

Welcome to Boys' State '04

Decorated speakers steal show at opening ceremony

Lucas Heinrich

Hasler, King County

Marty Boeschling

Coss, Eisenhower County

As the bell rang to officially open the 37th American Legion Boys' State of Kansas, the profound words of keynote speakers Delano Lewis and Anthony Hensley were heard in the far reaches of McCain Auditorium. In the presence of the almost 500 Staters and many of their families, both delivered moving speeches that Dignitary Advisor Rex Gardner felt "set a very positive tone for this Boys' State".

Gardner added, "I cannot remember an opening ceremony with speaker as good as these two. I think they set a very positive tone for this Boys' State and for what you guys can make this to be."

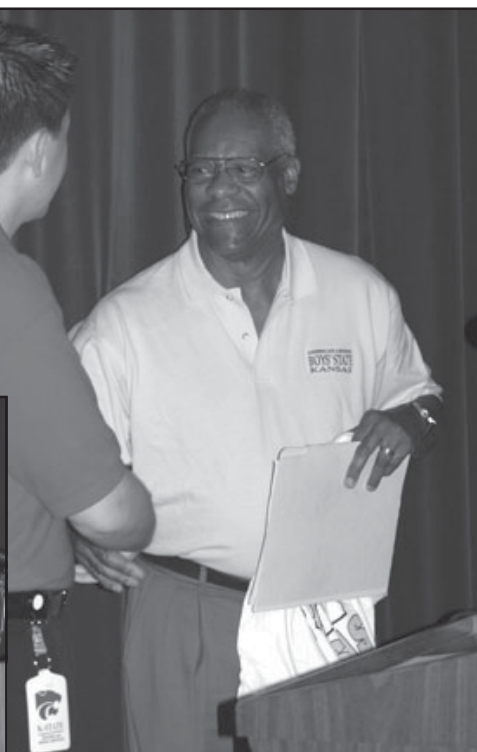
Mr. Lewis, who was accompanied by his wife and nephew, told how his experience at Boys' State worked as a springboard to his career in law. Lewis

was a Stater in 1955 that was held in Wichita and said that he had to endure a large amount of culture shock when he arrived, since the high schools in his hometown of Kansas City remained segregated. Delano overcame many of the social hindrances of his time and received his law degree, served in the Peace Corps, became President of National Public Radio, and was chosen to serve as the American ambassador to South Africa by President Clinton.

Gardner, who was in charge of lining up the speakers for this year's Boys' State, said that Lewis was very excited when he was first e-mailed about speaking.

"Every time I've talked to Delano he's been overjoyed. We also talked about having him come back next year for the whole week as an advisor."

The second keynote speaker of equal impassioned wisdom was Senator Anthony Hensley of Topeka. Hensley spoke of the troubles of the real legislature in Kansas, especially in the face of the budget



Lewis ('55) accepts honorary Boys' State T-shirt prior to Representative Hensley's ('70) address to over 500 '04 staters. photo courtesy of webmaster John Moeder

deficit, and said he was excited to see how the Boys' State House Representatives and Senators would role-play the problems they would encounter.

"We spend \$26 per student in Kansas schools, but we spend \$70 on housing

inmates."

Hensley, who attended the 1970 Boys' State in Lawrence, was elected Lt. Governor as a Stater and also represented Kansas as one of the two delegates elected each year to attend Boys' Nation.

As the week

transpires, the list of speakers is packed full of talented Boys' State Alumni. Kansas Representative Josh Svaty as well as Kansas Court of

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Clarified list of state level positions, duties

Joe Zigtema

Raymond, Pershing

The Boys' State Kansas government is a very complex system full of positions that are often ambiguous to the average Stater. In accordance with the general confusion, the staff of the Stater's Union has summarized every position with some general information attached to make your position here at Boys' State a little more clear.

There are two political parties that each stater can be attached to: Nationalist and Federalist, which are liberal and conservative, respectively.

