



That's the Wei

by Reed Alvarado/Aaron Winston

The 64th session of Boys' State now has a leader. Eric Wei, we applaud you: by winning enough of our support, you now represent over 800 delegates from all over this state.

But let's not forget Kirby Chery. We applaud you as well. Speaking genuinely and trying to convey your opinions is an amazing thing. Kirby, you have distinguished yourself in this crowd of 800 strong, and have done so much with the short time you have here at Boys' State.

The Gubernatorial election was certainly one of the highlights of the week. Starting with a rough primary race for both parties, Chery and Wei quickly separated themselves from the crowd. Eric Wei's quote, "Teddy Roosevelt said speak softly and carry a big stick. Well I say speak firmly and carry a bigger stick," characterized this riveting primary.

Following the primaries, Governor Jon Corzine visited Boys' State to announce the news of the candidacy. From here on, the race was on like Donkey Kong. Both candidates were quick to establish themselves as engaging. In the cafeteria, Kirby Chery stood by the entrance with his campaign team to hand out 'Vote Kirby Chery' reminders to every delegate. Eric Wei matched this effort by visiting tables and even cities to greet his potential constituents.

When the debate arrived Thursday, it became clear that the issues were bipartisanship and education. Each candidate gave a vivid opening speech informing the delegates of their goals, as did their respective Lieutenant Governors, a new addition to Boys' State. Four moderators from The Jersey Statesman tested the candidates' mettle by questioning them on a variety of topics. From alternative energy, education, and even a missing guide-on, every issue brought up during the week was discussed. However, it became clear who the crowd supported as Eric rallied the crowd, while Chery showed a rare moment of unpreparedness.

Finally, after an hour and a half of voting, the moment of truth arrived. With all of the delegates assembled on the Quad, Governor Eric Wei was announced the victor. The voting populace had decided: Eric Wei was Governor of Boys' State, 64th session, the year of democracy's fallout in Iran, the first African-American President, and many problems, including a disjointed economy, but much, much, more hope than before. So Eric, remember us as you traverse the expanse of New Jersey, remember the problems that face us on a local level, and remember the wider problems that face all. Answer questions to the best of your ability, be honest, and go places, like we know you will. Congratulations.

Friday's Schedule Highlights

11:00-1:20 P.M. 2009 ALJBS Family Day

11:45 P.M. 2009 ALJBS Marathon

1:15 P.M. Cities should be prepared for Final Retreat Ceremony

1:30-4:00 P.M. Final Assembly in Alumni Gym

4:00 P.M. Farewell Remarks. Gentlemen, it's been a great week. Never forget these memories.

PEACE!



The newly elected Governor Wei poses for pictures in front of a State Trooper squad car with (l to r) his Lieutenant Governor Kaplan and Program Director Bagatelle.

BOYS' STATE NEWS

End of a New Beginning

by Tom Powers - Fillmore

Gentlemen, my fellow Boys' State delegates and alternates, today marks the end of a filled event and an extremely complex week. With yesterday's election of Governor Eric Wei, the majority of our efforts produced a final product.

Like most of you, I came into this program knowing absolutely nothing what-so-ever about the program. Upon opening the Delegate Schedule pamphlet, my jaw nearly dropped in horror at how much we've had to do. From late nights to early mornings to marching around campus, most teenagers would absolutely abhor the very concept of this week. And yet, this program has filled our lives with experiences and memories that we will never forget.

As the managing editor of this newsletter, I have spent late nights working on putting this together (several nights till three in the morning) and I continuously complained about how tired I was and how I couldn't wait till the week was over. And yet, now that the day is here, I am disappointed that we must depart. I believe I can speak for everyone when I say I have met some of the nicest and most respectful young men in our state.

Here at Jersey Boys' State, we have received an unprecedented education in government, politics, and human nature. We have made close friends who will be in our lives for countless years and helped define our future careers. It is here that we grew into a fraternity, a brotherhood of young men who joined together in the cause of becoming the political leaders of tomorrow.

While I am sorry to say that I have not met anywhere near the almost 900 delegates here at American Legion Jersey Boys' State, nor gotten to know those folks in my own city nearly as well as I would have liked, I must say this week has been an experience I will never forget. So, to all my fellow delegates, I would like to say thank you for this week. And to all of the brotherhood of the American Legion Jersey Boys' State, I would like to say this: it's been real, its been fun, and it has been real fun.

Watching Our Words

by Zach Cohen - Jefferson

"That's so straight!" A phrase you do not hear often. Broad generalizations also contribute to a broader disrespect and persecution of an entire section of our society.

It is clear that there is a recent fascination with the branding of all things unfavorable as something that is "gay." What does this say about our treatment of all of homosexuals? When we label something as the same as a group of people, we equate that object with that group of people, and that can cause us to insult people in the worst way. Even if we do not mean to, conventional phrases such as, "That's so gay!" are direct attacks on people who simply have different views than our own.

America is a place of freedom, and our nonchalant references of homosexuality are bigotry at its worst. Our comments continue to prove our insensitivity to other groups. Despite our feelings about LGBT's, we live in a country that prides itself on equality, and civil and social parity. The 1960's proved to be a landmark era for the African-American equality and civil rights in general. What is to say we cannot attain the same equal rights for LGBT community?

