FROM THE FRONT

"The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams."
OPRAH WINFREY AMERICAN MEDIA MOGUL

Events diverge on Oct. 7 meaning

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slogans like "Israel Bombs Yale Pays" and "Apartheid Didn't Start Oct 7."

"They chose the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust to do this, to mock us, to intimidate us and to claim our day of mourning for themselves," Elijah Wiesel '28, the community outreach manager of Chabad at Yale, said.

But Camila Torres '28, a member of Yalies4Palestine, said the group's art installment is unique to Oct. 7 because the day marks the "third year of genocide."

"What is violent or dangerous about this? It could be provocative, sure, because there's political and historical messaging," Torres said. "However, none of this is dangerous or violent, and this builds a community space where we can talk about Palestine."

The University revoked Yalies4Palestine's registered student group status in April 2025 for the organization's role in promoting a protest that administrators said broke Yale's protest policy.

Wednesday's memorial on Cross Campus was a registered event, while the Yalies4Palestine event was not registered and was considered as a "gathering of individuals who did not identify themselves as affiliated with any particular group," Assistant Vice President for University Life Pilar Montalvo wrote in an email to the News.



Courtesy of Maor Baker
On the third anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks in Israel, pro-Israel and pro-Palestine groups hosted events only a few hundred feet apart from each other.



Reeti Malhotra / Multimedia Managing Editor

Noam Barenholtz '27 said that in previous vigils commemorating Oct. 7, the empty table represented the Israeli hostages who were taken by Hamas and "should have been home celebrating Shabbat with their families." The last surviving hostages were released in October 2025.

"Maybe there aren't hostages anymore who can't celebrate Shabbat, but there are 1,200 people who lost their lives, who can never can never celebrate with their families again," Barenholtz said. "So that empty table still symbolizes that."

In Judaism, Shabbat is the weekly day of rest between sunsets on Friday and Saturday.

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Vance slams student visas at alma mater

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eral Trade Commission Chairman Andrew Ferguson.

The officials did not present any direct evidence that Yale or the other universities — among them Harvard, Brown, Stanford, Arizona State and University of California, Davis — have committed what they described as visa fraud. Vance and D'Esposito said these universities use J-1 visas for federally funded grants 61 percent of the time compared to the national average of 38 percent.

Vance said the J-1 visas were being used to undercut American graduate student wages, who he said make $20,000 more on average than international J-1 visa holders. D'Esposito, the inspector general, said the investigations had already begun.

"Subpoenas have been served, investigations are underway and nobody will be getting a free pass because their name is carved into an expensive building," D'Esposito said.

Say and Yale's public affairs office did not respond to questions about the statistics Vance cited, but said Yale will review documents about the investigation "once they are received."

"I don't care how large your endowment is, how powerful your alumni are or how many politicians you have on speed dial," D'Esposito said, as Vance stood behind him.

Following the Thursday press conference, the Department of Education X account posted that with help from Vance and his signature project, the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud, "ED is cracking down on decades of waste, fraud, and abuse in higher education."

The post was accompanied by a poster of Education Secretary Linda McMahon, who has praised Yale's efforts to address declining trust in higher education, with the words "FRAUDSTERS, BEWARE."

The investigation arrives after a turbulent summer and beginning of the semester for international students' statuses.

Two August memos from Immigrations and Customs Enforcement announced a stricter interpretation of policies on internships for international students. The messages from ICE threatened to hold any university officer who improperly approves work for an international student criminally liable. Following the messages, Say told the News that Yale was reviewing its approval standards for international students' internships.

On Thursday, the Department of Homeland Security also proposed a rule to add fees for Optional Practical Training, which enables temporary employment for students on F-1 visas after they graduate. The rule, open to public comment through Nov. 9, has a stated purpose of combatting fraud and protecting U.S. workers.

One international undergraduate student, who spoke under the condition of anonymity due to fear of retaliation from the federal government, described widespread concern about the changes among their fellow international students.

The student, who is currently on an F-1 visa, said the investigation into J-1 visas, whose recipients include instructional faculty, has increased their concerns. Going beyond students and targeting instructors, the student said, would cause amplified damage.

Yale is currently under Justice Department investigation for its undergraduate, law and medical school admissions practices.

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New Haven bid more than Hartford to house Yale in 1716

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Yale, New Haven bid between £1,500 and £2,000 and Hartford bid around £700, according to another Yale Alumni Magazine article by Schiff.

New Haven was a controversial choice. Two Hartford trustees, Rev. Timothy Woodbridge and Rev. Thomas Buckingham, circulated a letter claiming that Hartford and New London had paid "the Greatest part of the Money given for the Subsisting of the Collegiate School" and that therefore those should have been given "Good respect" when choosing the College's final location.

At the time of the move, Yale's books were stored in the Saybrook home of Daniel Buckingham, the son of founding trustee Thomas Buckingham. Daniel Buckingham refused to give the books up, claiming that they belonged to his father and not to Yale.

