

Boys State University Student Protests

A 24-year old Boys' State University alumnus, Lieutenant Kevin Roberts, was killed serving in Iraq last Monday. Roberts' family, friends, and the university community were invited to University Field house to celebrate his life at a memorial service Sunday evening. Approximately 40 students stood on the sidewalk in front of the building and protested, citing their dislike of the war. The students are threatening to protest again Thursday when the university has planned to dedicate a portion of University Activities Field in honor of Lt. Roberts.

Reserve Officers Training Corps students and veterans groups such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars have demanded the practice of protesting at veterans' funerals be stopped immediately. They want the Boys State University Board of Trustees to discipline the students involved. Additionally, they would like to see legislation introduced to make it a felony offense to disrupt the funeral of a military veteran. ROTC member Travis Jones said, "It is a travesty that the sacrifice of a young man for his country has been tainted by the immature behavior of students who should know better. Their actions are a disgrace to Boys State University and themselves, and they should be ashamed."

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Boys' State University Freedom Society have quickly allied to advocate for the free speech rights of the protesters. They believe any protest held on public property is legal and constitutionally protected. The organizations will band together to sue if any legal action is taken. Senior Samuel Ortiz, President of the BSUFS, stated, "We've already protested once and maintained peace. Further provocation would lead to more action, and I don't know that civility can be sustained while our rights are threatened."

Supreme Interview

By Andrew Dixon

It started with a long, enduring walk to the capitol with 400 representatives of the Boys' State program. The hot sun beat down on

the candidates that were nominated for state positions, as they eagerly anticipated the coming moments in which they would find out whether or not they were voted into office.

The young men became a bit more vibrant as they approached the capitol building on Michigan Avenue. They paced onto the lawn, each city represented by its own city and county flag. The scene became quiet as the officers of the American Legion proudly presented Mr. James Allen, a state senator of Michigan, and Mrs. Elizabeth Weaver, a Michigan Supreme Court Justice. They both gave their respective words of advice and encouragement, and Mrs. Weaver swore each winning official into office. The moment finally came when the Governor of Boys' State was announced to be Mr. Alex Roman of the Federalist Party.

But this article is not to represent the Governor; rather, my intent is to send a message to our Supreme Court Justices. I was eager to find an interview after sitting in the sun so long, so I immediately ran in the direction of Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Weaver. I followed her into a room inside of the Capitol building and asked if she had time. Instead of simply taking questions there, she did something I completely did not expect. She asked me and my partner, Joe Stapleton, to follow her over to the Michigan Supreme Court Building. More so, she asked us to ride in her van with her. It was quite a treat, considering her tight schedule and high importance. We agreed with excitement and followed Mrs. Weaver and her intern to the courthouse.

As we entered the building, we were amazed. The building was intricate, well designed, and more so, beautiful. Judge Weaver asked us to come see the Learning Center, a new edition to the building, which she had come up with and designed herself. The room was filled with many interesting hands on experiences, information about the court system and the history of the Michigan Supreme Court Justice. Any law buff will going to want to go check this out if they have time while they are in Lansing.

We then went to her office, which is a gorgeous room with really comfortable chairs. I began my interview by asking Judge Weaver what her favorite part of being Supreme Court Justice was. "*The opportunity to have truth and justice prevail over wrong doing and the rule of law and integrity has always appealed to me. This is the aspect of the job that I enjoy the most.*" Replied Weaver.

I continued the interview by asking her what the most important advice was that she

could give to any of the winning Supreme Court Justices. She replied, "*LISTEN! If you have a case, be honest and intelligent about it. Be restrained, have a lot of judicial restraint and self-discipline. The Supreme Court can define that of which the court recognizes in a case, you have the power to re-define something. Don't abuse it. Do NOT use court power to promote personal agenda.*"

She also noted that a common sense for the cases could help in a decision. Her 3rd and final point: Be independent! Do not pocket from others, do not take other's ideas. Reform yourself and use your own ideas to be the implementation of your court experience. This will make for the best judgment!

