

# the Observer

The Official Newspaper of the Illinois YMCA Youth and Government Program  
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## Attorneys do a lot of work for the weekend

by Anthony Dalke  
Network Stagg

Pity the attorneys.

They work the longest hours in Y&G. They have the most strenuous responsibilities, and they have the hardest work. Despite all this, they receive the least recognition and publicity.

The concept of judicial review, in one view, can propel the judiciary past the other two branches.

Basically, the Supreme Court can declare any legislation unconstitutional, thereby nullifying it; however, regardless of this process, a bill signed by the Governor is still considered a passed bill.

The Supreme Court conducts Judicial Review on Sundays, the last day of the weekend, with the Chief Justice joining the Associate Chief Justices on the court.

They review two pieces of legislation

passed by the governor, hear the opinions of the bills' authors, and listen to the Governor and Lt. governor during this process.

Eventually, the court rules on the legislations' constitutionality.

Meghan Kobza, an attorney from Network Stagg, lost the election for Chief Justice but refused to become discouraged.

Instead, she became an Associate Chief Justice.

"I wanted to be an Associate Justice. They [the other attorneys] basically said, 'You ran [for Chief Justice], so you do it.'"

Clearly, her intellect and passion for justice displayed during her riveting campaign speech, impressed the audience.

When asked if she was excited for Review, she responded, "Yes, that's what I've been looking forward to most so far."

When analyzing legislation, judges must choose to do so with either a strict or loose

interpretation of the Constitution.

Those who advocate loose interpretation believe that anything not clearly explained in the Constitution is subject to the values and opinions of the judges.

Conversely, those who support strict interpretation, or "construction", as many frequently call it, feel that people must adhere to the textual meanings of the Constitution.

Kobza stated that she does not rely on a set method for interpretation.

Rather, she modifies her approach according to the situation.

"It depends on the issue. I'm probably more loose than strict. For Judicial Review, I'll probably be loose, because that's the point," said Kobza.

Judicial Review encourages attorneys to examine and analyze legislation creatively and uniquely. They are asked to invent original, logical explanations.

## Delegates debate Y&G security

by Jared Hayward  
Springfield Willimsville

All of those who were involved with Y&G know the security measures that are put into place at the Capitol, but what do some delegates and staff members think of it?

A lot of people think that the security precautions taken are a benefit to the program. Priyanka Jain, a legislator from Heritage Naperville North said, "It's a good precaution. You never know what's going to get in."

Iris Zurita and Jennifer Bartkowicz, both legislators from Elmhurst Leyden.

Sarah Pittenger, a college staff mem-

ber from University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, thinks it is necessary based on the murder that took place in the Capitol in 2005.

"Giving the shooting that occurred last year, it's worth it," said Pittenger.

However, there still are some that believe the security measures are not worthwhile.

William Carrera, a lobbyist from Heritage Waubonsie Valley, said, "Excessive, we are a bunch of high school students. Do you think we are going to blow the place up?"

Alex Benison, a legislator from Edwardsville, also had some complaints in

regards to the time it takes to get in and out of the Capitol.

"They only keep one metal detector open," said Benison.

When asked if he had ever been late due to the slow security process, he replied, "Almost, almost, not quite."

Overall, these security precautions are just for the safety of the building and its guests.

Even Sangeeta Hardy, a legislator from Elmhurst Lake Park who was stopped three times by the metal detector - she was found to not be a threat - still said, "They are good precautions."

## Does cost play a factor on who joins Y&G, delegates debate

by Nick Veach  
Springfield Williamsville

Y&G is a very fun and interactive program, yet also a very expensive one. For years, the cost of the program has been a concern, especially for some schools and students.

Jenna Sullivan, a lobbyist from Elmhurst Lake Park says, "We have to pay all \$310 ourselves. The accommodations are very nice, but for the fact that we have to pay for our meals is ridiculous."

Part of the issue is that delegates are unaware of how the money they pay for the program is spent.

"I don't know exactly where all of the money goes to," said Andrea Devine, a legislator from Clinton. "It would really be

## Excuse me, did you say "quack"

by Justin Spencer  
Heritage Oswego

The committee sessions could be long and tiresome for some.

