



The Whirligig News

American Legion Boys State
M.S.U. Campus – Brody Hall Complex
East Lansing, Michigan. 48824

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BOYS STATE 2007 STATE ELECTION RESULTS

Elected State Officials

Governor

Jones, Michael	Federalist	Fillmore
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Lt. Governor

Finch, Alex	Nationalist	Jackson
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Secretary of State

Manios, Vasilios	Nationalist	Madison
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Attorney General

Habib, Joe	Federalist	Fillmore
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State Board of Education

Bridges, Ian	Nationalist	Adams
Campbell, Shawn	Federalist	Polk
Cassady, Patrick	Federalist	Taylor
Dyer, Scott	Federalist	Jackson
Li, Tengbo	Nationalist	Jefferson
McPherson, Michael	Federalist	Adams
Moss, Ethan	Nationalist	Fillmore
Thayer, Daniel	Federalist	Fillmore

Board of Trustees - Boys State

Beals, Evan	Nationalist	Madison
Bolk, Ty	Federalist	Taylor
Brinnehl, Patrick	Federalist	Polk
Brown, Brent	Nationalist	Polk
Gosztyla, Sebastian	Nationalist	Harrison
Kelber, Scott	Federalist	Taylor
Ong, Jeffrey	Federalist	Jackson
VanPelt, Karl	Nationalist	Jackson

Justices of the Supreme Court

Manettas, Anastasios	Nationalist	Van Buren
Moran, Ben	Federalist	Washington
Palawski, Gregory	Nationalist	Adams
Rule, Adam	Nationalist	Monroe
Schaap, Kyle	Federalist	Van Buren
Skinner, Michael	Federalist	Adams
Willuweit, Joseph	Federalist	Fillmore

Boys State Co director Shares His Views About The Program

By Michael Smith

Is there something about Boys State that you have been curious about all week? Hopefully your questions will be answered in this article. Tuesday I had the privilege of chatting with Ron Runyan, Codirector of Michigan Boys State. We discussed issues ranging from the purpose of Boys State to specific facts about Boys State. Here is how the conversation went:

Mike: What is your specific title in the American Legion?

Ron: Past Post Commander at Wyandotte 317. I was also on the Wyandotte Honor Guard as a bugler.

Mike: How did Boys State get started?

Ron: The American Legion began in 1919, and Boys State was started later. Not every state has Boys State. For the states that do, the event ranges from 50-1300 participants and one weekend to one and a half weeks.

Mike: What things have been kept the same, and what things are different in Boys State since it started?

Ron: The amount of cities has decreased due to a decline in the number of delegates, but otherwise it is the same structure.

Mike: What is the hardest part of Boys State for you?

Ron: Trying to get funding from American Legion posts and community groups for kids to come. Also, trying to find new donation sources.

Mike: What is the number one thing that you would like to see Boys Staters come away with this week?

Ron: I want them to have a good time. Also, I want them to go back and express to their peers how they feel about Boys State in order to promote it for next year.

Mike: What is your favorite part of being the director of Boys State?

Ron: It gives me a good feeling to know that we send three hundred plus kids here so that they can achieve something. They can then use their experiences here as stepping stones in their education and careers. Also, it allows them to promote Americanism in their community and understand how the government process works.

Mike: What is your favorite part of being in the American Legion?

Ron: I get to socialize and share stories with veterans. It gives me a sense of honor and pride within the state community.

Mike: What keeps you coming back to Boys State every year?

Ron: This is my first year being involved in Boys State.

Mike: Do you think the goal of Boys State

is to better the individuals attending personally or to better the community as a whole?

Ron: It is a sense of bettering yourself so that you can better the community.

Mike: How is Boys State similar and different as compared to an actual state government?

Ron: They are both run the same way and are very similar.

Mike: What advantages do you believe Boys Staters have over their colleagues?

Ron: Boys State looks good on their college applications. Thirty five percent of Boys Staters attend MSU.

Mike: Did you go to Boys State?

Ron: No, but I wish I could've. I didn't know about it.

Mike: Do legionnaires get paid?

Ron: No, they are all volunteers and take the week off from their jobs.

Mike: Are the kids from the same schools split up on purpose here?

Ron: Yes. This is done so that they get to interact and work with boys from different places. It is a great learning experience to deal with people you don't know.

Mike: How are the awards given at the end of this week? Is this a city or a state competition?

