

Campaigning is an interesting part of the Y&G election experience

Angela Barrett
Springfield Williamsville

Campaigning is, without a doubt, one of the most unforgettable parts of the Y&G weekend.

Delegates all remember the room full of posters, hand-outs, and more.

This year's Pre-Leg II was no different. Everyone walking into the building was greeted by a number of flyers and posters.

Supporters were seen with necklaces, leis, and puzzles, among other campaign materials.

Incorporated into these campaigns were the slogans candidates used to make their name stand out.

A crowd favorite was "Clay is the Way," referring to Clay Jackson, Youth Governor candidate from Jefferson County Mt. Vernon.

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CAMPAIGNING HAS
HUGE ROLE IN Y&G

Harry Potter franchise has lasting effect on delegates, many of whom grew up with series

Kaitlin Lounsberry
Springfield Williamsville

The Harry Potter franchise has been sweeping the nation ever since the publication of the first of seven books.

However, this franchise is about to come to an end, with the last and final book of the famous series being split into two films.

The films of the first six novels have been widely advertised and have made millions of dollars worldwide, making it one of the most popular book series adapted in film.

The seventh book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was split into two films in order to get a more complete ad-

aptation of the novel.

The first film of the two-part adaptation was released earlier this year, with the final film coming out in July.

Many Y&G delegates have grown up reading or watching the Harry Potter stories; however, reactions to part one of the final two are not all complementary.

Lobbyist Paisley Stewart of Jefferson County Mt. Vernon believes the seventh movie was better produced than previous films.

"The seventh movie did a really good job of putting everything together and having the different scenes of action and romance and comedy, and then their having the two

parts which is very suspenseful, which I liked," said Stewart.

Even though Legislator Jeanette Straeter of Jefferson County Mt. Vernon has not read the final Potter novel, the movie still stood out in her mind.

"I thought it was visually interesting. From what I heard, it did a good job of depicting what occurred in the book," she said.

Page Taylor Joerger from Springfield Williamsville enjoyed the movie but might not see the second film because of the abrupt ending in the first.

"There was nothing

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HARRY POTTER



Delegates react to the final film installment in the immensely popular Harry Potter series. Above, Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter and Tom Felton as Draco Malfoy.

Northern delegations rule Y&G elections

Are Y&G elections all about the North vs. South? It is obvious that the northern delegations heavily outweigh the southern delegations.

It became apparent to me at Pre-Leg I & II that there was some North/South tension in the air.

Of course my Pre-Leg is at a southern location so the only tension I discovered was towards the North.

Several speeches at the southern Pre-Legs I & II included statements implying that there was complete northern domination at Y&G.

For the most part that statement is very true.

Starting from 1950, 43 out of 61 Youth Governors have been from northern schools.

The position of Chief Justice also shows the North's power.

Starting from 1975, 28 out of 36 Chief Justices have come from northern delegations. For the big weekend this year, out of the 24 candidates up for election, 17 of them are from the North.

With those statistics, the North has a much better chance of getting people elected because it has such a big base backing them up.

It will be interesting to see this year's election results.

Two out of the three Governor candidates are from the North, and the only candidate for Chief Justice is from the North.

The race for Lt. Governor is similar to the race for Governor in that two of the three candidates are from the North.

What makes things really interesting is that the only two candidates for Secretary of State are both from the North.

Secretary of State is one very influential job that is subjected to major conflict due to the bill flow process. If any sort of conflict arises, I have a feeling the South will be all over it, but we will just have to see.

Last but not least, two out of the three candidates for Executive Director of the Lobbyists are from the North.

Let's see what this year's election will bring. Will the tension go unnoticed or will it divide Y&G?

In any event, if the statistics hold true, the one thing we know is that we should have another Youth Governor from the North.



Emily Mordacq
Co-Editor

Let the countdown to Y&G finally end

My friend has had a countdown on her phone running since Y&G ended last year. (She also has one for Christmas, but most of us do that.) Well, 365 days of anticipation have finally ended and Y&G is ready to begin!

The days in between sessions are filled with major bill planning, court brief writing, and researching, not to mention the ever-popular Mock Trial and Pre-Legs that everyone is obligated to attend.

Normally, this is the point where I tell you, my readers, that the hard work is over and everything from here on out is a breeze.

The "everything from here on out is a breeze" part is true, but that's because most of us are so tired that anything could go on right under

our noses without us noticing. The only "easy" part of this weekend is Mandatory Fun Night.

For all the sophomores and new juniors and seniors, I'm sorry. I don't mean to scare you. I'm just being honest.

Nevertheless, this weekend will prove to be full of hard work and exhausted teenagers.

