

THE OBSERVER

FINAL ISSUE 2005 ASSEMBLY

Truly, what do the delegates know about government

Victoria Freedlund, Springfield
Williamsville

Have you ever been up late at night, watching Leno, and all of a sudden there are these people on the street wrongly answering questions that they should know.

The Y&G Press Corps did their own version of Jay Leno's "Jay Walking" on Sunday at the Capitol.

Each person was asked four questions having to do with our nation's history. The questions were -

1. What do the stripes on the flag stand for?
2. What does "E

Pluribus Unum" mean?

3. What does bicameral mean?

4. Spell "gubernatorial"

Don't feel bad if you were stumped with question number two. No one answered that one correctly. Well, Lt. Gov. Akif knew, but more on that later.

Shockingly enough, everyone knew (without struggle) what the stripes stood for (FYI: the 13 original colonies).

We did have some trouble with gubernatorial, which Governor Clark told us was the toughest question

he'd been asked all weekend. He did get it right.

"E Pluribus Unum," for those who don't know, means "out of many, one." It appears on our money and some of our seals.

You can almost see the flicker of knowledge flash on the delegates' faces when they were asked what exactly "E Pluribus Unum" means.

One girl looked desperately confused. I prompted her with: "It's on our money." More confusion. "Okay, how about question 4. Spell gubernatorial."

"Oh, I know this," her friend answered excit-

edly. "G-O-O-B-..."

I had already checked-out by that time.

When approaching one delegate and her friends, I asked, "Hey, do you guys know what 'E Pluribus Unum' means? I'm doing an article for the press."

I was interrupted by a, "No, I'm sorry I don't know. But you know what, Akif might. Yeah, he took Latin."

So Akif, if you're reading this, thank you. You have renewed my faith in the human race and the knowledge of our nation.

TABLING BILLS IS A BIG CONCERN FOR SOME

Leah Reagan, Elmhurst Lake Park

Tabling bills in legislative sessions has become the source of much controversy at this year's Y&G assembly.

The House seemed to be more prone to tabling bills than the Senate did.

"The House is table-crazy," said Aaron Hawks of Mt. Vernon West Frankfort.

"The Senate started off passing every bill," said Allen Majewski of Elmhurst Lake Park, "but then as time went on we started failing and tabling more."

The controversy

arose less from the amount of bills that were tabled and more from the reason people were tabling them.

"People tabled bills because they were bored or in a hurry," said Julianne

Cook of Heritage Wabonsie Valley.

"It's disgusting because people worked so hard on their bills," said Cook in reference to people who took

the attitude that tabling is "fun," as did Andrew Beult of Knox County Galesburg.

"People were using tabling to get back at each other for things that happened in committee or for personal reasons," said Brian Tanke of Springfield Williamsville.

"If you table a bill you have to do it for the right reasons. You can't be disre-

spectful or close-minded," said Governor Colin Clark.

Some offered reasons for this seemingly unnecessary tabling of bills.

"We let everything out of committee; tabling is a way of getting bills out of the way," said Dave Kasper of Danville Schlarman, labeled the "infamous tabler" by Jordan Rapoff of Springfield Williamsville.

As an alternative to tabling bills, Governor Clark offered the parliamentary rule of "moving to the previous question."

"Tabling is a way of getting bills out of the way."

Mandatory Fun Night is always sub- ject of debate

Elise Randick, Network Stagg

“Mandatory Fun Night” was either a raving success or a complete disaster, depending on who you talk to. Several Y&G participants will tell you it was the height of their weekend, while others will refer to it as a complete waste of time.

A common complaint about Mandatory Fun Night was the “mandatory” part of fun.

“You can’t force someone to have fun,” said Ashley Turkowski of Network Stagg.

Many students would have enjoyed themselves more if they were allowed access to their rooms.

“Not allowing us to go to our room is depriving of us fun,” complained Matt Ferguson of McHenry County Crystal Lake. {See Saturday’s Edition for the reason why the fun night activities are mandatory.}

Larissa Kibort of Network Stagg stated, “Mandatory Fun Night creates mad mobs.”

Other students believed that the event just needed to be tweaked a little to improve its overall quality. Delegates from Network Carl Sandburg felt that it was too long. Oliva Maslon of the Elmhurst Lake Park, on the other hand, hoped for better music.

Amazingly, there were optimists towards “Mandatory Fun Night.”

“It was fun,” said Ben Riley of Network Stagg. “It was a great way to get people together.”

Other delegates who shared Ben’s view also loved the activities.

“I liked when the three officials in robes sang karaoke,” said Denise Hibbard of Elmhurst Lake Park.

Chris Zaczyk from Network Andrew enthusiastically described his view towards the night.

“It was the best night of my life. It has the sauce,” said Zaczyk.

