

THE STATESMAN

A Publication of American Legion Boys' State of New York, Inc. Volume 78, No. 5
Tuesday, July 1, 2014



Valesky discusses medical marijuana bill

Benjamin Jon Howell

MORRISVILLE – Senator David Valesky of the 53rd district of New York visited the Morrisville campus on Monday morning. Senator Valesky was in Boys' State in 1983, and has returned numerous years in the past.

Every year Senator Valesky tries to speak about a different subject. This year, he chose to teach the civilians of Boys' State how a bill changes as it goes through the process of becoming a law. The particular bill that Valesky chose was the Compassionate Care Act. This act, when it comes into effect, will make New York State the 23rd state in the union to legalize medicinal marijuana.

The first state to legalize medicinal marijuana was California. However, in Senator Valesky's opinion, the 1996 law passed in California was much too relaxed. Valesky stated that stated, "If we do it, we don't want to do it like California." For this reason, Valesky believed that the original bill in New York needed revision. The original bill, in Valesky's opinion, was also too loose. There was nothing in place to punish those who share their prescriptions with others, and also nothing to punish doctors who give prescriptions to people who do not need them.

The bill was revised, and according to Valesky, this law will be "the most restrictive of the 23 states." The Compassionate Care Act that Valesky is supporting will only allow 5 organizations



ABOVE: New York State Senator David Valesky spoke to the citizens Monday about new and upcoming laws and issues in New York State. *Photo by Will Tondo 0491.* INSET: NYS Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci shared details of his experiences in politics. *Photo by Connor Farry 0943.*

to produce the medicinal marijuana, and only 20 dispensaries throughout all of New York.

The law will not allow patients to smoke their prescription, and prescriptions will only be given out for

patients who have one of 9 diseases, such as cancer or HIV, where current medicine is not effective. This law will have a 7-year trial period, after which it will be reviewed and any necessary revisions will be made.

BOYS' STATE MENU

Tuesday, July 1 LUNCH: BBQ Pulled Pork, Macaroni and Cheese, Steamed Broccoli, Tossed Salad, Smores Bars. DINNER: Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Tossed Salad, Cheesecake Cups.
Wednesday, July 2 BREAKFAST: Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Sausage Patties, Homefries, Fresh Fruit, Canned Pineapple, Cold Cereal, Donut Holes.

Boys' State Weather

Tuesday, July 1

Chance of Thunderstorms

High 89 °F / Low 69 °F

Precipitation 30%

Winds 3 mph

-Weather.gov

Medical marijuana: Time to work out the details



Matthew Dunderdale 1020

Whether you want to call it; Weed, Reefer, Jolly Green, Mary Jane or even Bobo Bush, marijuana has been a very controversial drug throughout the country in recent years.

So far there have been 22 states (as well as Washington D.C) that have legalized medical Marijuana. These states include Colorado, California,

Delaware, and New Mexico. Many people throughout the United States have had different views on the legalization of medical marijuana, and those numbers have been growing more and more separate.

Over the past few years the number of supporters for medical marijuana has been increasing at a steady rate, with lessening opposition. Medical marijuana in itself is, in my opinion, a great concept. Medical marijuana can be very helpful because it can ease the symptoms of individuals with epilepsy, glaucoma, and muscular spasticity. There are certain details in need of change, examples of which are the method of use and possibly even the name.

When it comes to the name, many people opposing medical marijuana would see it differently, in the sense that the name is based on the chemical within the marijuana that is beneficial to its users. When people hear mari-

juana, they think 'illicit substance'. If they were to hear it by a more "medical" sounding term. It sounds stupid, but it's something that could actually have an effect.

People who currently smoke marijuana recreationally, in many states, are doing it illegally. Many are concerned that medical marijuana will be abused if people are allowed to smoke it, just as many other controlled substances. If the method of intake were changed, there'd be an increased chance of people being more supportive of it.

However, I will most likely never support marijuana (without some changes first being made); it is in my personal opinion that there is most likely a better solution. I am part of a dying breed, as opposition for marijuana is decreasing in number. If some issues are resolved, there is a good chance that medical marijuana will pass unanimously; until then, there are some changes to be made.

