

# The Jersey Statesman

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## Boys' State First Impressions

Someone once told me, the things you dread the most turn out to be the greatest experiences. I never really gave it much thought until this morning. Lying in bed in the comforts of home I couldn't help but think, "why am I doing this". I must admit, up until a few hours ago i was extremely skeptical of this program. The idea of bringing together nine hundred boys in a six day conference at Rider University was somewhat disconcerting. I mean, how do you stand out amongst peers who are just, if not more, qualified than yourself. I envisioned a week of nine hundred guys fighting for political positions, and as you might imagine it was not the prettiest picture. However after only a few short hours my entire perception of the "Boy's State Program" drastically changed.

After waiting in line for close to forty minutes I was finally able to make my way to my dorm and get settled. After the tedious check in progress I was probably more skeptical than ever. Looking around, I did not really see anyone that I thought I would become friends with. The whole situation just seemed strange to me. Nonetheless it was soon time for Polk City's first meeting. A couple of minutes into the meeting I began to see things differently. To my surprise, most of the young men surrounding me reminded me of myself. They

were relaxed guys who genuinely wanted to have a good time and enjoy this week. I can't speak for other cities, but after only a couple of hours, kids from Polk City who have just met appeared to be long time friends. When our meeting began our counselors gave us an interesting orientation. Each counselor seemed to emphasize the same thing: "get involved". We were then informed that Polk City would hold its first elections. This was a little surprising considering I had only been at Boy's State for a half an Hour, and at this point I still didn't really know what it was all about. I initially thought to myself, "Oh, this is when it gets serious, I just want to have some fun". But again I was wrong. Everyone remained relaxed and friendly throughout the process and the voting actually turned out to be "fun".

Before the voting began, the words of my counselors were echoing in my head: "get involved". I figured I would only be here once so I might as well. Now I'm glad I made that decision. I ran for several positions. Despite losing a few, I stayed with it and if I had not I would not be where I am right now: Managing Editor of the newspaper. By getting involved from the start my Boy's State experience has been fun and exciting and I believe I will continue this way.



Students get to know each other on the first day of Boys State.

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# People speak out on fire bomb

By Christopher Castro  
Editor-Adams City

As most citizens of Boys State probably know by now, a small convenience store owned by Arab-Americans was fire-bombed. Two people were confirmed dead immediately, three died in the hospital earlier in the week due to severe third-degree burns, and five are still at the hospital in critical condition. Sadly victims of the firebombing were forced to be sent to a hospital 20 minutes away from Adams, which many say contributes to the reason for several fatalities.

The culprit of the fire-bombing was arrested only yesterday and according to police reports, he is none other than the ex-Washington councilmen David Hasselhoff, who abandoned his position after several complaints of racial prejudice and bigotry against him. Police are now holding him in Adams City Jail with no bail, where he awaits trial.

Recently, a reporter from Boys State Newspaper scavenged the streets for opinions and information on Mr. Hasselhoff. One close friend of his was able to shed light on Mr. Hasselhoff's fanatical racial prejudice and bigotry.

1. "Believe me, David has every right in the world to be a racist!" claims an anonymous source, who claims to be a "lover" of Mr Hasselhoff. "During his high school years he was bullied and picked on by the blacks and his discrimination against arabs is obviously justifiable because of all the heinous crimes they've

committed. Since reaching adulthood, he has rightfully done everything in his power to see to it that others are not harmed by these dangerous minorities in the same way he was... even if it means he must suffer for it."

2. Of course, others take a less understanding attitude towards his actions. The United Arab Association of America has taken a stand against David, picketing in front of the courthouse with signs condemning discrimination against all Muslims as terrorists. The Extremist Muslim nation has even gone so far as to declare a jihad against Mr. Hasselhoff, making him a sworn enemy of Muslims everywhere. certain that he shall be scheduled for trial sometime within the following week.

3. A large group of young people protesting for peace amongst all nations are also protesting in front of the Adams City Courthouse. Many were deeply disturbed by Mr. Hasselhoff's racist views and "undeniable lack of logic." One member said, "We are here today not to condemn Mr. Hasselhoff, but to condemn his actions. Despite the havoc caused by terrorists worldwide, we cannot display our ignorance by assuming every person with a beard and turban is a threat to American security. We cannot fight fire with fire here in our own city, amongst our very own community. We are simply tearing the gap between ourselves further and further by doing such."

4. At the moment, no one is quite certain of how the courts will view Mr. Hasselhoff's criminal act, though it is certain that he will be scheduled for trial sometime later this week.

# The World of Sports

By Parimal Garg  
Editor-Van Buren City

Since we have been quarantined from the outside world at Boys' State, here are the latest events from professional sports:

On Sunday, the Miami Heat defeated the Dallas Mavericks 101-100 in overtime to take a 3-2 series lead in the NBA Finals. Miami's Dwayne Wade scored 43 points, including the two game-winning free throws with 1.9 seconds left in overtime, while Jason Terry scored 35 points in a losing effort for Dallas. Miami can win the 2006 NBA Championship with a victory in Game 6 at Dallas on Tuesday night. For those of you whose favorite team is not Miami or Dallas, you can always look forward to next year, starting with the NBA Draft on June 28th.

Phil Mickelson nearly won his third straight major championship at the 2006 U.S. Open at Winged Foot, but his quest was derailed by Geoff Ogilvy. Mickelson, playing in the final group, came to the 18th hole on Sunday at +4, ahead of Ogilvy at +5. However, Mickelson double bogeyed the hole, giving Ogilvy the victory by one stroke. Tiger Woods, returning from a 9-week absence due to the death of his father, missed the cut, shooting back-to-back 76s on Thursday and Friday on the very difficult par-70 course. He finished at +12, which was three strokes off the cut.

The 2006 FIFA World Cup continued on Sunday, with Brazil, the consensus favorite to win it all, defeating Australia 2-0 in group play. France scored a goal in the World Cup for the first time since 1998 in a 1-1 tie with South Korea. Japan and Croatia played to a scoreless draw. If you haven't been following the World Cup, the United States has one draw and one loss, following an embarrassing 3-0 loss to the Czech Republic with a gusty 1-1 tie with Italy in which the Americans played most of the second half one man down. If the U.S. defeats Ghana on Thursday and Italy defeats the Czech Republic, the U.S. will advance to the round of 16 out of one of the most difficult groups.

We'll try and keep you updated on the latest sports news throughout the week, especially developments in the NBA Finals and the World Cup.