So to those Supreme Court Justices, congratulations! You now hold an extremely important place in the representation of Boys' State. Respect the constitution and the law, and uphold it for the citizens of each city and county.

The Supreme Court's Brush with Death

By Andrew Gehl

Most politicians expect a honeymoon period after being elected; a time when the voter support is at its highest and everything runs smoothly. Unfortunately, there was no such rest for the newly elected members of the Boys' State Supreme Court. During a goodwill trip to Michigan's Supreme Court, the new justices were involved in a car accident with another vehicle. There were nine people in the Boys' State car, including one in the rear compartment of the Ford minivan. The lucky justice in the seatbeltless area was Madison's Spencer Smith. Smith claims that the justices had been joking about the driver's ability in a playful manner since the driver was a Legionnaire. After the crash, however, the whole car was silent. No one was harmed in the accident, but the minivan suffered damages to the front driver side. The Boys' State justices toured the Michigan Supreme Court and then returned to Boys' State in a different car.

Note: All the views and opinions printed in this paper are the views expressed by the individual authors and are not necessarily the views or opinions of The American Legion, The American Legion Department of Michigan, or the Sons of The American Legion.

Lincoln Logs Problems

By Kyle Youngblood

Yesterday began the process of assembling the city governments by appointing positions and looking over the major issues. Like the other cities of Boys' State, Lincoln filed into the meeting hall on the fourth floor of Emmons to decide rough ideas on what would need to be done to create a better quality of living for their citizens. One issue that was brought up was the fact that the mileage could not pass to help the two struggling school districts. An idea was introduced that would create one school district in an attempt to save split funds instead of closing schools. This would create more of an issue on the already overcrowded buildings and a rough estimate of 750 students in each grade. Although the estimate may not be extremely accurate, the mathematics is an alarming thought. The idea of building new buildings was overshadowed by the more likely GET union strike because of corporate downsizing. Economic problems in the presence of the union strike would seriously increase unemployment. Many ideas to confront this issue were to provide more city employment and look into bringing more technical companies into the state through a tax incentive. One idea that was brought up was to bring tourism to the city because brother city, Johnson, was to create a casino. This casino will reap the benefits of Johnson's tourism and make up for the tax incentives given.

What Conspiracy are you?

By Steve Lozier

With the time consuming elections finally over, the focus of all city and state officials has turned to actual government operations. I found it funny that right as elections ended there was already talk of various conspiracies against elected officials; it's interesting to see how some candidates were all "buddy buddy" with their opponent until they lost and now they've turned to scandalous operations in an attempt at revenge. However, I don't know how many of these losing nominees realize that it wasn't their opponent that made the final decision. It was you, the voting citizens of Boys State. Anyway, getting back to the various conspiracies, an anonymous source had this to say, "Yeah I've been stocking up on conspiracy supplies like oregano and powdered sugar since I got here, we've got a pretty good stash going". This just goes to show you that the idea of an actual conspiracy is very realistic; with some rejected nominees on the warpath, I wouldn't be surprised if some of the top

officials or even the government itself is in danger of a possible conspiracy. I just have this to say, it is likely that the lower end officials could be thrown in jail without any extreme uproar from the Boys' State community. But any conspiracy to overthrow our Governor Alex Roman or any other leading officials would be a travesty against the Boys' State Government and Boys' State as an ideal and should be severely punished. Not only would it cause huge problems for the following Boys Staters, but it would also be somewhat hypocritical of the current voters; we voted, as a majority for all of the leading officials who are now in office and to try and overthrow them would be, well, a complete disaster.

