FROM THE FRONT

"It must certainly be allowed, that nature has kept us at a great distance from all her secrets."
DAVID HUME AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

McMahon to speak at Buckley event

McMAHON FROM PAGE 1

McMahon is a long-time Connecticut resident who co-founded World Wrestling Entertainment, known as WWE, with her husband. She later served on Connecticut's Board of Education and mounted two unsuccessful Senate bids, according to her Education Department biography.

Buckley has hosted a laundry list of prominent conservative figures, including former Vice President Mike Pence, conservative columnist and podcaster Ben Shapiro, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis '01 and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Noble wrote that McMahon's appearance on campus is a testament to Buckley's ability to draw prominent conservatives to campus.

"American education is in need of significant reform," the McMahon event description on the Buckley website reads. "Federal overreach and dangerous ideologies are smothering our nation's classrooms, from kindergarten to the highest professional levels."

In the fall, the Yale Political Union hosted Joe Biden's secretary of education, Miguel Cardona, who now teaches at the School of Management. At the event, Cardona warned that efforts to eliminate the Education Department would "dissolve public education."

McMahon is not the first Trump official to visit Yale's campus during his second term. The Federalist Society at Yale Law School hosted Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon in September. Dhillon publicly critiqued Yale in the aftermath of pro-Palestinian protests last spring.

McMahon's Education Department has frequently targeted elite universities, and, last March, the department launched an inquiry into antisemitism at Yale.

"The Department is deeply disappointed that Jewish students studying on elite U.S. campuses continue to fear for their safety amid the relentless antisemitic eruptions that have severely disrupted campus life for more than a year. University leaders must do better," McMahon wrote last year in a press release about the department's investigation of 60 universities, including Yale.

The Trump administration recently launched a new lawsuit against Harvard for alleged antisemitism at the university.

In March 2025, the Education Department investigated Yale and 44 other universities for partnering with a program that seeks to diversify the pool of students seeking doctoral degrees in business. Last month, the department announced that 31 of the universities investigated — including Yale — had agreed to cut ties with the program. At the time, a Yale spokesperson declined to comment on the department's move or Yale's ties to the program.

McMahon has also sought to crack down on universities receiving foreign funding. In a new database, the government displays foreign donations to universities. Yale ranks as the eighth-largest recipient of foreign funding, according to the database.

Trump signed an executive order last March to begin work to close the Department of Education. Experts previously told the News that the move could endanger federal financial support to Yale.

The Buckley Institute was founded in 2011.

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Courtesy of U.S. Department of Education

Review curbs online publishing

REVIEW FROM PAGE 1

Once Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which included an increased tax rate on the wealthiest universities' endowment returns, O'Rourke said it was apparent the publication was going to have to adjust its budget. Administrators announced in the fall that Yale will reduce its budget targets across the University to prepare for the tax increase, which will cost about $300 million per year.

"The Yale Review is something of a unicorn," O'Rourke said. "It is a rapidly growing literary magazine in an age of contraction and an age of cultural diminishment."

O'Rourke said the website's launch was directly connected to the increase in "reach and significance" of The Yale Review.

"That growth happened because of the work we did to publish weekly essays and poems online," she said. "It's very hard in this day and age to get attention in a very busy literary landscape if you don't have a certain regularity to your publication schedule."

Richie Hofmann has been a contributor to The Yale Review since 2013 and has published his poems in both print and online Poem of the Week series. He said he thinks both online and print are "essential to keep supporting."

"Online is where most people encounter literature," Hofmann said in a phone interview. "It's just an inescapable part of our reality that so often we encounter at least links to magazines through online forums and social media."

He said that the "ease of distribution" online is important for writers to gain exposure.

"I think online is a way to bring readers into the kind of culture and community of the magazine," Hofmann said.

Adam Dalva, a contributing editor of The Yale Review, said that the online publication of certain essays brought the publication up to par with magazines like The New Yorker and The Paris Review in terms of readership. He cited the popularity of Garth Greenwell's 2023 essay on Philip Roth.

