



# What is Boys' State?

**RICHARD RABEAU, WASHINGTON CITY**

Many of the boys selected to attend this prestigious conference are wondering what exactly Boys' State is all about. Little do they know, the reasons are endless and date all the way back to 1935. Sixty-two years ago the American Legion hosted the first Boys' State conference, and today, in 2007, the legacy lives on.

"Boys' State was originally created to counteract programs being held throughout the world that taught communism, by teaching young men about democracy," says Bill Baig, senior counselor of Washington City. As Baig explains, Boys' State was created to counteract busy schedule and it can be confirmed that the political objective of Boys' State will be meant. Delegates will spend their week in various seminars and sessions, listening to debates, and casting their ballots. By Friday, the statesmen will have elected a

created to do exactly that, but statesmen learn values that touch even deeper. "Boys' State aims to teach young men what government is all about," says Baig. "It also shows the positive side of a democratic government and emphasizes the importance of getting involved with local politics."

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full government that expands from the local municipalities all the way to Governor of Boys' State. Only hard work and involvement will lead delegates to achieving these goals, as the session handbook repeatedly prints in all caps, GET INVOLVED!

Besides gaining political knowledge, statesmen will also gain insight on themselves and their future. Boys' State is not only a learning experience, but also a social hub. Without a doubt, all the boys here on campus will leave stronger citizens.

## Elections at Harrison

**CHRIS KUO, HARRISON CITY**

The proceedings ran incredibly smoothly at Harrison City on June 17 in the basement of building Olson B. After a brief introduction by the city counselors, the delegates elected one EBO (Election Board Official) each for the Federalist and Nationalist parties. The Postmaster and City Editor were also elected in a similar manner. Harrison City then proceeded to choose a form of municipal

government. Supporters for each of the five types of government broke off into groups and discussed the pros and cons of their favorite form of government. Then, a selected spokesperson from each group led a brief debate over the best form of municipal government, and a majority vote was taken. In the end, council-administrator was victorious. EBOs moderated the elections and discussions, and

candidates were asked to stand outside until a brief vote was taken. The moderating EBOs, Eric Kovac and Mike Kazlowsky, ensured that votes were fair, organized, and efficient. This was a solid start to the week, and there are many indications that the leaders of Harrison and other cities will represent a fine delegation.

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# HUMAN INTEREST

## SEMINARS, SUMMED UP

WALL STREET was led by Senior Wall Street Executive David Scordato and Senior Financial Advisor of Fidelity Investments, Robert Taylor. The seminar touched upon necessary characteristics for the business field and advice for potential future investments. The presenters closed with a demonstration, where two delegates were asked to volunteer and advertise a security.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE was led by Ms. Mary Danish, RN. Delegates learned of the premier emergency services that New Jersey provides to the East Coast. Danish, a member of New Jersey's Task Force 1 herself, was more than qualified in emergency medicine. Delegates were also shown very interesting photos from some of Ms. Danish's "more minor" cases.

REAL ESTATE was led by Mehul Patel, Senior Project Manager of the Hudson Companies, and Randy Pear, Senior Vice President of Insignia/ESG. The speakers enlightened delegates on the requirements, career options, and investment options future realtors should know.

ARCHITECTURE focused on building a solid future. Structural Engineer Sean O'Neill led the statesmen in a group discussion on the various design fundamentals of construction. Gaining insight on a possible future career path, statesmen learned the job description of architects and engineers. The seminar concluded on the topic of "going green" in which O'Neill taught delegates how architects work to design an Earth-friendly and energy-sufficient community.

LAW ENFORCEMENT was led by Capt. Bill Baig, Lt. Bruce Melson, and Trooper Adam Polhemus. The role of local and state police in New Jersey safety, potential careers in law enforcement, and the training necessary to become a police officer were topics discussed. The presenters also discussed how recruiting is handled in small towns and the importance of fitting into the State Police.

## SPOTLIGHT ON... anthony hsu the rubik's master by chris kuo

Negotiation, campaigning, budgeting...cubing? The skills at Boys' State have expanded to another dimension with Whippany Federalist delegate Anthony Hsu from the city of Van Buren. Hsu has often shocked other Boys' Staters solving his 5x5, 4x4, 3x3, and 2x2 Rubik's cubes all over the Rider University campus. Hsu is currently serving as a councilman.

Hsu began his cubing career as an elementary school student at Mountview Road School. His fascination with the Rubik's cube began when he figured out how to take apart and put together the intricate components of his first cube. He then taught himself the method to solve the cube by researching algorithms online.

Hsu has since whittled down his times for many events while attending many United States competitions. Hsu currently holds an incredible world record: in less than four seconds in the 2x2 speed solve.

