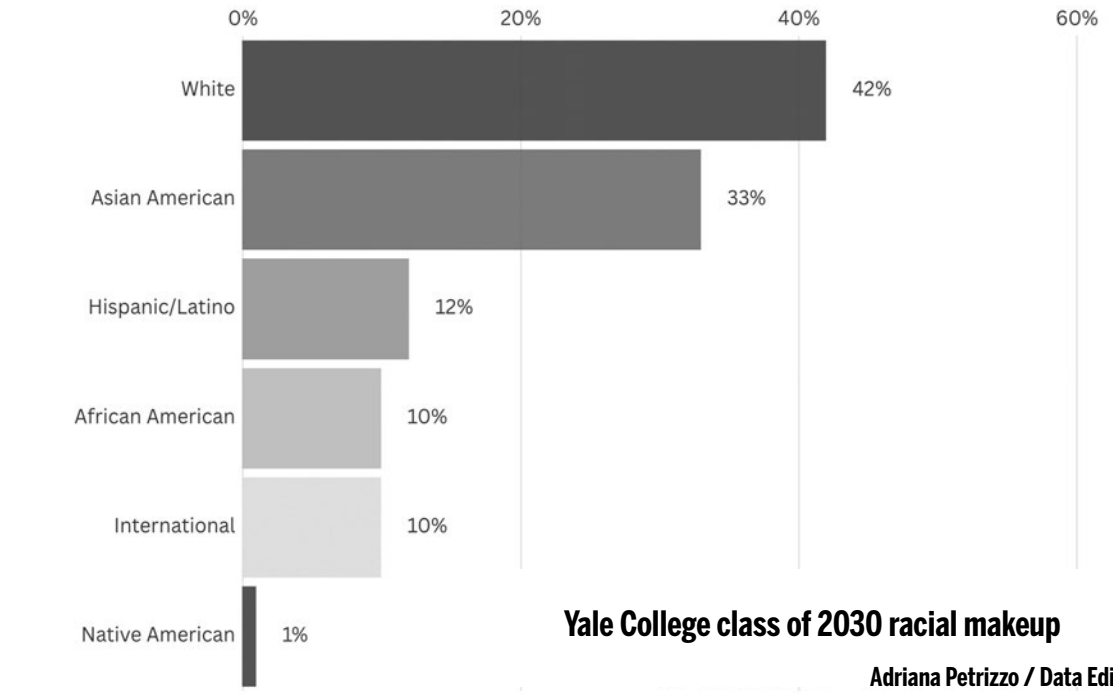
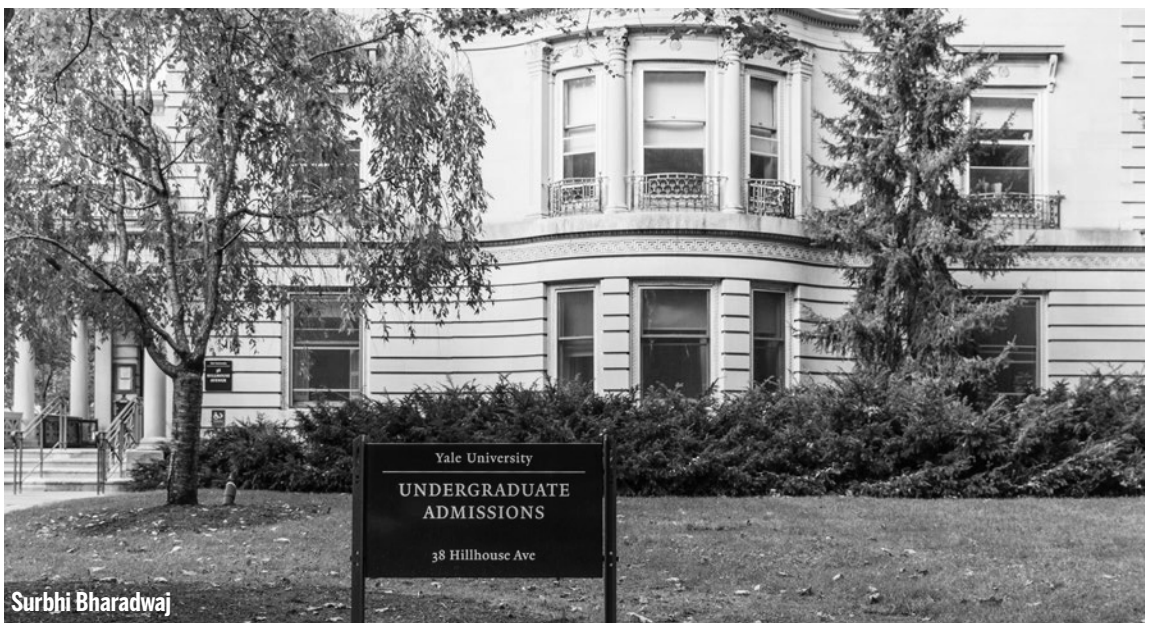
FROM THE FRONT

"I slept in last night's clothes and tomorrow's dreams."
UMA THURMAN FALL OUT BOYS

African American, Hispanic percentages fell slightly



Yale College class of 2030 racial makeup
Adriana Petrizzo / Data Editor



Surbhi Bharadwaj

2030 FROM PAGE 1

According to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions' first-year class profile, 12 percent of the class of 2030 is Hispanic or Latino and 10 percent is African American.

Ten percent of students are international, and 42 percent and 33 percent are white and Asian American, respectively — marking a slight increase in the proportion of Asian American students and decrease in the proportion of white students compared to last year.

One percent of the current class of first years is Native American — a decline from the 3 percent of matriculated students for each of the last five years.

The numbers do not sum to 100 percent because 16 percent of domestic students selected two or more races.

This May, the Justice Department accused the Yale School of Medicine of racial discrimination, arguing that the racial composition of admitted classes remained largely unchanged after the end of affirmative action. While the department has not released a letter of findings against Yale College, the college is under investigation and Yale is sharing admissions data with the government, according to Yale President Maurie McInnis.

"As part of their investigations, they have requested data, as they have a legal right to do," McInnis said in a September interview, referring to the inquiry into all three schools. "We have submitted the data that has been requested that they are legally allowed to request."

Yale is currently negotiating with the Justice Department over the medical school findings, but the department has not released findings into Yale College, and undergraduate admissions are not part of the negotiations, according to McInnis.

The class of 2030 is the first one admitted after the Trump administration this year began wielding the 2023 ruling to level accusations of discrimination against elite colleges, including Yale — an interpretation which some experts have said exceeds the scope of the Supreme Court decision.

Kevin Brown LAW '82, a law professor at South Carolina University, said in an interview before the most recent class breakdown by race was released that he expects to see a downturn in the number of Black and Hispanic students admitted across elite colleges in the class of 2030. He said the Biden administration did not enforce the decision in Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard as strictly as the Trump administration has.

The 2023 Supreme Court ruling left the door open for students to write about race in admissions essays and describe how their identity has impacted their experiences.

The class of 2030 was admitted in the final admissions cycle in which standardized testing will be optional.

When applying to Yale, 92 percent of the class of 2030 submitted an SAT score, an ACT score or both.

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City planning 'great revival' for Lighthouse Point Park

LIGHTHOUSE FROM PAGE 1

"It was pretty devastating in terms of the damage that you saw," Webster said. "The hurricane in 1938 was the last time we saw this level of impact to this park space."

During the park's closure, 27 scheduled events were cancelled or relocated, including 11 weddings. The human impact is one reason why Webster's goal was "to get the park back open, as soon as possible."

"You come out here, you feel like you're a little bit removed from the city," said Webster. "It's our responsibility to protect that opportunity for people."

Climate change to blame

The storm that shut down Lighthouse Point Park was one of at least five major rain storms in New Haven this summer, according to Webster. He attributed the increase in extreme weather — more frequent and intense rain compared to past years — to climate change, given that it is occurring at "such a regular and consistent basis."

"When you have warmer conditions and a hotter atmosphere, it just stores more water," Webster said. "All that evaporation is just collecting, collecting, collecting, until it gets so heavy that it falls out of the sky in these massive torrents and rain events."

According to Yale Climate Connections, trees help water percolate into the soil, and roots hold soil in place, reducing erosion. With fewer trees due to the storms, Lighthouse Point Park is vulnerable to worsening flood erosion and damage. Reduced canopy also means less shade and more abrasive sunlight for park goers.

Trees also have a sentimental value to many New Haveners who frequented Lighthouse Point Park, Webster said. Although some fallen trees are being turned into wood chips, the Parks Department is considering how to bring new life to the trees as park benches or wood products.

"A lot of those trees are really important and meaningful to people," Webster said. "They've come out here and they've measured their lives by those trees, special events that have been in the shadows of those trees."

Building back better

For the past several months, even before the storm, the Parks Department has collaborated with the Yale Urban Design Workshop in an ongoing effort to redesign the park.

The park is continuing long-term restoration and site development with the workshop, with plans to reroute walkways and restore the historic carousel building.

Harwell, the executive director of the workshop, said rebuilding the carousel building would require reaching an agreement between the insurance company, the state historic preservation office and the city's floodplain regulations.

"There's now some tension between the desire to build it back," said Harwell. "The problem is, one shouldn't really build it back in the floodplain because that means that it'll probably get damaged again."

Webster estimated that on any given day since the storm, about 15 people worked to return the park to safe conditions, involving both park staff and contractors assisting with tree removal. The Parks Department is still securing funds for those repairs, expected to cost millions of dollars, officials told News 8.

The over-100 year-old park has invaluable historical, ecological and community significance. The park receives 3,000 to 5,000 weekly summer visitors, including New Haven residents and Yale students, Webster estimated.

Julien Amsellem '27, the co-president of the Yale Birding Student Association, has visited the park monthly since his first year.

"For decades now, the Lighthouse Point Hawkwatch has served as a pillar of Connecticut birding," Amsellem wrote in an email to the News. "Having the park closed has been a real shame, since the hawkwatch has not been able to start at its usual date in late-August."

As Amsellem and other visitors return to enjoying the park, city officials and the Yale Urban Design Workshop are still striving to improve the visitor experience.

"It's going to be a great revival," Harwell said.

Lighthouse Point Park is open year-round from 7 a.m. to sunset.

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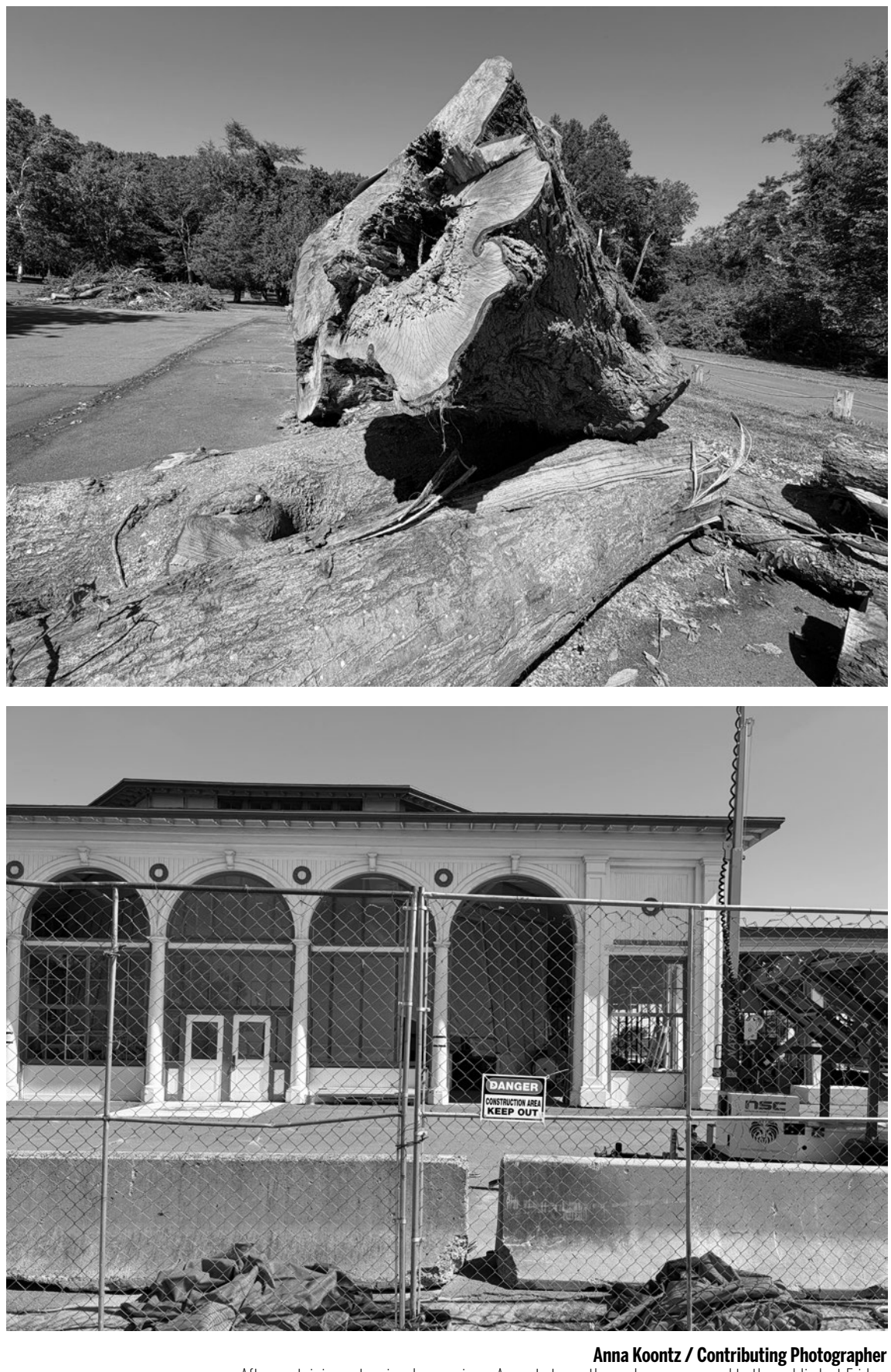

Anna Koontz / Contributing Photographer
After sustaining extensive damage in an August storm, the park was reopened to the public last Friday.