

FROM THE FRONT

“Every day is a renewal, every morning the daily miracle. This joy you feel is life.”
GERTRUDE STEIN POET

NEW TRUSTEES

Media executive, investment firm head

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day announcement, he was previously the CEO of NBA China and held leadership roles with DirecTV, Charter Communications, TCI Communications and YES Network, which broadcasts New York Yankees games.

Live Nation — the events promotion company that includes Ticketmaster — recently reached a \$280 million antitrust settlement with the U.S. Justice Department, the department announced early last month. The Justice Department, with 30 state and district attorneys general, sued Live Nation in 2024 for engaging in alleged “anticompetitive behavior” that drove ticket prices up for fans.

Live Nation denied allegations that it was operating an illegal monopoly and said it faces a competitive market, according to The New York Times.

Chang’s tenure as the CEO of NBA China was also marred by controversy, according to an Associated Press wire report announcing Chang’s departure from the organization. In October 2019, the Houston Rockets’ general manager posted a tweet supporting pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, igniting a firestorm with Chinese state streaming services and sponsors, who responded by cutting ties with the Rockets, according to CBS News.

Chang stepped down as CEO in May 2020.

He is also part of the Committee of 100 — a group of prominent Chinese-Americans who aim to “advance constructive relations between the U.S. and Greater China.”

The Yale Media, Entertainment and Sports Business Association — a student club — hosted Chang at an event on Tuesday evening.

During his time at Yale, Chang majored in history and was a coxswain for the men’s heavyweight crew team, according to the Tuesday press release.

Costeletos is currently the chairman of RIT Capital Partners, a British securities investment firm founded by Jacob Rothschild. Costeletos worked in finance for over thirty years after he graduated from Yale with a degree in mathematics, the announcement said.

Costeletos is a member of the President’s Council on International Activities at Yale, a council of more than 80 people that provides the University president with guidance on Yale’s “international agenda” and meets on campus annually, according to a webpage from the president’s office.

The meetings have focused on Yale’s activities in China, international student admissions and Yale’s international programs, according to the webpage.

Maryana Iskander LAW ’03, a trustee, is also on the council.

Costeletos has also worked on Yale’s For Humanity campaign, a fundraising campaign that has raised more than \$6.4 billion since it began, according to its website. He has also worked with the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and the University Council, the announcement said.

The appointments of Chang and Costeletos will bring the Corporation back to its regular size of 16 trustees. Those trustees are joined on the board by three members who serve because of their titles: the University president, the Connecticut governor and the lieutenant governor.

McInnis served as a successor trustee from 2022 to 2024.

Contact
LEO NYBERG
at leo.nyberg@yale.edu.

Local 34 pushes for wages to fit inflation

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according to the most recent data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. CNBC reported on Tuesday that average gas prices in the United States have topped \$4 per gallon as oil supplies are constrained by the country’s ongoing war in Iran, which may risk further inflation across economic sectors.

Protesters appeared to hold some of the same signs they carried at marches in September and November, which said “One Job Should Be Enough” and “We Can’t Keep Up.”

“I think that Local 34 and 35 have been a real supporter of the city of New Haven, and there are tons of people that are walking on this picket line at a time that we’re all in an affordability crisis,” the Rev. Scott Marks, director of local activist group New Haven Rising, said.

According to Marks, Wednesday’s protest drew clergy, organizers with New Haven Rising and representatives from UNITE HERE Local 35, the University’s maintenance workers union.

Yale President Maurie McInnis’ office is located in Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall. Jennifer Garcia, the union’s secretary-treasurer, said the organization hopes to “problem solve and negotiate in good faith with the University.”

For Dessara Bryant, a technology lead for Yale’s Information Technology Services office who attended Wednesday’s protest, receiving more pay would mean being able to more easily put food on the table when her 19 year-old-son comes home from college. It would also reduce a strain on everyday needs, she said.

“When it’s break time, and I’ve got to stock the fridge, my bank account says ‘ouch,’” Bryant said in an interview at the protest.

All Bryant and her fellow union members want from Yale, she said, is “respect and a decent wage to take care of our financial responsibilities.”

Other protestors, meanwhile, voiced frustration with what they described as the University’s reticence to meet workers’ needs.

