

## Sen. Griffo addresses variety of topics

Benjamin Jon Howell 0058

MORRISVILLE – New York State Sen. Joe Griffo stepped off the stage on Tuesday morning assembly and onto the floor with all the citizens of Boys' State. Senator Griffo represents the 47<sup>th</sup> senate district of New York, and as Senator, he helps create new laws for the state.

There are three important messages that Senator Griffo made yesterday. First, Griffo wanted to make sure the citizens were aware that the laws that the Senate make can directly affect them as individuals. Secondly, he encouraged the boys to be informed about not only what the Senate was doing, but how it will affect them and others. Finally, Senator Griffo reminded everyone to register to vote.

When asked if the voting age should be lowered to sixteen, Senator Griffo promptly stated, "No." He went on to explain that in order to be an informed responsible voter, you need to have life experiences.

Griffo was asked about his views on medicinal marijuana and hydrofracking, replying that issues such as those should be left up to doctors and scientists, rather than politicians, and that he would look at what they have to say before making any decisions on a law. Griffo said that New York has an, "over reliance on testing," in response to a question regarding Common Core.



Sen. Joe Griffo and his staff volunteer, Melissa, were the hit of the Tuesday assembly. Photo by Kody Skype 0783

The Senator mentioned support for alternate paths besides the regent's diploma, such as a trade diploma. Then, Senator Griffo broke from taking questions and made a request to the citizens. "Please don't text when you're behind the wheel!"

At the end of his speech, Griffo brought in a volunteer from his office. Melissa was met with a grand applause from the boys in the assembly, and was the talk of Boys' State for the rest of the day.

When the Senator's speech was over, the citizens mimicked the Jerry Springer Show chanting, "Joe! Joe!"



LOCKUP - State troopers and sheriffs from Boys' State took a trip to the Madison County Jail Tuesday afternoon, pausing at a monitoring station to view the technology used by corrections officers. Photo by Connor Farry (0943)

### BOYS' STATE MENU

Wednesday, July 2 LUNCH: Duck Rillettes, Filet Mignon avec Gorgonzola, Pistachio Cannoli. DINNER: Roast Rack of Lamb with a balsamic reduction, Insalata Caprese, Crème brûlée. Thursday, July 3 BREAKFAST: Steamed Lobster Tails in Drawn Butter, Caramelized Pears with Aged Colby, Roasted Duck with Raspberry spread.

### Boys' State Weather

Wednesday, July 2

Chance of Thunderstorms and Showers  
 High 86 / Low 64  
 Precipitation 50%  
 Winds 20 mph

-Weather.gov

# The SAFE Act is not keeping us safer



Matthew Dunderdale- 1020

The New York SAFE Act: is it really making New York State that much safer?

The answer to that question is definitely... NO! Guns themselves are not killers. Guns/firearms are simply tools that are made to be weapons. Weapons were created to aid humans in causing death. There is no firearm, civilian legal, which has the ability to kill a person without someone pulling the trigger.

Again, guns cannot get up, walk up to someone, and shoot them; it takes someone to hold the weapon and use it, with intent to kill. In an interview, New York State Senator Joe Griffo stated that, the procedure and policy behind the SAFE Act were incorrect. Usually when a bill is proposed there is an "aging" period before it is passed, so that it may receive the proper amount of review and consideration.

The SAFE act did not receive this "aging period," and therefore was passed without review at length. Senator Griffo believes that the act should not have passed at all, however in any case it should have been subjected to a more lengthy review period. One thing that the SAFE Act restricts is the number of rounds that can be placed within the magazine of a gun.

At first, weapons with capacities of over seven rounds were no longer available for purchase, and were considered illegal. The act was recently amended so that ten round magazines can be purchased, however the magazines cannot contain more than

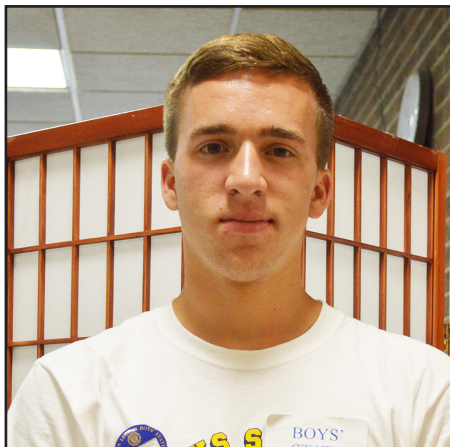
7 rounds regardless of their maximum capacity.

