



Finocchio Can't Lie About Political Attachment

by Dan Flannery - Monroe

After walking along the Rider University grounds for three days, most New Jersey American Legion Statesmen have seen most of their peers. One of the Statesmen that stick out of the standard overachievers. His name is Peter Finocchio.

Finocchio is like most of the Statesmen: smart, involved in after school activities and a little tempted by the female Italian students. But what distinguishes Finocchio from the typical nerds is his absolute love for politics.

Finocchio is from Wayne Township and has been interested in politics for most of his life. Whenever political debates start to heat up in the Monroe City lounge, Finocchio always tunes in and his quirky personality makes for a laugh or two while retaining its seriousness. On Sunday, when his fellow Monroebians first met him, there were mixed impressions.

"Peter is definitely unique," remarked Monroe citizen Steve Filippi. "He reminds me of the Brain from "Pinky and the Brain."

Some others stated that it would be a "long week" but most thought he was more of an ambitious kid out to win some elections.

"As soon as I met him, I thought he was gonna be the first

one to run for something," said fellow Monroe citizen Tyler Florzscack. "He is extremely well read."

Perhaps the most identifiable characteristic of Finocchio is his pocket Constitution, which he was bold enough to take out for a reference on the first day. In city and county meetings, Finocchio holds his miniaturized document like a six-shooter in a holster, as dangerous as Clint Eastwood in a '60's Western. Most people ask why he has a pocket Constitution on hand at all times. Finocchio answers this question with a firm reply, and has high hopes for his future career.

"I have read it many times," Finocchio said. "I plan on restoring faith in this country and ending the creating of currency out of thin air! I need to have a competent understanding of the United States Constitution to achieve this goal."

Finocchio received the document as a birthday gift two years ago this November, but he also has another one that he received at Hillsdale College, which he keeps as a backup on his bookshelf next to his paperbacks.

"Pocket" is a member

Wednesday's Schedule Highlights

12:30-2:00 P.M. Gubernational Primary Election

2:15-3:15 P.M. General Assembly (Feat. Governor Corzine)

3:15-5:00 P.M. Recreation/Everything That's Fun

5:45-7:20 P.M. Dinner

7:30-8:30 P.M. General Assembly

8:45-10:30 P.M. Municipal Courts in Session/ Kids Get Sued

11:30 P.M. Go to bed and sleep

of several clubs at his high school including the National Honor Society, Ski Team and is also President of his class, with his well known slogan, "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny".

He brought up several American historical figures that he would have liked to take the place of, if only for a day. "So many names come up," said the history buff. "Washington, Jefferson... Andrew Carnegie; these men have put themselves into a great place in American history, despite Carnegie's corruption."

After several failed elections, Finocchio was finally elected as county Assemblyman yesterday, in a flash of resilience.

BOYS' STATE NEWS

From State to Nation

by Reed Avocado - Madison

Dominik LaBraico started off as a defeated man. During the start of the 2008 session of Boys' State, LaBraico ran for mayor and lost. He followed this defeat, however, with a resurrection of will power and determination. As the week went on, LaBraico began to see what opportunities were around him, as he states he "took the jump." With an interest in the Legislative Body, Dominik Labraico ran in and won four elections at Boys' State. His fourth election, for Boys' State senator, catapulted his success and sent him to Boys' Nation.



"There are fewer election positions at Boy's Nation, and more time spent with legislation," LaBraico commented about the slightly different nature of Boys' Nation. LaBraico, noting his previous lessons from Boys' State, went on to run both in his primary and further for Vice President, both of which he won in two tight elections. The experience consisted of nightly speakers such as Condoleezza Rice's aid, the ability to work with other delegates from across the nation, and the opportunity to meet President Bush while touring the East Wing. After returning from what he said was one of the greatest experiences of his life so far, LaBraico continued to use the skills that he has learned. He will be attending University of Chicago in the fall.

Before starting college, LaBraico has come back to speak with this year's delegates.

