



# THE JERSEY STATESMAN



albjs.org



@albjs



/albjs



ALJBS2021

- June 22, 2021 -

Issue I

- Volume LXXV -

## Weather

Today's low temperature is 51 degrees and the high temperature is 78 degrees. There is a chance of rain from 8 AM to 4 PM but after that, it will clear up.

## Schedule

- 6:45 AM - 8:10 AM: Breakfast
- 8:00 AM: EBOs print mock ballots
- 8:30 AM - 10:20 AM: County Meetings
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Seminars
- 11:20 AM: EBO Training
- 11:45 AM - 1:10 PM: Lunch
- 11:50 AM - 2:15 PM: State Legislature Elections
- 2:35 PM - 2:50 PM: County Meetings
- 3:00 PM: EBO Election Results
- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM: ALJBS Legislature
- 3:15 PM - 5:15 AM: Rec Time
- 5:35 PM: Retreat
- 5:45 PM - 7:10 PM: Dinner
- 7:20 PM - 11:10 PM: Party Presentations + Conventions

**Note: Check your personal schedule for more specific logistics and events!**

## Emerging Student Leaders

*Sydney Wiredu*

This part of the newsletter will cover emerging student leaders who have been outspoken whether it be through participating in political discussions, asking relevant questions, or more.

Guest speakers Kate Gibbs (Republican) and Zack Czajkowski (Democrat) conducted a session on the role of political parties. One outspoken student known as Griffin Gaughan, City 12, current Vice Chairman and second floor ward asked, "To what extent do you think the current issues that plague American politics such as extremism and stagnation in legislation via symbolic achievements over practical solutions stems from polarization and consolidation of power inherent to a large scale two party system, or is it some other reason?"

This type of question allows one to reflect upon oneself. Each individual may have their own answer, but the reality is that there is no simple answer. This question also serves as a personal reminder to myself, and to all delegates that this is the "dumbest" question and is the one not asked at all.

---

## Goodbye Softball!

Delegates... due to the lack of participants for softball yesterday afternoon, softball has been eliminated and is being replaced with yard games today. Check the sports section of the newspaper for more information about sports standings and yard games

## Get Out and Vote!

Boys Statesmen act upon your civic duty and vote in your county elections.

# Local Politics

## Better United

*Joshua Gorman*

As we settle into our cities we must also settle into our responsibilities to reform the issues within them. From pressing questions on how to deal with racial profiling to understanding the root of mass terrorism and how to squander it, there are many stressful questions that must be answered. Although, we must first understand where we stand on these issues as parties, leaving most with the thought; should we be strict or loose with our city regulations.

This answer may change depending on a city's personal issues, but many can agree that we all have similar plights such as firearm and zoning disputes, funding issues, Union and environmental activist discourse, and amendment infringement upon our people. No matter who it is, from the bustling nature of a metropolitan area to the small but mighty farmers of a more rural life, as cities we want to stick to our philosophies, but most importantly stick to what is best for our people.

With a strict government, regulations are put into place regardless of public support in order to obstruct any possible stalling that could occur. On the other hand, a more loose government would allow the people to govern themselves and gauge consequences for themselves. Do we want to provide opportunities for our people to help themselves or put more emphasis on our governmental figures to solve these issues institutionally? In the end we must come together and truly weigh our options for what the people want versus our limited reality and meet in the middle of it all. As Zack Czajkowski and Kate Gibbs said at Sunday night's assembly, we all want the same thing, it's just how we get there that is different. Nationalists and Federalists alike all want the same thing, now let's see and hear what each other has to offer and reform our cities for the better.

## Hayes City Strays Away from Two-Party System

*Jacob Hannum*

The first day of Boys State saw prestigious men from all over the state scrambling over their newfound responsibilities. From tight schedules to quick elections and more, everyone was trying to find their place to squeeze in and find the optimal political position.

During the first break time that we had, the citizens of Hayes immediately began bipartisan activities, engaging in large games of Uno and Mafia. These fun engagements soon evolved into a discussion on the battle between Federalists and Nationalists. Before breaking off to discuss future city positions, the two parties addressed their opinions on working together. One resident was quoted saying, "We have to unite, or we're doomed."

Polarization has become a larger and more controversial subject in politics, and more specifically, American politics. The entire country has been fractured, hate flows for the insignificant reason of being in an opposing party, and debates become mindless, petty arguments amongst one another. There is certainly a problem. Unfortunately, the solution to said problem is probably more complex than the issue itself. Hayes acts as one side of the D20, with the two parties acknowledging their opposition and yet still deciding to work together in many circumstances.

Granted, these are still only discussions, with the furthest action taken only being the possible new name, the "National Federalists." There is still some hostility amongst the parties and pride for one's group, but it seems the two sides of the coin are willing to negotiate on a handful of terms for the betterment of Hayes. Hayes is a new city, and it requires proper management to prevent economic downfall and corruption. With the two parties even going as far as discussing this, it shows that they are willing to put their differences aside for the benefit of those they serve.

