



Salovey sets priorities for the year



Salovey outlined the University's academic and financial priorities for the 2023 calendar year in an interview with the News. This year's priorities, he said, are informed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a University-wide push for diversity and a capital campaign now half-way to reaching its \$7 billion target. / Tim Tai Photography Editor

BY EVAN GORELICK AND WILLIAM PORAYOUW
STAFF REPORTERS

The University's top priorities this year include increasing diversity, equity and inclusion within the Yale community, fundraising and investing in health-related academic initiatives, according to University President Peter Salovey.

Salovey outlined the University's academic and financial priorities for the 2023 calendar year in an interview with the News. This year's priorities, he said, are informed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a University-wide push for diversity and a capital campaign now half-

way to reaching its \$7 billion target. While each of the three priorities is long-term, Salovey and other top administrators anticipate significant progress in the coming year.

"We're gonna have to double down and work even harder," Salovey said.

Belonging at Yale

Salovey said that this year, the University will focus on "Belonging at Yale" — the administration's five-year mission to improve diversity, equity and inclusion at Yale. He told the News that the University will soon measure "the sense of belonging" among faculty, staff and students through comprehensive metrics.

On the faculty side, he told the News that Yale will soon hire 45 more faculty members in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences with greater attention given to "the need for inclusion."

For students on campus, recruiting a more diverse faculty body is a pressing matter.

"It's like a two way relationship," Aranyo Ray '25 said. "Because you don't go to classes and lectures just to listen to your professor. You interact with them on a human level, and you build connections. And when you find someone who has a similar face to you or has a similar

SEE **SALOVEY** PAGE 5

Cops and Courts

NHPS guard shoots at minor

BY YASH ROY AND AVA SAYLOR
STAFF REPORTERS

A security guard at a public elementary school in New Haven was arrested on Sunday after pursuing and shooting at a 14-year-old who had broken into his car in broad daylight.

According to a Sunday press release from the New Haven Police Department, the security guard, Tiquentes Graybrown, claimed to believe the child was armed when he discharged his personal weapon. The New Haven Police Department later confirmed that the child was not armed. Graybrown said that though he shot at the child, he missed and the child was unharmed. When police arrived at the scene, they found Graybrown in the process of detaining the child.

Graybrown has been charged with criminal attempt to commit assault in the 1st degree, unlawful discharge of a firearm, risk of injury to a minor and reckless endangerment in the 2nd degree. He is currently out on bail and has been reassigned to the central administrative office for New Haven Public Schools on Meadow St.

Dave John Cruz-Bustamante, a Board of Education student representative and junior at Wilbur Cross High School, told the News that Sunday's

SEE **SHOOTING** PAGE 5

Women's ice hockey gliding to victory



The No. 2 Yale women's hockey team increased its win streak to 11 this past weekend after beating Princeton University and No. 4 Quinnipiac University. / MuscoSportsPhotos.com

BY ROSA BRACERAS
STAFF REPORTER

With eight games left in the regular season, the Bulldogs are on track to have yet another record-breaking year.

The No. 2 Yale women's hockey team (19-1-1, 12-1-1 ECAC) increased its win streak to 11 this past weekend after beating Princeton Uni-

versity (9-10-1, 5-9-0) and No. 4 Quinnipiac University (23-4-0, 13-2-0) on the road. Yale is also headed towards an Ivy League championship and will be strong contenders for the ECAC championship in the postseason.

Despite their continued success, the Bulldogs are not looking ahead to the postseason just yet. "Right now the team is focused on finishing the regular season well," captain Claire Dal-

ton '23 said. "All we can control is the games we have ahead, so there is no point in worrying about which opponent we might face as the postseason approaches."

Vita Poniatovskaia '25 started off the scoring less than three minutes into Friday's game against Princeton. During

SEE **W HOCKEY** PAGE 5

BY CHLOE NIELD AND GIRI VISWANATHAN
STAFF REPORTERS

Saad Omer has been involved in the field of global and public health since the age of 19, a path that's taken him from Karachi to Connecticut. Now, after four years in New Haven as an associate dean of the School of Medicine and the inaugural director of the Institute for Global Health, Omer is leaving Yale.

Dean of the Yale School of Medicine Nancy Brown, interim dean of the Yale School of Public Health Melinda Pettigrew and interim dean of the Yale School of Nursing Holly Powell Kennedy announced Omer's departure in a joint statement on Thursday.

Effective June 1, 2023, Omer will be heading to Texas to serve as dean of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Omer's time at Yale has been marked by his leadership of the Yale Institute for Global Health, or YIGH, and contribution to advancements in COVID-19 monitoring, vaccine and policy initiatives.

"We are at that turning point where the nature of public health is changing to be responsive," Omer told the News on the topic of his transition. "My goal would be to help redefine mod-



Saad Omer / Saad Omer

SEE **OMER** PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1982. A Stiles first-year woman had her purse snatched by five children shorter than her. The purse contained a singular dollar. She reported to Yale police who picked up two of the boys and returned the dollar.

INSIDE THE NEWS

THE NEW FACE IN THE MAYORAL RACE
PAGE 6 **NEWS**



- PAGE 3 **OPINIONS**
- PAGE 6 **NEWS**
- PAGE 13 **BULLETIN**
- PAGE 14 **SPORTS**
- PAGE B1 **WKND**

TWITTER Yale scientists are contending with Twitter's new leadership and direction.
PAGE 9 **SCITECH**

HOUSING City leaders are working to fix the housing crisis amid skyrocketing housing prices.
PAGE 12 **NEWS**

THROUGH THE LENS

PROFILE: Hannah Altman, inaugural Blanksteen Artist in Residence at the Slifka Center

BY CARLA DECOMBES
STAFF REPORTER

Jewish-American photographer Hannah Altman is the first Blanksteen Artist in Residence at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale.

Through this program, Altman was given \$10,000 to create a collaborative work with students, who also make their own artworks, around the central question of the residency: “When and How does speech become violence?”

Aviva Green, the Social Justice and Arts Springboard Fellow and engagement coordinator, who oversees student engagement, service, social justice and arts opportunities at Slifka, described the goal of the Blanksteen program as a way “to create a real investment in Slifka’s part in the arts and in Jewish arts specifically.”

“We wanted to be able to support an artist, either emerging or already established, in the work that they do as well as give students who are interested in artistic endeavors a chance to meet with, learn from, and be inspired by a contemporary Jewish artist as well as empower them to create their own work,” Green wrote to the News.

Altman lives in Boston and comes to New Haven for a week about every

six weeks. During her visits, she participates in discussions with the selected student groups but also in a number of events open to the community that Green organizes.

In both December and January, Altman participated in Shabbat afternoon learning sessions with photography prints and books. This January, Altman visited the Prints, Drawings and Photographs study room at the Yale University Art Gallery. Accompanied by students part of the cohort, they discussed artworks from the collection such as an etching by Faith Ringold, “Under a Blood Red Sky #9.” The same evening, she also presented her previous work and the upcoming project she has been working on at the Slifka Center.

Back home, she creates photographs which are centered around Jewish culture, storytelling and the body. At the center of her images is the idea of collective memory.

“All Jewish people share a past, passing down heirlooms and sharing stories and performing rituals,” she said during her talk at Slifka, “the ways in which we use Judaism in imagery can further ideas of collective memory with a photographic link.”

She uses both material symbols from Judaic culture as well as in the immaterial representations of Jew-

ish thought. Even though some of her photographs are object-based and other narrative, all her images share the world of Judaica.

“They’re speaking the same language, they share the same universe and whether it can be pointed to or not, Judaism is the world they inhabit and the outlook through which we view them,” Altman said.

To address the central question of the residency, Altman explores how Jewish narratives build tensions and how individuals share fictional stories that are often a painful reflection of the truth of the writer and their surroundings.

The photographs she has been creating for the residency try to uncover what builds tension in Jewish folk tales and how different individuals engage with these stories.

Hannah Altman has exhibited with the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Blue Sky Gallery, Filter Photo and Athens Photo Festival. Her work has been featured in publications including Vanity Fair, Artforum, Huffington Post and British Journal of Photography. She received the Lensculture Critics’ Choice Award 2021 and the Portraits Hellerau Photography Award 1st Prize 2022. Her photobook “Kavana” (2020), published by Kris Graves Projects, is in the permanent collections of the MoMa Library and

the Metropolitan Museum of Art Thomas J. Watson Library.

Throughout the hybrid residency, Altman engages in conversations around the residency’s central question with a cohort of Yale students who have some involvement with Slifka and an interest in arts. Together they converse about their artistic creations and discuss their different points of view on this poignant interrogation.

Netanel Schwartz ’25, a member of the student group, talked about how, as the program and the discussions continue, he imagines that all of their art will “be in dialogue with each other and build off of each other.” He explained how each student had different approaches to the central question as well as to artistic making.

“All these different ideas being thrown out help you get more creative,” he added.

The project Schwartz is planning on making will be building on his own family history, the history of Sephardic Jews in Israel. Schwartz will be taking iconic photographs in Israeli history and drawing the faces of Sephardic people on these images, including in them what he calls “cultural memory.”

Flora Ranis ’24, another student part of the cohort, who wishes to become a full-time artist, chose to be

part of the program with the goal to create more art and experiment with new mediums. She also believes in the importance of discussing ideas in a group. She said her ideas shift by the end of every meeting.

“It’s really cool because if I had been alone in my room going through these emotions, I don’t think I would have come up with the ideas that I have,” Ranis told the News.

Ranis’ final project will be expanding on the central question of the residency, she explained, asking herself, “Who gets to define violence? Who is both allowed to be in pain and a victim of violence? Who is believed to be a victim of violence? Who is allowed to scream? And whose screams are heard?” She hopes to take inanimate objects and inscribe human-connoted pain to them, pushing people’s empathy and pushing viewers to question if they can extend their notion of empathy and violence.

The Blanksteen Artist in Residence at the Slifka Center will culminate in a public exhibition of Hannah Altman’s photographs and the students cohort’s artworks at the Slifka Center, 80 Wall Street, on March 30, 2023.

Contact **CARLA DECOMBES** at carla.decombes@yale.edu.



Hannah Altman in her studio, January 2023

COURTESY OF HANNAH ALTMAN



But Dust and Ashes, 2022, made during Blanksteen Residency

COURTESY OF HANNAH ALTMAN



Interruption, 2022

COURTESY OF HANNAH ALTMAN



Yad, 2022, made during Blanksteen residency

COURTESY OF HANNAH ALTMAN



Hannah Altman, 2022

COURTESY OF HANNAH ALTMAN



Shabbos Candles, 2018

COURTESY OF HANNAH ALTMAN

OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST
MITCHELL TYLER

Less phone, more connection

I spend far too much time reading popular fiction, specifically Stephen King. I'm not ashamed of it. At the end of break I was reading one of his novellas called "Mr. Harrigan's Phone" (they made a Netflix movie recently about the same story.) Near the end of the novella, King writes:

"In the twenty-first century, I think our phones are how we are wedded to the world. If so, it's probably a bad marriage." And I agree.

This past winter break was the longest continuous time I've spent with my family since the days of COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. This meant one delightful thing: my life moved so much more slowly than it had during the semester. But I quickly learned how my phone sought to disrupt that slow peace.

During the holidays, I found myself fighting the impulse to check my phone when I was with my family. Scrolling news apps, texting or looking things up in idle moments for no real reason. I heard a nagging voice in my mind that asked, "Why? What would I find there that was so demanding that I couldn't talk with a Texas-dwelling family member whom I only see once or twice a year?" This was, of course, very dramatic. After the initial guilt subsided I noticed that this wasn't just a me problem: everyone in the room was doing it. Neck bent, thumb scrolling. It's become a default setting for us: when we're not doing something, talking to someone or stimulated in any way, we whip the phone out.

Before you accuse me of being a Luddite or some kind of trendy derivation of one, hear me out: I don't think we need to throw our phones away. Like King wrote, we're at the point where we need them, or are

at least bindingly attached to them. This is not necessarily a bad thing. At no other time in history have humans been more able to connect with each other, to keep track of their work and school. As an athlete on the football team, I am constantly up to date on an ever-changing schedule for workouts and meetings. All of those things are really helpful, but it also means that my life would be far less productive – and maybe I'd be a little selfish – if I got rid of my iPhone. Today, we owe each other the level of connectivity that a smartphone offers because a high level of connection is the norm.

It has become a romanticized idea to throw away the phone in order to properly experience reality. That's a nice idea, but we're at a point where we're locked in and can't operate well without them. I don't think that gives us license to lean into the blue-light abyss and average six hours of screen time a day. I do think it's a good challenge for us to fight for connection, to wrestle our phones back into their pockets where they should be, and to treat them how they ought to be treated: as tools we use to make our lives easier.

Us and phones are ultimately a bad marriage, probably because we should never have grown as reliant on them as we are. Maybe an amicable divorce is in order, perhaps that's what it takes to remind ourselves that we don't need our phones as much as we need intentional and real connection with other people.

I'm not sure any technological advancement will change that.

MITCHELL TYLER is a junior in Grace Hopper College. Contact him at mitchell.tyler@yale.edu.

College is more than finding a career

The new year invariably commences with blasts of fireworks and self-improvement, brilliant, but alas, tragically brief. Most still have a few weeks before they realize they will not actually go to the gym consistently – or at all. For us college students, the bubble bursts far sooner. The onset of January means holiday cheer is no longer an excuse to ignore the impending doom of summer applications. New year, new GPA to add to the resume. I resolve that this year I will get on top of things, lest I commit the sin of falling behind, or worse, wasting my precious years at Yale.

A liberal arts education was supposed to give me the freedom to explore all of the numerous and disparate subjects for which I had indicated an extraordinary passion in my application to Yale. I am now nearly halfway through my college experience, and the pressure to specialize has pared down my interests, as I've given up Latin, physics and to a large extent visual art. Time is a limited resource, as my Econ textbook will never fail to remind me. The oppressive scarcity of our four years in college compels us to do something productive, to maximize our lives, our potential, our capacities to earn and achieve.

Naturally, many see college as a career investment—a college degree greatly increases earning potential in the long term. This "careerism" surely also accounts for the value shift from humanities to STEM in our academic institutions. A degree in mechanical engi-

neering or computer science seems to provide practical steps towards a career, just as scientific advancements contribute obviously and concretely to human progress. In contrast, what is the purpose of my history degree, or the painting class I took last fall?

During one such art class, I found myself listening to former Yale professor Mark Oppenheimer's Podcast "Gatecrashers," which unpacks the history of Jews in the Ivy League. Much of the series centers on antisemitism, but one episode focuses on Dartmouth alumni who loved their alma mater. One such alum, Philip Shribman, wrote to his younger brother while serving in World War II: "In a liberal arts school you know nothing, and are fitted for nothing when you get out. Yet you'll have a fortune of a broad outlook, of appreciation for people and beauty that money won't buy."

My history degree may not lead directly to a job, but it will certainly preserve the legacy of the liberal arts education, that appreciation for the world in all its beauty. As much as STEM promotes progress, the humanities guard and guide it. Yale and institutions like it provide us with the space to explore all disciplines, to erase the artificial distinctions between them, to advance humanity's future while appreciating its past and present.

All this is to say, we do not go to Yale to prepare for a career. On the contrary, Yale is the privilege to not know what to do and to be able to do it all anyway. For at the end of the day,

the most crucial part of our college resume will not be a finance extracurricular or a snazzy science degree, but the simple title of "Yale University."

Wasting our years at Yale is not taking one less class, applying to one less summer program, or getting one letter grade lower—it's giving up perhaps the last time in our lives when we have the opportunity to do whatever our hearts desire.

Philip Shribman died in the Pacific Theater of World War II, where he defended the ideals of liberty and the liberal arts. "Don't give up the idea and ideals of a liberal arts school," he wrote. "They're too precious, too rare, too important."

The liberal arts education is not just a degree, it is the belief that there is beauty and value in the human experience in and of itself, regardless of what it builds, earns, or achieves. We are on our own frontlines, and we can choose to protect the legacy of human knowledge amidst an ever changing world. We can strive, but we can also learn to live, love, and appreciate the wonders the world has already offered us, as brilliant as fireworks, but infinitely more enduring.

And so this year, I encourage myself and my peers to join a new extracurricular, pick up a paintbrush, try that film class, or just make a new friend. We have been given a gift. I resolve not to take it for granted.

ARIANE DE GENNARO is a sophomore in Branford College. Contact her at ariane.degennero@yale.edu.

With grief in my heart

If grief is the cousin of love, I have been in mourning since the day I stepped foot onto Yale's campus. While that may be a stretch, as I flew home from my junior fall, denial finally succumbed to resigned acceptance as I acknowledged the gravity of the fact that soon the dream will end. Yale will be over. My sophomore fall feels like it was just yesterday. And on the brink of my junior spring, I am forced to acknowledge that I am as close to those Arcadian days as I am to my graduation.

The fact that Yale is ending is not newsworthy. It is a fact of life – like death, syphilis or the apocalypse. Nor is the fact that the end of this particular chapter will involve a process of grieving. I will grieve for the boundless potential that Yale once contained, for the days that all my best friends lived on the same block, for the luxuries of being a student.

For some, the fact of this eventual grief is more pressing than it is for me – seniors who just finished their last-ever course registration cycle in November. For others, this is something to look forward to.

