

aljbs.org



@aljbs



aljbs



/aljbs



City Spotlights: Lincoln City

Collin Tofts

Greetings from Lincoln City! With a population of approximately 1.5 million, Lincoln City is one of the largest ones in the state. By looking at the problems that it faces, it is hands-down one of the wildest too. The city is plagued with mob violence, homelessness, prostitution, gambling, opioid abuse, and AIDS. This aggression reached a boiling point when a local government official was executed by the mob, which subsequently resulted in the ban of all assault rifles and hand guns. In order to combat these issues, local Nationalists and Federalists have assembled, each developing unique stances on the issues. However, both parties unanimously agreed that the proper way to solve these problems is by focusing heavily on the economy. This surprising collaboration represents the potential for all cities who struggle to find common ground between both parties.

Washington City

Cooper Daley

Washington City, located in scenic Conover Dormitory and Halsey County, is a cute suburban town of about 25,000 residents. Named after first president George Washington, the city has taken a unique stance in response to the issues they face. A recent shooting at Washington High School's graduation in which ten were killed has awoken gun control sentiments in the town's citizens, and organizations like Mothers Against Guns have considered suing the town over their response. The town also faces agricultural threats, as gypsy moths have invaded and continue to eat the town's plants, in addition to difficult economic decisions, as the New Jersey Devils have raised interest in building a new arena there. To combat these issues while thinking of all their citizens, the town has adopted the "weak mayor" form of government, as the people choose both a mayor who lacks all executive power, and a legislative counsel to discuss the possible paths they could take. They have also opened up discussions with their sister city Adams City, as they discuss who is responsible for the moths' invasion and elimination and their road plan to incorporate the Devils. The town is definitely a social scene and one never goes far without hearing conversation. Fight through, boys!

Today is Thursday, June 21.

Today's Weather:

Low of 65

High of 83

Precipitation: 60%

Today will have storms in the morning, sun in the afternoon.

Today's Events:

8:20-9:30

Gubernational Debate

12-1:30 PM

Gubernational Election: Remember to VOTE!

7:20-8:50 PM

Swearing-In of Governor

Reminders:

VOTE!!

City and County Manuals due 7:15 PM!

Sign up for the Blood Drive on Thursday, 12 PM at the Fireside Lounge!

ALJBS Life



Photo Credit: Chad Nelson

Sports Recap Chad Nelson ALJBS Sports

1st: Halsey
2nd: Ridgeway
3rd: Bradley
4th: Eisenhower
5th: Vandenburg
6th: Marshall
7th: Nimitz
8th: Schwarzkopf
9th: MacArthur



Views on Democracy

Ashwin Bindra and Rohan Joseph

Democracy. The foundation of our country. The foothold of our nation. But what does it really mean? To me, democracy is opportunity. The ability for each and every citizen to let their voice and opinion be heard. On the other hand, my co-editor believes that it is an organized way to control a population under the pretense of liberty, while those on top have all the power. Although a cynical way to look at it, there is some merit in his opinion. A lot of the time, we see that minorities and marginalized groups suffer due to a lack of representation. Either way, there is not a set definition of how to look at the idea of democracy. But what does boys state believe democracy is? My coeditor and I set out to find the answer. Here are the responses:

“Democracy is socks”
-Shobhit City 15

“Democracy is freedom”
-Eric City 15

“It’s freedom to choose your representation as an individual, and who represents your values”
- Ashamir City 6

“A system where people get their own say, but are still controlled by the elites”
- Dede City 10

“It’s rule by the people for the people”
- Kyle City 6

Conventions

Nationalist Convention Marked by Internal Strife

Brian Johnson

The Nationalist Party Convention saw the election of the official chairman Brian Burns, running on a strong campaign of anti-Federalism and strict platform alliance. During the entire convention, voters saw the tender bounds of Joseph Tabasco (AKA: Hot Sauce); the jovial lightheartedness of Johnny Torres, and the strong-willed face of Mac Breazzano. All candidates tried their hardest, and we saw a large foundation for a successful party platform. Yet what was more shocking was the deliberate divisiveness of candidate Aaron Lapaix.

