

# Gale Daily News

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT · FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026 · VOL. CXLVIII, NO. 19 · yaledailynews.com · @yaledailynews



## College staff to shrink by 7.5%

BY ISOBEL MCCLURE AND OLIVIA WOO  
STAFF REPORTERS

Yale College staffing will decrease by roughly 7.5 percent in response to the Trump administration's endowment tax hike, according to Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis.

Aside from financial aid programming, the "biggest expense" for the College is the payment of staff salaries, Lewis said in an interview last week. The Yale College operating budget, which totals approximately \$80 million this academic year, is separate from the \$275 million annual financial aid budget that Lewis' office also oversees.

"The staff will be about 20 people smaller than it would have been. Most of that is people who have left," Lewis said in reference to Yale College in a Wednesday

SEE STAFFING PAGE 4



Logan Dinkins, Staff Photographer



Kimberly Angeles, Staff Photographer

## Donors' priorities behind aid shifts

BY OLIVIA WOO  
STAFF REPORTER

Yale donors are "relatively more enthusiastic" about funding undergraduate financial aid during the school year than about financing summer grants, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis told the News. Their priorities, which Lewis said have emerged in his conversations with donors, helped inform the decision to replace two guaranteed summer awards for low-income students with one grant.

Only around half of the \$275 million annual budget for undergraduate financial aid programs — which include aid offered during the school year and grants provided for the summer — comes from the University endowment, Lewis said in an interview in late January.

"We don't have enough endowment even to pay for our standard

financial aid, but donors are relatively more enthusiastic about paying for financial aid for students during the year than they are for summers," Lewis said. "We weren't able to raise enough money from donors to keep paying for the whole of the two-summer guarantee."

The College's plan, announced two weeks ago, to guarantee the full cost of attendance for students from families making under \$100,000 and tuition for those from families making under \$200,000 — conditional on their holding "typical" assets — will result in an expansion of spending on financial aid for the academic year, Lewis told the News last week.

Those changes were made possible by a reduction in spending on

SEE AID PAGE 4

## Gelernter faces conduct review

BY LEO NYBERG, ASHER BOISKIN, JERRY GAO  
STAFF REPORTERS

Yale professor David Gelernter '76 GRD '77 is no longer teaching his computer science course, just over a week after his emails with Jeffrey Epstein surfaced.

Gelernter — who has defended his communications with the convicted sex offender, including a 2011 email to Epstein describing an undergraduate's appearance while recommending her for a job — is facing a University review, according to University spokesperson Karen Peart.

"I've been relieved," Gelernter wrote to students in his course "The User Interface" in a Tuesday morning announcement on Canvas, Yale's online course management system, that was first reported by CT Insider.

Gelernter and Epstein main-

tained substantial email correspondence between 2009 and 2015, which the U.S. Department of Justice released in late January among some three million other files related to Epstein. In their exchanges, Gelernter and Epstein planned meetings and discussed art, business and women. Gelernter described an undergraduate as a "v small goodlooking blonde" in an October 2011 email to Epstein that Gelernter has characterized as a recommendation letter.

Gelernter defended that message last week in an email to Jeffery Brock, the dean of Yale's School of Engineering & Applied Science, on which Gelernter copied Computer Science department chair Holly Rushmeier. In the email, which Gelernter forwarded to the News, he wrote that he had kept "the

SEE GELERNTER PAGE 4



Garrett Curtis, Photography Editor



Liza Kaufman, Photography Editor

## Athletes find few deals in NIL era

BY LIZA KAUFMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

Yale football player Abu Kamara '27 spent Labor Day morning signing autographs for local children at the annual New Haven Road Race.

Kamara's appearance was part of his name, image and likeness deal with Farnam Realty Group, a local real estate firm.

Kamara, the 2025 Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year and the Bulldogs' 2026 captain, said he didn't expect much when Carol Horsford, the founder of Farnam, reached out to him. The partnership Horsford offered wasn't flashy: some Instagram posts, occasional appearances and autographs in exchange for a small amount of money.

"I was proud of myself because it's an opportunity and a step in the right direction," Kamara said of the

deal in an interview.

Yale, like other schools in the Ivy League, clings tightly to amateurism. Last year, the conference opted out of the 2025 \$2.8 billion House v. NCAA settlement, which allowed participating schools to distribute up to \$20.5 million annually in athletics revenue directly to student-athletes.

At the same time, donor collectives, which channel money directly to student-athletes, are driving recruiting and continuing to expand across Division I. While other elite institutions such as Duke and Stanford are embracing revenue share and NIL collectives, the Ivy League is the only Division I conference that has formally opted out of revenue share and continues to resist donor collectives.

Kamara's experience captures

SEE NIL PAGE 11

## Yale uses cancer-tied herbicide

BY MICHELLE SO  
STAFF REPORTER

Despite years of complaints from people who live in the Westville neighborhood, Yale uses an herbicide on its lawns and athletic fields that has been connected to cancer and recently came under renewed scrutiny following the retraction of paper that said it was safe.

In December 2025, a paper on the safety of Roundup, a widely used herbicide, was retracted from the journal "Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology." The announcement came over a decade after the International Agency for Research on Cancer denounced the compound for being a probable

human carcinogen.

Locals have been voicing their concerns over Yale's use of Roundup with the University and state and federal agencies for decades, but the herbicide use has continued. One former worker, who died about a year ago, wrote an essay about how his doctor attributed his non-Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosis to his exposure to herbicides on Yale's golf course, where he worked.

"Our use of all pesticides, including Roundup, is very limited and targeted — primarily where there is a direct safety concern such as poison ivy removal," Steven Gilsdorf, the director of facilities operations, wrote in an email to the

News. "Pesticides are restricted and only used as a last measure or in the case of extreme infestation, with all applications handled by staff trained and licensed to do so and in compliance with Connecticut regulations for pesticide use near residences."

### A controversial herbicide

Since glyphosate was introduced under the brand name "Roundup" in 1974, it has become one of the most widely used herbicides in the United States.

Glyphosate is often applied to lawns and agricultural fields to hinder weed growth and has been

SEE HERBICIDE PAGE 8

## Broadway economy heats up

BY HENRY LIU AND NICOLAS CIMINIELLO  
STAFF REPORTERS

While the recent openings of Sweetgreen, Shah's Halal Food and Bobbi's Pizza are drawing student interest and increasing competition for the older establishments around them, longstanding businesses remained confident about their places in the Broadway area.

Roughly nine months after the openings of Sweetgreen and Shah's Halal Food, and four months after the opening of Bobbi's Pizza, students and business owners reflected on the new stores' popularity with students and how it has contributed to a more competitive



Rachel Mak, Photography Editor

business landscape. While some students have turned toward Sweetgreen as their main choice for a Broadway-area meal, others said they will keep buy-

ing from established shops like Good Nature Market.

According to Yong Zhao, the

SEE BROADWAY PAGE 5

### INSIDE THE NEWS

As Yale's graduate school is admitting fewer students across departments, Yale Law School's enrollment is remaining steady.

PAGE 9 LAW SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



PAGE 3 OPINION

PAGE 6 NEWS

PAGE 8 SCI-TECH

PAGE 12 SPORTS

PAGE B1 WKND

**ANTISEMITISM SCHOLAR** The Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism's first scholar-in-residence gave a lecture calling for more nuanced discussions on antisemitism.

PAGE 7 NEWS

**CHINESE DEPARTMENT** Spring enrollment in Yale's Chinese language department reached a decade-high level.

PAGE 9 NEWS