

# The Observer

A PUBLICATION OF ILLINOIS YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

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## All Y&G participants eligible this year National affairs conference to be held first week of July

By Susan L. Grupe  
Editor-In-Chief

The 23rd Annual YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs will take place July 1-6 at the Blue Ridge Assembly, a national YMCA assembly in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

Throughout the week, delegates participate in intense debate on national issues.

The purpose of the youth conference is to enhance the experience of Y&G and to provide greater fellowship and leadership development, according to Allen Moore, Executive Director of Illinois YMCA Y&G.

All delegates who have

attended the conference have enjoyed it, he said.

Each delegate is asked to write a position paper about a current issue. The suggested paper topics in 1989 included statehood for Puerto Rico, female draft limitations, the right to privacy through records systems, and the effect of Middle East peace on the U.S. Delegates from the same state may not write on the same topic.

A newspaper is published daily telling of special events and other news at the conference. Each state is allowed to send one member of the press to serve on the editorial staff.

In their free time, delegates may make use of the as-

sembly recreational facilities, which include a swimming pool, gymnasium, and mountain surroundings. Organized activities range from mountain climbing to team sports to tennis.

In the past, just certain high-ranking delegate positions were eligible for the conference, but this year the selection will be opened to include all Y&G participants.

"This will allow more students an opportunity (to participate), people that really want to go," said Moore.

Adult coordinators will observe students in all divisions of Y&G during this Springfield weekend and will submit their nominations Saturday night.

Students will be evaluated in the areas of communication skills, leadership, maturity, responsibility, and performance in their program areas.

Sophomores and juniors will be given selection preference, since they will be able to use their experiences in future Y&G programs; seniors are eligible, though.

The nominees will be announced Saturday night by the video press and in the Sunday morning edition of *The Observer*.

On Sunday, an informational meeting will be held for all nominees, who will be asked to write a short paper relating to the Springfield experience.

## Bill proposes to lower legal drinking age to 18

By James Alsop  
of The Observer

At 18 you can die for your country, but you can't buy a beer.

The illogic of this situation is the reason for new legislation that is being introduced by members of the Whitney Young delegation at this year's legislative session.

Ayanna Thomas, one of the proposal's authors, said, "It's not a monumental bill, but if you are old enough to vote for the country's leaders, then you should be old enough to drink alcohol."

Melanie Appleton, the bill's Senate sponsor, said, "I think the bill is important for various reasons. At the age of 18, one is old enough to enlist and die for one's country. These are adult responsibilities.

*'If you're old enough to vote for the country's leaders, then you should be old enough to drink alcohol'*

"If we are considered to be and to act as adults in these areas, why restrict us in this one?"

Selvyn Fletcher, also in the Senate, said, "This bill is important to me because at 18, I am an emancipated person, so why can't I have alcohol?"

Some disagree, however, saying that alcohol is too difficult to handle for people under 21.

They point to the country's alcohol problem and say that lowering the legal drinking age will not help this serious situation.

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## People

### Soczak looks forward to Senate duties

By Carla Cassaro  
of The Observer

Susan Sobczak, of Addison Trail High School, has had a wide range of experiences in her two-year involvement with Y&G.

Last year she participated as a legislator and House sponsor of her bill.

This weekend she will share duties as Secretary of the Senate with Samit Patel.

Sobczak says that the Secretary of the Senate needs experience, organizational skills and a good speaking voice.

She feels that Y&G is one of the most educational and rewarding, yet enjoyable and interesting clubs available at school.

Sobczak says that students are able to put themselves directly into real-life situations like those of professional lawmakers.

By meeting students from other sections of Illinois and by exchanging views and ideas with them, she gets a better understanding of people from diverse backgrounds.

This allows students to broaden their narrow, suburban perspectives.

She says that the direct experience gained through Y&G is more beneficial than the indirect knowledge gained through books.

As citizens, she says, we must speak up if we wish to modify and support legislation.

### Chaplain candidate delivers a surprise to Pre-Leg I participants at Sesser

By Bryan Lee  
of The Observer

Participants attending Sesser's Pre-Leg I Nov. 3 received a bit of a surprise when Senate Chaplain candidate Ameena Rao delivered the prayer.

Rao, who is Muslim, delivered the prayer in Arabic—which was a Y&G first.

"I had four basic prayers to choose from the Koran (the Muslim holy book)," said Rao, who attends Governor French Academy in Belleville. "I picked this one because it carries a universal message."

Translated into English, the prayer is not unlike a typical Christian invocation.

When Rao began her Muslim prayer, many Pre-Leg I participants were confused. One delegate said, "I was taken totally by surprise. I had not expected her to give the prayer in another language."

Besides using a foreign language, Rao's attire was different from the other students in the room.

For example, she wore a scarf around her

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*'I always want to say, "No, I'm not a terrorist"'*

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head. "It's worn by all orthodox Muslim women," explained Rao.

"It's also worn by less than orthodox women, but for them it's not mandatory."

She said that like nearly all religions, Muslim varies from person to person, depending on how closely they follow the rules.

"My family is very liberal compared to most," said Rao. "When I wear the scarf in public it usually brings me attention. People look at me, and I always want to say, 'No, I'm not a terrorist.'"

She said that she felt "quite comfortable" delivering her prayer in Arabic, but she wished that everyone could have had a translation.

She and her adviser, Phillip Paeltz, checked with the Y&G organization and the director of Sesser's Pre-Leg I to make sure that it was permissible to recite a Muslim prayer to a group with a Christian affiliation.



Observer photo by Anna Rosenblat

Robert Lockwood, left, and Tom Moring of Evanston were among the many who learned one of Y&G's unpleasant lessons—how to lose an election gracefully. Lockwood's and Moring's bids for youth governor and secretary of state ended at Pre-Leg II Saturday, Dec. 9.

# People

*A string of chief justices since 1985*

## **Amos Alonzo Stagg hopes to continue winning ways**

By Roxana Mehta  
of The Observer

Four chief justices in the past five years have represented Amos Alonzo Stagg High School.

Each representing their beliefs, schools and communities, these multi-talented students have displayed their leadership abilities and set high standards for future as-

piring lawyers of Stagg.

This proud Charger tradition began in 1985, with Karl Kosche serving as Chief Justice, followed by Paul Timm in 1986.

Presently at the University of Illinois, the Stagg alumni continue to participate in Y&G as college staff.

In 1987, Julie Mulderink, now attending Amherst College, became Stagg's third

consecutive chief justice.

Jill Mulderink carried on the tradition in 1989. She and her partner Beth Kuszynski won Best Written Brief honors.

All four chief justices, along with their respective partners, won Best Overall Case as attorneys.

This weekend, Stagg senior Beth Kuszynski will be hoping to carry on the Stagg

For more on 'Justice' this weekend, see page 7

string of chief justices.

To do so, Kuszynski will have to defeat Sascha Beck of Champaign.

### **Delegates holding the principal positions this weekend**

#### **1990 Major Candidates\***

##### **Youth Governor**

Dawn Campbell  
Alyssa Spiegel

##### **Lt. Governor**

Jay Davis  
Jonathon King

##### **Secretary of State**

Cathy Frazier  
Venu Gupta

##### **Chief Justice**

Sascha Beck  
Beth Kuszynski

##### **Attorney General**

Kathy Conklin  
Jill Guzzeti

##### **Speaker of the House**

Robert Hefley  
Mallory McClure  
Krista Myers  
Daphne Query

##### **President of the Senate**

Amit Banerjee  
Brenda Clayton  
Janet Gross  
Meri Hall

#### **1990 Administrative Officers**

##### **Clerk of the House**

Ayanna Thomas  
Karen Kreeb

##### **Secretary of the Senate**

Sue Sobczak  
Samit Patel

##### **Chaplain of the House**

Ameena Rao  
Douglas Thiessen

##### **Chaplain of the Senate**

Jennifer Kobylecky  
Rob Schmitt

##### **Sergeant of the House**

Jed Barker  
Tobi Brown

##### **Sergeant of the Senate**

John Book  
Sherri Nelson

#### **1989 Non-rotating Administrative Candidates**

##### **Executive Director of the Lobbyists**

Tony Fernandez  
Chad Howard

##### **Editor-In-Chief**

Susan Grupe

##### **Committee Chairpersons**

Manali Amin  
Dawn Campbell  
Rachelle Ferrari  
Michael Fourcher  
Chad Gustafson  
Derek Hedin  
Kevin Hicks  
Nicole Hicks

