



And the Winner is...

GREG SALIMANDO, PIERCE CITY

When it comes right down to it, there is really only one position that every prospective Boys' Stater wants to hold with a burning passion. I'm talking about the position of governor, the most influential seat that the Boys' State program has to offer. Not only are there the prospects of signing and reading legislation to get the blood pumping, but also there's the thrill of actually getting a chance to meet the real governor of New Jersey, Mr. Jon Corzine.

With all the hype building around this position over the past week here at Rider, you can be sure that many delegates have been tempted to run for governor. Many tried and many failed. However, only two men were able to elevate themselves to that shiny plateau and cast their names into the ring as the candidates for this year's Gubernatorial election: Eric Conner of the Federalist Party and Ernie Park of the Nationalist Party. After trouncing the competition in the Gubernatorial Primary election, the two prospective governors each began to spread the word about their campaigns, talking up their personal and party platforms, and answering any and all questions regarding their goals and promises for the state of New Jersey if they were elected. Following some healthy campaigning, the two candidates faced head-to-head in a fierce Gubernatorial debate speckled with slander, opinions, and old-fashioned American ingenuity as the two struggled to win over the



audience and cover for the occasional slip in their speeches. At the debate's conclusion, Boys' State delegates left the room with a better understanding of each candidate. After press questions and a general Q&A, the debate was over, and all that was left

was the one thing that separates America from a lawless world, the vote.

With a successful voter turnout, the big decision was made, and at 2:45 p.m. on the 21st of June, the 2007 Boys' State Governor was announced: Ernie Park. Following congratulatory remarks from the Director of ALJBS and his fellow delegates, Ernie was ushered off

"GOVERNOR."
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Wiley's Wicked Awesome

RICH RABEAU, WASHINGTON CITY

Boys state is said to be "a week that shapes the future." During their stay at Rider University, statesmen learned valuable knowledge about government, which they can take with them into future. On Wednesday, statesmen were impacted on a more personal, rather than political, level when war journalist, Charles Wiley, spoke his views on life.

"Life is tough," spoke Wiley, "but it is a lot tougher when your stupid." Coming from Wiley, these words had profound impact on the

statesmen, as they viewed him with respect. Wiley began his career as a war journalist during WWII. Since then, he has been imprisoned eight times in various belligerent nations, including the USSR and Cuba. His only crime was telling the truth.

Wiley had statesmen dumbfounded. Steve Azar of Washington City said, "Words cannot even describe the impact of his speech. It was by far the best I have ever heard." Statesmen gave Wiley a standing ovation.

Some boys even stayed afterwards where Wiley continued to offer insight. "Kids that know how the world works understand problems best," said Wiley, as he reminded statesmen that knowledge is endless. Not only does Wiley stress the importance of learning, but of friendships too. Wiley coached, "Your friends are a great indicator of where you are headed." Statesmen found this advice to be invaluable, as youth is the foundation of friendships.

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HUMAN INTEREST

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GOVERNOR

to the house to meet with the State Senate and Assembly. With the rest of the week, we leave it to our new governor to take care of business and properly represent everyone here to the real state of New Jersey. He is the right man for the job, and he knows that everyone here is behind him 100%. Congrats again to Ernie and everyone out there who decided to vote at the polls today, and don't forget to talk to your new governor about anything you think Boys' State could address in the state of New Jersey and bring to the acting governor's attention. Let's get ready to shape the future!



Just a fraction of all the boys here at Boys' State

The paper was brought to you by:



letter from the editor

by kaveh sadeghian

Boys' State requires enthusiasm and passion in order to flourish. In fact, without them the program will simply wilt away. Thankfully, during my time here, I have seen an unprecedented level of enthusiasm in everyone thanks to the program, the staff, the delegates, and even the Italian exchange students.

I'll start off by applauding and genuinely thanking the people responsible for this week. Whether they are veterans, former delegates, or just good samaritans, they are all volunteers, individuals whose only payment is witnessing the growth of delegates over a week. Every single staff member is therefore as determined as ever to ensure the week is successful. In fact our publisher, Paul Lasky, and the tech crew stayed up past three in the morning alongside my fellow editors and me every night of Boys' State to finish that respective day's paper. I know the only force that kept them awake was their passion for the Boys' State program.

