OPINION

GUEST COLUMNIST

MADDY CORSON

We are all Jane Doe

Content warning: This article mentions sexual violence.

SHARE is available to all members of the Yale community who are dealing with sexual misconduct of any kind, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence and more. Counselors are available any time, day or night, at the 24/7 hotline: (203) 432-2000.

More than 50 fraternity brothers shared a group chat. Seven of them allegedly perpetrated acts of gang rape against a fellow student known as Jane Doe. Two were expelled. The other five fulfilled an essay requirement.

The outrage at the so-called Cornell Seven is warranted. But mere outrage — in this case, a slew of black-text Instagram posts and a feature story on the nightly news — continually falls short and fails survivors.

Last year, I reported a man who'd recently acquired a position of power in the Yale community. I was told by a Yale administrator that my story wasn't enough to invalidate his role — one which required extensive contact with others, a steady temperament and an ability to discern the difference between yes and no. In fact, I had informed the relevant officials before his hiring, warning that the role would place him in close contact with young women. My pleas were rejected.

> IF WE MEAN IT WHEN WE SAY WE ARE ALL JANE DOE, OUTRAGE IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

I had reported an assault. An administrator responded as if I'd been dumped: one day, I'd find my "special man," they assured me, verbatim. They added that I would make a good consent educator. I sat there in shock, waiting for an explanation of what that could possibly mean. The administrator provided no such clarification.

The person I had reported was trusted to tell yes from no. I was offered a way to teach it.

I keep hearing the now-cliche phrase, "not all men." It's a rhetorical crutch that shields the complicit from accountability. Yes, not all of the more than 50 fraternity brothers in that group chat inflicted direct, definitional violence upon Jane Doe. But who among them spoke out? How many read the "free pussy" message and questioned it? Which ones witnessed and did something, did anything? With an n of 50, "not all men" is not an adequate answer.

I see this in my own story, too. In the weeks and months that followed a series of repeated assaults, I catalogued every instance of violence inflicted upon me in the back of an old notebook. I sat up straight in my bed, my pen shaking as I pulled my hand across the yellowed, lined pages. Nearly half a year later, I contacted a confidential sexual assault hotline run by the University. In a meeting with my counselor and an official from the Title IX Office, I recounted, page by page, what I had survived.

In response, I was told that bringing my case before a disciplinary committee would most likely result in an unfavorable outcome.

Jane Doe ultimately left Cornell. I, too, sought time away from campus after my sexual assault, and was fortunate to have institutional support in making that decision. I wasn't only seeking separation from the person who hurt me. Rather, I needed distance from a community that had tolerated that violence — a community that, as the Cornell institutional response demonstrates, was not singular in its indifference to sexual violence.

The Title IX officers who sat across from me were doing what the system allows. That is my indictment: the system allows so little. Survivor support is the backend of a structure built to shield the University from scrutiny and protect its most privileged members from liability. That's exactly why I'm not surprised by what Cornell did — or, rather, failed to do — for Jane Doe: not because I accept it but because I have lived it. Two expulsions do not themselves demonstrate a system built to protect survivors; such responses raise more fundamental questions about whether accountability is an institutional priority.

Jane Doe deserves more than our indignation. She deserves friends who refuse to exploit her. She deserves a community which protects and heals her, rather than covers up its own shortcomings. And, most of all, she deserves a system that is designed from the start to prevent such violence from happening, and when it fails in this regard, responds with justice rather than an essay requirement.

Outrage is easy; the Instagram stories will fade, and the news cycle will move on. Jane Doe will not. If we mean it when we say we are all Jane Doe, outrage is only the beginning.

More than 50 men were in that group chat. The next time — trust me, there will be a next time — someone might speak. And the next time, there must be a system built to listen and respond. That means consequences that match findings so that no sexual assault ends with an essay. It means independent review so that the office supporting survivors isn't bound to the same institution whose interests it may be called upon to criticize. And, it means holding organizations accountable, both within and beyond the University, for the violence they enable and the silence they reward.

We are all Jane Doe. Let that be a promise, not a caption.

MADDY CORSON *is pursuing a dual bachelor's degree and master's of public policy degree at Yale College and the Jackson School of Global Affairs. She can be reached at maddy.corson@yale.edu.*

GUEST COLUMNIST

NICHOLAS SKEVIS

U.S. jobs can be for foreign students

Over the past two years the United States government has dedicated itself to restricting the access of foreigners to American higher education and amplifying the bureaucratic roadblocks for those already admitted to American universities. This makes it all but surprising that Immigrations and Customs Enforcement is now enforcing a stricter interpretation of Curricular Practical Training — or CPT — regulations. In complying, Yale thus would restrict international students' access to the American internship market. Tom Dawber '28 in his piece argues in support of this restriction, citing that "American jobs should go to Americans first."

It should be noted here that American jobs already go to American students first. International students are disadvantaged in the internship market, since, as Sullivan Ho '29 discusses in his column, companies have to assume additional administrative and immigration-related burdens to hire them. So, restricting CPT is not a question of prioritizing Americans, but rather of adding additional obstacles in the path of international students.

