

YMCA

CAPITOL CAPERS

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

A word from the Governor's Cabinet

It has come to my attention that one Ms. Dea Law has forfeited or plans to forfeit from a DANCE-OFF against Mr. Drew Granneman. I would like to emphasize that while I do not speak on this matter for Governor Gardner, I condemn and regret Ms. Law's forfeiture and kindly encourage her to reconsider-not only for the sake of her public image but the entertainment of the entire program at large. I hope that you will join me in making these sentiments clear to Ms. Law.

*Respectfully,
Tucker Cholvin, Governor's Cabinet,
Northshore Delegation*

A letter from the Press

During our last session, we reporters found ourselves waged into battle encountering a beast which we had to conquer. We reporters have battled the fiercest of beasts ranging from writers block to really severe cases of the I-don't-quite-know-how-to-say-this blues. So this oncoming beast should surely be no challenge. As Tucker Cholvin has mentioned, Post Master General Dea Law has discussed forfeiting the DANCE-OFF that's to occur later this evening. However, she proposed a challenge to the Press: Find five of my favorite pages. Well Ms. Law, this is a threat we've not taken lightly to. We WILL find your favorite pages. We're coming for you. The battle is going to be a wild ride so strap yourself in; let's hope you don't lose any appendages. Be seen' you...sooner than you think.

*Sincerely yours,
The Dragon Slayers*

Taking on the Y&G Machine

By Matt Brown

Coming to you straight from the Youth Leg Press Headquarters at the conference rooms in the Cherberg Senate is another story about the brave and daring actions of Nick Gavenas of Stevenson Delegation (District 3). This time he went into covert operations mode and actually hijacked the governor's bill, unbeknownst to Gov. Gardener! The story is long but it starts like this. Somehow Nick's bill never made it into the bill book. He found out that a bill written by Governor Gardener had been tabled and realized that this was his chance to get his bill heard in the House. He proceeded to amend the bill, all two lines of it, and insert his own bill as the amendment. After that, things got messy. Nick had to go into stealth mode to avoid upsetting the governor. He started by going to Secretary of State McGee, who sent Nick and his bill to Attorney General Simpson, who gave him the paperwork. Nick was excited, the mission was almost accomplished! But wait, because committees were over and session was started, they could not get it past the Committee Chair. Nick was not to be deterred. He moved forward to the Speaker of the House for her approval. She said she needed to consult the governor. As you can imagine, Governor Gardener was quite suspicious. Nick decided to abort this part of the mission and select a new route. After speaking with a reliable source, a masked crusader (a certain advisor whose name must not be mentioned) appeared out of the blue to save the operation. This crusader took the package to a secret "person of the House," who decided that this bill must have been a clerical error. A brief walk over to the Senate confirmed suspicions. The mission took a life of its own. From there, the crusader moved back to the Secretary of State's office to get the paperwork to make this thing happen, and turned the hijacked bill into HB 333. After 45 minutes of leg work, the crusader delivered the package to the "person of the House." From there, the special motion was made and *presto!* HB 333 was on the docket and the mission succeeded. Approximately 15 minutes later, the bill had been beaten left and right, and ground into the dirt, losing by 95% to 5% majority. But that's not the point; the real story is that of courage. Out of the dust emerged a hero to take on the Youth and Gov. Machine!



Dea Law bribing pages with candy!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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OPINION

You Don’t Know Jack, Mr. King!

By: Ellie Bartlow

There has been a bunch of controversy over two very well known fast food chains lately, and the two restaurants have been brutally attacking each other on national television. I am sure you know the two I am talking about, Burger King and Jack in the Box!

The debates in my head have been known to keep me up at all hours of the night. There are so many components that each has, so many strong arguments for each one. I mean, have you ever had BK chicken fries? Pretty much heaven on earth right there, but their regular potato fries are seriously lacking. And as a hash brown and breakfast burrito kind of girl, Jack in the Box’s all day breakfast is to me, the best thing since sliced bread. It’s totally awesome to have the opportunity to say “I think I will take hash brown sticks, please!” at midnight when going through the drive thru. And how hilarious are those mini sirloin burger commercials? Certainly Jack in the Box is climbing its way to the top, hands down, they take the cake (or is it the Saturated fat?) in this fast food showdown!!



