



Duality Diminishes Didactically

by Aaron Winston

It's not to say that our two party system will fall apart; rather, it is very possible to say that what is already in place will drastically change. Straight up.

Congressman Leonard Lance, of the 7th Congressional district of New Jersey, spoke on Sunday, June 21, 2009 to the 64th session of American Legions' Boy's State. Contained within his message, both in the initial speech itself as well as follow-up questions, was a constantly re-iterated message of the importance of the two party political system displayed throughout American history. Congressman Lance stated with rhetorical zeal that the Republican Party is incapable of falling apart based on our system of politics. To this, I object.

Our system of politics, a system of duality splattered with weak third parties that serve to curry to public opinion, has changed throughout the course of history. Starting with the Federalists, who Lance claimed turned into the Republicans, and the Jeffersonian-Republicans, who he claimed turned into the Democrats, began our nation's political history. While these parties roots might be true, Lance's claims were not.

Mainstream parties evolved over time; so really, the Republicans have no real ties to the Federalists. Claiming lineage to the forefathers is applicable to any politician, but the Republicans, as well as the Democrats, have no official ties.

As aforementioned, political parties change over time. Looking at past presidents proves such, with the policies of Lincoln, a Republican, aligning more closely with those of present day Democrats. The same holds true with Kennedy, the prized president of the Democrats, whose tax policies would fall

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Tuesday's Schedule Highlights

12:30-2:30 P.M. College and Career Fair

3:00 P.M. CPR Certification

3:00 - 5:00 P.M. First Elected County and State Official Meetings

State Party Committee Meetings

7:10 - 10:55 Party Conventions including D-Day Presentation (in BLC Theater/Cavalla Room)

11:30 P.M. Lights Out, Shut Up, Go to Bed



Assemblyman Richard Merkt, Assmbllywoman Caroline Cassagrande and Assemblyman William Baroni observe Monday's evening Assembly.

BOYS' STATE NEWS

First Impressions and Lasting Lessons

by Andrew Erickson - Madison

The first day at American Legion Jersey Boys State was an exciting and mind-riveting experience for all. Boys listen to an array of speakers including, but not limited to, Corey Booker, mayor of Newark, NJ, June Choi, mayor of Edison, NJ, and of course Kevin Ciak, President of the NJ State Education Association, who very famously fired his high school principal. All of the speakers did a great job, and inspired the young men to think about their future and when doing that, which reminded the boys to stick to what they like to do, and to be true to themselves. These speakers showed the boys that true heroes of New Jersey government can connect to the people and keep their best interest at hand. Through these assemblies and gathering times, the boys quickly learned that that purpose of ALJBS is to, "learn to do by doing", no matter what exactly they may do. Getting involved in the week will truly provide statesmen with an experience that will last a lifetime.

Members of all the cities are quickly realizing that the problems that their cities face are real life, and serious. From medical wash-up and beach erosion to declining employment, cities are working together to elect officials who will lead their city to success, which hinges on the mayors' creativity and ingenuity. Without these qualities, a city could fail.

American Legion Jersey Boys State is not only a program that will prepare the boys for the future, but will also help form new relationships, that will last a a life time. For example WolfPack has evolved from Madison city, one of the many developing cities in the Boys State, symbolizing that everyone in the city will watch out for each other, and work together for success! With the continuation of the week, delegates are beginning to realize that there is much more learning to be done, and experience to be gained.

Thank you, New Jersey American Legion!

Monroe Council Split

by Dan Flannery - Monroe

The humidity lingers as the American Legion Jersey Boys Statesmen of Monroe City walk into the brick-interior lounge. Over the whooshing drone of an area fan, jokes from Counselor Chris McDevitt poke the stale air, accompanied by unanimous uproarious laughter.

Most eyes wander as Statesmen listen to their peers pleasing to partake in some kind of office.

On Monday morning, Monroe City elected Nationalist Matt Feldman as Mayor, defeating Federalist Kyle Folbrecht, but drawing a majority of Federalists in his council.

"The win was really gratifying," Mayor Feldman said. "I'm really thankful for my competition; this would not have been such a close election in other cities. I think the city has a bright future."

Feldman was able to win the election on a structured platform, formed on Sunday night based upon the many problems that ail Monroe City. The city faces high unemployment rates and an ongoing argument with a local pharmaceutical company concerning Monroe citizens buying cheaper drugs from a foreign company at the expense of the local company. In a city with over 60,000 people, rising gas prices are also a problem.

At 8 o'clock P.M. on Sunday, newly elected Nationalist Party Chairman Anthony Fontanetta started a platform discussion with his fellow party members to build a reliable and functioning plan to fix the problems of Monroe. The city's biggest problem is its unemployment rate, which reaches a intimidating high of 12 percent. Other challenges that the city faces include healthcare, gas prices and a great deal of corruption with its former mayor and his council.

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under the category of fiscally conservative in present day America. Arguments even exist that President Ronald Reagan, the man who modeled modern day conservatism, leaned toward more liberal tendencies himself. Such tendencies were later picked up by the neo-conservative Congress of Newt Gingrich starting in 1995.

