



YMCA

# CAPITOL CAPERS

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

## ***RCV, What's the Buzz?***

New to Youth Leg this year is Rank Choice Voting. Although elections will still be based on traditional top-choice voting, Rank Choice Voting will be a voluntary additional practice. If you choose to participate, you will receive one ballot in which you vote for your top candidate in each race. This is the ballot which will be counted towards the election of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session major officers. In addition voters who choose to do so will be given a ballot in which they rank the choice of their candidates in order from 1-5 for each position.

These results will not actually be used in the decision of this year's election. The hope is that if the RCV system is successful it will be implemented as next year's primary voting system. The Youth Secretary of State's office feels this type of voting will help to more accurately select a candidate and runner-up. The results of the RCV election will not be released to the public but will be tabulated by an outside source. In order for the success of this process the Secretary of State's office would like to encourage everyone to participate. It's fast, easy, and your contribution would be greatly appreciated!

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## ***Welcome to Y&G*** -*Kelsey Warren, Editor in Chief*

Ahh, it's that time of year again! The time when we trade in our blue jeans and backpacks for slacks and bill books. The time when we reunite with old friends from delegations across the state. Most importantly it is the time where we all come together to speak our minds and experience democracy at its best. I'm sure you all know what I'm talking about, the best week of your life, the YMCA Youth Legislature!

For many of us this is our last year being involved with Youth and Government but for others it is just the beginning. Regardless of your involvement in the program I challenge you to step outside your comfort zone. Converse with new people or speak up on a bill you wouldn't normally talk about. I guarantee if you challenge yourself you won't regret it, and the memories formed will be much stronger.

This is your week to shine, each of you in your own individual way. One of the amazing parts of Y & G is that each delegate can achieve their own personal success in so many different venues.

I am very excited for this week and look forward to seeing many of you around the capitol. I am fortunate to have an awesome staff, and we will strive to provide you with up to date news and entertainment. As always feel free to come forward with your questions, comments, concerns, or news requests. I wish you all a wonderful week!

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# OPINION

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## Our Capital

By Amanda Sills

Youth and Government time at the Capital is finally here! I want to welcome you all to another fantastic four days in Olympia! As we get excited about seeing old friends, debating bills, and of course the dance, I want to set your minds in the right mood by giving a little history of the Capital and its architecture.

To begin with, there are a lot of steps leading to the entrance of the Capital; exactly 42 steps, who's granite is from Index, Washington. The marble rotunda, where we have our well known Y&G dance each year, comes from Alaska, as does that in the vestibule floors. The Capital floor is from Belgium, and lastly, my favorite, the marble walls in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor reception room are from Italy.

Now to the statues which I am sure all returning youth have seen. These astonishing likenesses are of our own Marcus Whitman, a missionary who became famous for the vicious slaughter of he and his family, and Mother Joseph a Native American nun who founded schools across the state. These statues can also be found in the capital building in Washington D.C. where each state gets an allotted two statues.

With these interesting facts about our Capital in mind, we can go around the House, the Senate, Press room, and Lobbyist section, with pride in our hearts and a little more knowledge in our minds. We can truly admire and appreciate the Belgium floors, statues, and of course the agonizing 42 granite steps.

## Comrades, Unite!

Young comrades, put down your turnips and rakes, for we must join together. It is common knowledge that the YMCA sponsored Youth and Government group is meeting in Olympia, and will be perpetuating their capitalistic views by encouraging the development of their style of democracy. I cry that we too, form a Youth and Government group, so as to gain representation in Olympia!

These foolish capitalists have devised a system that uses mainly a two party system, as well as three branches of government. The meeting in Olympia will deal with what they refer to as the "Legislative Branch", possibly referring to its use as the hickory switch with which the noble working classes are beaten down with. In their system, they use two "houses", the House and Senate, each consisting of different numbers of "representatives" who "propose bills". These pawns of the stifling tyrants create their own proposed laws, which are debated and passed or rejected on the "floor" of their parliament, depending on votes.

