, truck or dirt bike — including one profile with a picture of a toy truck and one profile with four vehicle pictures and no pictures of the subject

- A slightly alarming 4% contained at least one picture of a Trump flag or assorted paraphernalia

- 13% contained at least one picture of a gun

We can only conclude that the inclusion of these details is a primitive tactic utilized by Montanus idiotus to demonstrate that the subject is a good provider and would make a biologically sound mate.

Part B: Case Studies

Case studies were not originally intended to comprise part of the study. However, we hope that they will provide additional insight into the dire plight of Montanus idiotus and their mating prospects.

Subject 1 — “Will,” a male aged 20 — opened his profile by describing himself as “one dense mother f*cker.” He proceeded to list his statistics, writing that he is 6’2” and weighs 190 lbs. Presumably, this is to indicate his viability to any potential mates. Regarding the height and weight statistics, Will then asks, “Is this good? I hope so.” If you have to ask, maybe it’s not good.

In the included photo, an unsmiling Will clutches an olive green water bottle with both hands, holding it in front of him like a shield. This is a common tactic employed by males who fear female attention and seek to place any available barriers between themselves and the nearest woman.

Subject 2 — “Larry,” a male aged 22 — displayed a black and white image of himself, outfitted in chaps and a cowboy hat, his gloved hand adjusting some unseen implement near his crotch. Larry opted for a simple, b u t p r o -

found opening line: “I just like choking shit. Take that as you please!”

NO, LARRY, I WILL NOT TAKE THAT AS YOU PLEASE.

Subject 3 — “Teajay,” a male aged 20 — was one of the most exemplary specimens of Montanus idiotus examined in this survey. Teajay left his bio entirely blank, perhaps with the intention of cultivating a mysterious persona, or perhaps because he was incapable of forming basic sentences.

It is the opening photo, however, that proved most noteworthy. In the image, Teajay stands, arms spread wide, with a beer can in each hand. This pose reveals the full extent of his wingspan, and hints at his capacity to ingest alcohol. Teajay is entirely nude, save for a large cowboy hat covering his crotch. He stares into the camera, with a look both stoic and defiant. Teajay is a Montanus idiotus, and he’s proud of it. This is his mating call.

Conclusion

After conducting the preliminary and principal surveys, we suggest that any male-attracted Montanans who are considering downloading Tinder should immediately burn their phones and sanitize their eyeballs to avoid contact with Montanus idiotus.

We also strongly advise that Montana be sold to Canada for spare parts.

Contact HANNAH MARK
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GOD SAVE



// LIZZIE CONKLIN

THE MEME

// BY MIRANDA WOLLEN

“The soul of man is immortal and imperishable” - Plato

Resurrection and rebirth remain a mainstay of ancient mythology and modern tropiness; Achilles was carried from the flames of his funeral pyre into immortality, the nymph Daphne lived on as a sacred laurel tree and that dog in “A Dog’s Purpose” kept dying and being reborn as a new dog in order to find its original owner (full disclosure, I once sobbed to this movie on a plane). Recently, the cliché found a new home; on Sept. 7, influencer and My Chemical Romance-cosplayer Trisha Paytas announced on Twitter, “1 cm dilated! Woo hoo!” The next day, the United Kingdom’s Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-reigning British monarch in history, died peacefully at Balmoral. Social media was ablaze with joking speculation that the Queen would be reincarnated as Paytas’s then-unborn child.

But alas, Trish was still pregnant. On Sept. 9, she took to Instagram herself, writing “Sorry to the royal family and my baby” alongside a picture of her bump. But the momentum had taken off; the internet had latched onto the joke. As so often happens, the bit took on a life of its own, entirely separate from the verity of the situation.

The joke’s inception can be traced to TikTok. On Feb. 14, Paytas announced she was pregnant. Two days later, a video describing how Elizabeth was “holding on for dear life so she doesn’t get reincarnated as Trisha Paytas’ baby” went viral on the platform. The joke eventually died out, before roaring back to life in early September,

when a flurry of memes about the alleged reincarnation of the Queen as Malibu Barbie Paytas-Hacmon flooded the internet.