Unfortunately, this year will be my last year here in Springfield. This will be one of my last papers to write for. Thankfully, I foresee the best session of Y&G to date this year. It's only right to go out with a bang, fellow seniors.

Except for the seniors, everybody else gets to anticipate next year's Y&G session. So, let the countdown begin!



Stephanie Mindock
Co-Editor

Bill group wants mandatory Breathalyzer tests given at bars and taverns

Emily Mordacq
Springfield Williamsville

A bill group from the Decatur has introduced a bill that would require mandatory Breathalyzer tests to help prevent DUIs.

The number of reported DUIs in Illinois is extremely high. According to the bill group, "there were 48,113 DUI cases in 2008 recorded in the state of Illinois."

Charles Frederico Jr., Senate Sponsor, said, "The ultimate goal with this bill is to reduce the amount of DUI related deaths, the number of DUI cases, and to teach alcohol consumers to be responsible."

House Sponsor Josiah White said, "Just when I watch the news, I see a lot of cases involving DUI and drinking and driving. So, I decided to create a bill to help reduce drinking and driving which will be assisted by administering Breathalyzer tests."

The bill is fairly simple. According to the bill brief, "the bill will require bars to take car keys away from their patrons. After they are done drinking, they will be administered a Breathalyzer test and the BAC cannot exceed .08. If the BAC exceeds the limit the bar calls a cab at the patron's expense."

Because there has

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ELIMINATE DUI'S

Campaigning has huge role in Y&G

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Libby Harrah, also from Jefferson County Mt. Vernon, mentioned, "[The slogan] reassures you that you can count on him."

A few delegates appreciated Jackson's "not

corny" and "to the point" slogan. They also applauded that "he was loud" during his speech and that he "got people's attention."

Other candidates realized their last names were similar to those of cartoon characters and used this fact to their advantage.

Caroline Hensley takes much from previous Y&G experience

Nicholas Ives
BR Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South

As a returner to the B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South Y&G team, Caroline Hensley clearly intends to repeat her very favorable experience in Springfield last year.

When asked her opinion of last year's trip, she responded, "Twas fantastic, and a splendid time had by all."

She seemed hopeful for this year's trip too, as she eagerly waits to debate her bill at the upcoming assembly.

This is the second year Caroline Hensley has been involved with Y&G.

These two years spent in the program were

more than just memories for Caroline Hensley. They were life experiences on which she will be able to capitalize on her dream of becoming a political figure with a combination of the traits of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama with a tad bit of Tina Fey in the mix.

She intends to use the political skills gained through Y&G to "achieve the lofty goal of political perfection."

Indeed, with one year of Y&G already behind her, she is well on her way.

Hensley is cosponsor of H-G-13, which proposes to raise the sales tax on handguns.

Becky Lenhart and Alysha Profeta, from Springfield Pawnee, favored the catch-line of Rachel Wylie, which was "Wylie Coyote," embodying the character notably chased by the Road Runner.

As Dan Nerone of Springfield Williamsville commented, "She creatively spun it around to make it positive."

Youth Governor candidate Jessica Miller from Springfield Williamsville graciously complimented Joseph Marlow, Presiding Officer candidate, who

passed out necklaces with the famous video character Mario, by saying "I am personally a fan of Mario."

Miller thought that this idea made Marlow unforgettable to delegates when they went to the ballot box.

Ultimately, candidates felt they needed to grab the voters' attention.

Springfield Williamsville's Elizabeth Choat, like most delegates, preferred the campaigns that were memorable.

"I like the ones that are catchy," she said.

Harry Potter

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big that happened at the end, and it was kind of pointless and not a good way to end a story. It didn't make me want to see the second one," said Joerger.

Daniel Nerone, a legislator from Springfield Williamsville thought the movie was good overall but that the acting could at times be overbearing.

"I think sometimes

the actors make it overdramatic. It almost makes it cheesy. I really liked the part with Dobby, but, you know, play it down just a little bit. That's my advice to them," said Nerone.

Cheyenne Graham from Jefferson County Mt. Vernon summarized the one thing everyone did agree upon.

"I just liked it because it's Harry Potter, and I like Harry Potter," she said.

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Buffer zone is essential for safety, argues bill group

Stephanie Mindock
BR Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South

If one discounts Chicago and the money it provides, Illinois is primarily an agricultural state. So why shouldn't the citizens protect their vital resources?

That is exactly the question that Logan Schmitz and his cosponsors from Heritage Neuqua Valley are trying to answer.

Following California's example of mandating a buffer zone around crops (an area of plants separating crops from any water source), Schmitz hopes to reduce Illinois's pollution by requiring farmers to lodge long-rooted plants to reduce the amount of harmful nitrates in the ground filtering through to the water.

