



THE STATERS' UNION

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Boys' State Begins Year 65

Chance Plett
Union Editor

As soon to be high school seniors flocked to Manhattan from all across the state on Sunday, whether they knew it or not, they were joining an event much larger than even the 650 student turnout would suggest.

Boys' State has a long and storied trad-

ition and traces its beginnings all the way back to the great depression. Boys' State was created as a program in which participants learn about government by becoming and creating a mock, or virtual, government.

This idea, which we refer to as learning-by-doing, was the goal Legionnaires Hayes Kennedy and

Harrold L. Card sought to reach when they founded Boys' State in Illinois in 1935. The program grew and spread rapidly and soon Kansas became the fifth state to adopt the program.

The first session of Kansas Boys' State was held June 6 - 12, 1937 at Wichita University in what is

now called Wilner Auditorium. In 1963 the program moved from Wichita's North High School to the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

In 1991 the program moved to its current location, Kansas State University here in Manhattan.



Coordinators Rob Maddux, Kristofer Bain and Brian Nelson meet in the coordinator training as they try to prepare for the swarm of Staters about to invade KSU. Boys' State grows larger each year. Nearly 700 students, from all corners of Kansas are expected in Manhattan this week.

The Voter's View

Wade Condict
Staff Writer

The initial elections and primaries have now been decided and its time to elect a Governor. This can be a difficult task with all the qualified candidates campaigning rigorously for our votes. All the speeches, debates, posters, and slogans will blur the line between a phony politician with a bag of awards and tricks he always carries with him, and an honest hard-working Kansan with a good platform. I'm writing in the paper to redraw that line.

I have analyzed the complete campaign strategy spectrum, and have compiled the strategies into three groups. The first group I like to call the

tourists. They are the easiest to spot and perhaps the most crooked, fake people you will ever meet. Don't be fooled by their long lists of awards and accomplishments. That's all they are willing to talk about and the only thing that matters to them. Listen for candidates that speak of "4.0's, State Championships, Student Congress, Debate, and Forensics titles". Their lack of real policies and ideas are seemingly made up for by their ability to "act" and "lie".

The next cluster of candidates are known as the comedians. They have a lack of real decision making ability but were able to charm their way into the debates. These candidates don't have much to say but will use every

chance they have to waste our time in the debates with a pathetic joke or an unrealistic plan for action. They don't take any of this too seriously, and I wouldn't take their chances of succeeding in the elections or life for that matter too seriously either.

The final assembly of candidates are the ones to look for and support. They have a platform already devised. They are funny, but not comedians. They are accomplished, but not braggarts. They know politics and have intelligent answers for the debate questions. They should have a rigid campaign strategy and not just a vague "do what the people want" approach. Listen to their thoughts and decide based on what

the candidates' stances really are.

I have seen firsthand all three of these types of people campaign for the office of Governor. The only candidate that I have seen get it right is Chris French from MacArthur County. He has a platform already worked up and knows exactly what his plans are as Governor. Look for him and his fellow hard working Kansans to succeed in the debates and elections. That is, if us voters aren't fooled by the tourists and comedians who managed to survive the primaries. Don't be duped into voting for someone who won't represent your city, county or state with an unparalleled ability.

**Nick
Lockrow**

**Federalist Party
Kennedy County**

He listens...

He protects...

He succeeds.

Vote for a candidate
proud to serve.

Brad Long

**Federalist Party
MacArthur County**

**Andrew Payne
For
Governor**

Andrews beliefs and his Platform:

He believes that the current system is good, but it definitely needs reform. As Governor he vows to raise education funds and reform farm subsidies. He also feels we need a tax cut.

Another big issue facing Andrews is cutting welfare. He knows it is a drain on the economy.

Andrew is a Federalist who is pro-industry. "Don't infringe on their business, let them do what they want, within reason," said Andrew.

Powell County Candidates Wasting No Time

Jacob Bassett
Staff Writer

A good work ethic, the desire to succeed, and the willingness to help others by any means necessary, these are all qualities possessed by both candidates from Powell County. Shawn Warren, the Federalist governor candidate from the city of Spigarelli bases his views upon education and agriculture, two topics that prove to possess heavy importance in the state of Kansas. When asked about changes that need to be

made as well as programs in need of enhanced funding, Warren said, "If I am elected, taxes would remain the same if at all possible and the spending on school related programs would rise significantly. The employees of our states schools are severely underpaid, and the children in schools need better supplies, because these people are the future of America. Due to the fact that Kansas has an agricultural based economy, the amount of money put into the system needs to increase enabling the

agricultural revenue to rise."

A gung-ho attitude is what Nationalist candidate Adam Rust is all about! I was thoroughly impressed with the preliminary speech he delivered to become a delegate, as well as his campaign strategy. Although they are from different parties the candidate's views are relatively similar. Following the adjournment of the precinct meeting I approached Rust and captured his views on the needs of the state. "I see a

problem in spending over 25% of the states budget on crime related functions, and a measly 2.5% on the states education department. Increasing the budget of the schools will keep bodies out of jails and decrease the funding needed to maintain criminal facilities. Other issues needing to be addressed are racial profiling, as well as industrial and agricultural interests. We must confront the problems in front of us presently, to assure success in the future."

A Lot to Swallow

Matt Britton
Staff Writer

For some of us Staters', heading into our senior year, politics is not at the top of our list. Coming to Boys' State is a lot to swallow, with so many options available from being a City Clerk to becoming the Governor of our mock state. I myself was overwhelmed by all the different duties and positions to be filled. Fellow Stater, Kale Meyer from Larned High school came to Boys' State not

knowing what to expect. "I thought it would be boring and I would not have anything to do," Meyer said. "With only one day down my schedule is packed with planning campaigning strategies for Staters' seeking higher political positions." In only six days we will not only fill the jobs of the Kansas government, but actually take on simulation jobs and problems that happen in an everyday government. This week will not only be an incredible learning experience

but will change the way everyone looks at political leaders and how they do their jobs.

Below: Associate Director Thane Chastain delivers the program orientation



A Dangerous Decision

Adam Sundberg
Staff Writer

Here at Boys' State utmost care is taken to ensure the equal treatment of all delegates in their respective political aspirations. There are only two races, something that shields the delegates from bias as to their natural race (other reasons too). Also, delegates are given one of two political parties in which to participate. This, however, while it does simplify the process of voting, gives off the wrong idea. While Boys' State is not reality, it does try to accurately portray the American government, maybe two well, because it is widely acknowledged that a two party system is one of the most detrimental aspects of American democracy.

For the time

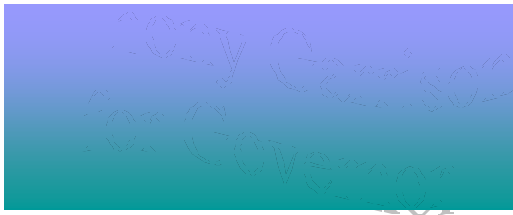
being lets imagine that the Nationalist party (left-wingers) are the democrats and the Federalists (right-wingers) are the republicans. Assuming everybody agreed with positions that were consistent with the platforms of the candidates from both parties, everything would be fine. However, that isn't the way it is. The public's positions on various issues differ so greatly that the only way everyone is insured a say in their government, an accurate representation of their democratic rights, is for there to be multiple parties. So why are there only two parties? Conservatives and liberals are so intermingled these days and their party platforms so streamlined to the public, they might as well be one party. The only way people can determine which party a del-

egate is from, is which party conventions they attend. Obviously their platforms are consistent with what the polls say the greatest amount of people agree on (which automatically excludes minorities of a specific political, religious, or moral ideology not consistent with the majority of America), but also the idea of a two party system is ingrained in the minds of Americans from the moment they understand what a president is. Bumper stickers that say "Don't blame me I voted for Bush", or "Friends don't let friends vote Republican" ensure that the next generation of voters understands the option of a two party system.

The two party system is bad, the government understands this and has tried to take steps to solve this problem, to no avail. They understand that a two party

system excludes minorities, entrenches political bigwigs in their offices due to lack of competition, and teaches the American public to compromise their beliefs by voting for the candidate less likely to disappoint. All of these problems lead to suppression of rights and an eventual decline into tyranny. Is this the idea Boys' State is trying to teach us?

Of course not, Boys' State does a great job to an extent of accurately representing American democracy, its advantages and disadvantages. Maybe in the future, however, the ability to choose a party other than the two given should be an option. This would not only educate a Stater as to how the government is, but also what it could be.



**Federalist Party
Patton County**

Taxpayers
You're part of the chain

SHILOH DUTTON

**Federalist for Governor
Eisenhower County**

"Don't Get Squashed!"

Pro-life...
Pro-education...
Pro-business...
Pro-you...



**For Governor
Of Sullivan In Seitz County**

He stands for:

- * Increasing education funding
- * Tax cuts to benefit all
- * Promoting business and economy
- * Social responsibility

NO PAYNE, NO GAIN

**Bringing Counties of Kansas
Together**

"Alone we are weak, but
together we are strong!"

Matt Bretz

Nationalist Governor
Candidate

"I was walking through the woods one day when I saw a beaver trying to eat through a big tree. He got worn out, so I got down on my hands and knees and finished the job for him."

Vote Zac Freisberg
for
Attorney General

The man who can help you
take down crime.

Clay Harper

A farming man
for
the farming land.

"I will lower farm taxes to
increase your production."

Vote Clay Harper,
Governor

Vote Jonus

Austin Jonus

For Governor

Patton County
Nationalist Party

For Lower Income Taxes
and
Better Education



**for Governor
Bradley Country**

Vote for Gregg!

Three-peat???

Brent Schultz
Staff Writer

The L.A. Lakers are going to the NBA Finals yet again. Just when you think they are down, they get right back up. The Lakers were not only down 3-2 in the series versus the Kings but Game 6 also marked the first elimination game L.A. had played in over three years. The Lakers beat Sacramento 112-106 in OT Sunday. The threat of elimination may be just what the rest of the NBA needs for some confidence while playing the Lakers. L.A. finally looks beatable and very beatable as the Kings proved

three times.

"It means these ballplayers had to be focused and we really had to squeeze everything out of this ball club to win," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "It certainly was the most drawn out and hotly contested (series) we've had. The two teams played very good basketball."

"The fourth one is always the hardest to get," said Dr. Jack Ramsey when asked about the likelihood of the Kings actually closing the series and gaining berth to the Finals.

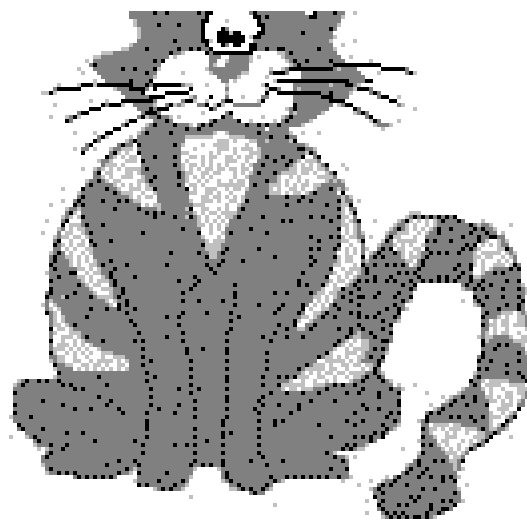
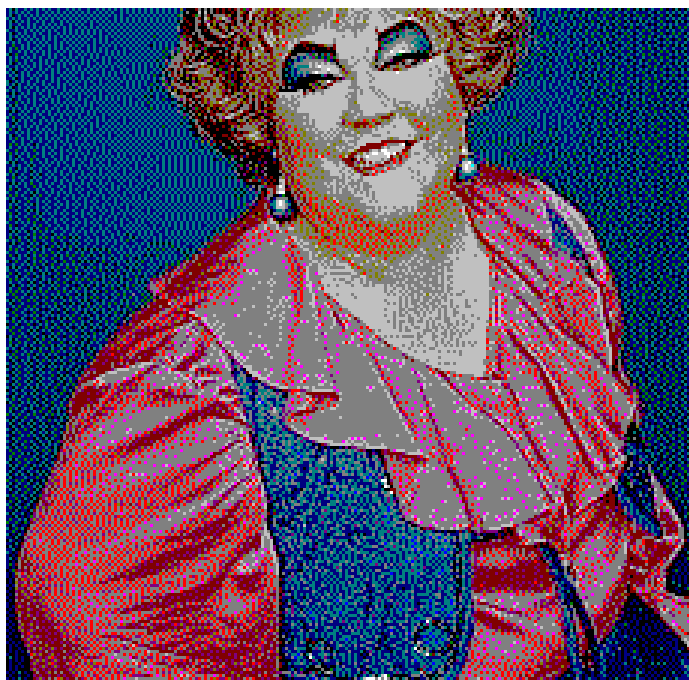
The Kings are now believers. Kobe Bryant scored 30 points in just the first three quarters

as the Kings held the star zero points in the fourth and overtime periods. Shaq scored 35 points and a mere 13 boards as teammate Rick Fox pulled down 14. Rebounds were only less important than the score as the Lakers starters out-rebounded the Kings starters 51-37. Another reason for the Kings royal falter was their horrendous foul shooting. They shot a poor 16-30, and remember the Lakers, with Shaq, made 27 of 33. Fouls also hurt the Kings as they got into foul trouble, namely the media-proclaimed Shaq-stopper Vlade Divac. So with Divac on the bench with four fouls, the Kings' 74-73 lead

going into the fourth quarter was about as comfortable as going for a ride with the 7-1, 360-pound O'Neal in his go-cart.

L.A. will open up the Finals Wednesday against the Nets to defend their title once again. If the Lakers should win the Finals again it would be the first three-peat in franchise history.

"It's much harder to defend your title," Bryant said. "They gave us a run for our money. I'm sure everyone in LA was on pins and needles, but now we've got another series."



Don't like the girl you see? Send Babe requests to Kramer Computer Center- Room 121D