



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Patrick Cao

Boys State delegates were given the honor to participate in the seminar, Careers in Education: Teaching and Administration, presented by their fellow counselors and an additional guest, Joseph Sprague, a principal at Bordentown Regional Middle School. Counselors such as Jaimee Banks, Glenn Davis, and Joseph Demyon Jr. have had experience as teachers.

The seminar revolved around each speaker's experience as a teacher or administrator. They discussed what it takes to be a great teacher and introduced their own unique perspectives on teaching.

As stated by Davis, a graphic design teacher at Camden County College and Overbrook High School, "Next to being a parent, a teacher is the next important person in one child's life."

Coming from a different perspective, Banks, a third-grade teacher at Atrium School, claimed that, "Having diverse students is one of the best experiences you will have as a teacher. When that light bulb clicks in the head of either a more math or science driven student, it's a feeling that can never be replicated."

Meanwhile, from a principal's point of view, Sprague said, "The education field is not the most high-paying job, but it's a job that allows you to motivate others."

Overall, our fellow counselors and administrators have shared a more personal side of their lives in teaching.

Today's Weather

Low of 56
High of 73
Rain: 55%
Wind: 4 mph
Possible Thunder

REMEMBER!

Use an umbrella to keep the rain off you and your family during Family Day.

American Legion Jersey Boys State Social Media



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WE NEED LESS COMPROMISE

Dermot Curtin

The goal of Boys State is to teach civics in a way it cannot be taught in the classroom: through experience. It is therefore in the interest of all statesmen and volunteers that this experience be as authentic as possible. Otherwise, the value of the program would be compromised. Although the structure of the political process is replicated as accurately as can be expected for a one week program, the policies of the candidates and their parties are not.

Almost every primary or general election speech I have witnessed has emphasized bipartisanship and compromise. This would not be an issue were these speeches not seldom more than two minutes long. This constraint leaves little room for candidates to give their stances on the issues that should be at the center of their campaigns. Compromise and cooperation are certainly important to democracy, but candidates do not run on cooperation in real life; they run on issues.

The Quote of the day is...

"The people will not revolt. They will not look up from their screens long enough to notice what's happening."

- George Orwell

Boys State News

JULIAN ASSANGE: THE LAST DEFENDER OF TRUTH

By Zack Reeves

Wikileaks has been a prominent and influential organization since 2006, striking crucial blows at the government's ability to keep secrets from the public by releasing government data ranging from the terrorist attacks on 9/11 to the government's involvement in Afghanistan. Julian Assange founded Wikileaks in Sweden in 2006 and has led it for 11 years. Despite facing myriad adversities and controversies, the mission of Assange's organization has remained the same: to inform the public of what its governments might not tell them.

Wikileaks came back into the public eye during the 2016 election season when it published a large number of emails exposed several instances of corruption within the Democratic National Convention. Among this, it included Donna Brazile giving Hillary Clinton debate questions before the event to ensure that Senator Bernie Sanders did not get the nomination of the Democratic Party. This leak became very controversial and drove many Democratic officials to call for Assange to be prosecuted to shift the focus away from themselves. A few months later, Wikileaks published thousands of documents in a large leak called "Vault 7." Those documents listed a few CIA and MI6 projects that would allow agencies to spy on citizens through phones, laptops, and even Smart TVs.

Despite the influence of many powerful anti-Assange politicians on both sides of the aisle, including the President, a bipartisan group of Assange supporters voiced their opposition to Trump's declaration. Many pro-Assange Trump supporters threatened to withdraw their support from the President if he did not change his stance. The group argued for free speech and free press, two concepts that are fundamental to democracy. So far, the President has not made any further moves for or against the Australian truth-teller.

Julian Assange put his life and family on the line to keep the public informed of what governments are doing behind its back. This controversial figure is the most significant and perhaps the only person besides Edward Snowden to defend the democratic ideas of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press. Without him and others like him, how will we learn what the government might be doing behind our backs?

As Boys State delegates, it is your responsibility to judge what is right or wrong, whether it be in the government or at home, and it is your job to ensure that if something is wrong, the people are informed.

YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH

Samuel Schepps

Through this past week, it has become clear that the subjects of truth and honesty are set to take center stage at this year's program. Indeed, it is no surprise that after an election cycle which saw the rise of fake news on both sides of the aisle, the use of "alternative facts," and distrust of sources on all sides of every issue, the same pressing issues were addressed by numerous keynote speakers who gave addresses on Monday and Tuesday. From Senator Cory Booker, representative Leonard Lance, and Bergen County Freeholder Tracy Zur, all exemplified the prominent position in which this issue has been placed through their multifarious references, both explicit and implicit, both politically correct and less so. But no example was more clear than that of former Councilman Lou Rizzo, who used honesty as a core political value and as the crux of his brief address, which led to a raucous reception by the delegates in attendance. This thus indicated that, in agreement with the aforementioned speakers, the delegates also wished to reemphasize the significant role of truth in this incredibly trying era.

What remains to be seen, however, is whether these words and actions will translate into tangible political and policy action, or whether the recent reception served only as positive lip service to the topic. Only time will tell and the ultimate result will surely pave the path for the outcome of the remainder of the American Legion Jersey Boys State.

