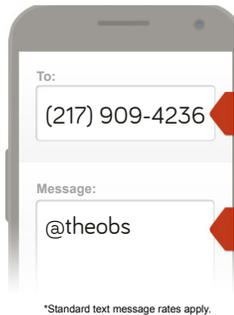


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We will also be publishing two more editions of THE OBSERVER print edition, one on Saturday and one Sunday.

### Wheaton Warrenville South group wants all freshmen screened for mental illness

Ariana Miceli  
Lake Park

A bill proposed by delegates from Wheaton Warrenville South said mental health testing will become mandatory for all incoming high school freshmen.

Freshmen would be expected to take this test when they go to the doctor for their annual physical.

The exams would be paid for, in part, by collecting funds through tax profits. Nick Gricus, a legislative assistant from Lake Park, said the funds would come from taxes placed on alcohol throughout the state.

"[This bill was written] to bring more light to the ideas of mental health and how it is an obstacle and situation in our society that should get more attention," said Jillian Wooton, a House representative from Wheaton Warrenville South.

Some believe there might be some difficulty in determining what is a significant mental disability.

Read the rest of the article at <http://observer.wcusd15.org>

### Fracking enters the debate at 2014 Y&G

Angelina Gervasio  
Lake Park

The issue of fracking is up for debate this session at Y&G's Springfield weekend.

Fracking is a tedious operation, although it may not be a familiar concept to many Y&G members. Hydraulic fracking is a process in which rocks below earth's surface are opened by injecting liquids at a high pressure. Its main purpose is to extract oil or natural gas.

When asked the importance of the debate on fracking, many delegates replied that fracking elicits a number of economic and environmental concern. Some felt that environmentalists would be apprehensive toward these extractions and would prefer other methods of obtaining sources of energy.

One delegate said, "Fracking is fairly uncommon to suburbaners due to the fact that it cannot be implemented near civilization."

Seven of nine delegates who were surveyed about their opinions of the process were unfamiliar with fracking. The other two had a vague knowledge of the subject once they were told about the oil excavation practice.

Read the rest of the article at <http://observer.wcusd15.org>

### Most Y&G delegates do not see a future for them in politics

Jamie Lamb  
Lake Park

Although Y&G provides an environment that strives to encourage involvement in government post high school, most delegates, somewhat surprisingly, said they were not interested in pursuing a career involving the government.

Yet, some still see the benefit in public political service.

"I've always had an interest in politics, and I feel like having a government position would allow me to have a direct and positive impact on society," said Nick Gricus from Lake Park High School, said.

Kunza Shakil, a senator from South Elgin High School, was eager to talk about her plans to participate in government in the future.

"I believe it's important to make changes in the government, and it needs to keep up with how society is running and our generations as they continue to expand and improve," Shakil said.

On the other hand, Claire Bassett, a legislative assistant from Bradley Bourbonnais High School, said that she does not plan to continue her participation in the government outside of the Y&G program.

Read the rest of the article at <http://observer.wcusd15.org>

### Curfew for teens gets mixed reviews

Sofia Defino  
Lake Park

The driving curfew for kids 17 years and older is 11 pm on the weekends and 10 pm during the weekdays.

Many delegates believe that this curfew should be revoked, although their reasons for the revocation differed widely..

Quinton Kujawa, a legislative assistant from Mount Vernon said, "I think they should be removed. Eleven is a little too early and the kids still need time to have fun."

Tyler Williams did not think fun was the main reason to not have a curfew. He thought it

was a matter of trust.

"I think that the driving curfew should be removed because kids are old enough at that age to have their own responsibilities," said Williams, also a legislative assistant from Mount Vernon.

Many Y&G teens agreed with the viewpoints of Kujawa and Williams, but other delegates saw that having a curfew a good thing because it provides safety for kids who are not very experienced drivers and should not necessarily be staying out past 11 pm anyways.

Read the rest of the article at <http://observer.wcusd15.org>

Read all the articles by THE OBSERVER staff at [observer.wcusd15.org](http://observer.wcusd15.org)

# The tedious college application process is facing us all, plug on forward

I think every student in high school realizes the pressure that is put on us to get our college applications done. Especially us juniors and seniors. After every year of high school we go through, college comes closer, and the process of getting applications done gets more and more real.

