

YMCA

# CAPITOL CAPERS

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

## Swine Flu...A Pandemic?

**By Matthew Pyles**

When Barack Obama ran for president, there were many who said he couldn't do it. Some went so far as to say that if a black became president, pigs would fly. While that has yet to happen in the literal sense of the term, it could be seen as an extraordinary coincidence that pigs and birds have joined together in an strange and unhealthy way: the Swine Flu (H1N1 virus).

First detected in America in April, the disease is thought to of originated in Mexico, where it caused entire villages to sicken and 42 people to die. From there it has spread to 642 people in the United States (nine in Washington), and from there to the rest of the world, with a total of nearly 1900 confirmed cases in 21 countries. Because of the widespread nature of the outbreak, and the little known about how easily this virus spreads, the World Health Organization has ranked this as a Level 5 ("eminent pandemic") pandemic alert, causing widespread panic.

However, the swine flu is similar to typical seasonal flu in severity, and has caused a pitance amount of deaths compared to what the seasonal flu inflicts (46 deaths in one month compared to an average of 300 deaths a month for seasonal flu). The difference between the viruses is hard to detect; they exhibit the same symptoms and samples must be sent to a lab to determine whether it is the swine flu or another type of influenza. The key to avoiding

type of influenza. The key to avoiding the swine flu is common sense: avoid touching your mouth and nose, wash your hands regularly, and practice good health habits such as getting adequate sleep and eating nutritious food. Also, if you are sick, cough in your elbow, not your hands.

While the election of Barack Obama and the outbreak of swine flu are not related, it is clear that the President will be doing his best to make sure that the American public is adequately prepared for any possible pandemic.

**\*Editors Note:** Please use the hand sanitizer available around the capitol. It is important that we all try to keep the spread of germs to a minimum. Most importantly if you begin to develop flu symptoms go home to prevent spreading your illness.

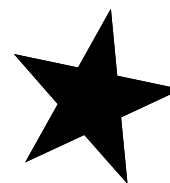
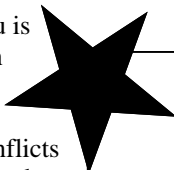
## National Day of Prayer

Today many of you might notice there will be a number of people congregating on the North Steps of the Legislative Building. It is the National Day of Prayer, observed the first day of May every year. This holiday was created in 1952 by the United States Congress and signed into effect by President Harry S. Truman. This day is designed to invite people of all faiths to form a unified front to pray for our nation. The event often sparks debate because of the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment. Meanwhile, the Free Exercise Clause allows for this occasion to be organized by non-governmental bodies. Groups opposing the National Day of Prayer have established another coinciding holiday named the National Day of Reason. Which is right? You be the judge.



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# OPINION

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**East Side Represent!**

By: Ellie Bartlow

As a delegate from one of the lone three delegations from the east side of Washington, I felt fairly well represented at the opening session on Wednesday night as well as so far this week. Contrary to popular belief, we're not all about onions over here! Of the ten or so questions that the State Governor Christine Greigore answered, two were asked by east side delegates.

Even though only three of the thirty two schools having delegations are located on the east side of Washington, representation of these schools is critical, and it is exciting to see delegates from these schools running and being elected into major offices, the Editor in Chief of the *Capitol Capers*, Kelsey Warren as well as the Chief Lobbyist officer Madeline Cavazos. These two of the eleven elected officers are both from the Dayton Delegation. For only forty four delegates representing the east side of Washington from either Dayton, Waitsburg or Bickelton, that's not too shabby.

I am excited to vote for some of the candidates running for 2010 elected offices from the east side, and encourage those looking for a wide range of representation from all over the state to consider doing the same.

**Avada Kadavra-Take that Twilight!**

By: Molly Payne

Super speed, amazingly good looks, and eagle-like eyes versus brooms, wands, and hippogriffs. The argument over if Twilight or Harry Potter is superior is escalating. Barnes and Noble is having a field day with all the competition. They even have shrines devoted to each series! Fans are getting in cat fights, and mothers and are throwing punches. Has this rivalry gone too far?