Hey, Kim: Eat our popcorn-flavored dirt



Austin Wolcott 0202

When you mess with the son of the cheeseburger's inventor, you will get threatened... and then you'll laugh.

Basically, no one on the continent of North America, or even in the rest of the world, takes anything said by the Earth's Dear Leader (AKA Kim Jung Un) seriously. From epic nuclear missile failures to hideous haircuts, North Korea has become a well-

known breeding ground of stupidity and mentally unstable rulers, and you don't have to look far to see this.

As the cinematography industry of the great U.S. of A. continues to consume civilization with its breathtaking CGI and knock-out actors, some people have begun to test the waters of freedom. With mind-blowing technology taking movie directors anywhere in the world they want to go, some daredevils have decided to go places no one's ever dared to go before. One particular location is North Korea, land of the maniac.

In the highly anticipated upcoming movie "The Interview," comedian Seth Rogan and James the Great and Powerful Franco travel to North Korea as journalists and end up becoming hired assassins for the US government... and you'll never guess who they're in Asia to kill. That's right; it's well-known dictator Kim Jung Un, and you'd never guess how he feels about this picture.

Okay. So, you probably *can* figure out how he feels about a movie made

about someone killing him: he's furious. The Dear Leader has told the American government that allowing this movie to be released to the public would be a "direct act of war" and threatens "merciless retaliation" if it *is* released. My opinion is summed up well in James Franco's comment: "I hope Kim Jung enjoys the movie."

Yes, we all understand that killing people is wrong, even if they're mentally unstable. And yes, we also understand that no one wants to watch a movie of their death.

However, in my opinion Kim Jung Un needs to get over himself and crack a smile on that dictator face of his. This is America. We watch what we want, we like who we want, and we kill who we want (not legally, of course).

Obviously, two millionaires are not going to North Korea to kill him in reality, so maybe he should calm himself down. And if he can't calm down, then maybe he should fill his hollow threats with something other than prison camps and failure.

Letter to the Editor:

Preserve our brotherhood and our nation

Cameron Williams 0928

We, the men of Boy's State, have created a union, have created a brotherhood in these short few days. We want to establish the justice of not only our state but our nation. We will ensure that "the people" are safe, and "the people" are calm. We will defend our rights.

Americans' well-being is our top priority, and we will secure America's freedom to do this. We will secure America's freedoms, like the right to bear arms, because the future of America is our priority.

This speech was based off the Preamble. Based on our Constitution, Based off what gave us our freedom. That freedom is what got all of us here, and we will represent America for their opinions, for their ideas, and for their freedom.

Helen Sperring, the Holocaust survivor who came to speak to us, said, "Just because you cannot accomplish everything, doesn't mean you cannot accomplish something."

This quote gave me the drive to do this. It let me know that even though I may not be able to do everything I want perfectly or correctly, I will create an impact. I will give something back to our nation, and no one will ever be forgotten.

Please give a moment of silence to our lost troops who never made it home, and to all the brave Holocaust victims who were massacred doing the Nazis' regime in WWII.

Thank you.





Jerks Running for Office

Business Card

- > Spent 30\$ at Staples every night
- > Has a wet dream about being governor every night

