

# THE OBSERVER

## Candidates abusing substance?

AREFA PATEL

Candy, flowers, Playstation, singing on chairs- what do they have to do with the Y&G assembly? A large part of this year's campaigns have focused on handouts and humor. Amidst all of the laughs and gimmicks, one must bring up the question: "Do the Y&G campaigns address the issues?"

Tarun Patel, last year's youth governor said, "All elections have the entertainment aspect, it will always be strong. I think Y&G covers the issues in the speeches and debates. Delegates themselves need to ask questions and expect more from candidates, and candidates will be forced to address the issues."

Eric England, a candidate for governor, used candy, flowers, and Playstation to earn votes. However, England emphasized that he used these objects in "trying to get to know people." He also said, "Things like Playstation let [the voters] know my per-

sonality while having fun."

Justin Cajindos, the opposing candidate for governor, denounced such practices. Cajindos clearly stressed in his speech that "the influence of money in politics is an epidemic." Cajindos' campaign table simply featured posters and fliers that focused on his goals and opinions.

Regardless of the controversy, it cannot be contested that the campaigns influence the voters. Each delegate can receive a clear idea of the candidates through their campaigns.

Victoria Feedlund, Chelsea McCartney, and Abby Otizman, attorneys from Springfield Williamsville, were confident in Eric England's prospective victory

"He's all over, and there are a lot of people campaigning for him. He's determined, and the flowers were a good touch," they said.

### Inside ...

What is Judicial Review?	Page 3
Election Results	Page 2
Editorials	Page 4
Where Are All the Women?	Page 6

The Voice of Youth and  
Government ....

For the Students  
By the Students

# Election results roll in

**JINA HASSAN**

The election results are in. As triumphant candidates and their supporters celebrate victory (and less fortunate candidates cope with their losses), many delegates ask the same question: "how close were the numbers?"

Vote counts indicate that some candidates enjoyed landslide wins, while others barely made it into office.

In the race for governor, Justin Cajindos beat Eric England 493-387.

A narrow victory met Chief Justice Erin Wilson, who defeated Daniel Racic by a count of 473-443. Executive Director of Lobbyists Colin Clark won his race by only three votes.

Lt. Governor Janine Fricano received 818 votes, but ran unopposed. Also running unopposed was Secretary of State Colleen Carrol, who received 823 votes.

In the four-way race for the three Senate President positions, Justin Minick led the field with 157 votes. Levi Bennet trailed by a mere four votes, garnering 153. Lindsey Clark secured the third position with 132 votes. Rob Fojtik received 66 votes.

In a decisive victory, House Speaker Jason Penrod received the most votes of the presiding officers elected, winning 228. Philip Storm had 193, also securing his position. Steve Nawara edged out Sarah Pittenger by only six votes with his 154 to her 147.

# "Death with Dignity" - Whose right is it?

**BRITTANY LEGGANS**

"In America, we give people so many rights and choices. It's just absurd that we find it immoral when someone opts out of unnecessary pain," said Ricky Stapel, a representative from Mt. Vernon Murphysboro.

Stapel, along with Caitlyn Fiello, Chandra Feltman, and Jackie Jacquot, is sponsoring a bill seeking the legalization of the Death with Dignity Program, which allows terminally ill adult patients to end their lives.

The bill requires patients to make two separate oral requests and one written request to their attending physician, expressing their desire to seek Death with Dignity. After a confirmation of the patient's diagnosis and prognosis by two physicians, the patient must undergo a psychological evaluation to prove mental competence.

"We don't want clinically depressed people

choosing this option. We want to end needless suffering in people who are terminally ill," said Stapel.

The attending physician must also advise the patient of other alternatives, such as hospice care and pain control.

This issue is personal to the writers of the bill. All say they have watched a family member slowly die, and wish that person had not suffered.

"It's hard to watch a family member die. When you're sitting there looking at them, you think 'why does it have to be them to suffer? If there only was a law that would allow them a way out...,'" said Representative Jacquot.

"It gives family members comfort in knowing their loved ones are pain-free and in a better place," said Fiello, a representative.

