

THE OBSERVER

Candidates' work starts long before weekend

Josh Coats and Tarun Patel have been working diligently to make this year's Y&G weekend a success. Both are running for Governor, and both have spent a good amount of time, developing a plan to ensure they will truly be representing the delegates in Springfield this year.

Josh Coats, third-year participant from Mt. Vernon, has been hard at work, developing action plans to improve the governor's effectiveness throughout the weekend.

"I have been working with my advisor on a six week plan in preparation for the weekend. The main idea behind the plan is to improve communications to all delegates before the weekend begins."

Patel, a senior at Heritage Waubonsie Valley, has also been busy creating an action plan to gain significant results in Springfield.

Patel spoke of an advisory committee that he plans to utilize, if elected.

"I would form two advisory committees, one judicial and one legislative, to assist in making clear and logical decisions on bills that come across my desk," said Patel.

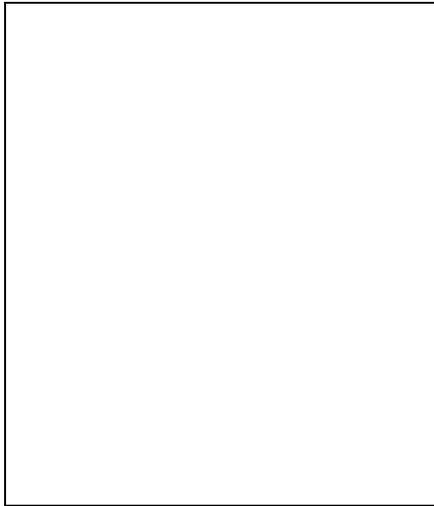
Part of Coats' action plan involved distributing written communication to all Y&G delegations.

At the end of February, Coats sent a letter to all delegates at every school, introducing himself and beginning the line of communication that he feels is so important.

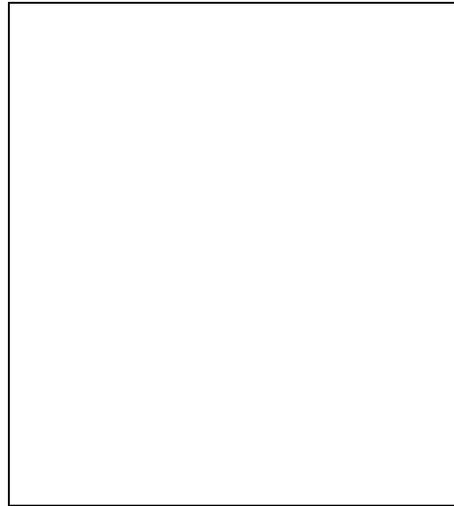
"We need to do a better job of opening communication between all schools and all branches of government," Coats said.

Patel also has a focus on communication. He has heard past youth governors make promises of an open door policy and is using advisory committees to actually make that idea a reality.

"It is not practical to have an 'open door policy' with so many delegates. With two councils advising on bills, they will help to multiply the number of ears I have to those who are wanting to be heard," Patel said.



JOSH COATS



TARUN PATEL

he understands that people want results. He explained that he did not want to simply address the delegates with a list of his accomplishments and then ask for their vote.

"I cannot act alone, if we are to have a successful weekend. I have been trying to communicate during my speeches that I want to work with everyone. Not apart from them, Patel said.

Both were busy preparing during the weeks leading up to Springfield.

He explained the councils as two geographically balanced groups, representing all colors of both houses, as well as the judicial branch.

"The judicial council will be in place to assist groups with the constitutionality of their bills and to make suggestions for program improvements, since the job of the Youth Governor also consists of sitting on the Board next year," said Patel. "The legislative council will summarize the happenings in the legislature and will make recommendations on the bills for me."

Coats' communication strategy also involved contacting all other candidates who would be joining him in Springfield.

"I got a list of candidates and started calling and introducing myself," said Coats. "I didn't get a chance to talk to everyone, but those I spoke with made me realize the importance of getting to know those I may be working very closely with."

Both candidates have theories about why they were selected during Pre-Leg I & II.

Coats feels that his communication skills during his first two speeches has helped him in the first two pre-leg sessions.

"I prepared speeches, focusing on Youth and Government as a whole and what we can accomplish when working together," said Coats.

