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Yale investigated for alleged visa fraud

BY ARIA LYNN-SKOV AND LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTERS

Yale is among nine American universities under investigation for alleged visa fraud, Vice President JD Vance LAW '13 announced at a White House press conference on Thursday.

Vance claimed that the universities are using J-1 visas, offered through a State Department pProgram for educational and cultural exchange, to undercut American students and researchers' wages. In 2024, there were 1,917 scholars on J-1 visas at Yale, with an additional 26 with J-1 visas approved by a third party, according to the most recent data reported by Yale's Office of International Students & Scholars.

"Something weird is going on at these universities. They're using these visas way too much," Vance said, listing the nine universities, including Yale, that he said merit an investigation. "They're using them to undercut the wages of American grad students and American researchers and it simply has to stop."

The J-1 visa is more common for postdoctoral students and researchers, according to an OISS webpage. In a Thursday statement to the News, Ozan Say, the OISS's director, said the University is "committed to full compliance with federal rules concerning visas, including the requirements for J-1 visas." The statement was provided through Yale's central communications office.

During the press conference, Vance stood alongside U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Stephen Miller, Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling, Labor Department Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito and Fed-

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Martín Peralta / Head Photography Editor

Yale denies fault in fatal accident


Liza Kaufman / Photography Editor

BY NAUSICAA CHU
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

After the family of the landscaper who died last year while working on Yale's golf course sued the University, alleging "carelessness and negligence," Yale is now claiming in court that the contractor who employed the landscaper should be responsible for any damages and injuries.

But three residents of Conrad Drive, the golf course's only exit road and where Luis Alberto Moracho Marcatoma was fatally electrocuted in August 2025, said the incident was not the first time a tree on their street had taken down a power line. They recalled trees on Conrad Drive — which straddles University and New Haven properties — taking out their electricity on several occasions and said they frequently flagged the hazardous trees before Marcatoma's death.

"Prior to the landscaper's death, we had many conversations with Yale Golf Course personnel and with the City of New Haven requesting that trees be trimmed and/or removed to prevent trees from taking down power lines," Joel Abraman, who has lived on Con-

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Ticket lottery leaves many upset

BY LUCY BENJAMIN AND ELI RATNER
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER AND STAFF REPORTER

Aahana Mehta-Vasisht '27 and her friends were sitting together at Commons on Monday around midday when Yale Athletics released its lottery results for a ticket to their final Harvard-Yale game as undergraduates.

None of them had clenched a spot.

"It's a very disheartening experience for a lot of people that didn't get tickets, but especially for seniors,"

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Liza Kaufman / Photography Editor

Contrasting Oct. 7 displays held

BY SARAH RIVAS
STAFF REPORTER

As the sun shined across Yale's central campus on Wednesday afternoon, pro-Israel and pro-Palestine groups hosted dueling political displays on the third anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attacks in Israel.

Three years ago Wednesday, Hamas launched an attack on Israel that killed around 1,200 people and took more than 250 hostages, triggering the war in Gaza. The Israeli military has since killed around 74,000 people, including at least 1,400 who were killed after a ceasefire that took effect last October and ended major fighting.

On Wednesday, Yale Friends of Israel and Chabad at Yale held a memorial of remembrance on Cross Campus, setting up a long table and empty chairs in the middle of the lawn to symbolize killed Israelis.

Meanwhile, on Beinecke Plaza, only a few hundred feet away, members of Yalies4Palestine displayed five large posters with artwork and

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Kailyn Huynh / Contributing Photographer


Courtesy of Jacob Schonberger

Yale turns 325 in Elm City, not birthplace

BY NELLIE KENNEY AND DIYA SHRISHRIMAL
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

OLD SAYBROOK, Conn. — 325 years ago today, the Connecticut colony gave a group of reverends permission to found the school that would eventually become Yale. It wasn't in New Haven.

The University, which has spent three centuries settling into its now-home city after moving from its original site in Old Saybrook, announced in March that it would give $230 million in voluntary payments to New Haven over the next seven years. But in 1716, it was the city that offered money to Yale — between £1,500 and £2,000 — in a bid to bring Yale to New Haven rather than Hartford.

