

Yale Daily News

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Salovey to update gift policies

Changes comes year after Beverly Gage resignation

BY WILLIAM PORAYOUW
STAFF REPORTER

A year after news first broke about alleged pressure being exerted by wealthy donors, Yale will soon move to formally strengthen its language and policies related to gift agreement and academic freedom.

The announcement from President Peter Salovey came in response to a May report issued by the University's gift policy committee, which made several recommendations aiming to limit future instances of donor pressure.

The committee was created in February earlier this year following months of stu-

dent, faculty and alumni concerns surrounding history professor Beverly Gage's surprise resignation from her position as director of the Brady-Johnson Grand Strategy program. The report, submitted to Salovey in late May, contained its recommendations for gift policy oversight but did not review individual donations to the University.

"A system of checks and balances must ensure that the normal engagements between donors and the University do not come into conflict with the core institutional commitment to academic freedom," the report reads.



Peter Salovey / Yale U.

The committee recommended several mechanisms for faculty to share concerns about the acceptance of a University gift, including assembling a Faculty Review Committee or an ad hoc panel of no fewer than three faculty members with expertise in the academic area to examine a gift complaint and reporting complaints anonymously through the university hotline.

In another instance the committee recommended language be used in gift agreements with donors limiting the role of the donor in decisions regarding their gift to the University. The report also mentioned a need for a more explicit policy surrounding academic freedom, which it says is "little" referenced in the Faculty Handbook. In general, the committee took input from formal and informal Yale procedures, as well as other universities.

SEE GIFT POLICY PAGE 4

How to get a booster on campus

Updated shots recommended for all 12 and up

BY ALEXANDRA MARTINEZ-GARCIA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

New COVID-19 booster vaccines — the first to specifically target the uniquely contagious Omicron variant — are available at pharmacies on campus and in New Haven.

Campus and city officials are encouraging people to make appointments as soon as possible through Yale Health's clinic or local pharmacies. Appointments are currently available through Yale Health, with current wait times at around eight to ten days.

The newest boosters, produced by Pfizer and Moderna, were authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last month and became widely available soon after.

Known as bivalent boosters or "updated boosters," the new shots contain mRNA components that protect against both the original strains of the COVID-19 virus as well as the newer, more contagious strains

SEE VACCINE PAGE 4

Hospital cuts 72 in second year of loss



83 vacant positions as well as 72 administrators were laid off by YNHH last Wednesday / Yale Daily News

BY KAYLA YUP AND YASH ROY
STAFF REPORTERS

After 50 years of profit, Yale New Haven Hospital is in its second straight year of losing more money than it earned.

As a result, the company made 155 cuts to administrative positions last Wednesday, including the firing of 72 hospital managers and the elimination of 83 vacant positions, all based in New Haven. The cuts were made at both junior and senior levels of administration, though they will not directly or immediately impact patient care.

YNHH saw a deficit of \$200 million in 2021 and now projects a \$300 million loss for the current fiscal year, both due to pandemic-related costs. Before the pandemic, the hospital system had not seen a deficit since its formation in 1995. The flagship New Haven location had not ended a year in the red for more than five decades.

"It was an extraordinarily difficult day, especially for those impacted, and it's not something we've done before as a health system," YNHH Vice President Vin Petrini said. "I've been here nearly 20 years, and I've never experienced that before."

The woes could continue — YNHH is now budgeting for a \$250 million deficit in 2023.

Employees were laid off in individual meetings with managers and ended their

SEE YNHH PAGE 4

PROFILE

A "beacon of hope" in Fair Haven

Ward 14 Alder Sarah Miller on first year

BY CHARLOTTE HUGHES
STAFF REPORTER

When Alder Sarah Miller '03 sat down to dig into caldo de pollo and fajitas on a Friday afternoon, she had New Haven history on hand.

Before her stood Salsa's Authentic Mexican Restaurant. The Grand Avenue building in Fair Haven was divided between the Italian DiSorbo's Bakery and Milano's Meat Market in the 1980s. Miller pulled out a black-and-white image of the two old stores posted in the "Fair Haven Memories" Facebook group.

Even as Ward 14's demographics have changed from majority-Italian and Eastern European to majority-Latino, it has retained its identity as a neighborhood of immigrants, Miller said.

Born in New Haven in 1980, Miller grew up in the neighborhood of Westville. She majored in literature during her time at Yale and went on to work as an acquisitions editor for the Yale University Press specializing in Latin American literature. For the past two decades, she has lived in Ward 14 with her husband, who grew up in the neighborhood, and her two children, now aged 6 and 11.

Like many, she quit her day job during the pandemic, leaving her role at the Yale Uni-



Sarah Miller / Sarah Miller

SEE ALDER PAGE 5

Cox sues New Haven for \$100 million



Alleging violations of his civil rights, Randy Cox is suing the city for \$100 million / Yash Roy, Contributing Photographer

BY YASH ROY
STAFF REPORTER

Randy Cox is suing New Haven for \$100 million in damages alleging that his fourth and 14th amendment rights were violated by the New Haven Police Department after he was paralyzed in police custody. New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker says he is open to settling.

Tuesday morning, Wallingford-based attorneys Lou Rubano and R.J. Weber III filed the lawsuit for \$100 million in damages against the City of New Haven and the five officers involved in the U.S. District Court of Connecticut. On the steps of City Hall, prominent civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who has represented Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in the past, called on the city to do right by Cox.

"Randy's case is like Freddie Gray, but after Freddie died police departments swore they would change," NAACP Connecticut President Scot X. Esdaile told the News. "That didn't happen in New Haven. What happened to Freddie happened to Randy seven years later. The world is now watching New Haven to see what the mayor and police chief will do."

Cox was paralyzed after being arrested on June 19 by NHPD. Officer Oscar Diaz placed Cox into the back of an NHPD

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1958. Five freshmen are locked out of dorms following a "quasi-riot" on old campus. A number of instruments including a trumpet, bongo drums, as well as tape recorders are confiscated.

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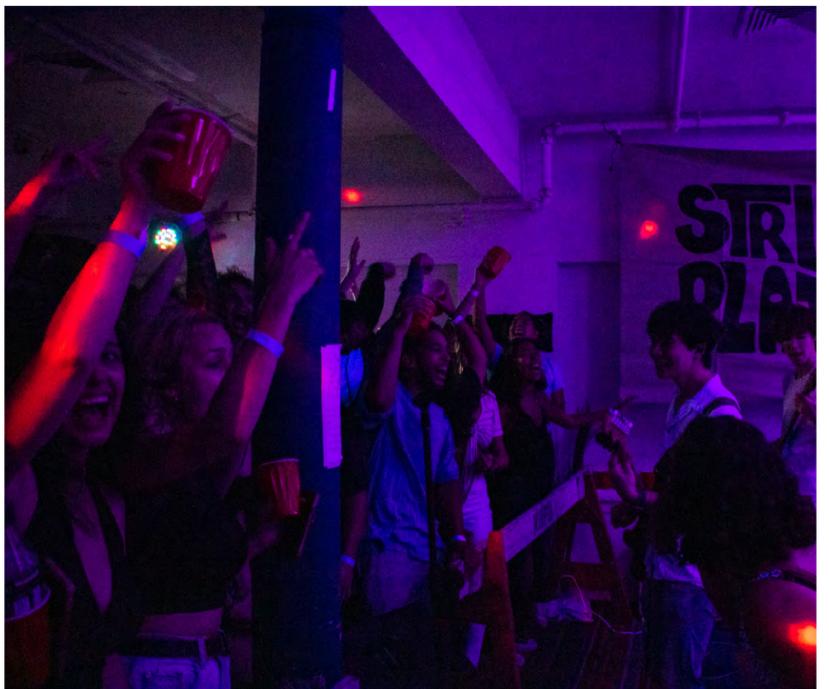
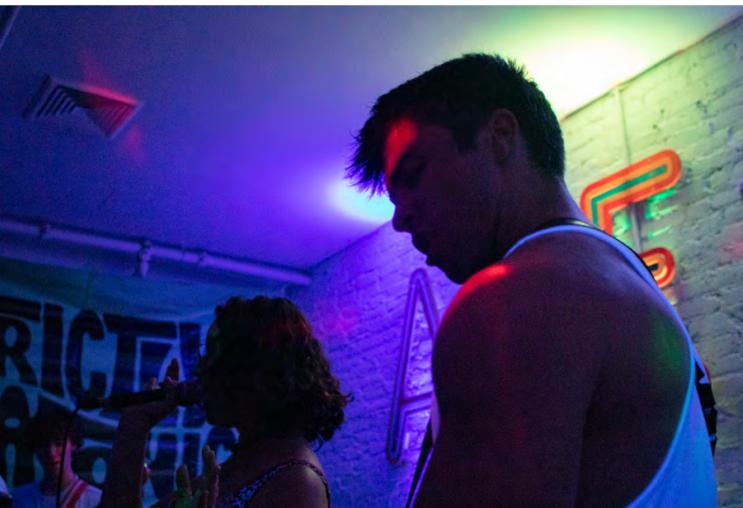
THROUGH THE LENS



Strictly Platonic rocks AEPi

On Saturday night, Yale student band Strictly Platonic performed their first show of the school year at the Alpha Epsilon Pi house.

Words by **MORRIS RASKIN AND BEN RAAB.**
Photos by **GAVIN GUERRETTE.**



OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST
ARI BERKE

Don't abandon Taiwan

Recently, Lucas Miner and Andrew DeWeese wrote an op-ed in response to my earlier op-ed titled "Avenge Ukraine by Protecting Taiwan." I had hoped to instill a sense of urgency in the Yale community regarding the brewing crisis in Taiwan, but it seems that the article had the opposite effect. Indeed, these two Yalies even went so far as to publish an article assuring everyone that Taiwan will be just fine so long as America stays out of the way. The op-ed's central claim — that American support for Taiwan will needlessly provoke China into punishing Taiwan — is essentially a recycled version of professor John Mearsheimer's argument that America's aggressive NATO expansion needlessly provoked Russia to invade Ukraine.

But even Mearsheimer himself wouldn't extend his Ukraine argument to Taiwan. Mearsheimer acknowledged that a strong China poses an existential threat to Taiwan regardless of America's actions: "the continuing rise of China will have huge consequences for Taiwan, almost all of which will be bad. Not only will China be much more powerful than it is today, but it will also remain deeply committed to making Taiwan part of China."

This should surprise no one. China itself has made its intentions on the subject of Taiwan abundantly clear. Not only does China refuse to recognize Taiwan as an independent nation, but they punish other nations who do so. China took significant military action against Taiwan three separate times in between 1954 and 1996. In fact, the only reason none of these three attempts actually succeeded was because America aggressively intervened on Taiwan's behalf.

But don't take my word for it: take the word of the Chinese government itself. Last month, China published a paper explicitly calling for a "One Country, Two Systems" policy in Taiwan, the exact same policy which China used to demolish Hong Kong's liberal democratic institutions and impose brutal authoritarian rule. This is no coincidence. Both Hong Kong and Taiwan are thriving examples of East Asian liberal democracies: as such, their very existence threatens the legitimacy of CCP rule in mainland China. China already extinguished half of the threat by ruthlessly crushing Hong Kong, and there's every indication that it will do the same to Taiwan the first chance it gets. If we took Miner and DeWeese's awful advice and withdrew America's "provocative" support for Taiwan, there's no doubt that Taiwan would be off the map by the next morning.

Of course, Miner and DeWeese point to "the hardness of the Taiwanese people" and the "vitality of the status-quo" as effective enough to thwart the inevitable Chinese military aggression. Not

only do these fairytale statements evidence Miner and DeWeese's total misunderstanding of the "History" they both claim to study, they are also insulting to the people of Hong Kong. Was it really for lack of "hardiness" that Hong Kong succumbed to Chinese rule in 1919? Would a more robust "status-quo" really have prevented Chinese secret police from disappearing Hong Kong's protestors? Maybe, having never "spent three months in Taiwan" like Miner and DeWeese, I simply don't understand just how "hardy" the people of Taiwan are. But I think China proved in Hong Kong that no amount of "hardiness" can ward off its territorial ambition, and the history of the China-Taiwan conflict clearly indicates that the only force China respects is American intervention.

A stronger version of Miner and DeWeese's argument concedes both that Taiwan is in danger and that American intervention is Taiwan's only chance for lasting independence, but still wonders which potential American strategic policies are indeed the "right move." That question is way above my paygrade, but I do know that tepid public support for protecting Taiwan will slowly morph into American government apathy towards Taiwan. Conversely, public support for pro-Taiwan policies will incentivize politicians to take the initiative to support Taiwan. Thus, as someone concerned for the fate of Taiwan, I once again urge my fellow Yalies to use their voices and Op-Ed writing skills to support Taiwan, instead of using them to apologize for an oppressive regime.

Now to their credit, Miner and DeWeese actually provided some stellar options for Yalies looking to support Taiwan by providing links to various Taiwan-based language-study programs. I myself am quite interested in attending one of these programs, and I would echo their recommendation for anyone looking to do something meaningful over the summer. But I want to dispel the notion that the only way, or the most effective way, to support Taiwan is by physically going there. As a Yalie, you can effectively support Taiwan from the comfort of your own dorm room, by harboring pro-Taiwan opinions and encouraging others to do the same.

As we begin this new semester, we must focus patiently on achieving the goals we've set out. Setbacks will occur, as they always will. That's no reason to stop doing anything. In the long-run, compounding will always take over and the trendline will trend upwards the further you zoom out. Keep at it, stay the course and results will inevitably arrive. If they don't, recalibrate and go again, there's no gain in stopping. Here's to a great fall semester!

ARI BERKE is a sophomore in Branford college. Contact him at ari.berke@yale.edu.

Exit Interview



AWUOR ONGURU

Wild West

I return to my column in a flurry of emotion. While I am excited to pick up my pen again, a part of me fears that whatever instinct I had in the first edition of my columns is long gone, reduced to dust under the bureaucratic weight of the Opinion Editorship. Another part doesn't believe that I have anything else to say that's interesting. Might this be another year of recycled, gently anti-western sentiment?

The answer is yes. Two days ago, Buckingham palace released the image of the Queen's final resting place at Windsor castle. As has been the case these past few weeks, the internet exploded with sentiment, both good and bad, in memoriam of the United Kingdom's long standing monarch. My own feelings about the Crown are not a secret: to me and many members of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth's death signifies the end of decades of tyranny, despotism and, post-independence, paternalistic hand shaking. Yet as I stood in Schwarzman rapidly refreshing Twitter, fact checking and sending mass messages to my family group chats, I was overcome with an impending sense of doom.

Is it really the end? I wrote in a previous column that "the royal family manages the space of both the cruel former master and the beloved fairy tale with a proximity that only those who carefully create and manage a century-long mythology can employ." This seems to be even truer in death than it was in life. The Queen's death opens up a Pandora's box of everything we forget to talk about — the fact that she presided over the colonization of a large majority of the world, and, even

after reluctantly letting go of England's imperial aspirations, continued to project ideas of empire and domination through her tours. Yet still, many continue to adore her, and refuse to separate her jolly outward persona from the institution that she represented. Even the argument that we should grieve for someone that loomed so largely over our modern life points to the Crown's ability to maintain dominance over millions of people for so long, with little more than tabloid discourse and cultural imperialism to show for. Somewhere in our mixed emotion, the subjugated hoped that something as large as the Queen's death might warrant some sort of reckoning for these types of thought processes. The most optimistic of hearts wished for a grand apology, while the realists hoped for a footnote. In the end, we get nothing.

The Queen dies and remains exactly that: dead. The Crown refuses to recognize the atrocities committed during her reign, and instead stoically canonises her. The world becomes torn up between royalists that adore her memory and those that continue to suffer the effects of colonialism. None of this works to move the needle an inch in any direction. Eventually, the world moves on. If the Queen can die and we remain oppressed, when is the point at which we receive justice?

If the Queen can die and we remain oppressed, does there truly exist a movement to free the colonised world? Some may argue that it is too soon to say, but I think that we are moving too slowly. The emp-

THE WORLD BECOMES TORN UP BETWEEN ROYALISTS THAT ADORE HER MEMORY AND THOSE THAT CONTINUE TO SUFFER THE EFFECTS OF COLONIALISM.

tiness that I felt observing the events of the past fortnight is not a positive omen. Here is perhaps, our biggest chance to date to bring injustice into the light. No more pretence, no more hesitation. The mixed feeling for the crown that was so carefully instilled within me now rests in the grave at Windsor Castle. I can only hope that we, like Queen Elizabeth, will get what we deserve.

AWUOR ONGURU is a junior in Berkeley college. Her column, "Wild West," runs on alternative Tuesdays. Contact her at awuor.onguru@yale.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Last week the Yale Daily News misattributed several illustrations and works of art on a print page. We apologize for this error and have corrected the mistake on our online issue.

GUEST COLUMNISTS
ANDREW DEWEESE AND LUCAS MINER

Stop playing the Taiwan card

The Yale Daily news recently published an op-ed titled "Avenge Ukraine by protecting Taiwan," written by Ari Berke. The piece may be well-intentioned in advocating for the protection of Taiwan, but it is dangerously detached from reality. Having spent three months in Taiwan and its outlying islands, we strongly oppose the piece's tone and assertions. The actions suggested in the article will beget much more harm than good for the Taiwanese people.