Patel said that he has been selected as a candidate in the two pre-leg sessions because

Coats has been perfecting his speech for Springfield by videotaping and critiquing his presentation and by working closely with his school's speech teacher.

"Communication is important throughout the weekend," Coats said. "I know last year, I left Springfield without my bill being heard. I want to try to ensure that communication will be improved this year so that delegates don't leave Springfield without presenting their bills."

Patel spent the short time before the Springfield weekend, helping with bills in his club, preparing for his campaign, and finishing his speech.

Patel agreed with Coats about the importance of considering as many bills as possible in Springfield.

"If I'm not seeing any bills, I will make a point to go out to the legislature and see what is keeping bill flow from running smoothly," said Patel.

Apart from Y&G, both are very active in other extra-curricular activities.

Coats participates in golf, Student Council, Cultural Awareness Club, Math Team, Habitat for Humanity, youth group, and Boys State. He also attended last summer's National Y&G conference.

Patel is actively involved in Speech Team, Student Council, Yearbook, and his temple as a national planning team member.

Who will come out on top?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Abby Miller of Mt. Vernon and Ian Starr of Wheaton-Warrenville South are vying for the Lt. Governor position in this year's Y&G elections.

"I would like to have the experience of serving as Lieutenant Governor, carrying out those duties assigned to me by the governor and promoting legislation that improves the quality of life of Illinoisans," Miller said.

Miller spent last year as a lobbyist and was awarded Most Effective Lobbyist in her committee.

"I am especially concerned about the issues of education, environment, and public safety," said Miller.

Her opponent, Starr, said, "My primary interests are in helping the Governor maintain a steady workflow, helping prevent overload, and so on. I'm also interested in helping and meeting with all bill groups. That should be quite interesting."

Starr has clear legislative concerns.

"Issues such as state security, education, human rights, the ongoing debate between church and state, safety issues—from guns to seatbelts—every issue is a concern," Starr said.

Starr was a legislator last year, supporting a bill whose constitutionality was questioned by the Supreme Court. "...My bill group and I successfully argued our case and the bill was passed completely into law. It was great."

Miller stays active with the local, district, and state levels of the Student Council Association.

Starr is the sports editor for his school newspaper and a Key Club and track participant.

SECRETARY OF STATE

The candidates for Secretary of State, Meghan Boledovich of Naperville North and Joshua

Michaels of Paris Marshall, are also planning to improve efficiency within the executive and legislative branches.

Boledovich's primary issues when running for office are improving "organization of bill flow and making sure that things get where they are supposed to be efficiently."

Michels agrees. "If elected, I would be sure that bill flow would be quick and efficient. I believe that this is imperative if legislators are to have a chance at getting their bill passed. After all, if both houses and the governor don't all see a bill, how can it pass?"

Both candidates are running for office, building on last year's experience as lobbyists.

Boledovich said, "As a lobbyist, I thrived on every minute of House and Senate sessions, seeing and being a part of the process...it was an awesome experience."

Michels said, "Last year, my first year in Youth and Government, I was a lobbyist. My bill, which limited all state college and university application fees to twenty dollars, was passed by both houses and the governor."

Boledovich is a member of her school's swim and soccer teams, as well as a member of the environmental club.

Michels is active in the Interact service organization.

PRES. OF THE SENATE

Only three spots will be filled from this year's four candidates for President of the Senate. Candidates include Coleman Balogh of Chicagoland Stagg, Eric England of Paris Marshall, Stephen Hinman of Mt. Vernon, and David Mork of B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South.

"My major concerns are keeping order in the Senate, but mostly enforcing that parliamentary procedure is properly used,"

said Balogh.

Balogh was Chaplain last year, to which he attributes his speaking skills. Balogh is currently the Vice President of Student Council and active in water polo, drama, and Scholastic Bowl.

"If I win, my main goal is to maintain the most efficient legislature possible. I want to make sure that I provide a fair and efficient environment for all legislators to discuss bills," said England.

England held the office of Executive Director of the Lobbyists last year and has been involved in three foreign mission trips to Haiti and Dominican Republic.

