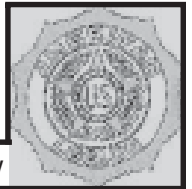
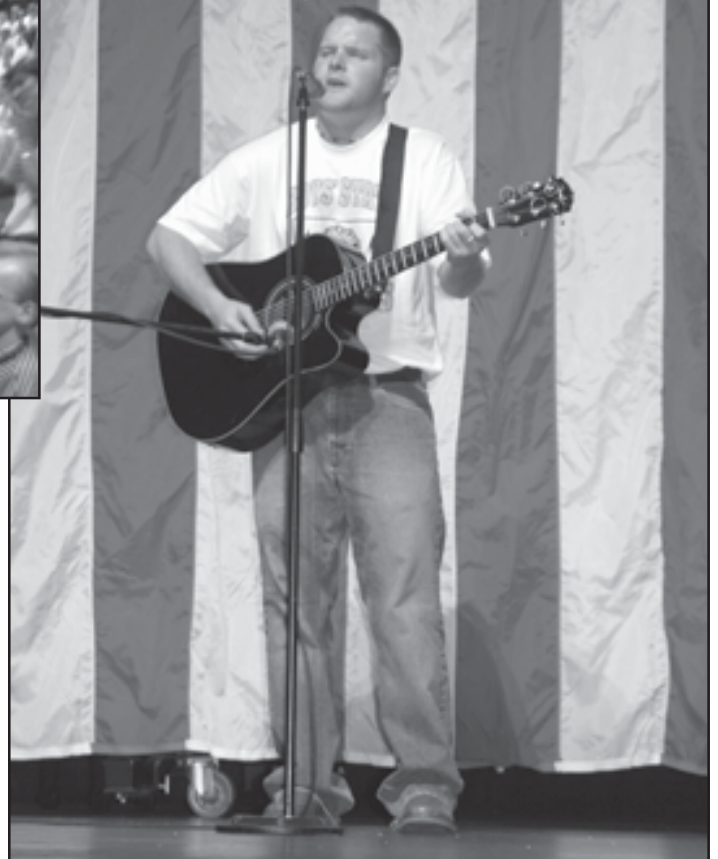


American Legion Boys' State of Kansas STATER'S UNION



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Talent show full of entertaining, moving performances



Jarrold Holiday
McCoy, Patton

Boys' State is arguably the most respected and renowned youth gathering in the nation; many distinguished speakers have told the Staters this week that they are leaders and path-makers who have been distinguished from their schoolmates for their numerous talents, which will lead them to success. They are a step above the rest. Over the past few days, these traits have slowly been defined as Staters get involved with the program, proving to peers through campaigns and elections that they are willing to go the extra mile in order to achieve success.

However, the events of last evening showed another definition of what a step above the rest can mean; performing on stage. Not for personal advancement in the political spectrum or for flashy titles that flesh out resumes nicely, but for the pure enjoyment of giving a memorable experience to others, one that everyone can take with them. The participants in the talent show are a step above the rest; their talents, and more importantly their willingness to share their talents with everyone, have shown just what can be produced from such an elite group as Boys' State.

The talent show has

been a recent favorite among events at Boys' State for the past several years, and if given a few more it will soon become tradition.

"I've talked to other counselors, and they agreed that this year's talent show was superior to past years. It's just a testament to this year's Staters," Kevin Mechtley said. Mechtley, this year's Master of Ceremonies, announced the participants of the show.

"I saw it from a different perspective this year. I was a little more behind the scenes," Mechtley said. His, and others' contributions to the talent show, were vital to its success. There are many devoted individuals whose efforts behind the scenes can be easily overlooked if it weren't

for their importance in maintaining a functioning program.

The performers were made up of both Staters and coordinators. Coordinator Ben Proctor kicked the show off dressed in a corduroy suit and looking professionally

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layout, design by **Kyle Rogers** *Seymour, Powell*

Corrigan Administration stays up late, drafts budget

Clint Wiseman
Kyle, Marshall

The time has come for the elected officials to test whether they're merely good at campaigning, or are truly good selections for office. Tuesday night was a late night for the newly elected state officials to overcome. Awake until 1:30 a.m. and even 2:00 a.m., they spent their time working on their first draft of the budget through an attack of computer glitches. They ran into many while editing the first draft, attempting to carry out their proposed goals of lessening state involvement and improving education while cutting back on the budget.

Yesterday morning the new officials held a news briefing with the newspaper staff to discuss their new budget plan. While some of the programs emerged relatively unchanged from the budget restructuring, many programs had their funding drastically altered. Overall, the Corrigan Administration has managed to cut roughly \$11,000 from Boys' State's total budget.

"I think all the offices did a great job to maximize their efficiency," Governor Corrigan remarked. "We asked them to calculate what their needed funding

was, and in most cases it was lower than what we had allocated for them."