Get Snug!

By: Molly Payne

For the last few hundred years, mankind has come up with extremely useful inventions. The light bulb, television, and air conditioner have helped shape our society. But, the one idea that has echoed cries of joy around the world is the invention of the Snuggie.

The Snuggie, for those of you who don’t know, is in essence, a blanket with holes for your arms. This phenomenon comes in burgundy, royal blue, and sage green and a variety of sizes. Snuggies have captured the hearts of millions with many of us wondering how we ever lived without these handy dandy blankets. The vast majority of Americans have seen the infomercials advertising Snuggies and the free book light that will be sent to you if you order on the phone. Though these commercials are thought to be ridiculous, the product they are trying to push on you is worth your money. Everyone who has given a Snuggie a chance has seen what an amazing blanket it is. So, open your arms to a new invention and open your arms up to a Snuggie! I interviewed Whitney Hentschell, a reporter from North Shore delegation on her ownership of the infamous product.

Q: How many Snuggies do you own?

A: I own 2, a green Snuggie and a red Snuggie.

Q: What was the reason for your purchase?

A: I’ve always wanted a blanket that you could put your arms through. Also, my mom had a baby so the Snuggie was perfect because we can be covered by a blanket and still hold the baby.

Q: Did you get the free book light?

A: Yes and it actually works!

Q: Would you give a Snuggie as a gift?

A: I would. It’s a great gift.

Q: Have you enjoyed your Snuggie?

A: Yes I have. It love it. It’s my best friend!



Above: Middle aged women sporting the Snuggie.

EDITORIALS

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

State of the Union: 10 Reasons to Still Like America (Part 2)

by Emma Cumpton

Here’s a continuation of last issue’s countdown of reasons to still enjoy life here in troubled America.

5. We have a big, beautiful country. I’m a tad bit of an environmentalist hippie, and I appreciate tall, majestic trees and craggy mountains and glassy lakes, and America happens to be full of them. This country has every environment you can think of, and here you can find and explore some of the most extraordinary landscapes on the planet. It’s something we have that no one else does. Sure, the rest of the world’s pretty cool—the Himalayas, Caribbean, Patagonia, Amazon jungles, all excellent places. But we have the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Hoh Rainforest, Scablands, Yosemite, the Yukon, those crazy stone arches in Utah, the Bayou, all here in one country. Take a hike.

4. We matter. I’ve always wondered what it would be like to live in a country that isn’t regarded as one of the most powerful in the world, like Australia or Ethiopia or Paraguay. Eventually, I decided that I would rather be in a place whose opinion truly matters in global affairs, no offense to any of the aforementioned countries; I’m sure they’re wonderful places. However, when America makes a major decision, the world listens. It’s exhilarating to think that we can really influence the world in such a dramatic fashion.

3. We’re healthy. Yes, we hear a lot about the failures of our national healthcare, our terrible Medicare and Medicaid plans, the lack of social security and everything else, but when it comes down to it, we still have a very effective medical system. When you arrive at a hospital with an arm cut off or black sores all over you, you can bet that you will be treated to the best ability that hospital has. We have excellent doctors, we live long and we can cure things that in many other places would

be guaranteed death sentences. We’re fat and diabetes-ridden, but chances are you’ll survive long enough to become old and creaky and useless.

2. Obamamania. The presidential candidate’s slogan paid off: Hope has indeed made a comeback in this country. There is a spirit towards change, optimism and service that we need right now. My mom took a trip to D.C. a couple of weeks after the inauguration and the gauzy haze of joy was still hanging in the air. You could buy your Obama coffee mug and t-shirt, and still you can see the pride in people’s faces when they say Obama is their president. He has brought a new level of respect toward America, and hopefully help create solutions for the country’s numerous problems.