Our verbal treatment of homosexuals is abusive and is only a small part of society's continuing malicious discrimination and persistent persecution of our homosexual brothers and sisters; we treat our homosexual neighbors with negligence and disdain. Despite our predictions, we have a responsibility to permit people all the freedoms that any other single human being is deserving of. Even if we are not ready as a society to grant full rights to the LGBT community, we can at least start by paying attention to what we say.

Editorials

Police Blotter

Case 1: The Case of the Missing Soul

Defendant: Jimmy Spliker of Buchanan

Accusation: Lack of Soul

Highlights: Jimmy—"I have soul"

Jimmy does not know lyrics to "I'm a Soulman"

Verdict and Sentence: Guilty, must skip with guide-on to all meals

Case 2: The Case of the 18-Inch Phallus

Defendant: Counselor Charles "Chuckles" Reilly of Tyler City

Accusation: Rape...yup.

Highlights: Defender Matt Leonard incriminated himself with a heart-shaped tattoo spelling "Chuck" on its inside.

Evidence included video, semen samples, and text messages

Verdict: Not Guilty

Case 3: The Case of the Werewolf

Defendant: Anonymous Counselor

Accusations: Being a werewolf and Using Estrogen

Highlights: Witness saw counselor turn into werewolf and eat a pack of estrogen, but eventually it was discovered that he could not have seen the estrogen from such a far distance

Proof of hairy legs and arms substantiated the werewolf accusation

Verdict and Sentence: Guilty, counselor must howl at moon in front of everyone at night

Case 4: The Case of the Rabid Dog

Defendant: Elijah "Dat Man Blue"

Accusation: Not doing correct job

Highlights: Witness stated the rabid dog was, "a white dog with a huge ten-foot [phallus]." Defense Attorney D'nard retorted with "... the witness can't be right. If the dog has a ten-foot [phallus] than it must be a black dog."

Verdict: Not Guilty on account of DA's very convincing argument

Case 5: Rancid John - Monroe

Defendant: John Flacco

Prosecutor: Dan Frey

Accusation: Smells bad

Witnesses: Tyler Furman, Matt Fuchs

Highlights: Furman confirmed the prosecutor's position that Flacco did not smell good, but did not say that he smelled bad enough.

Verdict: Guilty that he played sports when smelled, everyone is smelly, sentenced to a 10 minute cold shower.

Case 6: The Case of the Shaving Cream

Defendants: Akash Gandhi, Chris O'Leary

Prosecutor: Dan Frey

Accusation: Put shaving cream on Mayor Feldman after curfew

Witnesses: Mike, Owen Gantz, Matt Feldman

Highlights: Counselor Mike witnessed the crime, then returned to his bowling game in Madison. Matt Feldman woke up with shaving cream on his face. Owen was holding the door open and did not see the crime.

Verdict: Guilty. Ruled that both violators were up after curfew and committed disorderly conduct. Decreed that they have shaving cream put on their faces.

Case 7: Sleepgate

Defendant: Kyle Folbrecht

Prosecutor: Dan Frey

Accusation: Folbrecht was caught sharing his quarters with another anonymous citizen, two nights in a row.

Witnesses: Folbrecht, Matt Feldman and Anthony Fontanetta

Highlights: Both parties did not have a clear argument to defend themselves. The citizens and judge were appalled by the accounts. Sheriff Gares dubbed the affair, "Sleepgate".

Verdict: Guilty. Folbrecht was ordered to post notices that said "I probably did it. Sleepgate." with his signature underneath.

Sports

Runners Prepare for Moment in Spotlight

by Tim Brazelton - Tyler

TYLER—Although participation in sports is very widespread at Boys' State, a select group of athletes are not always seen on the fields, at least in the typical way. Often left on the sides of the fields, the runners of Boys' State only play some sports, and can sometimes be seen jogging around campus or in the Student Recreational Center on treadmills. However, on the last day of Boys' State, the ALJBS Marathon, which is actually well short of 26.2 miles, gives these runners a chance to contribute to their county's tally.

Runners, particularly high school runners, are a strange breed. Many take joy in a repetitive, relentless, and unforgiving task, and take even more joy in boasting, "Our sport is your sport's punishment." Some run thousands of miles a year, and wake up early in the morning just to go running. Even more, they run so

many miles simply in order to run more miles, usually in the woods. And the short-shorts (self-explanatory). For these strange practices, many runners are simply regarded as crazy.

The ALJBS Marathon covers 2.5 kilometers, which converts to slightly over 1.5 miles. Depending on your point of view, this may or may not be a marathon, but for anyone who competes in the race, the feeling will be the same. It may feel easy at the beginning, but as the race progresses, the body will begin to tighten while lactic acid builds up in the legs, and each step becomes progressively worse. That morning's breakfast may even begin to inch up the digestive tract. Who knows? That's the beauty of racing. Rudyard Kipling perhaps described it best, saying that, "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run—Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!"

This particular race will hold huge importance for its runners. First off, the race is essentially the last major push for points in the race for Best County. Each team will be scoring its best five runners, so competition could be fierce as counties jostle for the top position. Second, the race is an almost guaranteed PR, as the race distance of 2.5 kilometers is literally almost never run in competition. Many runners are also just beginning their summer training for cross-country, making this an ideal test of fitness or even a chance to get in a few extra miles.

As a runner myself, I can't wait to get back out on the course and play my part in bringing Ridgeway County to the top. I'll see you at the finish line.

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