

ExcaLibur

The First Strike

August 28, 2011

Welcome back everyone to a new year of the Libs! I'm sure you've all had fun and relaxing summers, and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you over the next week. A special shout-out to all the freshmen: we're looking forward to meeting all of you!

What is the Liberal Party?

The Liberal Party is a founding party of the Yale Political Union (YPU). Every week, we hold a discussion on an interesting political, philosophical, or social issue and participate in the YPU-wide debate.

But we're not serious all the time! The Libs have a weekly dinner and frequently organize random social events. While many of us hold progressive and liberal views, our party members have a diverse set of opinions and we welcome all.

Unlike all of the other parties in the YPU, the Liberal Party does not have a formal membership process. To some, the Liberal Party is a source for deep intellectual discussion. To others, the Liberal Party is a group of interesting and like-minded friends. To most, it's a combination of the two. What you make of the Liberal Party is up to you to find out, and we warmly welcome all to our events!

What's happening in Libs world this week

Monday - Libs Discussion: 1:30-3:00PM in the [Dwight Hall Library](#)

Monday - Bluebooking: 10:00PM in [Calhoun H-32](#)

Thursday - Libs Dinner: 5:30PM at the back of the [Silliman Dining Hall](#)

Saturday - Happy Hour: 9:00PM in [Davenport F-21](#)

Monday - Libs Discussion: Was Robin Hood Right? 1:30-3:00PM in the [Dwight Hall Library](#)

The tales of Robin Hood give us one of the classic folk heroes of England, but a deeper look at the character prompts many questions. Is stealing from the rich and giving to the poor really a righteous action? Should we look kindly upon those who right inequality, even if their means are illegal? Is illegal action justified by a system that is unfair and corrupt? What modern real-life Robin Hoods are there, and should we support them?

Come discuss the answers to these questions and more at the very first Libs discussion of the year! All are welcome.

Monday - Bluebooking: 10:00PM in [Calhoun H-32](#)

Agonizing over which of the hundreds of awesome-sounding courses at Yale to take? Well, have no fear: we'll agonize together! Hear insights about classes from fellow Libs, and we'll all be done with our shopping lists in no time. Please call Cate to be let into the entryway.

Thursday - Libs Dinner: 5:30PM at the back of the [Silliman Dining Hall](#)

It's been a long time since the last Libs dinner, so I'm sure there'll be lots of catching up to do! Join us at the new location of the Silliman Dining Hall at the long table in the back.

Saturday - Happy Hour: 9:00PM in [Davenport F-21](#)

It's Saturday night! After a busy week of hurricanes, shopping, or froco meetings, join the Libs for drinks, good company, and a good time. Please call Justus to be let into the entryway.

That's all for now! I hope you all have a great week, and do feel free to contact me with any questions about the events for the week.

Sincerely,

Harry Yu

Secretary of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union

ExcaLibur

The Second Strike

September 4, 2011

Evening Libs, and a warm welcome to all of the freshmen who joined us at the Freshman Bazaar! Please feel free to join us at any of our events over the next week.

What is the Liberal Party?

The Liberal Party is a founding party of the Yale Political Union (YPU). Every week, we hold a discussion on an interesting political, philosophical, or social issue and participate in the YPU-wide debate.

Nevertheless, we're not serious all the time. The Libs have a weekly dinner and frequently organize random social events (including Liberal Libations this Friday!). While many of us hold progressive and liberal views, our party members have a diverse set of opinions and we welcome all.

Unlike all of the other parties in the YPU, the Liberal Party does not have a formal membership process. To some, the Liberal Party is a source for deep intellectual discussion. To others, the Liberal Party is a group of interesting and like-minded friends. To most, it's a combination of the two. What you make of the Liberal Party is up to you to find out, and we warmly welcome all to our events!

What's happening in Libs world this week

Monday - Libs Dinner: 5:30PM at the back of the [Silliman Dining Hall](#)

Tuesday - YPU Organizational Debate: "Politicians Should Pray In Private" 7:30PM in [SSS 114](#)

Thursday - Libs Discussion: "Your Friends or Your Ideals" 7:30PM at [TBA](#)

Friday - Liberal Libations: 9:00PM in [Calhoun H-32](#)

Monday - Libs Dinner: 5:30PM at the back of the [Silliman Dining Hall](#)

And we return to our regularly scheduled programming with the dinner on Monday. After a day of light labour, celebrate Labour Day with us at the weekly Libs dinner!

Tuesday - YPU Organizational Debate: Politicians Should Pray In Private 7:30PM in [SSS 114](#)

Come to the semi-annual YPU Org Debate and hear all of the parties (including the Liberal Party) make their formal introductions! The Libs will be sitting to the left towards the front of the hall.

