



SUMMER 2008

YDU and Save our Canyons Camping Trip: 7.19.08

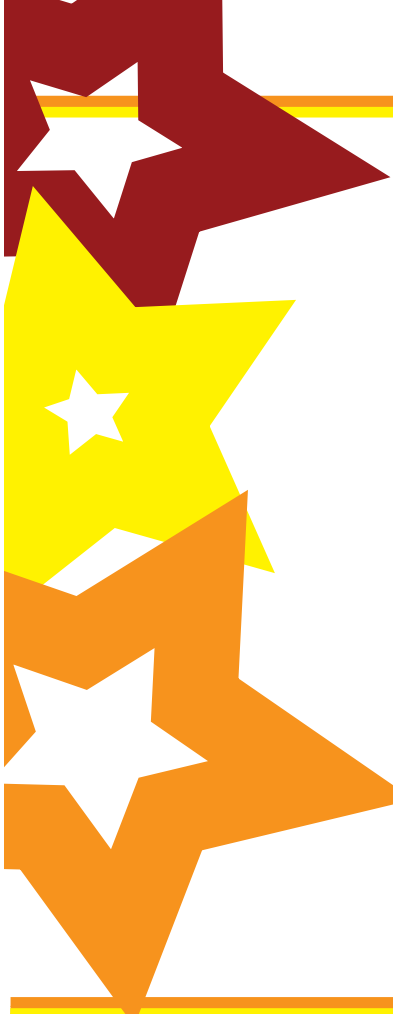


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LETTER FROM THE PREZ | BY MATT LYON, YDU PRESIDENT

2008 is unique. No, I'm not talking about the extraordinary primary season or the youth voting bloc that is changing our country. 2008 is the first year in recent history (and memory for many young voters) that voting and being political involved is not just a social expectation, but a cultural movement.

Over the 4th of July I walked into American Eagle...I know, I know, its not something I'm particularly proud of but I've been wearing the same AE shorts since I was 16 and I'm not about to change my late 90's style. To my surprise, the employee nametags were nothing more than a large "VOTE" with the employee name beneath. Although AE is lame for implying the people should "vote" with their dollars, it is interesting to note that even the private sector is trying to catch the tsunami that will be November.

Locally, Democrats in Utah still have an uphill battle; however, 2008 represents a real chance for us to make an impact in our future. There were State Legislative seats won and lost in 2006 by 100 votes or less. This year, with the energy of the Obama Campaign and young people, we can turnout the 20 people that will get Jay Seegmiller elected over Speaker Curtis!

This year, the Young Democrats are targeting young voters in key legislative districts. We will teach people statewide that Republican leadership has made it more difficult to create high school student clubs; Republicans have voted against placing additional computers and access to wireless Internet on college campuses; and how current leadership has made it more difficult for young entrepreneurs to find healthcare in small businesses.

Young Democrats, this year we can make a difference. This year, young people will define the Nation's future and our voices will be heard. Lets make sure our presence is felt too.

Sincerely,
Matt Lyon | President

YDU GOES INTERNATIONAL | BY HEATHER JOHNSON, YDU OUTREACH LIASON



From June 2nd to 8th this year I attended an IFLRY (International Federation of Liberal Youth) seminar as the YDA (and YDU) representative. The conference was on the intersections of trade policy and human rights. Hosted by the youth wing of the Liberal Party of Montenegro, it was held in Risan, Montenegro. There were about 30 participants, most from Western Europe and the Balkans. We debated the effectiveness of trade sanctions; specifically against the old South African government, US policies toward Cuba, and current options in regard to Sudan. We discussed Montenegrin politics with the president and vice-president of the Liberal Party, listened to lectures on the local economy by a professor at the nearby University of Barr, and learned about local politics and the difficulties of being labeled a World Heritage Site with the local liberal leaders of the city of Kotor. We also talked about human trafficking with a leading anti-trafficking activist. These talks led to the creation of an anti-trafficking educational campaign involving all of our country's organizations. The representatives to the conference from Kazakhstan and Belarus taught us about the current political and human rights situations in their countries.

Check out YDU on CNN:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/ireports/2008/07/17/utah.dems.dnt.cnn>

YDU BBQ in Deseret News (made front page!)

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/1,5620,700239023,00.html>

<http://www.deseretnews.com/photo/slideshow/1,5587,5084,00.html>

THE MORE YOU'RE AWARE | BY CURTIS HARING, YDU VICE-PRESIDENT

The dog days of summer are kicking in, you are probably ignoring the messages in your inbox, but rabidly checking your texts to see where your friends will be tonight. No doubt you are staring down another long and fun summer.

Ah...but things are going on while the summer heat bears down.

The Young Democrats of Utah are implementing our Youth Voter Program (YVP) in an effort to get young people involved in a very real way in local politics.

You see, in the past youth have traditionally not been informed of the elections going on around them- those running for office write them off, and we young people, in return don't vote. Well this year the Young Dems are trying to change all that.

