



**MASS.
YOUTH
& GOV**



Press Guide

2020 - 2021

PRESS

Youth & Government relies on it's writers, photographers and video persons to be the voice of the program. As a member of the press corps you will educate the delegates and inform our alumni about the interworking of this years pre-legs and conference. This unique roll grants you a full access to the program, allowing you to experience everything Youth & Government has to offer.

- I. All press delegates will be active contributors to The Beacon, Youth & Government's printed newspaper. Throughout the next few months, articles will be drafted and collected that cover a wide range of content, which includes:
 - Interviews with delegates, officers, advisors, public officials, alumni and more.
 - Editorials on various details, changes, or events that will be taking place over the course of this year.
 - Reporting on the progress of the Legislative, Juridical, Lobbyist, and Executive branches.
 - Insight into controversial bills being presented or hot political topics relevant to the program.
 - BASICALLY, anything that is worth reporting for the benefit of any delegate looking to remain informed.
- II. Delegates will also be given the opportunity to contribute to the programs official social media channels. The content will usually be brief and attention grabbing. It will be keep delegates informed and engaged between Pre-Legs, and allow family, friends, and alumni to stay connected during the Conference.
- III. Video interviews, reports, and other programing may also be a component of the Press program.
- IV. At the Conference, Press Corps members will also take part in the always entertaining press conference. Questions of any topic, are asked by members of the press to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

Now everyone can be a member of the press by simply contacting one of the editors and submitting a written, photographic, or video piece. Contact us for more information at: caitlin.cavanagh@maymca.com

FOLLOW US

 @MaYouthAndGov

PRESS LEADERSHIP

The Y&G Press Corps will consist of around five members who will each be a Section Editor in charge of creating and curating content submitted from other delegates.

The press will be lead by an appointed Editor-In-Chief who must have at least one year of Y&G Press, or equivalent, experience.

ROAD MAP TO WRITING FOR INFORMATIVE & PERSUASIVE STORIES

1

HEADLINE

GOAL

To grab attention and give a preview of the story.

TO GET THERE

Use catchy phrases, exciting words. Tweak a famous motto or slogan. Make a pun. Change a well-known song or movie title. Use alliteration. Don't try to include too much; build your headline around the MOST IMPORTANT point. And don't be so clever that it's unclear what you're talking about!

LEDE

GOAL

The "lede" refers to the first one or two sentences of the story. They should be punchy and attention grabbing

TO GET THERE

Identify what is most important, interesting and unique part of the story that follows. It's a chance to elaborate on your headline by quickly fleshing out what your article is going to be about. Remember, these should be short – just a sentence or two!

If this is an informative piece: You won't be able to include many facts in a sentence or two. So think of this more like the "preview" to a movie. Lay out a sentence or two about the main thrust of your story, but make it sound interesting. Set the mood!

If this is a persuasive piece: In this case, you'll also want to make sure that your ultimate opinion comes through in the lede. Don't make people wait until the end to find out where you stand on an issue. Present it up front, and then go about providing your case.

NUT GRAF

GOAL

To summarize the story "in a nutshell paragraph." This is the first main paragraph of the story.

TO GET THERE

Include the 5W facts. WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, and WHY. Keep sentences simple and clear. When you're done, ask yourself: "If a person read ONLY this paragraph, would they basically know what the story is about?"

If this is an informative piece: Here and throughout the piece, remember to keep your language choice objective. Try not to include your own opinion on the person or issue you're covering. State facts, and keep emotion out of it. Be balanced!

If this is a persuasive piece: Be clear about how you feel. Use words that have strong emotion to them, and summarize the main points you plan to make throughout the rest of the piece, which is...

ROAD MAP TO WRITING FOR INFORMATIVE & PERSUASIVE STORIES

2

BODY

GOAL

To provide more information and fully tell your story.

TO GET THERE

Elaborate on facts. Organize them by importance.

Include quotes! Quoting a source is more interesting to readers than hearing the story only in your words. It's also a chance to include the subject's personality. A few tips on getting good quotes:

- **Prepare your questions.** Don't just wing it! You will probably have one chance to interview your subject, so come prepared with plenty of questions.
- **Think about the "Who, What, Where, When and Why."** Build questions that address each of these, since you know this is the most important information you'll want to include.
- **For every question, ask a follow-up question.** When your subject answers a question, always ask a follow-up before moving on to your next main question. It will help uncover new information that they may not have revealed the first time around. For instance:

Question: "Why did you decide to join Youth in Government?"

Answer: "I've been involved in my school's student council for a few years, so this seemed like a good next step!"

Follow-up Question: "What made you get involved in student council?"

Follow-up Answer: "Well, my father was on the city council and I think I might like to go into politics one day too – so the more practice, the better!"

In natural conversation, people rarely give the "full story" in the first response. So ask a follow-up to poke a little more!

- **Ask about facts AND feelings.** It's important to get the facts! But facts are easy to present in your own voice and not often necessary to quote. Use quotes to add a sense of "personality." So ask feelings-based questions like:

"Why is this issue important to you?"

"What inspired this idea?"

"What do you feel is the most exciting part of your bill?"

"Are you at all nervous to present it?"

ROAD MAP TO WRITING FOR INFORMATIVE & PERSUASIVE STORIES

BODY continued

- **Play “devil’s advocate.”** If you are interviewing someone about a bill or an issue, think of questions that the opposing side might ask. You don’t need to feel this way yourself! It’s important to be objective and see both sides of the issue. Taking an opposing argument is a good way to get someone to better explain a viewpoint. For instance:

“Some people who are against gun control say that the Second Amendment is sacred and can not be compromised. How do you respond to that?”

“You support the death penalty, but some people say it is too dangerous to risk the execution of an innocent person. Do you disagree?”

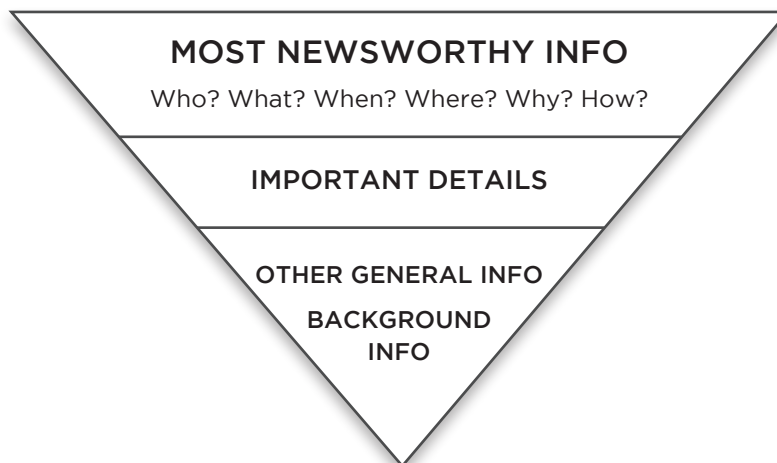
“Many people say bullying is a natural part of growing up, and that it happens to every-one at some point. They don’t think we need special rules. What do you think of that?”

- **Get different viewpoints.** If you are doing a one-on-one interview with someone or a profile piece, it’s fine to just talk to the main subject. But if you’re covering an issue, like a controversial bill, you should have THREE sources quoted. For instance: the person proposing the bill, someone who supports it, and someone who opposes it.

If you are writing an informative piece, this shows that you are being objective and not taking a side.

If you are writing a persuasive piece, you should still include something from an opposing side! In this case, it will give you an opportunity to include a common argument and provide your response.

As you write the body of your story, remember that the more important the information is, the closer to the start of the article it should be! Imagine an upside-down pyramid:



ROAD MAP TO WRITING FOR INFORMATIVE & PERSUASIVE STORIES

4

CONCLUSION

GOAL

To leave readers with a strong understanding of your piece - and its point.

TO GET THERE

For an informative piece: You can wrap up quickly. Reiterate the main point, and come full circle to your lede. A great way to conclude a piece is to use an especially great quote that ties things together!

For a persuasive piece: Take a little extra time to conclude. Summarize your main arguments, and revisit your strongest points quickly. End expressively, with a “grand finale” of excitement over your case. And include a “call to action”: suggest that readers vote a certain way, or give them suggestions on where to find more information.

HOW TO PITCH A STORY TO THE PRESS CORPS

PRESENT YOURSELF.

WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU WRITING? WHAT IS YOUR STORY SUGGESTION?

“Hi John, my name is Dave. I wanted to let you know I have a great story idea I’d love for you to consider in The Beacon. Right now there is a bill being considered that would require all teachers to have a Twitter account for interacting with students.”

INTEREST THE READER.

WHY IS YOUR STORY IDEA INTERESTING? WHAT MAKES IT IMPORTANT & UNIQUE?

“I think this is an important story because students conduct a huge part of their life on social media. It is a timely story because the news has paid a lot of attention to issues like cyber-bullying recently. And it is unique because right now, teachers are often encouraged NOT to interact with their students online.”

TELL A LITTLE INFORMATION.

WHO, WHAT, AND WHERE IS INVOLVED? WHAT’S THE BASIC GIST?

“I have drafted this bill and it is currently being reviewed. I come up with the idea after talking to some of my own teachers and getting their thoughts on new ideas to consider. The basic idea is that requiring teachers to have a Twitter account would allow them to supervise online conduct the same way they do in a classroom, and make sure that students are not bullying each other. It would also make it easier for students to get updates on class assignments, ask questions and get homework help.”

CHOOSE SOMETHING EXTRA TO HIGHLIGHT.

IS THERE ANOTHER UNIQUE ASPECT? AN UNEXPECTED TIDBIT?

“This idea also happens to be personal to me because my best friend was being harassed online. It spilled over into the classroom, and he began having a hard time concentrating on his work. His grades suffered, and our teacher didn’t understand why because he was embarrassed to tell her. If she knew what was happening online, she might have been able to intervene before it reached that point.”

HAVE AN OFFER TO HELP READY.

HOW CAN YOU BE REACHED? WHEN ARE YOU FREE TO TALK?

“I’d be happy to talk more about my bill and why I think it is important. My email is DaveSmith@gmail.com and my phone number is 617-123-4567. Feel free to call me anytime after 3 on weekdays, or let me know if you want to plan a specific time to talk. Thank you!”

THE DELEGATE'S GUIDE TO UTILIZING THE PRESS CORPS

Any delegate has the opportunity to submit an article idea, opinion, question or insight to the press corps. All you have to do is familiarize yourself with the many wonderful outlets that make submitting your opinion easy.

- All press delegates are more than happy to hear your ideas in person or through email.
- If your story idea grabs the attention of the press corps, it may make it into an issue of the newspaper (THE BEACON) that will be distributed at each session.
- There will also be a regularly updated blog that will feature additional story ideas that do not make it into the print newspaper, and keep readers update even in between sessions.
- A Twitter feed (@YIGPRESS) has also been set up. The press corps will use it to provide information about the sessions, reminders, quick updates, and links to news stories. Delegates are encouraged to use this to both obtain information and interact with the press corps directly

LEGISLATIVE

- Discuss with the press corps the possibility of having your bill covered in an editorial, where a reporter has the opportunity to discuss the content and construction of a bill. As many of these articles will be featured in either the paper or the blog, this is a wonderful opportunity to put your bill out there while getting a second opinion on technical and thematic details.
- Every year, the press corps participates in a press conference where the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Governor's Cabinet are presented with questions covering a number of aspects of the program. If you have a question regarding an aspect of the program, or if you would simply like to ask what the Governor's opinion of your bill is, submit your question through any one of the outlets listed above. **The submission of questions or observations extends to ALL delegates. The press wants to ask questions that its readers want to know!**

LOBBYIST

- As with legislative delegates, it would be a great idea to try to get coverage of a bill that you are lobbying for. Promoting a bill through the paper opens up the bill to a wider audience, thereby promoting discussion and addressing aspects of the bill that don't necessarily make it into committee. Create positive relationships with the press to help influence how they cover bills.
- **Monitor all bill articles.** You never know what facts or opinions, some of which could help you with your lobbying endeavors, you can pick up from a spirited, well-researched press delegate.