NEXT YEAR IS ALWAYS ON THE MIND OF THE DELEGATES AS THE WEEKEND COMES TO A CLOSE

Nick Veach, Springfield Williamsville

As the weekend wrapped up, people’s minds and thoughts were changing towards the next Y&G program, specifically next year.

Julia Jarzembowski, a 3rd year veteran in the program from Heritage Wabonsie Valley enjoyed her final year. “This was the most tiring weekend ever and there wasn’t as much controversy as last year, but making new friends was the best part.”

Although the long enduring weekend has come to an end, delegates enjoyed reminiscing about the events they just experienced in Springfield.

“This year was just typical Y&G,” said Tony

Vladetich, a delegate from Mt. Vernon.

Says Vladetich, “Everything comes together to become fun in government; it’s never just one thing.”

Despite the “long” weekend with few hours of sleep, the delegates in Y&G enjoyed their government experiences and the lessons they learned.

Jennifer Arch, a member of the college staff and a sophomore attending Indiana University, said, “I will definitely come back because I’ve had a fantastic experience and I want to continue helping others too.”

As the 56th assembly ends, the delegates can only hope and wait for the excitement in preparation for next year’s 57th Y&G assembly.

Dear Editor,

My name is Lilly Kyle and I am wanting to run for Youth Governor next year. I believe that I could be a stepping stone in the advancement of the Executive Branch next year. I learned a lot from last year and this year. I know I cannot make any changes but I would listen to other’s opinions and help them out anyway I can. I believe that everyone should be heard and I would make sure to listen to them. So I am asking for support from my delegations and fellow delegates for 2005-2006 Y&G.

Lilly Kyle

Mt. Vernon Murphysboro

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Pages enjoy their “walking” role in the Capitol

Megan Hayward, Springfield
Williamsville

One of the many downfalls for the pages is they don't get the comfortable chairs. Although there are many downfalls, they also receive many benefits.

One page, David Rhoads of Mt. Vernon West Frankfort simply enjoyed doing his job. “I deliver messages from the Senate to the House and I like doing it.”

Brian Thude of Elmhurst Lake Park identified the essential role of the

page. “I don't have to pay attention. I just keep communication between the two branches of legislature.”

From a girl's perspective, comfort is essential.

Katherine Kettering of Heritage Bativa exclaimed, “It's good unless you have bad shoes.”

The main reason delegates become pages is for first time exposure to how the

legislative process works. That experience is why Jaime O'Reilly of Network Stagg became a page.

“I just keep communication between the two branches.”

“ I get to sit in on everything so next year I'll know

how to legislate,” said O'Reilly.

Not only do people decide to be pages for education purposes, but for social reasons as well. Ron Gayatin

of Network Eisenhower unabashedly said, “I look at girls. The hotter they are, the higher the priority.”

Surprisingly, some pages were even tipped to pass a note. Page DJ Mercer of Edwardsville said, “I made 1 dollar!”

Sergeant of Orange House Nina Franco, loves the power of a being a page because “all bills come to me and I decide if they're appropriate to send out.”

So how did we do?

Chris Hassen, Springfield
Williamsville

In addition to rushing from committees to meals to sessions, many Y&G delegates had to answer questions from our crack newspaper staff.

Over the weekend, the newspaper press produced four issues and the video press aired two broadcasts.

Unfortunately, many people's views of the video press were affected by Saturday night's lack of audio.

Tina Parisi, a member of the video press from Network Stagg, said that she does not “know exactly what happened.” Possibilities for the audio failure include the

new editing system used this year or the different channel the broadcast aired on.

However, the reviews of the newspaper's coverage were generally positive.

“I think they did a good job,” said Sergi Sipahi, a legislator from Kankakee BBCHS, “I enjoyed reading *The Observer*.”

Drew Wright, a legislator from Paris Heritage, also felt that the paper “did an ok job” except for inaccuracies in how his bill was reported in the first issue.

These stemmed from an alteration made to the bill after the paper went to press.

Tomas Molina, Y&G's Secretary of State,

was impressed with this year's paper, saying that it was “a lot better than last year.” He praised the humorous approach taken in this year's issues.

Youth Governor Colin Clark heaped praise on both aspects of the press. “I thought you guys did great. I feel like I had a healthy relationship with the press.”

He also joked that maybe the video press gave him “too much attention.” He said that they asked great questions about “stuff people really wanted to hear about.”

If anything, we at the press only hope that the paper served as more than a napkin to soak up spilled milk at breakfast.

Cell phones are a part of government. Is that a good thing?

Morgan Goodall, Edwardsville

Over the years, cell phone usage among teenagers has dramatically risen. When walking around the Capitol during Y&G, one can see that cell phone usage is highly prevalent.

When not in sessions, one is sure to find at least five people sitting on the marble floors talking on a cell phone. When not talking or texting, some are even playing games.