We have targeted races that we feel youth can make a difference. The YVP is working hard to identify and interact with people our age in areas where, during the last election cycle, two high school math classes could have made the election go towards the Democrat.

But we need your help!

We are asking for you to get involved in helping us identify, register, and talk to your peers to ensure that they come out on Election Day. In return both you (and the candidates we help elect) will know that we are a powerful force in this state and that the issues affecting us such as smaller class sizes, funding for higher education, and an easier home buying process, should be addressed. Furthermore, those of you who are interested in getting involved in state and local politics will have great opportunities to meet like-minded people and build connections.

Now, don't get me wrong, I want Democrats to win this election, but what is really important is that we get youth out to the polls. Utah is ranked dead last in percentage of people voting – now there are many theories behind this, but the fundamental problem remains. We need people to vote, our democracy depends on it. Fact of the matter is the hardest vote anyone will make is their first. People feel intimidated, people feel uneducated about the issues, and people feel their voice may not be heard. The YVP wants youth to vote Democrat, but frankly, they just want youth to vote.

If you are interested in helping out with the YVP, please feel free to contact Justin Daniels at 801-824-4073. We could use help from anywhere in the state, and I guarantee that you will make a difference.

CAUCUS UPDATES

COLLEGE CAUCUS | The past few months have been busy for the College Caucus! In April we held our first annual statewide convention, with students attending from all over the state. We had a great discussion with Rep. Litvack about what it means to be a Democrat, and left feeling excited for the upcoming semester. We also elected our first executive board, with representation from every college chapter in Utah. Together we're planning leadership trainings, voter registration drives, service projects as well as social events. Our next big event is the College Democrats of America annual convention, which is being held in late August in Denver. We hope to have a big turnout from Utah, so if you're interested in attending please contact us at college@youngdemsofutah.org so we can arrange carpools and housing options. Also check out our blog at <http://collegedemocratsofutah.blogspot.com/> for up-to-date info and musings from the College Caucus.

TOP TEN BARACKISMS | BY JOEL OTTERSTROM & MICHAEL HICKS



10. I ran in a Barackathon last week.
9. If it ain't Barack don't fix it.
8. My favorite movies are "The Barackfest Club" and "Erin Barackovich."
7. This year it's a choice between McCain and McAble.
6. I'll be Barack.
5. Barackoli and Cheese Soup is my favorite.
4. I just read a scripture where God said, "Ye shall be an Obama-nation unto me." At least I think that's what it said.
3. Rock out with your Barack Out.
2. What the Barack were you thinking?
1. Once you go Barack, you can't go back.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 28 - Democratic Convention Watch Party
- September TBA - Bar Crawl in Park City
- September 1 - Union Labor Day Festival - Magna
- Sept 6 - College Dems: Statewide Leadership Training
- Oct 25 - College Dems: Statewide service project



Every Thursday - Mobilize Young Voters Calls w/ activity at YDU HQ (1063 E 3300 S)
 Saturdays, September and October - Walk with YDU's endorsed Candidates

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | BY BIANCA SHREEVE, YDU TREASURER



After many months of anticipation, our big bundle of joy (disguised as a 31-year old bearded man) has arrived! The Young Democrats' dream of having our very own executive director finally came true when we hired Justin Daniels in April of this year. Justin brings a wealth of campaign experience as he leads our youth voter campaign and membership outreach in 2008. His wry sense of humor and penchant for wisecracks make him a perfect fit for our loud and often over-bearing organization.

Justin's love for politics is nothing new. At the ripe age of six, Justin worked on Wayne Owens' campaign for governor in 1984 by making lawn signs. (Not many people know that he also was critical to helping win over the all important GI Joe and Smurfs demographics.) Since then, Justin has worked on campaigns for local and national races; including field organizer for both Pete Ashdown's campaign for Senate and Chris Dodd's race for president. Experience isn't the only thing he gained along the way. Throughout his career, Justin has amassed a campaign t-shirt collection that is the envy of any political geek.

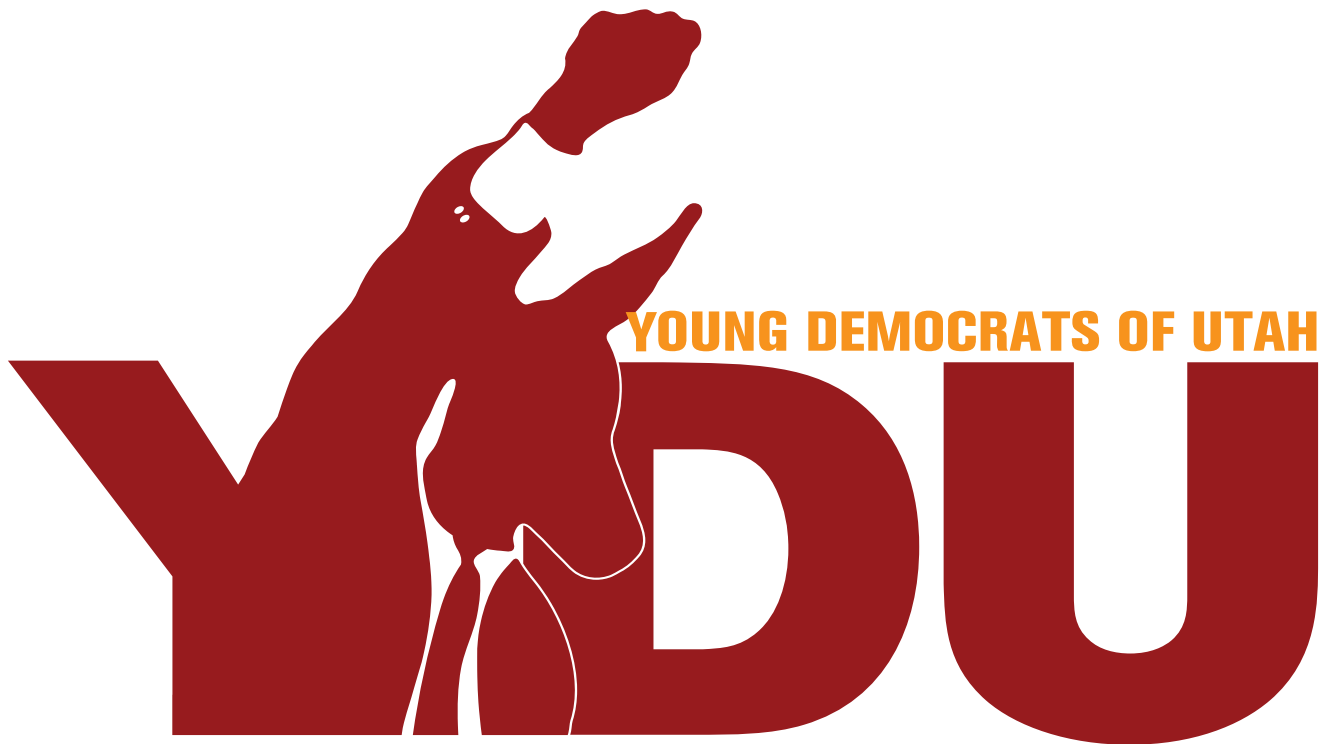
When Justin isn't pressing the flesh with important people and hob-knobbing at political functions, you find him enjoying Utah's scenery and landscape. Hiking, camping and snowboarding are some of Justin's favorite activities. He is a Cancer, and enjoys long walks on the banks of the Great Salt Lake and romantic dinners with his wife — as long as there are no tomatoes or mushrooms in his meal.

When asked who he considers Utah's best looking Democrat, Justin mentioned Party Chairman Wayne Holland, who he calls "dreamy" and his eyes "glistening pools of blue." We appreciate Justin's man-crush along with all his other admirable qualities. Next time you're braving the journey up 3300 South, we suggest you stop by our office and welcome Justin — our first, only and best looking staff member!

A CALL TO ACTION: CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE! | BY MARK HYMAS

2008 is the year of the youth vote and it is time that our voice is heard. For years, politics was something your parents were involved in or perhaps just a boring subject taught in school. Well, times have changed and I say "not any more!" It is time that we, as young people, stand up and be heard. It is refreshing to see a candidate like Barack Obama really talk and understand the issues that matter to the young people today. It is with this movement that now is the time to come together as young people in Utah and start turning this state a little more blue. With the addition of a new Executive Director, Justin Daniels, the Young Democrats of Utah are starting a young voter campaign to show young people how our local government is affecting their lives. It is with this campaign that I ask the young people here in Utah, is your voice being heard? I asked Justin Daniels this very question and his response was: "Young people's issues have been widely ignored in Utah politics, but the political climate is changing. Youth participation is increasing, and when we use our voices in unison the politicians will have no choice but to listen."

Now is the time for local politicians to start listening and paying attention to us, because now we are the swing vote.



YDU THANKS IT'S GRACIOUS SPONSORS:

Utah State Democratic Party
Ralph Becker (Salt Lake City Mayor)
Jackie Biskupski (State Representative)
Peter Corroon (Salt Lake County Mayor)
Annette Cumming
Randy Horiuchi (Salt Lake County Council)
Jane and Tami Marquardt
Scott McCoy (State Senator)
Ross Romero (State Senator)
Deb Sawyer
Barbara Tanner
Jenny Wilson (Salt Lake County Council)
Pete Ashdown (Xmission)
Young Democrats of America
Jeff Eisenberg
Art Lipson & Rochelle Kaplan
Jay Seegmiller (United Transportation Workers)
George and Mary Hall
Anne Milliken
Gene Davis (State Senator)

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