

# Senator For a Day



by Jamal McDaniels, Middletown Area High School

On Oct. 22, I got to participate in the Senator For A Day program at the State Capital. I got to act as part of the senate and discuss bills, and also meet the senator. Senator Jeff Piccola is a big supporter of Jump Street and was pleased to see that an intern from *AND Magazine* was participating in this event. Politics may seem boring and corny to some, but everyone there made my experience very enjoyable with their humor and open minds.



My day as a Senator started at school, where I arrived in a suit and tie. I waited for my fellow classmates so we could leave together. I put my iPod on full blast and the bus driver pulled away slowly.

When we arrived at the Capitol I got off the bus and stretched my legs. As I walked up the steps beside my classmates, I saw the beautiful fountain flowing with pink water to acknowledge October as the National Breast Cancer month. Once inside, we had our pictures taken with Sen. Piccola. I shook the senator's hand and talked to him about myself, and *AND Magazine*. I found out he was no stranger to "And Magazine." As soon as I said JumpStreet, he knew what I was talking about.

Next, we went into a large room and the senator began talking to us about what we would be doing. Another speaker followed the senator. As we answered questions, he threw candy to us if we got it right or wrong. Next, we split up into our committees and got acquainted. We picked a leader and got to business.

We discussed our two bills and made arguments on why we were for or against them. We only passed one bill out of two. Lunch was free, but anything beyond it was extra – and expensive.

I just missed an autograph from Jerome "The Bus" Bettis, who was out front for an event. At the end of the day, each committee presented its bills. Anyone who wanted to talk got to stand up, state their name, and tell why they were for or against the bill. Some bills were passed, and some weren't but we had fun. Finally, we took a group picture in front of the fountain. The experience was amazing, but I don't think I could be a senator, because I'm the artsy kind of guy. I had a great time being senator for a day and would most definitely do it again.