In its early years, Yale was "very much a Connecticut institution," New Haven city historian Michael Morand '87 DIV '93 said in a September interview. Morand said that although it was "independent," Yale was founded by a public act and received much of its early funding from the state.

Several Connecticut towns were involved in Yale's founding, including Branford, Clinton and Old Saybrook. Old Saybrook, then called Saybrook, was chosen as the first site for the school because it was "convenient to both shore and river towns," according to a brochure from the Old Saybrook Historical Society.

The school's early attendance was sparse, however. Yale's largest graduating class while in Saybrook was only nine students, according to "Yale: a History," a book by Brooks Mather Kelley. For months, Yale had only one student, Jacob Heminway, according to a Yale Alumni Magazine article by Judith Ann Schiff, former chief research archivist for the University's library.

Trustees decided to move the College from Saybrook in 1715, triggering a fierce bidding war between towns and a contest over who would keep the college's books.

In their respective efforts to house

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Conservatives split about speech

BY SASHA CABRAL AND SARAH RIVAS
STAFF REPORTERS

Diego Victoria '27, the vice president of Yale's chapter of Turning Point USA, said he believes "the R in Republican does not stand for racist."

Victoria, a Mexican Catholic, said his religious upbringing informed his conservative views and pro-life beliefs. His other conservative views include supporting the nuclear family and opposing anti-diversity initiatives.

"I think like DEI as a whole is, especially in colleges, very racist," Victoria said. "You're excluding a certain group and it's assuming that just because you're one race or another, you do have a struggle or you don't. And so I just think it's ridiculous."

Several conservative students of color at Yale who espouse ideologies similar to Victoria's said they often find themselves self-censoring their beliefs in Yale classrooms, where they are surrounded by liberal peers. They said their ethnic identities do not necessarily inform how they engage with politics on campus.

Mór Szepesi '27, a Hungarian international student with Malian heritage, said that being conservative at Yale has taught him how to communicate across the aisle. Szepezi, the former Yale Political Union president and chairman of the Party of the Right, refuted the notion that being a student at Yale means succumbing to institutional political doctrines.

Szepesi said he does not believe Yale engages in an "institutional" push of political ideas, largely thanks to the University's commitment to institutional neutrality. In 2024, Yale President Maurie McInnis accepted the report of the Committee on Institutional Voice, which recommended

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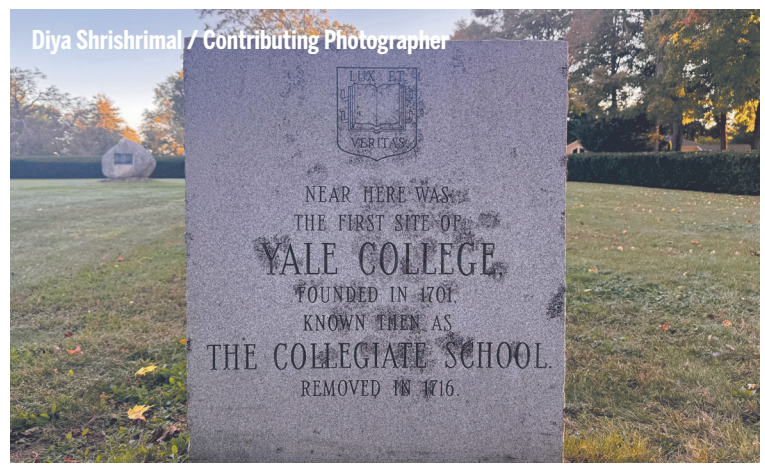

Diya Shrishrimal / Contributing Photographer

Inside The News

From the Vietnam War to Yale's settlement talks with the Trump adminsitration, the lipstick status has remained as a symbol of student protest.

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LAMONT Gov. Ned Lamont SOM '80 said he would "probably not" support changes to Yale's tax exemption even if the University settles with the Trump administration.

PAGE 7 **NEWS**

MARC JACOBS The renowned fashion designer visited campus for a Monday talk, in which he stressed the value of creative uncertainty.

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