



Jefferson Committee Hearing

By Skyla Rienstra

The Jefferson committee meeting, which took place at the Capitol Wednesday afternoon, was a heated debate for the first time SSIers.

The first bill that was discussed, which is HB 4163, is a smoking ban. The first lobbyist, Janelle Heirholzer from the Michigan Advocates, opposed this bill. She pointed out that this bill places an unnecessary burden on businesses. Private business should have the right to know and decide what is best for their business and make a rational decision about the smoking controversy. What about the casinos and bars? Janelle also pointed out that they are allowed, so why can't other public places be permitted to as well?

The next lobbyist, Paul Burns, represented Michigan's families. He supported this bill. He showed that passing this legislation could actually decrease the heart attack rates! He also said that businesses will not lose any money as a result of passing this legislation. "This legislation will have no impact on our economy," he stated.

The bill was unfavorably recommended to the Senate with a vote of 7 against to 6 for.

The second bill to be discussed was SB 776, which discussed partial birth abortions. Doctor Timothy Johnson was in opposition to this bill. He has not performed abortions himself. However, he claims that in the case of a serious emergency, and a mother's life might be in danger, an abortion may be the only thing that could save the life of the mother. This was probably the most heated debate of the committee meeting. The chairman and Dr. Johnson became very intense as they discussed the Hippocratic Oath and what it really meant. The chairman and Dr. Thompson said that there are different ways you can interpret the Oath. Dr. Johnson said, "I wish things were black and white, but they're not."

The last lobbyist to speak was Sue Ann Thompson, from the Michigan Right to Life. When she started her speech, she explained what really happens during a partial birth abortion: "The fluid is actually extracted from the child's brain." She explained that a partial birth abortion can many times be avoided by performing a c-section. She also made the point that performing a partial birth abortion on a "disabled" child because of the money that will be used up on healthcare for him is not worth it. "Killing children is not healthcare," she said.

This bill was favorably recommended with a vote of 7 for to 6 against.

Washington Red Press Conference

Author: Kelcey Wixtrom; Jacob Sterling

It's a hot debate for every young person: Should cell phones be used behind the wheel? The Washington Red caucus has proposed that, instead of leaving this important decision to teenagers and their parents, SSIers should pass a law banning the use of cell phones – even hands-free devices – by those ages 16 and 17 while operating a motor vehicle. Pointing out that driving while speaking on a cell phone is nearly as damaging to one's focus as being intoxicated to a blood-alcohol point of 0.08, Washington Red believes that this bill will decrease traffic fatalities by putting concentration back on the road. This will also lower insurance for teen drivers since the accident rate will go down. The punishment for being pulled over for talking or texting while driving is \$50 for the first offense; the fines increase thereafter. This money would go to libraries and other local organizations.



Provided in the bill is an exception for cell phone use in the case of an emergency such as an accident, a heart attack, or something life-endangering. However, the blue caucus pointed out that there would be no way to contact the teen should an emergency arise as they are travelling in their car. There is also the possibility of an officer pulling someone over who looks 16 or 17, though he or she is 18 or over. In this case, as soon as the officer has verified the driver's age, they would be on their way again, but, according to the blue caucus, it would be a substantial amount of time later.

Though Washington Red believes this bill will save lives, Washington Blue concluded that they did not believe it was right to assume that 18-year-olds were any more mature than those who had just received their license. Though a statewide ban on cell phones could be in the future, for now this bill is limited to those ages 16 and 17.

House Bill 4836: Hate Crimes

By Jacob Sterling

Bias-motivated crimes have been around for ages. It is human nature to put oneself before another. An example of these on large scale includes the purge of Jewish people in Germany during World War II, when Hitler came to power in 1933. Examples of simple hate crimes include prejudice against people with a disability, gender, gender identity, national origin or ancestry, race, color, or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. All of the types of discrimination listed above would be forbidden with the passing of this bill. You may ask how often a hate crime is committed. In just 2007, about 8,000 situations were accounted for by 2,025 law enforcement agencies. Above that, additional research reveals that about 44 percent of hate crimes are reported to police. Some of the penalties for such a felon would be punishable with no more than two years of prison and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000. Current punishment is nonexistent. A person who suffered personal injury or property damage can bring a civil suit against the perpetrator. The main purpose of this bill is that it would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, to specify that a bias-motivated crime would have a variable crime class with a variable maximum term of imprisonment.

