



The Banner



Newsletter of the South Chicagoland Young Democrats

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Dear Reader,

The South Chicagoland Young Democrats are proud to introduce The Banner, a newsletter they hope will inform and inspire Chicagoland's Democratic community. The Banner will be published monthly and distributed to local businesses, unions, schools, and anyone interested in the group and its activities.

This group began just this past winter, when Park Forest trustee Gary Kopycinski mentioned the idea to a few students. Many more expressed interest, and the group began meeting in Borders in Matteson.

The group has since established itself as a Democratic organization for high-school age students living in the south Chicagoland area and northwest Indiana. It is working to affiliate with the Democratic Party through the Young Democrats of America.

In April the SCYD's elected their officers: President Alexis Winter, Vice-President Safeeya Jordan-Walker, Secretary Ryan Locke, and Treasurer Kristin Hamb. The officers hope to lead the group in increasing membership and community awareness of local, national, and international issues.

The South Chicagoland Young Democrats are always looking for more members. Join us for stimulating discussion as we work to further invigorate the Democratic Party in the South Suburbs and beyond. We welcome your feedback on our newsletter, and especially encourage participation in our weekly meetings. Come help us continue to improve and expand our organization!

Meetings are held Thursdays at 7p.m. at Borders in Matteson, Il., at the corner of Lincoln Highway and Cicero.

Alexis Winter, President

The Banner Staff

Alexis Winter...President

Safeeya Jordan-Walker...Vice President

Ryan Locke...Secretary

Kristin Hamb...Treasurer

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Abortion proves complex, ever-changing issue

By Kristin Hamb
Treasurer

Recently, I have noticed a shift occurring in today's current concerns. A once sex-obsessed society is now starting to think of the sometimes much unexpected consequences that accompany the now casual act. I first noticed the change when I heard the lyrics to a rapper's new song. The little kids that sing the "Can I live" chorus in the song help deliver an anti-choice message for this rapper that, at one time, used his music to show the world that he was a carefree gigolo. Now he sees the importance on taking a stand on one of the world's most interesting debates: abortion. As I watched the video in which a confused girl walks past a multitude of rioters on her way to a clinic, I saw something that I did not like.

On the issue of abortion, I, personally, take a pro-choice stance. Many anti-choice believers mistake being pro-choice as being pro-abortion. Instead of believing that the act of aborting a fetus is a good idea, I believe that every woman should be able to choose what she does with her body. While I am disturbed by the sad fact that, according to the National Abortion Federation, one in three American women will have an abortion by age of 45, I know that terminating a fetus' opportunity to live is rarely a simple decision. For that fact alone, I look at abortion with a sympathetic point of view. Like NARAL Pro-choice America, I see that abortion statistics will not decrease until means of contraception and sex education become more accessible. Anti-choice activists seem to overlook the anguish that an unexpected mother goes through when deciding to go through with the surgery. In most cases, the woman knows that she has made a decision that could inevitably haunt her conscience, so I think showing compassion to her situation is very important. Some might argue that it is ridiculous to make a woman who is "killing" her child feel better about her decision. While I can understand that point of view, I might argue back that difficult decisions are made for important reasons; reasons that should not be belittled by the many anti-choice leaders that hold demonstrations outside. I challenge the opponents of this surgery to judge their own actions when the issue arises. As they stand outside of clinics, holding demonstrations and deprecating the women that have made a personal choice, it shows true hypocrisy. As the rioters label the women as "killers," they are guilty of exactly what they are condemning. These demonstrators are only adding to the pain the woman is feeling, slowly killing