Speaking with bombastic vigor, Mr. Lapaix gave the bodacious claim that, quote “No other candidate here wants a Nationalist governor to win.” With this, Aaron left many scratching their heads. Could a nominee for the party chairman spot really wish ill upon their own party? He made particular reference to some individuals which he interacted with personally, further making it clear that the words of his opponents were “lies”.

In the end, Mr. Lapaix was left with a booing audience, and he was forced to quickly change tactics. Carrying himself now softer, he continued with a promise that should he be elected, the Nationalists would clinch the gubernatorial campaign, but the damage was done. Aaron did not receive the nomination, and Mr. Burns was chosen instead.

But what does this mean for the Nationalists? What is there to learn? For the Nationalists, this means a particular strive for party cohesion. Without a dedicated voter base, the Federalists are more likely to claim the election. Will Mr. Burns be able to push a Nationalist governor to office?

Hectic Federal Party Convention

Matt Lubicky

Boys State is often described as an experience that is never forgotten. The Federal Party Convention was a prime example of why this is so. The Convention was filled with speeches, splits, and of course an “Average Joe.”

The gym was exploding with every speech. However, a few stuck out a bit more than others. The winner, Christian from Bradley County, used his claim of turning problems into solutions. One example he used was turning a prostitution problem in his city into legalized prostitution. Another solution he proposed was turning an AIDS problem into “regulated hookers.”

However, the true star of the Convention was “Average Joe” from Nimitz county. He used impersonations and described his agenda as the “Average Joe Agenda.”

Despite the comedy from the convention, the Federalists are prepared to move forward with their new state party chairman. The Federalists haven’t gotten off to the greatest of starts, with only 9 out of the 27 senate members being Feds. However, they are certainly not giving up hope and continuing to push forward with energy and integrity.



Above: The winning candidates from the Nationalist party. Below: Nationalists listen to speeches. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts

Seminars

“Careers in Journalism”

Joseph Mezza

In recent years, the news industry has endured much criticism for purported biases in their work, as well as the infamous “fake news” crisis that emerged during the 2016 election. Simultaneously, the industry has suffered through an economic decline that has continued almost-unabated throughout the first two decades of the twenty-first century, although the election of Donald Trump has actually helped to slow this trend. In an era such as this, many Americans feel disillusioned about journalism and the media industry. Unfortunately, this even seems to have dissuaded a significant portion of the statesmen here at ALJBS from entering the field, as the “Careers in Journalism” seminar only filled around the first four rows of seats in the Alumni gym on Wednesday. However, the seminar's speaker, Charles Wiley, is a passionate and successful journalist, and all statesmen that did attend were imbued with a sense of his profession's importance by the end.



Charles Wiley, pictured above, spoke to the boys Wednesday about journalism and growing old. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts

Wiley is a World War II veteran and has covered many wars as a journalist. A perennial feature of Boys State, Wiley has been speaking at the program for 27 years, and, despite living in California, continues to return one week each year for ALJBS.

Wiley acknowledged that working in journalism, especially in today's media climate, has its challenges. As someone who has worked in journalism for over half a century, Wiley has seen it undergo massive changes. The most immediately evident changes are those from medium to medium: when Wiley was younger, written newspapers and radios were the primary sources of news, and since then he has seen the advent of television, the internet, and social media, all of which have revolutionized the media industry, for better or for worse. For those interested in a monetarily lucrative career, Wiley does not recommend entering the news business, joking that if one wants to make a million dollars, all they have to do is make a billion dollars first and then buy a newspaper. However, for those who want to make a difference in the world and have an adventure doing it, journalism is a great career choice.

Although Wiley believes there is still hope for the industry, he lamented that it is currently filled with problems. In his eyes, journalists should always make the distinction between “hard news” and opinion clear. Unfortunately, he feels that many contemporary journalists fail to or purposefully avoid making this critical distinction. Wiley likened the issue of hard news vs opinion to the world of military intelligence. If military leaders do not get to see concrete facts before they see analysis of those facts, they are unable to make educated decisions. The same goes for the general public if they only hear opinionated analysis of the news, rather than facts they can then interpret for themselves.

