

# THE JERSEY STATESMAN



June 20, 2024 — Issue #3 — Volume LXXVIII —

## Athletics Rankings

1. MacArthur
2. Marshall
3. Ridgway
4. Vandenburg
5. Eisenhower
6. Halsey
7. Nimitz
8. Bradley

## National Guard Museum Trip!

Today, the final trips to the National Guard Museum will take place at 12:15, 12:30, and 12:45. If you signed up, please show up to the front of the Daly Dining Hall/SRC and remember to eat lunch before.

## Manuals Due Today!

At ALJBS, we have worked tirelessly to design solutions for our cities and counties. At 7:15 PM today, the city and county manuals are due! Make sure to hand it into your senior staff in order to have it ready by Friday morning!

## Court Night!

### Surprise Usage of a "Uno Reverse Card"

Alexander Meyer

In Madison City's Municipal Court, Dean Goldberg accused Specialist Crider (NJARNG) of breaking the law by walking on the grass, claiming that "no person is above the law." After presenting a convincing argument, the judge found Specialist Crider guilty and ordered him to pay a fine of ten dollars. However, upon hearing this, Specialist Crider presented the notorious "Uno Reverse Card", which successfully liberated him from punishment and transferred the sentence to Dean.

### Jovial Jefferson Jives

Pranav Sridhar

In Jefferson City, the court has concluded on five separate cases. The most important cases were the allegations of public indecency and disorderly conduct allegedly committed by Georgy and the case of misconduct by Sungjoon. Georgy was charged due to barging into people's rooms and flexing on them, and Sungjoon was charged with making an indecent comment towards his friend. In both cases, the defendants were found not guilty.

### Monroean Misbehavior

Jason Kim

Monroe City (City Five) had a very interactive experience as our beloved counselor Malik set up a realistic stage of a physical courtroom. Additionally, our judge, public defender, and prosecutor were clearly engaged, while the rest of the citizens were actively participating.

# Politics

## Defacement of Stonehenge

Michael Markulis

Just Stop Oil is an infamous British environmental activist group, founded in 2022, which uses tactics that often leave bystanders and reporters extremely angered by their infuriating actions. These actions often stand in the way of other citizens in Europe and insult classic pieces of art in order to stir-up as much negative attention as possible. This negative attention is conjured up to project their message out to the public about climate change caused by humans; they primarily want to end fossil fuel licensing and production. Some of their more well-known protests include disrupting award shows, soccer matches, traffic, and vandalizing pieces of art. One famous example of their vandalism towards art pieces is on July 5th, 2023, where protesters glued themselves to a copy of *The Last Supper*, painted by Leonardo da Vinci. Along with that, they spray painted underneath, the phrase, 'No New Oil'.

The activist group is headlining the news once again because of their latest debacle and protest towards a famous monument of the UK. Yesterday, on June 19th, 2024, two Just Stop Oil protesters were arrested while spray painting Stonehenge. It seems that everyone is in agreement that this is extremely disrespectful towards the monument and is not needed at all to protest against climate change. During these protests, Just Stop Oil activists often get assaulted by citizens of the public and this is no different. Many citizens have great love and pride over this historic monument and attempted to grab and pin down these protesters. Stonehenge is a beloved monument that is used as a temple by many

and has deep history in the story of the United Kingdom and its inhabitants.

While Just Stop Oil is being insulted and many are wishing for its dissolution, Just Stop Oil continues to grow in number because of its negative attention-gaining strategies that bring in loyal followers.

## ALJBS Visits New Jersey State House

Aidan Zagel

On Tuesday (6/18), the newly elected ALJBS State Legislators held their opening session in a place with a legacy of legislative excellence: the New Jersey's State House. Built in 1792, the building hosts a variety of NJ's legislative functions, including the legislative room and various offices for staff. The State House looks just as one would expect an old government building to look – covered with marble, gold accents, and warm lighting.

The legislators' real job started when they arrived at the General Assembly room. Legislators started by taking an oath of allegiance to the US Constitution and everyone they represent. Once this step was completed, the legislature advisors moved into an orientation session that discussed parliamentary procedure, bills, the structure of the legislature, and referendums.

After the legislators were educated on their duties, the group elected their Senate and Assembly majority and minority leaders – an action necessary to then elect the Whip (gathers votes on a bill from both parties) and the Sergeant-At-Arms (the man who keeps order). The last election the legislature administered was for the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. With these roles filled and introductory matters out of the way; the newly elected state legislature is ready to create change.

