

Our Statesman Experience

Matt Reper

As the week comes to a close, I would like to reflect on our experience as the staff of *The Jersey Statesman*. The experience was manic, in that it involved little to no sleep and copious amounts of energy. Additionally, we tried to take on more than we could handle during the construction of *The Statesman*. Upon looking back, however, it is evident that there was nothing that we confronted during our experience with this paper that we could not handle. Every problem, every pressing moment that we encountered, we handled in a way that affirmed grace under pressure. At the end of the session, we are walking away from this paper with a new-found confidence in our writing, tolerance for arising problems, and appreciation for sleep.

As Managing Editor of *The Statesman*, I am extremely proud of my entire staff for enduring the hardships facing every position, for working together to create four very impressive issues. Although completely exhausted, the staff could not have had any more fun preparing the paper for the Jersey Boys' State population, and we hope they enjoyed it as much as we did. It will be hard for us to depart from *The Statesman*, as well as to re-adjust to a normal sleep schedule and caffeine intake, but sadly, all good things must come to an end. Our stay here at Boys' State is finite, but the impact the program has had on us is infinite. Through *The Statesman*, many of us were able to improve our writing skills, our interviewing skills, and most importantly, our listening skills. The key to being a great journalist lies in these skills, as well as the life lessons instilled in us from the other aspects of the American Legion Jersey Boys' State program. These life lessons will lead us to success in whatever path of life we choose.

Friday Schedule Highlights

- 1) Boys' State Exam and Evaluations 8:45 – 10:00
- 2) Senatorial General Election 10:00 – 11:00
- 3) 2013 ALJBS Family Day 11:00 – 1:20
- 4) Final Assembly 1:30–4:00
- 5) Go Home! 4:00

Forecast

Today: High - 82° F

Low - 57° F

0% Chance of Rain

Tonight: 58° F

0% Chance of Rain

Partly Cloudy

Storming the Minds of Statesmen

James McAuley

At the D-Day presentation on Tuesday, the statesmen applauded several individuals for their service and dedication to their country. Each veteran gave a brief speech of their experience in the military. Upon assignment from *The Jersey Statesman*, I was fortunate enough to speak with two men who were both veterans and American Legion members: Edward Lee and Edward Whitney.

The pair revealed that at least one of their family members had also served our country. "The Marine Corps. taught me discipline and made me a better person," responded Mr. Lee when asked how his service had changed him as a person. Imparting advice upon those seeking to join the armed forces, Mr. Whitney commented that doing so is an excellent way to "give back to the country that's given you so much."

The three-minute interview that I conducted with these men provided me with more insight into the service than any history textbook or brochure could hope to give. I urge all readers to speak with veterans, be they relatives, neighbors, or—in my case—American Legion members. It's truly an enlightening and worthwhile use of time. Most importantly, we thank Mr. Lee, Mr. Whitney, and all veterans for their devotion and tireless dedication to this great nation.



Boys' State News

Gubernatorial Debates

Adam Taylor

Both gubernatorial candidates gave moving opening speeches on Wednesday morning in the Cavalla Room. Federalist candidate Chris Biehn emphasized how happy and privileged he felt to stand up and address all of Boys' State. Biehn touched upon many issues in his opening remarks, including Kyleigh's Law, education, and environmental sustainability. In fact, he had so much to say that he ended up going over the allotted amount of time. "I didn't realize I was speaking for so long," he apologized.

Sohum Pawar, the Nationalist candidate for governor, agreed that education should be a priority. He thought that everyone should be able to afford a college education, while his opponent suggested subsidizing college tuition by taking funds from corporate spending.

Both candidates had campaigned extensively with fliers and posters. Pawar hopes to be elected so that he can make real change in our state. Governor Chris Christie reviews the bills passed by the Boys' State governor, so it is a great opportunity to make a difference. If elected, Pawar plans to eliminate Kyleigh's law and improve our environment by limiting waste and gas emissions. He thinks that more money needs to be invested in research for finding more sources of renewable energy. Delegates voted in the booths at the recreation center from 12:00PM until 1:30 PM. The official winner of the gubernatorial race was announced at a general assembly at the Quad at 2:45PM.