The Drone

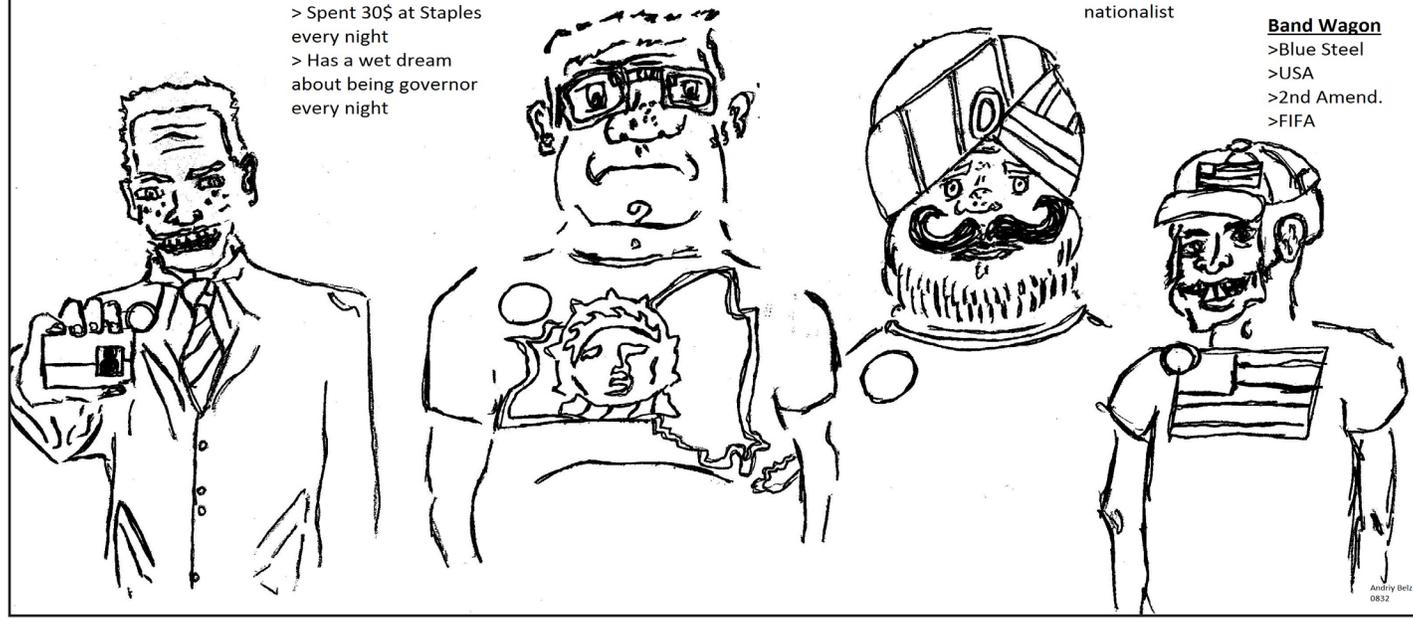
- >lists everything he's ever done
- >puts us all to sleep

The Stereotype

- >No one can understand him so everyone votes for him
- >Race card if nationalist

Band Wagon

- >Blue Steel
- >USA
- >2nd Amend.
- >FIFA



Behind the Scenes: Just who are the candidates for governor?

Seamus Tynan 1040

After the conclusion of the caucuses on Sunday, this reporter was able to sit down with the candidates for the position of Boys' State governor from both political parties. The purpose was to obtain information on the backgrounds of these candidates, giving the citizens' a clearer viewpoint of previous leadership and public speaking programs they were involved in, as well as personal interests, aspirations, and thoughts about the State Party Caucus.

The candidate from the Nationalist Party; Robert "Campbell" German 1011

of Koutz County, could only describe the way he felt as "beyond excited" and eager for the coming caucus. Robert hails from West Irondequoit, was student class president for 3 years, and runs an outside group dubbed National Youth Leadership Training. For sports, this candidate participated in varsity wrestling for two years and made his way to captain of his team. He also attained the title of Eagle Scout at 15.

He has a deep passion for the consumption of ribs.

The Federalist Party Candidate is Ryan Leone 0194, also known as "The

Rap Guy," representing the county of McKnealy. Ryan was also enticed for Monday night's caucus with a deep concern for his nickname, which he hopes to correct at the state caucus. He is also an Eagle Scout and has been class president for the past 4 years.

Ryan's sports department consists of: being captain of his school's varsity spring & winter track teams for the last 2 years and plays for his 10th grade varsity football team.

Lastly, Ryan has an interest in education, with a passion for academics, and says he loves Steak with Mac & Cheese.

The Federalists wrap it up... with a slight delay

Gary Dreyer 0094

The final session of the Federalist Party Convention took place on Sunday evening, when the candidates for State Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor were selected in a meeting that ran over 30 minutes over time.

The evening opened with several passionate speeches from the nominees for attorney general, which provided a welcome break from their repetitive predecessors. Nominees from Roosevelt, Stafford, and Scheiberling counties, albeit ultimately unsuccessful, seemed to move the crowd with their addresses, which received significant applause. The tight race concluded with a final one-on-one runoff in which the candidate from McKneely, Jonathan Jones 0212, defeated Anthony Kim 0518 from Stafford County by a vote of 231-215.