Ron: You'll have to wait to see how the awards go. This is first an individual competition, then city, county, and party.

Mike: Does the map and cities of Boys State stay the same every year? Who makes the maps?

Ron: The map changes depending on how many people attend, which determines the number of cities. The senior staff makes the map.

Many thanks to Ron Runyan for his time that he willingly gave to make this interview happen. I investigated further some other questions about Boys State that I had, and here is what I found:

Do counselors get paid? -A little bit. It is mostly volunteer, though.

Where did the name Whirligig come from, anyway?

-The name was chosen for the Boys State paper sometime early in the program. Nobody that I have asked knows why the newspaper was named that. The definition of whirligig on the Merriam Webster website is:

1: A child's toy having a whirling motion.

2: Merry-Go-Round.

3 a: One that continuously whirls, moves, or changes.

b: A whirling or circling course(as of events).

When was Boys State first started in Michigan?

-It started in 1938 in Lansing, and it moved

to Brody Hall in 1954.

I am proud to be apart of this program because of its good nature and focus on learning. I am happy that the American Legion puts it together. Thank you American Legion.

State, County and City News

Nationalist Convention Bombed!

By Michael Smith

Tensions get high, the temperature rises, and partisan pride starts kicking in. Finally people start going crazy. This is exactly what happened on Monday when the Nationalist Convention was bombed by none other than Ben T. Paul from Washington City in McClelland County. You may have heard about him before. It all started when Ben ran for mayor of his city. He had an interesting idea, such as a buddy system for kids in school that would allow them to get to know each other better while at the same time prevent kidnapping. However, the residents of McClelland County did not for vote him for mayor. In his anger, Ben decided to use desperate measures to get some kind of recognition from the citizens of Boys State. During the second session of the Nationalist Convention on Monday, he ran in with what appeared to be a Cheeze-It box with wires coming out of it. The bomb could have been detonated with what looked to be a cell phone. It was very unfortunate for the Nationalist members who were too close to the bomb. We still remember and honor them for their dedication to Boys State and its government. It is suspected that Ben's behavior had sprung from the injury to the head that he had experienced on Monday morning. Ben, who was wearing heavy protective gear, was dragged from the convention by a staff member. He was heard saying something to the effect of, "Down with the Nats, Feds for life!" Is this really what you wanted, Ben?

State, County and City News

County Jail Not at Fault

By Nathan Cormier, Williams County
Sherriff

Early Sunday morning, convicted criminal Tom Conway was found in the showers

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COUNTY JAIL CONTINUED

hung by his own bed sheet. He was pronounced dead at 8:21 that morning. It has been found that he, indeed, hung himself in an act of suicide. A recent article stated that Tom's death was due to the fact of juveniles being treated unjustly. Although young criminals have the right to a separate complex, this was not the reason for the suicide in the William's County Jail. These convicts need separate facilities and there is a bill in congress supporting the building of a Juvenile Delinquent Home. We need to right the ways of these young adults. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Conway family.

Pollution in Fillmore

By Scott Kelber

"The city of Fillmore fully intends to investigate the numerous complaints about smoke coming from the paint factories." The statement was released from the newly elected administration. The mayoral staff is working with the city council to solve this issue. The mayor will announce, at a press conference on June 20th, that an investigation will take place. The mayor and the council have yet to decide what action they will take, if and when, the investigation shows the emissions don't meet standards.

Education News

Boys State University's Board of Trustees Being Sued Over Racial Preferences

By Karl J. VanPelt

The Board of Trustees is being sued for using racial preferences, not Affirmative action, for minority undergraduate applicants. This is in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of Boys State Constitution Article 1, Section 2. The Petition claims that the admission process is using racial preferences, and is admitting and denying people based on these preferences. The requirements are all the same, but apparently race is being used as a deciding factor. The defendant is claiming that all minority applicants are qualified, and that if racial preferences weren't used, the diversity of BSU would disappear which would hinder learning and experience for all of BSU's students.

Meningitis Deaths, Healthcare and Education Hand-in-Hand

By Jared Camer

With two teens dying suddenly of

meningitis within the last week, many local healthcare issues have been exposed. Lucas Rosalez, an upcoming senior at Hart High School, who died June ninth around 3:30 A.M. and Melanie Apel, also a senior, of Forest Hills Central High, dying just days later. Neither death appears to be related at this time. Both families are the subject of fundraisers in their respective towns, which are expected to bring in upwards of \$1000 per family. Of Rosalez's parents, only one has health insurance. However, it will not be nearly enough to cover many of their costs. How the legislature will respond to this debilitating lack of healthcare coverage is yet to be seen. Rest assured, however, that these kind and caring teens will not soon be forgotten by their peers.

Editorials, Sports and Humor

My Road to State Board of Trustees

By Karl Vanrell

Ending up as a State Board Trustee was not something I expected to happen. I came here with the goal to be a part of the Boys' State government and that was all. I thought that perhaps I would have a city position, and at most a county position. I was not expecting to end up with a state position. After losing the County Clerk position, I decided I would run for something at the Nationalist State Convention. I ended up trying for the Board of Trustees. I had no speech and didn't know what questions I would be answering, but I gave it my best shot. I answered the questions honestly and didn't use any political gimmicks to get people to nominate me. I am not a politician and don't necessarily like all the things often associated with politics, such as lies and corruption. That is why I was honest and gave a truthful answer to the questions asked. I am flattered that I have been voted into this position. I owe thanks to all the members of my city, Jackson, for their votes and support. I would also like to thank all the other voters here at Boys State for giving me a chance. I will do my best to help improve Boys State and our cities. Again, thank you.

Letter to the Editor

By Alex Parr

Hey guys, over the past few days, I was kind of unsure about the things that were unfolding at our boys' state. I underestimated the will power of this group to do well as a unit. What I saw on Sunday, Monday, and some of Tuesday was not

looking promising. But as for me, on Tuesday night, I saw a change in the way people were thinking and doing things.

Bloody B-Ball Battle

By Michael Smith

We all love competition, right? Well, perhaps that is the main cause of a couple of incidents that occurred during the basketball tournament on Monday. The heat was intense; sweat beaded on the bodies of the players, but the intense heat of battle was even greater as the Washington and Jefferson City basketball teams faced off on the rugged, concrete court number two. The first incident was when Mike Smith lugged in a nice defensive rebound. On the way down, he got caught up in the fray, came down hard, and scraped his left elbow. However, this is not the extent of the great pain that was experienced during this activity. Ben Paul, once a mayor hopeful for the great city of Washington, was just an innocent bystander/player, who happened to be standing under the basket playing defense. An opposing player went up for a lay-up, that part was fine, then the second part, was not so much. The opposing player then came down hard right on the top of poor Ben's head with his elbow. At first Ben thought, "Man, his elbow kind of hit hard!" As Ben touched the area of impact, he noticed that his hand was covered with blood. That's interesting he thought. Once the blood started pouring onto his face and chest, he knew that this was a serious situation. His teammates were shocked and concerned for their fellow man. The great and noble mayor of Washington City Ian Pendleton swooped to the rescue and escorted Ben away. Ben started to run, but Ian, as wise as he is, told him to walk. They hunted for a staff person as Ben applied pressure to the wound. Ian found someone, and Ben was taken into the office located in the lobby of Brody Complex. The legionnaires were astonished at the proportion of thick, red blood that now enveloped Ben's head, face, and chest. The legionnaires wiped some of the blood off, but this was still not enough. Ben needed serious help fast. He was taken to Sparrow Clinic not too far from here where further unknown treatments awaited him. Ben waited in line behind a man with a bruised leg that went in **BEFORE** him. Once Ben received treatment, his injury was cleaned. He was given a topical anesthetic to numb it. After waiting for an hour, the doctor was finally available.

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BLOODY B-BALL CONTINUED

By now, the numbing effect had already worn off! Ben had just recently learned that there was a one inch gash in his head. How unfortunate. Now Ben had two choices: Re-numb the wound with an injection for another 20 minutes, or, let the doc staple them up with **NO** anesthetic. What a choice. Ben, being the brave (or just needle fearing) man he is, decided on the staples. **WOW!** As the doctor did his work, Ben could feel every one of those staples puncture his skin and fold in to close up the wound. The pain was excruciating. Ben had to keep his head still while sitting up. He lost his breath on the second staple, and the doctor took his sweet time on the third and final staple. Ben came back alive, however, and resumed activities today in full form.

Gold-Bond Wanted!

