FROM THE FRONT

"Leaves fall down like rain, October never ends"
FOREVER OCTOBER GREY

Agent pushed aside observer who was filming arrest

TWEED FROM PAGE 1

In the security camera footage, three plainclothes immigration agents wearing airport security armbands approached Deng Dhieu Kuach Deng — a first-year student and basketball recruit for Southern Connecticut State University — as he attempted to go through a Transportation Security Administration bag-scan checkpoint. Several airport security personnel were present but did not appear to be involved in the arrest.

The agents then escorted Deng to the airport lobby, where they appeared to speak with him for about 30 seconds before handcuffing him. Agents brought Deng out of the airport to a rental car parking lot on Burr Street, according to the footage.

Seven protesters, some of whom held posters that read "ICE INSIDE" and "La Migra Está Aquí," followed the officers as they escorted Deng to the parking lot, the footage shows. One agent appeared to push away a female protester by the chest as she used her phone to film Deng's arrest.

The agents escorted Deng into the backseat of a black SUV parked in a priority parking spot. The entire arrest — from the moment agents approached Deng until the SUV left the parking lot — lasted around five minutes.

In a statement after the arrest, a spokesperson for ICE claimed that Deng had "legally entered the U.S. and illegally overstayed." Deng's lawyers, in a petition for habeas corpus filed the day of the arrest, wrote that he had a pending asylum application and valid work authorization. Deng was released from detention on Sept. 16, the same day students at Southern Connecticut State University organized a protest demanding their university take action to protect its students from on-campus ICE presence.

ICE did not respond to multiple requests for comment or questions about whether agents had a warrant for Deng's arrest.

The arrest was part of a recent wave of increased ICE activity across Connecticut and follows reports of ICE arrests at TSA checkpoints at Bradley International Airport in Hartford. Over the summer, ICE carried out several arrests at airports across the country with the help of tips from TSA. A memo obtained in July by government watchdog nonprofit American Oversight revealed a data-sharing agreement between TSA and ICE, which the agencies signed in May 2025.

Tweed did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the security footage. In a September statement, a Tweed spokesperson cited a federal statute requiring airport operators to authorize "unescorted access for qualifying government employees, including law enforcement officers, as long as a background check was part of the employment process."

On Sept. 16, Elicker sent a letter to Robert Reed, chair of Tweed's board of directors, following the arrest of Deng and a second detainee, Ainara Andriena Calderon Pena. In the letter, Elicker urged the airport not to cooperate with ICE beyond what is required by federal law, including by giving federal agents preferential parking.

Reed acknowledged receipt of the letter but has yet to respond to Elicker's recommendations, Elicker said.

Anne Watkins, an organizer with the New Haven Immigrants Coalition, said in a September interview that her organization was "concerned about ICE's tactics of terror."

Elicker also said that the airport should be "facilitating peaceful demonstrations in public areas of the airport," echoing a demand he made in the September letter, which requested that the airport update its demonstration policy to remain compliant with Public Act 26-14, a policy that designates "free speech zones" on municipal property and facilitates protests that do not interfere with airport operations.

Elicker said his office was "working on" setting up a meeting with AvPorts, the third-party company that oversees Tweed's operations, to discuss the extent to which it must collaborate with federal immigration enforcement.

Tweed's board of directors will meet next on Wednesday, Oct. 21.



Zoe Berg
Security camera video of a Sept. 4 arrest obtained by the News reveals that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested a student at a bag-scan checkpoint.

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Microbial disease department's funding fell 12 percent

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has also reduced its workforce, bringing its staffing to the lowest level in decades.

Cappello said certain projects that were expected to be funded for five years have been cut to four years, and other grants have been reduced by 20 to 40 percent without justification, a pattern he suspects is intentional.

"Establishing priority areas that don't include international collaborations or don't include work focused on diseases of poor countries seems to be aligned with what we're hearing in terms of government funding priorities," Cappello said.

That disruption has been especially visible in long-running global health work. Sunil Parikh, a professor of epidemiology and infectious diseases, has spent nearly 25 years running malaria and HIV studies in Uganda, Burkina Faso and other African countries. Parikh said most of his projects are funded by the NIH.

"There's never in my lifetime been such a drastic withdrawal from the global stage and from global health as has happened in the past two years," Parikh told the News in a video interview. "Nothing even close."

Parikh said he cannot speak to the motives of those who enacted the policies, but called it striking that their effects fell on partners and countries with little ability to push back.

Starting May 1, 2025, all of Parikh's grants, which are international, were put at risk, and his lab stood to lose more than 75 percent of its funding before the funds were restored at the end of the year. Despite restoration of funding, his research faced setbacks. His studies in Uganda and Burkina Faso had enrolled participants, including children and adults who had consented to take part. The uncertainty set the work back, and some people left the project, he told the News.

