



Governor Gets Grilled

by Dan Flannery - Monroe

Yesterday, the American Legion Boys' Statesmen were treated by the presence of New Jersey governor Jon Corzine. The governor gave a speech at the "on schedule" General Assembly in front of a packed Bart Luedeke Center-Cavalla Room with attending staff. Everyone waited anxiously and rowdily for the New Jersey executive.

But the Statesmen did not treat Governor Corzine with the utmost respect as most treated him with disdain.

When a Statesman asked a question relating the success of Governor Corzine as a businessman to his success as a governor, a nameless student retorted "What success?". The Statesmen erupted into applause supporting the mock of the man at the podium, now an embarrassed politician with no dignity.

Statesmen roared when a certain Statesman brought up the issue of Kyleigh's Law and seat-belts, as Corzine experienced a car accident on April 12, 2007 without wearing his seat-belt. He again had to address the remark and gave an apology to the room of 900 plus.

The young men in the audience felt a sense of pride and a little power in condemning their own governor. It is especially noted that the Statesmen have decided for themselves that they have earned the right to speak an informed opinion, after four days at a mock government camp. The cockiness of the Statesmen has been revealed nonetheless.

But what is more astonishing and maybe even sad really, is that our governor could not handle simple questions from high school students. This man was identified as a man that could not directly answer questions or give clear solutions to questions and problems handed to him by 17 year olds. This is the man leading our state at the moment.

This makes it clear to us that we will be the future leaders, and that we will be the ones making decisions. Because of this, we will make sure from our experience this week to be innovative, prudent and firm in our public service. This week has been very intuitive to our education. We have learned the political process by participating in it. We have learned for ourselves that it takes hard work, dedication and a lot of campaigning to earn your position. We have also learned that the most imperative thing is, that we must keep our position by making good decisions. We must put our seatbelt on and keep it on, not just when the camera is on us, because it is a bumpy ride.

Thursday's Schedule Highlights

12:00-6:00 P.M. Red Cross Blood Drive

12:00-1:30 P.M. Gubernatorial Election

12:30-2:30 P.M. City and County Elected Officials Meeting

2:45-3:00 P.M. Governor Announcement

5:35 P.M. Retreat

7:30-8:30 P.M. General Assembly-Governor Sworn In

8:30-9:30 P.M. State Party Conventions

11:30 P.M. Go to bed and sleep



Governor Corzine at Boys State

BOYS' STATE NEWS

The Race is on!

by Andrew Erickson - Madison

Madison City, like most cities at American Legion Jersey Boys State has many issues that must be solved. In response to the recent protests in the city, fueled by Natural BOOBS (Natural Beauty Of Our Beaches), several students of Madison City High School, including the junior class president Miss Melissa Waterbury, have been involved in questionably illegal protests. These protests range from distracting nude protests and explicit banners. Since these protests occurred outside of a school setting, the educational facilities of Madison are neither obligated nor permitted to punish Melissa Waterbury, or any of the protesters for that matter. However, to prevent the further extension of this protest across the city and county, Madison City School System will be instituting a program titled: "Keep It On The Beach." In correlation with the city legislation to divide the beaches into nude and clothed regions, "Keep It On The Beach" will explain to students the importance of balancing freedom of expression with respect for the law. This will attempt to end displays of public nudity outside of the topless beaches without dampening the spirit of the leaders of the future.

The manual's due date, which is approaching rapidly, is a must for all cities if they want to stand a chance in winning any awards for their city or county. Final exam reviews are also very important to the city, and are being carried out by the School Boards.

With the recent emergence of the Gubernatorial candidates, city and county, as well as state issues will become a major focus point of the two candidates. Both parties have realized that the race has officially begun, Nationalist and Federalist parties are gearing up with supplies for a tough time attempting to defeat each other. With the debates, both parties have proved themselves and persistent individuals that will not go down without a fight. Due to the fact that there are an equal distribution of Nationalists than Federalists the Gubernatorial election will be very close.

As expressed by Gov. Jon Corzine the Governor's position is difficult, and requires a lot of work to be done in order to be successful. Best of Luck to both Candidates !!! Boy State Members Go VOTE!

Just Give Me Some Truth

by Tom Schram - Pierce

Yesterday, many statesmen flocked to see Mr. Charles Wiley and Mr. Ron Martin discuss journalism. It was so packed that many statesmen had to sit in the aisles between seats. Everyone who has been paying attention to the current fall of the economy will notice that journalism has taken a turn for the worst. Many newspapers are beginning to fold (pun intended) and many young people interested in such a career had questions about how to become a journalist. Mr. Charles Wiley started the program with a specific outlook on journalism in today's society. He is a renowned international reporter who has covered Vietnam four times and even was arrested by secret police on several locations. His biggest concern for the future of news was that it is becoming too one-sided. He mentioned MSNBC and Fox News as both two major news sources that get caught up in trying to spread propaganda and entertainment rather than getting the facts.

Then Mr. Ron Martin came up to give his similar viewpoint on the topic. Retired from the Burlington County Times, he teaches journalism to college students. Even though they looked like they were from two different generations of reporters, both Mr. Martin and Mr. Wiley gave extremely similar opinions on the issues. Mr. Wiley would go on to say that "it's because we are old-timers."

