

# YPU News investigates: *The Independent Party*

Special reporter **Kate:** So, Mr. "Bojangles," how would you describe code name: "Independent Party"?

Katherine McDermott interviews an insider source identified only as "Bojangles."

**Bojangles:** The Independent Party, commonly referred to as the "IP," is a debating and social organization and one of the 7 parties in the Yale Political Union. (The one that will garner you instant popularity and admiration among your new classmates.

Especially the attractive ones.)

**Kate:** Say I were a prospective member of this "IP." Would I need any high school debating experience?

after meetings to continue discussion over cheese fries and Moosetracks milkshakes. The Union, however, holds a number of "prize debates" in which the IP has the opportunity to slam down its iron fist of oratorical domination.

**Kate:** Who exactly joins this elusive and mysterious organization?

**Bojangles:** I wouldn't say that a certain "type" of person joins the IP – this is exactly why these individuals, affectionately referred to as IPsters, are so hard to track down and identify. Unlike the other six parties in the YPU, the IP does not identify with the "left" or "right." IPsters range from what government sources classify as granola-munching Communist subversives, to libertarian operatives bent on "making the world safe for capitalism," to gung-ho military types who have seen *Patton*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *Glory* 15 times each. The only apparent "connection" between these individuals is a passion for lively debate, challenging discussion, diverse viewpoints, and good times.

**Kate:** Well, folks, that's all the time we have for today. Check back at the *Extracurricular Bazaar* for more breaking news, important events, and, of course, updates from our friend Bojangles. Until next time, I'm Kate McDermott with YPU News. Goodnight.

# The Spectrum

The official newsletter of the Independent Party

## Hear All Sides · Founded 1934

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**Bojangles:** None whatsoever. IPsters range from students who are still haunted by their disastrous third-grade oral presentation on "My Friend the Sea Otter" to national debating champions who love the sound of their own voices - and, of course, everyone in between.

**Kate:** Are the weekly meetings held by these "IPsters" debating or speaking competitions?

**Bojangles:** Why, no, Kate. The weekly meetings resemble friendly, noncompetitive debates rather than tournaments. The end goal of this organization is encouraging thought, open-minded consideration and friendship; their debates don't have winners or losers. Instead of awarding prizes, these debaters adjourn to Yorkside Pizza

Our roving reporter "interviews" Bojangles.



## Coming up after the break...

### SPOTTED!



Social Activities and Alumni Affairs Chair River Clegg has been spotted at Shaw's purchasing snacks and party supplies. Could a Mixer be in the works?



Sources indicate that Dean Salovey has issued a list of available courses. Many freshmen report being overwhelmed by the sheer number of options and frightened by the Dean's moustache. Members of the Independent Party will be standing by at a "Bluebooking Party" to give advice and answer any questions about specific classes and professors.

### First Debate!



What will the resolution be? Find out when we come back!

**BREAKING NEWS: BLUE BOOK ISSUED**

**Chairman** : Geoffrey "Barbara Walters" Shaw  
**Vice-Chairman** : Alex "Jay Leno" Soble  
**Chief Whip** : Meredith "Katie Couric" Morrison

**Secretary** : Naomi "Walter Cronkite" Lisan

**Treasurer** : Sasha "Tom Brokaw" Burger

**SAAAC** : River "Al Roker" Clegg

**Director of Development**: Alena "Bob Woodruff" Gribskov

**Former Chairmen**: Carmen "Ted Koppel" Lee, Rachel "Bill O'Reilly" Bayefsky

**This Summer**, members of the Independent Party have been involved in all sorts of mischief and mishaps. **GEOFFREY** "now let's practice our fricatives" **SHAW**'s students in China have selected their English names; his class now includes students dubbed "Table," "Eggplant," and "Dracula." **JOYCE** "wry British humor" **ARNOLD** put her writing skills to good use working for *The Economist*. **NAOMI** "always a Midwesterner" **LISAN** recently returned from Minneapolis, where she interned for Planned Parenthood and met a man who informed her that his short-haired dachshund had been trained to chase Republicans. **CARLY** "Capitalism" **ZUBRZYCKI** has spent the summer in London, as an intern at the Adam Smith Institute, a libertarian thinktank. **RACHEL** "Don Corleone" **BAYEFISKY** found herself in the middle of a Ukranian mafia feud while working for the International Center for Democratic Transition. **REK** "neither snow nor rain nor heat" **LECOUNTÉ** has been trudging through thunderstorms and Mid-Atlantic heatwaves in his quest to secure a Democratic victory as a grassroots volunteer for the DNC. **SAM** "I smell blackmail" **BAGG** stayed with fellow IPster Joyce Arnold in London while he researched his senior thesis. He reports, however, that he actually learned more about Joyce and looks forward sharing stories at the Joke debate. **ALENA** "terrified of emus" **GRIBSKOV** and **ADAM** "frightened by zebras" **GOODRUM** visited Chief Whip Meredith Morrison in Texas, where they went on a safari. Alena has spent the remainder of her summer in New York working for a publishing company, reading manuscripts and getting complimented on her talent for writing kind rejection letters. **ALLISON** "Nawlins" **PEÑA** danced to cajun music and ate jambalaya while she helped organize a new charter school in the Big Easy. **MEREDITH** "Jordanian at heart" **MORRISON** recently returned from Amman, where she studied Arabic along with fellow IPster **ARIEL** "number one Arabic student" **SHEPHERD-OPPENHEIM**. Will Joyce stay in London? Will Rek survive the cold he caught while doorknocking? Will Jayla tell Keith that "his son" is actually the product of the affair she had with the guy who plays Mickey Mouse at Disney World??? Tune in next week (or at the Blue-Booking party) for another episode of *Days of our Independent Party*.

*Alright, alright, I give up. I guess I'm interested in checking out this "IP" thing when I get to campus this fall. But where will I find you, and whom should I contact with questions/comments/fan mail?*

You can find us at the **Freshman Bazaar** wearing our nifty IP t-shirts and hawking issues of the Spectrum. We'll be hosting several events come September, including a "**Blue Booking**" **barbecue**, our first **debates** of the year, and a **Mixer** or two. Want more information? Feel free to email our Chief Whip with any questions at [meredith.morrison@yale.edu](mailto:meredith.morrison@yale.edu), and don't forget to check out our brand-spanking-new website: [www.yale.edu/ip](http://www.yale.edu/ip).

## What the critics have to say about the Independent Party...

"Irreverent, intellectual and entirely inappropriate"

-*The Chicago Sun-Times*

A shiny, bouncy, clever romp!

Fun for the whole family!

-*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Chairman Geoffrey Shaw is... the next Brad Pitt"

-*Ebert and Roeper*

"I don't understand the question, and I won't respond to it"

-*Dana Perino, White House Press Secretary*

## IPster of the Week

**Name:** *Bojangles*

**Title:** *Official Spokeslobster of the IP*

**Hometown:** *Bar Harbor, ME*

**Major:** *Defenestration Studies*

**Graduation Year:** *Perpetual student*

**Hobbies:** *Subversive activity, clever reparté, and general debauchery*

**Nickname(s):** *BoJo*

**One politician he'd tap (and why):**  
*Barack Obama's pretty scrumptious...I've always been a sucker for sticky-outey ears!*

### Fun Facts:

\**Bojangles has obtained and shared more than his fair share of sketchy stories*

\**His favorite city is San Antonio, TX*

\**He can fly, for 3.2 seconds. Ask any current member of the IP!*

