



# THE JERSEY STATESMAN

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## 89 Years

David Murphy

You'd be hard put to find anyone at Boys State who much remembers an era of black-and-white television. Or psychedelic rock. Or Jimmy Stewart.

But gracing our beautiful stage this week was a small, silver-haired smiling old man named Lou, and Lou remembers all that and rabbit stew.

He remembers times of simpler problems and simpler answers than there are today. He's seen worlds saved only in aging, black-and-white lithographs, heard music and conversations forever lost in time, thought thoughts indicative of his period. He was our age -- a junior in high school -- in 1944.

1944! The first Boys State had not even begun. My grandma wasn't even born. He was our age, looked like us, and thought of much the same things as us. He's likely seen more things than most of us ever will.

I looked across my room as I lay down in my bed at midnight. The lights had just turned off and my roommate was already asleep. I could hear his quiet breathing and the constant, abstract chirp of the crickets, giving music to solitary souls. My dorm window was open and across the grass stood a three-storied red brick building, from whose hallways came clear images of life behind large, tiered windows. The men behind didn't know I saw them, and I couldn't hear them.

Young men walked proudly back and forth, joking, boasting, laughing, talking. They thought of sleep and food and women. And how strong and bold they were! Not a thought of old age passed their minds, not a thought of their inevitable ends on earth: that they, just as all the proud, joking, boasting, laughing young men before them, who walked the same halls, who tried to make a difference also, would eventually lay down, and die. This has already been the undeniable truth for almost all of Mr. Lou's friends.

I wasn't depressed by the notion that these young men I saw last night were exactly the same as their old and dead counterparts. It filled me with a sense of wonder, that humans are only all that they hope to be. For all of our manly essence, our bodies come to little more than dust in boxes.

## Today's Weather

**Low of 60**

**High of 83**

**Precipitation: 10%**

**Mostly sunny. Wind**

**ENE at 10 mph. Great**

**weather for**

**graduation.**



# Boys State News

## Sensational Seminars

Cole Grumbach

It has been another busy day of learning at ALJBS. Statesmen rushed to the Daly intramural fields as a state police aviation unit helicopter descended for a MedEvac demonstration. The helicopter, an Augusta AW-139, quickly caught the attention of delegates across the Rider University campus. MedEvac missions are meant for remote rescues, in situations where an ambulance may not be able to reach the person in need of assistance. Statesmen had the opportunity to hear from certified flight nurses and paramedics who report to such missions. They told stories of the necessity of working as a team to rescue patients.

Other statesmen headed to the BLC Theater for a seminar on leadership in combat. Major John Campbell also gave advice regarding the importance of teamwork saying "you must train your unit as a team." ALJBS has given statesmen the ability to work as a team to accomplish goals, in their cities, counties, and state. Still, Campbell stressed the importance of taking individual initiative when needed. "You need to be able to take initiative on your own," he advised. Here at Boys States, delegates have been given many opportunities to take initiative, whether in the form of running for office or engaging in stimulating political discussion.

Those interested in a career in education had the chance to hear from both Boys State staff members who are educators and administrators from around the state. They told stories regarding the importance of hard work to be successful. "From the moment you hit the ground, outwork everybody," an educator urged. "If you do, you'll be fine." As the final seminars of the 2016 ALJBS session wrapped up, statesmen reflected on all of the information they have been given throughout the week. With the opportunity to hear from professionals from many different career paths, statesmen were able to begin shaping their own future.



## Worldwide Sports News:

- Lebron James announces he will not participate in Rio Olympics
- Philadelphia 76ers officially take Ben Simmons for No. 1 overall pick
- Knicks join offseason race for Kevin Durant
- Philadelphia Phillies @ San Francisco Giants
- USA to play Colombia at 8:00 pm for 3rd place in Copa America
- Michael Phelps announces end of his career after Rio Olympics
- Pelicans get Sooners star Buddy Hield with 6th overall pick

## Quote of the Day:

**"Knowing is not enough.  
We must apply. Willing is not  
enough.  
We must do."  
-Bruce Lee**

# Opinion

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## **Mute (or Muzzled?) Moderates**

This year, it became very clear that people's politics, and the parties' political platforms have become very polarized, reaching the far left and right corners of the political spectrum. So where does that leave the political center? Where are the presidential candidates' appeals to the moderates? WHERE ARE ALL THE MODERATES?

