NEWS

"If the rain comes, they run and hide their heads, they might as well be dead."
"RAIN" BY THE BEATLES

Student serves up bacon-egg-and-cheeses around campus

BY OLIVIA CYRUS
STAFF REPORTER

On Thursday morning, a sharp autumn wind engulfed campus. Keeping Yalies warm amidst the cold, though, was a table in Pierson College manned by Wyatt Lake '28 — the self-proclaimed "Yale Sandwich Guy."

Lake began selling sandwiches, mostly bacon-egg-and-cheeses, in the Pierson courtyard in August, beginning around 9 p.m. most evenings. His popularity skyrocketed in September, when he was selling between 10 and 15 sandwiches in nearly 20 minutes each evening, he said.

In September, Lake moved his table from Pierson to Cross Campus and immediately began selling out of sandwiches. He said he regularly sold there from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for about two weeks, selling as many as 25 sandwiches in each go.

"It's about building community on Cross Campus and less about the fact that I'm making like a dollar for each sandwich," Lake said in an interview. "It became a really fun thing where people would come out and I even started to get special requests from security guards who were like 'I'll pay you $12 right now to get this many free sandwiches.'"

His sandwich stand also garnered the attention of the University administration. Lake said he was suspended from selling sandwiches on Cross Campus after receiving a call from Associate Director for University Life Earle Lobo, who Lake said cited safety violations and competition with Commons.

When asked about his call to Lake, Lobo explained in an email to the News that the University prohibits the "promotion of commercial interest and collection of money" on Cross Campus and Beinecke Plaza.

The University's regulations for outdoor spaces states, "Events must neither promote outside commercial interests, nor involve any solicitation for or collection of money for commercial or charitable purposes."

Now, Lake said the future of the Yale Sandwich Guy is up to the discretion of his head of college, adding that his situation is challenging because he thinks it has "never been done before." The Office of Student Affairs also asked him to register as an associated student agency, Lake said.

The origin of 'Yale Sandwich Guy'

Lake's entrepreneurial and culinary journey began last year out of his Lanman Wright Hall, or L-Dub, dorm room, he said. He and his roommate would invite peers over to their suite and make burgers and, his favorite, bacon-egg-and-cheeses.

According to Lake, his classmates disapproved of the dining halls' current breakfast offerings, which inspired him to expand his side hustle beyond the confines of an Old Campus dorm room.

Lake said that building community on Cross Campus was the main reason he continued operating his stand, adding that he felt Yale has less on-campus food stands than other college campuses.

"Breakfast is bad here, and I was looking at Cross Campus and there's like nothing going on ever," Lake said. "I was like 'I could just set up a stand here and some hotplates so easily, just like we did in L-Dub.'"

He also hoped to address the needs of a "large" demographic of students shuffling up Science Hill and returning back to their colleges after 2 p.m., after dining halls close for lunch.

Lake said his friends studying economics guided him through the financial logistics of the endeavor. Together they learned that it costs about $1 to make his staple, a bacon, egg and cheese sandwich, which he sells for $3 dollars. Some customers have suggested Lake raise his price to $4 or $5, he said, but he refuses to in the name of "community bonding."

A friend of Lake's, an Eli Whitney student with a car, drives Lake to Walmart, he said. There, he buys eggs in bulk, a pack of bacon and a stack of buns. All this accumulates to around 72 sandwiches, and when he's back on campus, all Lake needs is an open space and a nearby outlet to start cooking.

Lake's work was briefly put on pause Wednesday, Sept. 24, when Lobo informed him he was no longer able to sell sandwiches on Cross Campus without proper registration.

Lake has since applied to register as an official student group, which he expects will take several weeks to be verified, he said. He adapted, though, and plans to station himself at residential colleges across campus.

"I feel like it's pretty normal for people to be cooking or selling things on a college campus, but if you look at Yale, there's like no one doing anything," Lake said. "The whole idea behind sandwiches is to bring a little more liveliness to our spaces. Unfortunately, Yale makes that pretty hard."

'Yale Sandwich Guy' Returns

One week after the suspension, Lake made his return to the Branford College courtyard on Wednesday.

Lake said that both his head of college and the Office of Student Affairs have been working with him to ensure that he can operate in full capacity.

"Bottom line is that all these people in charge have made it clear they want the Yale Sandwich Guy to continue, I just need to dance around the guidelines," Lake said.



LOGAN DINKINS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
The "Yale Sandwich Guy" was asked by an administrator to not sell his sandwiches on Cross Campus.

Huck Moore '28 got a sandwich from Lake on Thursday in the Pierson courtyard. Moore said he was grateful for the "delicious" sandwich because he didn't have time to go to the dining hall.

"It carried me through all my classes and it was good service," Moore said. "I think it's very important because it gives people the chance to take advantage of being around people doing interesting things that they might not do elsewhere."

Moore described Lake's entrepreneurship as an example of "the American spirit and promise in its greatest form."

Koby Chen '26 bought a sandwich from Lake on Thursday while walking to the gym. After peering at Lake's hand-painted azure sign, Chen said he wondered, "Who's the Yale Sandwich Guy?"

He found out after purchasing a "fire" and "really good" bacon-egg-and-cheese. He also struck up a conversation with Lake about the importance of tabling around campus.

"We have very interesting rules about what we're allowed to do and they kind of stifle the ability of students to organize, come together and form community, so it's good to see the Yale Sandwich Guy doing his thing," Chen said. "It was a good opening to my day."

Lake said he plans to continue selling sandwiches as long as he's at Yale.