Even so, my concern is not with my anticipation of grief, but with my awareness of it. I am less perturbed by the knowledge that I will grieve someday than I am by the self-knowledge that I am already wading through each semester with grief in my heart. Am I Shelley writing Adonais – my elegy for Keats – before he has published his third ode? I am painfully aware that the sands of time are slipping through my tightly clenched hands, that the grains that once contained my time at Yale will soon be scattered across the desert of my past.

On some days, such cognizance is just the motivation I need. To attend that speaker event I just saw a flier for, to go to the party where I won't know anyone else because there are only so many parties like that left, to squeeze every last drop

of Yale-ness out of its infinitely luscious fruit. On other days, it is paralyzing. Forcing me to interrogate the last two years of my life, terrified that I have not done Yale the "right" way. Adding to the burden of each unproductive, difficult, isolating day. If each day really is a gift, I am remiss to squander it with my melancholia.

In many ways, such terror is but a reaffirmation that I have done at least something right. That I have let myself love this place and its people so profoundly that they feel like a part of me. But I equally fear that I have let this college become my joie de vivre and without it, I will be tres desolé – retreating even further into my "Emily in Paris" binge-spiral. It would be much easier to hate it. How I wish I could be a disillusioned old curmudgeon, grumbling and muttering under my breath as I totter across that graduation stage and snatch the diploma from the Provost! Instead, I am as dewy-eyed and fresh as a spring chicken awaiting the slaughterhouse.

Perhaps, my fear reveals some psychological truth, one that I must later excavate with my introspection. Perhaps I mourn because, for once, I have no assurance that I will move onto better things. Perhaps I am just not ready to conceive of a whole life, one that I design on my own without the inbuilt scaffolds and communities of college. I wasn't remotely this nervous when I graduated from high school. I knew there was more to come – more life, more people, a place where I could be more myself. After Yale, though, will I be stuck staring in retro-

spect? The past is a graveyard and I fear the day that I will be nothing but its custodian.

At the back of my mind a cyclone rages where every memory goes to be destroyed. What was once vivid, multisensory, and real, what once contained the tangibility of the present is inevitably sucked into the whirlpool, shredded to smithereens until it is but a mere scrap of memory. I can gather the scraps off the ground, I can glue the memories back together with my tears, but it will always have the fault lines, the missing edges of a collage. It may look complete, impressionistic, even, but it is a mere consolation, a pale imitation of the shortest, gladdest years of life.

If the setting of these bright college years is a microcosm for life to come, perhaps its end miniaturizes the ways I must reckon with change. Maybe I let myself get too comfortable in the kiddie pool. Perhaps I must be thrown into the deep of the ocean to rediscover my penchant for swimming, even if that does not mean I will stop longing for the hands that threw my overboard. Yes, Yale is a radiant place, but I would be wrong to let its radiance dim the excitement of the years to come. I admit I will never be fully comfortable with these self-assuring words. The anxiety that the best days of my life are slipping by me will continue to gnaw at me. And then one day, three years from today, when I'm finally well-settled, I'll look back on this place with nothing but gratitude in my heart, comforted by the knowledge that though we may have been mere visitors, the best part of our short sojourn was that it taught us how to keep the best of college with us long after graduation.

PRADYUMNA SAPRE is a junior in Benjamin Franklin college. His column, titled "Growing pains", runs every other Monday. Contact his at pradz.sapre@yale.edu.

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FROM THE FRONT

"I'm enjoying the aging process and the gray hair and the wrinkles." CHRIS PINE AMERICAN ACTOR

Yale's "Four-Year Look" at alumni employment

BY JAMES STEELE
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Office of Career Strategy recently published the "Four-Year Look," a report on the career progress of the Yale College class of 2018.

The report compares data collected from the class of 2018 upon graduation to data collected four years post graduation. The report gathers data on employment location, the most commonly-attended universities, size of employer, salary, job satisfaction, most common employers and the most commonly-pursued advanced degrees. The report additionally includes all of these metrics broken down by major.

"In recent years the demand for STEM talent has grown across all industries," David Halek, director of employer relations at OCS, said. "For example, data science talent is in demand in all types of companies. Someone with an engineering degree may be working at a bank vs. a traditional tech company like IBM or Google."

These reports have been published annually for six years, with the first report published about the class of 2013. By comparing the earlier reports to the more recently published ones, notable changes in graduating class interest in employment and advanced degrees can be seen.

Across all years surveyed, Google is the company that has employed the most Yale graduates four years down the line. From classes from 2014 to 2018, there has only been one year of interruption in Google's top employer status: 2017. According to Dames, this is likely because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report shows Google returning as top employer as uncertainty from the pandemic waned.

"I do have a lot of friends who have graduated from Yale and have worked for Google afterwards," said Sophia Lee '23. "That's been a pretty common pattern all of the years I've been here"

Over time, there has been a shift away from the technology industry but a gradual increase in job function as computer programmers and engineers. Between the class of 2013 and the class of 2018, the technology industry decreased in employment from 17.5 percent to 15.7 percent. Computer programming and engineering functional roles saw roughly the same change in percentage reflected positively over the same time period. These changes only amount to less than 2 percent per category, over a timeframe of five years.

Some students look to graduate school after graduation rather than the changeable job market.

"Graduate school is always the big number, when you look at these four years out," Jeanine Dames, director of OCS, said. "Around 15 percent [of Yale College graduates] have completed [an advanced] degree and another 35 to 40 percent are now in graduate school.

17.4 percent of the graduating class had plans to immediately enroll in graduate school post graduation, with 16.2 percent of respondents currently having a higher degree. 45.3 percent of respondents indicated that they had no plans to pursue higher education.

Of the advanced degrees pursued, nearly one fifth of graduates have earned or are pursuing a Masters in Arts degree. Law, medical, doctorate and masters in science degrees follow closely behind in popularity. Combined, these degrees constitute 81.2 percent of respondents pursuing advanced degrees, while all



17.4 percent of the graduating class had plans to immediately enroll in graduate school post graduation, with 16.2 percent of respondents currently having a higher degree. / James Steele Contributing Photographer

other degrees only contribute the remaining 18.8 percent.

The report also breaks down employment data by function and industry. The data listed under "Function" details the type of work an employee does, while data listed under "Industry" reports on the financial sector that their work takes place. A software developer working for Goldman Sachs would be categorized as "Programming/Software Development" for function and "Financial Services" for industry.

Finance, law, consulting, research and education comprise the top five most popular types of employment function. Even though computer science and engineering constitute a large percentage of majors within Yale College, only 4.4 percent of respondents functionally serve as software developers while even fewer respondents work as engineers.

Of the different types of industry, financial services, technology, education, healthcare and consulting are most common.

The Yale Office of Career Strategy is located at 55 Whitney Avenue.

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Salovey names DEI, health and fundraising top priorities for 2023

SALOVEY FROM PAGE 1

background, it is much easier for you to make those connections."

For Daevan Mangalmurti '24, the professors who are doing exciting new research and building reputations as great academics "tend to be more diverse" than existing and previous faculty at the University. He said that for students, it "can be really empowering to see someone who is like them" in a professor role, especially those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Both Ray and Mangalmurti acknowledged that more could be done to improve diversity among University leadership.

Salovey also told the News that the findings of the Yale and Slavery Working Group are set to be published in a book later this year. The group's initial finding — that the University colluded with New Haven government officials to block the construction of a college for Black men in the city — led Salovey to announce the Pennington Fellowship, which pays for over a dozen New Haven public high school students to attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country.

But while students are supportive of the University's initial efforts, they're looking for more to be done.

"I think [the Pennington Fellowship's] something that's useful and a good place to start," Simon Debesai '24 said. However, he added that HBCUs have had issues with funding "for as long as they've existed."

Debesai said that he hoped to see "significant changes" in University funding and financial assistance, and that there would be more being done surrounding the University's promise to support HBCUs.

Vice President of University Life Kimberly Goff-Crews, who spearheads the Belonging at Yale Initiative, told the News that last year's Belonging at Yale report shows some progress, but that it is a "long-term process."

"My hope is that we will continue not only to increase the number of diversity of our group [but that] we also retain people, both faculty and staff, because our community can support a really good environment for people to feel like they belong," Goff-Crews said. "So that's ultimately the next phase."

Health Research

Next on Salovey's agenda was health, especially in the context of academic research.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the "increased ... need for public health experts and health care professionals worldwide," the University announced that it would match up to \$150 million of donations to the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Public Health.

"Health professionals — including our colleagues from the YSM, YSN, and YSPH — have worked with great fortitude and dedication to save lives; develop COVID vaccines, treatments, and tests; and inform health policy," the announcement said. "Their expertise will be even more critical as we recover from this pandemic and prepare to face adverse health effects from new and existing infectious and chronic diseases, health care inequities, resource scarcity, and other pressing challenges."

From an academic point of view, Salovey said, the University is putting particular emphasis on raising research funds for artificial intelligence in health, as well as public health, nursing and medicine. He said that a current gift-matching initiative from endowed funds should "create incentives for additional gifts to go in those directions."

Ray, who is a researcher at the Yale School of Medicine, is "excited" to see expanded funding. He explained that much of research funding comes for particular topics or areas, but that with more institutional funding, there would be "less restrictions on researchers" to use them for specific projects they're interested in pursuing.

"I think that will definitely encourage a lot of creativity in the kind of studies we see within [campus]," Ray said.

COVID-19 showed how important a strong education that combines a public health perspective and a medical health perspective is, Salovey said. He added that the pandemic revealed challenges over health — such as those relating to health institutional equity, nursing



From an academic point of view, Salovey said, the University is putting particular emphasis on raising research funds for artificial intelligence in health, as well as public health, nursing and medicine. / Yale Daily News

staff shortages and a lack of medical personnel in rural areas.

Ray feels certain that more funding will help revolutionize the treatment of diseases and create a more positive health movement, especially in the post COVID-19 stage. Yale has been one of the pioneers of these sorts of studies, Ray said, so it is imperative for the institution to increase funding in these areas.

"Yale is one of the few schools that has medicine, nursing and public health schools," Salovey said. "We should capitalize on the strength of representing the health fields so broadly."

For Humanity

Salovey's third named priority was the "For Humanity" capital campaign, which is now in the second year of its public phase.

During the pandemic, more accessible programming and favorable markets led Yale to its best two years of fundraising in University history. Because of recent market downturns, though, fundraising may soon decline from this elevated level.

"We have raised a good bit more than half of what we need toward our goal," Salovey said. "It's going well, but it's important to stay focused on it, particularly as the economy has softened."

After a half-year delay, Yale launched the campaign on Oct. 2, 2021, in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign focuses on the science priorities outlined in the University's 2016 Science Strategy Committee Report.

The campaign began virtually — events that would have been held on campus before the pandemic were held online, and alumni, parents and benefactors could participate in live events from around the world.

"With the continued easing of restrictions on travel and gatherings in 2023, we are and will continue to hold live, in-person opportunities for engagement through conversations and updates about research, scholarship, and teaching," Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Development Joan O'Neill told the News. "President Salovey is hosting regional events for alumni and friends in these areas, which will be live-streamed for the community."

These events will take place in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and London as part of the University's "For Humanity Illuminated" event series.

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FROM THE FRONT

“Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength.” **BETTY FRIEDAN** AMERICAN WRITER AND ACTIVIST

YIGH director Saad Omer to depart from Yale

OMER FROM PAGE 1

ern public health, through establishing a school that is decidedly consequentialist, [which means] that the value of your actions is determined by the outcomes.”

According to the Jan. 19 statement, the new interim dean of YIGH will be Michael Cappello, chair and professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health. The University plans to launch a search for a permanent director for YIGH, the statement added.

Joining Yale in 2019, Omer helped found and develop YIGH. He was instrumental in advancing COVID-19 policy, evaluations of vaccine efficacy and initiatives for vaccine distribution. Omer also established faculty networks and initiatives that focused on global health concerns such as malaria, non-communicable diseases and planetary health. In 2022, Omer was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

In addition to his directorship of the Yale Institute for Global Health, Omer also holds appointments as an associate dean for global health research, the Har-

vey and Kate Cushing Professor of Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine, a professor of epidemiology of microbial diseases at the Yale School of Public Health, or YSPH, and an adjunct professor at the Yale School of Nursing.

“What gives me reassurance as the inaugural director of the Institute for Global Health, is the fact that the Institute is stable, it’s growing [...] it has had an impact,” Omer told the News. “I always think that it’s part of a leader’s job to create a deep bench, to make sure that the programs are sustainable, not just exciting.”

Key to his philosophy, Omer explained, was an emphasis on collaboration; having built a network of over 200 faculty affiliates, Omer has worked with students and faculty from YSPH to the economics and political science departments.

Doing so has allowed him to address wide ranging issues within the realm of healthcare, including the development of protocols to survey wastewater for COVID-19 to monitor the transmission of COVID-19 in communities. By integrating

partners across the University, Omer was instrumental in creating the Planetary Health Initiative, aided by the support of Scott Strobel, university provost; Nancy Brown and Pericles Lewis, dean of Yale College.

“[Yale] doesn’t make you choose being good at what you do and being collaborative while you’re doing it,” Omer said.

In his new position as a dean at UT Southwestern, Omer hopes to continue developing that collaboration, to see an “economist or an epidemiologist [...] working together” and “readjust how we teach.” He also aspires to utilize his inaugural position as a platform to bridge social inequities.

“The fact that [UT Southwestern is] a strong public university system is a way to bridge inequities in access to education and quality public health education,” Omer told the News. “To be building this, and in a medical center, which prides itself in being very research-oriented, has six Nobel Prizes, a ton of National Academy of Medicine members and National Academy of Science members — that, I think, is a perfect combination.”

As he builds UT Southwestern’s public health program, Omer also aspires to instill a philosophy that prioritizes “primacy of evidence” in public health. Rather than developing public health policy based on feeling or opinion, Omer hopes to utilize the opportunity to establish the first major school of public health to mark “a new era in public health.”

Omer still reflects fondly on his time at Yale. He aims to continue working with collaborators at Yale, building relationships that he describes as “the most fun part of science.” Omer also praised the quality of his colleagues and the support he received from Yale.

“My experience at Yale has been wonderful, to be very honest,” Omer said. “There wasn’t a single morning I didn’t look forward to coming to work. Even sometimes during the pandemic when it was 5:30 a.m. in the morning, either physically or virtually.”

Omer’s colleagues also lauded his leadership at YIGH. Kennedy praised how Omer “was equally committed to ensuring” the par-

ticipation of nursing students and faculty in YIGH initiatives, including the Global Health Case Competition and YIGH faculty networks.

According to Michael Skonieczny, deputy director of YIGH, Omer’s leadership was “incredibly inspiring.”

“Dr. Omer’s passion, commitment and decisiveness make him a very effective leader,” Skonieczny wrote to the News. “[He] has positioned Yale well to have a significant impact on some of the most difficult global health issues of our time.”

As Omer begins his final semester at Yale, he emphasized his satisfaction with his students, noting the “emotional maturity” of the undergraduate and graduate students he has encountered.

“[They] were enthusiastic about global health, were serious about it, were mature about the kinds of barriers you face [...] they were gritty,” Omer remarked. “That was actually the most fun part.”

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NHPS security guard charged after shooting at 14-year-old

SHOOTING FROM PAGE 1

incident is representative of deeper problems in the district.

“We’re in this culture of dysfunction within New Haven Public Schools and a culture marked by tension between teachers, administrators, adults and students,” Cruz-Bustamante said. “We need to demilitarize our schools and implement transformative and restorative justice. I think this can be seen through [Sunday’s] situation.”

NHPD officers responded to a report of gunfire on Hallock Ave on Sunday afternoon. Graybrown told officers that his neighbor alerted him of two children who had broken into his car. According to the NHPD police report, he pursued one of the children into a yard and told him to “stop running because he had nowhere to go.”

When the child reached into his pocket, Graybrown fired a shot and searched the student, finding a baby monitor taken from his car.

“Officers examined Graybrown’s vehicle and found the rear driver side window was broken and the steering column was damaged,” NHPD public infor-

mation officer Captain Rose Dell told the News. “A records check indicated that Graybrown had a valid pistol permit.”

Graybrown has been employed as a security officer at Conde West Hills Magnet School since 2019. According to New Haven Public Schools spokesperson Justin Harmon, he had a clean record prior to Sunday’s incident.

Graybrown is not an armed school resource officer, who are NHPD officers assigned to NHPS, but rather a city employee who works at NHPS. As a security guard, Graybrown is not an armed government official and has no police powers, including the ability to make probable cause searches. Unlike with school resource officers, there is no standardized training for NHPS security guards. Instead, security guards are trained on-site according to school-specific requirements.

According to Harmon, Graybrown and other security guards are responsible for managing security at bus lines and searching bags upon entry at the beginning of the school day.

Harmon added that the district has a specific procedure when an incident like this occurs outside of school hours and off of NHPS property.

“The employee was arrested and released on bond and is currently assigned to the district office away from students,” Harmon told the News. “He spoke with NHPS Human Resources today and the district must wait for the criminal process to finish before we make a determination on his employment.”

BOE Member Darnell Goldson told the News that Graybrown deserves “due process” before a determination is made.

