Bills Gone Wild

Maddie Shaw
Copy Editor

It is no secret that each Youth and Government Conference has its own share of creatively-themed bills. This YAG tradition is very much still a part of Conference this year, especially as all bills submitted will at least be considered on the committee level. The Media team polled YAGgers to see which of these five bills delegates believe is the most wild. Delegates ranked the bills in order from one to five, one being the wildest. Points values are as such: 1st=5 points; 2nd=4 points; 3rd=3 points; 4th=2 points; 5th=1 point.

House Bill 47 calls for the destruction of all cargo pants ever made. The bill states that there will be “confiscations” of all cargo pants and shorts and that the items of clothing will then be burned.

Two students from A.E. Finley YMCA wrote a bill that would require students to take a high school course on the United States Constitution. Students will examine the Constitution as a whole as well as the Bill of Rights and Amendments 11-27.

Another controversial bill being debated at Conference this year is House Bill 88. The legislation mandates that Billboard “Hot 100” songs will be used during all fire drills in order to make them a more enjoyable experience. However, during actual fire situations regular fire alarms will be used instead.

Senate Bill 43 calls for the transportation of an African Safari to Roxboro, North Carolina. A state park will be created on 100 acres of land and will be adapted to create an environment similar to that of the African Savanna. The park is expected to bring revenue to the state as residents of North Carolina will be able to take safari tours within it.

The Senate will review a bill which mandates that North Carolina ceases the use of lethal injection for state executions and reverts to using the Guillotine. A Guillotine will be issued to Central Prison and NC Correctional Institution for Women; all executions will be performed at these two locations.

As indicated by the poll, YAG delegates clearly feel that bringing back the Guillotine and ceasing the use of lethal injections is the wildest bill at Conference this year. Keep an eye on your bill trackers to follow all of these bills as they make their way to the Governor.

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"Democracy must be learned by every generation."
Another change that this increase in number of introduced bills presents is the greater number of participants at this year’s conference.

Youth and Government will have nearly twice the number of participants that it has had in previous years in the legislature.

One of the most significant of this year’s changes will be the introduction of a Governor’s Agenda, dubbed “CHASE,” for the first time in North Carolina Youth and Government history. CHASE is an acronym whose letters represent an issue that North Carolina is facing, including health concerns, improving the unemployment rate, as well as the use of clean energy resources.

The agenda will be used as a guide for delegates during the bill-writing process in order for them to create legislation on realistic issues in North Carolina.

Another legislative change concerns bill flow. Unlike in past years, bills can fail in the non-specific committees that they will be introduced in. With the influx of a greater amount of bills, a bill can only be introduced into the Governor’s Cabinet with passage in committees and both the House and the Senate.

“Taking a step toward legitimacy was really something that we stressed earlier this year,” said Edmunds, “We value the idea that everyone participating in NC Youth and Government leave the conference at the end of the week having learned more about the way our State Government functions.”

Camille Bourne
Print Staff Writer

February 7th

Charles Dickens Born

On this day in 1812, in the city of Portsmouth, England, one of the most famous writers of all time, Charles Dickens, was born. Throughout his noteworthy career he wrote many beloved novels such as Oliver Twist, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, and the holiday favorite, A Christmas Carol. As he traveled on his first United States tour in 1842, he talked of his opposition to slavery and he was so popular that even ticket scalpers were a common sight at his events. It was during this tour that Dickens set himself up to be what could be considered the first “celebrity” of the modern era.

European Union Treaty is Signed

In 1992, after centuries of tribulations, European countries such as Italy, France, and Greece, came together to form the “Maastricht Treaty of European Union.” The treaty called for compatibility between the nations economically and dealt with many other issues. Through the treaty a plan was created to instate the “euro,” a common currency between Europe countries.

The Beatles Land in New York

Lastly, in 1964, a Pan Am flight from London Heathrow landed at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. However, this wasn’t a normal flight. It was carrying John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr; the lads from Liverpool collectively known as The Beatles. Their single, “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” gave the group their first No.1 U.S. hit.
Inside the Case: How to Pack for YAG

Kyle Werner  Print Editor

What's the first thing you did this morning? Did you frantically run around your hotel room in search of that missing sock or the perfect bowtie? Or did you just slip on the outfit you've had picked out for 2 weeks? Whatever your situation was, every YAGger goes through the annual struggles of not just packing, but packing for YAG.

