



YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST

bluELines



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR YCS PRESIDENT, NICK GLADDING

Ladies and gentlemen: As our 2011-2012 Yale Club of the Suncoast Season winds down, I want to give you a brief update on the state of your club. I am delighted to report that your Yale Club of the Suncoast is thriving and has enjoyed a remarkable year. Not only is our financial house in very good order but we are debt free and have adequate reserves to launch another successful year in the fall. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Beverley Wadsworth and many of you, we currently have 130 active YCS members! We are blessed with a superb Board of Directors and fine Officers, all of whom have agreed to serve you again for another year! Our lunches at the Sarasota Yacht Club were a rousing success and I can't remember a year when we consistently maintained such large attendance throughout the entire season. We were graced with remarkable speakers in addition to many luncheon guests, including students interested in attending Yale and several who had been accepted by Yale. Given that only 6.8% of the applicants to Yale College were accepted this year, our two "Early Action" acceptance students overcame remarkable competition. We are indebted to many of you for helping our Alumni Schools Committee, which was superbly led by Patrick Whelan, for encouraging students from our area to apply to Yale and in supporting Yale's efforts during the interview and book award processes.

As some of us head north and others of us get ready to enjoy somewhat easier driving and less restaurant waiting time, I want to leave you with a final thought: you truly have the best Yale Club and it is in the best part of the country! Enjoy your summer and if you are in town, please drop in for one of our informal lunches on the second Tuesday of each month at Marina Jack. We'll look forward to catching up again with everyone at New College for our YCS Welcome Back Reception on Sunday, October 21, 2012.

Kind regards,

Nick Gladding '67

“ A Reporter’s Twelfth Presidential Campaign,”

By Nick Gladding



On April 10, 2012, Robert (“Bob”) Semple, Associate Editor of the Editorial Page and Senior Editorial Writer of the New York Times, presented to the Yale Club of the Suncoast a remarkable analysis of presidential politics and changes in Republican candidates’ views. Bob, who is an “honorary” member of the Club, was making his fifth presentation. His last talk in Sarasota was during the heated Democrat presidential primary in 2008 between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, whereat Bob accurately predicted that Mr. Obama would prevail as the Democratic Party’s nominee and also as our new President. This year, he opined that Governor Mitt Romney would be the Republican presidential nominee and that President Obama would win reelection. He wagered a generous increase in his Club membership dues, should the latter prediction prove inaccurate. Several short hours after Bob’s talk to us, Rick Santorum suspended his presidential bid, essentially ending the Republican primary contest and allowing Mr. Romney to directly square off against President Obama. As for his second prediction, we will need to await the results of the November election.

Bob Semple’s talk was titled “ A Reporter’s Twelfth Presidential Campaign,” and early on in it he stated that it would consist of two subjects: 1) the Presidential Campaign; and 2) the biggest single change in the political landscape in over 50 years-the transformation of the Republican party from a largely diverse, moderate group to a conservative, angry group. As for the Campaign, Bob said it was the “oddest campaign” in years. Only a year ago, Romney had seemed a shoe in. Then, one challenger after another popped up, including Donald Trump, Michelle Bachmann, Tim Pawlenty, Rick Perry, Ron Paul, Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum. He dubbed them all “shooting stars” except Mr. Santorum, whom he characterized as a two term Senator who failed to be reelected in his home state of Pennsylvania. Instead of these challengers driving Mr. Romney to go “moderate”, they have driven

him further to the right. These challengers were there because they represented the new Republican Party, which is far different from the moderate Republican Party which went back to 1961, when Bob started reporting on presidential campaigns.

Republicans in the 1960's and throughout the 1970's were socially moderate, although they were conservative on fiscal matters and resolute on national defense. As examples, he cited Rockefeller, Bush (I), Scranton, Lindsay, George Romney and even Richard Nixon! He said these men were familiar with complex domestic issues and were "ready to engage" in civilized debate. Bob asked the rhetorical question: where have all the moderates gone? His answer: "They were all wiped out by a meteor in the form of Ronald Reagan." Now what we see is the evangelical right, filled with anger and a nagging sense of despair about the economy, abortion and other social deficiencies which seem to have led to "an American decline." Forty-five years ago, Republicans voted in unison to pass landmark civil rights legislation and 40 years ago, Republicans passed major environmental legislation, much of which was championed by President Nixon. Only 10 years ago, Republicans blocked attempts to repeal these same environmental laws. Today, he said you can't find 10 Republican votes for environmental laws. The key question is: "Will Romney embrace the Republican Party of YES or No?"

A conservative, a moderate and a liberal walk into a bar and the bartender says "Hi Mitt."

Bob had a wish: once the campaign begins, which coincidentally both candidates are now saying was April 10th, Bob Semple hopes that Mitt will emphasize his managerial skills, will drop immigration reform and cultural issues, and will speak intelligently about the economy. Despite recent favorable employment numbers, we're still short 10 million American jobs; 5 million disappeared during the Great Recession and we need 5 million new ones. Home equity has been devastated and there is a lot of undifferentiated public anger, much of which is based on economic malaise. There is a broader fear that America has fallen behind and that chiefly China is "out hurtling" us. Hopefully, according to Bob, Romney will not bash Obama on the economy and will instead focus on urging greater investment in education and technology. Romney makes no apology for American exceptionalism and he needs to say how he will maintain it.

Bob hopes that Romney will now move toward the center. One tip-off will be whom he chooses as his vice presidential running mate. He said Romney has been "sitting with the 7 stooges" on the stage but that he is a plausible candidate and the American people have short memories. Obama cannot claim much of a recovery and Bob suggested that there is a yearning in the country to return to the Age of American Greatness. Today, he said the poll numbers show Obama at 47%, Romney at 44% and 9% undecided. The key battleground states include Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia and of course, Florida. The question is Bob's mind is: "why change horses?"

In response to our questions, Bob opined that Romney can move to the center because the right has no place to go except to him. Third party candidates “never win” and they don’t influence the process for the best, starting with John Anderson and going through Ross Perot. He believes President Obama is comfortably ahead in the money race now but that Mitt Romney will catch up fast, thanks in part to the “Super Pacs’. He doesn’t like the Supreme Court’s decision in the Citizens United case because it killed the idea of public financing and the New York Times has always been against “pay to play” politics. “And now the Veepstakes starts”, which all reporters love, because it gives them something to write and talk about during the time before the national conventions. Bob mentioned Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Christie Whitman as possible Republican choices, but admitted he is always surprised by choices like Spiro T. Agnew and Dan Quayle. He felt he was sandbagged by Richard Nixon who got him to float everyone else’s name and then he picked Mr. Agnew. Bob was actually “stunned” by John McCain’s choice of Sarah Palin!

It was indeed a remarkable walk through twelve terms of presidential politics with Bob Semple as our guide, and we will all eagerly wait to see if Bob will have to make good on his YCS dues increase come November 6th.

Submitted by: Nick Gladding

Tour of Rubens Exhibit at the Ringling Museum of Art

For the last several years the Yale Club of the Suncoast has sponsored a private tour led by a docent of a special exhibition at the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art. The tour has always been followed by luncheon at the museum’s Treviso Restaurant. Many members will recall Karen Kopp’s excellent tour last season of tapestries from the Kunsthistorisches Museum of Vienna. The situation was a bit different this year. Fifty-seven individuals, Club members and their guests, arrived at the Ringling on the morning of Monday, January 27, 2012 to see the exhibit entitled “Peter Paul Rubens: Impressions of a Master.” Since the education department of the museum opted not to train any of its docents to conduct tours of this exhibit, a formal tour was not possible. Marsha Samponaro, until recently a Ringling docent, stepped into the breach with impromptu remarks about Rubens and his enormous contribution to the art of the western world. Thereafter, everyone had ample time to view the exhibit which featured paintings and prints from the Ringling’s own renowned collection as well as prints belonging to the Royal Museum of Art of Antwerp, Belgium. The day’s events concluded with lunch at the Treviso. All enjoyed a tasty meal and some very lively and relaxed conversation.

Since these outings to the Ringling Museum have become an enjoyable annual event for our Club, those who read this review are advised that plans have already been made to see the special exhibit featuring paintings of the Italian Renaissance master Paolo Veronese on February 11, 2012. Stay tuned for details.

Submitted by: Frank Samponara

PROFESSOR PAUL BRACKEN ELECTRIFIES MEMBERS WITH VISION OF THE SECOND NUCLEAR AGE



Paul Bracken, Yale's Professor of Management and Professor of Political Science, presented a summary of his new book *The Second Nuclear Age* at the Club's March luncheon. He had recently delivered the book to Henry Holt, but it will not be published until after the election. He developed the book from his course Strategy, Technology and War, which develops technology and innovation landscapes for business and defense.