Monday afternoon, New Haven Board of Education president Yesenia Rivera said that the BOE had made no plans for addressing the incident at Monday night’s meeting since there was not enough information on the situation.

Rivera said that the BOE may decide to have a board meeting to discuss the incident once more information becomes public.

If Graybrown is convicted, NHPS and City Hall’s human resources department will decide together whether he will continue to be employed by the city.

Conde West Hills Magnet School is located at 511 Chapel St.

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If Graybrown is convicted, NHPS and City Hall’s human resources department will decide together whether he will continue to be employed by the city. / **Zoe Berg Senior Photographer**

No. 2 Bulldogs extend win streak to 11

W HOCKEY FROM PAGE 1

four-on-four play, Dalton carried the puck into the zone on a 2-on-1 and passed across the slot for Poniatovskaia to slap past the Tiger goalie. Dalton is the all-time career assist leader at Yale with 80 assists, 12 more than the former record-holder Maria Dennis ’88.

About a minute later, Dalton sent the puck over the Princeton netminder’s right shoulder via her backhand, marking her fourth game-winning goal of the season. The Tigers scored at the end of the first period to make the game 2-1.

Yale goalie Pia Dukaric ’25 held the game at 2-1 through the second period, making a total of 20 saves throughout the game at Hobey Baker Rink.

Earlier this season, Dukaric was named to the 2023 National Goalie of the Year “Watch List” by the Women’s Hockey Commissioners Association. Against Brown, she broke the Yale women’s hockey record for single-season shutouts with a total of six.

With under nine minutes left in the competition, Elle Hartje ’24 cycled the puck behind the net and sent it back to Jordan Ray ’26 on the right face-off dot. Ray found Anna Bargman ’25 in the slot, allowing Bargman to bury one into the back of the net. The final score of Friday’s victory against Princeton was 3-1.

On Saturday, Yale made the short trip to Hamden to face off against its local rival, Quinnipiac.

The Bulldogs dominated the Bobcats in the first period of the Battle of Whitney Avenue. Yale worked the puck around the Quinnipiac net relentlessly, scoring three goals in the opening 20 minutes of play.

Dalton scored halfway through the first period with an assist from Charlotte Welch ’23, extending Welch’s point streak to seven games with 11 points (3-8) in that span.

Both Welch and Dalton have accomplished 100-point careers this season, the third and fourth players in program history to do so. Following Saturday’s game, Dalton ranks second in program history with 119 points (39-80) in 118 games played, while Welch sits at third with 109 points (39-70) in 115 games played. Hartje, who was named ECAC Forward of the Week on Jan. 17, joined the two seniors as members of the 100-point club last weekend against Brown.

“Being a very minor piece in the growth of this program through the last four years has been a great privilege for me,” Welch told the News. “I have complete faith that our success will continue after my class graduates.”

With less than four minutes left in the first period, Emma Seitz ’23 shot the puck past the Quinnipiac goalie to make it 2-0.

Welch and Carina DiAntonio ’26 were given assists on the play. Two minutes later, DiAntonio scored with 43.4 seconds to go in the period.

This was only the fourth time this season that the Bobcats allowed three goals against in a single game. Quinnipiac’s game on Nov. 4 against Yale was one of those times.

“[Bolding’s] got his kids playing hard from the very beginning to the very end of the game,” Cassandra Turner, the head coach for Quinnipiac women’s hockey, said about Yale in a pre-game interview aired on ESPN+. “They fight no matter what’s happening in the game, whether they’re up or whether they’re down, they’re going to work and they’re going to work hard.”

After a scoreless second period, the Bobcats made a late third period push. Just before the halfway mark of the frame, Quinnipiac scored to narrow the score to 3-1. About four minutes later, Quinnipiac tightened Yale’s lead to one goal.

DiAntonio, with an assist from Welch, notched her second goal of the game 23 seconds after Quinnipiac pulled its goalie. The empty-net goal made the final score 4-2.

The Bulldogs are currently second in the ECAC with 37.5 conference points. Despite Saturday’s victory against the Bobcats, Quin-



The Bulldogs dominated the Bobcats in the first period of the Battle of Whitney Avenue. Yale worked the puck around the Quinnipiac net relentlessly, scoring three times in the opening 20 min. / **Yale Athletics**

nipiac remains in first place with 38 points in the ECAC.

“I think we built a lot of confidence over the break, being able to focus solely on hockey,” Dalton said. “Hopefully, we will maintain this confidence as we head into the semester. We have some tough games ahead that we need to win to win the regular season. We all know the importance of these games, so we will all be

focused on hockey as much as possible while also balancing our school work.”

Yale women’s hockey will play in their first home game since students’ return to campus on Friday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. A Handsome Dan meet and greet is scheduled to occur during the game

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“How do I confront aging? With a wonder and a terror. Yeah, I’ll say that. Wonder and terror.”

KEANU REEVES CANADIAN ACTOR

Possible mayoral candidate Brennan shares progressive plan



COURTESY OF LIAM BRENNAN

Current Hartford inspector general and Westville resident Liam Brennan forms exploratory committee for November mayoral election

YASH ROY
STAFF REPORTER

After 15 years prosecuting a former Connecticut governor, a government fraudster and T-Mobile, Liam Brennan LAW ‘07 is looking to launch a new career — mayor of New Haven.

Originally exploring a run in 2019 to challenge incumbent mayor Justin Elicker, Brennan bowed out of the race to take care of his young children. Now, Brennan has formed another exploratory committee for mayor; if he joins the race, he will be the third person up against Elicker in the Sept. 12 Democratic primary. The two other announced candidates are former police sergeant and former Beaver Hills alder Shafiq Abdussabur and former McKinsey executive Tom Goldenberg.

“New Haven can and should do better by its citizens,” Brennan told the News. “Our city needs change, and it needs to work for all of its residents.”

If elected, Brennan plans on ending almost all arrests for drug use, strengthening the Civilian Review Board and making the city a more competitive employer by raising wages for teachers, police officers and city employees.

He also plans on expanding public housing and redoing the city’s property tax revaluation from earlier this year, alleging that the evaluation unfairly raised values for single-family homes while undervaluing new corporate apartment developments.

Lastly, he hopes to stabilize the education system through universal Pre-K and smaller class sizes in New Haven Public Schools.

“There were a lot of concerns about Harp when she left office four years ago but we forget that she presided over some of the lowest homicide rates since the ’70s and education was heading in the right direction,” exploratory committee member and SeeClickFix founder Ben Berkowitz told the News. “All that progress is now crumbling and New Haven

deserves a mayor who can keep up, and that is Liam.”

Brennan at Yale, Hartford and the US Attorney’s Office

Born in Stamford, Brennan came to New Haven in 2004 to attend Yale Law School. While at YLS, Brennan worked at a legal clinic assisting non-profit organizations Junta for Progressive Action and Unidad Latina en Acción. He was part of a team that developed solutions for immigrants to become better integrated into the city and community, including an Elm City ID Card. The ID card system allows for legal immigrants and undocumented immigrants to register for a city ID, with which they can access benefits.

Graduating law school in 2007, he worked at the Department of Justice for three years before moving back to New Haven to work for Connecticut’s U.S. Attorney’s Office as an assistant U.S. attorney.

During his time at the US Attorney’s Office, he worked as the director of the Public Corruption Task Force. In this role, Brennan served as the lead counsel prosecuting former governor John Rowland, who served one year in a New Haven prison for campaign finance violations and the falsification of records provided to investigators.

After leaving the US Attorney’s Office in 2018, Brennan joined the New Haven Legal Assistance Association clinic working in community economic development, and he was part of the “A Room for All” coalition providing solutions for affordable housing in New Haven. He also served as the director of the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center to provide resources to veterans recovering from homelessness, addiction and mental illness.

Brennan became Hartford’s inaugural inspector general in January of 2022 and is also the chief investigator for Hartford’s Civilian Police Review Board, where he looks into allegations of misconduct.

“I’ve been able to do one-third of the work I want to do as inspector general working on the cutting edge of criminal justice in Connecticut,” Brennan told the News. “I also want to work on education and housing at the same time, so that’s why I’m now exploring a run for mayor.”

Ending the War on Drugs in New Haven and “showing love” to the Civilian Review Board

If elected, Brennan said he hopes to shift the city’s response to drug use from a police issue to a public health issue.

“The war on drugs is over,” Brennan told the News. “There’s nothing that obligates the city to continue to enforce an ineffectual war on drugs. And we can pull our police out of that and have them focus on guns and things that really hurt people that aren’t really public health issues.”

Under Brennan, the New Haven Police Department would continue to stop open-air use or sale of drugs, but would be told to no longer make arrests over drug use or confiscate drugs.

Instead, Brennan said he would encourage the NHPD to focus their time on solving violent crime. With this emphasis on addressing violent crime, Brennan said that if elected he would work to implement municipal gun regulations that would keep tabs on guns involved in criminal investigations and attempt to confiscate guns before use in violent crime.

“I personally know people who use and distribute drugs,” Brennan told the News. “If they’re not going to jail, no one should go to jail for drugs. But, if someone is doing crime, whether it’s doing violence related to drugs or anything else, we should prioritize dealing with that.”

Brennan also hopes to expand the Elm City Compassionate Allies Serving Our Streets crisis response team, also known as COMPASS, which was launched in November.

COMPASS responds to certain emergency calls between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day of the week and is composed of six social workers and peer recovery specialists. One of their areas of expertise is drug use.

“I think that COMPASS should be fully integrated within police dispatch so that it’s the same person thinking about who to deploy,” Brennan told the News. “I’m glad that it’s been launched but don’t think it should have taken two years kind of like the Civilian Review Board where somebody thought that it would be a good publicity hit but didn’t care to put enough attention to it.”

According to Brennan, the Civilian Review Board is “unloved,” lacking the resources or mandate necessary to help move the needle on criminal justice. Brennan called for the creation of a dedicated inspector general position in the city, who

would then be empowered to initiate their own investigations.

“Asking board members who don’t have the experience as investigators to do the investigations themselves and look into this is not a functional way to do things,” Brennan said.

Additionally, he promised to integrate the CRB and inspector general into the police structure so that these groups could access confidential police information.

Expanding housing and reevaluating the 2021 property tax revaluation

New Haven’s 2021 property tax revaluation saw a 32.6 percent reported increase in property values since 2016. To soften the ensuing rise in property taxes, the Board of Alders implemented a two-year phase-in for the increase in taxes. Elicker had recommended a five-year phase-in.

“There needs to be a whole reassessment of how that’s done because if you look at small buildings which are normally owned by homeowners or Mom and Pop LLCs, they are being valued at much higher rates than some of the larger buildings owned by corporations,” Brennan told the News. “And so that’s shifting too much of the burden onto homeowners and renters. I think, like just the whole reassessment on how we’re valuing the land, the half the value of property is important here.”

To further add to city revenues, Brennan added that New Haven should consider imposing usage taxes or excise taxes in the city. For example, Brennan believes that the city should explore the levying of taxes on ride-sharing companies and landlords.

Brennan said he also believes that the city should focus on expanding access to public housing and encourage the construction of multifamily homes instead of large apartment complexes. Those complexes often include amenities like pools and gyms, which reduce the amount of liveable space, Brennan said.

“Liam has great ideas on building more affordable housing, and I think he’s going to be different because of his background advocating for housing,” local housing advocate Kim Hart told the News. “Liam’s plan to narrow streets to increase housing is a new idea that can make a difference.”

The New Haven Democratic primary for mayor is on Sept. 12.

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Half of mayoral candidates commit to campaign finance program

BY YASH ROY
STAFF REPORTER

Two of the four potential candidates for mayor of New Haven have publicly committed to participating in the city’s Democracy Fund — a 2007 initiative designed to get big donors out of city politics.

While incumbent Mayor Justin Elicker and Hartford Inspector General Liam Brennan have announced that they plan on participating in the Democracy Fund, Tom Goldenberg has, as of now, decided not to participate — although he said he may join at a later date. Shafiq Abdussabur is currently in talks with the Democracy Fund to discuss his possible participation.

“The program exists to show people that New Haven’s mayor can’t be bought,” New Haven Democracy Fund administrator Alyson Heimer told the News. “Putting these limitations on fundraising changes the conversation away from conversations about money, and makes it so that people who are running for office spend more time talking to people who might be less likely to donate.”

Participants in the program cannot accept donations higher than \$390 from individuals or town committees. Candidates are also not allowed to accept any money from Political Action Committees or corporations.

To qualify, candidates must raise 200 distinct donations from registered New Haven voters ranging from \$10 to \$440.

For every contribution made under \$30, the Democracy Fund doubles the contribution, while donations ranging from \$30 to \$390 receive a flat \$60 matching grant from the fund. The fund will provide matching grants of up to \$125,000 — a threshold that has never been exceeded since its founding in 2007.

“Candidates have an incentive to get small donations because they get amplified and doubled,” Heimer told the News. “So this changes who people are willing to talk to and it changes the power of every contributor to make a meaningful impact on the mayor’s race. Candidates are no longer shopping for \$1,000 contributors. They’re shopping for local New Haven residents who are registered to vote in order to win over those hearts.”

Candidates are also limited in their overall campaign spending if they participate in the Fund. Participating campaigns cannot spend more than \$445,000 in the primary and cannot spend over \$445,000 in a general election if they advance past the primary. Candidates also receive a \$23,000 base-level grant to run their campaign.

Elicker has spoken extensively about the benefits of Democracy Fund, and has used it for all four of his mayoral campaigns. According to Elicker, the Democracy Fund helps make clear to the public that he is only interested in serving New Haveners and is not beholden to PACs or corporate interests.

“I’m firmly committed to the goal of getting big money out of politics,” Elicker told the News. “Programs like the Democracy Fund help reduce the influence of well-healed donors who seek to buy influence and access and, instead, empower the grassroots. Just as I have in every previous election, I’m participating in the Democracy Fund.”

Elicker has raised roughly \$54,000 in about a month of campaigning, with New Haveners making up 233 of his 340 total donors. With the matching provisions of the Democracy Fund, Elicker’s total fundraising haul for December is roughly \$90,000.



DANIEL ZHAO/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Created in 2007, the Democracy Fund limits overall spending, prohibits PAC donations and matches small donations.

Brennan, who has formed an exploratory committee but has yet to formally declare his candidacy, told the News that he will participate in the Democracy Fund if he declares his candidacy.

Exploratory committees have a lower bar of reporting contributions and support. Despite this lack of oversight, Brennan stated his commitment to abiding by the parameters of the Democracy Fund.

Abdussabur is currently “in conversation with” the Democracy Fund and will confirm or deny his participation in the program later this week.

Goldenberg has said that he does not currently have plans to participate, and has already raised \$18,000 from 110 donors on top of a \$25,000 self donation. Goldenberg did not disclose the proportion of New Haveners to the News.

“Our campaign has examined our options. And we have deter-

mined that participating in the Fund at this time would put us at a disadvantage, so we have chosen not to participate and to free up taxpayer dollars from our campaign,” Goldenberg told the News.

Democracy Fund was founded as part of a State Elections Enforcement Commission pilot program in 2007.

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“Aging has a wonderful beauty and we should have respect for that.”
EARTHA KITT AMERICAN SINGER

How a 197-year-old private library in New Haven survives



HANNAH KOTLER/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Ahead of a \$1.72 million renovation, The New Haven Institute Library, one of the remaining American membership libraries, talks historic preservation and library funding.

HANNAH KOTLER
STAFF REPORTER

Books in the New Haven Institute Library are cataloged on cursive handwritten index cards, which are then organized alphabetically in a wooden cabinet.

The New Haven Institute Library is one of 20 private, membership-based libraries left in the country. Kevin McCarthy, who has volunteered at the library for eight years, explained that they use a cataloging system unique to the library, developed by a colleague of Melvil Dewey as an alternative to the Dewey Decimal System. The system at the Institute Library was implemented elsewhere only briefly in India, according to McCarthy.

“It’s a curiosity,” McCarthy said about the catalog of index cards. “It gives a sense of serendipity in which searching things up online doesn’t have.”

The library is hidden behind a tiny storefront on Elm Street, at the top of a stairway. On a tour through the library, beginning on the second floor of the building, McCarthy showed the main reading room and a secluded reading room in the back. On the third floor, the building holds a small art gallery open to the public and a room decked with records, where members gather weekly for “Friday Happy Hour Jazz.”

The library currently has 220 members who pay a membership fee of \$30 per year. Despite the library’s limited collection compared to online databases and public resources, members gain access to more than the collection alone. Operations manager Eva Geertz told the News that members are drawn to the physical space in addition to the collection. These members range from teenagers to young mothers, locals and commuters from Wallingford and Fairfield.

“This is not a place brightly lit and sterile,” said Geertz. “This place has a sort of lived-in vibe, for the simple reason that it is. This isn’t fakery that we’re putting on. This place is not a costume. High school students could easily be hanging out at the public library, but I think they feel that it’s too public. They want to feel that they have their secret place.”

Frederick Douglass and Charles Dickens

Founded in 1826 by a group of young men, the Institute Library predates the country’s first public libraries. The library was established as an intellectual center at a time when large collections of books were usually only held by exclusive universities. The library hosted Frederick Douglass, Charles Dickens and a selection of well-known speakers throughout the

19th and 20th century. Originally named The Young Men’s Institution, the Institute Library opened to women a decade later, just as the first women’s college in the country was founded.