In the United States, the First Amendment protects both the free exercise of religion. At the same time, a tradition of "separation between church and state" has been established by the judiciary. These two principles meet in the YPU's first debate of the year - Resolved: that Politicians Should Pray in Private.

What is the importance of a secular political sphere? Should religious politicians be forced to hide this large influence on their political ideals? Does the presence of public prayer encourage religious factions in politics? Would this be an unequal demand that disadvantages religious politicians? Come hear some opinions at the YPU debate.

Thursday - Libs Discussion: "Your Friends or Your Ideals" **7:30PM** at [TBA](#)

Should people restrict vocal expression of their ideals on public forums in order to maintain friendships? How should you react to a friend who acts in a way that violates a strongly-held belief of yours? How big of a role (either conscious or subconscious) do your ideals play in the friends you have? How big of a role should they play?

Discuss all of these and more at the Liberal Party discussion of the week.

Friday - Liberal Libations: **9:00PM** in [Calhoun H-32](#)

The Blood of Trotsky. Same Sex on the Beach. Red Russian. Cosmopolity. Come try these drinks and more with the Libs this Friday in Cate's suite! Call Cate to be let in.

Have a nice week, everyone! Please contact me with any questions or concerns about the events.

Sincerely,

Harry Yu

Secretary of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union

ExcaLibur

The Third Strike

September 12, 2011

Last week, the Libs had a refreshing Monday dinner, braved the rain to hear Libs support the resolution that Politicians Pray in Private.

At a great discussion on Thursday on Your Friends or Your Ideals, interesting points were raised about our tendency to suspend our ideals and trust our friends, the influence of our environments on our ideals, and the role ideals play in the friends we have. Finally, we had a great round (or several rounds) of libations on Friday night!

What's happening in Libs world this week

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30PM** in the [Silliman Dining Hall](#)

Tuesday - YPU Debate with Mark Thiessen: America should use enhanced interrogation at **7:30PM** in [LC 101](#)

Thursday - Libs Discussion: Should the US have compulsory military service? at **7:30PM** at a location [TBA](#)

Friday - Liberal Libations at **9:00PM** in [CC H32](#)

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30PM** in [Silliman Dining Hall](#)

Join the Libs for food and more as shopping period draws out to its end! We'll be sitting at the back of Silliman's Dining Hall; turn to the left after you enter and you'll find us there.

Tuesday - YPU Debate with Mark Thiessen: America Should Use Enhanced Interrogation 7:30PM in [LC 101](#)

The first YPU debate of the year will be on this Tuesday, with Mark Thiessen, Chief Speechwriter for President George W. Bush and advisor to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

If you're an official Union member and are interested in having dinner at 5PM with Mark Thiessen before the debate, please email jonathan.y.yang@yale.edu to express your interest!

Is enhanced interrogation ever acceptable? What means do terrorism or war justify? How does use of these techniques affect the US domestically and internationally? What does condoning harsh techniques say about us?

Sign in with the Libs and sit with us to the front and left of the room!

Thursday - Libs Discussion: Should the US have compulsory military service? 7:30-9:00PM in a location [TBA](#)

Should people of all classes background, and principles have to serve in the military? What kinds of social and political implications would this have? How much allegiance and service do we owe to our nation?

Join the Libs for another thought-provoking discussion and food at Yorkside afterwards!

Friday - Movie Night: *Divided We Fall* at 8:00PM in the [Saybrook TV Room](#)

Come join the Libs in the Saybrook TV room to watch the award-winning film: *Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath* about discrimination against South Asians after 9/11. Call Cate to be let in.

Look forward to a new feature in next week's newsletter, and have a nice week! As usual, please contact me with any questions or concerns about the events.

Sincerely,

Harry Yu

Secretary of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union

ExcaLibur

The Fourth Strike

September 19, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:00PM** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - Libs Discussion: Who should set public school curricula? at **7:30PM** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Thursday - YPU Debate: America should oppose unilateral Palestinian statehood? at **7:30PM** in **LC 102**

Friday - Games Night! at **9:00PM** in **SY O61**

Last week:

1. We lined up to eat in Silliman. Getting the food took longer than a typical American election season.
2. We debated whether America should use enhanced interrogation. Although Mark Thiessen was able to coax the YPU to an affirmative vote, Nick and Cate poked some holes in the arguments for waterboarding and tummy-slapping
3. We discussed whether the US should have compulsory military service. Compelling points were made about its social effect, its effect on the class disparity as compared to the current situation, and whether compulsory civil service would be a better choice
4. We watched `Divided we fall`: an eye-opening film about the kind of discrimination that can happen to fellow citizens

This week!:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:00PM** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Libs dinner will be earlier this week: we'll hopefully be able to navigate the shorter lines.

