

YMCA

CAPITOL CAPERS

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Capitol Capers: "All the pizzazz that's fit to print!"

Opening Joint Session...

Tonight

Tonight the Opening Joint Session will convene at 7:15. It will be one of two instances where the House and Senate are seated together on the floor of the House. Although this can be somewhat of a tiring activity with all of the standing up and sitting down it is important that we remain polite and courteous as many of our state officials will be present.

The most speaker on the list is of course Governor Christine Gregoire. Governor Gregoire stated earlier "The future rests in the hands of our youth and programs like this help ensure that tomorrow's leaders will be equipped with the knowledge needed for a fair and equitable society." Tonight delegates will be given the opportunity to ask her questions. I encourage you all to get involved and inquire about important issues in this state as there may be more significant concerns to discuss now than ever.

This Just In...Phil Gardner is a Handyman!

Sporting a fresh blue tie and recently laundered button down shirt, Governor Gardner helped out by putting up a wall. This wall was put up after committee 10 was squished into the press room causing a raucous that can only be compared to the sound of Zeus throwing lightning bolts from Mt. Olympus. With biceps bulging, Phil proves that he is not only a man of unparalleled brain power, but a man willing to help all!

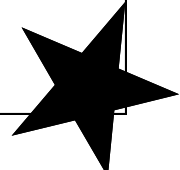
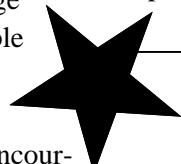


Y&G is on the web

Thanks to Youth Secretary of State, Brandon McGee, information concerning the 62nd Youth Legislature Session can now be found online. To access news log onto www.62sos.info. Here you can find dockets for the House, Senate, O'Brien House, Cherburg Senate, and both 8th Grade Chambers. There is also a link available to learn more about this years Major Officer candidates, as well as campaign rules. I encourage you all to take advantage of this tool.

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OPINION

2-ply VS. 3-ply

By: Molly Payne

There are many questions that we as human beings ponder. Are there such things as aliens? What really is in a Big-Mac? But the question I think about most is which is more efficient when using the john, Two-ply or Three-ply?

Three-ply does have its advantages. Three-ply toilet paper is so durable that it keeps wiping and wiping until the job is done. Also, its durability allow you to reuse your TP squares. Just Wash them, and use them again! This saves trees and keeps money in your pocket!

But personally, I'm more of a two-ply kind of gal. Two-ply isn't overwhelming or underwhelming. It is the perfect type of toilet paper. Two-ply is the perfect mix of a comforter and a top sheet. Plus, two-ply lasts longer than your average three-ply roll.

So as you sit on the lovely toilets that can be found in the marble bathroom of the capital, think before you wipe!

**Agree or Disagree?**

By: Chris Mahan

Everyone likes to be told what's right, wrong, a turnip, not a turnip, and so on. Think about that as you read these quotes. Write "Agree" or "Disagree" after each statement to show your feelings, if you wish, you ink-wasting capitalist.

1. I do not like money, money is the reason we fight.
 2. I'm not interested in preserving the status quo; I want to overthrow it.
 3. It is not titles that honor men, it is men that honor titles.
 4. Never was anything great achieved without danger.
 5. War is just when necessary; arms are permissible when there is no hope but arms.
 6. Enable every woman who can work to take her place on the labour front, under the principle of equal work.
 7. The differences between friends cannot but reinforce their friendship.
 8. Government is not reason; it is not eloquent, it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.
 9. Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances, with any portion of the foreign world.
 10. I have sworn to only live free. Even if I find the bitter taste of death, I don't want to die humiliated or deceived.
- Who said these things? Look at your agreed-with statements and your disagreed-with statements.
1. Karl Marx.
 - 2-5. Niccolo Machiavelli
 - 6-7. Mao Tse Tung
 - 8-9. George Washington
 10. Osama Bin Laden

The Decline of Giving Trees

By: Cyber Tooth Dragon

What does a tree mean to me? From my perspective, a tree is more than something to be used to make a door or table. A tree is a structure that not only sustains the life of small woodland creatures, but also makes it possible for us to live. They provide oxygen for us and therefore should not be treated like Kleenex, which are always near and always wasted.

We, as educated Americans, need to stop the deforestation happening in our own backyard. As we continue in our ignorance, the great Olympic Peninsula is being robbed of its evergreens. We cannot afford to lose these trees, we are called the Evergreen State!

I urge all of you readers to think twice before buying that large wooden sculpture you have been wanting for weeks, or succumbing to the need to buy the three-ply toilet paper. Save the trees and save our planet!