Janice Swiatek, executive director of the Library, mentioned the library’s historic inclusivity while speaking with the News.

“Will Baker, the former executive director, told me that when this was named the Young Men’s Institute Library, it was back when saying ‘men’ meant all of mankind or humankind,” said Swiatek. “So it never excluded women. Women were really always involved.”

The current building’s first floor is designated as a retail space to financially support the Library’s operation. This income, which was intended to cover salaries, books and utilities, is now insufficient, Geertz told the News. Consequently, the Institute Library relies heavily on membership income and donations.

Current Problems & Solutions

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute Library suffered a decrease in membership but continued operating, as Geertz put it, “by the skin of our teeth.”

“I understand the bind that public libraries are in,” Geertz continued. “When their pathetic funding gets cut further, it’s a big problem. I understand it, because I work in a place where funding exists but only in a very small, tenuous way. It’s like onion skin paper.”

Since lockdown, the Institute Library has organized events and programs to boost membership. According to McCarthy, the library recently hosted an architecture class for high school students. The library also launched the Social Justice Reader Program, in which they invite students from New Haven public high schools to conduct independent research and develop skills in writing. Seth Godfrey, head of references at the New Haven Public Library’s Elm Street branch, commended the Institute Library’s efforts at outreach and diversification.

“I think they’re sincere,” said Godfrey. “It is not just to gain points.” Meanwhile, the Institute Library

has faced aging facilities, including severe roof damage, and a recent radiator leak that flooded the second floor. In July, they received a \$1.725 million grant from the state for renovations. This was a surprise, as it came years after president of the Institute Library’s board Maryann Ott submitted an appeal to Sen. Martin Looney.

Relations w Public Libraries

While the Institute Library celebrated its achievements, it was met with disgruntled murmurs from some New Haveners upset by the state’s choice to dedicate grant funding to a private library. Public libraries in New Haven have been unable to extend their hours to stay open on Sundays due to staffing and resource shortages.

Samantha Bailey, receptionist at the New Haven Free Public Library’s main Elm Street branch, was not familiar with the Institute Library, but emphasized that insufficient funds have been detrimental to public libraries.

“Libraries are good at optimizing funding,” explained Bailey. “The state thinks that libraries are capable of operating on minimal funding and thus doesn’t provide more.”

Bailey noted the importance of public libraries beyond servicing readers. 70 to 80 percent of visitors to the public library, she said, request tutors and social services or otherwise seek assistance with applications for IDs, legal pardon and I-90 permanent residence cards.

While staff members at the New Haven Public Library expressed disappointment in a lack of state funding for public libraries, employee Godfrey expressed support for the funding of Institute Library.

Godfrey especially commented on the Institute Library’s history, noting the attendance of Frederick Douglass.

“They’ve got history,” said Godfrey. “Two hundred years. I think just as history, that legitimizes the funding.”

Historical preservation

Similarly, Geertz emphasized the importance of preserving a historic landmark like the Insti-

tute Library. The building that holds the Institute Library is now a rare site in New Haven, as a relic that survived the Urban Renewal movement of the 1950s and 1960s, which laid waste to thousands of similar historical buildings.

A native New Havener, Geertz expressed nostalgia for the historic New Haven, before the city was excessively commercialized. As she spoke, she pulled out an old map of New Haven from the shelf behind her.

“This building is literally a jewel,” said Geertz. “If you go up and down Chapel Street or Whalley Avenue, or Dixwell Avenue, or Orange Street, or any of the commercial corridors of New Haven, buildings like this one were once the norm. And they simply are not anymore. It’s a crying shame. I mean, they’re beautiful.”

Janice Swiatek, executive director of the Library added that the Institute Library has a responsibility to continue its founding values.

“This has always been a place for open intellectual dialogue,” she said. “Frederick Douglass spoke here, and Dickens spoke here. Not supporting this building, where all the history happened, would really deplete the energy of the neighborhood.”

Further, Geertz stated that the renovation grant extends beyond protecting the Library’s physical infrastructure, but also to preserving the literature inside. For Geertz, the preservation and continuation of the Institute Library, a private collection, represents an essential safeguard from censorship.

“I don’t take for granted the existence of public libraries,” Geertz said. “Public funding can be taken away by the City Hall or the state. We are also seeing in the news that there are actors that work to close libraries because they feel that the stuff in the libraries is not to their political taste. We can’t be closed down by people like that, this is an independent organization.”

The current building on Elm Street was purchased by the Institute Library in 1848.

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Mayoral candidates trade barbs over Board of Education nomination

BY YASH ROY
STAFF REPORTER

With public ire growing over the Board of Education’s refusal to meet in person, mayoral candidates clashed with Mayor Justin Elicker over his nomination of current BOE vice president Matt Wilcox to another term.

On Monday evening, former McKinsey executive and mayoral candidate Tom Goldenberg called on the Board of Alders to reject or delay all nominations to the BOE until it committed to publicly discussing data on absenteeism, open up its search process for superintendent and return to in person BOE meetings. Hours after his statement, the Board of Alder’s aldermanic affairs committee met to publicly interview Wilcox and the Aldermanic Affairs committee recommended him to the Board of Alders in a four to one vote.

“Given the level of dysfunction on the Board of Education and the horrific underperformance of our schools, our current Board of Education should be under serious review,” Goldenberg wrote to the News. “We need much more from our leadership — more transparency, more accountability and more rigor.”

Former Beaver Hills alder and mayoral candidate Shafiq Abussabur supported the nomination but raised concerns on incumbent Mayor Justin Elicker’s leadership on education.

Elicker criticized Goldenberg for politicizing the nomination of Wilcox.

“Matt Wilcox has been one of the hardest working and dedicated members of the BOE,” Elicker wrote to the News. “Calling for the Board of Alders to reject qualified people does nothing to improve outcomes for our students. This is a distraction from the important work we all need to carry out together. Rather than playing politics, let’s focus on our kids.”

Aldermanic Affairs committee chair Rosa Ferraro-Santana questioned Wilcox on why the BOE was “suppressing the voices of parents,” as well as why in-person meetings were not possible. Ferraro-Santana said that she would reject the nomination of any BOE member going forward who did not attend meetings.

Ferraro-Santana added that she wished for the entire BOE to eventually come before the Board of Alders for questions on NHPS’s performance.

Wilcox told the committee that parents were not having their voices suppressed since they could speak during the 90 minute public comment session of every BOE meeting. He added that in-person meetings were not occurring currently because the online format allowed for more people to participate while also helping protect BOE members who are immunocompromised or have close family members who are immunocompromised.

“We have a good attendance at our Zoom meetings and I hear from many that are appreciative of the meetings being virtual,” Wilcox wrote to the News. “I also hear from many that we should be meeting in person or a hybrid. I hear excellent cases made on all sides, and I committed this evening that I would raise the issue with the board.”

Goldenberg’s third criteria for lifting his proposed moratorium on BOE confirmations of reverting BOE meetings to back in person mirrors Ferraro-Santana’s comments. Abussabur joined in those calls on Monday.

“I respectfully disagree that I’m not putting my heart and soul into it,” Wilcox told the Aldermanic Affairs committee. “I don’t see that an in-person meeting is the only indicator, but I do accept and understand the criticism. And we’ll certainly be bringing it up at the next BOE meeting.”

Beaver Hills alder Thomas Ficklin voted against the nomination,



YASH ROY/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Mayoral candidate calls on Board of Alders to reject or delay all BOE nominations until his demands are met.

explaining to the News that he believed that Wilcox’s seat should be given to a New Haven Public School parent so that there is parent representation on the BOE.

Tom Goldenberg says reappointing BOE members who have overseen decline is the “definition of insanity”

According to Goldenberg, the blame for falling test scores and chronic absenteeism falls squarely on Elicker and the Board of Education.

“We can not continue to blame the pandemic,” Goldenberg told the News. “We are dead last in the state behind Stamford and Waterbury thanks to the leadership of this Board of Education and Mayor.”

Goldenberg believes that the solution begins with a public presentation of data and solutions to deal with both issues.

Wilcox wrote to the News saying that most recent data as well as plans to deal with low test scores and chronic absenteeism are both available on the NHPS website. Elicker added that chronic absenteeism rate has fallen 16 percent since the beginning of the school year.

Elicker told the News that “delaying a Board of Ed member’s appointment isn’t helpful to the important work we need to accomplish.”

While disagreeing with Goldenberg’s opposition to any BOE appointments, Abdussabur used the committee meeting to criticize the BOE and Elicker.

On absenteeism, Abussabur said that the recent spike in crime in New Haven including five homicides in 21 days lays bare how important school attendance is in New Haven. Abussabur added that on top of chronic absenteeism more than 130 teaching spots are empty currently in New Haven, which has forced administrators and paraprofessionals to step in as substitutes regularly.

“I agree with Matt being reappointed,” Abussabur said. “We can’t afford to take resources away from the board. We are already in crisis. The last thing we need is absenteeism on the board. So we’re in too much chaos and crisis to start picking apart the last of the brick wall.”

Goldenberg’s second criteria to lift his proposed moratorium on BOE confirmations centers on the ongoing process of hiring a successor to retiring NHPS

Superintendent Ilene Tracey. Goldenberg accused the BOE of denying parents and stakeholders a voice in the process. According to Wilcox, previous superintendent searches have been defined by rancor and the BOE’s refusal to abide by public sentiments.

“The BOE is repeating history by not listening to the public on NHPS’s next superintendent,” Goldenberg charged. “This is exactly what the BOE does over and over again and then they moan publicly about not getting a different outcome. That is the definition of insanity, and the Board of Alders must put an end to this insanity.”

Wilcox commented that he would not make the same mistakes as his predecessors on the BOE.

According to Wilcox, NHPS has hired a search firm that incorporates public comment sessions on potential candidates. Wilcox added that the search firm has a proven track record of finding well-suited candidates for districts.

New Haven’s Board of Education has six members of whom two are elected and four are appointed by the mayor.

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SCITECH

“And I’m a really happy person, I enjoy life. I think you see that on people. I think there’s nothing more aging than misery.”
MICHELLE PFEIFFER AMERICAN ACTRESS

Leitner Planetarium reopens for first time since COVID-19 pandemic

BY EMILIE MA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

On Jan. 17, after a nearly-three-year closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leitner Family Observatory and Planetarium fully reopened to the public with a planetarium show titled “Oasis in Space.” Although the Leitner observatory reopened for public viewing in 2021, the planetarium has been closed since March 2020.

Displayed every Tuesday night with two showings, one at 6 p.m. and one at 7 p.m., the exhibit illustrates the journey through the galaxy in search of liquid water, a critical aspect of the existence of life on Earth. The program displays celestial objects of interest for that night, such as nebulae and comets, followed by the 25-minute show “Oasis in Space,” which is projected onto a dome and gives the audience a tour of the galaxy’s planets, each with its own theme song.

“We are getting answers to big questions and ideas, like the origin of the universe, using astronomy,” Michael Faison, lecturer of astronomy and director of Leitner Family Observatory and Planetarium, told the News. “In some ways, it’s very democratic. Everyone sees the same stars, with the same eyes to look up and see amazing things like the rings of Saturn and star clusters. We can look up and wonder about our place in the universe.”

First created in the early 2000s, the show was recently updated by its producer Spitz Planetarium with new technologies, such as sophisticated, high-definition visuals and more scientifically accurate findings. The

producers, for instance, were able to incorporate new images that the New Horizon spacecraft captured in 2015 as it flew by Pluto and its moon, Charon. This is, however, the show’s debut at the LFOP.

Led by Faison, the LFOP serves to bridge the gap between public outreach and student research.

The LFOP, furnished with a digital planetarium theater, two permanently mounted telescopes, and a lecture hall, also invites the public to observe space at night with a variety of telescopes.

Faison noted that a hands-on telescope experience is essential for every university, including Yale. He further emphasized the role that the observatory plays within the community.

“It’s important that we improve scientific literacy with our public viewing nights, whether it means meeting families, kids, retirees or students,” Faison said. “It’s quite the mix of the New Haven community.”

As a facility of Yale’s Astronomy Department, the LFOP serves as a center for astronomical research, with classes taught in the summer and fall for high school students around the world and college students to embark on research projects, ranging from tracking extragalactic supernovas to modeling comet trajectories.

Over the summer, the center is home to the Yale Summer Program in Astrophysics for high school students to visit Yale and take classes at the planetarium, perform research and ultimately write a research paper on their findings. During the fall semester of the school year, the Observatory serves as the teaching center for classes and labs for students of any major.

“I’m always striving for more undergraduates to come,” Faison remarked.

He acknowledged the distance from central campus as a possible detractor from students visiting the center, which can be an 18-minute walk from Cross Campus. However, he mentioned that its distance also helps limit light pollution.

The reopening of the observatory has also been exciting for students who are enthusiastic about space. Dalaney Westbrook ’25 expressed their interest in learning more about astronomy.

“I’ve always been interested in space,” Westbrook said. “There’s something exciting about learning the expanse of the universe beyond our world.”

Theo Schiminovich ’25, an earth and planetary sciences major, agrees. He cited the opportunity that activities like stargazing provide to connect to nature.

“I enjoy going out and looking up at a sky full of stars because it’s a connection to nature that many people have lost living in cities with light pollution,” Schiminovich said. “I’d like to get an idea of what’s out there and explore the possibilities of what space has to offer.”

Julia Levy ’25, a physics and computer science major and observatory assistant, noted her enthusiasm for the opening of the planetarium with the new show.

“It’s fascinating how these shows demonstrate how minute the planet that we know is in relation to the entire universe,” Levy said. “It enables us to speed through galaxies in seconds when all one fathomed before was a tiny speck that was our planet.”

The observatory suggests a \$10



EMILIE MA/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Reopening to the public, the planetarium is set to present a new show every Tuesday night that explores humanity’s quest for liquid water in outer space.

donation per adult to fund the facility’s activities and requires advanced registration with about a 40-person capacity. Reserve tickets and find details here.

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Yale researchers model journey of primordial to crust isotopes from earth’s core

BY VALENTINA SIMON
STAFF REPORTER

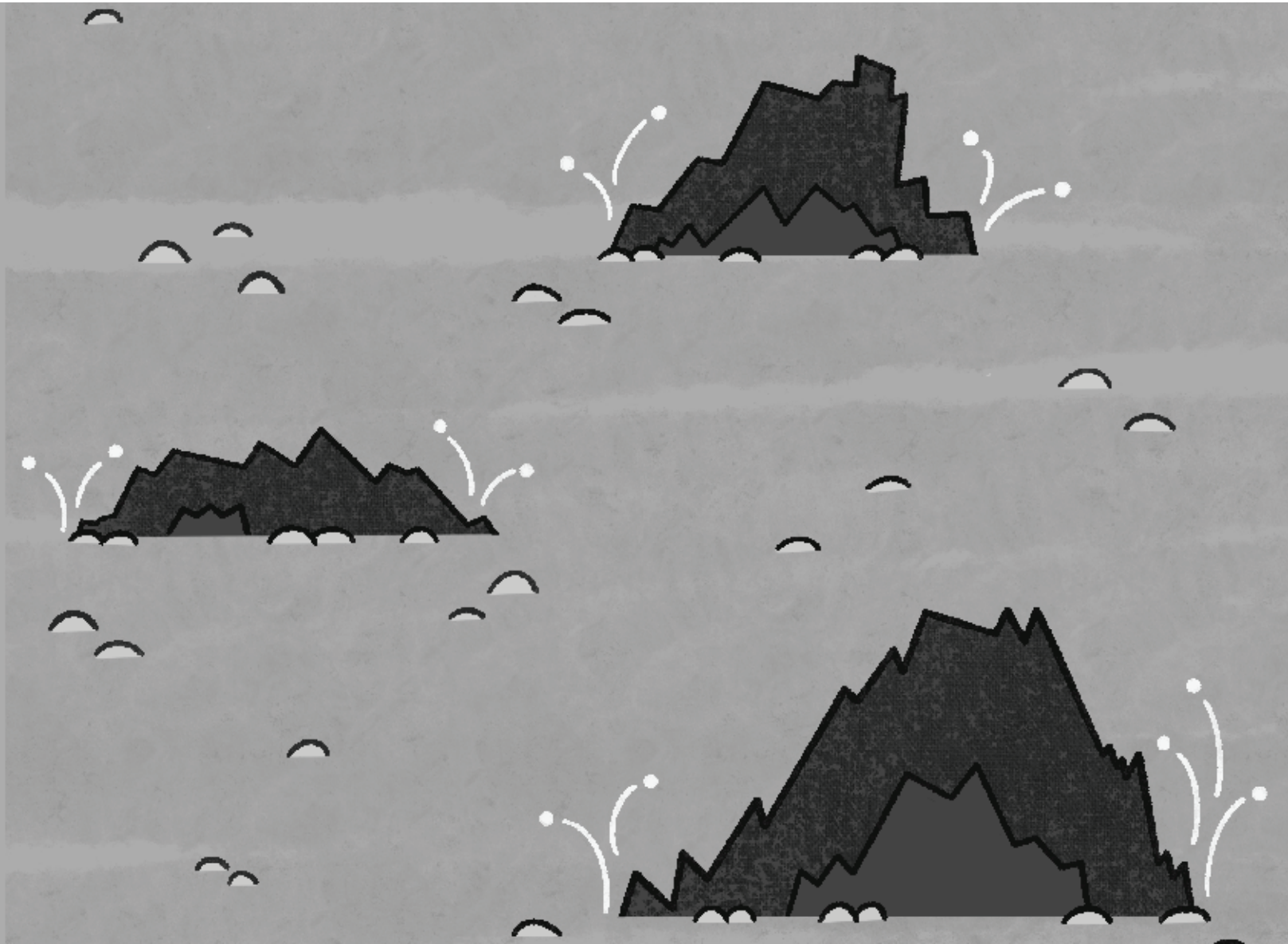
Oceanic island hotspots — Hawaii and Iceland — are the final destinations of elemental isotopes from the beginnings of Earth, in concentrations found nowhere else on Earth’s crust.

