



THE LEDGER

Official Publication of the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government Conference



Bill Bonanza

With the Governor's approval, select bills become YIG law



Governor Colin McDonald addresses the delegates at the Governor's Banquet.

by Drew Cornaghie

It is a long, treacherous road for a bill to reach the governor's cabinet and this year several have survived the dangerous trek to be signed by the governor himself.

The first to be signed into law was Blue House Bill 09-1-3, which banned text messaging while driving.

It was followed by Red Senate Bill 09-1-2, which officially made discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal.

Third was Blue Senate Bill 09-1-2, a bill that requires a two week waiting period prior to the delivery of a purchased firearm.

Late Saturday, several more bills were passed into law, including Red House Bill 09-1-10, which lowers the legal age to receive an abortion to 16 years old, and Blue House Bill 09-1-4, a bill dealing with the sale of wine in grocery stores and other retail food outlets.

Saturday night two bills, Red Senate Bill 09-2-3 and Blue House Bill 09-2-7, were both signed by the governor. These

acts dealt with the creation of community mental health facilities and suicide awareness programs for 9th graders, respectively.



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Solicitor General: New Officer in the Bill Book

by Maggie Taylor

You might have noticed that there are a lot of changes at this year’s conference. One of the things that you might have noticed is that there is a new office to run for called the Solicitor General. The first Solicitor General of the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government Conference is Robert Vestal, a senior from MUS who is currently is enjoying his new position, especially because he actually didn’t have to run for the position.

The Solicitor General is the assistant to the Attorney General and was added to the conference to help find and eliminate the bills that conflict with citizens’

constitutional rights. His or her job is to argue along with the Attorney General against any bill that they find unconstitutional. At the beginning of the conference, the two comb the bill book, looking for proposals to bring before the Supreme



Solicitor General Robert Vestal is all business.

Court. The Attorney General, Darian Bruce, is the chief law officer of the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government and is present during the reading of all bills to determine if they are legally

acceptable.

The size of the conference this year has also affected the job of the Solicitor General. The number of unconstitutional bills has decreased this year. Robert Vestal said, “ the less people there are, the less unconstitutional bills.” With a limited number of bills to concentrate on, the

Attorney and Solicitor General can find all the bills they need to contest without being overwhelmed. One of the bills that Solicitor General Robert Vestal is looking forward to discussing is Blue Senate Bill 09-1-6, which is trying to require that fingerprints be

submitted when obtaining or renewing a Tennessee Driver’s License or Identification License.

The actual Solicitor General is also present in court with the Attorney General and both of them are addressed in court as “general.” Also while in court both of the generals are able to speak and debate the bill openly with the sponsors of the bill. In Tennessee, we actually have both an Attorney General and a Solicitor General, but if the Attorney General resigns while still in term, then the Solicitor General is next in line for the job. The addition of this new office will help in both court and in overall conference.

In the real world, the Solicitor General is appointed, not elected. Here at Youth Leg, however, the solicitor general will be chosen by a vote in the Supreme Court.

Sunday’s Schedule

Early Morning

Pack up and check out

9AM - 11AM

Components in Session

11AM

All-Conference Session for Closing Ceremony

12:30PM

Go home!

Components Decoded: Lobbyists

by Drew Cornaghi

Lobbyists are a rare, mysterious breed at YIG. Much confusion surrounds what they do, so to enlighten the masses, here is a guide to the lobbyist component. Each lobbyist is assigned an interest group to represent.

These interest groups often advocate for policies regarding such topics as the environment or civil liberties. Each lobbyist must search through the bill book to find bills in the Red Senate or Red House that pertain to his or her interest group.