# Interviews

## Hot Take with Jake

*Jakob Pender*

On Sunday, the delegates heard from Leonard Lance, who represented New Jersey's seventh district from 2009 until 2019. I had the honor to interview him afterwards about everything from Boys State to the 2020 presidential election.

Some of the highlights included how he felt today at Boys State. He believes that there are new problems with our country since the last time he attended, referring mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also discussed state politics, where he stated he respected both Democrat Murphy and Republican Ciattarelli. He endorsed Ciattarelli for governor and said that he trusted his choice of running mate, although he did not speculate on who he thought it might be.

We also discussed national politics. Representative Lance is a Republican, but denounced the Republican attempt to overturn the 2020 presidential election. He recognized Biden as president and stated that he would have voted against the measures to prevent the Arizona and Pennsylvania votes from being certified. One thing he did not discuss was his choice for president in 2020 as he said, "I do not discuss how I vote."

We discussed Boys State and the influence it will have on our future. He discussed the importance of the Covid vaccine and was proud of our country's rollout. We ended with me talking about the upcoming elections and asking if Lance had any intentions of future political runs. He stated that he had thought about it, but would not make any decisions until the 2020 redistricting. However, he did hope that the young men at Boys State would consider running in the future.

## Steven Garza: A Boys State Star

*Joey Lescht*

This evening, I was fortunate enough to have the chance to sit down with today's guest speaker, star of the Boys State documentary, and former Texas Boys State delegate: Steven Garza. The goal of this interview was to gain some inside info on the documentary process, his Boys State experience, and some advice for this week's delegates.

The interview went as follows:

Joey: Do you think the camera crew impacted your performance during your week at Boy's State?

Steven: "Not at all. We all went through so many struggles throughout the week. If you watched the film, you know I struggled to get on the ballot, and Robert, who also had the camera crew on him, made the runoff against me by 2 votes. And then ultimately, some characters who have cameras on them end up losing the election, and so no, I don't think the camera played an influence. No one sees the camera and thinks, Oh I better vote for that person, you know? They vote for you based on your qualifications or your personality or your vision for the office you're running for. So if anything, the cameras just bite at your ankles but that's about it."

Joey: So were there people who had cameras on them who didn't make it into the documentary?

Steven: "Yeah so, I believe it was 2 students who were chosen, preselected like I was, who sizzled out the first day because they weren't pursuing anything interesting or making themselves emotionally available to the crew and were reserved. In vérité film-making you have to be comfortable and trust the film-makers. I trusted the film-makers. I trusted them with my story, and they actually filmed a very vulnerable scene of me towards the end of the movie where I was in tears. So yeah, for a documentary you have to pick somebody who is very open. But everybody who made it past the first day with a camera on them made it through the whole week.

Joey: What would you say was the most nerve wracking moment throughout the week?

Steven: I had been running on a platform of unity, particularly anti secession, which was going around that year. The previous year at Texas Boys State the delegates voted to secede, so I was focused on unity, and I was not very policy heavy, because I'm not gonna lie about policies. I'm a progressive, I have very progressive ideas, and I was in a very conservative space. I wanted to use topics that I believe in. Unity. American exceptionalism. That was going to be my strategy for the entire week and then... the picture of me at the March for Our Lives Rally came out, so I had to plan a speech and now that speech has to go out the window. And as I'm getting up [to the stage] people were booing me when they were cheering the day before. So I just decided to speak from the heart, and about the shooting that happened near me, and how we deserve to be able to go to school without the fear of being gunned down. And then, by the end of it all, they were cheering for me again.

Joey: And finally, because I don't want to waste too much of your time, do you have any words for the delegates here this week? I know you already spoke to them all earlier today, but is there anything you'd like for them to be able to read tomorrow?

Steven: Run for something. Get involved. I said it before. I said it again. You're reading it now. I won't even be in Jersey anymore when you're reading this. Do it. You're gonna regret it if you don't. You're gonna learn so many things from learning. It's gonna be a great experience and who knows; maybe this could be your first test run of a successful political career. Who knows? So get after it.

It was an honor to speak to Steven this evening. Go check out the documentary titled "Boys State" on Apple TV and keep up with Steven on social media.

Instagram: @stevenagarza

Twitter: @stevenagarza

**VISIT THE ALJBS STORE FOR MERCH!!**  
**VISIT THE FRONT OF THE DALY DINING HALL FOR ALUMNI**  
**PINS!**

# Opinions

## Why We Should All Be Thankful for Computers

*Dominick Ciccotelli*

My eyes flutter open and my eyelids give way to the eagerness of my pupils that yearn to take in all that is around me. Suddenly, the void that fills my ears is replaced by the (rather unpleasant) sound of my alarm. I reach over, my body aches, asking- begging for me to rest my head upon my pillow once more. I check the time and realize I have about twenty minutes until I need to log onto my first class. Thankfully, my phone has prevented me from running late yet again. That, however, is just one of the many reasons why computers are so great, and why I am eternally thankful for their existence.