JUDICIAL

- Articles covering all judicial pre-trial and trial motions are usually featured content in the paper. If you have a quote or an observation about the trial, feel free to submit it. Anything that can possibly enhance an article's content is very much appreciated.
- Follow along with the reporting to see how the other trial (the trial taking place separately from your own in an entirely different room) is progressing.

EXECUTIVE

- At some point a press delegate will approach for an interview to profile your candidacy. This is an amazing opportunity to put yourself, your accomplishments, and your commitment out to the readership. Put thought into your responses – this is a great opportunity to gain supporters!
Make yourself easy to get in touch with.

Welcome to the 29th Annual Conference

By Benjamin Quinn, Editor-in-Chief

Welcome delegates, first-year participants and veterans alike, to the 29th annual YMCA Youth In Government Conference! Some of you have come bearing bills and counter-points, briefs and points of examination. Others have brought articles and interview prompts, fact sheets and statements. But regardless of your branch of choice and the work you have done for it, much preparation has brought you to the State House for this momentous, transformative occasion. You have successfully met deadlines, researched and obsessed over assignments, hashed and rehashed arguments, observed, questioned, and conquered your comfort zone, all in the pursuit of the greatest of possible results: a weekend spent in our capital city surrounded by a hundred other teenagers with very similar ambitions. Relish the diligence that has gotten you thus far, and congratulate yourself for your efforts - you deserve it! But also keep in mind that, despite the length and detail of your journey, this experience is still far from over. Indeed, it has only (and wonderfully!) just begun.



In regard to the Conference's chain of events: expect a great deal of activity from every branch of the program. In the Legislative branch, our esteemed committee chairs, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Attorney General, and members of the Governor's Cabinet will be overseeing more than seventy com-

mitted delegates who are now ready to present and debate their work. In the Judicial branch, appointed justices will guide delegates as they determine the fate of Jordan Bratton, a man accused of first-degree murder in this year's court case. The Lobbyists, divided into two teams, have drafted fact sheets, honed

their networking skills, and prepared themselves for some fierce competition in the race to get bills passed or failed. Here at the Press Corps, where we are always devoted to the spread of information, we will continue to find and share the news through the Beacon newspaper - and through our newest

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The Elite Eight: A Look at the Most Highly Anticipated Bills of 2013

This issue of the Beacon profiles bills that the press corp, aided by insightful input from the lobbyist branch, has determined to have great potential for discussion at this year's Conference. We expect them to be hotly debated and widely talked about. After determining these bills of special interest, Beacon reporters interviewed lobbyists and others to provide readers with an in-depth look at the legislation. Follow along with the information, opinions, and scenarios discussed in these articles, and keep an eye out for each of these bills as they are presented.

PN(B)1602-S

ORANGE COMMITTEE
SPONSOR // MICHAEL LETHIN

AN ACT TO: Secede from the United States of America.

By Sonya May

What if the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was no longer a state, but rather its own country? Would we prosper or would we collapse? According to delegate Michael Lethin, "innovation, progress, and growth can flourish to their full potential" if his bill, which proposes that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts secede from the Union, passes.

Michael Lethin, a senior in the BC High-Dorchester delegation, has proposed the bill "AN ACT TO Secede from the United States of America." If passed, the U.S. Government would no longer have any authority over the people and territory of Massachusetts, and the Commonwealth would be given a chance to prosper internationally on its own. The idea of seceding is not an unfamiliar topic to the fifty states. After President Obama's reelection, groups from all fifty states

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GR(B)1402-H

BLUE COMMITTEE
SPONSOR // BONNIE PAJIC

AN ACT TO: Allow prisoners serving life sentences the option to end their lives.

By Hannah Hayward

Locked away forever. That is the reality people face every day when they are sentenced to a lifetime in prison. Imagine being stuck in a confined area for the rest of your life. What if there was a way out? Would you be willing to take it?

Bonnie Pajic believes there is one way for criminals with life sentences to escape. Pajic has proposed a bill that would provide prisoners serving life sentences with an option to end their lives. Though the bill is mainly intended to affect prisoners, supporters say the taxpayers of the Commonwealth would also benefit due to decreased numbers of inmates. Pajic feels prisoners should be allowed to decide whether they want to live or not, and that it goes against the Eighth Amendment to force prisoners to stay alive in such conditions. "It is the prisoner's constitutional right to end their life," says Pajic.

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RD(A)1003-H

GREEN COMMITTEE
SPONSOR // THOMAS MANNION

AN ACT TO: Enforce mental health test for all citizens purchasing firearms in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By Amanda Madigan

The topic of gun control in the United States has created immense controversy, highlighting the sharp division of political parties and sparking zealous debate. Some argue that there should be more checks on purchasers of firearms in order to protect and save lives. But others protest that the Second Amendment and an American's right to easily purchase a gun should be protected. The debate has crossed over into the realm of Youth In Government, this year manifesting as a proposed act of legislation.

A bill proposed by Thomas Mannion of the BC High-Dorchester delegation would require mental health tests for all citizens purchasing firearms in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mannion says these tests will be carried out by police officers, many of whom have wit-

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YL(B)1506-H

PURPLE COMMITTEE
SPONSOR // MICHAEL PALADINO

AN ACT TO: Deny state funding for unnecessary medical procedures for convicted felons, including but not limited to sex-change operations, cosmetic surgery, and tattoo removal.

By Sydney Moran

Prisons and felons rely very heavily on taxpayers' money, often for clear and obvious reasons. But when Mike Paladino heard the story of Michelle Kosilek, he was outraged. Michelle Kosilek is a transgender woman who was arrested in 1993 for the murder of her wife. When she was convicted, she was put into a men's prison because she was still anatomically a man. Recently she went to a judge and requested to use taxpayer money to officially become a woman. Paladino says his problem is not with Kosilek's desire to have a sex change, but with taxpayer money being used to pay for it. Paladino has proposed a bill that would forbid felons from using taxpayer money to pay for a cosmetic surgery, citing sex changes and tattoo

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GR(B) 1402-H

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If the bill passes, prisoners will be allowed to end their lives after completing a series of examinations to determine their mental and physical state. The prisoner will need to serve their sentence for six months before they can request to end their life. The prisoner will then have to fill out two written requests and one oral test given by an attending physician. If the subject passes all tests, the convict will then sign the final agreement to end his or her life. The convict will first administer a syringe of anesthetic to their forearm before the physician takes over. After various injections of saline solutions, the physician would administer a paralyzing agent into the convict's arm followed by a toxic agent. One key aspect of the bill concerns physician practice. If

the physician does not perform the steps correctly, he or she can be charged for medical malpractice and sentenced to jail.

"Prison is like a concrete box that people are forced to live in," says Pajic. "There are no bills like this in the United States, but I believe it will not only help the prisoner but also the taxpayer. Taxes will go down and the amount of money [spent] for prisoners will also go down. It is really a win-win situation." Currently there are no bills like this being proposed anywhere in the United States. Although some states do have the death penalty, supporters say this is a humane way for someone to choose, on their own terms, whether or not to die. Δ

RD(A) 1003-H

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nessed the harmful effects of guns, in an attempt to "protect people in Massachusetts from another violent gun incident, such as the ones that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School and [in] Aurora." The bill would go into effect as soon as it is passed

Lobbyist Sam Schultze supports this bill. "It is just a good idea not to sell guns to the mentally unstable," says Schultze. He argues that despite the fact that many hold the Second Amendment to be sacred, it can be changed at any time in order to make the best choice for the country.

On the other hand, Governor Ryan Miller argues that mental illness is not central to this issue. He notes that Massachusetts Gen. Laws Ch. 140, I131 prevents those who have been treated for a mental illness from purchasing a gun or receiving a gun license. He argues that the effects of screenings will be minimal because "the mentally ill will find away around this via theft or fraudulent purchase."

With its share of both supporters and opponents, this bill and the controversial topic it addresses is sure to spark spirited conversation and debate at this year's conference. Δ

PN(B) 1602-S

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filed petitions for secession on the White House's website. This bill would affect our economy, defensive systems, and our reputation worldwide. The bill has many merits, says Lethin, "which include lower taxes and more money put into the Massachusetts economy because Massachusetts won't be responsible for paying off the Federal debt, or the debt of other states that are not as successful as Massachusetts."

Lobbyist Steve Simons supports the bill. "Massachusetts would be a top five country in the world when it comes to math and science whereas the United States as a whole is ranked in the mid-twenties," says Simons. "The state's resources would allow it to survive as a country that trades independently."

On the other hand, this bill would also affect our defensive systems. Unless future alliances or contracts are formed, the U.S. Military would no longer protect the Commonwealth.

Youth Governor Ryan Miller opposes the bill. "The United States of America was founded on principles of democracy and cooperation," says Miller. "We have gone through over two centuries of triumph and turmoil, but more importantly, we have done so as a united country. I find the proposed bill to be a mockery of the

morals our nation and state stand for, as well as a clear adversary to the legislative agenda of this administration."

Despite the 1869 Supreme Court decision in Texas v. White that unilateral secession was not permitted, Attorney General Evan Maras deems this bill to be completely constitutional. "The people have every right to leave the union if they feel that it is not perceived to be helpful for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," says Maras. He says The Constitution clearly states that, "whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Lethin's secession bill could potentially help Massachusetts become a small but worldwide superpower, or it could result in a collapse of power due to our lack of military defenses. Having the power to secede would bring states' rights to the forefront, but now it is up to the delegates to decide if Massachusetts should remain a state or become a country. Be sure to stop in during committee hearings to voice your opinion on this bill. Δ

YL(B) 1506-H

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request a cosmetic surgery believe they are in danger because of their gender or because they have a gang tattoo, it is the government's job to ensure their safety. They argue that a board of doctors may have biases against criminals, & may not keep their best interest in mind.

Attorney General Evan Maras believes that the bill is constitutional. "The Eighth Amendment says that the courts cannot impose excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishment, but denying a felon a cosmetic procedure or sex change is not infringing on those rights," says Maras. "Taxpayer dollars should not be used in any way to give convicted felons any sort of cosmetic surgery unless it is a serious health issue." He also says that any medical procedure should not go beyond the reaches of Medicare, which does not cover gender reassignment.

removals among them. Under the bill, exceptions might be made if a board of doctors determines that it is medically necessary to guarantee safety.

The bill has its supporters and opponents. Trent Chinnaswamy is one supporter. "When you commit a crime, especially one as serious as murder, and you are convicted, you lose some of the privileges that an innocent civilian has access to," says Chinnaswamy. "I believe one of those is cosmetic surgery in any form." He adds that a person who is not in jail would have to pay for the surgery on their own, and that it is unfair for convicted felons to have more privilege than someone who is innocent. He also believes that America's budget is already stretched to capacity, and that the money that would be used for these surgeries should be put toward other more important issues like education.

