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ALJBS Life: City Spotlight: Pierce City

David Borts

There is never an uneventful moment in Pierce City. The thirteenth city is a small farming community of 22,000, the town is constantly jumping with politics. Whether it be the lofty political aspirations of Danylo Mirin or the impassioned debates about illegal immigration, the city's residents are always engaged. However, an influx of young professionals are threatening to interrupt Pierce City's farming way of life, and a call from its sister city, Buchanan, issued the taking of a large section of city land for its own purposes. To remedy these issues, both parties generally agreed that Pierce City should be able to keep its own land, but differed in how to address new residents and illegal immigrants. The Nationalist Party stood by a platform of leaving the issue to the federal government and not building a border fence around the town, since it is too expensive and inefficient. The Federalist Party has a more immigrant-friendly platform, as the Federalist Mayor of the town, Ammar Eltigani, trumpeted a program of support and opportunity for new residents. Through its politics and people, it is easy to see how Pierce City is always on the move.

Blood Drive

Collin Tofts

This Thursday, statesmen from a variety of cities gathered in the Fireside Lounge to help those in need by participating in the blood drive. Representatives from the American Red Cross were on the scene to assist those who wanted to donate. With regards to the turnout, 61 pints of blood were given from approximately 55 donors. The drive ran from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, allowing for plenty of statesmen to contribute to a great cause. As for those who were unable to make it yesterday, blood is still very much needed. "We're always looking for donors," mentioned Nurse Scaramuzzo, "we're willing to take any type!"

What makes this blood drive especially important is the historical relationship between the American Red Cross and the American Legion, and how both are known as organizations that help veterans. Their efforts have made them one of the most distinguished organizations in the United States, as they have collected and distributed approximately 40% of the nation's blood supply.

Today is Friday, June 22.

Today's Weather:

Low of 63

High of 73

Precipitation: 10%

Today will be sunny in the morning, then give way to clouds and cooler temperatures.

Today's Events:

7:45-9:00 AM

Senatorial Debate

9:10-9:50 AM

ALJBS Exam: Check your schedule for your location!

10-11 AM

Senatorial Election

11 AM-1 PM

Family Day Lunch

11:30 PM

Championship Race

1:15-3:45 PM

Final Assembly

Reminders:

VOTE!!

Make sure you're ready for the exam!

Buy tickets for your family!

Seminars

“State Police Arson and Bomb Squad”

Joseph Mezza

This seminar attracted a large number of delegates to the Yvonne Theater, where Detectives Stephen Christinzio and Mike Ward delineated the important and dangerous work that arson and bomb squad workers do. Several pieces of equipment, including a bomb-defusing robot and suit, were displayed on the stage. The state police detectives emphasized the rapidly changing nature of anti-bomb technology. While in some instances they still use relatively primitive techniques like ropes to defuse bombs, they are equally willing to use high-tech drones and other robots to do their work. During the Q&A session, they discussed the differences between factory-made military explosives and homemade explosives. The latter are generally more volatile and unpredictable, which means they are harder to control. This can be both beneficial and detrimental for bomb squad workers, as an unpredictable explosive has the potential to explode before its creator sets it off, but it can also explode afterwards, which can have disastrous consequences for bomb squads. There are many challenges to be faced in this line of work, but most would agree that the work of bomb squad workers and MedEvac pilots is of the utmost importance in the modern world.



Above: Police detectives help a statesman into a bomb suit. Below: The detectives explain the hazards and risks involved in bomb defusement. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts

“Medevac EMS”

Joseph Mezza

At roughly 10:30 Thursday morning at the “Medevac EMS” seminar, statesmen watched in awe as a state police helicopter slowly descended onto Daly Sports Field, sending dust flying outwards in every direction. As the rotors slowed to a stop, the vehicles four crewmen stepped out, including its pilot, a state trooper. The other crewmen included the co-pilot, another state trooper, and a two-man medical staff. The men explained that the helicopter is capable of flying at 190 miles per hour and setting grass aflame with its spotlight if it gets too close to the ground. It is currently configured as an EMS vehicle, but it is capable of performing numerous other tasks. These include search and rescues, domestic terror missions, and essentially anything one could imagine a helicopter is capable of. While the crew let the delegates get close and ask questions, they warned against touching anything: the helicopter is worth an astonishing fourteen million dollars.

Sports



Sports Recap

Chad Nelson

ALJBS Sports

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

Photo Credit: Chad Nelson



NHL Awards

Matt Lubicky

The NHL awards ceremony took place Wednesday night, and just like the entirety of the season, the Golden Knights showed up. However, it was New Jersey Devils' winger Taylor Hall who obtained the most prestigious award of the night; the MVP award. Taylor Hall slightly edged out Nathan Mackinnon of the Colorado Avalanche, gathering 1,264 points against Mackinnon's 1,194 points. This was the closest MVP race since the 2012-13 season, where Alex Ovechkin beat out Sidney Crosby by 32 points. Hall tallied up 93 points, with 39 goals and 54 assists; a tremendous season.

Despite Hall's victory, the Golden Knights stole the rest of the show. Head Coach Gerard Gallant won the Jack Adams award for coach of the year, George McPhee won NHL GM of the year, William Karlsson won the Lady Byng Trophy for gentleman play, and defenseman Deryk Engelland won the Mark Meisser Leadership award for outstanding leadership. Las Vegas had truly one of the (if not the) most prestigious inaugural seasons of all time, and this showed in the awards show.

In addition, Connor McDavid of the Edmonton Oilers won the Outstanding Player Award. Also, Matthew Barzal of the New York Islanders won the Rookie of the Year award. Barzal had 85 points with 22 goals and 63 assists.

