

Sweet Home Alabama Welcomes Minnesota Delegates

By Danielle Carter, Tricia Ward
and Carrie Mason
Tomorrow-Today Staff Writers

Alabama Youth in Government is honored to have delegates from Minnesota attend Alabama Youth Legislature.

They arrived in Montgomery Thursday night and are here to learn about our program. One difference in our programs are conference size. The Minnesota Youth Legislature has more than 1,400 students attend each session. Minnesota also only has one conference a year, which includes judicial, legislative, TV and radio programs. The Minnesota dele-



From left, Mark Rugentta, Dylan Slinger, Grace Truckenbrod, Shannon McDermott, Rachel Nyberg traveled to Alabama from Minnesota to participate in Alabama's Youth Legislature.

gates express that they hope to learn more about our state's legislative branch. At Saturday's breakfast, we hope to

share our Southern hospitality with the Minnesota delegates by serving them grits and a large glass of sweet tea.

Senate Spotlight



BRIANA O'NEAL

*Tuskegee
SB 40*

Alabama Education Improvement Act

Briana looks forward to a future of politics. Her aspirations include becoming an Alabama state senator and eventually representing our nation in the nation's Capital. Her goals include getting more women involved in Washington as well as improving education of the children of America. "If we don't prepare our children for tomorrow, it will be the downfall for all," she said.

Tomorrow TODAY Staff

CO-EDITORS: DANIELLE CARTER, Wetumpka; AND
ASHLEY JOHNSON, Pike Road

STAFF

Barbara Bradley, Montgomery; Jessica Flournoy,
Wetumpka; Carrie Mason, Wetumpka; Lexie Segrest,
Montgomery; and Tricia Ward, Wetumpka

Ivey Motivates YL Delegates to Be 'Statesmen,' Not 'Politicians'

By Jessisa Flournoy
Tomorrow-Today Staff Writer

State Treasurer Kay Ivey delivered a powerful and moving speech Friday morning to kick off the 62nd Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature program.

Her passion for Alabama, moreover for America as a whole, was made evident in her enthusiasm throughout the speech earning her a standing ovation at the end. Treasurer Ivey, encouraged the youth delegates to pursue careers in leadership, advising them to become "statesmen," not just



Alabama Treasurer Kay Ivey

"politicians." She stressed this nation's need for more "backbones", people who sense real needs, gather information, build solutions and, most importantly, take action. All of the delegates left the session both challenged and encouraged.

For more information on Alabama

Treasurer Kay Ivey, visit:
www.treasury.state.al.us

For more on Kay Ivey gubernatorial campaign, visit:
www.kayivey.org

GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT OF THE DAY

To the delegates of the First Year chamber:

I am excited to see bill 16 pass. It's good to know that your chamber is progressing smoothly, and we look forward to a productive weekend from you.

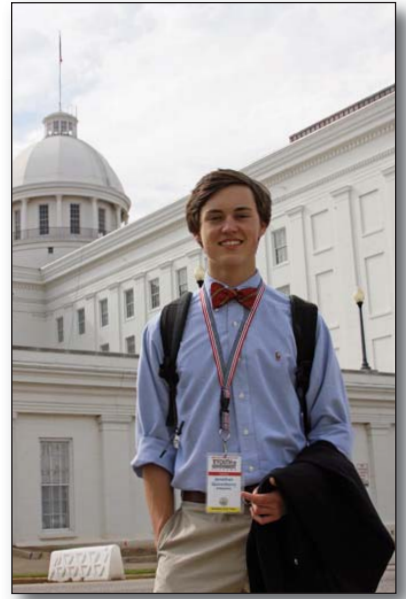
To the delegates of the House:

I am not pleased to see the lack of progress in the House today. Especially concerning the bills placed on the special order list. I urge you to be more open to progressive solutions to our problems.

To the delegates of the Senate:

I'm happy with the Senate's progress, especially your passage of the "Eat Green" bill. Congratulations to Chief of Staff Georgia Cassidy. Keep up the good work!

I'm glad to see that a wide range of people have been participating as I visit chambers. Continue to invest your time, and you will get much out of this weekend.



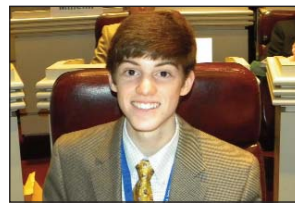
First Year Learns Legislation



By Tricia Ward and Carrie Mason
Tomorrow-Today Staff Writers

First Year delegates learn about the legislative process. The first bill debated was FY16, No Unemployment Tax for Employers Under Unfortunate Circumstances Act, by Josh Donaldson. This bill is about any employer whose business is closed for an unfortunate circumstance and is not able to pay their employees should not have unemployment tax increased in the case that the employees begin drawing unemployment from the state while the business is closed. The bill was debated. One of the first people to debate the bill asked, "What do you consider unfortunate circumstance?" Donaldson replied, "Nothing under the intention of the business owner."

House Spotlight



TREY INGRAM

Montgomery - Trinity

HB 3

Alternative to Trespassing Signs

Trey does not know if he will pursue a career in politics, but he did express his enthusiasm for Youth Legislature. He has participated in the YMCA's Youth in Government for the past four years. Trey has thoroughly enjoyed it and has made many friends. "It's been a great experience!"

1st Year Spotlight



CANDLER REYNOLDS

Montgomery - Trinity

FY 9

Saving Teens from Texting

Candler got the first-year jitters out of the way as she participated in Youth Legislature this year. She is looking forward to learning more about the state's government. Candler especially liked how this program was youth-related with "not a bunch of adults."

MESSAGES FROM YOUR LOBBYISTS

PROTECT THE TAXPAYERS

By Benjamin Richardson

Support **HB 7!** This bill pertains to drug testing welfare applicants. Our tax money shouldn't go to someone who would fail a drug test. It is nebulous to try to solicit money we labor for so someone can purchase illicit drugs. This bill would make it mandatory for people who apply for welfare to pass a drug test. This protects our money and ensures that people do not spend it on drugs.

Benjamin Richardson, a lobbyist, is a sophomore at Saint James School in Montgomery



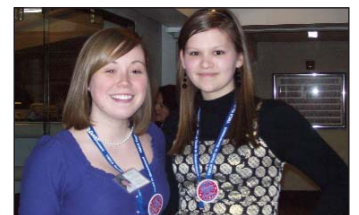
Benjamin Richardson

LOBBYISTS ARGUE AGAINST HB 47 IN RULES

By Logan Bradshaw and Perry Hamilton

HB 47 states that at the end of each school year, 20 percent of Alabama public schools will be shut down, so that in five years there will be no remaining public schools in the state. This five-year plan does not appear to be beneficial to a majority of students in Alabama. The intentions behind this

bill are great. Improving the quality of education for students is always desirable. Public school education does tend to be viewed in a negative light, and most charter schools are generally viewed more beneficial to students than public. However, closing all of the public schools in the state of Alabama is not the answer. Where will the students go once their school is shut down? The answer is to the other existing public schools. This causes overpopulation, which subsequently reduces the quality of education for students. Furthermore, if this bill passed, it may discourage families from moving to Alabama who were previously considered it. Parents are not going to want to put their children in a school that is



Perry Hamilton & Logan Bradshaw

overpopulated. In conclusion, the intention of this bill to improve education is right, but the bill does not go about it in the best way. If this bill does come up in debate, we would strongly suggest you vote against it.

Lobbyists Logan Bradshaw of Montgomery and Perry Hamilton of Greenville are juniors at the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile.