



THE JERSEY STATESMAN

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JUNE 27, 2014

WEATHER

TODAY:

Hi- 82°F

Chance of Rain- 20%

Skies- Partly Cloudy

TONIGHT:

Low- 61°F

Chance of Rain- 20%

Skies- Partly Cloudy

Counties and Cities Scramble to Get Taxes Done

Daniel Wang

As the end of the 69th Boy's State session became imminent, many cities and counties started to realize that taxes and county manuals were due soon. Thus began the mad scramble to finish manuals and collect taxes so that everybody could graduate. The issue were so pressing that senators were bowing out of the second legislative session of the day in order to write the taxes and manuals for their city. Of course, this interruption angered the remaining senators. The rush was so bad that some cities actually decided to collect their members' money directly and then apportion it for taxes.

Jason Weitze of Grant City was quite calm when he was asked about how he did his work. He stated that doing taxes was quite easy. Grant City let Time Warner Cable film a TV show, Sandy Hookers, and also allowed for a green energy company to build 150 windmills to generate wind energy. Grant City expects a \$7.2 million down payment from the TV show and \$300,000 dollars from the windmills. Obviously, taxes were not an issue for Grant City.

For the manuals, Matthew Vestly created a schedule in which all the appointed officers of Grant City had to come in to write their paragraph of work. After that, this reporter and another city councilman edited the paragraph to perfection. All in all, getting the manuals together was very time consuming. Many of the other cities did not employ similar methods but many of the cities worked well in the night to get their manuals done. Everyone pitched together to contribute something that they all believed in, everyone should be proud.

Friday Schedule Highlights

7:45am-8:30am Senatorial debate

8:45am-10:00am Boys State Exam

10:00am-11:00am Senatorial Election

12:00am-6:00am ALJBS 5k

1:10pm Final Retreat

1:15pm-4:00pm Final Assembly

Senate Absentees Disrupt Proceedings

Daniel Wang

In this year's senate session there were supposed to be a grand total of twenty-seven senators representing each of the 9 counties. However in reality, only about fourteen of the twenty-seven senators were present at any time, barely enough for the senate to have quorum and sessions. Why do so few senators attend the floor? Many of the senators this year thought that it was more important to attend the party board meetings, even though the state legislature precedes all other offices except for the Governor's office. One senator even thought that it would have been better to go to the volleyball game rather than attend the legislative session and had to be escorted back by the sergeant-at-arms.

The most shameful issue, though, is that some senators have chosen to completely withdraw from the session and either sit and do nothing, or purposefully fail to attend the meetings. This is an extremely shameful event for Boys State. Senators are supposed to be elected by the county to represent them at all times, and ensure that their issues are brought up during the senatorial meetings to initiate positive change in the country. Counties are supposed to elect competent senators who will at least attend the meetings. All the senators knew that they had to make sacrifices if they were elected to a senate chair yet they still deliberately chose to renege on the duties of their positions of responsibility.

On a lighter note though, the senate is moving very quickly through legislation and is already passing bills, something that usually takes weeks to do. The remaining senators are doing everything they can to fulfill all of their duties. However, the fact that many senators simply choose not to attend the meetings is truly sad, and all of Boy's State should be worried.

Boys' State News

Judgmental Concerns

Daniel Mattei

An exemplary judge can be found in Nicholas Martin, the former municipal judge who had been appointed in Polk City. He, expressing a keen sense of his role, seems to reflect a penchant for those qualities which make judges great. The following question and answer session communicates this without any confusion:

Q: When an interpretation of the constitution is warranted, do you consider yourself a legalist?

A: "As a judge, my job is to interpret the law to the best of my abilities, and thus my interpretation is the law."

Nick interpreted his position as conjoined with the most concrete understanding of the constitution he could gain. The impartiality of a judge ideally reflects the impartiality of the constitution, which had been written intentionally with vagueness. Nick thus avoided contradicting any interpretation of the constitution with his own.

Q: To what degree does political perspective affect impartiality to an acceptable degree? Do you consider it difficult to maintain your views in spite of impartiality?

A: "Every judge is supposed to be unbiased. However, human nature dictates that I will inevitably favor one side over another."