In the future, he hopes to expand his repertoire to grilled cheeses and pancakes. He also considered selling matcha, alongside his sandwiches, after taking inspiration from the performative male contest, an event that drew hundreds of students, last month.

For those looking for a vegetarian option, Lake also sells bacon-free egg melts.

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Biden education secretary joins School of Management

BY SARAH RIVAS
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Miguel Cardona, Joe Biden's secretary of education, recently joined the faculty of Yale's School of Management.

Cardona, who once taught at an elementary school in Meriden, was previously Connecitcut's commissioner of education. Since Cardona served in the Biden administration, President Donald Trump has significantly reduced the Department of Education. Earlier this year, he signed an executive order demanding the closure of the education department in favor of sending its responsibilities to the states.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Miguel Cardona will teach a course on education policy for the 2025-26 academic year.

"We're at a time where the current administration is taking aim at anything related to equity. And the appointment and the call of Secretary Cardona to come teach at SOM shows that there is a commitment on the part of educators at Yale to still value equity," Nathan Dudley '82, a lecturer on public school education policy, said.

Cardona will co-teach the elective course "Education Policy" — which will cover such as accountability, college access and economic returns to education — with professor Seth Zimmerman during the 2025-26 academic year.

Dudley highlighted Cardona's stances on improving "college affordability" and creating "career pathways" as ones he hopes students learn from in the course.

Beyond teaching, Cardona will also participate in programs run by The Broad Center — a School of Management program focused on K-12 public school students — to engage with leaders of school systems.

"What I think will be special about the course is that we will take on education policy issues in the context of specific decision points. Dr. Cardona's experience as leader at the local and state level here in Connecticut and then at the federal level as Secretary of Education will give us a window into what the people making key choices were thinking," Zimmerman wrote to the News.

Cardona and Zimmerman will explore how institutions like Yale fit into the higher education landscape and challenge their students to reflect on how policy decisions are made in circumstances of uncertainty and limited information.

"This is an incredibly challenging time politically nationwide, especially for the field of education, which I love so dearly as a strong believer in the federal government's role in empowering and supporting schools, especially public and low-income schools, so it is not surprising that Yale made this call" Roy Kohavi '26, a student in the intensive education studies certificate, wrote.

Dudley added that Cardona's commitment to supporting teachers is especially valuable now, when teachers and teachers unions have been under attack by the current administration.

"I'm interested to see how Dr. Cardona's experience in high-level governance will impact

his teaching, particularly in how to maintain focused commitment to students when there are so many stakeholders vying for an education leader's attention. Because that's really who education leadership is about: students," Noemi Liu '26 wrote.

Liu added that "though Cardona was a prominent politician and has much insight to share on navigating federal leadership," she is "the most excited about his experience as a practitioner and local leader."

There is a large "policy-practice divide in education," according to Liu, where the guidelines implemented by policymakers are often not translated effectively into practice within classrooms.

This reality makes a professional such as Cardona, who has worked at every level of public education, invaluable, she said.

Cardona, a Connecticut native, became the state's youngest principal at age 27 and later its commissioner of education.

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Event to follow viral German trend: pudding with forks

BY HAILEY YOUNG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Students will gather Saturday afternoon on Cross Campus to take part in Yale's first-ever Pudding mit Gabel — pudding with fork — a viral Gen Z trend filling the streets of Germany and Austria and circulating on social media.

The 3 p.m. event — organized independently by Anneliese Hammer '28, a German language student, in collaboration with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures — is meant to engage the student body in a lighthearted celebration of German culture. cq

"I first saw the trend on TikTok, and a friend sent it to me because she knew I was taking German," Hammer said. "I thought it seemed like a fun way to get people together, hang out and get outside."

In Germany and Austria, "Pudding mit Gabel" events often pop up through mysterious signs or posts announcing a time and location, Hammer explained. Attendees bring their own pudding and fork, meet in a public space and often start a drumroll as the host delivers an impromptu speech before they start eating.

Within a few weeks, Pudding mit Gabel began to attract hundreds of young people around Europe, per Hammer.

The unconventional utensil choice sticks out.

"Eating the pudding with a fork seems strange, but I think the purpose is that it takes longer to actually eat," Hammer said. "It opens up an opportunity to talk to more people. I hope that Pudding mit Gabel will be a way for students to keep building community."

To bring the experience to Yale, the German department helped fund pudding cups and forks for participants, in the hope that students will engage with their offerings while connecting with a trend that has slowly made its way to many parts of the U.S. Pudding mit Gabel events have already taken place on many college campuses such as Northeastern University, Syracuse University and the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I am really excited for this event and hope it is a chance for us to highlight a 'fun' aspect of contemporary German culture that might make students excited about taking a German language class in the future," Theresa Schenker, the director of Yale's German language program, wrote in an email to the News.

German professor Sophie Schweiger, the department's director of undergraduate studies, who is from Austria, recalled a friend's experience participating in Pudding mit Gabel. Schweiger said she has heard the gatherings considered Gen Z flash mobs.

"From what I gather most people join to enjoy time outside, meet new people IRL, and use it as an excuse to ditch the phone for a few hours," Schweiger wrote to the News. "The irony being, of course, that all of these events get documented on and reported back to social media, the very thing 'Pudding mit Gabel' claims to want to offer an alternative to."

Overall, Hammer said she hopes to provide a space that brings people together as Yalies wrap up the halfway point of their first semester.

"I haven't heard much about the trend aside from quick glimpses online, but I'm excited to go and meet more people interested in the culture!" Olivia Bley '29, a German American student, wrote to the News.

At the Pudding mit Gabel event on Cross Campus on Saturday, complimentary pudding and forks will be provided for the first 100 attendees, according to an advertisement for the event.

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