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On hot mic, McInnis jabs student, trustees

BY ARIA LYNN-SKOV
STAFF REPORTER

University President Maurie McInnis complained about being "ambushed" by a student organizer and about meeting with trustees to Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis in a hot-mic moment during a Saturday Family Weekend event.

McInnis and Lewis were sitting near the front of Marsh Lecture Hall before a 10 a.m. event, in which McInnis addressed the nearly-full lecture hall and answered questions from Lewis.

During a conversation before the event, McInnis described an interaction at a Friday celebration of Yale's 325th anniversary with members of Democratize Yale, a coalition of students, faculty and alumni that formed in the summer following news of the University's settlement negotiations with the Department of Justice over an investigation into Yale's admissions practices.

"Anyway, she was one of those students who shows up pissed off," McInnis told Lewis, referring to a student who approached her at the anniversary event. McInnis described to Lewis that she was "getting sort of ambushed-journalist by the Democratize Yale group."

A screen recording of the livestreamed conversation was provided to the News by the Endowment Justice Collective, which is part of the Democratize Yale coalition.

In a Sunday statement to the News provided by Yale spokesperson Karen Peart, McInnis said she was "recorded during a private conversation, during which I said things that I very much regret."

McInnis can be heard in the recording saying that Democ-

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Leo Nyberg / Contributing Photographer


Garrett Curtis / Photography Editor

Students denounce McInnis' complaints

BY JOLYNDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

Several Yalies questioned University administrators' commitment to engaging with students after Yale President Maurie McInnis was caught on hot mic complaining to Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis about a student activist who approached her at a Friday event.

McInnis' remarks were livestreamed shortly before a Family Weekend event in Marsh Hall on Saturday morning. Members of Democratize Yale — a coalition of Yale affiliates that has advocated for, among other demands, the end of settlement negotiations between the University and the Trump administration — approached her at Yale's 325th anniversary celebration on Friday, McInnis said. She then called a student "one of those students who shows up pissed off."

"McInnis spoke about a student this way seconds before taking the stage to assure our parents that she has our best interests in mind," John Robert Walker '28, a student organizer with the Endowment Justice Collective, wrote in an email to the News. "I have zero faith in her ability to defend student values, when she refuses to even engage in dialogue with us about the things we value."

On Sunday morning, Democratize Yale released a press statement identifying the student McInnis mentioned as Siena Grouf '29. In a phone interview with the News, Grouf confirmed that she had approached McInnis at the Friday event and asked her why Yale is trying to settle with the Trump administration.

In July, McInnis confirmed that the University has entered negotiations to reach a "voluntary resolution" with the federal government after the Department of Justice released investigation findings in May accusing Yale School of Medicine admissions of racial discrimination.

In a Sunday statement to the News, McInnis said she regretted her remarks.

"My words did not reflect how I've spent the last two years meeting with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to

SEE **MCINNIS** PAGE 5

Elm City in the red, first time since 2018

BY NELLIE KENNEY AND NAUSICAA CHU
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

New Haven ended the 2026 fiscal year last month with an $8.5 million general operating deficit after eight years of balanced or surplus budgets, mainly due to education funding.

At a Thursday press conference, Mayor Justin Elicker pointed to rising costs for city schools as the main reason for the deficit. Elicker said that excluding Board of Education expenditures, the city ended the fiscal year with a surplus of $1.1 million. A $9.6 million Board of Education deficit — over a third of which was made up of staffing costs — contributed to the overall deficit.

"This past year was a tough year," Elicker said at the press conference. "You're hearing a lot about this from a personal perspective from residents around the U.S. about how costs continue to rise and wages don't keep up, and there's in many ways a similar narrative in our city."

Transportation costs for students were a "major driver" of the deficit, Elicker said. New Haven Public Schools announced an opt-in bus system in May to reduce those costs.

The city received $1.3 million more in tax revenue and $2.6 million more in interest income than expected, as well as $3 mil-

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Bulldogs dominate Dartmouth


Liza Kaufman / Photography Editor

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Bulldogs (3–1, 1–1 Ivy) claimed their first conference victory of the 2026 season on Saturday in a commanding performance against the Dartmouth Big Green (1–3, 1–1 Ivy).

The 28-7 win marked a departure from the last two Yale-Dartmouth outcomes, where late-game special teams mishaps resulted in losses for the Bulldogs. Team 153 entered the game after an emotional win against Merrimack University last weekend following the death of Tony Reno, the Bulldogs' former head coach and father of quarterback Dante Reno '28. The quarterback, who led Yale to that victory, also shined on Saturday with two touchdowns.

The game, in which the Bulldogs totaled 550 yards of offense, could not have gotten off to a better start for the 'Dogs. Dartmouth received the opening kick, and the Yale defense made its presence known immediately. On the third play of the opening drive, Mack Johnson '28 and James Cave '27.5 teamed up to bring the ball carrier down in the backfield and force an early three-and-out.

The Bulldogs then started their first possession on their own forty-three-yard line, and running back Hugo Djeumeni Kemeni '29 got to work on what would be a career day.

After pounding the ball on the ground for several solid

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International Yalies' summers in jeopardy

BY LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTER

Five international Yale College students said the Trump administration's flurry of policy changes has cast uncertainty on their summer and post-graduate plans.

Since President Donald Trump returned to office in January 2025, the federal government has targeted international students with threats of deportation, a proposed $100,000 fee for visas after graduation and changes to work authorization. While many of the administration's efforts have been rebuffed by federal courts, five international students — who requested anonymity, citing concerns about employment and visa status — said unpredictable politics has impacted their studies, internship applications and post-college plans.

"It introduces a lot of uncertainty in terms of when we can start looking for internships because we don't know if we would have a legally authorized ability to work," a junior international student said. "I think that's the biggest hurdle and that fact that you might not be able to work is definitely a challenge."

The Office of International Students & Scholars hosted a question-and-answer session for international students on Friday to address concerns about federal regulations and work authorization. The five students who spoke to the News outside the meeting said the OISS helped answer their questions, but said

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Martin Peralta / Head Photography Editor

Inside The News

The circulation of Yale Library materials has dropped 65 percent over the last decade. Librarians are trying to increase engagement through digitization efforts.

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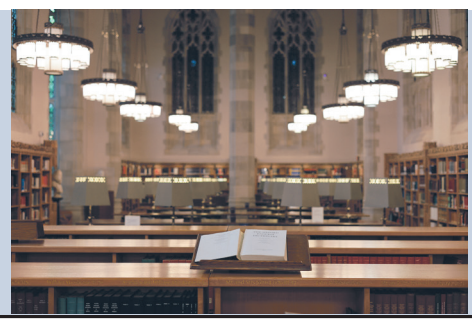

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FALL SPECIALS New Haven cafés and restaurants are serving up limited-time items to take advantage of seasonal flavors and capitalize on the autumnal buzz.

PAGE 6 **NEWS**

LANTERNFLY To address the large-scale impact of the invasive spotted lanterfly, a new app seeks to engage the public in collective extermination.

PAGE 9 **SCI-TECH**