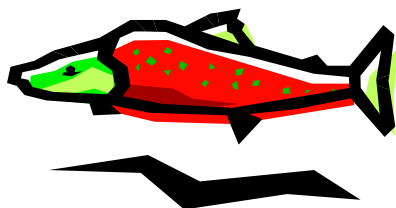
1. You could be living in Darfur. Enough said.



(ct’d.)

EDITORIALS

(*ct'd.*)



Farmed Fish: More Than Meets The Eye

by Reilly Hannigan

Salmon: Washington's favorite fish, delicious, but declining. In order to take some of the pressure off wild stocks, Atlantic salmon farms have begun cropping up around the Pacific Northwest. Theoretically, this would allow native salmon to repopulate while the farmed fish were offered to the public for consumption. Unfortunately, what began as a terrific idea has quickly showed its darker side.

When salmon farmers chose locations along native salmon migration routes, this caused unintentional harm to wild salmon making their way to the ocean. As the farmed Atlantic salmon grow by the thousands in net cages, they share water, waste, and disease with native fish. Because young salmon have no scales for protection, this makes them especially vulnerable to sea

lice, a salmon-loving parasite running rampant in fish farms. Sea lice eagerly latch on to the defenseless young fish swimming past the cages, and soon kill them.

Equally disheartening is the impact of escapees. Every year, thousands of Atlantic salmon escape into Pacific habitat, eating the prey of native fish, and worse, small wild salmon themselves. It is a true crisis for the Northwest, as salmon are an integral part of the Pacific ecosystem; even forests rely on salmon as fertilizer when the fish are dragged ashore by eagles and bears. Perhaps the most immediate impact of vanishing salmon lies in the food chain: When the salmon leave, the orcas leave. When the orcas leave, so do millions of dollars in tourist revenue, further impoverishing our debt-ridden state.

Protecting a multi-million dollar industry, salmon farmers insist they are doing no harm to native stocks, and continue to attempt to treat their parasite-ridden fish with harsh chemicals, doing further damage to surrounding habitat. Among their more absurd practices is giving the salmon red dye in

their feed to promote a "natural" pink appearance, while consumers remain oblivious to the chemicals and antibiotics pumped into their food.

There is a solution: Closed-containment systems keep farmed salmon in tanks or manmade ponds, completely isolated from native fish. Pacific salmon would no longer come in contact with parasites or be eaten by Atlantics. Although expensive, it certainly pays off for the farmers in the long run, as it prevents their fish from escaping or being munched by harbor seals. In addition, waste can be pumped to the surface of the tank and sold as fertilizer, bringing in further revenue.

Salmon, whether native or farmed, are an essential piece of Washington state; they keep our ecosystems balanced and our farmers and fishermen employed. There can be a positive compromise through closed-containment. In the meantime, consumers can choose to purchase only wild Alaskan salmon (a much healthier population) until farmers are willing to take a bold step forward and make a change.

BILLS

Immigration

-Hillary Lundberg

The Great Wall of China, a marvel currently thought to be approximately 5,500 miles long in its entirety, was built thousands of years ago to protect China from foreign invasions, particularly from north of the border. In House bill number 62, Representative Jacob Dickson of the Stillaguamish Valley Delegation proposes that the United States construct a Great Wall of Mexico to “greatly reduce the number of illegal immigrants entering the U.S.”

In March 2006, the Pew Hispanic Center estimated that the illegal population of the United States ranged from 11.5 to 12 million people, of which 57% originated from Mexico. The consistently high number of illegal Mexican immigrants is caused in part by the continuing practice of hiring unauthorized workers, as employers are not required to pay illegal workers minimum wage. In 1992, the arrest of each illegal immigrant cost taxpayers about \$300, but in 2002, that cost increased to around \$1700.

The United States is a country of immigrants, often referred to as a melting pot or a salad bowl, and part of the country’s strength is derived from countless unique cultures and lifestyles co-existing. I, for one, would not be here if it weren’t for a great-grandfather’s act of illegal immigration from Poland before the Holocaust.