World Cup Recap

Chad Nelson

June 20th Scores:
PORTUGAL Def.
MOROCCO 1-0
URUGUAY Def. SAUDI
ARABIA 1-0
SPAIN Def. IRAN 1-0

June 21st Scores:
DENMARK Tie
AUSTRALIA 1-1
FRANCE Def. PERU 1-0
CROATIA Def. ARGENTINA
3-0

June 22nd Matches:
BRAZIL v.
COSTA RICA 8 AM
SERBIA v.
SWITZERLAND 2 PM
NIGERIA v. ICELAND 11 AM

Politics

Youth Activism: A Political Force or a Waste of Time?

Brendan Loftus

On February 14th 2018, tragedy struck the United States when 17 students and staff from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida were shot to death by 19 year old shooter Nikolas Cruz. Named one of the most deadly school massacres in United States history, it was no surprise that political backlash erupted throughout the nation immediately after the shooting. The youth of America then stormed the streets and the internet in memoriam of the fallen, and in order to try and make sure that a tragedy of this magnitude does not happen again. Despite the numerous walkouts and protests that have been orchestrated by students nationwide, it is difficult to tell whether the youth in America have a voice that is loud enough to make change with lawmakers in Washington D.C. In order to get a better idea of how youth-activism has fared throughout American history, Here are some of the largest youth-led protests that have occurred throughout the years.

One of the first major political uprisings that stemmed from young people was the Newsboys' strike that took place in New York City in 1899. The newsboys, or "newsies", made small amounts of money by buying newspaper bundles wholesale and selling them on street corners. Newsies initially made only a quarter a day and were poorly treated by the media overlords. The catalyst for the newsboy uprising came when newspaper moguls William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer began to short the bundles of the boys and increase the wholesale price of the papers by 10 cents. Not going to tolerate this substantial blow to their profits, the newsies retaliated by creating a union of around 3,000 boys and refusing to sell any copies of The Journal or World. When the publishers hired men to fill the now vacant newsboy positions, the original boys responded by surrounding the men and tearing up copies of the paper. After two weeks of standoff, the newsies were victorious, and the media kingpins stopped shortchanging their bundles. The story of the newsies is a testament to what young people are capable of, despite how seemingly small a simple newsboy may look compared to the millionaire media moguls they were up against.

Despite the fairytale ending that the New York newsboys had in 1899, not all youth movements met the same success. In 1968, Chicano teenagers stormed through the hallways and out of their high schools in protest of adverse conditions for latinos in Los Angeles high schools. Fists in the air and shouting, "Viva la revolución", the latino students protested against racist and incompetent teachers, rundown campuses, and lack of college-prep courses. The results of the Chicano walkouts weren't exactly what the students were looking for. The students met with the school board, and the board members insisted they did not have the funding to make changes. After more protesting and uproar ensued, thirteen students were charged with disturbing the peace, and a Mexican-American teacher who helped organized the protests was fired. Although the Chicano movement did not achieve the goals they originally sought for, it did give a new voice to latinos and gave a message to the nation that the Chicano movement was present in America, and was not going to be silent.

Although the "March for Our Lives" and the Parkland-inspired walkouts are among the largest youth movements in recent history, the political power of young people is a force that has been prominent in the American political landscape for many years. While it may seem trivial to advocate for political change when you are unable to represent yourself in the democratic process of the United States government, a look throughout the history of American youth movements shows vividly that there are no limits on the voice of any American citizen, whether they be a high school student or a Senator on Capitol Hill.

Snapshots



Red Cross representatives smile before they begin to collect blood for those in need. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts



Statesmen anxiously wait the results of the gubernational elections, won by George Afoakwah. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts

Statesmen work on their manuals mere hours before their due-time. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts



A young statesman signs up to donate blood. Photo Credit: Collin Tofts



Opinion

How was Boys State?

At this point it is fair to say that delegates have begun to genuinely enjoy Boys State. The arduous meetings of Sunday and endless assemblies of Monday have given way to sports hours and conversations with new friends, as each hour passes faster than the last.

Many things have changed from the start of this event. The 49 delegates in my city began as strangers, they have since become friends and companions in this arduous event. As we prepare to return home, our towns feel familiar, and the silence of the welcoming assembly has been replaced with calls of “toes” and the passing of chairs through audiences.

Despite all of how much everything has changed since Sunday, the single thread that ran through all the days spent at Rider was sleeplessness. Just as all delegates arrived at Rider without connections or friendships, all delegates arrived and stayed exhausted. Since Sunday morning, there has been little other than work, and growing boredom in the statesmen.

Days into Boys State, morning rituals can be seen in all rooms. Delegates awaken to the sound of iPhone alarms, forcing eyes to adjust rapidly to the dim light of the early morning. Every breakfast lineup is assembled from shuffling statesmen, unable to wake up in time to march in a proper line. No delegate has entered a seminar fully rested, or an assembly alert, or a dorm room restless, as no delegate has been given the opportunity to have proper sleep.

Now finished with Boys State, I can say that the most challenging piece of the program was the sleep cycle created over the week. No day has allowed for proper rest or freedom to sleep without threat of missing a critical activity, as giving up sports for sleep would mean throwing away opportunity to build stronger relationships with peers. All friendships build over the course of this week grew at first from an underlying common distaste for the freedom lost in the 18 hour days and 6 hour nights, as teenage boys used sleeplessness and societal removal to forge lasting connections. While the friendships may last, sleep should be prioritized in the future, and statesmen should be given opportunity to spend their week alert and able to enjoy this experience.

The staff of the Jersey Statesman would like to express its utmost thanks to both the American Legion and the volunteers on staff, who truly make this a week to shape the future.

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