FROM THE FRONT

"Life, as I see it, is not a location, but a journey. Life flows."
HENRY FORD AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIST

Demonstrators flout protest policy, receive no rebuke

PROTEST FROM PAGE 1

Attendees at the event ranged from Yale alumni to New Haven union members, and speakers included students from the Endowment Justice Collective, history professor David Blight, New Haven's official historian Michael Morand '87 DIV '93 and Emmy Award-winning actor Sam Waterston '62.

Speakers at the event addressed four demands: democratizing University governance, codified academic freedom, relaxed restrictions on protests and no negotiations with the Trump administration over the investigation into admissions.

The event preceded a mandatory orientation event for first-year students titled "The University and Democracy," led by Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis and trust committee co-chair Beverly Gage '94. Gage stopped by Cross Campus Tuesday afternoon and told the News she wanted to hear what the protestors had to say before her event.

In speeches to the crowd, some condemned Yale's negotiation strategy, while others criticized the Yale Corporation's opaque operations and alumni elections process and slammed a recommendation in the Committee on Trust in Higher Education's April report which led to a new University mission statement.

The gathering on Cross Campus was also one of the largest protests at Yale since a pro-Palestine encampment took place on Beinecke Plaza in April 2025. That demonstration resulted in the University's revoking Yalies4Palestine's club status, citing the group's role in promoting the event. Yale said the move stemmed from the club's violation of free expression rules and referenced concerns raised about antisemitism at the encampment.

Organizers for yesterday's protest — which included the student-run Endowment Justice Collective, the Yale chapter of the American Association of University Professors and alumni advocacy group Stand Up for Yale — said they intentionally skirted the free expression guidelines banning outdoor gatherings that have not been granted permission by administrators. Administrators stood on the sides of Cross Campus during the protest but did not interfere with the event.

"Yale is deeply committed to fostering open debate and protecting freedom of expression while creating an environment in which a wide range of ideas can be expressed and heard civilly," Yale spokesperson Tina Posterli wrote in an email to the News. "As recommended in the Woodward Report, Yale regulates the time, place, and manner of expression to support both free expression and the functioning of the university community. University Life reached out to the organizers to remind them of these policies."

Chen and Yale College Democrats President Riley Getchell '27 said that Yale would be employing a "double standard" if it did not crack down on Tuesday's rally after referring students to the executive committee during pro-Palestine protests.

Posterli did not directly respond to a question about Yalies4Palestine and whether Yale was enforcing a double standard.

Chen also pointed to a performative male contest near Cross Campus last September, when administrators did not pursue disciplinary action against organizers of the contest but issued warnings after the event that they had violated Yale policy.

Tuesday's protest was purposefully scheduled to not interfere with classes or events, he added.

"This is an albeit small act of civil disobedience but I think it's important to show students that pre-2024, pre-promulgation of all these new restrictions that this is what college campuses looked like, this is what Yale looked like going back to the sixties," Chen said. "If you go through all of the most righteous, most famous student assemblies, none of that would be allowed today."



Garrett Curtis / Staff Photographer
Students, faculty, alumni and New Haven residents demanded four reforms to University governance and administration at a Tuesday protest.

Chen and Yale College Council Vice President Michelle Jimenez '28 sent an email to undergraduates encouraging them to attend the teach-in, but Chen said that the Council did not officially organize the event and that he spoke to protestors in his personal capacity.

A press release before the event listing organizers and attendees included the YCC, among other organizations.

Observers from the National Lawyers Guild were on cross campus in bright yellow hats. Diego Suchenski Loustaunau '27 said organizers requested the observers in case of any interactions with police. He described the request as "standard practice" to ensure safety.

The event lasted around two hours.

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New rule could deter donations

TREASURY FROM PAGE 1

The Treasury proposal is part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to force schools to abandon diversity measures or policies that benefit minority students.

"Under President Trump, this Administration is standing up for America's students by ensuring racial discrimination has no place in American education," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent '84 said in a press release. "Schools rebranding race-based preferences as equitable, inclusive or diversity-enhancing does not change their discriminatory nature."

Yale spokesperson Karen Peart wrote in a statement to the News that Yale will "carefully review" the proposed rule.

"Yale is committed to following the law and does not tolerate discrimination of any kind," Peart wrote. "The university is also committed to free expression, academic freedom, and Yale's ability to determine who is admitted in accordance with the law."

Yale Law School professor Vicki Schultz wrote in an email to the News that the new regulation is "part of the Trump administration's all-government approach to wiping out the last vestiges of affirmative action."

As a 501(c)(3), Yale is currently exempt from paying federal income tax. They are also exempt from many Connecticut taxes due to a clause in the state's constitution. Alex Zhang GRD '18 LAW '21, a professor of taxation law at Emory University, said the loss of tax-exempt status could hurt Yale's private fundraising efforts.

