



The Stater's Union

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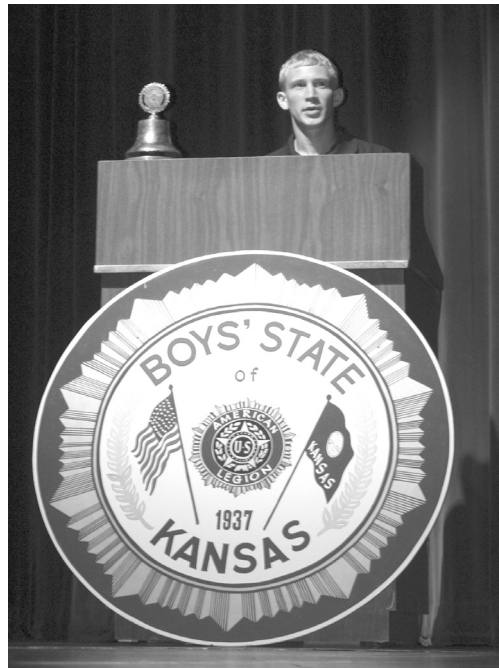
First Day of State Came and Went

Brady Blevins
Whorley, Seitz County

The day began for many staters began in a seemingly never-ending line flowing from Kramer Dining Center. After making it through the required registration, and comfortably settling into the rooms, many boys finally got a chance to get to know each other a little. The free time was limited, and before they knew it, the counties were meeting for the first time.

After that initial meeting, it was time to march. The unique experience was a rude awakening to many who were not expecting so much of a regiment. The councilor's explanation: it promotes discipline and regulation. Aside from being patriotic, it is said to be the best way to transport so many boys to one location.

The excess of 600 staters settled into McCain auditorium with a rousing chant from the counties. The competitive nature of the campers was showing through already, as the chants got louder. After quieting down, former Executive Director and current advisor, Thane Chastain led the



Shiloh Dutton, former Governor, opens the 66th session of Boys' State.

group of staters and parents in a step-by-step explanation of the ins-and-outs of the program.

One councilor gave their theory for the week: "It's a little about government, and a lot about life." As the campers embark on the journey of Boy's State, strangers will become friends, teenagers will become government officials, and each person involved will hopefully learn about both government and life.

Impressions

Jeff Thompson
Seymour, Powell County

The first day of Boys' State saw the passage of many emotions through the halls of my brain. They changed like the wind. Anticipation, joy, and sadness were not uncommon. Really, I did not know what to expect. This was probably because I neglected to read the entire handbook. I'll admit it, I cannot tell a lie. Truth is, I stumbled into Boys' State like a little child who wanders into the middle of a movie and wants to know what is going on.

It did not take me long to figure out how things operate. You make your bed, nod your head, listen when people talk to you. Then out of the blue we began electing officers. I sat around, doing what everyone else did; I didn't know what to run for. I considered several positions. Then this position fell right into my lap. It was a spot where I could share my talents with the rest of the world.

They told me I would have a chance to ruin peoples' political careers if I so choose. I knew that was the perfect role for me, writing

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for the *Staters' Union*. Then when I found out people might try and sue me, my eyes swelled up with tears of joy.

Once I got to the newspaper office, I was beginning to see what a cutthroat world this political business was. People were willing to sell their soul or firstborn child to me for my influential endorsement created by my literary efforts

Luckily, I was able to find a couple of straight shooters in a sea of deceit who did not offer me a stipend for my written word. One such person is Andrew Winetroub from King County, a gubernatorial candidate who said, "I've really enjoyed the first day. Meeting all the new people has been fun, these guys are really intelligent and I am looking forward to working with them this next week."

Jake Rudisill, a fellow reporter, summed up the general feeling that the first day exceeded everyone's expectations.

Speaking of straight shooters, Jared Anderson from Powell County volunteered, "I'm an original gangster. We need oil however we can get it." Go get 'em Jared!

I hope all the candidates have Jared's desire to succeed, even though their goals and methods may be a little bit more socially accepted.

Staters' Views

**Do you have an opinion that
you want to share?**

**Do you have a candidate
you want to support?**

**Let your views known by
writing a letter to the
Stater's Views and see
your thoughts published.**

Opinions & Editorials

Generic Governors Run Amuck

Brady Blevins
Whorley, Seitz County

As I stormed the foyer of Kramer Dining Hall, candidates for governor hastily bought supplies from the pricey campaign store, talked to potential voters, and thoroughly thought out their campaigns. A million thoughts must be going through their heads. What could they do to get their name out? What could they do to ensure themselves victory? And on what are they going to base their campaigns?

As I spoke to candidates, I started to sense the generic nature of many of them. "I'm a man of the people," claimed candidate after candidate. "I have the background for the job," droned on many others. I was waiting for one of them to tell me all they really wanted was world peace.

Alas, this may be the kind of same-old candidate we're faced with this year. As I asked what made them distinctive, few gave answers that stood out to this reporter. Of those few stood Brock Banks, the Nationalist candidate from Powell county, who claimed that he had worked for government official Sam Graves in Washington DC. He claims to have been involved with professional campaigning and legislature. Even with all of this experience, he seemed nervous about his prospects, claiming he was in an amazing field. And even though he says he's honored just to be among the candidates, he still thinks he's the best.

Also nervous was the Nationalist party candidate from King county, Andrew Winetroub. Still, he claimed to be fairly confident of victory. Other candidates however claimed to be entirely confident. When asked about his victory he said it was "for sure." The confidence exuding from him was worth mentioning in a somewhat boring field of competitors.

Standout candidates at this point, aside from those mentioned above, include Seitz County Federalist Jeremy Leithoff. His past includes traveling to the House of Representatives in Kansas to speak about teen issues. Another notable candidate is Geoffry Thomas from Kennedy County who, although avoiding speaking to the common issues, is running for office decked out in SpongeBob gear.

In such a race for governor, memorable candidates are imperative. You can bet that these gentlemen are among the top runners for such a title. Although, I have to say, if any of the other candidates would like to make an impression on this reporter, be my guest.

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Profiles

Andy Boyd
Hiatt, King County

The Boys Behind the Blue Shirts

In order to better understand and respect the men camouflaged under the blue polo-shirt armor they wear, we on the "Staters Union" newspaper staff will develop weekly excerpts of the counselors and staff members employed at this session of Boys' State. The official award is deemed the "Blue Shirt of the Day Award", and is presented to the counselor whom has demonstrated excellence during their week on staff as a Boys' State counselor.

Earning the honor and respect of the first "Blue Shirt of the Day" City Counselor Kevin Veltri earns this tribute based mainly on his considerable distance and travel from his home. Kismet, KS is a small rural area just a click northeast of Liberal as well as the Oklahoma border. It homes Southwestern Heights High School, the Alma Matter of Kevin, a KU undergrad majoring in Sports Administration. While also receiving a degree from SW Heights, Kevin has also graduated a Boys' State week as a "stater." This years 66th Boys' State finds Kevin as a City Counselor for McCoy. When asked about his aspirations for this weeks Boys' State, Kevin answered, "I want to learn how to better the "staters." He remembers fondly of his own Boys' State experience by reminiscing how remarkable it was that, "700 guys come together in a short time."

Because of his Boys' State experience, Kevin is deemed an expert in the "Staters Union" ongoing fight of how to combat the loneliness of female presence throughout the week. When asked for his wisdom and special tactics on how he was planning to defend against this, Kevin replied, "I'll be using up a lot of minutes on my cell phone talking to my girlfriend."

While indeed this may be tough on all of us, we at the "Staters Union" will stay dedicated to providing methods and strategies to fight the lack of a ladies presence in our lives this week.

But as you see Kevin throughout your busy week at Boys' State, congratulate him on his honorable achievement of winning the first "Blue Shirt of the Day Award."

Kevin Veltri



Are you on the RIGHT side of the road?

Nationalist

Liberal

Federalist

Conservative

Vote for Casey Bleeker in the Governor's Federalist Primary, for right side - conservative views. If you want less government control for your business and private life, elect Casey Bleeker as your next Kansas State Governor. He will work hard to protect the rights of the individual, not just society as a whole.

“Give me liberty or give me death!”

Freedom! Reform! Liberation! -Patrick Henry
Vote for these

Brock Banks for Governor

Matt Myer for State Secretary

Jared Anderson for Attorney General



National
Candidates

MAXWELL

Leadership ◦ Communication ◦ Commitment

***** Vote Mardell Maxwell for Governor *****

NATIONALIST PRIMARIES

VOTE

Andrew Winetroub for Governor
Jeff McLerran for Secretary of State

Make Ross Your Boss!!! Vote Ross Noakes for Federalist Governor today!!!

Strong minds build strong statesmen:
support education, vote Federalist Karson
Thompson for Governor

NBA Finals

Game one of the NBA Finals starts this Wednesday, June 4. This year's series features the Nets of New Jersey squaring off against the San Antonio Spurs. The Nets are led by Kenyon Martin and Jason Kidd. Martin boasts 20.7 ppg and 9.1 rpg. Kidd leads the team in assists with 8.3 per game. Regular season MVP, Tim Duncan, is the number one man for San Antonio with 24.9 ppg and 14.8 rpg. Be sure to check the Thursday edition for a complete rundown of the game.

Horse Racing

The Belmont, to be run the seventh of this month, is the only race standing between Funny Cide and the illustrious Triple Crown. The gelding surprised everyone with his wins in the first two legs of the journey. If he succeeds, he will be only the twelfth horse in the history of thoroughbred racing to accomplish that feat.

Stanley Cup Finals

The NHL is gearing up for Game four of the Stanley Cup Finals, to begin today at 7:00 p.m. The New Jersey Devils lead the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim 2-1, so far, and today's game promises to be a good one. Game three was forced into overtime and the Ducks won their first game of the series by a narrow margin. Sadly, there are no televisions available to us "Staters," so you will have to totally rely on the Stater's Union for all of your sporting needs. Don't get your hopes too high.