##### **Celesta Howe**

Jennifer Kobylecky  
Irwin Lee

##### **Krista Myers**

Brian Nagurski  
Jerry Peck

##### **Robert Schmitt**

Shami Shenoy  
Alyssa Spiegel

##### **Laurent Stadler**

Heather Strothmann  
Lisa Sullivan

##### **Tracy Terbell**

Bridget Terry  
Joshua Tonn

##### **Megan Travelstead**

Robert Wood

##### **Head Pages**

Sylvia Muniz  
Sujal Shaw

##### **Travis Stieren**

Beth Willis

##### **Bill Flow Clerks**

Jennifer Arbeiter  
April Engelberth

##### **Mark Moore**

Ivan Nieves

##### **Stephanie Piper**

Kathryn Schnierer

##### **Jean Wardrip**

Amy Waldrom

\*Elections for 1990 Major Candidates will be today.

# Legislation

'I expect it to be killed in Springfield'

## Bill attempts to modify wording of state marriage law

By Susan L. Grupe  
Editor-In-Chief

"The Bible says that it was Adam and Eve that got married, not Adam and Steve," said one delegate after Galesburg legislators Keirvan Davidson, John Page and Chris Benson presented their bill at the Region II Pre-Leg I.

Their bill would change the wording of Chapter 40, Section 201 of the Illinois Constitution. The section, which deals with marriage, now states:

"A marriage between a man and a woman. . ."

If the bill passes, the

section will be changed to "A marriage between two people," allowing two people of the same sex to be married.

Members of the committee questioned the compliance of the proposed amendment with various religious beliefs.

Delegate

Page said, "We were referring only to the legal process of being married."

Although many commit-

*The legalization of homosexual marriage is not new. . . It has been legalized in New York, and. . . it's been legal in Denmark for years*

tee members were opposed to the bill, several members of the Williamsville delegation were supportive.

"Don't knock it because you're prejudiced," said one delegate.

The legalization of homosexual marriage is not new.

It has been legalized in New

York, and it has been attempted, though unsuccessfully in California. Overseas, it has been legal in Denmark

for years.

As stated by the bill's sponsors, advantages would include insurance discounts and joint income tax filings.

Also, the number of AIDS cases may be reduced since married couples would be less likely to engage in casual sex.

"There is more (to) gain than just being married," said delegate Davidson.

"I don't expect the bill to be passed; I expect it to be killed in Springfield," said Davidson.

He said that the bill's low priority would hurt its chances for passage into law this weekend.

### Common law marriage proposal would benefit couples, children

By Lindsay Artwick  
of The Observer

If you had been living with someone for five years, and your relationship was just like a marriage, you would consider yourself married, right?

Well, if you lived in Illinois, you would not be considered married.

Common law marriage, which is an agreement between two people to enter into marriage without ecclesiastical or civil ceremony, is not recognized in Illinois.

The Evanston McGaw YMCA bill group of Heather Melton, Lily Cigan, Anna Willett and Alison Leoppert wants to change that.

The bill proposes that after five years of living together, a couple should be considered married.

"Common law marriage is recognized in almost every other state," said Willett, the bill's author.

According to Willett, one of the benefits of a common law marriage is that gays can be married, and they would share all the advantages of a traditional marriage without having to conform to societal or religious practices.

Also, a common law marriage would help children born of the relationship.

Currently, children born to couples who are merely *living together* are illegitimate in the eyes of the court system.

A law providing for common law marriages in Illinois would change that.

The bill group says that there are many other advantages to a common law marriage bill.



Observer photo by Anna Rosenblatt

Evanston's lobbyist adviser Bill Tilford talks to lobbyists about the importance of their role during Pre-Leg II.

## Legislation

# To improve the environment

## *Proposed bill attempts to protect earth's ozone layer*

By Blair Shaman  
of The Observer

One of the environmental bills proposed this year bans the production, sale and use of chlorofluorocarbons in the state of Illinois.

Chlorofluorocarbons are used in many products, including aerosol cans, air conditioners and refrigerators.

Many scientists believe that the gases are destroying the earth's ozone layer, which protects us from ultraviolet light.

Because Illinois would be the only state with such a law, it is meant as a first step toward a national ban.

The bill calls for a commission that would regulate the chlorofluorocarbon industry by levying fines for manufacturing and distribution, which would be a Class III felony.

These fines would range from \$10,000

### *'In the future they'll have to deal with the effects'*

to \$1 million, depending on the severity of the infraction.

Use of these products would be a Class V felony. Fine for usage would range from \$50 to \$500, although appliances purchased before the law is enacted would be exempt from penalty.