Since the creation of the abacus in 1100 BCE, the world has grown to become hardwired through technology as a way to connect with people and places. Though many people's initial instinct when they hear "computer" is to think of the foldable laptops or the larger desktops, in reality, the definition of "computer" is not limited to those examples. Definitions also include smartphones, tablets, and handheld PCs.

It is easy to conclude that computers of all shapes and sizes were used daily before COVID-19 by billions of people, with that number sharply increasing due to the pandemic. Without the computers we have today, the educational system would have to resort to drastic measures to compensate for the lack of ability to teach in person.

While there are quite a few other reasons as to why computers are as amazing and helpful as they are, my main point is to emphasize the fact that they should not be taken for granted. Most of the world relies on this technology so heavily that when the power goes out it is considered to be a travesty. The absence of computers, in this case, makes it infinitely more difficult to accomplish everyday tasks, such as typing up your last-minute essay, emailing your teacher at 11:58 pm asking for an extension, or chatting with a peer on Google Hangouts begging them to participate in the group project.

Computers are taken for granted far too often, and as someone who used to be part of the group that does so, I plead with you to take a look around you and imagine your life without computers... that includes your cell phone by the way. Seems pretty difficult, no? That is the harsh reality for many people, thankfully not for us because you are inevitably reading this digitally. Take a moment, right now, to be grateful for your computers and, for that matter, everything around you.

## A Necessary Reform

*Jake Briggs*

With the recent shooting in Washington City, the state has begun its debate on gun control. The death of eight graduating seniors and two faculty members has caused two main groups to arise in the city, MAG and GGG. The political parties in the city have taken stances on the issue, both believing that change must happen. The MAG (Mothers Against Guns) is currently calling for the banning of all firearms in Washington City. The approach is seen as too extreme by critics of the group who have pointed to the 2nd Amendment as allowing every citizen the right to own a firearm, and that no law may infringe on that right. A member of MAG will be present for the council meeting on Wednesday.

On the opposite side of the issue is the GGG (Good Guys with Guns). The group has offered to pay three million dollars for the construction of a sports facility that would include a shooting range. They suggest that the shooting range can be used to host a program to teach high school students gun responsibility. Many disagree with this proposal, as they say it fails to help prevent school shootings and would increase the damage caused by another one.

However, there seems to be a group that would agree with the construction, believing that it would help provide funding for other city projects, such as the Washington-Adam highway being proposed. A member from the GGG will also be attending the council meeting on Wednesday. Overall, both parties agree that something must be done. On the nationalist side, there seems to be a call for an increase in police presence on all school campuses. The federalists in the city have called for the expansion of education on mental health, which they suggest would be taught by a member of MAG.

However, no matter the party, the people in Washington City are calling for change. This tragedy has left ten innocent people dead, so in its wake, we must pass legislation that will prevent another school shooting from occurring in the city. Increasing police presence is a good start, but also providing some form of therapy to the students would go a long way. Even just having one or two counselors per school would go a long way for the students' mental health. One thing is clear, no matter the action we take, we must take action. The only way to prevent another massacre in our school system is to take action now. We must change something about our school security, mental health awareness, or gun control laws to ensure the safety of our future generations.

## Sports Standings

1. Ridgeway
2. MacArthur
3. Halsey
4. Schwarzkopf
5. Bradley
6. Eisenhower
7. Marshall
8. Nimitz
9. Vandenbrug

## Additional Information on Yard Games

**Location:** The Quad near Outdoor Volleyball Courts

**Games:** Cornhole, Kanjam, Ladderball

### Rules:

- 20 Minute Game or 21 Win by 2
  - Whichever Comes First
- Best 2 out of 3 between all 3 events
  - 6 Players Max Per Team
    - 2 Player Minimum or Forfeit
      - In the case of a tie
    - Whoever is leading the last game when time runs out wins

### STAFF:

**Managing Editor:** Antoni Zlatanovski - City 2 Adams

**Asst. Managing Editor:** Jakob Pender - City 5 Monroe

**Layout Editor:** Krish Shah - City 7 Van Buren

**Sports Editor:** Jonathan Huang - City 15 Lincoln

**Photographer:** Omar Alghondakly - City 9 Tyler

**Seminar Editor:** Jacob Hannum - City 18 Hayes

**Opinion Editor:** Kedhar Bartlett - City 13 Pierce

## The Jersey Statesman

### Publisher:

Thomas Marsden

### Assistant Publisher:

Kevin Cameron

### Federalist Political Editors:

**Joey Lescht - City 3 Jefferson**

**Noah Hilsdorf - City 6 Jackson**

**Julian Cerrone - City 8 Harrison**

**Michael Migliorino - City 11 Taylor**

**Aaron Nagler - City 14 Buchanan**

**Joshua Gorman - City 16 Johnson**

### Nationalist Political Editors:

**Jakob Briggs - City 1 Washington**

**Dylan Kim - City 4 Madison**

**Dominick Ciccotelli - City 10 Polk**

**Nicholas Battista - City 12 Fillmore**

**Sydney Wiredu - City 17 Grant**