It’s no secret that meme culture has risen to internet prominence over the last decade as a pithy, short-form way to spread jokes and news around the online world; a friend admitted to me yesterday that she found out about Brexit via a meme (she lives in London). Memes are often downplayed as silly, brainless or inane. Yet, as with any form of media, they say something about the culture they arise from.

The Queen Elizabeth memes struck me not just because some of them were really funny and also in really poor taste, but because on some level they signal the enduring influence of the late monarch. The fact that the Queen’s death pervaded a form of pop culture so quintessential to Gen Z’s online experience speaks both to her undeniable importance over the past century and to modern disillusionment with aristocracy.

It’s no secret that Gen Z has caught on to the anti-imperialist tide. Various memes reference Queen Elizabeth’s death with jokes about the contestants on “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” a photoshopped picture of the Lisa Rinna M&M at Balmoral and that one really funny photo of an old lady in a lavender coat clinging onto a wrought-iron fence. You know the one.

And, of course, Malibu Barbie Paytas-Hacmon. The very equating of the late queen with the daughter of Trisha Paytas — who is known for controver-

sy-laden mukbangs, an OnlyFans account called OnlyTrish and a song called “I Love You Jesus” which sounds exactly like you’d expect it to — feels like a sign of the times.

The essence of the joke, of course, lies in its irreverence. To insert the 96-year-old monarch into the life of a YouTuber with an EP called “Daddy Issues” and a “My Strange Addiction” episode where she comes out as a “tanning addict” is to disparage the validity of the monarchy, to relegate it to the recesses of KnowYourMeme.com.

I first intended to write a jokey POV about the Queen waking up in baby Malibu Barbie’s body; in fact, I latched onto the idea with a borderline-sadistic excitement. But upon sitting down to write it, the joke had lost some of its hold on me. Maybe it’s just because I really love “The Crown,” or because I watched one too many “funny Queen moments” TikTok compilations, or because her dogs are really cute, but I think I harbor a respect for the Queen that I wasn’t aware of until I tried to undercut it so openly.

Though entangled with the ethical concerns of her seat, the Queen carried herself with finesse and grace through a job that I thought I would love at age six but now, frankly, sounds really hard and annoying. It remains to be seen what will come of the British monarchy, and I will keep laughing at baby Malibu’s rumored ascension to the throne, but I can’t quite bring myself to be the one making the jokes.

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Morning Musings from the Elm

// BY NOEL SIMS

It’s a beautiful September day. The first hint of autumn chill has crept into the morning air, but the sun shines, giving a warmth to the afternoon that feels like the free-wheeling spirit of summer. Campus is bustling, teeming with start-of-the-semester excitement. Birds chirp, babies laugh, a fairy gets its wings. Insert other descriptions of a Disney movie opening scene here.

If this sounds like an exaggeration, ask the dozens of tourists flocking to campus everyday. It’s pretty damn close to Disneyland.

Yale has, in my (not so) humble opinion, one of the most beautiful campuses in the world. And there really is something here for everyone to see. Perhaps the luckiest are fans of Gothic architecture, with a plethora of buildings to revel in and a view of Harkness from many spots in town. But worry not, enjoyers of Brutalist, Modern, Florentine, and neo-Georgian styles! There’s plenty here for you too.

There are also plenty of spaces for you if you prefer to avoid beauty, sunshine, fresh air and happiness.

And apparently there are a lot of you freaks, because I’m sitting in the Elm at 10 a.m. and it’s packed.

Why I entered the Schwarzman Center in the first place, and then descended into the Elm — its bowels, the underworld of campus — is beyond me. Perhaps I was beckoned by the last cries of unfortunate souls who got confused about how course registration works as they crossed the River Styx.

But regardless, here I am, spending my last eight dollars on an iced vanilla latte and a chocolate croissant. Honestly, that’s less expensive than I expected, but there was no way to tip the baristas in berets. And the croissant was tiny. Like miniscule. I needed a magnifying glass. It was also stale and the latte was too sweet. Not terrible overall, but I can think of a lot of other ways to spend eight dollars that don’t involve putting more money into the corporate

machine that is Yale.