"Those who are not responsible enough to vote for this bill will have to be responsible enough in the future to deal with the effects of chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere," said the bill's Senate sponsor Brierly Anderson of Evanston.

Other members of the bill's group are House sponsor Robin Bitner, Alan de Brauw, Robert Lockwood, Shawn Holmes and Myla Goldman.

## *Tougher standards for pollution control sought by '91*

By Paul Thompson  
of The Observer

Legislators in the state Y&G program have created a new bill concerning the environment and its protection.

Adam Chiss, Ian Laing, Peter Vreogh, Walter Clements and James Walsh are proposing a bill which will set a standard for pollution levels per gallon of water, and set a standard for what pollutants to look for in the water.

"The bill needs a lot of work. We're not really done with it yet," said Laing at Pre-Leg II.

"Right now we're at a standstill because we are waiting for important information from both Greenpeace and the Environmental Protection Agency."

According to Laing, the bill would go into effect in 1991. In order to fund the program, \$10 million would be appropriated from the state budget.

### *'It affects everyone. Our children; our children's children; and even their children'*

The bill would set new limits for pollution levels in water and stretch old ones if they already exist.

Fines would be levied against people who didn't comply. The bill group expects hostility over the implementation of fines.

"We are expecting lawsuits and would be ready to handle them," said Chiss.

The group wanted to propose a bill that would have important, long-range effects.

"We really wanted to do something for the environment this year," said Laing.

"It affects everyone. Our children; our children's children; and even their children."

## Group demands testing for radioactive gas

By Katerina Manettas  
of The Observer

Mandatory radon testing is one of this year's top priority bills.

Jonathon Vree, one of the bill's authors, believes this proposal is very important for the safety of the general public.

"Radon is a dangerous gas," said Vree. "It should be dealt with immediately before it becomes a real threat."

The bill did not undergo much debate at Pre-Leg II, where it received second priority in its committee.

According to Vree, the comments about this bill were quite positive, and the bill group is very confident there won't be any problems getting the bill passed in Springfield.

The frequency of the testing had not been settled after Pre-Leg II. The committee thought that the three-year requirement was too short of a period between examinations.

The bill group consists of Vree, Danny Esrick, Joe Sabbath, Chad Kingsley and Kevin Clark.

They estimate that \$450,000 would be needed to fund this radon bill. They anticipate that the money would come from the new building permits required by the state of Illinois.

"Radon is a dangerous gas and it's hazardous to the health of the public," said Esrick, the bill's author.

Esrick claims that the proposed testing process is fairly simple.

Radon's radioactive gases come from the soil and are usually traced to the brick in buildings. The bill promotes a ventilation technique.

## Legislation

### *Disabled legislator from Kankakee H.S. fights discrimination against handicapped*

By Melissa Sandlin  
of The Observer

"I was born with only half of an arm. My arm is normal to the elbow, but I have had a prosthesis, an artificial arm, all of my life," explained Ladonna Groth, 17, a senior legislator from Kankakee High School.

She hopes to abolish discrimination against the handicapped in a bill for Y&G.

"My bill makes discrimination against the handicapped illegal," said Groth. "It provides an economic incentive for the state because even though the cost of special equipment for the disabled person is deducted from the employer's income taxes, the state will get revenue in return by the employee's taxes. It will also take the disabled person off of state aid.

"Everyone can benefit from this situation."

Groth is presenting this bill along with fellow legislators Debbie Fulford and Chris Scheibling.

The reason that Groth feels so strongly about her bill is because she has had experience with discrimination. She fought and won

without having to go to court.

"I feel this bill will do the state a lot of good by getting people off of state aid and the handicapped person can feel better about himself, so that he is more productive in society as a whole," said Groth.

*'My bill makes discrimination against the handicapped illegal. . . It will also take the disabled person off of state aid'*

Groth feels that with her bill everyone can be satisfied and society can definitely be improved.

Groth herself does not feel *disabled* as she is active in cross country and track at Kankakee. Her plans for the future "include going to a small college, majoring in business or history, and finding a white-collar job."

### State bill finally passes Y&G regulation runs gambling proposal aground

By Andy Ivaska  
and Craig Abrams  
of The Observer

A state Y&G proposal for a bill to legalize riverboat gambling on the Mississippi River ran aground last fall after a similar bill was considered, but not approved, in the Illinois House of Representatives.

