FROM THE FRONT

"Time stops for no one, no matter how unsure we are of the future."
REBECCA CRANE AMERICAN AUTHOR

Bulldogs clinch title after mid-season turnaround

HOCKEY FROM PAGE 1

'27 recorded one goal each to give the Bulldogs their 14th straight win, one win short of the record 15-game win streak they achieved in their 2022-23 season.

On Saturday afternoon, Yale traveled to Hamden to face Quinnipiac, a team the Elis lost to in the beginning of their season.

The Bulldogs took an early lead over the Bobcats, ending the first period up 2-0 with goals from Gilkyson and Stephanie Stainton '27. Quinnipiac was able to net one goal in the second, while Yale scored the first goal of the third period to extend its lead.

Both teams had their fair share of chances, and the Bobcats managed to score two goals in the last three minutes of the third to send the game into overtime. Quinnipiac scored in the extra time to seal their win.

Despite the Bulldogs' loss, they prevented Quinnipiac from a regulation win, which meant that Yale earned enough points in the conference standings to earn the first seed and a share of the ECAC title.

"There is a lot we can learn from this weekend and we've put ourselves in a good spot moving forward. I know we're all excited to host the three game series at home in Ingalls and use the off-weekend to our advantage," Gilkyson wrote to the News.

While the team's win streak came to an end on Saturday, it was proof of the Bulldogs' impressive mid-season comeback. This season, the Elis' record in 2025 was 9–7, which included a fall out of the national rankings at the end of November and a three-goal loss to Harvard.

But with a win over Brown on Dec. 7, Yale began a win streak that would continue until its last game of the regular season. The team achieved several ranked wins, including upsetting No. 6 Northeastern, and quickly climbed the ECAC and national rankings. Yale currently is ranked No. 9 in the nation, and has remained in the top 15 since December. The Bulldogs retained their midseason momentum throughout the rest of their season and have gone 13–1 so far in 2026.



Yale went on the road this weekend and returned to New Haven as the ECAC champions after defeating Princeton and securing an overtime point against Quinnipiac / **Yale Athletics**

The Bulldogs now hold the ECAC first seed, earning them a first round bye and home rink advantage in the ECAC quarterfinals.

Yale's first quarterfinal game is set for Feb. 27 at Ingalls Rink.

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Early votes trickle in for race to fill Sabin's alder seat

WARD 7 FROM PAGE 1

Arnold said this was characteristic of special elections, which are "always a lot quieter." He guessed that many residents were more likely to turn out for regular November alder races because they coincide with mayoral elections.

Both Kim and Ross said they plan to spend the final days of their campaigns reaching out to more voters in the ward.

Kim said she is "avidly learning and trying" to build relationships with residents. She added that she has started working on a newsletter and that she has mapped out all of the ward's businesses, which she plans to visit in the coming days.

Kim is also trying to reach voters through social media, an approach that she said is inspired by Ward 1 Alder Elias Theodore '27 and Ward 9 Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith '14 SOM '25. Both Theodore and Smith have active social media presences.

Posting makes her feel "a little nauseous," Kim added. "It's not natural to me to do a dance and put myself online. But it's a really important way to get the news out," she said.

Ross said he plans to spend the final days of his campaign "door knocking and calling and following up with people," as well as "just being around the neighborhood."

"It's not about me, it's about talking with people that live in the ward and seeing what's important to them," Ross said. "We've been trying to say, hey, there's an election. Get out the vote."

Ross said the biggest issues he has heard about from constituents are property taxes and crime rates. He also noted concerns about recent snow clearance, which he called "minimal at best."

Ward 7 resident Mariana Trevino, who voted on Friday, said she had spoken with Ross about both snowplowing and crime. She had not yet met Kim, she said.

Trevino said the special election "happened very fast." She guessed that some of her neighbors might not have read through Sabin's resignation letter, or might have thought that he intended to leave at the end of his term, rather than before taking office. Sabin is now running in a three-way Democratic primary for a seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives.

Matthew Whiting, a local business owner and resident of the ward, cast his vote on Sunday morning. Whiting said that he had spoken to both candidates. He had been particularly impressed with Kim's engagement with businesses, he said.

Early voting ended on Sunday. The polls will be open on Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the New Haven Hall of Records at 200 Orange St.