# Governor Cajindos accepts office

## JUSTIN CAJINDOS

I want to start off by thanking everyone who voted for me. I truly appreciate your confidence in me and hope that I can live up to your expectations. For those of you who did not vote for me, I hope to earn your support and respect.

We all have a long and busy schedule ahead of us today. Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "Education is the best defense of democracy." All of you have the opportunity to learn American democracy firsthand; I hope you make the most of it.

There are a few bills that I strongly encourage legislators to consider. In many ways, gay rights is the final frontier of the modern civil rights movement. I urge you to defend human dignity and pass HB-0-13, which would allow same sex-parents to enter into civil unions. I also

believe that the time has come to end the hypocrisy of killing people to show that killing people is wrong and pass HB-0-15, which would ban the death penalty. Finally, I urge you to pass HB-G-07, which requires the videotaping of police interrogations to ensure that our criminal justice system is administered fairly.

If any delegates have concerns, please don't hesitate to come to my office. If you can't see me right away, a member of my staff or the Lt. Governor will relay your concerns to my attention. Good Luck to legislators with your bills and attorneys with your appeals. I hope everyone has an enjoyable weekend.

# Little known facts about Judicial Review revealed

## JESSICA HARVATH

It is Sunday morning. Bleary-eyed attorneys stumble wearily into chambers, slump into their high-backed chairs, and blink anxiously in preparation for the often nebulous affair of judicial review.

What is judicial review? Well, simply put, it is the procedure by which the judicial branch determines the constitutionality of uncertain bills passed into law.

Well, perhaps not so simply put, but in the most basic description, attorneys use judicial review to flex their constitutional muscles and exercise the system of checks and balances to keep the egos of empowered legislators from over-inflation.

Generally, the Chief Jus-

tice selects two constitutionally questionable bills for judicial review, fresh from the governor's office. These bills are then placed before the ravenous attorneys, as defenseless as lambs before a slaughter.

The sponsors of the bill, still glowing from cotton candy dreams of having passed a bill into law, are faced with a fresh horror: being convicted a party to the creation of an unconstitutional law.

Facing ignominy and defeat, bill-backers lurk in trepidation, awaiting the decision of the acutely aware and awake Y&G attorneys.

Truly, this is the Survivor Island of Y&G bills.

