



THE JERSEY STATESMAN



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Weather

Today's low temperature is 69 degrees and the high temperature is 83 degrees. The weather will be partly cloudy.



Schedule

- 6:15 AM - 7:30 AM: Breakfast
- 6:30 AM - 7:35 AM: Flag Ceremony Practice
- 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM: General Assembly
- 9:10 AM - 9:50 AM: ALJBS Exam
- 10:05 AM - 11:30 AM: Meetings
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Senatorial General Election
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Lunch
- 11:30 AM - Championship Race
- 1:05 PM - Retreat
- 1:15 PM - 3:45 PM - Graduation
- 4:30 PM - 5:50 PM - Pickup

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

Was It Worth It?

Sydney Wiredu

Almost there, statesmen! Throughout the week, we have seen boys turn into men. Shy candidates gave the speeches of a lifetime, promoting beliefs they have been harboring internally. With the week coming to an end, I challenge you to reflect upon your personal activity level within boys' state.

Have you run for an office? Have you given a speech? Have you led your peers? Have you made a friend? This program is what you make out of it, and as the week nears a close, ensure you have no regrets.

More importantly, consider making a connection that will last a lifetime.

Get Out and Vote!

Boys Statesmen act upon your civic duty and vote in your General Senatorial Election.

Reminder....

Put your alumni pin on your lanyard on the New Jersey state outline. This will symbolize you being an alumni to the Jersey Boys State program.

Fun Fact!

The first Boys Nation – then called Boys Forum of National Government – convened at American University in Washington in August 1946.

Don't Forget!

Participating in the 5K run factors into the best county award and you can cheer on your fellow delegates.

Also, please email your ALJBS Post or School Officials that gave you the opportunity to attend Boys State and for sponsoring you.

Highlights of the Week



Opinions

The Art of Bad Rhetoric

Jonathan Huang

America has been becoming increasingly polarized since the 21st century with no signs of slowing down. With the election of Donald Trump, the rhetoric that he provided regarding those of illegal immigrants/migrants was damaging and invalidated their needs for compassion. Humans, regardless of civilian status, are all human beings and worthy of escaping from their own countries for a better life. In this case, Trump's rhetoric was calling a substantial number of these illegal immigrants drug dealers and rapists, hurting the political discourse on the topic of immigration entirely. Suddenly, illegal immigrants were all given a negative label. For a character like Trump especially, whether he is correct or not in his assessment of the "border crisis" isn't even the main issue. It's the language and verbiage that he used that created an "us versus them" approach to politics. Of course, blunt language can be used as a powerful rhetorical element to highlight a point and importantly I am not saying that Trump's use of this tool should be invalid; however, with great power comes great responsibility and in Trump's case, I believe that this responsibility was not given the proper care.

Obviously, this issue of rhetoric is not limited to just one individual or party. Moving from Trump's often conservative views, liberal takes are not much better. Following the Black Lives Matter Protests that occurred in the summer of 2020, various slogans were created (more often or not by the left side of the spectrum) that posed dangerous rhetoric. Slogans such as "all cops are bastards" (ACAB) only served to hurt the discourse regarding police reform. Rhetorically, the very nature of the statement "all cops are bad" is terrible when trying to make change because it villainizes an entire group of people. In fact, polls have demonstrated that through the prolific use of slogans such as ACAB (when combined with other factors such as rioting), support for Black Lives Matter (a noble cause) has gone down. To put this another way, imagine that you are about to start a debate with a stranger about any policy position and the stranger immediately starts with "you type of people are all evil monsters." Instantly, this debate is over once the attacks on the individuals start. Even agreeing with a policy that might make sense will be disputed because by agreeing to the policy (and thus the stranger), you are also agreeing that you as an individual are evil (which nobody will ever do). To summarize this point, through the use of inflammatory rhetoric that is meant to villainize a group of people, not only will the specific people not join the cause for police reform, but the people that this phrase targets will also be motivated to argue against the cause itself.

Personally, I believe that this issue could be easily solved by forcing every citizen that wants to argue for change, from the average protester to Donald Trump, to take an AP Language and Composition class (I can recommend my own teacher if anyone needs someone). Nonetheless (and more seriously), the political climate of our country has been going downhill and steps must be taken in order to aid and reform political discourse. Because of the finger pointing, ad hominem, and hate that bleeds into the very fabric of political discourse, as a nation we are becoming more and more divided. Maybe this is what Boys State is about - to help the next generation understand government and the need for collaboration and compromise (though the events of the National Party Convention might disagree with that).



**LAST CHANCE TO VISIT THE ALJBS
STORE FOR MERCHANDISE!**



Is History Repeating Itself?

Dominick Ciccotelli

The United States has endured countless traumatic experiences as a country. These experiences are exactly what they intend to be, just experiences, nothing more. This, however, is untrue in many cases. The politics of today seem to overlap with precedent times.

The election of 1876 between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio and Democrat Samuel Tilden of New York was one of the most hostile, controversial campaigns in American history. It is not a far description of the presidential election of 2020 between incumbent President Trump and former Vice-President Biden. In both cases, Republicans held the White House and the Democrats were challenging them. The presidential election of 2020 had a voter turnout of about 66.3% - the highest percentage in 120 years according to The Washington Post. The election of 1876 had a voter turnout of 81.8%.

Both elections occurred around national crises. For Tilden and Hayes, it was the Panic of 1873, and with Trump and Biden, COVID-19. Both elections have strung up a great deal of work in literature, with numerous books being published for each of the two aforementioned presidential elections including "Centennial Crisis: The Disputed Election of 1876" by the late Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist and "Captured" by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

The similarities between the past and the present are not limited to politics. Racism around the world is still prevalent, especially in the United States. Child labor has yet to vanish, as well as prison labor. Women still are not being treated equally to men, and minorities continue to face unnecessary challenges brought to them by the majority.

It is true that the United States is far from perfect. However, it is not perfection we as a nation should be striving for, but rather progress, innovation, and improvements achieved by this country's people. We have yet to give our people the most basic human needs and are neglecting the foundation of this country in doing so. It is time to take a step back and focus on these basic "unalienable rights" of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. The United States' foundation is built on this fundamental idea. We as individuals go through every day with the ability to choose between remaining in the past and letting it repeat, or moving forward and becoming better as a country. The choice is yours.

Book Review: The Martian

Aaron Nagler

The Martian by Andy Weir is a science fiction novel that also has a film adaptation of the same name. The plot revolves mostly around one character who is stranded on Mars and is trying to survive on the desolate planet. Due to the fascinating plot setup of the book, the reading experience is somewhat unorthodox, and could be a breath of fresh air for those who are bored of reading stories that feel so similar. For one thing, there are only a few large character interactions and relationships that are fleshed out within the story. However, the main character makes up for this by being very developed and relatable. I found it very entertaining to read from his perspective. He added a lot of humor in his narrations which was very refreshing.

Moreover, the book implements a lot of science and teaches the reader lots about Mars. Although this aspect is very cool, in my opinion, the occasional in-depth scientific descriptions can be boring at times, especially when Weir mentions concepts like chemical compounds. Another aspect of the book is its plot, which I feel is very strong and keeps the reader consistently engaged. Additionally, I really liked the setting of Mars and found it very captivating to read a book taking place in the Milky Way Galaxy. Ultimately, the book is very unique and though it isn't perfect, I would definitely recommend it to everyone, especially for people interested in space travel or survival.

The Gears of Government

Michael Migliorino

The gears of government often turn slow, and no gears turn slower than in the ALJBS legislature. Most Assemblymen and Senators alike agree that laws often take too long to pass, and even simple amendment proposals can slow down the process considerably. However, such is the cost of democracy, and we must all be patient for our system to take its course for the good of all of us.

Interviews

A Walk with the Attorney General

Jakob Pender

Today I had a chance to not only meet Gurbir Grewal, attorney general of New Jersey, but also talk with him and walk him to his car. The attorney was very engaging and talked with me briefly about how he felt about the speech tonight. He hoped he was able to inspire the delegates in attendance. I was unable to catch everything, as I was in awe as I, and some very kind members of his staff, walked him to his car. On the way, he discussed how he did not consider himself a politician due to the fact that he does not have to campaign or run in elections. We took a photo in front of his car and we parted ways. It was a true honor to be able to take a walk with the New Jersey attorney general.