Ward 7 last had a special alder election in 2014.

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Nellie Kenney, Contributing Photographer

Yale chapter removed from "active" list

FRATERNITY FROM PAGE 1

In 2015, the chapter had been banned from campus by administrators for sexual misconduct policy violations and garnered national attention for allegedly holding a "white girls only" Halloween party, which chapter leaders denied. A University investigation into the incident found "no evidence of systematic discrimination against people of color." The fraternity's president wrote in May 2016 that discussions about leaving the national SAE organization began prior to those controversies.

The social club Edon disaffiliated from the national fraternity organization Sigma Phi Epsilon in September 2020 and a month later voted to admit non-male members into the once exclusively male fraternity.

And in 2023, members of the sorority Aeris voted to disaffiliate from national organization Pi Beta Phi due to debt, cultural differences with the national organization and insufficient funds for financial aid, the News reported.

Sigma Nu was founded publicly in 1869 at the Virginia Military Institute, whose Alpha chapter is now included with Yale's on the list of 131 "dormant" chapters.

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Yale's Beta Alpha chapter is no longer listed among the active chapters on the national Sigma Nu fraternity website — a change from last month whose reasons and implications remained unclear. / **Rachel Mak, Photography Editor**

New Haven public schools confront teacher absenteeism

ABSENCES FROM PAGE 1

Many of the reasons for substantial teacher absenteeism across the country are also linked to teacher turnover, said Chris Torres '03, a professor of educational policy and leadership at the University of Michigan.

"The research on teacher retention finds that educators stay at schools where they feel supported, where they feel engaged in the work, and that have good working conditions. Things like smaller class sizes, more autonomy and input into decisions at the school, feeling supported around behavioral and instructional challenges," Torres said in a phone interview.

During an online meeting of the New Haven Board of Education's Finance and Operations Committee this month, Superintendent Madeline Negrón cited rising teacher absence rates to explain a proposed additional $1 million in funding for substitute teacher hiring and salary increases in the school district's 2026-2027 budget.

Kevin Barbero, an English teacher at James Hillhouse High School, said the district's proposal to invest more money in substitute teaching is a pragmatic but short-term solution.

Some teachers use their allotted sick days to skip professional development activities that they find repetitive or unhelpful, Barbero said, rather than to miss classroom time — in which case the data might not reflect actual absences from the classroom, he said. It does indicate, though, that teachers are facing "unmet needs."

"In terms of money well spent, I think pragmatically, they need it, but it's a band-aid," Barbero said in a phone interview, referring to the $1 million proposed increase. "What are the core issues behind teacher turnover? What are the core issues behind teacher absences?"

For Ahmed Maklad, an English teacher at Betsy Ross Arts Interdistrict Magnet School, one of those issues is his health. He said in a phone interview that there are at least five teachers at his school, including himself, that he knows are actively looking for work outside the school district.

"When I get home, I am mentally and physically exhausted from babysitting, not teaching," Maklad said, adding that "severe stress and extreme work conditions" are driving causes of some teacher absenteeism.

He estimated that in one 90-minute class period, he spends less than 30 minutes on actual instructional time, occupied otherwise with behavior management.

Like Barbero, Maklad said that an investment in substitute teachers was merely a "band-aid" solution. Before boosting the substitute teaching budget, Maklad said the district should change the conditions that cause teacher absenteeism in the first place.

"I suspect that mental health is a pretty universal factor in absenteeism in any industry," Harmon, the district spokesperson, wrote in an email, claiming that the district has "no choice" when it comes to hiring substitutes to fill teacher absences. "The district does prioritize building the climate in schools. We try to make them welcoming places for students and teachers."

Torres, the Michigan professor, said improving teachers' working conditions requires time and "culture change." In the short term, he said, he understands why school districts might prioritize hiring substitutes. One effective strategy, Torres said, is to hire and competitively pay full-time substitutes who work at the district level, serving at multiple schools depending on a particular day's needs.

Districts can also consider introducing "team-based staffing models," Torres said, which train multiple staff members to work with a single group of students and preserve student learning when a teacher is absent.

John Carlos Musser, a 2025 graduate of Wilbur Cross High School and a former student representative on the New Haven Board of Education, said that during three of his four years of high school, a long-term substitute teacher was brought in to replace his teachers, who were absent for various reasons.

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