

# The Observer

## Students ponder what they are going to take home from their Y&G experience

Samantha Pelc  
Springfield Williamsville

The big weekend is over and now all the delegates have hopes of next year and the wonderful memories made this time around.

Most memories come from Saturday night's "Mandatory Fun Night."

Hannah Kettering, a page from Heritage Batavia, said her favorite memory was "watching [her] friends joust with each other."

Another exciting event for the delegates was the committee experience and

the debate on the floors of the House and Senate.

Natalie Neufeld, a Network Stagg bill flow clerk, said, "One of the best parts was getting to go in and hear the bills being presented."

"I really was thrilled when we got to push the buttons to vote! Also, there was a motion to play 'Heads Up 7-Up,' and it passed," said Nate Banion, a legislator from Heritage Geneva.

Other memories were

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Y&G EXPERIENCE

## Similar bills reach different ends at Y&G

Crystal Kang  
Elmhurst Lake Park

Elmhurst Lake Park bill HB-0-03 successfully passed its bill through the House and Senate on Sunday.

This bill dealt with regressing to the First Amendment's usage of "may observe" instead of the newly revised version of "shall observe."

The bill embarked on a rocky journey from the beginning when committee mem-

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MOMENT OF SILENCE

## Some delegates have issues with Gray Education Committee

Marissa Collier  
Springfield Williamsville

One of the most important parts of the Y&G experience is meeting in committee. If a bill doesn't get out of committee, it cannot go to the House or Senate floor.

This year one committee, Gray Committee #1 on Education, managed to shut down a considerable number of bills in committee, only to play the game "Heads-up-7-Up" afterwards.

This committee was nicknamed by many delegates, "The Kill Bill Committee".

At least four bills were shut down in this committee. One of them, SB-G-02, dealing with the waiving of college tuition, was killed in this committee.

Senate sponsor Matthew Boyer of McHenry County Faith Lutheran said his bill "was treated fairly even though it was shut down."

Others though, like Rogelio Soto of Elmhurst Addison Trail, thought his bill was not treated fairly.

Soto's bill, SB-G-03, involved the selling of bonds to college students to aid in rising tuition costs.

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KILL COMMITTEE

## Delegates offer tips to next year's crew

Elena Holler  
Springfield Williamsville

As the weekend came to a close, delegates were asked to offer pieces of advice to new members who are thinking about entering the program.

One might think that pages would really be excited about delivering notes to the House and Senate floors.

However, according to Natalie Neufeld, a page from Network Stagg, taking a job at bill flow is much better than passing notes.

"Being a bill flow clerk is much more fun, and you get to learn a lot more of the legislative process," said Neufeld.

Shelby Willis, a lobbyist from Network Stagg, said, "[Being a page] is a good job

for a first year delegate."

Another job available to first year delegates is a lobbyist.

Kaylee Barron, a lobbyist from Network Andrew, said, "You just need to get your bill out there. If you do well, it helps your bill group out a lot."

Barron admitted that being a lobbyist is a stressful job. However, she said that lobbyists learn firsthand all the basics of the legislative process.

For all who will become representatives or senators next year, this year's delegates also have some useful advice.

Stephanie Jurinek, a representative from Network Andrew, said, "It's all about

knowing your bill inside and out so you can answer any question they throw at you."

Megan Cook, a representative from Heritage Geneva, offered, "You need to take good notes and definitely know your competition."

This year's senators give similar advice.

"Be prepared to be on your own, not with your bill group. You need to be independent," said Lovie McGlashan, a senator from Network Andrew.

Nicole Lopez, a senator from Heritage Geneva, warned of the harshness of the Senate.

"The Senate is smaller, and they like to debate a lot more, but you can't be scared to be heard," said Lopez.

# MySpace vs. Facebook, delegates debate

Nina Pesch  
Springfield Williamsville

The internet can be a great place to network, meet new friends, and stay in touch with old ones.

Many delegates believe that websites like MySpace and Facebook provide a great place for these activities.

Delegates were divided, however, when asked which site they preferred.

MySpace ended up winning the informal poll, garnering 39% of the vote.

Facebook received 28%

of the delegate vote, while 27% stated that they did not like either site.

Six percent of the delegates prefer a different option, such as Springfield Williamsville legislator Nathan Laughhunn, who recommended myyearbook.com.

The fans of one particular site had several reasons why they picked one over another.

Natalie Neufeld, a bill flow clerk from Network Stagg, supports Facebook over MySpace for several reasons.

