NEWS

"But I set fire to the rain, watched it pour as I touched your face"
SET FIRE TO THE RAIN BY ADELE

Student removed for 'falsified' application information

BY OLIVIA CYRUS AND JOLYNDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Yale rescinded the admission of a Davenport College first year after administrators concluded that she included falsehoods in her college application, according to a Yale College spokesperson.

The student was escorted out of Lanman-Wright Hall by a Yale Police Department officer and Davenport Head of College Anjelica Gonzalez on Friday afternoon, one of her suitemates told the News.

The Yale College spokesperson, Paul McKinley, wrote in statements to the News that the student "submitted falsified information" and "misrepresented themselves" in their application.

"Yale receives thousands of admissions applications each year and the process relies on the honesty of the applicants," McKinley wrote.

He did not elaborate or respond to the News' question about how the University discovered the misrepresentations more than a month after first years arrived on campus. The nature of the removed student's misrepresentations were unknown.

Davenport Dean Adam Ployd called the student Katherina Lynn in an email to her remaining suitemates obtained by the News.

On move-in day last month, Lynn arrived unaccompanied with only one suitcase, according to Sara Bashker '29, a suitemate who was present at the time.

"She seemed a bit quiet and reserved at the beginning," Bashker said.

Lynn initially said she was from North Dakota. On the Yale Face Book, where Lynn remained listed on Sunday night, her address corresponds to that of a hotel in the small town of Tioga, N.D.

Bashker said that at different points during her time at Yale, Lynn also mentioned residing in California, China and Canada.

Bashker recounted returning from orientation programs and gathering with the rest of her suitemates to discuss their first-year experiences so far. While Bashker and her other suitemates talked about their crushes and romantic interests, Lynn said she had a boyfriend in his 30s who lived in the San Francisco Bay Area, Bashker said.

Bashker recalled that Lynn said she was in a "BDSM relationship" in which she played a dominant role over the man. Bashker estimated that Lynn was on the phone with her partner for three to four hours a day at Yale.

Reached by phone, Lynn declined to comment for this article. The other two suitemates declined to be interviewed.

Lynn told Bashker that she simultaneously sought out other potential sexual partners through the website FetLife. She told the group that she was going to bring a middle-aged man she met on the website to the suite, Bashker said.

To Bashker's knowledge, Lynn never brought to the suite a man with whom she had sexual relations.

Bashker said she was in the middle of folding her laundry on Friday afternoon when the police officer and Gonzalez, the head of college, came to the suite. The two told Lynn to pack her belongings, Bashker said, and the officer watched Lynn pack.

Gonzalez, before exiting, asked Bashker and her roommate if they were all right and offered Yale College Community Care, or YC3, mental health resources.

Later on Friday, Ployd, the Davenport dean, wrote to the remaining members of the suite that Lynn "withdrew from Yale College" and "will not be returning."

Gonzalez and Ployd did not respond to the News' requests for comment. Yale Police Chief Anthony Campbell '95 DIV '09 declined to comment and referred the News to McKinley's statement.

Abdel Abdu '29, who also lives in Lanman-Wright, or L-Dub, said he watched from outside the residential building as Lynn was escorted out.

Marco Getchell '29, a member of the same FroCo group as Lynn, recounted Lynn seeming relatively nice, quiet, and reserved in their conversation together.

"This was shocking to me," Getchell said. "From an outsider's view, this was completely unexpected."

This school year, Lanman-Wright Hall houses first years in Grace Hopper College as well as Davenport.



SARAH RIVAS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

A Davenport College first year was escorted off of Old Campus on Friday after Yale rescinded her admission, citing misrepresentations on her application.

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Yale sent donor money to Israeli military backer. Why?

BY ORION KIM
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Endowment Justice Collective alleged on Instagram Thursday morning that Yale donated $1 million to an organization backing the Israeli military through a donor-advised fund.

Tina Posterli, a Yale spokesperson, confirmed the "distribution" to Friends of the Israel Defense Forces was made in November 2023, one month after Israel became a subject of campus controversy following Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel and the subsequent launch of Israel's war in Gaza.

In its Instagram post, which has received more than 3,400 likes, the Endowment Justice Collective criticized Yale's apparent role in financially supporting Israel's war in Gaza.

Yale's distribution of funds to Friends of the Israel Defense Forces was made through a donor-advised fund, which allows donors to make initial tax-deductible contributions directly to Yale that are then invested and managed by the Yale Investments Office. The donor may recommend that their funds be distributed among specific areas of Yale or other charitable organizations.

"Part of the funds remain at Yale and part of the funds may go to one or more other charitable organizations," Posterli said about the donor-advised funds.

Karen Peart, another Yale spokesperson, wrote to the News that a donor-advised fund is one of many donation options for a small subset of donors. Yale reviews the donors' recommendations for where their donations go and "approves distribution of funds to qualified charitable organizations."

The charities are approved if they are U.S.-based 501(c)(3) organizations, a type of nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as exempt from federal income tax, Posterli said.

At least half of the funds donated through donor-advised funds and any appreciation or income attributed to those amounts must be designated for use at Yale, according to documents posted on University webpages. Furthermore, a webpage on Yale's For Humanity campaign website says that the minimum initial gift for a donor-advised fund is $5 million dollars.

Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, a New York City-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, collects charitable donations on behalf of the soldiers of Israel's military, according to its website.

The Thursday Instagram post from the Endowment Justice Collective, which advocates for Yale to divest "from fossil fuels, distressed debt, military weapons, and other extractive and exploitative industries," pointed to Yale's tax filings from the fiscal year ending in June 2024, using its 990 Form Schedule I, which is publicly available online.

On the tax form, Yale is listed as making the donation to Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. The source of the donor-advised fund was not named, and the News was unable to identify the original donor.

