



THE JERSEY STATESMAN



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Issue II

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Weather

Today's low temperature is 53 degrees and the high temperature is 77 degrees.



Schedule

6:30 AM - 8:15 AM: Gubernatorial Candidates pick up petitions

6:45 AM - 8:10 AM: Breakfast

8:15 AM: Gubernatorial Candidates get campaign materials

8:20 AM - 9:30 AM: State Party conventions

9:40 AM - 10:20 AM: ALJBS Legislature, County Officials Meetings, Fill City Office vacancies

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Seminars

11:45 AM - 1:10 PM: Lunch

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM: Gubernatorial primary elections

2:40 PM - 3:00 PM: General Assembly

3:15 PM - 5:15 PM: Rec Time

5:35 PM: Retreat

5:45 PM - 7:10 PM: Dinner

7:20 PM - 9:00 PM: General Assembly

9:15 PM - 11:15 PM: Municipal Courts

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

Emerging Student Leaders

Sydney Wiredu

For today's special edition, I was lucky enough to get a chance to witness firsthand the leadership of some party officials during the county party meeting. The unification of the nationalist party between cities 17 and 18 (Schwarzkopf County) led to a smooth and fair transition of power into agreed upon county party officials, as well as the selection of myself, Sydney Wiredu, as State Party Chairman nominee.

Grayson Farrell- councilman, athletic director, sergeant at arms; was both a vocal and active leader during this session. He single handedly encouraged shy candidates to step up and run for positions that they would not have otherwise. When asked about this decision, Grayson remarked, "Well, they gotta keep trying. They have to use their failures to build a case for themselves. [They should] make sure they appeal to the people around them to vote. As Steven Garcia says, 'just keep trying!' Surely, the Boys State, and the world needs more Grayson Farrells to motivate those who need it.

Get Out and Vote!

Boys Statesmen act upon your civic duty and vote in your Gubernatorial Primaries.

Reminder....

Work on your County and City Manuals as those are due Thursday! Tip: the manuals are easy tasks if ALL members are participating in the process.

Fun Fact!

The first Boys State was in Illinois and is called the Illinois "Premier" Boys State.

Local Politics

Dedicated City #3 Statesmen Caught Sleeping with Guidon

Joey Lescht



Danny Gologorsky, city #3's guidon bearer and candidate for State senate was caught in 4K cuddling his guidon.

In his own words, "I really want to be a dedicated guidon bearer and it's my duty to

protect the flag of our city." He continued by telling us, "Sergeant Grant told me to respect my guidon and keep it safe."

Many consider the guidon to be a symbol of the principles central to the Boys State lifestyle. It's without a doubt that all of the bearers hold a high level of commitment to the guidon, but it is rare to find it documented in this way.

On a fundamental level, it could be said that this incident exemplifies what it means to be a statesman and the passion and devotion that every statesman should be displaying this week.

Some may question the appropriateness of the act, but it's safe to say that this level of dedication and effort is commendable.

Nimitz County Selects Party Ticket

Noah Hilsdorf

After a long, confusing meeting between Federalist Party members of Nimitz County, the party line has been chosen.

First business was the selection of the county chair and vice chair: the winners were Jacob Zyburra and Rohan Gupta, respectively. Nominee for state party chair from the Nimitz Federalists was open to more members. Two candidates made speeches on what they could do to ensure Federalist victory. When members voted, Braeden Carroll (City 5) was selected.

Most other county positions were left vacant because of a lack of petitions. So, there were only two commissioner nominations and the supervisor nomination, and zero nominations for sheriff, clerk, and surrogate.

The state house races had more excitement. Four candidates petitioned for state senate and a second speech had to be given to each candidate. Then, disputes between members on how to vote paralyzed the meeting for 30 minutes. This led to three votes and even more debate, but eventually three candidates were victorious. Assemblymen introduced themselves with only four appointed out of 5. The men were frustrated while leaving.



**VISIT THE ALJBS
STORE FOR
MERCHANDISE
AND THE FRONT
OF THE DALY
DINING HALL FOR
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
PINS!**



Interviews

Hot Take with Jake

Jakob Pender



Monday I was fortunate enough to interview Trenton Mayor Walter Reed Gusciora and Assemblyman Herbert Conaway Jr. With both of them, I discussed positions specific to their jobs as well as the state of state politics and LGBTQ+ rights. Below are some highlights from both interviews.

The mayor of Trenton spoke to delegates in the early afternoon and spoke to me afterwards. Gusciora was the first LGBTQ member of the New Jersey Legislature, or at least the first one to come out (as he said). He talked about how he had received much support when he came out and how he is proud of the LGBTQ advancements made in the past few years. When I asked him about his involvement in national politics, he stated that he had previously run for Congress and supported Biden's campaign in 2020. He did not rule out a potential future run. Overall, I enjoyed talking with him.