House Bill 4160: Regulate Local Minimum Wage

By Jacob Sterling

In 1994, in Baltimore, Maryland, the town legislature enacted the first local "living wage" ordinance. By the end of 2002, there were 103 similar ordinances that had been approved. Right now there are fifteen local governments that have enacted a local living wage ordinance. A "living wage" is a earning from the government that is set above federal or state minimum wage levels. For the most part, the "living wage" is determined by how many people live in the house that the "living wage" will be given. In addition, the "living wage" is not a fixed amount that every household would receive. For families living in large cities or resort towns, the "living wage" would vary. Thus, depending on the region of the country that the "living wage" is applied for, it would depend on local business and prices. This bill would amend the Minimum Wage Law of 1964 to forbid local government to enact, maintain, or regulate a minimum wage rate that is greater than the specified wage in the federal minimum wage law.

Lincoln Red Press Conference

By Sen. Lydia Saldanha, edited by Dee Lloyd

"Michigan has the worst economy in the country." This was one of the opening statements at a press conference in which the Lincoln Red caucus outlined HB 4160, proposing to correct this serious problem. According to the members of the caucus supporting this bill, one of the reasons for this dilemma is the unbalanced minimum wage amount, which differs from county to county across the state. The population of job-holding citizens migrates to the towns that can boast the highest minimum wage. This leaves some cities forsaken and barren, void of laborers. With businesses failing and leaving the state as a result of this shortage of employees, it is the opinion of the Lincoln Red caucus that this bill is one of the only hopes for any improvement in Michigan's floundering economy.

If this bill were to be implemented, it would ensure a stable minimum wage across the state. All counties would have the potential to be equally appealing to employment seekers. Previously overloaded with eager job applicants, a county that formerly offered a high minimum wage would be relieved by other counties whose businesses would be delighted to receive employees. The wage would be balanced, helping to balance the economy.

When asked why they so strongly oppose this bill, members of the Lincoln Blue caucus replied that it would damage the free market and competition between businesses. They hold that this issue ought to be addressed by the individual counties and towns, which have a clearer idea of the separate situations are. "How does Lansing know what is good for Detroit, or Macomb, or any other place?" said one representative. Confident in their position, they claimed that Lincoln Red "didn't really seem to know what they were talking about."

Music and Your Mind

By Cory Caswell

Music is one of the most powerful influences of this generation. Everybody is affected by it somehow. Believe it or not, music has an effect on our attitudes, how tired we are, and the use of our brainpower. Each type of music has a different effect on the body. For example, if you listen to rock music, it will help you concentrate better, enabling you to memorize facts far better. The big question is, what kind of music affects you in a positive man-

(Continued on page 4)

Washington Committee Hearing

By [Jacob Sterling](#)

The Washington Committee was required to take part in a committee meeting at the Capitol yesterday. Senator Alan Cropsey was the Committee Chair. Senator Cropsey ran for house Representative in 1978, and that was his first experience with politics in the state of Michigan. Eventually, he moved up to Senate, ran for re-election, and did not make it. He ran again and got into the House of Representatives, ran for re-election again, and again did not make it. He then ran for Senate again, and this time he made it, which is where he is now. During both the times that he was out of office, he went to law school. He enjoys serving in the legislature, and believes his service abilities have increased, thanks to the help of his father.

Discussing HB 5133, Teen Drivers and Cell Phones, in the committee meeting went very well. The lobbyists for this bill were Ms. Brandy Nash, who was representing the County Sheriff Association of MI, and Mr. Rob MacLean, who was representing the Allswell Cell Phone Company. Ms. Nash talked about some statistics regarding teens and cell phones. For example, some teens took part in an experiment that put them into a driving simulator. When texting or talking on a cell phone in this simulator, they slowed down and began to weave, and in some cases even ran over pedestrians. It was also stated that there are two main concerns with cell phone use: In the instance of texting or dialing, it will take the eyes of the driver off of the road, and second, concentration is disturbed up to twenty percent. The issue of drunk driving was brought up. It was stated that drunk drivers have a twenty-five percent distraction of concentration when they drive. The representatives asked if, once a cell phone was banned, the radio, GPS, or even passengers would be banned, and if the bill would be expanded to all drivers, or only to senior citizens. To all of those instances, Ms. Nash could only say that the bill would have to be "clarified". When the following lobbyist took the stand, he started his speech indicating distractions common to this world, including make-up, shaving, reading the newspaper, or swatting at kids in the back of the car. His main argument was that this bill is discrimination pointed at the people of the ages of sixteen thru eighteen. Mr. MacLean also stated that this bill would be very hard to enforce, and anyone under the age of 30 could get pulled over. Continuing on the drunk driving issue that was mentioned earlier, some of the representatives in Washington Red stated that, since the percentages were only about a five percent difference, they could almost be considered the same. Representative Mier questioned what the difference was. Mr. MacLean said that with the cell phone use you can just "snap out of it", making the motion of shutting a cell phone with his hand; "With drunk driving, you can not snap out of being drunk and be immediately sober." Very good questions continued on for quite some time, but time required that the meeting be adjourned and that the next lobbyists start their presentations. HB 5133 was favorably recommended to the Senate with eight yes votes and seven no votes.

Debate on the second bill, SB 1059, Minors and Abortion Waiver, started after a five minute recess. The lobbyists for this bill were Mr. Ed Rivet, who was representing the Right to Life of Michigan, and Mr. Fred Schaible, who was representing the Michigan Young Adult Coalition. Mr. Rivet, who was in support of the bill, gave the background of the bill, and some reasons why it should be passed. One reason was that this bill is protecting not only minor, but also her parents, so that they know what is happening in the life of their daughter. Mr. Schaible also spoke against the bill. He gave many different problems with the bill. Under the bill, the minor would have to apply for the waiver, then within seventy-two hours, the minor would be in court with a judge. Now the judge would have to ask the minor questions which might be difficult to answer, but she would have to answer them to give the judge a reason to believe in her maturity. That was Mr. Schaible's main problem with this bill: that the minor would have to divulge that information in front of many people in court, which may be very embarrassing. The bill was also favorably recommended to the Senate, with eight yes votes and seven no votes.

Jefferson Red Press Conference

By [Rachel Jean](#), edited by [Skyla](#)

The Jefferson Red Caucus held their press conference yesterday on the fourth floor of the Capitol. They introduced their bill, a ban on smoking in public places.

The legislation would create safer and healthier workplaces by prohibiting business employees and customers from smoking in any public place.

This bill would also lessen secondhand smoke, and lower the upkeep and maintenance costs of public areas.

The Jefferson Red caucus also stated that this ban would create an incentive to quit smoking. Although in bars you would not be able to smoke, caucus members said that smokers would not lose all their rights as specially designated cigar bars would stay open, allowing smokers the opportunity to smoke in public.

After the press conference, the opposing Jefferson Blue caucus weighed in with their opinions. Senator Byers stated that although cigar bars are not included in the ban, 250 cigar bars in Wisconsin have closed down because cigar bars have higher costs.

This legislation has its merits; however, it also has some serious drawbacks. The debate should be intense on Friday.

Liberty Committee Hearing

By [Matt Peterson](#) and [Cory Caswell](#)

Wednesday, at about 3:30 PM, the Liberty Committee senators came together in the state Capitol building to talk about and amend their bills. The first bill discussed was HB 4262, which would require kids to go to kindergarten at the age of five. The bill was also amended so that three of the school days would be full days, and two half days in a week. The first lobbyist, Jane Smith, laid out her reasons for supporting the bill. She said that "every child needs to learn to their potential," and that longer days would "help get kids used to being in school all day." Opposing this bill was Christine Howlett. Christine thought that sending the kids to kindergarten at the age of five is too early. Her belief was that the kids should remain with their parents longer to help preserve their ethnic identity. Another concern was that five-year-old kids cannot pay attention for more than five minutes. Senator Donald Jagos added to that though, saying, "I still cannot pay attention for more than five minutes." The bill was passed on to the Senate with an favorable recommendation.