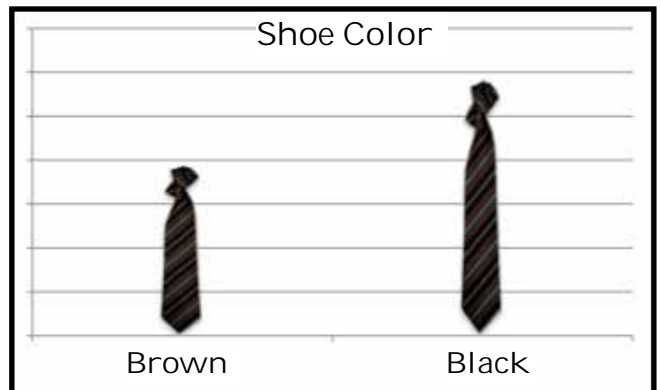
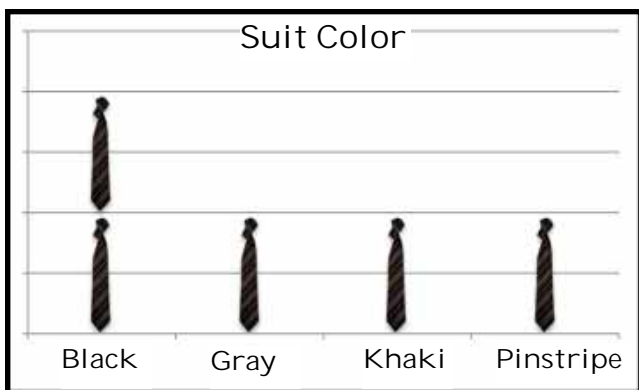
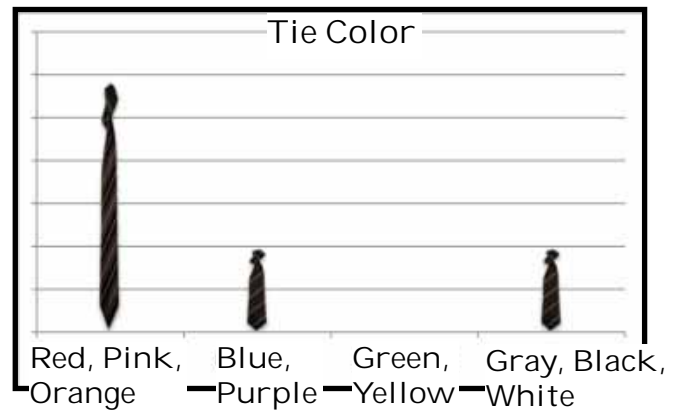
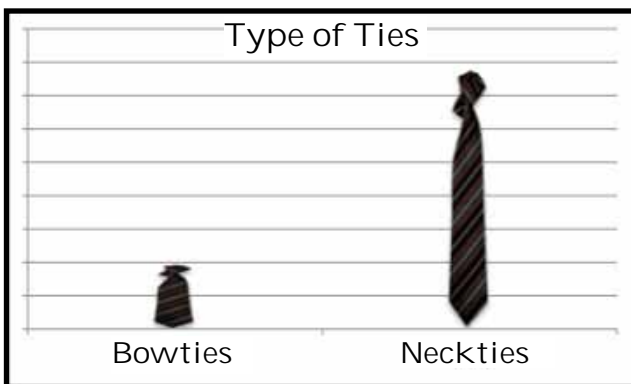
Because lobbyists are not permitted on the floor of the House of Senate, they must sway the opinions of various senators and representatives to vote for or against these bills. When not pestering

fellow delegates, lobbyists set up camp in the second floor Legislative Lounge, an upgrade from last year's quarters.

They often attempt to persuade these delegates by offering to write speeches or motions for them. The favorite strategy is, of course, to simply ask one's friends to speak on his or her behalf.

The most important part of the lobbyist experience at YIG is the Lobbyist Luncheon, which is a steak meal at the top of the Sheraton Hotel. During the lunch, the lobbyists discuss various bills. They also invite delegates whose bills pertain to their interest groups in order to garner their support. Lobbyists are now decoded.

Formal Fashion Report: Men



True Life: Gov-Cab

by Maggie Taylor

The Governor’s Cabinet is a colorful mixture of delegates from numerous schools, with varying experience and differing opinions. The Cabinet is composed of one representative from every department of the state, including children’s services, agriculture, finances and administration, tourist development, health, human services, safety, education, environment and conservation, corrections, mental health and developmental disabilities, and transportation. And of course, the governor himself is present. All of the Cabinet members feel that they can express their views while being heard and considered by all of the Cabinet.

Just like the conference’s other components, the YIG Governor’s Cabinet emulates the actions of the real one and attempts to cram as much real-life Gubernatorial work as possible into the four days of the conference.

During their first meeting, the Governor’s Cabinet looked through the bill book and created a Governor’s Packet of bills that the governor found especially interesting. As you might have noticed, this year’s conference is small, so the initial list of bills that the Cabinet had to review is much shorter than usual. One of the tactics used in Gov-Cab to extend the time on each bill before the bills from Congress started pouring in wasis “popcorn,” which is a style of reading where a member reads for a part of a bill for a certain amount of time, then he or she says “popcorn” and the name of the person that they want to read next. When asked, many of the Cabinet members said that “popcorn” reading was their favorite thing about Gov-Cab.