Those who oppose the bill say they are focused on the safety of the prisoners. For instance, they say, if the people who

The bill is sure to stir controversy. Though Maras says it is constitutional, Governor Ryan Miller believes that the passage of the bill could go either way. Miller agrees with the idea of the bill, but he also understands the concerns people would have about doctor's varying opinions on what constitutes cosmetic surgery. It remains to be seen whether the bill will be passed or not. Δ



TE(B)1702-H

RED COMMITTEE
SPONSOR // JAKE STEEVES

AN ACT TO: Ensure that news reporters wait a period of twenty-four hours prior to interviewing the victims of a tragedy.

By Ciana Bonfiglioli

A controversial new bill by Jake Steeves would require reporters to wait a period of twenty-four hours before interviewing victims of a tragedy. Steeves says that he created the bill to protect tragedy victims and protect them from exploitation by the media. "They [victims] were just put through a traumatic event, and [the questioning] could be harmful to them," says Steeves. He also says that the bill would be helpful to reporters, because after the waiting period victims will be more clear-headed and news could be reported more accurately. He is optimistic of the bill passing. "It has a good purpose behind it that can benefit a lot of parties," says Steeves.

When briefed on the bill, Governor Miller's immediate reaction was that the bill was, "very debatable, especially in light of recent events." However, he pointed out that freedom of press could be an obstacle to passing the bill. "It would be very hard to control due to various media outlets," he added. Miller understands the purpose of the bill and is sympathetic to the intentions behind it, but at this time he still opposes it.

Attorney General Maras also opposes the bill. "I do not see a purpose for this bill," stated Maras. "If a person does



not want to be interviewed, they simply do not give the reporter the time for an interview." He also finds the bill unconstitutional, saying it violates the freedom of the press. "Section Five of this bill is absolutely unconstitutional as it violates one of the most basic amendments that give us freedom in the country: the First."

Among the bill's supporters is lobbyist Krystina Stoker, who says that the bill would do more good than harm. She believes that the bill should be passed because it will give victims time to comprehend what has happened, it will help spread accurate information, and because a waiting period is a common courtesy to people who are affected by the event. "This does not mean that

reporters cannot get any information about what has happened," stresses Stoker. "Reporters can still ask people who live around the area, which were not directly affected."

But opposing the bill is lobbyist Ben McAuliffe. "The bill restricts the information that news reporters can use," says McAuliffe. "This, I believe, would put the security of the public at risk." He argues that the bill would be violating the First Amendment, which ensures freedom of the press. And he also says the bill would be hard to enforce. "In bill it says the reporters will be removed from a 100 yard radius of the victims," says McAuliffe. "There is no way of funding the police needed to do this". Δ

RD(A)1001-S

GREEN COMMITTEE
SPONSOR // LOUIS DEPACE

AN ACT TO: protect the confidentiality of the accused in the Commonwealth.

By Emma McPoland

When people see a blurred face on television, it usually means that the person does not want his or her face to be shown. A new bill introduced by Hockomock delegate Louis Depace would allow anyone being tried in a court of law to choose to obscure his or her identity in that way.

The bill would give people being tried for a felony crime the option to remain anonymous to the public until a verdict has been reached. That would mean that their trial would be closed to the public, their name would not be released to the public, any video footage taken must be blurred, and only when a verdict has been reached would information on the accused be released. The consequences for not respecting the confidentiality of the accused would be a fine up to \$300,000 and up to six months in prison.

Depace says this bill is important because it will protect those who are being accused. "If they are innocent they will not be prematurely judged," says Depace. For instance, he says, consider the case of Michael Jackson. "Michael Jackson was never found guilty when he was accused of child molestation, but people still judged him." Depace thinks the bill



will be passed because "there are many instances where the accused's name is destroyed" and many people will want to protect them.

Lobbyist Japheth Eloi is in favor of Depace's bill. "With this bill, suspects will be able to keep their reputation if they are charged with a crime and are not guilty," says Eloi. Governor Ryan Miller also currently supports it. "Once a person's name and identity is released to the public, their entire reputation with employers, neighbors, school, family, [and] the community is at stake," says Miller.

But is the bill considered constitutional? Yes, says Attorney General Evan Maras. "I do not see, in my opinion, any constitutional concerns about this bill," says Maras. He points to the recent cases of Casey Anthony and George Zimmerman. "Most media tried making it a case based on racial profiling and that was not the case," says Maras. "News Channels

like MSNBC doctored the police tapes and made it seem like Zimmerman was racially targeting the victim and people began to form opinions. Regardless of how the case turns out, Zimmerman will never get a good job and won't be able to lead a normal life."

Others have reacted negatively to the bill. Lobbyist Bryan Stoker believes it is unconstitutional "because it infringes upon citizens' first amendment rights" and that the punishment is so long that it would create chaos in the court system.

A bill that protects the identities and confidentiality of the accused in the Commonwealth is clearly a debatable piece of legislation, and it sure to get some attention. Debate is likely to revolve around its potential to limit the freedom of the press, and its ability to protect the identity of the accused. Δ

Christina O'Brien

TBD COMMITTEE
SPONSOR // CHRISTINA O'BRIEN

By Hannah Fuller

Fact: contraception is legal, and teenagers can use it. Now, legislation proposed by Christina O'Brien raises a new question: should schools be required to distribute birth control without letting parents know?

Under O'Brien's bill, all public high schools in the Bay State would be required to sell contraception cheaply and confidentially through their health or guidance departments. This, asserts Mahoney, would help shape the futures of teenagers by allowing them to prevent unwanted pregnancies. "The state of Massachusetts should support this bill because we take pride in our young adults; thus, it is our duty to give them the opportunity to shape their future in their own way," says lobbyist Liam Mahoney, a supporter of the bill. The bill has another powerful ally in Governor Ryan Miller, who says that the rates of teenagers having unprotected sex, as well as the negative effects of adolescent motherhood on society, are far too high. According to Advocates for Youth, a nonprofit organization that promotes youth education and awareness, 29 percent of teenagers say they would have unprotected sex. Furthermore, according to the ACLU, more than 50% of teenage mothers drop out of high school. There is a similar dropout rate for their children. "The issue of teen pregnancy in the Commonwealth is one too prevalent to ignore... I applaud Christina's intentions behind the bill and announce my full support on the legislation," declared Governor Miller.

However, this bill is not free of complications. "The government should not be taking on the role of a pharmacy," commented Attorney General Evan Maras. "The bill makes it seem that the government, through the schools, is promoting promiscuous activity without any parental consent overseeing a minor."

Also opposing the bill is lobbyist Meghan Quint. She argues that because parents have no say in whether their adolescent purchases contraception, this bill would undermine their right to make decisions over the actions of their children. Under the bill, all public high schools would be forced to carry contraception; if not, they would face loss of accreditation and paying a \$500 fine. That's too severe, says Quint. "A fine of five hundred dollars is taking away from new textbooks and teacher salaries," she says. "I don't believe loss of accreditation is fair either; if the bill was passed, it would be the school's fault for losing the accreditation, yet it would impact the students," Quint said. Both Quint and Maras agreed that the bill could be greatly improved by changing the penalties and requiring minors to receive guardian permission to receive birth control.

All in all, it's a battle of rights in order for this bill to be passed: between the right of parents to know if their child is having sex, and the right of teens to access birth control. The legislation will receive its verdict at the conference. Δ

PR(A)1202-H

PINK COMMITTEE

SPONSOR // MEGAN CONCANNON

AN ACT TO: Ban public smoking in major Massachusetts cities.

By Bianca Williams

A bill proposed by Megan Concannon would ban all public smoking in cities in Massachusetts with a population exceeding eighty thousand people. Concannon says that the bill would reduce the dangers that secondhand smoke presents to the health of Massachusetts residents. It would also reduce negative environmental impact; smoke contributes to air pollution, and discarding cigarette butts on the ground can lead to the death of animals and fish that consume them. Concannon says her bill was inspired by her frequent trips to Boston, where she often noticed the presence of smokers. "Innocent people should not be exposed to a harmful environment against their will," says Concannon. "Secondhand smoke is a major burden in our society today."

Lobbyist Gwyneth Miner, who supports the bill, adds that every year more people die from tobacco than HIV, illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined. "It's pretty straight forward," says Miner. "Secondhand smoke is bad for everyone's health and we should not be subjected to a health risk we do not want. Therefore public smoking should be banned to help improve the lives of Massachusetts Citizens."



Not everyone agrees. "I disagree with this bill only because various non-smoking laws already exist," says Governor Ryan Miller. "Smoking can be addictive, so in a way smokers have no choice whether or not to smoke." He adds that he does not see public smoking as a prominent issue in today's society. Miller also says that if public smoking is banned, then smokers would be limited to smoking only in their homes; this would put their children at an even higher risk of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Attorney General Evan Maras argues that the bill is unconstitutional. He believes that it is impractical too. "You might as well ban trains and cars and anything else that can release toxic

chemicals that are used more often than cigarettes," says Maras. Rebutting Concannon's argument that inhaling secondhand smoke can cause multiple diseases, Maras points to media research conducted by Dr. Michael Siegel of the Office of Smoking and Health at the Centers for Disease Control at Boston University Medical Center. Maras says that research found it is untrue to assert that brief exposure to secondhand smoke can cause cardiovascular disease.

Lobbyist April Hunt agrees. She says there are hundreds of toxic chemicals that we are exposed to even more regularly than secondhand smoke, and that these carcinogens are more likely to contribute to health issues in the average citizen. Part of Concannon's bill states that there would be specific buildings in which smokers could smoke in, and Hunt calls attention to how this could definitely contribute to a higher risk of health issues for current smokers. She says placing many smokers in a confined area would elevate their intake of secondhand smoke and put their wellbeing at higher risk. "It is up to the people of the United States to make good decisions," says Hunt. "Individuals should not need to be directed by the American government to restrict them from what is good and bad for their bodies."

Concannon clearly sees her bill as a solution to problems in modern society. But the main questions are: is the bill constitutional and how will the public react? Though the Governor and Attorney General are against this bill, only time will tell if that changes at Conference. Δ

Welcome...

Continued from page one

development, the Beacon blog. Finally, the Lieutenant Governor and Governor, having already charted the development of our Conference, will continue to guide us with thoughtful words and motivating insights until – after all is said and done – we finally declare another Conference finished and accomplished.

Over the last couple of years, many themes, slogans, and insights have been used to establish the foundation of each Conference. There were the words of Mahatma Gandhi, who once mused during his revolutionary moments that it is imperative to "be the change you wish to see in the world." There was the Latin phrase "carpe diem" ("seize the day"). And there was the simple advice to embrace individuality, reflected in the motto, "Your Choice." But throughout it all, the foundation of every year has rested upon one simple, irreversible truth: this is our program. This is our opportunity to take chances, embrace our inner voice, find ourselves, refuse to be silent, and establish bonds with people in an environment that has fostered some of the most powerful friendships imaginable. In this program, regret only comes from the confines of a comfort zone; embracing every opportunity, no matter how intimidating it may appear, always manifests as growth.

