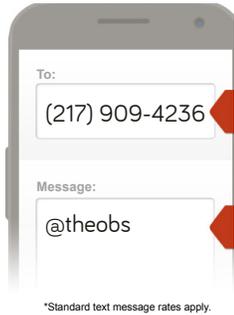


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We will also be publishing two more editions of THE OBSERVER print edition, one on Saturday and one Sunday.

### Bill group proposes “slavery” as way out of prison. It faces strong opposition

Rachel McCullar  
Williamsville

There is a controversial bill in the Orange Senate, S-O-11 that concerns criminal corrections.

Senate Sponsor Vinay Basti, House Sponsor Manan Shah, and Co-Sponsor Keaton Tatoes from Hinsdale Central wrote this bill in order to establish an option for “any person serving a sentence for a felony in a state prison” to become a “slave” in order to reduce their sentence.

According to the bill, the “slave must carry out his/her supervisor’s ... command at all times, barring a few exceptions.”

The supervisor is the person who would acquire a slave by paying “a tax of \$10,000, plus an additional fee of \$1,000 per month.”

There are many dissenters to the scope of this legislation.

“Do you want a felon taking care of your children or mowing your lawn? I don’t think you would,” said Annie Mou, a lobbyist from Lake Park.

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

### What is it that the Lt. Governor does at Y&G

Zach Mabry  
Sesser-Valier

In Y&G, not many delegates know what the youth Lieutenant Governor does in the Capitol.

When asked what he thought the Lt. Governor does, Darius Haery, a lobbyist from Neuqua Valley, said “He talks to the governor about bills and works with legislators to help pass their bills, maybe give a speech about it.”

Ross McWethy, a legislator from Oswego, said, “The Lt. Governor fills in for governor if he needs to, and helps the governor out with his political duties.”

Some delegates, frankly, had no idea about the Lt. Governor’s duties.

“As of this time I do not have much knowledge of the specific duties that a Lt. Governor’s job entails,” Hannah Jones, a legislative assistant from Sesser-Valier, said.

According to the current Lt. Governor, his job is to be a visible figure of the executive branch.

“I’m basically an extension of the governor,” Kevin Zhang said. “I want to be more involved in the legislative process. I want to go out and speak to more people about their bills. I am the other side of the governor, the side that he cannot be because he has to stay within his office.”

### We need dueling to the death, bill group argues; debate fierce

Sam Sagins  
Williamsville

One of the most interesting bills to surface this year was proposed by the Stagg delegation, a bill for an amendment to a ban on “alternative disputes” also known as dueling.

Dueling has been illegal in the United States for seemingly obvious reasons, but this bill, sponsored by Dino Demacopoulos and Sean Runyon in the House and Senate respectively, seeks to allow a consensual, taxed solution to personal disputes through a duel to the death. This confrontation can be legally held for a fee of \$500 in order to “help fund communities,” according to the bill.

In order to ensure a fair duel, a special “dueling committee” will be appointed to oversee all of the matters.

“What this bill aims to achieve is to incorporate methods and ideals of the past through the legal use of dueling,” Demacopoulos said.

The legislative debate in the House for the bill showed quite a divide as far as opinions.

The bill debate ran the entire allotted time before the recess was called.

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

### Should delegates be allowed to leave?

Jamie Lamb  
Lake Park

One of the more controversial issues this weekend has been whether or not delegates are responsible enough to leave the Capitol for short periods of time, such as during lunch.

When asked, a majority of delegates claimed they indeed were responsible enough to be granted the option to leave the building.

“I feel that the majority of high schoolers are responsible and we shouldn’t be punished or contained because a certain amount [of people] are not capable of controlling themselves,”

Leah Fazio, a legislator from Lake Park, said

In agreement with Fazio, legislative assistant from Sandburg, Jeff Varghese, said, “We stay for three days with less parental supervision than we usually do and are capable of doing good things such as mimicking congressional activities. So we should be given the privilege to go to something as simple as Panera for lunch.”

Although it may seem as though advisors do not trust their delegations, most agreed with the students.

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)

## Other states do it a little differently, an idea definitely worth exploring

Last week I had the honor of going to Washington D.C. and participating in the U.S. Senate Youth Program. I was able to meet many inspiring leaders and students from all over the country.

One student that stood out to me was Patrick Flannigan. After we spoke for a while, I learned he was the governor of the Louisiana Y&G program. What surprised me was how much he hated our election process.

Here, we elect and announce the winners of the governor's race Friday, and, to be a candidate for governor, you must be a senior. This is where Flannigan's problem begins.