The Cabinet’s next step is to create a budget for the state. An intensive process, and an especially difficult one in these trying times, creation of a budget fills the whole conference and, in most years, many sheets of paper.



Chief of Staff Richard Swor has a good idea in Governor’s Cabinet

A third function of the “Gov-Cab,” as members affectionately call it, is to review bills that have been passed in both House and Senate and debate the pros and cons of each. If the Cabinet decides a bill should be passed after debate – and often-intensive interrogation of the patrons, Governor Colin McDonald signs it into law.

For Rachel Hoge, a Springfield High School junior, the best part of Governor’s Cabinet is “being able to have firsthand experiences on what the governor actually does.”

When Jackson Blake, a Hume Fogg junior, was asked what his favorite part of Gov-Cab was, he said, “The personal feel and ability to say anything without fear of judgment.”

A lot of the current cabinet members wish that they could return to serve on the Cabinet next year, so some who aren’t graduating or running for an office will try. The component seems to have a very family-like atmosphere, and the members relate to each other without any problem, though they come from different schools.

With family, bills, and popcorn, Gov. Cab is the place to be, according to its members.

Slumdog *Bill*-ionaire

by Nathan Likert

Why do some patrons here produce bills that crash and burn while others become legend? A.) They cheated. B.) They're geniuses. C.) They got lucky. **D.) It is written.**

Mostly though, it just takes raw talent and dogged determination to reach the top, but sometimes it takes just a little more. It takes a rugged combination of James Bondish charm, subtle luck, and yes, a whole lot of swag like T.I. to reach the top and have your bill signed into law by none other than the honorable governor himself.

Today we'll look at one such bill, bill 9-1-6, which champions a unique and creative way to crack down on crime and generate crucial revenue for Tennessee at the same time. This bill mandates that "fingerprints be submitted when obtaining or renewing a driver's license." Patroned by Brian Daniels, Chappel Burnley, and Canton Phillips of Gallatin High School, this bill has endured a great struggle so far but is closer than ever to its goal of the governor's desk.

The bill has had a rough ride so far, encountering stiff opposition in the Senate, with the opposing parties aggressively presenting the argument that this proposal clearly violates the people's right to privacy. However, the patrons were quick to assemble a crushing counter-argument, proving that they belong here among the best speakers and thinkers in the state.

They argued that the fingerprints taken, which are immediately uploaded to the Federal Government's database, can be used to solve countless crimes across the state; reawakening cold cases, bringing decisive ends to current ones and shortening or possibly even eliminating future ones. It's incredible to even think of the time, money, and raw amounts of resources that stand to be saved, they argued.

With these strong points having been emphasized, the bill passed both the House and Senate by a rather large majority. However, this victory was marred by the fact that the opposition still challenged the constitutionality of the bill. Eventually the bill and its patrons were summoned to the Supreme Court. The patrons seem undaunted, though, and quickly recruited a duo of seasoned lawyers to defend them before the highest judicial body in the land.

These two young lawyers, Kelsey Jones and Nichole Holloway-Smithson, have brought even more ammunition to the legal battle, citing that fingerprints are already required in states like Texas and Colorado, with great success levels. Also, in response to the privacy argument, they argued that it's the state's duty to protect its citizens, and a driver's license is a privilege, meaning the individual has the choice to obtain one or not.

The case is shaping up beautifully. Youth in Government is all about the diversity of opinion, and if a bill can prevail through all these great ideas and incredible thoughts pressing against it, then it really deserves law status, and most assuredly benefits our great state. So if you see these patrons, or any that fight for a great idea, please congratulate them, because they deserve your support and can do so much more with you behind them. That's democracy at its finest.



“Best of Both Worlds” Menace to Children’s Health?

by Maggie Taylor

The size of this year’s conference has prevailed again. With room to spare on the dockets, joke bills are back and are highly in force in the Blue Senate. One proposal that has caught our attention was written by Hume Fogg’s Nina Breyer, Anna Fleming, and Lindsey Thompson.

The issue at stake? Mental health. The target? Hannah Montana, aka Miley Cyrus. The bill is forcing the teen star, who frequently squeals that she is “the best of both worlds,” to pick one. This bill contends that Hannah Montana is confusing small children by constantly changing her voice, hair, and name.