I found a seat at a narrow, tall table so I could sit perched above the action and observe. Honestly, it’s a different crowd than I expected. I was prepared to find myself among a more corporate version of the heavy-weight rowers, lacrosse bros and other athlete types that haunt the lower level of Bass at night. I thought it would be guys that “would have been D1, but I got injured and now I’m focusing on my tech start-up.”

I mean how could a person with any sense of taste enjoy sitting down here? It’s atrocious. I’m looking at a sea of clashing orange and green tables sandwiched

between two U-shaped seating areas, dimly lit and framed by dark wood. Mysterious figures lurk in the shadows, even this early in the morning. It kind of looks like if you were running a preschool out of a strip club during the day.

I would expect this liminal, sterile space to appeal to Brian, from Greenwich, junior in Berkeley, spent the summer at Deloitte, uses “dude” pronouns. It probably reminds him of his dad’s office.

And there are a few Brians, Brads and Bennetts that have set up camp in the Elm today, but mostly it’s filled with artsy, humanities-major-looking peo-

ple with lots of stickers on their laptops. I fit right in with my thrifted shirt, clunky Doc Martens and “Ski Mississippi” decal.

I want to stand up and shout, “What’s wrong with you people?”

I expected this from Brian. But you? I thought you were better than this.

And I won’t exempt myself from this either. Why the hell am I still down here? I came, I ate my microscopic croissant. Let’s go, already.

Somehow an hour has slipped away, yet I’m still here. My heart rate has steadied into a pace fast enough to keep me typing without switching tabs to google “can

20 year olds have heart attacks,” as the ice cubes in my latte melt away. The ceiling seems to have lowered five feet and weighs down on me. I know my eyes have the same glazed look that I see in the other faces around the room.

Something holds me to my seat, makes me ponder a second croissant. I even start to forget why I thought it was so bad down here in the first place. I mean being crushed by the ever lowering ceilings and the weight of millions (billions? bazillions?) of dollars from Stephen Schwarzman to build them is kind of comforting, right? Like a weighted blanket?

Schwarzman has almost finished casting his spell on me. I’m nearly convinced that I should stay in the Elm forever. Why leave? Everything you need is here. Coffee, wifi, a bar, a place to work and socialize with other people that are “going places.”

All Schwarzman asks for in return (it’s really pretty minor and he promises it will have a good return on investment) is your soul.

Oh yeah, that’s why I think willingly spending any amount of time in the Elm warrants a visit to an inpatient facility. Schwarzman is, like, easily one of the top ten most evil people in the world and this room is fucking ugly.

Maybe hating so much on such a tiny part of campus is a waste of time, but it’s sort of a combination of all the things I hate the most about Yale condensed into one suffocating space. It’s windowless, isolated, makes you forget that anything beyond Yale exists or matters. It’s overpriced, putting more money in the hands of people who already have enough of it. And it’s full of people who came here wanting to save the world, now working on their applications to work at Blackstone. Or Blackrock. Or Blackwater. Whatever, no escaping the Elm now.

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// JESSAI FLORES

WKND RECOMMENDS

London fogs.

Reimagining Breakfast

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

Big Breakfast has lied to us for too long. Those faceless breakfast branding consultants tried to convince us that we needed to fuel up in the morning. We, as college students, know that's not the case.

Lunch powers us through those afternoon classes. Dinner gets us through the evening. Heck, even afternoon or late-night snacks could make a claim for the title. But breakfast? A few eggs, maybe some fruit? Don't be absurd.

And yet, I'm a devoted breakfast eater. In my first semester at Yale, two friends and I ate together in the Saybrook dining hall at 9:45 a.m. every day. Second semester, when they decided they weren't cut out for the early meal schedule, I found new companions.

Now, despite facing the fearful opposition that kills most breakfast aspirations — Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. Spanish — I continue to start my mornings in the JE dining hall.

Why do I do it? Why do I put myself through the Hell that is less sleep for the sake of three hard-boiled eggs every day?

Here's the thing. Big Breakfast used the wrong equation, but they reached the correct answer. They were accidentally telling the truth when they told us that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

No, you will never convince me that it fuels me to be a “big, strong boy” for the day. But it does set a vibe, and that matters just as much. Waking up at a somewhat early hour and having the time to turn on my brain is a game-changer.