Personally this rivalry is a bit ridiculous. Admittedly Twilight is a good series with love, lust and danger found within it's pages. But can an Adonis looking character really beat a lonely, orphan boy turned hero? I think not!

Harry Potter has everything we all want to love in a book. Not only is he a boy whom any girl would jump in front of Voldemort for, but there is also true danger and probably the coolest headmaster over a hundred you could ever fathom! J.K. Rowling's work on Harry Potter is truly astounding. Harry is the boy everyone roots for and the one everyone wish they knew.

Twilight can't hold a candle to Harry Potter. With tens of millions of books being sold, I am obviously not alone in saying Harry Potter has and will always trump Twilight.

**Candidate Love Match!**

Throughout there years there have been many joining of couples through Y&G. This year we're giving you a chance to make your own "fantasy couples" with your candidates for the following year. We want to know what you think! Who knows, the winners might even get a grand prize or the position they've been desiring! Just send your vote in for cutest couple to the press room via page notes to Rachel Cropper. Look in your voters pamphlet to get pictures and information on the candidates!

Your choices are:

Daniela Ferrell  
+  
Tucker Blessinger  
  
Katherine Rodihan  
+  
Micheal Hansen  
  
Harper Grimes  
+  
Mitch Wilson  
  
Tyler Grimshaw  
+  
Gus Froese  
  
Kaleigh Boyd  
+  
Sam Shimmel  
  
Claire Bruncke  
+  
Erik Larson



# FEATURES

## Your Governor Candidates

### Interview with Johnny Krueger By Collin Marshall



Johnny Krueger, also known as the Youth Governor Candidate from District II, has some great ideas for the future of the Youth in Government program, as he revealed during our brief interview. When asked what he could do to make the 63<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session the best one yet, he responded that he would try spreading Youth and Government over to areas that do not have it, because educating more and more people about the government is the point of the program, and having more people makes each session better. When I asked him why he is the best choice to be the Youth Governor he said that he is a very personal person, and he likes to have fun, but when he needs to, he can get things done.

On the lighter side of the interview, when he was asked what he thought of joke bills, he responded "Joke bills have their place, but when there are too many, it can be too much. I think that one every six or seven bills is fine." He added that there was one particular joke bill two years ago, which took the right to 'bear arms' in the constitution literally, he said that this was the best joke bill so far. He said that his best Youth and Government experience so far is when he was the Lobbyist Executive. Johnny said that he liked playing the devil's advocate as a lobbyist and looking at the bills he was assigned and coming up with pros and cons, being able to see both sides of the argument. Johnny is also known as claiming that he resembles Barack Obama. I asked him what qualities he thinks make him look like Obama, and he responded by saying that when he shaves his head, there is defiantly an Obama-esque look. Also, he thinks that he and Obama have a similar charisma where people can tell that they like to have fun, but can also get down to business.

From my brief interview with Johnny, I managed to observe that he is a friendly, charismatic person, with some great ideas about the future of the program. In my opinion he would make a great governor. Well, the election for Governor should be interesting, and we'll all have to wait and see how it turns out.

### Erik Larson Interview By: Maia Gabriel

Q: What is your favorite part about Y&G

A: Debate, arguing and talking about current issues.

Q: What do you want to do when you get out of high school?

A: Engineering Columbia Cal Tech.

Q: Do you play any sports?

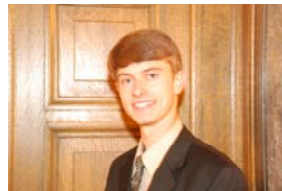
A: Swimming, I went to state.

Q: Do you have any Hobbies?

A: Snowboarding

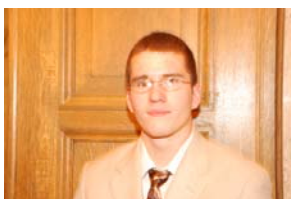
Q: What's your favorite food?