In the other 43 Y&G states, they elect a junior to be youth governor and the election is held on Sunday evening at the end of the session, thus giving the candidates the entire weekend to campaign.

The winners then are the governors for the entire year and the entirety of the next year's Y&G program.

Speaking from experience, Flannigan said he enjoys campaigning the entire weekend and acting as the youth governor for the entire year.

"All of the governors also get to go to a governor's conference in the summer, and they meet with the other

43 juniors (except Illinois's senior)," Flannigan said. "They talk about their states' successes and bring their ideas back to their own state."

Flannigan loved the fact that he was able to tell other students about the ideas he got at the conference.

"Being elected as a junior is a better system," Flannigan said. Flannigan also talked about participating in the Conference of National Affairs (CONA), which the other Y&G programs participate in but we do not.

Luckily, Deb Allen, the director of Y&G, was able to shed some light on these issues.

Referring to why juniors cannot be governors, Mrs. Allen said, "The big reason is before this year, we never had freshman, and if juniors are elected, they would only have two years of experience."

Mrs. Allen also said that the Y&G governors meet with her to talk about the conference.

On the topic of CONA, Mrs. Allen said it was "on her radar" as well other activities such as the National Judicial Program.

My take? We should adopt the election system that the other states use. It would not be easy, but I believe it is definitely worth considering.



Austin Tuttle,  
Williamsville  
Editor

## Editors meet Isaiah Booker, 2014 youth governor

Our new youth governor, Isaiah Booker, has a lot on his plate. After winning in the close race against Jinnie Christiansen, Booker has been constantly busy with meetings, interviews and activities.

After a night of anticipation, Booker was relieved to find out he was elected governor.

"I was very confident in my speech and waiting for those results was very nerve wracking. They had me on the edge a little bit, but I was very glad and excited to be chosen as governor," he said.

All confidence aside, Booker was also aware that it was going to be a close race, knowing that Christensen was also well-qualified for the position.

"I know that Jinnie is a great person and a strong leader as well," Booker said, "That's why I thought it would be a close race, because we both are fit for the job."

For Booker, the busy schedule isn't a problem.

"I'm excited, I'm a busy guy," said Booker. "I'm excited for moving and getting things done".

Abigail Defino,  
Lake Park  
Editor

Victoria Lolos,  
Lake Park  
Editor

In front of his office are several staff members and assistants taking appointments for delegates to meet with him.

As governor, Booker has to meet with bill groups, give interviews and make sure the right bills are getting passed. "Today I've already been to the House and Senate, and I've gotten to look at bills in both."

After his fast paced day, the governor will go back to his presidential suite in the Crowne Plaza to enjoy the perks of the job. Booker's suite comes with several televisions and a very large jacuzzi bathtub. He also regularly has visitors.

"It's great, it's a party", Booker says about the constant visitors.

The governor's position is exciting and frantic and Isaiah Booker is excited to do his best to fulfill his duties.

### Lobbyist job is difficult yet rewarding – a conversation with Ariana Miceli

Ariana Miceli  
Lake Park

As a lobbyist, students show their support for their bills and any other bills in the committee group to which they are assigned.

After interviewing a number of lobbyists, I learned much about the importance of their position in the whole scheme of the Y&G government process.

"A executive director is responsible for insuring all lobbyists are performing their tasks well," Rashil Shukla, the executive director of lobbyists, said.

Aaron Osmani from Oswego explained what is expected of lobbyist in Y&G and in a professional government setting.

"We sell our bill to our legislators and persuade people to agree with our bill," Osmani said.

There are difficult and easy parts to every job in the government process, but some are more personal than others.

Nathan Pranger from Bradley Bourbonnais also shared with me that the hardest part for him personally was "socializing with people and getting people to agree with our bill."

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

### Several bills push for legalization of marijuana, delegates not sure

Cydne Ratliff  
Williamsville

There is a bill being debated concerning whether or not the crime of being in possession of marijuana should be changed so that the consequences will no longer be jail time, but a fine of \$100 and possible community service.

Currently 20 states and D.C. have enacted laws to legalize marijuana for medical use, while only two, Colorado and Washington, allow recreational marijuana use.

Some delegates think that a bill to legalize marijuana would have no benefits for our state. Abby Poehls, a legislator from Williamsville, said, "I don't think it's necessary to legalize marijuana. I think it should be left alone for the time being. There are more important things to be passed."

An anonymous source said, "If the American Medical Association doesn't support it then neither do I. It's a dumb idea and the smart people aren't letting it get passed."

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