"Some of the bigger costs for some of the universities is not really the loss of the 501(c)(3) exempt status, but the fact that donors will not be able to take a Section 170 charitable contributions deduction from their own income taxes," Zhang said.

The proposal would apply to taxable years beginning on or after May 31, 2027, which the Treasury Department said will give schools time to bring their policies into compliance. A public comment window for the rule is also set to open upon the proposal's official publication on Friday.

In July, Yale provided a public institutional comment opposing a proposed White House rule that would give political appointees the power to cancel research grants and contracts. Yale professors, post-docs and students also posted their own comments on the rule.

The Trump administration has frequently targeted university finances in an effort to bring universities like Columbia and Harvard into line with their priorities, which have often included prohibiting race-conscious admissions, establishing restrictions on campus protests and promoting political diversity on campuses.

Experts told the News that they anticipate legal challenges to the rule.

"Any kind of executive decision can be challenged in court," Zhang said in a phone interview. "It's hard to say, this is in very early stages, but I'm fairly certain that at least one university might challenge this particular rule and if it gets challenged of course, the courts will at least have a say on it."

The Internal Revenue Service's power to strip a private university's tax exempt status rests on a 1983 Supreme Court decision which allowed the organization to revoke Bob Jones University's status as a 501(c)(3) because the university prohibited interracial marriages.

Zhang said the Trump administration's rule is a reversal of how the case Bob Jones University v. United States has traditionally been interpreted.

"It's a bit of a flip because early on, Bob Jones was very much a power utilized by the state to guarantee racial equality and education," Zhang said. "Now, it is used by a very different constituency to ensure that admissions are done in a colorblind way."

Greenhouse also wrote that the process of proving that a school is engaged in racial discrimination is long and would vary school by school.

Zhang noted that a new Democratic administration in 2028 might reverse the Treasury Department rule since the proposal has not been legislated.

In addition to the ongoing investigation into Yale's admissions, Yale was previously investigated by the Department of Education for cooperating with a diversity program for doctoral candidates. As part of their resolution agreement, Yale agreed to cut ties with the program.

In July, a group of Connecticut legislators threatened to revoke Yale's tax-exempt status if McInnis cuts a deal with the Trump administration.

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Abby Assouad / Staff Photographer
Experts said the proposed rule could hurt Yale's fundraising efforts and will likely be challenged in court.

Students mixed on McInnis messaging

REACTIONS FROM PAGE 1

News broke in late June that Yale was considering a deal with the Trump administration in response to the Justice Department's investigations into admissions at Yale College, Yale Law School and the Yale School of Medicine. In a May letter of findings, the Justice Department had alleged racial discrimination against white and Asian applicants in medical school admissions.

The summer was filled with pushback from students, faculty and alumni, from open letters to a press conference with Sen. Richard Blumenthal LAW '73 and other politicians. With students back on campus, activism has continued in person.

"I think the general sentiment is kind of the clash between whether we should sacrifice our values or kind of protect the University," Sofia Heredia '29 said about the debate surrounding the negotiations. She noted that there is likely "a tactful way to find a middle ground," adding, "we have to be practical."

Kayo Pouchous '29 said the topic of the Justice Department negotiations has scarcely come up since he got back to campus, but as the year progresses, he said, "it's going to be at the top of our minds."

Heredia echoed Pouchous' remarks, saying she expected the negotiations to receive more attention from the student body as students settled into the academic year.

Amine Bit GRD '32 said Yale has handled communications about the settlements better than Columbia, from which he recently graduated. The school's July 2025 settlement included a $200 million fine to the federal government and a series of changes demanded by the Trump administration, such as the disclosure of its admissions data and review of its Middle East-related academic programs.

"I will say that at least here, there seems to be a bit more of an effort at transparency," Bit said.

McInnis has sent two campus-wide messages addressing the negotiations since news of a potential deal broke in late June. The first, sent on July 13, confirmed that Yale was negotiating with the Department of Justice and articulated five principles that Yale would not budge on.

Yale later posted a page answering frequently asked questions about the negotiations on the University president's website.

In an Aug. 21 email to Yale affiliates, McInnis wrote that the University has continued to provide information to the Justice Department, as required by law, and reiterated the five principles, stating that Yale's "fidelity to academic freedom is absolute" and that admissions and hiring decisions must be made independently by the University.

Students offered mixed reviews of these communications.

"I feel like they were very bland," Juan García Ortiz '30 said of McInnis' messages. "She's definitely responding to the pressure that students are putting, but I don't think she's quite addressing it completely."

Faith Zhao '29 said that it's important for students to receive updates on the negotiations but that the University's actions "matter more than the words being sent through email."

Some students were unaware or apathetic about the negotiations. Many declined to share their opinion with the News because they had not been closely following the negotiations.

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