Among the most significant changes were the changes to the personal income tax brackets. With the new semi-flat tax in effect, only the richest 25% of citizens must pay more than 10% income tax. The rest of the Staters have a new flat income tax of 10% of their total income. This marks a total increase in expected revenue for the state, jumping from last year's figure of \$34 thousand to this year's \$45 thousand, an increase of roughly \$10,000 in profit.

Other major changes include cutting the Social and Rehabilitation Services funding by \$10,000 to help increase state funding for law enforcement, nearly eliminating Alcohol and Beverage Control programs in favor of improved rehabilitation services. The Judicial Branch's funding for Child Support Enforcement (enforcing divorced couples to pay child support) was increased, disaster relief funds were doubled, quality performance funding was increased, the staff at The Central Management for Corrections was doubled, and funding for Education Innovation was tripled. The only complete cut made was in state grants for artists.

Most of the money for the dramatic increases came from minor trimming of \$100-200 dollars in many programs across the board.

To the casual observer looking at the figures from the number of state employees, it would seem that Corrigan has gone against his campaign promises by increasing their numbers by 25. This would appear to go against his core promises of downsizing and deregulating businesses by keeping state control to a minimum, but Corrigan's defense is that these are simply advisors at best; non-essential employees in place only to help out while leaving the local governments to work out their own problems.

Will the budget be changed in the future? Slight changes are likely, but it would seem that no candidates can make good on every campaign promise they make. The Corrigan Administration is no exception. Their ability to pull through on the rest of their promises remains to be seen.

"I think all the offices did a great job to maximize their efficiency"

Attorney General cracks down on city ordinances

Joe Zigtema
Raymond, Pershing

Today the Attorney General met with mayors of all the cities in Boys' State, checking and reviewing their city ordinances. Most met with clearance, but some did not pass the constitutional standards of the United States and Boys' State. The following are the ordinances that were either rejected or

placed under review.

The city of Claussen in Marshall County wrote an ordinance declaring that all employees of Quik-E-Mart were required to speak in an Indian accent and smell like curry.

In Seymour, Powell County, breaking curfew five times resulted in execution by firing squad.

In Icenogle, MacArthur County, passing gas was

declared illegal because it caused air pollution, brain damage, distraction, and causing citizens to move seats.

In Finley, Kennedy County, a \$5 fine was put in place for not saying, "Excuse me" after passing gas. Furthermore, silent occurrences unclaimed by their owner would result in a \$10 fine to the first five people in the vicinity. These laws were to be

enforced by Batman, Robin, and Wonder Woman. Each resident of Finley is also required to wear banana yellow jumpsuits. This ordinance is under review.

In perhaps the most promiscuous city in Boys' State, Hiat, King County, restricted all women under 120 lbs to three pieces of clothing, with jewelry counting as a piece of clothing. Attorney

General Spencer King commented on the ordinance, "I thought it was a good idea, but I thought it was a little gross if there were 65 year-old women walking around the city in only three pieces of clothing, not to mention the fact that it's unconstitutional."

The city of Hiat also legalized prostitution, but this particular ordinance was met with excitement and approval by King.

Powell

We are having a ballot on Friday to determine if we are going to build this heated highway, to keep ice and snow off of our highway, from the east edge of Seitz county to the West edge of Powell county. This highway plan will run 5 years, costing us \$12,675.00. Then we will also put a highway through the city of Seymour and the city of Spigarelli from the very east edge to the very west edge in between lot 55 and lot 10 of our county. Then we will also put a highway from the south edge of our county to the north edge of our county at the very west end of our county.

Kennedy

The County Commission has been reviewing the quality and safety of bridges on county highways. We have found two that are too damaged to be completely repaired, but due to a resolution passed by the prior county commission we are unable to allocate any funds for road maintenance without voter approval. Consequently, there will be a countywide closed-ballot election in which the citizens of the county will decide whether or not to replace the highway(s) or bridge(s). The vote will be held in the county meeting room at 11 a.m. Friday.

Local Government Actions

Internal improvements remain trend at Boys' State

Seitz

The Seitz County Commission is proposing a reconstruction highway plan within the county that will replace the existing roads with a brand new four-lane highway. The reason a new four-lane highway was chosen over all other alternatives was because it has the greatest amount of benefits to the prosperity of Seitz County as a whole. These benefits include things such as higher corporation income, lower corporation expenses, increased property value, and lowered vehicle accidents. Additionally, the county must construct a new bridge across the river because the current bridge is inadequate and because of the amount of traffic using it. Therefore, we are proposing the construction of a four-lane bridge, connected to Powell County, strengthening our industrial counties.

King

The county is proposing an idea for a new highway. The highway will be built in order to connect the cities in order to not only boost city revenues, but also county revenues. Due to the building of our own police station and jail, we feel it is necessary to have more police interaction throughout the county and cities.