Elected candidates

- **Governor**
 - Responsible for overseeing decisions made at the State level and appoints the Supreme Court Justices.
- **Attorney General**
 - Oversees law enforcement and appoints the CEO of Highway Patrol.
- **State Treasurer**
 - Handles the monetary status of the state.
- **Secretary of State**
 - Oversees state elections, maintains financial statements, and sells state flags.
- **Commissioner of Insurance**
 - Makes and reforms insurance policy.
 - Deal with smaller, more specific issues relevant to their office, and forms the budget.

Appointed Positions

- **Department of Agriculture**
 - Makes grants, and deals with environmental issues such as soil erosion.
- **Department of Commerce**
 - Deals with business interests and economic impacts.
- **Corporation Commission**
 - Deals with creating a superhighway through the North American Free Trade Association and finding places to dispose of oil and gas products.
- **Department of Corrections**
 - Deals with issues such as overcrowding in jails, juvenile crime, and sentencing guidelines.
- **Department of Culture**
 - Regulates grants to artists and entertainers.
- **Department of Education**
 - Reviews curriculum, taking into account race, gender, and sexual orientation.
- **Department of the Environment**
 - Helps endangered species and gives disaster relief funding.
- **Department of Social Rehabilitative Services**
 - Spearheads welfare reform and gives aid to dependent families.
- **Highway Patrol**
 - Enforces the law and works with state troopers.
- **Commission on Ethics and Good Government**
 - Institutes election reform and is in charge of redistricting.
- **Board of Regents**
 - Deals with minority retention at state universities and free speech on campuses.
- **Department of Revenue**
 - Prepares Interim Budget Reports and modifies tax code.
- **Department of Health**
 - Deals with landfills and mental health.
- **Department of Transportation**
 - Improves City Infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges).
- **State Water Board**
 - Deals with drought, water pollution, and the Water Reserve Systems.
- **Department of Wildlife and Parks**
 - Regulates and creates more State Parks.

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General.

Vote **DAVID LACHUT** for Insurance
Commissioner.

Staters march to McCain military style; few complain

Jarrold Holiday
McCoy, Patton

Greg May
Gardner, Kennedy

This afternoon, the members of the 2004 summer session Kansas American Legion Boys State assembled together for the first time in the parking lot outside of their dormitories, and suddenly found themselves standing at relative attention in orderly ranks, wincing in the sun light and impatiently waiting for dinner.

For many of us, this was our first exposure to marching, served bite-sized for easy consumption. Personally, I didn't mind it in the least: if we are all going to the same place at the same time, why not do it while stepping in time to the mind-numbing chant of a camp counselor, an hour old acquaintance?

Some of my compatriots shared this opinion.

"I personally thought it was a good way to get from point A to Point B, and it was kinda fun. It made walking a mile a little more interesting." Brandon White said. Several people were in agreement that while moderately difficult, the march was not without its merits.

"It was interesting; we had a hard time getting the hang of it at the beginning, but we got the hang of it eventually."

Adrian Stryker said.

"I enjoyed it," Sam Bruton said, "I had to do marching for band, so it was alright. If we tried harder, and stayed in line a little better, it would probably be more enjoyable."

I thought the military characteristics of course are to obvious to be overlooked; the urge to spout off Full Metal Jacket lines was for myself to powerful to resist: "Is that you John Wayne? Is this me?"

"I don't mind it to much," Matt Wetzel said, "I'm joining the army next summer, so it's not that bad, especially when you're the flag guy."

"Not too shabby," A Stater standing in relative proximity to Matt Wetzel said. You know who you are: be proud, man.

"I don't mind marching. I like the whole uniform look, but sometimes the yelling was a bit excessive." 'Bubba' Anderson said, "Oh, and vote for me (governor)!"

As many of you have probably heard from the counselors, marching has been a tradition at Boys State since its founding in 1937, and is unlikely to give way to the moderately rebellious walking that

we teenagers are so accustomed to doing. Yet it is important to remember that it is a tradition, albeit an at times trying one, and as such the marching, however uncomfortable it may be, marching should be carried out with the high degree of respect deserved by the American Legion and expected by the Boys' State administration.

As everyone keeps saying, the whole process gets easier with time. But in the meantime, there are still a few minor discrepancies.