Until now, it was an open question of how these concentrations were achieved, but Yale scientists have quantitatively modeled the journey of elemental isotopes from the Earth’s core, up to its mantle and finally to its crust, accurately predicting the geochemistry of the islands. On Jan. 17, the Yale team of Jun Korenaga, professor of earth and planetary sciences, and doctoral student Amy Ferrick published a paper in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, which is the first paper to quantitatively illustrate how both tungsten and helium isotopes can travel from the core to the crust of the earth via diffusion, forming oceanic island basalt.

“We showed that the core-mantle diffusion quantitatively transports tungsten and helium isotopes to almost exactly match the geochemistry of the hotspot islands,” Korenaga told the News.

In rocks, some elemental isotopes, including helium-3 and tungsten-184 are archaic signatures, only formed through stars and fission. Their counterparts, helium-4 and tungsten-182, are instead formed through radioactive decay and are found in much greater quantities on the planet’s surface. Oceanic island basalt, found in Hawaii and Iceland, has significantly more primordial isotopes in its crust than in other parts of the surface.

It was previously theorized that the tungsten and helium isotope signatures were achieved by slow convection within the mantle, allowing for helium-3 and tungsten-184 to congregate near the bottom and emerge from the depths via large magma plumes. However, according to Korenaga this does not accurately represent the convection of the



JESSAI FLORES/PHOTO EDITOR

Yale scientists have quantitatively modeled how the isotopic composition of ocean islands is achieved, employing the novel core-to-mantle diffusion theory.

mantle, and requires numerous factors to be aligned in order to achieve the proper ratio of isotopes.

The research findings outline a diffusion process from the core to the mantle that occurs at the necessary rate for the concentration of archaic signatures observed in oceanic islands to be achieved. Furthermore, this is the only theory that provides a single solution to how high levels of both primordial tungsten and primordial helium are found.

“I modeled the diffusion process at the core-mantle boundary, tracking the isotopic ratios of tungsten and helium over Earth’s entire history of 4 billion years,”

Ferrick said in describing her research process.

Through her computer model, she determined the isotopic composition of the deep-mantle reservoir from Earth’s formation to the present day.

Then, Ferrick modeled a magma plume, which is when a hot spot rises through the entirety of the mantle to the crust above. The plume, formed of background mantle, pulls along magma from the deep-reservoir. This results in the plume having a much greater concentration of primordial isotopes than the average magma of the mantle.

The composition of rocks on Hawaii and Iceland matched her model’s predictions for the isotopic ratios of both helium and tungsten in the magma plume.

Ferrick began the model for a class project, but after discovering the remarkable result — that all ocean island primordial isotope signatures could be explained through diffusion — she continued her research with Korenaga.

“It’s particularly exciting that this publication developed from a project that Amy carried out early in her Ph.D. program,” wrote Maureen Long, chair of earth and planetary sciences, in an email

to the News. “We encourage our graduate students to dive into cutting-edge research from Day 1 in our program — one of the thrilling things about doing a Ph.D. is the creation of new knowledge, and our students do that right off the bat. I love seeing the amazing science that our grad students produce here in EPS.”

Amy Ferrick presented her research at the 2022 American Geophysical Union conference.

the journal Scientific Reports.

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SCITECH

“Forget aging and the fact that my butt is becoming a little more familiar with my knees than my tailbone. If you are six feet above ground it’s a good day.”
FAITH HILL COUNTRY MUSIC ARTIST

#ScienceTwitter: STEM professors discuss challenges of Twitter’s changing climate

BY KAYLA YUP AND ABEL GELETA
STAFF REPORTERS

A Twitter exchange last May between entrepreneur Elon Musk and Howard Forman, professor of radiology and biomedical imaging, public health, management and economics, foreshadowed some of the controversy that has consumed the social media platform in recent months.

Forman, who worked as a health policy fellow in the United States Senate, has often made political commentary on Twitter, where he has almost 60 thousand followers. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Forman began tweeting mostly about public health and healthcare because he “had the audience” and said it was an area people were interested in.

Forman’s contributions exemplify the scientific community’s large presence on Twitter. Scientists tweet about their latest research, engage the public through educational content and provide opinions on current events. Science, though usually behind the closed doors of a lab or academic institution, can be accessed freely on Twitter through the robust community of scientists posting online — a community that has recently been rocked by controversy, driving some scientists off the platform.

On May 18, 2022, Forman, known as @thehowie, responded to a tweet from Musk, @elonmusk, who at the time was in the process of acquiring Twitter. Musk tweeted that he expected political attacks on him to escalate in the coming months. Forman chimed in.

“When you are explicitly political, you should expect people to treat you as such,” Forman’s tweet read. “Which part of that is confusing to you?”

Musk responded directly to Forman’s rebuttal by targeting his support for vaccinations and describing Yale as the “epicenter of the woke mind virus that is attempting to destroy civilization.” Following this incident, Forman faced a series of hate and antagonism from supporters of Musk.

“Within 20 minutes, my office received a threat on the telephone,” Forman said. “His followers are rabid passionate followers who will defend him.”

Thinking it “might thicken [his] skin,” Forman recalled, he became more active on social media and has since grown to be able to tolerate the negative aspects of the platform and express his views freely. However, speaking on the type of hostility that users on the platform may encounter, Forman cautioned that the platform is not an easy place to be.

But the reach his commentary can have on Twitter makes it worth it to him.

“When [people] say, ‘I’m not going to use Twitter’ or something else, [they] really are sacrificing something of substance,” Forman said. “It’s not a simple thing to just abandon Twitter, because you’re abandoning an enormous potential audience.”

Concerns over content moderation

Five months after the exchange with Forman, Musk acquired Twitter and became the social media platform’s primary decision-maker and leader. Since then, Musk has taken significant measures to redefine how this platform operates and how various perspectives and viewpoints can surface on it, highlighting the increased concern the scientific community has surrounding the ability to use this platform.

Among the numerous changes listed by Musk, the main issues arise in regard to his policy surrounding content moderation and the removal and reinstatement of controversial figures’ accounts, most notably Donald Trump. Musk also fired around half of Twitter’s employees, eliminating a number who worked on content moderation.

“From the moment that people [started] talk[ing] about Elon Musk taking over Twitter, there was a serious concern that what he was going to try to do was have one level of moderation,” Forman said.

According to Forman, Musk’s new leadership ensured that content moderation would occur through “a panel of one man,

that being Elon Musk.” An article published last October highlighted how Twitter’s leadership shift still left many things unanswered as Musk hopes to instill a “free-speech platform” that may enable alt-right and conspiracy theorists to roam on the platform. Concerns over how the platform would stop harmful misinformation, threats of violence and hate speech remain.

Forman has received death threats through direct messaging and replies on Twitter — and even through email. Messages like those are inappropriate, he said,

suspended his account for “misuse of Twitter product features,” listing off potential actions typical of bots, with the language “particularly using automation” used.

Haji-Akbari appealed the suspension, and was finally unsuspended on Jan. 16. Ten minutes later, Twitter suspended his account again. He filed another appeal, and after a couple days, they locked his account.

He was able to regain access to his account on Jan. 18, but only after verifying his identity.

“I found it a bit disconcerting that your account could basi-

for detecting bots, which is something he noted that “the new management of Twitter is obsessed with.” Haji-Akbari attributed his reasoning behind his suspensions to changes in Twitter in recent months, including new management.

To Haji-Akbari, people should be worried because the frequency of these abrupt suspensions has increased “significantly” in recent months, and will likely continue to. Twitter might not fail for everybody at the same time, but it could start failing randomly, he said — the trouble

about COVID-19 — particularly long COVID-19 — and challenges faced by women in science.

Since Musk took over Twitter, Iwasaki has noticed an increase in potential censorship, especially against journalists. She called this trend “worrisome” and has seen many of her immunology colleagues leave Twitter because of it. Some colleagues left for reasons related to new management and fear of being “taken over” by “certain groups of people.”

As Iwasaki watched the “exodus” from Twitter happen, she wondered if the situation would get “so terrible,” that she would have to leave. Iwasaki recalled seeing scientists who tweet pro-vaccine tweets, such as physician-scientist Peter Hotez, get attacked by anti-vaxxers, for “simply trying to communicate the benefits of vaccines.”

“I do worry, we have already lost some people, and I contemplated leaving Twitter as well,” Iwasaki said. “But for me, Twitter is really important to engage with patients and people who are interested in science and not necessarily my colleagues.”

Iwasaki wants her platform to be as wide as possible, beyond the scientists she would normally interact with. Twitter allows her to communicate directly with long COVID-19 patients, and through this, learn something “every day” from what patients have to say. This exchange is “difficult” to create on other platforms, she observed.

The pandemic increased her Twitter following as people were interested in her updates on COVID-19, even outside of “own circle of scientists.” Reporters have even contacted Iwasaki to ask questions, which further expands her reach, she said, enabling traditional media to cover her thoughts on COVID-19, even beyond social media.

Her research on long COVID-19 had actually been inspired by an interview with science reporter Ed Yong early on in the pandemic, who would not have reached out to her if he had not seen her on Twitter, Iwasaki revealed.

“This is really a platform where hundreds of thousands of people are watching what I say and are making decisions for their health,” Iwasaki said. “So it’s very important that I remain [on Twitter] to be able to do that.”

A future beyond Twitter?

Iwasaki said that Twitter “could be better,” but considered the best solution to be staying on the current platform, and trying to improve it. She has not yet seen a platform that could replace Twitter.

“It’s very difficult to replicate what Twitter is,” Iwasaki said. “I’ve thought of moving to other platforms many times but it will take time to rebuild the followers and networks that are already existing on Twitter.”

If the scientific community ever moved off Twitter, Haji-Akbari would want the new platform to be a non-profit and limited to scientists. To him, the exclusivity would allow for dialogue among fellow scientists to occur without people who “use pseudoscience,” or question evolution or vaccines, he explained.

In Haji-Akbari’s model, members outside the community could view the content, but not necessarily be able to post. For scientists, content moderation occurs through “peer pressure” according to Haji-Akbari, keeping one another in check to ensure everything stated is rigorous and scientifically defensible.

If Twitter “gets too bad,” Forman said he has already established a presence on Post and Mastodon, two alternative platforms to Twitter. But Forman expects Twitter to continue serving as the primary platform for posting his content.

“It may go through a bad period of time, I don’t blame people for abandoning it at all,” Forman said. “But I expect that Twitter will eventually come back to being what it was and hopefully function well.”

Twitter was founded in 2006.

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Twitter’s recent management changes have the scientific community questioning the future of the community of scientists on Twitter.

and should be minimized or completely eliminated, calling himself “not a free speech absolutist.”

Forman emphasized the importance of content moderation policy and standards being created by “groups of individuals” who could then implement standards and practices to keep the forum moderated in a way that “made it safe for everybody.”

Forman stressed the importance of maintaining vigilance and caution on the platform, as numerous individuals are attempting to weaponize the thoughts and ideas shared on the platform. He suggested users of the platform create and consume content on the platform with awareness and mindfulness.

Random suspensions, career consequences

Amir Haji-Akbari, assistant professor of chemical and environmental engineering, uses Twitter to communicate with the science community and — more recently — to post about the human rights protests in Iran. But on Jan. 14, he received notice that his account was permanently suspended.

Haji-Akbari, known as @theIranianAlien, has 170 followers and follows 286 people. Twitter had

cally get suspended for no good reason, completely abruptly,” Haji-Akbari said.

Haji-Akbari felt that the suspension “deprived” him of his ability to communicate with colleagues. Twitter has become a dominant platform for the science community, where scientists post about their latest research, create educational content to teach the public about their research and write about issues affecting scientists.

If Twitter could suspend him, Haji-Akbari worried what would happen to academics who worked on “more sensitive subjects,” he said, particularly those involved in activism at odds with Musk’s ideology.

Initially Haji-Akbari thought he was suspended because of his tweets about protests happening in Iran, but he learned from the process of appealing that Twitter had concluded he was a bot.

“It was this suspicion that my handle was not real, and I’m doing something shady,” Haji-Akbari said. “And somehow that [tool] for whatever reason, thought that I’m running a bot from my Twitter handle. That’s probably why it got suspended again after it was unsuspended.”

Haji-Akbari suspects that Twitter has an automated tool

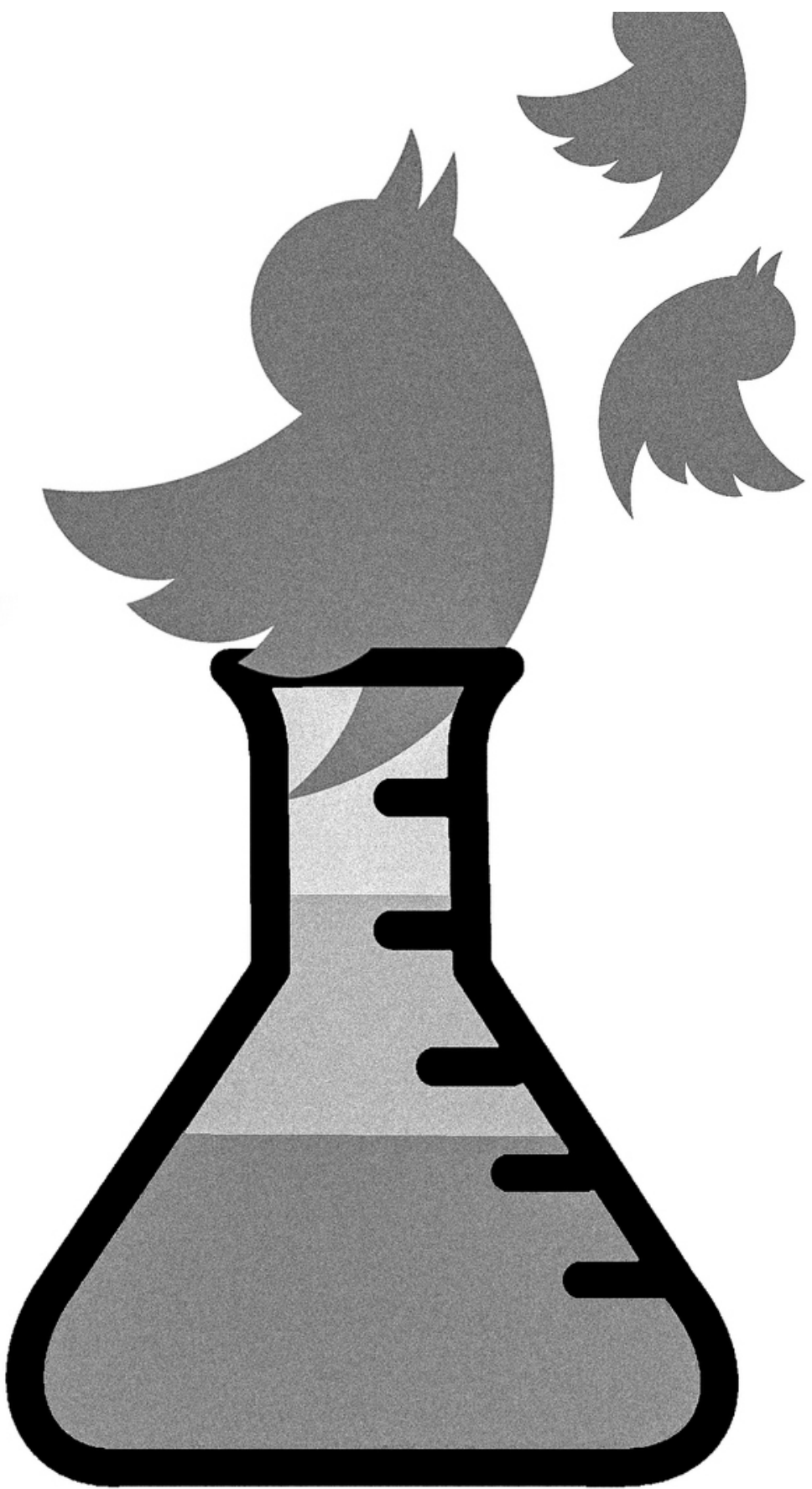
comes when it fails at “important times” in people’s career.

“Even if [a scientist’s] account gets suspended for a week or two weeks and comes back, that could have an irreparable cost to them in terms of what they want to achieve in their career,” Haji-Akbari said. “And I think we as a scientific community need to be aware of that.”