Also included in this flawed farce of sad reality are "lobbyists" who are devilish agents of the plutocratic leaders, making sure that their businesses are supported with money through conniving methods! They are terribly efficient, and though some may truly wish to support lofty and true goals like universal healthcare, they are not to be trusted! A terrible practice is to corrupt the young minds with this profession.



Below is our schedule for our time in Olympia:

6:00 AM- Continental Breakfast consisting of bread, goat milk, and Cheerios.

7:00 AM- Leave hotel on foot and walk to Capitol building

8:00 AM-Deface and raze symbols of plutocratic oppression, such as the Capitol building

-Elect leader to oversee forming of single party system and govern until the People are ready to take the government into own hands  
1:00 PM-Elected leaders appoints friends/ associates to manage utilities and industries

-Elected leaders become rich and powerful off the work of the people, collecting exorbitant taxes and skimming of the top of profits

5:00 PM-Workers, regardless of skills/ ambition, are given equal pay and free education/ healthcare, though facilities are sub-par due to greed of elected leaders

-Formation of rebellion 7:00 PM- Rebellion quelled and leaders neutralized in dramatic betrayal

-New restriction put in place to prevent second rebellion and induce conformity  
11:00 PM- Economic collapse and militaristic overexertion cause group to crumple.

# FEATURES

## Pennies

By: Julia Tauben

Who likes having massive amounts of pennies cluttering up their wallets? Sure having exact change is nice, but fishing out the right number of pennies from your wallet while standing in a long line is not only inefficient, it's also aggravating to anyone behind you.

Pennies minted after 1982 contain large amounts of zinc which, if eaten by a dog can be fatal. And finally, the biggest problem with pennies: each penny, worth one cent, costs 1.3 cents to make. Given the current economy the government can ill afford to be minting coins that cost more to make than the actual worth. This is why the Memorial by Rosalie Forman from the Seattle Academy delegation is so important; it is asking that after 2011 no more pennies be minted. Instead of having to search for the correct number of pennies, every transaction will be rounded to the nearest five cents.

## History of Olympia

By: Aly Collins

Olympia was long inhabited by Native American Indians. The Natives used to call the present site of Olympia, "Cheet Woot" which means "place of the bear."

Did you know Olympia was named because they could see the Olympic Mountains in the distance. They decided this name in 1853. Who are they you ask? That would be Edmund Sylvester and Levi Smith. These two men claimed the land and began to build on it. When Smith suddenly died Sylvester was the main owner of the land. He wanted to honor his friend by naming the area where they settled. Sylvester had a couple name ideas for the settlement such as "Smithfield" and "Smithter" in honor of Levi Smith. But, when it came time to officially naming the settlement he chose Olympia.



## Thrift Store Formal

Stevenson High School has been going green for years. For example, on January 31st The Thrift Store Formal was held and had a great turn out. The music was bumpin' and even Mrs. C-B was showing off her best dance moves. There were giant board games, an old crazy colored couch for picture taking, and thrifty clothes everywhere. Recycle, reuse and reduce was the epic theme.



Molly Scott, Mercedes Lux and Kani Bazrafshan

Dancers arrived with two canned food items for the local food bank. Everyone was dancing with their friends, playing games, and goofing off outside trying to cool down.

People definitely look forward to this dance time and time again. When do you get another chance to go to Goodwill pick out some outfit your parents probably wore in the 70's and dance the night away with your friends?

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# BILLS

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## Joke Bills

- Taylor Robinson

Year and year again students come together at Washington's capital to share their bills as a youth legislature. Some individuals are more serious about their bills, proposing ideas that they find truly just. Others, however, take a more light-hearted approach and simply want to have a good time while dipping their toes into government.