Nitrates in water are "harmful to infants," says Schmitz. It can also cause miscarriages and "blue-baby syndrome," which could lead to infant death. Dis-

eases such as salmonella and E. coli, which can also be found in nitrates, are dangerous to anybody.

Lindsey Bergholz from Indian Prairie Hinsdale Central believes this is a great idea.

"This is a realistic bill that will have a positive effect on Illinois," she said.

Anna Bouck from B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South agrees with Bergholz, saying that the bill is "a good idea."

Since our state government is in such a budget deficit, it is imperative that something be done to protect what we have right now.

According to Schmitz, a solution is as simple as planting a series of plants around field borders to stop the run-off from entering waterways with harmful nitrates, protecting ourselves and the farmers who are the backbone of Illinois's economy.

Saturday Paper Delivery

Because of copying issues, Saturday's edition of *The Observer* will not be delivered during breakfast in the Stratton cafeteria. Papers will be made available to delegates Saturday morning between 11 and noon. They will be distributed in the Chambers and Capitol Rooms, and will also be available in the Press Room - Capitol Room 100. Sunday's edition will be delivered at the cafeteria during breakfast.

The Observer STAFF

Delegation wants to legalize prostitution

Anu Kumar
Heritage Waubonsie Valley

A delegation from Heritage Naperville North had introduced a bill designed to legalize and regulate prostitution in the state of Illinois.

The bill requires each prostitute register with the state of Illinois.

Owners of houses of prostitution are expected to be certified by the Health Care Financing Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill moves to decrease the number of people forced into the business and strengthen law enforcement on the issue at the same time.

According the bill brief, the proposed law would also offer the option of legalization to every county.

The bill is based on the Nevada laws and strives to bring what is currently underground crime in Illinois to the surface to be regulated.

According to the bill brief, the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues claims that 16,000-25,000 women are involved in prostitution in

the Chicago Metropolitan area annually.

Senate sponsor Samantha Piekos said, "This is a delicate issue, but with regulation it could work well."

When asked about the outcome of the legislation, Gianna Ventrella of Heritage Crystal Lake South stated, "Prostitution is only going to increase [with this legislation]. Low income members will find this as a potentially appealing opportunity."

Ryan Sugas of Heritage Waubonsie Valley agreed.

"Making it a profession would initiate job growth," he said.

Ventrella also expressed her concern over the individual county choice.

"County lines are unclear, and locations will have problems with legitimacy," she said.

While controversial, this bill offers the opportunity for what is currently underground crime to the surface to be regulated.

Piekos said, "No law has ever successfully stopped prostitution; therefore, this merely monitors it."

Bill group proposes moving Election Day

Stephanie Mindock
BR Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South

It has been said repeatedly that the American voter's apathy for politics results in low voter turnout every election.

However, it could be the inconvenience of the poll's hours that keeps the voters at bay.

Robbie Lampros and his fellow coauthors from B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South propose that the election days here in Illinois be moved to Saturdays from the traditional Tuesdays.

"The only reason elec-

tions are Tuesdays," Lampros explained, "is because back when horse and buggy was the major transportation system, Mondays were used to travel since Sundays were the day of rest."

In the modern era, of course, voting on any day of the week would be hectic due to the busy workday. Moving the Election Day to Saturday would, hopefully, increase voter

turnout since most office jobs are not in session.

Joe Frantik, of Heritage Naperville Central, believes that the move would

make voting more appealing due to the stress of any job. Frantik, of course, promises to

vote in every election himself.

Focusing on the budget issues presented by switching the Election Day, Lampros says that

the money will come from other budget appropriations, as well as the current amount set aside for elections.

If the experts want the election results to be more representative of the citizens of Illinois, the government must either make voting compulsory or make the elections more convenient for the voters. Robbie Lampros and his coauthors believe that moving the Election Day to Saturday will increase voter turnout, just what the experts want to see.

"Horse and buggy was the major transportation system"

Bill group proposes tax increase for tanning

Emily Mordacq
Springfield Williamsville

A Jefferson County Mt. Vernon delegation has introduced a bill to raise taxes on the use of tanning beds by 3%. This bill would make the total tax on tanning bed usage 13%.

According to the bill, "the total amount of funds collected from this tax will be divided equally into two halves." One half would go to the state while the other half would be used to aid in skin cancer research.

When asked why this bill was created, Senate sponsor Jessie Dickerson said that her grandpa has skin cancer.

She wants to create the awareness that you are literally going to make yourself pay for tanning by

paying for skin cancer research.

The goal of this bill is to affect the tanning bed customers in all of Illinois. Dickerson knows that a lot of people tan, especially teenage girls. She said a bunch of her friends go tanning, and she hopes that the tanning tax increase will stop them.

