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A GAME WITH PLAYOFF STAKES



Liza Kaufman, Photography Editor

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

No. 25-ranked Yale (7–2, 5–1 Ivy) will host No. 10 Harvard (9–0, 6–0 Ivy) on Saturday in both teams' final game of the regular season for the 141st playing of The Game.

A season ago, head coach Tony Reno led his team into Harvard Stadium and took down the No. 17-ranked Harvard Crimson. This year, Reno will be leading his team against an even tougher, though familiar, opponent in what may be the highest stakes Yale-Harvard game in recent memory, thanks to a new opportunity to make the playoffs.

Due to a new rule change, Ivy League football teams are now allowed to compete for a national championship for the first time since the Ivy Group Agreement was created 80 years ago. The

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Hundreds rally for postdoc unionization

BY KADE GAJDUSEK AND CATHERINE CHENG
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Shutting down a block of College Street, roughly 700 postdoctoral researchers, students and union organizers gathered on Wednesday evening to support the addition of postdoctoral scholars to Yale's graduate workers union, UNITE HERE Local 33.

The rally was organized by Local 33 and attended by members of UNITE HERE Locals 34 and 35 — Yale's clerical and technical workers union and service and maintenance workers union, respectively — as well as by advocacy groups New Haven Rising and Students Unite Now. Local officials, state representatives and Gov. Ned Lamont SOM '80 spoke throughout the rally.

By the time the speeches started, a supermajority of Yale's postdoctoral scholars had already signed union authorization cards declaring their support for the effort, according to Adam Waters, the head of Local 33. Speakers and rallygoers argued that membership in the union would give postdoctoral scholars increased job security, improved medical insurance and clearer avenues for reporting grievances.

"You might be wondering, 'Why unionize now, during such a turbulent political time, when funding is already under threat?' That's exactly why we need a union, now more than ever," Claire Laxton, a postdoctoral associate in immunobiology, said to the crowd.

In the past year, the Trump administration has terminated or frozen thousands of grants from the National Science Foundation or the

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Academic freedom tailgate planned

BY LEO NYBERG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

While most tailgates at the Yale-Harvard game on Saturday will have beer, burgers and dogs, two alumni groups — one from Yale and one from Harvard — are together hosting a tailgate with lemonade, snacks and a call to action for both schools' alumni.

Stand Up for Yale and Crimson Courage are alumni groups founded last spring after President Donald Trump froze billions in federal grant funds to Harvard. Both groups pushed their university presidents, Yale's Maurie McInnis and Harvard's Alan Garber, to protect academic freedom and maintain independence from the federal government. At their joint tailgate Saturday, the groups plan to continue pushing their message.

"I think it's brilliant," Gregg Gonsalves '11 GRD '17, a Yale epidemiology professor who has worked with Stand Up for Yale, said about the tailgate. "Harvard and Yale alums are not together in too many places in high density, except in the context of The Game, so it's a perfect opportunity."

The tailgate will have a tent, stickers and a sign about academic freedom. Purple lemonade — a blend of blue and crimson — will be served

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Carter Cashen, Multimedia Managing Editor

Hush was to avoid cuts, McInnis said

BY ISOBEL MCCLURE AND JAEHA JANG
STAFF REPORTERS

In the early months of the current Trump administration, University President Maurie McInnis hosted at least two spring meetings with faculty members, in which administrators indicated that Yale would refrain from substantial public commentary in an attempt to avoid President Donald Trump's ire, according to three professors who attended two of the meetings.

Daniel HoSang, an American Studies professor and the president of Yale's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, said he attended the first meeting, held on Feb. 24. A second meeting was held on May 2, he said. HoSang recalled that administrators suggested that refraining from a bolder public response was intended to reduce the risk of attracting attention from the federal government.

"I think early on, there was a hope among many faculty at Yale, and our chapter included, that our university and many others would be more public and forthright in condemning the actions," HoSang said in a September interview. He said that in both small-group and town hall meetings, administrators conveyed "that their calculation is that there's a risk in being too publicly provocative in ways that would put, in their terms, a target on the institution's back."

McInnis did not confirm or deny the News' questions about whether she made those statements in the spring meetings with faculty.

"As a practice, I keep the discussions I have in meetings private," McInnis wrote in a Tuesday email. She added that in the spring faculty meetings, she spoke to professors about her goal "to uphold Yale's mission, including advancing our teaching, our research and clinical care, and our humanist and artistic traditions, and keeping a Yale education affordable to all."

Tisa Wenger — a Yale Divinity School professor who attended the second meeting — echoed

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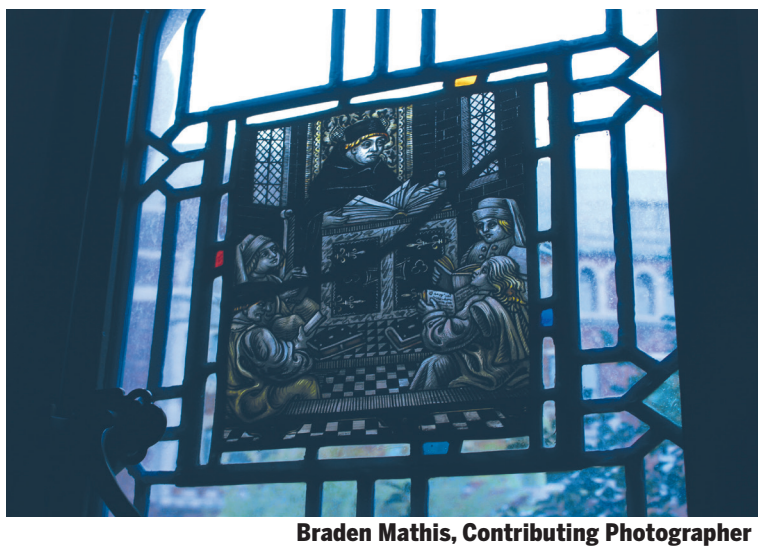
Ximena Solorzano, Head Photography Editor



Braden Mathis, Contributing Photographer

For spring courses, Yale looks in mirror

BY JOLYNDA WANG AND GILLIAN PEIHE FENG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

At least five courses about Yale or the role of universities will be offered in the upcoming spring semester.

The courses — some specific to Yale, others covering higher education more broadly — come at a time when faculty and administrators have identified increasing threats to the University and higher education, such as declining public trust and the loss of government funding.

"There is real value to knowing the history of the place you're in," professor Daniel Botsman, who teaches "Yale and Japan," said in an interview. "I think it's a way of changing our perceptions of what it is to be an elite institution."

The five courses cover the historical and philosophical groundings for Yale and for higher education more broadly. Professors noted the importance of looking inward through studying universities, referencing growing public critique of Yale as an elite institution.

Two new courses will be offered come the spring. The history department will introduce "Trust et Veritas: The Public Legitimacy of Universities," while "What Was the University?" is crosslisted between humanities, religious studies and history of science and medicine. The courses will join the existing courses "Yale and Japan," "Yale and America: Selected Topics in Social and Cultural History" and "What is the University?"

According to professor Jay Gitlin, who has taught "Yale and America" since 2010, the University previously offered fewer courses about Yale.

According to students and their emails to him, Gitlin said in an interview, seniors approaching

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Tied to Epstein, Summers quits role

BY ASHER BOISKIN AND OLIVIA CYRUS
STAFF REPORTERS

Larry Summers will no longer work on the Yale Budget Lab's advisory board after newly released emails revealed that he remained in close contact with Jeffrey Epstein after the financier's 2008 conviction of sex offenses involving a minor.

Summers, a former Harvard president and U.S. treasury secretary, announced Monday evening that he will step back from his public engagements following the publication of emails that showed exchanges between Summers and Epstein until July 5, 2019. Summers' information was removed from the lab's website by Monday evening.

"Larry Summers has indicated that he is withdrawing from his public commitments, including as a member of the Budget Lab advisory group," Suzanne Pinto, a spokesperson for the Budget Lab, wrote to the News.

Yale Law professor Natasha Sarin '11, the lab's president and co-founder, and Martha Gimbel, its executive director and co-founder, did not immediately respond to the News' request for comment.

On Monday, Summers told Politico that his ongoing contact with Epstein caused harm and left

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INSIDE THE NEWS

On Saturday, the most historic rivalry in collegiate sports will continue, with a shot at the playoffs on the line for the first time in decades.

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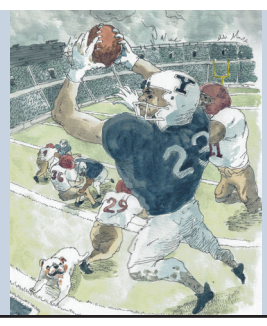

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