I admit that I am somewhat politically two-faced; around my friends, I appear to have an air of staunch Republicanism and being anti-liberal, but in reality, I am politically moderate, with a small conservative preference. Recently, I took a Pew Research ideology quiz and it categorized me as a Young Outsider who "holds a mix of conservative and liberal views"(Pew Research Center).

I was surprised to see this result, but then I realized I don't like the two party system. It is just one more way, one more excuse the Americans are using to create divisions amongst ourselves. So after taking the Pew quiz a second time and seeing that my results were the same, I had to wonder, "Why am I, like probably many other moderates, expressing and supporting beliefs that I don't believe in?"

The sad answer—simply to fit in. The reason for this is that today, in an era of polarized politics, compromise is now viewed as weakness. So where is a moderate to go without being criticized for being both conservative and liberal? NOWHERE!

New York Times author and conservative David Brooks wrote an article asking the Republican moderates to come out of hiding to save the party. This lack of moderates had created a false dichotomy in America, and it has been, is, and will continue to be a factor that undermines traditional American values. Polarizing politics will continue to split the nation, and continue to destroy the concepts of pragmatism, unity, and truly being an American.

There is a dark path ahead if the country continues down this road of polarization. Many may disagree with me on the importance and degree of severity to which I give this issue. Well, just agree to disagree with me.

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## **The Daunting Task of Writing a City Manual**

What many statesmen never get to experience is the massive effort that is writing a city manual. Roughly 10% of statesmen hold municipal office at any given point, and this small percentage creates the city manual.

Monday night after dinner, we municipal leaders attended a session led by former ALJBS delegate and current municipal leader Ziad Shehady. The premise of the session was to give us guidelines on what the manual should include, and to give us a look behind the real life processes of Boys State

Your municipal governments have created a comprehensive budget, passed legislation to address primary and secondary problems, and have done all of this while adding pizzaz, in hopes to be named Best City. Legislation consists of passing ordinances to solve issues relevant to your cities. The budget is probably the most difficult portion of the whole process because it requires that large sums of money ranging in millions of dollars be allocated to various areas of the city. The other difficult part of the budget is figuring out where to get the money from. The city manuals have been made over many sleepless nights by members of your cities, so be sure to thank all of those who were involved in this process.

# City News

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## Sleep Deprivation: The Necessary Evil of Boys State

Frank Stepnowski

Sleep deprivation is a cruel mistress, and let me tell you, she is loud and proud here at Boys State. When 50 Cent was doing the soundtrack to his movie, a reporter asked him, "When do you sleep 50?" and his response was "Sleep? Sleep is for those who are broke! I don't sleep; I have the opportunity to make a dream become a reality." If you are one of these people, reach on over and pat yourself on the back, because it means you're taking advantage of all that this wonderful program has to offer. But hey, let's be honest, since you arrived here on Sunday morning, you've been finding yourself wondering if you're going to function on a mere 5-6 hours of sleep you've been getting per night.

Personally, as the Managing Editor of this paper, a city councilman, a member of the Board of Education, and a winner of the State Senate primary for our county, I've found myself running on two hours of sleep a night. My fellow statesmen often ask me how I keep doing it. But just as I think of complaining and saying that my job is demanding, I put things into perspective and realize that it's only because I'm taking Boys State by the horns, as well are hundreds of others.

So if you're up late writing a city manual, campaigning for Boys Nation Senator, or doing anything that this program is offering you, keep it up. Realize that today is our last day and try to soak up every hour, minute, and second you can. Also, go up to your counselors, shake their hands, and say "thank you," because they lose more sleep than any of us. And they do it all so you have the opportunity to make the most of yourself here at American Legion Jersey Boys State.

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## Reminder: Remember to purchase pins before it's too late!

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