"Even though I have a five year grant, it's not a guarantee that year three will be awarded," Parikh said. "In my opinion, it is unethical to stop a study just because of a government deciding to blanket stop funding it when you have already consented individuals to be part of a study."

The cost of a pause can also depend on the calendar. Ingrid Katz, director of the Yale Institute for Global Health, wrote in an email to the News that interruptions can mean missed enrollment, gaps in follow-up with participants or lost opportunities to collect samples during a particular transmission season.

"For vector-borne diseases, timing can be integral to the scientific question. A missed season may require waiting until the next comparable period, and conditions may have changed by then," Katz wrote to the News.

Despite having the funding, White House restrictions and a retaliatory travel ban have limited Parikh's ability to obtain a visa, as they have also prevented his colleagues from Burkina Faso from traveling to the U.S. These limitations create what Parikh calls a "training gap," which he defined as a disruption in the teaching of medical and scientific skills.

Similarly, Cappello told the News that despite retaining NIH grants for research with the University of Ghana, the uncertainty of funding has impeded his ability to send students to Ghana for summer fieldwork. As a result, undergraduate, masters and graduate students are not getting the same research experience they would have prior to the cuts.

"Fieldwork teaches skills that are difficult to acquire entirely remotely: understanding how health systems operate, adapting research to local conditions, and building accountable relationships with communities and collaborators," Katz wrote. "Interruptions can affect both U.S.-based trainees and early-career researchers in partner countries."

The disruption in research ability damages Yale's partnerships abroad, with both Cappello and Parikh mentioning a newfound difficulty in creating and maintaining international collaborations.

From malaria initiatives to children's hospitals to medication for HIV patients, all three doctors described the sudden lack of funding as detrimental.

"It was essentially a complete turning off of the spigot," Parikh said of the cuts. "To turn off the spigot that rapidly, in my opinion, was callous and is leading to loss of life."

Cappello and Katz emphasized that the harm from these cuts may persist for years to come.

Each year over one billion people are infected with vector-borne diseases.

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Linxi Cindy Zeng
Yale researchers say terminated, delayed and paused grants have made it difficult to plan or finish studies of vector-borne and poverty-related diseases. One described the effect of the uncertainty as "paralyzing."

Lewis has promised no new major budget cuts this fall

RESERVES FROM PAGE 1

the College has since contributed small surpluses to the fund every year, according to University budget books.

"We use the reserves to balance any shortfall in the budget," Lewis wrote in an email to the News, describing the fund as "almost like a contingency or 'just in case' fund."

Last month, Lewis said he foresees no major budget cuts in the "next few months" because the College's budget is balanced. Lewis received intense criticism from students last year for his implementation of budget-saving measures like cuts in summer funding.

The College may not ultimately need to draw on its reserves if other revenue comes in above expectations, according to Lewis.

Yale College is set to receive $217.1 million from the endowment this fiscal year, marking a nearly $15 million-increase from last year. Meanwhile, the College's net tuition revenue is set to increase by nearly $30 million, even as it spends $4.8 million more on financial aid.

"Financial aid grew," Lewis said in an interview. "But, in order to grow that, money had to come from other parts of the budget."

The College did not cut financial aid overall, although its administrators made recommendations about how to allocate aid between the summer and the academic year and how to set tuition thresholds, Lewis said. He added that he receives budget targets and presents plans for meeting them to the University's Budget Advisory Group.

Yale's central administration, including the University provost and the board of trustees, made the final decision, he said, adding that protecting financial aid was a top priority.

"I don't make the final decisions," Lewis wrote in his email. "I make recommendations on those and the central university decides what to pursue."

The increase in endowment income is not directly money available to offset the tax expense, Lewis also said, adding that some endowment funds are restricted for specific purposes.

The College's endowment income has increased partly because of endowment growth and partly because of fundraising, Lewis said.

"Some of the growth in endowment payments is due to successful fundraising," Lewis wrote.

While the College does not anticipate further operating cuts this fiscal year, Lewis said, he has not yet determined how it would allocate any additional funding that becomes available. The College will begin planning its next budget soon, he said.

"I'm still trying to identify the priorities for next year," Lewis said. "I look forward to getting input from the people who work in the College and from students as we figure out if there is any additional money, how we can spend it."

Lewis, whose current five-year term is set to end next June, is under reappointment review this year.

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Colette Yerrid / Contributing Photographer
Although Yale College anticipates more tuition income and a greater share of the University endowment income this fiscal year, it is still drawing from its reserves for the first time since fiscal year 2023 to help offset an increase in expenses.