So what are the three most important things that you all should have packed for Conference? An open mind, an unstoppable work ethic, and the courage to seize the day. Δ

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Sabrina Holland

for **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

Written by **RAIYA SULIMAN**

There is no doubting that senior Sabrina Holland, of the Marshfield delegation, is ready to serve as next year's Speaker of the House. She views herself as a servant leader, and through her service, Holland hopes to encourage youths to speak up for what they believe in - no matter their age or position. She plans on implementing a tally-system in which speakers will be recorded for the number of times they contribute to debates and discussions. Under Holland's guidance, clerks will be asked to send notes of encouragement to delegates who may be shy, but whose ideas are equally indispensable.

Citing wise words from John F. Kennedy, Holland is an impassioned supporter of working across the aisle: "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer for the people." Of the many qualities the ambitious delegate has to

be proud of, to her, being a strong and leading female is paramount. Referring to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as her inspiration, Holland is a strong believer that resilience and perseverance is key.

As for Holland's many achievements as a Youth and Government member, perhaps the most exciting was her time serving as a senator and getting her foster care bill passed and enacted as a veritable state law.

When all is said and done, Holland's campaign slogan says it all: Time for Change. Holland recognizes the need for more women in politics and values strength through working together across lines of division. To be elected would be a privilege, and Sabrina Holland won't let anything stand in her way of providing for her fellow community: "I will let no one intimidate me... I'm hungry to work for the people here in Youth and Government, and I am ready to serve."



Salim Metri

for **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

Written by **RUDECIA BERNARD**

After sitting down with Salim Metri, a candidate for Speaker of the House from the B.C. High delegation, one thing was very clear: to him, respect matters. Metri began to tell the story of the bill he presented last year, which focused on the controversial subject of gun laws. He knew that he needed to utilize the allotted time to its fullest if he wanted to earn enough votes for his bill to pass. He shared that the Speaker of the House at the time did not like that he needed more time. "He didn't respect my ability [and] my right to defend what I have to say," he added. Although his bill failed by a slim margin, he was not incredibly concerned with his lack of success, instead more upset with having his rights infringed upon in a critical moment. Not wanting anyone to have a negative experience like his, Metri was motivated to run for the position himself, saying that his goal is to, "respect those who put in the work," and even

those who didn't put in too much work. I want to give them a chance."

The Speaker hopeful also expressed that he wanted to inspire first-year delegates to give them a more wholesome experience. "I want to give them the chance not only to see other people who are enormously inspired, but to see those who thrive so they can be inspired to thrive as well." Beyond aiming to encourage others, Metri wanted to bond with them, explaining, "I want people to walk up to me after my speech and feel like they know me." His admiration of former presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan stems from their possession of similarly personable qualities.

A fourth year delegate, Salim Metri has a dedication to respect and connecting with others that pushed him to run for Speaker of the House this year.



Ian O'Malley

for **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

Written by **ABBY JUKNAVORIAN**

Ian O'Malley of the Marshfield delegation is running for Speaker of the House. The delegate takes a lot of inspiration from his grandfather. "He worked really hard to give my dad a good life and my dad works really hard to provide a good life for me and my brother," O'Malley says. "I think just a simple work ethic really sticks with me." He strongly feels that careful preparation and research can make or break a bill. "The devil is in the details," he says.

A Speaker of the House must be able to encourage others to speak openly about their opinions and ideas. O'Malley plans to accomplish this by making sure that everyone feels comfortable, especially when in larger committees. "I want to make sure debate is facilitated well and to ensure that all opinions, no matter a personal bias or what not, is heard."

O'Malley also sees his leadership style as laid back and more low-key, drawing inspiration from soccer player Lionel Messi. "He's not flashy and he tries to help out his other teammates. I really think those are qualities a soccer player has that a speaker can also have." The delegate from Marshfield also believes that his leadership experiences, like his house clerk positions and CONA sections, emphasize his abilities and strengths within the program.

Ian O'Malley is ready to take on the Speaker of the House position with an open mind and a strong and encouraging personality to help all delegates be the best they can be.



Owen Boyd

for **SENATE PRESIDENT**

Written by **ABBY REYES**

Marshfield delegation's Owen Boyd is running for Senate President. When talking to Boyd, we discussed many different things including who he admires most. Boyd chose to recognize Steve Carrell's sense of humor, but ultimately referenced former Youth and Government Speaker of the House, Zachary Ettridge, who he wants to model his leadership style after. Boyd explained why he admired Ettridge and said, "I thought he was a really good Speaker of the House last year because he did try to encourage people who didn't usually to talk up. And I just want to model my leadership style after his."

Owen Boyd's plan to urge others to speak up includes setting an encouraging theme and advocating legislative delegates to relay the message to others. "I also would probably try to do it individually," he explained, "like if I see some other students who are kind of struggling to speak up, I would go to them individually in between sessions and just try to encourage them."

At the time of his interview, although it may not be official, Boyd is thinking of making his bill one that challenges the federal immigration laws that have been passed through the administration. He explained his reason by saying, "Because I was thinking it was important to welcome as many people as possible into our country. I think there's economic benefits as well as just human rights." When it comes to others bills, a bill he would try to support is debatable and well-researched, and a bill he wouldn't support lacks planning or the delegate presenting is not well-prepared.

On the topic of what leadership skills he has for the position, Owen cites his ability to plan things out ahead of time in order to better execute them. He also says that he is not the most vocal or outspoken person, but he does put more effort into planning and trying to carry out what he plans.



Steve Nguyen

for **SENATE PRESIDENT**

Written by **KEI BAYRAMSHIAN**

Steve Nguyen of the Malden delegation is running for Senate President. Nguyen considers himself a people person and one who makes a conscious effort to approach and involve delegates he observes struggling or wanting to participate. He made it clear that he takes pride in recognizing when people are passionate to help them thrive in areas where they feel especially comfortable, as he believes that passion, in addition to very thorough research, is a key component to writing a bill. "I want to be able to connect with every single delegate," Nguyen says.

Though aware of the unlikelihood of this goal, Nguyen explains that he currently takes this approach to guiding others without being in a position of leadership. "I feel as though, if I'm in the position of Senate President, I will have the ability to affect a wider range of people," he adds. As Senate President, Nguyen would work to make sure everyone's voice is heard, as engagement not

only in the program, but with everyone else involved in it, is of utmost importance to him. "That's one of the things I find most important in leadership: the ability to talk to vastly different people." When asked what public influencer acts as a role model in his life—before his icons Cristiano Ronaldo and Gary Vaynerchuk—Nguyen preferred to put first his own brother, whose experience and strength he admires a great deal. He would rather pursue more realistic and immediate goals in idolizing those around him, as he explains, "I don't want to emulate someone I can't relate to... Instead, I look toward my peers—my fellow students, people closer to my age—first."

Nguyen is confident that "good things come as a result of your work ethic, and while talent and natural ability can take you far, to be able to get to that upper echelon I feel that you have to make sure your work ethic exceeds your talents."



Youth & Government
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Goodbye State Senate. 🙋

By RAIYA SULIMAN



MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATORS WAVE GOODBYE TO THEIR JOBS AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE Y&G KY BILL.

Brendan Ky, a delegate from Malden, is prepared to turn some heads with his upcoming bill proposal: dissolving the State Senate. He claims that the process of passing a piece of legislation in the current government system is too “cumbersome.” By eliminating the Senate at a state level, there will be less of an “overhead” when approving and implementing government aid in times of crisis. Brendan believes that the only reason the nation still upholds the Senate system is because “that’s how Britain did it, and we never really decided to change it since we declared independence,” and that it deliberately slows down the government.

He acknowledges that, yes, the Senate at a federal level is necessary in providing checks and balances, but at the state level, intentional deceleration does more harm than good. To prove his point, Brendan reflected upon the Hurricane Sandy disaster that occurred just two months prior to the drafting of his bill: “It took months for the government to roll out any sort of real aid to the people who were affected, and it cost billions of dollars of damage in Massachusetts. It’s a legitimate problem with real-world consequences for hundreds of people.”

The ambitious delegate is convinced that the lack of timely governmental response to situations such as this one is, in part, a result of the problematic State Senate framework. He explained that in order for a bill to be approved and implemented, one house, either the Senate or the House of Representatives, must pass the bill and send it to the other house to edit. Once revisions have been made, the bill is returned to the original house and must be reviewed and edited once again. Only then can a governor ratify the legislation. “By eliminating the Senate, you can eliminate that clunky overhead.”

Despite the valid points supporting Brendan’s bill, he knows that there will be push-back from the Y&G community: “People kind of take it for granted that that’s how the government works and this shock makes them question all of that.” Prepared to defend his ideas, Brendan has already managed to change some minds and alter some perspectives on the topic of dissolving the State Senate; he truly believes that this is a necessary modification, and that in this day and age, it’s “time for change.”

Honestly, What the Heck?

By VIVIAN NGUYEN



A FAMILY REUNION PHOTO / GREAT PLACE TO GET A DATE.

Every year, bills written about topics such as marijuana and abortion never fail to make the conversation, but this year, Riley DiPillo, a legislative delegate from Pioneer Valley, introduced an uncommon topic: incest.

DiPillo’s “bill would legalize marriage between blood related couples. It would allow all people eighteen and older to marry whomever they choose regardless of relation.” DiPillo states that “the goal of this bill is to further marriage equality and to practice what we preach when it comes to freedom of marriage.”

DiPillo proposed this idea because he believes that the stigma surrounding blood related couples is so overwhelming in our society. “Even the most staunch believers in marriage equality don’t think about blood related couples.” He hopes to live in a world where people are not ignored, hated, and rejected from our society because of something that is beyond their control. “We all have the right to marry whomever we choose and society does not have the right to tell people who they can and cannot marry.”

DiPillo points out that the same stigma of incest being “gross, and unnatural, just not right” existed for same sex marriages until a movement began that changed many minds and shifted society’s outlooks. DiPillo, who was once against the legalization of incest, was inspired by a conversation brought up by his advisor, Greg Baker, on the topic of incest. DiPillo shares that he “argued with him disagreeing thoroughly with the idea of blood related marriage” for a while, but then realized his own prejudice.

I realized that it isn’t about what I think is gross or who I would or wouldn’t marry. It’s about allowing every person in the world to love and marry anyone regardless of who their background and where they come from. And it’s not my right to decide who other people can and can’t love fully.

DiPillo hopes his bill will further the meaning of marriage equality and believes that we can be the start of a major shift in our societal outlook.

The Cost of Life.

By RAIYA SULIMAN



WARNING: THIS PHOTO MAY CONTAIN NUTS.

Thomas Smith, a senior of the Stoughton Delegation, is determined to ensure the “safety and security of the people of Massachusetts, who at no fault of their own have an allergy,” by proposing a bill centered around the mandatory presence of epinephrine shots in restaurant settings.

After a jolting incident involving his younger brother, Thomas was exposed to the realities surrounding the lack of focus on allergens in public eating establishments. While visiting a bakery, Thomas’ brother ingested a brownie that had not been properly labeled for containing nuts. His brother entered a state of severe anaphylaxis and did not have his epinephrine shot at the time of ingestion; “Simply enjoying a brownie, became a near death experience, as he had forgot to bring his EpiPen with him to a bakery he had visited dozens of times.” Fortunately, Thomas’ brother survived the incident, but the conscientious delegate knows that “others aren’t as lucky, and some that do escape death, have to spend extended amounts of time in hospitals.” So, what exactly is Thomas prepared to do about all this? He wants to start by shifting society’s core health care values by proposing a bill that won’t upset the status quo.