Opinion

1984: 33 YEARS LATE

Zack Reeves

It seems unlikely that anyone living in the early 1900's could possibly be able to accurately predict the elements of society more than sixty years in his or her future. George Orwell wrote the famous dystopian novel 1984 in the year 1949. The book is set in the year 1984, where Great Britain is known as Airstrip One, which is a province of the superstate Oceania. Oceania is engaged in a perpetual world war, has an all-knowing and ever-present government surveillance, and is riddled with public manipulation. The government, a dictator regime called "IngSoc" (short for English Socialism), uses its massive power and influence over the people to suppress individualism. Finally, the people under the IngSoc regime have little Freedom of Speech or Thought, as the "Thought Police" imposes punishments for individualistic thought.

This world, created by Orwell nearly 70 years ago, is strikingly similar to our own. As socialism becomes more and more prominent in the United States, individualism is being discouraged in favor of a more collective society. Furthermore, as per the Edward Snowden leaks in 2013, we now know that the NSA collects data on each citizen through phone calls and personal information put on Facebook and Google. Major news networks publish subjective content covering the same story, yet having different facts and opinions, thereby influencing readers to align with the opinion of whoever authored the content. Social Justice Warriors attack those who think outside of their group mentality. Orwell may have been a few years off on his prediction, but if we ignore these problems in our society, our world will continue to slide down the slippery slope that leads to 1984's Oceania.

REMINDER!

The 5th annual Jersey Boys State run and fun walk is Saturday, August 26th, 9 AM, Veteran's Park, Hamilton, NJ. Sign up at www.NJBSF.org for a morning of patronage to the brave and fun for the family.

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THURSDAY SPORTS RECAP

The following are a compilation of the standings of the various counties in regards to sports.

1. County 400 - MacArthur
2. County 900 - Scharzkopf
3. County 600 - Vandenburg
4. County 200 - Marshall
5. County 500 - Ridgway
6. County 700 - Eisenhower
7. County 800 - Bradley
8. County 300 - Nimitz
9. County 100 - Halsey

This is likely the final scoring of the sports standings, unless the five kilometer tomorrow has some upsets. Even under those circumstances, it will only be a change of a few spots.



City News

BOYS STATE AIN'T KOSHER, BUT IT IS DELICIOUS

Dylan Giacobbe

The American Legion Jersey Boys State, now in its 72nd year, prides itself on tradition. This refers to traditions like the blue-collared, white t-shirts worn by all delegates and the traditional lack of air conditioning in dorms. These are traditions that have stayed the same since the camp's inaugural year in New Jersey. Most importantly, all Boys State delegates traditionally split into two parties: Federalists and Nationalists.

But this year at the camp, the Jersey Boys State director, David Bagatelle, through lots of consideration, has decided to change tradition for the first time as he felt it was necessary for the young men sponsored to be here.

How exactly did he alter the sacred traditions? Did Bagatelle install air conditioning units in all the dorms? Of course not; he changed something much more important. The director has decided to scrap the tired and failing Nationalist and Federalist parties, and in their place he has given us two parties that are sure to debate civilly and intellectually as is encouraged and intended by Boys State.

Introducing the newest political parties: the Taylor Hammers and the Pork Rollers. Many delegates have already begun the political discussion between these two opposite parties during the scheduled debate time known as General Assembly.

Though many members of the opposing parties have attempted to remain civil in their discourse, others have resorted to new lows to attack the other party, including hurling lackluster waves and chants at the opposition. How this year's statesmen will deal with these new political parties over the remainder of the program remains to be seen. But I am sure that if both parties can "roll" together this week, they can "Taylor" an amazing state government.

BOYS STATE: DO LEADERS HAVE TO BE OUTGOING?

Tommy Stuppi

As we embark on our Boys State journey, many of us are overwhelmed with all the elections and processes that hit us from the outset. We see some of our fellow delegates immediately taking charge, while others tend to lay low. Don't be alarmed if you are one of the latter! Our purpose with Boys State is to develop leadership skills and an understanding of the political processes of democracy. Whether or not you win positions means little and does not dictate how much you get out of the program. As long as you apply for positions and try your best to get involved, that's all that matters. Yet that very term, "involved", seems to scare many delegates, such as myself. I am not much of an outgoing character; rather I tend to get to know people and earn their respect over time (I know I am not alone in this).

We are all going to come out of this program as better people and better leaders, regardless of what position, if any, we hold during our time here. Do not stress over gathering votes or becoming the most popular delegate in the city or even the state, because not every great leader will come out on top over the course of a six day event. Those who are not labeled as outgoing often end up being some of the best leaders in our society. My message to those out there who already hold one or multiple positions is to not forget about the quiet statesmen or the unelected delegates, because they could have the best ideas and could end up being one of the best fit for a position on government.

Although it is stressed by many that involvement determines what you get out of Boys State, involvement does not necessarily mean holding an elected position. It simply means participating, running for elections if desired, and learning. Whether you get elected or not, Boys State will have an impact on you so long as you try your best to run for offices, help solve the city problems, and continue to participate in campaigns for fellow party members. As Senator Booker said, "Life is about purpose, not position." Enjoy the time here, don't stress too much, and be yourself!