



Diary of a Delegate

JONATHAN GUERRA, JACKSON

The first two days of Boys State have been what can only be described as a blur. Sitting in the backseat of my parents' car in the parking lot of the Hackensack courthouse during the early hours of the day waiting for the bus to bring me to this political pilgrimage. I could scarcely imagine what would lay ahead. At no point right now can I honestly say I have any idea of what is going on. I'm forced to forgo the machismo of an emotionless attitude by saying that I am apprehensive beyond belief. I'll occasionally get up from my desk in my dorm, walk to the mirror and shudder

apprehensive beyond belief. I'll occasionally get up from my desk in my dorm, walk to the mirror and shudder because I realize I'm out of my comfort zone.

I am embarrassed to subject the reader to this self-indulgent melodramatic rant and at the same time glad to get it all out in this decidedly public form of primal therapy. I wait in eager anticipation of the days ahead so that I can somehow find the me hidden among the arbitrary titles, endless meetings, and

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DIARY



Simple Majority

CHRISTOPHER FATTA, MONROE

During yesterday's local council elections, the Nationalist and Federalists split the council positions three and three while Nationalist candidate Alex Filauro took the city's spot for mayor.

The mayoral election for the city council was decided by one vote.

"It shows with such a close result it could have been anyone," Filauro said.

The city council was also closely decided by a close vote count, creating a decisive split down the middle of the

council. "We all work together well and I am excited to see what we can do," Federalist councilman Adam Fleischacke said.

"I was happy to see the council so divided and a presence of an even representation of parties," Federalist councilman Zach Etsch said on the division.

The councilmen and mayor all seemed to be ready to take on their responsibilities, but the priorities of the councilmen seem to be split, but all seemed ready to compromise.

"My main goal is to make sure everyone is heard and as a team we can solve our problems," Filauro said. "I still owe Monroe as a city my understanding of their opinion and I am willing to represent anyone."

"My biggest goal is to decrease debt and I want to sell this city. I want the city to appeal to consumers and companies and I wan the citizens to be proud of this town," Fleischacke said.

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HUMAN INTEREST

My County 'Tis of Thee

by Lance Wildorf, Johnson

You're tired. I know, I'm one of organization, and the main differences are you. After a long day of campaigning, the amount of power distributed to the learning, and engaging in politics you are freeholders and the executive. The first pooped. What's the first thing you want to system, the "County Executive Plan" gives do when you finally get some down time? the county executive the most power as he No, the answer is not beat kids up in is the one who passes the budget and football or listen to your ipod that you appoints the heads of the boards and smuggled in through your sphincter. You commissions. So basically if you want to obviously want to read my article on county go far in politics, don't piss this guy off. politics!

You're probably wondering, what's name of "County Manager Plan." This a freeholder, who's an executive, what is all system is pretty eh in my opinion. The this stuff? Well this article is for you. voters elect a board of chosen freeholders

Freeholders are members of the who then hire a county manager who then legislative branch at the county level. They appoints the departments. So basically the basically run the show like George Lucas in county manager in this system is a big old the 1970s. The term freeholders is older pansy and the freeholders' yes-man. He's than most of us. Older than most of your obviously not going to go against them parents. Heck, it's even older than your because he feels indebted to their hiring of great grand parents. Unless your great him.

grandparents are freaky time travelers who were born in the 1600s. Because that's when this term originated. Anyone who owned land during that time period was called a freeholder, and such people were the only ones able to participate in politics. As opposed to a county executive, there can be many freeholders.

"Who's a county executive?" you ask, probably enthusiastically. As its name states, the county executive is the executive of the county. Let me elaborate, basically he is the leader of the county as the president is the leader of the nation. In most county governmental systems, the executive has veto power of the freeholders' decision. Although the name is not always executive, the powers are usually fairly similar. He's the one who wears the pants. Not the jeans, cause you know, Boys State doesn't let you wear jeans.

There are five systems of county

The second system goes by the name of "County Manager Plan." This system is pretty eh in my opinion. The voters elect a board of chosen freeholders who then hire a county manager who then appoints the departments. So basically the county manager in this system is a big old pansy and the freeholders' yes-man. He's obviously not going to go against them because he feels indebted to their hiring of him.

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DIARY

hidden among the arbitrary titles, endless meetings, and butterflies that seem to have nested in my stomach.

As Monday morning rolls around I feel more serene as if the inevitability of my position has sunk in. Don't get me wrong, I am not likening this rewarding program to some sort of hardship, it's just that it is different. As managing editor of your newspaper I am allotted the unique position of spectator of this crazy game we are playing. I am the proverbial fly on the wall when enthusiastic delegates scream the names of their fictional cities with tremendous fervor. I am also the fly on the wall when these same delegates sluggishly make their way back to their dorms for a well-earned rest after the day. It is in my capacity as observer that I have discovered the true nature of Boys State. It is a metamorphosis that gradually offers each and every one of us a rare glimpse into ourselves.