Assemblyman Herb Conaway spoke with four of his colleagues at Monday's general assembly. Conaway has served in the New Jersey General Assembly since 1998. We also discussed advancements in the LGBTQ community. The most

interesting part of the interview was Conaway's opinion on the upcoming governor's race. He believed that Ciattarelli would most likely choose a female Republican, although he did not speculate on any names. I ended up walking him to the back of the building and saying good night. He stated that he is running for re-election, which is very fortunate. It was very nice that he spent over 15 minutes with me, and I respect him as both a politician and a person. He should be a role model for the delegates at Boys State and all those who want to start in politics.

Events

Taking Flight and Taking Initiative

Joshua Gorman

Monday's seminars at Boys State covered a wide range of careers and showcased a wide range of career paths and distinguished individuals. One seminar in particular figuratively, and literally, blew everyone completely away. The Medevac EMS seminar seemed like nothing was going to happen until the crowd observed a massive, 55 foot long emergency helicopter that burned over a gallon of fuel a MINUTE! The emergency vehicle was also equipped with both medical and transportation supplies allowing for a safe flight to a hospital while a patient is being treated securely in the main area. It was also stated that the crew aboard participated in rescue missions and searching duties.

The members of a Medevac EMS crew persevere through stressful conditions such as loud noise, turbulence, and inoperable weather phenomena. They must also take into account many factors when landing, such as safety and ability to contact other officers.

The individuals who spoke during the seminar were people who all came from all different backgrounds. Despite this, they all served the same purpose and brought their own skills to the table, from working with children, to being certified for several health occupations. They also shared the same sentiment: their love to serve and aid others. Some pivotal pieces of advice they shared was to get started early in your career, show initiative towards your passions, volunteer yourself, and do it all for a valiant reason. Everyone at Boys State has the opportunity to change someone's life, so take that chance and make the best of it.

The Heart-Felt D-Day Presentation

Nicholas Battista



On June 22, after a long day of elections, sports, and events, the delegates at Boys State took a moment to acknowledge the sacrifice of the brave soldiers that stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, over 70 years ago. Many of us have heard the story of it, and read about the event in our history books, but here, Operation Overlord was brought to life in a heart-felt, and moving way.

The presentation opened up with a scene from the movie *Saving Private Ryan*. It would be an understatement to say that the scene was moving. Seeing people being shot, bullets passing by, countless people being injured and feeling the overall weight of the scene made us for the first time have a sense seeing and feeling what happened during that

operation. It gave many people a newfound and growing appreciation for the soldiers that fought and the service men and women that are currently serving today.

After the opening scene, the presentation delved more into the informative aspect and the background of real-life soldiers who stormed those very beaches. Many of the soldiers spoke about personal stories and experiences that happened as they executed the operation. Along with soldiers, the presenter gave important facts and background information pertaining to the D-Day operation, such as the specific planning to diverge and distract the Germans from the operation. A quote that shows how powerful this operation was describes it as “the battle that turned boys into Men”.

After the presentation, Boys State took the time to acknowledge and thank all the servicemen and servicewomen who served or are currently serving. Here, the Jersey Statesman thanks those who have served and are serving our country, and taking the time to be with us this week, and we are very lucky for their service.

Opinions

Series Review: A Song of Ice and Fire

Aaron Nagler

When it comes to fantasy book series, *A Song of Ice and Fire* by George R.R. Martin is perhaps one of the most well known, largely in part to the television show adaptation of it called *Game of Thrones*. The show is more popular than the books; however, I believe the book series is the best way to engage in Martin’s fantasy world and story. The series comprises five books, each ranging from around 700 to 1,000 pages. While some may find this daunting, once you delve into the plot of the story, it is rather likely that you will begin to fly through them. I finished the last book, around 1,000 pages, within less than two weeks. What makes these books so compelling is the strong characters that Martin explores. The stories are depicted from multiple points of view from different characters, with each showing distinct personalities, motivation, and perspectives. I found myself becoming very invested in the characters who were so well written that they felt like real people rather than fictional characters. To add on to the strong characters, Martin crafts insanely interesting plots, filled with twists that have made me unironically gasp out loud multiple times. The characters do not follow the expectations that you might expect in a fantasy story, which further contributes to the investment in the characters and story. The only main downside of the series is the fact that the story has not been completed, with there still being two remaining books that have not been released. This can make reading all the books so far feel unsatisfying since you might have to wait awhile for the next book. However, I have hope that Martin will complete the series fairly soon, and I still do not regret reading the series and feel that there was still so much to gain from what has been released.

The Universal Truth of Victory at Boys State

Kedhar Bartlett

This week, we are learning about government through practice, with one key difference: our decisions do not actually impact the constituents we claim to serve. These constituents don't exist, and with the possible exception of the state legislature, our governmental decisions are without consequence. As a result, voters here at Boys State are voting with different criteria in mind than are usually at play in an election. Substance in campaign speeches is more important than the actual policy stances of candidates.