Tuesday - Libs Discussion: Who should set public school curricula? at **7:30PM** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Should individual parents have the final say on what their children learn? How do you resolve conflicting individual beliefs on historical and political curricula? Should control be focused at the local or national level? Is it important to have a unified educational experience across schools? How can we set a curriculum that helps students the most in their future pursuits?

Come discuss these questions and more with the Libs this **Tuesday! Note the unusual date this week.** Call Harry or Cate to be let in.

Thursday - YPU Debate: America should oppose unilateral Palestinian statehood? at **7:30PM** in **LC 102**

What is the danger of not letting the Palestinian nation get its own state? Is a unilateral declaration of statehood necessary for Palestinian self-determination? Should the Palestinians have their own state? What is our moral duty to Palestine as opposed to Israel especially as the world's most powerful country?

Join the Libs to the front-left of the hall for the debate this week.

Friday - Games Night! at **9:00PM** in **SY O61**

Catan will be settled, Apples will be matched with other Apples, and other things will probably happen at the first games night of the year. Come play, drink, and hang out with the libs this Friday in my awesome suite! Call Harry at (203) 675-5558 to be let in.

As I promised, the new feature is below! I'm being tyrannical this week, so it'll be me. Enjoy!

Lib of the Week: Harry Yu

Saybrook '14: Computer Science & Economics

Lib Secretary and the awesomest guy in history

Likes: The salmon they had in Saybrook today, winning at Catan, swimming, and overusing economics terms he doesn't understand

Dislikes: Pictures of himself

Favourite public transportation system: Singapore/Hong Kong (tie)



Hoping to see you all soon,

Harry Yu

Secretary of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union

ExcaLibur

The Fifth Strike

September 26, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:00PM** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - YPU Frosh Debate: The American dream is a lie (?) starting at **6:30PM** in **WLH 119**

Thursday - Libs Service: Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen at **5:15PM**, meeting in front of **Phelps Gate**

Thursday - Libs Discussion: Should we leave our hometowns behind? at **7:30PM** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Saturday - East Rock picnic at **12:00PM**, meeting in front of **Phelp's Gate**

Last week:

1. We discussed: who should set public school curricula? Cases were made for the importance of a uniform curriculum in a globalized world, the preservation of art and culture with more local curricula, and the ability of large numbers to avoid radicalism.
2. The YPU debated whether Americans should oppose unilateral Palestinian statehood. The equality of negotiations between Palestine and Israel was questioned and some appeals to pragmatism were made. The legitimacy of the different Palestinian governments was also discussed.
3. The Libs played one round of Apples to Apples at Games Night and proceeded to not play games. Well, that's how Games Nights usually work, right?

This week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:00PM** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

It's happening. Come.

Tuesday - YPU Frosh Debate: The American dream is a lie (?) at **6:30PM** in **WLH 119**

For frosh: come speak at the annual Frosh Debate! You'll have a chance to win \$100 for a 5-minute speech, along with a free lifetime YPU membership. The very vague topic gives you complete freedom to talk about just about anything: social and political issues, domestic and foreign affairs, the concrete or the abstract - basically anything!

Please contact ryan.pollock@yale.edu if you'd like to speak, as it's best for you if you get a scheduled time (you don't have to stay for 3-4 hours). Feel free to show up at the last minute though!

For non-frosh: come watch freshpersons speak! Sign in with the Libs at the front-left corner of the hall.

Thursday - Libs Service: Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen at **5:15PM**, meeting in front of **Phelps Gate**

The Libs' first service event of the year is here. Join the Libs to help out the local community. If you come late, feel free to call Harry.

Thursday - Libs Discussion: Should we leave our hometowns behind? at **7:30PM** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

What is the importance of our hometown ties? Do we owe something to where we're from? How do local communities shape our identities? Is it better to escape our bubble of comfort or to take refuge in it? Come to discuss these and more at our discussion on Thursday and join us for Yorkside afterwards.

Call Cate to be let in.

Saturday - East Rock picnic at **12:00PM**, meeting in front of **Phelps Gate**

Come eat and hang out with the Libs outdoors! Enjoy the nice weather before winter comes. If you're coming late, you can call Harry at (203) 675-5558 for directions or to ask where we're at.

Lib of the week: Ryan Pollock

Lord High-Chair of the Liberal Party

Calhoun '13: English

Likes: self-doubt, the Greeks, cheese fries, the Steelers.

Dislikes: loud music, Facebook, soy milk, stealers.

Favorite musical instrument: timpani.



That's all, have a great week!