**BOYS'  
STATE  
STATS**

there are  
**108** delegates  
from  
bergen county  
but only **three**  
from  
cape may  
county

there are  
**780**  
delegates  
total

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## First Glance at Boys' State

**GREG SALIMANDO, PIERCE CITY**

When we first stepped off that bus, or out of that car, our faces were hit with the 8 a.m. sunshine, and we were hit with the prospect of a full week of early mornings, late nights, and subpar service ahead of us for the first time. I'm sure many guys moaned and even got in a curse or two. I know I did. The long check-in line and the copious assemblies crammed into the first few hours only magnified the dread that I, and I'm sure many others, felt about this week-long "adventure" into government. It was going to be some uptight, boring and overly patriotic joke, and the only future that I felt this week would be changing would be the future of my summer, with an entire week of parties already left to be caught up on as we frittered away up here at good old Rider University. That was what I thought until I met Joe Gould and a few of my other senior counselors for the first time. It was great to feel a sense of comfort and acceptance among others, especially after dreading the thought of having to come up here early in the morning. Everyone else seemed to be in the same boat, and everyone else also seemed willing to get to know each other and work together. Those two-hour meetings at the American Legion posts about those connections we were supposed to be making started to seem more and more believable. There was that underlying goal of Boys' State that shot out beneath the mounds of jokes we told and taboo stories we shared as we began to appoint Postmasters and EBOs and other positions. Pierce City's counselors Joe Gould, Harshal Patel, and John Curcio said, "You guys are the cream of the crop. This here is a great opportunity for guys like you with their whole lives ahead of them." They could not have placed sentiments more in line. As we listened to the numerous and prestigious speakers we had the honor to hear, and absorbed the atmosphere that was the 62nd Session of Boys' State, the opportunities and prowess of the program began to seem a little more clear. "This is a good thing, this is important," explained the Pierce City counselors as they reminisced on their times back at Boys' State and offered their reasons for returning now. And for the most part, they're right.

## What the Hell Am I Doing

**GEOFF HIPSCHMAN, VAN BUREN CITY**

I definitely fit into what seems Boys' State?" the fat man like the majority of this year's asked..."No." delegates: when I came to "Well, it's a real honor. My Boys' State, I had absolutely son did it, and he's going to no idea what I was getting the Naval Academy, and I into. think you're one of the right One week before last kids to go." Thursday, I was sitting in class OK, sure. Why not? It's only a when the intercom blasted week, and it's a huge thing to nasally, "Geoffrey Hipschman have on your college resume, to the main office please." right? Thinking I was in some sort of I had been hopeful that I might trouble, I pensively walked enjoy this program, but I was down to the office, and the immediately disillusioned secretary told me to go into when we first fell into the principal's conference "marching formation," two lines with the Guide-On Bearer in room. with the Guide-On Bearer in "You ever heard of Jersey front.

"Hey, I thought this was politics, not the military," a faceless voice complained. My sentiments exactly. As are many of you, I'm still only starting to figure out what Jersey Boys' State is all about. Based on the less-than-thorough "selection process" that I described which got me here, I am not surprised. However, we'll be here until Friday, whether we like it or not. So, if you feel like I do, I'd recommend writing and submitting editorials to this paper. Happy to be here or not, be heard!

*This paper  
is brought  
to you by*



# RECREATION

## First Glance at Boys' State

JOHN MONAGLE, POLK CITY

In addition to competing for people are great at soccer and enjoy sports or not, something offices, another exciting form others are great at tennis." is available for everyone to do of competition at Jersey Boys' Most delegates seem to really during the recreation period. State is the sports competition. look forward to this week's The way the schedule will The sports competition athletic competition. Delegate work out is in a round robin involves delegates working as and Councilman Anthony type of fashion. Four time a county against other Vargas stated, "I am really periods will foster a new set of counties in an effort to win the excited to test out my teams competing against each Outstanding County Award. volleyball skills this week. I other. The more games that The sports competition will may not play on a team at counties win will culminate in take place from Monday to home, but I enjoy playing more points towards the Thursday and will count as when I have the opportunity." Outstanding County Award. 25% of the determination of Like Vargas, approximately After attending his first the Outstanding County half of the delegate class is Athletics meeting Sunday Award. playing a sport they do not night, James Mulsci, Athletic Director of Polk City, The sports offered at Boys' normally play while others are Director of Polk City, illustrating their talents for explained, "Basically, what we State include softball, tennis, sports that they play at home. will be doing this week is soccer, volleyball, basketball, sports that they play at home. Even though the majority of teaming up with our sister city, and football. When asked Tyler, to compete in six sports: about the sport's competition, the delegate class will be tennis, volleyball, basketball, Boys' State delegate and spending their afternoons football, soccer, and softball. Athletic Director Luke playing sports, others will be Rudowsky remarked, "I am at certain meetings. During the The Athletic Director at Tyler really shocked how talented recreation period, choir and myself are currently everyone is here. Every practice, band practice, and collaborating to form rosters." delegate seems to have a council meetings all take different physical talent. Some place. Whether delegates

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## ATHLETE OF THE DAY



**Ken Mack**  
by Farboad Maleknia

Standing at 6'1", Ken Mack of Ridgeway County showed strong leadership and athletic skills in leading Ridgeway County to a surprising and significant win over Vandenburg County in an intense match of volleyball. Ridgeway, consisting of Tyler City and Polk City, suffered a devastating loss in game one. Confidence was shattered, and Vandenburg predicted more immediate damage. The climax of the match occurred when Mack came into the game and gave hope to the team by donating a majority of the points, allowing Ridgeway to win the next two games, and the volleyball match, 2-1. "We struggled at first, but we pulled through together, not only as a county, but as a family as well. Having trust in your teammates will give you the win," Mack stated after the match, with sand covering most of his body. Ridgeway's volleyball team now has high hopes to be the strongest of all the counties. Congratulations to Ken.