



## Summary: Bills from the Jefferson Committee

By Jacob Sterling

Jefferson Blue is the sponsoring committee of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban (HB 776).

Abortion has been traced to ancient times, although most of these practices did not include the now-common practices in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some practices formerly suggested that women wanting to end their pregnancies should begin exercising, carrying heavy objects, or performing any strenuous activity. This practice has continued through time. In the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in spite of bans in the UK and US, abortion still lurks. Until recent times this procedure has not meet any controversy. In 2003, United States leaders passed legislation called the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, against partial-birth abortion. In 2007, the Michigan Legislature tried to pass similar legislation called the Legal Birth Definition Act, which was vetoed by Governor Granholm. The people of Michigan spoke and, through petition, passed this act into law without Governor Granholm's signature. On January 7, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to review the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals, which made the act unenforceable. In a nutshell, this ban would make partial-birth abortion an illegal procedure for every physician or any individual. In one case it would not be illegal; that is, if the pregnancy was risking the life of the mother. Under this bill, any person caught performing this procedure illegally would be guilty of a felony, imprisoned for up to two years and a fine of \$50,000 would be required.



Jefferson Red is the Sponsoring committee of Ban on Smoking in Public Places (HB 4163)

Smoking has been dated all the way back to 5000 BC and it has been reported that many different cultures have smoked. The practice used to be used for religious ceremonies, offerings, and cleansing rituals so priests could clear their mind for spiritual enlightenment. Under HB 4163, "Smoke-Free Workplace", part 126 (Smoking in Public Places) and Part 129 (Food Service Establishments) would be amended, forbidding smoking in public places of employment and in food service establishments. Exceptions would be made for several different companies and organizations, like cigar bars, tobacco specialty stores, and gambling areas including racetracks, casinos, and bingo events. Law enforcement would be the responsibility of the

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## Mock Press Conference

By Cory Caswell & Dee Lloyd

On Monday, at 5 P.M., a Mock Press Conference was held in the Chapel to demonstrate the situations that the House Representatives and Senators will face in their real press conferences on Wednesday. The House

Representatives benefited from this demonstration, as most of them had never seen a press conference and therefore had no idea what to do in such a situation. The bill, presented by Mr. Muffet, opposed teens under the age of 18 hanging out at the mall in groups consisting of more than two people. To justify this bill, three witnesses were present to state their opinions. Their rationale was that gangs have been shoplifting merchandise, intimidating other customers, and fighting with rival gangs or people.



The media put Mr. Muffet's knowledge of the bill to the test by asking many questions such as, "Are you taking away the rights of these teens?" Mr. Muffet answered by saying the bill would not be taking the freedom of the teens away; they could still hang out together, just not in the mall. Another question was, "Why couldn't local government take care of it?" He answered this by saying that the local government wasn't taking care of the situation now. These questions were smoothly and quickly answered by the dashing and debonair Mr. Muffet.

However silly the bill may sound, and how valid the points were made by the media, it was still a great exercise for the SSI legislative track: for the House Representatives to prepare them for the media's barrage of questions, and for the Senators to know what good questions and how to ask them.

## What to Expect at the Press Conferences

By Skyla Rienstra

The press conferences to take place later today have SSI students scrambling, hoping they are ready for the big event. In reality, the press conferences can be seriously fun if the caucuses are prepared. How does a caucus prepare for a press conference? How does a press conference flow?

Each House caucus is expected to write two or three speeches explaining what their sponsored bill is about. The speeches should be at least thirty seconds long, but any length beyond that is acceptable. The opening



speech should explain what the other speech(es) are about. The rest of the speeches given should elaborate on the first speech. In order to be fully prepared, however, read your bill thoroughly and know what it says. Knowing about your bill will help when the time comes for the press to ask you questions.

Upon arriving, the representatives take the podium and prepare to begin. The speeches are then given, explaining their bill. After the short speeches are

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## Hate Crimes Bill Passes US Congress

by Emily Kirk

This week at SSI, some house members are debating a bill concerning hate crimes. A similar bill was recently passed in the United States Congress. This bill redefines 'hate crimes' as any speech against selected groups. It also expands the protected groups from race, color, religion and nationality to include homosexuals and gender groups. If someone breaks the laws resulting from the bill, they are heavily fined and can receive severe punishment.