Taiwan is winning in the status quo. The country is free, peaceful and thriving. Most importantly, the people of Taiwan remain resilient in the face of aggression from China — appetite for reunification decreases every year. Even during the Chinese military exercises that followed United States Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, normal life went on without disruption or panic. Such stoic calmness reflects the hardness of the Taiwanese people as well as the vitality of the status quo.

Enter Ari Berke's op-ed, a smattering of provocative and flippant recommendations that demonstrates a snide disrespect for the gravity of the situation and Taiwan's right to choose its own destiny — a right enshrined in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979. He calls for the "establishment of a formal [American] embassy in Taiwan," a sure-fire spark for conflict. His particularly egregious pronouncement that "China can shift the goalposts faster than you can say Tiananmen Square" is blatantly facetious in its mocking treatment of the tragic events of 1989.

Yet, if Berke believes China is so eager to shift the goalposts, why does he propose giving them so many opportunities to do so? Pelosi's visit — which Berke paints paradoxically as both an insignificant affront to the Chinese government while, simultaneously, crucial for Taiwan's secu-

rity — is case in point. The Speaker's plane landed in Taiwan and took off in a span of 18 hours. The impression of her visit quickly faded. Taiwanese media and public discourse moved on in a matter of days. In the wake of Pelosi's visit, the PRC leapt at a golden opportunity to shift the goalposts. The Taiwanese government and people now confront a new daily reality of increased air incursions, threats and violations of Taiwanese sovereignty. The so-called "median line" no longer exists. Unilateral and truculent actions that wantonly ignore the sensitivity of this issue, like those proposed by Berke, will only further imperil Taiwan's future.

Fortunately, there is much Yalies can do to support Taiwan and preserve peace without endorsing the myopia of bellicose diplomacy and performative rallies. Yale's Richard U. Light Fellowship provides generous funding for language study abroad programs in Taiwan. There are additional government-sponsored fellowships, like Taiwan's Huayu Enrichment Scholarship and the United States' Boren Fellowship and Critical Language Scholarship. Visa-free entry into Taiwan was recently reinstated for citizens of more than 50 countries, including the United States. These cross-cultural interactions promote closer bilateral ties and a clearer understanding of Taiwan for American students. Experience in Taiwan will show anyone with an open mind that the country is far different from Mainland China, but neither is it a tool for American hegemony.

The Yale administration must also endeavor to supply more classes on China and Taiwan, as currently, there is an embarrassing dearth of class offerings that teach Chinese and Taiwanese history and politics in any meaningful depth. Professor Timothy Snyder's new class on Ukrainian history is an exemplar of how

Yale can relevantly respond to crises and contentions: by educating. Most importantly, we must remember — as Berke's op-ed does, in fact, point out — that Yale is listened to. Yalies go on to become leaders and advisors in both the public and private sector. There is even an open line of dialogue between Yale's top China centers and Taiwanese leadership. Many of us will inevitably face real-world challenges pertaining to Taiwan in our chosen careers and futures. When such a time comes, we must be well-informed to avoid making brush and bumbling assertions.

Berke's hawkish rhetoric does not exist in a vacuum. Rather, it has found eager adherents among some students at Yale and in the upper echelons of the United States government. Be skeptical of pundits who have never been to Taiwan, do not study Chinese language and culture and have no ties, other than defense contracts, to the island — yet claim to champion its security under the guise of friendship and arrogant recourse to the supremacy of "Western emotions." Taiwan is a prosperous, vibrant democracy, not a sandbox to unleash the "righteous anger of the American people."

"Light and Truth" has been the motto of Yale University for 320 years. It is long overdue that the school shed more light on Taiwan and help students discover the truth about its history and current affairs, lest voices like Berke's be made authoritative by default.

Taiwan should not be used as a means to "avenge Ukraine." Don't make an entirely avoidable conflict inevitable.

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FROM THE FRONT

"I'd love to get pajamas. Good, nice and warm flannel ones."
 CHARLIZE THERON SOUTH AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACTRESS AND PRODUCER

University to strengthen donor policies

GIFT POLICY FROM PAGE 1

In his faculty-wide announcement on Sept. 9, Salovey committed to "implementing many of the committee's recommendations."

"The committee's work and your engagement with it underscore the centrality of academic freedom to our community," Salovey wrote in his statement. "The actions being implemented in response to the committee's recommendations ensure that practices surrounding gifts to the university ... remained aligned with the institution's unwavering commitment to free inquiry."

Salovey explained that the University had added language to the official gift policy to clarify the principles by which gifts may be accepted, as well as plans to organize workshops by the Office of Development to assist staff and gift officers tasked with managing Yale's gift policy.

The memo also included the incorporation of a clause in relevant gift agreements emphasizing that faculty and staff have the authority to make all decisions regarding the use of a donor's gift, rather than donors.

The issue of donor pressure rippled across campus after Gage alleged that donors Nicholas F. Brady '52 and Charles B. Johnson '54 had attempted to influence the Grand Strategy program's curriculum and lobbied Salovey to install a group of a conservative-skewed external advisory board to review program appointees. The news garnered national attention and set off alarms among Yale's academic circles.

Professor Julia Adams, who chaired the Gift Policy Review Committee, told the News that University donorship has long been a complex issue.

The Woodward Report, which was issued by the University in 1974, served an important role in defining the role of the University to "discover and disseminate knowledge," Adams said. But she also added that the report was "of its time" and mainly focused on freedom of expression.

Today, the University sees a "constantly evolving landscape" of financial and other forms of gift support, Adams said. The Committee, she said, is responsible for considering the impact of gifts on "free inquiry and academic freedom."

"We close [the report's preamble] by saying the committee understands its charge to be to suggest ways to mitigate, if not prevent, such [donor] transactions from coming into conflict with the overarching principles under which the university functions — and that refers to all gifts, no matter how small or how large," Adams said.

Adams also emphasized that the committee was able to do all of the above "without any additional bureaucracy or bureaucratic positions." Instead, the committee relied on existing mechanisms in the Faculty Handbook and the clarification of existing institutional principles.

John Gaddis, a history professor and co-founder of the Brady-Johnson program in Grand Strategy, emphasized the importance of clarifying the University's gift policy procedures and putting them in writing. He saw Salovey's response to the committee's report as a "good start."

"[Salovey] seems to have taken [the committee's] recommendations ... seriously," Gaddis said in an interview with the News. He added that, in the statement, he saw "strong support for the concept of academic freedom."



In his faculty-wide announcement, Salovey committed to "implementing many of the committee's recommendations" / Robbie Short, Staff Photographer

Gaddis said that faculty independence from gifts was an issue which the Grand Strategy program struggled with. He had previously shared his concern with the News about Gage's resignation from the program and called on the administration to reaffirm its commitment to academic freedom.

Gaddis stressed that academics are meant to "think independently" and have the authority to teach "whatever we think is relevant in our fields."

"It matters deeply that professors and staff in universities and lib-

eral arts colleges protect the intellectual independence of research and teaching, because that is how the best teaching and learning evolves and how academic research is achieved," Adams told the News.

Neither the report nor Salovey's response was formally announced to students. Instead, Salovey's response, published on the Office of the President's website, included a link to the report.

"The president's statement was put online for all members of the university community to read the moment it was sent," Univer-

sity spokesman Karen Peart told the News. Peart also mentioned that the gift policy is posted on the provost's website and is available to all members of the Yale community.

Adams stressed that while the report was initially only addressed to faculty and staff, "these concerns extend across all ... of Yale University."

The Grand Strategy program was founded in 2000.

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YNHH faces second, possible third year of deficit

YNHH FROM PAGE 1

jobs at the end of last week, according to Petrini.

"It was a smart move to cut managers," said Naomi Rogers, professor of the history of medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. "Managers don't unionize and so you're not looking at potential unionization issues ... it's always interesting to see the millions of dollars that hospitals can come up with for anti-unionization campaigns."

YNHH will continue to make investments in key positions like nurses and investing in employees, Petrini said. To stabilize YNHH's budget in the future, however, the system will reduce premium labor costs like travel nurses. Administrators are also working to alleviate ongoing supply chain issues.

With more and more services gradually being conducted in-per-

son, Petrini said that the system is projecting an 8 percent increase in the volume of outpatient services, which refers to services provided without the need for hospital admission.

"Everyone has been terribly impacted by the pandemic, at historic inflation, rising costs for premium labor and the expiration of the CARES Act funding, and it's put a lot of health systems in a very difficult position," Petrini said.

According to Petrini, none of the positions cut were "patient-facing" — meaning they were not directly involved in food services, security, transport or patient care. Moreover, he stressed that none of the layoffs "impact frontline and caregiver" employees.

"The layoffs were more restructuring of our management than a cut in services provided due to severe economic pressure," Petrini told the News. "We're going to have to transfer

some of the responsibilities to others that are here, and we're going to have work on this for next fiscal year."

Another reason YNHH likely targeted managers was to claim that no "patient facing" people were cut. Rogers argued that in a hospital, these people would still be involved with patient care in some way, however the phrase eases public concern.

City officials do not expect New Haveners to see cuts in services provided.

"The YNHH cuts will have no impact on patient services so [the city] has nothing to add," mayoral spokesperson Lenny Speiller told the News over text.

The Yale New Haven Health System was founded in 1996.

Contact **YASH ROY** at yash.roy@yale.edu and **KAYLA YUP** at kayla.yup@yale.edu.



In spite of layoffs, city officials expect that New Haveners will not experience cuts in services provided. / Yale Daily News

What to know about getting a COVID-19 booster

VACCINES FROM PAGE 1

— BA.4 and BA.5 — that have become dominant in the United States.

Who should get a booster shot?

Boosters are recommended for all people who received their last shot — either an initial two-dose series or a previous booster — at least two months ago, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"[The booster] helps to protect one not only from getting sick with COVID-19 but also ... prevents severe disease," said Richard Martinello, medical director of infection prevention at Yale New Haven Health. "Everyone's at risk, even if you've had COVID before."

Martinello said that all people, even those who have had COVID previously, are at risk for infection. Long-term post-COVID-19 conditions can be debilitating for students, he added.

Pfizer's new bivalent booster is authorized for use in people 12 and older, and the Moderna booster is approved for those 18 and older. Boosters are not yet recommended for children younger than 12.

Martinello suggested that those infected with COVID-19 wait until one month after recovery before receiving a booster.

Where can I get the COVID-19 booster in New Haven?

Yale affiliates — including students, staff, faculty and other Yale Health members — can make appointments to receive the updated booster at Yale Health's vaccine clinic through MyChart or through the Yale COVID-19 Vaccine Program. Yale Health is currently offering updated Pfizer boosters.

In addition, appointments can be made through local pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens. Available appointments can be found at the federal website [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). Yale asks that students and faculty who choose off-campus options report their updates in vaccinations.

"It was super easy to register and receive [the booster]," Josh Guo '24 wrote to the News. "I scheduled my appointment through MyChart, and the clinic is a little far ... but pretty accessible via the Yale Shuttle."

Yale Health's vaccine clinic at Science Park is at 310 Winchester Avenue, around a 20-minute walk

from central campus. The facility is separate from its main location on Lock Street.

On the other hand, scheduling appointments for some people, like Isabella Walther-Meade '25, has not been as easy.

According to Walther-Meade, her appointment at Walgreens — which she scheduled online ten days in advance — ended up being "pretty stressful" as it took "about two hours" due to staffing shortages. Walther-Meade chose to register at Walgreens because she was not sure how to do so through Yale Health — and Walgreens appeared to have more appointments available on earlier dates. Patients should bring a photo ID and insurance card to vaccine appointments.

Can I get my COVID-19 booster shot and flu shot at the same time?

Public health officials have also been urging people to protect themselves against the more familiar influenza virus. Flu season in the United States typically occurs during the fall and winter months.

The CDC has recommended that those receiving two shots

during the same appointment receive them in different arms.

Flu shots are free and available to all people six months and older. Individuals with scheduled appointments for COVID-19 boosters will have the opportunity to receive a flu shot during the same appointment.

Does the booster have side effects?

Students have reported only mild side-effects after receiving their updated boosters. Several said that their reactions were less severe compared to reactions from their first booster shots.

"I only had arm soreness for a day or two," Walther-Meade wrote in a statement to the News. "I had a relatively severe reaction to my first booster, so I was relieved."

Olivia Meisner GRD '25 said she experienced a headache, mild fatigue and body aches. Roy Kohavi '26 also experienced a decrease in the severity of his side effects, going from headaches and fatigue after his original booster to no symptoms at all after his updated booster.

Martinello mentioned that health professionals are "not seeing any side effects outside of the realm of what [they've] previously seen," meaning that students and faculty who get the bivalent booster should not expect symptoms they haven't experienced or heard about before.

Hospital remains strained by COVID-19 infections

Martinello stressed the importance of getting boosted to protect the overall community, especially as Yale New Haven Hospital continues to admit a steady stream of COVID-19 patients.

"One of the things I worry about on a daily basis is how full our hospital is," Martinello said. "In the last few months we've had 65 to 100 patients in our hospital with COVID-19 ... that takes a lot of resources that are very important for other health needs that our community has."

Search for vaccine availability in your area at vaccines.gov. The Yale Health vaccine clinic is located at 310 Winchester Avenue.

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FROM THE FRONT

"I like to be in my pajamas all day. Sometimes I don't wash for days because I like to read and sit around. I like to eat in bed."

JAMAICA KINCAID ANTIGUAN-AMERICAN NOVELIST, ESSAYIST AND GARDENER

Alder Sarah Miller on her first year

ALDER FROM PAGE 1

versity Press in the summer of 2020. She could not work at home with "everything happening all around the world," she explained.

In her new job as a manager of strategy and planning for Clifford Beers Community Care Center, the oldest outpatient mental health clinic in the United States, Miller has been able to bring her ongoing passion for community advocacy into her day job.

When her children started attending school at the Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration, or FAME, in 2014, Miller co-founded the group NHPS Advocates, a coalition that aims to improve New Haven public schools.

"You get in the schools, you see something that's not quite right," Miller said. "You try to fix it at the school level, you kind of keep going up, looking at systemic issues around curriculum and how we spend money and just the culture of the district and the way decisions are made."

When the Ward 14 Board of Alders seat became vacant in spring of 2021, Miller began campaigning for the role, hoping for a chance to tackle some of these greater structural issues that she had noticed during her activism work. She was elected and began her new position this January.

Miller has been a familiar figure in the neighborhood for decades, but she had not set out to represent her neighbors in City Hall, referring to herself as "more of a back-of-room person than front-of-room."

Ward 14 in particular has needed an advocate, and serving on the Board of Alders is a uniquely difficult job that not everyone wants to take up. The past four alders in Ward 14 either resigned mid-term or were largely absent.

From fielding calls to meeting with neighbors and attending multi-weekly meetings, being an alder requires over 20 hours of work each week. However, the city pays a salary of only \$2,000 dollars a year, Miller told the News.

"You're asking someone to do a part-time job for no money," Miller said.

Miller found it "weird" to mail out pamphlets and flyers plastered with her face, she said. But she had door-knocked in the Ward for multiple other campaigns, and for her own campaign, she knocked

every door in Ward 14 at least once — or twice.

Dave Weinreb, a Ward 14 resident and former board member of the Fair Haven Community Management Team, said that Miller "puts in the time" to do this type of grassroots work. Miller estimated that she has personally interacted with about half of the ward's 4,000 registered voters.

As alder, she needed to make sure that city money came to Ward 14.

First up, Miller wanted some of New Haven's \$115.8 million dollars in American Rescue Plan funds to go towards renovating the neighborhood's Quinnipiac River Park. Miller has also been working on plans to renovate the Strong School, a century-old brick school building that has been a vacant break-in hazard for the district since 2010. The new proposal includes apartments as well as a potential nonprofit community youth and arts center and commercial space. A developer for the project will be chosen in October, Miller estimates, and then the construction will take three to four years. "That'll be a real win," Miller said.

At the Yale University Press, Miller's work had a clear beginning, middle and end. She would commission and edit a book manuscript, then publish the finished copy. Though her work in Ward 14 is a distinctly different line of work, the world of ideas has shaped how she approaches her work as an Alder in the public sphere.

She pairs concrete projects — "things you can do right now" — with longer, more complicated projects like the Strong School renovation that take more time.

Bold, geometric posters designed by local artist Daniel Pizarro will soon be displayed on panels throughout Grand Avenue, depicting sailboats, drums and ladders, among other icons. Miller said the ladder symbolizes how Ward 14 is a place that "kind of helps people get going," while the sailboats and drums reflect different elements of the district's diverse Latino culture.

The public art is only one facet of the Grand Avenue Main Street Development project, which is in collaboration with the city's Economic Development Administration. The plan includes renovating the facades of properties on the street and installing walkways and more lighting, benches, plants and garbage cans.

But Miller's job is not all art projects. Community engagement is



Bold, geometric posters designed by local artist Daniel Pizarro will soon be displayed on Grand Ave. / Charlotte Hughes, Contributing Photographer

low in the area, and Miller wants to change that. Even though Ward 14 has the highest voter turnout compared to the other districts, rates are still objectively low, she said. Out of some 4,000 registered voters, 400 to 600 will turn out to vote depending on the race.

"The people who participate in the community are often the people who are not struggling as much," Miller said. "And so you always try to figure out how you get the information from people who are struggling. And there's not an easy answer to that."

Ward 14 has its fair share of challenges. Martin Torresquintero, a co-chair of the New Haven Democratic Town Committee, said that Miller has been a "beacon of hope" for the ward, working to resolve drug dealing and crime-related issues in Fair Haven.

