



THE STATERS' UNION

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Controversy Rages On

Chance Plett
Union Editor

The controversy concerning The Staters' Union and the disgruntled feelings directed towards the paper, its staff, and its editor have been well documented and circulated as of late. Concern reached a climax Tuesday morning as letters to the editor began pouring into my office one after another.

The letters provided a basis for great discussion between myself, my staff, fellow delegates, and even a few Boys' State counselors. After review, all the letters were allowed into the paper and all five you saw in print Wednesday played a very instrumental role in the ongoing political war between individuals, associations, and political parties. Writers on my staff spoke out about their feelings and made their stances known. You, the public, were then given a chance to disagree and respond. Response was overwhelming and thus, democracy and its principles of free speech lives on.

Tension may have risen, but both sides were given the chance to state their case equally and fairly.

I write this now because there were some letters, some concerns, that come from outside the delegates here on campus this week.

It was brought to my attention shortly before our deadline Tuesday evening that Boys' State administrators had received an e-mail, from a reader, that was very critical of The Unions' portrayal of a delegate. The staff at the union was being told to "tone things down" a bit. The staff and myself are certainly not going out of our way to stir up controversy, so we obliged. (Recall only a headshot for Wednesday' featured female)

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to respond to the letter and the many other similar letters we received from around the state.

First, because this situation and my position as editor has been a great learning experience for me, I'd

like to try to turn it into a similar experience for all the parents checking us out on the internet who may have expressed some concern. To do so, I will have to compare our mock government here to the only other two governments I am familiar with- the Kansas state government and the United States' federal government.

Topeka, Kansas is a world away from Washington D.C., but I can find a similarity between the two: neither city can make all of its people happy or please them fully. No paper covering the two governments, whether it be the Wichita Eagle or the New York Times, can completely satisfy all of their readers.

Boys' State is no different on either account. Our governor, Shiloh Dutton, and his staff can not appease us all. Likewise, this newspaper will never make its entire reading audience happy, it is not intended to give out warm, fuzzy feelings.

This concept is the beauty of Boys' State. The American Legion has done a

wonderful job. They've created a program almost too real, and too accurately depicting the outside world. It sometimes appears as if many parents have sent their sons for the wrong reasons. We will all be seniors next year, and we will begin filling out college scholarship applications. "Boys' State Delegate" just looks great on a young person's résumé, doesn't it? Yes, it does.

But Boys' State is not about résumés or colleges; rather, it has been designed to give us the most realistic picture of our government possible. The frightening thing for many adults is that it has worked. It has succeeded all too well.

I know many parents and students who have not have been sure of what they were getting themselves into when they signed up for Boys' State. In an attempt to correct the problem, there is one thing about Boys' State I have decided we could change. Why not call it Men's State?

Turn page for end of story

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much." -Oscar Wilde

Continued from front page...

In a few short months, all current delegates here will be high school seniors. In my mind high school seniors are Men, not boys anymore. Many of us are near 18 years old, or already there, which means we are or will soon be voting citizens. It would be my hope that by changing this program's

name to Men's State, boys would be discouraged from attending, which in turn would help avoid uneasiness such as we are experiencing now. Maybe parents would hesitate to send their boys and instead send only young men. This program is interested in developing strong leaders to serve

our country in the future.

The summer before the senior year is typically used as a transition period between adolescence and adulthood. The delegates at Boys' State are the best of the best; however, we are able to make the transition sooner and quicker. The six days we spend at Boys'

State give us the opportunity to make that transition before we head to college and before we enter the real world for good.

Parents, give us a chance to prove ourselves, don't symie our growth. We won't let you down.

More Readers Speak Out

First off, there are no rules that a newspaper must follow. A newspaper is comprised of individuals that determine how the newspaper should be run. If you don't like this, too bad, you weren't elected to the newspaper staff. Also, if the articles in the Staters' Union were so detrimental to the federalists' cause, then how did they elect 4 of their 5 candidates?

Anyway, the party's propaganda didn't really matter because from what I saw, the election came down to who had the majority and not necessarily who had the best ideology.

Jason Christenson

City of Kyle, Marshall County

Staff,

In Yesterday's paper, you compared Shiloh's budget plan to Reaganomics, since both cut taxes to encourage growth. The difference, which you seem to push aside as unimportant, is where Shiloh's money goes: education. You state, "This (education funding) is a noble cause, but it makes no difference to the numbers that determine the state."

I strongly disagree. The reason the money is put in education, along with industry, is to help people get better jobs. The higher education allows people to get better jobs, and the tax cut and increased funding for industry brings more businesses and creates more jobs. Reagan's plan, on the other hand, took the money out of the work force entirely. That is why it failed; the money should always work directly for the people.

Tom Cohlmlia

City of Harris, King County

Tom- Thank you for the insight. -Ed.