Sprinting to class ten minutes after rolling out of bed sets a harried tone. Strolling into a tranquil dining hall to sit and talk for half an hour before meandering over to class allows for a calm start.

My three-person first-semester breakfast club broke up because of their aversion to early starts and breakfast food. However, they remain two of my closest friends thanks to the silly, “my brain is still only at thirty percent functionality and we're talking about Presidential Hunger Games” discussions we had.

I've also grown closer to my JE comrades just by showing up with nothing but a willingness to sit with new people. I've even enjoyed the occasional breakfast alone, with time to gather my thoughts in the middle of busy weeks. But despite the positives of a morning meal, we can't forget the evil we're facing.

Big Breakfast's Big Lie needs to die. We don't need mushy oatmeal or pulp-free orange juice. We don't need un-peelable grapefruits or underripe bananas that test my colorblind eyes' ability to distinguish between yellow and green. We don't need any more french toast casseroles or bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches that are 90 percent bread. There are thousands of Yale students who prove on a daily basis that we can survive without these things.

But they will never know the bliss of morning tranquility. They don't know what they're missing.

It angers me to grant Big Breakfast this acknowledgement of their own importance. They don't deserve this praise after the misinformation they've spread. Somewhere out there, a cabal of Tropicana and Kellogg's executives are gleefully celebrating the award of my highly-esteemed stamp of approval.

But I can't help myself. Breakfast, at least according to my daily-vibe-o-meter, is the most important meal of the day, and it's high time we accept that.

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// JESSAI FLORES

SEX ON THE WKND:

Exes and Woes: A Comprehensive Guide to Combating the Crazy

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

My ex has been showing up to my CS office hours every time I go. They are not even in the course. And the other day, they started sending me a flurry of Adam Levine-ish messages. I didn't know they were having a baby, let alone naming one after me. Things are getting strange.

-NotYourSummer

Firstly, I'm sorry your ex does not understand that a break up actually means breaking up. Second, you think

you know strange? My cheating Jehovah's Witness ex-boyfriend tried to contact me via Trivia Crack for five months after we broke up — and I bet I played Trivia Crack way more than you go to office hours.

Whether you are the piner or the pinee, Ex-Lover Limbo is an awkward place to be. But don't worry, Sex on the WKND has got you covered. This week, I'll be guiding you through a few key scenarios for dealing with banished beloveds.

1. You're dealing with a crazy ex

Are they crazy because they're in love or crazy because they're crazy? The answer to this question will inform your approach. If they're still in love with you, time is the answer. Go no-contact, and wait it out. Once you do that, you may come to the conclusion that they are, in fact, crazy. In that case, you have a few options.

One, you can communicate. Let them know that they're crazy and that a middle school summer camp relationship is not grounds for a transnational move to West Covina, California. Sometimes drawing attention to the unhinged makes things click. You know what they say about the first step to recovery.

Two, you can humble them. If you dumped them, I'm willing to bet they're not all that. Let them know their satchel carrying freaked you out or that pulling hair during sex is normal, but pulling hair out is not. I'm not advocating for unnecessary cruelty here — just enough to make them so embarrassed that they never want to see you again.

Three, you can fight fire with fire: embrace the crazy. I'm not legally allowed to promote criminal activity in the Oldest College Daily, but there are other, strategic ways to go about this. Send a 3-minute long, mouth-breathing voicemail. Start golfing with their second cousin — someone close enough to make your ex uncomfortable but not so close that the person avoids you. Get pregnant. Get someone else pregnant. Rather than making them embarrassed by their own actions, regift the embarrassment you have for dating them at all.

And, if things get legitimately concerning, there's always Title IX.

2. Your partner claims they have a crazy ex

Is your partner's ex a woman? If so, ditch 'em. Never trust anyone, especially a man, who calls a woman crazy.

In reality, this should be an issue your partner takes care of. Refer them to situation #1.