Unenthusiastic speeches returned to the forefront in the lieutenant governor's race, despite some notable exceptions from the nominees from Wong, Roosevelt, and Stember counties. In the second round Lucas Golan 0494 from Stember County, came close to achieving an absolute majority, but the second and third place finishers failed to withdraw, bringing the election to a third round. Golan was ultimately successful by a margin of 285 to 160 votes, defeating Joseph Lauria 0760 from Wong County and Benjamin Schafer 0394 from Fish County.

The gubernatorial race seemed to drag on, in some part due to the emer-

gence of the "Blue Steel" movement, which sought to unify the Federalist Party and seemed to get much attention in the nomination speeches of all gubernatorial candidates.

In the round of five candidates there was a tie for third place until the last minute, when a revision put the candidate from Pedro County, the incumbent permanent party chairman, in third place. Ultimately, the nod went

to the candidate from Pedro County, Ryan Leone 0194, who won acclaim and scorn from the audience for a speech that featured rapping. Leone captured the nomination with 240 of the 446 votes cast. This completed the slate of Federalist candidates running for statewide office, which also featured the seven nominees for Court of Appeals and the State Comptroller nominee Michael Bertelsman 0120.

The Nationalist Party platform

Konrad Kopko 0649

The Nationalist Party unveiled its platform on Sunday. The chairman who spoke was Andrew Zinner 0587. During the convention the Party unveiled many new proposals, but most outstanding of these were the dodge ball tournament, allowing Boys' State to watch the World Cup on Tuesday, and of course, integrating Boys' State and Girls' State.

The Nationalist Party started their speech with sports. They proposed Frisbee, flag football, and dodgeball. For dodgeball, they wish to hold a grand tournament with all the counties competing with each other. The winners would face the marines.

They talked about increasing taxes on the richest one percent of the country. They want to define business size based on net worth, not number of employees. Other important points they brought up were, rewards for businesses that use green energy, compen-

sations for using American labor, and using welfare as a tool for "those who need, not those who feed".

On the political side of things, the Nationalist Party favors stricter term limits on Assemblymen, Senators, and Governors. They also recommend there be a fixed budget of ten million dollars for state campaigns. They justify these reforms by citing the power that companies have to buy candidates and the corruption that comes with it.

The social aspect of the platform supports medicinal marijuana as a viable medical practice. They also favor a comprehensive psychiatric examination before buying a firearm. As for hydrofracking, they say it should be regulated by the state.

The four candidates for the Nationalist Party are Governor: Roger C. German 1011; Lieutenant Governor: Gerard Maraj 0951; Comptroller: Timothy Waddell 1005; Attorney General: Tennyson Bardwell 0639.

Day Three: Contests near quarterfinals

Jack Kingston 0876

At 3:30 PM, Bowen, from Roosevelt County, and Ward, from Kogutek County, faced off on the court. Bowen came out on fire, opening the game on a 7-0 run. Although Ward was able to score a couple of baskets, it was never enough, as Bowen kept on cruising throughout the game. The final score of the game was 20-7. Leading the scoring for Bowen was Peter Hoffmann 0104, scoring nine points, including two huge slam dunks. He was unstoppable in the paint, scoring the majority of his points from inside. In addition, Zach Schneider 0102 scored five points for Bowen, all off points in the paint.

Also at 3:30, Minei, from Roosevelt County, and Kearsing, from Kogutek County took to the court in volleyball. Minei took home the victory, winning 2-0. The second match proved to be the best game between the two cities, as Minei was able to come from behind and beat Kearsing, advancing to the next round. Desmond Goolsby 0049 was instrumental during Minei's comeback, scoring four straight points for his team, and leading them to the next round.

Finally, at 3:30, Herschlag, from Koutz County, and Neville, from Pedro County, took to the softball field in a thriller that ended in a game winning RBI. In the bottom of the seventh inning, Nicholas Carpenter 1057 drove in the game winning hit for Herschlag, giving them the victory. With this victory, Herschlag advanced to the next round later that day. However, they were shut out in their next game, losing 4-0 to Miller, from Scheiberling, and were eliminated.