The Few. The Proud. The Marines

Andrew Ziccardi



During Sergeant Gomez's seven years in the Marine Corps, he has proudly served in two years of deployment overseas. He spent one year in Iraq as well as another in Afghanistan, where he faced the unique experience of live combat. "It's hard to remember what happened," he says, looking back on the first time he saw conflict in person during the Battle for Marjah in Afghanistan. "Once the adrenaline kicked in, it quickly turned from thinking into doing." After the encounter, the whole unit came out with their heads up high according to Gomez. Before your first battle, you have two options: fight or flight, but returning from the battle is when you truly learn about yourself.

Once Gomez's time in the military is over, a new aspiration has come in the picture and college is in his future. Once he's out of college with a Criminal Justice degree, he plans to either become a correctional officer or join the police force and work his way to becoming a SWAT Officer.

For those looking into the military, Gomez cautions, "The military isn't for everyone. Just find your path." The other biggest tip he has for those wishing to join the military is to be in shape, and be prepared.

From monitoring Halsey County at Boys' State, to fighting overseas, Sargent Gomez and all his fellow marines have done it all to keep our great nation safe. I would like to thank him once again for that service to our country and his time for the future generations.

And One for the Corps

James McAuley



Many delegates must have heard by now of the tough Marine PT training program going on during the sports hour. It is an intense program full of straining physical activity. Excluding Thursday, the entire week included training programs intended to prepare participants for the challenge that would occur on Thursday. Some of the different stations that the Marine instructors walked the participants through included dead-lifting; ammo running, push-ups, and screaming. As a Ridgeway county delegate said, "It's good for entering the military, for self-defense, or even just to stay in shape."

Despite the apparent hell that the statesmen went through, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. Jeff Hock from MacArthur county thinks that it was "the best part of Boy's State." The Marines running the program said, "It's been a great turnout, and everyone's had a great time." Many of the participants of the program were really getting into it, and overall, it seemed to be quite a beneficial and enjoyable program.

Boys' State News

Blood Drive

Conor O'Leary

The Jersey Boys' State Red Cross Blood Drive was held this Thursday. This was a fantastic way for statesmen to give blood to people in need. The blood drive at Boys' State has a tremendous record of success. Last year, one hundred and five units of blood were generously donated by the statesmen, a Jersey Boys' State record.

Blood donations are always in high demand for hospitals, and thousands of patients need blood everyday. The amazing generous spirit of our counties is truly inspiring. Statesman Leandro Taveras, a cancer survivor, used to depend on the blood from drives like these to fight his leukemia. Now five years cancer-free, he says, "The blood drive is a really good way for kids to give back to the community without investing an obscene amount of time and effort." Coincidentally, Leandro donated in this Thursday's drive.

Reporter Shares Words of Wisdom

Jonathan Lee



At 86 years old, Charles Wiley is, perhaps, one of the most interesting men in America. Although he may not prefer to drink Dos Equis, he is an extremely wise and charismatic individual who inspired many statesmen. At a turning point in our lives, we statesmen must make the correct decisions now if we want to succeed. Throughout the program, dozens of counselors and speakers have stressed that we statesmen were all chosen to come to Rider University this week because we are all unique. Wiley provided the audience with great advice by telling us that we must be true to ourselves in order to reach our highest potentials. "Life is tough, but it's a lot tougher when you're stupid," said Wiley, addressing the unwise decisions young people make, like sexting and binge drinking. I admired Wiley for his blunt attitude that is extremely rare nowadays. Wiley's most popular line: "The world isn't fair. Get used to it." This is extremely important in today's society, as we make the transition from adolescence and naivety to a world that so often seems unfair. Wiley also pointed out that there two types of people who respond to the unfair nature of the world: one who gets knocked down and cries, and one who gets knocked down but gets back up. He dusts himself off, and "gets the show right back on the road.

Wiley's speech was inspirational because it was so relatable to the members of his , which was the reason for its effectiveness.. Although he fought in World War II, Wiley has a great understanding of the lives of teenage boys in today's time. One of his last remarks really resonated with me, "Many young people pretend they're cool but they really aren't. If you want to be cool, you have to control yourself." I hope, after Mr. Wiley's speech, we all strive to be "cool" individuals.

Tick Tock, On the Clock

Greg Chen

Today the Boys' State delegates got a special treat; a member of the Arson and Bomb unit gave a presentation on his career. Although the seminar only lasted an hour, the delegates were exposed to many informative videos and even a demonstration of the bomb unit's robots and suits. There were no sleeping delegates at the seminar, as the entire audience had their eyes glued to the stage.