Cosponsor Annalee Schuette is a strong supporter of this bill. She believes that by paying the additional 3% tax, customers could eventually help themselves out in the end.

By tanning, people are obviously taking the risk of developing skin cancer, so by paying the extra tax, it could contribute to find a potential cure for those individuals.

The bill authors know that this bill is somewhat controversial.

Schuette believes that with the new tax increase people will stop tanning or

there will at least be a decline in tanning. She also thinks that if people want to tan, they will pay for it in one way or another.

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never been a bill like this before, the bill's creators do not know what to expect during the assembly.

However, during Pre-Leg I, the bill survived its first committee test.

Dani Stagers from Paris Heritage said, "The bill is a good idea and I support it, but they need to work the kinks and details out. I think it's a good idea

to keep people safe, but there needs to be major fixes to the bill. It seems very good in its moral standards."

Brendan Mier, a legislator from Springfield Pawnee, stated, "The bill seems very difficult to enforce. To make it true and honest, someone needs to be there to enforce it the whole time. It would create a lot of jobs and it encourages the use of a designated driver. Overall, I like the idea of this bill."

GROUP WANTS TO CONTROL PUPPY MILLS

Angela Barrett
Springfield Williamsville

2.7 million puppies were killed last year, solely because no people or families took them into homes.

With this startling statistic, why aren't there any laws that control the numbers of puppies bred in puppy mills?

This year, a bill was introduced promoting the control of these numbers.

Sponsor of the bill, Jessica Hirsch, from Jefferson County DuQuoin, explained, "The point of this bill was not to make puppy mills illegal, just to provide stricter regulations."

The bill indicates that "regular exercise, sufficient food, and clean water must be provided for all dogs" in the puppy mills.

Hirsch also comments on the 18-month period in which female dogs would not be permitted to reproduce more than three times.

Hirsch said, "Dogs have a 65 day pregnancy period and a time of five to six weeks is required for recovery. By providing the 18-month period, there are 10 weeks of time free to be played with if complications occur."

On September 18, Puppy Mill Awareness Day, the bill would go into effect, if passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Youth Governor.

BR Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South group wants to curb school bullying

Anu Kumar
Heritage Waubonsie Valley

Say your son comes home from school one day with a black eye, a broken wrist, a limp, and dried blood crusting over into scabs all throughout his arms and face. You can trace the red lines all the way back to their original sources. No big deal. It'll probably help toughen him up for when he's on his own, in the real world. I mean, sure, he might have some brain damage or other physical complications, but that's okay, right? Wrong.

If that happen to a kid, any sensible parent would complain to the school and work every night and day to bring the culprit to justice.

The only problem with this, according to a group from B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South, is that many schools and teachers lack the knowledge and abilities to effectively punish and reform the kids who are bullies and physically hurt other kids.

A new bill has recently been introduced to help solve this problem. Bill sponsors Felicia Owens and Leah Dudak say the bill is modeled after similar legislation in Ohio that has already had a positive effect on the school system there.

The Illinois bill will focus on the elementary schools. By focusing on younger students, the program hopes to create a lasting influence on the

children that will help to reduce violence all the way throughout high school and beyond.

Each school that applies will receive a \$1500 grant, coming from the state's education fund, which will be used to train school personnel in how to deal with students who perpetuate violence. Seminars will also be held for parents of the students to help them continue to promote a nonviolent atmosphere at home.

The bill received little criticism.

Janessa Wiesen of Heritage Naperville North replied with sarcasm when asked her opinion on the bill, "Who doesn't think the physical and emotional trauma children receive through violent acts in school is beneficial to their wellbeing?" B.R. Ryall Wheaton Warrenville South's Mark Grisamore concurred, "If we have a healthy youth, we have a healthy future."

Springfield Williamsville group wants concealed carry

Lindsay Holler
Springfield Williamsville

A Springfield Williamsville delegation introduced a bill in favor of concealing and carrying weapons.

Sponsor Kyle Allison said, "Our bill allows law abiding citizens to get a permit from the state to carry a concealed weapon."

According to the bill, the age limit to carry will be 21, and a FOID card will still be required. To get a F.O.I.D card, one cannot be convicted of a felony, be in an institution for the past 5 years, or have been addicted to narcotics.

Allison claims that the law poses no threat to the people because "40 States

already have this law, and it will make people feel safe."

"Statistics show that men are 1.5 times more likely to end up seriously injured if they resist an aggressor with any other method besides a gun, and women are 2.5 times more likely," said Allison. Allison believes safety is the driving force behind this legislation.

"Everyone knows how important it is to have a fire extinguisher in your home. It can save your life if there is a fire, but it is useless until that time. The gun is the same way. Hopefully you will never have to use it in your life, but if the time comes where you have to save your life, a gun can do it," said Allison.