By Thomas Castleman

Today, Sheraton Ballroom One witnessed the second annual Tennessee YIG Youth Legislature Gubernatorial Debate, this year between Harrison Rea of Memphis University School and Brad Barrett of Pope John Paul II. The candidates both displayed their respective oratory skills and enlightened the voting public of the conference with regard to their stances on a wide range of issues, from automatic toilets to prison privatization. Here’s a breakdown of how the candidates felt about each issue.

First Issue: Right to bear arms on campuses and in bars
Rea acknowledged citizens’ second amendment rights to bear arms but stated that guns on campuses and in bars were not ineffective to the ends of self-defense. He additionally questioned their tendency to actually cause violence. Rea instead stressed the need for reliance on and faith in authorized security services and encouraged the use of nonlethal weapons instead of guns, stating “people die when people fire guns”. Brad Barrett firmly supported second amendment rights, delivering anecdotes and arguments emphasizing an individual’s right to self-protection.

Second Issue: Texting while driving
Both candidates confessed to texting while driving on occasion. Rea stated that he supports legislation punishing cell phone use while driving but believes that such should be considered a “secondary offense” (only punishable when in combination with other offenses). Barrett
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firmly supported a ban on automotive texting, stating that one can never afford to be careless when in control of a “thousand-ton car,” and concluding simply with the statement “think about it.”

Third Issue: The introduction of state-sponsored alternatives to nursing homes
Harrison Rea opposed the introduction of such establishments, arguing that they would be exceedingly costly to develop and maintain and that it simply was not the states’ responsibility to provide such services. Barrett vocally supported the development of these assisted living programs. Rea provided a rebuttal, accusing his opponent of not addressing the issue. Barrett replied that he had clearly voiced his opinion in favor of assisted living institutions.

Fourth Issue: The gubernatorial appointment of secretary of state as opposed to filling the position through democratic process
Both candidates voiced their support of the current system of filling the position by appointment, noting both its simplicity and our state’s lack of problems with it.

Fifth Issue: The banning of automatic toilets: “how do you sit or stand on this issue?”
Rea and Barrett both opposed this legislation, voicing their own opinions on the necessity of personal hygiene and the substantial increase in cleanliness provided by new touchless automatic flushing systems. Rea further argued for a refinement of toilet sensor systems to decrease anomalous flushing and also for a reduction of the amount of water used per flush in these systems.

Sixth Issue: Prison privatization
Again, the candidates agreed here, acknowledging the decline of prison conditions when penal systems are run by profit-oriented private enterprise.

Seventh Issue: The introduction of mass transit systems
Both candidates supported movements to introduce and encourage the use of mass transit systems for the sake of the environment. Rea favored the development of train routes in particular, noting their efficiency. Barrett showed a large concern about the decline of environmental conditions, particularly that of the air, and called attention to increasing gas prices as a motivation for a switch to more environmentally friendly energy sources.

In conclusion, Harrison Rea encouraged his potential voters to discuss issues with him, inviting questions and even intense debate. Brad Barrett encouraged conference-goers to vote for him, emphasizing his fitness to fill the position.
What’s What at Youth Leg.

by Robert Duffley

Legislative Components – House and Senate

Tennessee’s primary legislative bodies are the House of Representatives and the Senate. Of these two, the House contains more members. Due to the size of the conference, though, there are actually two Senates and Houses here at Youth Leg. – the Red and the Blue, with more experienced students sitting in the Red chambers. Along with their partners, House and Senate delegates research and compose bills addressing issues currently facing Tennessee. On the first night of conference, bills are debated in committees based on bill subject matter. Along with an opportunity to speak in a group smaller than the full House, these committees provide bills with a chance to be highly ranked and thereby passed on to the House docket. Bills passed in the House continue their journey into law by passing through the Senate, while those passed in the Senate must be approved in the House. After passage in the opposite House, bills are sent into the hands of the Governor and his cabinet. When approved there and signed by the Governor, the bills become law. The Speaker of the House chairs the House, and the Lieutenant Governor runs the Senate. The Speaker Pro Tempore of each component occasionally substitutes for its chair. Each component also has a Floor Leader, who has the privilege of being called on whenever he or she wishes and the responsibility of livening stagnant debates.