It’s that time of year again. The North Carolina Youth Legislature is in full swing and with all the changes in store it’s bound to be one of the most memorable years yet. If you’ve been to Conference before, you certainly know how fashionable the attendees are. Whether it’s that dapper suit and tie for the gentlemen or the perfect dress and heels combination for the ladies, there is no doubt that these delegates know how to dress. However, these outfits don’t come together without careful planning and true dedication.

Many delegates stayed up into the early morning hours of Thursday stuffing their suitcase to the brim with potential outfit combinations. Others have been planning their outfits for months and finished packing over the weekend. Chief-of-Staff, Ashley Hollowell, has been planning outfits since last year’s conference. When asked about how she plans outfits she told us she tries everything on at home and takes a picture of herself so she remembers the outfit once she gets to Conference. She even has a separate room in her house for packing! Other delegates such as NCSSM’s Tyler Fox simply throw a bunch of outfit combinations into a suitcase the night before and decide what will look best once they arrive.

Whatever your packing style is there’s no doubt that packing for YAG is not easy task. All the bowties, jewelry, and basic amenities that are necessary for the weekend can slip even the most diligent of minds. Whether you’re a fashionista like Miss Hollowell or a last minute packer like so many others, we can all agree that packing for Conference is by no means a stress-free endeavor.

The Dance is Back

Samy Madan  Print Staff Writer

One of the most memorable nights of the Youth and Government Conference is back again. With a black light dance, circus performances, and food trucks, all delegations are in store for an unforgettable Friday Fun Night.

Last year Friday Fun Night was America themed with bull rides, photo booths, and swing dancing. This year, the NC Youth and Government 2014 Conference is re-introducing the dance theme.

Before the dance, delegation dinners will be hosted in City Plaza. There will be eight food trucks from which students can buy various kinds of food. The food trucks offer a wide variety of food options, ranging from baguettes to pizzas.

The dance itself will start at 8 p.m. and end around 10 p.m. The theme for tomorrow night’s dance is “Black Light” since the hall will be filled with them. Black lights look especially cool on white clothing making it glow-in-the-dark. However there is no required attire. Neon glow-in-the-dark necklaces and wands will also be circulated at the dance to add to the theme.

Along with this year’s “Black Light” theme, there will also be performances from a local aerial acrobatics organization called “Cirque du Vol”. Performers ranging from Stilt Walkers to LED Hoop Dancers will provide plenty of entertainment throughout the night.

Some other highlights of tomorrow night’s dance include the DJ, who will be performing a cool light show.

Black Light, Cirque du Vol, and much more are the reasons that this conference will be one to remember. Friday Fun Night is just a kick-start for the many great memories that will be made at this year’s NC Youth and Government Conference.
"Democracy must be learned by every generation."

Your 2014 YAG Officers:

5 Things To Know

1. I have three brothers and one sister
2. I’m going to Clemson University next year
3. I was born in California
4. I’m majoring in Political Science at Clemson
5. I love college football

Chase Edmunds
Governor

1. I’m going to UNC Chapel Hill next year
2. I’m addicted to Netflix
3. I’m a Counselor at Camp Don Lee
4. I could eat the same thing from Taco Bell for every meal for the rest of my life
5. Follow me on Instagram!! @ashleyhollowell

Ashley Hollowell
Chief of Staff
YAG Officers:

To Know

Lauren Miller
Lt. Governor

1. I have a weird obsession with the sky, clouds, and sunsets
2. I am a Beyoncé/Hillary Clinton wannabe
3. YAG is my favorite holiday
4. I have an unhealthy dependency on coffee
5. I have read the Harry Potter series too many times

Caroline Tervo
Attorney General

1. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is my idol
2. My Valentine’s Day plans consist of watching the whole new House of Cards season
3. Standing at 5’11.5” I’m even taller than my older sister
4. I originally joined judicial because of my Law and Order obsession
5. I was once on a TV show with Will Ferrell

"Democracy must be learned by every generation."
The Olympic Games have brought the world together for as long as we can remember, but this year the usual sense of unity has been replaced with an abundance of tension.