Many felt that spending those hours on debate gave them at least some right to have a little fun here in Springfield.

Consequently, toward the end of the committee sessions, the delegates decided to bend the rules to have a little fun with parliamentary procedure.

For instance, blue committee five decided to try and amend the bill involving the legalization of cockfights.

They made the punishment to individuals who were caught cockfighting to fight other people using only their nose.

nice if everything was cheaper."

Some thought that eliminating the fun activities on Saturday night might lower the cost.

Justin Shlensky, a legislator from Network Stagg said, "They should consider canceling Mandatory Fun Night to save

The committee also motioned to change the vote "aye" to "quack" and change "nay" to "moo."

Some students found some of these types of actions ridiculous.

Logan Oldani, a legislator from Jefferson County West Frankfort, was angry when a college advisor played the guilt card by having the committee reconsider a failed and tabled bill because it would hurt the feelings of the bill's authors.

"It wasn't the fact that the bills were tabled or failed. It's that these people had failed the bills but [then] passed them because they felt guilty. These bills failed immediately on the House floor and their votes were on moral value," said Oldani.

people a lot more money."

Concerning the price of the program, Pankaj Malhotra, a clerk-bailiff from Network Sandburg said, "The program's cost is a little steep, but we are getting to utilize the actual buildings used by leaders of today."

## Delegates think about candidacy for 2007 assembly

by Mitch Davidson  
Springfield Williamsville

For any delegates looking to follow the path to the Governor's Mansion next year, use caution.

There is a lot to consider before running for office.

If a candidate has won Pre Leg 1, he or she has to travel to many other schools to gain supporters.

Also, to get to the final weekend, the candidate not only must have met with the

delegates, but must also have excellent public speaking skills to pull off the victory in March.

David Rhoads, a senator from Jefferson County West Frankfort, is looking into the top position next year.

Rhoads said, "I can't promise every passage of every bill, but I just hope to bring unity with the North and South because we are all one state, and the people forget that when they are voting."

Many like Rhoads feel this way, but

there always seems to be a division between the North and South."

He also said, "I just hope to show to any future candidates that anyone can be governor from any delegation of any school size. I especially hope to open the door for other candidates from smaller schools."

As the delegates leave today with hope of getting some sleep and getting back to daily lives, the future Y&G leaders here in Springfield are getting the edge in the political race for next year.

*The Observer*, which is distributed free of charge to Illinois YMCA Y&G participants, is published four times annually. Please send "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" to the press room in the Holiday Inn Express. The advisors/editors reserve the right to edit the letters for considerations of brevity, clarity, and tastefulness.

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# Y&G definitely worth it . . . spread the word

Spread the word, everyone. Tell your friends, siblings, and teachers.

Tell everyone about Y&G.

Because the fact of the matter is Y&G's survival depends on us, the participants.

Without participants, Y&G would serve no purpose, as nobody would reap the enormous benefits it provides.

Imagine that: nobody to learn about the political process; nobody to enhance their communication skills; nobody to develop relationships that aid present and future success; nobody to stomach the... delicious... Stratton food; and nobody to celebrate the joys of intellect.

Y&G not only instrumentally builds its participants' character, it touches all who experience it.

Y&G celebrates the miraculous capabilities of the human mind. After all,

brilliant minds created the very constitution that created the government we



**ANTHONY DALKE**  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

study.

The mind also motivates generous individuals to lend their time and effort to plan and operate this program.

Y&G changes the lives of those who spend a weekend witnessing its powers. Ask Dave Simnick, John Koltes, Rohit Drake, Margaret Gibson, Mark Schmidt, Megan Hayward, or anyone who has seen their efforts rewarded with election to a

major office.

Ask Justin Cajindos, Colin Clark, or Tomas Molina, who all, among others, took the time to return and assist the program that advanced their lives and careers with tenures as elected officials.

Ask Carol Czworniak, who, year in and year out, serves as an advisor to Staggs's delegation. She has now spent over twenty-five weekends in Springfield, all for the sake of fostering the development of her students.

This is my last day as a participant of Y&G. I would like to thank the advisors, the Board of Directors, the college board, the delegates, and everyone and anyone who makes this program function.