The actual issue that should be addressed, instead of guns themselves, is mental health. Its people who are mentally troubled that often commit mass shootings or people who just have pure hate in their hearts. Shootings such those at Columbine and Sandy Hook are the result of people with mental issues getting their hands on firearms.

People who commit these acts of terrorism are blood thirsty, often isolated, shunned or bullied kids in school. Sometimes they are often outwardly kind, with lingering psychopathic tendencies hidden under the surface.

In conclusion, the SAFE act was the reaction of those who have been scared into thinking that guns are the enemy. It was a jump to conclusions and needs to either be repealed, or reconsidered, because it was put into action without the proper amount of thought. Remember guns are not the enemy; the real enemy is those in possession of the lethal tool known as a gun, or firearm.

# The constant danger of falsehoods



Austin Wolcott 0202

The ill-informed are incorrect, and the well-informed are dense. As news networks continue to fill our minds with their words, we hear one name 24/7: President Barack Obama.

As the public views every aspect of the president's life and career under a microscope, one single particular piece of the president's career that everyone has an opinion on is his seemingly high

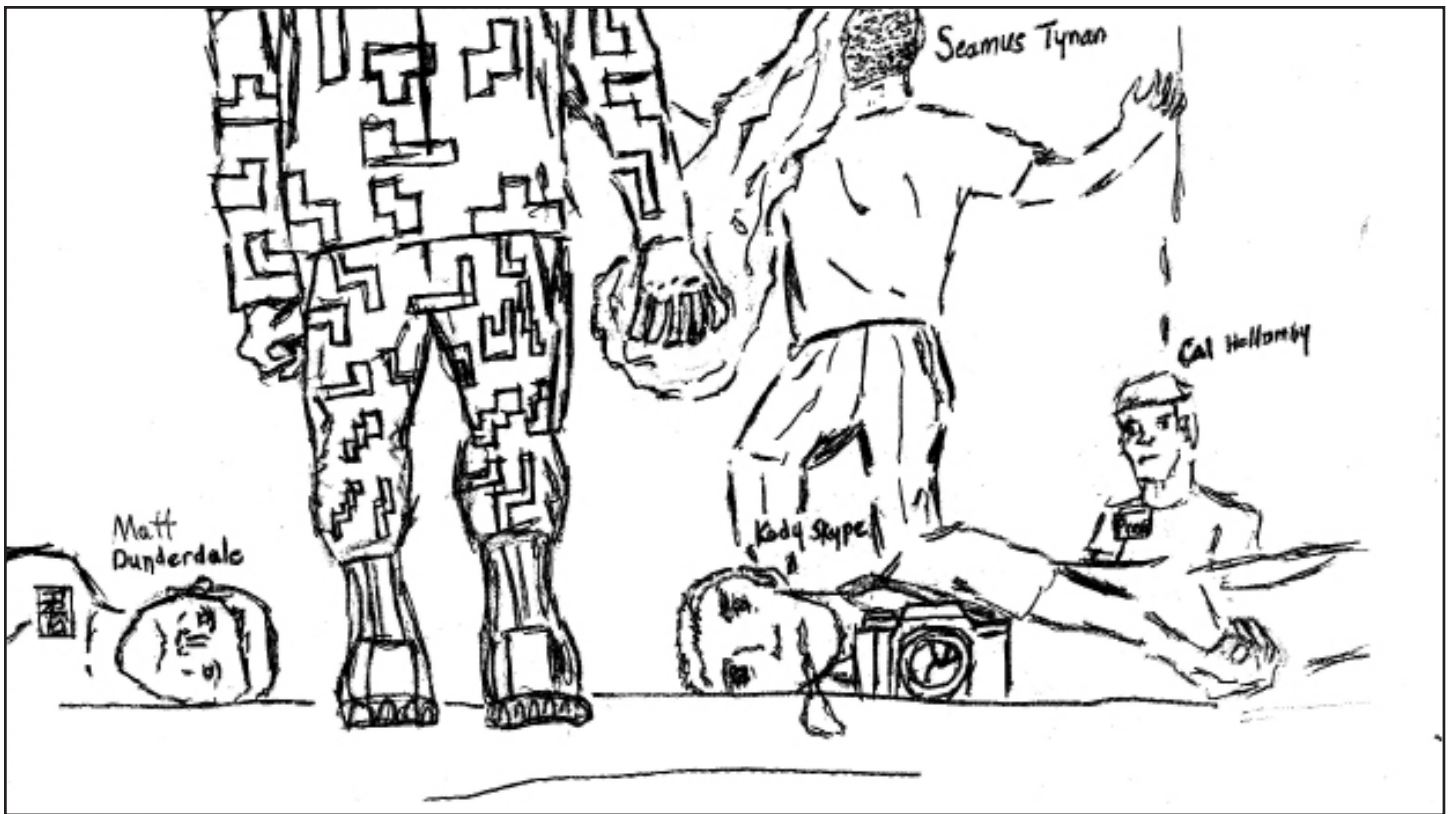
use of executive orders. We've all heard about it; we all have our opinions on this topic of debate. But do we really know what we're talking about?