Professor Bracken set the stage by describing the First Nuclear Age, also known as the Cold War, which began with the testing and dropping of atomic bombs in 1945 and ended with the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991. He stated that the atom bomb has returned for a second act in the Second Nuclear Age, which now features nine nuclear countries – the original five (the U.S., Russia, the U.K., France and China) plus North Korea, India, Pakistan and Israel. He asserted that, like the Cold War, the Second Nuclear Age will be a 50-year problem.

Professor Bracken described three of the many lessons from the Cold War that will apply to the Second Nuclear Age. The first is that you don't have to fire a nuclear weapon to use it. He noted that the U.S. used its nearly every day during the Cold War. Two benefits of the threat posed by our nuclear stockpile were that we had at most 18 divisions, while the Soviet Union maintained 170, and we devoted no more than 10% of our GDP to defense, while the Soviet Union devoted 30%-40% of its GDP to defense, eventually leading to its demise. The second lesson is that words matter. He asserted that politicians need to think through what they are saying, or shut up. For example, what will we do when Iran crosses the red line established by our government. If we do nothing, our credibility will be shot. The third lesson is that politicians will use nuclear head games; indeed they are already using them. He defined head games as efforts to create an illusion of what a country will do with its nuclear weapons in order to influence an opponent's activities. He noted that all

U.S. Presidents during the Cold War played head games. In fact, he was surprised during an interview with former President Carter to find that Carter had perhaps played the most head games of all. A recent example of a head game is Israel's sending submarines armed with harpoon missiles through the Suez Canal while Mubarak was still in power. This sent a message to the Iranians that Israel could send missiles against Iran from many directions.

A major change from the Cold War relates to ideology. The dominant ideological contest of the Cold War was freedom versus Communism. Now nationalism, which is more ferocious and more unreasoned than the old ideological battleground, has become the focus. Moreover, during the First Nuclear Age not one nuclear power ever seriously considered using an atomic bomb. Military leaders may have planned for the use of nuclear weapons, but civilian leaders never approved their use. Bracken argued that there are serious military plans by India, Pakistan, Iran and Israel to use nuclear weapons, and the military leaders are refusing to share them with civilian leaders. He stated that nuclear weapons are becoming ever more deeply entrenched in strategic planning in the three areas of concern, the Middle East, East Asia and South Asia. He provided examples of increased new arms competition and posited that the United States is the sole nuclear power that has not modernized its missiles. He described the U.S. arsenal as "junk in the attic that has been so highly neglected that it is unusable." He noted that the President's latest budget does provide for \$11 billion to modernize our nuclear force.

In response to a question, he outlined three remedies that he recommends: emergence of an international arms control system, a declaration by the U.S. that we will not ever make a first use of nuclear weapons but will guarantee a second nuclear use against any country that makes a first use and revitalization of arms control, in other words, disarmament, not to reduce the stockpile of nuclear arms but to reduce damage from their use.

Professor Bracken left most if not all of us with chills running up and down our spines as we confront more clearly the changing strategic world around us.

Submitted by: Oliver Janney

Yale ASC report

Every year when decision day come for Yale, I hold my breath a bit in cautious optimism. With admissions rates these past few years shrinking and shrinking, I hope for the best for our applicants.

For the past five years, I believe that we have sent two students from this area to Yale each year. This year Yale received 28,974 applications for freshman admission, and the Admissions Office admitted a total of 1,975 students, reflecting an admissions rate of 6.8%. A total of 1001 were placed in the purgatory of the wait list, a tool that almost all competitive colleges use to boost their yield.

Locally, we had two students admitted through the early action process: Andrew Grass of Pine View School and Aiste Zalepuga from Saint Stephen's Episcopal School. Andrew has committed to go to Yale, and Aiste is reviewing her options and visiting Yale right now. None of our applicants from the regular decision process were admitted. Two of our regular decision applicants were placed on the wait list. One whose application was processed through the Questbridge Program, which matches low income, high achieving students with high competitive colleges. Most likely he was matched with another college since he has withdrawn his name from the wait list. In total we had 50 applicants from 18 different high schools and one home-schooled applicant. All of them had contact with one of us. I'm sure that many of those that were rejected could have done well at Yale, but I also don't have access to the full file of their scores, grades, and essays. I am certainly willing to trust the process. I certainly don't want to be in the shoes of the ones making those decisions. Thank you all for your efforts this year with the interviews and college fairs. I enjoy talking to these exceptionally bright students. I consider it a privilege even if their chances are slim. I also consider it a privilege to work with all of you on the ASC.