But Miller wants to focus on what the neighborhood has to offer. Her children feel at home in Ward 14, running to the deli for a snack or going to the barbershop where "everybody knows everyone."

Two of this year's former candidates for Connecticut state-wide offices also call Ward 14 home — Karen Dubois-Walton, who lives two blocks down from Salsa's, and Maritza Bond, who lives "over the river and up the hill."

"It was great to have two women of color running for state office from not just New Haven, but our corner," Miller said.

As the lunch ended, Alexis Ramirez, whose mother Juana Ramirez owns Salsa's, stopped by the table to ask about a litter cleanup Miller was organizing

at the Quinnipiac River Park on October 8. He said that he himself spent a lot of time at the park, and whenever he went, he tried to pick up a few pieces of garbage from beside the overflowing trash cans near the water.

"That's a great example of a staffing issue," Miller said. "You can only have as many trash cans as you have the capacity to empty."

And right now, with the city understaffed, that job goes undone.

Ramirez said he would be there at the cleanup.

The Friends of Quinnipiac River Park meets for their stewardship work every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the summer months.

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Cox lawyers file suit for \$100M in damages

LAWSUIT FROM PAGE 1

transport vehicle that did not have seatbelts.

In front of Yale's Schwarzman center, Diaz drove the vehicle recklessly at 11 miles over the speed limit while using his cell phone. Diaz made a hard stop that sent Cox crashing into the front of the vehicle. The News reported last week that Diaz was a member of the department's newly launched stop-texting-and-driving initiative.

Cox can be heard on NHPD footage calling out and saying that his neck is broken and that he can not move. Diaz then called for medical support. Instead of waiting for paramedics to arrive at the scene, Diaz violated NHPD policy and continued driving to central booking at NHPD headquarters on 1 Union Ave.

At central booking, Cox was forcibly removed from the transport vehicle with four other police officers involved in this decision. Cox was put in a holding cell until paramedics arrived 15 minutes later and took him to Yale New Haven Hospital.

According to Esdaile, Cox was readmitted to the hospital last week for complications and infections due to his paralysis.

The lawsuit specifies that Cox has suffered a cervical spine injury and fracture, a compromised immune system, a chronic and permanent respiratory condition and a shortened life expectancy.

"We are doing our best to help him. We've been singing and praying," Cox's mother Doreen Coleman said. "We don't care how long it's going to take. We're going to get justice for him."

Crump estimates that providing "basic quality of life" and medical treatment for Cox will cost between \$20 million to \$30 million since he is now a quadriplegic.

Crump further explained that the "mental anguish" of Cox becoming a quadriplegic influenced their decision to sue for \$100 million.

Weber told the News that his co-counsel and Crump came to the decision of a \$100 million settlement after consultation with medical experts and historical data from prior cases with similar injuries.

"No amount of money can bring back Randy's ability to walk," Crump said. "But, this suit is the beginning of some semblance of justice for Randy and his family."

New Haven Police Officers Oscar Diaz, Ronald Pressley, Jocelyn Lavandier, Luis Rivera and Sgt. Betsy Segui stand accused of violating Cox's 4th and 14th Amendment rights after their allegedly negligent involvement in the incident that led to his severe injuries.

"As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligence and carelessness of the defendants, Cox has suffered and continues to suffer great physical and emotional pain, including but not limited to mental anguish, frustration and anxiety over the fact that he was and remains seriously injured," the 29-page lawsuit alleges.

All five officers are currently on paid administrative leave with the state's attorney office investigating their actions. According to Weber, the investigation has now been completed, and that the matter is now in "the hands of" newly appointed State Attorney for New Haven Jack Doyle who will make a decision on the case by mid-October. Weber added that the U.S. Attorney's office is also monitoring the situation.

This investigation is separate from the NHPD internal affairs investigation that the depart-

ment will complete after the State's Attorney office makes its determination on the case. NHPD Police Chief Karl Jacobson told the News that at the end of the NHPD IA investigation he will decide on proper discipline for the officers involved, including possible termination.

"No amount of money is going to make Randy be able to walk again," Elicker said. "We need to ensure that we are fair in the process. While we all feel frustration because we want to ensure justice for Randy, we need to make sure that we do this appropriately and have the outcome that allows fairness and the process to take its course."

Both Jacobson and Elicker said they have committed to preventing a similar incident from happening again and have instituted new reforms such as bystander training for officers and requiring seat belts in all transport vehicles.

"Policy reforms are important, but they don't mean anything if the culture of the department doesn't change," Esdaile told the News. "That video showed us a lack of concern or respect for a black person's basic human dignity. If the culture doesn't change, the changes are just ink on paper."

Cump and Esdaile also called on Yale students to get involved with the case and hold the city to account.

Esdaile, who was born in Newhallville, said that he hopes to hold discussions and meetings with Yale students who wish to get involved and potentially plan a protest for Cox with students.

"It will soon fall to our future leaders, like those now at Yale, to pick up the mantle," Crump told the News. "I am already awed by the grit and activism they show in the fight for equality — raising their voices to help prevent fur-

ther tragedies like the one that has forever changed the life of Randy Cox. Fueled by the powerful activism of students in New Haven and elsewhere, we can take vital steps to create a better society."

What's next for the lawsuit

According to Weber, the case's timeline primarily lies with the court. The next step is a joint proposal between the city, counsel for the five officers and Cox's counsel for deadlines on discovery, motions and trial readiness.

The case has 17 different counts which specifically delineate excessive force, negligence, recklessness, intentional infliction of emotional damage, assault, battery and denial of medical treatment charges against the city and the officers.

Jorge Camacho, policy director of the justice collaboratory at Yale Law School, told the News that lawsuits like the one filed by Cox typically include multiple legal claims related to the same allegation to maximize the likelihood of success.

The claims of negligence and recklessness are common law claims which are related to the operation of the van and Cox's treatment at the detention center. The claims of excessive force and denial of medical assistance are civil rights deprivation claims according to Weber.

In cases like Cox, civil rights deprivation claims are filed in conjunction with common law claims to strengthen the chance of damages being paid according to Camacho.

"We hope and expect that this case will be instrumental in leading to meaningful policing reforms that hold officers accountable and ensure the equitable enforcement of the law," Crump said.

Elicker signals willingness to settle

At Tuesday's press conference, Elicker and City Corporation Counsel Patrica King both said that the city was open to negotiate a settlement with Cox to ensure justice is done.

"We're committed to getting justice for Randy on the policy and accountability side as well as the financial side," Elicker said. "Most lawsuits end in settlements and this is something that is certainly on the table for us."

At the conference, King said that her team is still reviewing the suit and that she wants to "expeditiously" resolve the case, but that it would take time to organize and prepare from the city's side.

Weber told the News that Cox's team has made their side clear to the city, and that "the next step in negotiations lay" with the city.

"It would be premature to predict how the Cox case will turn out," Camacho told the News.

"Though the possibility of a settlement seems high given the strong evidence that his injuries were caused by the acts of the officers involved in his transport," Camacho added. "At trial, the outcome of Mr. Cox's constitutional claims will depend largely on whose interpretation of 'reasonableness' prevails."

Ben Crump previously led successful civil suits on behalf of the families of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd's Louisville and Minneapolis, respectively.

This summer, Crump, Cox's family and New Haven residents marched through New Haven and Yale campus demanding justice for Cox.

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NEWS

“One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got into my pajamas I’ll never know.” GROUCHO MARX AMERICAN COMEDIAN, ACTOR AND WRITER

Yale College adds Islamic studies certificate

BY ALEX YE
STAFF REPORTER

Beginning this semester, all Yale undergraduates have the option to pursue the interdisciplinary certificate in Islamic studies certificate.

Led by Director Supriya Gandhi, assistant professor of religious studies, the certificate allows students to explore Islam in a wide variety of contexts. Interested students must complete five course credits that fall under the categories of Islamic society, Islamic history, Islamic religion and Islamic art, architecture or literature. According to Gandhi, the certificate aims to create opportunities to explore Islam for a wide variety of students, including those who are not majoring in humanities or focusing on religious studies.

Islamic studies joins education studies, medieval studies and translation studies as interdisciplinary certificates offered by Yale College.

“When I first arrived at Yale, I noticed that there were a lot of students interested in the study of Islam, but there was no way for them to really explore that interest,” Shawkat Toorawa, professor of Arabic literature and program founder, said. “This [certificate] provides a straightforward way to curate some courses.”

According to Toorawa, Islamic studies focuses on studying “anything, wherever Muslims live.” He added that the study of Islam entails studying an entire civilization and their complex presence within society.

For Aziz Ahmed Díaz ’25, the certificate is a natural progression after taking two courses that relate to the study of Islam.

“[The certificate] is a no-brainer for me because I’m interested in the Islamic world and Islamic studies in general,” Ahmed Díaz explained. “I really enjoy looking at Islamic philosophy and learning about the Medieval Islamic period.”

Other professors emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of studying Islam. Toorawa explained that many professors that teach classes included in the Islamic studies certificate do not have the word Islam in their title. Samuel Hodgkin, an assistant professor of comparative literature whose courses fall under the certificate, added that the work he does often spans across regions — beyond the Middle East and into Central Asia and Russia.

Claire Roosien, assistant professor of Slavic Languages and Literature, described her own research in Islam as encompassing “so much more than just religion.”

“My research is focused on the Soviet Union, which was an explicitly anti-religious polity, but I think that it’s still relevant to Islamic studies,” Roosien said. “There’s a whole orb of cultural realities attached to Islam that persist even in the context of state repression of religion.”

According to Danish Khan ’26, the opportunity to take Islamic art and literature classes for the certificate would complement his interests in theology and history by providing a more holistic view. He added that subjects such as theology and history are not isolated and are interconnected with many other areas of study.

Gandhi explained that the idea of an Islamic studies certificate might be attractive for students



ZOE BERG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The new interdisciplinary certificate will allow students to explore Islam in a wide variety of contexts.

not majoring in humanities or focusing on studying Islam. She encouraged interested students to consult with faculty and begin taking courses that count towards the certificate.

“We hope that this [certificate] would encourage students to consider courses that they may not have paid attention to in the past,” Gandhi said. “It’s a way of looking at Islam in a multifaceted manner, with emphasis on literature, society, history and religion.”

Ahmed Díaz explained that as someone interested in helping develop the Islamic world through politics or economics, “you need to have a good understanding of the Islamic world before you dive in.”

According to the Yale College Programs of Study, interested students must apply for the certificate at the latest one week before final schedules are due in their final semester of study. Approval of the certificate rests with the certificate committee and director.

“As the faculty who built this certificate, we are excited about students who want to do this certificate,” Toorawa said. “I specifically want to encourage students to explore all the interdisciplinary certificates that Yale has.”

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, according to the Pew Research Center.

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New Cortex magazine bridges science and arts



JORDAN DAVIDSON/J/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

New student publication aims to bridge the gap between STEM and the humanities.

BY MARIA KOROLIK
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

While taking NSCI 160: The Human Brain last semester, Sarah Feng ’25 discovered a passion for finding the connections between the sciences and the arts, taking data from the real world and extrapolating it into fiction.

Not seeing adequate opportunities at Yale to explore her interest, Feng used Trumbull College’s Creative and Performing Arts (CPA) Award to create the Cortex Collective magazine, a non-traditional science and arts publication. This August, the magazine published its first issue, “The Great Reversal.”

“The entirety of Cortex is a big thought experiment,” said Feng, who now serves as Cortex’s editor-in-chief.

Feng’s interest in science fiction began with reading speculative fiction in high school. She cited “The Handmaid’s Tale,” a dystopian novel set in a totalitarian, patriarchal near-future New England, as one of the works that first sparked her interest.

She emphasized how the act of taking real-world phenomena and twisting it into a fictional yet plausible story was “philosophically interesting.” Feng created the Cortex Collective to provide a space at Yale for experimenting with exactly that in a non-traditionally-styled publication.

The first issue of the publication depicts a collection of artifacts and documents from a world with two contrasting planets created by the team: one in light and one in darkness. The works written by the Cortex team delve into philosophical and metaphorical debates while building a world based entirely on exploring scientific principles.

“There’s such a perfect symmetry to science that finds a perfect asymmetry in writing,” Feng said.

The worlds of the sciences and humanities may often seem disparate, but the team of editors at Cortex strive to bridge the gap between the two. Jordan David-

son ’25, Cortex’s lead fiction editor, explains that one cannot exist without the other; science needs to be adequately communicated through the humanities for it to make a difference, while humanities need to be grounded in the real world.

Cortex’s editors hope to create a space at Yale where students passionate about both the humanities and the sciences can come together to explore the many connections between the two, presenting these bonds to others in a creative and non-traditional style.

Feng noted that scientific research and creative writing are not so difficult to link, as they both rely on the journey of prob-

lem solving while not knowing the true destination. Taking classes in and understanding both mindsets is critical to being successful in any field, according to Feng.

“If you’re not doing science for people, what are you doing it for?” Davidson asked, in reference to Cortex’s mission of combining STEM and the humanities.

One of the Cortex team’s main goals is to have their publication go beyond the written experience — editors hope to host an art installation performance based on their work this semester.

In the future, Cortex strives to serve as an experimental space for both written and non-written media. With more time to work on their next issue this semester than they had for their first issue last semester, they hope to branch out by continuing to explore a non-traditional publication structure, examining the ideas of time, light and space in their work.

“Our strength lies in our backgrounds,” says Hannah Szabo ’25, Cortex’s lead nonfiction editor. “Most of us double-major across humanities and STEM, and that really feeds into the way we see these systems of knowledge as in dialogue.”

Feng, Davidson and Szabo all described Cortex’s fostering of strong community ties between editors and contributors who explore their various passions. Feng mentioned that one of her favorite parts of her job as editor-in-chief at Cortex is “picking up on connections between members with very different backgrounds” and connecting them.

Cortex is also utilizing works from their last issue and their upcoming issue to apply for prize nominations, including the Best of the Net Prize and the Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses. The publication’s first issue will come out in print and be distributed in different residential college libraries soon. Before that, print copies will be available at their launch party in two weeks.

Their next issue will be based on the theme of fairy tale rewrites, reworking well-known — as well as more niche — stories to delve into their deeper meanings.

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YNHH cardiac surgeons publish case study of 200 successful robotic-assisted mitral valve repairs

BY VALENTINA SIMON
STAFF REPORTER

Cardiac surgeons at Yale New Haven Hospital have performed 200 robotic-assisted mitral valve procedures with a 100 percent success rate, meaning that no procedures were converted to an open surgery.

Arnar Geirsson, surgeon-in-chief of cardiac surgery at the Yale New Haven Health system, performed the hospital's first robotic mitral valve replacement surgery in 2018. YNHH is the only hospital that performs robotic-assisted mitral valve surgeries in New England and has become one of the leading university-affiliated hospitals for robotic-assisted cardiac surgery in the United States. Geirsson's team published a study on 200 consecutively successful robotic-assisted mitral

valve procedures for degenerative mitral regurgitation in the *Annals of Cardiothoracic Surgery*. It was accepted for publication on Aug. 2.

"Robotic cardiac surgery is an emerging field of practice that is significantly safer and less invasive than traditional heart surgery," Geirsson wrote to the *News*. "Tiny robotic instruments are inserted and controlled through very small cuts in the patient's chest, thereby eliminating the need to cut the breastbone and open the chest widely to reach the heart. While traditional heart surgery may leave a ten-inch scar, robotic cardiac surgery leaves just a few one-inch scars under the armpit or below the breast."

In a patient with mitral valve regurgitation, the valve between the left heart chambers does not close completely. This allows

blood to leak backwards across the valve instead of circulating the body, resulting in symptoms of tiredness or shortness of breath. Severe mitral valve regurgitation can cause heart rhythm problems or heart failure and often requires surgery to correct.

The less invasive nature of robotic-assisted mitral valve repairs leads to a quicker recovery period. Patients can be up and walking hours after surgery, with many able to go home soon after. In a few weeks, patients are able to resume their full spectrum of daily activities.

Traditional operating methods require breaking the sternum — a bone that requires two months to heal — in order to access the heart. In contrast, robotic-assisted mitral valve repair patients may begin driving cars two weeks post-surgery.

The robotic-assisted mitral valve repair, which requires a much smaller incision than the traditional approach, is less painful for the patient. While patients require opioids to manage pain after open mitral valve repairs, patients with a robotic-assisted repair only need over-the-counter medications. In 2019, an estimated 9.7 million people misused prescription pain medications according to the U.S. department for health and human services. As such, reducing opioid prescriptions has the potential to save lives.

Repairing mitral valves with robots also changes the experience of the surgeon in the operating room, as the procedure requires different tools and techniques.

"The surgeon uses tiny robotic instruments that are remotely-controlled," said Andrea Amabile, first author on the paper. "The surgeon sits at a console which is separated from the operating table. [Surgeons] sit there, involved in a 3D representation of what [they] see inside the chest of the patient."

The robot provides a surgeon with superior visualization, according to Michael LaLonde, coordinator for the Robotic

Mitral Valve Program at the hospital. He said that the robot arms each have an endowrist that provides 360 degrees of freedom, enabling the surgeons to manipulate their instruments in a minimally invasive way that is not supported by an open procedure.