It is true that international students benefit from CPT: for many degrees, practical training or research is an essential component to the undergraduate education — irrespective of whether it is in the mandatory curriculum. From aspiring graduate school applicants who have the opportunity to conduct research in prestigious universities through summer programs, to engineers and pre-med students, CPT is a major incentive to come and study in the United States. Moreover, it is not as if America is not receiving anything in return. If anything, the benefits far outweigh the costs.

Besides the common talking points on the matter, that international students contribute billions of dollars to the American economy, promote diversity and give American universities the opportunity to brag about admitting "the best in the world," integrating foreign students in the United States' institutions is integral to America's geopolitical position. Ensuring that the world's future leaders receive an American education helps build long-lasting relationships between the United States and other countries and bet that the graduates of its universities will, if nothing else, be more sympathetic to American dominance.

For example, in my home country and close ally, Greece, five out of the last six non-caretaker prime ministers have been American educated. Within the past couple of years, though, the image of America as a destination for higher education has changed drastically. Restrictions in international students' lives, increased scrutiny and difficulties in obtaining visas have resulted in potential candidates thinking twice before applying. Common App's data showed a 10 percent decrease in international applications in the 2025-2026 application cycle. Restricting CPT stands to further disincentivize the next generation of world leaders from choosing the United States as an option for their studies.

Of course, the damage caused by this decision is not limited to higher education itself. In defending the government's proposed restriction on CPT, Dawber writes: "America isn't the land of limitless opportunity that it once was. The frontier is closed, the cities are full, the suburbs are unaffordable and there aren't enough places in the 21st century job market for those of us who are already here."

Aside from the obvious point that the frontier has been closed for well over a century, his point contains certain truths. America, along with most of the Western world, is facing a period of economic uncertainty — maybe even a period of stagnation in comparison to its rival China. However, restricting international students and scholars does not solve the problem. If anything, it exacerbates it.

America won the Cold War on the premise that free market capitalism and liberal democracy are superior to planned economies and state interventionism. Yet, when faced with a new geopolitical rival it seems to move away from these principles. Hostility to international students contradicts America's foundational business model.

By removing restrictions and fostering free market competition in the job market, the United States has thus far been able to attract talent from all around the world, talent that was then absorbed by research and industry alike. Regulating who companies can hire — especially when it comes to positions that require skilled professionals — ultimately forces companies to restrict themselves to a smaller applicant pool, while opening the door to its competitors, most notably China, to take their pick from students America spent years educating.

Thus the problem with the potential restrictions in CPT is twofold. On the one hand, it leaves currently matriculated international students in a state of uncertainty. No CPT means that we will have to search for internships and research positions abroad, with all the additional bureaucratic, practical and financial complications associated with such an endeavor.

On the other hand, limiting opportunities for CPT will inevitably result in prospective students choosing destinations in Europe, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada or — as stated before — even China for their professional and academic pursuits, much to the detriment of American academia and economy alike. It is under these circumstances that Yale has to choose between maintaining its CPT program — and thus both supporting international students and doing what is best for the nation long term — and capitulating to ICE to avoid a confrontation with the federal government. We can only hope that its choice will be remembered as the correct one.

NICHOLAS SKEVIS *is a sophomore in Timothy Dwight studying physics. He can be reached at nicholas.skevis@yale.edu*

STAFF COLUMNIST

HANNAH OWENS PIERRE

Clean up the trash

It's an all-too-familiar sight: as I walk to class from Science Hill, I pass heaping piles of trash. Garbage cans near Beineke overflow with half-eaten food and cardboard boxes. Discarded wrappers and flyers blow across the street from the New Haven Green. Yale has begun to resemble a garbage dump.

The contrast is striking; the picturesque beauty of Yale's gothic architecture appears grey and flat when lined with filth. And yet we tolerate these conditions. Why?

I see Yale's trash problem as one small instance of a larger issue in our society: the decline of social cohesion and, with it, a sense of responsibility toward our fellow citizens. Robert Putnam GRD '65 '70 diagnosed part of this problem in his bestselling book Bowling Alone, published more than two decades ago, arguing that Americans were becoming increasingly atomized. Young people today increasingly reject forms of social cohesion entirely, as declining rates of patriotism illustrate.

Yet social cohesion is essential to maintaining our social norms. Society functions only when people follow the rules — both the formal rules written into law and the informal rules that make everyday life pleasant, such as that one ought to wait for an empty trash can to discard their belongings when the nearest one is full. We are more likely to follow those rules when we feel a sense of responsibility toward the people around us. Absent social cohesion, we feel inclined to disregard the norms in pursuit of a marginal selfish gain.

We see this in the domain of shopping carts. A simple moral norm states that we ought to put the shopping cart away after we use it. When we feel a strong sense of community, this rule is easy to obey. But as we begin to privilege ourselves and reject our role in the broader society, the rule becomes a seemingly arbitrary nuisance.

Likewise, in the domain of trash, I am not the first to observe that Yale students feel disconnected from one another. Richie George '27, writing in the News, noted that students commonly ignore people whom they know on the street, feeling that it is not worth the effort to greet those who are not in their immediate social circle. Perhaps we obey the unspoken rules of social decency when it comes to our close friends, but we are all too willing to pass on hardship to a stranger in the form of social isolation or discarded trash.