Haji-Akbari noted that when he publishes a paper, his colleague can use Twitter to leave comments, ask questions or give suggestions as to future directions of the research. Having organized an annual meeting for the American Institute of Chemical Engineering, he said faculty candidates usually have to advertise their latest publications and their coming talks — tweeting is part of their career success.

An exodus of scientists from Twitter

Akiko Iwasaki, Sterling professor of immunobiology and professor of dermatology, molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and epidemiology, has been on Twitter as @VirusesImmunity since 2017. She has over 200,000 followers and mainly tweets about recent findings in science, usually



SOPHIA ZHAO/SENIOR ILLUSTRATOR

SPORTS

“Because we’re a young team, we have our own swagger, we have our own style, we have our own way that we play, the way that we connect with each other and you see we did it today.” WESTON MCKINNIE US SOCCER MIDFIELDER

Retiring as an Olympian



COURTESY OF LAURA ZENG

But time is exactly what retirement brings. The time to process the past, and make way for new beginnings.

OLYMPIAN FROM PAGE 14

mentally. Even those who retire at a high point with a shiny gold medal have regrets and insecurity about what comes next. Guided by a sports psychologist, I spent eight hours a day doing self-assessments and personality tests, separating what we thought we should value from what we wanted to value. And what made the weekend so fulfilling — to call in a cliché — was to know we weren’t alone. We were going through unique journeys, but in tandem. On the last night of the retreat, we started playing a game of volleyball, and I revealed in how average we all were. Most people assume Olympic skill is somehow transferrable, but the opposite is true (at least for me). None of us were Olympic volleyball players, but, more importantly, nobody cared. We were playing just for fun, for

ourselves — not for country, or God, or glory. And I realized that sometimes there really is nothing to win in winning, and nothing to lose in losing. As athletes, we rarely question what we’re doing, because it’s always clear what needs to be done. We want to win, and for that you need discipline — not freedom. Grit — not perspective. Willpower — not choice. Success in sport is different from success in life, because it’s about how much you want something — not what it is you want in the first place. I spent so much of last year trying to improve myself, without knowing what that meant in a new context. I craved progress for progress’ sake, because I thought I could always be better, and that better would always exist. But life is teaching me that better doesn’t always exist. That sometimes it’s just different. The transition from athlete to person is confusing. Unlike sports, there are no set rules

in life. There is no playbook or clear paradigm of success, so it’s unclear what goals should look like, or which ones even matter. On its face, retirement is about making peace with a career in order to move on. But the hardest part is figuring out how exactly to move on — and where to land. Nobody can answer these questions for me, because there are no right or wrong answers — just the ones that feel the most right to me. It will take time to find intuition, and the parts within myself I can trust. It will take time to figure out who I am — and who I want to be. But time is exactly what retirement brings. The time to process the past, and make way for new beginnings.

Blurb for end of article: Laura Zeng ’25 will be writing a bi-monthly column on her opinions and life experiences. Send her questions at laura.zeng@yale.edu.

Bulldogs top Quakers 70–63

M BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

full guarding Penn standout Jordan Dingle for much of the night. Dingle, the nation’s third-leading scorer, was a one-man show for the Quakers, finishing with 27 points and seven rebounds. “I love those matchups,” Mbeng said after the game. “I love guarding the best player on the other team and I take pride in that. But he’s a great player and hit some tough shots even when I was there contesting him. You just gotta tip your hat to him.” Dingle didn’t attempt a shot through the first seven minutes of the game, but found his groove midway through the half, scoring 12 straight points and propelling Penn to a 38–35 halftime lead. Din-

gle started to heat up when Mbeng headed to the bench for a quick rest, and his scoring pace slowed when Mbeng returned. Mbeng and Mahoney hit back-to-back threes to open the second half, giving the Bulldogs their first lead of the night. Mahoney’s biggest contribution, however, came later in the game, protecting the Blue and White from a Quaker comeback in the final two minutes. With Yale clinging to a 62–60 lead, the Saratoga Springs native converted an and-1 and made a layup on consecutive possessions. Then, Mahoney iced the game with two clutch free throws with 27 seconds remaining.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Mahoney iced the game with two clutch free throws with 27 seconds remaining.

Women's basketball falls in Philly



YALE ATHLETICS

The game will be in Princeton’s Jadwin Gymnasium at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

W BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

own, 10 of which came in the fourth quarter. Her late game scoring surge was not enough to overcome Penn’s 20 point lead, however, as Yale ended the game behind 79–57. Clark set a career record with her 21 points. Her previous career high was a 20 point performance against Army last season in which she went 2–4 from three. Against Penn, Clark went 5–9 from three. “Just getting in the gym and working on my shot during the week has been great,” Clark

wrote. “Our coaches also have a lot of confidence in us, so it’s easy to feel ready and be able to hit those shots.” With the loss to Penn behind them, the Bulldogs turn to prepare for their upcoming matchup against Princeton (13–5, 4–2), who are riding a five-game winning streak and stand at third in the Ivy League. The game will be in Princeton’s Jadwin Gymnasium at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

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Fencing win at Philly invitational



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale Invitational will take place at the Payne Whitney Gymnasium.

FENCING FROM PAGE 14

Yale edged out Notre Dame, they came up short against Northwestern. Fencers Emme Zhou ’23 and Cao went undefeated throughout the meet, winning each of their three bouts in foil and saber respectively. Zhou earned All-American last year at the NCAA Championships. The weekend before, the Bulldogs posted a 4–1 record at the Penn State Invitational, with victories over Penn State University, Haverford College, the University of North Carolina and Temple University. “We had just come out of winter training so everyone was really excited to fence on the strip [at the Penn State Invitational],” Helen Tan ’25 wrote to

the News. “We have more competitions these next few weeks before heading into Ivies so I think everyone is doing a great job at preparing for Championships.” Rookie foil fencer Olivia Ren ’26 underlined the continued support she has received from her teammates, explaining that she now had “a bunch of sisters” she could rely on. She is one of three new members on the women’s team this year, alongside saber Nithya Guthikonda ’26 and epee Amanda O’Donnell ’26. “I am so proud of our team! Everyone brought so much energy both on and off the strip, and we fought for every touch,” Ren wrote to the News. “We’ve been training so hard for this, and I think it really paid off,

especially when we defeated Notre Dame!” The men’s squad was unlucky in two competitive bouts with NYU and Ohio State University, losing both by 16–11. A highlight from the weekend was their 17–10 victory against Wayne State, in which the team won each weapon. Next weekend, the Bulldogs will host Sacred Heart University and Vassar College in New Haven in the Yale Invitational. “[The Yale Invitational] is really exciting,” Cao told the News. “I can’t wait for our friends to be able to come and watch.” The Yale Invitational will take place at the Payne Whitney Gymnasium.

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NEWS

“Aging is not uncomplicated. Creativity is an extraordinary help against destructive demons.”
INGMAR BERGMAN SWEDISH FILMMAKER

U.S. News rankings to be modified, Yale Law doubles down on withdrawal

BY INES CHOMNALEZ
STAFF REPORTER

A Jan. 2 letter from U.S. News and World Report addressed law school deans across the country after Yale, Harvard and a slate of peer law schools withdrew from consideration for the decades-old ranking system.

The letter pledged a series of changes to the website’s ranking criteria following a series of conversations with over 100 law school administrations. The changes promised include decreasing the weight of factors such as peer assessment surveys and increasing the weight of outcome metrics.

“Having a window into the operations and decision-making process at U.S. News in recent weeks has only cemented our decision to stop participating in the rankings,” Dean Heather Gerken commented to multiple press outlets following the announcement of changes.

Yale Law School was the first in a group of elite law schools now reaching seven to withdraw from consideration, after Gerken publicly denounced the system as “perverse” and antithetical to progress in legal education in November. Gerken’s announcement was followed by statements to similar effect by Harvard University, Columbia University, Georgetown University, New York University, Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley.

YLS’ decision to withdraw from the rankings largely stemmed from perceived disincentives for law schools to invest in providing need-based aid and support for students pursuing careers in public interest law as opposed to higher-paying jobs in private practice. While the letter made some allusion to ongoing conversations about these issues, no concrete promises for change were detailed.

“The conversations revealed other factors, such as loan forgiveness/loan assistance repayment programs, need-based aid, and diversity and socio-economic considerations, which will require additional time and collaboration to address,” the



YASMINE HALMANE/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

After YLS’s November withdrawal from the U.S. News rankings, which spurred 6 other elite schools to follow, U.S. News published an open letter pledging to adjust its criteria.

letter reads. “In these areas we will continue to work with academic and industry leaders to develop metrics with agreed upon definitions.”

The magazine reiterated their intention to release rankings based on publicly available data even for those institutions that chose not to fill out U.S. News’ self-report survey. The American Bar Association currently requires ABA-accredited law schools to publish certain information about their schools on their websites and to the ABA as part of a “Standard Information Report.”

ABA mandated information includes acceptance rate, enroll-

ment rate, data on the distribution of undergraduate GPAs for accepted students, distribution of LSAT or GRE scores for accepted students, racial demographics of the student body and scholarship/grant information among other categories.

U.S. News has yet to clarify whether schools that have publicly withdrawn from the ranking will continue to be incorporated on the official list based on such ABA-mandated information.

While acknowledging some negative feedback U.S. News had received from law school deans on the efficacy of their annual report,

the magazine’s editors doubled down on the importance of ranking systems for prospective law students considering the financial and time costs of matriculating into a JD program.

“We received feedback — both positive and negative — on the rankings and methodology,” the letter explains. “We are encouraged by how many [law school deans] appreciate that a big part of our mission is to help connect students with schools and help students make the best decision for selecting a particular law school.”

Despite these announced changes, no law schools have back-pedaled their decision to withdraw from consideration, with YLS doubling down on its decision in statements to the press following the open letter.

Yale Law School spokesperson Debra Kroszner confirmed that YLS had no intention of changing its decision to abstain from the process following the announcement.

Prior to withdrawing from the rankings, YLS placed first on the list for more than three decades.

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University report shows strong financial position for 2023



ZOE BERG/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Yale’s 2022-23 budget update reflected an operational surplus of \$166 million. The annual budget report also highlighted several areas of concern.

BY EVAN GORELICK
STAFF REPORTER

In a year of market fluctuation and endowment stagnation, the University has maintained a strong financial position, though not without challenges.

Just before winter recess, the University released its 2022-23 budget update. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the University generated a surplus from operations of \$166 million on \$4.876 billion in revenue. During the same period, the endowment returned 0.8 percent, but after accounting for spending distributions, the endowment’s value dipped almost \$1 billion. Because it is difficult to estimate returns on

the illiquid assets which comprise the majority of Yale’s portfolio, it is possible that returns may be lower than reported.

“We are pleased to have had an operational surplus in FY22 that reflects our community’s careful stewarding of university resources,” the budget update read. “As a result of Yale’s decentralized financial structure, these surpluses are distributed across hundreds of individual school, department, program, and faculty accounts.”

While the budget report argues that a “minimal endowment return is not a cause for concern,” it also acknowledges that high interest rates and prolonged recession — which many experts are currently forecasting

— may become challenges in the near future.

The report also highlights several other challenges, including the University’s overdependence on revenue from the School of Medicine, sustained operating deficits at Yale New Haven Hospital and market inflation.

“Nothing surprised me,” accounting professor Rick Antle told the News. “The University is financially strong and I expect it to continue to be so going forward. I believe the Provost rightly points out the challenges presented by the large position of the Yale Medical School in the University’s financial position and the risk of inflation.”

Antle told the News that maintaining an operating surplus is healthy financial practice.

From 2018 to 2022, the University has reported surpluses of \$91, \$87, \$125, \$276 and \$167 million, respectively.

“[This year’s surplus] is about 3.4 percent of revenue, which does not strike me as excessive,” Antle wrote in an email to the News. “Yale University is a large, complex institution, and we can’t expect to hit zero every year. As a management matter, I would expect an institution like Yale to aim for a small, positive operating surplus and to try to avoid operating deficits.”

Antle added that operating deficits can be detrimental to the University’s financial future, whereas surpluses are relatively benign and roll over for future use.

78 percent of this year’s surplus falls into restricted endowments and gifts that must be spent for specific purposes. The University’s unrestricted funding source, which can be used however the president and provost see fit, also recovered from the large deficit detailed in last year’s budget update.

“The surplus largely stays within the specific unit that generated it,” senior vice president for operations Jack Callahan wrote in an email to the News. “For example, with endowment-related revenue, it remains in the fund balance for that unit to be consistent with the donor’s intention of the original gift agreement.”

Callahan says this financial structure ensures that the University fulfills its fiduciary obligation to manage these funds appropriately.

The report further discussed the financial challenges presented by Yale New Haven Hospital, which has experienced operating deficits for the past two years and, according to University leadership, will likely report a deficit again in the current fiscal year.

Although the hospital is an independent non-profit organization, it works in “close partnership” with the School of Medicine to provide care for patients. More than one-third of YSM’s clinical revenue comes from YNHHS. Because the School of Medicine accounts for half of University revenue, this is a legitimate cause for concern.

“The [School of Medicine’s] largest source of revenue is from clinical activities — patients paying for professional services to Yale doctors and funds from the YNHHS to support joint clinical investments and hospital related activities such as new clinical programs,” Callahan told the News.

Yale New Haven Hospital was founded as the General Hospital Society of Connecticut in 1826.

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City pitches \$1.3 million purchase of Monterey Club

BY YASH ROY
STAFF REPORTER

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker evoked the names of Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Duke Ellington on Monday morning in the hopes of securing support for a \$1.3 million deal to buy the run-down Monterey Club and its surrounding buildings. All four performed at the Monterey Club while it was open between 1934 and 1991.

Joined by Monk Youth Jazz and Steam Collective founder Marcella Monk Flake, Cultural Affairs Commission member Jesse Hameen Jr. and Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church Pastor Kelcy Steele, Elicker and Liveable Cities Initiative executive director Arlevia Samuel hosted a press conference on Monday outside of the Monterey Club. On Wednesday, the Liveable Cities Initiative board will hold a vote on the controversial deal.

“Driving through this part of Dixwell Ave always takes away a little bit of joy because of the disrepair it’s fallen into, so this purchase will help bring some of that joy back to Dixwell Ave,” Elicker said at the press conference.

The purchase from Ocean Management of the four pieces of property on 262, 263, 265 and 269 Dixwell Ave. was put to a vote by the Liveable City Initiative’s board in December, but they deferred the vote to January over concerns about the price of the deal.

The city was willing to pay \$350,000 more than the appraised value of the four properties, even though the Monterey Club is the only one of the four buildings in the deal that holds a significant historical value. Ocean Management, a company that owns more than 1,000 mostly-low income apartments across the city, has also faced numerous housing code violations at their

properties in New Haven.

“This is a beyond ridiculous return for a property owner that has done nothing but sit on it until they’re ready to make a profit,” LCI board member Nadine Horton said at the December meeting. “That’s insane.”

Elicker told the News that the city had to pay higher than market rate since no properties in New Haven were currently being sold at market rate due to rising housing prices.

“We reviewed comparable property sales and they saw similar increases in prices,” Elicker said. “A lot of the Ocean portfolio was for sale and we didn’t purchase most of those properties because they weren’t of strategic value to us.”

According to both Samuel and Elicker, the focus of the deal has always been preserving the history of the Monterey Club. They city agreed to buy the adjoining properties as a necessary part of the deal with Ocean Management.

Flake said that the club held emotional and historical significance for many New Haven residents and jazz lovers.

“Both my friend and daughter of Monterey’s owner Rufus Greenlee are ecstatic to know that this property will be preserved,” Flake said. “We’re so happy to know that it will be used to educate and revitalize the Dixwell community.”

The city, in concert with the Liveable City initiative, has been negotiating the purchasing of all four parcels of land, which have been sitting empty and in disrepair for more than 10 years. The LCI is responsible for fighting blight in the city, and identified the four properties as significant due to their location on Dixwell Ave.

Currently, the city plans to hold onto the Monterey Club and its adjoining deli for development while turning over the two multi-unit houses to Beu-



TIM TAI/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Monterey Club hosted Jazz giants before falling into disrepair under the ownership of mega-landlords.

lah Land Development Corporation, a nonprofit affiliated with Dixwell’s Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church that will then be responsible for developing the housing units. Under the current agreement, the new housing units will include affordable housing.

“This is a smart decision for the city to buy these parcels,” Dixwell alder Jeanette Morrison told the News. “Dixwell needs development

and this is the right step forward.”

The two properties that will continue to be held by the city will be developed after the creation of a community input forum, where Dixwell residents will be able to discuss what they would like to see happen to the two properties.

According to New Haven director of economic development Mike Piscatelli, the funding for the purchase comes from

the federally funded Community Development Block Grant for neighborhood commercial projects. The grant was allocated to the city last year, and the grant money will expire in the second quarter of this year.

Dixwell’s redevelopment has included the recent reopening of the Q House in 2021.

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City leaders hope to alleviate affordable housing crisis in 2023



TIM TAI/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

With a shortage of housing units and skyrocketing prices, New Haveners currently face an affordable housing crisis.

BY YASH ROY, MAGGIE GRETHER AND NATI TESFAYE
STAFF REPORTERS

With a 1.4 percent rental vacancy rate in the city according to recent census data, New Haveners are struggling to find affordable housing.