At approximately 9:45 a.m. on Monday, June 3rd, the Boys' State banking computers crashed. Soon after the crash, the Pershing County Commission attempted to receive a grant of \$200 from the Association of Cities and Counties. This \$200 grant was to go towards a police station. Because of the crash, Pershing County did not receive its much needed grant until 8:59 p.m., which was 10 ½ hrs after its 11:30 a.m. deadline. In result, the county was unable to complete its project, due to insufficient funding. Pershing County suffered major setbacks in unemployment and a dramatic increase in crime. We, the District Court of Kennedy County, believe Pershing County should be reimbursed for damages. At the very least, measures should be taken to prevent this from happening again. We recommend that all deadlines be lifted during such an event as the computer crash.

Raymond Henson, Jeremy Crenshaw, Aaron Davis
District Court of Kennedy County

Gentlemen, nothing we can do for you. Perhaps crashes are in the system by design, not flaw? -Ed.

One more letter.... turn to page 6....

Letters to the Editor Policy

Questions, concerns, comments, suggestions, and ideas can be sent to the *Stater's Union* for review. Letters should be typed or neatly hand written and no more than 200 words in length. Letters may be delivered to the Journalism room located beneath the cafeteria, or given to any member of the staff. All letters will be subject to review by the *Union* staff and its editor. Letters may be edited for length by the staff provided the intended message of the letter remains unchanged, however letters without a signature cannot be printed.

More County Press Releases

Patton County

Patton County has decided to repair the highways by filling the potholes. It is true that it is a temporary fix, but it is cost effective to our economical situation and we feel that it will allow us time to raise sufficient funds to repair the roads properly and permanently. As for the bridge problem, we will re-open it as a toll bridge, and the money made will be used to repair the bridge itself.

Eisenhower County

The Eisenhower County Council was presented with a problem regarding the highways of the county. The proposal of the Eisenhower County Council addressing the highway concerns is as follows: replace an existing, 2 inch section of a damaged highway (on the county map) with a new, two-lane highway, and demolish and replace an existing bridge that is virtually non-repairable. With the new bridge, we plan to put up two toll- booths and implement a toll that will be connected from the users of the bridge. The county also plans to build a new, four-lane highway, connecting the cities of Chastain, Crum, and Coss. The funding will come from a bond that will be paid for by a 2% levy increase and a portion of the tolls collected.

The only alternative is to leave the problem alone. The two-lane highway would keep its current potholes and traffic jams. The bridge would stay out of commission and the residents would continue to use the time-consuming detour. The cities would continue to be unconnected by a major highway and businesses will continue to view Eisenhower County's transportation system as insufficient. Voting on the proposal will take place on Friday.

Pershing County

The County Commission of Pershing County has proposed a highway reconstruction plan that will solve the highway problems. That the county has been currently having. County members will vote the highway proposal on this Friday. It details a plan that will rebuild damaged highways and replace a closed bridge with a toll bridge. The project, which will cost approximately \$445, will be funded by the cities, the association of cities and counties, and County funds. The plan promises to end car damage from potholes and wrecking and it will also promote economic growth within the County. Although the proposed highway plan does not create a new highway between cities, commissioners have determined that their plan without a new highway will offer the most effective solution to the economic problem facing Pershing County.

Powell County Press Release: Proposition fill our holes

The condition of the transportation system in Powell County is quickly deteriorating. All highways in the county have potholes, which are causing damages to the cars of the citizens. A certain 2-inch section of the road is so bad that it must be completely replaced at the cost of \$400. The pothole repairs will cost \$450. A \$500 bridge is also in need of being replaced in order to improve our counties commerce. The county therefore purposes constructing a tollbooth on this bridge to create enough income to pay for the entire project within a year of its implementation. Vote YES! to proposition fill our holes!

Kennedy County

Due to the long period of usage and a lack of proper maintenance, a great percentage of Kennedy County's highways are under poor conditions. Among them, 2 inches are under extremely dangerous condition and a major bridge has been closed. All these factors have had a very negative impact on the county in many aspects. The county is planning to replace the bridge and make it a toll bridge for commercial traffic. The 2 inches of highway will also be replaced with new highways. The new highways will connect 3 cities in the county. The other parts of the highway will also be cared for if there are sufficient funds. The county will obtain the fund required for the project, approximately \$1400, from cities, associations, businesses, citizen donations and so on since the project will benefit all these groups.

What the Green Party Can Do

- *Aid Impoverished Communities**
- *Fund Schooling**
- *Increase the agriculture business**
- *Generate new forums of revenue**

and.....*Evaporate the deficit*

**WE NEED GAMBLING AND MARIJUANA
TAX**

Legalize it. Realize it

"A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies."

ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES

Jesse Hall
Television Evangelist

First of all, it isn't what it sounds like. Besides the occasional online Diablo game, I don't enjoy fantasy role-playing with other people. As for the pain is pleasure theory, I don't subscribe to it. I realize that pain is a part of life, I just don't live for it.

The kind of "alternative" lifestyle I'm thinking of involves: Listening to Nirvana every morning and Soundgarden every night; having a Weezer t-shirt for every day of the week; and owning a full set of Sonic

Youth tippy-cups.

Some of you might be thinking "This is the geek life!" No this is the good life! Just because I'm 5'8" and have no athletic talent doesn't mean I'm a geek! The fact that I have Ren and Stimpy underwear makes me a geek.

If you own all or any of the above, the following CD's are for you:

"The Presidents of the United States of America," volumes 1&2 are an interesting addition to any CD collection. Although the songs don't necessarily have a point, they are fun. Songs

usually include lyrics dealing with Brady Bunch re-runs, fresh fruit, cities run by insects and volcanic eruptions.

If your looking for an alternative band with a full orchestra VAST (Visual Audio Sensory Theatre) is the band for you. It is a little dark and I wouldn't recommend letting grandma trail you to one of their concerts. But if your looking for a new sound pick up their self-titled album today, or Saturday evening.

If you like England's alternative scene

you will love Gomez. There signature sound includes samplings from Jazz Skit-Scat, interesting chants and some slow beats. They're a tight band who's been on edge since their creation. Every song is worth a listen. Unlike a lot of today's bands, Gomez doesn't partake of the ancient art of the "filler song." They put feeling into every song on the album. If you think Gomez is for you pick up "Bring It On."

That's all I've got. Remember, if you don't like the songs, these are just some of my favorite tunes I wanted to share with the public.

The Role of The Newspaper

Adam Sundberg
Defender of the American Way

What is the point of a newspaper? Many people would say it's a collection of stories compiled to inform its readers of current events. People might say it is a forum for a group of people to speak their minds on issues important to them. Still, others might feel it is the only way a common person can understand or attempt to understand the world they are a part of. I believe a newspaper should be all of these things and as such, have endeavored to incorporate these aspects into the Staters' Union.

On a daily basis, The Union includes everything from

music reviews to current events in the daily lives of Staters. Everything from cooking recipes and Editorials to opinions and those opinion's responses (also opinions). Many people have argued that several articles in the paper have been biased and have unfairly represented one of the two political parties in the general elections. I would argue to the contrary, the newspaper, like almost every other Stater organization has both Nationalists and Federalists and therefore will have differing opinions. We at the Union have represented our differing candidates as we see fit, and we don't apologize for our opinions any more than we expect those who wrote to us to

apologize for theirs. There will always be a different point of view when it comes to news stories and not everybody will entirely agree with any one of our papers. With that in mind, I urge all Staters to understand that there will never be an unbiased editorial or opinion article in this or any other paper you will ever read.

We want it to be known that we appreciate all of the opinions that were submitted following our election edition. They stand as a shining example of your constitutional rights to freedom of speech of which the paper would never dream of infringing upon, but the allegation that our paper is slanderous (and may involve a lawsuit) is

preposterous. Any attempt to suppress the opinions of the people and the press (both included in our newspaper) would infringe on 1st amendment rights. Our involvement in a mock government and citizenship camp cannot tolerate this blatant disregard for constitutional rights and will be met with the same contempt the accusers have for the American system of rights. I urge all readers to mind the wise words of Legionnaire Bill Wheeler, (the 1st amendment) "is the most absorbed right we have, without it we have nothing else to go by."

U.S. Stuns Portugal

The World Cup comes around once every four years, and last time the U.S. did very poorly, finishing dead last in the field of 32 teams. Things have obviously changed. The United States team, without two of its star players, pulled what has been considered one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history when they beat Portugal 3-2. The U.S. started out on fire, scoring the first goal just a few minutes into the game and then controlling the contest for the duration.. The U.S. will play South Korea

"Arguments are to be avoided; they are always vulgar and often convincing"

Who's Who Among Boys' State Counselors

By Matt Britton
And
Stuart Harmon

It seems a little odd to have a counselor that is only a year older than yourself instructing you what to do. But when they have the credentials such as Patrick Bengtson or Dustin Gaylon, they have every right to.

Patrick Bengtson

Patrick made his decision to become a Boys' State counselor after having an excellent stater week and had outstanding counselors. These counselors helped inspired him to actually follow in their footsteps and become an awesome counselor himself. He was one of the two delegates who won the chance to attend Boys' Nation in

Washington D.C. in the summer of 2001. "Attending Boys' Nation was a monumental experience and I see it as one of my greatest achievements." Bengtson said. "Meeting senators and the president was a life altering experience and I will remember that week until the day I die." Patrick learned more about politics at the federal level in that one week than in his entire high school career. Patrick plans on attending the University of Kansas where he plans on majoring in Economics and then perusing a Law degree.