HB 4259 was the second bill discussed at the committee meeting. If this bill would pass, it would allow two unmarried people to adopt a child. The reason they supported this bill was because they believed this would provide a way for unmarried persons who would like the privilege of being parents to be granted the gift of parenthood. The first lobbyist for this bill, Brad Snavely, would like to be the father of his girlfriend's child, but the current law would not allow this. He went on to say that he lived with his girlfriend and would like to marry her soon, but in the meantime her son did not have a legal father. He argued that letting two unmarried people adopt a child would help foster children find a stable environment to live in. The lobbyist against this bill was Keith O'Reilly, whose main argument was that there is no security in a home with two parents that are not married, so this would be

(Continued on page 4)

Unmarried Adoption Senate Bill Summary

By [Emily Kirk](#)

The Senate's Liberty Red Caucus is sponsoring HB 4259, which would allow unmarried couples to adopt a child. Up until now, that right was reserved for either married couples or individuals. Senator Kelcey Wixtrom, a member of the Red Caucus, said, "There are still children without homes. Unmarried people may want to adopt them. This bill could help more children be placed into homes."

Senator Joe Porter of Liberty Blue thinks otherwise. He quickly listed several items in opposition to the idea of two unmarried people adopting a child. His first reason is that if the two individuals aren't married, they may not feel the need to stay in the home they are in, and could 'up and leave' at any time, which would cause psychological damage to the adopted child. "We're also opposed to homosexuals adopting children, which wouldn't be a mentally healthy environment either," he said. In addition to these reasons, his caucus is concerned that the children may be used sexually if any two people can adopt them.

Both caucuses felt confident about the committee meeting this morning. "I think it went well," said Senator Emily Wheatley of the blue caucus. "There was an amendment passed that I thought improved it." Her opponents were felt positively about their performance as well. Lincoln Red Senator Kristina Cherniauskys said confidently, "We accomplished what we needed to, and things went in our favor. So now we'll just see how Friday goes!"

Both caucuses have strong opinions and are optimistic regarding their positions. This bill will be open for voting for both the House and Senate members at the final presentation on Friday.

Is Baseball Overrated?

By [Matt Peterson](#)

Again I will take my famously unbiased opinion, and use it to answer the title question. Let's look at the facts. Fact one: Baseball is one of the slowest sports ever. When you turn your TV to a baseball game, the chances of you actually seeing something exciting within the first five minutes is very slim. Unlike more exciting games like football or basketball, usually less than five points are scored for a whole game.

Let's take a quick look at the rules of baseball to see how ridiculous the sport really is. Somebody stands with a wooden stick and has a small white ball thrown at them at crazy high speeds. The player swings the bat with all his might!... and misses. Sometimes a player does so three times in a row, making him 'out'. But sometimes he actually hits the ball!...and the ball is caught or he is forced out at a base. In a good game, only one third of the times the players step up to the plate result in the team actually getting on base. Does this get you anything? No. You need your player to get all the way around the bases to score a point, making it even less probable for the team to actually score. Of course, this *does* eventually happen. So if you are willing to sit there long enough, you might get a small feeling of being in a land of sweets, and joy, and joyness - but most likely you will not.

There are many other ways that sports such as basketball are far superior. I

(Continued on page 3)



Lincoln Committee Hearing

By [Dee Lloyd](#)

HB 4836, if passed on Friday, will amend the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include more categories of groups and of hate crimes, increase penalties, define “hate crime”, and rework some of the existing penalties. Some of the categories that will be added if the legislation is passed are sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and social status.

One of the biggest arguments for the bill is that it can lower the chances of retaliatory action by the group being persecuted. The lobbyist in favor of the bill asserted that the only punishment under current law for hate crimes, like putting a burning cross on someone’s lawn, is trespassing. Because hate crimes cause greater damage, they need to be punished to a greater extent. Lincoln Blue claimed that this bill will not infringe free speech rights, as motive is not protected under the First Amendment. “You can’t always say what you want to say or do what you want to do; you can’t say you want to blow up the White House or kill the President,” said Lincoln Blue Representative Jakkar Combs.