His legislation will require restaurants that sell certain allergens to carry an EpiPen, an auto-injection that contains adrenaline which is a hormone used to reverse anaphylactic shock in persons with severe allergies.

Thomas wants to lessen the burden on those who live with these life-threatening allergies and reduce the likelihood of death simply because of a “slip of judgement in not checking the ingredients list” or forgetting to “carry and replace an expensive medical device that has to be on them at all times.”

The Stoughton senior is also aware of the controversy behind his proposal: “If every restaurant in Massachusetts was to take part in program, around 11 million dollars in tax revenue per year would be lost assuming that the Public Health Department would recommend the well known epi-pen at base cost.” With this in mind, however, Thomas is certain that “the cost incurred on emergency services every year by anaphylactic-shock-related incidents will be greatly reduced, and the cost of life is far greater.”

He is also hopeful that, if the bill is indeed implemented in the state of Massachusetts, the Public Health Department could begin negotiations on lowering EpiPen prices due to heavy demand. But to those who still oppose Thomas’ proposal, he can only speak from past experience: “I would say that this is common sense legislation meant to improve public health by simply installing a preventive measure for a common health issue. Think of the fear that must live in every man, woman, and child when they carry out such a miniscule act of buying a brownie, simply because they are born with an allergy.”

It’s Time Ladies.

By RUDECIA BERNARD

Of the bill ideas submitted by delegates for Pre-Ledge 3, an act written by Shakyra Antoine stood out. Antoine, of the Malden delegation, proposed the idea of creating a college advisory board that women could join in order to gain more influence on decisions made at public colleges and universities across Massachusetts.

After agreeing to an interview, Antoine discussed the inspiration for her concept. Antoine first referred to the recent social climate in the country, saying, “2017 was a very controversial year, so when you see movements like the #MeToo or ‘Time’s Up,’ all of these women trying to empower one another and stand up against injustices that are going on, you gain inspiration.” She also cited the implementation of a similar program at Harvard University that works to improve the quality of life for female faculty and students.

Antoine was then questioned whether or not she considered her bill “controversial.” She expressed that she did not think there was much room for debate, firmly stating, “It’s definitely one of the newer ideas that has been bounced around, but I don’t see [it] as something that’s super controversial. It’s more something that should happen.”

It was clear that Antoine was positive of her bill’s legitimacy, as she demonstrated similar confidence when arguing that her plan was not showing preferential treatment toward women. She remarked: “When you look at society, and you see how much influence the genders have had, you can tell that men have had a greater influence.” Antoine continued, “This is just giving a platform for women to have that same power.”

After providing her thoughts on the bill’s relevance as a whole, Antoine delved into the specifics. Her bill stated a meeting with the school’s dean would be scheduled every quarter, trimester, or semester, and that outside of this, the group would meet twice per month. To elaborate she said, “I had originally said that the council would meet with each other twice a month, but now I’m deciding between that and having [the meetings] closer to the timeline of the talks with the dean. That might make it easier for more improvements to be made.”

Another part of Antoine’s bill discussed the consequences for universities that refused to comply with the bill. “5% of the school’s funding would be cut. I felt cutting some of the money was best because it sends a clear message to those schools and all the faculty there that this is important... we need to empower this gender that has been made so inferior by our society,” she said.

Antoine leaves the conversation with some final thoughts about her bill, “I think the bill speaks for itself in terms of empowering women and making sure that their voices are heard and that they are given the same opportunities and platform as men are.”

Shakyra Antoine’s bill to create an advisory council on college campuses seeks to progress women’s places by giving them influence over choices that will affect their education.

An End to Privatized Foster Care.

By JULIA RYAN

Rena Coben, a third year delegate from the West Roxbury Delegation, believes that by contracting out to privatized foster care agencies, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is essentially “paying other people to do what it’s supposed to be doing.” Her bill strives to “eliminate profitability and lack of accountability from the foster care system” by banning privatized foster care and expanding state foster care.

In order to enact such change, Coben’s bill calls for a yearly review of DCF by the Foster Care Accountability Task Force. Upon the eventual shutdown of privatized foster care agencies, the state will assume full responsibility of children in the foster care system. A five year transition period will precede the bill’s eventual enforcement.

Regardless of one’s opinion on privatized versus public foster care agencies, it is undeniable that hiring an increased number of social workers will in turn reduce DCF employees’ tremendous caseloads and, as a result, improve the care received by children in the foster care system. In her bill Coben aims to enforce a “case-to-social worker ratio [that] does not exceed one to twelve and secure enough foster homes for their projected caseload such that the ratio of foster homes to foster children does not exceed one to four.”

When interviewed, Coben recognized that, “money spent contracting to other people would actually be in the budget to spend on [the state’s] own workers,” therefore a portion of funding could be found by simply realocating current funds.

By year two of the transition period, the Foster Care Accountability Task Force will rate agencies on a scale of one to four (four being the worst). The level four agencies, by the third year, must turn their cases over to DCF, undergo an investigation by the Attorney General of Massachusetts, and eventually shut down. This series of events will repeat over the fourth year with the level three agencies; and by year five, DCF will assume full responsibility of all cases. Any privatized agency that does not comply will be fined \$2 million and be shut down immediately.

On a personal level, Coben recalls her mother’s unstable childhood and she believes that “in another world [her mother] probably would have been placed in foster care.” Much of this personal inspiration and incentive to make change was realized earlier in high school, as she began researching the current foster care system in Massachusetts and across the United States.

Coben believes accountability is lost in the current system, buried within the stacks of children’s files that may or may not be reviewed. The agencies where kids should be guaranteed help is oftentimes the place they are most vulnerable to further harm. Children, especially those who were already dealt a difficult hand in life, should not suffer the consequences of a disorganized system. In Rena Coben’s eyes, the solution to this problem is the banning of privatized foster care agencies to expand Massachusetts state foster care.

What’s the Trial About?

By AL AKSADI



AN IMPORTANT JUDICIAL PERSON (AS INDICATED BY THE ROBE) PROBABLY READING THE Y&G NEWSPAPER.

Another college party has turned fatal when a security officer was reported unconscious and fatally wounded with an injury to the head, bringing up some intense questions about alcohol and hazing.

On May 15, 2016 at 10:45 p.m. Lee Valdez and Sam Spencer responded to a call on 2200 block of Lotus Avenue, an off-campus house for Central Coast University athletes, to investigate a reported burglary from several vehicles in the encompassing area.

Valdez educated the nearby police and proceeded to walk down Lotus Avenue in search of the suspect while Sam Spencer remained near the cars. Valdez ended up across the street from the track team house, where he caught sight of a hooded figure holding what he could make out to be a screwdriver in one hand.

Valdez requested for reinforcement, and approached the suspect who is distinguished as Casey Barns, an upperclassman and the co-captain of the track team. At the same time that this was happening, there was a party being held at the track team house across the street.

Jamie Hayes was attending this party when he noticed that Casey Barns was arguing with Lee Valdez and saw a brief struggle where Valdez pinned Barns to the ground. Hayes grabbed a baseball bat and struck Valdez in the head which knocked him out and instantly set him in a coma. He was later pronounced dead from an aneurysm which was the after effect of the head trauma.

Hayes is being charged with first-degree murder. There is little evidence to use against Hayes except for a diagram of the area surrounding 2400 block on Lotus Avenue and a mysterious anonymous letter which was supposedly mailed to Valdez on April 5, 2016 after he had responded to a routine call for a domestic disturbance between a few Central Coast University athletes. The letter stated, “Valdez, watch out! We know you want us out, and we are gonna stand up and fight.” The anonymous threat was postmarked April 4 from Anderson, Massachusetts.

The facts do not stack up in Hayes’ favor, but we will have to wait and see if the evidence provided is enough for the mock trial teams to be able to bring justice to the case.

CONA/NJC: You Won't Regret It.

By EMMA MURPHY

CONA, the Conference On National Affairs, was easily the most memorable and impactful week of my life, right after the week my sister was born, which was memorable and impactful in a completely different way, considering I threw up the first time I saw her.

At CONA, however, I felt more connected to strangers than I ever have before. Arriving at the airport on that first morning, I didn't talk to anyone. I hugged my parents goodbye, and rolled my suitcase to stand on the outside of the group, nervous, lonely, and feeling completely out of my element.

But on that first night, in the beautiful mountains of Blue Ridge, North Carolina, the Massachusetts delegation gathered in our little common area and began to discuss our highs and lows of the first day.

We had a session that day with delegates from all over the country to present our proposals for the first time that week--to gauge how others would react-- and one of the proposals in my group was about testing for rape kits. One girl had a pro argument, explaining that recently in her neighborhood a girl was raped so badly she couldn't walk.

This story was very emotional for me, and I started to tear up, but as I looked around at the other members of the session, it didn't seem like anyone else was as affected. I started to feel really bad for myself, because I was letting my emotions get the better of me, while others knew how to react with intelligence and maturity.

So, in a moment of courage, I shared this story as my low with the MA delegation. There was a period of silence, and I could hear my heart start to break and my

confidence shatter, and then the most unlikely delegate spoke, and he told me that everyone gets emotional, and in fact, a similar story happened to him. His comment spurred discussion within our MA group, and everyone input their opinions, and we came to the realization that our emotions allow us to find passion for change. In the end, everyone was grateful I had been honest about my fears, and needless to say, in the airport after we arrived back home, I hugged every single member of the delegation.

Throughout the week, I gained so much confidence, learned so much about myself, and the world around me, that prejudices I had held for so long vanished, and words I was too scared to say, began to flow from my mouth like a river.

And I wasn't the only one who felt this way. I asked a couple of CONA returnees, Andrew Tran, Lana Giha, and Ian O'Malley about how they felt upon leaving the national conference.

They all agree that CONA is an eye opening experience. Giha says that she "got to experience so many different opinions and didn't have a one track mind as a result" of her experiences there. Tran agrees, saying that even with the vast number of different states either next to our own, or on the opposite coast, everyone was accepting of all ideals, which really showed that it's "possible to have a civil debate about solutions to our problems" whether ideologies conflict or not.

If the state conference is the best experience you've had, CONA is that experience multiplied by ten. As O'Malley puts, CONA is like our conference "on steroids."



THIS COULD BE YOU IF YOU IF YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TO CONA/NJC BEFORE THE DEADLINE, THURSDAY MARCH 22 @ 9AM.

Giha believes that CONA really instilled a confidence in her ability to speak her mind, and O'Malley believes that the program made him better at working with others.

Each one of them can attest to the friendships made at CONA. Tran became close with Texas delegates, O'Malley with a delegate from Connecticut, and Giha developed a bond with another first year delegate from Wyoming, who helped push her to speak.

I myself, along with my fellow Massachusetts delegate Andrew Czazasty, became friends with Cameron Davis of Virginia, and at least friendly with Braeden Pugh of California.

I could talk forever about how much I loved the conference, and all the friends and memories I made there, but what does CONA really entail? Much like conference, each delegate writes a "proposal," similar to a bill, of national or international importance. Then there are several committees you go through, starting with about 20 delegates per one room, all the way up to 650 delegates. O'Malley remarks that speaking in front of that large of an audience, took away any "ounce of stage fright" he ever had.