T-Shirt Culture

Joey Lescht

We all dread it. Late night General Assembly meetings can be the bane of a statesman's existence. In fact, I've even found myself drifting off during Q&A sessions. Enter: t-shirts. Specifically, the Boys State 75th anniversary t-shirt, gifted to each speaker after their presentation. Anyone who now attends a General Assembly will experience a room-shaking applause, accompanied with stomping, cheering, and whistling. The custom has become such a norm that the statesmen even begin their ovation before Director Bagatelle can even announce the T-shirt.

But this dynamic is nothing new. The 2019 session featured socks instead of shirts. Perhaps the t-shirt signifies being one step closer to freedom, or maybe the statesmen just find it funny, but regardless, the ceremonial T-shirt gifting has become a Boys State icon this week.

Congratulations

Matthew Ventrella - 5 years
Jake Koestar - 5 years
Alex Solomon - 5 years
Andrew Malik - 10 years
Charles "Max" Miskoley - 10 years
Dennis Wood - 10 years
Andrew Bilarczyk - 15 years
Glenn Davis - 15 years
Robert Del Prete - 15 years
Thomas Marsden - 20 years
Tarence Smith - 20 years

A Note from *The Jersey Statesman*

Boys State was an undeniably daunting event on all of our calendars. The majority of us didn't know what we'd be dealing with throughout this long week. The only resource that we had to use was a PDF textbook that contained 111 pages of content. We are now at the end of the week, and while some moments may have been exhausting and tiresome, I think it's fair to say that this last day snuck up on us. Newspaper Editor was a very interesting position to run for, and we all soon found out that the late nights that we were warned about truly were late nights. Nonetheless, it's been a truly wonderful experience. It was disappointing that we didn't have the same events that previous years got to experience, but we still made it work. We leave this week as better people. Have a lovely summer, stay in touch, and good luck with your future endeavors.

Events

Engineering Our Future

Jacob Hannum

On Wednesday, we were given another set of incredible seminars, including careers in business, entertainment, and more. Although I might be a bit biased in this regard, I think the engineering seminar that occurred was most exceptional. This seminar was far more than simple information and had an overarching, philosophical tone spoken by very knowledgeable presenters. This is a rather common theme with these seminars and their presenters.

The seminar acted more as a story time, with the presenters spending the majority of time that we had on their specific stories within the engineering world. Among the presenters, we had an optical engineer (Morgan Jolley), a civics engineer (Charles Miskolcy), and a program and proposal engineer (Robert Vallee). They all addressed one important misconception: the independence and bubble that engineers live in. (Most) engineers aren't mad scientists that work in their underground labs. Engineering does not occur in a bubble, rather, everyone coordinates and communicates with one another. Typically, a single group of people will be responsible for a specific portion of the process, whether that be the designing/drafting, the building and reviewing, or the mass production and producing. This means that you have to be a fairly vocal person, or at the very least, you must be able to work well with others and present ideas. There is a noticeably large emphasis on communication, writing, presentation, along with arithmetic. Engineering is meant to be fun, though. You are given an infinite amount of room to be creative and think outside the box. The presenters said, "Whatever problem you might have, nature has already solved it." For example, the mantis shrimp's ability to see multiple wavelengths on the electromagnetic spectrum inspired infrared use in the military. In another example, trees inspired the use of leaf-like panels to maximize power output in solar panels.

Finding jobs in the engineering world can be challenging, and so it was recommended that we start in internships and, coincidentally, journalism. By reporting on the field and showing employers that you are familiar with getting hands-on experience, it puts you in a much higher position in the hiring process. It is crucial that you know and feel what you are designing, so getting into the field and building the parts you're designing is a very important step.

The seminar ended in a very metaphysical way. The presenters began describing how we, as still very young people, have so much time and room to create our paths. Morgan Jolley talked about mistakes and a change in mind. With college around the corner, it's not all too uncommon to discover in the middle of your four years that you don't want to pursue the topic you're studying. That's perfectly fine. You don't have to know everything all of the time, you don't have to worry about your mistakes from ten years ago, and you don't have to have your whole path figured out. Take it one step at a time, one brick at a time. Eventually, those steps will turn into a mile, eventually those bricks will turn into a house. As Jolley mentioned, "It's all just playin' with Legos."