Obama's recent executive order frenzy has caught the country's attention. His critics feel that he's using his power inappropriately... but *is* he? The truth is that compared to America's presidential past, he isn't. President Obama ranks 19<sup>th</sup> among all American presidents in the use of executive orders, and on this list he even ranks below every president back to and including Jimmy Carter. Also, contrary to many people's beliefs, you can't just impeach someone because you don't like them; that's not a thing.

Yes, President Obama has done things that Americans don't like... but so has essentially every other president. From Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears to Nixon and the Watergate scandal, America's past is stocked full of corruption and disdain. So with enormous controversial events like

these taped to the backs of past leaders, what event could really be stuck to Obama? Some would say the healthcare ordeal, others would probably bring up indiscriminant drone strikes. But will these really be significant in 50 years? In my opinion, the answer is probably no. Yes, Obama has been criticized on everything he has done, but to be honest, nothing despicable has happened—not yet, at least. So how can we raise public opinion to a positive level when it comes to government, especially when two-party system has created such a divide in our country?

I believe we should go back to preschool and follow the lesson they taught us then: when in doubt, we'll all work it out... together. Teamwork is essential. If you don't want Obama to use his power in ways you don't approve, come up with ways to solve issues. Imagine a government without controversy, anger, or falsehoods. Hard, isn't it? It doesn't exist anywhere in the world, and very well never may.



## Candidate to winner, candidate to loser

The 2014 Boys' State Political Rally Assembly opened on Monday night, as all the candidates for statewide offices made their appeals to the voters in a room that was buzzing with the enthusiasm of citizens, and their frustration with the heat.

The Nationalist slate for Court of Appeals was up first, with the presentations of Joseph Pucciarelli 0677 and Joseph Dell'Olio 1091 getting the warmest reception from the crowd. Among the Federalist candidates, S.M. Huq 0450, who was eventually elected Chief Justice, delivered a passionate address that touched on the theme of Justice, and the Federalists largely maintained the precedent of appealing to Boys' State unity and progressing beyond party lines.

The seven candidates who were ultimately elected to the court were: S.M. Huq 0450, Connor Doren 0694, Joseph Pucciarelli 0677, Alexander Behling 0908, Jacob Davis 0006, Joseph Dell'Olio 1091, and Franz Lugay 0353.

The assembly then progressed to the Comptroller's race, with the Nationalist candidate Timothy Wadel 1005 going first, before being suc-

ceeded by Federalist and eventual victor Michael Bertlesman 0120. The rally then moved on to the Attorney General race, with Nationalist candidate and later winner Tennyson T Bardwell 0639 taking the state with a speech that railed against police abuses and called for restrained prosecution. Federalist candidate Jonathan Jones 0212 delivered a substantive speech, but one which was greeted anemically by the audience.

Both candidates for Lieutenant Governor spoke with conviction and were greeted enthusiastically by the audience, with Nationalist Gerard Maraj making historical appeals and articulating a populist message. Ultimate winner Lucas Golon 0494 instead preferred to concentrate on "YOLO" and attempted to connect with the audience by referring to his almost meteoric rise within the Boys' State.



