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Elijah Hurewitz-Ravitch, Staff Photographer

Negotiator at center of town and gown

BY ELIJAH HUREWITZ-RAVITCH
STAFF REPORTER

Henry Fernandez LAW '94 has a lot on his plate.

The 57-year-old Harvard College and Yale Law School graduate runs a strategic consulting firm, a polling firm focused on Black Americans and a youth nonprofit. And these days, he is tasked with wrangling financial commitments from Yale to New Haven as the city's representative in town-gown negotiations touching on the University's voluntary contribution to the municipal budget.

Fernandez is "an incredibly busy person who straddles multiple worlds at once," Kica Matos, the president of the National Immigration Law Center and Fernandez's wife, said in a phone interview. "He works his ass off."

Fernandez — a former mayoral candidate who now volunteers as an envoy for his onetime opponent, Mayor Justin Elicker SOM '10 ENV '10, in talks with their shared alma mater — occupies a unique position in Yale's relationship with its home city of 310 years.

In an interview last Wednesday at the Dixwell Community House, or the Q House, where Fernandez's nonprofit runs programs, Fernandez said that he prioritizes listening to "what the other side needs."

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Group to study academic freedom

BY ISOBEL McCLURE
STAFF REPORTER

A newly established Committee on the Principles of Academic Freedom — comprising nine faculty members — will review the "historical, legal, and ethical foundations of academic freedom" over the coming months, a Tuesday statement on Yale provost's office website said.

The office of University Provost Scott Strobel announced the new committee on its website without an email to the broader Yale community, saying that the committee will release

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Ellie Park, Senior Photographer

Data maps foreign gifts to Yale



Ximena Solorzano, Head Photography Editor

BY ASHER BOISKIN AND LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTERS

Since 1986, Yale has received more than $400 million in funding from foreign countries the United States government considers concerning, such as China and Russia, according to data released last month by the U.S. Department of Education.

The data comes from a new federal portal designed to track universities' foreign gifts and contracts worth $250,000 or more, which are annually reported by American universities under the Higher Education Act. President Donald Trump and Repub-

SEE **DONATIONS** PAGE 5

Meal donation window shortened

BY JERRY GAO
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project kicked off its spring fundraising fast on Tuesday with a shortened donation window — one that student organizers say is too narrow.

According to a Wednesday email sent by the Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project, or YHHAP, students have until 8 p.m. on Thursday to donate meal swipes and until 11:59 p.m. on Friday to donate dining points through Yale Hub. Previously, the group organized a 10-day period in which students could donate only the value of their meal swipes to New Haven charities.

"The donation period used to be 10 days and now it's two for meal swipes and three for points," Jaeyee Jung '27, a co-director of YHHAP, said in an interview on Wednesday. "We're trying to just make a big push today and tomorrow to get the word out."

The compressed timeline is the latest in a series of changes to the annual fast. In September, Yale Hospitality told student organizers that it would support the fundraiser only once per year, citing budgetary constraints. Previously, students and Yale Hospitality organized fasts twice per year.

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Pentagon cuts two fellowships at Yale

BY LEO NYBERG AND ARIA LYNN-SKOV
STAFF REPORTERS

Two military graduate fellowships at Yale will be canceled next year, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth wrote in a Thursday memo announcing sweeping changes to the Pentagon's relationship with elite universities.

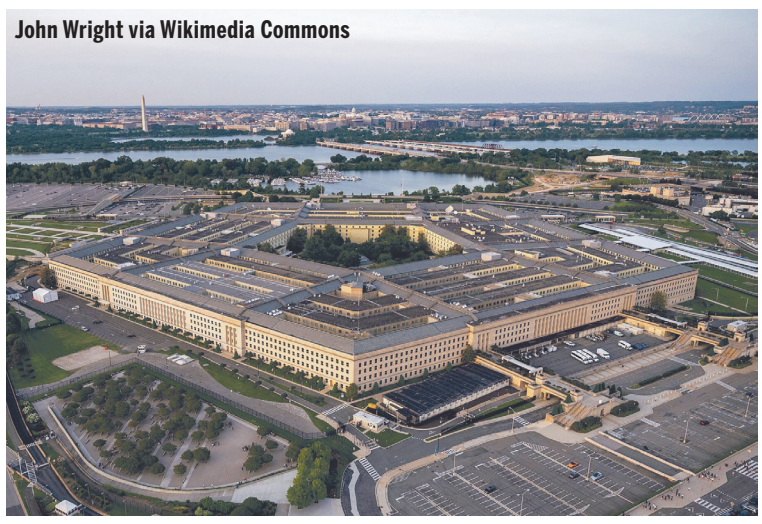
In early February, Hegseth ordered a review of Ivy League and other universities to determine whether the Pentagon should continue its graduate programs with the institutions. The Pentagon has traditionally partnered with universities to help turn senior officers into better strategic thinkers, according to an Army website.

"We cannot and will not continue to send our most capable officers, senior officers, into graduate programs that undermine the very values they had sworn to uphold," Hegseth said in a video posted on X. "That's why today, just like we did with Harvard, I am ordering the complete and immediate cancellation of all Department of War attendance at institutions like Princeton, Columbia, MIT, Brown, Yale and many others, starting next academic year 2026-2027."

The memo, signed by Hegseth, includes a table which reveals the number of cancelled Senior Service College Fellowships. Yale has two such fellowships, according to the memo, while Harvard leads the pack with 21. The Department of Defense cut ties with Harvard in February.

"Yale learned of the Department's announcement on Friday and worked quickly to reach out to students who may be affected," University spokesperson Karen Peart wrote in a statement to the News. "Yale is working to under-

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John Wright via Wikimedia Commons



Liam Enea
via Wikimedia Commons

Ex-chief's case is a one-off, Lamont says

BY ELIJAH HUREWITZ-RAVITCH
STAFF REPORTER

Gov. Ned Lamont SOM '80 weighed in on the recent arrest of former New Haven police chief Karl Jacobson in a Friday morning interview with the News.

Lamont, who is running for a third term leading the Nutmeg State, said that Jacobson's arrest does not point to a larger issue in statewide policing, but he expressed concerns about the online gambling platforms that may have fueled Jacobson's alleged embezzlement of public funds. Lamont also commented on Yale's voluntary contribution to the city and expressed his desire to make Connecticut a place where "the cool kids" want to stay.

The Connecticut state's attorney for New Britain two weeks ago charged Jacobson with stealing more than $85,000 from two city funds in 2024 and 2025.

"In many ways, the system worked, and we caught this person, and now they're going to have to be held accountable," Lamont said. He added that the incident is not "symptomatic of anything chronic going on, police or anywhere else."

Jacobson's alleged theft appears to have been driven by a gambling habit. According to the affidavit by a state police lieutenant in the application for Jacobson's arrest warrant, Jacobson wagered $4.4 million on online sportsbetting platforms DraftKings and FanDuel in 2025 alone.

"It was clearly driven by gambling addiction," Mayor Justin Elicker said in an interview last week.

"I will remind everyone that an arrest is not evidence of guilt and allegations are not proof," Gregory Cerritelli, Jacobson's lawyer, wrote in a Friday statement to the New Haven Independent on the former police

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Inside The News

Alder Angel Hubbard lost her position as a Democratic Town Committee co-chair in Ward 3 to two challengers — including her three-time challenger's wife. PAGE 9



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HACKER HOUSE Twelve Yale students will live together in a hacker house in San Francisco over the summer to network and focus on building companies.
PAGE 10 **SCITECH**

NBA John Poulakidas, the former All-Ivy League sharpshooter, made his NBA debut on Tuesday, playing for the Dallas Mavericks for 14 minutes.
PAGE 11 **SPORTS**