

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

By Adriana Knight, Star Spencer HS

Every year at State Conference, it is exciting to see old friends and make new ones. This year in particular, new friends will be made. What makes this year so special is that there are two clubs returning after a one-year break and there is one all-new club.

The returning clubs are Moore High School and Star Spencer High School. Advisors from both clubs were asked what had encouraged them to return to the program. They both stated emphatically "the students!" Connye Griffin, advisor for Moore HS, said that she was interested in "serving the students."

Star Spencer delegate Lacy Passage was determined to return to Youth and Government for her senior year. She had convinced her advisor to re-enter the program and also got the attention of several of her peers about getting involved. Her dedication in wanting to return to the program was the result of 12 Star Spencer students in becoming 12 Youth and Government delegates. When asked why she wanted to rejoin the program she stated that "it is good for your people skills; a fun way to meet new people; and it looks great on your college resume." She also said that memories of the experiences shared with the friends she made here are memories she will always cherish.

The "newcomer" this year is Putnam City. This is their very first time at the Youth and Government State Conference. Putnam City HS learned of the program through the advisors at Putnam City West.

Brenda Stinnett, an advisor for PCHS, contacted Stan Barton last year and got more information on YAG; unfortunately, the deadline for State was already passed and PCHS was unable to attend the 2006 Conference. However, they were still interested for the 2007 Conference and the other delegates are glad to have them here.

PCHS delegates were asked what got them interested in joining Youth and Government. They all replied saying that they wanted to debate, give a point of view, and have a say of what is going on in the government.

Jeff Hinton (Stillwater High School) was asked how he felt about the new clubs joining YAG this year. He was enthusiastic about the "wonderful new ideas" and he was also glad to see the program expanding.

It's not just the brand-new delegates that are having a great time making new friends and learning about America's government; everyone else is looking forward to the rest of the 2007 state conference. Have fun!



Legislators discuss a bill in committee.

ER LERNT UM DIE AMERIKANISCH REGIERUNG

By Molly Miller, Charles Page HS

Upon first glance, Charles Page High School student Yenal Yavuz may seem like a regular Youth and Government delegate. However, on closer examination, it is easy to see that he is anything but typical. What's so different about him? Well, Yenal isn't from America. Yenal is a foreign exchange student from Germany who is spending an entire school year studying in America.

At Charles Page, Yenal is a student in Judy Howard's AP US Government class. Mrs. Howard is also the Charles Page Youth and Government sponsor and she was able to recruit several of her AP students, including Yenal to participate in this year's conference.

At this year's conference, Yenal is serving as the Sergeant of Arms in the House of Representatives. "I'm into politics and I wanted a chance to get involved in American political events," said Yenal on why he is participating in Youth and Government.

Overall, Yenal has made a very interesting addition to the Youth and Government Conference. Along with actively participating in club activities, he is actively learning about U.S. Government.

"An optimist is a person who sees a green light everywhere. The pessimist sees only the red light. But the truly wise person is color-blind."—Dr. Albert Schweitzer

DATING GAME A BIG SUCCESS

By Ally Leist, Highland East HS

Thursday night was an exciting night. Delegates enjoyed a time honored YAG tradition: The Dating Game. There were definitely some really funny remarks; they could almost be classified as "pee-in-your-pants" funny. Here are some flash backs from the game:

Olymp Nola asks the Bachelorettes "What ice cream would describe you and why?"

Bachelorette #2, Michelle Upton replies "I would have to say Rocky Road because....it's full of surprises."

Ruby Coyle asks the bachelors "What is the cutest thing that you have ever done for your mother?"

Bachelor #3, Yenal Yavuz answers "I tell her everyday that I love her."

Stuart Downey asks the bachelorettes "if you could have any job what would it be and why?"

Bachelorette #3, Simone Graves replies "I always wanted to be the wife of a young prominent governor."