“It’s so frustrating to see Yale, which has more in its endowment than many countries have their GDPs, trying to pretend that they can’t afford to give us livable wages,” Julia Fraivillig, an administrative assistant at the School of Management and Local 34 member, said in an interview at the protest. “That frustrates me, and that’s part of what motivates me to get out here.”

Fraivillig said that the union’s current contract — which became active in January 2022 — contained a “pretty good raise,” but that workers’ wages were no longer suitable to meet rising costs. They said they’ve had to rein in their spending, skip social gatherings and opt to make handmade gifts for their partner to save money. They

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site. We just want to create a space on this campus that continues to include those ideas but also have them discussed actively.”

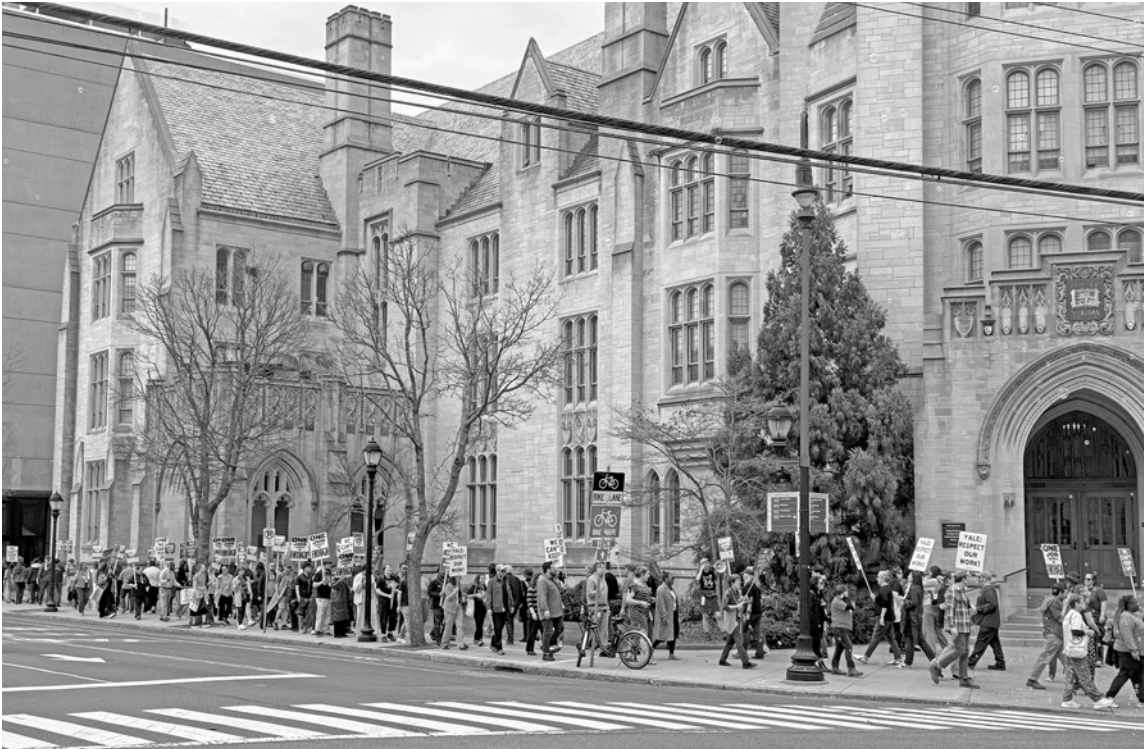
Victoria said in an interview with the News that he was originally approached by Turning Point about starting a chapter at Yale shortly after the assassination of Kirk.

Victoria said he believes that misconceptions from the “general media on the left” falsely characterize Turning Point as a “hateful organization.” However, Victoria hopes that the organization can provide a space for Yalies to consider a conservative approach to politics and ponder their personal values.

Turning Point has faced criticism across social media platforms for attacking public education and for promoting traditional gender roles, among other views.

Chapter president Carlos Perez ’29 said the group of students applied to become a student organization before winter break, having received approval to start a chapter from the national Turning Point organization. Turning Point had previously existed at Yale; Facebook posts from 2019 list the Yale chapter as active, but there are no additional posts for subsequent semesters.

