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The Memes of Boys State

Philip Brendel

There are many different aspects of Boys State's culture that work to unify the population. One of those aspects is memes. Memes, as defined by the urban dictionary, are "an image, video, or set of text that becomes popular and spreads rapidly via the internet." However, the memes at Boys State extend far beyond the confines of the internet.

Within Boys State, almost every statesman participates in the spread and cultivation of memes. Whether they're cheering at every mention of socks or simply chuckling at a joke made at the expense of Rider's food, we are all participating in the memes of Boys State

In the more traditional sense, the memes are also spread through social media platforms, such as Instagram and Snapchat. The memes have most commonly been spread through group chats on these platforms and dedicated accounts, such as @aljbsmemes on Instagram. Meme culture at Boys State is still fairly new, with records dating back to the first meme being posted to @aljbsmemes on June 22, 2018. There is no doubt that memes will continue to be a staple of the Boys State culture and will likely live on for future generations to enjoy.

Weather

Today's low temperature is 58 degrees and the high temperature is 78 degrees. There is a slight chance of rain in the morning but the weather will clear up in the afternoon.

Schedule

- 6:15 AM - 7:30 AM: Breakfast
- 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM: General Assembly
- 9:10 AM - 9:50 AM: ALJBS Exam
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Senatorial General Election
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Family Day
- 11:30 AM: 2019 ALJBS Championship Race
- 1:05 PM: Final Retreat Ceremony
- 1:15 PM - 3:45 PM: Final Assembly

Note: Check your personal schedule for more specific logistics and events!



**Don't forget to visit the
ALJBS Store during meal
time and recreational
periods!**

LOCAL POLITICS

Fillmore Municipal Court Confronts Marijuana Epidemic

Ethan Horowitz

Last night, all 18 cities at boys state had their municipal court cases heard. In Fillmore, the case against Room 103 drew a lot of attention. The residents of the room were accused of possessing illegal substances with intent to distribute. Justin, the DEA agent in the city, was called to the witness stand. He described how he broke into the room and saw what looked like marijuana. He then engaged one of the suspects in hot pursuit, eventually finding him behind a door with his contraband. Even with all the evidence stacked against him, Smeet was calm and collected during the trial; in fact, he was sitting in the courtroom smoking what is commonly known as a “blunt” and sharing it with others. Smeet believed that his ruling was unfair because “I did not receive the right to a fair trial because they spoke to the witness before the accused.” Just as he was about to be taken away by the sheriff the mayor, Blake, pardoned him. Many expected this decision as most of the governor candidates and mayors advocate for the legalization of marijuana.

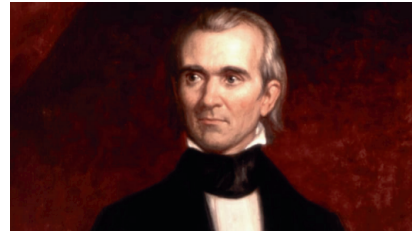


Meet Lieutenant Governor Sully Meyer

Ravi D'Elia

Much of the attention in this Gubernatorial race has been focused on Governor Lin, the beatboxing bipartisan Buchananian. However, no man rules alone, and Governor Lin is no exception. Standing loyally alongside him is Sully Meyer, the Lieutenant Governor. Who is this enigmatic figure? The Jersey Statesmen wanted to find out.

When speaking to the newly elected Lieutenant Governor, one is immediately taken in by his confidence and excitement. Clearly this is a man who is enthusiastic about his job. Originally from Fillmore, in Vandenburg county, Meyer considers himself to be a citizen of the state first, and his county and town second. Though he has enjoyed his time at Boy's State, he hopes to obtain more political experience. When asked about his plans, Meyer said that he plans on becoming a socially conscious engineer, someone who designs for people first. Best of luck to our new Lieutenant Governor!



Polk Holds Court

Ravi D'Elia

In the city of Polk, court night was a riotous affair. The prosecutor chose to bring 5 citations to court. All chose to defend themselves, and all did so poorly. One by one, each was found guilty and sentenced, a staggering 100% conviction rate. Perhaps asking the public defender would've been a smarter move.

By far the most severe case was that of Evan, who was found guilty of crimes from walking on the grass to, in the words of Police Chief Frank, “Testing my patience.” His defense was admirable, but ultimately he was found guilty and sentenced to death by wolves. Luckily for him, a sympathetic counselor commuted his sentence, citing, “That would be murder. You announced your intention to murder someone.”

A more lighthearted case was Counselor Jeffrey's trial. He was accused of waiting far too long before demonstrating his beautiful singing voice to the city. He pled guilty to avoid being coerced to sing on the stand, but was sentenced to sing regardless. His voice was truly a gift to everyone around him.

Every city has a different story. Every courthouse is unique. But for Polk, court night was a night of fun.

LOCAL POLITICS

Snore-der in the Court: The Trial of Kevin Stokes

Simon Fraga

Justice is blind, but it is very rarely tired. On June 19th, the Hayes City Municipal Court hosted the trial of Kevin Stokes, quite possibly the sleepest of all criminals put before the court. Kevin, a Federalist, had been charged with one of the most heinous offenses attainable at Boys State: sleeping during city and county meetings. Not only that, but city prosecutor Hayden D'Elena alluded to unlawful cell phone use as another crime on Kevin's part, claiming that the defendant was guilty of "multiple disorderly conduct charges, including phone usage." The trial was long and grueling, with several witnesses attesting to Kevin's slew of crimes against Boys State. Counselors and delegates alike sat in the witness chair, recalling the sheer panic they felt when they saw Kevin with his eyes closed while the rest of the Federalists discussed their party platform; many who testified agreed that they would feel much safer if they knew somebody like Kevin had been taken off the streets (and put into bed, for his sake). When the dust settled at the end of a brutal proceeding, the verdict was handed down by the honorable Judge Patrick Zotti, and it was what many had suspected when the case first began: Kevin Stokes, the sleeping, phone using menace, was found guilty of all charges brought up against him.

"I think justice has been served," said D'Elena after the case's conclusion, "and I certainly think the punishment fits the crime. Hopefully he'll cease his phone usage and sleepiness like he used to. They say justice is blind, but I know the scales were balanced very evenly today."

And the punishment D'Elena referenced, you may ask? Judge Zotti sentenced Kevin to spin around in a circle and sing "I'm A Little Teapot" in front of everyone present in the court. Truly, a fitting punishment for one of the most nefarious criminals in ALJBS Municipal Court history.

Thank You

Patrick Byrnes

In life, everyone has a benefactor. To children, their parents and guardians bestow upon them the experiences that shape them. Students have their teachers, public servants that toil and deliberate until equal opportunity is seized by each of their pupils. For every apprentice, there is a master, an individual who bestows their skill and experience with incomprehensible value. And to us statesmen, we have our legionaries and staff.

To the members of the American Legion, I'm having a difficult time verbalizing how grateful we are for your service, your diligence, your dedication to democracy, and after defending our freedom and country, you still take the time to focus on the American Legion Jersey Boys State program. After protecting the present and securing the future of our nation through your service, you help to shape the upcoming generation of voters, leaders, pioneers and Americans. You are selfless leaders and unabashed role models. You are the backbone of what makes this country honorable. Thank you, sincerely.

To all staff; you took a week of your time, parted from your families and your jobs to aide in our understanding of what it means to be an upstanding individual. You guide us through our governmental inquiries, pick us up from our electoral stumbles, and set us on our feet—running towards a better future. For this, we all are indebted to you. The least we can do is take it in stride. We will.

Thank you. Words cannot express our gratitude.



LOCAL POLITICS

Guilty or Not Guilty?: The Case of Serruto v. Immordino

Joseph Talucci

The bigger they are, the harder they fall. In a huge upset last Wednesday, popular city Councilman James “Jamie” Serruto was found guilty of lateness and threatening another delegate. Jamie is known throughout his city for his outgoing attitude, enthusiasm, and readiness to take action; these are all the makings of a successful politician. Therefore, when he was sentenced to a recall of his position, there was a collective gasp throughout the room. Impossible! Where did it all go wrong?