Boys' State Governor-elect Ryan Leone 0194. Photo by Connor Farry 0943

The highlight of the evening, however, were the speeches from Gubernatorial candidates Robert Campbell German 1011 and Ryan Leone 0194, with the latter taking the prize the next morning. German made references to Martin Luther King Jr. in his speech, and specifically noted that he had "a dream...not a plan."

Leone took an alternative route and opened by stating that his rap at the Federalist convention the previous night was simply an expression of his creativity, and promised to "lead us (Boys' Staters) to our promised land." Finally, both candidates took questions in an exciting and controversial round of questions, which touched on everything from the World Cup viewing to what the candidates perceived to be their greatest weakness.

# The secret Supermen walk among us

Erez Binyamin- 0189

“Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.”

-Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Here at Boys' State we have old soldiers, and society may have let them fade away. We cannot. I *will* not. This week I had the opportunity to hear some old stories of old laughs and old tears.

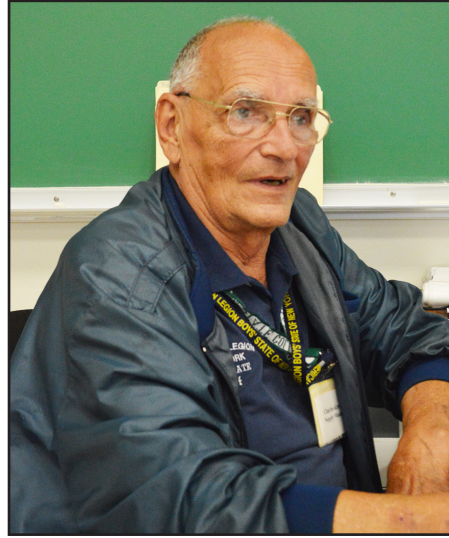
Charles Kimball reminisced about his time in the Navy. He joined the Navy at age 17 just after graduating high school, “because it was the thing to do.” He served on the “USS Marquette, aka 95,” transporting Marines, training them on the ship, and bringing them to warfare training.

Mr. Kimball was an electronics technician, or “ET.” He chuckled as he told me about a humorous incident with some “Sea Scouts.” The Marquette regularly crossed a stretch of ocean where currents from the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean intersected forming a particularly rough section of ocean. After eating the traditionally greasy meals, the “Sea Scouts,” in the words of Mr. Kimball; “their stomachs couldn't take it, ha ha!”

Known by his friends as “the grandfather of Boys State,” the 60-year full-fledged American legionnaire Charles Kimball is a great and honorable man who I am lucky to have met.

1965. LA dodgers win the World Series, The Sound of Music premieres, Bill Cosby stars in *I Spy* and becomes the first African American to headline a television show. And the first US combat troops arrive in Vietnam. By the end of the year, 190,000 American soldiers are in country. Boys' State's own Henry McMahon gave up his job as a runner on Wall St. because he was drafted on December 22 of that year. After just two months of training, Mr. McMahon found himself in Bearcat (a U.S. camp), Vietnam as a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> infantry division.

At 18, he was stationed in what was then known as the “Iron Triangle,” a dangerously active section of Vietnam. The 9<sup>th</sup> infantry was mostly sent on missions to push out Vietcong from northern areas.



Charles Kimball.

