

THE CITIZEN

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THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES:

A look at the life of Cynthia
Brewington

PLUS

Counselors in the Court

AND

Municipal sign power
rankings

The Great Divide - Camille Miner

From our first introduction of Boys and Girls State, one thing we knew for sure: boys and girls would be divided.

Although this divide appeared old fashioned and severely conservative to some, others including myself were not bothered and even interested in the new dynamics of a single gendered program. Nevertheless, all who came to this program did not find the gender divide issue enough to protest attendance.

From my experience the majority of girls were far more focused on being considerate than snapping back the cutest boy or insincerely giggling at everything. The famous feminist philosopher of Simone deBeauvoire forwarded the emanate view that “woman is defined by man.”

So when the presence of man vanishes, who will women become?

From what I experienced over the past couple of days, girls at first recognized the inability of women to unite by acting as considerate and welcoming as possible. As deBeauvoire articulated, “But women do not say ‘We’, except at some congress of feminists or similar formal demonstration” and within the next few hours our expectations subsided. Yes, we united but unity was only created through polarization.

In one instance, two towns yelled in severe lividity at each other unable to solve the domestic conflict. As women, have we been conditioned by men to remain divided? How are the boys starters able to chant “WILL IS SEXY!” while we are still unable to cheer on our opponents. Once given the opportunity to “meet the boys” and end the gender divide on Thursday night, the atmosphere changed and the bathrooms filled with girls checking their lipstick and staring at their male counterparts. The night was filled with energy and excitement and when the girls returned to their dorms, previous petty fights and division subsided and the dorms were illuminated with laughter in sisterhood.

In classroom setting women are often not allotted the opportunity to participate and especially to be wrong without shame and embarrassment. Now left with their own gender the girls could ask whatever was on their mind to female speakers and run for offices traditionally held by men alone.

With the Inauguration of Governor Faith LeTarte Wednesday night, the 2021 Massachusetts Girls State program matched the all-time number of female governors of the real state of Massachusetts -- one (to say nothing of the fact that Jane Swift only held the title of Acting Governor).

Men disproportionately serve in the highest offices of government -- but not here. Not this week.

So, perhaps as we strive to be reflective of the truth of the American democratic system, we can remember that this divide provided many of us the opportunity to participate in that system more fully, if only for a moment.

"Beard's Too Big for a Mask" — One Counselor's Failure

| Joseph Paola |

The Judicial Branch of the Boys State Government will begin to hear its first trials later today and one man who will need to defend himself is counselor Bradley "The Beard" Bedard. Mr. Bedard was cited for not wearing his mask for up to a minute during a municipal meeting on Wednesday, June 16th at 1:50 PM. The citation was noted by Citizen Henry Weiland and issued by Lead Counselor Kevin Coughlin. Coughlin had this to say about the issue, "All of us who are a part of Boys State have worked hard to be considerate of everyone in the program and this counselor failed to be that." One anonymous, high-ranking official within T4 said that Bedard had not put his mask back on a few minutes after taking a drink of water.

Now everyone here at The Citizen can agree that it is okay to remove a mask for a few seconds to get a drink of water. However, abusing this privilege to give yourself an impromptu mask break can not be endorsed and this case will be used to set the precedent of a strong COVID protocol in Boys State. Beard's blatant hypocrisy is unfortunate, but hopefully this situation will teach Bedard to be more aware of his actions in the future.

The case will be heard by either judge Milburn, Bird, or Gonnet in the Petit Atrium later today. The town of T4 will be testifying against Bedard and witnesses have said, "Brad has not been wearing his mask for a solid minute." This is an unprecedented case and is the only one of the day that will see a counselor take the stand.

"All of us who are a part of Boys State have worked hard to be considerate of everyone in the program and this counselor failed to be that."



Tip a Sip

Georgia Wilson

Here at the citizen, we are conscientious of your health. Because it's unusually hot out today (at least in comparison to the rest of the week) we want to remind you to stay hydrated and cool. So, if you please, take a sip of water every time you hear:

"Allocated"

"That's a really good question"

"Unnecessary clapping"

"Equity"

"Rights"

"Communism/Socialism"

"Senator McCarthy"

"Thank you for asking"

"WILL IS SEXY"

That one boys voice...