However, the lobbyist against the bill claimed that passing this legislation would prosecute actions rather than intent and that it wouldn’t treat everyone equally or with the same conviction. Also, it is entirely possible that other groups will constantly be added to the list of groups. “If a clerk at a gas station is killed during a robbery, is he any less dead because it wasn’t a hate crime? What if someone hates gas station clerks, or guys with braces, or anything like that; do we need to add them to the list, too? Where will it end?” asked Lincoln Red Representative Andrew Biddinger.

Lincoln Red was supporting HB 4160, which is state-regulated minimum wage. Lincoln Red asserts that the passing of this legislation will bring businesses back to Michigan, balance minimum wage across the state, create a higher standard of living, and create a safer economy by creating jobs. In addition, the bill is said to not be a restriction on how much; it’s restriction on how little. This means that a business can choose to pay their workers a higher wage than the standard minimum wage.

One of the biggest arguments made against the bill by the lobbyist is that companies are in business to make a profit, not necessarily to help their employees. Also, a balanced minimum wage across the state might not be a good thing; a city whose minimum wage is higher than the state’s may be highly likely to lower their wages to save money, especially in these tough economic times. When asked what would happen to the businesses that could not afford to pay the state’s minimum wage, Lincoln Red Representative Jordy Moran said this: “Businesses that can’t pay the minimum wage will either have to lay people off or shut their doors and go somewhere else.”

After passionate testimonies from the lobbyists and heated debates from the Representatives, both bills were put to the vote test. Both bills passed with an eight to seven and are being sent to the House floor with favorable recommendation. Will they pass the ultimate test of your vote on Friday? Which caucus will prevail?

Lincoln Blue Press Conference

By [Emily Wheatley](#), edited by [Emily Kirk](#)

Protecting people from hate crimes is the goal of HB 4836, sponsored by the Senate’s Lincoln Blue caucus. This bill aims to protect a large group of people from crimes committed out of hate, prejudice, or intolerance; it would also provide more severe punishments for those who commit the crimes. If passed, verbal threats, as well as physical harassment, would be punishable. The caucus supports this bill because of the protection it would offer a wider variety of people. According to Representative Mohn, any group can have a bias against them, even ones such as people who wear braces or glasses. So look out all of you with braces! YOU are easy targets.

Although the members of Lincoln Blue feel very strongly about this bill, their opposing caucus, Lincoln Red, was not convinced by their arguments. According to a member of Lincoln Red, crimes should be punished simply because they are wrong, not because of the motives of the offender. They believe that it violates the First Amendment by infringing on the people’s right of speech and assembly, among other things. Another concern is that people would take advantage of these changes, and that they would not be enforced properly.

Overall, the press conference went very well. The Blue Caucus seemed confident about their bill, and answered the press’ questions easily and consistently.

(Baseball Continued from page 2)

will give some examples now. If you haven’t been able to tell yet, the amount of scoring is a big deal to me. When I turn on the TV to watch the best of the best athletes, who are paid millions of dollars to perform and entertain the crowd, I expect to see something incredible. When I watch a basketball game, I frequently see players drain shots from more than 23 feet away from the hoop. Home runs are very scarce in baseball games, and it is not rare for there to be none in a game. Also, the pace of a baseball game is very slow. Someone will dander up to the plate, take a few warm-up swings, and finally settle in for the pitches. In basketball, the ball is passed inbounds and it is full speed from then on. The players only have twenty-four seconds before a shot needs to be taken, so they get set and run their plays as quickly as possible. Slam dunks are not an uncommon sight in basketball, as there can be over



ten in one game.

Of course, my opinion is not the only one who matters, so I asked Katrina Hulderman, who basically summed up, in two words, every thought about baseball that has ever crossed my mind by saying, “It’s boring.”