Youth legislators Emily Steel and Anne Goodnow, the bill's sponsors, chose not to continue with the proposal as a result of the House's actions.

The actual bill was proposed again and passed this spring in the state House.

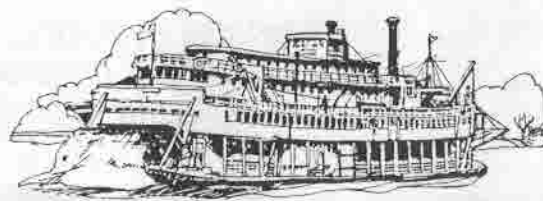
Last fall the bill's sponsor Zeke Giorgi (D-Rockford) said, "It's dead for the ses-

sion, but the bill will come back." Rep. Giorgi was obviously right.

The proposed Y&G legislation involved legalizing several forms of casino gambling on paddleboats, which would operate up and down the Mississippi.

According to Steel, the profits resulting from the venture would have gone jointly to help support education and to improve prison conditions in Illinois.

Y&G regulations require that bill proposals be original pieces of legislation, having not been passed by the Illinois legislature in



Springfield. Because of the possibility for future consideration of—and possible approval of—riverboat gambling by the state, Steel and Goodnow opted to write a new bill.

Details about the new bill were unknown at the time of the interview.

Arguments against both the real bill and the youth bill include that poverty would increase because gamblers and lottery players come mostly from low-income segments of the population.

### 'Oldest' bill makes a comeback

By Elizabeth Akers  
of The Observer

Every year a group proposes a bill to legalize prostitution, the "oldest profession," and this year is no exception.

House sponsor Lareesh Jayasanker of Morgan Park Academy does not see its lack of originality as a hindrance.

"In actual Congress, bills are brought up numerous times, each time the bill sponsor changing it to make it more attractive," said Jayasanker.

The bill proposes "to establish and regulate houses of solicitation so that prostitution is legal, and will be deemed lawful under such conditions."

The brothels are not to be state funded, although they will be regulated by the state. The financing of these homes will come from the private sector, where people would have a chance to buy stock in the prostitution business, just as with any other state-wide chain of businesses.

In terms of regulation, there will no longer be a *pimp*; instead, a house manager will be in charge of enforcing a "code of conduct" established by the state, and he or she will be responsible for the security and upkeep of the house.

One of the improvements of this year's bill is a waiver signed by the patron releasing the state from liability in case of disease or pregnancy.

# Justice

## Krasnow, Silverstein defend accused murderer

# Judicial process appeals to youth lawyers from McGaw

By Melissa Weininger  
and Lindsay Artwick  
of The Observer

The judicial branch of Y&G began the first stage of a complex legal process Saturday, Dec. 2.

Allison Krasnow, a lawyer from McGaw YMCA in Evanston, started out on the road to Springfield by successfully defending an accused murderer against a team from Latin School in Chicago.

*'I'm sure we'll have a very strong case and a good chance of winning'*

Krasnow, who shared the victory with partner Gail Silverstein, attributes their win to "putting a reasonable doubt in the minds of the jury."

The legal process does not end with a win, however. Krasnow and Silverstein will have to ap-

peal the case, and eventually it will be heard before the State Y&G Supreme Court.

Krasnow said that the judicial program might help her in her future endeavors. "I was interested in law and it was the perfect opportunity to learn more about it," she said.

Krasnow has spent long hours honing her case to perfection for this weekend.

She and other members of the judicial branch have been working with lawyers to prepare.

All the hours eventually paid off at Pre-Leg II, but Krasnow was unsure of the outcome after all the arguments had been presented.

Krasnow and Silverstein's case was State vs. Joseph Taylor, who was accused of murdering his estranged wife Maureen Kelly.

During the trial, Kelly's stepmother testified against Taylor along with officer Frank Schwarz, who had been called to the scene of the crime.



The defense team presented Jean Spencer, Taylor's landlady, and Taylor himself as witnesses for his defense.

The jury had a tough time deciding the case, but eventually sided with the defendant.

"I was a little worried about the witness testimony. The prosecution also had a good case," said youth lawyer Krasnow.

She thinks that the pos-

sibilities of her winning the appeal this weekend are very good.

"I'm sure we'll have a very strong case and a good chance of winning," said Krasnow.

She added that the trial "was a very good experience. Both Gail and I learned a lot about how the actual judicial system works and how to prepare and carry out a trial."