A: Mashed Potatoes



Mitch Wilson  
By: Amanda Sills

During this year of Youth and Government elections, there are four candidates running for the position of Youth Governor, however let's focus on Mitch Wilson for a little while. Mitch Wilson has been interested in current events and politics since he was 12 years old and has been involved with Youth and Government for three years. Through programs and leadership skills, Mitch has received 2007 Captain Van award from United States Sea Cadet Corps and 2008 Sons of the American Revolution Medal. From these experiences, Mitch has acquired passion and experience for the position of Youth Governor. As he says, "The combined experience I have acquired along with my passion for service to my community and country gives me a great foundation to serve as Youth Governor."



### Mason Clark By: Matt Brown



Mason Clark is a junior from the Dayton Delegation of District 4. He has been in YMCA Youth Legislature for the last three years. In his bio, it says that he is tall and blonde. He talks about what he brings to the table for the Youth and Government program, things such as leadership, responsibility, and integrity. He enjoys soccer, FBLA, drama and band. When you do make your decision on who you want to be your governor, be sure to consider Mr. Mason Clark. Don't be in the dark, vote for Clark.

# FEATURES

## Lt. Governor Candidates

### Tucker Blessinger

- Taylor Robinson

What's the name? Tucker Blessinger. What's the position? Lt. Governor. This is a man who thinks he's got what it takes. Blessinger is from Dayton Delegation and has house bill #49. If you'd care to look it up, do so. However, this article is here to inform you about Blessinger on a more personal level.

Tucker has been called the songbird of his generation and considers *The Patriot* to be his favorite movie of all time. His favorite mythical creature is the Cyber-toothed dragon, yes that's right "cyber" toothed, not "saber" and his most hated food is baby. Which I think most can agree they do not particularly enjoy partaking in baby. His favorite song is "Poker Face" by Lady GaGa and his favorite Y & G memory is when he heard a bill proposing that all inmates on death row should have a televised fight to the death. Which brings us to the last and definitely most important question... Who would Tucker Blessinger choose to be on his side in a fight? Well that, ladies and gentlemen, would be Count Duku. So make the right choice this year when voting for Lt. Governor, whoever you may see best fit. But remember, no one likes a Lt. Governor who DOES like to eat baby.



Michael Hansen  
Candidate for Lt.  
Governor  
By: Matt Brown

### Katherine Rodihan

By: Audrey LeFort

**Q:** Why are you running for Lt. Governor?

**A:** I think I would do really good. I want to help shy people become more comfortable.

**Q:** What is your favorite part of Youth and Government?

**A:** My favorite part would have to be the debate, I really like to be challenged and challenge people.

**Q:** When you get older, what do you want to do with your life?

**A:** I want to study science politics because I want to have a job related to government My dream is to become a state legislature,

**Q:** Do you have anything you would like to achieve on a bill or a big goal?

**A:** Yes, I would like to pass the bill to allow gay marriage in the state of Washington. Also, I would like to make a difference in the world by helping as many people I can.

## She's Got it all!

By: Hopeanne Norris

Kaleigh Boyd is running for Lt. Governor, she is from the southeast delegation. She has been in Youth and Government for four years now. Through her experience's at Youth and Government she has gained poise, the knowledge to overcome obstacles and the capacity to express ideas effectively. Some of her positions held where 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Senator, Page, O'Brian house rep., Vice chair, senator, and Speaker Pro Tempore.

Michael Hansen is one of the candidates for our Youth and Government Lieutenant Governor. He has been in Youth and Gov. for three year and has held many positions such as Cherberg Senator and Fair Elections Commissioner. Hansen says that he loves being in the senate and would feel much greater joy at being able to preside over the chamber he loves. He states that he would "keep a sense of humor and a spring in my step." Make sure to consider Michael Hansen for Lt. Governor.