Overall the most interesting piece of information given was actually not on journalism, but on the Vietnam War. Mr. Wiley, a war journalist expert, explained that Vietnam was misrepresented. In fact, most anti-war movements supported our troops overseas and that only a small fraction of the liberal party opposed the troops. "I bet you 90% of America doesn't know about this," Wiley stated in frustration. Did you know that there was a parade in honor of the troops in Vietnam? Well there was and it was held in New York City and people marched for nine hours. "Go back to your history teachers and textbooks and have some fun and see how they twist thing the way they wanted it to be," Wiley stated.

Editorials

How Not to Get Clapped off Stage

by Aaron Winston - Johnson

"I'm not going to bore with my achievements but I'm part of the National Honors Society, Class President,..." Seriously? Every speech is the same. Every. Speech. Is. The. Same.

I find it hard to believe that after the first day of moaning, from everyone, that a sudden 180 flip could occur; even more annoying is the fact that everyone is suddenly an expert on governing – you've been "governing" for maybe a day tops. Dude. I understand that people want to get involved, and really want that awesome item on their college resumes (Governor of Boys' State does look pretty awesome right?) but really, be genuine. Of course, this is a crash course on not only the politics of government, but of life: people lie to get ahead.

And candidates, do you wonder why kids clap you off stage? Why your thoughts are drowned out by cheers or nobody listens? Because candidates, you are not genuine; and if you are, you're trying too hard to look like J.F.K. with a smile the size of something large. By being fake you're making people think you resemble a phallic object whose exact name I am not allowed to publish in this paper. So stop. Be yourself. This is a life lesson as well as a Boys' State lesson. Thank you.

Human After All: A Logical View on Abortion

by Tom Schram

There is nothing more sacred or cherished than human life itself. People who fight abortion usually have some moral reason or religious outlook order to express the destruction of such a right. I hope that in this article I can convince you that logically, abortion is not just wrong, but also against our constitution. Abortion may seem like a minor debate that sometimes is taken way out of proportion, but in reality demonstrates and symbolizes the standards and morals we Americans have in this society.

From a perspective of someone who seeks the truth, one must understand the concept of a fetus and how it becomes a baby. When the

sperm from the male meets the egg of the female the egg becomes fertilized and something magnificent happens; the formation of a fetus. Now this is where the debate gets split between conservatives and liberals. Many liberals don't believe that the fetus is a living thing, while conservatives think that the fetus is alive. Now let's look at abortion without a religious filter, using pure logic.

Hypothetically speaking, if the fetus is not alive then why must we kill it? If removing the umbilical chord kills the fetus, then what is the difference between that and removing a feeding tube from someone who is unconscious? Lets look at this scenario: If someone is pregnant (regardless of which trimester) and they do not have an abortion, what will that fetus turn into? Of course the correct response would be a baby, but what does that have to do with anything? Simply put, the Declaration of Independence defends the right to life. As Americans, we should respect these ideals universally, especially in regard to abortion.

Those who wish to argue would state that its a woman's choice to do what she wants with her body. Sure she can do what she pleases with her body, but not with the body of another defense-less human being. Abortion isn't a woman's right in fact its a crime. Will there be constant debate about this topic as technology develops? Of course, but just take a look at some of those pictures of the baby during pregnancy and tell me you don't see a human like feature coming into shape. President Obama is the biggest president to date that supports abortion. The most ironic thing about the right of abortion is that the winner of Roe v. Wade is actually now a pro-life supporter. This is why I leave you with one question to answer that was mentioned before: Why do we have to kill it if the fetus is not alive? Mistakes often create the best things in life.



Sports

Soccer Standouts Improve to 3-0

by Tim Brazelton - Tyler

TYLER—Anyone who says soccer is not “America's sport” seriously needs to reconsider their opinions after taking into account recent developments in American soccer. The United States is in the finals of the Federation Cup, David Beckham signed with the Los Angeles Galaxy, and now Ridgeway County FC is taking names in the Boys' State New Jersey soccer competition.

The team has proved to be top of the class in this tournament of champions at Rider University with solid play from the Statesmen of Tyler and Polk cities. So far, Ridgeway has defeated Vandenberg on Monday and Nimitz on Tuesday and Wednesday. The team is ever confident about its chances of coming out on top by the end of the week. Players like Matt Leonard, Justin Maloney, and Eric Lum have pushed the team to new heights.

Soccer is experiencing a new dawn

in America, and Ridgeway County of Boys State FC is leading the charge.

Basketball Update

by Andrew Bast - Washington

Day two of New Jersey Boys' State basketball came to an exciting close as several different counties showed off their moves with a little in-house competition. Each team truly displayed their skills with perimeter shots, jukes and even a high profile dunk, proving how athletic these Statesmen really are.

Day three was similar in style. The players displayed an even higher level of competitiveness and now each county is looking forward to the final day of sports today.



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The Patriot

by Alex Grover

Morning mist
On a beautiful hillside--
Rabbits congregate
Where the heavy noise has ceased--
Birds fly
Where bullets flew--
The flowers grow
Where blood remains,
Deep within the Earth,
A scar, Permanent in history--
Morning mist
On a skeleton of the fallen,
Crumbled on a beautiful hillside.
The Morning moves on to Day
And then to Evening.
But we don't:
We remember.