## Colbert, Flanigan opt to prosecute in murder trial

By Melissa Sandlin  
of The Observer

The man strode across the courtroom, looking the defendant straight in the eye.

"Where were you on the night of . . .?"

This scene is familiar to all. Many students would like to have a chance to become a lawyer, and participating in Y&G is one way to increase that possibility.

Two student lawyers

are Christon Colbert, a junior, and Ryan Flanigan, a senior, of Kankakee.

This is the first time in several years that Kankakee High School has participated in Y&G.

"I suppose it will take some work, but as a team we'll do pretty well," said Colbert.

Colbert and Flanigan worked with Kankakee attorneys Gus Regas and Chris Bohlen.

"For our case, a murder case, Christon and I chose to be the prosecution," said

Flanigan.

The defending attorneys were Rob Lowey and Sondra Cordoba, of Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School.

Colbert says that she plans "to study law and become a lawyer, so this is a good start."

She plans to attend the University of Illinois in Chicago, where her major will be political science.

Besides the actual experience in the judicial process, Colbert also likes the idea of

working with a partner.

"I think it's a good idea to have students working together so that one person doesn't have to do so much work," she said.

Flanigan added, "Since we know each other, it should make the trial and work run smoothly."

His plans for the future are to become a research scientist. First he'll attend the University of Illinois, majoring in physics.

# Observations

## *Y&G program for serious legislation; 'asinine' proposals should be avoided*

By Craig Abrams  
of The Observer

The state Y&G program is effective. Its primary purpose is to teach young people how one person's idea becomes a law.

However, a survey of the bill topics reveals that some of them lack sincerity.

Every year, legislative groups develop bills that

make fun of peers, are for the benefit of the legislators, or are down-right stupid.

One such bill is one that bans chloroflourocarbons, which is a worthwhile objective because of their damage to the earth's ozone layer.

But that is not the motivation for this bill. The intention of the Northern delegates who wrote the bill is to ridicule the Southern delega-

tion's use of hairspray.

Excessive or not, it's none of their business.

Y&G tries to simulate real government procedures. The program is spoiled by the participants whose contributions are asinine.

I encourage those people to stay out of the program.

They are impeding the learning of those who take the program seriously.

## Reporter gets first tip at Pre-Leg I

By Lou Sapien  
of The Observer

Pre-Leg I activities were underway, and I was dismissed from my press meeting, so I made my way down the Naperville North corridor.

I was to vote for officers.

As I approached the auditorium, I stopped and pondered who should be the subject of my interview assignment.

I walked up to the registration desks and then to the voting tables.

As I returned the pencil to the table, my depth perception failed, and with the eraser end away from my body, and the pencil point in my palm, I collided with the edge of the desk—firmly lodging the graphite tip into my skin.

Was this a bad omen? Was someone trying to tell me I shouldn't be here?

Nah... I blamed it on coincidence, clumsiness, and just plain bad luck.

## Shropshire to produce Video Press uses anchorperson format again

Corie Shropshire will be producing the video press' programs tonight and Saturday night with the help of a 30-person crew and advisers Robert Stelton and Tom Sullivan.

In addition to meeting during Pre-Legs I and II, the video group met once in January and twice in February. Besides gathering material for their programs, the purpose of the meetings was for the video staffers to learn to use the equipment, which includes not only the cameras, but also editing equipment.

"We supervise the students," said Stelton, "but it's their program, so they do the work. The purpose is to learn."

As in past years, the video programs will have an anchorperson format. Stelton said that they try to use as much footage as possible, so that the program isn't just the "floating heads" of the anchorpeople.

Each night the program will begin 30 min-

### The Video Press (Channel 6)

Saturday, 12:30 a.m.

Sunday, 1 a.m.

utes after curfew and last for approximately 30 minutes. So tonight's broadcast will be at 12:30 a.m. on Channel 6; Saturday's will begin at 1 a.m.

Stelton hopes that time will allow for the production of a documentary in addition to the two news broadcasts.

Stelton, who has been with the Y&G program for 23 years and who has been advising the video press since it began 10 years ago, said that advances in technology have made production much simpler. "In the beginning we had no editing equipment, and the cameras were heavy reel-to-reel ones that had to be plugged in to the wall everywhere we sat up."

## The Observer

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Letters to the Editor: The Observer staff encourages its readers to submit letters to the pressroom (1117). The advisers reserve the right to edit the letters for considerations of space, clarity and tastefulness.