Many people, including much of the Christian community, are upset with the passage of this bill. It changes the focus of punishing a crime from the crime itself to possible intent. Representative Lamar Smith, a Republican who voted against the bill, said, "All violent crimes must be vigorously prosecuted. Unfortunately, this bill undermines one of the most basic principles of our criminal justice system -- 'equal justice for all.' Justice will now depend on the race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other protected status of the victim. It will allow different penalties to be imposed for the same crime." Christians worry that they will be unable to express their views on gay and lesbian rights without being labeled as having committed a crime.

While many are unhappy with this development, some people are pleased with the bill. Says House Democratic Leader Steny Hoyer, "Hate crimes motivated by race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and identity or disability not only injure individual victims, but also terrorize entire segments of our population and tear at our nation's social fabric."

A similar version of this bill will be up for voting on Friday at the Capital.

## Mandatory Kindergarten Senate Bill

by Emily Kirk

The Liberty Senate committee will be debating a bill regarding mandatory kindergarten on Friday. Should this bill pass, the age for compulsory attendance would drop from six down to five, and kindergarten would be a required grade in school. Trends have shown that the test scores of graduating students have been dropping, and the proposed change is one idea for a solution.



The bill is sponsored by the Blue caucus, which asserts that kindergarten would be a benefit to children. According to Senator Melissa Hubel, "It will provide social, academic, and physical advantages." She also assured the press that the bill will not hurt taxpayers. She explained that the schools already have kindergarten programs, and

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## Why Week 3 is So Different

By Dee Lloyd

I have never been to any other week in my life; every year that I come to SSI, it is always week 3. Many of my friends have gone multiple weeks, or go a different week altogether. After SSI is over, we all sit around and compare our notes about the differences between the weeks. And the one thing that never fails to get my attention is that week 3 seems vastly different from the other weeks.



Of course, week 3 only has a legislative and a media track; week 1 also has a business track, and week 2 has a mock trial track and a moot court track. And of course, there are less people,

which creates a more intimate setting and makes it easier to get to know everyone. But in general, things get done differently week 3.

For instance, there seems to be a huge “gap,” for lack of a better word, between the personality types. There are more people at the outgoing-crazy extrovert end and more people at the study-crazy introvert end and fewer people in the middle. People seem to be a little sillier; of course everyone has their own inside jokes, but there are tons and tons of them week 3 that seem to spread like wildfire through the camp.

Even the Media is different week 3. Of course, the personalities of the people in the media vary from week to week, making each one slightly different; but week 3 media is consistently different than the rest. For instance, there are at least three polls taken throughout week 3 that are published in the newspaper. Week 1 and week 2 do T-shirt commercials in their broadcasts; week 3 always does a fashion show. And the week 3 media never fails to publish at least one article about extreme spoons, which seems to be the mass indoor game of choice of week 3 SSIers.



Maybe it's the intimate environment. Maybe it's the combination of people who have been here for several weeks and years mixing with people who are here for the very first time ever. Maybe it's because the staff is well-seasoned and prepared after two weeks of the SSI experience, or maybe their just tired, which is why everyone seems relaxed.

Whatever the real reason may be, I do know one thing for sure: WEEK 3 ROCKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*(Mandatory Kindergarten Continued from page 1)*

the only change will be that the compulsory attendance will drop from six to five. And although all schools would then be required to have a kindergarten program, not much change would occur, since almost all of them already do.

Their opponents do not believe that the bill is the solution to the problem. They believe that the action described in the bill would raise taxes. In addition to the economic standpoint, they believe that it may not be the best arrangement for the children. “Some kids just aren't ready,” explains Representative Lydia Saldhana of the Liberty Red caucus. “[Those kids] could even have to stay back a grade because of this.” She also thinks that it will increase the size of the classes, leaving the same number of teachers with a larger number of students.

There are both pros and cons to this bill. Both caucuses are continuing to work on their arguments. The bill will be open for voting for the House and Senate during the final presentation on Friday.