"I am concerned that bills may not be treated fairly. Due to the inadequacy of the presiding officer, there may not be time to hear all bills in the legislative sessions. The presiding officer must ensure that every bill is treated fairly and heard," said Hinman.

Hinman has learned parliamentary procedure through being both a page for the presiding officer and holding a committee chair position.

Hinman stays busy with orchestra, tennis, and as Speech and Acting captain.

"In the past, there have been some very good people in place to handle the responsibilities. However, there have also been those who seem to have ignored their responsibilities. I have very precise judgment and can be a person with whom others can relate and that others would enjoy having as their leader," said Mork.

Mork spent his first year as a lobbyist. In his free time, Mork is an intern with the DuPage County States Attorney's office.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Levi Bennett of Paris Marshall, Lindsey Clark of B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South,

Alyssa Deming of Chicagoland Stagg, and Megan Knapp of Mt. Vernon are all trying to fill the three coveted positions of Speaker of the House.

"A presiding officer should be fair and impartial. He or she should also be as quick and efficient as possible, letting the maximum number of bills—good, well thought-out bills—that have survived committee get to the floor. Whoever is elected should be able to handle this balancing act," said Bennett.

Bennett is a member of the Scholastic Bowl competition squad, Science Club, and Student Council.

"As a lobbyist, I had a lot of time to spend in the gallery, watching debate on the floor. I noticed how, on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, the legislators were trying to get through as many bills as possible. As a lobbyist, it bothered me that my bill was debated for only minutes and then voted on," said Clark.

Clark is involved in many choir activities and works at the local Family Christian Bookstore.

"As a presiding officer, my real goal is to insure that the legislative process runs smoothly and efficiently," said Deming, who spent her first two years in the program as a lobbyist and committee chair.

"As a sixth grader, I watched my brother preside over the Senate in Springfield. I thought that it was one of the most interesting things I had ever seen. Ever since then, I have wanted to run for this office and pursue such a great position in the Youth and Government program," said Knapp.

Knapp is a cheerleader, member of National Honor Society, a Cappella choir, and Creative Writing Club.

Vote for candidates who support beliefs, not geography

Megan Graeff

can recognize the difference between conservatism and liberalism, and it can also be presumed that every delegate believes strongly either way. Although you won't find the title of Republican or Democrat on the ballot while you are voting today, you will recognize which candidate is from the North and which is from the South.

In past years, I have observed that there is a distinct separation between delegates from the North and South. This could possibly be attributed to the fact that we do live in different places and hold different beliefs and concerns. That be-

ing said, divisions between the North and South don't stand alone.

If you pay attention, you will notice that delegates come from a wide range of cultures, races, and ethnicities. Without a doubt, this enriches the Y&G experience by providing several different views. But nevertheless, differences sometimes initiate conflict, and I suspect you may find such conflicts in committee meetings and election speeches. Without these conflicts, the American ideal of government would not work.

Diversity can be beneficial when it is accepted, but when it is not accepted, the governmental process can become corrupt. A number of people in Y&G will cast their vote, solely based on race, sex, geographic location, and ethnicity. Without

hearing the first word out of a candidate's mouth, some people will have already decided who will receive their vote. I encourage you all to do the opposite.

Now, more than ever, we have to practice one of the most important ideals that our country was built upon...equality.

Don't be biased towards the candidate who looks the most like you. Take the side of the candidate who thinks the most like you.

As you are sitting, listening to the speeches, you have to make a decision: pass notes to the person sitting next to you, or takes notes on what the candidates are saying.

Go ahead and get your money's worth out of the program. The Y&G experience is only what you make of it.

After being involved in the Y&G program for three years, there are certain aspects of the program that have become obvious to me. Within the realm of our mini-government system is everything that you will find in the real world of politics. Among many features is the division that you find among people.

Many people are familiar with the terms Republican, Democrat, and Independent. I suspect that any member of Y&G

Are you a real American?

Rachael Harzinski

scents and placed them in work camps, fearing they were spies.

It didn't matter how long they had been there, nor that most of them were just as angry at the attacks as the majority was, nor that many Japanese-Americans were fighting right along side us. None of that mattered.

Preceding the attacks of September 11, it was nearly impossible to find even toothpicks with the miniature American flags on them, much less a flag to hang outside your house. Flag sales following the attacks beat out sales on any Fourth of July. Suddenly everyone was Uncle Sam's favorite niece or

nephew.