Upon the appeal of Yale's trustees, Gov. Gurdon Saltonstall sent a sheriff to retrieve the books, which were piled into carts and driven to New Haven. Outraged Saybrook residents knocked over the carts and dismantled bridges to impede their passage. Ultimately, around 260 books were lost, according to an 1838 history of New Haven.

In 1975, the mayor of Old Saybrook offered an official apology for the conflict, which is sometimes called the "Battle of the Books." Then-University President Kingman Brewster accepted the town's apology for Saybrook locals' "impulsive and misguided" behavior, according to The New York Times.

The first Yale building in New Haven, called "College House," was built in 1718. Connecticut Hall, which is located on Old Campus and is the University's oldest building still standing, was built in 1750. Morand pointed to its name as evidence of the close relationship between Yale and the colony at the time.

"Connecticut Hall is called 'Connecticut Hall' because the money came from multiple sources, but the biggest came from the colony of Connecticut," Morand said. That money came in the form of "payments of everyday expenses" and capital expenses, he added.

History professor Mark Peterson said in a July interview that the relationship between Yale and Connecticut became more distant after the advent of public state schools like the University of Connecticut in 1881.

"That division between the state public universities and the private universities became clearer" and "stronger" during that time, Peterson said.

For decades, Yale, New Haven and the state have engaged in skirmishes over the University's property tax exemption, which excludes academic properties as well as some nonacademic properties from being taxed. Over half of New Haven real estate is currently tax-exempt.

When Yale President Maurie McInnis announced the University's new voluntary contribution agreement with the city in March, she pointed to New Haven's original gift to the school.

"It's not an exaggeration to say that Yale wouldn't be here if not for the generosity of the denizens of this city," McInnis said.

A boulder at the corner of an Old Saybrook cemetery marks the spot where Yale reportedly originally sat. The spot, boxed in by hedges and marked with a plaque, faces a cove off the Connecticut River.

Old Saybrook still feels "connected" to Yale, two residents who live near the boulder said.

"So many people come by" and read the plaque, according to Jeannie Abrahamson, whose house sits across the street from the site. Those people often stop and talk about Yale, Abrahamson said.

The Yale Club of New Haven is set to host a ceremony at the boulder on Friday to commemorate the chartering of the college.

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Some students say they self-censor in the classroom



Ethan Sullivan / Contributing Photographer
Four students of color who are members of right-wing political groups on campus said their ideologies have largely been unaffected by their racial identities.

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that Yale leaders refrain from speaking on matters of public significance.

Szepesi said that his membership in the Yale Political Union, the Party of the Right and the Buckley Institute have "taught me to be more open-minded to different perspectives when engaging deeply with those with whom I have profound disagreements."

"I think that, therefore, if there is an indoctrination, a secret indoctrination plan that I'm not aware of, they've been unsuccessful with me," he added.

Yale College Republicans President Shailen Sharma '27, who is white and Indian, said that as an institution, Yale cultivates students from across the political aisle. He added that in his humanities classes, professors did not guide conversations in "a certain political direction."

"Yale is a place of deep intellectual curiosity and a deep search for the truth, which seems to align with my views on support of civilization," Sharma said. "I feel that Yale's tradition in itself does promote conservative values while still being a majority liberal institution."

This freedom of expression extends to the classroom, according to Victoria, who recalled positive experiences with a few Yale professors in the presence of whom he felt "comfortable" voicing his conservative views, even though they are liberal-leaning. Victoria said, however, that he did feel several courses at Yale are "truly trying to impose their views."

He said he has refrained from voicing his views in some classes, adding that he has to "pick and choose" his battles.

"Why am I going to start trying to argue or debate something right now if it's a huge lecture and I'm the only conservative voice in my section or seminar?" Victoria said. "At the end of the day, I care about my grades, I care about school and just because I stay silent in certain classes doesn't mean that I'm taking what they're lecturing or teaching on as to be true."

Eunice Han '27, treasurer of the Yale College Republicans, wrote in an email to the News that some professors are "forceful about their own viewpoints," which can make students "more hesitant to speak openly in the classroom."

Han, who is Korean-American, said Christian teachings, such as Jesus's command to "stand up for the weak," have influenced her politics.

"These values come directly from the Word of God, so I suppose I fall in the conservative bucket," Han wrote. "Every other identity— including the fact that someone might call me a conservative—feels incredibly light by comparison. As light as a feather, actually."

Conservative students of color said their racial identities have had minimal effects on their political views.

Sharma said his "motivation to uplift this country" has been foundational to his politics, regardless of his "ethnic, family and religious background."

Szepesi said race in Europe is much less politicized than it is in America and on American college campuses, in part, due to America's history with political prejudice against certain groups and identities.

"A race shouldn't matter. It's just who I am. It's something that I can't change," Victoria said. "Just because I'm born Mexican, just because I'm born a certain way, I can't think for myself?"

The Yale Political Union was founded in 1934.

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