"I was very impressed with the questions they were probing. My group had a slower start," he commented after a heated General Assembly which highlighted the current issue of health care. On a final note, LaBraico said that he, "fell in the middle...there needs to be a middle ground and the we can't lose the integrity of the country."

Life In Tyler

by Tim Brazelton - Tyler

Heading down the stairs, one can here the rumble of activity already starting. One turn into the lounge, and the mystery is revealed. 50 boys, who seemingly have known each other for years, are throwing around nicknames and laughing heartily. Surely, these people must have lived together for years.

When we arrived at our respective cities this Sunday, many people, save for a lucky few, knew any of their fellow citizens (whatever city they may be from). However, Boy's State has shown what a mere 48 hours can do to bring people together. Through fast-paced work and non-stop activity, 50 strangers have become a cohesive unit. Although we do not notice this newfound camaraderie because we are a part of it, the friendships forming after just two days are astounding. Tyler City is a testament to exactly how Boy's State can unite people from all different walks of life.

Let's go back to that group of boys in the lounge. Of course, there is the fiery Mayor Nathan Mammracella, at the head of it all. Sitting with a confident calmness about him in the front corner couch is "Uncle" Dan Lewitt, who looks more like he should be graduating from college instead of high school. At the center of the room stands Matt "Candyman" Leonard, barking out ideas for a new cadence.

However, Tyler isn't made only of the people at the front of the room. Chinese immigrant Honghong Li always makes his presence felt, even from the back of the room. Jeff Lindstrom can always be found discussing politics with anyone who cares to listen. Counselors Phil "Harvard" Morris, Alex Bychkov, James Burroughs, and Chuck "Chuckles" Reilly look into the lounge, almost stunned that such friendships could be formed in a matter of hours.

Although very few people knew each other upon arriving at Boy's State, even fewer people bought into the idea that we would form friendships that would last a lifetime. I guess they're wrong now.

Editorial

What's Going Down? Not Much

by Aaron Winston - Johnson

A Civil War in Mexico, an ailing Republican Party, riots in Iran, economic problems... too many problems for the individual, yet a generation, a generation is fit to accomplish much.

The first day of Boys' State was cheesy and long, filled with the laconic rhetoric of older men praising the merits of us, the leaders of tomorrow; yeah right, is what I said. Looking around at the sea of khaki adorned kids with slightly dorky shirts, I dismissed this readily. But things change.

I sat writing and editing for this newspaper on the first full day, being Monday, of the 64th session of Boys' State, and initially, the same thoughts held over: these kids are still slightly dorky, myself included, with too little creativity to really make a difference. As time went on, and conversations pursued amongst us, the dorky Boys' State kids, things came up and went – school, final exams, SAT scores, current events... I did say we were dorky, right? So basically, conversation built, and we finally got to the political stuff, the meaty stuff, the kind of stuff that shows integrity and partisan alignment, ideology and and that stuff that makes politics the worst conversation topic out there. Well, we talked and luckily nothing exploded. It came to a final question: why is the United States doing poorer now than fifty years ago: education.

Education in this country is lagging. The system in place is not working, as evidenced by the current lack of innovation within our country. Standardized tests have been put in place, and with acts, traditional federalism has been breeched in hope of improving schools, with the federal government taking state powers. So why are we not improving?

We came to the conclusion that we need to re-inspire the teachers as well as the students. Public Schools, we also concluded,

are the great equalizer, bringing people together who might not otherwise be so, especially when considering socio-economic positioning in concern to wealth. But still, we are the country of opportunities and there are still so many sitting dazed in classrooms, making no use of their opportunities, or, more often, not being offered the opportunities that should be available. My school, Watchung Hills Regional High School, is guilty. We offer almost every AP class there is, and every test there is to take, so many intelligent kids move to the surrounding area, as it is a regional school, to take advantage of this. And then there are the kids who are not on the same level as the AP kids, and they suffer. The most boring teachers are put in charge of classrooms of children who do not care, and what does this do: further their lack of caring. So what kinds of kids does this produce? People who are content to scrape by with the minimum. And what kind of country are we now living in? A country content to scrape by, upon the coat-tails of success of fifty years ago.

