



D-Day: Honoring Veterans

CHRIS KUO, HARRISON CITY

Last night, Boys' State delegates were shown a riveting D-Day presentation. Delegates watched the scene in the movie *Saving Private Ryan* and real historical footage of the battle. The presentation was designed to help delegates realize just how much our soldiers, veterans, and Prisoners of War have done for the United States of America and the importance of recognizing and thanking them for their service.

The video clips revealed the fear and pain the soldiers experienced that day. Both parts of the presentation depicted the slaughter and death on Omaha Beach. In the

second half of the presentation, veterans spoke about their feelings and memories of that terrible day. After the presentation was concluded, veterans in the

American Legion Jersey Boys' State Staff were called to the front of the stage. As they walked up, every delegate in which he served, the years he served, and the conflict in the veterans received a long which he fought.

Photo Courtesy of United States Coast Guard



Inside the Assembly

GREG SALIMANDO, PIERCE CITY

Following the previous elections the other day, the Boys' State Assembly, made up of about 23 Federalists and 17 Nationalists, has begun to meet. A myriad of referendums and resolutions have been proposed and sparked a debate around the small room. It is hopeful that the General Assembly will have proposed and passed several referendums through the Senate and will be well on their way towards getting a couple bills through and on the road to becoming actual (not really, but it's

fun to pretend) laws. Several hot topics the state addresses include drugs, health care, insurance, and political corruption. A couple of these issues have actually already been voted on and passed by the General Assembly and the Senate. For example, marijuana (or cannabis if you really need to take yourselves that seriously) is now legal for medicinal uses in New Jersey. If that isn't exciting enough, now NJ voters have the right to

choose whether or not the state addresses security or not. Wow. With another day or two of intense legislative action ahead of the state legislature, it is hopeful that they will be able to get more important bills through, such as the controversial bill ACR #69. Keep those ideas coming, our Assemblymen and Senators. Who knows, maybe we'll get to slap another luxury tax on the acting governor!

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HUMAN INTEREST

Yo, Where You At?

Where are all the delegates at? Below is a Google Map image of every single delegate's location. Boys' State truly represents the entire state, from Bergen County to Middlesex County to Cape May County. So, where you at?



why are you here?

by farboad maleknia

Okay, so what is the true reason why most of us are actually here? Is it because we are interested in politics? Developing people skills? Taking a small vacation from home? Or maybe it's just because it looks good for college. I can assure you we are not here to associate with girls because, well, there are none. I guarantee that many delegates are attending Boys' State for an advantage in college applications.

I want to become a chemical engineer, and most of the content in this program doesn't apply to my future. At first I said to myself, "Hey, I'm an involved person; I like experiencing new things. I'll give it a shot." Every single one of us has been chosen because the people from our homes appreciate what we do for the community and have confidence in our ability to succeed. We are here to represent our families, schools, towns, counties, and state. There aren't many opportunities this rare and distinguished in a boy's high school career.

Each delegate attending Boys' State has his own significant values and unique talents. Together under one roof, we fuse and create the ultimate force as New Jersey's finest young men. So, for those of you that are here to have a memorable time, please continue your adventure and absorb as much as you can. For those that are here for the hell of it, just remember one thing: there were a group of scholars called *alternates*, and some really wanted to attend because they were very interested. If you were complaining about coming, then you should have given your spot to one of them.

I am positive that every delegate is enjoying himself, whether he's making friendships or becoming familiar with the college setting. Get involved, run for office, attend seminars, and introduce yourself to as many people as you can, because you may create long lasting relationships.

OPINION/EDITORIAL

What is up with that?

ROBERT GALLINA, JACKSON CITY

One false step and you get yelled at. What's up with that? One of the first things we were told not to do when we arrived here at Boys' State was that we are not allowed to walk on the grass. Rider wants to keep the grass alive and growing. The thought that 800 young men will cause a massive devastation of the grass on Rider is ridiculous. Half the grass on campus is in mint condition, and walking on the grass isn't allowed. I do understand the areas where they are trying to grow grass, but where it's already fully grown, it makes no sense. As all of the delegates walk on the paths in two lines, our counselors walk alongside us on the grass. When did being a few years older give you the right to break the rules? Jackson City's assistant counselor Mike, or as we call him Squishy, was asked about this, but he just repeats the rules told to us at the

beginning of Boys' State. This is happening throughout each and every one of the cities. If you have a dark blue shirt, you can do whatever you choose; and when you're wearing a white shirt, you can't. What's up with that?

Even though the rule might seem stupid to most of us, if you think a little harder about it you can see the usefulness of this minor rule. By staying organized and looking like one unit, your city has a better

chance of winning Best City. By being scattered haphazardly across the lawns and walkways, you look like your city is in disarray. With judging just beginning for Best City and County, it is important to follow this somewhat ridiculous rule if you have aspirations of winning Best City or County. As this week goes on, just remember to follow the ridiculous rules that are made.

What's up with that?

BOOOYS' STATE

JOHNATHAN CACE, ADAMS CITY

Every day at 5:35 p.m., a wave of disgruntlement washes over Boys' State as we line up around the flag to watch random people take it down. We stand and stand some more; we are in "rest" position, then attention, then "at rest" once again. The flag comes down, and then we leave. And the purpose is? Apparently it's tradition of the American Legion. Tradition is good. Actually, it's very good. Our country is based on tradition. Democracy and holidays are both legacies that have continued from generation to generation. The retreat, however, is not a tradition that should be kept. Maybe if it was explained differently or if it didn't take as long, it would make a little more sense. All I know is that I, along with many other statesmen, feel

negatively towards the whole ordeal. This does not mean I am criticizing the veterans, especially after the excellent documentary that left me in awe last night. This does mean that we demand a logical reason for attending the painful retreat. If it was to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, I'm all for it. But I have asked staff members what it was about and heard that it's "just a tradition." So until then, BOOOOYS' STATE.

This paper is brought to you by



Smoking Rebuttal

ANONYMOUS

In the last issue of *The Jersey Statesman*, former delegate Michael Kisciday of Harrison City wrote an article criticizing the no-smoking policy here at the 62nd American Legion Jersey Boys' State Session at Rider University. (Editor's note: The publication of the article "Smoking 101" -- and other articles -- is not necessarily a representation of the opinions of the *Jersey Statesman* editors, and the publication does not endorse smoking.)

I would like to present some factual information on the issue:

1. In New Jersey, the legal age to purchase cigarettes is nineteen.

2. It is illegal for people under 19 to buy or receive cigarettes, and people who sell or distribute cigarettes to underage smokers are subject to a \$500 fine.

3. There is a New Jersey law that bans smoking outside of designated areas. Rider University also has a policy that bans smoking cigarettes in dormitory areas for safety reasons.

As a final note, it has come to my attention that Michael Kisciday may have left Boys' State. We guess he really, really needed to smoke to survive this session.

However, either way, we're glad he knows how to quit something.

RECREATION

The Agony of Defeat

CHRIS FEGAN, MONROE CITY

Tuesday was looking promising for the delegates of Nimitz County. The team, comprised of delegates from Monroe City and Jackson City, were tied for first place with Marshall County after Monday's matches. But instead of crushing the competition once again, the teams lost every match of the day.

Both nail-biters and blowouts contributed to Nimitz's woes. In soccer, a debatable call and a number of lost opportunities contributed to a 1-0 loss to Vandenburg County. Monroe Athletic Director Tim Dougherty said, "It was close. We got called on a handball that was actually a shoulder."



This stopped the Nimitz boys from recovering in the short time allowed for the game.

The situation was similar for the basketball team. Down seven points with just minutes to go, the team hit some

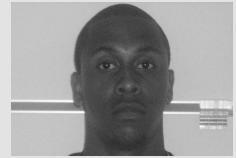
clutch shots to cut their opponent's lead to just one. However, the team was unable to score another basket in the final seconds, and ended up in the right-hand column of the stat sheet.

The volleyball team also endured a close loss. Despite winning its first game, the team lost the second. Then, in a heated third game, they lost with a score of 11-8 and, subsequently, lost the series.

The rest of the Nimitz teams suffered a similar fate. Fortunately, the Monroe and Jackson boys can take comfort in the fact that such a fall is not unusual. Monroe Senior City Counselor Joe Demyon made note of how past teams have been in first one day and lost them all the next. In any case, there will be plenty of other opportunities for Nimitz athletes to regain the top spot.

ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Michael Martin Jr.
by Farboad Maleknia



There is one county that is conquering almost every opponent during sports sessions each day. Ridgeway, consisting of Tyler and Polk, has been very impressive in defeating other counties, making them the powerhouse team of Boys' State.

One individual, with outstanding athletic force, has been leading the Ridgeway basketball team to an undefeated record, scoring at least 30 PPG. This 6'2" wing has led his team to many destructive wins, leaving his opponents speechless. This monster is known as Michael Martin Jr. Because of this beastly athlete, Ridgeway's basketball team has become an unstoppable force and is expected to win in the finals, with teammate Irtiza "Izza" Mansor assisting him throughout each game. No delegate on campus can match the abilities that this "legend" has to offer on the court. Once in a rhythm, his lethal rage cannot be tamed.

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