# BILLS

## Bold tomorrows, TODAY!

Rebekkah James

Coffee provides some with an escape; a second sanctuary only accessible via the unlimited amount of coffee pots. For others, it’s a much needed wake-up call with less violent after-maths. For some though, this idea is something that’s not nearly as aesthetically appetizing. For those who do a bulk of the work involved to produce this commodity, day in and day out, they are constantly reminded of the fact that their hard labor, countless hours, and low living standards have been in vain. When they get their check delivered at the end of the month, they’re lucky to have made the equivalent of \$1.00 in American currency. And what’s worse, American production companies are the heart and soul of this ongoing injustice.

By passing HB15, we have a say; we have the methods and means to end this injustice. This memorial has an idea that both sides have the ability to benefit from: This memorial asks that our president makes it mandatory that every café in the U.S. is member of the Fair Trade Commission by the year 2011.

By passing this memorial, we ensure that coffee farmers, roasters, pickers, as well as everyone else needed to produce salvation receives \$1.26 per pound of coffee they produce. As the cards fall currently, they only receive \$.50 per pound. These people have families; sons, daughters, wives. More often than not, they’re so pressured by the industry to make ends meet, their response is to pull their child out of school so they have the ability to produce more coffee beans. Every individual, regardless of location, should have access to education. By enacting this memorial, their educational rights are protected, financial stability is expanded, and living standards are increased. Be a positive influence; vote yes on HB15. Vote for a bold tomorrow, today.



## Drivers Ed.

-Matthew Pyles

Many of us have attended a driver’s school where we learned the rules of the road from qualified instructor. We learned what speed to go where, what to do in an accident, and how to drive in a snowstorm. Most of us though, were taught with the luxury of an automatic transmission. House representative Jake Doty wants otherwise; his bill is to require driver education schools to teach on both an automatic *and a manual* transmission vehicle. It seems to me that this is needed because in real life the chances of having to drive a “stick-shift” exist, and are in fact more likely than being fined for parking 7 inches from the curb. If one is going to be paying \$400 to \$600 dollars for drivers education, is it too much to ask that they teach how to drive both types of cars so you don’t have to learn on your own later?

### HELP!!!!!!

Casey Smith of the O’Brian house needs a person from the Chergberg Senate to propone his bill, House bill 29, if you can help please send him a page note ASAP!

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Fashion Trends

By Whitney Hentschell

From Danni Ferrel's animal print to the high-waisted skirts of Naomi Meyers, the youth and government delegates this year are one hot bunch! Whoever said you cant look good in professional attire? Even in the rain majority of the female hair on campus looked flawless. Not only do the girls look good, but the guys – woo you look good in a dress pants. Especially dress pants with navy pinstriped shirts. However in every good-looking group of people there are the few who just cant quite get the hang of a cute outfit. Girls, tighter, shorter, sheerer, is not better. It can actually make you look disproportionate, and doesn't flatter your body. Guys, sweater vests and flat-billed baseball hats are just ridiculous. Olympia is not the place to try to play dress-up gangster. Besides those few, we look good.

## Bipolar Weather

By Leanna Knowles

According to Steve Pool, the weatherman, today's weather is supposed to be dreary and raining. However as soon as I walked out of the house this morning in DuPont, I was blasted with rays of golden sunshine. Then, driving down the free on the way to the capitol we were pelted with torrents of rain. With the weather being so odd at the capitol, we have to be prepared for anything! Bring an umbrella, a windbreaker and a Northface, to fight off rain, snow or wind. Yes, snow, it snowed in March it can snow in May. So, as the great Scar said in the famous movie *Lion King*, BE PREEPAAAARED!

## Ode to Phil Gardner

By Leanna Knowles

*Roses are Red  
Violets are Blue  
Vote for my bill  
Or I'll veto you.*

A lovely poem composed by Tucker Cholvin.