"The review was suddenly in the top echelon," he said in a phone interview. "Like it became a destination."

Radhika Jones, who was the editor in chief of Vanity Fair from 2017 to 2025, has become an "avid reader" of The Yale Review under O'Rourke's leadership. She said she has had a subscription to the print publication for a couple of years.

"When I was editing Vanity Fair, I would look to The Yale Review to discover writers who were on a way to explore the finer points of art and culture," Jones said in a phone interview.

She commended the digital expansion of the publication under O'Rourke's leadership.

"Since Megan expanded its digital presence, it's become for me, this bridge between sort of university-style intellectual thinking and the realm of public discourse," Jones said.

Hofmann echoed that cutting back online content will limit the reach of The Yale Review.

"It also kind of diminishes the place of literature in our everyday lives, on our devices," he said.

The Yale Review will continue to publish its quarterly print edition, Poem of the Week series and Shakespeare and Company interviews on its website. O'Rourke cited labor constraints as a factor in the decision, noting that publishing the Essay of the Week series was "very time consuming."

She said the demands of time and labor at the magazine have "quadrupled" in the past few years.

"We were getting a few thousand submissions when I arrived, and now we get more than 20,000 submissions a year," O'Rourke said.

The Yale Review Festival was also a means of outreach to the student body, according to O'Rourke and previous panelists.

"The aim of The Yale Review festival was to bring the spirit of the magazine to life at Yale," O'Rourke said. "The spirit of the magazine is a place for the dynamic interchange of ideas and literature and a place to bring kind of like the highest levels of public thinking and writing by academics and novelists and poets to a really wide diverse group of readers."

Dalva appeared on a panel about literary criticism at the festival last year and said he was saddened to hear the festival was cancelled this year.

He said the programming of the festival gives Yale students "access to all kinds of writers" and enables them to form connections that are important for aspiring writers and critics.

"The enthusiasm from the students was just amazing," Dalva said.

Dalva, who is the president of the National Book Critics Circle, recalled how students asked him questions after the panel, some of whom later became student members of the Book Critics Circle. He said these interactions make writers "feel much more approachable."

Dalva said he was not surprised to hear of the festival's cancellation. Citing the layoff of The Washington Post's books critics, he said that the culture of criticism has become "temporarily expendable."

"Yale's not seeing the value that the review gives. The value confers massive status onto Yale," Dalva said.

Greenwell participated in the festival in 2023 to discuss his essay on Philip Roth.

He described it as a "wonderful" experience and said he felt the absence of the festival this year is a "big loss."

"To have the caliber of writers that the review attracts come in and work with students and contribute to the intellectual life of the university, seems to me a very remarkable thing," he said in a phone interview. "I think it's a disappointing decision on the part of the University to deprive the students of those kinds of opportunities."

Jones said she hopes that the budget cuts will encourage more people to subscribe to The Yale Review, adding that she hopes the restrained period is temporary.

"I feel like this is a time for supporters of The Yale Review to subscribe and read avidly and talk about it and make sure to set it up to continue to thrive," Jones said.

The Yale Review Festival will return next year, O'Rourke said.

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Ximena Solorzano / Head Photography Editor
In the wake of University-wide budget tightening, The Yale Review canceled its festival this spring and plans to reduce its online publishing. The literary journal's executive editor expects a "substantial reduction" in readership.

Listings show a president's house outside city limits

McINNIS FROM PAGE 1

McInnis' husband, as the owner since August 2024 of a house in Hamden — the first house on its block entirely over the town's border with New Haven, and under two miles from McInnis' office in Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall. As University president, McInnis also has an official residence at 43 Hillhouse Ave.

"I split my time between a small apartment in the president's house and my private home, and I use the rest of the president's house to host events for the university," McInnis wrote in an email to the News last month.

Now, the six-bedroom, six-bathroom Hamden house is for sale with a price tag over $2.4 million, according to online listings posted in early January.

McInnis did not respond to the News' emailed questions about her future plans given the house's being on the market, including whether she would move within the New Haven city limits full time.