Melanie Boyd ’90, Yale College’s dean of students, confirmed in an email to the News that the “group is currently going through



As contract negotiations with the University continue, members of Yale’s union of clerical and technical workers repeated their calls for pay that reflects rising costs of living at a rally outside of Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall on Wednesday.

Will Qian / Staff Photographer

also described struggling to afford rent, which recently prompted them to search for a second job.

“The university began negotiations with Locals 34 and 35 last summer and looks forward to a positive, productive process that results in a fair agreement for all parties,” Yale’s Head of Union Management Relations Joe Sarno wrote in an email to the News. He added that Yale respects the unions’ “right to gather peacefully.”

Members of Local 34 have received a base wage increase every year since their ongoing memorandum of agreement took effect in 2022, the document indicates.

Jen Ongley, a chair’s assistant in the Physics Department, noted Yale’s strong record of supporting its workers.

“Part of what drew me to Yale in the first place was being able to get a good union job with things like a pension and job security and actu-

ally decent benefits,” Ongley said in an interview at the protest. “That was part of why I wanted to work for Yale. And I think it’s really important that we preserve that and that we strengthen it, especially in this current national climate.”

UNITE HERE has 13 local affiliates operating in Connecticut.

Contact
SABRINA THALER
at sabrina.thaler@yale.edu.

Group returns to Yale after killing of Kirk

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the new organization onboarding process” in accordance with the usual procedure.

When asked if the chapter’s national leadership and affiliation with Kirk factored into administrators’ review of the chapter as a student group, Boyd wrote that “Yale college has a number of registered student organizations that are connected to a larger national/international organization.”

Victoria stressed the need for a diverse range of political voices at a “liberal echo chamber” like Yale. Victoria and Perez said they have already begun recruiting well-known speakers for future events.

“Buckley still attempts to be politically neutral while being dedicated to free speech,” Perez said, explaining the difference between the Buckley Institute and the Turning Point chapter. “We really hope to be explicit in that we want to bring conservative ideals to campus through speakers that espouse our beliefs and get these conversations going at Yale.”

Lauren Noble ’10, the Buckley Institute’s founder and executive director, wrote to the News when asked whether her organization was politically neutral that it is “an educational organization” hosting events which “attract students across the political spectrum.”

“No other organization has come close to bringing as many conservative voices to Yale’s campus over the

past 15 years,” she wrote, adding that “As a 501(c)(3) organization, we cannot endorse candidates for political office by law.”

Manu Anpalagan ’26, the founder of Yale College Republicans, wrote to the News that the key distinction between the Yale College Republicans and Turning Point lies in their structure, noting that the latter operates as a nonprofit while his group represents a political party, giving it greater leeway to engage in political activity.

Anpalagan also argued that the College Republicans’ affiliation with a long-established national political party gives it a stronger connection to the broader American public, which he said is central to its mission. By contrast, he suggested that Turning Point and the Buckley Institute, as newer organizations focused primarily on college campuses, may have a more limited connection beyond academic settings.

Perez envisions hosting collaborations with other Turning Point chapters in Connecticut and New York and has already been in talks with leaders from other Ivy League schools hoping to kickstart their own chapters of the organization.

A year from now, Perez and Victoria hope not only to attract notable speakers to their events, but also to make students feel comfortable both agreeing and disagreeing with one another and maintain longevity at Yale.

“It’s not just about ‘Did we get X department secretary or this person from the conservative movement to come and talk?’” Perez said. “But the most important thing is what did they talk about and how did students feel about the events, even if a lot of them might have disagreed, and did they consider a new perspective.”

Avi Rao ’27, the speaker of the Yale Political Union, attributes the conservative organization’s presence at Yale to Turning Point’s expansion to more colleges nationwide after the assassination of Kirk. Rao said he believes that American politics are experiencing a trend of younger voters shifting away from the Democratic Party.

“I actually think this type of group is really important and I’m quite happy, despite not being a member of Turning Point, that there exists a conservative counterpart to this type of organization on campus,” Rao wrote to the News. “It will certainly diversify political activity on this campus, which I think is a good thing, even though I might disagree with what that activity is.”

Erika Kirk, the widow of Charlie Kirk, is the chief executive officer of Turning Point USA.

Contact
OLIVIA CYRUS
at olivia.cyrus@yale.edu and
ANAYAH ACCILLEN
at anayah.accilien@yale.edu.