As New Haven residents search for available and affordable living units, rent has continued to increase across the city. New Haven’s Housing Authority — the public housing agency that helps residents find and access housing — currently serves 6,000 families, according to president Karen DuBois-Walton ’89. But over 55,000 families remain on their waitlist to be served.

New Haven community leaders and politicians expressed their hopes that 2023 will be the year that the city makes headway in its fight for affordable housing, which has become a defining issue in New Haven and the Connecticut General Assembly.

“We can’t really get past the fact that New Haven, with all the wealth of a university like Yale and a number of folks who do live with enough, remains a very low income city with

25 percent of our families living in poverty,” said DuBois-Walton.

Understanding the crisis

According to Dubois-Walton, the origins of the housing crisis can be traced back to the 1970s, when living unit production in the city began to lag. Across the state in the years since, housing development has not kept pace with population growth and stagnating wages have left many families struggling to make rent.

A 2021 report by Data Haven, a New Haven-based statistics bank, found that 53 percent of households in New Haven are cost-burdened, meaning they spend at least 30 percent of their total income on housing.

DuBois-Walton pointed to the fact that recent development in New Haven has predominantly been in luxury market housing.

“What’s coming into the market is out of price for families who are in the market currently and need it,” DuBois-Walton said. “And that’s a real fear that that’s going to continue to price out families and continue to segregate the community by income and by race.”

Mayor Justin Elicker said that New Haven is also impacted by insufficient amounts of housing in surrounding areas. He urged a broader statewide approach to addressing the Connecticut housing shortage.

“New Haven is not an island,” Elicker said. “We have seen a significant reluctance from many of our suburban counterparts, including active resistance to housing being built in their towns. We can’t do this alone.”

City officials propose different solutions

Officials have proposed a variety of solutions aimed at addressing the city’s lack of affordable housing.

Last January, New Haven’s Board of Alders passed an inclusionary zoning law, which requires new apartment buildings to reserve a set percentage of units for affordable housing. The legislation, which has been a centerpiece of the Elicker administration, mandates that all market-rate developments include a certain percentage of units priced at 50 percent of the area median income.

Dubois-Walton sees inclusion-

ary zoning as a step in the right direction, but urged a fuller-scale rezoning program in New Haven.

“Inclusionary zoning is going to be one small piece in a bigger pie of a number of things that need to happen,” she said.

Dubois-Walton said she would also like to see the city implement stronger tenant protection measures and eliminate discrimination based on past evictions and criminal backgrounds.

One such tenant protection measure is the state’s Right to Counsel Program, which provides free legal representation to low-income tenants facing eviction. Before the program began last year, only about 7 percent of tenants in Connecticut had attorneys in eviction cases.

According to CT Data Collaborative, Black renters are over three times more likely than white renters to face eviction, and Hispanic or Latino renters are over two times more likely. Female renters are also disproportionately evicted, according to the data.

Recently, housing advocates have also begun campaigning for rent cap legislation. Introduced in Hartford by State Sen. Gary Winfield and State Rep. Robyn Porter, legislation known as Cap the Rent would limit annual rent increases to no more than 2.5 percent and reduce no-fault evictions. In no-fault eviction, or section 21 eviction, the landlord does not need a reason to evict but instead can evict if the lease has expired, the landlord wishes to stay in the unit or a similar circumstance.

Another aspect of tenant protection is ensuring that affordable housing is safe and well-maintained.

“We have been working to hold landlords more accountable through improved lead inspections to protect young children who are the most vulnerable for lead poisoning,” Elicker said.

Last year the city’s health department investigated 132 cases of lead poisoning, according to their website. The department opens a case when they receive a blood test from a child under the age of six that contains over five micrograms of lead per deciliter. So far this year, the department has launched three case investigations in the city, according to their website.

Elicker also highlighted the importance of assisting residents with security deposits. Under the “I’m Home” initiative launched last October, the city provides renters with security deposit assistance up to \$5,000. The program is eligible for renters with low to middle income.

Challengers to incumbent Elicker propose ending tax abatements, expanding public housing and narrowing streets

With September’s Democratic primary for mayor fast approaching, all four potential candidates — including incumbent Elicker, former Beaver Hills Alder Shafiq Abdussabur, current Hartford Inspector General Liam Brennan LAW ’07 and former McKinsey consultant Tom Goldenberg — have weighed in on the housing crisis.

Possible mayoral candidate Liam Brennan has proposed that the city narrow its streets to build more housing, while also redoing the 2021 property tax revaluation. In this revaluation, many homes in New Haven saw a sharp increase in prices while large developments saw smaller tax hikes.

Brennan also argued that the city can not just rely on the inclusionary zoning laws and commercial developments to deal with the crisis. In addition to inclusionary zoning, Brennan proposed that the city expand public housing.



“Inclusionary zoning is not the silver bullet by any means, but construction is also super important because we simply don’t have enough homes in the city,” Brennan told the News. “We should be building multi-family homes instead of large apartment complexes with lavish gyms and pools since this will increase the number of people who have roofs over their heads.”

Abdussabur has called for the cessation of tax abatements for large commercial properties while Goldenberg has proposed a freeze on property tax increases.

The New Haven Housing Authority is located at 360 Orange St #1, New Haven, CT 06511.

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SAYBROOK
COLLEGE TEA



Friday, Jan. 27
4-5:30 PM
Biggs House
90 High Street

A Conversation with the Artist Mario Moore

Mario Moore (b. 1987), a visual artist based in Detroit, studied at the Yale School of Art (M.F.A. 2013). He was commissioned by Saybrook College to paint the portrait of Edward Bouchet (1852-1918, Ph.D. 1876) in 2019. In the same year, he held the prestigious Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University. The resulting exhibition, The Work of Several Lifetimes, featured his depictions of Black workers on campus. Moore next showed his drawings, etchings, and paintings in the major solo exhibition, Enshrined: Presence & Preservation (2021-22), organized by the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, in Detroit, and the California African American Museum, in Los Angeles. His art has been included in several national venues and belongs to numerous private and public collections—including our very own at Saybrook College.

ACROSS

1 Aesthetic of rock and glitter

5 Enters a fervor

7 Cancel

8 Distinctively Canadian phrase

9 "Down in the river to..."

DOWN

1 Comprehend (within one's...)

2 Attlee's party

3 Greek market space

4 Pippin's jolly cousin

6 Metaphor for many a dirty dorm room

Credit: Avery Long

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Last week's solutions:

	M	A	S	S
W	A	T	C	H
I	G	L	O	O
S	M	A	R	T
E	A	S	E	S

Credit: Avery Long

SPORTS

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FENCING

YALE BEATS NOTRE DAME
The Yale men's and women's fencing squads both posted a 5-4 finish at the Philadelphia Invitational, where the women's team defeated national champions Notre Dame.



W. TENNIS

BULLDOGS ACE BOBCATS
On Saturday, the Yale women's tennis team dominated Quinnipiac in a 7-0 victory with no sets lost at Cullman-Heyman before hosting Brown for a scrimmage the next day.



"This season I want to really focus on trying to beat my past self"

BRIAN DI BASSINGA '26
YALE TRACK AND FIELD TRIPLE JUMPER

Ask an Olympian: What does it mean to retire?



YALE

On the one-year anniversary of her retirement, Olympian Laura Zeng '25 reflects on what moving forward means as a college student.

BY LAURA ZENG
STAFF REPORTER

Online sub-head: On the one-year anniversary of her retirement, Olympian Laura Zeng '25 reflects on what moving forward means as a college student.

Newsletter blurb: In the first of an upcoming column from Laura Zeng '25, the sophomore writes on retiring from rhythmic gymnastics last year.

When people think of retirement, they think of someone over the age of 65. Someone who has worked their whole life, with kids out of the house. Someone who has gone through the grind, and come out the other side — not a college student gallivanting across campus.

So when I call myself recently retired, most people think I'm kidding.

But it's been a year — almost to the day — since I submitted my notice to USA Gymnastics, to the U.S. Olympic Committee and to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, announcing my retirement from

the sport of rhythmic gymnastics. A year since I permanently left — which is more than can be said for Tom Brady — and said goodbye to the carpet, for better or worse.

The shift felt purely external, at first: I sent a few emails, thanked the right people, made an official announcement. The motions were bureaucratic, yet swift. I was released, all at once, from the expectations of others.

But what about the expectations I had for myself?

I always knew my lifespan as a gymnast would be short. Like a swimmer who peaks at age 26, or a golfer in his prime at 35, I became a "senior" when I turned 15. In the years that followed, I was constantly reminded that by merely continuing, I was achieving — that my longevity was a feat in and of itself. And while there is nothing wrong with that sentiment, it didn't make it any less hard to realize growing up meant growing old.

Last year, I attended a summit for retiring athletes in the

mountains of Colorado. I met 13 other athletes from different sports, like ski jump, rugby and shot-put. I was the only rhythmic gymnast there, and — for the first time in a long time — the youngest person in the room. Like a motley crew out of the Breakfast Club, we had nothing in common, except for a shared crisis of identity.

Over the course of a weekend, we shared our deepest fears and our worst thoughts, a group of strangers experiencing the same struggle. It was what I imagined an AA meeting to be like, except we weren't alcoholics — we were athletes who didn't know what else we were.

Most people don't realize that retirement involves mourning. The end of a career is the death of it, no matter how glorious that career was. The media celebrates triumph, but the majority of athletes retire because they are forced to, physically or

SEE **OLYMPIAN** PAGE 10

Yale notches key victory over Penn

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

It was "White Out" night Saturday in Payne Whitney Gymnasium, as students set down the books and filled the bleachers of the John Lee Amphitheater to cheer on the Bulldogs.

Yale (12-6, 3-3 Ivy) overcame a strong effort from the University of Pennsylvania Quakers (9-11, 2-4 Ivy) en route to a 60-53 victory in a back-and-forth matchup Saturday night in the John J. Lee Amphitheater.

The Quakers, tabbed as the conference favorites in the Ivy League preseason poll, held the Bulldogs at bay in the first half, going up 19-10 at the 12-minute mark and not surrendering their lead until halftime.

The Blue and White answered the bell in the second half, limiting Penn to just 25 points and winning by a comfortable seven-point margin.

"In the first half we were out of sync offensively," head coach James Jones told the News. "We didn't share the ball the way we're capable of but were fortunate to have some sharpshooting keep us in the game. In the second half, we did a better job of driving and getting the ball to the rim."

Eli guard tandem August Mahoney '24 and Bez Mbeng '25 scored 17 and 14 points respectively, while forward EJ Jarvis '23 contributed 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Mbeng, Yale's star perimeter defender, had his hands

SEE **M BASKETBALL** PAGE 10



COURTESY OF DAVID SCHAMIS

Following a disappointing start to their Ivy League season, Yale picked up a key victory at home against Penn to rise to third in conference standings.

Bulldogs dominate at Philadelphia Invitational



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men's and women's fencing teams collectively finished 5-4 last weekend as the women's squad defeated national champions Notre Dame.

BY PRANAVA DHAR
STAFF REPORTER

With their only home meet of the season on the horizon this weekend, Yale's fencing squads impressed at the Philadelphia Invitational last weekend.

The women's fencing team shined at the meet, securing a victory against defending NCAA champions the University of Notre Dame. Their wins against New York University, Temple University and Wayne State University, and a solitary blemish versus Northwestern University in the last bout of the day, rounded out the team's 4-1 record. On the other hand, the men's team faced tough competition at the meet, but still came away with an

impressive victory in their bout against Wayne State.

"This was the most 'hype' we've been for a meet, and bringing that energy onto the strip really allowed us to fight for our wins," saber Stephanie Cao '25 told the News. "I'm really proud of all of us and how much we can support and depend on each other."

The women's fencing team now holds a 14-2 overall record for the season. Barring two close bouts, the Bulldogs dominated their competition, defeating NYU 23-4, Temple 16-11 and Wayne State 24-3. Northwestern and Notre Dame provided tough competition, with both bouts being decided by a singular point. While

SEE **FENCING** PAGE 10

Jenna Clark '24 scores 21 in loss to Penn

BY HENRY FRECH
STAFF REPORTER

Despite a career-high scoring effort from Jenna Clark '24, the Yale women's basketball team (10-9, 4-2 Ivy) lost 79-57 at the University of Pennsylvania (13-6, 5-1) on Saturday.

The Quakers drove the Bulldogs out of Pennsylvania with old-fashioned bully-ball. They out — rebounded the Bulldogs 39-22 on their way to a program record 11th home victory in a row.

Clark scored the first points of the game on a three-pointer. Penn responded with a bucket from their star guard, Kayla

Padilla, and claimed the lead a few minutes later. Although Clark would pour in four more threes and Nyla McGill '25 would grab a team-leading eight rebounds, Yale could not retake the lead for the rest of the night.

"I think our biggest takeaway can be a combination of two things," McGill wrote to the News, "1) taking a simplistic approach and focusing on basic principles and 2) how important communication is."

The Bulldogs fell behind by six points at the end of the first quarter. They cut the deficit down to two in the second quarter on a McGill steal and score, but Penn responded

with an 11-5 run and grew their lead to 10 before the halftime buzzer sounded.

In the third quarter, Penn shot 9-11 from the field and surged ahead by 20 points. Quaker captain Padilla, who scored 21 points on the night, helped them quell any Bulldog rallies. The Quakers shot at a 57 percent clip on the night.

"Their [rebounding] really hurt us," Mackenzie Egger '24 told the News. "They also were able to shoot the ball at a high percentage, so it was harder for us to get their missed shots as well."

Clark matched Padilla's scoring with 21 points of her

SEE **W BASKETBALL** PAGE 10



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The Yale women's basketball team lost 79-57 at Penn on Saturday despite career high 21 points from Jenna Clark '24.

STAT OF THE WEEK

61.4

YALE MEN'S BASKETBALL IS SURRENDERING JUST 61.4 POINTS PER GAME, THE STINGIEST MARK IN THE IVY LEAGUE.

WEEKEND

RESISTANCE IN JOY

// BY JANE PARK

Seeing reports of violence committed against Asian bodies used to feel like a violent splash of cold water to the face. The same cold water now feels lukewarm, having lost its initial bite and burn: the violence and murder of Asian/American bodies is anything but surprising at this point. The shootings at Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay have shown that safety has never been a guarantee.

Tragedy has become a familiar face in the news for the Asian/American community; so familiar that when I scroll by the frequent NextShark Instagram posts reporting on yet another act of hatred towards Asian/Americans, my thumb does not stop.

Cont. on page B2

WEEKEND

HEART

Cont. from page B1

Somewhere in the past three years, I guess I just trained my eyes and fingers to simply move on. If there's anything that the ephemeral stories and unceasing content on Instagram have taught me, it's that time is merciless and unrelenting.

Maybe that's why when I saw the New York Times push-notification on Sunday morning, I wordlessly put my phone down and continued with my readings.

On Sunday evening, members of the Asian American Students Alliance met to hold a reflective space for the events of that morning. From the room next to us, we heard the loud cheers of a Lunar New Year celebration. As the noise of festivities merged with mournful silence, I came face-to-face with a complicated question: how do we properly remember and commemorate tragedy in a world that keeps revolving?

As I sat wordlessly wiping tears off my face, a horrific realization dawned upon me. For so long, I had stored my sorrow in tightly-sealed memory compartments, careful so as not to make any residual grief seep out. Running off to Zoom meetings and completing homework assignments, I learned to ignore and even forget the world around me. There was simply not enough time to grapple with what seemed like a never-ending amount of mourning, and the only alternative was to close my eyes to it all.

I granted myself the privilege of living in a noiseless fantasy of "normalcy," even as anti-Asian hate and violence continues to violently ripple and destroy the lives of many Asian/Americans.

Was I leaving behind the ghosts of my Asian/American brothers and sisters? Like the rest of the world, was I forgetting the tragedies and atrocities all too soon?

Was I even allowed to gleefully celebrate Lunar New Year, like my counterparts in the other room, when those in Monterey Park had their festivities so cruelly taken away from them? Why did experiencing joy feel sacrilegious?

Dear reader, it's easy for this thinking to further perpetuate violence and sorrow against our own community. When sorrow seems to be omnipresent and suffering incessant, it often feels necessary for us to live as containers of grief: to withhold the laughter that the departed can no longer express, to shed continual tears for those who we've permanently lost. This only damns us to eternal mourning, creating ghosts out of our own selves who are unable to escape the past. In striving for justice, both for those who are with us and those who are not, we must imagine and actualize a future without violence. This vision is realized through our capacity to experience

joy — to define Asian/American experiences as more than just the habitual and persistent violence committed to Asian bodies. In a world where violence seems ceaseless, we must ensure that this cycle of grief is not.

The world keeps revolving. Yet, maybe this is an act of both cruelty and grace.

A new day begins, and we laugh, then cry, then laugh again. Of course, this doesn't mean we should turn a blind eye to the suffering around us, as I had done. It means that the processes of healing can and must be more than blissful ignorance and perpetual mourning. In the face of violence that hopes to destroy communities and instill fear, the joyful moments we have work as a direct counter.

Our individual journeys in coping with these events are neither one-directional or synchronous. Even now, my heart stills in fear whenever someone mentions the

Atlanta shootings. Yet, we can nurse the sorrows in our heart while simultaneously dreaming of better futures.

