



# The 2016 Inauguration and Dance

## Michael Abela

Wednesday night was a significant one for Boys and Girls State citizens, it was the night of both inauguration and the joint dance. The night began with the inauguration of statewide officers, which had been announced earlier in the day at General Education. The officers made their way to the stage, where Justice Dennis J. Curran lead their inaugural pledge. Following this, Justice Curran addressed Boys and Girls State, as well as the parents that had come to see the inauguration.

Justice Curran's narrative was inspiring. He discussed how much the program has progressed, and how he never could have imagined it arriving to where it is now. His advice was certainly taken to heart by all listening, especially because of our knowledge of his impressive background.

The Girls State governor from last year, Carly Jilson, then came to the podium to offer an address. She delivered an empowering mes-

sage to both Boys and Girls State, discussing how well the program will prepare us for our lives beyond high school and this program. She encouraged us to try and keep the lessons learned from these programs in our minds as we go on in life, and to not disregard our experiences here too quickly. Following her address, this year's governor, Rachel Vatelina, came to the podium to give an address.

Rachel's passion was palpable, and her address was well received by all in attendance of the inauguration, receiving a well deserved standing ovation at its conclusion. She encouraged everyone to recognize their inner power, which has always been there, and to apply this power to their lives in the future.

Subsequently, Matt O'Brien, a U.S. senator from last year, came to the podium to give an address. He noted that the fire within each and every citizen was evident throughout the week, and he noted Larry's "savagery."

Next, Gianni Hill, the Boys State governor came to the stage to close the night, giving a telling speech on unity and camaraderie.

Finally, Boys and Girls states went over to the basketball courts to the left of the stage and got right into dancing. The Oliver Ames High School citizens quickly established a fun spot for those devoted to dancing by the DJ, and others followed in. The room quickly became very hot, sweaty, and lively; even Chairman Mark Avis was dancing.

Not everyone found their niche on the dance floor, however. Some could be found participating in a volleyball game on the other side of the Ames Center, and others found their crowd among those on the outside, talking the night away.

The night was a good one for all of Boys and Girls State, especially as we head into our last couple of days together and begin to prepare to say goodbye.

THE AMERICAN LEGION



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



## Question of the Day

Is it justified for the government to deny individual civil liberties in the name if national security?

## Weather Forecasts with Hailey Verelst

### Stonehill College

**Thursday**  
Partly Cloudy  
82°F  
0% Precipitation  
45% Humidity  
9 mph Wind



**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
72°F  
10% Precipitation  
49% Humidity  
13 mph Wind



MaBoysState



#MaBoysState



MassBoysState



MaBoysState

www.maboysstate.org

www.massgirlsstate.org

# Counselor Profile: The Facts and Theories of Alessandroni

**Hailey Verelst**  
She hails from Woburn, was born on January 13th, and her time at Girls State was spent as the party chair for the Nationalist party. Any theories on who she is? Here's some more hints. She currently resides as a counselor in the town of Loyalty, and attends Suffolk University in Boston. She is pursuing Spanish and government as double majors, with a concentration on

international relations and politics. Her future career plan is to be a consul in a Spanish speaking country, and to run for office. In her free time she would like to be a pop star. Still not sure who she is? This upbeat counselor is Shannon Alessandroni. She came back as a counselor because Girls State is important to her and the others that come to it, and she thinks that it's special that girls of the same

calibre get to attend and interact for a week, which is something that doesn't happen at home. She has faith in the program and the empowerment for girls that it provides. But Shannon is not just a counselor. Her and her best friend 'Jilluminati' also run the conspiracy theories course. This class doesn't just include conspiracies about the world, but Girls and Boys State as well. They've compiled

a list of odd happenings that point to the possibility of scientific studies on the girls and boys of these programs. Surely you've noticed that time seems to be funky, and scientists have been milling around campus. And then there are the caterpillars, don't stomp them out just yet, we might need to eat them to counteract the effects of the potatoes at meal times. Want to know more? "All we have is