We reached space because in the 1950's a general push was made in all public schools to establish better mathematical and science programs. In the 1990's wood shops and similar trade classes were nixed in favor of computer classes, as this was "the future." What else has been done to further our educational systems? Not much. We, the children, are the future, and yet our education sucks. Hella sux.

So, as you sit here with the smart kids, and the other kids who, in the words of Ken Armwood (the dude who fired his principal) forgot their adderall, think about it. It might not be education, and it might be something else entirely, but what's wrong with America? Why are we lagging? Figure it out, and if you can't, take your damn adderall.

FEATURES

Blood Drive Stops at Boys' State

by Tim Brazelton - Tyler

On Thursday, June 25, the American red Cross will hold its 4th Annual Blood Drive. Since its inception, over 1,800 pints of blood have been donated. Donors must be 17 years or older and weigh over 110 pounds. Additionally, any donor should have a valid I.D., and no donor can donate if he has donated after April 30.

The blood drive will take place above the Cavalla Room in the Fireside Lounge, Room 245. All donors will be entered in a raffle to win a New York Rangers jersey.



Editorial Staff

MANAGING EDITOR: TOM POWERS
LAYOUT EDITOR/AME: DAN FLANNERY
PHOTOGRAPHER: PAT
McHENRY/ZACH COHEN
SPORTS EDITOR: TIM BRAZELTON
ASSEMBLY EDITOR: JOE SOLLAZZO
OPINIONS EDITOR: ZACH COHEN
INTERVIEW EDITOR: REED ALVARADO
PUBLISHER: TOM MARSDEN
ASST. PUBLISHER: PAUL LASKY
COURIER: ROBERT LASKY
PRINTER: RIDER COLLEGE PRESS,
LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ

EDITORS (CITY NUMBER): ANDREW BAST (1),
KHIER CASINO (2), ANDREW ERICKSON (4),
MIKE KOUTOUZIS (8), FRANK ORLICH (11),
THOMAS SCHRAM (13), JASON TALARICO (15),
AARON WINSTON (16)

D-Day Presentation a Success

by Zach Cohen - Jefferson

The 64th annual delegation of ALJBS is now notorious for snide comments, waves, slow-claps, and fatigue. The noise stopped, believe it or not, for three hours as the statesmen watched the cinematic genius of Saving Private Ryan. The scene opened with shot of Omaha Beach of June, 1944, and the infamous quaking hand of Tom Hanks' character, John H. Miller. Along side him are the gaunt faces of men who had seen battle, physically and emotionally scared by its devils. Next to these veterans are the innocent boys who had yet to see a dead man's disfigured form nor hear the screeching cries of a desperate soldier missing a limb and a half. Statesmen were so moved that the few utterances were in hushed tones of that were only barely audible. After twenty-four minutes of the gruesome action, ABC's special report presented by the late Peter Jennings

The grueling consequences of war were made painfully clear in this presentation of D-Day, entitled "Turning Point." In many ways, D-Day was the pinnacle of the lives of countless men. Every man who had the honor of fighting at any of the five beaches of D-Day became the place where "boys became men." The psychological effects of D-Day on American, British, and German soldiers were laid out for all to see in this presentation as memories spilled forth from the mouths of eye-witnesses. The valor of our soldiers were made evident by both the original footage from D-Day and from the Hollywood reenactment, both of which brought invaluable knowledge in the overall quest in understanding the trials and tribulations of the soldiers of World War II.

The final aspect of the presentation, only previously mentioned mysteriously as a "special feature" by Director Bagatelle, included the wise words of Jersey's veterans who still are involved as crucial cogs in the ALJBS machine, including the ever-lovable "Cuddles." Upon their introduction, the 64th delegation of ALJBS gave a unanimous standing ovation to the veterans, a phenomenon that is rare and unique. All of the statesmen were moved in one way shape or form, and that can never be disputed.