Amabile explained that two robots are in the operating room at YNHH and serve as huge systems that immerse the surgeon inside of the heart. The lead surgeon uses one machine, the assistant uses the other and a video stream of the surgery is projected onto a tv screen. This method facilitates collaboration as it ensures that the entire team has a clear view of the operation.

However, LaLonde cautions that it may take some time for robotic-assisted mitral valve repair to become the standard of care. The procedure is tricky and often becomes the specialty of surgeons. Smaller hospitals with lower volumes of patients may not have the chance to perform the surgery enough times necessary for adapting to a new robotic-assisted approach.

"In developing the program, it took us over a year and over 50 training sessions to become

proficient enough to feel comfortable working on a valve in a human being," LaLonde said. "Nationally, about 15 percent of mitral valves are now repaired using the robotic technique."

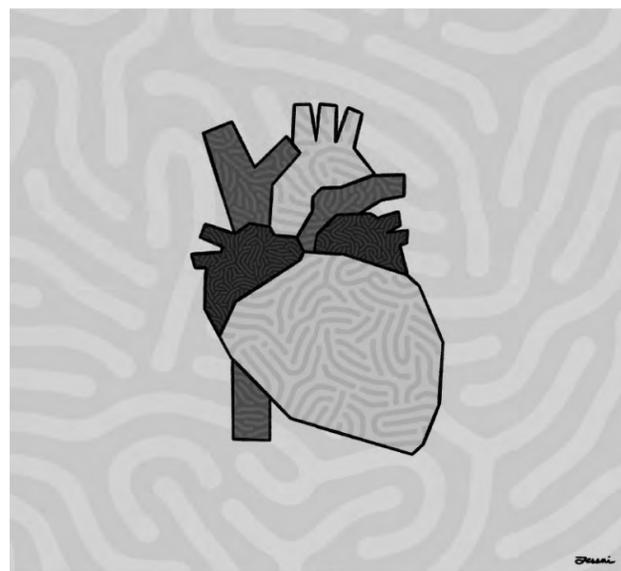
At the hospital, however, the residents are learning. Since the entire surgery is visualized by the robotic arms within the patient, residents have a unique opportunity to rewatch the procedure with the same level of resolution that the lead surgeon had during the operation.

These recordings have proven to be a very effective educational and training modality, according to LaLonde.

"During my rotation on cardiac surgery, I was able to see both types of procedures," said Alyssa Morrison MED '24, a data collector for the paper. "From my experience on the wards and from the research papers we were able to publish, [we observed that] patients had a shorter length of stay with the robotic procedure, which is incredible."

The first robotic-assisted mitral repair surgery was performed in 1998.

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JESSAI FLORES/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Yale chemist and oncologist collaborate to create new drug that could combat prostate cancer

BY SELIN NALBANTOGLU
STAFF REPORTER

Two Yale researchers have developed a new way to harness the body's protein degradation system to target prostate cancer.

Professors Craig Crews and Daniel Petrylak at the Yale School of Medicine, have collaborated to develop a new drug that treats cancer by tagging specific problem cells for destruction. Proteolysis-targeting chimaera, or PROTACs, are now showing promise in clinical trials.

"Every cell in your body has a system, a machinery that recycles proteins," Crews said. "It takes old proteins — damaged proteins — and tags them for destruction."

Crews is the John C. Malone Professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology and a professor of chemistry, and Petrylak is a professor of medical oncology and urology.

PROTACs were born out of a cross-department collaboration initiative. According to Petrylak, he met Crews at a Chemistry Department conference. There oncologists were invited to present the most important clinical issues related to their type of tumor expertise with the goal of harnessing the knowledge of both the chemistry and oncology departments to develop a new drug.

Prostate cancer is stimulated by testosterone, so one way to treat prostate cancer is to deprive the cancer cells of this male sex hormone. For example, doctors can use drugs that target the pituitary gland to shut off signals that trigger production of testosterone, thereby reducing the level of the hormone within the body.

However, in the 1960s, researchers noticed that the body could build a resistance to the treatment. Men who had received testosterone-inhibiting treatments still had elevated testosterone levels in their tissue samples, according to Petrylak.

Petrylak explained that this resistance could stem from various mechanisms within the body. For example, target receptors — to which testosterone binds — could mutate and regain activity. Therefore, initial hormone therapy drugs are not a cure; They simply control testosterone levels for a set amount of time before the body starts to develop resistance.

The body has a natural system for disposing of degraded proteins. This mechanism is necessary for the body to turn over and renew its proteins, disposing of older proteins while replacing them with new proteins.

"One of the ways in which we dispose of old proteins is the ubiquitin proteasome system,"

Petrylak said. "It tags proteins that are destined to be destroyed."

The ubiquitin proteasome system, which is responsible for disposing of old or degraded proteins, is at the center of PROTAC treatments. Both Crews and Petrylak explained that the modus operandi of PROTAC treatments is to tag the defective proteins within the specifically targeted cancer cells so that this naturally occurring disposal mechanism knows to dispose of that protein.

"PROTAC binds to the protein and makes it so that it is better recognized by the proteasome degradation system," Petrylak said. "It's like putting a flag on the protein so that the enzyme E3 ubiquitin ligase can degrade it."

PROTACs are a "two-headed" drug, meaning one end binds to the target protein and the other end binds to the quality control machinery in the cell that is responsible for getting rid of the problematic proteins. In the end, PROTACs essentially drag the problem protein to the disposal machinery, according to Crews.

Crews added that PROTACs are unique because they do not bind and inhibit protein function. Instead, they simply tag and move on to the next molecule.

"ARV-110 is a pioneer since it was the first-ever PROTAC degrader to enter human clinical trials," Taavi Neklesa, a former postdoctoral student in Crew's lab who helped develop ARV-110, the PROTAC drug currently undergoing clinical trials, wrote to the *News*. "Since Androgen Receptor remains the driver of prostate cancer and the cancer cells keep making more of it as the disease worsens, the hope is that ARV-110 can completely wipe out Androgen Receptor and help patients with this type of cancer."

Androgen receptors are receptors responsible for regulating the body's response to hormones, such as testosterone. In prostate cancer, increased levels of androgen receptors and testosterone drive the progression of the disease.

Traditional drugs need to bind to target proteins in order to inhibit their function. To ensure all of the target proteins are inhibited correctly, doctors have to administer high levels of the inhibitor drugs. PROTACs offer the promise of using lower doses of drugs.

In addition, since PROTACs are not inhibitors, they can be used to target other proteins like scaffold proteins whose only function is to act as a physical piece of the cell. This opens up new possibilities for targeting other diseases such as Alzheimer's, according to Petrylak.

Over the past two years, the PROTAC drugs developed for prostate cancer have been undergoing clinical trials.

"Along the way, there were many scientific challenges and we had to convince many people to appreciate the new modality and its clinical utility," Neklesa wrote. "For instance, it took us 3 years to optimize AR PROTACs to achieve compounds that can be taken as an oral pill. All told, many thousands of molecules were synthesized to finally discover ARV-110."

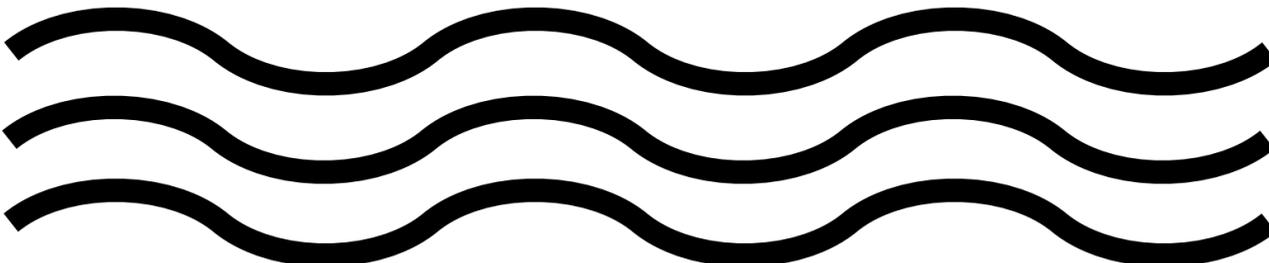
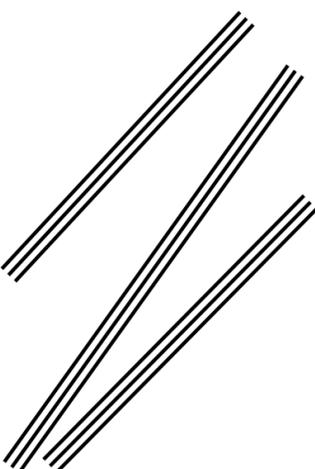
The data from the Phase I trials suggested that certain patients with a specific mutation in the androgen receptor benefit from treatment with the newly developed PROTAC drug, according to Petrylak.

"This is a technology that I first published in 2001," Crews said. "In 2013, I started the New Haven based company, Arvins, and we now have two PROTACs in clinical trials for prostate and breast cancer."

Currently, the drug is moving into Phase III clinical trials, and Petrylak and Crews said their eventual goal is to obtain FDA approval for use in patients with prostate cancer. w

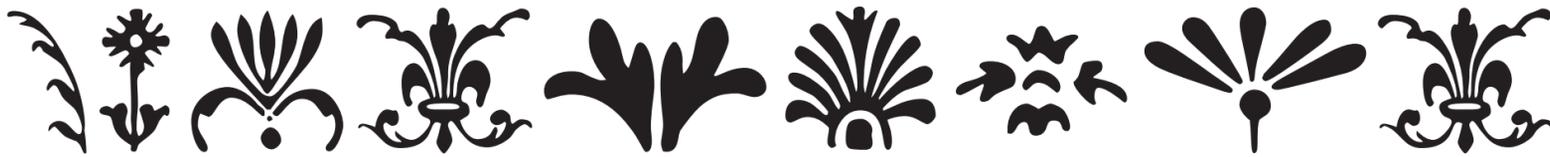
Crews joined Yale faculty in 1995, and Petrylak joined Yale faculty in 2012.

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ARTS

Dramat production to feature all-Black cast



BY ANIKA SETH AND PALOMA VIGIL
STAFF REPORTERS

A show selected by the Yale Dramatic Association will feature an entirely Black cast for the first time in four years.

“If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must Be a Muhfucka,” a play by Tori Sampson, will be produced for the Spring 2023 Experimental production. Set to run from Feb. 16 to 18, the production combines West African folklore, American high school comedy and magical realism to tackle the meaning of beauty through the eyes of four Black teenage girls.

“Tori Sampson’s script in itself is a gift that provides opportunities to let our imaginations run wild,” Megan Ruoro ’24, who is co-directing the production, wrote in an email to the News. “Our production will not be another depressing depiction of the struggle of the black women, but instead a celebration of ourselves and each other in all of our glory.”

The Dramat puts on a total of six shows each year, with two of them — labeled Experimental

productions — entirely staffed by students.

Ruoro is co-directing the show alongside Simisola Fagbemi ’24. Chidima Anekwe ’24 is the show’s producer and Maya Fonkeu ’25 the stage manager. The four of them form the core production team. The production will also feature live music composed by Vyann Eteme ’25 and movement choreographed by Katia George ’25, Ruoro said.

Fagbemi described her vision for the show simply as “something beautiful.”

“Think drums and flowing water and lush greenery,” she wrote in an email to the News. “A safe space for audiences and cast members alike.”

“It’s not that the show doesn’t deal with heavy subject matter, but what I find so freeing about the script is that it is set in a Black world,” Fagbemi wrote. “The narratives of racial hardship that so often dominate Black stories are not our subject of interest. We’re examining beauty standards and how they impact Black women, but for

once it’s through an Afrocentric lens, which is in itself freeing. That doesn’t make these standards better, just interesting in a new way.”

The production choice was announced in a Sept. 27 email from the Dramat. An information session about the show is scheduled for Oct. 2, with cast auditions set for Oct. 5-9.

Ruoro noted that while the cast is composed entirely of Black performers, any student is welcome to join the production staff.

For the core production team, a central goal is increasing the diversity of and access to theater programs at Yale — forming, as Fagbemi called it, “a safe entry-point.”

“I truly want this show to be an open and accessible gateway to theater at Yale for Black creatives who otherwise wouldn’t have felt they had a real means of getting involved,” Anekwe wrote. “I want this show to be the first for much of our cast and production team, but definitely not the last.”

Sam Bezilla ’23, president of the Dramat, expressed the organiza-

tion’s excitement about this year’s Spring Ex in an email to the News.

“More than anything, we hope that the team and the cast they choose have a fulfilling (and fun) experience making art together,” Bezilla wrote. “We also hope to bring the power of Sampson’s play to as large an audience as possible. The Dramat exists to support artists making art; we couldn’t be more thrilled to support this group of talented theater artists as they explore themes in the Black experience with broad resonance.”

Putting on Yale’s production of “If Pretty Hurts” also has deep personal meaning for the core team.

Fagbemi first met Ruoro during their first year at Yale, as they were both part of the same family in the Cultural Connections pre-orientation program. They both went on to work with Fonkeu and Anekwe in last semester’s production of “Once On This Island.”

“I’ve been wanting to write and stage my own show here since I started my Yale application, and this show has so many

of the elements I envision in my dream show — live music, magical realism, a strong grounding in West African culture (I’m Nigerian),” Fagbemi wrote.

Anekwe expressed goals for what this production will do on a broader scale to the Dramat’s culture and operations.

She called increased casting of Black actors and actors of color in “traditionally white or otherwise white-coded roles” a start, but also described hopes for greater emphasis on non-normative productions.

“I want theatermakers at Yale to keep finding these cool new experimental contemporary plays to put up that already have diverse characters and narratives written into them,” Anekwe wrote. “Shoutout to the original student plays being written every semester that really do have this down.”

Sampson’s play was first performed in 2019.

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PROFILE: Organist Gumbs blends worlds through a declining art

BY TOBIAS LIU
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

When Nathaniel Gumbs first sat down at the keyboard, he was dwarfed by the cavernous dimensions of Woolsey Hall — a lone spotlight shone on the solitary figure below an empty stage, back turned to the audience.

But the instant his hands braved the opening chord of Alfred Hollins’ Overture in C minor, Gumbs and the sound of the Newberry Organ exploded through the hall, the walls vibrating with the resonance of the organ.

Nathaniel Gumbs has served as Yale’s director of chapel music for the last five years. As the Director of Chapel Music, Gumbs coordinates music for the University Church at Yale, the Marquand Chapel and the Berkeley Divinity School.

On Sept. 18 in Woolsey Hall — in the first concert of the Great Organ Music At Yale series — Gumbs flowed through a diverse and imaginative program, spanning staples of European organ repertoire, classical music by African American composers and gospel music, even including a steel pan and a dancer.

“People don’t think about the organ working in concert with a dancer and a steel pan,” said Leo Davis, the minister of worship at the Mississippi Boulevard Church and a friend of Gumbs who attended his concert in Woolsey Hall on Sep. 18. “[Gumbs] is widening the spectrum — he’s showing people the different ways the organ can be experienced. He’s setting a trend with the instrument.”

Gumbs’ foundation in music began in the church, he said. Growing up attending Trinity Baptist Church, a Black Baptist church in the Bronx, Gumbs was surrounded by music. This eventually led him to tell his mother he wanted to learn piano.

Gumbs began to teach himself piano on a keyboard his mother bought him for Christmas, using church hymnals to teach himself how to read music. He would match the notes with the keys from the “tutorial books that came with the keyboard.”

At 11 years old, he began to learn from the church musicians. James Abbing-ton — longtime mentor of Gumbs and current professor of Church Theology and Worship at Candler School of Theology — remembers the time well.

“Whenever I would come, [Gumbs] would always be right by the organ. [Gumbs’] name is Nat, and he was like a little gnat that was soaring around the organ bench and everything I did,” Abbing-ton said. “When I turned around, there he was. If I was playing the organ, he was there trying to see what I am pulling on the organ, what am I playing, how my feet are moving.”

In Gumbs’ junior year of high school, Abbing-ton referred him to a piano teacher who exposed him to the Western European canon and a more classical approach towards music to further develop him as a musician.

Abbing-ton emphasized how much the church supported his musical efforts, fondly describing the turnout for Gumbs’ senior recital as “equivalent to coming to Easter Sunday morning service.”

After high school, Gumbs entered Shenandoah Conservatory as a piano performance major, where he took his first formal organ lesson outside of playing in church and high school. He then switched to studying organ performance his sophomore year, where he spent “endless, sleepless nights in the practice rooms practicing until the sun came up.”

“I became really good friends with the security guard,” he said.

After his undergraduate education, Gumbs went to Yale University, where he obtained

his Master of Music degree studying with Martin Jean, a professor in the Institute of Sacred Music and of Music.

He then became the director of Music and Arts at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, one of the largest Black Baptist churches in the South. After three years, he went to Eastman School of Music to obtain his doctorate, after which he was appointed Director of Chapel Music at Yale.

As a concert organist, per his bio, Gumbs has performed throughout the United States and abroad and was recognized by “The Diapason” magazine in 2017 as one of the 20 outstanding organists under 30 years old for his achievements in organ performance and church music.

But these successes didn’t come without obstacles. Gumbs faced struggles as a Black musician in a field traditionally dominated by white people.

“In the classical organ field, there are very few African Americans,” he said. “I can actually count on one hand, maybe two hands, of Black concert artists, and I struggled with that — when I would go to conventions or go through the organ magazine, I’ve always only seen white faces or white people or white organists, so I would think sometimes that maybe that’s just not a field for a Black person.”