## Justice Town Profile

**Counselors:** Gillian and Hannah  
**Elected Officials:**  
Town Moderator: Lyan Khanji  
Board of Selectmen: Deirdre Duquette, Tiffany Bigelow, Tess Sestito  
Town Clerk: Morgan Therrien  
Town Treasurer: Sophia Al-darondo  
Town Assessor: Sophia Arciprete  
Tax Collector: Natalie Bolio  
Town Auditor: Emily Sterczala  
School Committee: Molly Langan, Gillian Benoit  
Board of Health: Emily Wartyhy, Meghan Pender, Olivia Lawler  
Town Constable: Miranda Raimon  
Fire Chief: Kimberly K.  
Town Crier: Emily  
Police Chief: Sonja Forest



## Gender Inequality and Double Standards Called into Question at Boys' and Girls' State

**Madeline Griffith, Grace Amato, Ally Scharmann, Judy Duong**

Disclaimer: It is not the purpose of this article to take any stance, but simply to inform on what has been happening at Girls State this week



Sentiment ranging from whispers to protests has brewed amongst the population of Girls State in the last few days regarding what has become a very widespread and publicized topic: the dress code and general feelings of gender inequality between the boys and the girls.

Whether it's being discussed within towns and cities, in the lunchrooms, or on the social media platform "Yik Yak" via the popular slogan "#freetheknee", there is no doubt that the dress code has thrust itself to the forefront of too many conversations to be ignored.

Some have even gone so far as to say, "The only thing I've been looking forward to all day is showing some leg during rec time"

Opinions on the

issue are strong, varied, and well-meaning from all who voice them. Students have been quoted on Yik Yak criticizing disparity between the dress codes of Girls State and Boys State and, while recognizing that they are separate entities, are upset to see Boys State citizens shirtless during rec time, often wearing mid-thigh shorts that would violate the Girls State dress code and result in disciplinary action.

Many have asked the dress code be looked at and, if possible, reformed similarly to how the t-shirt colors were in past years. A vast majority have stated that they would like to see a change in the dress code to allow shorts that follow the common "finger tip" rule in schools and other quasi-professional settings. The rule states that shorts or skirts must reach to the fingertips of the extended arm which would allow girls to stay comfortable in hot weather while keeping in line with the respectful and professional atmosphere at Girls' State.

Even Boys Staters have expressed concern about the strict dress code with one

stating, "I'm a guy, I'm conservative and by no means a feminist but there definitely is a double standard here at Boys State and Girls State...the girls can't even wear shorts when it's like 80+ (degrees) out."

Those in favor of the current dress code share different reasoning for their stance. The American Legion Auxiliary maintains this rule for all Girls State programs, and it has been argued that it is far more relaxed from previous codes requiring all attire be "business formal". Others would like to point out that Massachusetts is unique among all other states in how it is taking measures to integrate Girls State and Boys State, and that this has gone largely underappreciated. Counselors have, unfairly, come under fire for issuing citations and enforcing the dress code. Many Girls State citizens have requested we make it clear that they in no way blame the counselors or the staff and have the utmost respect for them and the jobs

*Cont. on pg. 3*

**Cont. from pg. 2**

they do.

In addition to the dress code many citizens have criticized the greater degree of freedom the boys get and their longer free time period. Critics have pointed out that girls are often disciplined for going anywhere without a counselor despite the official rules that state citizens can walk the campus as long as they are accompanied by a "battle buddy".

A Girls State Citizen who chose to remain anonymous told the Citizen, "I don't like being herded around like a bunch of kindergarteners on a field trip or something. I don't know I feel like we wouldn't be here unless we were responsible young adults, so I don't get why they don't trust us to walk across campus without constantly being watched."

There have been many reports of boys walking without a counselor or even alone, and many point to this as another glaring double standard between the boys and the girls.

In the past, though, girls were not even allowed free time, and much has been done to equalize Boys' and Girls' state in recent years. Citizens of both are proud to live in Massachusetts, one of the most progressive states in the nation and the first to semi-integrate the programs.

However, there is still work to be done to equalize Boys and Girls State, but it is difficult since they are run by different organizations. There have been calls for The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary to open lines of communication and fully integrate both programs. By the rest of the country's standards this is a radical idea, and will face many obstacles before it could be accomplished.

Ultimately up to the citizens of Boys' and Girls' State to make their concerns known and petition the officials at both the state and national level if they want to see changes made to the program.

**Democracy Town Profile**

**Counselor:** Molly Trowbridge

**Junior Counselor:** Ursula Barth

**Elected Officials:**

Town Moderator- Abby Stanton

Board of Selectmen- Julianne Hester, Lena

Iacobucci, Hailey Weinstein

Town Clerk- Lillian Doctoroff

Treasurer- Selena Cho

Assessors- Casandra Rodriguez, Sarah Gregory

Tax Collector- Morgan Gelinas

Auditor- Daria Garkavtseva

School Committee- Adriana Farrell, Najla

Nassar, Hailey Verelst

Constable- Iya Carney

Police Chief- Jennifer Edwards

Fire Chief- Juliet Patrick

Board of Health- Trudy Cox, Julianne Welsh

Town Mom- Abby Weintrob

Town Dad- Katie Greenhalgh

**Who has the cleanest room?**

Morgan G, and JoJo B

**Favorite town joke position?**

Democracy is the proud home of the Girls State Gossip Girl

**Girls State Perspective of Integration**

**Cont. from yesterday's Boys State perspective**

**Lissy Kelly**

This week, exceptional students from all over the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have gathered at Stonehill College to engage in two highly respected programs, Girls State and Boys State. These programs are meant to teach the best and brightest young minds of the coming generations how to assume ethical leadership roles (particularly in government and politics) and hopefully to instill them with the ability in them to use these skills in real life. The main problem? These students are being trained in an unrealistically sheltered setting, and then told to apply the same values and principles to the unregulated, often brutal outside world. So what makes this disparity so pronounced? Well, many would argue that this answer lies in the gender segregation of the program as a whole.

First, allow me to clarify that the Boys and

Girls States programs are not one and the same. They are run separately, by separate leaders, with separate guidelines, and under separate regulations. The American Legion sponsors Boys State, whereas the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors Girls State. This being said, it is a well known fact that these two organizations communicate well and often. Since their founding, there has been an undeniable link between them, making the integration of the programs a realistic goal. The necessity for the joining of programs is certainly there: as expressed in the court case Brown vs. Board of Education, separate but equal is never really equal.

The perception that the two states are unequal is a prominent one. As a Girl's Stater, I know that the majority of the girls in the program resent the fact that the boys get free bags, whereas we do not. The boys also get to walk around campus alone and

unattended essentially whenever and wherever they choose, when girls have to go to great lengths to find not only a buddy to walk with but also a counselor, even if the trip is just a minute or two. The hot-button topic of the week, however, has been the inequality in the dress code. The boys have no regulations placed on them, and even are allowed to walk around campus shirtless at free time, posting pictures of it online. By contrast, girls are expected to operate under an extremely strict set of guidelines which require them to not wear any pants that come above the knee, and variation can result in severe punishments, such as citations and even expulsion.

The perception of inequality continues even with less pronounced ways, however, such as town names. Whereas Boys State towns are named after battles, war generals,

*Cont. on pg. 4*

**Photo****Submissions**

**We appreciate photos we can add to our websites and social media. Please email to:**  
**magsbs2016@gmail.com**

## Girls State Perspective (Cont. from pg. 3)

or even just numbered, the Girls State has towns named after traditional feminine ideals they are expected and encouraged to embody: Friendship, Hope, and Loyalty are just a few. Many students feel this is in an effort to reinforce traditional gender stereotypes despite the camp's efforts to show both boys *and girls just how powerful and meaningful they can be.*

The unification of these programs could have a plethora of positive outcomes, including the bridging of the gap between Boys and Girls States. If the programs were further integrated and merged, there would be no sense in giving half of the population free paraphernalia, or instituting guidelines and dress codes that only half the students had to comply with. It is probable that the town names would be more uniform, the campus walking rules more consistent. The programs would be forced to follow more equitable standards.

Clearly, this is not something that can start with just Massachusetts-Boys and Girls State. Massachusetts, in fact, is strides ahead of the other states, as one of the only programs to integrate genders even a little. This just began last year, and is still seen as a radical decision to many of the veterans of the program. In many states, girls and boys are completely prohibited from interaction. This change, therefore, would have to start with Boys and Girls Nation, which takes place at Washington DC, by allowing for the combining of the programs in lectures, meals, free time, and electives. Then, it would be a logical next step for each state to work on the increased merging of programs.

The change wouldn't have to be radical. Boys and girls wouldn't share dormitories or bathrooms, just a little more interaction from day to day. It's not like they couldn't handle it-- most schools are coed. This is really only logical-- the workplace is not segregated by gender. How can students be asked to apply learned principles to real life when they are trained in a false simulation of society? It doesn't make sense. Increased integration would lead to better, more diverse discussions and a more dynamic program experience. It would even lead to increased maturity in the students-- certain inappropriate speeches (perhaps regarding melons) may not have taken place if the program was integrated with both boys and girls. Students are known to be more mature and conscious of their actions when integrated. Overall, the merging of camp programs would be a logical and generally beneficial movement for the organization as a whole. Like many others, I only wish to see the program grow and evolve. This is just one of the ways it may be able to do so.



*Massachusetts is the only Girls' and Boys' State program in the country that currently holds co-ed classes.*

## Boys State Constitutional Officers

The following won election to the Boys State constitutional offices for 2016. N = Nationalist, F = Federalist.

United States Senator: Liam Dewey (N)  
Medfield High School

United States Senator: William Hogan (N)  
Oliver Ames High School

Governor: Gianni Hill (F)  
Revere High School

Lt. Governor: Peter Horvath (F)  
Coyle & Cassidy High School

Attorney General: Ryan Gray (F)  
Milford High School

Treasurer: Jon Bile (F)  
Pittsfield High School

Secretary of State: Tobias Nash (F)  
Bay Path Regional Vocational Tech High

Auditor: Harold Beckford (F)  
Bishop Connolly High School

## Girls State Constitutional Officers

Governor: Rachel Vatelina (N)  
Canton High School

Lt. Governor: Hannah McCarthy (N)  
Middleboro High School

Attorney General: Deirdre Duquette (N)  
Longmeadow High School

Treasurer: Julia DiCienzo (N)  
Rockland High School

Secretary of State: Niku Darafshi (N)  
Mt. Greylock High School

Auditor: Shellaina Gordon (N)  
Fitchburg High School

## HOROSCOPES

**'Olivia Carbone, Lauren Ferrier**  
**Aries- March 21-April 19**

Aries, today will be a gratifying day, but also very serious. People will want to get together with you or call you to talk about important things. It will seem as though nobody will care about your issues today, but don't let that upset you. Take the day and help.

**Taurus- April 20-May 20**

Serious matters are likely to be on your mind today, including: school and work. It may be that a new opportunity is coming your way very soon. Don't rush the decision to make any important changes, but begin thinking about them!

**Gemini- May 21-June 20**

Matters involving creativity and romance could be on the mind today. Some exciting new options could be available for you and your loved ones. Talk to those around you about these possibilities, but eventually decide on your own what is best for you.

*Cont'd on page 5.*

# Editorial: Gun Control

JoJo Brennan, Rachel McLaughlin, Emily Shanley, Raeayn Warren

Our world has recently been stricken with many different forms of tragedy. From the Sandy Hook Elementary School attack, to the shootings in a South Carolina church, to the Paris terror attacks, and recently the shootings in an Orlando nightclub. All of these events have one thing in common: each of them was perpetrated with an assault weapon. An assault weapon, as defined by Merriam Webster is "Any of various automatic or semiautomatic firearms." These firearms are used in war, riot situations, and traditionally by professionals. However, the public is not restricted from buying these weapons, and in many cases, especially in the south, they can be found in a local Walmart. Semi-automatic assault rifles can fire high numbers of rounds in mere minutes, while fully automatic assault rifles are even more deadly. Assault weapons are used purely for the purpose of killing, and cannot be used for sustainable purposes such as hunting. The deadly powers of assault weapons far outweighs the call for a right to bear arms in all capacities, especially in the wake of recent events.