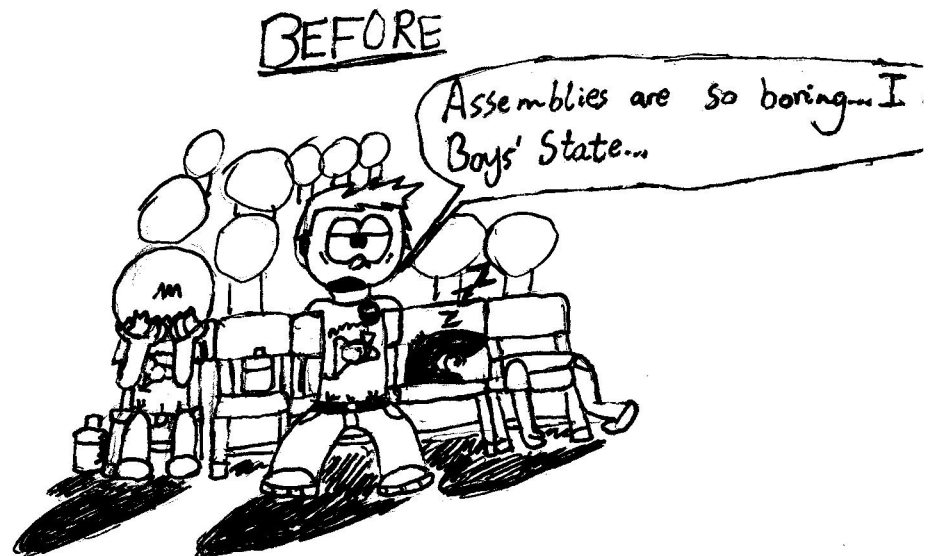
Photo by Will Tondo 0491

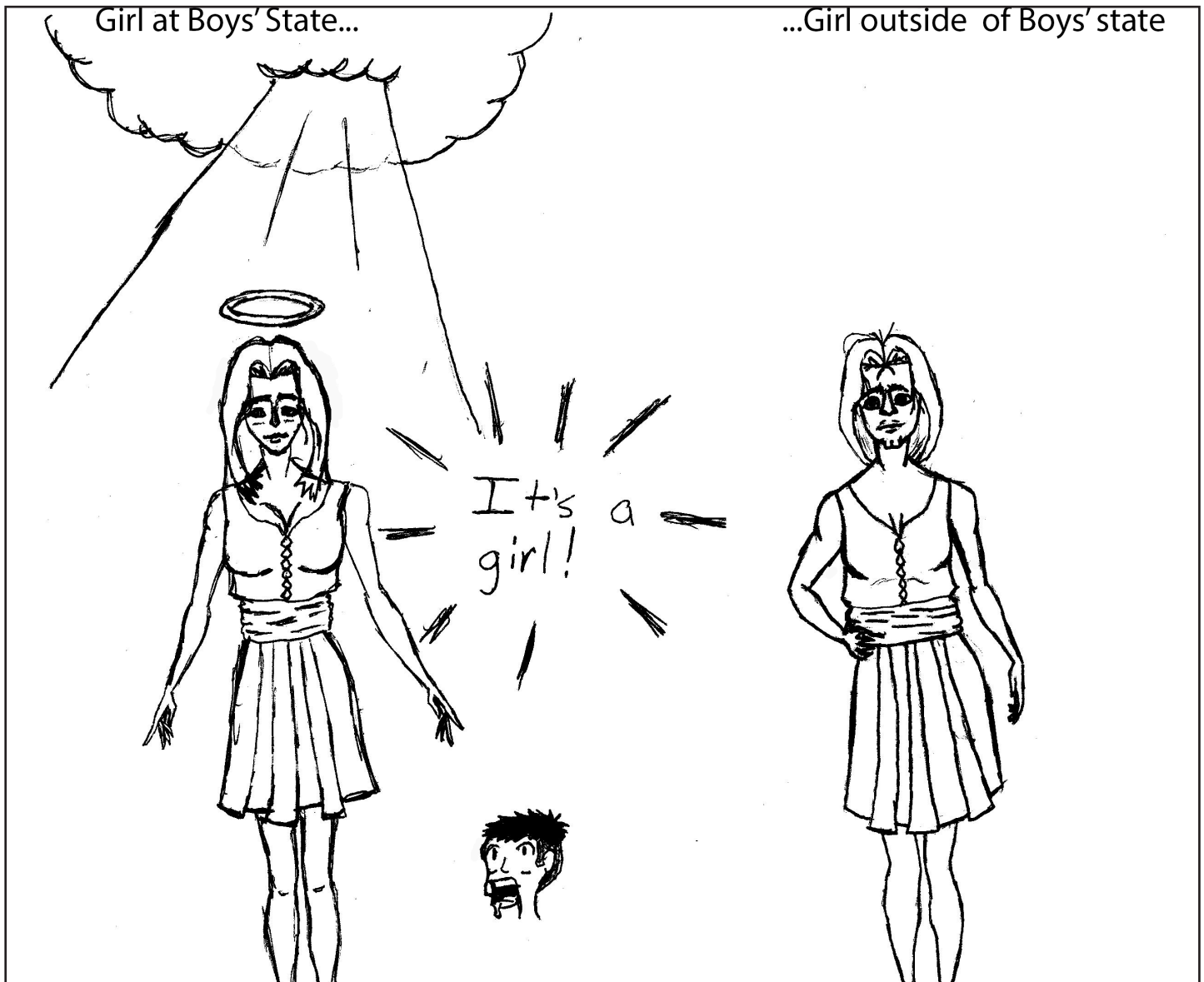
Henry, however, was an “engineer,” so he was mostly disabling booby traps for his division. Vietnam was no party for Henry McMahon; it was constantly hot and humid, his life was always in danger, and he watched several of his friends die.

