

# THE JERSEY STATESMAN



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Issue #4

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## Athletics Rankings

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

## Final Event: The 5K!

Today, the final athletic event will be taking place, which is a five-kilometer run around campus. Each county can enter three runners into the race to compete for the last available points that will determine the final county athletics rankings.

## Weather

Expect hot and sunny weather yet again today with a high of 95 degrees fahrenheit! Make sure to turn on your A/C and stay hydrated!



## Major Controversy At Newly Elected Governor Aeden Kerr Inaugural Speech

Gavin Gardner

On the evening of June 20th, 2024, at a completely ordinary general assembly, an unprecedented historic event in ALJBS history occurred. Following the heated gubernatorial election of Nationalist Aeden Kerr and Federalist Jake Dembowski, the results came in with Kerr as the 78th Governor of the ALJBS Program, 2024.

During Kerr's first address to the ALJBS program, Kerr failed to pick representatives from every city, (Including Adams, Washington, and Madison), additionally only one Federalist was appointed. This was not what caused an absolute uproar, however. The cause was the fact that Governor Kerr declared a state of emergency to give him stronger executive powers as Governor, despite there being no justifiable reason for said state of emergency.

Saying the first Nationalist governor elected for the ALJBS program after a seventeen-year streak was heckled is simply an understatement. The majority of the crowd chanted statements like, "He's a felon," "Lock him up," "Impeach," and "We want Jake." This is an unprecedented event that is probably a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence for the ALJBS Program. The 78th Annual Session of Boys State will be marked down in the history books. It is critical to remain cordial and respectful to opponents. Nevertheless, a lack of representation of Federalists and multiple cities in the Governor's appointments, alongside a sudden, questionable enactment of a state of emergency leaves many asking whether or not the new administration contains hints of corruption.



Chaos at the Speech

# Politics

## Gubernatorial Debate Recap

Jacob Berr

The ALJBS Gubernatorial debate between Federalist Jake Dembowski and Nationalist Aedan Kerr took place in the Alumni Gymnasium yesterday (6/20), so here is the recap for anyone who missed the debate or needed a little extra sleep. The candidates explained their platforms, preached inter party unity, and took shots at one another. Dembowski's primary issue is crime, which is no surprise since he represented New Jersey for a FBI program. "Increased law enforcement, decreased drugs and crime," were all points that he insisted upon and pushed as his main platform.

Meanwhile, Kerr's flagship opinion is about implementing a more progressive tax structure where households with more money pay a greater share of their income than households who make less. He also has other plans for tax reform, declaring that "those who contribute to their communities like an EMT or teacher get a tax break." During the Gubernatorial debate, Dembowski and Kerr illustrated their agendas focused around crime and taxes respectfully.

## Appreciation of our Veterans

Gavin Gardner

The United States of America is a nation like no other. It is a country built by the people for the people. The United States wouldn't exist if it weren't for the many brave and selfless Americans who fought for our independence; we would not have the inalienable God-given natural rights of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit

of Happiness" in the words of one of the Founding Fathers the third president Thomas Jefferson.

None of the ideals and values of the American way of life would be possible without our military, whether it be our democratic republic itself or the inalienable rights that come with it. Hence the importance of honoring our military, and in turn, the American Legion... an organization that continues to honor these brave men and women who dedicate portions of their lives to our nation.

The veterans are an integral part of American society, and they should be honored as such. The many battles fought valiantly by veterans are a symbol of how dedicated Americans are... whether it be D-Day, the Battle of Gettysburg, the Siege of Yorktown, or the successful offensive of Kuwait. Americans will always fight for the values of our American nation.

If you are the relative of a veteran, or are a veteran yourself, with a yearly fee (which funds events like ALJBS) you can join the American Legion. Doing so, you support veterans, receive benefits for your (or your relative's) honorable devotion to our nation, and help inspire the next generation of veterans who will continue to defend our nation and spread its ideals.

Even when you are frustrated with our wonderful nation or those in charge of it, you can rest easy knowing that if it weren't for our soldiers and veterans fighting for our liberty we wouldn't even have the opportunity to state our views. So whenever the opportunity arises, where you have the privilege of meeting those who remain of the Greatest Generation, WWII Vets, or any other veteran, whether a combat vet, peacetime vet, or active duty... make sure to thank them.