Political ideologies change over time, this is a fact. Splinter groups off main parties have been seen, and while it can be said they never lasted, their ideas are often infused into the mainstream. Such was the case with the Whig party, who further influenced the course of the Federalists of the time, as well as the Populist party most prevalent in the 1890's, whose Ocala Demands and Omaha Platform provided the basis for much of the Progressive Movement of the Republicans, eventually leading into Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administrative policies. So now, with the Republican party split between the Centralist's and the heavy Conservatives, there is a changing nature. "Reaganism" and "Reaganomics" are finding themselves dislodged from the mainstream and with such polarizing figures as Rush Limbaugh for the social conservatives, Rick Warren as representative of the Religious Conservatives and even the Libertarian strain found in the followers of Ron Paul, it is very possible that the Republican party will change.

This is a time of flux, and Lance, while a calming speaker with intelligent ideas, may want to rethink his idea of fixed parties in the future. And for that matter, if he was not able to predict the fall of the Berlin Wall, something that no one would have been able to predict, his suspicions for our future troubles in the economic stratum, while valid, may want to be taken with a grain of salt.

Rain Clears as Sports Kick Off

by Tim Brazelton - Tyler

As recreational time made its long-awaited arrival to the Boys State Campus this Monday, many Statesmen were more than ready to switch the usual Boys State vestments for athletic gear, if only for a few hours. However, rain and cool temperatures were unfortunately in the forecast for much of the week, unlike previous sessions of Boys State.

While the second day of activities proceeded as normal inside, the watchful eyes of athletes fixed their gaze on the windows whenever possible, hoping for the rain to pass over so sports would not be canceled. Throughout the day, raindrops wreaked havoc on the plans of the Statesmen, threatening to suspend sports for the day, if it picked up at all, yet an ominous black cloud hung over the buildings of Rider University. Even as 3:30 approached, a drizzle covered the campus, and softball was suspended on account of poor field conditions.

Fortunately, fate fell in the favor of recreation time, and the rain cleared just in time for competition to begin. Within minutes, the rain had more than cleared; in fact, when looking out on the fields, one could barely even tell it had rained on the grounds that Monday. Volleyball, basketball, soccer, football, and swimming were all open to the delegates, and competition kicked off for the first time this week. Already, a rivalry seems to be emerging between Ridgeway and Vandenberg counties. In volleyball, Vandenberg proved victorious by a close score of 21-17. However, in a match that Tyler City athletic director Dan Lewitt described as "epic," Ridgeway defeated Vandenberg in football by a score of 7-6 with the help of a last-ditch extra point effort that proved successful. Let the competition ensue! At the end of day 1, the county standings stood Ridgeway in last place, Marshall and Eisenhowser tied for 6th, Nimitz and MacArthur tied for 4th, Halsez and Bradley tied for 2nd and Vandenberg in first.

FEATURES

Fillmore City Turns to the Dark Side

by Tom Powers - Fillmore

Fillmore City, an industrial town based in Vandenberg County, has recently lost their main employing industry, the "Eatin' Carpet" Company. Eatin' Carpet has outsourced all their work that had been based in Fillmore City to, where else: China. It seems everything nowadays is being outsourced to China.

As a result of Eatin' Carpet's departure from Fillmore, many of its citizens are unemployed. These poor citizens are starving in the streets and sleeping in cardboard boxes from discarded refrigerators. The neighboring city of Taylor has seen unprecedented amounts of riots in their suburban streets from outraged and drunken Fillmorians. Fearful citizens of both Taylor and Fillmore have been cowering

within their houses, hoping for some civility.

However, an interesting turn of events has taken place in the past twenty four hours. Rumors have begun to spread amongst Fillmorians and the folks of Taylor that an outraged and ambitious mastermind has orchestrated a unique "band of brothers." This band of brothers has taken control over most of the city of Fillmore and formed an organization in kin to a mafia-style crime organization. However, when asked, the suspected mafia-men have denied their involvement in such abhorred acts and claim that their "gentleman's club" is more of a self-defense organization.

Upon further investigation, it appears that the organization originally suspected to be riddled with criminal intent may possibly of a nobleman's base. Fillmore recently was assaulted and bombed by a terroristic faction based in the city of Tyler. These terrorists bombed the city hall and caused nearly \$25 million in damages. Rumors are circulating that this attack was actually a means of orchestrating fear and political movements in Fillmore to surrender rights of the Statue of Freedom, whose rightful ownership has been disputed between these two cities.

Yet many of the Fillmorians seem to support this sect that has developed in their city that appears to be a potential militia formed in defense of the city of Fillmore. While information is still hazy, investigation will continue with perseverance.

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"I thought that it was very productive," Fontanetta said about the discussion. "Everyone had an opinion, but everyone was also courteous and there was little interruption; we got a lot accomplished."

Federalist Party Chairman Tim Flank agreed that his party's discussion was also productive.

"We've got a lot of ideas," he said. "It was nice to get contribution from many different viewpoints."

Now the split Monroe mayoral council has to branch together with its sister city of Jackson to create a successful county government.

"Well Anthony is trying to rise up to county party chair for the Nationalists," Feldman said. "We can grab support with his control."