Nathan Kim, the prosecutor, described quite the scene in his opening statement. Avery Immordino, the Chief Administrator for Halsey County, went to scold Jamie for allegedly being late to lineup. It was getting dark and everyone was tired, so Avery's patience was worn. He approached Jamie, and scolded him for being late. Nathan said that Jamie interrupted Avery, and so Avery told Jamie to “shut up.” The two argued, and at this point, as the story goes, Jamie then shoved his elbow against Avery's chest and yelled, “Do you want to go?” The fight was broken up immediately by bystanders, but Nathan and his client expressed fear about what might have happened if the situation escalated. As a whole, the prosecution seemed deeply affected by the event, becoming very emotional throughout the trial. The prosecution brought five witnesses to testify, and they all confirmed that the altercation had taken place.

The defense argued that Jamie acted partly in self defense at provocation by Avery's aggression in how he accused Jamie. Additionally, Jamie stated that he was late to the lineup because of a “lack of correspondence” and personal business. Regardless, given a lack of witnesses for Jamie's argument, Judge Sean Coen found the defendant guilty of all charges and sentenced him to a recall of his position. The case was decided before all

court proceedings could finish in the interest of time, with Jamie's witness, Darren, unheard.

The defendant and his Counsel, Dhivyan Kurani, expressed their displeasure with the outcome of the case. Dhivyan provided a statement on this, stating that his frustrations come twofold. Firstly, “The conviction was based solely on the emotional appeal from the witnesses' testimonies, and not any hard facts.” Secondly, “The judge was told to rush his verdict, and thus he had no time to consider the evidence.” A witness for the prosecution, Zach, echoed this sentiment in an interview with the press: “I'm sorry we couldn't hear more of Jamie's story due to time restraints.”

Despite this, Avery commented positively on the verdict, “I am happy that justice has been served, and I feel safe that the judge thought the same way that I did. But I warn you, and everybody, you never know what someone's intentions are. I'm glad that Simran and Brian and Michael [councilors] were all there to witness the destruction of a truly terrifying person.”

The Mad Rush to Get it Done

Théo Ognar

As ALJBS comes to a close, one might expect celebration. Unfortunately for us all, our naivety had gotten the best of us. The crushing reality of our circumstances as cities and counties can be narrowed down to one simple cause. We didn't work on our manuals. We, so blinded by our new-found brothers, and our political aims to reach the top, ignored the not-so-gradual deadline.

As ALJBS comes to a close, we work. We rush. We get things done. We cut corners. We, as proud, responsible statesmen, scramble to the finish before its too late, and it sucks.

In the end, I'm sure all cities and counties will succeed... but what did it cost?

Everything.

EVENTS

Music Programs Galvanize General Assembly Audience

Jared Zornitzer

On Wednesday evening, the ALJBS band awed its audience in the Alumni Gym with its accurate renditions of classic songs and its flawless performance, thanks to tireless practice throughout the week on the part of the band members. The band played a medley of patriotic songs, such as our national anthem, sparking energetic "USA" chants which resonated throughout the Alumni Gym. The band then proceeded to perform iconic songs from American films and shows, such as the theme song from "The Incredibles," several songs from "Star Wars," and the opening theme from "Game of Thrones." These selections drew the audience into the concert, since many statesmen are familiar with them. Next, the band played hits from throughout our nation's history, including Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Another One Bites the Dust," "We Will Rock You," "We are the Champions," Fall Out Boy's "Centuries," and Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'." The statesmen burst out into dancing and swaying, interlocked in each other's arms, to show their approval of these song selections.

Additionally, the chorus performed at the general assembly on Wednesday evening. They sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the audience sung along with them. This also shows the delegates' appreciation for the performances which occurred on Wednesday. The band and choir are sure to impress at their performance today during Family Day!