Jeremy Waters and Casey Smith of Stevenson Delegation, for example, are presenting a bill that proposes that all beaches must become nude beaches. Another "Joke Bill", as they have come to be called, written by John Salazar and Andrew Wareham, also of Stevenson Delegation, proposes the immediate impoundment of all domestic animals or pets if they are found "doing the nasty" in public. Furthermore, if they attempt to flee the scene, they will be tazed.

Bills such as these keep Youth and Government fresh and entertaining as well as informative.

## Lifeguarding Laws in Washington State

-Hillary Lundberg

As a certified lifeguard of almost two years, I was surprised to find that at the health club my family belongs to; I'm not allowed to swim laps unless there is another lifeguard over the age of eighteen on duty because I'm a minor. While I understand that it's partly a liability issue, and that even though I'm a lifeguard I would need someone else to ensure my safety, I found it a bit odd that the aforementioned lifeguard couldn't be a minor. The club told my family that the rule wasn't their choice; they were required by law to institute such a rule. If the State of Washington allows fifteen year olds to earn lifeguard certifications and work as lifeguards at pools, then why would such a law exist? This is where Senator Emma Kahle's bill comes in. The revision that Senator Kahle's bill makes to the current law removes the age restriction, and states that certified lifeguards can swim in a pool or aquatic facility so long as, "at least one certified lifeguard is present out of the water and physically able to perform lifeguard duties." By not enforcing a minimum age requirement for the non-swimming lifeguard, this revision to the law would allow for more opportunities and abilities for lifeguards to swim.

## Underage Inking

- Kate Donahue

Currently in the State of Washington, no one under the age of eighteen, even with parental consent, can legally get a tattoo. But the Cherberg Senate has introduced a bill to lower the legal age for acquiring tattoos. Kristina Sokourenko's bill proposes that the legal age to get inked be moved from eighteen to sixteen. A legal guardian must still accompany teens that are eligible to get a tattoo but are not yet eighteen years of age. All licensed tattoo artists must require photo identification be produced by their clients to insure that they are not violating this section. If this bill is passed, those of you sweet sixteen's lucky enough to get parental consent, feel free to get inked, and the rest of you only have to wait a few more years.

# MEET YOUR MAJOR OFFICERS



*Naomi Meyer*  
*Lt. Governor*

**Delegation:** Tacoma  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:**

slurpees, thai food, tofu, and coffee  
"I love to perform and teach yoga. Kailyn, Phil, and I all went on an overnight backpacking trip at age 13."



*Phil Gardner*  
*Governor*

**Delegation:** Tacoma  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** Milk Shakes/Ice Cream

"I am a huge American Idol Fan."

*Kailyn Schmidt*  
*Speaker of the House*

**Delegation:** Tacoma  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** Rice

"My knees bend backwards"



*Brandon McGee*  
*Secretary of State*

**Delegation:** Mountain View  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** Beef Stroganoff w/ mashed potatoes, hot noodles, and a side of corn.



"I build websites in my spare time and volunteer @ the Oregon Zoo."

*Kaleigh Boyd*  
*Speaker Pro Tem*

**Delegation:** Southeast  
**Grade:** Junior  
**Favorite Food:** Laffy Taffy  
"I never match my socks!"



*Mack Sullivan*  
*President Pro Tem*

**Delegation:** Thurston  
**Grade:** Senior

**Favorite Food:** Oats  
"I like to read."

*Michael Gray*  
*Director of Elections*

**Delegation:** Thurston  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** Sautéed Mushrooms  
"Best milkshakes at Youth Leg are from King Solomon's Reef!"



*Nick Simpson*  
*Attorney General*

**Delegation:** Olympic Peninsula  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** I just like to eat! I'm not picky.  
"I got my diaper changed on the governor's desk when I was a baby."



*Kelsey Warren*  
*Editor in Chief*

**Delegation:** Dayton  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** Chocolate...any kind really.  
"I've never had the chicken pox and I have touched an iguana! ."



*Madeline Cavazos*  
*Chief Lobbyist Officer*

**Delegation:** Dayton  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** Vanilla Pudding  
"I am learning Elvish, Sindarian."