Summary: Bills from the Washington Committee

By [Jacob Sterling](#)

Washington Blue is the sponsor of SB 1059, Minors Seeking Abortion Waiver:

The Parental Rights Restoration Act of 1990 made abortion possible for minors under the age of 18 with the minor’s permission and a written approval of her parent or legal guardian. If the parents are not available, or do not approve the abortion, or the minor does not want to ask for parental approval, she could ask the family court for a waiver for the need of parental consent. Under the current law, a judge must provide the minor with the parental consent waiver if he thinks that the minor is old enough to make a responsible decision in the process. The SB 1059 would amend the Parental Rights Restoration Act in four ways: First, to prohibit a minor that was denied a waiver in Court A, to go seek for a waiver in Court B. The court, if denied the waiver, would notify the minor that she could appeal the denial, could not go to another court, and could request a rehearing if the conditions change. The court is required to judge whether the minor is at the age of making such a major decision like abortion. The court is then required, if it decides that the minor demonstrates the decision-making capacity like an adult to grant the waiver. Also, the bill would require the court to decide if the waiver is in the best interest of the individual minor. Lastly, the bill would require the court to give the waiver to the minor if it ruled that either both the parents or guardian demonstrated a lack of interest or concern for the well-being of the minor.

Washington Red is the sponsor of House Bill 5133, Teen Drivers and Cell Phones:

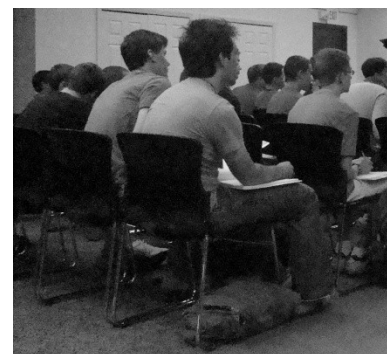
Who invented cell phones? They are nice for talking, but everyone can wait to talk until done driving, or they can just pull off on the side of the road. To be kind, take the interests and safety of everyone on the road in mind. This bill would prohibit a driver under the age of eighteen years of age from using a cell phone while driving. This bill would support the government by the increase of state civil infractions. The increase of funds would support the local libraries, as well as the state’s Justice System Fund. In 2001, drivers under the age of twenty account for only 6.8 percent of driving population in Michigan, but they were involved in 14.3 percent of the fatal accidents. The fine for any infraction due to the operation of a portable communication device would be \$50.

Worship Speaker Brings Truth About Life

By [Dee Lloyd](#)

Ms. Sheri Richard came to SSI on Wednesday night to share the truth about life and God’s purpose in it. Richard is an ultrasound expert who goes around to high schools showing videos of babies while they are still in the womb and has opened up several pregnancy centers for women considering abortion and a help center for women who have had abortions in the past.

Richard’s story begins one year after Roe v. Wade was upheld by the Supreme Court. After becoming sexually active, Richard discovered she was pregnant and decided to have an abortion. Because she had a back-alley abortion with an unlicensed physician, she had several complications after the pregnancy. A little while later, she became pregnant again and had another abortion. A few years later, she discovered she was pregnant again, but this time not with a baby; there was a placenta in her stomach filled with blood.



It was a good thing Richard was in the hospital when the placenta burst; otherwise she may not have made it. After receiving an emergency blood transfusion, the doctors discovered that the placenta was cancerous, leaving Richard sterile. She went to ultrasound school and later worked in an abortion clinic. To discourage women from getting abortions, she would show them their unborn children on the ultrasound, when standard procedure is to turn the screen away.

Feeling spiritually drained, Richard took a walk on the beach and cried out to the Lord, asking Him for a child. God gave her three children, and she dedicated her life to protecting the unborn. After showing a video following the development of infants from conception to birth, she shared many interesting pregnancy facts. For instance, by the third trimester, a baby’s heart can pump up to three hundred gallons of blood per day. A baby starts jumping around in the womb around the middle of the first trimester, although the mother won’t feel it until around the second trimester.

Richard’s presentation was an eye-opening experience that thrilled SSIers and will stick with the students for many years to come.