Nick, despite his dedication to legalism, is not so haughty as to believe that he is infallible because of this. Modesty and a humble heart are required so that he might identify with the plights of a defender. Righteousness, moreover, another facet of human nature, is required so that he might identify the just cause of a prosecutor.

Q: Do you expect some laws in particular to be broken and tried over others?

A: "I do. I feel that walking on grass, as well as cell-phone usage will be primary judicial rulings."

Nick seems to keep an eye on the coming days; his anticipation of the trials of his office was appropriate and warranted. If a judge isn't thoughtful of the challenges of his role, how effective in the judiciary can he be?

Q: What tries your patience in the courtroom?

A: "Repeat offenders, complete disregard for the rules and regulations set before them, and then a general belief that they are just invincible."

A lesser standard than that which Nick enforced trivializes the seriousness of the situation, and undermined the atmosphere of the courtroom: An attorney, or anyone entirely too at home, should not treat it as home. A timid attorney lacks the temerity of a hot-shot attorney, but at least does not entertain a delusion of a ruler in his palace. He is a guest, as all others are, to conduct his business accordingly. If a judge treats the courtroom with reverence, it is only rational to expect the same standard. Nicholas Martin was ready and eager to adhere to such an ideology, and did so.

Music Night

Michael Tang

On June 25th, in addition to the usual plethora of speakers, the Boys State Band and Chorus took part of the spotlight at the General Assembly. The Boys State Band, approximately 77 members strong, played a variety of instruments, from flute, to trombone, to bass. The band started off their concert by playing a compilation of patriotic American songs, such as America the Beautiful and My Country Tis of Thee to pay respect to the veterans and their sacrifice. Both the band and the chorus performed the Boys State Theme while the statesmen in the audience learned and sung the tune for the first time.

Afterward, the assembly took a more festive tone when the band began playing a variety of pop songs. The band performed Party Rock, Living on a Prayer, Don't Stop Believing, and Psy's popular Gangnam Style, as the statesmen stood up, danced around, and even formed a spontaneous conga line around the gym. An impromptu dance battle took place in the center of the gym, and statesmen began filming and showering the participants with Boys State Bucks. The band was a great morale booster for the Statesmen, and kept everyone motivated to end the week strong.

Boys' State News

A New Sense of Patriotism

Noah Eckstein

My time at Boys State has been much more than exhausting, and it has been a telling journey to understand the lives of veterans and the essence of a true leader. Boys State provides an intense schedule that does not have much room for self reflection. Each day at 5:35 PM, during the Retreat, I find myself intrinsically analyzing my life as well as the future of American patriotism.

I have noticed through different media outlets and editorials that American pride connects directly with associated political parties. For example, Conservatives are generally more verbal about their patriotism, whereas Liberals tend to focus on the complexities within Patriotism. Whether you may be a Democrat or a Republican, the fact is that American Pride does not have to ride the bandwagon of a certain political party.

I have learned that patriotism is a part of being an American. Now is the time for Americans to reclaim and reconnect with our nation. We must celebrate American ideals while continuing to criticize its shortcomings. Thank you, Boys State, for expanding my opinions and forcing me to understand the true meaning of American patriotism.

Progressives: Read This and Weep

Gilbert Orbea

For those of us out there that are liberal, Boys State is an exercise in frustration. The militaristic chants and marching are off-putting for some. Just recently, when the Gubernatorial debate took place, thunderous applause followed a denouncement of abortions and lowering of taxes. In fact, Nationalist candidate Austin Meo could not even state his opinion on assault weapons without being booed. Boys State seems to be an event not welcome to those allied with the likes of FDR and LBJ.

It might be best, however, to look through all of this. Surprisingly, many of the Republican speakers held modern ideas. Furthermore, the entire program itself, though at first seemingly unwelcoming to progressives, opens up later in the week and really helps everyone forget these ideological difference.

In the midst of all the communist name calling and the conservative slant, Boys State excels in helping us overcome differences. It is the only way my radical self could make it through the week.

Boys Nation Senate Candidates

Michael Tang

Alex Kochanik (Nationalist) – Alex Kochanik is a freeholder from City 9, sponsored by Post 12. He wants to remind legislators that students do have views.

Nathan Gupta (Nationalist) – Nathan Gupta is a state senator from City 6, sponsored by Post 390. He focused on veteran benefits and reducing the costs of colleges.