# Seminar

## Campaigning Seminar

Jacob Berr

ALJBS staff members Christopher Allen, Pat Fierro, Jamie Serruto, and Landon Jafer Tanyeri hosted and presented on what running for office and campaigning is like and how to do it more effectively. This seminar lasted for around forty five minutes and took place yesterday (6/20).

Each of the four presenters spoke of their experience in public office and gave advice that they learned during their time campaigning. They compared making a mark in the campaign world to a game. Their main piece of advice was to get involved in campaigns and build up a reputation. "Your reputation is everything in this game" said Fierro. "You have to build a reputation so people will have faith in you."

The gentlemen also gave advice on how to run local campaigns. They told the attendees to start on the municipal level and build from there. "For your first election on a local council, get door knockers," said Allen. "If you have extra money, do signs." Advice like this is hard to come by and these presenters truly knocked it out of the park, we sincerely hope they come back to ALJBS next year.

## Acting Seminar

Declan McMullen

Gregory Jolley, Sophia Lucia Parola, and Francesco Nuzzi hosted a seminar on the arts yesterday (6/20). Each one of the three gave their perspective on their job titles; Gregory Jolley is the owner/president of Scootplex 2000s Pictures, Sophia Lucia Parola an actress and Francesco Nuzzi a cinematographer for

films. Parola also made mention of how type casting is a good process for aspiring actors, as during the start of your career you'll be working to make money and intend to build a reputation over that time. Jolley gave advice to photographers and told them to improve their tough landscape or wider shots before moving on to harder or more complex photos. All in all the presentation was informative and well attended.

## Museum Trip

David Crecco

The National Guard Museum trip was something many fellow delegates were presented as an opportunity to attend early in the week. Here is a description of the 12:30 slot for Thursday, June 20th. First and foremost; the buses. There was one bus that was shared between every time slot. Although the amount of people allowed to sign up for each bus is unknown, it is apparent that the number is too many. Due to the size of the bus, some of the kids from the earlier 12:15 group bled over into our bus, making it grossly overcrowded. The ride back may have been packed, but overall the ride is the least important part of the trip.

When the group arrived at the museum, the delegates filed into the library section of the museum. Two national guardsmen deliver a very interesting and informative speech about the history of the museum and the history of the national guard, followed by a recruitment offer. The delegates are then split into two groups and are assigned tour guides who served as part of the guard. Due to time constraints, delegates were unfortunately unable to see anything from before the second world war. However, the guides provided delegates with an extensive history of every weapon, uniform, and rocket, which was very informative and engaging.

# Opinion Editorial

## Does the Two Party System Work?

Aidan Zagel

ALJBS statesmen received the unique opportunity to dissect and examine the US political system throughout the course of this week. One major part of the system are the two main political parties. The real life Democrats and Republicans and the Boys State Nationalists and Federalists are arguably the most significant and unique part of our democracies. Political parties unite people with similar beliefs and backgrounds into voting blocs and centralize a large amount of power. These voting blocks retain positions within all three branches of the local, state, and federal governments. The party's power is overwhelming to the point that many candidates end their campaign because they simply do not receive a nomination, funding or enough public support, even if their ideas are agreeable to many and can create positive change.

Political parties create a binary environment for every issue due to their very nature. You are either completely in agreement with the party on an issue, or you are against the party and there is no room for problem solving with the ability to please everyone. If your opinion differs slightly from the party leaders, you can bet you will most likely not win elections. Political parties make seeking and just reaching across the aisle impossible. We are programmed upon joining a party to vote along party lines no matter what side of an issue we personally fall on. Defecting from a party on a vote or on a stance could end a career or worse. Aggression and agitation between the parties is common, and often leads to disrespect. Our very first president George Washington advised against the formation of political parties for

this very reason. Unity is impossible under a system inherently based on division.

## Why is the US More Polarized than Other Countries?

Aidan Zagel

According to a study from Brown University, United States politics is more polarized and toxic compared to other democracies. The reason—most democracies have more than two political parties in their legislative chambers. Given it's true the United States is polarizing quicker than most democratic countries, there are many possible explanations for this development; however America's binary two party system is the best one.