“War is hell.”

- Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman

War is, in fact, hell, and the men around us have been through it. Their smiles hold tears for the ones they lost, their laughs hold memories of darker times, their words are more valuable than diamonds, and an opportunity to be around these great men—these Supermen—is an honor most do not have.





## Harris vs Quinn: A hard-hitter for unions

Seamus Tynan 1040

The Supreme Court recently decided on a case based out of Illinois dubbed 'Harris vs Quinn.' The plaintiff, Pam Harris, is currently providing constant care to her son Josh; her disabled son. Josh set his mom as his primary caregiver through the State of Illinois' allowance for patients to request disability contracts with anyone they choose, including family members.

The state set these contracts for caregivers, like Harris through Medicaid; thus making Harris a public employee under Illinois state law, in a need for collective bargaining. Notably Pam Harris is not a member of any union or unit represented by a union, making her ineligible for Illinois' "fair share" division, which makes nonunion

members pay union fee's in order to be represented.

The main threat with this is that those who are gung-ho about anti-unionizing, are comparing the Harris case too much; attacking the legal rights of other workers who form unions. The ruling may not be as successful as many anti-union supporters strived for, but they are sure to use anything and everything in their power, using

the Harris case, in order to demoralize public and private sector unions.

In the end, the Supreme Court voiced its resentment in state laws that require workers from the public-sector to pay the union fees; because of this the justices ruled that those who work from home in order to perform health care services, should not be forced to join a union they don't wish to join in the State of Illinois.

### TIP OF THE DAY:

Sleep on the ride home, and for a day or two after you get there. And thank your parents. For everything.

# FROM THE BLOTTER: Boys' State Police Reports

Konrad Kopko 0649

Boy's State is a dangerous place. Although it may seem orderly and disciplined on the outside with all the Marines and the legionnaires, our police force knows what a corrupt society we live in. Our brave men in blue managed to apprehend several criminals and were nice enough to share their stories with us:

## The Drum Case

The Drum Incident started with Stember Counties' almost sexual relationship with their drum. One day it went missing and their Sergeant was furious with them. He ordered various searches with his citizens and even managed to get the state troopers involved. After a frantic search, it turned out that someone stole it during a rally. A citizen from Kogutek was under orders from his Marine to take

it. The citizen was arrested, not because he stole it, but because he possessed stolen property. The trial ended up with him being guilty. His punishment was 25 pushups and an apology.

## The Dave Downey Case

This case started with the State Police receiving multiple complaints from Fish and Wong counties. They were complaining about the penal codes 6,7,9,18 and 19 being violated in Roosevelt County. The State Police interrogated several head witnesses and the judge signed a warrant. A newspaper article was also influential this case. The county counselor was arrested and managed to be acquitted of one of the charges. The other charges were dismissed because lack of time.

## Massacre in the Chow Hall

It was a strange day for many citizens when after breakfast they found

four citizens murdered in cold blood outside the chow hall. Four of our own reporters were innocently handing out papers when a certain Sergeant Columbrito stepped outside.

He then proceeded to molest our brave reporters and "press" their badges. He went momentarily crazy and murdered all of them with his voice. We are not sure how this is possible, but it happened.

The reporters lay there until a Legionnaire magically turned them into zombies. At the police precinct when the police were discussing the case, Sergeant Columbrito reportedly ran in and shouted "NO, NO!" to the state troopers.