Representative Dickson’s bill states that “illegal immigrants are crossing our border daily and invading our country.” However, illegal immigrants don’t just come from Mexico. In 2006, approximately 280,000 illegal immigrants entered the United States from the Philippines, and around 270,000 entered from India. If the issue of illegal immigrants is so concerning, why not build a wall encircling the entire country as a means of keeping people out? Why just Mexico? Think big. Only allow tourists to visit under specific circumstances, because there’s always a risk that tourists will overstay their welcome and become illegal immigrants. This strategy sounds familiar to me. A country that is so afraid of “outsiders” that it rarely allows anyone to cross its borders? Oh wait... that’s North Korea.

Stock Punishment

-Julia R. Tauben

Cruel and unusual punishment is defined as including torture or degradation or punishment too severe for the crime committed. In order for something to be defined as such it must be both cruel AND unusual. Some judges sentence people to planting flowers and this is unusual, some give solitary confinement which is cruel, but neither are both cruel and unusual.

Cruel and unusual punishment is one of the definitions in House bill 85, an act by Representative Lauren Corn which would allow punishment by stocks in a “prominent community location”. This punishment would only be used in circumstances where there is no other prescribed punishment. Is this, however, a violation of the eighth amendment? In this day and age the stocks are unusual, having been most popular around the time of the Salem witch trials. Stocks are also cruel,

using humiliation as a punishment. On the other hand, this might be an incentive to petty criminals not to commit any crime that has an undefined punishment.



BY THE NUMBERS.

As of 10:15	PASSED	FAILED	TABLED
House of Reps.	11	7	2
Senate	15	8	0
Cherberg Senate	24	8	8
O’Brian House	14	7	1

ENTERTAINMENT

Hatless America

By Connor Cosgrove and Luke Price

Whilst Connor and Luke were relaxing in the coffee shop pondering on ideas for an article they met a man, this man however will not be named for reasons of the up-most discrepancy. The man commented on Luke's hat saying he respected and admired it. The old man then said "I'm old enough to remember when men still wore hats." They then asked if he would elaborate. He went on to say that it was all because of Kennedy. He said "True story it was a cold blustery night in Washington when Kennedy was inaugurated, he was the first president in history to be inaugurated without a hat. As well as that he walked two miles instead of taking the limo. And in two years men's hat indus-



tries dropped in sales and nearly all went out of business." Luke and Connor were dumbfounded by this discovery, and decided that this was the idea they were looking for.

The articles write themselves when you open your mind to the infinity of things that make up everything. As their minds slipped in to the trance all GOOD writers go into when a good story falls prey to their wit and wile, the man said "I really do admire you men; tell all your little friends to put a hat in their lives."

~~Mysterious Silverware~~

While eating dinner last night, there was an unknown utensil used to eat salad. When asked for a fork, we did not find one; instead there was a threek. You may ask, what is a threek? Well if a fork has four prongs, then what would we call a utensil that only has three prongs... As a fellow delegate exclaimed, "Its not a fork, it's a threek!" Oh why of course! Now that we know what this utensil is called, next time someone asks you for a fork, make sure it truly is a fork and if not, then tell them something they don't know!



Dear Phil,

It has come to our attention that the *Capitol Capers* was incorrect in stating that "a duck's quack doesn't echo and no one knows why." While we strive for excellence here at *Capitol Capers* we are by no means perfect. Our sincere thanks go out to Governor Phil Gardner for dedicating his time to extensive research relating to the quacking of ducks. We are forever grateful that Phil has this abundance of time to donate for the sake of the reader's knowledge of ducks. Due to his brilliant discoveries we now know that this is false and due to this information the world will now be a better place. We appreciate your ground breaking discovery, Governor Gardner.

Sincerely,
The Press Corps

Dear Abby...

I spoke out against someone's bill that is from my delegation and now she's mad at me. I feel really bad and don't know what to do.