Harry Yu

Secretary of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union

ExcaLibur

The Sixth Strike

October 3, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30PM** (*note the time change!*) in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - YPU Debate: College Sexual Culture Endangers Women with Jill Filipovic at **6:30PM** in **WLH 200 (Sudler Hall)**

Wednesday (not Thursday!) - Libs Discussion: Should we de-fund NASA? at **7:30PM** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Saturday - Cooking and Catan, cooking at **4:30PM**, and eating at **6:00PM** meeting in **a Kitchen TBD**

Last week:

1. Freshpersons debated whether the American Dream is a Lie! Although I failed to attend (sorry!), I have come to learn that the Libs were well-represented at the debate.
2. We volunteered at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen and had an interesting and fun evening of service.
3. We discussed: Leave our hometowns - interesting points were made for and against contributing to your hometown, and how you choose to identify with your hometown
4. The picnic was changed to a nice brunch in Silliman courtyard due to the overcast skies. The view wasn't quite as good, but the company remained the same!

And on to this week!

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30PM** (*note the time change!*) in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Libs dinner has been changed back to its normal time, since the lines at Silliman don't seem quite as bad as in the first week of classes.

Tuesday - YPU Debate: College Sexual Culture Endangers Women with Jill Filipovic at **6:30PM** in **WLH 200 (Sudler Hall)**

At this week's debate, Jill Filipovic, the chief writer of one of the most prominent feminist blogs in the country (found at <http://www.feministe.us/blog/>) will be coming to YPU to debate the very pertinent (considering where we are) topic of whether college sexual culture endangers women. Last year, the DKE pledge chant and the Title IX suit both brought Yale's sexual environment to the forefront of discussion, and the topic is still relevant today.

How does the college environment contribute to students' views of sexual behaviour? Are some behaviours found at Yale and other colleges not present off of college campuses? Why or why not? What is the role of the university administration in managing the personal lives of students? What are the roles of fraternities, college-sanctioned parties, and other student events in this culture? How much harm does the culture bring to women? To all students?

Come sit with the Libs to the front and left of the hall! All speeches, on your own experiences or in the abstract, are welcome.

Wednesday (not Thursday!) - Libs Discussion: Should we de-fund NASA? at **7:30PM** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

What is the role of NASA as a national institution today? How should the government decide which scientific projects to fund? How should the usefulness of scientific initiatives be judged? Is space exploration somehow different from other research?

Come discuss these items and more at the weekly Libs discussion, on **Wednesday** this time!. Call Cate to be let in.

Saturday - Cooking and Catan, cooking at **4:30PM**, and eating at **6:00PM** meeting in **a Kitchen TBD**

We will cook and plan Settlers of Catan! If you haven't played Settlers, it's a fairly simple board game that's become pretty popular over the past. The food will be as warm (hopefully warmer, since hot food usually tastes better) as the company, and delicious too!

Lib of the week: Alli Hugi

Senior member of the non-eboard, non-elder faction of the party

Morse '13: Global Affairs and Political Science

Likes: Apple orchards, show tunes and Ryan Pollock's pastel polos

Dislikes: Writing about myself [ed: ha, I see what you did there], applying for summer internships and the White Sox

Favourite member of the YPU: All the cool kids will know



That's it for this week! As always, send questions/concerns to me.

Best,
Harry Yu
Secretary of the Liberal Party of the YPU

ExcaLibur

The Seventh Strike

October 10, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - YPU Debate: The Left is Destroying America, with Ann Coulter starting at **7:00**, doors open at **6:30 (6:15 for those who've signed in 3 times)** in **WLH 201 (Sudler Hall)**

Thursday - Libs Discussion: What is the value of political correctness? at **7:30** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Last week:

1. Jili Filipovic led a good debate about whether college sexual culture endangers women. Both Cate and Ryan made speeches, Cate's stating that the social norms at college do not encourage seeking consent, and Ryan's reminding us that there are multiple vibrant sexual cultures on campus. An assumption of male guilt, the drinking culture at Yale, and other interesting corollaries were touched upon.
2. The Libs discussed whether we should defund NASA. Appeals to pure utilitarianism, the cultural and social significance of NASA, its role compared to other scientific institutions, as well as its role in distracting from the real problems affecting our society were made in this interesting discussion.
3. The cooking and Catan became cooking and Apples to Apples, which somehow ended up in Justus's suite (again).

And this week:

Tuesday - YPU Debate: The Left is Destroying America, with **Ann Coulter** starting at **7:00**, doors open at **6:30 (6:15 for those who've signed in 3 times)** in **WLH 201 (Sudler Hall)**

Ann Coulter is a prominent "uber-conservative" (see New York Times link) political commentator. Over the last few years, she has written books such as:

Guilty: Liberal Victims and Their Assault on America; If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans; Godless: The Church of Liberalism; How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must).

Join the YPU for a ideologically-polarizing debate on whether the Left is Destroying America. What is the left? What's wrong with it? The policies? The mindsets it encourages? How is this compared to the right? Is this categorization of left and right unjustified?

Come debate and watch with the Libs at the front and left of the room.

We expect this debate to be very full, so if you would like a seat, do come early!

Thursday - Libs Discussion: What is the value of political correctness? at **7:30** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Is political correctness more important than completely unrestricted expression of opinions? Does one preclude the other (or would restriction of speech prevent people from expressing their true beliefs)?

Discuss these questions and more with the Libs on Thursday.

Lib of the Week: Nick Eckenwiler

Last remaining member of the beer faction

Davenport '14, Political Science

Likes: Physics, irony, and public transportation

Dislikes: People who can't ride the metro properly, people who walk too slowly and get in the way, and certainty

Favorite author: Bertrand Russell; George Orwell's pretty good too



Harry Yu
Secretary of the Liberal Party of the YPU

ExcaLibur

The Eighth Strike

October 17, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Ban Smoking at Yale with Nick Gillespie starting at **7:30** in **WLH 201 (Sudler Hall)**

Thursday - Libs Discussion: Do LGBTQ public figures have a responsibility to come out? at **7:30** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Saturday - East Rock Picnic at **12:00** meeting at **Phelps Gate**

Last week:

1. The YPU debated whether the left was killing America with Ann Coulter. Ann Coulter offered a very performative opening speech, followed by insightful comments from both sides on the value of the left and of collaboration.
2. The Libs discussed the value of political correctness. The many effects of the uses of politically correct words were elaborated on, and distinctions were made between politically correct ideas and vocabulary.

This week:

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Ban Smoking at Yale with Nick Gillespie starting at **7:30** in **WLH 201 (Sudler Hall)**

We'll be joined with [Nick Gillespie](#), the former editor-in-chief of the libertarian magazine, [Reason](#), the print magazine of "free minds and free markets". Recently, he has co-authored [The Declaration of Independents: How Libertarian Politics Can Fix What's Wrong With America](#). In addition, he is a frequent political commentator on various news sources. At the debate, he'll surely come to answer questions such as:

Is restricting smoking an unreasonable restriction of personal rights and preferences? Can the effects of second-hand-smoke justify a ban? Should we institute a ban on paternalistic grounds? Who should be restricted by the smoking ban? Should we as Yalies set special expectations for ourselves with respect to smoking? Is there something special about smoking on college campuses?

Come join the Libs at the front and left of the hall, as usual!

Thursday - Libs Discussion: Do LGBTQ public figures have a responsibility to come out? at **7:30** in the **Calhoun Fellows' Lounge (Entryway D)**

Does being a public figure involve sacrificing the privacy of your sexuality? Is it better for us if politicians to come out? Why? Does the outing of celebrities and public figures have a real effect on the perception of LGBTQ people as a whole? This responsibility is somewhat discriminatory; is that an issue?

Discuss these and more on Thursday with the Libs! Call Ryan or Cate to be let in.

Saturday - East Rock Picnic at **12:00** meeting at **Phelps Gate**

It won't rain this weekend, so we'll actually go to East Rock (hopefully)! Bring yourself and a bit of cash so that we can buy some picnic food on the way up. Enjoy the great views, tasty food, and good company!

Lib of the Week: Justus (Cullen) Dyer

Sole Consul of Elder City

Likes: Pokemon, Ancient Rome, Big Red Buttons, Pretentious Water, Davenport Dining HLL

Dislikes: Hellenists, Light from the Apple Store, Ice-Cream Stomachaches, LGBTQ Public Figures

Favorite Candidate for Pope: Ann Coulter



That's all for now,

Harry Yu

Secretary of the Liberal Party of the YPU

ExcaLibur

The Ninth Strike

October 24, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Monday - Ward 1 Aldermanic Debate at **7:30** in **LC 102**

Tuesday - YPU Debate: An Unregulated Market is a Corrupt Market with **Eliot Spitzer** starting at **7:30** in **SSS 114**

Thursday - Libs Debate: Have children, but sacrifice Isaac, #Jesus, and Socrates for China's rise, because the arc of history bends toward Justus [sic] in this woman's world (not actually; see below) at **7:30** in a location **TBA**

Friday - Home-Cooked Dinner at **6:00** at **Juliette's House**

This week:

Monday - Ward 1 Aldermanic Debate at **7:30** in **LC 102**

The two candidates for Alderman in Ward 1 (which covers all colleges except Morse, Stiles, Silliman, and TD), Sarah Eidelson and Vinay Nayak, will be participating in a debate in advance of the municipal Aldermanic elections in November. Come hear them answer student-submitted questions and decide how to vote.