However, the main reason is she likes taking a lot of pictures, which Facebook allows her to upload.

Neufeld said she is just "not into MySpace," especially because it targets a younger audience.

"My little sixth grade sister has one," she added.

Some criticisms of Facebook include the fact that some delegates find it too complicated.

Also, they don't like all of the application invitations they receive.

Facebook is advantageous, however, for keeping up the latest gossip and friend information.

It allows the user to post story updates concerning things such as relationship statuses, new pictures, and wall comments on homepages.

Nathan Stringer, Secretary of State from B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South, votes for neither, even though he has a Facebook.

"I hope it all goes away soon," said Stringer.

## KILL COMMITTEE

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Soto claims his bill "was not treated fairly at all. The people in [his] committee didn't even know what a bond was."

Nathan Laughhunn of Springfield Williamsville was also in this committee. His bill, HB-G-03, was also killed.

He was upset because "they decided to play 'Heads-Up-7-Up.' Our lobbyist found someone to bring our bill back up for discussion," he said "but they had already voted to play so we couldn't

be heard."

The committee chair was Ashley Young of Network Stagg.

Most agreed that she had been fair and Laughhunn said she "followed correct procedure, but the people in the room just weren't caring."

It may be disappointing

to come all the way here only to see your bill shut down, but Boyer believes he did not waste his time.

"People have the right to vote on bills however they want," he said.

According to Boyer, only 3 of 8 bills made it out of "The Kill Bill" committee.

# Chief Justice enjoys his Y&G experience

What does the Chief Justice do all day?

Everyone knows that the Chief Justice presides over trials and heads the judicial branch.

Does he do anything else?

This year's Chief Justice Bryan Medema's first day was fun, but not too hectic.

"It was relatively uneventful. I tried to keep in touch with elected officials and press as much as possible and tried to get ideas for Judicial Review," said Medema.

Thankfully for Medema,

the Judicial branch of the Y&G program ran quite efficiently Saturday, he said.

Even though Medema is the Chief Justice, his favorite part of the weekend did not deal with his elected office.

His favorite part of the weekend was just being an attorney arguing his case.

Attorneys' cases require extensive work and time to prepare a 20-30 page brief.

"My favorite part was arguing my brief. It is nice to see and have the opportunity to argue what

you have spent so much time preparing," said Medema.

Medema does not deny the responsibility upgrade needed to be Chief Justice.

"In a sense [it is harder]. I have extra responsibilities that go beyond being an attorney. I have to keep self composed at all times," he

said.

Even though Medema does not want to become an attorney, he does believe that the Y&G experience as a whole will prepare him for a career in politics.

"This gave me a lot of great experience. It really shows the stress [of politics] in just three short days," he said.

As a senior, Medema will miss the Y&G experience as a whole next year.

"For most people, they are never going to have the opportunity to do this again, and if they are, it won't be for a long time."



Victoria  
Alexander  
The Observer  
Editor

# MOMENT OF SILENCE

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bers picked it apart during the committee debate.

"People in our committee thought the bill in general was too vague," said House Sponsor Will Hirsbrunner.

"We had to specify [and make revisions] on our bill. We agreed to have separate rooms in school where people could observe the moment of silence rather than having it during class hours," he said.

One delegate from Network Stagg supported the moment of silence because it compromised with religions that prayed and gave the public schools more of a dominant role in recognizing this compromise.

"I support the moment of silence," said delegate Adam Senese. "If your religion likes praying, you can use that time to pray silently. It would be a hassle to [hold the moment of silence] in separate rooms.... [The moment of silence] shows discipline and authority for the school."

Other delegates showed support of revoking the moment of silence.

Delegate Samantha Allen from Jefferson County Mt. Vernon saw no benefits to a mandatory moment of silence due to its inefficiency.

"It's unnecessary," said

Allen. "I understand it's for respect, but I don't see any need for it."

A similar bill, SB-O-18, also supported the dismissal of the moment of silence in public schools.

However, this bill group took a slightly different perspective on the moment of silence than the one taken by the delegation from Elmhurst Lake Park.

Instead of the bill supporting the original statement made in the First Amendment, this bill group spoke of wasting people's tax dollars.

This bill failed in the Senate, the first and only chamber the bill entered.

Delegate Dorothy Otremba from Network Stagg witnessed the arguments over SB-O-18.