I'm not saying that it's wrong for people to be patriotic. It is a good idea to love your country and to want it to succeed in all ways that it can., but let your feelings be true. Don't confuse the sudden lust for revenge against whomever did this with true patriotic feelings.

Even in Y&G, I have noticed the sudden surge of patriotism with the impromptu emergence of bills to make it a law that students in high school must have the option to participate in saying the Pledge of Allegiance every morning, or singing the national anthem at school. Granted, both are optional to allow the students not to feel as if what little rights we have in this stage in our lives are not encroached upon (and let's face it--we scream to high heaven a

lot about that!).

However, students are already required to say the Pledge of Allegiance all the way up into high school to instigate patriotic feelings in the youth of America. Are we pushing too much?

Celebrate your country. Love it, cherish it. No matter its mistakes. We've been calling for the destruction of another country as a way to celebrate our being Americans.

I have to ask this question: how many of you, or your peers, would have been willing to enlist in the marines before September 11? Or how many would have worn a dress to prom with the American flag sewn in glittering beads on it (don't laugh, I've seen it)? How patriotic were you before we lost the two towers?

Students Speak Out About Speeches at Youth & Government

**JESSICA HARVATH
GINA HASSAN**

In surveys at Pre-Leg I and II, students spoke out about candidate speeches. They debated both presentation and the effectiveness of comedy when a candidate is asking for your vote.

"An enthusiastic and confident performance would have helped some candidates get their ideas across more effectively. When I look at a confident speaker, I think, 'This guy knows what he's talking about,'" said Matt Niemet, an attorney from Lombard.

Some students criticized the tone of the candidates.

"Some of the candidates seemed pompous and arrogant. I was immediately repulsed by their speeches," said Steph Korby, a page

from Carl Sandburg High.

Students were quick to note the effective parts of certain speeches.

"I like the guy who scrapped his speech and talked off the top of this head, because it proves that he is knowledgeable on the subject," said Nikhil Jayaram, a lobbyist from Wheaton Warrensville South.

Megan Boledovich, Secretary of State candidate from Paris Heritage said, "I feel that the candidates did a good job, considering their stress. I empathize with the candidates who look tense on the podium or didn't present themselves well. I don't believe that one speech determines a person's true character, but the nerve-racking thing is that people judge us by our initial presen-

tation."

Most representatives felt that a small degree of humor to keep debate interesting should be encouraged but that the overall tone should be serious.

"In a way, it's appropriate for us to have a good time and meet new people, but in a way, we should take it more seriously so we can get more out of it," said Ashley Dawson, senator from Sesser-Valier.

"A level of humor to lighten up the whole environment [is good], but you need a certain level of seriousness to represent the state government," said lobbyist Bijoy Shah of Edwardsville.

Chief Justice candidate Kevin Becker of Springfield, Williamsville and author of

the famous "Becker-licious" speech, felt comedy is an important tool in Y&G. "It should be funny because it reflects our current government. People are funny, and speeches where people waive their credentials are boring," said Becker.

"Back in 1890, two guys went at it with cattle prods [on the House floor] and anarchy erupted in the House. Looking back on this, I believe Youth and Government needs to have a sense of jocularity," said Representative Travis Bounds of Paris Marshall.

"A certain level of humor is appropriate to keep people on their feet. It keeps people awake," said Representative Jacob Atkins of Mt. Vernon Goreville.

How to Win Delegate Votes Today

SAADIA AHMAD

What do people in Y&G base their votes for candidates on?

Delegates, especially candidates, are asking this question today.

Patricia Balogh, senator from Elmhurst East Leyden, explained that "the speech" was the reason for her choices.

Allison Zender, lobbyist from Hinsdale Central said, "Their skills, what they talk about, and what they plan to do in office are very important."

"I based my decision on the goals they have for Springfield," said Arefa Patel, senator from Andrew.

Presentation and

preparation also play a role.

Blair Posternach, representative from Elmhurst East Leyden, said the basis for his vote is "how well the speeches are prepared and how they present themselves."

"A lot of it is their presentation and how they act. If they seem genuine, sincere, and they're not just doing it for their title," said Samantha Twomey, page from Andrew.