Brian Doyle (Federalist) – Brian Doyle is a state senator from City 4, sponsored by Post 262. He wants to introduce pieces of legislation such as welfare initiative.

Andrew Chen (Federalist) – Andrew Chen is a state senator from City 3, sponsored by Post 76. He stated the need for pensions.

The Free Press

Raven Haub

On Wednesday night, Boys State delegates had the opportunity to listen to an excellent speech by former journalist and traveling speaker Charles Wiley. Mr. Wiley began his remarks by commending the enthusiasm of the delegates, band, and staff, in the Alumni Gym, as well as their leadership potential. He repeatedly stated that he was confident in the ability of these Boys State delegates to become the future leaders of America.

He quickly segued into the importance and power of the press, stating that the problems uncovered by the news media correspond directly to the problems dealt with by politicians. He also cautioned against falling victim to media manipulation, clarifying the difference between objective reporters, who provide facts, and advocate reporters, who manipulate facts to suit their own ends. Mr. Wiley recommended utilizing both conservative news outlets, such as Fox, as well as liberal news outlets, such as MSNBC, to try and balance opinions on domestic policy. He also suggested utilizing foreign sources for overseas news, both due to their greater accuracy, by proximity to the situation, as well as the fact that they are easily available in English online.

The second half of Mr. Wiley's speech consisted of a more direct appeal to the delegates. He emphasized personal integrity and authenticity, decrying false attempts to "be cool" without sincerity. His focus on achieving a 'real cool' based off of self confidence, derived from concrete achievements, knowledge, and experience. He was well received by the applauding audience and his advice will undoubtedly stay with them for a long time. As Mr. Wiley told the delegates, "Be nice, and don't screw up."

Boys' State News

Nimitz Takes Football Crown

Mike Costantini

As football came to a close today one county was left standing as Champion. The road to the championship game started with MacArthur County taking on Schwarzkopf in the opening pair and saw MacArthur move on to the second game. In that game they played Eisenhower County and again won their game and moved on. The magical run ended when they met up with Nimitz County in the quarterfinal game Nimitz went on to play Marshall county, who had the second overall record during the week. It was a great game which saw Nimitz advance to the championship game against Bradley County. Bradley had gone undefeated which gave them an automatic bid into the championship game. This game was highly competitive throughout, and saw a key late interception thrown by Bradley County's quarterback which sealed the win for Nimitz. Congratulations to Nimitz County and all of their players on a great week and their championship, and congratulations to everyone on a great week of sports!

Booker Visits Boys State

Brian Milara and Michael Tang

On Thursday night, Cory Booker, the first African American to represent New Jersey in the US Senate, was the keynote speaker at the General Assembly. Entirely in character, Booker pulled the microphone off the podium and carried it as he climbed down from the stage. He told the audience of his own childhood, in which he experienced and appreciated both the "conspiracy of love" and "the banquet set by his ancestors," and thus emphasized the need to "serve [your] nation by serving others." Eager to move on to the question-and-answer session, Senator Booker answered the questions of the very energetic statesmen, and concluded with one of the key goals of Boys State: taking an active role in politics.



God Bless Our Troops

Ricardo Vargas-Mora

ALJBS has truly been blessed to have a full volunteer staff who works passionately and unselfishly without pay. Among the volunteers are American Legion members, who have sponsored 950 statesmen out of their own pockets. There are also U.S Marines who take time off their recruiting and active duty to teach us how to march and chant, as well as instruct Marine PT to show statesmen how it feels like to train like a Marine.

Sgt. McCullar is one of these Marines who has worked passionately with the statesmen of Hayes City, leading us in marching and chanting. Sgt. McCullar is a native of Chicago who has served in the Marines for 6 years. He spent two years in Japan and served with the elite U.S Marine Corps Special Operations Commando, a.k.a MARSOC. Sgt. McCullar told the statesmen to push themselves and that "every day is a day to better yourself and work on your weaknesses."

That is what every single American Legion member and U.S Marine here at ALJBS wants to do. For their hard work and passion to make us future leaders of America, we as writers of the Jersey Statesman Newspaper want to thank every single American Legion member, every veteran, and every single one of our troops at home and abroad who have worked to secure our freedoms here and around the world. We pay our respects to the fallen soldiers who paid the ultimate price for freedom. God Bless Our Troops!

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