He cited Martin Luther King Jr. as an inspiration, telling the News that while there weren’t many Black artists in the field when he entered, he hoped to help inspire others by being “the Black face” of organ playing.

Gumbs believes that he can contribute his unique experience of both growing up in a Black community in a Black church and studying in a conservatory where he learned the Western European literature.

“I have both worlds and both sounds in my head,” he said.

He also considers it important to promote Black com-

posers and other voices that don’t make it onto the typical classical canon, especially in a classical organ field which is “known as dying” — organ departments represent some of the smallest music departments, and many churches that used to feature organ music do so less and less.

Abbing-ton said that the arrogance and elitism of the field are factors in the “decline” of organ music, lamenting the “drying up of churches with some of the finest acoustics and instruments.”

People like Gumbs can help save organ music, Abbing-ton said, pointing to Gumbs’

exploration of new repertoire and his “reimagination” of works that would otherwise be considered “outdated, boring or irrelevant to the sounds and the pleasures of today.”

He believes that Gumbs’ accomplishments are only the beginning of his contributions to the field of music.

“To quote Scripture, eyes have not seen and ears have not heard what God really has in store for him,” he said.

There are currently six organists on the Yale Campus.

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YALE DAILY NEWS

As Yale’s director of chapel music, Gumbs coordinates music for the University Church at Yale, the Marquand Chapel and the Berkeley Divinity School.

ARTS

James O'Donnell, musical director at Queen Elizabeth's funeral, to join Yale faculty this spring

BY ANIKA SETH AND ELENA UNGER
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING
REPORTER

Last week, James O'Donnell directed the Westminster Choir in a carefully-curated program at Queen Elizabeth II's royal funeral.

In January, he will cross the pond to join the faculty at Yale School of Music, where he will instruct graduate organ majors, teach general courses at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and lead a new vocal ensemble focused on choral liturgies.

"I want the world to see that there is a much larger love than any one of us," said Institute of Sacred Music organ lecturer Walden Moore. "I think Queen Elizabeth understood that. I know James understands that. And all this work that they did with that service represents that."

O'Donnell's passion for conveying all-encompassing love through sacred music traces back to his days at Westcliff High School for Boys, where he played both organ and the harpsichord. He studied organ at Jesus College, University of Cambridge and, upon graduating in 1982, became Assistant Master of Music at the Westmin-

ster Cathedral. He was promoted to Master of Music six years later.

In 2000, O'Donnell became the choirmaster of Westminster Abbey and has been directing the music for daily services as well as statewide functions for the past two decades.

While arranging the music for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, O'Donnell aimed to curate a series of hymns that would highlight significant moments in Queen Elizabeth's life. Particularly notable was a choral arrangement of "O Taste and See How Gracious the Lord Is," which was composed for the Queen's 1953 coronation by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

"It was refreshing to know that the music selected and performed by the Abbey Choir would be drawn from the great British composers and not alloyed with music and personalities lifted from popular culture, as has happened too often with Royal weddings and funerals held at Westminster Abbey," Thomas Murray, professor emeritus in the practice of organ at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, wrote to the news.

Andrew Nethsingha will take over O'Donnell's role at Westminster Abbey.

In an email to the News, Nethsingha called the service "exceptionally dignified and moving," noting "outstanding" work by the choirs, director and organists.

According to a statement from Yale News, O'Donnell — upon joining Yale's faculty — will play a "significant role" in forging relationships with organists, choir directors, clergy and theologians worldwide.

The Institute of Sacred Music, or ISM, founded in 1973, aims to foster interdisciplinary study between the Yale School of Music and the Yale Divinity School. Since its inception, ISM has expanded from a group of fewer than 20 students and staff to a world-renowned program housing over 100 professors, students and fellows. Music majors have the opportunity to study choral conducting, organ, or voice, while divinity majors study worship music and literature.

Rachel Seeger, an ISM alumn and the music program manager at Trinity on the Green, described her excitement over O'Donnell's upcoming role at Yale, calling him "a childhood hero."

"I think it's very fitting for somebody of Mr. O'Donnell's caliber and excellence to be succeeding Professor Murray," she told

the News in an interview. "I'm very excited for the students. And I think the alums are very excited as well that he's coming."

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to work and teach at Yale," O'Donnell said in an April ISM statement announcing his appointment.

"I will, of course, be very sorry to leave Westminster Abbey after 23 years and am deeply grateful for the rich experience, the friendship and support of my colleagues, and the privilege of playing a part in countless memorable occasions. However, after nearly 40 years working mainly in cathedral music, the appointment at Yale will inspire me to draw fully on my experience and skills in new and different ways. I look forward to all that lies ahead."

Previous work by O'Donnell also includes performing as an organ soloist with globally recognized orchestras, like the London Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic and BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

He has also conducted noteworthy groups, including — but not limited to — the BBC Singers and the Yale Schola Cantorum, and has released more than 50 organ and choral recordings.



COURTESY OF YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

In addition to learning the music at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, O'Donnell led the music at Prince William's wedding to Kate Middleton.

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BIPOC artists receive grants from Community Foundation

BY MIA CORTÉS CASTRO
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

At the beginning of September, the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and the New Haven Arts Council announced the list of 13 locally-led projects that will be receiving their Racial Equity and Creative Healing through the Arts grants.

This year's awardees were selected out of a pool of 81 total applications. The goal of the REACH grants is to fund more projects by local creatives, specifically artists of color, in an effort to contribute to New Haven's cultural growth and healing.

"The arts are very important to New Haven, the arts are very important to all communities," Jackie Downing, director of Grantmaking and Nonprofit Support at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, told the News. "They are a universal way for people to connect and communicate ... We've been through so much trauma and the arts are that outlet for people to be able to experience a little bit of escape from what's been going on in their lives, and allow them to creatively think through the traumas they deal with."

Project leaders may apply for up to two years of funding. As the REACH Grant enters its second year since its inception in 2021, there are currently 30 total creative projects being supported by the Community Foundation and the Arts Council — the first cohort consisted of 17 awardees.

The application process is simple and accessible, said Megan Manton, director of the New Haven Arts Council. Applicants must give an outline of

their project and their goals for its community impact, as well as a plan for how they would utilize the grant funds. The application instructions are available in both English and Spanish for the convenience of the creatives.

Additionally, the REACH grant is available to individual artists and collectives, not only to arts nonprofits. Manton said that this allows the grant to be accessible to any creative who wants to make a difference in New Haven, not just organizations with 501C3 status.

"The committee was really wanting to fund individual artists, creatives and nonprofit arts organizations that wouldn't necessarily get funding elsewhere," Manton told the News when asked about applicant specifics. "We are accessible to projects that are really exciting but that may not have access to other resources. We're really excited that there's such diverse mediums in the projects."

The projects selected for the grant this year have focuses ranging from connecting with nature and grassroots organizing to self care and cultural expression. Many grant recipients said that their focus was to unite the New Haven community for the betterment of the city through creative expression.

"In a city with so many problems that spends so much money on projects that don't fully benefit our community, it's important to fund something as fundamental as art," John Lugo, co-founder of Unidad Latina en Acción and organizer of the Día de los Muertos Parade, told the News. "Art gives our community a soul. When we applied for the grant, we figured if we've been contributing to New Haven's



COURTESY OF LUCY GELLMAN

The Community Center for Greater New Haven elected 13 new recipients for Racial Equity and Creative Healing, or REACH.

culture for so many years, why not get compensated for it by the city we're contributing to?"

Lugo's project, the Día de los Muertos Parade, is going into its 12th year running and focuses on unifying Latino communities around the city to celebrate their culture. In the past, Lugo said, the parade has been both a means of expression and a way for marginalized communities to send messages to the New Haven government. With over 1000 people involved in the production of the parade each year, the event includes performances, food, art and, most importantly, celebrations of life. This year, the parade will be hosted in Fair Haven on Nov. 5.

Another REACH grant recipient, Wine Down CT, is using their creativity to bring lively events to New Haven, with a focus on empowering the BIPOC community and fostering connections.

"Right now, New Haven is in a sort of Renaissance" noted Loren Jefferson, one of the co-creators of the project. "Because of the pandemic, a lot of new people have come to New Haven from larger cities, so the culture is shifting. Because we notice these changes, we hope to create something new that sparks more creative events, more com-

munity, all while highlighting the uniqueness of New Haven."

Wine Down CT creates inclusive events targeted to people over 25 in the New Haven area, specifically BIPOC and LGBTQ+ community members. Employing almost a fully New Haven and Connecticut-based staff, Wine Down showcases art and talent from right in the community, inviting guests to get involved in the New Haven art scene.

Additionally, each event has a different theme and is hosted in a different space around the city, which Jefferson hopes will build unique experiences that "foster love and joy in all attendees."

"New Haven has such a rich culture in the arts and there's so many people here that are doing next level work, whether it's through activism or through being creators or freelancers," said Thelma Haida, the other co-creator of Wine Down CT. "Bringing all of these people together in one space so that they build connections with each other and build other things is awesome."

Besides cultural events and parades, many of the REACH Grant recipient projects focus on healing. One of these, the Najua Sol Flow Garden, was founded recently by Tiffany Fomby '19,

with the intention of supporting Black women.

The Flow Garden hosts different local artists in residency, allowing them to create in the natural space. They also host workshops where community members can come in and learn about the uses of herbs and practice wellness techniques like meditation, mindfulness and sound healing.

In collaboration with The Shack, a New Haven community center, the Najua Sol Flow Garden brings wellness back into the hands of the community, Fomby said. Their intention is to listen to the needs of the people they serve, providing tools for healing that they will benefit from.

"I hope that people take away that there's always space for people to ground and connect with themselves and that, especially when it comes to Black women, that there's space for us to release, to be, to connect with what makes us feel balanced and connected to each other and the Earth," Fomby told the News.

The Arts Council of Greater New Haven has been supporting artists in the city since 1964.

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COURTESY OF LUCY GELLMAN

REACH grants are available to individual artists and collectives, as well as to larger arts non-profits.

SPORTS

"I wish this day would have never come... it's a sad day for me personally and for sports people around the world."

RAFAEL NADAL WORLD NO. 3 IN MENS SINGLES.

Yale dominates Big Red in Ivy League opener



MUSCOSPSPORTSPHOTOS.COM

This Saturday, the Elis will play their first home game of the season against Howard University in the NAACP Harmony Classic.

FOOTBALL FROM PAGE 14

12-of-17 for 187 yards over the course of the game and had two total touchdown passes, while adding 55 rushing yards.

Cornell answered the Bulldogs' first score with a touchdown after a 36-yard pass from Big Red quarterback Jameson Wang to wide receiver Nicholas Laboy. However, Yale came back less than five minutes later with a one-yard touchdown run by Pitsenberger.

"I'm really pleased with our effort," head coach Tony Reno said to Yale Athletics after the game. "The execution went up and things started to click on both sides of the ball."

In the second quarter, wide receiver Mason Tipton '24 caught a 17-yard pass from Grooms and swiftly scored the Bulldogs another touchdown, pushing their lead to 21-7. Tipton had seven receptions for 133 yards in the game.

Pitsenberger scored his third touchdown of the afternoon on a one-yard run with 39 seconds left in the half to extend Yale's lead. With his three touchdowns and 93 rushing yards, Pitsenberger earned Ivy League Rookie of the Week in only his second collegiate game.

The defense was also dominant in the first half, forcing three-and-outs on four of the Big Red's six drives and only allowing 127 yards.

"Playing on the road in a great atmosphere — we wanted to get off to a great start and put ourselves in a position where we weren't letting the crowd and homecoming atmosphere play to their advantage," Reno said.

In the third quarter, many of the starters got a rest, and the Elis got valuable time for players that may be needed later in the season. About midway through the quarter, Grooms went to the bench, and Austin Tutas '25 got the opportunity to take over the offense for the second straight week. The highlights of the quarter were a 45-yard field goal from Jack Bosman '24 and a one-yard touchdown run scored by running back Tre Peterson '24 at 6:34.

The Bulldogs held their ground in the final quarter of the game, only allowing the Big Red to score once; when Cornell running back Eddy Tillman ran six yards to score after catching a pass from Wang.

Even though Team 149 faltered in game one of their season, it brought the heat in game two, setting a precedent for its future Ivy play.

"I think there is a certain level of seriousness with this week," defensive lineman Reid Nickerson '23 said before the game. "Last week, I thought we prepared great, had great energy, great juice all week... we just didn't execute on gameday like we wanted to. I think that this week there is that level of awareness, that yes, you can have a great week and then it's gotta show in the execution on Saturday."

While the execution certainly showed up against Cornell, the Bulldogs now need to prove they can do it for two weekends in a row.

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Women's Soccer beats Princeton

W SOCCER FROM PAGE 14

saves, which would be a constant theme throughout the game.

Akins, who played all 90 minutes, was proud of the team's defense.

"I think our team managed to keep a clean slate by sticking to our basic defensive principles and fighting for the win we desperately worked for," Akins told the News. "It certainly wasn't just an individual effort — everyone on our team gave maximum effort whether they were bleeding on the field or cheering on the bench."

The excitement from the end of the first half did not carry over to the second, however, as both teams fought in a physical midfield battle.

Though the second half had much less action on the field, the excitement and energy coming from the stands brought life into the game.

Notably, the men's soccer team showed up to the game carrying an empty metal trash can that was used as a makeshift drum throughout the second half. Rhythmic pounding accompanying chants of "Let's go Bulldogs," and "Oh when the Bulldogs go marching in"

invigorated the Blue and White as they looked to hold on to their lead.

"It felt like there was a roaring sea of blue whenever Yale touched the ball," Jack Cloherty '26, who attended the game, said. "There were a lot more people than I expected, and you could definitely feel the energy in the bleachers. I'll definitely be going back to Reese Field for another game."

In the 82nd minute, with a victory seemingly tucked away and the crowd chanting "start the buses," Coomans turbo-boosted through the Yale defense, finding herself in open space with just the keeper to beat. Almost certain to score, Coomans was denied by a charging Bellomo, who dove to the right, emphatically blocking the shot.

When the final whistle was blown, the Yale players rushed the field in celebration of their victory. Head coach Sarah Martinez applauded her team after the game.

"The defensive effort of our team the entire game was incredible," Martinez said. "To score that early and hold onto the lead for 85 minutes showed how resilient and gritty we can be."

Yale was outshot by Princeton 19-9, with the Tigers having six

shots on goal to Yale's two. Bellomo registered six saves in total. With this win, the Bulldogs are now tied for first in the Ivy League standings. Brown and Columbia each won their first conference matches as well.

Yale's impressive effort at home fits into an interesting yet alarming trend this season, as their home record is now 4-0-1, while their away record is 0-4-0. Going back to last season, the Bulldogs have lost each of their last 12 games on the road, as they went 0-8 in away games as part of a dismal 3-14 finish in 2021.

Despite the work cut out for them on the road, the team is proud of their performance thus far.

"Just for some perspective, we had given up 28 goals at this point last season so we are proud of this growth from our group," Martinez added.

Yale's search for their first road win since 2019 continues in Cambridge on Saturday at 5:00 p.m., where they will face rival Harvard.

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COURTESY OF YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale women's soccer team will head to Cambridge to face rival Harvard this Saturday.

Women win Princeton Invitational, Men clinch third place at home

GOLF FROM PAGE 14

for fourth place, while Kim finished ninth at 4-over-par.

This performance comes on the heels of a fifth place finish at the Yale Invitational on September 11, which also included three top-10 finishes.

Last year, the Elis finished fourth at the Princeton Invitational, shooting a three-round total of 885, or 21-over-par.

In the 46th annual Macdonald Cup, a two-day tournament hosted by the Bulldogs at the Yale Golf Course in New Haven, the men's team finished third with three top-10 finishes. In the tournament, the Blue-and-White finished 10-over with a score of 1060, behind Minnesota, who finished 2-over-par, and Harvard, who finished second at 4-over-par.

Will Lodge '26 was the Bulldog's best showing and hit 69-66-70 over the weekend. The second-round 66 effort helped push Lodge into second place overall in the tournament.

"The 66 was fantastic and my best round on the Yale Course. Overall it was just a very solid ball striking day as most of my birdies were either tap-ins or short putts. The main thing was bogey avoidance, which going bogey-free at Yale is something I'm very proud of," Lodge told the News.

Gabriel Ruiz '23, and Ben Carpenter '24 tied for eighth place with each finishing 1-under for a score of 209.

Ruiz's performance included a 3-under, or a score of 67, on Sunday, which helped catapult the Elis into third place and

leapfrog over Richmond, who finished fourth.

"We had a solid showing this weekend. The course played tough and conditions were challenging all three rounds. We had some good scores as a team, but we all feel like we left some strokes out there," Ruiz said.

Both Ruiz and Lodge expressed their disappointment at not being able to follow up last year's performance in which they won the Yale Invitational.

"Our third place finish is a solid result, but definitely disappointing as we tried to defend the title from

last year. Some great play today, however, leaves us on a positive note going into next week," Lodge said.

However, the Bulldogs led the field in terms of pars by earning 221, the most of any team present.