Questioning the candidates

By Justin Jackson

At the campaign rally Tuesday morning, in front of all Boys' Staters, the *Whirligig* staff had an opportunity to ask both gubernatorial candidates a few questions. The first question asked was, "What will you do to help stop the drinking problems at Boys' State University?" Alexander Roman, the Federalist candidate, responded first by saying it would be unfeasible to have people monitoring the students. He felt that educating students about binge drinking, and opening rehabilitation centers with counselors would be the best way to approach this major issue. The Nationalist nominee, Shawn DeBaar, responded by saying that he would work closely with the fraternities and sororities to help solve this problem. He also felt that education is not the solution. The second question was regarding the adult entertainment businesses throughout the state. Shawn felt that these businesses are a vital part to several cities' economies, and that regulation is a must. He said that we as citizens need to look past some of our morals and correct this problem. Alex responded by saying that he would have a problem looking past his morals. He felt that the businesses were fine as long as they were not near parks and schools. The third and final question was on how the governor and his office would effectively communicate with the counties and cities. Alex said that he would use his deputy staff members to make is office very hands-on. One of his ideas is to have a meeting with all of the mayors to assess each individual cities problem. Shawn's response was that he would appoint a city/county liaison. He would work with the mayor, city council, and residents of each town to figure out what problems need to be addressed.

***Senate News ***

The Senate Minority Leader would like it to be known that the Senate is not supporting statements made by Senator Foroozesh.

Toga, a tradition

By Kyle Youngblood

The multi purpose room was the host for the annual campaign rally at Boys' State, which showcased views from the Federalist and Nationalist party. This year the Federalist Party had an interesting twist to its appearance during the rally. Federalists, after the dragged on state nominations ended, held a meeting in their room to discuss the entrance to the rally. Federalists decided to do something that attracted attention in order to create party pride and attract votes from wandering Nationalists votes. Something different, something that would attract the attention of everyone that sat in the hot, crowded room. The Federal candidate and now governor, Alex Roman, used his last name for several posters he created (Romans were the world's superpower in ancient Italy from the 1st century BC to 1453) and from that the idea branched the idea of togas, the clothing that men during the Roman Empire and now known for parties such as in Animal House. With a shortage of money to endorse the genius idea, one state nominee suggested bed sheets. Earlier this morning, the Federalists gathered outside the Brody Complex with bed sheets and no idea how to create a toga. Hayden Bellmore began to teach a simple method for tying the robes, taking a corner, throwing over the shoulder and wrapping the rest around the body then promptly tying (this is for anyone that would like to receive tips for parties, presentations or a cheap Halloween costume). Entering to the rap made by Rohen Shah, which one state nominee from the Federalist Party called "spitting hot fire" when ideas for a entrance theme came about. Hopefully the toga tradition will not outlive its hilarious look and idea, but perhaps a year from now someone will learn of the idea and copy it yet again as one of the best-buried, greatest moments of Michigan Boys' State.

Bored of Education?

By: Peter Swanson

When I first stepped foot into multipurpose room B, I was greeted by the loud bickering of the more outgoing members of the Board of Education.

(SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION)

BOARD OF EDUCATION CONTINUED

Disorganization plagued the room for a small portion of my initial visit to their meeting. It was deemed difficult for the members to agree upon issues such as school vouchers, charter schools, standardized testing as well as school overcrowding. It is important to note that shortly after entering the meeting, Brandon Hall was elected as superintendent of the board by means of no contest. His strong voice and determination as well as powerful intellect gained the respect of his peers. He has this to say about his newfound position as superintendent. "As a superintendent of education, every action I make is made with education on my mind. I will aggressively lobby for as much education funding as well as the best educational curriculum that we can attain at Boys State." Another key issue that the board appeared to agree upon was the dysfunction of the *No Child Left Behind* act which pumps more money into schools with higher test scores. Somewhat illogical, no? On Wednesday, superintendent Brandon Hall plans to negotiate aggressively with the governor in concern to the funding for the educational system. "I plan to find out how serious Roman is with his promises towards the wellbeing of Education within the State. He had big talk during his campaign and we plan on making sure he follows through. We really hope that he takes the Board of Education seriously and if he doesn't, it would be a stab in the back to his voters however I do believe that he will be supportive."