OPINION/EDITORIAL

Young Republicans: A Large Minority

CHRISTOPHER FATTA, MONROE

Ahh, youth. The young ideals of peace, love, and saving the rest of the world from the evils that are generated from greed. So noble, so virtuous, so naive. Now I know that someone will read that line and flip out, but it is true. Liberal views tend to want to help everyone and anyone who wants to bum off society. I on the other hand tend to think in more fiscal terms. Sure you can call me jaded or cold-hearted but I see myself as a realist, who is more focused on reducing the federal government and increasing the power of the local government to help its citizens.

This Sunday we sat in a room and were posed a simple question: Are you a Democrat or Republican? To no one's surprise the Democrats outweighed the Republicans, but to everyone's surprise not by much. I can say that the divide in the room was 60 percent Dems to 40 percent GOPs. That means I am not alone, and that also means that, despite my father's ideas, all teenager's are NOT pot smoking, tree hugging, Obama loving morons.

So, why? Why would there be so many of this "evil" minority. Well, for starters, some children are raised in

conservative house-holds and have been taught that way. Some might call that "brain-washing", but how is it "brain-washing" if all teenagers still rebel against their parents. Also, some teenagers just don't like liberal ideas, and develop their own intelligent opinions on modern politics. Now, I am not downing liberals, I personally believe that your opinions can not be wrong. I do believe, however, that my opinions are better, and in my opinion if I hear one more person mention George W. Bush to my face, all I can say is this, I didn't vote for him.

CONTINUED:
COUNTY

The County Supervisor Plan elects a supervisor who is basically a generic version of the County Executive but with less power. He's like the diet coke, yeah they're trying to make him taste the same but you and I can both tell the difference. The supervisor has executive rights and veto powers, but does not control the budget. This system is good if a county still wants a fairly independent figurehead, who is not going to be drunk with power.

The fifth plan is just a bunch of Chosen Freeholders with no Executive. Pretty bland huh? No leadership equals no efficiency.

Well now that you read this article I will allow you to relax and play football. You will definitely pass the county section of the Boys State test. If you don't I guarantee the money you paid for this paper back.

character to battle through debt. Capitalism never stops a person from running, but one side of seesaw always starts on the ground. Although, it seems very unfair and unequal, that's life. You get lucky and hit it big.

You Call that Democracy?

RAJ PATEL, TAYLOR

At the beginning of Boys State, you were assigned a room and given a packet of information. Within this packet, there was \$100 in "Boys State bucks". Every member of Boys State was given the same amount of currency to be "fair". You know, while we're at it, we should also follow one absolute leader of Rider University. Blasphemy! Democracy is built on capitalism. In a democratic nation, everyone has different assets according to their birth and ambition. Nobody is born equally wealthy. People are born into different wealth classes;

throughout their lives they are able to shift which wealth class to which they belong. Wealth varies from person to person, especially politicians. When it is all said and done Hilary ended up in debt and Obama came out with some cash left.

Capitalism as a definition, thrives on the failure of others. According to the theory of mercantilism there is only a set amount of wealth in the world, and to become wealthier you must take it from others. The measure of success and failure someone achieves is dictated by their ambition. Otherwise, that person's

wealth is defined by the caste they are born into. In America about 2 percent of the people hold 98 percent of the wealth leaving the other 98 percent to fight over a meager 2 percent.

So what is the solution? Who knows? There is no best way to do it. The closest realistic way, would be to hand out the currency randomly. Just as in the real world, the elite rich would run for politicians, and the paupers would run their campaigns. The non-wealthy people could still run as candidates, but they would not be able to campaign as successfully. In that case, it would take extreme

RECREATION

Soccer: "The Worldly Game"

TERRANCE SCOTTON, BUCHANAN

What makes the world go round? Is it love? Is it money? Is it family, T.V., or food? No genius, it's soccer! That's right: soccer makes the world go round!

As a world-wide phenomena of entertainment, soccer truly does make the world go round. From youth soccer

clinics, to high school, to the NCAA, and even to the World Cup, soccer entices and excites billions across the globe. Not only is it extremely competitive, but soccer is also a sport that brings the family together.

"It's a full contact sport with no padding, and I love it," Ben Scalf of

Buchanan admitted.

This opinion reflects the host of positive feedback I received from the statesmen in my city.

"I like the team unity [and] practices are fun" Mike Ryder of Buchanan added.

Indeed, soccer is a heartwarming and enjoyable

endeavor. Furthermore, the vital qualities it teaches are essential to everyday life and identical to many principles praised in Boys State. Those characteristics include leadership, honesty, morality, character, collaboration (in the sense of teamwork), and sportsmanship. Whether on or off the field, soccer players exhibit an aura of proper conduct and virtue.

Moreover, the game itself is an exhilarating and suspenseful experience. To all soccer players scattered across the globe at diverse levels, we—the statesmen of American Legion Jersey Boys State—salute you.



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