

FROM THE FRONT

“I hate people who are not serious about meals. It is so shallow of them.”
OSCAR WILDE AUTHOR AND POET

YPU introduces precautions at debate on abortion

YPU FROM PAGE 1

said, referring to what the security liaison told him.
Last week, the night before Kirk was killed, the YPU voted against the resolution “violence is never the answer.”

YPU votes against ‘choice over life’ resolution

After Columbia-Walsh’s opening remarks, Kissling delivered her opening argument in front of the packed lecture hall.
Rather than standing at the podium, she stood at the front of the stage and began her speech by discussing the static and polarized state of abortion debates since she began her work in the 1970s.
Kissling defined two moral stances: those who view abortion as the killing of a human and those who defend unregulated choice.
“The outcome of these two polar opposites is almost never conversation. It never changes anybody’s mind,” she said.

Instead, Kissling emphasized the importance of the “independent women,” rejecting both extremes. She insisted that women deserve the freedom to make these decisions without being reduced to instruments of conservative population policy or moral ideology.
“I tend to favor more the value of women’s lives, their health, their partners, their children, and that value becomes especially important if and when they become pregnant, particularly when they didn’t intend to,” Kissling said.
She also drew from her Catholic background, providing examples of how religious doctrines have evolved to argue that moral systems change as people learn to “think more critically.”
In her final remarks, Kissling acknowledged that giving birth is a “beautiful thing” but challenged men in the room to raise their hands if they would be willing to carry and birth a baby

themselves. Only two men in the room raised their hands, and one more on the condition that “God decided it so.”
After a period of questioning from the audience, Rose made her case for why abortion should be both morally condemned and legally criminalized under all circumstances.
She opened by referencing the body of a baby found in a closet in Lexington, Ky., last week, whose mother was arrested in connection with the death, using it to frame her central claim that abortion is the intentional killing of a living human being and should not be excused any more than other forms of murder.
Rose argued that from conception onward, the entity in the womb is a fully valuable human life. She also insisted that an embryo at six weeks is just as valuable as one at 26, and that science confirms life begins at conception.
In a claim that drew many hisses from the audience, she compared abortion to historical examples of

people being deemed “subhuman,” including Jews during the Holocaust, slavery, and Israel’s ongoing war in Gaza.
“When you strip people of their humanity, you open the door to every kind of violence,” she declared.
Rose also asserted that the right to bodily autonomy should not justify abortion, arguing that autonomy cannot extend to the destruction of another person’s life.
“True women’s empowerment cannot come from the bloodshed of our killing,” Rose said.
Instead, she insisted on proper support and pregnancy resources for women facing unintended pregnancies.
Finally, Rose addressed Kissling’s point about men’s unwillingness to experience pregnancy and subsequent lack of right to determine if a child is born. “Men have a responsibility, as women do, to the care of unborn children, and that should start with paying child support during pregnancy,” she said.

After the two speeches, the two guest speakers had the opportunity to ask each other questions in a forum unique to Tuesday’s debate.
During the cross-examination, Kissling framed abortion as a matter of balancing values, while Rose maintained that abortion is always an intentional killing of an innocent life.
For the last portion of the debate, the audience heard from four students, two representing each side of the issue.
At the end of the debate, the YPU voted 60-31 against the resolution “choice over life,” after contentious stomping and hissing throughout the event from the audience on both sides of the issue.
Next week’s YPU debate at 53 Wall St. will feature former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum on the resolution “pray in schools.”

Contact
ORION KIM at
orion.kim@yale.edu.

Team 152 to face Holy Cross in first game

FOOTBALL FROM PAGE 1

ing yards, with 108 of his own and two touchdowns. Last season, Clerveaux was named an All-Conference rusher with nearly 1,000 all-purpose yards and averaged about 4.5 yards per carry. This season, however, his yards per carry is down to 3.3, which is on par for the rest of the team’s inadequate offensive output.
Yale defensive back Abu Kamara ’27 is optimistic about the defense’s potential to succeed this season.
“This year, the defense looks really good. We have really good weapons on all three levels,” Kamara said. “I think that’s the fun piece, to see who we become as a unit and to put that on display for everyone.”
Looking at the Crusader offense on paper, the new Yale defense should feel optimistic, as a few new players prepare to take the field for the first time. Following the departure of several key defensive stars last season, the struggling Holy Cross offense may give the Bulldogs a chance to acquaint themselves on the defensive side of the ball.
The Crusaders’ defense has put up a slightly better effort this season than its offense. In three games, no teams have sur-

passed 20 points while playing against the Crusaders. However, Holy Cross has struggled to create pressure with the pass rush and has only generated two sacks throughout its first three games, which is a promising sign for Yale’s quarterback.
Despite the recent shakeup to its offense, Yale is looking to be the first to burst through that 20-point barrier. The Bulldogs should look to dominate early in the trenches, with several key linemen returning, such as Michael Bennett ’26, Jackson St. Aubyn ’27, and Quinton Lewis ’27. With only two sacks by the Crusaders so far this year, the Yale offensive line shouldn’t have too much of a problem both protecting new transfer quarterback Dante Reno ’28 and creating holes for star running back Josh Pitsenberger ’26.
“It’s really nice to know that our line comes in with a lot of experience,” Reno wrote to the News. “Taking care of business in the trenches allows our offense to consistently move the ball down the field and make big plays.”
The game will be streamed live on ESPN+ and WYBCx radio. Kick-off is at 12 p.m. at the Yale Bowl.

Contact
BRODY GILKISON at
brody.gilkison@yale.edu.