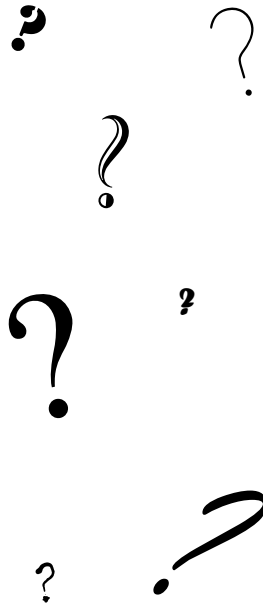
FEATURES

Rain, rain and RAIN !
By: Audrey LeFort

The first day of the Youth and Government program was not the prettiest day of the year. From the beginning to the end we got rain, strong rain, and rain again. Our pages were really courageous to go outside from the legislative building to the Cherberg building. We had to fight the rain and the puddles. It was so much worse for the 90% of the girls wearing high heels who were also fighting to not slip on the floor of the capitol. We hope by the end of the week we see some sunshine!

What's Going On Here???
By: Matt Brown

The title tells the story for a large number of people here at the Capitol. Some people just don't have a clue what the heck they are supposed to be doing. The cause of this tends is variable. One main cause for confusion is the number of first time attendee's to the YMCA Youth Legislature. Being a first time attendee myself, I can relate to the feeling of utter helplessness, as I have felt it many times in the last ten minutes alone. Another reason for this puzzlement is that many returning members of Youth and Government have stepped into new positions and have to re-learn the ropes. To end this article, I would like to quote a comrade of mine from Stevenson Delegation: "CB, I don't know what's going on."



Everyone has Style
By: Maia Gabriel

Everyone has their own sense of style, even people who think they don't. With a wide variety of people at Youth and Government, every style can be seen, from mo hawks to ankle boots and more. People who think they partake in any sort of fashion are dead wrong. Everything you wear has history, clothes are just another way to express yourself. Some people's outfits are much more eccentric than others, but your clothes tell a story about who you are.

Governors Ball
By: Hopeanne Norris

I can't wait!! This is my first year being involved in youth and government and I hear that the dance is one of the best and most exciting parts. I am pretty sure that's true, I mean who wouldn't want to get all dressed up and go dance the night away with approximately 500 strangers? I sure do. From what I have heard from former youth and governors is that the dance is amazing. Meeting all the new people, for me, seeing all the pretty buildings I have not seen before, this whole youth and government experience I am sure is going to be a blast but I am mainly looking forward to the governor's ball! Every one should be there, looking snazzy and ready to dance all night long!

BILLS

Another American Revolution

- Loretta Velaochaga Klugger

The preservation of our environment is one of the most crucial topics of not only our generation, but soon to be for the generations following us. Finding ways to reduce our foot prints on the Earth without having to make huge sacrifices in our daily lives is the best way to encourage others to support this process. By taxing grocery stores fifteen cents per plastic grocery bag, although it may seem somewhat extravagant, the human race will save pressure that was once against their consciences. The outcome from these taxes will help encourage the use of paper bags instead. It is a fact that the usage of paper bags do cut down trees, but it is easier to grow a tree than to get rid of a plastic bag for they are not biodegradable. And if the use of paper bags seem to be an issue for you, or anyone else for that matter, go green and take advantage of the recycled and re-usable grocery bags now being sold virtually everywhere. To the public, this has no affect, but I urge grocery stores to support this tax. If the tax seems unreasonable then cut back on the plastic bags, your customers are becoming more vigilant of their impact on the world. This is our revolution and aware or not, it has already begun.

Zombies

-Julia R Tauben

If you've seen a zombie flick you know what they can do. Zombies are deadly and they have only one instinct: to eat brains. Johnny Alavez, from Grays Harbor, is proposing a memorial that is suggesting we do something to prepare for the zombie invasion. There is a paucity of people and companies who have zombie plans (contingency plans for the inevitable zombie attack). What Alavez's bill asks is that a division of the state troopers or sheriffs office be set up and trained to deal with a zombie attack or invasion. The cited reasons for this bill include "...to insure the survival of the human race and prevent any raider or warlords to pop up in to zombie apocalypse". The human race has survived thus long, a few zombies shouldn't deter us.

Voting Age

-Hillary Lundberg

On July 1, 1971, the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution was enacted, establishing the national voting age as 18. In 2009, Senator Amelia Haskins of the Monroe delegation is proponing Senate bill number 23, which proposes that "all minors aged 16 or 17 years can be eligible to register to vote." This eligibility requires both signed permission from a parent or guardian and a score of 95% or higher on a "standard test on American government." The bill sites American teenagers' growing interests in politics and abilities to make logical and informed decisions regarding elections; issues that were especially evident in the 2008 Presidential election, during which a record number of teenagers volunteered for political campaigns representing all areas of the political spectrum. Due to the requirement of passing a test on American government, Senator Haskins' bill accounts for the concern of teenagers not being mature enough to make "adult" decisions. The American government is just as much the government of American teenagers as it is the government of American adults, and Senate bill number 23 allows informed and educated teenagers to express opinions and make a difference in which the way their government runs.