Campaign speeches are vital; they are a nerve-wracking, future-deciding two minutes in which you not only introduce your stances, but you unknowingly showcase the kind of leader you would be if elected. Candidates who include daring claims, examples, real solutions, and plans of action in their speeches are more likely to be successful in their election endeavors, regardless of their stance. In Pierce City (City 13), the Nationalist mayoral candidate prevailed over the Federalist candidate, despite the fact that Federalists were the majority. He swayed at least 4 voters to vote across party lines because he came right out of the gate in his speech with statistics, clear stances, and conceptual plans to reach outlined solutions. On the other hand, his Federalist competitor came off a little wishy-washy as he was not always taking clear stances and rarely offered concrete solutions. This phenomenon is not just limited to Pierce City, though. In Johnson City (City 16), the Federalist mayoral candidate that lost the race rarely offered any solutions, and when he did they were "superficial and vague." Contrarily, the winner of the race provided more reasoning, took clear stances, and presented feasible solutions. When asked about the balance in consideration between speeches and policy, Jesse Bross of Grant City (City 17) firmly texted "good speech = elected" and that "people couldn't care less about policy" given the structure of ALJBS.

This fact holds true in other Boys State programs as well. We all had the opportunity to listen to Steven Garza, the Texas Boys State statesman from the Boys State documentary. He told us about how when he ran for governor, people told him that even though they didn't agree with a single one of his policy stances, they would still vote for him. They did so because he demonstrated drive and passion for the position, and spoke with all of the qualities aforementioned. Boys State fosters a unique election dynamic, and the substance of speeches is more important to success than the stances of candidates. This is a key realization that we should all take into account as we pursue various offices over the coming days.

Abortion Opinion

Jonathan Huang

In a world where politics are heavily debated and rationalized, there are points where there is really no perfect solution. Abortion is one of them. Boiled down to its core, the topic of abortion fundamentally rests on the question of at what stage a fetus is a living human. The idea of women controlling their bodies can be made as an emotional appeal but that is the total extent the argument goes. After all, we restrict the rights of people all the time. I cannot kill the person sitting next to me and vice versa. This is the same with abortion, if a fetus is deemed a human, people can't kill fetuses which means that abortion must be made illegal (because murder is illegal). However, the argument that life starts at conception can be heavily disputed (and thus the strongest argument for pro-life). On this side, a person would believe that a person becomes a person when the sperm meets the egg and new genetic code is created. Now this just begs the question, how about acquired mutations where genetic code is created after one is born? Is that a new life? How do you really know or prove that this is where life begins? With this in mind, let me introduce you to the argument that life begins at consciousness. Put simply, this belief stems from the fact that the baby is a living human once it becomes conscious. According to Scientific American in the article "When Does Consciousness Arise in Human Babies?", it is likely that fetuses experience no memory and any way to imagine at all - not conscious. **Continue on Page 6**

Continued from Page 5. The hypothesis is that only when the baby leaves the womb does the baby start to experience life and consciousness start. Of course, centered on abortion which is highly focused on before the baby is born, science has more strongly demonstrated when the baby is five months old. Scientists estimate that it can be earlier than two months but unfortunately, we simply do not have the science to back it up. However, it is clear that it is highly unlikely for a baby to be conscious in the womb. Following this logic through, this is the same way we determine when somebody is dead. When a body dies, his/her/its/their bodily functions continue for a set period of time (for instance, skin cells keep replicating for another two days). However, when a consciousness ends and ceases to continue in the future, that person is dead. In other words, it logically follows that a human is deemed alive when it gains consciousness and also dead when it loses consciousness. Of course, the common argument for this brings up the question of what if somebody is unconscious. This also brings the second thought of consciousness which is simply that that person is not considered dead unless he has prior experiences and considered that he is revivable. In this case, a baby never had a conscious experience before birth and thus, is not considered a human being until it exists in the womb. With these two pillars in mind (the need for consciousness and prior consciousness), of course there are a plethora of counterarguments to this that cannot be covered in a one page article. Therefore, the final (and in my opinion, strongest) opinion in favor of abortion is that objectively, we will likely never know and come to a consensus on when life begins. We can logically reason through it but we will never know. Following that to its logical conclusion, it is unfair for an individual to pass a law that puts his/her/its/their moral systems on other people especially when it does not lie in objective fact. Due to the fact that this topic has subjective arguments, it should be left up to the individual and his/her/its/their personal morals to decide whether or not abortion is right for them.

Sports Standings

1. MacArthur
2. Ridgeway
3. Schwarzkopf
4. Halsey
5. Eisenhower
6. Bradley
7. Nimitz
8. Marshall
9. Vandenburg



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