Bertha Sharp, a page from Evanston, said she based her decisions on "their speeches and how well they brought forth what they were trying to get at."

Many others felt that

a good candidate should relate to their voters on a personal level.

Natalie Rende, a lobbyist from East Leyden said, "The speeches [are a factor] and if they seem outgoing and fun. Also, if they would make a good candidate for that position."

"[I base my vote on] how they spoke, and if they talked to me themselves and not have other people come up to me for them," said Anna Elazan, a lobbyist from Naperville North.

Representative Osha Fuangkasae, of Chicagoland Stagg bases her vote on "the school they are from."

Y&G: Place for prayer?

KATIE O'REILLY

Several students felt surprised and even perturbed when hearing the opening prayer at Y&G, yet many acknowledge the tradition it represents.

"[Prayer] is not appropriate, considering the large number of non-Christians involved. I was shocked to hear the word 'Amen,'" said Carrie Gibson, Representative from Hinsdale Central. "I didn't participate. I'm an atheist. I know it's tradition though," said Vanessa Wiegler, Representative from Naperville North.

Many students were more accepting of the spoken words.

"It's short but appro-

priate," said Dan Francis, Lobbyist from Waubonsie Valley.

"This is a tradition. You don't have to join; no one is forcing you to bow your head in prayer. If someone is offended, he or she has that right, but everyone can pray to their own deity," said Governor candidate Tarun Patel.

"I understand why they do it because it's affiliated with the YMCA program," said Kurt Maes, newspaper reporter from Lake Park.

"Our country is based on God from the days of the founding fathers. It's okay," said Page Lauryn Moon of Naperville North.

Murphysboro legislation will change driving age to 18, drinking to 16

**JENNA QUICK
MATT TRAEGER**

The Mt. Vernon Murphysboro legislators introduced a bill, dealing with raising the driving age to eighteen and lowering the drinking age to sixteen.

The bill sponsors of SB-O-22 felt that this bill would help to make teens more aware of the effects of alcohol before they started driving.

"People will be more responsible...and know their alcohol tolerance before they get behind the wheel," said Co-Sponsor Amanda McCain.

The group has alarming statistics to support their bill.

"In 2000, 21 percent of the young drivers that were killed in crashes were intoxicated," said House Sponsor Chris James.

This bill proposes that when the teen is drinking, or under the influence, they must be under direct supervision of a parent or guardian.

According to the bill, parental supervision is defined as "the legal guardian of the 16-20 year old having close watch over the 16-20 year old the entire time while they are consuming alcohol and under the influence of alcohol."

Even though the age for consumption of alcohol would be changed, the age to purchase would not.

"Under this bill, teens would understand alcohol better, and they would experience it with their parents first," said McCain.

Delegates expressed their

views on the changes in legal ages.

Many delegates have strong opinions on such a bill.

"[Teens] could see how drinking could affect driving, so they would be more responsible," said Jill Kording, attorney from Springfield Williamsville.

"I am stuck between. I enjoy having a license. Driving helps me to get to events," said Representative Adam Shaffer of Champaign Centennial. "However, lowering the drinking age could help kids learn to tolerate alcohol. I would accept the drinking but amend the driving age section."

Some delegates felt that this bill was not necessary and could be very dangerous.

"I do not support this bill because it is unrealistic," said Senator Shala Ilbery of Mt. Vernon.

"I don't like [the bill]. I don't think sixteen year-olds are mature enough to be drinking," said Amy Cutshall, Chaplain of the Senate from Paris Marshall.

"It's dangerous because [sixteen year-olds] are not done growing and maturing yet, and it could get out of hand," said Representative Dan Hopkins of Mt. Vernon Frankfort Community.

"I don't agree with this bill because sixteen to twenty-one year-olds are the most reckless," said Senator Sara Eader, also of Mt. Vernon Frankfort Community.

Debating Stagg's stem cell legislation

ROBERT KERN

A group from Chicagoland Stagg has presented a bill, HB-G-10, that would allow funding for stem cell research in the state of Illinois.

"Our group felt that there would be numerous benefits in allowing funding for stem cell research," Legislator David Szakonyi said. "One of the most obvious benefits would be the opportunity to save thousands, if not millions, of lives."