Joke Articles

Sleep is for the Weak

Joshua Gorman

Why do we need sleep? Frankly, I don't even know what it is anymore. We stopped communicating almost a week ago and sadly, they are seeing other, more rested, individuals. Who even remembers the last time we

got at least 8 hours of sleep? **Continue to Page 7**

Continued from Page 6. Personally I cannot remember (probably because I didn't at home) and neither can my fellow city members. Can you even recall a time when you weren't at Boys State? When you weren't addressed as a delegate or as a distinguished statesman? Since the first night of Boys State, who thought they'd be going from dusk to dawn to dusk again, everyday, for a whole week? We all march together as one through these streets. Since we have all experienced these hectic days together, what is one thing we have learned? Well, I believe we learned that not only are we ready to go back home, but we are also ready to no longer be campaigned while we try to eat breakfast. All jokes aside, there have certainly been memorable moments such as crazy party meetings, our own Jedi discovery during band and...HUGO! Let's take our shared experiences that we've collected throughout this tremendous week and finally get some much needed sleep and alone time. Au revoir, Boys State!

Blazegate Blows Up Boys State

Jacob Hannum

Hayes City (#18) is in a fairly distant location on campus, separated from the majority of buildings and events. The city also lacks universal AC and has a vending machine that appears to be as old as Boys State itself, possibly even older (I don't even want to consider how old the food is). However, the lack of luxuries hasn't stopped its residents from enjoying their time together within this program. The residents of Hayes City are strong, intelligent, humorous, and determined people - you can trust me, I am not biased in any way nor am I a resident of such a wonderful, beautiful, glorious city...I promise.

One of the residents of this city, Blaze Grabowski, set out to be elected into a multitude of positions. The highest one on his list was Boys State Governor, and I think a lot of people would agree that he had the potential to do so. Similarly to everyone else running for this position, Blaze ran around in the early hours of the morning, searching for delegates that were willing to sign his petition. Blaze gathered quite a large handful, but it is undeniable that the difficulty of gaining signatures was felt by everyone. He didn't want his signatures to go to waste, but he wasn't sure what to do with them. He was approached by a despicable man, a man that manipulated the situation in his favor: he promised Sir Virtuous Blaze Grabowski III the position of Lieutenant Governor in exchange for his votes.

My eyesight may be terrible, but I did not see Blaze up on that stage, and my hearing may not be perfect, but I did not hear Blaze's name called out when the Lieutenant Governor was chosen. Those votes were not merely the support of Blaze himself, but the votes of all the people that believed in Blaze, the votes of the people. Blaze deserves justice, he deserves compensation for the horrid experiences this monster of a politician put upon him. (I am not biased in any way; these are accurate reports of the accounts from the people of Boys State. Just know, City 18 will kick your tuchus if you mess with Blaze again. #justiceforblaze).

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Volume LXXV Special Edition

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**The Honorable Governor
Devin Falci
Governor of the 75th Session of
American Legion Jersey Boys State**

Boys State City: Jefferson City
Boys State County: Marshall County
Hometown: Cedar Knolls, Morris County
American Legion post: #155



The 75th session of ALJBS has elected Nationalist Devin Falci to the office of Boys State governor. Governor Falci comes from Cedar Knolls in Morris County and currently resides in Jefferson City in Marshall County. He attended Whippany Park High School and is sponsored by American Legion Post #155. The governor’s main appeal to voters was his personality and the way he got to know the voters.

At the Nationalist primary, Falci stood out from the other candidates by proposing an economic plan that would help to fund different types of programs such as education and welfare. He ran for governor with the idea to relate to the people, talking with them to figure out what course of action to take. Falci favored having big businesses move into the state to stimulate the economy. He would get them to move by offering them a temporary tax cut on property taxes. This plan seemed to draw many to his side, as the plan would help fund many other state problems like paying the striking healthcare workers. Falci won the primary by getting his message across to the common person and making a plan that was easy to understand.

After winning the Nationalist primary, Governor Falci chose Michael Palacio as his running mate. Another nationalist, Palacio hails from Cranford in Union County. He attends Union Catholic and is sponsored by American Legion Post 3. He currently is staying at Adams City in Halsey County.

Now, as the 75th Governor of Boys State, Falci wants to help mend the division between the parties and pass bipartisan policies while in office. He knows that the challenge to pass his policies will be hard, but he is ready to face them head on.

After his victory, he said to the press, “Everybody wanted to know what I would do if I didn’t win. I guess we’ll never know?”

Congratulations to Governor Devin Falci and Lieutenant Governor Michael Palacio on their victory in the 75th session of American Legion Jersey Boys State in 2021.