In doing so, however, we unwittingly harm ourselves. When we toss our used tissue on the ground below the trash can, we encourage the breakdown of this simple social norm. It feels distinctly wrong to be the first person to place an empty cardboard box on the top of the garbage can, but perfectly fine to be the 50th person to do so.

This is how social norms deteriorate. Each individual act may seem insignificant, but the decline of social cohesion leaves us all worse off, living in a lonelier and dirtier city.

Of course, this isn't the only problem driving Yale's abundance of trash. Much of the blame belongs to Yale itself. One might ask why Yale doesn't simply provide more trash cans. But the number of trash cans makes little difference if they are not consistently emptied. With Yale tuition now costing $94,100, it should be easy for the school to pay workers enough to regularly empty the garbage cans, right?

Apparently not. The trash cans remain filled, day in and day out, and people continue to pile up trash. Whatever the source of this administrative neglect, the result is the same: an unpleasant environment for students and community members alike.

Yet even if Yale gets its act together and empties the trash cans more regularly, students will still have to resist the temptation to fill a garbage can to the rim between collection shifts. We cannot outsource every act of civic responsibility to university employees. Keeping our shared spaces clean requires something from us: a simple sense of responsibility toward our community and a willingness to follow the unspoken rules that make communal life possible.

The trash piling up around Yale and New Haven may seem like a trivial problem. It isn't. Not only is trash destroying the beauty of our school and spreading disease, it is also a reflection of how we think about our obligations to one another.

HANNAH OWENS PIERRE *is a junior in Benjamin Franklin College studying ethics, politics and economics and psychology. Her column examines Yale policies and broader politics. She can be reached at hannah.owenspierre@yale.edu.*

Yale Daily News

YALE DAILY NEWS PUBLISHING CO., INC. 202 York Street, New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 432-2400
Editorial: (203) 432-2418 editor@yaledailynews.com Business: (203) 432-2424 business@yaledailynews.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF & PRESIDENT
Asher Boiskin

MANAGING EDITORS
Jaeha Jang
Olivia Woo
Reeti Malhotra

PUBLISHER
Henry Hoak

DIRECTOR OF AFFAIRS
Kate Soo Hyun Kim

UNIVERSITY EDITORS
Olivia Cyrus
Jerry Gao
Henry Liu
Isobel McClure

CITY EDITORS
Elijah Hurewitz-Ravitch
Sabrina Thaler

ARTS EDITORS
Kiva Bank
Gemard Guery

INVESTIGATIONS EDITORS
Sasha Hurowitz

SPORTS EDITORS
Liza Kaufman
Walter Royal

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITORS
Michelle So
Hari Viswanathan

OPINION EDITORS
Manu Bosteels
Rohil Mohan

WEEKEND EDITORS
Stephanie Altschul
Hana Tilksew

MAGAZINE EDITORS IN CHIEF
Ethan Kan
Claire Nam

HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Martín Peralta

HEAD PRODUCTION & DESIGN EDITOR
Ezra Helfand

HEAD COPY EDITOR
Nate Stein

ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR
Rana Roosevelt

HEAD PODCASTS EDITOR
Amiya Vashi

DATA EDITOR
Adriana Petrizzo

HEAD AUDIENCE EDITOR
Emily Seo

THIS ISSUE COPY EDITORS: Ruby Nichols, Clare Griffin, Maria Gregory; P&D STAFFERS: Lucy Bland, Jolynda Wang, Delilah Sonnenshein, Allison Palmer, Cyrus Turner, Liliana Dumas, Willow Mintz, Kalina Sabala Montes, Aria Lynn-Skov

EDITORIALS & ADS
Content on this page with bylines represents the opinions of those authors and not necessarily those of the Managing Board. Opinions set forth in ads do not necessarily reflect the views of the Managing Board. We reserve the right to refuse any ad for any reason and to delete or change any copy we consider objectionable, false or in poor taste. We do not verify the contents of any ad. The Yale Daily News Publishing Co., Inc. and its officers, employees and agents disclaim any responsibility for all liabilities, injuries or damages arising from any ad. The Yale Daily News Publishing Co. ISSN 0890-2240

SUBMISSIONS
All letters submitted for publication must include the author's name, phone number and description of Yale University affiliation. Please limit letters to 250 words and guest columns to 750. The Yale Daily News reserves the right to edit letters and columns before publication. E-mail is the preferred method of submission.

ISSUES PRINTED BY
Valley Publishing Co, Derby, CT

DIGITAL ARCHIVE
YDNHistorical.Library.Yale.edu

ADVERTISEMENT
(203) 432-2424 (before 5 p.m.)
business@yaledailynews.com

Direct all letters, columns, artwork and inquiries to:
Contact the Opinion Editors at
opinion@yaledailynews.com

Direct all comments regarding the fairness or accuracy of stories to:
Asher Boiskin
Editor in Chief & President
editor@yaledailynews.com

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT COPYRIGHT 2026 — VOL. CXLIX, NO. 9