Stem cell research is where researchers take stem cell lines from excess embryos at fertility clinics and then use them to create the basis for every possible cell in the human body. With this bill, the group hopes to take a

certain amount of money out of the state's surplus each year to fund stem cell research at clinics.

The bill group expects opposition from pro-life delegates once they reach Springfield.

"I knew when we were writing the bill that it would be controversial," said Szakonyi, "but that is why I wrote it. I wanted a bill that would be controversial so it would have some good debate time."

Delegates shared their views on stem cell legislation.

Holly Gustavson, page from Chicagoland Eisenhower, explained her support of such a bill "because they will then be able to figure

out new things that would be able to help people."

Others are strongly opposed to the bill.

"Humans shouldn't have the right to create men the way they want them to be.

That can only be done by God," said Mary Scholl, senator from Stagg.

Other delegates were unsure.

"I think they should allow funding because it would help the field of medicine, but they should be careful in how they use the technology," said Colleen Annerino, lobbyist from Wheaton Warrenville South.

BBCHS to legalize hemp in Illinois

EILEEN SOSNICKI

Ben Swift, Erin Bryant, Bradley Amiano, and Caitlin Huston-Dean of Kankakee Bradley Bourbonnais, are introducing HB-O-05, which would make growing hemp legal in Illinois.

Many popular beliefs about hemp are actually rumors. For example, quite a few people believe that it is possible to get high off of hemp.

"It's actually as safe a crop as corn," said Swift.

In committee during Pre-Leg, the point was reiterated that smoking hemp would be the same as smoking a rolled up empty piece of paper.

"[I haven't] seen many people trying to smoke hemp necklaces," said Swift.

Because hemp is a close cousin of the marijuana plant, it seems that it would be hard to distinguish between the two, but hemp is very different.

Swift explained that, unlike marijuana, it can't flower, and it smells and feels different than

marijuana.

In addition to having no ability to get a person high, when hemp is grown close to marijuana, it prevents THC from forming in marijuana.

With its versatility, the bill group believes that hemp has the potential to become a major cash crop and help the Illinois economy.

In committee, Swift compared hemp to the soybean—both have many different uses and are nutritional.

Swift also explained that more than 25,000 products can be derived from hemp, including plastic, paper, clothes, food, cosmetics, and jewelry.

"[Hemp sold in Illinois stores] has been imported from states where the growing of hemp is legal, such as North Dakota," said Swift.

The bill group feels that by keeping it illegal to grow hemp in Illinois, the state has been deprived of a considerable amount of revenue.

Paris Marshall legislators want our athletes tested

**JESSICA HARVATH
DANNAH STEELE**

Rachael Reed, Leslie Sutton, Kellen Hills, and Ty Comerford from Paris Marshall are the sponsors of a bill designed to legalize random drug testing of high school athletes.

"The purpose of this bill is to reduce teen drug use for a brighter future," said Reed.

Any member of an IHSA activity could be subject to random drug tests, and at least 50% of all athletes must submit to the screening.

"We chose fifty percent representation because one hundred percent was not feasi-

ble. They would have to screen an ungodly number of athletes," said Hills.

"The random selection is chosen by the school board," said Reed.

It is up to the school to determine a reasonable punishment.

"The school board defines the punishment, and [the athlete] must pass another test to be reinstated," said Reed.

The test is \$30. The school pays for half and the athlete half.

The group believes there is an excessive amount of drug usage with teenagers today.

"1.8 million teen-

agers, ages 12-17, have used cocaine.

Twenty-two percent of teenagers have used marijuana," said the bill's lobbyist, Bess Wolf, also from Paris Heritage.

The sheer number of students and possible controversy over students' rights could stand in the way of passing this bill, but the group is still confident.

"Testing does influence fourth amendment rights," said Comerford. "Athletes get privileges. They have an incentive to be taken away. They are held to a higher standard and can be used as examples [for the rest of the stu-

dents]."

The bill also makes accommodations for prescription drugs.

"Even though some over-the-counter and prescription drugs do show up on the screening, athletes can verify the result with their medications," said Sutton.

During committee, the bill did encounter argument.