*Deacostia*  
*Law Postmaster General*

**Delegation:** Tacoma  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Favorite Food:** Italian  
"I love to dance, and am afraid of people over 6 ft."



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Myspace vs Facebook

By Veronica Davis

Nearly anyone you talk to who has either a Myspace or Facebook will vehemently defend one or the other; people seem to think that one has to be better.

With Myspace there are the bulletins that are always fun and coming up with your favorite quote for headlines is another exciting feature. It has privacy settings for those tweens trying to pass as 18 year olds and you don't have to put your real name, a bonus for some people. As far as Facebook goes, it also has bulletin like options as well and even though you do have to put your real name, it makes finding people a whole lot easier. There are plenty of places to put quotes and of course there is the "What are you doing right now?" feature that most people enjoy, not to mention Facebook also has privacy settings for your profile and almost anything can go on it.

I use to be a daily Myspace user; it was appealing to me because there was always something to do on it. When I finally deleted my Myspace I had about a one-month period where I was completely shut out from the online world until I got a Facebook, and then once again felt connected. At first I didn't log on very much but now I have found ways to spend hours on it, just like I did with Myspace.

The two may seem very different, but when it really comes

down to it they are basically the same. They are both about networking and connecting with people in a non-confrontational way. Okay, so they are different shades of blue and you can't pick the background color of your home page on Facebook like you can on Myspace. But in the end, for our generation they are just something to hide behind.

## Horoscopes

### Aries



(3/21-4/19)

Lobbyist: Steady on. You will win support for your cause if you persevere.

### Taurus



(4/20-5/20)

Lob: Turn on the charm! Venus grants you charisma out the wing-tip shoes!

## Mix It Up

By Whitney Hentschell

Within our schools  
 We built our walls  
 That barricade  
 The many halls  
 And within our school  
 We divide  
 Different worlds  
 On each side  
 And never would we think  
 The walls would come down  
 As it is meant  
 To keep cliques bound

But only can I hope  
 That all you will see  
 We are alike  
 You and me  
 And the walls that stand  
 Supported by our stubborn mind  
 Can be knocked down  
 And opportunities you will find

So while at Leg.  
 Let us forget those walls  
 Mix it up

## Classifieds

Slightly used Committee Chair looking for love, a good time, and a date to the Governor's Ball. Contact the press room for more details... put your stake in this claim now before it is too late!



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# EDITORIALS

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

## **Alcatraz: A Prolonged Incarceration** *by Jeany Larson*

I began my research with the aim of finding some hopeful moment in Native American history. Perhaps I could find a successful revolt against the white man, or even a tribe or two that survived losing their lands without losing their ways of life. I quickly discovered the American Indian Movement of the sixties and seventies, full of people with idealistic plans and righteous anger.

My own optimism was quickly captivated and I was swept up in the story of the occupation of Alcatraz Island. My Hollywood-conditioned mind immediately recognized the classic hero of the story, Richard Oakes. I absorbed the glory of rebelling against the U.S. government. I read clever proclamations calling for a "Bureau of Caucasian Affairs," and the pointed promises to "offer [the white man] our religion, our education, our life-ways, in order to help them achieve our level of civilization and raise them...up from their savage and unhappy state." (Eagle, 207)

Between the United States government, with its attempts to remove the Native Americans from Alcatraz Island, and the Native Americans them-

selves, my Pacific- Northwest upbringing had predestined me to side with the occupiers. As I read a timeline of the occupation, I became enraged that the government removed them at all in the end. There were only eight innocent Native Americans sitting on an island! After genocide and a complete eradication of culture, I firmly believed that the government should have left them alone.

Eventually, I realized that I was completely wrong. It was not the government's interference that caused the occupation to fail. The occupation completely self-destructed, and the outcome would have been similar even if the government hadn't intervened. In fact, most of the visionary islanders left Alcatraz long before the final few occupiers were removed, and those stragglers should have left earlier.