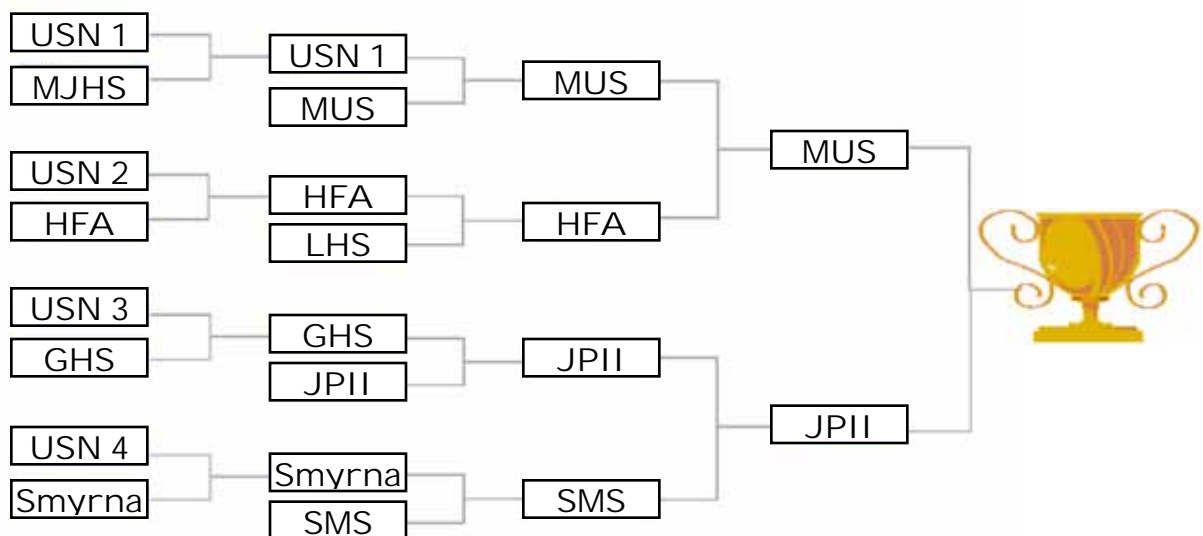
The bill’s patrons claim that these fans are being challenged to comprehend a concept that is beyond their years. Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus are not really two different people, but one person pretending to be two different people. The patrons claim that exposure to this double identity with force children to develop Multiple Personality Disorder or Dissociative Identity Disorder.

Miley living two lives could cause such an outbreak in psychiatric problems because these children watching her show think that her two lives are normal. The fans will therefore not be able to draw the line between actual life and fake life, the patrons argue.

If Hannah Montana were confined to one “world” and Disney paid for it then the psychiatric health of all children will improve. By improving the mental health of our youth, we can save on health care and increase the work force of tomorrow, the patrons say. Lindsey Thompson one of Hume Fogg’s supporting patrons says, “Hannah Montana is an evil force that must be stopped.”



YIG Bowl Bracket



This Year's Court Case

by Lindsey Rousselle

Delegates watch as these special few enter rooms with black robes and admire the purple ribbons on the lawyer name tags. Most of the court's business is done behind closed doors in a separate building. What exactly are they all about? What do they do during their session time?

Contrary to popular belief, the Supreme Court is not a trial court, and does not determine guilty or innocence directly. In the court, there are justices and lawyers. The justices hear the arguments presented by the lawyers regarding the law they study and connect with their case.

In 2001, Woodson County School Board allowed school counselors to have condoms sitting on their desks for distribution. This year's justices must decide if this act is allowed under the US constitution and the Tennessee Constitution and what rights may be involved in the process of condom distribution.

Within the Court, there are two sides, the Appellant and the Appellee. Four lawyers, Gordon Bradberry, Jackson Hale, Jonathan Leach, and Jeffrey Robinson explained what these two sides do. The Appellant side in this case is the voice of the parents. Within this side, there is a group called Save the Kids. This is a group of about 50 parents that



Chief Justice Brandon Parrish discusses this year's case with component leader Mike Buhle

YIG Superlatives

At this conference, we all work extremely hard to do our best. Sometimes, our best gets in the way of a few new embarrassing moments to go down in YIG history. There are some who cannot go unnoticed.