Our existence is not a self-fulfilling prophecy of continued violence and oppression. We are infinitely more than the hate that mars our bodies and breaks our skin. As I dance with my Asian grandparents and make rice cake soups with my mom, I am actively creating and shaping my definition of the Asian/American experience. To me, joy is a radical resistance.

After the AASA debrief, a few of us gathered in the kitchen to cook homemade dinner for Lunar New Year celebrations. As the smell of steamed dumplings and sound of lively conversation filled the kitchen of the AACC, I held the victims of Monterey Park close to my heart, with joy, sorrow, and resistance.

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// ARIANE DE GENNARO



Maybe I
Shouldn't
Follow My Dreams...

// BY ROSE QUITSLUND

When people tell you to follow your dreams, they clearly mean “follow your ambitions.” I’ve always been someone who has wild dreams, but the thing about dreams is that they’re ephemeral. I wake up with a vivid story in my mind, only to forget it entirely five minutes later. All I can remember is that “I had a crazy dream last night.”

Last semester, though, I started writing down my dreams and initial thoughts upon waking up. It started out as an assignment; We were reading Freud’s “Interpretation of Dreams” and had to keep a dream journal for a week. I liked being able to see what I was thinking about while I was sleeping, not only for the first few moments of consciousness, but to have those thoughts cemented in ink on paper. Since then, I’ve taken to writing down the bits and pieces of dreams that I can recall. Random subconscious thoughts that surfaced in the night. A really good line I want to incorporate

into my next YDN article. Dreams of dancing choreography I don’t recall learning. Dreams of listening to songs I haven’t been able to find on Spotify despite searching.

I love talking about dreams because it’s incredible what we know without really knowing it. But no, I don’t dwell on them or try to psychoanalyze them. It’s just fascinating that the unconscious mind can choreograph dances, compose songs, and synthesize outlandish stories. I present to you the last dream that I remember in its entirety. For context, carrots are my favorite vegetable.

It took place in a dystopian society in which it was illegal to grow and eat carrots. Somewhat like prohibition I suppose. It was illegal to even say the word ***** outside, in case someone heard. But obviously, carrots are delicious, and the people of this society still wanted carrots, including myself. There were uprisings; there were protests; There were underground schemes

to illegally grow and eat carrots. We found our way around the law.

I got involved in a Superlab-esque operation like in “Breaking Bad,” but illegally growing carrots instead of cooking meth. A man named Farmer John lived next door to the secret lab, a caricature-like, grouchy old farmer. Behind his house, he had an orange tree that grew up over the fence into the adjacent backyard of the lab. It had thick, dark green foliage that covered the sky above half of the small yard and small shiny oranges hidden in the branches like Christmas tree ornaments. We went into the backyard and shook the tree so that the oranges would fall into our yard. They started falling, and we kept shaking the branches, and they kept falling. Soon, shiny oranges and waxy leaves covered the ground several feet deep. It was like wading through a fragrant ball pit of fresh fruit. Farmer John knocked on the door of our carrot lab, infuriated that we had taken his

oranges. I told him that his tree was infringing on our property, considering how much it hung over the fence. It was bearing weight on the fence, and we were relieving it of its burden by picking the fruit. So he threatened to call the police and tell them about our illegal carrot operation ...

At that moment, as I stood on the doorstep arguing nonsense with a graying old man in a straw hat, the underlying suspicion that I was going to wake up soon began to creep up on me. Even though the dream hadn't come to a conclusion yet, something in the back of my mind told me that it was on the precipice of termination.

And then I heard the sound of my roommate’s alarm. Psychoanalyze me as you wish.

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WKND Recommends

Eating dinner for breakfast.



You’re Doing Great, Sweetie

Pining after your FroCo? Dying to get on the orgy pan-list? 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-savvy columnist who has done it all — including everyone on the afore-mentioned 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.

My teacher used a paper I wrote as an example for the class, and I got all hot and bothered, even though he’s a bald old white man with jowls, and I am not into jowls. Please explain.
-StarStudent

Oh dear reader, we don’t think you’re into jowls. And we would only judge a little but if you were. It sounds like you enjoy some positive feedback. And what is that if not dirty talk that is actually very clean?

I may have mentioned this before, but it’s a story worth telling twice. After a nasty breakup in my early high school years, I was in a vulnerable place. I was hurt. I felt like somehow, I wasn’t good enough (thanks for cheating on me three times, Ruben).

Somehow, the stars aligned. And when I say aligned, I mean they collapsed inward and took my dignity with them. Some legally-older guy found me on Instagram, told me to download Discord, then made me play support for him on League of Leg-ends on a Macbook Air without an external mouse.

Looking back, this is the absolute worst thing that could ever happen to a fifteen-year-old girl in terms of development. But alas, he told me I was beautiful. He told me I was intelligent. He told me I was good at League of Legends (I was not).

This praise continued for months. It became almost habit-ual; I knew that every time I got home from school and hopped online, I’d have a list of compliments waiting for me. It didn’t matter if I was being applauded for something I cared about. I had a hunger for it all. I, too, got “all hot and bothered.”

We’ve previously decried kinks we don’t understand, but this one makes sense. We all want someone who will tell us we’re right and treat us like we’re wrong. Plus, you’re a Yale student. You are used to excelling.

Everyone here worked hard and got good grades in school, I’m sure you’re the same. Unless your parents bought all of your grades for you. But then you’d just yearn for validation from daddy. And then you could go get yourself a Daddy. There are websites for that.

If you do follow the typical model, my best advice is to tell your partner you’re into praise. There’s a clear mutual benefit here. You’ll get turned on and clear directions on how to best turn them on. If there’s anything I know, it’s that we Yalies know how to follow instructions and produce impressive results.

But not everyone is into praise. Let’s play a game. Imagine you and a partner decide to engage in some teacher-student roleplay. They play the teacher, you embody the student. Your partner tells you you’re a very bad girl who’s going to fail the class. Do you...

A. Drop to your knees because you can’t stand up during the panic attack triggered by your very real fear of getting a D in CS 50

B. Drop to your knees and ask what kind of punishment they have in mind

Now imagine the same scenario, except they tell you you’re the top of the class, and as a reward, they want to top you. Do you...

A. Drop to your knees and say thank you sir

B. Drop to your knees but awkwardly think of your professor the entire time

If you answered mostly As, you have a praise kink, my sweet kitten. Refer to the previous section.

If you answered mostly Bs, you have a thing for degradation, you filthy whore.

If you answered one of each, try taking a look in the mirror, looking into your own eyes and saying “harder, you dirty slut!” That should clear things up.

This might seem counterintuitive, given the reasoning out-lined above. But both kinks are based in the same fallacious foundation — some people are overachievers and need to keep achieving. Others are overachievers and want to escape from the pressure of achievement.

In other words, when you have to be so good all the time, it feels really, really good to be bad.

Like really good. Ahem.

If you’ve gotten this far, my dear, sweet readers, I want to congratulate you. This was a long one. You’re so good to me. Like, so good. Maybe the best readers I’ve ever had. Keep doing what you’re doing. It’s working so well. I love it. You’re amazing. Oh my God, READER. You’re amazing. You’re out of this world. It’s soooooo good. Keep doing that. No, not that. That. YES. YES. YESSSSSSSSSS.

Ahem.

This fake blonde has more fun — but at what cost?

// BY ELIZA JOSEPHSON



// JESSAI FLORES

I’m not blonde anymore. I would never admit that out loud because of the essential qualifying word: anymore. I was blonde, once upon a time, from when I exited the womb until I entered high school. When my hair started to darken, a part of me died. So, I dyed my hair!

It always begins with some innocent, face-framing highlights. But then you start getting the reaffirmation of an identity you were afraid to lose. And I wanted to intensify that feeling, so I didn’t object to a full dye job that would obscure my dark roots. The upkeep is not ideal, but for some reason that I should probably examine in therapy, I want to keep my hair perpetually sunkissed.

My identity has been inextricably intertwined with bloneness since before I could remember.

I look back at photos of little Eliza sometimes, who was known endearingly as the family’s “ray of sunshine.” There’s one of me dramatically strutting down a hallway in a pink feather boa. Another of me on my dad’s shoulders in green and white polka dot tights, tugging his ear. One of me decked out in winter gear, mischievously eyeing the camera as though I knew a juicy secret. For all she knew, she’d be blonde forever.

I became aware of my bloneness when I started identifying with the Disney princesses. My favorite was Cinderella, of course — when you’re little, you choose the character that looks the most like you. I used to shimmy off one of my shoes on the New York city streets and hop away, hoping to invite the salvation of a real-life prince. But instead of a dashing stranger returning my left Mary Jane, my parents would scold me and we’d hurriedly double back to make sure my shoe didn’t fall into a sewage grate.

I was already internalizing the messaging that implied my bloneness should attract attention. Television and film continued the narrative. Rapunzel’s long, golden hair gave her magic healing power. Miley Cyrus’ blonde wig transformed her into Hannah Montana. And shows cultivated a blonde vs. brunette dynamic too; take Gossip Girl, where Serena is the Upper East Side’s shining it girl while dark-haired Blair falls into her shimmery shadow. I’d come home from school, flip on the TV, and begin another kind of education about how appearances dictate social capital.

By middle school, my hair was turning what

some people called “dirty blonde.” I prefer to remember it as honey-colored. Right around that time, everyone was showing up to class with newly dyed, electric blue streaked hairstyles. But every hairdresser I spoke to refused to bring their bleach and foils within a five-mile radius of me. Why? Because “people pay” to get hair like mine, I shouldn’t damage it.

It didn’t end up mattering. What magenta box dye would have destroyed in minutes, time slowly deteriorated anyway. High school rolled around, and I was no longer the same, bubbly blonde girl. My playful innocence shattered when I realized no prince would ever recover my missing shoe. I lost a bit of my spark as I grew up, as many of us do. Nobody called me sunshine anymore.

I wanted to feel like myself. I wanted to be special. I wanted to shine again. I felt like the “me” in me was hidden. I needed a little movie magic in my life, something to boost my confidence and help me find what I’d lost. I didn’t consider the mes-sages I was sending by returning to my blonde-hood. Was I buying into outdated media tropes and harmful beauty standards? Why would a dif-ferent hair color make me feel more valued?

I know that I’ve had my fair share of fun as a blonde. But I also pulled off an amazing Hallow-ween costume as a 1920’s flapper wearing a jet black wig. I’ve threaded silver tinsel through my braids and put emerald gems along my hairline for par-ties. Once, I wrapped my head in a colorful silk scarf and donned large sunglasses while riding in a convertible. The radio was blasting, and I remem-ber throwing my hands up in the air in utter ecstasy. My hair was frenzied, flipping in the wind— and it didn’t matter at all what color it was.

I’ve come to the conclusion whether my hair is blonde or not, my spirit is, was, and always will be light and bright. My dye-ing wish? Do what makes you happy, but think about why it does. I’m going to keep getting highlights sim-ply because they brighten my day. They’re like my version of a tattoo— they remind me never to let go of my vivacity. But thankfully, they’re not permanent. Who knows? Maybe someday I’ll buy some magenta box dye and fulfill my wildest curiosities, knowing that even if my hair changes, I’ll always be me.

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WKND Recommends
Being in a silly goofy mood.

A Summer Carol

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

'Twas a cool winter night
As young Andrew slept tight,
All curled up in Bulldog Bed
delight.

'Til abruptly, Andrew awoke with
a fright
For there in his sight
Stood a ghost looming in the dim
light.

Andrew wondered what brought
him this demonic sprite.
For though the ghost's figure was
slight,
The boy knew he was doomed,
couldn't put up a fight.

"I am the Ghost of Summer Past,"
Announced the ghoul, speaking at
last,
As his subject's heart began to
beat fast.

"Here to remind you of what you
might miss,
If you sell out to Corporate Amer-
ica's kiss.
Please bear with me, as I show you
this."

And then with a jolt, a vision took
root,
Of six months before, and
Andrew's pursuit.
He could only watch, for he was
stuck mute:

Just a kid working for joy, wanting
nothing more
Then to bask in the sun of summer
camp galore,
Trying to make 10-year-olds do
their damn chores.

And then they moved to the bas-
ketball courts,
Dealing with whiny kids who were
really bad sports,
Trying to threaten each with bad
reports.

He couldn't describe the ache in
his heart
As he yearned to go back to the
start
But suddenly it was time to depart.

"Why show me this, you oh-so-

cruel ghost?
How do you know what I want
most?
Even when we both know those
days are toast?"

— still felt too weird.

The silence was broken
By another ghoulish token,
And Andrew knew before the
words were spoken ...

that.
Waiting for someone with whom
he could chat.

From the ghost: "You know appli-
cations close soon,"

But the ghost only smirked,
His duty to answer shirked,
Feeling quite confident his fear-
mongering worked.

Back in bed, Andrew lay with a
sweat
Beginning to fret,
And then appeared one final
threat.

'Drew cut in: "You're the Ghost of
Summer Present
Blah blah blah, treat me like a
peasant,
Let's get this done. I know it won't
be pleasant."

"Andrew, it's me, your roommate,
are you doing good?"
Voice sounding concerned, like a
good roommate's would.
Andrew could only shake his
sweatshirt's hood.

"A dream, a horror, I can't begin
to say.
Ghosts of the Summers, I can't
keep them at bay.
I guess, on my mind, applications
must weigh.

"I don't know what plan is best,
It's all so full of stress,
And I'm so-very scared, I must
confess.

"Why is it all so fraught with
worry,
Making me feel like I have to hurry
To pick a career path down which
I can scurry?"

"Andrew, you're crazy, stop
speaking in rhyme,
You'll wake up tomorrow and still
have some time.
Now get some rest, and it'll all be
fine."

In his goofy nightgown,
Andrew made peace, and laid back
down
And fell asleep, making a smile
from his frown.

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// ARIANE DE GENNARO

Andrew replied, "For this sum-
mer?" like a buffoon.
"Of course not, my fool. This is
2024, on the first day of June."

"You mean to tell me to start
thinking now?
But to know what to do, there's no
way how!
Please, I beg, what sayest thou?"

"I'm not here to say, only to show.
As for your questions, only you
can know.
But now I fear that I must go."

As quick as he came, the phantom
disappeared
As the fog in 'Drew's head slowly
cleared.
But the dream — maybe nightmare

"I am the Ghost of Summer to
Come,"
The apparition proclaimed as
Andrew stood dumb.
"Please follow me," he said with a
wag of his thumb.

In a cubicle, Andrew sat,
Working on some trifle, oh this or

Uncuffing season

// BY ELIFNAZ ONDER



// JESSAI FLORES

It's uncuffing season. It's the sea-
son of breakups. My past two weeks
have been full of breakup news. I
can't tell if I look like Frasier Crane
or if it's actually breakup season —
either way, I've been thinking
about breakups more than I've ever
thought about them before.

I've always considered breakups,
despite how heart-wrenching they
can be, as very poetic endings to
relationships. It's not the separation
that makes them heart wrenching,
it's the inability of separating, it's
the difficulty in giving up old habits.
To me, the pain is a testament to the
bond between two people.

Breakups can be very different.
Sometimes it's hugging a friend in
a staircase as they cry about the
guy who, out of the blue, ended a
long-term relationship. Other
times it's munching on snacks after
midnight trying to understand
why they ended the relationship.
Sometimes it's just finding a friend
under a blanket in bed, loathing
themselves because they broke up
with someone they dearly loved
over text. Sometimes it's listening
to a friend who received an "I can't
do this anymore" text after send-
ing that person an UberEats gift of
a bowl of hot chicken soup. Break-
ups, as sad as they are, also feel like
they are excerpts from an absurdist
comedy play.

Reasons for breakups, as I've
seen in these past two weeks, exist
in a very wide range. Sometimes
it's realizing you're still in love with
your ex when you cross paths with
each other on a morning run. You
feel your eyes unexpectedly tear up
while bumble bees start an MMA
session in your stomach instead
of dancing butterflies. This, obvi-
ously, leads to a breakup. Some-
times it's finding out your partner

had been cheating on you. This,
also obviously, leads to a breakup.
But sometimes there is no explicit
reason, and that makes it hard. For
both sides.

Breakups are not mutual. There
is no way they can be. It doesn't
seem fair that it takes two to start
a relationship and only one to
end it. But it is what it is. So what
remains are hopefully a few good
memories and maybe a few letters
or gifts from them.

It's especially difficult to break
up when you still love that other
person. But sometimes you just
have to end things when you are
on opposite sides of the globe
and it's hard to keep going, when
there is no possibility of exist-
ing in the same place and time
in the future. I believe breakups
have to do with distance, both
literally and figuratively. The
distance between ideas, the dis-
tance between hearts, the dis-
tance between hugs, the distance
between eyes.

So, here is an Oruc Aruoba
quote from his book Distance:

"Longing has only one enemy:
time.

Time is the thing that longing
cannot bear: the one that it wants
to destroy or at least ignores, while
time is also the one that destroys
longing, the one that weakens and
consumes it.

Time creates longing, but it is also
the thing that consumes it — time
strangles the child it bore: longing."

Time is the Medusa of longing."
As you leave healing to time,
make sure you have friends to call,
friends to lean on, friends to whine
to, friends to cry and laugh with.

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WKND Hot Take:

Chocolate-flavored beer is an
abomination.