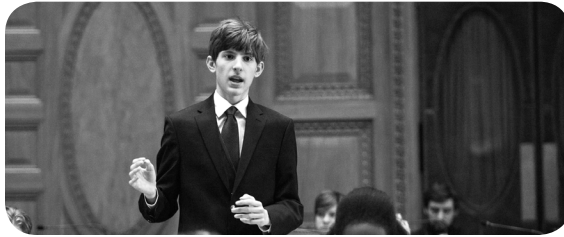
Each day you are served breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and end with a community prayer (not necessarily religious). On the second day, all of the delegates exchange t-shirts with other states to get to know one another. In the middle of the week, there's a pick your activity time, where many delegates choose to go on the infamous hike up the Blue Ridge mountain trail. The trail is not for the faint of heart, but is quite a team building experience, especially when other random delegates grab your hand and pull you up giant boulders. There's a dance, and a closing ceremony bonfire. But overall the week is jam packed with debate and fun.

The cost of the program may seem daunting, but there is tons of opportunities for fundraising, so that shouldn't stop any delegate.

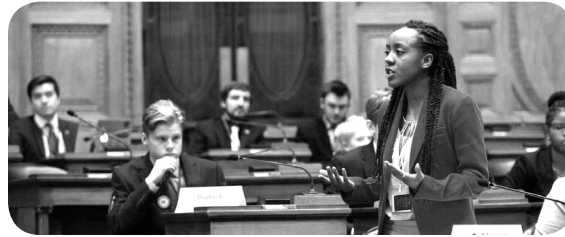
For those debating about whether or not to apply, and once accepted, to attend. Tran tells them to "Just do it! Oh my goodness it's an experience of a lifetime!" Giha says "Don't even hesitate!" And finally the parting words of O'Malley: "Listen to me, you're gonna fill out that application form. If you get in, you're gonna go. It's as simple as that."

Don't Stress About Failure.

By EMMA MURPHY



"THE HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE IS LIT."



"100%"

This year I convinced a lot of my close friends to join Youth and Government, and even now, after three Pre Ledges, they're nervous about presenting their bill and having it fail. But I don't share that same sense of dread for them, not just because I'm in the Press Corps, and don't have to present my own bill, but because I know that they'll enjoy the program even if their bills do fail committee.

My friend Zach Robinson has pointed out to me on numerous occasions, with the same peppy, optimistic tone each time, that none of his bills have made it past first committee. And he is resolute in the fact that failure didn't drastically affect his enjoyment of the program at all. Actually, he says those failures helped him grow as a delegate.

For this article, I interviewed him again and even though I already knew the answer, I asked, "Have any of your bills ever failed?" And Robinson responded with "Oh you have no idea," just as cheerily as any time the topic is brought up. He says that sometimes failure "just happens" and "not everyone can pass their bills."

He even brings up the benefits of failing first committee. He says that the failure of his own bill made him "focus more on debating other bills and researching those"

because "it took off the stress of having [his] own bill." Thus, with the extra time for researching other bills, Robinson had a lot more things to say in the House and Senate, so he could participate a lot.

He's not alone in his sentiments about failure. Berenger Dufresne also failed first committee but he says "it didn't make [him] not want to come back again," because he "can look at what [he] did then and know what [he] need[s] to do now, to get [his] bill passed."

James George, who failed his during his first year as well, agrees, saying that "he got to experience other people's bills passing," so the conference wasn't a loss at all. He says to newer delegates: "Don't be shy."

Mia Ihegie says that her failures are making her "work twice as hard" to get her bill passed in the House and Senate, emphasizing that failing the first time, "is a sign you're gonna want to work harder to present your bill" the next time.

So, to fearful first delegates, know that failure is sometimes inescapable, but its not the end, merely the beginning. Besides, in the words of Dufresne, "you're gonna have chances to have fun, to still have experiences, and there's probably gonna be a next year."

Conference Survival Guide

By JESSIKA CROCKETT-MURPHY

Conference is the biggest event of the year for YAG. A three day long event where everything the delegates have been working on all come together. The conference takes place in the Statehouse, where delegates debate and propose their bills. Then, relax and sleep in the historic (and haunted) Omni Parker House Hotel. The days are full of fun, suspense, and memorable moments. To some, the prospect of conference may seem a bit intimidating, but follow these next few tips, and conference will be one of the greatest times of your life.

1. Bring along some essentials to get through each day:

- A bottle of hand sanitizer (for shaking all those hands)
- Some gum (to ward off bad breath during committees)
- A small pack of tissues (for surprise allergies and *all the feels* during the banquet)
- Comfortable but still formal shoes (you'll be thankful for this tip later)
- WATER! (always keep a bottle with you to stay hydrated and ready to talk)
- A light snack (have one on you, but be sure to eat it at an appropriate time)

2. Clothes:

Remember, Boston temperatures fluctuate drastically through the day, so bring some extra layers to keep your buns warm. Just don't show up to the state house in flannel jammies.

3. Don't be afraid to participate:

If you feel very passionate about a bill, voice that opinion! Make picket signs and try to start a communist revolution (I'm just kidding please don't do that). YAG is a very comfortable program for people afraid of public speaking. Giving your insight on a bill makes it feel more personal, and might raise the chances for the ruling to go your way.

4. It's YOUTH & Government:

While you should try to act grown up and mature, you can still have fun. Laugh with your friends and commemorate the event. Take pictures, bring some money for the gift shop, or kidnap Governor Cantwell. You are still allowed to have fun, and you should!

5. Ghosts:

Yes, the hotel is haunted! Try leaving change on the nightstand and see if in the morning its organized. Just don't scream too loud when you hear a bump in the night or see something in the corner of the room, it's probably just a press member taking pictures (we're clingy people).

6. Bill didn't pass committee:

Don't worry! You will still have an amazing time at conference. Seeing your fellow delegates propose their bills in the house of chambers, or watching the trial fully come together will still be just as memorable no matter your role. You won't want to leave by the end of it all, but, please make sure you do we can't lose another one.



Youth & Government
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THE BEACON

MASSACHUSETTS Y & G NEWS ★ 2017 ISSUE 2

SHARING IS CARING!

BY ABIGAIL JUKNAVORIAN

They say that sharing is caring and that's exactly what the Legislative branch is in for at conference this year! This year, the senate chambers are going to be under construction, resulting in the house and senate being combined as one. I have taken the time to interview the Speaker of the House, Sean Toomey and the Senate President, Carlos Tamayo to get their perspectives on what it is going to be like sharing the spotlight.

Question: How do you two feel about sharing the house?

Carlos Tamayo, Senate President: I think it gives me a sense of security. The roles can be very overwhelming having to manage time and having to keep the rules in place. I think it's going to be a good opportunity for Sean and I to work together and help each other out because it can be very stressful. I am a little sad that the senate chamber is under construction. I felt very comfortable there last year because you can see everyone easily. However, since I have already been in the house and I am also familiar with how it works I think it is going to be easy to adapt to the change.

Sean Toomey, Speaker of the House: I think it will be a unique experience that not many or any of the other speakers or senate presidents will be able to share.

Q: How will you manage to maintain a balance of power?

SP: I know that we will be taking turns but I think we're both not too sure about how it's going to work out but we know that we're going to be sharing the same space. Basically, it's still

in the works about how long Sean is going to work with the House, how many debates he's going to moderate and vice versa. I think that he is a really smart person who knows what he's doing and we both have skills that we like to share with one another. I think that will help us to balance everything out.

SOH: We have our individual time slots that were each going to be able to reign over the senate and the house in so it will essentially just be two different people committee chairing at two different times.

Q: How do you think you're leading styles compare and contrast?

SP: I think Sean and I actually have a lot in common. At the workshop during Pre-Leg 4, we both noticed that we have to work on reflecting more confidence just because we are both new to these roles. This is my second year here and I assume this is Sean's third or fourth year and we both have different backgrounds but we both came to assume these leadership positions at the same time so I think, for us both, it's going to be a huge learning experience because these are the highest leadership positions we have had in youth and government. We are both listeners and we are both very similar people. That's why we're going to have to push each other to be more confident and be more familiar with everything.

SOH: I definitely think that Carlos is the more motherly style where I like to have fun a bit more, but Carlos is also very fun and enjoyable to work with.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY LIAM RODGERS

Dear first year delegates,

Welcome to Conference! With the sometimes-chaotic commotion of the Omni-Parker and the State House all around, I know there will likely be few moments for you to catch a breath. There are briefs to look over, bills to debate, and cases to argue: free time comes scarcely.

There are so many important acts to be taken and only so much agency we have as individuals. With marches happening just down the street, news under constant scrutiny, and politicians more loathed (and loved) than perhaps ever before there is tremendous work to be done. As delegates, we have a unique opportunity to participate in and model the future of government. It is hard, but it is important. We get to challenge big ideas and nitpick the policy that matters to us.

Don't do that in the free time. Use that time to recover. Use it to soak in the history of the buildings alongside undeniably contemporary bills. Love the irony. Visit a deli you've never been to with your delegation.

Make a friend. Put yourself out there. Appreciate the little things. Spend conference involved and I promise you will get out of conference everything you put in, but invest in the delegates around you and you'll get more than your money's worth back. Throw yourself into the lunch breaks and teambuilding as much as the challenging days on Beacon Hill.

Work hard, play hard, thank your advisors, and have a great weekend folks. ★

YOU MIGHT WANT TO SIT DOWN FOR THIS ARTICLE

BY DENNIS LACOURT

Hello delegates and welcome to the first day of Conference! We hope you have all of your bills ready and are prepared for the next three days. Here at The Beacon we have the inside scoop some exciting news about Conference this year. In the past delegates were allowed to sit with their friends and in any seat they want, however this year assigned seats will be introduced. We interview Caitlyn Cavanagh, head of Y&G, where she confirmed that the seating will be in fact assigned. We asked her what

the reasoning behind these changes were and she said it was a matter of safety and fairness, "Having assigned seats allows for us to know exactly who is missing. It will also allow for us to find delegates we need to speak to or provide information to quickly. The second reason is to create fairness during debate. Our clerks and presiding officers will be able to better track who is speaking and who has not been called on. We hope this will allow for a fairer distribution of speaking time." Don't think of this as a bad thing

though, you're still able to sit with your friends at the role call, "When we come into the House on Thursday for roll call before dismissing delegates can also sit anywhere. On Friday while we are in session delegates will need to be in their assigned seats." Though we have the scoop on seating this year, we do not know if it will be a permanent thing. Take this as an opportunity to try something new and to meet new people. Good luck and have fun at Conference this week! ★

SHARING IS CARING! CONTINUED

Q: Since you have so many bills to go through this year, how do you plan on managing your time? Do you ever think you will need to use a consent calendar? (items that are reserved or deemed non-controversial. This typically helps to save time for issues where more debate is needed)

SP: This year, I think it's going to be easier because we're both in the same place which allows us to communicate much more easily. Last year, the extra bills would be sent back and forth with senate pages but this year it's going to be in the same place so I think it will be easier to see how many we have left and how many one person should do. We are pretty much going to try and divide it but since Sean is in the house, I heard he has more to do because more people are going to be in the house so, again, it's still in the works and I'm going to try my best to help him out as much as I can since it is a tough job. I ran for

senate president because I feel more comfortable with a smaller group where I can get to focus more and provide all my energy. This year I am really going to try and see what I can do to help him whether it means presenting more or splitting up the work. I would be happy with that.