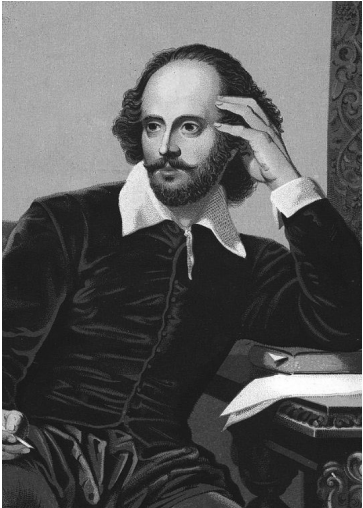
So far this season, Holy Cross has lost all three games it’s played. **Liza Kaufman / Photography Editor**

Shakespeare doubters descend on New Haven

BY NELLIE KENNEY
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In 1840s New Haven, a young woman named Delia Bacon thought she had discovered the truth about the author we all know as William Shakespeare. Shakespeare, Bacon claimed, had not really written his plays.
On Thursday afternoon, over 50 of Bacon’s disciples gathered at the Omni New Haven Hotel to hear presentations at a conference regarding the so-called “Shakespearean authorship question.”
The conference was organized by a society, the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship, that promotes the widely discredited theory that Shakespeare was really Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford. From a podium set between two projection screens, speakers explored the lives of Elizabethan aristocrats and suggested ciphers that could be used to discover hidden code in Shakespeare’s sonnets.
The organization’s theory — called the Oxfordian theory — is that de Vere, a prominent figure in Elizabethan England, published under a false identity, which he borrowed from a semi-literate William Shakespeare.
“There was no theater in the whole history of the family,” conference chair and York University professor emeritus of theatre Don Rubin said of Shakespeare’s family. “In fact, the family was illiterate, going back generations and forward. He never educated his daughters.”

Rubin, now a Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship lifetime member, told the News that he attended his first Fellowship conference in Houston “for a laugh,” only to be “knocked out by the seriousness of what they were saying.”
The Oxfordian theory, Rubin said, is “truth,” and the widely accepted academic consensus — the Stratfordian theory — is “myth.”
“You got all these people in Stratford, with the Stratford Birthplace Trust, who are living a myth,” he said, referring to an organization responsible for Shakespeare heritage sites in Stratford-upon-Avon. “And they prefer the myth to the truth.”
Brent Evans, the president of the Fellowship, called the Stratfordian theory an “embedded truth.”



William Shakespeare. **Wikimedia Commons**

He recalled telling a friend that he was questioning whether Shakespeare had written the plays. “Is nothing sacred? Are we questioning everything?” Evans recalled his friend asking. “Shakespeare has god-like status among the literati, and you don’t touch it,” Evans added.
The Oxfordians argue that the academic consensus on Shakespeare’s identity is the result of an unhealthy obsession with the mythology of Shakespeare.
Yale English professor Catherine Nicholson, who is teaching a Shakespeare lecture course this semester, does not find this argument credible.
“My objection to, say, the Oxfordian theory of authorship is not at all that it attacks a kind of figure, a narrative to which I’m attached,” Nicholson said. “My objection to it is that it is unproven and also designed in some ways to be unfalsifiable.”
Authorship doubts may in fact be the product of Shakespeare’s mythology, Nicholson said.
“The kind of perennial excitement that attaches to the possibility that in fact we’ve been misled — I think that excitement only makes sense if you have an attachment, a kind of powerful attachment,” she said.
Part of Nicholson’s interest in Shakespearean authorship theories comes from how they relate to “the question of the boundaries of institutional knowledge, the boundaries of scholarly discourse, the place of disputed or refuted theories,” she said.
These questions characterize the current historical moment, Nicholson argued. “Immunology, vaccines,



Delia Bacon. **Wikimedia Commons**

anything you can think of. Physics, string theory?”
“It’s interesting,” she said, “to think about the world of Shakespeare studies as having been sort of ahead of the curve in this respect, in that Shakespeare studies has long had this kind of marginal, discredited, but also extraordinarily persistent and compelling group of people.”
Thursday’s keynote paper, written by Evans, is titled “Was Delia Mad?” It chronicles Bacon’s life, her theories, her institutionalization and her ultimate death at the Hartford Institute for the Insane. Conference attendees gasped and murmured audibly when Evans described treatments, including straitjackets and frequent sedation, which he claimed were commonplace at the institute.

Evans concluded his presentation on a positive note.
“We are standing on her shoulders,” he said. “We can now see her life and legacy as a triumph.”
Not all conference attendees had prior knowledge of Bacon, but after Evans’ presentation, admiration for her seemed ubiquitous.
Annette Vise, a first-time conference attendee who said that she began to question Shakespeare’s authorship while in eighth grade, called Bacon “a woman ahead of her time.”
“We discover things that we had no clue about,” Lucinda Foulke, a retired editor of the Fellowship’s newsletter, said. “I didn’t know that Delia Bacon had really done this kind of research in the 1850s.”
Although not persuaded by Bacon’s “imagined conspiracy,” Nicholson told the News that she “would not want our alternatives to be ‘Delia Bacon was right about Shakespeare’ or ‘Delia Bacon was a madwoman.’”
“I would like us to be able to take Delia Bacon seriously as a figure who is important and interesting, has had — has unquestionably had — an effect on the world of Shakespeare studies,” Nicholson said.
On Sunday, the final day of the conference, Evans is set to lead a group to Grove Street Cemetery to visit Bacon’s grave.

Contact
NELLIE KENNEY at
nellie.kenney@yale.edu.