Before It Was Cool

By Dee Lloyd

"I'm very grateful my parents home schooled me, even though it wasn't cool." Mrs. Jennie Visscher was one of the first people to ever be home schooled in the state of Michigan. Around that time, a family was thrown in jail and the children placed in foster care after they tried to home school their children, but Jennie's family persisted because of her brother's learning disability. I had the opportunity to sit down with Mrs. Visscher and ask her a few questions about her experience.

Jennie says that she was home schooled before it was as cool and widespread as it is now. Families in other states were being broken up and jailed for trying to hold their children's education to a higher standard. Jennie's family even made an escape plan; if someone knocked on the front door, Jennie's family would walk out the back door and get on a plane to Oklahoma, where the community was more supportive of home schooling. However, because of the nurturing love and support of her neighbors and community, the escape plan never had to be implemented.

When asked how she felt about her parents teaching her, she said it felt very natural; because she went to private school for kindergarten and part of first grade, she didn't feel she was missing too much. She also didn't succumb to the stereotypical, in-the-house-all-day, home-body home schooler image: "I did my schooling and busted out of the door." She also feels that her social relationships, spiritual relationship, and family relationships greatly benefited from her home schooling experience. She still participated in activities in the public school where all her friends went, and grew closer and closer to her older brother and even closer to God.

When asked about the differences between home schooling now and home schooling then, she feels that the system is better now because home schooling is more widely accepted. She believes there are more social and academic opportunities for home schooled students than ever before, especially because colleges are now considering home schooling an acceptable educational institution. Also, with home schooling sports, home schooling theater groups, and home schooling education centers, there is more available than ever before to help students succeed.

I decided to do a midnight poll, and asked the students what kind of educational institution they attend: Although SSI is infamous for the sheer number of home schoolers that show up each year, numbers of students in private school and even public school are increasing. Out of the 61 students polled, 51% of students are home schooled, 26% of students attend public school, and 23% of students attend private school.

(Liberty Committee Hearing Continued from page 2)

worse for the child being adopted. In the end, the bill was amended to say that only two people who were too closely related to get married would be the only unmarried couples that could adopt a child. The bill was passed on to the Senate with an unfavorable recommendation.

The Liberty Senators will go back to review the new changes, and prepare for their upcoming Senate legislative session at the capitol on Friday.

Washington Blue Press Conference

By Donald Jagos, edited by Matt Peterson

Washington Blue presented HB 1059, which they say will end what they call "judge shopping". As current law stands, a girl under the age of 18 must have a parental waiver or a waiver signed by a judge in order to have an abortion. Washington Blue said that this bill will require minors to only go to the judge in their district and that the parents must be present for the waiver to be signed. They proceeded with how teens are not mature enough to make such a decision for themselves. They also believe that the parents hold the best interest for the teen and therefore deserve to be there for the evaluation.

The Washington Red Caucus had something to say about this bill as well. They claim it as unconstitutional and very restrictive to the teen. They argued that the teens should have the ability to do what they need to do. Although they didn't want to say anything else to the media, they seemed highly convinced that they would win against the bill.

Misquotes

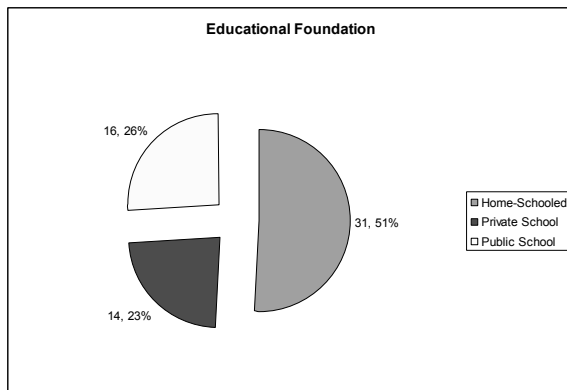
"I am tired by association." - Charity Cardinal

"If you start fifth graders in an all-day program, the scores are higher by third grade." - Liberty Blue Chairman

"They're flitting and fluttering all over. It's like herding cats." - Zak Weston

"I think the police are racially profiling this monkey." - Anonymous

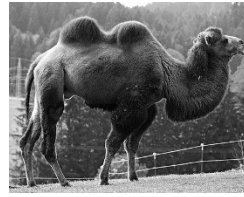
"I always wanted to be a soprano. I can't help it!" - Mr. Muffet



Camel Milk Chocolate

By Skyla Rienstra

The word is out. The world's first camel milk chocolate company, Al Nassma, plans to go global. This Dubai-based company just opened last October but is planning to produce 100 tons of "premium" camel milk chocolate each year.