Other results:

Basketball

Keiser def. Troiola 20-15

Carpenter def. Giordano 21-20 (Free Throws)

Neville def. Casey 20-11

Miller def. Bertrand 17-16 (Free Throws)

SECOND ROUND

Bowen def. Keiser 20-18

Neville def. Miller 13-12

Softball

Love def. Ward (No score reported)

Harrington def. Morrill 11-10

Miller def. O'Keefe 12-3

Burnett forfeited to McNamara

SECOND ROUND

Harrington def. Love 18-2

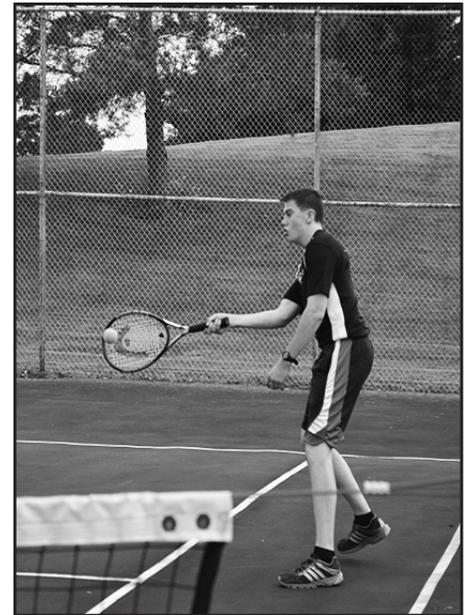
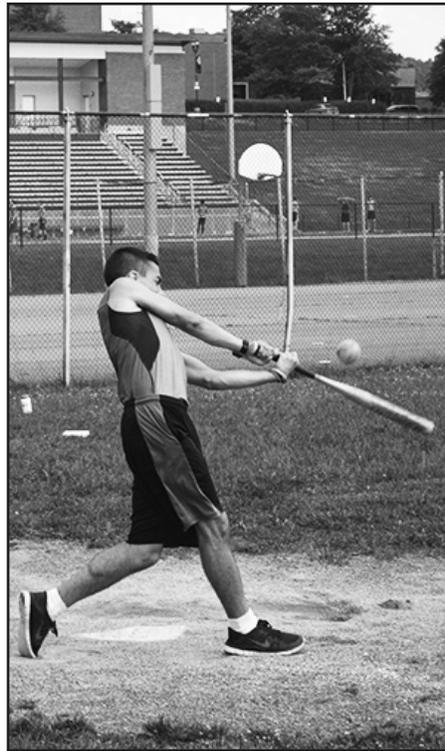
Volleyball

Keiser def. Morrill 2-0

Carpenter def. Giordano 2-1

Casey def. Marino 2-0

Mitras def. Bertrand 2-0



ABOVE: Quentin Wakefield 0418 of Triola returns a serve. LEFT: Nicholas Carpenter 1057 drives in the winning run for Herschlag. Photos by Connor Farry 0943.

Are freshman college hoopsters going pro too early?

Gregory Iannicelli 0314

This past Thursday, the NBA hosted the college draft. Plenty of the top picks were freshman players leaving college early.

Players going pro after their freshman year college are nothing out of the ordinary: notable pro players like Anthony Davis and Carmelo Anthony went pro after their freshman years.

There are even players like LeBron James and Kobe Bryant who didn't even go to college before entering the draft. However, there has long been arguments on whether or not these college players going pro so early is more of an asset or a liability.

In 2012, journalist Marc Isenberg dove into why it can be a good or bad idea to leave school early as a basketball

player. Isenberg stated that players who leave college run the risk of sacrificing their education, and having no clear direction after their pro career concludes. He also stated that staying in college could allow the player to further grow mentally and emotionally before going pro.

However, Isenberg also made cases for leaving early. He argued that if the player is a first-round pick, his contract will guarantee millions of dollars. He noted the possibility of a freshman working off his degree in the offseason.

Either way you look at it; this is a thought-provoking topic. Unless the NBA acts to require two years in college, freshmen will continue go pro, prolonging a question that may not have a clear answer.