We are about ready to start the book award season. Dan Conway will not be able to deliver the books to the southern five schools that he typically covers. We need a plan for how to cover those schools. I have left a message at Stonewood Country Club to reserve Saturday June 2nd from 2-4 for our book award reception. I will be going out of town during the second Saturday of June, so I needed to move up the date. Perhaps with the earlier date we can catch more families before summer break really starts in earnest. The Sarasota College Fair will most likely be held Tuesday October 23th. This is always a big occasion that requires about three of us to handle the interest.

Submitted by: Patrick Whelan

College Fair



Yale was well represented at the February 25th Ivy League College Fair, held at New College in Sarasota. Club members Nick Gladding, Oliver Janney, Ed Williams, Ken Schneier and Patrick Whelan, our Alumni Schools Committee Chair, met with 35 to 40 local high school underclassmen and their families to answer questions about the Yale experience and standards for admission. All Ivy League schools, most Seven Sisters and host New College were represented at this annual event, designed to give area students a one-stop introduction to a dozen great colleges before the application process begins in earnest. We hope to see many of these candidates again during our local interview process next Fall.

Submitted by: Ken Schneier



GOOD TIMES AT THE LOBSTER BAKE ON CASEY KEY



On the last Friday in March, 51 members and guests assembled at the beautiful Bath Club on Casey Key for what we hope will be our annual lobster bake. The weather was perfect, as the humidity of recent weeks disappeared but a comfortable warmth remained. Fellowship, flagons and feasting abounded. All present enjoyed the creamy clam chowder (New England style, of course), lobsters or steaks, lots of clams and mussels, boiled potatoes, cole slaw and the piece de resistance, strawberry shortcake. Many thanks to Steve Wilberding for arranging for our use of the stunning location and to Bev and Dyer Wadsworth for arranging a perfect event.

Submitted by: Oliver Janney

Summer Drop-in Luncheon Schedule and Coordinators

June 12, 2012 Ron Levin (rdlevin@att.net<mailto:rdlevin@att.net>)

July 10, 2012

Mark Magenheim (markomag@comcast.net<mailto:markomag@comcast.net>)

August 14, 2012

ArtEngelhard (engela@verizon.net<mailto:engela@verizon.net>)

September 11, 2012=Ed Williams

(vinson10@earthlink.net<mailto:vinson10@earthlink.net>)

October 9, 2012= Brian Kelly (btk1000@aol.com<mailto:btk1000@aol.com>)

Ken Schneier will send out the e-mail notices to the entire eblast membership approximately two weeks prior to each lunch. Each person attending will pay for his or her own lunch and beverage. All summer lunches will be on the top floor restaurant area at Marina Jacks.

Remembering “Semester-at-Sea”:

After a wonderful sojourn of almost four months, your intrepid YCS V-P/Secretary is delighted to reminisce a bit about his recent voyage aboard the *M.V. Explorer*, a 1200-passenger luxurious ocean-liner operated by the University of Virginia. This floating university (through UVA’s Institute for Shipboard Education) was built in 2002 as the “fastest and most stable in its class”. The ship travels the globe year-round in academic voyages of one week to four months’ duration, including twice-yearly circumnavigations. Each program has a specific academic theme for the 3 annual semester voyages.

I was lucky to be a part of the “Impact of Globalization” voyage that embarked Montreal August 26, 2011 with 486 undergraduates from 180+ universities, 38 faculty, 30+ family members, about 35 UVA staff, and over 60 “LifeLong Learners” for courses and field experiences that are truly once-in-a-lifetime. (There were a number of Ivy League students, especially from Dartmouth, Columbia, Penn, and Cornell, though I didn’t meet any from Yale). We were served in grand style by a hospitality crew of over 200, mainly from the Philippines, China, and India, with a seasoned captain and engineering crew from the UK and Europe. After four months together, we were a veritable and virtual learning community engaged in 29 courses in shipboard classrooms, computer labs, sundecks, and libraries during all days at sea. These were interspersed with field assignments, tours, and contact with the peoples and cultures we visited. Well beyond typical touring, sea-days were full of academia, coffee houses, talent shows, community forums, regional music and dance programs, special lectures, and various performing arts from early morn to late night. Port visits included homestays, sightseeing, host gatherings with local universities, Habitat-for-Humanity builds, and other service projects with local NGOs. Students earn up to 17 UVA-transferable credit hours for the 4-month Semester-at-Sea program, in operation since 1961.

Submitted by Mark J. Magenheim, ’71MPH, YCS Vice-President and Secretary (Mark will present full details in a slide presentation at the May Luncheon.)