The zombies had no comment beyond "ARRRRG." (Note: See reporter's sketch of the Chow Hall crime scene on page 3. *Warning: Graphic violence. Not suitable for work.*)

# Downey dodges his just desserts—*this* time

Erez Binyamin 0189

On Monday night, during our state party caucus, in the middle of a speech, Police Chief Jordon T. Greene (0024) along with his troopers read Mr. Dave Downey his Miranda Rights. Downey was then cuffed (with a chain of rubber bands) and led to headquarters. The party caucus continued as usual (lots of boring speeches), and finally after some arcane rubbish from the lobbyists, the caucus ended and we were free.

However, Dave Downey was not. That same night he was tried on a long list of charges brought against him. Starting at 10:30 and lasting for quite some time, this late-night trial occurred without a jury, contrary to traditional procedure. The District Attorney was Christopher Watters (0435). The Judge was Patrick Ashcraft (0424). The two defense lawyers were Jacob Sherman (0055) and Spencer Mayo (0011). There were no prosecuting lawyers, the only prosecutor present was Jordon T. Greene and he had not even taken the bar exam.

An interesting topic that was discussed at the trial was the issue of the Boys' State uniform. Downey was at



Counselor Dave Downey smirks defiantly at the camera as he is led away in rubber-band shackles Monday night. Reporter Erez Binyamin 0189 (right) presses him for a comment.

*Photo by Connor Farry 0943*

one point accused of violating the "Attire" clause in the Boys' State handbook "Long pants and Boys' State shirts are required at all seated assemblies and at dinner...." His violation was that he was wearing a Boys' State shirt that was from a previous year rather than the standard 2014 Boys' State shirt.

His defense argued the point that there was no specification in the handbook as to which years were valid and which constituted as a violation. Although he was declared innocent on all counts (of corruption, persuasion, and dress code violation) He *did* comment on

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# More Poll Results

James Bleakley 1019

When it comes to Poll Results, I write them. Today I finish the results with whatever I haven't previously covered.

Question 2 was asking peoples opinion on medical marijuana. Two hundred and eight people think that it should be smoked legally, making up 34% of the results. Two hundred twenty-three people said it shouldn't be smoked, making up 36% of the results.

One hundred thirty-one people said they are unsure, making up 21% of the results, and 44 people said they are unaware of it, making up 7% of the results.

Question 3 asked the people's opinion on hydro fracking. Fifty-one people answered that it should be banned, making up 24% of the results. Thirty-nine people said to allow fracking making up 18% of the results, and 124 people answered that it should be studied further, making up 56% of the results.

Question 4 dealt with the question of whether or not the U.S. should support Iraq in fending off the ISIS revolt. 48 people answered yes making up 23% of the answers. Ninety people answered no, making up 43% of the results. Seventy-three people answered to study it some more, making up 35% of the results.

Question 5 concerned how many people brought cell phones to Boys' State. Forty-seven people answered yes, making up 22% of the results. One hundred seventy people answered no, making up 78% of the answers.

Lastly, question 7 concerned what undergarments were worn by Boys' State attendants. One hundred twenty-three people answered boxers, making up 56% of the results. Eighty-three people answered briefs, making up 38% of the results, and 11 people answered 'commando', making up 5% of the results. The real question behind all this is, how can going commando possibly be comfortable whilst participating in drills?

## Roger Ebert: American Film Critic, Icon, Boys' State Alumnus

Nicholas Anderson 0965

Roger Ebert was arguably the most iconic film critic in recent cinematic history. Born in 1942 in Urbana, Illinois, Roger was the son of a bookkeeper and an electrician. He began his writing career when he was a student at Urbana High school where he wrote about sports for City of Champaign's "The News-Gazette."

Ebert also attended a little thing called Boy's State in 1959. Ebert would go on to attend University of Illinois, gaining masters in English before moving on to the University of Cape Town for a year. He eventually was accepted to earn a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, which he left for a job at the Chicago Sun-Times, where he began his film critic career.

