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Two years on, a quiet Beinecke



Kalina Sabala Montes / Staff Photographer

UPCLOSE **BY NORA MOSES**
STAFF REPORTER

Two years ago, 44 Yale students were arrested for trespassing on Beinecke Plaza.

Three days before, the students erected tents to form an encampment on the plaza, protesting Yale's investments in weapons manufacturers, which they tied to Israel's war in Gaza. They draped Palestinian flags off surfaces and pasted posters with messages such as "liberated zone," "Yale is complicit" and "welcome to Gaza Plaza" on the ground and walls. During the early evenings, the crowd on the plaza could swell to

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Garrett Curtis / Photography Editor

Union rally with big allies fills downtown

BY NELLIE KENNEY
STAFF REPORTER

Over a thousand members of two Yale unions and their supporters marched in a loop around the University's campus on Thursday as part of a rally calling on Yale to raise workers' wages.

The contracts for UNITE HERE Locals 34, Yale's clerical and technical workers' union, and 35, the University's service and maintenance staff's union, are set to expire in January. Joined by Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont SOM '80, Mayor Justin Elicker, alders and other city leaders, union organizers called on Yale to up wages to meet inflation and the rising cost of living.

According to Local 34 Vice President Ellen Cupo, a former alder, the union has presented Yale with contract proposals and has been met with silence.

"Yale is not coming to the table, and that is a serious problem," Cupo said in an interview before the rally began. "We have not seen a proposal from Yale since we started bargaining."

Cupo added that she is "incredibly proud" to work at Yale. "I need Yale to respect me," she said.

"The university began negotiations with Locals 34 and 35 last summer and looks forward to a positive, productive process that results in a fair agreement for all parties," Yale's Head of Union Management Relations, Joe Sarno, wrote in an email to the News after an April 1 rally.

Locals 34 and 35's current memorandum of agreement with Yale was signed in January 2022.

Protesters gathered on the New Haven Green at 5:30 p.m., ring-

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Athletics chief come under fire

BY JONAS LOESEL
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

On October 2, 2025, Keith Allain '80 wrote an email to University President Maurie McInnis. The recently retired longtime men's hockey coach blasted his former boss, Yale Athletic Director Vicky Chun, as "the absolute worst leader I have ever been around in my life."

The email, which was first reported last month by Fox News and has been reviewed by the News, claims that Chun's tenure since 2018 has "created a toxic environment within the department," marked by a "culture of fear" and a "lack of leadership." Allain confirmed to the News that he wrote the letter.

The News spoke to two dozen current and former staff members, coaches, athletes and a donor who have worked with or played under Vicky Chun — many under the condition of anonymity due to fears of retribution by the Yale Athletics administration. While some came to Chun's defense, eight former staff members and coaches backed Allain's account, saying that Chun's tenure has created a culture of fear in the department.

Many said the effects are obvious: Since Chun's arrival in 2018, more than 200 employees have left Yale Athletics, according to a News analysis of online directories. Eight former employees said that department had high turnover because of a combination of firings and a siloed workplace Chun fostered, marked by absence and a need for control.

Chun's current contract lasts through June.

Asked about Allain's letter in an interview with the News, McInnis said: "I do not comment on any letters that I receive as part of a review process." She added that "many people" have sent letters about Chun as the University considers whether to renew her contract.

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Cameras watch New Haven

More police surveillance, yet little debate on privacy

UPCLOSE **BY ADELE HAEG**
STAFF REPORTER

At first, they are hard to notice. But start to see them, and they seem like they are everywhere. In downtown New Haven, there are two on the public library across from the Green, another on City Hall, four more between the district attorney's office and the courthouse: surveillance cameras.

Each sends footage directly to New Haven's Real Time Crime Center, a surveillance hub in the city police department where analysts monitor citywide cameras 16 hours a day, responding to officers' calls. Cameras are always recording, and footage is stored for at least two weeks, according to a spokesperson for the New Haven Police Department.

Alexandra Kenealy, one of the center's crime analysts, first saw a Real Time Crime Center while interning at the Bridgeport Police Department in 2023. She remembers experiencing a "wow factor" when she stepped in, she said, gesturing at several TV-size screens in front of her desk in New Haven's Real Time Crime Center.



Martin Peralta / Staff Photographer

"I didn't realize that you can monitor the city like this," Kenealy said as she clicked through camera feeds, touring the city from her computer. "It's insane. But I felt a sense of safety."

In the past five years, the New Haven Police Department has expanded its surveillance system, installing hundreds of cameras, license plate readers and ShotSpotter microphones — which detect gunshots — across the city. The police have asked residents to connect their Ring cameras to a department registry and deployed drones with video capability. In 2022, the department also started using StarChase, a technology that allows officers to shoot rubber GPS trackers at cars instead of pursuing them at high speed. Officers don't need warrants to deploy StarChase, which Officer Christian Bruckhart, the department spokesperson, said is generally considered an exception to Fourth Amendment privacy rights.

This surveillance system grants the police department "a lot of

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Elijah Hurewitz-Ravitch / Staff Photographer

Is unions' political influence faltering?

UPCLOSE

BY ELIJAH HUREWITZ-RAVITCH
STAFF REPORTER

Early last September, days before the Democratic primary for Ward 1 alder, Elias Theodore '27 gathered his supporters at La Cocinita Mexican Cafe. As they wolfed down rice and fajitas, the floppy-haired New Havener gave an impromptu campaign speech.

His opponent, Norah Laughter '26, had the backing of the powerful Yale unions and New Haven Rising, an adjacent community advocacy organization. Laughter's supporters, often identifying

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In uncertain job market, Yalies turn to new pipelines

BY MICHAEL NDUBISI
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

When Will Barbee '26 arrived at Yale, he didn't come for politics. He said he came for theater and music. His freshman fall, he rushed five a cappella groups, a dramatic society and some of the campus comedy troupes, navigating the high-stakes audition culture that serves as a brutal rite of passage for Yale first years.

Like most students, he met rejection. Within two weeks, he filled out an application to become a fellow of the William F. Buckley Jr. Program, a campus organization founded to promote conservative thought and open debate, and was accepted. The application, he said, took about 15 minutes.

"I was immediately accepted into the community," Barbee said.

What followed surprised him. There were speaker events open to anyone, followed by smaller, invitation-only dinners at New Haven restaurants. He said it was a level of intellectual access he found that Yale's formal classrooms rarely matched, so he kept going back. By his junior year, he was president of the program. By his senior year, a Buckley mentor was writing his recommendations for journalism fellowships.

Barbee's path is not unique. As the class of 2026 navigates a job market that has rarely looked more uncertain, job postings have proliferated while actual offers have declined, producing a market that appears abundant from the outside

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Inside The News

Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis told student leaders that the Food, Agriculture and Climate Change certificate will likely continue for at least two years.

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GRADUATE SCHOOLS As Yale tightens its budget, graduate programs will have reduced class sizes next year. Directors of graduate studies weighed in on the changes.
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GENERATIONAL CHANGE Young Democratic challengers are taking on older incumbent politicians in New Haven and Hartford.
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