## Sports Challenge

By Cory Caswell and Matt Peterson

Every week at SSI, the students participate in the sports challenge which happened this week on Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 pm. This challenge consists of four sports being played, including soccer, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, and the unusual bat game. We asked Anthony Shaw how he thought the competition would go and he replied, “I am a really sporty guy, and I think I'll be ready.”



The competitors assembled in the parking lot, where everyone met their teams. Some talked about their battle strategies while others stood quietly, getting mentally and physically prepared for the intense games to come.

The games ran very smoothly, and joy from the great times was evident in all. Let me quickly give you some of my thoughts of the games. Despite the amazing reputation of

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## Career Paths: Meter Reader

by Emily Kirk

As the students of SSI approach the end of high school, many of them are wondering what they want to do with their lives. A seldom thought-of career path to consider would be that of meter reading. A meter reader's job consists of driving around and checking gas or electric meters on the sides of residences and businesses.

To further understand this relatively unknown occupation, the media obtained an interview with Mr. Luke DuFour, a twenty-year-old meter man working out of Monroe, MI. Mr. DuFour enjoys his job, but also cautions that it is not for the faint of heart. When asked what an average day consisted of, he replied, “There's no such thing as an average day.” In his year and a half of meter reading, he has been assaulted by animals ranging from dogs and bees to angry turkeys and protective cows. He told the press, “The day's summary warns of unfriendly dogs, and other such things. It says nothing about the chickens. But they're out there!” His reading route takes him not only from house to house, but from outdoors to indoors to roofs of businesses. Even though it can be a dangerous job, he says that he wouldn't trade it for something less exciting. “It's satisfying,” he says confidently. “I feel like I'm in a video game.”



So if you are looking for a new career path to pursue and enjoy driving from place to place to read infinite small dials, consider meter reading. Luke's final words of advice for anyone considering the field are: “The owner will say the dog won't hurt you. Never trust the owner.”

## SSI Alum and Chaperone Inspires Students

By Dee Lloyd

She attended SSI back in 1996, when there was only one week and one track. She has been an SSI chaperone for the past ten years, in addition to running back and forth between Detroit and Guatemala. She was a Spanish teacher and works as a waitress at IHOP. Deborah Thomas opened with a quote that won't soon be forgotten: “I think that is a tree falls and no one is around to hear it, it still makes a sound; so if you're not paying attention to God's faithfulness, He's still being faithful. He's always been faithful; you're just now noticing.”



Deborah Thomas came to speak to SSIers on Tuesday to talk about God's faithfulness. Although many people speak about burning the midnight oil, Deborah's inspiration came at four in the morning. Because of several situations in her life, Deborah was considered a danger to herself and to others. She was given medication, but refused to take it. In the middle of a mental breakdown and a decision whether or not to commit suicide, God spoke to Deborah and set her on the right path. After speaking to an on-call pharmacist around three in the morning, she took her medicine, slept, and got her life together after raising from death to life. She chose a mentor, moved out the house, and went back to school.

Deborah's life story illustrated God's faithfulness and presence in everyone's life, and her down-to-earth yet fast-paced manner allowed the students to easily soak up her message. The students found her to be charismatic and personable, and there was a line of students waiting to speak

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## New Threat at SSI!!

by Emily Kirk

SSI students have always been well aware of the dangers of the camp. If you swim in the lake, you will be eaten by the lake monster. If you cross the line between the girls and guys dorms after dusk, you will be blown up by the land mines. Up until now, that was all. Recently, there have been reports of a new force at work. This new threat is a cousin of the famous Mexican Chupacabra. Unlike his relative, who is famous for his hair, this creature is bald. We have been informed by the person who sighted him that other recognizable features include that he has no thumbs and wears blue boots.

This mysterious creature originally lived in the land where the land mines now lie. When the college was constructed, and the mine fields placed, he was forced to flee his home. He fled to the small hills and trees behind the college, and has been hiding there since. During his long period of inactivity, he grew a great resentment for the people who were preventing him from living where he once did.

In the last week, he has made his first appearances since the start of the camp. He has been sneaking around, seeking acts of mischief. His favorite targets are students who appear to be slacking, or are walking around by themselves. You will know that you have been visited when you see that the small plastic ends of your shoelaces have disappeared.