"If the bill is fair, there should be a set discipline. We're giving the school board too much power. It could lead to discrimination," said Senator Luke Morgan of Mt. Vernon Murphysboro.

Protection for pregnant victims

**RACHEL PARKIN
DANNAH STEELE**

A bill group from Mt. Vernon Goreville is trying to pass a bill that would charge murderers of pregnant women with two murders.

"The bill is more or less to protect the rights of the woman and the baby. This is because the woman becomes emotionally attached to the baby at this time," said Senate Sponsor Megan Carroll.

The bill states that punishment will depend on the intention of the person when committing the murder. If the murderer knows the woman is pregnant, he/she can be charged with two first-degree murders.

"[The bill] is based on how close the relationship is between the murderer and the woman to determine the murderer's knowledge of the growing fetus," said Christopher Gage, bill co-sponsor.

The bill proposes that if the murderer does not know the woman is pregnant, he can be charged with two counts of first-degree murder but the second charge would not exceed voluntary manslaughter.

Illinois would not be breaking new national ground with this bill.

"There are thirty-two states with bills similar to this one," said Gage.

The bill group believes that their bill does not cross paths with abortion rights groups.

"Our bill has nothing to do with abortion," said Carroll.

"The mother has not given consent for her pregnancy to be terminated, so it is not related to abortion in any way," said Kara Patterson, bill sponsor.

Action against surgeons who leave the O.R.

EMILY WURTH

Sara Eader, Daniel Hopkins, Jessica Grimes, and Affron Teim, members of a bill group from the Mt. Vernon Frankfort delegation, introduced a bill, HB-O-18, making it illegal for assigned surgeons to leave the operating room before the completion of the surgery.

The writers of this bill said that too often something happens to the patient after the surgeon leaves the room.

"Someone could be hurt, or even killed, by surgeons leaving the operating rooms," said Senate Sponsor Sara Eader.

This bill has no financial cost to the state. Hospitals would be in charge of moni-

toring the surgeons and whether they leave the operating rooms.

Surgeons who violate the law will be punished, with the punishment being more severe with every violation.

In cases where an emergency arises that demands the surgeon's presence elsewhere, a doctor of equal training can continue with the operation.

Members of this group became aware of this problem from a student from their school.

"This problem is so widespread that it has been featured on shows like ER," said Eader.

This bill aims to correct

what happens when a medical student is put in charge after the initial surgeon leaves the room.

"The problem with this," said Eader, "is medical students don't have the experience to deal with a problem if one arises."

Safety is the number one priority of the bill group.

"This bill is definitely important to the well-being and safety of the patient," said Eader.

Upon violation of this act, punishment ranges from requiring the surgeon to go before the hospital board for fines to, upon the third violation, revocation of the surgeon's medical license.

Exec. Directors: Improving lobbyist experience

Mark Deaton

Mark Deaton of Mt. Vernon and Peter Fu of Naperville are asking lobbyists for their vote this year as they try to become the next Executive Director of Lobbyists.

Although varied in experience, they have a similar appreciation for Y&G and the lobbyist program.

Deaton, a second-year program participant, is concerned that lack of experience may hinder the students' effectiveness.

"Lobbyists may not have enough prior experience to effectively present their bills," Deaton said.

Fu, a first-year program participant and lobbyist said, "I want for the lobbyists to become more of an influential branch of government."

Fu considers this general lack of lobbyist influence the primary issue facing his program area.

"While in office, I hope to bridge the lobbyists together and make all the lobbyists credible sources for the legislators and lawyers," said Fu.

Deaton agrees.

He plans to "help lobbyists feel more confident in presenting the details and positive aspects in legislative committees."

The two candidates have different reasons for declaring candidacy this year.

Deaton said that he is running for office because he feels his prior Y&G experience will allow him to be the best Executive Director.

"As a page my first year in Youth and Government, I was selected to be the personal page for the Speaker of the Orange House," said Deaton.

Fu said he is running because "new experiences have always been something I've enjoyed. Meeting new people and [hearing] new ideas allows me to become a better person."

When discussing his first year participating in Y&G, Fu said, "I think this program is excellent because it is

Peter Fu

teaching us kids how government works and could possibly lead to greater lives for us all."

Deaton said, "It has been the greatest experience that

I have had in high school. I have always been interested in government and politics. The Youth and Government program provides a great opportunity for students to understand the political process."