The New Jersey bomb unit is an elite group, consisting of twelve highly trained members. Each member undergoes at least 4,000 hours of training per year, a re-certification every three years, as well as some additional out-of-state schooling. While this may seem a little excessive, it is entirely necessary because a member of the bomb squad faces tremendous risks every time he or she is dispatched to a suspected bomb threat.

However, the public does not realize the science and analysis behind a bomb scene. One of the main duties for a member of the bomb squad is not only to prevent bombs, but also to distinguish between an arson- and bomb-related disaster. This distinction can be very difficult, as demonstrated at this seminar. The crowd was given a disaster photo and asked to determine where a bomb would have been planted, but not a single delegate answered correctly. Bomb unit members must be taught to use the scientific method and analyze the scene correctly in order to determine whether a bomb was behind a disaster.

The job description of a bomb unit member is definitely dangerous. Therefore, many safety measures are employed in order to ensure the safety of these brave men. A number of inventions were displayed, including robots, portable x-ray machines, weapons that can safely open packages, 90 lb safety suits, and even a sphere, called a "TCU", that can contain a bomb blast. The delegates saw some of these devices, such as the safety suit and the robots. One of the statesmen got the opportunity to wear the suit, and a bomb disposal robot even jousting with a guidon. We were truly blessed to get the rare opportunity to meet this distinguished speaker and learn a little more about the brave men of the NJ State Police that keep us safe.

Opinion

Happiness and Success

Jimi Stine

“The Usefulness of Uselessness” is a brief defense of liberal arts colleges. Written by T. Kaori Kitao and William R. Kenan from Swarthmore college, it is an ally to aspiring liberal arts students with skeptical parents. One of the points discussed is what it means to be successful. Summing this up in one statement: “Success is doing a good job at what you set out to do.”

So many people today seem to be solely focused on monetary wealth, rather than happiness. During Tuesday afternoon's business seminar, Matt Vamvakis, former Boys' Nation senator and current associate at JP Morgan Private Bank, warned, “Don't go into business for the money.” For many, monetary wealth is their only goal; if they can finally become wealthy and claim that they are happy, then all the more power to them. However, this is often not the case, and business ambition dilutes family unity.

Success is a deeply personal concept; a life that one person deems successful may seem wasted to someone else. I find, in agreement with Kitao and Kenan, that fulfillment, an “internal satisfaction,” is the most valuable and desirable kind of success.

Later in that same business seminar, Jim Rietz, another former Jersey Boys' State delegate who now acts as SVP of consumer engagement at Opinion Lab, imparted an old adage: “Do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life.” Whether you are seventeen or fifty-seven, these are words to live by. The thought may frighten those who are more rooted in life, but I want you to stop and ask yourself a simple question, “Am I happy?” If not, why? Honestly, this is very important; lying to oneself produces no change.

On Wednesday night following the unbelievable Boys' State Band, journalist Charles Wiley gave a speech that no one in the room will likely forget. Having served in the battle of Okinawa at the age of seventeen and covering eleven different wars as a freelance journalist, Wiley has circled the globe many times. Now eighty-six, Wiley has led an adventure-filled life. After his speech a number of delegates, myself included, completely in awe, hung around and asked some questions. When asked what his fondest memory was, he responded that the times spent with his second wife have been the best in his long, fulfilling life.

Maybe it's money, maybe it's self-satisfaction, maybe it's love. Whatever makes you happy, will at least to yourself, make you successful.

The "Morale" of the Story

Nicholas Gabuzda

Though the race for governor is over, there is still an opportunity for statesmen to be competitive by striving to win the honor of best city. The Walter and Evelyn Howell Outstanding City Award (WEHOCA) is obtained by the overall excellence of a city. The description of the award specifically cites “enthusiasm” as a major credential required to receive this honor. While cleanliness, athletic achievement, and political involvement are the categories analyzed by judges, it is crucial not to overlook the importance of city morale.

The contrast between the enthused and unenthused is obvious and often hilarious. There are cities with enough vigor to make the Romans at the Colosseum look bored and sleepy. Many cities commonly make their presence known through chanting. These chants have become ingrained into the brains of every statesman and staff member. Take, for example, “Grant City! Grant, Grant City- What?!” (I assume you can all crack the code of what city chants this.)

Others are less enthusiastic, and their lack of excitement is more than obvious. Whether it's because they lack the coordination to assemble into two straight lines or they are ashamed of their only particularly enthusiastic cheerleader of the city, it's hard not to feel bad for these sleepy cities.

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