3. You are the crazy ex

I still remember the time I got a funny feeling and decided to grab the yellow-pages to cross reference my ex's Snapchat location with the home of a girl I met only once before. I was right, by the way. His traitorous ass had already found a new ass to tap. But realistically, what could I do about it? Could I really make things better?

No. Nothing will change and deranged behavior will never get you what you want. There's a point where you need to let go. Don't get arrested for arson. Her kitchen-cut baby bangs aren't worth spending the night in a jail cell. You know you can't afford bail. You know you haven't memorized your rich roommate's phone number. You're not getting out of there.

Remember, love is essentially reciprocal insanity. The crazy ex can only emerge when that mutually assured destruction becomes one-sided. So have a little empathy for yourself and your former paramour. No one enjoys breaking up — unless you're escaping someone truly bonkers.

If that's the case, again, there's always Title IX.



WKND Recommends
Walking in the rain barefoot.



The High and Low Notes of A Capella Rush at Yale

// BY ZOË HALABAN

Last Thursday as I headed back to my dorm, I found Poe Doub ’26 hunched over on a bench facing High Street. His face was sullen and perplexed, filled with eagerness and nerves.

“What brings you to this side of town?” I asked, alluding to the fact his Silliman home usually keeps him a few blocks away.

“Rush meal. But they’re running a bit late,” he replied. He continued to sigh and look desperately towards the Old Campus gate.

I was shocked by how serious Poe was about a cappella, but even more surprised

to find out that this was a pretty normal thing at Yale.

Before coming to Yale, I thought my understanding of a cappella was above average at worst. I was a devout “Pitch Perfect” stan. For my 11th birthday party, I brought a group of my best friends for a screening of “Pitch Perfect 2.” I had an Anna Kendrick autograph hanging in my bedroom. I viewed the spectacle as a comedy, a camp display of talent and sisterhood. I had no idea that anything even close to a Hollywood plot could happen

at my university. But, the life engulfing commitment, the nerves, the competition — are all big screen scenes that I have seen unfold practically out my window.

A few days after my conversation with Poe, things became more absurd. Over 200 students received an unexpected email from the Singing Group Council at Yale.

“Dear talented student ... It is natural to feel worthless, or that you will never find community here,” the email read.

These alarming disclaimers are none other than the usual for Yale’s a cappella

rush process, echoed around campus for the past couple of weeks.

The a cappella process in so many ways is a microcosm of the Yale experience. In particular, the abundant assessment of personality during the process reflects an image of the Yale social and extracurricular scene. It is long, competitive, tiring, stressful, historic and extreme.

Though the process does include a ten-minute audition to show off singing abilities, it’s ironic that each student only auditions once — or twice, if they’re lucky



// JESSAI FLORES

enough to receive a callback — for each group. The rest of the rush period is spent by rushees attempting to woo the groups with non-singing abilities, highlighting desire for the perfectly well-rounded Yale student. Rushees show off their personality and commitment to the prospective group through attending events like meals and walks around campus — making not only for some perfect harmonies but also a planned campus social scene.

“Some of the groups care more about the vibe even if you’re not that great of a singer. Some of them are like, your vibe can be fine but if you’re a really good singer they’ll still let you in ... they definitely want to get a sense of who you are in addition to how you sing,” Poe told me.

I couldn’t help but to think back to my love of “Pitch Perfect” as Poe was describing the judgment practices. In the movie, Brittany Snow and Anna Camp’s characters navigate how to assemble a winning team

with no auditionees that fit their set image. With seventeen groups on Yale’s campus, there is naturally a broader realm of inclusivity. But, image perception can be incredibly nerve-racking for first-year students attempting to cultivate community.

On Wednesday, the wait was over. Upwards of 200 students who enrolled in the rush process found out if their hard work paid off. At dinner time that evening, I counted three groups hosting meals with their new, fully formed cohort. The delighted energy and the

wide smiles of the new members created an inviting energy and a place I wanted to be.

The promise of new friends and community is thrilling and unique. Perhaps the exhilaration is only brought on by virtue of the intense audition practices.

Regardless of whether they’re a soprano or an alto, most rushees find a group to join and end the process on a high note.

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WKND Hot Take:

3rd round of Yague > pink eye.