YIG Prince and Princess – Rahul Kumar and Sri Pulusani

Most likely to motion for a McDonald's break – Mathew Jehl

Fastest talker – Will Dossett

Most likely to have a bill book full of artwork – Conor Miller and Hannah Hill

Most likely to repeat her name – Shiksha Mahtani

Most likely to text during session -Lee Moodley

Most likely to get fined for being late – Sarah Arnold and Caroline Frisch

Most likely to dream of being Andrew Gossett – Robert Duffley

Most likely to drool over hot boys in session – Emily Bruchas

Most likely to be the 5th Jonas Brother – Aaron Weber

don't like the idea of having condoms available to the students. The Appellee side says the school board has the right to distribute condoms in schools.

The Lawyers argue on both sides of the case throughout the weekend and receive one final case during the conference that they much prepare for and argue before the closing session.

Meet Your Press

ROBERT DUFFLEY



is a senior at MUS. A veteran member of the Press Corps,

Robert will miss his YIG friends when he goes to college next year.

DREW CORNAGHIE



is a senior at MUS and was born on the 4th of July. This is his

second year on Press Corps.

JIMMY HAWKINS



is a senior at Gallatin High School and hopes to

pursue music at Centre College.

NATHAN LIKERT



is a senior at Gallatin High School and is currently ranked by

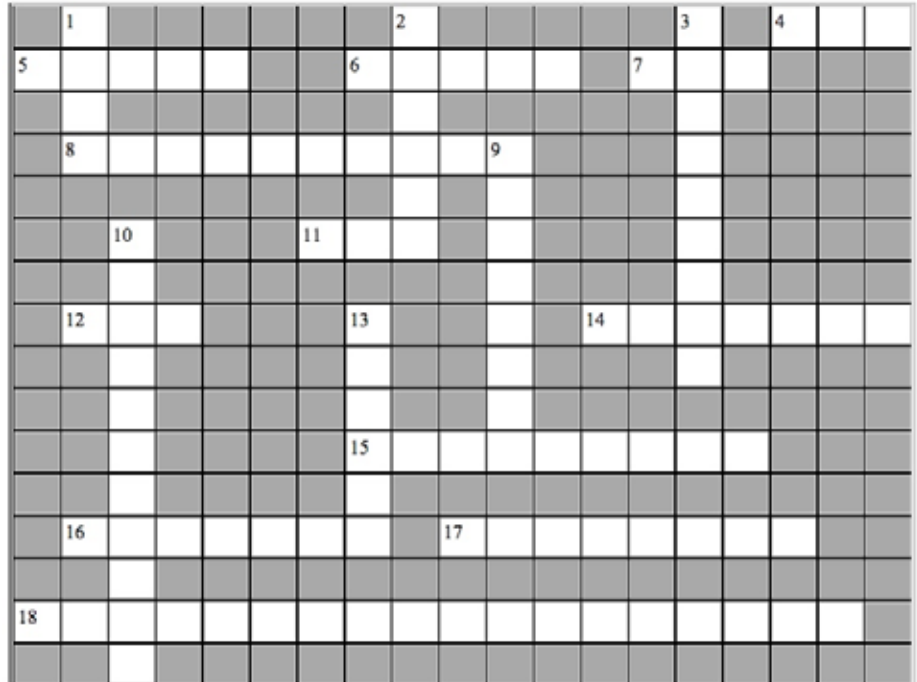
Major League Gaming 24th in the nation

LINDSEY ROUSSELLE



is a junior at JP11. It's her first year on Press, and when not

writing articles, she enjoys playing Candyland immensely.



ACROSS

4. Total number of people at this conference
5. YIG Governor's name
6. Highest fine
7. Name of Conference
8. Number 1 song on iTunes
11. Most officers at the conference
12. Only catholic school at the conference
14. Type of music that Nashville is known for
15. Smallest delegation
16. Chief Justice
17. Hume Fogg _____
18. Michael Meador

MAGGIE TAYLOR



is a freshman at Hume Fogg Academic and her favorite color is red and

she loves sing in the rain. (this is a serious publication.)

DOWN

1. The number of people running for governor next year
2. A group of Indian scoundrels known for their robbery of travelers
3. T-Shirt theme
9. The only academy here
10. Theme of tonight's dance
13. Speaker of the Blue House

RAHUL KUMAR



is a senior at MUS and will be going to the University of Pennsylvania to

study biochemistry and *thug lyfe*.