By Benjamin B. Kennedy

It seems as though Boys State is hit with an epidemic. I am not talking about contagious diseases, illnesses, or annoying campers. Instead I am talking about the little problem of pesky chaffing. When packing for Boys State we never would have that to pack the Gold-Bond, but that is all we can think about. We all know how much of a problem chaffing can cause. Whether you are the type the grinds through, and tolerate it, or if you are the type that alters the way you walk (we will leave this part up to your imagination). Starting here soon, Gold-Bond can become a pricey commodity. Does Sparty-Mart sell Gold-Bond Perhaps? This sentence is addressed to those who have Gold-Bond: **SHARE!** I know it may seem hard, but you should really help a fellow 'camper' out and share your Gold-Bond, the more you put in, the more you get out. One of the cities most devastated by this affliction is Harrison City. Boys Staters there are in desperate need of some well deserved Gold-Bong. If the newly elected Governor would like to help out his citizens perhaps he could create some of kind of Gold-Bond legislation. After all, it's a problem affecting the entire Boys State.

Girls State Mayors Visit Boys State

By Anastasios Manettas

To the glee of the Boys State Mayors, who hadn't seen any members of the opposite sex for several days, the Girls State Mayors paid a visit this afternoon. Mike, the mayor of Van Buren, was especially excited. For the past couple of days, he'd been rooming

with guys by the names of "Nasty" and "Balz." To say the least, he was excited to

meet his Girls State counterpart. After the two toured the Boys State campus, I sat down to interview the female mayor, who requested to remain anonymous:

Q: So, did you enjoy your visit?

A: Yeah, definitely. You guys have a great campus, and Mike was a great tour guide.

Q: What was your favorite part?

A: Besides Mike, I liked the dinner and the dining hall, even though they were similar to Girls State. The mayors' offices are really nice.

Q: What would you say is the main difference between Boys and Girls State?

A: Boys State is way more laid back. The counselors at Girls State are very strict and don't tolerate as much horseplay as the Boys State ones do. Everything is more structured and uptight at Girls State. Boys State seems to have a much more relaxed, fun environment. Besides that, the two are the same.

Q: Well, it looks like you have to go, thanks for the interview, do you have any last words?

A: Yeah, I just want to say that the boys at Van Buren were really cool and funny, I hope I can come back and visit again sometime.

Well, it seems like Boys and Girls State are really similar. The only difference seems to be the structure and discipline. Personally, I feel that Boys State is very structured and runs smoothly. The more laid back atmosphere has a positive effect on the governmental experience. The girl mayor I interviewed definitely agreed.

Letter to the Whirligig

By The State Board of Education

The new members of the Boys' State Board of Education started off their terms with a bang after. They were sworn into office by Chief Justice Weaver on the steps of the Capitol Building. Then they were immediately taken to meet the secretary and president of the Board of Education of the State of Michigan.

The president, Mrs. Kathleen Straus, and the secretary, Mrs. Carolyn Curtin, had plenty of helpful information and tips for dealing with the issues a State's Board of Education might face. The information and tips they gave the Board of Education greatly helped out the Board and with the information the first meeting moved smoothly and much was accomplished. The Board would like to thank the Michigan State Board of Education President, Mrs. Straus, and Secretary Curtin for their helpfulness and just taking the time to speak with them. It

was an honor to have met you. The Boys State Board of Education would also like to

announce its plans on raising the standards of graduation in our state's schools. If there are any questions or comments please contact the Board any time. If any city school board has problems they would like to bring up to the Board they can do so whenever. Thank you from the Board of Education for your Boys State.

My Realization as a Lobbyist.

By Alex Malburg

Today at Boys State, the statement of "The more you put into this week the more you get out" has become extremely true. Walking around the Armstrong building, I have learned interesting facts and new ways to make deals. It seems that Monroe and Jackson have combined police forces to increase the safety and decrease the cost for all their needs. A center dispatch has been talked about to make sure the bond between Monroe and Jackson will be supreme. What scares me the most is a rumor that all the State funding for the police has been cut. This defiantly alarms me because the crime rate in Monroe has been slowly increasing especially with the recent school killings of twelve kids.

As a lobbyist, visiting other cities has been a daily commute. Proposing to cities such as Tyler, Monroe, Polk, and Jackson to legalize marijuana in their cities has been incredibly entertaining. I have learned that each of these cities are trying to bring non-medical marijuana to the streets. Polk and Tyler have requested to grow this product and use this income to increase their revenue. AGF have made cities friends and enemies, but the focus of this is to educate each and every one of us to become respectable and brilliant men.

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.