Whether you've known your entire life where you want to go to college or you recently have come up with some choices of where you would like to spend your next four years, we all know that the application process is long and grueling...even if you are really looking forward to moving into that next chapter of your life.

I'm sure you're all aware of the Common Application, a somewhat newer and handy-dandy way of applying to all the colleges you're interested in with the click of a button. It is definitely quicker than filling out individual applications for every college you want to apply to, but whatever floats your boat.

No matter which way you decided to apply to college, you're always going to have to answer those generic questions, such as your gender and birthday and what you are planning on majoring in.

Once you're done getting the basic parts of the app

done, you are forced to move onto the more complex, and what I believe to be the "way more annoying to fill out" part of the application, such as all the classes you've taken throughout your high school career and how many credits you get for each one and how many volunteer hours you've ever worked.

It's the constant typing and clicking and typing and clicking that really take a toll on how many hours of sleep you get every night until those applications get done by the deadline.

Maybe your parents even have given you their own deadline, "you better have those applications done by next Thursday or you can't go out next weekend." And I don't think anyone likes hearing those.

Some of you may be done with your applications and waiting for responses, while others of you are still working. Some of you may be deciding between a few schools and others may already have their heart set on where they are attending college, already sending deposits and registering for housing.

No matter where you are in the process of applying and choosing a college to go to, I hope all of your hard work on those apps pays off and you enjoy the approaching-college life.



Abigail  
Defino,  
Lake Park  
Editor

# Pop culture, unfortunately, keeps invading our spaces

Adding something fun and entertaining to Y&G can make the otherwise strict weekend a lot more bearable.

The hours of speeches and presentations inevitably drag, so to alleviate the boredom you might hear a speaker throw in a joke, witty catch phrase, or a dreaded pop culture reference.

While these references make speeches more relatable to teenagers, they're also a contribution to the mindless obsession with pop culture many people seem to have.

The reason people feel the need to mention celebrities in these speeches is directly related to our tendency to idolize them and place them at a higher importance than the everyday people we encounter or those whose grace our history books.

These references defeat the purpose of joining Y&G

for an educational experience. Instead of focusing on historical figures, all attention is drawn to another pop singer.

It may not seem like that big of an issue, but the continuing focus on pop culture, even after the significant amount of sighs at every mention of a celebrity, shows that nothing can discourage the topic from slipping into our heads.

We're constantly surrounded by popular media and it has become a distraction from other ideas and affairs.

Consumption of pop culture will, sadly, always be encouraged because of our widespread acceptance of it.

People enjoy the simplicity of its material and glamorization of its figures, so it is probably here to stay indefinitely.

Regardless, education-oriented environments like Y&G are better off with the rejection of cliché pop culture references.



Victoria  
Lolos,  
Lake Park  
Editor

## Hinsdale Central group wants to leash toddlers, fine violators of law

Cydne Ratliff  
Williamsville

Legislators from Hinsdale Central High School are trying to pass their bill requiring children to be on leashes. According to the bill, any child under five must be on a leash at all times in public places. When on the leash, the child must be less than four feet from their guardian. Any violation of this law could result in a \$100 fine.

Maggie Sorenson found the bill disturbing.

"You can't just put your child on a leash like it's a dog," said Sorenson, a lobbyist from Williamsville.

Legislator from Payson-Seymour, Addy Ippensen does not quite disagree with the intent of the bill.

"I don't know if I necessarily agree with it, because the maturity level and behaviors of 0-5 year olds are different for every child. If I was four years old I wouldn't need to be but on a leash, but I know a lot of other four year olds who should be put on a leash," said Ippensen.

Read the rest of the article at <http://observer.wcusd15.org>

Take our poll at <http://observer.wcusd15.org>

## Advisers play a big role in Y&G, and have a good time while here

Carley Horn  
Williamsville

Every advisor has a different story as to why he or she got involved with the program.

Gina Hanna from Shepard H.S recalls why she joined Y&G.

She said that is was the end of her first year teaching and "she was talking to the school's librarian, who suggested she join the program as an advisor."

At the time, she was not entirely sure what Y&G was, but upon learning what exactly the program was, she made the decision to be an advisor and dedicated her time and effort to this program.

Richard Pierce from Stevenson H.S began by joining an active delegation.

"There was already an existing program at Stevenson High. I starting working at the school a year after the program began and soon became a co-advisor for the program, a position I have held for the last 20 years."

Read the rest of the article at <http://observer.wcusd15.org>