SOH: this year since we are doing only the top two or three per committee before, we should have enough time to properly debate all the bills which is a huge burden lifted from Carlos and I's shoulders, since, during past years, we've not all been given equal amounts of time to debate each bill.

Carlos and Sean seem to both be very excited about conference. They believe that sharing the floor will be a good experience and will definitely make things more interesting. This year at conference, you'll definitely be getting two for the price of one.★

WAYING IN: ELECTORAL COLLEGE

BY DANIELLE DALTON

The Electoral College consists of state elected officials, state party leaders or people in the state who have a personal or political affiliation with the presidential candidate. States are divided by districts in which representatives cast their vote according to the population. For example if the popular vote is overwhelmingly for Democrats, the electoral will most likely cast their vote for the Democrat candidate. If they were to vote against the public's opinion of their district, they risk not getting re-elected as an elector for the next term. It is open to the public if the representative goes against their district. This could cause public collisions in opinion-based voting rather than voting based on the population. In some states, there are laws binding the popular vote for the decision of the electors.

In our day and age, the main problem of the electoral college is Gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is redrawing state districts. The party in power has control over where they want to draw the lines. Lines can be purposely drawn to win the vote of a specific group of people. In the past and more recently, there has been criticism of boundaries being demographically biased towards Democrat or Republican. Republicans have been known to rewrite district

lines due to their control over one or more branches of government, throughout all of history. People who live in more densely populated areas tend to believe their votes count for less compared to lower populated areas. It seems unfair that a vote from Boston may count for less than from somewhere in Wyoming. But people in cities lead far different lives of someone living, say, in the middle of Idaho or Nebraska. In the next 30-50 years, the parties influence on each state could drastically change. We'll just have to wait and see.

Mirrored in this year's Bill Book, two bills call for a change among the Electoral College system. Bill No. PR(A)3005 by Andrew Czazasty of West Roxbury aims to "delegate presidential electors in proportion to the popular vote". Similarly, bill No. PR(A)3006 by Berenger Dufresne of BC High looks to "designate the presidential electors vote of Massachusetts by congressional districts".

The main reason the electoral college was created was to grant equal opportunity for equal land area, therefore the electoral college would be based on equality of land mass. In the end, the land proportionally matches the population in a fairer way than any other democratic republic in the entire world. ★

CONA

By VIVIAN NGUYEN

CONA, or the Conference on National Affairs, is a program that will take place between July 2nd and 7th at the Blue Ridge Assembly in North Carolina. The program was first created in 1968 in order to broaden the state Youth in Government experience to deal with the matters of national and international concerns. Today, Youth and Government delegates who are interested in going to CONA must apply before the Friday of Conference in order to be considered for the program. About 25 delegates from each state are chosen to attend, and do not require a certain amount of experience to apply. Delegates can be from any branch in the program. The conference does come with a \$1000 fee, but the Management Team will support fundraising efforts to ensure that chosen delegates are able to go—so do not let the fee discourage you from applying. Once chosen for CONA, delegates are required to write a proposal of national or international importance and be prepared to share their proposal at hearings. Leadership positions will be voted on, and CONA Leadership will make the final decision on leadership roles. Former delegates that have attended CONA recommend the experience. Below are the experiences of Shakyra Antoine and Sean Toomey (from the Malden and Presentation of Mary Delegations, respectively) at CONA:

Before going, what did you think CONA was like and what was it really like compared to your expectations?

Before attending CONA I was terrified at the idea of speaking in front of kids much older and smarter than me, since I was a freshman when I first got selected. But once I got to the mountain, I became best friends with the other MA delegates, and even made a ton of friends from other states who I still talk to today. A big misconception about CONA is that all you do is debate, but there's so much more to it. You get to go on hikes, visit a mansion, make fun chants, and basically show immense pride for your state and country.

Shakyra Antoine
MALDEN DELEGATION

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE



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CONA CONTINUED

I thought that CONA was this group of kids really into politics and knew exactly what they were doing. It was the place where all of the top young politicians went to debate things that were way over my head in my first year.

I wasn't completely wrong but I also wasn't completely right. Everyone at CONA 100% deserves to be there, meaning they are very capable of knowing exactly what to do. However, everyone is so nice and kind that no one gets left behind.

Sean Toomey

PRESENTATION OF MARY

What did you get out of CONA in the end and what was your favorite part?

I was able to gain the confidence to speak in front of hundreds of people, and know that each and every one of them supported me 100%, even if we'd never met before. CONA allowed me to understand that I'm capable of doing anything I set my mind to, and influenced me to challenge myself both in and outside of Y&G. And everything about CONA was amazing, but I think my favorite part was just being on the mountain itself. It was exciting to be hundreds of miles away from home, disconnected from the outside world for a week, and rediscover who I am as an individual. Being able to hike up the mountain or simply watch the sunrise and sunset were some of the best experiences I had during CONA that I'll cherish forever.

Shakyrá Antoine

MALDEN DELEGATION

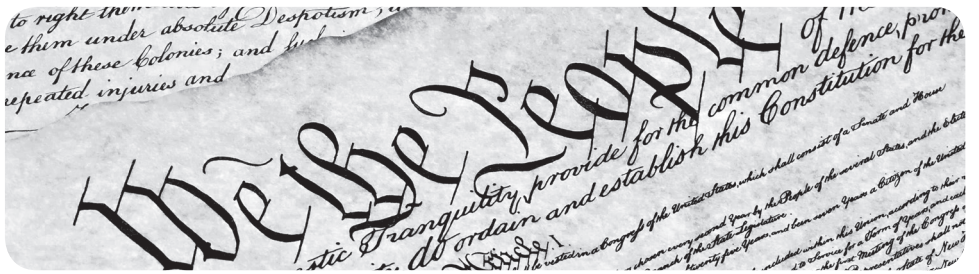
The CONA experience is one that I'll never forget. Each year I got a different thing out of it, whether it was making new friends or learning about new issues. CONA is something that each person interested in government should try. It was the thing that made me want to go into politics, which showed me the good side of politics. ✨

Sean Toomey

PRESENTATION OF MARY

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

By: MEET KOTHARI



Change isn't always a bad thing, or something that you need to be afraid of. Rather, change is a part of what makes us human. Change is a part of your everyday life, believe it or not. You probably don't even realize how much you truly change everyday. For starters, you change clothes. You don't go to school wearing the same underwear everyday. Also, you, as a person, change everyday too. You hear things from other people that change how you feel about things. You see things that maybe crack the rose colored view you had on something. So much happens solely based on something else. So much changes. Yet, when it all comes down to it, change isn't bad. You change things to improve them. You work, in order to make things better.

And that is what's going on with the new constitutional review system. If you don't know what that is, don't worry: it is all explained below. Essentially, the Constitutional Review is the process in which the bills that the legislative branch writes are deemed constitutional or not. This year, the older system has been tweaked a bit.

I got in touch with Attorney General Connor Reitler to see what he had to say on the matter. He told me: "This year for Constitutional review we haven't changed a lot. We are trying to get bills that are well written and are debatable. We are also looking for bills that we believe are completely illegal, and would hurt the integrity of the law if passed."

I asked Connor to explain the various changes that had been discussed this year. What features were added? What was deemed to be a necessary modification? He said, "it's different from last year because this year we are using the appellate branch to help find bills for the review." He continued, "This will allow for more people to help with the CR (Constitutional Review), and so that we can go more in depth into why these bills cannot pass."

Usually, changes are brought on by

something. For example, if you go to a restaurant every week, order the same dish every time, and find yourself getting really sick every week, what are you going to do? Stop ordering that dish (I hope). And if all of the dishes make you sick, what are you going to do? You're going to stop going there. You're going to change your ways. Why? Because you don't want to get sick. Using this mindset, I figured that there was obviously some reason for this new change to be brought on. Why change the old way of reviewing the bills? What inspired the change?

Connor answered, "This change was inspired by wanting to incorporate as many people as possible into this portion of the program. This isn't an activity that only judicial kids can do, and we wanted to try and expand this portion of conference. Hopefully this will entice more legislative kids to come and help debate and observe this process."

These motives were something that I found particularly nice. The review was changed in an attempt to make that portion of conference more wholesome, and appeal to more people. It was to get more people involved

I could also see some branch chemistry there. Following up, I was curious as to what Connor had to say about whether or not this would bring the branches together. He responded, "We hope that this will unify the two branches, and will allow for more communication between the two."

So, in summary, the new constitutional review will offer more opportunities for you to get involved. It'll also bring the two branches closer together and give everyone a chance to get involved.

When it comes down to it, these changes were made for a good reason. Branch unification. They were made to bring people closer together, branches closer together. And remember- you may have good skills and better knowledge, but it is your attitude that will bring people closer to you. ✨



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ELECTION 2018

By: EMMA MURPHY

Running for **Governor**, there is **Chris Cantwell**, from the South Shore Emilson Delegation, **Tim Lynch** from the BC High Delegation, **Shakya Antoine** from the Malden Delegation, and **Josh Price** from the Hockomock Delegation as of Pre-Leg 4.

Chris Cantwell's main goal, if he becomes governor, is to work with the management team, as best as possible, to advertise the program. He says the "main complaint that [he] hear[s] from people is that they're only able to join as seniors, only able to join as juniors" owing to the fact that no one really knows about the club, or in his words, youth and government is "like a secret club at their school." **Cantwell wants more kids to be aware of such an amazing program which he and so many members have already gotten so much out of.** As a leader Cantwell promotes a fair, but assertive style. He says that he will "have [his] opinions, [he'll] have [his] agenda" but that he will be kind and reasonable to bill presenters. He says that he doesn't want to tear them apart because then the fun is taken out of the program. Cantwell wants to "make sure everyone's having an enjoyable conference over getting [his] own agenda across." He sees in Youth and Governments future a growing program that will "continue to inspire future leaders." As for his future, he sees a degree in computer science, and eventually a return to public policy.

Tim Lynch wants to encourage compassion, as well as to help people achieve their dreams and aspirations. He wants to stretch comfort zones, and also to create "a compassionate environment where everybody is encouraging each other to do better things." **Lynch describes his leadership style as soft yet firm. He says that he'll let "people get some leeway," but can be, at the same time, very strict.** For Y&G's future, and Lynch's future within the program, he sees a place where he strives to make an "impact" and help others "be the best they can be." As for his future outside the program, Lynch is aware of many obstacles in his own life, but prefers to "open [his] eyes and see what [he] ha[s] going for [him]" instead.

Shakya Antoine describes her leadership style as being very "motherly." She, more often than not, likes to "support others on an emotional level, and ensure that they feel safe and comfortable in whatever situation they're in." She believes strongly in collaborating with others and can add structure and security

wherever they are needed. Antoine is very passionate about community and volunteering programs and says she will "support any legislation to help those whose voices have not been heard." These voices may, perhaps, be the citizens who she wants to "evaluate our justice system and determine if we are enforcing the right practices." But to have a public reevaluating the law, they must be well-educated, for which she also includes "fair and equal educational opportunities" as a priority. For Y&G, **Antoine wants to see a program reaching 300-400 delegates before she graduates, all the while creating new ways of immersing them into the program.** She wants to let others "discover just how big of an impact they can have on the world." For her own future, she has many different paths she is willing to experience. Hopefully she attends "Hofstra University to study public policy" and "be[comes] an advocate for the YMCA or another community organization," but as a fall back plan she is considering becoming a public defender or interior designer. All plans however, have her traveling the world, perhaps with a dog at her heel, immersing herself in various cultures.

