

"Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today"

Tomorrow TODAY

Volume XXII Issue 3

Sunday, April 5, 2009

YIG 2009: Debate Strong Throughout Conference



Youth Governor Roscoe Anderson got to visit Alabama Gov. Bob Riley in the state's chief executive's Capitol office.

Senate Debate Quickly Gets Serious

By NICOLE GEIER
Tomorrow TODAY Co-Editor

Friday, three bills reminded delegates that the Senate is known for its serious debate. Legal Advisor Daniel Connors of Enterprise, Senate Bill



#007, proposed Alabama would receive \$3 billion from the stimulus package. Delegates were split in deliberation causing a standing vote, but in the end the bill failed. Gregory Williams of Elmore-Stanhope, Senate Bill #011, proposed the idea of no sales tax on groceries. The bill states that groceries taxes will be reduced over a period of months and finally be removed on January 1, 2010. Delegates passed the bill with the intentions of it helping the people of Alabama. Sen. Xandra Fuller of Huntsville, Senate Bill #004, authored a bill proposing that every school should educate both sides of the



House members listen to a patron introduce legislation.

Creation/Evolution issue. Some delegates said both sides of story should be told so students can form their own opinion. Other delegates felt that it is not a classroom matter. The Senate defeated the bill.

Representatives Get Back to Basics

By ASHLEY JOHNSON
Tomorrow TODAY Staff Writer

Representatives Austin Haisten, Kyle Zimmerman, and John Stathopolous from the Prattville delegation defended their bill, "Project Lights Out," in the House with anticipation for passage. Their bill would shut down all power supplies on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month with the excep-

tion of hospitals, traffic lights, firehouses, police stations and jails. Several debaters such as Rep. Will Clayton of Birmingham/Oak Mountain were somewhat skeptical about this bill. To clear the air he made an amendment along with the statement, "This bill has good intentions but we need to focus on the basics."



Even though this amendment changed some minds, it didn't change the mind of Rep. Joseph Dumas of Birmingham/Minor, who said, "I really still notice some flaws."

The authors of the bill early

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE TODAY

Open Mike	2
Supreme Court	2
More Debate	2



Communication Director Matthew Copeland of Montgomery performs "My Girl."



Delegates exit the Embassy Suites ballroom after a fire alarm.

Karaoke/Open Mic Night Sure Fire Hit

By ASHLEY JOHNSON and MELANIE HELMS, Tomorrow TODAY Staff Writers

Friday night's Karaoke/Open Mic Night hosted by Justin Castanza, a Montgomery Y staff member, was a sure fire hit!

The evening started off with the singing of Rep. Peyton Hasten of Prattville who dedicated his memorable song "John, You Got It Goin' On" to his close buddy Rep. John Stathopolous. Second was the "Swag Team" who danced to "Shootout" by Soulja Boy. Shortly after, Lobbyist Turner Pyle of Elmore, Rep. Joseph

Dumas of Birmingham-Minor, and Attorney General Amber Voss of Wetumpka changed the scene with the hit song "This Little Light of Mine." Keeping the mood calm and relaxing, Senate Sgt. At Arms Caroline Madison of Montgomery wowed the crowd singing along with Celine Dion's song "My Heart Will Go On."

To change it up a bit, host Justin Castanza thought the night needed a bit of spicing up; so he called up four brave males to perform a joke called "Diarrhea Charades," which left the

crowd in laughter.

The night had a definite twist when the fire alarm went off, luckily for us it was just a false alarm. The night ended with the traditional song "My Girl," performed by the governor's Communication Director Matthew Copeland of Montgomery and a "Stanky Leg" freestyle dance led by host Justin Castanza. Our wonderful host and talented delegates made this event full of fun and laughter.

Youth Supreme Court Reviews Constitutionality of Bills

By ASHLEY JOHNSON, Tomorrow-TODAY Staff Writer

The Supreme Court got serious Saturday morning when a question arose about the constitutionality of a bill banning the use of handheld firearms.

Senate Floor Leader Charles Cardinal, the author of the bill, felt that this would lower the

murder rate. The Supreme Court along with Chief Justice D'Jara Britton got exceptionally heated with the author and his bill. Sen. Cardinal's bill was unanimously deemed unconstitutional, which really upset the patron.

When asked how she felt about the patron throwing

around the constitution, Chief Justice D'Jara Britton stated, "even though we're only a mock Supreme Court, we hold the constitution in great esteem and we do not appreciate any physical or mental disrespect."



... Debate Strong Throughout Conference

(Continued from page 1) in debating stated "we are NOT procrastinators." This may have been true, but the chamber had a different opinion. At 3:15 p.m. Friday, this bill failed.

First Year Chamber Takes to Debate

By ASHLEY JOHNSON
Tomorrow TODAY Staff Writer

The First Year chamber was filled with much anticipation and debate Saturday morning. Especially on First Year Bill 33

written by Floor Leader Tyler Brady of the Anniston delegation. Her bill, entitled Americans Exposed to Culture Act, stated that children and teen-agers should learn about the culture of their choice for one to two hours a week in a school year. This legislation would be regulated by the



First Year Delegate Colette Robicheaux debates.

Alabama Board of Education. At first, the bill wasn't going too well, especially with Delegates Wilson Hallford of Montgomery and Kayleigh Cantrell of Huntsville who took a stand and completely shut down the chamber with their debate. Luckily, Delegate Katherine Kratsch of Huntsville made an amendment that made this cultural learning experience optional. After the amendment was approved, the bill passed.



First Year Presiding Officer Sarah Strickland of Enterprise takes a rare moment of rest during debate.