Patton

The Patton County Commission has investigated the abysmal condition of the highways. The current two-lane highway is nearly impassable with its gaping potholes and other deterioration due to salt and sand used in the winter for de-icing. Also, the bridge in the county, which provided quick and easy access to many areas of the county, has fallen into extreme disrepair. It has been closed due to its extremely treacherous condition.

In order to attract new business and citizens, these problems must be addressed promptly. The current road must be fixed and the bridge replaced. In the interest of pursuing new businesses to come into the county, a new four-lane highway would be necessary. This four-lane highway would connect all three cities together. This road would provide a faster means of transporting and selling goods among people. The danger of disrupting any wetlands has been avoided to prevent any citizen conflict. There will also be high maintenance toward all of these new constructions.

Today's Menu

Breakfast

- Pancakes and Syrup
- Ham Slice
- Tater Rounds
- Pumpkin Muffins
- Donuts
- Apple Juice
- Oatmeal

Lunch

- Smoked Turkey and Swiss Sandwich
- Crisp or Soft Shell Tacos
- Tortilla Chips and Nacho Sauce
- Refried Beans
- Mexican Rice

Dinner

- Chicken-Fried Chicken Breast
- Italian Meatballs
- Newman's Own® Marinara Sauce
- Whipped Potatoes and Cream
- Gravy
- Spaghetti
- White Rice
- Vegetable Blend
- Carrot Coins
- Hot Rolls
- Chocolate Cream Pie

News from the outside

What we miss during Boys' State

Rocket attack kills two GI's in Iraq; casualty count 836

Shane Chrisman
Sullivan, Seitz

Two more United States deaths were inflicted in Iraq today due to a rocket attack on a logistics base near the city of Balad. The blast inflicted wounds on twenty-one other military personnel. Fourteen of the injured were taken to the U.S. Army's 31st Combat Support Hospital, and seven were treated at a clinic on the U.S. base, Camp Anaconda.

These two casualties bring the count to 836 total United States

casualties throughout the entire war. I was fortunate enough to run into Legionnaires Lester Paul (WWII) and Don Whitten (Korea) and upon informing them of the latest attack, asked them their opinions. Paul had this to say:

"The sooner we get our troops home, the better off the whole country will be. I agree that we have to defend democracy, but at the same time we have to think about our soldiers fighting and dying over there."

Whitten went on to mention, "We're fighting a society

completely different than our own. They consider dying for their country an honor of both religion and country. These are religious fanatics, and it's really hard for our troops to fight a people who's sole intent is to die."

Though a majority of Boys' Staters interviewed in today's Stater's Union poll said they felt the U.S. should continue the fight in Iraq, these veterans seem to disagree.

"It's really hard for our troops to fight a people who's sole intent is to die"

World News Today
As reported by CNN

Shane Chrisman
Sullivan, Seitz

Iraqi oil chief slain

Killing comes day after key pipeline sabotaged Iraq's oil industry is the latest target of insurgents, with an oil company security chief killed a day after attacks on a key oil pipeline. Saboteurs Tuesday damaged a pipeline in the Persian Gulf, halting export of oil through Iraq's two offshore terminals. Today, gunmen shot to death Ghazi al-Talabani, the security chief for Iraq's Northern Oil Company.

Gas prices drop below \$2

Gasoline prices, which dipped under \$2 a gallon for the first time in weeks, "may be turning a corner" and should continue

declining this summer, though motorists shouldn't expect dramatic decreases at the pump, the Energy Department said Tuesday.

Mexican Earthquake shakes San Diego

SAN DIEGO, California (AP) — A 5.2-magnitude earthquake centered in Baja California shook downtown San Diego on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injury.

Military investigator charged with rape, sodomy

A key investigator in the espionage case against a Syrian-American translator at the U.S. Naval base in Guantanamo has been charged with raping and sodomizing children.

Colombian farmers killed

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNN) — At least 34 farm workers were killed and five others wounded in a massacre in northwest Colombia near the Venezuelan border in which leftist rebels are suspected, a spokesman at the chief prosecutor's office has said.

The dead were all working on a farm harvesting coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine, near the village of Rio Chiquita, the spokesman said. The motives for the attack were not clear, he said.

Reporters withhold bylines

Some Wall Street Journal reporters began withholding their bylines from stories in Wednesday editions, part of a planned two-day protest after contract negotiations soured with their employer, Dow Jones & Co.

Iraq, should the US stay involved in the conflict?

"I don't think that we should fight for the freedom of Iraq."

-Jeff Bovanske

23 Agree with US involvement

13 Disagree with involvement

"I think it's an entirely just war. It's just a continuation of the last war there."

-Lyle Skalla

Cubs battle injuries, NL Central opponents

Joe Zigtema
Raymond, Pershing

The National League Central Division is considered by many as the hardest division in baseball. There are five teams still very much in the race for first, an unheard of event in any other division. At the beginning of the season, analysts expected a fierce battle between the Houston Astros and the defending central champion Chicago Cubs, but surprise teams like the hard-hitting St. Louis Cardinals and the high-flying Cincinnati Reds find themselves in the thick of the race. The Cubs find themselves out of first place, where many predicted them to be, because of injury. Cubs ace Mark Prior, considered by some to be the best in the game, was out with

inflammation in his right Achilles for all of April and May, not making his first start until June 4th against the Pirates. Kerry Wood, another Cubs flamethrower, has been out since May 11th with shoulder problems, though he hopes to come back before the All-Star Break. Sammy Sosa, the famed Cubs slugger, has had back problems and has been out of the lineup since May 15th. Also, injuries to Cubs starters have created problems for the bullpen, which has been overworked through the season. Reliever Todd Wellemeyer and closer Joe Borowski were placed on the on May 28th and June 6th, respectively. Mark Grudzielanek, who was batting .467 before going on the disabled list in April, has still not come back. Overall, the Cubs currently have six players on the disabled list, keeping them from playing

at full strength. However, the "Lemons," Cubs bench players like Center fielder Tom Goodwin and Right fielder Todd Hollandsworth, have stepped up when the Cubs needed them to. In an interview with MLB.com's Carrie Muskat, Cubs first baseman Derek Lee said, "The bench is huge... as you can see with all the injuries, if we don't have the bench that we have, we're dead in the water. We have guys who can step in. Most of these guys can play every day."

Hanging in there with backups in the lineup everyday, the Cubs are sure to jump to first place and the pennant when their starters get healthy. The Cubs are a dangerous ball club with all of their starters, and are poised to make another run at the World Series that eluded them last year.

KC Hits Twenty in Win

Quintin Kahmeyer
Aylward, Bradley

The Kansas City Royals had 20 hits for the first time since Aug. 5, 2001, demolishing the Atlanta Braves with rallies in the eighth and ninth. The Royals got RBIs from Joe Randa (1), Angel Berroa (4), Carlos Beltran (2), and Damian Jackson (2). Kansas City trailed 3-1 going into the eighth, then promptly took Atlanta reliever Chris Reitsma yard, scoring four. They marched on through the ninth, sparked by a Randa double,

and scored four more. Berroa went long in the eighth with a three-run jack, the sole Royal homer of the game. Jimmy Gobble gave up five hits and three runs in his five innings, followed by Nate Field with a quiet sixth. Jaime Cerda picked up the victory, his first in the American League, by pitching a scoreless seventh. Scott Sullivan pitched the eighth, giving up a single run. Jeremy Affeldt picked up his ninth save with a happily discreet ninth. The Royals advanced to 7-22 on the road, 24-38 overall, still eleven games back in the A.L. Central.

MLB Scores

KC Royals 10 F
Atlanta 4
KC: 20 hits
Atl: Furcal 1-3, HR, 3 RBI

Chi Cubs 4 F
Houston 1
Chi: W-Maddux (295 career)
Hou: Berkman 2-2, RBI

Minnesota 5 F/11
Montreal 4
Min: Rivas GW HR
Mon: Johnson 1-3, 2 RBI

Anaheim 3 F
Pittsburgh 5
Ana: Guerrero 2-4, 2R
Pit: Ward 2-4, HR, 3 RBI

Chi Sox 0 F
Florida 4
Chi: L- Schoeneweis 6.1 IP, 10 H, 4 ER
Fla: W- Pavano CG SO, 3 H, BB

Texas 4 F
Cinci 7
Tex: M. Young 3-5, HR
Cin: Larkin 1-2, 3 RBI

An Open for the Ages

The 2004 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills is one of the mostly highly anticipated Opens in recent history. Shinnecock Hills of Southampton, New York was originally built in 1894 and has experienced a rich evolution through tournament play. Its style, reminiscent of British courses, as well as being of shorter length (6,996 yards overall). This opens the tournament to players of all skill strains. The course is open to wicked oceanic crosswinds because of its

location, and the winning score is predicted to exceed par. Adding to the Open's momentum are the surprise announcements that defending champ Jim Furyk and recently dormant David Duval will be in the field. Furyk was recovering from wrist surgery and wasn't expected to have recovered so soon, and Duval hasn't played in seven months. If the actual play meets expectations, the 2004 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills is sure to become yet another element of the course's storied past.

Rick Raven climbs Boys' State, legislative ladders

Lucas Heinrich
Hasler, King

Boys' State Head of Logistics and Events Rick Raven is a busy man, and that's how he likes it. Ever since he attended the 1996 Missouri Boys' State he has been involved in the program. His experience as a senator and member of the newspaper staff inspired him to serve at the Missouri Boys' State for six years and at Kansas Boys' State for two. Besides getting to work with the friends he has on the staff he believes that "the chance to touch people's lives is unparalleled here."