Russian politics have always been questioned by other countries, but recent laws established within the country have earned negative global attention. One set of laws in particular has several participating countries very upset with Russia. These laws, signed on July 3rd, 2013 by Russian president Vladimir Putin, strictly prohibit the support of homosexuality in any form. For example, Russian children are not allowed to be adopted by homosexual parents, or even parents in countries that have equality laws. Similarly, anyone suspected of participating in or supporting homosexual relationships is subject to immediate arrest and can be detained for up to fourteen days while an investigation takes place. However, laws against love are not the only concerns of visiting Olympians. There is a more immediate threat to their physical safety than there is to their freedom. In December, there were two suicide bombings 700 kilometers outside of Sochi in the city of Volgograd. The events left 34 people dead and raised global fears of Olympic terrorist attacks.

Privacy and censorship are also a heated topic of discussion due to strict rules and regulations put into place by the Russian government concerning media coverage of the Olympics. One such rule is that journalists may share photos of events, but not video; another states that the communications of all Olympic participants are to be closely monitored. Many people argue that these rules are not only intrusive, but unjustified as well. Unfortunately, Russian authorities do not seem likely to crack under public pressure.

The stakes are always high for athletes trying to earn the gold, but this year they may be just as high for everyone else involved.

**SENATE BILL 31**

**If 800 Million Won’t Help, Why Will 10?**

Many Education Bonds worth hundreds of millions of dollars have been injected into our state school program, yet we are still 44th out of 50 in public education quality. What makes you think 10 million will cut it? Keep the vouchers for the people who need them, not the schools who waste them.

**Stop Senate Bill 31.**
Debate

Media Officers Go Head to Head

Madison Allred and Ilana Spindel
Social Media Editor, Slideshow Editor

Friday Fun Night

We all know it. The roar of the speakers passionately playing the tune to your favorite song. The shaking of the floor as hundreds of teens wobble, baby, wobble their way to midnight. The inevitable (and luckily, temporary) loss of hearing from the blaring stereo system. Shaking, quaking, grooving, and gyrating with old and new friends (and let's not forget complete and utter strangers). That's right YAGgers, I'm talking about Friday Fun Night. For myself, it's the highlight of the conference. What could be better than shaking your groove thang on the most epic YAG boogie night ever? Nothing. At all.

While the Governor's Gala is the highlight for some, (Can you feel the judgement? No? It's because having your own opinion is fabulous. Don't ever change.) I give my YAG-SWAG award for most fantabulous conference event to Friday Fun Night. Don't get me wrong. I love dressing up and receiving multiple free desserts as much as any other girl, but my mad skills on the dance floor and my undying need to shake it like a polaroid picture (whatever “it” may be) is why Friday Fun Night makes YAG great. Everyone needs to let off steam after a hard day's work, even (mock) government officials.

Youth and Government Gala

Every year when the Youth and Government Conference rolls around, the event I look forward to most is the Saturday night Governor’s Gala. Everyone whips out their fine attire, cocktail dresses, and bow ties. Besides, who doesn't like getting dressed up? It's a perfect excuse for a new profile picture on Facebook, and some additions to your Instagram or Twitter account.

Another great part about the Gala is the meal. Whereas the food on most nights of the conference is tolerable at best, the Gala's sophisticated dinner is exceptional and free; well, actually, it's included in the price for the conference, but I digress.

My favorite part of the Gala, however, is the live music. Unlike the DJ at Friday Fun Night, the Gala performance is entertaining, and often includes cute college boys (ie. The Clefhangers), instead of your typical, overplayed dance music.

Of course I look forward to the debates, politics, and elections at the YAG Conference, but the Gala is really what I live for.
Four Year Seniors Reflect: A Journey Comes to an End

“...Youth and Government has been a large part of many high school students’ lives. Here are some quotes and favorite parts of YAG from just a few of the many four year seniors that are among us at Conference this year.

“The best experience I had during Youth and Government was when I was Chase Edmunds’ campaign manager during the 2013 conference and watching him win. Youth and Government has been one of my favorite experiences throughout high school. This organization has blessed me with many new friends, memories, and interests.”
-Blanton Smith

“My favorite experience from YAG was running for Lieutenant Governor. Even though I did not win running was a great experience and I would encourage anyone to run for office.”
-Scott Wheeler

“At first as a freshman I was not sure I would like YAG but I am so glad I did it. My favorite part of YAG was last year when me and my friends Hannah Joenk and Charly Smith wrote a bill on changing the time of separation before divorce and our bill got signed by the governor. It was so rewarding to see our hard work make it to the governor.”
-Landin Neuman