Tuesday - YPU Debate: An Unregulated Market is a Corrupt Market with **Eliot Spitzer** starting at **7:30** in **SSS 114**

Please note that we expect this debate to be very well-attended. If you would like to get a seat, please try to come early.

Doors will likely be open for YPU members at 6:45, and for non-members at 7:00. You may purchase a membership at Speaker's Dinner (5:30 in the Berkeley Common Room) on Monday and before the debate on Tuesday, for a price of \$20.

We will be joined at this debate by former New York Governor and Attorney General, Eliot Spitzer. As Attorney General, he was known for prosecuting many large firms for fraud and other white-collar crimes. During his tenure, the Attorney General's Office prosecuted insurance underwriters for fraudulent practices, music labels for undistributed royalties and "payola", and semiconductor companies for price-fixing. Spitzer's term as governor was less successful, and he resigned after a sex scandal.

In addition to his work as Attorney General, Eliot Spitzer has written on the subject for Slate and the Washington Post.

Does the recent financial crisis indicate that regulation is necessary? Is the market self-correcting? Is the meritocracy promoted by markets an entirely good thing? Do regulations enacted by the government introduce inefficiencies to the markets? Do they do more harm or good? Has a lack of regulation contributed to the growth of new fields such as the internet? Are markets ethical, fair, or moral?

Come debate these questions and more on Tuesday.

Please contact Francisco Diez (francisco.diez@yale.edu) if you wish to speak in the affirmative or Harry Graver (harry.graver@yale.edu) if you wish to speak in the negative.

Thursday - Libs Debate - Resolved: Have children, but sacrifice Isaac, #Jesus, and Socrates for China's rise, because the arc of history bends toward Justus [sic] in this woman's world at 7:30 in a location TBA

Is it our responsibility to have children? Is it our responsibility to sacrifice all children named Isaac? How drunk do you have to be to name your child #Jesus? Does the gender imbalance in China require us to sacrifice ridiculously-named male children? Should justice be for just us, and not our male children? Will these sacrifices create a "woman's world"? Why do the Libs have such a long debate resolution; why are the Libs having a debate at all (**think very hard about these two questions**)?

In the VERY LIKELY CASE that the above resolution passes unanimously with no objections, we will be debating:

Resolved: Run! The supernatural walks among us

Should the class divisions between supernaturals and non-supernaturals be struck down? Can we be segregated but equal? Should they be judged by their group identities? Have you seen them? Do they exist? Are you crazy? Who are they? Is the Lib of the Week below one of them? Yes? How did you know?! From your superpowers?!!

Debate these deep questions and more at the Libs' first joke debate of the year!

Friday - Home-Cooked Dinner at 6:00 at Juliette's House

The Libs will be having a low-key weekend on account of Parents' Weekend. Come cook (probably starting around 4:30-5:00PM) or just eat on Friday at Juliette's house. It's a fairly long walk, so we might arrange for groups walking together to the house. Feel free to email back with suggestions for dishes, if you'd like to help prepare anything!

Lib of the Week: Cameron Rotblat

Vice-Chair of the Liberal Party

Jonathan Edwards '13, History and Global Affairs

Likes: traveling, chess, rock music, Philadelphia sports teams, bayesian statistics

Dislikes: checkers, long sleeves, going to bed before 3am, noble lies

Favorite whey-infused soft drink: Rivella



With BRAIIINNS,
Harry Yu
Secretary of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union

ExcaLibur

The Tenth Strike

October 31, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Your Twenties Are Not For Experimentation with **Eve Tushnet** starting at **7:30** in **Davies Auditorium (Becton Center basement)**

Thursday - Libs Discussion with MEChA: What role should Yalies play in the New Haven community? at **7:30** in **La Casa (301 Crown St.)**

Saturday - Karaoke at a time TBA at **Justus's suite**

Last week:

1. Eliot Spitzer came to talk to us about the market inefficiencies that government solves through regulation. He was widely acknowledged as one of the best guests the YPU has had in recent memory.
2. The Libs joke debate was a smash.
3. I didn't go to dinner, but I heard it went well!

This week

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Your Twenties Are Not For Experimentation with **Eve Tushnet** starting at **7:30** in **Davies Auditorium (Becton Center basement)**

According to a profile of her linked to from her blog, Eve Tushnet's hobbies include sin, confession, and ecstasy. She studied philosophy at Yale University, where she was received into the Catholic Church. She is a freelance writer in DC, and has been published in (among others) *Commonweal*, *The National Catholic Register*, *National Review*, and *The Washington Blade*. In addition, she was a member of the YPU during her time at Yale.