Lobbyists

Just as students have the ability to act as legislators, lawyers, or press members, they also have the lesser-known opportunity to be lobbyists and advocate the interests of assigned groups or industries like the Tennessee Civil Liberties Union. The lobbyists are given groups to represent and charged with the task of looking through the conference book for bills related to their respective groups. Then, they talk to Senate and House delegates and either promote or criticize these bills. Contrary to some rumors, being a Lobbyist is a work-intensive job. In addition to researching and talking up bills, Lobbyists also have to write two essays, one pro and one con. This work does not come without perks, however: the lobbyists and guests they select get to attend a lavish luncheon on Saturday.

Judicial Component

The judicial component of the conference is comprised of the competing two-man lawyer teams, the five justices, the chief justice, and the legendary component leader Mr. Buhl. Together, these delegates simulate the Tennessee Supreme Court. This year’s lawyers must argue the fate of Clifford Claven, previously convicted of murdering two people. The lawyer teams must prepare to argue both sides of the case in the tournament-style competition. When acting as the apellee, Lawyers act as the State of Tennessee and attempt to prove that Claven is guilty. As the appellant, they insist that Claven is innocent and has been wrongly convicted. Teams that progress far enough in the competition have to prepare a whole new case for the last rounds.

Governor and Cabinet

The Governor and his Cabinet fill the executive role at Youth Leg. conferences. These select few put in a great amount of work prior to the conference: each cabinet member represents a department, and he or she prepares a solution to a problem facing Tennessee. The Governor himself also generates ideas to be proposed at the conference and champions his favorite cabinet proposals. Additionally, bills passed in the House and Senate are sent to this body and are approved if the Governor deems them feasible, within the budget, and in accordance with his policies.

Press Corps

The media component of the conference is separated into subgroups: video and print press. The print press is responsible for making The Ledger, the publication that you are presumably reading. Their reporters travel the hotel, conducting interviews everywhere from lobbies to elevators while the editing staff spends long hours in the press room. The video segment writes scripts for, produces, and edits FYI Today, the T.V. show which will be on the hotel’s closed-circuit channel Friday and Saturday night.
Obesity Today, Oblivion Tomorrow

by Drew Cornaghie

No one wants to be obese. However, many Americans battle weight problems throughout their lives. While these Americans struggle against obesity for a variety of reasons, a new reason to become slim has surfaced.

Recent studies have revealed that the spare tire many Americans grow around their waists can increase the risk of their developing Alzheimer’s disease later in life. This discovery merely adds to a growing list of diseases that can result from being overweight, including certain cancers, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, stroke, and gallbladder problems.

Fortunately, most do not have to worry about these health problems until they turn forty years old. Around this time in life, people tend to experience a drop in hormones, a change that often increases their weight. This added weight can increase the risk of dementia, especially if the fat is located in the belly area. The bigger the belly, the greater the risk of losing your memory. Researchers are unsure of exactly how belly bulge affects the brain more than other kinds of fat, since obesity of any kind seems to increase the risk of Alzheimer’s.

Visceral fat, which is created by belly bulges, is particularly dangerous, though, as it wraps around vital organs, restricting their efficiency. This kind of fat can produce Beta-amyloid, a protein that wreaks havoc in the brains of dementia victims. The protein forms plaque that blocks nerve processes, creating memory loss among other symptoms.

Unfortunately, even those of us who are only slightly overweight are still at risk. However, the good news is that it is very easy to fight this kind of fat. Of course, regular exercise and physical activity are the best ways to burn away the potential of developing dementia. For those of us who can’t head to the gym everyday, adding whole grains to your diet can be of tremendous aid in battling belly fat.

While this new study is a bit frightening, it is only a much greater impetus for us to fight “the battle of the bulge.”