This year Phil Gardner is our Youth Governor. He is 6ft and 2 inches tall, strawberry blonde male with impeccable style. In last year's election, he won by a landslide. With Phil as this year's Governor, it sure to be the best one yet. As each year passes we can only expect improvement and I think Phil and his cabinet are a perspicacious group of people willing to make this happen. We were informed by a source very close to Phil (cough cough Tucker), that he is an avid fan of West Wing – and strongly dislikes babies. This is going to be an exciting session!

## Horoscopes

### Leo

(7/23-8/22)



Stressing or over thinking things today will lead you in the wrong direction. Follow your instincts and you will find what your searching for.

### Virgo

(8/23-9/22)



This is your day young virgo, as long as you stay confident and positive you can accomplish anything. You are instore for a good night.

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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.*

## State of the Union: The Education Crisis

by Emma Cumpton

Going to a public school, one that was recently in a district \$22 million in debt, I have seen the system slowly shrink from its duties in providing for the students. The problem is not with the schools themselves, but with a government forced to make cuts, levies that can’t pass and disastrous financial mismanagement. Class sizes have reached the point where students literally cannot fit into classrooms and teachers and administration critical to the functioning of the school are laid off. The result is that we, the students, are losing valuable resources and learning less.

I had hoped that during this election, despite concerns over the economy, healthcare, and the war, someone – *anyone* – would bring up the topic of the education crisis, but it remained a disregarded issue. It is to President Obama’s credit that after the election, he pointed out a truth I’ve been stressing for years: Students are the future of a nation. If we can’t provide properly for students, these future citizens will be poorly equipped to face a competitive, globalized world. 2008 brought a 77% graduation rate, below most developed countries; math and science levels also fall below the rest of the developed world. We can’t allow our genera-

tion to work so hard and come out with a disadvantage for which we are not to blame. Acts like No Child Left Behind, meant to improve the situation, have done anything but, and as schools around the United States continue to lose money, we’re on a downward spiral toward complete idiocy.

This is an issue that needs to become more important in this country. We have the potential to solve so many problems in the future if the generation that runs the country in said future has the skills and knowledge to approach problems. We need awareness, we need other students who care and will scream as loud as they can for change. We need new textbooks and technology and curriculum, new motivation and pride. By placing education last on the national docket of crises, we are stunting our own growth.



## The Reality of Equality

by Rebekkah James

Democracy in itself breathes the hope of equality, holds within its grasp the promise of opportunity that lures its victims in just before making the final plunge. But is democracy really all it’s claiming to be? Is it really an all-access free pass to equality?

In my opinion, our beloved governmental system has a few kinks; lying beneath these kinks is the falsely preconceived notion

that everything really is equal. Plainly stated, not every political party is represented. Like most other things in the world, our government is lumping our politics into two categories: Democratic and Republican.

In reality, the different parties are numerous, ranging from the “wacky-weirds” to the “I-see-your-point,” but receive no voice, no recognition, no “equal access,” no equality. Nationalist, Humanitarian, Libertarian, Green Party, and the American Independent Party are some that make the list, but where, oh where, are their voices in the legislature?

## Waste Not, Want Not

by Anna Boyd

Going green. The length of time it takes plastics to decompose. The amount of waste going into landfills every year that could be recycled. The rubbish littering our streets. We need solutions to these problems before our earth warms beyond levels sustainable for life.

Here’s one not often suggested: Don’t recycle packaging. *Reduce* packaging. Ever notice how they never fill a package of M&Ms all the way, or found a sugar packet only half full? This waste of packaging could easily be eliminated. Sure, the advertising on such products would also be reduced, theoretically reducing profit for companies. But by shrinking a package to actually reflect the amount of product within, aren’t they being more honest?

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# ROUNABOUT TOWN

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# La Tacqueria

*Where's the best  
place for lunch  
in Olympia?*

# Happy Teriyaki



SUBWAY

*Bread  
peddler*

... and that one place by the Hands On Museum