ENTERTAINMENT

KNEES!

Girls, the dress code has been changed. This year the minimum skirt length is to your knees, anything above that is considered unprofessional. Nobody wants to see your knees, your thighs, or your... anything else. Please, ladies, pull down the skirts. The skirt length is not the only problem; please make sure your tops are not exposing any unnecessary skin. There is no sun – you're not tanning. Cover Up. It's not only about being unprofessional (although that is extremely important), we should preserve our dignity. Nobody can take you or your bill seriously when your thighs and chest are right out in the open. For the sake of passing your bill, if nothing else, maintain your dignity and follow Y values. We all will thank you.

Addiction

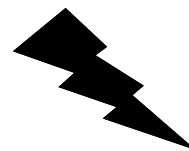
Whitney Hentschell

Addiction runs in my blood.
 Been passed down for centuries
 Just like my brown eyes...
 My mom,
 She's addicted to cooking.
 My dad,
 He's addicted to watching TV.
 My sister,
 She's addicted to Hannah Montana
 My brother,
 He's addicted to girls.
 Addiction runs in my blood.
 Always has and always will.
 Myself?
 I'm addicted to –
 Youth and Gov!

Horoscopes

Gemini (5/21-6/21)

When the first leaf falls from the biggest tree you will find your true love.



Cancer (6/22-7/22)

You are at a high risk of getting hit by a car; be on your best behavior and be extra cautious.

WORD OF THE DAY

The *word of the day* is a fun activity to enhance the vocabulary of today's youth. If you are heard by a reporter, or a reporter is notified of you using the *word of the day* during debate you will get a shout out under this section of the paper. The word has to be used correctly and in context with the situation at hand.

For example, Superfluous – I think the facts you stated in your opening statement were superfluous to the actual idea of the bill.

The word is – Perspicacious: Of keenness; insightful; wise; smart

EDITORIALS

Opinions expressed in these editorials are not necessarily the views of the page editor and/or Capitol Capers.

State of the Union: Church & State

by Emma Cumpton

I always find it intriguing when, during some kind of election, politicians and candidates are asked their religious beliefs. After all, it says right in the Constitution that the separation of these two institutions – one’s religious beliefs and political beliefs – is to be absolutely preserved. And yet, every one of our Presidents has been some variation of Christianity, and each has been forced to voice these beliefs during their campaigns. When these beliefs are deemed controversial, it can completely ruin any attempt at political success. A glaring example from this past election was President Obama’s pastor, Jeremiah Wright, whom he was forced to renounce after the Reverend’s controversial sermons.

It is understandable that we don’t want a religious zealot or cult member in our government, running our country, but there should be a line between making sure a politician isn’t going to completely alter the nation and bringing the church into the republic. The fact that the President had to renounce completely his membership in the church him and his family had been attending for years, just because of its leader’s remarks, is silly. People were afraid that Obama not only agreed with his Reverend, but would

somehow enforce his provocative beliefs on the rest of us. Look at it this way: looking at Obama’s pastor and assuming the President agrees completely with any statement he makes is like a foreign country looking at America and thinking that every citizen agrees with Obama.

It’s high time America agreed with its founding fathers and realized that it is simply not appropriate for us to be so concerned with our politician’s religious beliefs. If the politician is any kind of effective, they will exclude any real beliefs, whether controversial or ubiquitous, from running the country. This is a diverse country, particularly when it comes to religion, and if we seek accurate representation from our government we shouldn’t be concerned with the private faith of those who run it. When I look through the laws of this country, I’m looking for laws against crime, laws on finance and health-care and education, things that affect all of us, not what will happen to us after we die. I don’t want to be in a country that’s on God’s side. I want to be in a country that functions.

Precipatory Weaponry

by Anna Boyd

Dihydrogen oxide precipitating is not a good enough reason to carry large metallic weapon of mass destruction.

When did it become legal to carry objects with many long sharp points radiating out from a central hub? The only use for this menacing object is to shield oneself from a substance without

which one cannot be alive.

The preposterousness of this notion, however, does not seem to be readily apparent. Though people everywhere panic at accounts of knife fights, terrorist bombs, and scissors on airplanes, who ever considers the murderous power of an ordinary umbrella?

It is my solemn duty to enlighten you on the subject.

They lurk in closets, coat stands, hat racks, innocent in appearance, hiding in their bags or held shut by a tie—silent, but deadly.

Once opened, they prove a myriad of sharp points covered only by plastic caps. How easily could a malefactor sharpen those points to deadly precision? Their large diameter could quickly and effectively dispatch several people at once: as they open, they deliver such a powerful snap that those around might end up seriously hurt, or worse. If you hear of a disastrous umbrella attack on a crowded subway, I have warned you.

My friends, do not give in. Precipitation may come, the water may fall, but stand strong. Dare to resist the umbrella.



Please report all umbrellas of suspicion.