# Seminar

## Information Technology Seminar

Pranav Sridhar

The IT seminar has finally arrived, and with it an insight into the world of information technology. Brian Epstein introduced us to IT experts Donald Ade, Jeff Berliner, Bryce Liskovec, and Brian Farkas. The seminar boiled down their careers in IT, giving a brief summary as to how they got to their current position in their job and career. Some advice they suggest for aspiring IT professionals is to try and find internships. If you can't find one, try to get a common position in any company and switch to IT after building rapport. Additionally, create a Github and try to upload passion projects to demonstrate your skill. These actions demonstrate to potential employers your ability with tech, and gives you an easier time with getting the job of your dreams.

## Legal Seminar

Jacob Berr

One of the top medical malpractice and injury lawyers, E. Drew Britcher, held a seminar regarding his profession during ALJBS on Wednesday. The cases Britcher worked on and mentioned captured the attention of the statesmen in attendance. He told stories about him standing up for clients when doctors invalidated their claims, and he gave his wisdom on the status of the legal system. "You can bring up a couple frivolous cases (when arguing how frivolous lawsuits are harming the legal system)," Britcher exclaimed, "but, that is not how the system works."

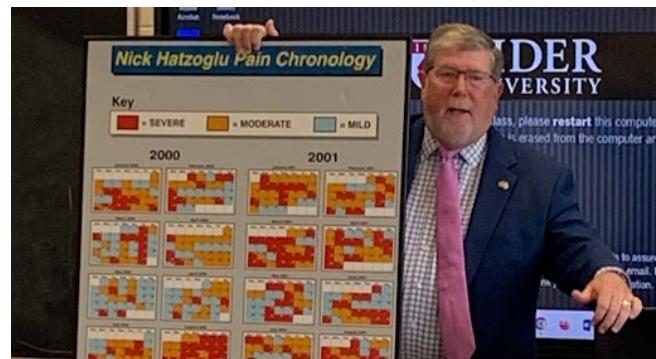
Some of the gory cases he mentioned

were accompanied with props, such as his poster-sized graphic images. One of them was about a decapitated fetus. "He [the doctor] blamed it on the woman," said Britcher. "He said she was moving around the table because she did not get an epidural. The doctor did not properly consult her on the procedure." Britcher stated, "When I was in law school I saw this professor's lecture about a drug called DIS which was for women with premature contractions but made them infertile... I was intrigued and gave him my resume." Despite not doing what he originally planned. Britcher has no regrets. "I love what I do." Advice that any aspiring medical professional should use and apply.

## Engineering Seminar

Declan McMullen

On Wednesday, June 19th, an engineering seminar was hosted by Morgan Jolley, Will Kramer, and Charles Miskolcy. Each one of these three gave their perspective into their respective engineering focus; Morgan Jolley an optical engineer, Will Kramer a current engineer teacher for college, Charles Miskolcy a civil engineer. They shared similar ideas about how ethics played a part in their design and creation process; whether it be what materials are used in construction of a house to how they feel about making tools to kill.



# Opinion Editorial

## The SAT... Is it really necessary?

Jason Kim

Every high school junior knows at least to some extent about the horrors of the college admissions exam; the SATs. While Covid-19 caused most universities and colleges to give the option of submitting an SAT score, as the 2024-2025 admissions cycle approaches, educational institutes are beginning to reinstate SAT scores as a mandatory requirement in order to apply for admission. This is quite controversial as the announcement of the shift to test-mandatory from certain colleges was announced recently, creating a concern on time to prepare for the exam.

Certain prestigious universities such as Harvard University and Brown University, which were once test optional institutions, plan to require test scores. While some may argue that test mandatory policies should be reinstated, there are various perspectives that refute this. One example is the current structure of the SAT, the SAT is now completely digital (which replaced the paper SAT as a whole) and is not standardized. Instead, it is an adaptive test that changes difficulty levels based on answer choice. The June 1st SAT received various complaints across Boys State participants. Newspaper editor Declan McMullen who took the June 1st SAT states, "It was horribly formatted and each module did not scale properly".

As a result of the structure of the digital SAT and the controversies over whether colleges should be kept test-optional or test-mandatory, it questions whether it is the SAT itself that should be changed, or if colleges should abolish test mandatory as a whole. Personally, I believe that the SATs should be kept, however, it's also believed the brainer!

structure of it should be reverted back. If the SAT is supposed to be a standardized test, it would only make sense that every student taking it across the United States have the same exact questions across the exam. The SATs have been proven to be reliable indicators of college performance, however if the SAT is not standardized and is now adaptive, it places an unfair advantage on certain students who may score better or worse than how they would on a real standardized test.

