A YEAR OF BUDGET CUTS

Last summer, Congress passed a tax hike on the wealthiest universities' endowment investment returns that is set to cost Yale $300 million annually when it goes into effect this July. Over the past year, University administrators responded with various cost-saving measures across schools and budgetary units, from retirement incentives for managerial staff to cuts in English course offerings.

JUNE **HIRING FREEZE**

A month after the House of Representatives passes a budget reconciliation package that would increase taxes on university endowment returns on a tiered basis, Yale announces that it will freeze hiring for 90 days, reduce non-salary expenses by 5 percent and delay several construction projects. University President Maurie McInnis wrote in May that the bill represents "a greater threat to Yale than any other bill in memory."

SEPTEMBER **RETIREMENT INCENTIVE**

Administrators announce a one-time retirement incentive program to "support cost-saving measures" in the face of the endowment tax hike, which they estimate will cost Yale $300 million annually. The program applies to Yale's managerial and professional staff, such as librarians, nurses and research associates, and includes a healthcare subsidy and two weeks of pay for every year of work.



Garrett Curtis, Photograpy Editor

NOVEMBER **SUMMER FUNDING**

Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis announces that the two non-competitive summer grants for students on financial aid, the International Study Award and the Summer Experience Award, will be replaced with one. The decision to halve guaranteed summer opportunities, which Lewis says is necessary in order to avoid reducing term-time financial aid due to budget cuts, prompts widespread student protest.

FEBRUARY **YALE COLLEGE STAFF**

Yale College staff will shrink by approximately 20 people, Lewis says, calling the move the "only way" to reduce the College's budget by a target 7.5 percent in anticipation of the tax hike. Lewis adds that "a very small handful" of those staff reductions have been realized through layoffs and that the retirement incentive encouraged some to leave their positions voluntarily.



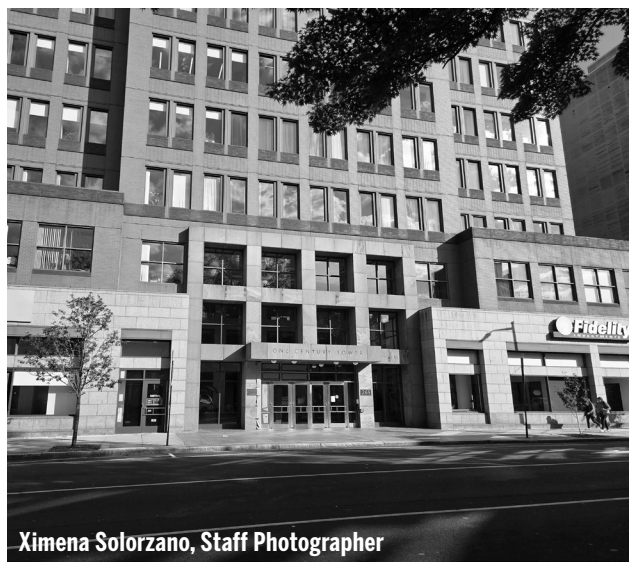
Braden Mathis, Staff Photographer



Braden Mathis, Staff Photographer

JULY **TAX HIKE PASSAGE**

On July 4, President Donald Trump signs the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which will increase the tax on endowment investment returns for wealthy universities. For universities with more than $2 million in endowment per full-time student, including Yale, the tax will increase from 1.4 percent to 8 percent beginning in July 2026.



Ximena Solorzano, Staff Photographer

APRIL **ENGLISH COURSE OFFERINGS**

The English department nearly halves the fall section offerings for its flagship introductory writing course. The department's director of undergraduate studies tells the News that the administration "imposed" this reduction, along with an increase in class size from 14 to 15. Wilkinson tells the News that his office made this decision "to meet teaching needs in a very constrained budget environment."

JANUARY **GRADUATE ENROLLMENT**

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences announces a three-year plan to cut enrollment by around 13 percent in the humanities and social sciences and by 5 percent in STEM fields. Steven Wilkinson, the dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, tells the News that the reductions are necessary because the GSAS is "heavily dependent on endowment income, and the endowment is now subject to an increased tax."



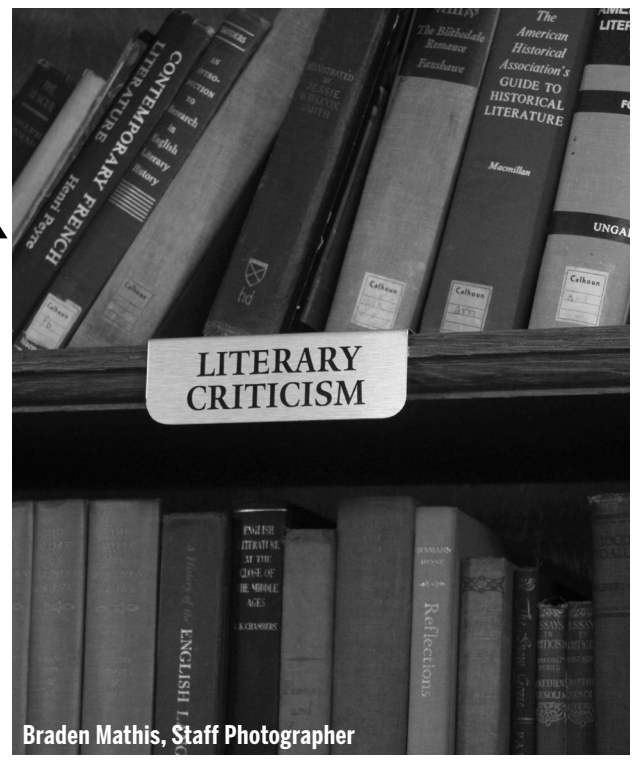
Tim Tai



Martin Peralta, Head Photography Editor

APRIL **YALE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAM**

The staff of the Yale Sustainable Food Program, which oversees the Yale Farm, is reduced from four to three people. Students sign a petition alleging that the program's executive director has been let go and that the Food, Agriculture and Climate Change certificate is ending, demanding transparency from Lewis. The dean confirms plans to continue the certificate for at least two more years.



Braden Mathis, Staff Photographer

MARCH **THE YALE REVIEW**

A month after The Yale Review canceled its annual literary festival, it announces plans to reduce its online publishing operations, citing budget tightening due to the endowment tax hike in both cases. The executive editor of The Yale Review, which is the oldest literary journal in the nation, tells the News that she expects to see a "substantial reduction" in readership.



Ximena Solorzano, Staff Photographer

MARCH **INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY**

Several instructional faculty members are informed that Yale has not renewed their contracts. Wilkinson tells the News that "unprecedented budget challenges" in anticipation of the endowment tax hike impacted these hiring decisions. Hundreds of students and alumni protest the decisions in two letters to administrators, each praising a departing lecturer's academic impact and demanding that they be rehired.

— Jaeha Jang and Olivia Woo, Staff Reporters