I would like to, on behalf of the Boys' State Press Club, thank the entire staff of Boys' State as well as the American Legion for providing us with an incredible week. You taught us everything from patriotism to politics, from tolerance to leadership. This week lived up to its slogan, "A week that shapes the future."

While the staff was fundamental to the success of Boys' State, the delegates were

just as important. The great thing about Boys' State is every delegate receives as much as he puts into the program. Somewhere between seeing 17-year-old men "break it down" in the aisle during the band assembly and witnessing the deafening roar of 780+ men cheering or booing simultaneously during the fervent Gubernatorial debate, I realized that almost everyone put everything they had into Boys' State. I could tell they got that much in return. I saw this same passion in my fellow writers and editors, who helped make this year's edition of *The Jersey Statesmen* a precedent for all future editions. I personally would like to extend my gratitude to the editorial staff for your dedication and determination to this paper. I would say it has definately paid off.

I have to admit that I had my doubts about Boys' State in the beginning. Various articles printed throughout the first and second issues voice others' doubts as well. The program, however, began to unfold in front of me, as well as other delegates. I was able to truly appreciate the span and depth of Boys' State. From the staff to the students, I appreciated and basked in everyone's genuine enthusiasm towards the program.



Top (Left to Right): Greg Salimando, Sean O'Connor, Rich Rabeau, Nick Redman, Farboad Maleknia, Rob Gallina, Geoff Hipschman

Bottom (Left to Right): Alex Sosa, Nate Currie, Kaveh Sadeghian, Chris Kuo, Johnathon Cace, John Monagle

OPINION/EDITORIAL

The Joy of Late Nights

CHRIS KUO, HARRISON CITY

Boys' State has been an incredible experience for me. Ironically, on the bus ride here, some were sure that they were going to run for office, and some were not. In contrast, I was dead sure that I was not going to do anything here at all. I was going to relax, chill out, make new friends, and maybe learn something.

In the first city meeting, I felt like I wanted to do something after I saw determined delegates run for office. When the election for City Editor came up, I decided to go for it. My senior counselor told me that it was a big job, but I was sure that it couldn't be THAT bad.

On the first night, I stayed up at 4 a.m. with two other members of the staff.

The next two nights ended at 3 a.m. as well. I was tired in the morning, barely awake during assemblies, and looking for every opportunity to sleep. However, I realized

that my efforts were more than worth it.

The satisfaction that I get when I watch everyone in my city read the paper the next afternoon is indescribable. I enjoy working long hours with editors and intruding on the space of some of the most amazing technical specialists.

So I'll close my final editorial with some shoutouts. Thanks to Paul and Rob Lasky, Farboad, Kaveh and all city editors for working with

me. Thanks to Brian Epstein and Bryce Liskovec for saving our rear ends numerous times and for staying up with us at 4 a.m. Thanks to Jon, Jimmy, and Gene for kicking butt as counselors (especially Gene, who could lift a truck). And lastly, thanks to Harrison for being so supportive and enthusiastic and for the new nickname, "Status Kuo." Thanks to all of you for helping me make the most out of my week.

Justice is Served

ROB GALLINA, JACKSON CITY

Justice, the central facet of the American court system, was demonstrated here at Boys' State on Wednesday night. During the night's court sessions, justice was served to all who caused extreme anxiety and broke their cities' laws.

Jackson City joined the festivities by buying former Boys' State Governor Mike Gaus a *Brokeback Mountain* poster. This poster was found missing at 8:36pm, only to be returned at 8:54pm by a Washington City counselor. Justice was served, and former Jackson City Mayor Sohan Gupta was charged. After Dan Gnagey's tearful testimony involving a demonstration with a banana, Sohan was convicted of his crimes. As punishment, Sohan was forced to get a formal apology from Washington City. The written apology reads as follows:

FARBOAD MALEKNIA, TYLER CITY

The residents of Tyler City followed the night's court proceedings astutely. The citizens were finally able to attain revenge on those who had committed crimes.