What is the point of your life? How do we not waste our youth? Should our physiologically superior years be years when we take risks or when we ensure our future? How much should we plan things? Which specific kinds of risks and experimentation should we embrace? Unfortunately (or fortunately), this topic is so broad that my questions cannot cover everything. As such, come to the debate and hear what the YPU and Eve Tushnet have to say.

Please note that the debate is in Davies Auditorium, under the Becton Center just north of SSS.

If you'd like to have your voice on the topic heard, contact harry.graver@yale.edu if you wish in the affirmative, or francisco.diez@yale.edu if you wish to speak in the negative.

If you're a paid Union Member and would like to have dinner with Eve Tushnet on Tuesday, please email jonathan.y.yang@yale.edu by 5PM on Monday.

Thursday - Libs Discussion with MEChA: What role should Yalies play in the New Haven community? at 7:30 in [La Casa \(301 Crown St.\)](#)

Do university students have responsibilities to the community outside of campus? What kinds of responsibilities? Does our short time here make us qualified to do more than simple volunteerism? Does participating in the New Haven community really do anything? How should we contribute to the community, and do we get anything individually from participating in the community? Are these rewards worth the effort?

Discuss these and more at the Libs joint discussion of the semester with MEChA, the Mexican (Chicano) students association at Yale. La Casa is a cultural house located on Crown Street. Click on the link for a map.

Saturday - Karaoke at a time TBA at [Justus's suite](#)

The Libs will be having a karaoke night on Saturday in Justus's suite! Come show off your chops, however they are. More details to follow soon!

Lib of the Week: Isaac Park

Member of the junior transfer student faction of the Liberal Party

Likes: Experimenting in my twenties, Phillips Exeter Academy, Liz Lemon, Abbey Road, affirmative action, acid, amnesty, abortion, Scrabble, beating Alli at Scrabble, postmodernism, Paul Krugman, Professor Oak, alliteration, Regina George, Russian Futurism, Ann Coulter, libel, defamation, the *YDN*, karaoke, Cheez-Its®, *Annie Hall*, being on Justus's wall, Anderson Cooper's striking blue eyes, Sigmund Freud, monetary policy, Video Killed the Radio Star, laser cats, *SkyMall*, being Lib of the Week, settling Catan, baking cupcakes, gerund phrases, meta-humor, C.J. Cregg, *Wickard v. Filburn*, bad poetry, political correctness, is anyone still reading this?, Simone de Beauvoir, Simone de Beauvoir's life partner, Britney Spears, Roger Ebert, the metric system, J. Alfred Prufrock, Princess Peach, Malfoy, Brutus, Count Olaf, Salieri, Elaine Benes, and puppies.

Dislikes: Pittsburgh, Philips Exeter Academy, The Fountainhead, abstract algebra, Ann Coulter, sacrificing Isaac, Henry James, Reddit, plaid on plaid, Harold Bloom, hashtags, Descartes, linguistic prescription, pretzels, and polio.

Favorite black Supreme Court justice: Thurgood Marshall



See you all over the week!

Harry Yu

Secretary of the Liberal Party of the YPU

ExcaLibur

The Twelfth Strike

November 14, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Don't Allow Parents to Genetically Engineer Their Children, with guest **Judy Norsigian** starting at **7:30** in **LC 102**

Thursday - Libs Toasting from **7:30** at a location **TBA (most likely Saybrook-Branford Room)**

This week:

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Don't Allow Parents to Genetically Engineer Their Children, with guest **Judy Norsigian** starting at **7:30** in **LC 102**

If you have not yet qualled (or signed in 3 times) for the Libs, then please do so! This is the last debate of the year.

Judy Norsigian is a writer on women's health. She's the Executive Director of "Our Bodies, Ourselves", an organization that is primarily a publisher of books on women's health issues, and she has personally contributed to writings on many issues. The organization's flagship book, "Our Bodies, Ourselves" has over 4.5 million copies in circulation.

She has written in the past on the topic to be debated. More writings on related topics can be found here and here. She has also submitted a detailed testimonial against genetic testing to the US Senate.

Does genetic engineering objectify people? What are the health benefits of genetic engineering? Can it ultimately improve the life of the child, and is that worth it? Does it disadvantage certain groups - the poor, women, or children - more? What kinds of traits would be acceptable to engineer, if any? Do the research procedures in this field harm women?