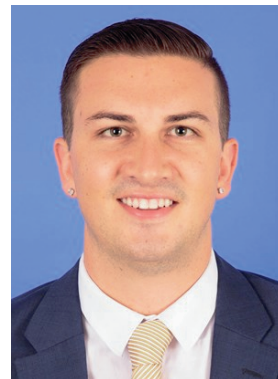


Synopsis on Sports Career Seminar

Jamarc Simon

On the fifth day of the seventy-fourth annual session of American Legion Jersey Boys State, about seventy-five delegates attended the Career in Sports seminar held in the Alumni Gymnasium. Coach Kevin DeMille, the Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at George Washington University, who has also helped coach the Women's National Basketball team, offered insight into his career of sports management. Early in his career, he worked in media and video production for the UCONN women's team as an intern. In just a few years, thanks to his networking skills, Coach DeMille landed a coaching job at George Washington University. As an assistant at GW, he spends most of his time recruiting high school, transfer, and international students as well as analyzing film from team practices.

Coach DeMille also gave delegates advice for those pursuing a career in sports. He advised them to get involved early because "working for free for a long time puts one in a good position to be successful later." He also highlighted the importance of networking and internships. In the sports field, one's net work is their net worth; and when one does great work and has a large network, their chances of landing a job are significantly higher. In the end, Coach DeMille believes that it is one's passion for a sport that will propel them through the exhausting journey so they can be successful in the future.



EVENTS

Leadership and Experiences in Combat Seminar

Jared Zornitzer

Major Dan Meyers and Captain Jeramie Connor held a seminar yesterday in which they discussed the traits of a leader, especially within the military, and also recalled their experiences serving in the military. Major Meyers described highlights from his career, such as his service abroad in the Middle East and in Africa, and while doing so he pointed out aspects of his history that we could learn from in order to emulate his leadership ability, both in the military and in any other sector we may be employed in. Both Major Meyers and Captain Connor also provided their audience with anecdotes of instances when they faced adversity while serving, allowing them to instill an understanding of how to handle tough situations in the military in the audience. For instance, Major Meyers described the time when he was with soldiers in Iraq and he faced a decision: to take a shortcut to reach their destination or to take a much longer, but safer route to reach the same destination. He chose the shorter path on behalf of his marines' well-being - he got them to their destination in much less time. In turn, Major Meyers conveyed the duty of leaders to act for the betterment of their contingents and to be altruistic.

On top of that, Major Meyers referenced additional stories about when he had to lead soldiers subordinate to him on various missions. For example, he retold the instance when he was leading his troop in the Middle East and they happened upon a man stuck under a truck on the road which they were traversing. Instead of leaving him there, because the man appeared to be already dead, Major Meyers led his soldiers through emergency procedures in order to recover the man from under the truck, and eventually, the man ended up in an emergency care center. Therefore, by telling this story, Major Meyers exemplified the responsibilities of true leaders - such as adopting the doctrine "leave no man behind" - so that we, the audience, could be

inclined to follow this doctrine as well. In conclusion, in their seminar, Major Meyers and Captain Connor prepared us to become successful leaders in the future.

Sports Results as of 6/20:

100 Halsey - 5 wins and 3 losses
200 Marshall - 4 wins and 6 losses
300 Nimitz - 7 wins and 3 losses
400 MacArthur - 2 wins and 6 losses
500 Ridgeway - 3 wins and 6 losses
600 Vandenburg - 9 wins and 3 losses
700 Eisenhower - 9 wins and 3 losses
800 Bradley - 2 wins and 7 losses
900 Schwarzkopf - 3 wins and 6 losses



**The Statesman staff
thank all of you, our
dedicated readers, for
your compliments and
support!**



OPINION PIECES

Farewell Statesmen

Ravi D'Elia

After a long and arduous week, American Legion Jersey Boy's State nearly draws to a close. Over the past several days, statesmen have run for office, taken appointed positions, and written manuals. The most common advice given to newly minted statesmen is to get involved, and in this 74th annual session of ALJBS, it is clear that that advice was heeded. Even those who did not run for higher office took on roles, unofficial or official, in their city. Some did their city's laundry, others merely held doors.