So the question is asked: “Is this really necessary?”

Laura Muniz, a legislator from Heritage Oswego said that she uses her cell

** continued on page 4*

Cell phone use at Y&G

** continued from page 3*

phone to periodically check in with her parents over the course of the weekend. This was found to be the general consensus among delegates.

On the bus rides to and from the Capitol, one is sure to overhear at least two or three delegates chatting with their friends back home.

It's sad to say, but even from the House Gallery, one can see legislators in session with phones out – concealed from the floor officers of course.

When Munit heard this comment she irately said, "That's just disrespectful!"

Delegates ponder Y&G theme song

Andrew Veach, Springfield
Williamsville

They say music makes the world go 'round. When posed with the challenge of naming a theme song, the answers came full circle.

Theme song choices ranged from alternative rock's Green Day to pop icon Michael Jackson.

"The theme song should be "Thriller" by Michael Jackson because Y&G is thrilling," said Sara Laney, a legislator from Heritage Waubonsie Valley.

While thrilling was a feeling for Laney, the opposite was felt by one delegate.

"This year's Y&G

was terrible. Last year's was better," says Andrew Schecker, a legislator from Heritage Waubonsie Valley. It was appropriate then for Schecker to choose Green Day's "Good Riddance" for the theme.

Mike Hyre, a lobbyist from Network Carl Sandburg, chose Snoop Dogg's "Drop it Like it's Hot" because Y&G featured "[dropping] bills like they're hot."

While most people chose new, contemporary songs, some chose classic beats.

Jacob Kasper, a legislator from Danville Schlarman, chose "Serious" by Alan Parsons Project

while Caleb Ray, from Heritage Oswego, picked "Civil War" by Guns N' Roses.

To some, Y&G may seem like a civil war with delegations spanning north and south, liberal and conservative. However, Jordan Scholten's theme song, "Forever Young" by Phil Collins, sums up the fact that "we're young" and all enjoy democracy.

The true embodiment of the government we practice can be seen in the theme song chosen by John Martens, a Board Director. He chose "Independence Day" by Martina McBride which speaks of freedom. Ultimately, this is the main reason we have Y&G.

Negotiating sleep difficult for some

Alex Benison, Edwardsville

For many, one of the most memorable parts of Y&G is the lack of sleep.

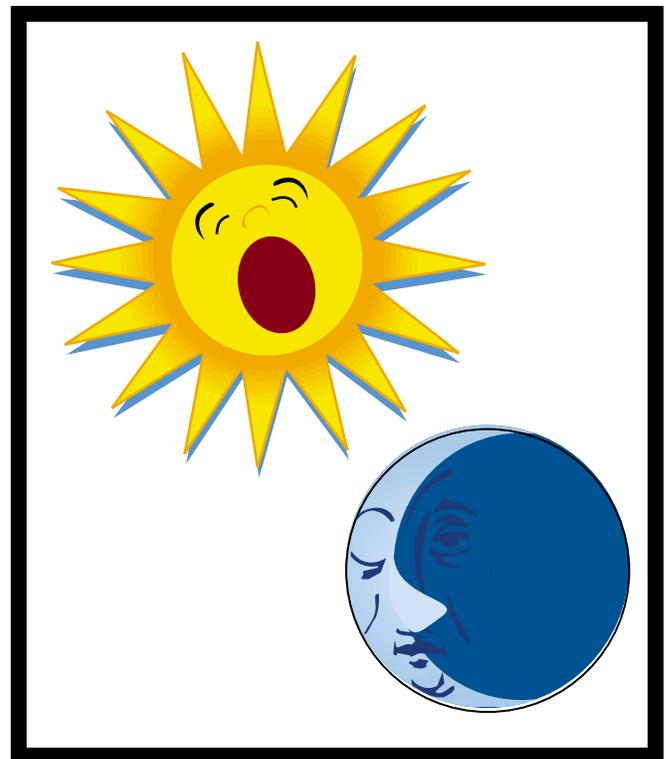
While the general stance on this could be a negative one, some people embrace the experience. Legislator Michael Perich of Heritage Naperville North said, "It brings me to a euphoric state," something those who are experienced in staying up can relate to.

Others attributed many of the strange events at Y&G this year to sleep deprivation. Though the bill legalizing piracy, many argue, was undoubtedly the result of sleep deprivation, some attributed the election results to lack of sleep as well.

Legislator John TerMaat from Heritage Naperville North was quoted as saying, "Sleep deprivation is how Kenny Baker lost."

But even with all of these problems, the Chairman of the Board, Andrew J. Paul, remained optimistic.

"It could be a lot worse, I guess. The worst part is the drive home on Sunday," said Paul.



Sleep, or lack thereof, is all part of the Y&G experience. For some, endless nights accompany endless days as they work to get their bills passed, stories written, or cases heard.