After writing many reviews for the Chicago Sun-Times in 1975, he started co-hosting a film review show for Chicago's public broadcasting system called Sneak previews. The show was eventually picked up for national distribution, along with a new co-host Gene Siskel. Siskel and Ebert would eventually go on to become the most famous duos in television history, producing the shows "At the Movies with Siskel and Ebert" and "Siskel & Ebert & Movies."

Both shows included two reviews of the latest in film and usually ar-

guments over whether it was "...a thumbs up or thumbs down."

Ebert worked with Siskel for a plethora of years until his death in



1999. Ebert then worked with other film critics for a couple years but never had the same chemistry with his new colleagues as he did Siskel. Ebert passed away because of health issues in 2013.

Although he could no longer speak, Ebert's voice was heard until the day he passed away with his reviews in the Chicago Sun-Times. Ebert was one of the great examples of former Boy State members who went on to accomplish great achievements in their life.

Roger Ebert's life story is told through the 2014 biography film "Life Itself."

## Downey dodges his just desserts—*this* time

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the case: "the Boys' State rules should be amended to say that only the Boys' State shirt from this year and this state are valid."

Downey was declared innocent. He may very well *be* innocent. However the lesson we can learn from him and

from this whole situation is that rules need to be defined down to the smallest detail. If they are not a dangerous man may roam free, or the law could be abused. Dave Downey will live in infamy here at Boys' State, the laws will be amended, and we'll get him *next* time.

# Day 4: Sports see semifinals action

Jack Kingston 0876

Tuesday marked the fourth day of sports.

At 1:30 the city of Bowen, from Roosevelt County, and the city of Neville, from Pedro County, matched up for the semifinals of the Boys' State basketball tournament. In the beginning of the game, both cities were trading baskets, as it was tied at 11 at one point.

Bowen was able to pull away toward the end, and ended up winning 20-15. Peter Hoffmann 0104 and Domenic Conroy 0095 were both instrumental in Bowen's offense, sending Bowen to the finals tomorrow against Carpenter, from Koutz County. Both teams will look to take home the Boys' State championship tomorrow at 2:15 p.m. in the Student Activities Center.

Also at 1:30 the city of Harrington from Roosevelt County, and the city of Miller from Scheiberling County faced off on the softball field. Fresh off their 4-0 win against Herschlag, Miller was looking for one more win to advance to the finals. However, Harrington had different plans, defeating Miller 14-7 to advance to the finals. Tomorrow Harrington will face the city of McNamara, from Spafford County, at 2:15 on Field One.

Other Results:

## Volleyball

Casey def. Mitras 2-1  
Carpenter def. Keiser 2-0  
Casey def. Carpenter 2-0

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Casey vs. Minei @3:00 PM on Court One

## Tennis

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Curcione0263 vs. Miles 0895 @10:30 a.m. on Court Two



Jacob Deisering 0631 dribbles around an opponent during a game on Tuesday.

Photo by Will Tondo 0491



Boys' Staters got the chance Tuesday afternoon to watch the USA v. Belgium World Cup game in several locations, including the STUAC theater.

Photo by Will Tondo 0491

## Yea or Nay to an expansion of the NFL Playoffs?

Gregory Iannicelli 0314

The National Football League is drawing closer to the end of its offseason period. With surprising cuts, big free agent signings and the rise of Johnny "Football" Manziel, the NFL offseason has certainly created some buzz.

Still, a topic that has been discussed in great detail in recent years has reared its head once more. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has expressed serious interest in expanding the football playoffs into a 16-team tournament format.

There are those who support the concept of a playoff expansion, including the leading league officers and several team owners. These people believe that expanding the playoffs would be an excellent business decision. They believe that having more games in January will lead to the league making more money off of the usually

spectacular TV ratings of the playoffs. Many team owners especially like the idea of playoff expansion, as it would give their teams an increased chance at making the playoffs.

However, there are also many detractors of this idea, including football fans and several current and ex-players. Many people have stated that an expansion of the playoffs could lead to "mediocre" teams making the playoffs.

Also, people have stated that an expansion would eliminate the purpose of having the best record in the conference. Without the illustrious home field advantage, there may be very little for the elite teams to fight for to gain an advantage in the playoffs.

Whichever way you look at it, this incoming regular is going to be a big one for this topic. If Goodell has his way, we may eventually see the evolution of playoff football.