Raven cites hearing a speech by former Kansas City Mayor Emmanuel Cleaver as his favorite Boys' State memory. Cleaver encouraged him to "live life outside the lines," something that Raven has

"I want to make it to the top. Twenty years down the road I hope to be Executive Director."

definitely done. He has attended the University of Missouri, the University of Kansas, Central Missouri State University, University of California Berkley, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Harvard University. At those schools he studied subjects as diverse as political science, communications, business, and psychology. "As you can see, I like to keep moving. I find it hard to be in the same place for a long time," Raven says.

With all this expertise and experience, Rick Raven is not only becoming more active in Boys' State, but politics in general. He will soon be running for the Missouri House of Representatives. But don't think this move toward real world politics will keep him from Boys' State. He

still has high aspirations for his future in Boys' State. "Ultimately," he says, "I want to make it to the top." "Twenty years down the road I hope to be Executive Director." If he keeps his demanding schedule up and continues to live his life outside the lines, there's no doubt he will be leading Boys' Staters for years to come.



Webmaster, photographer Moeder helps State run smooth

Lucas Heinrich
Hasler, King

A crucial part of this newspaper has always been the pictures we use to illustrate a story. None of these pictures would be available, however, without the work of web master and photographer John Moeder. He is responsible for keeping up the Kansas Boys' State web site (www.ksbstate.org) and updating it with pictures of the day's events.



Moeder, who grew up in Wichita, attended Kansas Boys' State in 2002. He was the only Nationalist on the Association of Gas and Oil, but enjoyed it enough to come back to work on the staff the following two years. "I enjoy spending time with kids and having a chance to make a difference," says Moeder. "It's a good experience for young adults to learn about the political system."

Moeder is currently enrolled at the University of Kansas where he is studying political science. His technical knowledge, however, is what helps Boys' State run. When he isn't around campus capturing

the politicians in action, you can find him in the office choosing which pictures to post on the web. Due to his hard work, we will all be able to look at and remember everything we've done this week.

In the future Moeder hopes to revamp the web site and train somebody to help out in years to come. He would also like to work as a city counselor again. "Some of my favorite memories from Boys' State are from my first year when I was a counselor chasing Staters who tried to run away," said Moeder. Until then, we can thank John Moeder for creating and preserving the events of Boys' State.

Advisor Russ Whorley shares Boys' State memories with '04

Quintin Kahmeyer
Aylward, Bradley

Russ Whorley, currently an Advisor in Office Administration and Emergency Management and a member of the Boys' State Committee, has been involved with Boys' State for forty years. He started in 1959 as a Stater with the great city of Aylward in Arnold County. He has served in various capacities since, ranging from Counselor to Dean of Counselors. He has served on the Boys' State

Committee for ten years, two of those as the Chairman.

The few years he missed Boy's State were spent in service elsewhere. He joined the National Guard in February of 1964. He was called up in Vietnam as an infantryman. He served twenty-eight years in the Guard, six as a soldier and 20 as a full-time civilian technician. He's served in communications, as a jeep driver, a supply sergeant, and a warrant officer amongst many duties and positions. He has also

worked in Emergency Management for ten years and part-time at a sheriff's office since 1972. He has been involved with the Legion since 1970.

When asked what the most important things Boys' State offers, he replied, "The privilege to serve, challenges, and opportunities for involvement." In addition to Boys' State, he works with a law enforcement/emergency management Explorer Scout unit, mentors teens, for both those looking for direction and those who have it. It

is not uncommon for Mr. Whorley to open his own household and possessions to those he mentors.

Simply speaking, Mr. Whorley is a man of humility; his devotion, which is amazing to most people, is commonplace duty. His service is indicative of the quality of all Legionnaires, men whose example should be followed, in my humble opinion, to defend the basic ideals of this great nation.

Statewalking: Has your roommate done anything strange?

"He sleep-walks. Last night, he got out of bed, ripped my covers off of my bed, then left the room for about ten minutes. When he came back he started eating Cheez-Its."

– **Evan Whitehill Harris, King**

"My roommate sleeps in the nude!"

– **Kenny Tyler Hassler, King**

"My bunkmate sleep-talks. He woke up in the middle of the night and screamed at me, then fell back to sleep."

– **Jason "Spigarizzle" Lee Spigarelli, Powell**

"My dude does weird Smeagol impressions."

– **Anthony Patterson Hassler, King**

"It's kind of freaky, but he takes a d___ about five times a day."

– **Robert Cittler Hassler, King**

Statewalking done by **Greg May Gardner, Kennedy**

County Fact File

MARSHALL

Building: Marlatt, 6th floor

Cities: Klassen, Kyle, Lane.