The only way to avoid this new threat is to always travel in pairs. As he has been becoming increasingly devious, it is advisable that you avoid him at all costs.

## Sweet Speaker

By Skyla Rienstra

The SSI students and staff were blessed by an amazing message given by Derek T. Muller, Esq. last night. He gave a wonderful message with seven excellent points.



Muller grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan. He attended SSI in 1998 and 1999, doing both the House and Senate tracks. He alleged this influenced his decision to become a lawyer. He also completed a mock trial at his high school, which also strongly influenced him. In a word of advice, Muller said that any potential lawyers attending SSI this week should become a lawyer for the right reasons. "Don't do it because you don't know what else to do," he warned. If you want to be an attorney, do it because you have a passion for the law and you know it is God's will.

Derek attended Hillsdale College and graduated with an English Major. He then went on to law school at Notre Dame. After his graduation, he worked for a time at the Alliance Defense Fund. Currently, Muller is employed at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago.

Derek's message was a very insightful perspective of how to excel in life. It was especially beneficial to the future lawyers. He offered seven tips for life.

Whenever you get invited to speak in public, do it!

Look at the course catalog of a college before deciding to attend it.

Find a good group of believers wherever you go.

ALWAYS tell the truth.

No matter what profession you choose, there will always be a chance to exercise your faith. Put your faith into effect!

Find a superior Bible-believing mentor.

When you get money, give it away.

Derek Muller is an amazing SSI alumni. His decision to attend SSI influenced his future career choice. Hopefully, this week God will use SSI in the same way for some of the new and returning students.

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the SSI sports challenge, spectators were not at an all time high. Spiking at a high of around ten seemingly bored fans, the crowd did not seem to be a factor in the outcome of our intense, nail-biting, fighting-it-out-all-the-way-to-the-buzzer games.



Ultimate Frisbee was the favorite game of David Friend from Team 3, who said, "It was cool because our team totally crushed the other team." Personally, I could not agree more with the coolness of utterly defeating your opponents in such an epic event.

The bat game was overwhelmingly the least favorite of all the games. What cruel mind would think up such a torturous game? I do not know. Unlike all the other games played, the enjoyment was not for those who actually played, but for the evil pleasures of the ADCs. Many unsuspecting players crumpled to the ground in a dizzy haze while onlookers laughed at the scene.



After the dust cleared off all the fields, I decided to get more opinions, starting with the captain of my favorite team, Team 1. Elijah Taornboe had this to say about that extraordinary group of people: "Team 1, the Thrillers. We crushed our enemies... except for one."

That one loss came in the controversial bat game, about which he said, "That's not even a real game." The interview ended with a statement that I will remember forever: "We were number 1, and will always be number 1." I could not agree more with that wise statement. Moving on from there, we met with two other captains, Tyler Koone-Carter and Donald Jagos. Tyler was slightly disappointed, telling us that his team "could've done way better. We missed opportunities in games." Donald commented, "It was a lot of fun. I probably should have taken it more seriously."



Watching him catch and throw the frisbee was like watching an artist at work.

Team 6, also known as The Incredibles, was the only team to go 4-0. Team captain Hanniyah Cross injured her arm in a collision while playing their team's first game, ultimate frisbee. The team rallied from

the loss of their dearly beloved captain. Springing forward they seemed unstoppable as they steamrolled all who stood in their way. Reluctantly, we tip our hats in respect of their achievements.

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with her, choosing to give up their own free time, even after the worship session was over. "I thought she was awesome; even though she talked really fast, it made me listen harder and pay attention," commented Representative Jacqueline LeTarte.

## Lansing State Journal Tour

By Cory Caswell

Yesterday, at 3:25 P.M., the media had the privilege of touring the Lansing State Journal building. After meeting our tour guide, Executive Editor Mickey Hirten, we started off on an exclusive tour of the inner workings of the LSJ. The first room that we came upon held their old printing press; they now use a more up-to-scale press in a different location. There, Hirten stated, "about 50



to 60 thousand papers were made at the Lansing State Journal press every day." This would not be possible without the hard work of 250 full- and part-time employees. These employees work hard, taking phone calls and looking for stories that would be interesting enough to catch the attention of the public. These jobs are very serious.