Sincerely, Wants to patch things up

Dear Wants to patch things up, It is alright to feel bad at first, but you shouldn't worry about it too much. If it was rude, every one has an opinion and the right to voice that opinion. Although the proponent should be prepared for some harsh comments, next time you speak out against a bill try to not be rude or even too blunt. Also, speaking out against a friend's bill should not affect your friendship so make sure to talk with him or her about it. Remember, this happens all the time so don't worry! Good luck, Dr. Abby

If you have any questions, please send them to Abby Williams on a page note

Horoscopes

Scorpio (10/23-11/21)



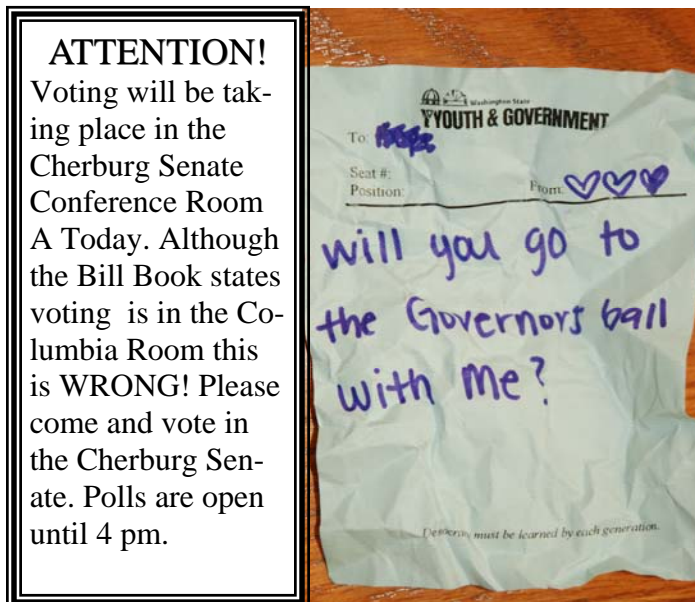
Today you cannot fail, stay confident and you will succeed immensely. Though don't overdo it because cockiness could lead you to an unwelcome situation.

FEATURES

Throw-away notes By Collin Marshall

Has anyone else noticed how the trash cans are full of crumpled up page notes? Well for investigative journalism purposes, I decided to take a look at them to see what kind of notes were ending up in the trash. Some were just normal, boring conversations, consisting of 'what's ups?' and 'how's it going'. Others, however, were slightly more interesting, and some were just plain strange.

Many people send each other songs they have written, notes in other language, completely random words, and others asking people out on dates. One common theme in these notes is that people are asking each other to the Governor's Ball. Most of these look like they are done in jest, but I can't help but feel sorry for the people who's invitations wound up in the trash. It looks like crazy and random page notes are pretty common here at Youth Ledge, and to be honest, it's pretty hilarious.



ATTENTION!
Voting will be taking place in the Cherburg Senate Conference Room A Today. Although the Bill Book states voting is in the Columbia Room this is WRONG! Please come and vote in the Cherburg Senate. Polls are open until 4 pm.

Stevenson Bailout By: Matt Brown

Where's my jacket??? This was the thought that raced through the mind of our youth Secretary of State this year, Brandon McGee, minutes before he was to be sworn in on the rostrum in the House. Apparently he had left his jacket out on the school van but when he went back to look, the van had disappeared back to the hotel. What was he to do? Then, out of the blue, a hero emerged from the almighty Stevenson Delegation! His name was Nick Gavenas and he just happened to have a jacket that he was not necessarily using at the time. And so McGee was saved and proceeded to be sworn in right on time, thanks to the heroic actions of one member of Stevenson Delegation.

Say No to White

For years the color (or lack there of) white has been regarded with class and prestige. Want some columns for your Parthenon? Why not make them white? How about a statue of George Washington's head? White again. Well how about the color of the hallways and rooms on our capital campus? WHITE! It is time to stand up and say "no!" White has had its fair share of time in the spot light as a classy and Victorian color. It is time to give Mr. Roy G. Biv a call and get a newer, fresher color for the position. Maybe dandelion yellow is up for the job. Maybe periwinkle blue. A sunburst orange senate room could be the start of a revolution! We won't know until we give it a shot.

-Taylor Robinson



May 8, 2009

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BETWEEN THE PAGES