Leaders: Brett Moore (County Counselor), Scott Johnson (Klassen), Keith Blanding (Kyle), and Brody Flavin (Lane)

Commissioners: Ryan Zimmerman, Troy Nichols, David Voorhees

Fact: Marshall claims to have the most fun and has the largest hemorrhoid testing center in the state.

"I love Brody." – Ryan Zimmerman

MACARTHUR

Building: Goodnow, 2nd floor

Cities: Icenogle, Janssen, Johnson.

Leaders: Tyler Suelter (County Counselor), Josh Cleek (Assistant County Counselor), Clinton Jacob (Icenogle), Tyler Combs (Janssen), and Dustin Fletcher (Johnson).

Commissioners: Mason Burgess, Powell Runyan, Weston Fox

Fact: Mac has a clean environment policy and solar and wind plants for electricity. They are trying to clean up their county.

"Rick James!" – Mason Jensen

House, senate battle new cabinet's proposed budget

Marty Boeschling
Coss, Eisenhower

Walking into the Senate Chamber yesterday it was easy to feel the tension and anxiety abounding as the Boys' State Senators tried to find a compromise in the budget between what the Governor proposed, and what the agencies and departments throughout the state needed. Both the Senate and the House found much to be desired with Governor Corrigan's proposed budget and the tax plan that accompanied it.

The House was much more subdued upon arrival, but the structured activity inside the chamber was still effervescent. Both chambers proposed to their respective bodies a new version of the tax plan, opposing the Governor's semi-flat tax plan, which appears to extremely favor the rich more than the rest of the state. The joint House and Senate proposal features a graduated tax plan that would increase revenue by \$2000 more than the Governor's current plan. The proposal was as follows: \$50 or less; 3%, \$51-\$65; 10%, \$66-\$75; 15%, \$76-\$100; 20%, \$101 and more; 33%.

The House of Representatives' committee on taxation and budget also proposed a graduated scale of their own, but the members also sent it packing, side

by side with the Governor's budget, sitting quietly in the trash.

The opinions of the disgruntled representatives in the house were voiced quite vociferously throughout the chamber with an informal vote taken resulting in only one spokesperson in favor of the Governor's proposed budget.

"I think we all agree that we don't like the flat tax," Evan Anderson, Burk, Bradley County said.

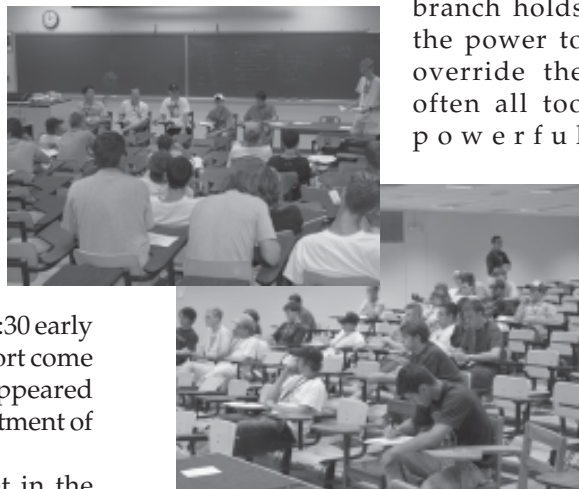
The Governor and his already infamous cabinet members worked late into the night Tuesday to finish the budget and openly admitted throughout the day Wednesday that they would "probably change it a lot during the day". Woken up at 1:30 early Wednesday morning with a short come of nearly \$1800, the quick fix appeared to be to simply place the Department of Culture on the chopping block.

While the proposed budget in the House and Senate gathers more of the delegates' approval than the Corrigan administration's plan, it still did not meet all the criteria that the concerned legislators wanted.

"Yes, our tax rates are more realistic to society today, with the taxes at these rates. It's the only way to get money to all the departments and spread the

money around," informed Mike Beying, Speaker of the House, Jannsen, MacArthur County.

The Senate, if not also the House, voiced their concern on the fear that the Governor would veto the bill approving the budget. But they were quick to realize that with the uncalculated wisdom of this nation's founders, the Legislative branch holds the power to override the often all too powerful



Senators, representatives debate budget during Wednesday's session. Photo courtesy of John Moeder

Governor, in accordance with a 2/3 vote. Until the time that the House, Senate, and Governor, however, can reach a compromise on the budget, the rest of Boys' State awaits wondering.

THE STATER'S UNION

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Clint Wiseman *Marshall, Kyle*

Quintin Kahmeyer *Aylward, Bradley*

Marty Boeschling *Cross, Eisenhower*

Reporters:
Shane Chrisman *Sullivan, Seitz*

Jarrold Holliday *McCoy, Patton*

Greg May *Gardner, Kennedy*

Menace to society

Rex 'Jailbreaker' Gardner evades highway patrol four times

Lucas Heinrich
Hasler, King

Residents of Boys' State were shocked to have the relative peace of their community shattered by multiple arrests yesterday. The newly installed Highway Patrol made four arrests in a single afternoon. It took all of the effort and tools the Highway Patrol could bring to bear on the criminal to bring him in. The only thing more amazing is that all four arrests made involved the same man: Boys' State mentor Rex Gardner.

Witnesses to the first arrest say they saw a white Dodge Caravan speeding in excess of 100mph scream by the intersection next to Goodnow Hall. Sirens were soon blaring through the air as police expertly converged on the car. The Caravan pulled over and the driver cooperated with the officer until he was informed of the fine he would have to pay. Police had to restrain and cuff him before shoving him into the back of a squad car.

Approximately one hour later this scene repeated itself. The same minivan was seen going down the same road driving at the same intense speeds. Apparently, through political connections Mr. Gardner had gotten out on bail quickly and was back on the road in less than an hour. However, this time when the patrol pulled him over he made a run for it. The officers were in hot pursuit on foot, but Gardner continued to run. However, a warning shot was enough to scare him, and he soon gave up to authorities.

Having shipped Gardner off to the pen, the police looked forward to a

more peaceful afternoon. One could imagine their surprise when the same white Caravan came racing toward them. Gardner had paid a significant amount of money to the warden at the jail and found himself a free man less than half an hour after resisting arrest for the second time.

The police quickly followed after him, but this time he would not pull over. The Highway Patrol followed the vehicle all the way to the outskirts of Hasler, in King county, where they made their move. A brave patrolman pulled up to the side of the minivan and forced it off the road. The rest of the chase may very well go down in Boys' State history. In an attempt to avoid the squad

car, Gardner suddenly turned sharply left and went over a guardrail. His minivan dove headfirst directly onto a semi carrying, of all things, mattresses. The semi quickly turned off the road with the smoldering remains of the Caravan still on top. Emergency crews raced to the scene, preparing to remove the suspect in a body bag. Instead, Gardner, surprisingly unscathed and still feeling rebellious, jumped out the back of the semi and raced to the adjacent Kwik-E-Mart. There he evaded authorities for another hour by holding the convenience store hostage with what police later found out was a fake gun.

This time an entire squad of armed Highway Patrolmen escorted him to the Boys' State Penitentiary. He was placed in a cell at the deep, dark, solitary center of the maximum-security complex. When the guards opened his cell to give him his evening meal, they found that the



A highway patrolman cuffs "Jailbreaker" and reads him his rights Wednesday. Photo courtesy of John Moeder.

elusive and endlessly resourceful Rex "Jailbreaker" Gardner had dug a tunnel and escaped. All police in the state were placed on high alert; mothers brought their children inside and locked their doors, and Boys' State waited fearfully for this menace to society to be put behind bars for good. Helicopters spotted Gardner attempting to cross the Kansas-Missouri border and alerted nearby authorities. Gardner was tranquilized repeatedly and sent back to the penitentiary, heavily sedated. He is currently awaiting trial for numerous charges.

The entire ordeal can be seen on a special 2-hour edition of COPS.

continued from page 1

crisp. He recited rap lyrics as poetry in a brutally monotone voice, sending the audience into hysterics with such lines as "I want to expletive his expletive."

"I saw it the first year I was a counselor," Proctor said, "but I am a no talent hack, and I stole the idea. Fo shizzle."

The amount of musical talent present was astounding. Clint Wiseman and Merritt Schenk's rendition of *Breaking the Girl* by the Red Hot Chili Peppers was an instant hit, with Wiseman playing the acoustic guitar and Merritt on the bass.

"I was elated when I looked and saw that everyone was standing," Wiseman said, "I did a double take; it was great."

Many of the musical performances were solos on guitar. Daniel Glasscock performed an original piece titled *A Work in Progress*, both singing and playing classical guitar.

"He sounded like Maynard Keenan, the singer from Tool. It was awesome!" Clint Wiseman said.

"This was my first really big concert experience," Glasscock said, "It's different in front of five hundred people. Everybody just gave their heart. It was wonderful; I've never been with such a showcase of talent."

In the forefront of several vocalists was Robert Pfeiffer, whose moving performance of Elton John's *Don't let the Sun Go Down on Me* instantly brought the crowd to their feet in applause. It seemed to remove all feelings of insecurity and hesitation from the crowd, bringing the audience closer together in an unforgettable moment.

"I was relatively comfortable performing on stage," Pfeiffer said, "I was very familiar with the song already, and had performed it at a school variety show."

The audience's applause had much the same effect

upon Pfeiffer as he had upon them.

"It was great. I really appreciated it," Pfeiffer said.

Robert Swift was an early act, playing *Knocking on Heavens Door* by Guns and Roses on acoustic guitar. Of all the performances of the evening, this piece is perhaps the most meaningful, although few knew it at the time.