Although the occupation's failure to achieve its goals was the direct result of the instability on the island, this failure can be traced to previous government interactions with the Native American community. The inability of the movement to stay unified is a result of the United States' repeated trampling of most Native American communities. Since I only had time to study the occupation itself, my research can only support assertions based on the event itself without taking into account the history that led up to the occupation or the effects it had on the Native American communities. In this context only are the words like 'failure' and 'fault' used in relation to the occupation.

## **Being an American Means to Me...**

*by Ellie Bartlow*

Home is a place. It is hard to define, simple to spell, easily forgotten and impossible to live without. Home is security, state of worth. It is not only where we live, it defines our culture, class, personalities, jobs, hobbies, friendships, pride, dignity and honor. Home defines our most inner beings and shows the world how we really are. America is my home.

I know I am safe at home when I read a book. Go to school. Paint a picture, see a movie. When something good happens and is celebrated, and when I see my friends, family, teachers, town-folk and countrymen together overjoyed, that's when I know I am home. My home is America.

When I go to sleep and I know I am safe, I am home.

When I look on the T.V. and see ads for the United States Marines, the U.S Army, the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Peace Corps, I am home.

When I stand up at school and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, I am home.

When I go to places such as church or religious activities without confrontation or secrecy freely as a bird, no limitations or rules, I know I am home.

When I sit in history class and learn of our fathers, our brothers, our sisters, our mothers, I am home.

America is my home,  
I am safe.  
I am myself.  
I am loved.

*(ct'd.)*

# EDITORIALS

(*ct’d.*) I am happy.  
 I am free.  
 I am proud.  
 I am proud to say I am American, proud to wear the red, the white, and the blue. I am proud to come home after school safe, proud, and free. When I sing our lovely anthem, I sing with pride swelled in my heart. I am proud to go to church, clubs, school, friends’ houses, parties and events as freely as I please, with no barriers, no limitations, no rules. I am proud of my education, both my book smarts and my life smarts.

I am proud to call our lovely land home, our land of rolling hills, massive mountains, rushing rivers and scorching dry lands. American made, born and raised, here to stay. Where I can think what I want to think; I can do what I want to do. Where I have a say in law, judgment, rule, class, decisions. Where freedoms give me rights I wouldn’t have other places, let me be things I couldn’t be somewhere else.

Being an American means being myself—being home.



## “A Bundle of Compromises”

by Abby Williams

Back in 1787, fifty-five men sat in a hot, stuffy room secretly debating over important issues. The decisions made between these men now make up what we call “the Constitution,” which over time has been referred to as “a bundle of compromises” by many historians and philosophers, due to the different opinions of each man towards the variety of issues.

Among these compromises, one of focus is the controversial issue of representation. When it came to deciding upon representation, the Virginia plan and New Jersey Plan were taken into consideration. Under the Virginia Plan was proportional representation (argued for by the larger states), while the New Jersey Plan consisted of equal representation (supported by smaller states). Equal representation proposed an equal number of members represented in the legislature for all states, no matter its population, while proportional representation suggested that representatives in legislature should be based off of popula-

tion size.

The Framers against proportional representation were from small states, believing that it was not fair for the larger states to have more representation just because of population size. Small states felt that their voice would not be heard through proportional representation because the larger states would overpower them; using equal representation over proportional would create fairness between the states.

On the other hand, delegates such as James Madison, James Wilson and Rufus King from larger states wanted to be represented proportionally. From James Madison’s perspective, “States should not be represented as states in the national government, but instead, a representative should serve their district and connect the people of their district to the national government.” Arguing for proportional representation, Madison did not want the state to be represented as a whole, but as the people in each district. Many Framers from large states also felt that a larger population should have more representation.

Although there were many disagreements on this issue, it was decided that if the national legislature had two chambers, then one should be based on proportional representation. Therefore, today the House is proportional and the Senate is equal representation.