Josh Price has not contacted us with his answers to our questions.

Running for **Lieutenant Governor** is **Emily DaPonta** of the Malden Delegation, who is, as of Pre-Leg 4, **unopposed.**

Emily DaPonta wants to make sure everyone feels accepted and free to voice their own opinions. She would like to emphasize the "importance of teamwork and servant leadership" within the program; that being said, she describes her own leadership style as very inclusive. "I like to work with everyone and get everyone's opinions on what the group is trying to accomplish," says DaPonta, as she goes on to address efficiency. Her goal is to "make everyone's experience more enjoyable." For the future of Y&G, DaPonta sees everyone constantly **improving upon tools such as public speaking and networking, that will help them far beyond the program.** She hopes that "everyone can accomplish their goals while having fun." As for her own future, DaPonta dreams of playing volleyball in college and becoming a volleyball coach and referee.

Running for **Attorney General** is **Erin Doane** from the North Suburban Delegation, **Ryan Secia** from the Southcoast Delegation, and **Ash Singh** from the John D. O'Bryant School of

Mathematics and Science, as of Pre-Leg 4.

Erin Doane hopes to assimilate the judicial branch into the rest of the program. She plans to find more time for networking and teambuilding so people are not restricted to interacting with others within their branches, and so everyone in the Y&G program can "come together as more unified community." She wants to make the judicial branch "more prominent and get people more excited" about it. Doane also plans to help people within judicial become more connected with each other through group chats and any other means necessary to help prepare them for conference. **Doane considers herself a quiet leader. She prefers to stay behind the scenes, and let others, as she puts it, "have their chance to have a great idea and let it come through."** She believes that by "meshing" everyone's ideas together, one will gain the best outcome. Doane sees Y&G as a place where she will continue to build her own confidence and "find herself." Currently, Doane is working in an attorney's office, and plans to become an attorney herself in the future.

Ryan Secia also plans on integrating the two branches, legislative and judicial. He says he's going to "put more progressive measures into help[ing] bridge the gap between the two sections." **He believes in hands on leadership, so, Secia wants to be the one that "stands up and takes charge and is able to put pieces in place" to better the community.** He wants to become Attorney General so he can work with everyone. As for his future, Secia plans to attend college for political science, get into politics and then "hopefully, ultimately, be[come] president."

Ash Singh wants to create an environment where delegates interact with other delegation members as well as their own. He believes that by fostering "strong, compassionate groups of peers" to do this interacting, this environment will easily born. Singh wants to **create a group of good leaders out of the Y&G youth**, as they continue to "make their community and country a place of pure genuine growth in development of intellectual thinking and creativity." In his future he hopes to become a technology engineer, but admits there is not a path without hardship. He sees these potential successes and struggles as a ploy for building his character and intends to have "a richer demeanor" because of them. ☆



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BILLS TO WATCH

BY JACK RINDINI & DENNIS LACOURT

Two weeks ago at Pre-Leg 4, all delegates received a copy of the guide to Conference handbook. The handbook consists of every bill each delegate is trying to pass. We read through the handbook and picked out some of the bills that are a mix of interesting and revolutionary ideas. We were able to get interviews with some of these delegates.

One of the bills was from Rep/Senator George Carney, **OR[A]2004-LEG**, of the BC High delegation about passing gaming laws to allow a casino. Carney's bill included an act to amend the Expanded Gaming Act in order to grant one more slot parlor license in the Commonwealth. At first glance, Carney's bill did not stand out to us. However, an insider revealed to us that the Carney family is the current owner of both the Raynham Dog Track and the Brockton Fairgrounds. George Carney and his family have been pushing for years in attempts to gain the proper licenses required to build a casino on their land. When asked what inspired his to write this bill, Carney answered, "I'll admit it, I have some influence. My family has always been in the racing business...I have to say, my family is involved." Senator Carney has a clear conflict of interest as his bill pushes for new legislation which he and his family will greatly benefit from.

We also interviewed Rep/Senator Emma Pimentel, **BL[B]6007-LEG**, of the Presentation of Mary delegation about over the counter birth control. We asked Rep/Senator of the dangers of the use of over the counter birth control, "No. However if you do smoke, a lot of women smoke, you can get blood clots, but that's what the pharmacists and the doctors will tell you." We were worried by this information because wouldn't it be safer, in this case, to just keep it in the hands of doctors who can make sure their patients aren't putting themselves at risk? We also want to think about how teens might be able to get birth control easier and could lead them down a road for which they are not ready. Regardless, the bill seems like a good idea.

Another bill was from Rep/Senator Daniel Gordon, **GR[B]7002-C**, of the BC High delegation about the legalization of prostitution. "Because

[Prostitution] is an issue that is serious and prevalent in our society, but it often goes overlooked because people don't like talking about it and it is never properly addressed. I think we need to talk about it to protect the people that are involved in the industry." Rep/Senator Gordon's bill talks about the benefits and protection to the individuals involved in the prostitution business, but where does this stand on an ethical level? Gordon says, "It's been around since the beginning of history and similar to the argument of prohibition, where if you ban it black market is just going to fill that spot. The entirety of prostitution industry is ruled by people who run it illegally and causes it to be horribly unsafe, perhaps most unsafe of any occupation, to people who frankly are vulnerable and are led their by desperation." Even though it's been around for a while that doesn't mean it's the right thing. Prostitution is seen as a dirty and sinister act, are we sure we really want this in our society today and raise children in a world like this? Though we weren't able to interview all of the delegates we'd like to list some of the interesting bills that piqued our interest.

PN[B]8003-LEG Rep/Senator Claire Keane from the South Shore Emilson Delegation has an interesting bill about the legalization of physician assisted suicide.

PR[A]3002-C Rep/Senator Shakyra Antoine of the Malden Delegation's bill about allowing convicted felons to keep their voting rights while incarcerated.

GY[A]1008-LEG Rep/Senator Jack Pike of the South Shore Emilson Delegation wrote a bill about decriminalizing all drug use and instead offer extensive State-Sponsored rehabilitation.

GY[A]1010-LEG Rep/Senator Jack Bove of the Presentation of Mary Delegation has a very fascinating bill about protecting net neutrality in the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts.

RD[B]9005-LEG Declan Leary of the BC High Delegation has a very controversial bill about the abolishment of the public school systems in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. ★

MAKING CENTS OF YAG

By **ABIGAIL SULLIVAN**

Sean Costello works for Massachusetts Representative Bruce Ayers, who is pushing for individuals to be able to select a tax donation box to donate a portion of an individual's tax return to Youth in Government at the end of the year. He is Ayer's Legislative Director. He also is an advisor for the Emilson delegation and is on the Management Team. I was lucky to be able to learn more about his position with Representative Ayers, and his involvement with Youth in Government.

Were you involved with Y&G in high school? What branch were you a part of?

I participated in Y&G for all 4 years in high school, from 2006-2010. I was in legislative for the first 3 years, and was Governor my senior year. I've been volunteering with the program ever since I graduated high school.

When did you realize you were interested in government? How have you been involved?

I became politically active at age 14, helping then-candidate Jim Cantwell run for the open State Rep's seat in Marshfield and Scituate (he was successful). In 2012 I worked as his Field Director, before shifting over as regional field staff for Elizabeth Warren's campaign. I also spent a semester interning in the U.S. Congress down in DC for Congressman Bill Keating. During my final year of college (and shortly after graduating), I worked on a Boston mayoral campaign, and ran field operations for two Lt. Governor campaigns. I was hired by Rep Ayers in September of 2014 and have been with his office for 2 and a half years. In 2015 I was elected to the Marshfield School Committee, and became Chairman in June of 2016.

What university did you attend? What was your major?

I went to Stonehill College in Easton, MA. I majored in Political Science and minored in Grassroots Studies.

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KEITH'S DECLASSIFIED FOOD SURVIVAL GUIDE

BY KEITH DENNIS

Good morning Delegates! Welcome to Conference. If you have looked at your schedules, you may notice that we are going to be dining on our own for lunch. There are many places in the Downtown area with great restaurants, such as Faneuil Hall. If you've been there, you know what to expect. If you haven't however, there are a few things you should know.

First, Faneuil Hall is typically very busy and crowded, especially in Quincy Market (Shoutout to South Shore Quincy). There's a lot of great stuff in Quincy Market. Feeling cheesy? MMac N' Cheese has great homestyle mac and cheese. Want something Wicked Boston? Fisherman's Net has got the chowder for you! Need to stay up extra extra late to write the finishing touches on your caffeine bill? Can't go wrong with a nice cup from Starbucks, though the New England side of me would be screaming for the Dunks down the street. There's

a wide variety of foods in Quincy Market, so many that you're bound to be satisfied. There are two issues with eating in a place like Quincy Market, unfortunately. In the near 18 years I have been visiting, there is barely ever seating for a single person, let alone a big group (watch out, Malden delegation). Another issue is price. Restaurants in Quincy Market can get pretty pricy. Be on the lookout to bring a water, because you might be finding yourself paying triple than normal on a bottle of Coke.

There is one gigantic blemish on the dining experience at Quincy Market. A place so vile, so sinisterly bad, that I would deserve incarceration if I did not warn you about it. That place, is Dick's Last Resort. Dick's Last Resort is a restaurant that's main attraction is their intentionally rude service. For an exuberant rate, you can eat school-grade food, all while being treated like a piece of dirt by the staff. The staff

isn't even being entertaining, they're just being rude. Steer clear of this of this place with your life. It is a waste of your time, taste buds, and money.

One place that I absolutely adore in Faneuil Hall area is a tiny little place called Saus. Located at 33 Union Street, Saus is an impeccable Belgian-style street food eatery. Their poutine? To die for. Their waffles? Crazy. Saus has large portions to accommodate their unreal food. They are without a doubt my favorite restaurant in the area. Like Quincy Market, however, they are very, very small. Plan on taking your meal to go, find a bench, and dig in.

Whatever meal choices you make, enjoy yourself. Eat what you like, take in the area, and have fun. Don't be afraid of trying something new. Just don't go to Dick's Last Resort, never Dick's Last Resort.

MAKING CENTS OF YAG CONTINUED

Where is the idea for this bill from? When was it filed?

I came up with the idea for the Y&G bill, after speaking with State Director Caitlin Cavanagh. Rep Ayers thought it was a great idea, and we filed it through our office. The bill was originally filed in January of 2015, but did not make it through the legislature before the session ended. We re-filed it this January, under House

Docket #783. Through our ramped-up advocacy and the strong support of the YMCA, this year 40 other legislators have signed onto the bill as co-sponsors, signaling their strong support. In the coming weeks the bill will be assigned a bill number, and will then be referred to a committee where it is guaranteed a public hearing. While we don't know when this hearing will be, we will be keeping

an eye on it and will organize a strong contingency of Youth & Government friends, supporters, and participants to advocate for the bill's passage

We would like to give a big thanks to both Sean Costello and Representative Ayers for helping high schooler's learn more about public service, and take part in such a great program! ☆



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