Come debate these questions and more! Email francisco.diez@yale.edu to make a docketed speech against the resolution, or harry.graver@yale.edu to make one for the resolution. Speaker's dinner is at the usual time of 5:30PM on Monday in the Berkeley Common Room.

If any Union Members would like to have dinner with Judy Norsigian, please email jonathan.yang@yale.edu before 5PM on Monday.

Thursday - Libs Toasting from **7:30** at a location **TBA (most likely Saybrook-Brankford Room)**

Libs toasting is back! Come toast to all that is good or bad, right or wrong, pertinent or random in this world. If trends persist, mostly everyone will have a great time. Drink from the Libs cup! This is a once-per-semester opportunity, so be there!

That's all for this week! I hope to see you all at whatever events that I can make with my wacky schedule this week.

Lib of the Week: Shailin Thomas

Grand Poobah of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Unicorn

Likes: Running, starbucks, argyle, Gob Bluth, Glee Cast version of Teenage Dream, Katy Perry version of Teenage dream, well, really any version of Teenage Dream, the red cups that starbucks uses during the holidays, Nassim Nicholas Taleb, the guy with the eyepatch in 300, fluffy dogs (preferably white), the Oldspice guy, wraps, Red Pandas, Isaac Park, winky face emoticons, popped collars on pea coats, Scotty Doesn't Know, brown ricecalifornia rolls, the Safety Dance music video, and sleep.

Dislikes: Nature, cold, rain, the "outside", fluorescent lights, waking up before the sun is up, cats (not including kittens, lions, tigers, panthers, leopards, and ocelots), the ninth season of Scrubs, Isaac Park, arugula, the TV show Big Brother, Commons being closed for dinner, the color mauve.

Favourite ???: ??? (ask Shailin! He forgot to send me one)



Harry Yu
Secretary of the Liberal Party of the YPU

ExcaLibur

The Final Strike

November 28, 2011

What's happening in Libs world this week:

Monday - Libs Dinner at **5:30** in the **Silliman Dining Hall**

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Evaluate Art for Its Political Content with **Alyssa Rosenberg** starting at **7:30** in **Sudler Hall (WLH 201)**

Thursday - Libs Discussion: What should happen to our stuff when we die? at **7:30** in the **Calhoun Parlor (room by Calhoun Common Room)**

This week

Tuesday - YPU Debate: Evaluate Art for Its Political Content with **Alyssa Rosenberg** starting at **7:30** in **Sudler Hall (WLH 201)**

Our guest for this week, Alyssa Rosenberg is a pop-culture writer for ThinkProgress and a Yale alum with a major in Humanities. She has written for various publications in the past and has frequently evaluated art and media for their political content in the past in posts on Twilight, the Occupy movement, Up All Night, among others.

Does controversial content or a lack of it aid our enjoyment of art? Is it important or enlightening for us to analyze art politically, even if it wasn't intended by the artist? Should the occurrence of political content in different forms of media be treated differently? Is art a higher pursuit when it doesn't involve politics? What does contemporary art tell us about our society? Is it possible for art to be apolitical?

Come and debate these and more at the very last debate of the semester! If you would like to speak, contact francisco.diez@yale.edu for the affirmative or harry.graver@yale.edu for the negative. Feel free to attend speakers' dinner at 6PM tomorrow in the Berkeley Common Room.

Thursday - Libs Discussion: What should happen to our stuff when we die? at **7:30** in the **Calhoun Parlor (room by Calhoun Common Room)**

Is inheritance justifiable? How much material wealth should people be allowed to pass on, if any? Where should our assets and wealth go? What effects does the process of inheritance have on the structure and interaction of families? Should we be able to pass on private property if their personal sentimental value outweigh their public value?

Come discuss these and more at the Libs discussion this week.

Lib of the Week: Juliette Calvarin

Likes: knitting, languages, androgyny, New Jersey a little.

Dislikes: running, the taste of alcohol, capitalism, New Jersey a lot.

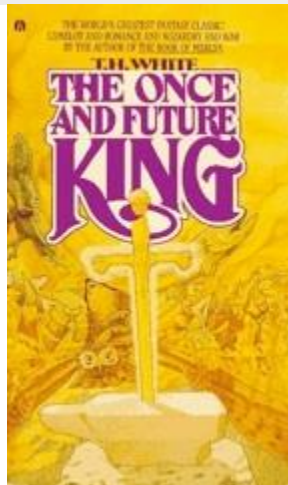
Favourites

Animated movie: Howl's Moving Castle

Bible verse: Matthew 25:36
Christmas carol: Good King Wenceslas
Architect: Tadao Ando



And to conclude the strikes of Excalibur, I present a good book about another good king.



I hope to see you all at the events this week!
Harry Yu
Secretary of the Liberal Party of the YPU