Yale's 990 Form shows that it made three other donor-advised fund disbursements in the 2024 fiscal year — $10,000 to the Alliance for Middle East Peace, $500,000 to the Wonderland Educational Estate Association and $1,294,284 to Yale New Haven Hospital.

According to Mitchell Kane, a professor of taxation at New York University School of Law, donor-advised fund sponsors like Yale "almost never" decline to follow a donor's recommended disbursement.

"This will inevitably result in the university making transfers out of the endowment to 501c3 organizations that act in politically charged ways—this at a time when the historic need for universities as institutions to remain agnostic on political stances is greater than ever," Kane wrote to the News.

However, Yale does have veto power over donors' preferences for how their donor-advised funds are distributed, former Vice President for Development Charles Pagnam wrote to the News in 2001. Pagnam added that "it is unlikely the University and the donor will disagree about how the money will be used."

Previously, a landing page on Yale's Office of Planned Giving's website included a document with information about making donations through donor-advised funds, according to Diego Loustaunau '27, an organizer with the Endowment Justice Collective, who shared the old document with the News.

Loustaunau said the landing page was taken down on Thursday and reuploaded on Saturday without the donor-advised fund informational document. The News could not confirm when the website was edited.

According to Peart, the Office of Development, which is responsible for University fundraising, uses a third party to manage the Planned Giving microsite, and it takes several days for updates to take effect.

"We have recently changed vendors, and the entire site is under review as we prepare for the conclusion of the campaign and relaunch of Development sites in June 2026," Peart wrote.

A new document explaining donor-advised funds, which Peart shared, is "in queue" to be loaded onto the Planned Giving site, the spokesperson wrote.

Several changes were made to the updated document. The updated version was revised to explain that Yale donor-advised funds offer the tax advantages of giving to a "public charity" — which is Yale — rather than to a "non-profit organization." The last line of the old document, which says donors can make charitable distributions from a donor-advised fund anonymously, is removed from the updated document.

According to Loustaunau, the Endowment Justice Collective regularly studies Yale's financial documents as part of its mission to hold the University accountable to its students and its stated values.

In its Instagram post about Yale's distribution of funds to Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, the Endowment Justice Collective also asked viewers to donate to a mutual aid fund for Palestinian families in Gaza.

The Endowment Justice Collective was previously known as the Endowment Justice Coalition.

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Hiring pause set to end after denting college staffing, dean says

BY OLIVIA WOO
STAFF REPORTER

The hiring pause implemented by Yale in June is nearing its end.

For Yale College, the freeze has resulted in a small decrease in the number of employees after three months without new searches to fill staff vacancies.

"There's some number of people who might have been hired over the summer who weren't hired over the summer," Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis said in a Monday interview. "And so we're maybe 3 or 4 percent smaller than we otherwise would have been, and that's a very rough estimate."

The Yale College Dean's Office oversees the hiring of staff members in admissions and financial aid, student affairs, student engagement, undergraduate education and career services.

The hiring pause was an anticipatory response to federal legislation that ultimately increased the tax on the University's endowment gains from 1.4 percent to 8 percent.

Lewis said the hiring freeze, originally billed as a 90-day policy, would end on Tuesday, Sept. 30 — 92 days after it went into effect.

"It is my expectation that we're probably going to be able to let it expire at the end of the month," University President Maurie McInnis said of the hiring pause in a Friday interview with the News.

The June 30 letter announcing the pause — which was signed by Provost Scott Strobel, Senior Vice President for Operations Jack Callahan Jr. and Chief Financial Officer Stephen Murphy — clarified that even after the pause began, faculty hiring processes would be allowed to continue under the supervision of the provost and academic deans.

Lewis said student jobs are funded through non-salary expenses, which will be reduced across the University by 5 percent starting this year. Hiring for student jobs was not affected by the pause this summer, he said.

According to Lewis, a number of positions in Yale College that became vacant as early as two months before the pause was announced have remained empty. Once the pause is lifted, however, the Yale College Dean's Office may not immediately choose to hire for all roles that had once been filled.

"They're down a couple of people in admissions, and we're going to see how they do," Lewis said. "They work very hard, and I'm sure they're going to do a good job, but the admission staff is a little smaller than it was a year ago."

The Dean's Office will be able to begin hiring for vacant roles on Wednesday, Lewis said.

"For each of the people managing different parts of Yale College, I've asked them to have a sustainable plan for how they're going to pay for the level of staff that they expect to have over the next few years," Lewis said. "So if they don't have such a plan, we won't hire in that area, and they can't just hire on their own."

Students have already expressed concerns about the hiring pause affecting undergraduate life. The pottery studio general manager position was left vacant this summer, leaving the five residential college pottery studios unable to host open hours for students.

The June letter announcing the 90-day pause clarified that clinical positions in the School of Medicine and grant-funded roles across the University would not be affected by the freeze. Faculty hiring processes remained under the discretion of Strobel and academic deans.

According to Lewis, most faculty hiring occurs in accordance with a regular annual timeline, with professorship advertisements posted in the fall and final hiring decisions made the following July. Because the pause occurred between July and September, it did not overlap with this typical timeline for hiring new faculty.

"There's a separate process to carefully review professorship applications, which tend to take a lot longer than staff applications, and to make sure that the units can afford them," Lewis said.

Yale College staff hiring requires a fraction of the time. Lewis said that if a staff position that was left empty due to a pause needed to be urgently filled, the hiring process for that role could conclude only a few months after the freeze was lifted.

The 8 percent endowment tax increase will take effect for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31.

Isobel McClure contributed reporting.

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BRADEN MATHIS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The hiring freeze, set to expire Tuesday after three months, was an anticipatory response to budget constraints expected to result from an endowment tax increase.