For those who did not even do this, there were other ways to get something out of their Boy's State experience. Many statesmen we spoke to describe finding a love of sports, thanks to sports period, that they did not possess before. For some, just meeting new people and getting out of their shell was a big step. Regardless of how, every statesman was affected by their experience in a life changing way. Now it's time to put those changes into practice, out in the real world. Good luck statesmen!

Congratulations Boys State Delegates

Tyler Ways

Goodbye Boys State. You welcomed us in with open arms, and in doing so, you opened our eyes to the future. You took our clay bodies, and crafted us with gentle hands into leaders and into men. Despite only being a week long, you changed our lives, making an impact that will last until we take our last breath. Together we mourn. We mourn our connections, our conversations, and our new friends, for soon they will be gone, memories that we will look upon with joy. Still, we must say goodbye with tears in our eyes, to the week that shapes futures. Thank you Boys State, for all you've done, and goodbye for now. Til' next year!



“President Trump Says “Supporters Might Demand Two Additional Years”

Matt Krase

On June 16th, 2019, current President Donald Trump posted yet another controversial message on Twitter, stating that his supporters may call for him to serve two additional years in the Oval Office. This idea comes from the fact that nearly half of President Trump's tenure was disrupted by the Mueller probe. If this notion is legitimized, two extra years would be tacked onto the tail end of Trump's 4 years, or his next term if he wins his re-election campaign. Yet, this is not the first time the president has toyed with the idea of extending his time in office.

President Trump often tests the boundaries and limits of his power by jokingly making an audacious statement, and then gauging the reaction of the public. This method, though given the sugar-coated name of a “power balloon” by the press, is a form of dangerous brinkmanship. If the president attempts to follow through with his demands for addition tenure, he would become the first president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt to serve more than two terms. Not only does this violate the 22nd amendment to the United States Constitution, but it also breaks a long lasting tradition of our Founding Fathers. If President Trump is given his two extra years, there may be open doors for him to extend his power even further, which may spell bad news for the United States.

OPINION PIECES

Taylor City Resident Attempts to Set ALJBS Creamsicle-Eating Record

Théo Ognar

Carlos Cabrera, a resident of city 11, after some support from his fellow delegates, has set off on a highly ambitious journey; some may even consider it more ambitious than Boys Nation Senator and Boys State Governor combined. Carlos is attempting, by the end of his time here, to eat 25 creamsicles. He has already eaten over 16 and despite having the odds stacked against him, stated that he will persevere and succeed in his mission. Taylor city has already shown their support for him, and is keeping track of his progress. ALJBS eagerly awaits the final result of his endeavors.

Carlos was accused of stealing creamsicles by ACC Austin, a Taylor City Staff Member. He stated in an interview later: "We found an excess of popsicle sticks, and after DNA tests and the use of carbon dating, we concluded that the creamsicles could not have been eaten during the lunch and dinner periods. His roommate went up [to the witness stand] and brought up the fact that Carlos had 3 A/C units, and that it could keep the temperature low enough for popsicles to not melt."

"It's a meat locker in there," claimed a chilly city statesman.

In the end, Austin requested to drop charges in order to allow Carlos to continue his feat of tenacity and unwavering will.



The Shrinking Scheme

Andrew Yuen

America was built off a system where hard work equals success. For the most part, this is true for immigrants and generational Americans alike. One of the main reasons why we strive for success, is to provide a better life for our children and generations to come: however, New Jersey's inheritance tax shrinks financial success down by more than 15% in some cases, on top of the national estate tax. It is a travesty that has cost families millions of dollars in hard-earned salaries. As such, it is crucial that we replace this system with one that benefits hard-working individuals through tax reform.

Currently, inheritance taxes in New Jersey are based on a class system, whereas direct descendants, spouses, and charitable organizations are nontaxable while other relatives and friends are taxed on a sliding scale up to 16%. To fix these high taxes, we should focus on a fixed tax rate for the taxable classes and legislate for a lower national estate tax similar to Maryland. It will directly benefit property tax relief and other programs to bridge the socioeconomic divide. Instead of heavily taxing the wealthy, we should think about honoring the hard work they inputted into the economy and instead redirect federal funds to soften the blow on the lower and middle classes.



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