There are many ideas in the field of gun safety, rather than just limiting all guns. One such idea is that of a fingerprint scanner on guns, so that only the registered owner will be able to use the firearm. Ideally, this could prevent the accidental death of children and others that accidentally acquire a gun that they should not have access to. A measure like this could also help limit illegal firearm use and sale. Companies such as Identilock have begun production on such a measure. Another measure applies to the purchase of guns. By increasing background checks on those looking to purchase a firearm, people that may pose a threat to the population's safety can be prevented from acquiring weapons. There are far too many loopholes in the current system that allow dangerous people to acquire guns. For instance, the gun show loophole allows private sellers to supply guns with no background checks at all. A universal background check law would be a step in the right direction. Yet another possible measure of gun control would be renewing the High-Capacity Magazine Ban, which bans guns capable of holding more than ten rounds. There are a multitude of gun control options, and yet a limited move to apply them.

As the debate continues, the question still stands: should guns be restricted entirely, or only certain types? The Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act includes a prohibition on the manufacture for civilian-use of certain semi-automatic firearms. This can be interpreted to mean that it was made illegal to make firearms with the intent of sale for civilian use. The act expired in 2004, and studies have shown that there was "insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws reviewed for preventing violence." If this act were to be renewed, we believe that the general populous would be all around safer. When examining mass shootings, such as the recent events in Orlando and the Sandy Hook shooting, we can infer that more damage is done with a semiautomatic assault rifle, or a gun of that sort, than would have occurred with a recreational weapon such as a shotgun or a hunting rifle. However, firearms in general are not the issue. There are people who use firearms such as hunting rifles and handguns correctly, for recreational use, that would be ostracized with a total gun ban. That being said, we believe that assault rifles should be banned, rather than placing a total ban on all firearms.

## Horoscopes, from page 4.

### Cancer- June 21-July 22

Cancer be cautious today, family matters could suddenly grow serious. You have reached a milestone involving your home life and big decisions could be necessary. Good Luck and take your time to mull it over.

### Leo- July 23-August 22

Two of your friends are in a conflict, however they have been hiding it from you in order to keep you out of the middle. You may have sensed something was wrong and today may be a good day to ask them about it. Remember, friendship is important and the relationships you have made here at Girl's and Boy's State will be important for the rest of your life!

### Virgo- August 23-September 22

Virgo, when you see a chance to get ahead today TAKE IT. Save all the deep and meaningful (time consuming) thinking for another day because you are at a time in your life when you need to be proactive. So Girl's and Boy's Staters get packing early, take chances at the college fair, and get your stuff done.

### Libra- September 23- October 22

You may feel shy and quiet today. Don't be! Make sure you say goodbye to everyone in your town, and to your beloved roomie!!

### Scorpio- October 23- November 21

You may or may not have finals when you get back. Don't get stressed about it because there's nothing you can do. Just make sure you use this weekend to study, so that you can get the best grades possible.

### Sagittarius- November 22-December 21

You love bigger and better things. Yes, you've enjoyed your week here, but you're ready for new experiences. Spend your summer elsewhere. Travel around the country and look at all the colleges/universities you've been dying to see. Enjoy these next few carefree months, and carry the things you've learned here with you forever.

### Capricorn- December 22- January 19

Today you will have a strange need to be up and moving. It's probably because you're stressed about packing, and making sure you've done everything you need to do before you leave. The best way to resolve this stress is to make a list of everything you need to do. As you do each task, just cross it out! YAY! Stress=gone.

### Aquarius- January 20- February 18

Since you're very stubborn, it may be very difficult for you to say goodbye to the people you've met here. But don't let your stubborn ways interfere with these important last few hours.

### Pisces- February 19- March 20

Pisces, you are a very emotional person, so today must be a lot for you. Say goodbye to all the wonderfully inspirational people you've met. Look back on this week with fond memories. Oh yeah! And also remember to always live like Larry.