

THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

BOYS STATE
OF KANSAS

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STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

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A FORMAL APOLOGY

By PADEN BEDFORD, CONNOR
AGUILAR, PETER FONTAINE,
AND MIKENNON DONOVAN
Staters Union

Yesterday, the Staters Union was investigating possible evidence in corruption within the funding for voting booths. When the media started to investigate, we invited Secretary of State, the Farmers Alliance and the People for the American way for a press conference. The Secretary of State insisted that we were wrong for investigating such a mundane and not controversial topic such as this. Other members with the secretary accused the media of slander and having no “journalistic integrity” among other things. All in all, the staters with these complaints were belligerent and aggressive. They insisted they would sue us if we proceeded with the piece about the voting booths. After further discussion among the newspaper staff, we came to the conclusion that we had greatly overstepped our bounds in trying to report on this controversy. For this we apologize. So, here is the story that they want us to tell.

What the media is attempting to say is that we were definitely wrong. We have found the error in our ways. We apologize for informing the public of their elected leaders private actions. We are sorry that we almost published slander, or at least slander according to the Secretary of State; the governing body on legal jargon. We are sorry we wanted to know the reason the \$9000 transaction occurred, and that we spoke out against the democratically elected leaders of our Boys State. Who needs to know the truth when the leaders are always right?

This group came to the media room, a jungle of chaos, and began to tell us how the entire media, including the counselors, were wrong, bringing peace to this misled land of ignorance. No one in media truly understands

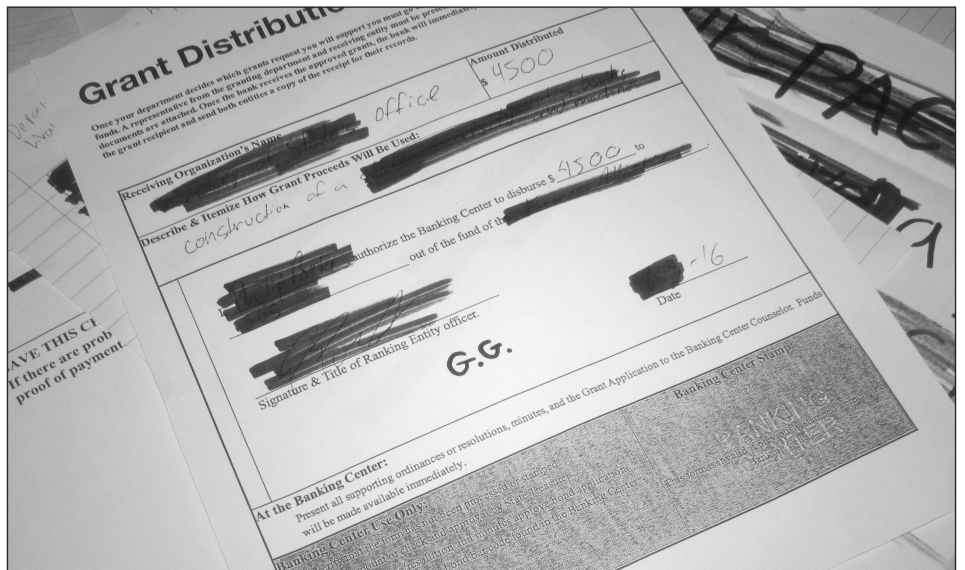


Photo Credit Peter Dring

journalistic integrity, but thank goodness these white knights of journalism came to us. Without this tip, the media would be scratching our heads and picking bugs out of our hair like the primates we are. Thank goodness there are no rights that apply in this situation.

Who truly needs to understand government when the select few who go “above and beyond” do? Despite The American Legion of Boys State Kansas camp being about politics, thank goodness there was a place for the media. Without this, we Staters of the media would be more lost than a Missouri fan on a Kansas campus. We thank the leaders here for allowing us to truly be ourselves and participate in media, except for not being able to voice our opinion, but opinions are like vital organs; no one really needs them, and it doesn’t really matter if the government takes them from you.

All in all, the media is sorry for thinking we have the power to report. Without our fearless leaders we would be nowhere. Everyone needs to be told that they are wrong and irrelevant every now and then, and thankfully this time came before the end of Boys State for the media. Without this interven-

tion, we would be no better than The Onion or BuzzFeed. Thank you, our paragons of justice and journalism at our Boys State. We salute you on your journey of simulation government.

Journalists are truly the spirit of the people. Journalism and the press allow people to fully know what is going on in their government, and what is going on with their elected officials. It is a right that has been around in the USA since 1791, and it is a right that the founders of this great nation valued so highly that it is in the first amendment to the constitution. Without this invaluable right, our nation could easily fall to tyranny; a great misfortune that has happened to so many governments before: The Soviet Union, Cuba, Nazi Germany, China and Iraq. It is our duty as journalists to report the truth no matter the consequences or risks. As founding father Benjamin Franklin said, “Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government: When this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved.” We here at the Staters Union can safely say that we have and will always do our duty to report the truth and make sure that your right to know about your government will always be protected.

The Staters Union is a designated forum of free speech. The print edition is published every day of Boys State by the Staters Union Staff. It is distributed for no charge throughout Kansas Boys State. All stories pertaining to Boys State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial license may have been used to report the “facts” of such stories. Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed and the writer’s county indicated to be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing for length, legal, grammatical and factual reasons. Letters should be taken to the Staters Union office in the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20). To contact the Staters Union, please email us at ksbsmedia@gmail.com.

State clashes with media

“Media County” establishes boundaries

By MIKENNON
DONOVAN AND
CONNOR AGUILAR
Staters Union

On the morning of June 9th, 2016, the Staters Union held a press conference for a few members of the state government, namely the Secretary of State, and a few PAC leaders. The conference was called because of a few “sketchy” grants. When the first PAC leader was questioned, he denied knowledge of any such grant being given to a state official. When the aforementioned state official was questioned, he confirmed that he received a grant from the PAC.

We then pursued the issue further only to be interrupted by that same Secretary of State and a few others. They caused a ruckus and attempted to

suppress our first amendment rights. They left, and then came back a second time and accused us of defaming them, even though we hadn’t published anything. They attempted to tell us what we could and couldn’t publish.

During the second session of operations, the official tried to place a gag order on us. We then requested an official court document which he provided, along with a Supreme Court justice. The document was phrased, in a way that would prevent us from writing anything. We then debated for the issue of its legality for a little over thirty minutes. They then threatened to sue us for slander, something which we factually didn’t commit. We await further charges from the Secretary of State.

Veteran Spotlight: Curtis Kimble

By TAYLOR GEORGE
Staters Union

James Curtis Kimble, an American Legionnaire, served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Curtis enlisted at the age of eighteen and was sent to train at the Great Lakes in Chicago, and he worked to become a third class Ship Serviceman. After serving eight months in the Vietnam War, Curtis’s perspective of life changed. “It was just after I got out, that’s what bothered me more than anything. The public and even the government didn’t think it was right, and we took verbal abuse. It was a different deal because you thought about serving your country, and you thought everyone was

backing you, but sometimes not. But that’s in the past.” When asked for something he would like people to know and understand, Curtis responded, “The only thing I’ve ever said is that our forefathers fought to make this country what it is today, and gave us the right to speak at things like this, at Boys State. I just hope and pray that everybody realizes that too, and if they want to serve this country and back it, that’d be fine. That’d be great.” We thank you deeply, Curtis, for your service to our country.

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Budget finally passes Senate

By BRET SAUVAGE
Staters Union

As the week goes on, Staters continue to collaborate to overcome various issues, including the current budget. Senator Nate Martin shed light on the subject: “Today, we are approving the budget for the rest of the city. That means all the money that we have collected and will collect throughout the year in taxes is then going to be distributed to each department as we choose.” Some Departments, such as the Departments of Industry and Agriculture, had no issues with the current budget; others, such as the Department of Criminal Justice, had desires to amend it. “Some of the Departments, such as the Department of Criminal Justice, I believe, found that they had more money being allocated to them than they needed.”

Martin also commented on the efficiency of the Senate and the current budget. “I’m glad that Senate worked effectively and there was no heated debate over whether or not the budget was efficient, and I’m glad we have a budget that fits everyone’s views.” The Staters involved continue to work together to create a budget that fits the needs and desires of all that are affected by it.

Surprise flag theft puzzles counties

By TAYLOR GEORGE
Staters Union

The 79th year of Boys State seems to become more and more exciting every day. Yesterday, a few staters decided to shake it up by stealing, or attempting to steal, a few select county flags. Around 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Bradley’s flag was found lying across MacArthur’s county table. At first glance to the county of MacArthur, it looked as if Bradley was playing a trick, but to Bradley, it looked as if MacArthur had stolen their flag. After charges had been given and dropped, they decided neither counties were responsible.

After the attempted theft of King’s flag, and Seitz flag discovered missing, the only evidence I could acquire was through an undercover conversation I had with each District Attorney from Patton County. However, the location in which Seitz County’s flag was found is kept confidential for the sake of the county in which the theft resided.

The City of Whorely
thanks The People
for the American Way
for their monetary donation
to help reconstruct our city.

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