Next week, the men's team will travel to East Hampton, New York, where they will look to take home first at the Hampton's Intercollegiate. Meanwhile, the women's team's next competition will come at the Ivy Intercollegiate on Oct. 10 in Springfield, New Jersey.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Next week, the men's team will head to East Hampton, New York for the Intercollegiate. The women's team's will compete next at the Ivy Intercollegiate on Oct. 10.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee preps for new year

SAAC FROM PAGE 14

This year, field hockey player Rachel Brown '24 will serve as events chair while women's golfer Ashley Au '24 will serve as communications director. Also representing women's golf, Ami Gianchandani '23 is SAAC's representative to the NCAA DI leadership while track and field runner Kaity Chandrika '25 is the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, or DEIB, Council Chair.

"I've always wanted to be more involved in the leadership of the athletic department, so I thought the [SAAC] would be a good opportunity," Bharathi Subbiah '24, the Bulldog Cup and Community Service Chair and women's track and field team member said.

The Bulldog Cup is a yearly competition in which individual athletes complete tasks to collect the most points. Historically, tasks have been centered around fostering inter-team bonding, with an example task being attending another team's game and posting images online.

However, Subbiah aims to pivot this year's Bulldog Cup to focus on community service given the large number of athletes on campus.

Helen Tan '25, a member of the women's fencing team, is the SAAC's Ivy League representative. The Ivy League functions as an independent sports league, with its own governing body and regulations on top of DI NCAA regulations.

"My main role is to attend meetings with other Ivy League [teams] and representatives in order to talk about new legisla-

tion concerning student athletes around the country," Tan said.

Tan's focus also includes bringing concerns that other student-athletes have had to these conferences to ensure that their voices are heard at the highest level. At a fundamental level, Tan aims to "be an approachable spokesperson for all student athletes at Yale and advocate their ideas at these meetings and conferences."

While the SAAC focuses on helping teams at Yale develop, its director of administration is responsible for helping the SAAC itself run smoothly. This year, gymnast Sherry Wang '24 will take on the role. Her duties include "being the main point of internal communication among the SAAC members and communicating all relevant information."

In 2020, the SAAC launched a new project titled YUMatter to promote mental health. Women's lacrosse player Marymegan Wright '25 is leading this initiative and hopes to increase its presence.

"Over the course of the year, I hope to mobilize the student athlete community to amplify mental health advocacy across campus, provide student athletes with mental health resources and create initiatives that reinforce the importance of prioritizing mental health," Wright wrote to the News.

The first iteration of a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee was an association-wide organization that was launched by the NCAA in 1989.

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NEWS

"I do happen to love Honey Nut Cheerios. I don't know if I want to walk down to the store in my pajamas for them. But I do love them." MICHAEL K. WILLIAMS AMERICAN ACTOR

New Haven plans to redevelop State Street

BY SADIE BOGRAD AND LAURA OSPINA
STAFF REPORTER AND
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

With four lanes of cars, underused parking lots and fast-moving traffic, State Street can be unwelcoming to people traveling on foot or bicycle.

A proposed redevelopment would change that, creating new housing, commercial buildings and green space, as well as a protected promenade for cyclists and pedestrians. With \$5.3 million in state funding from the CT Communities Challenge Grant, city officials say they hope to reconnect neighborhoods and create a more inclusive, vibrant space.

"It's sort of a highway through the middle of the city, which is loud, it's fast, crossing it is scary," said Ward 7 Alder Eli Sabin '22, whose ward includes much of State Street. "The idea of the redesign project is really to try to reverse that and reconnect Wooster Square and downtown, and East Rock and the Hill as well."

More housing, walking and shopping

According to Sabin, State Street used to be more walkable, with shops clustered close together. During the 1950s and 60s, as urban renewal projects gained traction across the country, the city widened the road, tearing down businesses and adding parking lots in the process.

City Engineer Giovanni Zinn '05 said the new plan will restore State Street to a "normally-dimensioned roadway." The city will redirect all vehicle traffic to what is currently the west side of State Street, freeing up the area east of the median to become a protected zone for pedestrians and bicycles. This new path will connect with the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, extending it down towards Union Station.

The project will also create new green spaces and community spaces in areas including the bridge behind the Knights of Columbus Museum.

"Trying to figure out how to really make it more shaded and more verdant in the entire corridor is a big part of this," Zinn said. "I think it really changes the street from a place that you want to get through as quickly as possible into a place that you'd want to go for a walk at."

Currently, the parcels to the east of State Street are very narrow because of the adjacent railroad tracks, making development difficult. The redevelopment will create new, larger parcels, primarily on city-owned land.

Economic Development Administrator Michael Piscitelli told the News that the redevelopment will include at least 450 new housing units — 20 percent of which must be affordable to low-income tenants, under the terms of the city's recently-passed inclusionary zoning ordinance — and 20,000 square feet of commercial space.

"A lot of our economic programs start with building a public infrastructure to support growth and reimagining a city center that's inclusive, sustainable, really creates opportunities, often with creative design and some thoughtfulness behind that," Piscitelli said. "We see real opportunity here to build on the success of some of the market-rate projects, but build a much higher level of inclusion, affordable housing and some sustainable design treatments."

A city-state partnership

In a presentation delivered at a public meeting on Sept. 13, the city estimated that the redevelopment would cost around \$6.7 million. \$5.3 million of that funding will come from their grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, which was awarded in April.

Piscitelli noted that the grant builds on a longstanding partnership between the city and the state that involves development at Union Station, Downtown Crossing and Long Wharf. He said he sees State Street as part of a larger mission to create a more walkable city that feels more like "one big neighborhood."

"We are growing as a city," Mayor Justin Elicker told the



SADIE BOGRAD/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The city has received state funding to narrow the road, creating more space for pedestrians, cyclists and housing.

News. "It is quite clear by the cranes in the sky, the number of buildings that are going up. What is crucial is that we do that inclusively."

Zinn added that the state supported the project in part because of the importance of State Street to the broader city.

He described State Street as a "special spot" that most New Haven residents feel a connection to, which makes "place-making" an important part of the redevelopment.

"Every neighborhood in the city at some point goes through State Street to get to something," Zinn said. "It's the gateway to both of our train stations in large part, and I think the state really recognized the importance of this as a transportation corridor, as well."

Sabin added that State Street has "been one of the city's priorities for a long time." He said that New Haven had previously received funding for improvements to State Street from Connecticut's Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program, but that the additional funding will allow for "a full redesign."

Residents support "updated" infrastructure

New Haven residents and visitors expressed a variety of reactions to the proposed changes.

Max Chaoulideer, member of Safe Streets Coalition of New Haven, said he is excited to see New Haven redevelop one of its most "dangerous arteries." Unlike other city redesigns that have only targeted one or two blocks, Chaoulideer added, the State Street redevelopment covers a large area, which more efficiently protects the safety of pedestrians and cyclists during their commute.

Megan Heitkamp and Steve Szczodroski, visitors to New Haven from Minnesota, told the News that they looked several times onto incoming traffic before crossing the street on Friday morning. Despite there being a crosswalk, they said they were concerned by the speed of passing vehicles.

While New Haven resident Loreen Stewart does not have a problem walking on State Street during her daily walk, she said she supports all efforts to keep the city "safer" and "updated."

Currently, many cyclists avoid State Street due to the "scary" speeds of vehicles, opting to ride on the parallel Orange Street instead, according to Bradley Street Bicycle Co-op founder John Martin.

Martin noted that by adding a promenade for cyclists, commuters from neighboring towns will have the ability to stay on a protected bike path for longer, facilitating access to downtown New Haven and the State Street and Union train stations.

He also hopes that a protected bike path on State Street may encourage non-cyclists to start cycling and cut down on car usage.

Martin, who also serves on the New Haven Development Commission, said that the creation of new housing on the "vacant" parking lots may be a step forward in preventing gentrification in the city, as well as creating a "more continuous urban fabric."

"Building housing is great," Martin said. "Building more housing in major connective parts of the city that have easy access to Union Station, and more closely, the State Street train station — major transportation that is not car-based — is even better. So, hell yeah! If we're going to be building dense housing, it should be next to train tracks, it should be next to cycle paths and good walking infrastructure."

Chaoulideer similarly approves of the new housing plans, adding that dense housing is what New Haven needs most. Comparatively, Chaoulideer noted that surface parking is a "sad way to value shared space" and further described lots as the "biggest waste of space in the city."

However, when asked what he hoped to see from the State Street redevelopment, some New Haven residents expressed a desire for more available parking in the

redesign, including Arron Rhodes, who works on State Street.

For Chaoulideer, one concern is that the redevelopment plan lacks any improvements to bus infrastructure, as other residents mentioned in a virtual community meeting about the redesign plans on Sept. 13. Noting that the bus is the "most neglected modality" in New Haven, Chaoulideer hopes to see future plans to build nicer shelters, bus signage and dedicated bus lanes where possible on State Street.

"We make difficult choices within a limited amount of space," Sabin said about the relative lack of new bus infrastructure.

He added that the State Street project would contribute to the "broader redesign of the bus system," including plans to make Elm Street into a bus corridor.

Chaoulideer added that the demographics of attendees at last week's community meeting leaned white, college-educated and wealthy.

He called on city officials to engage with residents not through the form of community meetings, but through other methods such as data analysis and more deliberate and targeted outreach.

"Though public engagement is key, community meetings often simply amplify the

voices of homeowners, who skew wealthy, white, older, and often more conservative," Chaoulideer. "These projects impact the lives of many people who, for a wide range of reasons, aren't able to come to — or don't feel welcome at — these meetings, so their voices don't get included."

Sabin said he recently visited a public housing building in his district and spoke to residents about the redevelopment, informing them about the project and keeping them "engaged in the process." Piscitelli added that the project team aims "to reach audiences we don't often connect to," including via alders' outreach to their constituents and commentary from service providers like the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen.

The city plans to start construction in 2024. In the meantime, city officials will finalize infrastructure design plans and send out requests for proposals for the new residential and commercial developments.

The 2016 Wooster Square Planning Study also suggests improvements to State Street.

Contact **SADIE BOGRAD** at sadie.bograd@yale.edu and **LAURA OSPINA** at laura.ospina@yale.edu.

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NEWS

"I do happen to love Honey Nut Cheerios. I don't know if I want to walk down to the store in my pajamas for them. But I do love them."

MICHAEL K. WILLIAMS AMERICAN ACTOR

New bioscience center opens downtown



ABEL GELETA/CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Biotechnology development and innovation are taking place in New Haven with a focus on developing novel treatments for cancer patients.

BY ABEL GELETA AND SOPHIE WANG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER
AND SCITECH EDITOR

New Haven is adding one more building to its quest towards becoming a true biotechnology hub.

The Elm City Bioscience Center will now house three biotechnology companies in new state-of-the-art facilities that officials hope will meet what they say is growing demand for lab space. Located at 55 Church St., the eight-story building joins a host of similar planned facilities in the downtown area that have sprung up in recent years.

A ribbon-cutting event on Sept. 14 brought together community members, scientists and investors dedicated to developing biotechnological drugs and breakthroughs for cancer patients. The biotech orga-

nizations — Modifi Biosciences, Siduma Therapeutics and Alpha Therapeutics — are focused on harnessing cutting-edge science and new discoveries to develop clinical treatments for the most aggressive and fatal illnesses.

"Cancer though, I will tell you today, is a solvable problem," said Ranjit Bindra, a physician-scientist at Yale School of Medicine. "We can actually figure this out, but it takes these buildings, these people, leadership and people like all of you here today to make this possible."

The opening of this building comes during a time when New Haven is committing greater efforts to expanding its biotech industry. Many officials believe that the biotechnology industry has huge growth potential and could become a crucial part of the city's economy.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals, which was founded in New Haven, focuses on developing drugs for treating rare diseases and is seen as an anchor point for a potential hub. The biotechnology company Arvinas has also signed a 10-year lease to occupy space in the tower, while the software imaging company Invicro occupies one floor of the building.

There have been speed bumps — in a surprise move, Alexion relocated its headquarters from New Haven to Boston in 2018 and was forced to return millions it had received in state aid. Its research operations remained in New Haven at 100 College Street, and the company is planning to expand into a second tower across the street at 101 College, though no specific details have been released about what additional jobs are going to be offered.

Yale, too, is contributing to these developments geared towards biotech expansion. The University signed a lease for approximately half of the space in the Alexion tower and is financially backing an on-site biotech incubator there.

Bindra highlighted the slow-progression of drug development for cancer patients and his experience with caring for his father when he had cancer, recounting his father's wish for more advanced cancer drugs to be developed at a faster rate. That propelled Bindra into biotechnology, he said, as a field that could "accelerate something at the speed of light."

Mayor Justin Elicker praised the new center's opening and highlighted the work of David Goldbum, whose real estate firm The Hurley Group managed the renovation and development of the space.

Goldbum, principal and chief executive officer of The Hurley Group, was honored for his hard work in establishing this space for the advancement of science and New Haven's economic development.

"The type of person [David is] is something we all aspire to be," said Elicker. "[He] live[s] [his] life with [his] personal actions but also with a goal to maximize [his] impact."

Elicker highlighted the Elm City Bioscience center's contributions to economic and employment growth as well as its invaluable health benefits for the New Haven community and abroad. As someone who "prioritize[s] growth and inclusive growth," Elicker appeared enthusiastic about the investments in medical research and the New Haven community, along with the growth possibilities following the opening of the Elm City Bioscience Center.

Paul Lafferty, a father whose child was diagnosed with cancer, attended this event as a patient advocate and to highlight how his family has benefited from these scientific discoveries to obtain regression in cancerous tumors.

"Cancer is scary [and] brain tumors are terrifying," Lafferty said. "They are in the most precious part of our body — hard to remove and hard to get medicine to and sometimes they can be very aggressive."

Lafferty exemplified his greatest appreciation for oncologists at Yale who have been instrumental in assisting his family face this battle against cancer.

In recognizing the privilege and opportunity afforded to Avery, Lafferty's daughter, to receive specialized treatment and participate in clinical trials for some of the drugs these companies are in the process of developing, Lafferty noted that not every patient has the same medical access.

"The hard part is not all patients are as lucky as Avery," Lafferty said. They don't have time for long big-pharma development cycles. They need innovative approaches to solve these problems. They need development timelines measured in months, not years."

Alexion Pharmaceuticals was founded in 1992.

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Yale screens alumni-featuring film on race in South Carolina

BY AHAAN BHANSALI
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Filmmaker Jon-Sesrie Goff came to Yale on Monday to screen his new documentary "After Sherman," which featured two Yale Divinity School alumni, Elijah Heyward '07 and Norvel Goff '91.

The film, released in March, depicts the racial trauma within the region of South Carolina through the perspective of the Gullah Geechee people and explores ideas of power, gender, race, identity and the environment. Held at the Humanities Quadrangle, the screening was followed by a panel discussion with Goff.

"If I could use three words to describe "After Sherman," they would be 'family,' 'culture' and 'connection,'" Heyward, who was also a consulting producer and research advisor to the documentary, told the News.

The film traced the family history of the filmmaker, as well as several members of the cast, including Heyward. Describing the project as "homegrown," Heyward told the News that After Sherman was one of the few projects that made him feel close to home.

"It felt empowering seeing so many people I know and respect behind this collective effort," Heyward told the News.

Thomas Allen Harris, a professor of African American Studies and Film and Media Studies, organized the screening as part of his course "Family Narratives/Cultural Shifts."

Aimed to bridge larger socio-cultural movements and film, the course offers students the opportunity to examine their own cultural backgrounds by studying the formal aspects of filmmaking. Harris told the News that Goff was the first filmmaker to visit the class in over six months.



AHAAN BHANSALI/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon-Sesrie Goff came to Yale for a discussion of his film "After Sherman," a narrative about racial trauma in South Carolina that features two Yale Divinity School alums.

"It is the first Yale course that looks exclusively at family archives, probing students to understand the nuances of identity," Harris said.

The film looks at the 2015 Charleston Massacre, the aftermath of which saw Goff's father, Norvel Goff, become the interim pastor of the church. As the film progresses, "After Sherman" burrows itself both into Goff's personal community and into

the stories of the larger Gullah Geechee community.

"It was difficult having to sort through data and optimize the entire airing process," Goff said at the discussion.

Goff said that the production of the film involved extensive interviews and archival footage and faced the challenge of navigating sensitive themes.

The role of grief, Goff said, proved to be demanding, but he

found consolation in the thought that each person in the audience "walk[ed] away with a sense of hope and perseverance."

Atin Narain '26, one of the attendees, described After Sherman as "uplifting" and "invigorating."

"It is growing increasingly relevant to discuss subjects around diversity and identity," Narain said.

Heyward told the News that the film hopes to create an environment of empathy and advo-

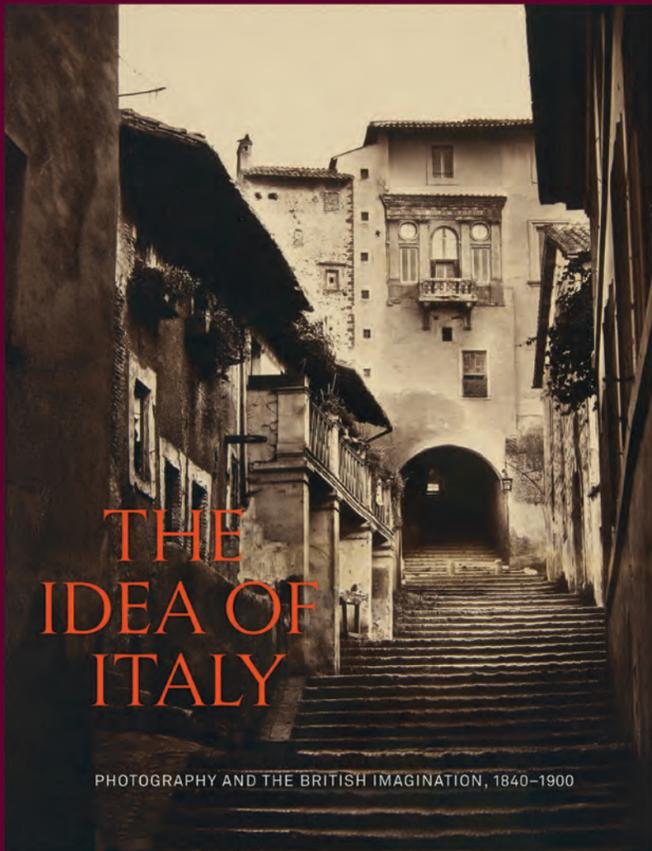
cacy, bringing to light the less-told parts of American history and inspiring students to engage in scholarly discourse.

"After Sherman" won several international awards following its release, including the Best Documentary award at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Book Discussion



Friday, September 30
4-5 pm ET
Lecture Hall / Livestream
1080 Chapel Street
Book signing and
reception to follow

Editors **MARIA ANTONELLA PELIZZARI** and **SCOTT WILCOX** in conversation with **MARIA MORRIS HAMBOURG** and **STEPHEN C. PINSON**

A complementary display of photographs and works on paper will be on view in the Study Room, 1-4 and 5-5:30 pm.

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TENNIS
BULLDOG INVITATIONAL WRAPS UP

Last weekend, the Yale women's tennis team routed Rutgers and Boston but tied with Brown across tight matches at their home invitational.



CROSS COUNTRY
YOUNG TALENT SHINES
Leo Brewer '25 and Braden King '26 led the men's team to a fourth place finish, while the women's team finished in 11th out of 19.



"The overtime win at Brown on Friday [happened] within the first minute of overtime and showed how much everyone wanted it,"

ELLIE BARLOW '25
FIELD HOCKEY PLAYER

SAAC gears up for fall season



LILY DORSTEWITZ, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This year, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee plans on increasing inter-team cohesion and improving conditions for student-athletes.

BY RICHARD CHEN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

As both students and athletes gear up for the fall, the new board of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is preparing for a new year.

SAAC's membership consists of student-athletes and the organization aims to represent this community at Yale. More specifically, this means advocating for student-athletes at conferences, organizing community service events to increase engagement, as well as providing a platform and channel for players to voice their concerns. The News spoke with some of SAAC's members in order to better understand the organization's function both as a part of the athletic department and as a group at Yale in general.

"My goal for this year is to support our president, [Chelsea Kung '23], as best I can and work with administrators and other leaders within athletics to foster a community where student-athletes are proud to represent Yale," SAAC vice president and football player Bennie Anderson '24 said. "We have a great group and I'm excited to work alongside this talented group of leaders."

Over the summer, Anderson and Kung worked to develop plans and goals for the SAAC executive board and the school year. Kung, a women's tennis player, is in her second term as SAAC president while Anderson served as the DEI subcommittee chair last year.

SEE SAAC PAGE 10

Bulldogs trounce Cornell in Ivy opener

BY SPENCER KING AND AMELIA LOWER
STAFF REPORTERS

The Yale football team (1-1, 1-0 Ivy) won its first Ivy League game of the season in Ithaca on Saturday afternoon, defeating Cornell (1-1, 0-1 Ivy) in dominant fashion 38-14.

The Bulldogs controlled the flow of the game on both sides of the ball. The offense moved up and down the field, as the defense held the Big Red under 200 offensive yards. First-year running back Joshua Pitsenberger '26 scored three touchdowns in front of Cornell's homecoming crowd of 14,821 at Schoellkopf Field.

After yielding 38 points to Holy Cross the previous week, the Bul-

dogs' defense was the story of the game. Three seniors dominated at each level of the defense, showing the Ivy League that this unit is one to be feared.

Defensive lineman Oso Ifesinachukwu '23 led the way up front with six tackles and two sacks, while Wande Owens '23 patrolled the secondary with four tackles and a tackle for loss. In the center of it all was middle linebacker Hamilton Moore '23, who terrorized the Cornell offense all day with six tackles and a sack.

"Honestly our offensive line and defensive lines played amazing," Moore said, shining the spotlight on his teammates. "They kept me clean on

defense so I could make tackles, and the [offensive] line created huge holes for our running backs, while also giving [Nolan Grooms '24] a bunch of time to make throws."

The Bulldogs won the coin toss and elected to kick off, leaving it to their defense to set the tone. The squad was flying from the start, as they forced a Cornell three-and-out punctuated by a massive hit by Moore on third-down.

With just over eight minutes left in the first quarter, Pitsenberger received a shovel pass from quarterback Grooms and carried the ball five yards for his first touchdown. Grooms was

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 10



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The Yale football team prevailed in its Ivy League season opener in Ithaca, winning 38-14 against the Big Red.

Bulldogs prevail in Ivy opener



COURTESY OF YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale women's soccer team played an aggressive first half to win over rival Princeton and ended its four-game losing streak.

BY BEN RAAB AND
TOIA CONDE RODRIGUES DA CUNHA
CONTRIBUTING AND STAFF REPORTERS

In their Ivy League home opener Saturday night, the Yale women's soccer team (4-4-1, 1-0-0 Ivy) edged past Princeton (5-4-0, 0-0-0 Ivy) with a score of 1-0.

Desperate to end their four-game losing streak, the Bulldogs came out playing aggressively in the first half, with Ellie Rappole '25 striking in the sixth minute to make it 1-0. Neither team managed a goal for the remainder of the game, allowing the Bulldogs to come away with a big win.

"We've surpassed our total wins from last season in our first conference game against a great opponent, which is certainly a hopeful start to Ivy League play," defender Marz Akins '25 told the News.

On Rappole's goal, her first attempt was blocked, but she then recovered the ball in the box, took two dribbles to get around

her defender and fired a shot that clanged in off the crossbar before Princeton's goalkeeper could react.

Going down a goal seemed to motivate Princeton, as the momentum slowly began to shift in their favor. The Tigers began dominating possession, keeping the pressure on Yale's defense for the remainder of the half.

The Elis struggled mightily to contain Princeton forward Drew Coomans, whose blistering pace on the right flank gave Yale fits on defense. Coomans was a constant presence, driving forward with the ball relentlessly and earning Princeton several corner kicks.

In one threatening sequence of play, the Tigers earned five corner kicks in the span of two minutes, but somehow failed to score as Yale defenders warded off a flurry of dangerous crosses into the box. Goalkeeper Maya Bellomo '24 did her part with some fine

SEE W SOCCER PAGE 10

Golf continues early-season success

BY BEN RAAB
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Both the Yale women's and men's golf teams had stellar weekends, finishing first in the Princeton Invitational and third in the Macdonald Cup, respectively.

At the Princeton Invitational, which took place at the Springdale Golf Club in Princeton, New Jersey, the Bulldogs picked up three individual top-10 finishes en route to a first place victory. Yale shot 2-over-par to finish with a score of 854 in the tour-

namment, which edged out second place Harvard's 14-over-par finish by a 12-stroke margin.

"Winning the event as a team was an awesome experience and truly reflected how we played all weekend," women's captain Ami Gianchandani '23 wrote to the News. "The goal for Sunday was to do everything I could individually to help myself move up the leaderboard and to help the team win. Shooting 67 was a great accomplishment for me, though I wish I could have done more in the first two rounds."

For the women's side, Gianchandani, Mia Sessa '26 and Alexis Kim '25 led the way by finishing third, fourth and ninth respectively. Gianchandani, last year's Ivy League Player of the Year, shot her way to an impressive score of 211, or 2-under-par, which included a phenomenal performance of 4-under 67 in the final round on Sunday. The 4-under was a personal best for Gianchandani.

Sessa, a standout first year, scored 212, or 1-under-par, to tie

SEE GOLF PAGE 10



COURTESY OF YALE ATHLETICS

This weekend, both the women's and men's golf teams took home top-three finishes at tournaments.

STAT OF THE WEEK 60

THE MARGIN OF VICTORY BETWEEN YALE AND THE SECOND-PLACE COAST GUARD TEAM AT THE MRS. HURST BOWL IN SAILING THIS WEEKEND.

WEEKEND

ON ANNETTE

// BY ANABEL MOORE



// COURTESY ANNETTE TRACEY

After 38 years with Yale Hospitality, Annette Tracey has come to be known as the “Queen of Berkeley” and the “Belle of Berkeley” to students old and new.

When we meet for our first interview, she comes with several manilla folders. Each one contains significant pieces of writing, including several ENGL 120 profile essays. But other essays are broader in scope, including a term paper for a political science course that details Annette’s greater involvement in the New Haven community. Every last piece is exalting in nature, even those concerned more with matters of biography. Today she has no critics, unless you count yourself as one of the disgruntled students who attempted to thwart entrance to the dining hall back when Berkeley was closed to transfers in the 2000s as a part of

chef Alison Waters’ then-experimental (though now ubiquitous) sustainable food project.

But to me, a Branford sophomore who admittedly gives Berkeley little preference over the other dining halls, she is simply Annette. Oddly enough, I don’t associate Annette first with Berkeley, nor meal swipes, nor anything to do with dining services at all. Her name unequivocally deserves understated dignity, a dignity that sometimes hides behind her regular well-meaning chirps to check swipes and gallant guffaws between friendly students. At her core, Annette is an emblem of what Yale fundamentally stands for: Annette represents the power of taking pride in a dream, and seeing that dream to fruition. She is an old-school friendly face, a bright, vivacious soul that is a part of what makes Yale Yale. As Sandra Cashion ’92 best stated,

seeing Annette in Berkeley every day “was as if we had an aunt or a second mom checking in on us.”

“There’s a lot to know about me, you see,” Annette says as she pulls from a tote bag filled with file folders, yearbooks, newspaper clippings and photo albums. “See this, two-oh-oh-three.” “Ah, yes, ninety-three.” “Eighty-one.” She is well-acquainted with her personal history, dancing through moments in time with graceful eloquence. I secretly rejoice in her thick Jamaican accent. She doesn’t know this, but I am homesick beyond belief as I interview her. My dad still carries a slight Jamaican twang, certain “a”s drawn out and consonants slipped. She avoids patois for the most part, but every now and then “mi” replaces “I” and we are transported to the

lush fields of what we both at some point considered home.

We circle around where to start; Annette is meticulous in her documentation and memory. She briefs me with the basics: the oldest of four children (all of whom are still close, she reassures me), born in northern Jamaica before moving to the outskirts of Kingstons as her mother took a new job, at which point her grandmother became more of a mother figure. “She always said, when you go into the world, you have to be good to all the people in all the ways you can,” Annette shares of her grandmother. By the rapidity with which alums later respond to my comment requests, it appears she has held true to this word. The reverence she has for her grandmother is palpable, who passed away before the turn of the century.

Her phone is filled with messages from past students who consider Annette to be a lifelong

friend. Wills Glasspiegel ’05 is one of those alums, now a PhD student in the African American studies department. To him, Annette is “a part of the heart and bones of the place. She’s one of the first people I visit as soon as I go back to New Haven, and she’s one of the people that makes the campus feel like home.” Current students share a similar sentiment; Kala’i Anderson ’25 shared that “Annette is a pleasure to see every day. She’s always ready with a joke and tries her best to bring a positive attitude in and around Berkeley.” Anderson adds one more descriptor: “she’s iconic.”

“Iconic” seems to come up often with regards to Annette, who began working at Yale as a part-time employee in 1981, initially rotating between Timothy Dwight, Pierson, Silliman and Grace Hopper colleges, though she’s now worked in all 14 college

// CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SEX ON THE WKND: Death of the Wife Guy

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

Every Thursday night at 10pm, my boyfriend goes MIA. It's like clockwork. I won't hear from him for hours, then he'll text me "goodnight!" as if nothing happened. How do I sniff him out?
-CouldBeCucked

First off, have you considered whether your boyfriend is in society?

If not, you have some sleuthing to do. With current news of Ned "wife guy" Fulmer, John "I love my wife" Mulaney and Adam "She will be loved but I didn't specify exactly who she is" Levine, infidelity is everywhere. For the first time since the Tiger Woods incident of 2009, everyone is a suspect.

I happen to have a highly-personal stake in this week's topic. I've mentioned this in a past column, but I've been cheated on. Three times. By the same person. I know it's utterly un-sex-mogulish of me to let him step out for that long, but believe it or not, I was once an unsuspecting amaatur.

And now, I have trust issues!

Luckily, at Yale, it's kinda hard to cheat and not get caught. Someone is always in the Alley Cats with someone else's suitemate's best friend's Pi Phi little. Word gets around — and so do those in committed relationships, apparently. But for the times when you're unsure about someone else's sleezing — or what action to take thereafter — Sex on the WKND has, once again, got you covered.

Welcome to The Holy Trifecta of Tackling Infidelity.

How to Catch a Cheater

1. Check their Venmo transactions. Why is he venmoing Miss Mirabella for "gas money?" We know what he was really pumping.

2. Post a piña colada-type ad online. He might be trying to make love at midnight in the dunes of the cape. If that's the love that he's looked for, you need to escape.

3. Go to a psychic with 3.5 stars on Yelp. Like a family restaurant, anything below 3.5 is concerning, but anything above risks inauthenticity.

4. Hide an Airtag in their backpack. Actually, don't do this. It's like, highly illegal. (If you get caught.)

5. Put on a wig and follow them around. See if they're actually headed to erg with the bros. Chances are, they're not doing strokes — they're stroking someone else.

6. Truthfinder.com, or any other website that asks you to pay to see your estranged father's criminal record. They have dirt on everyone. You don't want to know what I learned about my third grade teacher, Mrs. Pecker. (No, that is not a euphemism, you dirty wenches.)

7. Check out the live photos. Background audio and sudden camera movements can be telling. One second she's smiling for the camera, the next she's cuddled up to another sapphic watching Britany and Santana Fancams. Why are #Gleeks so fucking horny?

8. Trust your gut — but not the one you've been letting him probe.

How to Confront Them

1. Leak their deeds — and their phone number — in Harry Styles' comment section. Even the fangirls know that this is not the time to Treat People With Kindness.

2. Go on a walk to get some ice and catch your sister, Veronica, and your husband, Charlie, doing Number 17: The Spread Eagle. You'll be washing the blood off of your hands before you even realize they're dead. You know what they say — he had it coming.

Yes, I know Chicago. I am one of those horny, fucking Gleeks.

3. Don't. Live on in quiet resentment. That was good enough for my grandma. It can be good enough for you.

4. Invite their parents over for dinner the same night they're planning a sneaky link with their sideboo. Tell the parents that you're proposing tonight. Act like you're in cardiac arrest when the big reveal finally comes. That way, his orthodontist father will have to give you mouth-to-mouth. Grab him like he's Wendy Peffercorn and mount him right there on the carpet. There's no revenge sweeter than fucking his father in front of his philandering face.

5. Say their doctor called and said they have syphilis strain X Æ A-Xii. Tell them you can only get infected at certain

NXIVM-run truck stop glory holes surrounding Schenectady, New York. They'll admit to what they did to avoid jail time.

6. This only works if your partner is Catholic, but hide in the priest's side of the confessional and listen to her sins. Tell her she is unforgiven. Tell her no amount of Hail Marys will save her from damnation. Tell her Lucifer is setting the linens for her final resting place.

How to Move On

1. Now that you're out of there, you're gonna be damaged lowk. Embrace it harder than she embraced that dude on heavyweight crew.

2. I will reemphasize: fuck his parents.

3. Effigies are always an option. I know a great place on State Street that makes 'em by the dozen.

4. Develop a drinking problem. If alcohol is not your substance of choice, try ketamine. They're doing a depression study at Yale New Haven Hospital as we speak. Use referral code SOTW to bypass the waitlist.

5. Blah blah allow time to take its course blah blah healthy healing.

6. Again, fuck his parents. This works even better if their divorce is what initially fucked up your partner and inevitably led to your partner fucking up you. With all those remarriages, you'll have four parents to pick from. Choose wisely.

Cheating sucks. I tore my esophagus from violently sobbing after my boyfriend's third affair dropped. I ate out of a tube for three days. You too have the right to hurt. Unless your partner is on the Climbing Team. Those guys are a bunch of swingers. You should've known better.

The Berkeley Belle

// FROM PAGE 1

dining halls. She still has students from these colleges reach out to her at alumni reunions. With each alum mentioned she whips out a picture of her with them and their family, families it's obvious she considers a part of her own. But she's also iconic for a different reason: any time a big name came to Yale, it seems Annette was there.

One of Annette's finest such occasions, it seems, came when former president Bill Clinton visited Yale in October 2003. In a well-loved photo she giddily shares with me, Annette stands just above the shoulder of a young Clinton, sporting a rhinestone-studded American cap, red, white, and blue eye-shadow, and dangly gemstone earrings. Save for her then-dark hair now dyed mahogany red, Annette looks exactly the same then as she does today. And the celebrities didn't stop at Bill Clinton; she's keen to share that she met former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge in 2004, as well as former secretary of state and current presidential envoy for climate John Kerry. She's met New Jersey senator Corey Booker, as well as news journalist Barbara Walters and 2022's Class Day speaker Rashma Saujani. Her knowledge of important Yale visits is borderline encyclopedic, especially if the visitor is an American leader. Now a naturalized citizen, it appears there are two things Annette is abundantly proud of: being American and owning a home.