Yale presidents have chosen varied housing arrangements while on a job that carries considerable sway in New Haven, presiding over the city's biggest employer and an evolving town-gown relationship.

The home currently for sale in Hamden was built in 1910, and Johnson purchased it for just over $2 million, according to local property records, roughly two months after McInnis was named Yale's 24th president.

Photos of the house's interior on the online listings show bright, spacious rooms filled with art including paintings and sculptures. McInnis is an art historian. Blue is a theme throughout the home — Yale's color covers rugs, walls and couches. A photo on the home listings shows a closet filled with suits and shoes ranging from sky blue to cerulean, matching McInnis' habitual attire.

Recent presidents have differed in their approaches to use of the official presidential residence on Hillhouse Avenue. Six Yale presidents lived in the house before McInnis, according to the New Haven building archive. All presidents have held events at the house — from Halloween celebrations to student receptions — since it became an official presidential residence in 1937.

In 1960, the Whiffenpoofs trick-or-treated at the president's house, singing to then-University President Alfred Griswold, who graduated from Yale College in 1929 and received a doctorate from the University in 1933, and his family. Former University President Richard Levin GRD '74 and his wife hosted an annual Halloween party for students.

Peter Salovey GRD '86, Yale's president from 2013 to 2024, moved into the residence after it was renovated in 2014. Renovations included handicap accessibility and electrical system updates. Before Salovey and his wife moved in, the house had not been used as a residence since 1986.

While Salovey and his wife, Marta Moret SPH '84, moved into the official residence, they kept their East Rock home where Moret operated a consulting firm.

Levin, Salovey's predecessor, opted not to live in the residence full-time. He lived instead in his family's East Rock home, but held hundreds of events at 43 Hillhouse Ave. over his two decades as president. Levin told the News in 2013 that his family remained in their off-campus home to avoid disrupting their children's lives — the youngest of the couple's four children was still in elementary school when Levin became president.

Levin and his two predecessors — Howard R. Lamar GRD '51, president from 1992 to 93 and Benno Schmidt Jr. '63 LAW '66, president from 1986 to 1992 — were the three presidents who broke from tradition, causing the nearly three-decade gap in presidents living at the house.

Recent events hosted at 43 Hillhouse include a lunch where student leaders met with McInnis and members of the Yale Board of Trustees.

The Hillhouse residence traces its roots to philanthropist and businessman Henry Farnam, who owned the house from its construction in 1871 to his death in 1883. Following his death, the News reported that Farnam left the property to Yale, under the stipulation that it would remain in his family's possession through the lives of his widow and son.

When Farnam's son, Yale economics professor Henry Walcott Farnam, who received a bachelor's degree from Yale in 1874 and a master's degree in 1876, died in 1933, the residence officially became University property. Eight months of renovations transformed the house from "Victorian Gothic to Colonial," the News reported. Charles Seymour — a member of the Yale College class of 1908 who graduated with a doctorate from the University in 1911 — moved in after he took office in 1937 as president, a job he held until 1951.

While serving as president, Schmidt split his time between New Haven and New York and was criticized for his lack of on-campus presence. "'Where's Benno?' rivals 'Boola Boola' here," read a New York Times report from New Haven in 1989.

Despite his frequent distance from campus, Schmidt signed Yale's first deal with New Haven to make a voluntary contribution to the city budget: $2.5 million pledged in 1990, with $1.5 million per year afterwards.

At a March 6 press conference at City Hall, McInnis and Mayor Justin Elicker announced an increase in Yale's annual voluntary payment to New Haven, which will reach $33.6 million by 2033. McInnis spoke about Yale's history in the city.

"Fundamentally today, we are affirming Yale's commitment to New Haven, affirming that our work is yes, for our nation, and yes, for humanity, but also for our city, our home," McInnis said in her speech.

When approached by the News after the press conference, McInnis declined to answer questions.

From 1800 to 1846, Yale presidents lived on Old Campus, according to the Yale Alumni Magazine.

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