*****Governor's News
Update*****

The Whirligig approached Governor Alex Roman Tuesday evening questioning him about his upcoming press conference. When asked when the press conference is scheduled for, Roman replied, "You will have to ask my secretary about that. I do not know when that is scheduled for, and my main focus is getting the budget finished. He will also be sending you a press release in the morning." *The Whirligig* is concerned that Governor Roman is avoiding the press and denying the citizens of Boys' State the

information they deserve to hear.

Because I Got High...

By Brandon Hall

The Jefferson City Council unanimously passed a measure that will legalize marijuana as one of its first acts as a city council.

Mayor Dustin Longnecker is eagerly awaiting the bill, which he says he will sign. The measure will be a big help to Jefferson city, as it will tax weed at 10% and there will be two licenses at \$500 apiece that will be required to buy and sell the plant of typical teenage rebellion. Licenses will need to be renewed once every two years.

Numerous criminals are currently in the county jail on sentences from weed violations. With the passage of this measure, all criminals in jail on weed violations will be released.

Councilmen Rohen Shah, known more for his mad rapping skills than legislative brilliance, explained his vote proudly.

"Not only will this bill release many criminals from our already crowded county jail, it will also raise enough money to make our jails a better place," Shah said. "The sheriff says we have a jail crisis of 2100 prisoners, and only room for 1000, and this bill could really cut that number."

**Working title—Convention
'wrap-up'**

By Ben (Benig) Henig

The air in the room of the Federal Party Caucus was a warm, humid *seventy-five* degrees, and the people were getting restless. After a total of six long, excruciating hours and forty-five painstakingly painstaking minutes, two candidacies were made.

While this reporter was only able to spend most of his time in the Federal convention, due, of course, to his uncanny ability to keep coming back to run for the next position, or something like that. But he was able to pay few, *yet short lived*, visits to the Nationalist convention to gauge how they were looking out.

Due to the so-called confidentiality—an election overseer from the Nationalist party said that—of the two conventions, I can not tell you the specifics of what each person covered, but what I can say is this: it is going to be a big race.

Over all, according to one Nationalist candidate, the ticket was an interesting one: "I think we're actually well represented on the ballot as both a party and especially our candidate for governor."

As far as the Federalists, there was a certain

aura of both excitement and boredom, filled the air. That's all I'm saying for now.

Real Passion

By Karey Miller

During the Federalist State Convention on Monday afternoon, a young man by the name of Sohrab Foroozesh gave a speech to the entire Federalist Party in the attempt to gain a position as a Federalist Party Nominee. He was aiming for a position on the Boys' State Supreme Court. Foroozesh had almost everybody in the room going crazy over the way he presented himself. Foroozesh came out with so much passion on the topics that he was discussing and had points that supported his reasoning. He was one of the few nominees in all of Boys' State who spoke wholeheartedly and actually seemed to care about his views, not just how many votes he could get.

Foroozesh gave more passion in the few minutes of his speech than any other of the candidates in the Federalist State Convention combined, gaining the most steam during his "How dare you!" rant. Sohrab was back-lashing and giving his opinion on a few comments made by a previous candidate who stated something on the lines that children growing up without a mother or father; either by divorce, death, the fact that the parents are a gay couple (the main topic the speaker was getting at), or other reasons will have trouble in life due to this lack of having a mother or father figure around. These comments were based on so-called 'research'; research which this reporter had no luck finding after spending a good amount of time in a computer lab after the State Convention.

Autobahn For Boys State?

By Cameron Pierson

There is a possible autobahn in the works for Boys State. If passed it would cover the eastern counties of the state and is being pushed by the Mayor of Jefferson City, Dustin Longnecker. There is talk of it increasing revenue and tourism thus increasing commerce and tourism (thus increasing revenue). However, Chris Jordan, member of the Board of Trustees, says that he is 'pretty sure' that toll booths will go into funding of this project