"Most of the debate topics [for the moment of silence bill] were about religion and [the separation of church and state]," said Otremba. "[Elmhurst Addison Trail's Erica Whelan] kept bringing up the idea that two minutes are worth valuable tax dollars. She said our tax dollars are being wasted [by the moment of silence]. I'm against having the moment of silence [in public schools], but I don't agree with [the idea that] our tax dollars are being wasted."

The governor's Chief of Staff, Joshua Keyser, made

note that despite the similar goal of bills SB-O-03 and SB-O-18, there is a possibility that one bill could pass while the other fails due to separate ideas.

"The entire legislation is divided into three separate groups," said Keyser. "Different people are able to have more sway than others."

The overall passage of the bill HB-O-03 came as no surprise to Nico Gianni, a Senate Sponsor from Elmhurst Lake Park.

"I was pretty comfortable [with the way the bill was going]," said Gianni. "[On Saturday], they passed a bill in our Senate that revoked the moment of silence. So far, our legislative group has only failed two bills."

HB-O-03 was signed by the governor.

## Please give us more sleep, the delegates argue

Molly Collins  
Elmhurst Lake Park

The sound of the alarm clock blaring its annoying wake-up call makes every Y&G member groan, especially after an eventful Mandatory Fun Night.

A majority of the delegates would be willing to give up a few hours at the Capitol if it meant sleeping in an hour or two longer.

Most believe the extra rest would benefit committee and legislative discussions.

"It would be better because people would pay more attention and get things done faster," said lobbyist Nick Desideri from

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SLEEP

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not directly connected to Y&G.

Finally, there were those that took a more sentimental approach to the weekend.

"Besides getting my bill passed, sitting in a real legislator's chair and running this mock version of government

in the state Capitol [were the best]," commented Elaine Hanes, a Heritage Geneva legislator.

The whole weekend might best be summed up by Shelby Wills, a bill flow clerk from Knox County Williamsfield, when she said, "There's not just one part [that's the best]. It's all of it together."

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## SLEEP

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B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South.

"We might not get as much done, but we'd be more attentive," said page Kelly Horton from Heritage Neuqua Valley.

The few that were opposed to a shortened day were not willing to give up their time in the House and Senate chambers because it means so much to them.

"I savor every moment here," said Senator Adam Carney from Heritage Naperville Central.

Some suggested that Mandatory Fun Night become optional in order to allow Y&G members to go back to bed earlier.

Because of the long night, Sunday is the hardest day to get through during the weekend.

"I would want more sleep on Sunday mostly because there's a lot of free time," said House Representative Andrea Wolf of Paris Heritage.

Sometimes the temptation to take a nap during their free time is too much for certain delegates to resist.

"We found a kid sleeping on a bench earlier," said Representative Joe Mendoza of Heritage Naperville Central.

Over all, it appears the delegations would prefer sleeping-in rather than being shuttled to the Capitol Building before the sun has even risen.

# The Observer staff enjoyed their Y&G press experiences

Jordan Durham  
Christian County Taylorville

Throughout the past weekend, members of the newspaper press worked to print four newspapers covering various aspects of Y&G.

Reporters wrote stories from legislative bills to the fashion sported during the weekend.

"The weekend went surprisingly well," said Editor-in-Chief Tori Alexander of Springfield Williamsville.

"Everyone worked really well together and all the reporters were able to be aggressive and get their point across and accomplished," she said.

The three days turned out a success for the press,

with what advisor Mike Gudwien of Springfield Williamsville describes as one of the best years for the Y&G paper.

"The students worked hard," said Gudwien. "We had, in my opinion, very strong papers and that was because we had a strong collection of writers."

Another bright side for Gudwien this year, differing from previous years, showed when he did not have to photocopy every issue of the paper at Williamsville High School, a change which he describes as "phenomenal."

As for next year, four of the eleven reporters from this year's staff will be returning, requiring recruitment for more journalists, yet senior reporters claim they will take much away from the program.

"I'll miss the program

and as a whole I've learned a lot from it and met a lot of people," said Alexander. "Press-wise, I'll miss being able to write since I'm not going into that for college."

One new reporter from Elmhurst Lake Park works for her local Chicago suburb newspaper and school newspaper.

However, she said the Y&G program is more enjoyable.

"The program is interesting and this experience was way more enjoyable and so different because there's always excitement in politics," said Molly Collins, from Elmhurst Lake Park.

"There's no politics without excitement, and that's what journalists love," she said.

The advisors of *The Observer* would like to thank the reporters for their hard work and dedication to the program.

Copies of *The Observer* can be obtained from the Y&G website - [www.ilymcayg.org](http://www.ilymcayg.org)