Throughout the night, over 15 summonses were initiated, and delegates of Tyler enjoyed a

comical evening figuring out punishments for convicted felons. The crimes of Tyler City included:

--Stuart Lombardi was charged for having a Chewbacca-like chest and was found guilty. He was to be hanged for having a chest hairier than Chewbacca's.

--Jordan Lyons was found

To all Jackson City Citizens:

I can't begin to express my grief on behalf of my city for your loss. Incidents like these make me realize how important respectable neighbors like you are. I am sorry your *Brokeback Mountain* poster was taken. I'm hoping it won't happen again. I hope we can be friends in the future.

Keaghan, Mayor of Washington

associating with girls on campus, to which he replied, "Damn right I did." Jordan was sentenced to be stoned to death.

Michael Lukas was summoned and charged for excessively changing political positions. He was found guilty and was sentenced to bench press Logan Lindabury five times.

retreat rebuttal

**DOTTIE BONNAVIAT
ALJBS OFFICE MANAGER**

If you know anything about the wars we have been involved in, you would not be questioning the "Tradition" of Retreat. Many of our soldiers weren't able to be at Retreat at the end of the day, so those who *were* able to attend were very proud of the American Flag and our country for which it stands. Therefore, they were proud to be able to take part in the retreat services. If my husband, Bob Bonnaviat, a WWII veteran who was shot down over Italy and MIA for 30 days but managed to escape the enemy, were alive, he would look you up and personally explain what Retreat and the American Flag mean to a proud American.

RECREATION

Band Blasts a Beat

VINCE FITZPATRICK, MONROE CITY

The 2007 Boys' State band performed for the first time during Wednesday's General Assembly.

The concert was a rehearsal for the band's Friday concert. Maestro Michael Kallimanis led the band in a number of songs, many of which were familiar tunes to the delegates.

The National Anthem was followed by "An American Medley," which featured several patriotic songs.

Afterwards, the 2007 ALJBS Choir joined in for an a capella verse of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Lyric sheets were passed out so the audience could sing along.

The highlight of the performance came when the band started "March on a Scottish Air," a medley of traditional Scottish folk



songs. Midway through the piece, the band halted. From the back of the auditorium, bagpiper and statesman John Madura played a solo folk tune as he walked up the center aisle. Once up on stage, he played a rendition of "Amazing Grace." For perhaps the first time in four days, the statesmen in the audience became dead quiet, and then enthusiastically joined in

and sang along. Applause broke out just as Madura finished.

"I was in awe when I heard the delegates singing 'Amazing Grace' with the bagpipe," said Kallimanis. Immediately after the performance, Kallimanis called it "one of the few moments I will always remember," from his 29 years at Boys' State.

The mood of the performance lightened during "Comora", a Latin piece with a complicated percussion part. Several dancers entertained the enthusiastic crowd from the center aisle, performing such favorites as "The Moonwalk," "The Worm," and back flips.

For the last song, Kallimanis introduced the piece by saying, "Where's Tom Cruise?" At that point the band broke into the theme from *Mission Impossible*. Delegates ran up and down the aisle, dressed in sunglasses while stealing city flags. The band continued to play as the delegates exited the Cavalla Room.

"It was a blast," said Kallimanis, in reference to the concert. "The

BLOOD DRIVE

by Rich Rabeau

On Thursday, the American Legion Jersey Boys' State sponsored a blood drive with the American Red Cross held in the Bart Luedeke Center Art Gallery. The goal for this year was to raise 125 pints of blood, and delegates used their recreational hour to support the cause. Statesmen were enthusiastic for this event at Monday night's general assembly, when Carol Field of the American Red Cross stressed the importance of saving lives through blood donations and handed out prizes to select statesmen. Sign-ups were held afterwards in the Luedeke Center lobby and lasted throughout the week. The Art Gallery was packed on Thursday, as statesmen showed they cared by showing up for this event and offering their red for the red, white, and blue.

delegates were tremendous. They responded very well."

The band, which features dozens of musicians, including three percussionists and twelve trombonists, is made up of volunteer statesmen from across the state. The band has practiced all week during the recreation hours from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. to prepare for the Friday concert. "It's a thrill to get in a band," said delegate Brian Farkas. "You get to play with people you've never met before, and play good music."

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