Annette's path to her American Dream is remarkably interesting. She married her husband — a close school friend's cousin — in Jamaica in the spring of 1981. She brings her wedding album to show me, and though the marriage would end before the turn of the decade, a mischievous glint lights up Annette's face when I mention how stunning I find her white wedding dress.

The core of Annette's story, it seems, revolves around a holiday Jamaica doesn't even celebrate: Halloween. She emigrated to America on October 31, 1981, and every year a mélange of Berkeley students make her a congratulatory poster celebrating another year in America. Every year, she dresses up as "Miss Liberty" — the Statue of Liberty. There are

photos upon photos of her with past students on Halloween, each of whom she remembers to a T: "ah yes, this is Max, he's in law school now." To Annette, her students are her children. "I get to see them grow up over the four years — it's very rewarding," she says.

But Annette has been at Yale far longer than the four years a majority of undergraduates will spend in New Haven. I'm not the first to write about Annette. She leaves me with three past English 120 essays centered on her story. Keneisha Sinclair writes of how Annette is "a part of Yale University even more than students are." Angela Ning writes of Annette's childhood preparing hot chocolate from scratch with her grandmother, a fact I didn't know from my own interviews with her. Jeff Zhu writes of Annette's time working in a furniture store in Kingston and the values she's distilled from her Anglican faith. Towards the end of Zhu's essay he concludes that students "have come to respect her deeply, both as a familiar face and as an authoritative figure." Part of the joy of unpacking Annette's story comes from discovering different sides to her at different points in time through these students' writing.

At the end of Zhu's paper, though, comes an interesting line. He writes that Annette "has also been saving money for some time now, and she hopes to buy a house near the Yale gym next year, a 'nice house just down the street.'" This 2004 paper reveals the seedling of a momentous occasion in Annette's life: the 2005 purchase of her own home in New Haven's Dixwell neighborhood through the Yale Homebuyers program, an successful housing-assistance initiative pioneered by former Yale president Richard Levin.

But a line in Kate Tewksbury's 2016 essay strikes a different chord. Kate writes of visiting Annette's home, ruby-red and with an American flag fluttering outside. The pair listens to Bob Marley and drinks June Plum juice out of wine glasses. Tewksbury quotes Annette: "It was one of my dreams, because I had many American dreams... but that kind of house was my biggest dream. It was the biggest dream you could ever dream."

I keep coming back to Annette's grandmother. Between all the documents she hands me, the photos she sends, the alums reaching out, and of course her insistent mannerisms at the counter of the Berkeley swipe stand (I will never cut a Thundercock in the express line, that is for sure), it is difficult to imagine a demure, reserved Annette. But she is most sentimental when she speaks of her grandmother. It is clear that Annette Tracey lives and breathes the principles of this beloved woman: right, responsibility and reality. She demonstrates a genuine appreciation for her students and the individual experiences of each and every individual she interacts

with, repeating that "you never know what someone else is going through."

Annette is a breath of tropical air, a warm hug in the form of her iconic "word of the day" that she usually displays on the Berkeley check-in-counter — "phantasmagoric" and "apogee" are two favorites she pulls out for me. Amidst moments of pure chaos and exhaustion at a school that sometimes prides itself on what can be overwhelming innovation, I am grateful for the fact that Annette takes pride in things done right. Michael Morand '87 describes her as a "centurion, connector, and catalyst," but to me, Annette is simply home.

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// COURTESY ANNETTE TRACEY

WKND RECOMMENDS

Hiring a private investigator.

From Seeing to Being Seen: Reflections on People-Watching

// BY MADDIE SOULE

I like to watch you.
Apparently, you like to watch me.
According to my psychology professor, I'm in denial about that.

People-watching is, if not one of my favorite pastimes, certainly among my most frequent — and frequently subconscious.

I can't help it — Yale is a people-watching goldmine. With a diverse campus of power-walking students and professors, casually strolling New Haven residents, and gawking visitors, one can't — or I can't — help but watch the hundreds of universes contained in individual people play out before me. Maybe it's the English major in me, ever-aspiring to understand a narrator's perspective, whether it's their day-to-day life or broader worldview. Maybe it's the aspiring psychoanalyst in me that wants to understand the deep-seated, possibly existential motivations behind why people do what they do. Regardless, when people-watching, I tend to feel invisible. I disappear in the same way I do when I'm close-reading a passage or analyzing a text as a whole — I make observations, I theorize, I use context clues to try and understand a particular perspective. I'm the one doing the analysis, not the one being analyzed. In the context of people-watching at Yale, whilst enveloped by such — clearly warranted, highly useful — evaluations of students, employees and passersby, surely no one could be evaluating me, the evaluator.

It's not that I don't stand out. As one of Yale's token redheads* I kind of stick out like a sore thumb.

Still, there's this feeling that no one could possibly notice me the way I notice them.

Surely, no one is evaluating me.
Right?

I had felt this sense of invisibility in my people-watching practices prior to coming to Yale and since arriving, but I hadn't been able to articulate it, much less make sense of it. When I arrived on campus this fall after a

conscious" professor conveniently assigned one of his papers on what he deemed "The Invisibility Cloak Illusion."

The Invisibility Cloak Illusion basically states that people — incorrectly — believe

It's intimidating to be seen.

While it was comforting to know that others understood and experienced the kind of invisibility I felt when people-watching, it was unnerving to know that people actually watch me, too. And if the results of Professor Bargh's study prove true, most of us feel that way. Yet that's where the comfort — dare I say the beauty — of people-watching came in for me. We're all — or so we think — lone wolves, perceiving others while only being seen, understanding others while only being heard. Little do we know that while watching one person, we are equally being seen and watched by another. You're seen, they're seen, we're all seen — whether you believe it or not, whether you like it or not.

You may find yourself, like I did, initially in disbelief, then in disrepair after finding out that that invisible feeling you experience while people-watching is not only universal, but universally untrue.

It is intimidating to be seen.
But we all crave it, don't we?

I do.

I like to be seen, and I think you do, too. It's scary, and it's vulnerable.

And, if we're honest, you are going to be watched — if not by me, then by some other Yale people-watching fiend — whether you believe it or not, whether you like it or not.

You might as well embrace being seen.

*Stop telling me there are more redheads at Yale than in "the Bay Area" or your small town in Missouri. There are like seven of us.

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// ARIANE DE GENNARO

summer at home (I come from a rural town in Maine — think trees, cows and sparse white people) my relatively dormant people-watching senses were re-awakened. I was overstimulated in the best possible way. Yet with such caffeinated senses came the same feeling of invisibility that followed my people-watching previously.

I was just beginning to wrestle with this feeling when my "The Modern Uncon-

scious" professor conveniently assigned one of his papers on what he deemed "The Invisibility Cloak Illusion."

Eureka! That's it! My professor had articulated my exact experience, and it was a kind of relief to both be understood and feel unalone in my experience.

What was initially relief at being understood so articulately, however, quickly turned to a feeling of dread, then, finally, comfort.

Friendships at Yale: in the Small Things

// BY ELIFNAZ ONDER

Friendships at Yale are a lot of things: genuine, fake, loving, annoying. In short: complicated. Very complicated — and for someone like me, 4,942 miles away from home, they are crucial for survival. When I think about my past five semesters at Yale, I replay a little movie of blurbs in my mind that remind me of my friendships.

My first spring at Yale: most of the class of 2024 is home, so it's just a small number of us on campus, in the middle of a global pandemic. After a 12-hour flight, I greet a freezing New York morning, take the train to New Haven, drag my suitcase around the snow piles and walk into my new suite.

Seeing someone who I'm going to share every single detail of my life with for the rest of college is the last thing I expect to see, yet here we are, day after day, semester after semester, not being able to let go of each other. It's in the small things: the love for historical fiction, always having water in the kettle for tea, the essential daily recap.

It's almost always the little things, like the way I screamed "I hate you!" to a person I had only ever seen in office hours for making me go on that Coney Island roller coaster.

It's quite literally in the small things, such as the five-dollar chocolate bars from GHeav that led to the invention of a highly exaggerated thing called the "GHeav trauma scale." I was standing under the rain with a five-dollar chocolate bar in my hand, thinking that it was the only thing that would make me feel okay after a breakup — that is until I realized how the people around me made me laugh. A five-dollar chocolate bar and bringing up the "GHeav trauma scale" at our sad moments almost always leads to bursting laughter.



//CATE ROSER

It was in a random genuine moment that someone next to me just started laughing at my reactions as I watched probably one of the most suspenseful horror movies of all time: "Hereditary." It's in the small gestures: receiving short encouraging texts, struggling over problem sets together and seeing how kind some people actually are. These moments also lead to seeing how some people do not come off as genuine or as kind and how their laughter does not create the same

comfort that others create around you. Looking back at my last five semesters at Yale, that's okay.

When I don't feel like laughing, friendship is also a shoulder to cry on, a tea bag to help dry my tears or a cup of ice cream with Sour Patch Kids. Sometimes it's a call in the middle of the night because I can't go to bed without letting a friend know what happened. One time it was the "he kissed me" call, or as I like to call it, the "uh oh" call. The voice on

the other side of the phone tried to shift my mind away from the inevitable heartbreak to come, because, you know, people sometimes catch feelings for a friend, and that's even more complicated. Another thing I've realized is that you don't have to solve every complicated puzzle. Sometimes they are just complicated, and that's okay.

Friendships evolve randomly. I have stuck with some people and not with others. It all depends

on those random little moments. At least that's what I think, but maybe it's not random. Maybe it's in the small gestures, in the small moments where you are completely and unapologetically yourself and still get embraced for who you are. It's in the small things: in longer phone calls, genuine conversations, sharing Milk Duds and tighter hugs.

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WKND Recommends

Walking in the rain barefoot.

Are You There, God? It's Me, iluvcupcakes29545.

// BY MIRANDA WOLLEN

As a nine year old, I had two passions: Daniel Radcliffe and cosplaying as an adult on internet games. Possessing paltry athletic abilities, I spent a lot of time alone in front of the old desktop computer in our home office. GirlsGoGames.com, for one, enabled me to do it all: makeover a princess with bacne, plan my dream wedding, own a virtual dental practice or calculate my compatibility with my third-grade crush by name and birthday. It also once offered me a sketchy link which, upon clicking, led me to Pornhub.

After clicking confusedly away from the aggressive doggy-style sex which had appeared on our family Dell, I continued crafting a set of perfect virtual red-carpet outfits. GirlsGoGames.com was where I popped my first zit, had my first kiss and went to my first ultrasound appointment — looking back on it, it's actually a bit spooky how domestically-oriented the site encourages its mostly female young users to be.

Nevertheless, the constantly renewing opportunities to LARP as a princess or a pizza waiter kept me rapt for years. The site offered me an enticing glimpse into adolescence and adulthood, fulfilling my desire to be a Big Kid, a Grown-Up. I adored GirlsGoGames.com because it let me be an idealized version of an adult for half an hour every morning. I baked elaborate cupcakes and aced celebrity photoshoots, made over my room and married princes.

GirlsGoGames's one fault was that it was a single-player game — when I needed company, I headed over to Animal Jam under the mysterious and enticing moniker iluvcupcakes29545. I have a weird Animal Jam superiority complex because most of my friends were Moshi Monsters or Club Penguin-heads; Jamaa

Township was my personal anonymous home.

Animal Jam's world layout and user base enabled kids (and definitely really scary adults with strange little mustaches) near-complete freedom in their

I'd sit there and type things like "plz adopt orphaned bunny no family so poor:(MEMBERS ONLY" or "rich mom looking for second baby no seals allowed" with complete sincerity and innocence. If I was feeling real feisty, I'd do a lit-

childhood games with a couple of friends the other night. Upon my explanation of the Animal Jam adoption system, one noted drily: "Someone definitely masturbated to that."

She's certainly right — though

employed at the mall.

Now also feels like an appropriate time to admit to the world that, inspired by the gamer girls of the 2011 internet, I had a YouTube channel on which I posted my MovieStar trailers and Miranda Sings impressions. One such video, entitled "Foot Power," included gratuitous wiggling of my preadolescent toes and garnered way too much online attention. After some 40-year-old guy encouraged me to "rub baby oil on their next time," my dad had to delete all my videos. But I digress.

Inadvertently went on the Animal Jam Reddit today and discovered how many furies are on there. It tracks — the default character was a creepily anthropomorphic wolf. It's a little disconcerting to ponder how much of my happy online childhood was spent hanging out virtually with people who were old enough to own Hondas and go on Pornhub on purpose (and definitely people old enough to be active on Reddit), but I loved being a Jammer.

The problematically pseudo-tribal music of the login screen will always trigger something Pavlovian in me, and I'll never forget the thrill of tricking some other dodo of an eight year old into trading their rarest accessory with me.

So thank you, GirlsGoGames, for exposing me to my first weirdly-realistic ACL surgery simulator. And thank you, Animal Jam, for teaching me how to navigate a world of the freakiest weirdos I had ever encountered until my first collegiate Latin class. Love you guys <3

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// ARIANE DE GENNARO

interactions and relationships. Only as an actual adult did I realize how bizarre one particular user-created facet of the game was: an obsession with "adopting" other Jammers, or being "adopted" oneself. Even worse was the fact that this ritual took place in an online forum called the "pillow room."

tle dance or single out particularly decked-out avatars to chat up.

The complex web of relationships I vove was soap-opera worthy. I have distinct memories of logging off while trying not to get caught in a cheating scandal.

I hadn't considered how creepy this was until I was discussing

the game offered no identifiers or potential for in-person meetups, I made a point of secretly turning off parental guidelines when my mom was distracted on the elliptical four feet away. There's no telling how many of the online friends I made were 33-year-old men named Ken who were

On the radical self-expression of orange tie-dye



// ARIANE DE GENNARO

// BY ANDREW CRAMER

I grew up wearing hand-me-downs and I loved it. When one of my two older brothers had an article of clothing I really liked, I would patiently await the day they outgrew it.

My fashion sensibilities were dictated by two guiding principles. First, if I liked something, I wanted to wear it — especially if it was orange. And second, I thought shopping was incredibly boring. Hence, my love for hand-me-downs.

I am sadly too tall now for their leftover clothes, but I still have not developed any real sense of fashion.

Before starting college, I realized I needed to update my wardrobe. So I went to Target and bought a cart's worth of plain t-shirts to pair with my generic khakis. I even threw in a couple of long-sleeved shirts to keep things interesting. But nobody cares about shirts anyways.

As fall begins, so does sweatshirt season, and that's a thrill. I have six sweatshirts — seven if you count the fleece I only wear in my room — that I cycle through on a regular basis. As boring as the rest of my wardrobe is, these bad boys are, not to toot my own horn, quite exciting.

The roster: orange tie-dye, blue tie-dye, white with black text, Yale in blue, another blue and orange-pinkish with dinosaurs. Of these, the tie-dye pieces — the orange one specifically — are by far the most well-known among my friends.

The origin story of these incomprehensible fashion choices is somewhat embarrassing, but I think it's a necessary detail.

It began, as so much of my life does, with orange. My mom bought the orange tie-dye sweatshirt for me as a gift because she knows I love the color. But for a long time, it sat unworn in my closet. It was too audacious, too much for modest little Andrew.

And then, one mid-COVID Saturday morning, my most bizarre tradition began. I woke up feeling a little glum. The combination of the pandemic and the college admissions process was wearing me down. So I decided I needed to wear happier clothes. I put on jeans for the first time in four years and complemented them with orange tie-dye. I listened to a Bea Miller song at the recommendation of a friend and went for a walk.

The vibes were great. And so every Saturday for the

rest of my senior year of high school, I put on orange tie-dye, jeans and Bea Miller in an effort — and a successful one at that — to gaslight myself into a happier mood. A ludicrous tradition was born, but I loved it.

The other cheery sweatshirts joined the wardrobe at various points after that. I began to feel more confident wearing outfits beyond just the most generic selections possible. And during that transformation, the orange tie-dye began to transcend mere Saturday attire.

By the time I arrived on campus, I had my cycle of sweatshirts. They quickly became associated with my identity. I quickly realized that there are not very many extra-large orange tie-dye hoodies at Yale. My sweatshirts made me stand out in a way that clothing very rarely has.

I don't know exactly how to interpret the meaning of my sweatshirt-wearing habits.

On the one hand, they represent a continuation of my disdain for fashion. Because there are so few options and I cycle through them thoughtlessly, this routine is part of my eagerness to avoid making choices about my outfits.

However, their distinctiveness and their connection to my personality is something entirely new. When I see an old friend's face light up now as they see the famous — or in the eyes of some, infamous — orange tie-dye for the first time this school year, it brings me immense joy. And when I look back at old photos or catch a glimpse of myself in the mirror, I can't help but smile a little.

These sweatshirts have come to mean more to me than any piece of clothing should mean to anyone. They represent a kind of joy, a kind of confidence in my uniqueness, that I can't quite justify.

I don't wear the same thing every Saturday anymore, and I don't listen to the same music on loop. That was a moment of pandemic-and-college-process-induced insanity.

But I look back on that time with gratitude for giving me the chance to experiment with my "fit" a little bit more. And I know that the orange tie-dye — even as the drawstrings begin to fray and the hints of Franzia stains linger — will remain a staple for years to come.

It's just a sweatshirt, yes, but is it really?

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WKND Hot Take:

3rd round of Yague > pink eye.