"That song actually means a lot to me," Swift said. I had several good friends who were killed in a car accident: Jeff, Michael, and Josh. Michael's parents made a CD and that song was on there, and ever since I heard that song it has meant something. I decided not to tell the story at the time. I'd rather let people take it in their own way."

Swift regarded the audience with appreciation.

"I thought the crowd kicked," Swift said, "Even though this is the biggest crowd I've performed for before, it was the best."

The show ended on a patriotic note. The audience stood and clapped in time with coordinator Mike Zimmers as he played *American Pie* on acoustic guitar Patton Style: Rallying an audience while standing in front of a ceiling to floor American flag.

"It's on of the top five moments of my life," Zimmers said. "I could see everyone singing back. It seemed that everybody from different walks of life knew it by heart. It was more humbling than anything I've done in my life."

Last night was certainly memorable; incredible for some and unforgettable for many. When legionnaires and past Staters speak of their incredible experiences at Boys' State and how they were changed at the end of such a short week, the 2004 class of Boys' State should realize that they have had such an experience. For many, the legacy of Kansas Boys' State has become a reality.

G
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*To Rick Raven for all of
your hard work on behalf
of the Stater's Union.*

THANKS

"You're Poppin"

Corrigan administration's budget needs revision

Jarrod Holiday
McCoy, Patton

I have discovered the one and only threat to Christian Corrigan's governorship. It's not an usurper from the Nationalist Party, or even a violent overthrow from H-SevN (at least for now). Worse, it is something far more terrible and unavoidable: computer glitches. No, you aren't illiterate, you read correctly. Computer glitches are currently the most dangerous force opposing our fresh governor, for they alone seem to be able to cast the elected office into disar-

ray. During yesterday's news briefing, nearly every questionable motive and discrepancy could be tied in one way or another to the presence of computer glitches. In fact, just about every question we asked during the press briefing had the same answer: "It only looks like that because of computer glitches," or, "The situation is much better than it looks". The policy of alcohol control seems to be the exception, however; all employees and almost all funds have been removed from the Alcohol and Beverage Control without the help of a glitch. But in the governor's defense, the money

was redirected towards social rehabilitation services, although this policy seems strikingly similar to the birth control pill concept, as in the "let's worry about this later" policy. And how could I forget the heroic martyrdom of Christian and his \$3 pay cut? I shed a tear at his selflessness. However, I realize that before long a new budget report will arrive, most likely correcting all of the previous errors, while perhaps adding a few new ones. But until then, what I see is all we know, and what I know is that the budget report at 8:20 Wednesday morning will not fly.

Political quip to pass time in land of legislation

YOU MIGHT BE A FEDERALIST IF...

- You've named your kids "Deduction one" and "Deduction two."
- You've ever referred to someone as "my (insert racial or ethnic minority here) friend."
- You fax the FBI a list of "Commies in my Neighborhood."
- When people say "Marx," you think

"Groucho."

- You argue that you need 300 handguns, in case a bear ever attacks your home.
- You're afraid of the "liberal media."

YOU MIGHT BE A NATIONALIST IF...

- If you find yourself nodding vigorously and saying "Someone finally said it right" during an episode of Oprah.

- You've ever said "We really should call the ACLU about this."

- You keep your PC dictionary with you at all times so as not to offend.
- You think communism will catch on once society has evolved.
- You've ever owned a VW bug or ridden in a Microbus.
- You blame things on "The Man."

Letter to the editor

The letter below was brought to the Editor of The Stater's Union by an outside party and in no way reflects the view of this paper, the American Legion or the Boys' State staff.

Dear Editor:

Many members of the notorious H-7, in addition to myself, feel very disappointed at the poor preparation and originality of our well-supported Nationalist Governor candidate.

As you all know, "The Godfather" Robert "Bubba" Anderson was running for this position. He felt it was in the best interest of the party to promote another candidate, a candidate he felt more qualified and intelligent.

Had the H-7 known our chosen candidate was going to waddle in a pool of unoriginality and stupidity only to crash and burn in the debate, we would have backed "The Godfather." Congratulations to our new governor, and no hard feelings to our chosen candidate.

— The Godfather

P.S.

The Godfather [Bubba] did verbally attack the "Trucker-Hippie" [Bingham], but not with the quote "you need one more." The Godfather says, "I personally feel insulted that the newspaper staff would make me out to be an ignorant fourth grader."

Dear Godfather,

Thanks for your opinions H-7, but if you decided to back a candidate that "waddled in a pool of unoriginality and stupidity," doesn't that make you just as unoriginal and stupid? As for the "Trucker-Hippie" incident, we apologize for the inaccurate publishing of your quote, and sincerely regret that you felt our article portrayed you as being "an ignorant fourth grader". The verbal exchange you had with Bingham was at least at a fifth grade level.

-Editor

Talent show