Clinton and Obama Share the Spotlight

by Anisa Allad

Both of our Democratic presidential candidates, Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have recently been involved in controversies that could prove extremely detrimental to their campaigns. Recently, Obama’s former preacher, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, included in his sermon several shockingly racist and aggressive remarks, leaving many possible supporters offended and Obama’s campaign severely wounded. Several speeches were made by Sen. Obama condemning these statements made by Wright, denying any assumptions of representation of his opinions. He requested it be considered that these statements were also taken out of context of the entirety of the speech, and they came from a man of another time, a more aggressive and racially troubled era.

Shortly after this attempted clarification, Hillary Clinton was thrown into the spotlight for her false claims made at a foreign policy speech given at George Washington University. When describing her 1996 visit to Bosnia as First Lady, Clinton declared that upon her arrival, they found themselves under sniper fire and had to run across the tarmac. But many made claims against the validity of this statement, and the follow up investigation of video footage of the Clinton’s arrival in Tuzla disproved anything of the sort. After this, Hillary joined Obama in the spotlight and received her share of setbacks in campaign support.

When the controversy with the Rev. Wright and Obama first surfaced, Clinton dismissed opportunities for comment on several occasions; but when asked again to comment after the revealing of her “misspoken” statements, she did offer some of her feelings regarding the situation. At a news conference in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Clinton was asked how she would have handled this had she been a member of William’s church. She responded, “I think given all we have heard and seen, he would not be my pastor.”

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Parliamentary Procedure: A Quick How-To
By Robert Duffley

Whatever you may think of it, Parliamentary procedure is the cornerstone of all debates. Although it may seem a bit archaic at times, Parliamentary procedure keeps our debates efficient and orderly. And let’s face it: following parliamentary procedure adds a satisfying sense of importance and grandeur to conference proceedings. Today Y In the World pulled aside some of the conference officers and asked them what they considered to be the most essential facets of Procedure. We have their assurance that, if you follow these basic rules, you’ll at least keep from embarrassing yourself.

The first test of Parliamentary know-how is posed when delegates first stand up to speak. When you get up, save yourself from humiliation by remembering to introduce yourself properly (name and school). Also make sure that you are wearing your jacket (guys). If you are asking a technical question, keep in mind that it can only prompt a “yes,” “no,” or a figure from the patrons. If you’re speaking in the con/pro debate round, you must then ask the chair for permission to ask the delegates questions or address the floor. To complicate things further, you may additionally reserve your right to yield time to a fellow delegate or address the floor after first asking questions. Omissions of required requests can lead to a rebuke from your chamber chair or even a mandate to sit back down. Finally, do try to speak loudly and articulately. Chairs will become stricter as the conference wears on.

Procedure may seem complicated, but paying attention to more experienced delegates in your committee will help greatly. Be sure not to let fear of failure prevent you from participating – sessions can get long and boring quickly if you aren’t actively participating. Your fellow delegates won’t bite, and volume commands attention. It also creates a good first impression that may lead to support for your own bill.

Unusual Bills
By Rohini Chakravarthy

Though there are many quality bills this year, the following ones are generating a great deal of conversation around the conference. Blue Senate Bill 2-8 by delegates Keila Franks and Dillion Frazier from Hume Fogg want to Ban the Use of Roadkill. Apparently, roadkill can be taken by any person for personal use and consumption. But the bill doesn’t explain much, factually speaking. So we’ll have to wait to see why these delegates think that individual use of roadkill is harmful.

Although the use of dead raccoons may be banned by Sunday, goats may have a new use for Tennessee. In Red House Bill 5-1 by Daniel Rochester and Richard Swor from University School of Nashville want the state to hire goats to eat kudzu. Kudzu is currently one of Tennessee’s invasive plants, and, according to the patrons of this bill, goats and llamas can be used to eat the kudzu in infested areas of Tennessee. These goats could thereby improve the public welfare of the state. While goats might be eating kudzu on the side of the road, consider the formation of a new road: a Tennessee Autobahn. In Blue House Bill 4-1, Alexander Kaltenborn, Jake Abston, and Spencer Fong from MUS want to create this high-speed roadway for more efficient transport.

This year there’s also a bill about Tennessee state license plates. Bill 1-8 by delegates Palmer Hunt and Daniel Clark from MUS think that all registered sex offenders should have lime-green license plates for easy identification.

And don’t forget the bill about automatic toilets discussed in debate. In Blue Senate bill 2-7, delegates from Independence High want to ban the use of automatic toilets, believing that they unnecessarily waste water. This would save water in Tennessee for times of need, such as droughts. However, both candidates for governor believe that automatic toilets can be manufactured to be more water efficient and cleaner. This bill will prove to be controversial.

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Restaurant Review: Jack’s BBQ ★★★★☆

by Liv Wafler

While Jack’s BBQ may not be the most conspicuous or flashy eatery on Broadway, it is certainly not a restaurant to be missed. As I was buffeted along the street by the manic wind, I was hard pressed to see anything, but a lucky glance to the left offered me a welcome refuge from the gale, a refuge that smelled of pork. Jack’s BBQ features a small main dining room whose walls are lined with booths although a few tables fill the center. The décor is only a tad kitschy, including a random stuffed deer head on the wall and UT paraphernalia. A suspended television tuned to CMT at all times only adds to the atmosphere. Above the counter hangs a simple menu featuring ribs, sandwiches, and assorted side dishes including some quite delicious macaroni and cheese. The service was friendly and prompt. Although the sandwiches essentially comprise only meat and bread, they are a quick fix for any extent of craving for tasty BBQ that you might have.

Restaurant Review: Mike’s Ice Cream Fountain ★★★★★☆

by Anisa Allad

Just like the authentic Soda Fountains and Ice Cream Parlors, Mike’s Ice Cream Fountain is a neat little shop where you can find tons of hand-dipped ice cream flavors, enjoy their homemade waffle cones, or try one of their 40 flavors of homemade soda. Located on Broadway, Mike’s even resembles the style of an original soda fountain, decked out with bar stools, 50’s style uniforms, and an old-fashioned mural on the wall. Stepping into the small shop at 208 Broadway is like stepping back to a place probably frequented Danny and Sandy from Grease. Though the charming soda fountain does have a strong retro feel, the ice cream, thankfully, is not actually vintage.

Clinton Obama,
Continued from page 4

Many Obama supporters believed this action may have been an attempt to divert some of the negative attention she received from her own controversy by distracting with that of Obama’s. However, both candidates have responded to the issues that have threatened their campaigns. Hillary argued that she simply had “misspoken,” and Obama spoke out against the offensive remarks by his pastor. It is possible, however, that neither candidate will be able to receive enough delegates to win the nomination at the August national convention.

Unusual Bills,
Continued from page 4

Another controversial bill will surely be the act to legalize prostitution. Red House Bill 2-10 by Phillip Forrester, James Miller, and Scott Fishel from University School of Nashville. This bill states that a brothel should be deemed a legal and lawful method of business. However, these businesses will have to pay a licensing fee and all prostitutes must register and have weekly medical examinations. This bill will definitely provide a lively debate.

And among these serious bills, there are some about celebration. Blue House Bill 4-5, by Cameron Crawford and William Paxton from MUS want a Native American History Month. Different festivals would be held in Tennessee’s major cities to celebrate and share the culture of Tennessee Native Americans.

As you can see, the proposed bills this year are interesting, innovative, and, in some cases, quite influential to Tennessee and Tennesseans alike.
The Weekend’s Weather

**Friday**
Scattered Thunderstorms
High - 62
Low - 45
50% Chance of Precipitation

**Saturday**
Mostly Cloudy
High - 62
Low - 55
20% Chance of Precipitation

**Sunday**
Few Showers
High - 74
Low - 56
30% Chance of Precipitation
March 28, 2008

Crossword Puzzle

by Robert Duffley and Drew Cornaghie