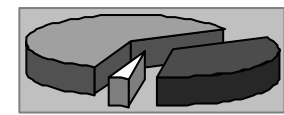
This unique chocolate is made with, that's right, camel milk. What are your thoughts on this new form of chocolate?

"Ew!" Dee Lloyd said, making a face.

"I don't think it's 'ew'...I mean, look at that pretty camel!" Matt Peterson objected, pointing at a picture of a camel.

Zak Weston started a ridiculous rumor that the "camel milk" was associated with the CAMEL cigarette company. This caused students to believe the chocolate was made from the cigarettes. It's not true. Don't believe anything Zak says. When asked if she would try the chocolate, Hanniyah Cross replied, "Not if it has nicotine in it!" No, the chocolate does not have nicotine in it. It is made of camel's milk.

Would you try camel milk chocolate?



Yes
No
Maybe

A poll was completed to see how many of the SSI students and staff would actually try the camel milk chocolate. The results from this poll show that, yes, most SSI attendees are actually brave enough to try the new unusual chocolate.

Jefferson Blue Press Conference

By Melissa Hubel

A construction site's General Contractor carefully studies and examines the entirety of a project before building. Once assembly has begun, he verifies shipped materials as well as oversees the workmanship in order to assure a perfected and functional finished result. Obviously much effort, experience, and time is afforded towards such an undertaking. One could only stand in wonder if the Contractor suddenly and selfishly decided to simply annul assembly.

In much the same way, Jefferson Blue described their position on SB 776. With their opening statements Jefferson Blue conveyed a distinct parallel between the negation of a splendid building development and the need for the Partial Birth Abortion Ban. Equally, they explained, one should gape in utter astonishment at the destruction of thousands of unborn children. According to the Jefferson Blue Caucus, many other options lay available to the mother. Adoption is one. "There are families out there that are unable to bear children", expressed a concerned Blue Caucus member, "Families are ready and willing to adopt." Another member thought of it as the child that might have been her best friend. Jefferson Blue urged everyone to observe the devastating effects such unnecessary destruction could cause to the community at large, asserting that a decrease in population would be sure to follow. "House Representatives," they declared, "need to speak up. We need to promote morality. We need to be a voice for the child who does not yet have a voice."

Contrastingly, the Jefferson Red Caucus referred to the minimal number of partial birth abortions as compared to abortions performed on women still in their first months of pregnancy. "This bill isn't doing enough," said the Jefferson Red caucus collectively. They further added, "SB 776 needs to go back to the House and be amended. This is only banning partial birth - the lower percentage of all abortions performed - we are not getting the root of the matter here." Explaining further, Jefferson Red remarked that mothers whose lives could be at risk would still be able to have a partial birth abortion performed even if SB 776 is passed. "We won't be stopping as many abortions as we think we are."

(Music and Your Mind Continued from page 1)

ner? Rap? Jazz? Classical? The music with the most meaning is Christian music - not just any kind, though. Christian rap and Christian rock can have a negative effect on your body. The best kind of music that you could expose yourself to is contemporary Christian music. I have found in my life that I tend to become angry with my family, depressed, and altogether mad at the world when I'm listening to secular music. On the other hand, when I'm chilling in my room listening to Christian music that glorifies God, I have a better perspective on life. 1 Corinthians 10:41 states, "Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God." This should be the goal of all Christians, but I believe that most believers in Christianity have conformed to the world instead of always following God. Sure, they go to church every week, but God deserves more than two hours out of our week. For myself, I have been trying to put this principle into the music of my life. It's your choice what to fill your head with: junk or Jesus. I challenge you to try to listen to only Christian music. You will see the impact it has on your life.