## ALJBS College Credits - Is it Worth it?

Gavin Gardner & Michael Markulis

As time has marched deeper into the 21st century, it has become increasingly apparent that college is the route many will take into adulthood. As a consequence of the ever-growing emphasis on going to college and getting a degree, its pricing has only become more and more expensive. ALJBS in contrast offers a whopping three college credits for the price of \$275 as long as you achieve an 80% or higher on the ALJBS final exam and provide an adequate essay by July 31st.

"Why should I spend an extra \$275 for a program that's already \$300 or more in price?" you may ask yourself. A single college credit can cost upwards of over a thousand dollars! For example, the average cost of one transferable college credit is \$477, with a high end college being at \$1200+ and the lowest being at \$120. It is obvious that the choice given by the ALJBS is extremely favorable for the statesmen attending a college, it's really a no brainer!

# Local News

## Territorial Dispute in Eisenhower County

Jacob Berr

Buchanan City is attempting to expand its boundaries into Pierce City in an effort to solve Buchanan's overcrowding crisis and build more housing.

Buchanan City, with its population of 150,000, wants to expand 10,000 acres into the rural farming community. This issue of territory deeply divided Eisenhower County residents among city lines. Citizens of Buchanan City generally believe the expansion is necessary because of the city's ever-growing population.

Buchanan Mayor, Matthew Strauss, when asked about this matter stated, "We are trying to buy as much land as possible in a manner that respects and composes the residents of Pierce. We are trying to help out with the immigrant problem by building housing closer."

Pierce City residents do not want Buchanan's urban sprawl ruining their rural way of life. The land transfer could also lead to a loss of property, tax revenue, and jobs for Pierce City. Pierce City Councilman, Raphael Villareal, believes that, "if Buchanan purchases the land, Pierce should have a say on what happens on that land."

The Federalists plan on creating a co-administered joint district. Both critics will share land and its use will be divided between development for Buchanan and agriculture for Pierce. The Eisenhower County Federalist Party Chairman, Arjun Sarkin, stated that there "was a proposal that we share 10,000 acres."

The Nationalists want to modify the land transfer to make it more favorable towards Pierce City instead of creating a joint district. "We cut it down and make [Buchanan

City] pay any additional price," said Alex Penswater, the Nationalist Mayor of Pierce, "If we decide to create a joint district, at that point it is its own city."

The proposed land purchase is tearing Eisenhower County apart among city lines to make it more favorable towards Pierce. Instead of creating a joint district.

## Falling Asleep in Assemblies

Michael Markulis

ALJBS is a tiring yet rewarding program that causes the delegates to expend more energy than ever before. Waking up at 6:00 AM and doing activities until midnight is not helpful towards delegates attempting to stay awake during the day. The only reason most delegates don't fall asleep is because they are in the middle of their campaigns or chatting it up with their newly acquired friends. When attending these meetings, it's hard for delegates to stay awake and they often nod off since they are sitting in one place during these long winded seminars.

While it is disrespectful to the speakers on the stage that clear their schedules to make time for speaking at Boys State, it makes sense why the exhausted delegates spend some extra time snoozing.



# Local News

## Lawrenceville: The True History Behind the Home of ALJBS

Jason Kim

Lawrenceville is one of the oldest townships in Mercer County, New Jersey and dates back to 1697. The area was first settled by Quakers during the late 17th century and was originally named Maidenhead which is named after a town in England. It wasn't until 1816 that the township was officially named Lawrenceville, honoring Captain James Lawrence, a naval hero of the War of 1812 who had the famous battle cry of "Don't give up the ship!"

Presbyterian clergyman Isaac Van Ardale Brown founded one of the most influential developments in Lawrenceville, which was the founding of the Lawrenceville School in 1810. The school remains as one of the oldest preparatory schools in the country. The school gave cultural and educational prestige to the community which attracted students and their families who aspired for a demanding and challenging academic environment.

While Lawrenceville may seem to be an average suburban town on the surface level, the history of Lawrenceville possesses an enriching history. During the

American Revolutionary War, George Washington and his troops passed through Lawrenceville several times. It was a strategic location due to its proximity to Trenton and its role in transportation routes. Moreover, the Lawrenceville Historic District, established in 1972, preserves over 200 years of architectural history. It includes well-preserved buildings that showcase various architectural styles from different periods. We have less than two more days left of Boys State, so take it all in and enjoy it while you can!

## Reminder to Vote!

Voting is one of the greatest privileges we have here in this country, as it represents our very reason for being a country. The right to representation is something our forefathers shed blood and tears for, sacrificing their lives to give their successors the ability to make change in their communities. Don't throw your vote away, vote now!

## Weather

Expect hot and sunny weather yet again tomorrow with a high of 93 degrees fahrenheit! Make sure to spend some time indoors and stay hydrated!

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