"I think the idea of marching is very good conceptually, but since we're not very good at it, it's not very efficient," Chris Havenstein said, "We step into each others toes, we don't take long enough strides, and it's not very consistent."

Yet all told, I must still impart to you my opinion on the matter: Remember why we are here. We are all here for Boys State, and if Boys State involves marching, then what reason is there not to just go with it? It isn't exactly getting in the way of anything. And besides, a little exercise won't kill you. Hopefully.

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Royal Woes Continue

The Kansas City Royals lost yet *another* game last night against the New York Mets at Kaufman Stadium in Kansas City, with a final score of 5-2. Rookie phenom pitcher Zach Greinke surrendered five runs in the seven innings, but as usual, the Royals' offense never got going enough to turn the tides of the game. Their record fell even farther, dropping to 23 and 37 on the season.

Detroit schools lackluster Lakers

The heavily favored to win Los Angeles Lakers lost Game 4 of the NBA Finals last night with a final score of 88-80. O'Neal and Bryant scored 56 points between them, but the team still came up short against the Pistons' tough pumping defense. Detroit now has a chance to clinch the NBA championship tomorrow night when they play the next game at home. Unofficial remarks from die-hard fans say that Bryant's head "just wasn't in the game."

Royal Trades Likely

After waiting 60 long, loss-filled games for the Royals to improve their season, Royals general manager Allard Baird has announced that he's willing to listen to trade talk from many MLB club. Carlos Beltran, Joe Randa, and even Mike Sweeney's numbers are up, Baird said in an official interview Friday night. Likely candidate teams for Beltran include the Anaheim Angels, San Diego Padres, and the New York Yankees.

Sergio Garcia captures Bick Open title at 12 under par

Sergio Garcia clinched the Buick Open in a dramatic fashion yesterday, defeating Rory Sabbatini and Padraig Harrington in a three-way playoff under muggy conditions at Westchester Country Club Sunday. The win was Garcia's second this year. Coincidentally, his prior victory (the Byron Nelson) also ended in a three-way playoff.

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If you're looking for the best governor of Boys' State,

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VOTE A.A.!

ALEX SPEAKS SOFTLY AND CARRIES A CRAZY BIG STICK

BEGIN' 4 AGGEN

A.A.'S ENERGETIC

News from the outside

What we miss during Boys' State

Today's World Happening's

Stories taken from CNN.com

Editorialized by **Shane Chrisman Sullivan**, *Seitz*

In the Middle East, U.S. and Saudi authorities are searching for a missing American engineer that al Qaeda militants claim to have kidnapped in Riyadh. The U.S. Embassy in the Saudi capital confirmed that an American is missing. Yet another car bomb exploded near a U.S. military installation, killing 12 Iraqis—eight civilians and four police officers. Also, in a separate strike, an Iraq cultural affairs attaché was assassinated outside his home. Pakistani officials arrested nine people said to have links to al Qaeda.

Storms

The storms that have been camping in the Midwest continue to overstay their welcome. This storm had crews working furiously to restore power to thousands of residents after the thunderstorms that swept across Missouri and Kansas. At least six tornadoes touched ground just south of Wichita, destroying one home, overturning cars and tearing down power lines.

So far, two deaths have been reported; one drowning and one traffic-related.

Gas Drop

It would have been a great week to take a road trip, with gas prices dropping more than 6 cents in the past few days. As I said, it *would* have been a great week for a road trip... except that you are here in Manhattan at Boys State. But hey, at least your parents can gas up your cars for a bit cheaper on the way home.

Potter Still The Champ

In the movies today, reports say that Harry Potter has lost much of its audience in its second weekend at the box office, but still manages to stay at the top of the charts.

Keynote speakers, continued from page 1

Appeals Judge, Joseph Pierron are scheduled to speak. Pierron has almost become a regular speaker at Boys' State, and introduced Gardner to Lewis.

Each speaker promises to provide words of insight from their own experiences, but all will be a tough act to follow after

yesterday's speakers. Even as the Staters were dismissed to go about the rest of their first day, they took away with them the words of men who have

stood in their places as well as the hope of the impact they can have on this Boys' State and their world after this week.

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