Challenges aside, Wiley has greatly enjoyed his career as a journalist. Among other things, he flew five combat missions in Vietnam, visited 120 countries, and met many prominent figures, including his two favorites, Malcolm X and Dr. Edward Teller. Hopefully, Wiley's speech inspired those statesmen with journalistic aspirations to be as successful as he has been.

Politics

Political Parties Pursuit

Brendan Loftus

Politics is often described as a two dimensional affair. Democrats and Republicans are given so much media attention that little thought is ever given to the other 30 political parties in the American arena. At Boys State, it is imperative to understand the power of political parties and their abilities to shape the American identity.

The modern Democratic Party was founded by supporters of Andrew Jackson in 1828, making it the oldest political party in the world. Its party platform has changed in the almost 200 years since its creation. Originally an advocate of States Rights and staunchly opposed to the expansion of Federal authority, it was southern Democrats who seceded from the Union and formed the political leadership of the Confederate States of America. Today, the Democratic party promotes social equality and justice for all. According to their Party website, their platform includes: raising the minimum wage, protecting and expanding social security, generating clean energy jobs, promoting social justice for the LGBT community, eliminating college debt, securing universal healthcare, preventing gun violence, securing reproductive rights for women, and integrating immigrants into the United States.

The Republican Party, also known as the “Grand Old Party” (GOP), was founded in 1854. Initially, the party was opposed to the expansion of slavery into the western territories and led the Union during the Civil War. Republican presidents like Calvin Coolidge and Warren G. Harding in the 20th century focused heavily on laissez-faire capitalism and brought the roaring Twenties. Recently, the party has enjoyed an aggressive foreign policy of nation-building and meddling in the affairs of third world nations. This practice of meddling began in the 1950s with Dwight D. Eisenhower’s policy of containment against the rise of Communism. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Republican-founded military industrial complex has led our country to an enormous military budget. According to their Party website, their platform includes: rebuilding the economy, creating a fair and simple tax code, freeing financial markets, reducing the federal debt, expanding the military to combat terrorism, and defending and upholding the Second Amendment.

The Libertarian Party, founded in 1971, advocates for self ownership, the freedom of expression, the freedom of sexuality, the right to self defense, the right to property and eminent domain, opposition of government subsidization, opposing taxation, and slashing federal expenditures, allowing for unrestricted competition between depository institutions and free markets. Famous Libertarians include Ron Swanson from Parks and Recreation, and Ron Paul, 2012 presidential candidate.

The Constitution Party was founded in 1991 and is a conservative Christian fundamentalist movement. The party describes itself as one of “Integrity, Liberty, and Prosperity”. It holds itself as the arbiter of American civilization. It describes America as an agency borne out of Christian ethics and the Christian religion. They support the right to Life, a termination of unnecessary overseas wars in Afghanistan and the Middle East, the rigid binding of the Federal government by the chains of the Constitution, opposing legal status for illegal immigrants, and opposing federally subsidized bailouts for massive corporations and banks.

Only active participation in the politics can ensure the survival of our glorious republic. The American Legion has given us the opportunity to see for ourselves the intricacies of party politics and discovering the nitty gritty of our founding democratic principles.

Governors' Glance



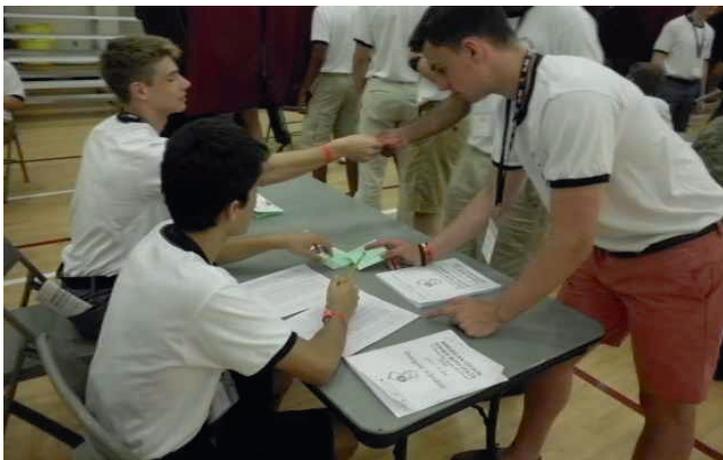
Gubernational Candidates George Afoakwah and Jamison Bandivas, along with their running mates Naveem Gedupoori and Robert Dykeman, congratulate each other after their respective nominations, along with their advisors and director David Bagatelle. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts

Action Shots



Boys begin both physical and mental preparations for Wednesday night's municipal trial. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts

The Boys State Chorus takes the stage as the band prepares "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Photo Credit: Collin Tofts



A standard scene the past two days, a boy receives his ballot to vote. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts

Counties wait anxiously for voting results. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts



Opinion

Nationalist Primary Reveals True Democratic Spirit

Midway through our week, delegates pushed further through the Boys State democratic process, finalizing the search for a chief representative in the governor. This is an important development in the scope of our week, as the relationship between delegates and representatives continues to develop as the delegates struggle to find a peer capable of articulating the ideas endorsed by each party.

Respect and trust are the two most fundamental tenets of the election cycle, as the voters must trust their representatives to uphold the ideals of the group. All members of each party must be willing to hear the candidates debate and participate in the public discourse, so that the trust required for nomination can be built. Unfortunately this balance was upset in the Nationalist Gubernatorial Primary, as the crowd spectacularly turned on one of its candidates.

There is a single lesson to be learned from the Nationalist Primary: respect is necessary on both sides. By first addressing the crowd with a putdown of another candidate, and proceeding by throwing food into the rows of students, the candidate jeered lost whatever support he may have built. The crowd showed its power to uproot a candidates support and credibility, and demonstrated the power of popular will in politics. In a democratic system, respect must be paramount, as any instance of unfavorable behavior can be met with returned bananas and cries of hate.

What I Saw at the Elections:

When I walked into the gym at the student center, I was surprised by how quickly people went to vote. Although turnout was high, the sad truth of it all hit and dismayed me. As much as I love the effort and passion that people are putting into the simulation at Boys State, the high turnout does not realistically translate to the real world. This year at Boys State, most delegates are seventeen years old. The next year, having turned eighteen, they will have the ability to vote in their state elections. However, most other new voters will not participated in their state elections because most of them are tired of the current political climate. Kids do not feel like their vote has an impact. As much as this is true, people like Emma Gonzalez and David Hogg, even if you disagree with them politically, are inspiring examples of kids that have a voice and will vote in upcoming elections. All Americans should know that, even as an eighteen year old, your vote counts, as does the vote of every American citizen. I hope that Boys State reaffirms this view in every statesman.

MANAGING EDITOR: Kyril Yurchuk -

City 7 Van Buren

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: David Borts -

City 13 Pierce

LAYOUT EDITOR: Cooper Daley -

City 1 Washington

SPORTS EDITOR: Chad Nelson -

City 11 Taylor

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: Steven Doldy -

City 3 Jefferson

SEMINAR EDITOR: Joseph Mezza -

City 17 Polk

OPINION EDITOR: Theo Belci -

City 9 Tyler

The Jersey Statesman Staff:

Publisher:

Thomas Marsden

Assistant Publisher:

Kevin Cameron

FEDERALIST POLITICAL EDITORS:

Rohan Joseph - City 6 Jackson; Daniel Chen -

City 8 Harrison; Joseph Lampard- City 10

Grant; Matt Lubicky - City 18 Hayes; Darwin

Diaz - City 12 Fillmore;

NATIONALIST POLITICAL EDITORS:

Jack Conway - City 2 Adams; Brian Johnson -

City 4 Madison; Ashwin Bindra - City 5

Monroe; Adnan Contractor - City 13 Buchanan;

Collin Tofts - City 15 Lincoln; Quinn Preston -

City 16 Johnson