The past few years have been hard for the Lansing State Journal. The poor economy is leading to a decline in advertisement. Hirten stated that the LSJ is hurting itself just as much by letting people view its articles online for free instead of having them buy the newspapers. He says that they want to start having people subscribe to their newspaper online so that it will become a benefit to have an online newspaper rather than a hindrance. On the other hand, there is hope for the future. More and more people are starting to read the newspaper, giving them a much larger audience. People will always need news. That is why the Lansing State Journal plays such a big role in the everyday lives of citizens.

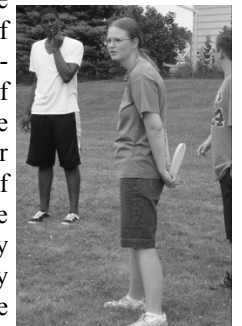
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county, city, village, or township with the minimum standards provided in the bill. A penalty of \$100 would be issued for the first violation and up to \$500 for the second or any violations there after. Any violations of no-smoking provisions can result in an order to cease food service operations; if the violations continue, the food service may lose their food license.

## Basketball Omitted from Sports Challenge?!?

By Matt Peterson

First, I would like to say that I like to be fair and unbiased in all my writing. I like to give both sides time to tell me their argument before stating the facts. With that in mind, I would like to briefly talk to you about a subject that is very close to me: The removal of basketball from this year's sports challenge. Basketball was a major part in last years challenge, and I will remember all the great memories from that amazing time of bliss all my life and was looking forward to being able to experience it again this year. The sad news of the replacement was broken to me very shortly before the games began. I was crushed. At first I thought it was a horrific nightmare and would not believe what I heard. The truth slowly sank in and I recovered enough to play the new and unimproved games, but not completely forgetting the tragic event. I know I am not alone in this as I heard other competitors talk about the omission, saying, "I thought it was kind of stupid." I think our most hurt SSIer was a baller named Jakar. We had a long, heart-breaking conversation where he told us he was very mad at the removal of basketball from the challenge. He summed up his feelings to us, saying, "I was emotionally unstable." Of course there was a very small majority who did not care about the missing game. When I told one competitor about the loss, she admitted, "I disagree, it was ok." If this competitor, or any other who thought the same about the situation, would have a talk with Jakar or any other of the many, many, many people who were deeply saddened, I am completely sure you all would change your mind.



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given, the press conference is then opened up for questions. The "media", which consists of SSI senators and media students, will raise their hands and hope to be called on to get their questions answered. After a question is asked, the representatives may take turns answering it.

The "media" at the press conference will write one article about each caucus. The articles will appear in Thursday's edition of the SSI Observer. These articles will give the representatives a good idea of what each of the bills to be presented on Friday are all about.

Have fun with the press conference; don't become anxious or worried. Contrary to what you might think, they are enjoyable.

**The Cafeteria Food: Eggs**

**What are they, really?**

By: Skyla Rienstra

At breakfast, the SSI students and staff are given the option to eat eggs for breakfast. The big question is this: Are they *really* eggs? Many students would agree they are definitely not eggs. If they aren't, what are they? Students had some ideas.



"They look like yellow Styrofoam with yellow to othpaste," Micah Conrad commented. "Dehydrated egg powder," added David Raney. Micah went on further: "When you make scrambled eggs, USE EGGS!" Matt Peterson ended the conversation. "They were edible. Well, I didn't die yet."

Other students had some positive comments. "The cheese ones are five stars. Make that four stars," Levi Benidixen said. Daniel Coleman and Andrew Mohn nodded their heads in agreement. Hanniyah Cross

threw out her opinion: "The yellow makes everything more cheerful. But the taste...I can't really say much about the cheerfulness."

The not-so-positive comments about the eggs were in abundance. "I don't like fake eggs," Melissa Kuneli muttered. "They were a bit rubbery," Emily Krieg agreed. Amanda Mitchell, who has tried the eggs in previous years, spoke with experience: "When I get the eggs, I get the cheese eggs; regular eggs have NO taste."

The SSI students have two options. They could go on strike and refuse to eat the "eggs", or they could eat the "eggs" and hope they don't die. Let's hope everyone makes a rational decision and stays healthy.

**Highlights**

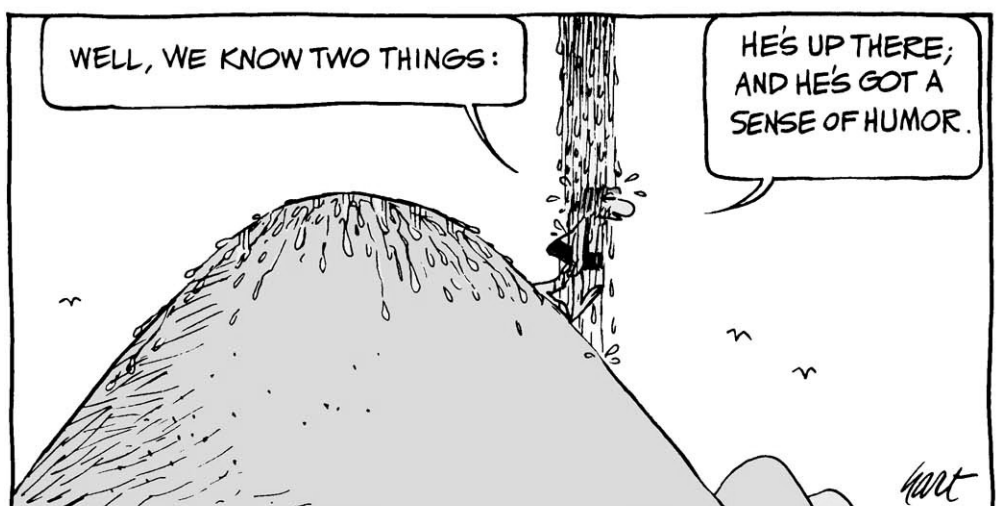


- Capital 62%
- Chapel 19%
- Lunch 7%
- Caucus meeting 4%
- Volleyball 4%
- Teaching session 4%

Day One: Students' opinion of the best activity is summed up by the pie chart above. Overall, the speech by State Representative Opsommer, followed by the Capitol tour, was considered the best activity with an overwhelming 62%, followed by Chapel time with Tim Wahlberg.



**Shape up!**



**Pool Time!**



**Misquotes**

- "Pain I can give you." - Jennie Visscher
- "You want to stalk me? Bring it on." - Nate Sisson
- "If it was devious, bad, or evil, it was probably me." - Dee Lloyd
- "I feel superfluous." - Amanda Mitchell
- "You can't just go out and swing your face." - Mr. Muffet
- "We were flying on our magic monkeys of doom!" - Emily Krieg
- "The distance didn't kill you. The splat killed you." - Dan Armstrong
- "If the world's coming to an end, by all means, say the world's coming to an end!" - Dan Armstrong
- "I'm not gonna try to be healthy anymore- I'm just gonna ride my Harley." -Tim Walberg
- "Can I blow up the computer?" - Hanniyah Cross
- "My son-in-law had to go through my four sons and me before he could marry my wife." -Mr. Muffet
- "I have a secret cloaking device, so I was here but you just couldn't see me." -Mr. Muffet
- (After being handed a roll of toilet paper) "Oh yeah; that's classy!" - Deborah Thomas
- "And we were all like 'Oh my goodness, now we have a decision to make; their talking about expanding it to two weeks, Now we have to pick which week we're going to go, and we can't meet everyone all at once.' Now, there are three weeks and eight tracks; you can spend a decade here and not repeat anything." - Derek Muller
- "I like to have conversations that go both ways, even though I like to do all of the talking." - Deborah Thomas
- "She espeaky a Spanish." - Mr. Muffet
- "My Mom was happy to be delivered tomorrow." - Deborah Thomas
- "You could spend a whole decade here and hardly repeat anything." - Derek Muller
- "John Do caused so much damage to my face." - Derek Muller
- "He's Dominican, if you want to call a spade a spade." - Dan Armstrong
- "You don't count fat...one fat, two fat...3 fat." - Dan Armstrong
- "IT's not smell—e vision." - Dan Armstrong
- "I'm going to the bathroom...and you'll NEVER see me again." - Nate Sisson