Sports in State

Recreation begins today for all counties between 3:30 and 5:00. Recreation consists of basketball, softball, running and many other activities. Talk to your counselor for a complete list of activities. These activities will be fun, but also competitive. Enjoy all of your free time because with all of our busy schedules, it is very limited.

Trivial Truth

Arranged by Hale Sloan, Bradley County

Just in case you miss the completely apolitical information that floods the daily papers, the staff of the Union comes to the rescue. The following will be vital to the day's events and happenings. Your day may be filled with endless marches that will someday have value, or you could happen to find the meaning of your life within this political arena. But, before you forget, the enjoyment of your time here will give you the ability to remember the experiences you encounter.

Words of Enlightenment

By Hale Sloan, Bradley County

Weather

Today will be on the cooler side with a 40% chance of thunderstorms throughout the morning, High of 69.

Tonight, we might have a cool sleepy low of 53.

Tuesday, again cloudy and a 30% chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon, Highs around the mid 70's.

Nutritional Facts

Lunch- French Dip Sandwich, Italian Sausage Cavatini

Whole Kernel Corn, Country Turkey Soup

Fudge Brownie and Ice Cream

Dinner- Turkey Soup, Country Fried Beef Steak

Hot Roll, Broccoli Spears

Strawberry Shortcake and Ice Cream

Tuesday Breakfast- French Toast & Syrup, Bacon & Breakfast Potatoes, Blueberry Buckle, Cranberry Mix, Oatmeal

Weather and Nutrition Information Compiled by Cody Osborn, Eisenhower County

In response to the sudden explosion of imaginary fire last evening

- Assist firefighters racing to the scene of a blaze by lighting a series of smaller "marker fires" along their path.
- If you have children, warn them never to play with matches, because a fire could break out and Sparky The Big Friendly Fire Dog would have to visit the house in his big red truck and give them rides while the firemen put out the fire with water hoses.
- Before using a fire extinguisher to put out a rapidly spreading fire, be sure to thoroughly read the instructions printed on the side, marking key information with a highlighter pen.
- Remember: The old adage "Fight fire with fire" does not apply to non-metaphorical fires.

Compiled from THE ONION.

Election Results

<u>County</u>	<u>Federalist Candidate</u>	<u>Nationalist Candidate</u>
Seitz-	Jeremy Leithoff	Keith Fine
Powell-	Brock Banks	Carson Thomas
Pershing-	Will Reid	Mardell Maxwell
Patton-	Charles Collins	Jared Wescot
Marshall-	Kelly Williams	Dusty Johnson
MacAthur-	Tommy Finnegan	Zach Shoemaker
King-	Andrew Winethroub	Ross Knoakes
Kenedy-	Joe Brown	Goeffry Thomas
Eisenhower-	Casey Bleeker	Nolan Chance
Bradley-	Scot Rogers	Eddie Lee

Campaign Speeches the Yardstick for Success

Jake Rudisill and Andrew Cott

Your palms are sweaty, your knees are weak, and your arms are heavy, you're nervous, but on the surface you look calm and ready to..... GIVE YOUR CAMPAIGN SPEECH! Today the 2003 Boys' State has started off with a bang! As many of you know, the first day comes with many on-the-spot campaign speeches, some of these speeches a success, some failures.

We have asked some of your fellow Boy's State Delegates how they felt about their speeches. As for Jeff Thomson he doesn't quite feel you need a good speech to get the spot you desire, as we quote "Speeches are like steers, there's a point here and a point there, and a lot of bull in the middle, so vote for me." Mike Cuevas of Pershing County stated, "I was a little nervous at first, I tried mentioning Education as a primary issue to my fellow councilmen, which didn't quite work out as my opponent rose to the power of mayor." Carl Launchbaugh, however, decided to take what could be described as a lower road approach, rising to office as a member of his county commission by promising "strip clubs and casinos".

Naturally, the vitality of a solid campaign speech hasn't been lost on those candidates vying for the highest electoral position here at Boys' State: the office of governor. Some, like Charles Collins, a Federalist candidate from Patton County, stressed qualifications and past achievements in their bid for office. Said Collins, "I showed that I could handle the responsibility and showed how much I valued the issues". Eddie Lee, a Nationalist from Bradley County, concurred with Collins' statement: "I tried to show straight forward qualifications and past experience and an interest in the future and showed excitement about the opportunity to hold the office". Others, like Nationalist candidate and Eisenhower County resident Nolan Chance decided to attack the issues head on: "I want to educate minorities instead of just providing them money through welfare, create jobs by utilizing the oil resources in my county, and increase teacher salaries". Will Reid decided to take a more simplistic approach in his bid to sway the voters, "I wasn't really nervous, I was trying to think how to appeal to the people without having to act like someone I'm not". (For a complete list of gubernatorial candidates, see table.)

So, it's clear that whatever speech strategy a candidate decides to use, whether trying to appeal to the lowest common denominator or trying to sink your teeth into the issues, a campaign speech is the difference between earning a place in the race to govern the state and a long embarrassing walk back to your seat. Maybe Will Reid summed up the spirit of the elections the best though, when he said, "Good luck to all the other candidates running for office".