Dustin Galyon

Dustin Galyon was the other

past stater to attend Boy's Nation. Dustin is the town counselor of Spigarelli in the county of Powell. He said it was a great honor to be selected as one of the ten nominees chosen by each county, and an even bigger honor to be chosen as one of the two to attend Boy's Nation. And out of around 700 staters that is a big accomplishment. The reason he wanted to go is because he thought it would be a great way to represent his school and even more so the state of Kansas. When I asked Dustin why he wanted to come back and be a counselor. Being in Mike Zimmers group was the reason. Evidently Mike made

it a very memorable time and that influenced Dustin to come back and try to have the same impact on some present staters.

Nick Carnes

Nick Carnes was the Boy's State Governor of 2001. The steep competition was mainly why Nick was interested in being Governor. Also because it was the top position he could have got. He said being Governor was a good way to see all of Boy's State and all the staters. The reason Nick came back was he thought he owed it to the Legion and the to himself. He heard it was fun from the counselor and he wanted a chance to impact kids lives.

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"A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal."

What Were We Thinking?

What were we thinking? The election of Federalist candidates to four of the five offices will spell trouble for the citizens of Boys' State. It would appear that most voters were amazed by Federalist oration and debate skills rather than looking through the gold plating to see what they were really all about. Clearly, there are two main problems with the Federalist budget, which were obviously not thoroughly researched and lack common sense.

First, the Federalists want to cut thousands of dollars from the SRS, mostly welfare, because they say they don't want to feed the "crack-head's" addiction. This sounds great, but welfare programs give things such as food stamps rather than cash, and I am relatively certain that you can't buy crack with food stamps. So this money is cut only from the unemployed who are trying hard, but can't get ahead.

My second issue with the Federalist budget is the cut-

ting of funds from environmental agencies. Common sense would tell that a major natural disaster would happen sometime this week. When this occurs, we simply need to call in an environmental agency for cleanup and relief. Damn, that's right! We cut their funding and now we have insufficient amounts of money to clean up quickly and get the state back on track.

Basically, the Federalists promise to screw the unemployed in the short-

term, and everyone else when there is a nature disaster down the road. Instead of "cutting the fat", they cut necessary funding from important places in order to perform their "magic". I am very disgusted, and I thank you for your time.

Barry Muninger

City of Harris, King County

Barry- Thank you for the letter. -Ed.

ANOTHER DAY IN SPORTS

The baseball season has already gone through nearly 60 games. All-star ballots have now started, with Ichiro, who plays for the NL leading Mariners, getting more votes than anyone else. The Boston Red Sox have the best record overall, having a .685 winning percentage and a two game lead over the Yankees. Two hitters, Shawn Green and Mike Cameron, have been on fire. Green set the record for most bases in a game, going 6-6 with four homers, a double and a single. He, along with Mike Cameron, became the first two players to hit four homers in a game in quite some time. Even Barry Bonds hasn't done that in his current home run barrage. Derek Lowe of the Boston Red Sox pitched a no hitter, which hardly ever happens. But one of major stories of the season

has been the pitching of the Diamondback's pitcher Kurt Schilling. He has already won 11 games in which he has started and could be on pace for 30 wins if he keeps it up. One of the biggest disappointments has been pitcher Kevin Brown of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who has constantly been injured and has not lived up to his expectations since signing the \$100 million contract. Another outstanding accomplishment is the number of runs put up by the Minnesota Twins. They set a franchise record with 25 hits, including three home runs that brought in 6 runs, and scored 23 runs total, which helped them win by 21 runs, setting another franchise record for the largest margin of victory, as they held Cleveland to two runs, both solo home runs by Jim Thome.

The Stanley Cup Finals are underway, with Detroit and Carolina fighting to win the title. The heavy favorites are of course, Detroit. They might as well sweep Carolina since that is what is expected to happen. OR at least, it was. The 'Canes have pulled a fast one on the experts as they defeated the Red Wings 3-2 in overtime, and it took them only 58 seconds of OT. This really shouldn't come to anyone's surprise as the 'Canes are now 7-1 in overtime play. On top of that, the Wings are only 1-4 in overtime play. The Red Wing's coach, Scotty Bowman, who is the oldest coach to coach a Stanley Cup Finals, is looking to set the record for the most Stanley Cup Finals championships. Detroit looks to even up the series at home on Thursday.

Alba Is Thursday's Featured Female

Given Name: Jessica Marie

Date of Birth: April 28, 1981

Place of Birth: Pomona, California, USA

Zodiac Sign: Taurus

Height: 5'6 ½" (172 cm)

Bust: 34" (86 cm)

Waist: 25" (63 cm)

Hips: 34" (86 cm)

Dress Size: 6

Shoe Size: 8

Hair: Light Brown

Eyes: Brown

"Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes."