



A Fillmore Perspective

by Mark Pratico, Fillmore

Being one of the 850 boys selected to attend New Jersey Boys' State is indeed a prestigious honor. You get a first-hand experience on how government works, listen to speakers of high political and federal ranks (like State Senator Bill Baroni). You also have the privilege of attending seminars pertaining to careers that interest you, but most importantly, you meet and speak to a lot delegates from all around the state and for friendships that you will remember forever. Although this is a truly rewarding and beneficial experience that appeals to a great deal of colleges, there are indeed some sacrifices to be made.

Attending Boys' State requires abandoning your comfortable lifestyle for a whole week. That means no TV, only three meals per day, a short shower, and a very regimented schedule. Also, the typical day at Boys' State

includes only two hours of free time, and for some, who are involved in city and county positions, they have duties that will prohibit them from free time.

The delegates of Boys' State, despite the demanding schedule and sacrifices, are very enthused about the program. Fillmore walks the grounds of the campus chanting a version of the "Remember the Titans" song, and "Steve Will Rock You" to show their respect for their ingenious counselor, Steve.

For the past two days, Fillmore has been coming up with ways to solve their city's problems such as pollution, a high unemployment rate, and traffic problems. The city's members have rapidly become very close friends, and their newly formed bonds will surely assist them in their quest to solve their problems and turn

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A Double-Edged Sword

by Raj Patel, Taylor

A dichotomous trend is occurring at Boys' State. It appears as though statesmen aren't voting along party lines anymore. Instead statesmen are voting along city lines. Although the original bipartisan problem was solved, a new problem surfaced itself.

For example, in the Vandenberg County elections, Fillmore almost swept Taylor. Although there was a balance between the two parties' representation to the legislature, all five assemblymen and three senators were from Fillmore. In the county elections, Fillmore took a majority. The county executive and three of the five freeholders were from Fillmore. This imbalance may be due to the fact that Fillmore has 44 citizens while Taylor has 41.

Also, in Nimitz County, Monroe swept Jackson for county elected representatives. Monroe claimed four freeholder positions and all senate and assembly spots.

Overall this trend can be fairly explained. The problems that the counties faced were disputes between cities. Instead of having a Nationalist and a Federalist side to the issue, there was a Taylor and a Fillmore side. Instead of disappearing, it morphed itself into a different problem. As long as problems exist, there will be two sides to every issue.



BOYS' STATE NEWS

Diary of a Delegate III

by Jonathan Guerra, Jackson

Boys' State is gradually coming to a close. I'd like to say it all went by quickly, but it hasn't. Personally, I feel that time has dragged on a bit. By no means have the past few days been easy. Nothing in life truly worth doing is easy. Since Monday night, this newspaper has consumed my time, focus, and sanity. Yet still I cannot sink into the infernal abyss of total cynicism. This is a labor of love; a strange symbiotic relationship I have with this publication (and my ego).

No feeling compares to the joy of receiving compliments on an issue. Therefore, it is to all the delegates that I render my most sincere thanks for their continued support. Excelsior!

Blood Drive Set to Help Needy

by Ian Bussard, Adams

As you are all aware, blood is always a necessity. Hospitals require nearly 2,000 blood products every day. Travelers who have ventured out of the United States may be in extremely short supplies. Those who donate can help others with this disease balance back to healthy blood levels. One blood donation saves three lives, so it is important to keep in mind how easy it is to reach out and help others. Please be advised that you must be at least 17 years of age and 110 pounds or more to donate. Those who have

donated less than 56 days (8 weeks) before today are ineligible for donation. Travelers who have ventured out of the United States may or may not be eligible to donate. Please ask the blood drive organizer for more details. The blood drive runs from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge (Room 245) in the Bart Luedeke Center. The Red Cross thanks you for donations.

Double Digit Inflation Again?

by Vincent Reitano, Pierce

Flash back to the Jimmy Carter years when the terms "runaway inflation" or "double-digit" inflation were coined. During this time, inflation was at an all-time high, ultimately leading to economic upheaval and years of difficult times. Now, fast-forward to the approaching summer of 2008. An observant citizen should have noticed the multitude of news reports alluding to the rising costs of products and services; essentially, this constitutes an elementary yet vital definition of inflation. Prices are increasing, and double-digit inflation is returning to America. What causes inflation, and what can be done to combat it? A basic understanding

of the Federal Reserve and Financial Markets are useful in answering both questions. Causes and results can easily be derived from statistics or analytic thinking. For the past few months, the Federal Reserve (U.S. Central Bank) has consistently cut key interest rates to combat the sub-prime mortgage crisis and growing credit crunch. These "basis point" cuts were passed to spur investment in the business community, but made money too cheap, ultimately leading to inflation.