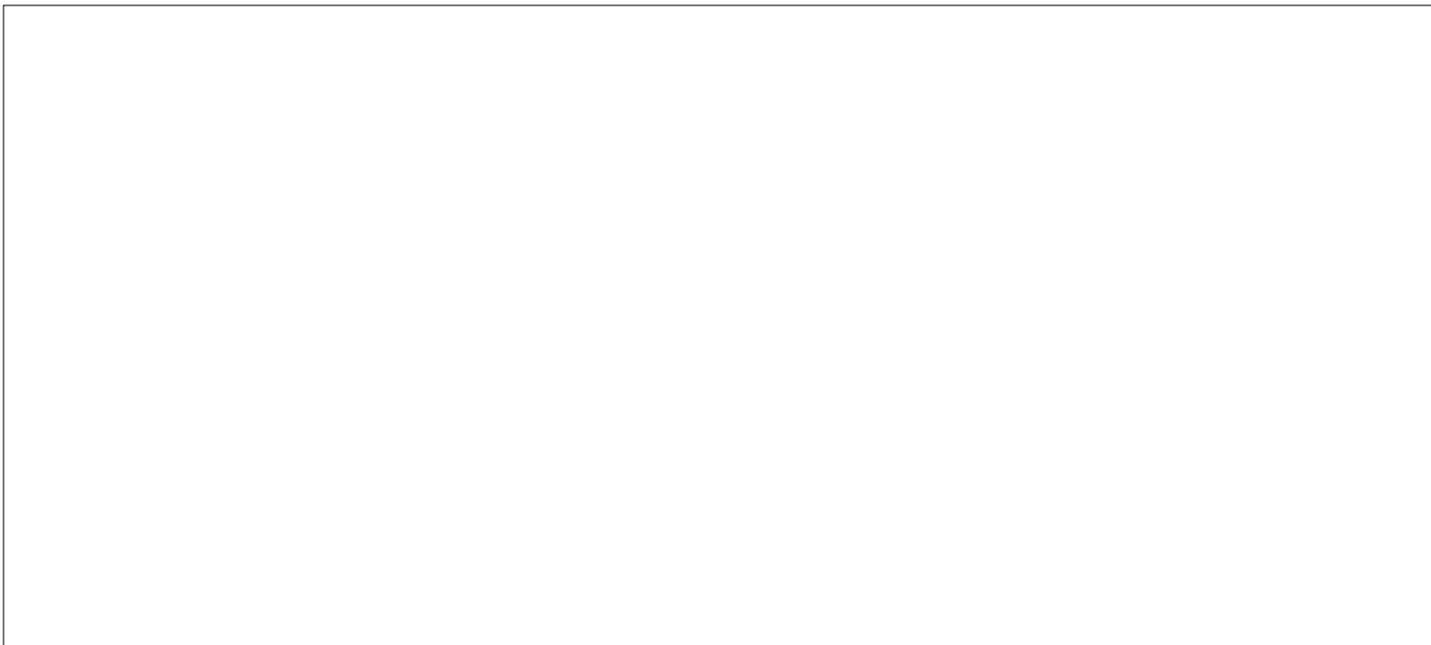
The tribal council gathers

to debate bills, faces leering before the jumping flames of sacrificial fire. Their job is a difficult one: forget the merits of the actual bill, and determine whether or not it violates the writs of the founding fathers.

Votes are cast, and triumphant bills receive a seal of approval. Others, the unfortunate and dejected, bear the stigma of unconstitutionality. In this manner, unconstitutional bills are voted off the island while attorneys revel and gloat in the elixir of power.

No bill is ever truly dead, however. Time awaits the reincarnation of dead bills in the hands of another bill group from another school in another Y&G.

# EDITORIALS



Gray House Bill 21 relates to motorcycle safety regulations regarding children under the age of six.

## More than children need support

**KRISTIN ROHRBECK**

As a person who grew up with "child support" being a commonly used, and fought over, phrase, I was struck by the bills brought forth this year over such an issue.

One of the bills that particularly caught my eye was Grey Bill SB-G-27, which states if "a (child-support) payment is not received within thirty (30) days, the non-custodial parent's visitation rights will be suspended."

Why should parents be cut off from seeing their own child if they have a critical reason that they could not submit a payment? The bill does state,

however, that the visitation will only be suspended "if the court does not validate the reason." Who should be the final person that determines the validity of someone's reason?

I know from personal experience, though maybe not valid to a court system, that a person's reasons for not being able to make child-support payments on time are definitely more important to the individual than to the judge who decides the parent's fate.

My own mother has manic depression, a severe mental illness. I know that many times this illness has pre-

vented her from keeping jobs, sending payments in on time, and even waking up in the morning. I certainly don't think this type of person, whether it is my mother or not, should be forced to meet a deadline for child-support when she can't even remember the date.

I do understand that bills regarding child-support are very touchy. Some parents who would not be able to see their babies would even feel as though this bill is as harsh as capital punishment.

Please feel free to submit letters to the editor

# Tree-huggers headed for extinction?

KRISHNA PATTISAPU

Human rights. Education. Public Safety. All of these topics pertain to the basic civil liberties granted to us as American citizens. We strive to obtain them, doing all that is in our power to achieve ideal results. However, none of these aspirations would be possible without the correct preservation of one key factor – the environment.

With only seven environmental bills attempting legislation this year, a question has arisen in my mind. Do student legislators place enough emphasis on environmental measures?

Matter-of-factly, without environmental protection, none of our human endeavors could be completed. Clean air, water, and protected wildlife are the center of our world, whether we realize it or not. Life as we know it would deplete without correct conservation of our earth.

Yet, our generation continues to shift this issue to the back burner, ignoring its ur-

gency. As the voices of tomorrow, young politicians can attempt to change the ways of today.

Browsing through my bill book, I find that each environmental bill calls for its own diverse cause. Most attempt to liberate man-made environmental difficulties.

The authors of these bills apparently understand and value nature. However, the scanty traces of natural business reflect poorly on students. It is time that young people dig deep into their political interests and plow out issues that will dominate the future.

Those concerned with environmental issues are often dismissed with terms such as “Tree-huggers.” Such stereotyping discourages meaningful dialogue. With such slander, those truly passionate about environmental issues are not able to make a great impact on their peers.

We must not allow grad-

ual, negative environmental changes to change our minds over time. We must open our eyes today. We live in a world with limited resources. Our current mistreatment of the world around us must cease soon, before it is too late.

As we continue to invent and develop new facets of living, we must remain focused on basic elements. We must realize that without nature, we would have nothing.

Our lives are only as good as the air we breathe. Already, we are forced to drink water out of plastic bottles. Will we soon be breathing air out of tin boxes?

Those working to achieve environmental bills must not be discouraged, but rather, inspired to persevere in creating much-needed ecological authority. Mother Nature enables all things to occur. Therefore, we must not undermine her influence.

# What do candidates really think?

KRISTIN ROHRBECK

With knees shaking and sweat forming on his brow, the candidate walks up to the podium, lights pounding down around him. Thoughts whirl through his mind as he begins his overly memorized speech. But what is the candidate *really* thinking...

**Welcome fellow Youth & Government members!** (Why are there so many of them?!?) **I am running for...**(oh god, I forgot)...**Yes, that’s right, I am running. I am the best candidate for this job** (not to mention the most attractive). **I will listen to all of you** (until you

get annoying and then I will *pretend* like I care) **and promote efficiency in my legislation** (by not reading bill briefs more than two sentences long). **I am for everything you believe in** (GO CUBS!) **and against all that you oppose** (except for the women being topless in public-Woo-hoo!). **This weekend should be one of the most memorable experiences of your high school career** (yeah, remembering all the hot girls). **Please give my legislation a chance** (or at least a few bucks) **and vote for me** (*Please*). **Thank you** (I am *never* envisioning this audience naked ever again).

# Where are all the women?

## LAURA WITTNEBEN

In 53 years of the Youth and Government program, there have only been 3 female governors. So is it just a coincidence that this year two males are running?

When the delegates were asked if they thought the lack of female governors was due to gender discrimination, or if females were just not inclined to run, there was a variety of responses.

"I think its both," said Kirsten Iden, a senior from B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South. "There is always a bit of gender discrimination, but also females haven't always stepped up."

Sophomore Lobbyist Kenneth Baker from Heritage Naperville Central agreed with the fact that females don't always step up.

"Girls may just not want to run. Running for governor is hard work, so if you really don't want to run, you just don't run," said Baker.

Some people saw it more of a tradition instead of discrimination

"I don't know if it is discrimination, but more of societal norms. Politics has been dominated by white middle-age men," said Andrew de Cariolis, a senior from Heritage Geneva.

Tom Hinkel, an advisor from Paris Marshall said, "Sometimes women get overshadowed by men because men are more aggressive in nature. I hope in the future women will choose to run more and more."

Again, Travis Iles a sophomore lobbyist from Mt. Veron also sees it as a tradition.

"Maybe they weren't encouraged because in life there aren't a lot of female governors," Iles said.

Junior Kambace Roberts from Mt. Vernon thinks it's an issue of choice.

"I don't think it's discrimination. Myself, if I wanted to do something, I wouldn't let anything hold me back," Roberts said.

*THE OBSERVER, a publication of Illinois Youth & Government, is published four times annually and distributed free of charge to participants. The advisors and editors welcome letters but reserve the right to edit them for consideration of length, taste, and mechanics.*

### STAFF

Saadia Ahmad  
Christen Gates  
Jessica Harvath  
Samantha Klein  
Brittany Leggans  
Katie Mergen  
Katie O'Reilly  
Matt Rossow  
Kate Sullivan  
Lisa Biernat  
Jina Hassan  
Karly Kupferberg  
Logan Lenker  
Kristen Nawara  
Arefa Patel  
Eileen Sosnicki  
Laura Wittneben

### COLLEGE STAFF

Matt Galligan

### ADVISORS

Robyn Fullerton  
Melanie Gulley  
Terri Manser  
Jon Parkin

### EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Krishna Pattisapu  
Kristin Rohrbeck