"Eddy sounds like a young Bernie Sanders"

"Tirelessly"



Wave Check!—Recapping the Boys State Electoral Forum

Ray Milburn

In the climax of an election moving at breakneck speed, the many members of Boys State took their seats in the Ames center for the ultimate fight night: the gubernatorial and senatorial forum. Nationalists and Federalists shook the walls of the Ames Center in a deafening demonstration of party loyalty and Boys State pride. The four senatorial candidates and two gubernatorial candidates accompanied the ten candidates for the five other statewide positions to the Ames Center podium, waiting in the front row of the audience as the constitutional officers-to-be (or not to be) delivered their final speeches with the cadence and skill of Shakespearean actors.

After several days of repetitive and often monotonous monologues, candidates Adrian Bird, Patrick McGee, and Harrison Ho stood apart from the pack by delivering speeches of integrity, promise, and hilarity. Bird, a candidate for Lieutenant Governor running alongside the strikingly charismatic Edward Gonet IV, dedicated his speech to his running mate and brother from the Nationalist party, omitting self-promotion from his address almost entirely. Attorney General candidate Patrick McGee promised an antitrust suit against every student's worst enemy - College Board - dedicating his platform to the goal of stripping College Board of its nonprofit status.

In one of the evening's most contradictory moments, Treasurer candidate Harrison Ho exclaimed that he attempted to concede the election to his opponent in the Nationalist primaries, but had managed to advance to the final stage of the electoral process, much to his chagrin. After expressing an outright lack of interest in the position, Ho proceeded to list his credentials nonetheless, making one last bid for the position regardless of his interest. Ho, McGee, and Bird all eventually claimed their seats in office, winning their respective elections the following morning.

Following the ten compelling speeches, Edward Gonet IV and Anthony Welch mounted the stage to produce a forum face-off for the ages. Questions about infrastructure, transportation reform, and environmentalism found Welch occasionally caught off guard, while Gonet always had a signature ace up his sleeve. When asked about any particular issue, Gonet would respond by asking to find a particular member of the audience, whom he had previously appointed to his cabinet prior to the forum. Gonet's main appeal stemmed from his strong devotion to involving his peers in the actions of the governor, which paid off in the form of a winning Gonet/Bird ticket.

The senatorial debate following the impassioned gubernatorial forum was a spectacle not to be missed. Nationalists Andrew Zhao and Michael Scoville went toe to toe with William Hu and Claudio Morena, using every trick in their arsenal to gain the edge on their opponents. The candidates were grilled on every issue from Russian trolls to COVID vaccines, frequently consulting notes and resources to form a coherent stance on the matter. Despite the plethora of logos presented by Zhao and Scoville, it seemed that Hu and Morena had the upper hand, using signature charisma and - in the case of Morena - a wave check to sway the audience into generous applause. Despite the theatrics and intelligence of both Morena and Scoville, Zhao and Hu stood victorious in the end, gaining the two senatorial positions and a ticket to Boys Nation.

Cynthia Brewington

By: Gracie Gilligan

Cynthia Brewington is a familiar face at Girls State. She is head of our security, with the affectionate title “Girls State Secret Service,” and we all celebrated her birthday this past Sunday. Unbeknownst to many, she is also a United States veteran.

When I joined the newspaper, I thought it would be interesting to interview someone who had served our country in the armed forces, and as fate would have it, it was Cynthia who I approached at dinner on Monday in order to find who might be interested.

Cynthia became aware of the Girls State program through her uncle who worked at Boy’s State for a very long time and more directly, her aunt, who initially agreed to fill the position of nurse for one year, but when asked to stay for longer could not say no. This inability to deny help to others was passed down to Cynthia who also decided to stay at Girls State after originally wanting to help out for a year. She is also a member of both the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

When asked what this program means to her, Cynthia’s answer was clear: women’s empowerment. As head of security, Cynthia’s job allows her to get connected with every girl at this program, not just those from one town. She can check in and make sure that girls are enjoying the program, and address concerns with other counselors. Most importantly however, she wants to make sure every girl here comes out of this program knowing that she has a “seat at the table”. She wants Girls Staters to go into womanhood knowing their worth, and that their views, opinions, and ideas deserve to be heard. When faced with the question of what pushes her to continue giving back, told me on Tuesday, “How can you not want to give back to another young woman who is coming up behind you?”

Cynthia is also of the belief that women in particular are great multitaskers. She would know a significant amount on this subject considering the many different roles which she has held throughout her life.

When we met Tuesday morning, in consideration of the occasion she wore a mask with the statement:

I am a veteran

Have a DD 214

I love freedom

I wore dog tags and combat boots

I would do it all over again

At the age of seventeen, she enlisted in the armed forces as a military police officer, where she had to receive permission from her parents, as she was not yet an adult. She detailed how she grew immensely as a person during her basic training, and how it prepared her for the real world by affirming values of discipline and respect. Cynthia also grew, however, from receiving guidance and gaining a bigger family through those who she met, describing how there was “always someone encouraging you to get back up.”

In addition to being a veteran, Cynthia has been a Boston Police Officer for the last twenty four years. In this position, as in many points in her life she has been forced to wear “many hats”, especially considering recent criticism of the police during the Black Lives Matter movement. She told me how being both a Black woman and a police officer, she cannot change who she is, but can have conversations that allow others to see multiple coexisting perspectives.

The most commendable thing that I noticed about Cynthia was her caring and strength of character. Her understanding and willingness to get to know others was something uncommon and it is clear that she has learned much strength through her life experiences. She stated that no matter how someone tries to break you, if you keep your mind focused on happier things you can push through.

For all of her incredible qualities, leadership, and wealth of knowledge, we are so grateful to have Cynthia Brewington on the Girls State staff.

Battle of the Staters: Who is the Superior?

Which town/city of Girls State has the best sign? Let's find out!

| Allyson Foley |

COUNTY OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Unity

It's Bob Ross! "We are very satisfied with Bob as a group unifier. In addition to the front being Bob's face, the back is full of inspirational quotes from Bob. Look at that smile, it makes me feel like I wanna live! During the pandemic, my parents and I would watch Bob Ross re-runs and paint together. This made me feel like I was at home and I feel UNITY!"

-Jess Elmhurst



Tolerance

"Our shrek sign is superior. Shrek talked about self love and acceptance, and learning how to tolerate others...and our town is Tolerance!"

-Ella Romboldi



Goodwill

"Our counselor put so much time and effort into drawing Manny. He is made with time and love"

-Grace Gilligan



Liberty

“By far the most creative. It states on the sign that it is the best sign. The office is also the best show. [The sign] is full of tradition, our counselor Hannah made two years ago. It was founded on the true meaning of Girls State: creativity, collaboration, and grit.”

-Katie Goodhines



COUNTY OF CITIZENSHIP:

Democracy

“It carries generations of Girls State, the counselor mimicked her counselor's sign that she proudly carried when she went to Girls State. It is beautiful in simplicity. It also promotes our town's attorney general! The sign is unique, and shines on its own.”

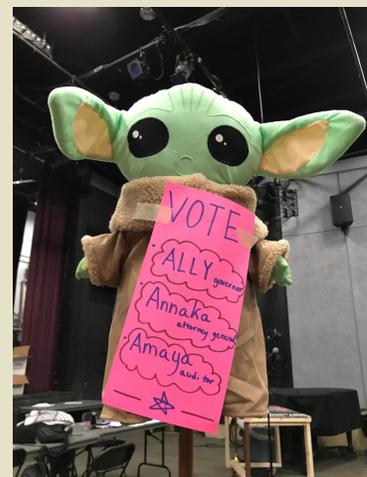
- Georgia Wilson and Aatikah Awan



Hope

“Yoda is 3D! We as a group have team spirit, that raises Yoda! We have elected two official holders, Haley and Annie. We always look to Yoda, and he leads our group with spirit and love”

-Rachel Roncka, Annie Sisk



Loyalty.

“It matches our t-shirts, and we found out this week that it’s waterproof, something that other groups struggled with in the rainstorms. Our counselor originally planned on creating a sign but it did not come in on time, but that didn’t stop us. We have been adding hats to the pool noodle. We plan on signing it when the week is over. It’s the most versatile.”

-Emma O’Hara



Courage

“Taylor is a lovely sign, she’s been carrying the group on our backs. Our Taylor is currently taking a mental health break, she was literally falling apart. She is currently on vacation, a purple pool noodle is present in her absence”

-Donnah Alomari



WANTED
Tony- Spoon Stealer
Reward: \$5