Another way to look at the situation is by observing the international value of the

dollar, which has decreased. Inflation of the dollar is the same issue, since the purchasing power of a dollar is less than that of an inflated or lower value dollar. The Federal Reserve bank,

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OPINION

Narcolepsy

by Lance Wildorf, Johnson

Do I have narcolepsy? I didn't think I did. I mean, who knows if I have narcolepsy better than I do, right? These past couple days have been making me doubt myself. Maybe it's the food, maybe it's the downtime, or maybe I'm just one big freak. Yet for some reason, I seem to nod off during every general assembly. This sudden narcolepsy isn't just happening to me. It seems, as I look around, every statesman is struggling to keep his perky little lids up.

It probably isn't the food, unless the cooks in the back are spiking it with Ambien. But since most of us aren't seeing purple and pink fairies jumping around Rider, we can rule that out. It probably isn't the downtime because I don't see that many of us getting sleep during recreation time. Personally, I believe it's the speakers.

When asked what he thought about the speakers, statesmen Lance Wildorf said, "They're boring." Thank you, Lance.

Now I know they're trying to be professional, but professional isn't entertaining. And believe

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under Ben Bernanke, may deserve the blame for the creation of this menacing issue. His rate cuts were irresponsible and should have been challenged. He simply cut rates to spur investment and GDP growth and ignored the common result of rate cuts: inflation. For a man who studied the Great Depression from many economic viewpoints, his arguments seem illogical. Actions must be taken to thwart inflation. A contractible fiscal policy must be passed by the Federal government. This would help to retract the economy and have fewer dollars available, thereby decreasing inflation. The Federal Reserve can also mix monetary policy decisions in regard to the open market sale of bonds and influence interest

me, what 900 seventeen-year-old boys want is entertainment. I assure you that if they put a Hooters girl up on stage, everyone would be very attentive.

These speakers need to do a little bit more to keep our interest. I mean, come on, the most amazing thing at the general assembly was the joke telling lawyer. Is this the extent of their speaking skills? They need to add a little pizzazz; a little spice. Open with a dirty joke or come on stage in some sort of elaborate

rates. Unfortunately, Bernanke is continuing to defend his decision, even though one assumes he comprehends that he made a huge blunder in his monetary policy decisions under the Federal Reserve. Worse still, no politician would even consider contractible fiscal policy: that is an instant death for any political re-election campaign, and is practically "political suicide." It is important that Americans research the topic in the context of the last few years. Next, a political group should be formed to badger elected officials into considering solutions to the problem. Finally, presidential candidates should be questioned about their proposed solutions to the rising problem of inflation.

costume. Maybe add some trained tigers into their presentation. I don't want to fall asleep during the general assemblies. Everyone knows that's what the seminars are for.

I feel like I'm hearing the same things being regurgitated. They compliment us, tell us the value of our experience, and then leave us.

So a word to all you guest speakers. Change it up a little bit. Keep me awake. Tell a joke or talk about your favorite TV show. Describe in detail your favorite Gatorade flavor. Or do us all a favor: bring a couple of strippers.

FEATURES

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FILLMORE

Fillmore into a thriving city. "I miss the ability to look cool and dress how I want," said Alex Podkul, the mayor of Fillmore.

"Could be worse," said councilman David Pitt on not having air conditioning in the room.

City entrepreneur "JP" has put his fan up for nightly auction to raise money for the party for those in dire need of AC.

Even though the Fillmore boys managed to work their TV in the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house, it was prohibited for use, except during rec time. "I personally wake up each morning and turn on SportsCenter. Going through SportsCenter withdrawal," said John Pontillo, Fillmore newspaper editor. "I'm worried

about the effects it will have on me, come Thursday." The fact that the civilians of Fillmore figured out how to work the TV, yet cannot reap the rewards of their work is even more frustrating.

"Actually, not having girls on campus is less of a disaster than anticipated and you bond more," said Luis Polo. It is evident that the delegates of Boys' State have bonded very well in the past two days because it is a very energetic and thriving environment.

"If I were to pick one thing I miss the most, it would have to be the black and white pudding," said city webmaster Bobby Poland. "I am kind of use to it because I go camping a lot though." It is evident that some

serious sacrifices have to be made to come to Boys' State, but it is an honor. There are plenty of opportunities to have rewarding experiences that have the potential to better yourself as a person. As much as you want this week to be over, don't rush it. Cherish it and enjoy the rest of your time here because when graduation arrives, you will be sad to leave. Learn as much as you can.

Cumulative Voter Turn-out
COUNTY

Disclaimer: 1st - Eisenhower
Turn-out is 2nd - Vandenburg
as of 3rd - MacArthur
Tuesday and CITY
Wednesday 1st - Johnson
2nd - Monroe
3rd - Buchanan

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