Aside from Youth and Government, both candidates are heavily involved in their high schools and local communities.

Deaton has been a state qualifier for the cross-country team, is a member of the swim and track teams, and officiates at YMCA sporting events. Deaton is also an FCA officer, member of his church youth group, school chair and praise band.

Fu has served on his school's Student Government and has participated on the football team, Star Raiders, and orchestra.

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THE JUDICIAL OBSERVER

KEVIN BECKER

the whole weekend was more confusing than it should have been," said Becker.

He has hopes to better prepare new attorneys through time and training.

"With more time and more training spent on the new attorneys this year, there will be more of them to prepare new attorneys the following year," said Becker.

"I would like to use the second and third-year attorneys to act as mentors for the new delegates," said Becker. "They will be able to work more directly in helping them than a Chief Justice would."

Becker plans to better acquaint himself with the other judicial participants before the vote on Friday.

"I am hoping to meet with the attorneys personally on Friday in addition to the speech on a podium in front of 1,000 people. That way, they can meet me."

DUSTIN GREENBERG

Dustin Greenberg, senior at Lake County Stevenson and this year's northern candidate for Chief Justice, has also been planning for improvements to the judicial program.

"One major issue [in the judicial program] is that not everyone gets a chance to speak during Judicial Review," Greenberg said. "Some of the people get to speak five or six times, while others don't get to speak at all."

Greenberg believes that fairness is key.

"I definitely plan on being fair," Greenberg said. "I guarantee that everyone who wants to speak will have that opportunity."

Greenberg also has an opinion of the governor's role in the judicial process.

"It's very important that the Youth Governor is available during Judicial Review in case we declare a bill unconstitutional. He

should be available to answer any questions."

Greenberg sees the role of Chief Justice as an active one.

"I will be an active participant who will observe the appeals of my fellow attorneys. While, at the same time, I will be able to pick effective, debatable bills for Judicial Review," said Greenberg

Greenberg feels he would be an effective Chief Justice.

"I will answer any and all questions that people ask me and also work together with the other officers to help create a fun and effective weekend for everyone," said Greenberg.

As a candidate for Chief Justice, Williamsville High School Senior Kevin Becker has a motive for helping to improve the judicial program for the attorneys in this year's program.

"By running for Chief Justice, I am hoping to make sure all inexperienced attorneys are better prepared for the weekend," said Becker.

Becker, himself, was a first-year attorney last year and decided, then, that it might be a good idea to run this year to better prepare the new delegates.

"As a first-year attorney last year, I had a lot of unanswered questions. Many of us did, and

Attorneys: Do our opinions impact the final vote?

RACHAEL HARZINSKI CO-EDITOR

In terms of importance, the Chief Justice is to the attorneys what the governor is to the legislators.

But what exactly should attorneys look for when selecting their Chief Justice? Does the person matter, or is it simply the size of the delegation?

Blake Mikus, senior attorney of Lake County Stevenson believes that it doesn't matter what the candidate says, so much as how large the delegation is.

"It's just the politics, so you

know. It's not fair, really. A large delegation gives you an advantage," said Mikus.

Is it as simple as that? The bigger the delegation, the more likely you are to win?

"That's just the way it works," said Scott Kohen, another senior attorney from Lake County Stevenson.

However, while delegation size may be a factor in getting in office, that's not the only aspect studied when it comes to choosing a Chief Justice.

"I look for short speeches on

how they are going to do what they say they will. No bragging about themselves," Mikus said. "No promises either. Just be honest."

In short, while delegation size is a factor, making a good impression on those who are listening is also important.

In the grand scheme of things, does an attorney's vote matter?

After all, the only running candidate that will eventually affect them is the Chief Justice. That affect will only be fully realized in judicial review.

Do attorneys concern themselves with who's running for governor or lieutenant governor?

"The campaigns are based on the speech and the advertising," said Alexandria Marcyniuk, a junior from Lombard Willowbrook. "I feel it does affect [attorneys'] enthusiasm" when the number of offices directly impacting them is minimized.

"There's really no way around it," said Amy Curtis, also a junior at Lombard Willowbrook. "Attorneys can't really be included because of their position."