Many have argued that social media is the main cause of the political polarization in this country. Even though social media does create partisan echo chambers, the British, Swedish, Germans, Australians and Norwegians are less polarized than the 1970's and they use social media as much as Americans. The main difference between the US and those countries are multiple competitive parties. Similarly the UK often has "hung parliaments" where parties have to work together to have a majority. While the binary American party system makes politics a team sport. Someone is either the same team as you or they are the enemy, ultimately bipartisanship has become a lost art. Yet, it is possible that if America has more parties in congress, they would have to work with one another and hyperpartisanship would decrease.

# Local News

## Famous Rapper Travis Scott Arrested

Michael Markulis

Jacques Bermon Webster II, better known as Travis Scott was arrested for disorderly intoxication and trespassing on the 20th of June, 2024. Scott is a popular Houston-born rapper famed for his hit albums like Rodeo, Astroworld, and Utopia, and throughout his long career spanning from the early 2010s to now, he has been the center of many controversies.

Scott has found himself in another one. Police were called late on Wednesday night for a disturbance on a yacht docked in Miami, where the "FE!N" rapper was seen fighting and yelling at other passengers and from what witnesses said, had a strong scent of alcohol. When officers asked about the strong scent, Scott responded with, "It's Miami." While police came to escort him from the vessel, he alternated between cooperating to ignoring the officers. Ultimately, he was booked into the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center at 4:30 a.m.

The arrest of Travis Scott became viral on the internet soon afterwards. Users on the internet commented on the event. His mugshot has since surfaced on the internet, leading to plenty of different users reposting it and creating memes. The arrest is particularly popular right now because of its proximity to the date of his new Circus Maximus tour starting on June 28th, 2024, promoting his album Utopia released on July 28th, 2023. Scott has also decided to profit off this attention and comically comment on his arrest by releasing tee-shirts with his now iconic mugshot sporting the phrase, "It's Miami." like he said to the officers. He has since paid a \$650.00 bond, and it is said he is to

be released on the afternoon of Thursday, June 20. Be sure to keep up with the latest news to get the most accurate information!

## Boys State Band Concert

Carson Jakowenko

The Statesmen of ALJBS of the session on Wednesday (6/19). With band members leaving city meetings and seminars early, over the course of the week to go practice. Many statesmen were curious on how talented the band truly was. The band played a variety of songs of various genres, which the Statesmen enjoyed greatly.

The band headed off the concert with a rousing performance of Star Spangled Banner and other American classics such as America the Beautiful. The solemn feeling however did not last, and the band played other much more popular songs. Multiple mosh pits broke out and were subsequently broken up by staff.

As the band finished up their final pieces, the band decided to play the official song of Boys State. Despite being unfamiliar with the lyrics, the Statesmen quickly accessed the lyrics using the Yapp app. As the song began, all Statesmen in attendance began to belt out the lyrics as if they knew the song for years. It is safe to say that all statesmen in attendance had a great time and are growing closer than ever.



# Local News

## How Has Brainrot Affected ALJBS 2024?

American Legion Boys State is one of prestigious programs in the great United States of America, but this year the program was infiltrated by an unknown assailant, and instead of attacking physically it attacked the minds of the Statesmen in attendance. Who or better yet what was this unseen menace? Brain rot.

So what is brain rot? Brain rot is a phenomenon that took social media by storm in late 2020 and early 2021. Chances are, if you use, or have a friend that uses social media, you're aware of what brain rot is. Brain rot can be described in just a couple words; the inability to stop thinking about a certain topic, also known as a hyperfixation.

Brain rot has infiltrated ALJBS in the ways described above; an overuse of social media and a hyperfixation on a single topic. This has manifested in many ways during this year's ALJBS. The first sightings of brain rot were the consistent use of the word "freaky" even when the word being in a certain situation would make no sense. Even worse is this idea of "aura", where entire mock court trials have been undertaken to convict a counselor of having too much aura. Lastly

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and worst of all "skibidi" a word that could mean anything and everything. Not only does that word not make any sense, it comes from a deranged YouTube show meant for toddlers. It's sad to see New Jersey's best and brightest be taken out by this silent, but deadly enemy.

## Reminder to Vote!

Voting is an extremely great privilege, as it allows us to select delegates that best represent our interests and help our nation progress. However, in the modern world, voter turnout is relatively low, considering that many people do not register to vote and others simply do not show up. Yet, you can help combat this issue by starting to vote today, as you will have the opportunity to select two Boys Nation Senators that you think will best represent our state of New Jersey on the national stage.



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