You have all truly touched my life, and I thank you for granting me the opportunity to experience this blessing we affectionately call Y&G. Because of you, my life has forever changed.

## Y&G press has a hard job in March

Everyone is aware that Sunday is the day most of the delegates are dragging from exhaustion. This is true for my staff and me as well.

Creativity is one of the first crippling effects of exhaustion.

So as I'm sitting here brainstorming a possible angle for my editorial, I compiled a list on the top ten reasons why the press is despised.

10. People have to watch what they say around us.
9. We are not afraid to publish dirt.
8. We can make or break a reputation.
7. The truth hurts at times.
6. We're "rumor spreaders" (but who doesn't enjoy a little gossip every now

and then?)

5. We hound people during interviews.

4. Pushiness and persistence is our motto.

3. We don't sugarcoat anything. The way we hear it is the way we report it.



**MEGAN HAYWARD**  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

2. We're "heartless, cold people" looking for a little controversy.

1. We love when people make a fool of themselves so we have a story.

Well, even though we fit into many of these categories, who would want to read a boring newspaper which doesn't cause any anger?

I hope the Y&G delegates enjoyed this year's Observer, and best of luck to the seniors attending college this fall.

Who knows, maybe the future Governor of Illinois was present this weekend.

Now that would be a story!

# What types of reading material and films do teens really like? Y&G delegates sound off on their favorites

by *Tori Alexander*  
Springfield Williamsville

Reading books and watching movies have always been popular activities among teens.

With books, series seem to be popular among various delegations.

A series containing *Sloppy Firsts* and *Second Helpings* by McAferny is a favorite of two different legislators from Jefferson County Mt. Vernon.

"I like it because it's about girls my age and it's just a fun read," remarked Allison Rohde, Speaker of the House. "[Allison] showed and gave these books to me, and now I love them," said legislator Emily Young.

This series is not the only popular one

either.

Nadia Froehling, also a legislator from Jefferson County Mr. Vernon, said that the *Outlander* series is her favorite.

Another popular book among the delegates and the world for that matter is *The DaVinci Code*.

Steve O'Connor, a lobbyist from Network Carl Sandburg said, "It kept me interested until the end. I stayed up from six o'clock at night until nine o'clock in the morning just to finish it."

"It's a brilliant blend of fiction and facts," exclaimed Matt Emmons, a legislator from Springfield Pawnee, about *The DaVinci Code*.

Other favorite books include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Truth*, *About Forever*, *Memories of a Geisha*, *Count of Monte*

*Cristo*, and *Feast of Roses*.

Favorite movies were even more widespread than books.

Lexie Collier, a legislator from Springfield Williamsville said her favorite movie is *Boondock Saints*.

Abe Dilworth, a legislator from Springfield Pawnee said his favorite movie is "Full Metal Dragon" because it's a really funny movie.

Music-based movies were also popular among the delegations.

"My favorite is *Almost Famous* because it's about a classic rock band and that's the type of music I like," said Alania May, a legislator from Jefferson County Mt. Vernon.

## *Bill to make Chicago its own state fails to pass on Sun.*

by *Elena Holler*  
Springfield Williamsville

Although many of us would like to think that we are united as one state, there are some who believe that the state of Illinois needs a change.

The change, however, involves removing the counties of Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, Will, and Kendall from the state of Illinois to form the new state of Chicago.

This bill, SB-B-21, was written by Senator Jalpit Amin, House Representative Allen Majewski, Senator Conor Grealish, and House Representative Roopali Jayswal, all from Elmhurst Lake Park.

While proposing his bill in the Senate, Senator Amin explained that it would bring economical benefits to both the new state of Chicago and the state of Illinois.

How you might ask?

Amin states that if the counties leave

Illinois, then Illinois will have more money to focus solely towards the central and southern areas of agriculture and the new state of Chicago can focus money towards urban city needs.

While many in the Senate agreed with the change, there was also an even larger argument against the bill starting Saturday.

On Saturday, an amendment of Section IV of the bill which stated that once the bill goes into affect, the burning of the Illinois State flag would take place on the capitol steps, was added to the legislation.

The debate heated even more when Amin stated Sunday that Chicago needed to form its own state because the most prosperous city in Illinois, meaning Chicago, isn't being paid properly and equally.

This was a comment that didn't settle well with many senators who hail from central and southern Illinois.

Now many who read the lobbyist position paper associated with the bill were probably even more offended, especially

those from central and southern Illinois, because the paper called the rest of Illinois vast wastelands and made jabs at the farmers and other agricultural companies that make up a great part of central and southern Illinois.

When asked about his position paper, lobbyist Nico Gianni said it wasn't meant to be so harsh but that he believed that the focus on the farms of Illinois didn't leave enough attention to be given to the urban areas of the city of Chicago.

The bill did not pass on Sunday.

When asked if they were surprised, Amin and Grealish responded with no disappointment.

They didn't expect a great applause for the bill but they said they tried their best and they still believe that "southern Illinoisans want to continue to suckle from the economic teat that is the city of Chicago" and that they don't regret any part of their fight to secede the Chicago area from the state of Illinois.

# Miscommunication almost erupts into big scandal for Gov.

by Kristiana Duvnjak  
Network Carl Sandburg

There has been much concern with preserving the Governor's reputation this weekend after a controversial quote was stated early Saturday morning. These so-called "rumors of the press" are found not to be rumors after all, but a big scandal within the Governor's advisors.

Editor-in-chief Megan Hayward was allowed to follow the Governor for 45 minutes early Saturday morning. As Hayward was walking down the stairs, House member David Hoffer rushed over to her to explain that he had a quote on behalf of the Governor and that he wanted it published.

Hoffer stated on behalf of the Governor, "I strongly oppose this bill because it's

fiscally irresponsible, although well intentioned. There is no practical way to implement it."

This statement was in regard to bill number HB-B-04 creating a grant program for students to go to state colleges. The bill group took this to mean that their bill would most likely be vetoed.

They demanded a meeting with the Governor.

During the meeting, the Governor denied ever saying this.

However, his advisors proved the contrary.

According to the members of his cabinet, all of the bills had been looked at and all the members gave an opinion as to whether or not the bill had potential.

Governor Simnick said, "I have a few

people on my cabinet that are kind of [un-sure hand gesture]."

After all involved realized that legislator Dave Hoffer of B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville HS was not part of Governor Simnick's cabinet, all of this seemed to be one, very big miscommunication.

"I'm not one of his advisors. I'm just a very good friend of his, and I helped him campaign, and I helped him with the legislation of bills," said Hoffer.

According to Gov. advisor Jeremy Custer, anyone was allowed into these meetings where these bill discussions take place.

"Everyone spoke their mind and [Hoffer] was opposed to this bill because financially it was not possible," said Custer.

# How fun was mandary fun night?

## Delegates debate the Saturday evening festivities, event receives mixed reviews from attendees

by Elizabeth Zavala  
Network Carl Sandburg

How fun was mandatory fun night?

According to Rachel Thompson, a legislator for Springfield Williamsville, "Mandatory fun night was... mandatory fun."

Amongst the music, laser tagging and other activities that occurred that night, many delegates entertained themselves in their own fashion.

When a page from Network Carl Sandburg, who chose to remain anonymous, was asked if she saw anything happening on the dance floor she said, "The 'hump-

ing' corner was probably the strongest thing that night."

The dance floor was also home to other spectacular scenes.

Max Adamczyk, legislator from Network Carl Sandburg, delighted the crowd when he whipped out two cell phones and began to twine and twist the phones to the techno beat.

Later in the night, a dance-off occurred between Gerald Gipson, a legislator from Danville Schlarman, and another delegate that left the crowd entertained by their busting out some rhythmic techno moves.

Overall the mandatory fun night got positive reviews, "It was a lot of fun. The games and music were good. Actually, overall it was a great night to have, especially after such a stressful weekend," said Jamil Khan, a page from Network Andrew.

However, not all the delegates had fun that night.

George Trikolos, a Network Carl Sandburg page said, "It was boring."

Expressing a similar view was Sam Tempel, a legislator from Springfield Williamsville, who said, "I just wanted to go to bed. I was so tired."