



## Corrigan wins gubernatorial race and begins duties

Lucas Heinrich  
*Hasler, King*

2004 Boys' State Governor Christian Corrigan had little time to celebrate his victory Tuesday night. Corrigan, along with Lieutenant Governor

Zach Oswald, Attorney General Spencer King, State Treasurer Rob Dellinger, Secretary of State Francisco Vieyra, and Commissioner of Insurance Matthew Aelmore quickly set to work. The entire body

of Boys' State elected these six state officials, while counties elected their respective representatives and senators.

Corrigan felt the key to his success was his ability to effectively get his message out. "I was able to get my arguments across to people who had not heard me before during the debate this

afternoon," said Corrigan. The election results showed that the crowd was impressed by his confident speaking style and strong arguments that he had made during the debate. Lieutenant Governor Zach Oswald promises that they will continue to show this strong leadership once in office. "We will start

working on education and welfare reform before anything else," Oswald said.

Those who fell short in their bid for office have nothing to be disappointed about. They put all of their effort into their campaign, and are all quality candidates. In addition, all now find themselves in important positions, some of them serving as assistants to the cabinet members.

As the election process comes to an end we can all look forward to settling into the actual running of the government. Will the new officials deliver on their campaign promises, or will they only work for themselves? The course is set for the rest of the week.



(Left) Winners pose for picture.  
(Right) Governor Corrigan is sworn in by Senator Schmidt

## Commander Hill prefers future goals to past experiences

Clint Wiseman  
*Kyle, Marshall*

Leonard Hill joined the Army Reserve in 1942. He served three years in the South Pacific everywhere from Hawaii to the Philippines, and then served an additional Tour of

Duty in the Korean War. But he doesn't like to talk about all that. He'd much rather jump to the present, where he serves in the American Legion as the Department Commander for the State of Kansas. War experiences may have made him the man he is today, but he prefers to focus

on tomorrow – on the future of Boys' State and the American Legion.

"There are 170,000 living veterans in Kansas," he says. "Of those men, only 47,000 are members of the American Legion. And recruitment just gets more and more important to us. We lose 1,100 World

War II veterans every day. And the numbers just keep dwindling."

Starting off from the small town of Ulysses, Leonard Hill first joined the Legion while he was still a member of the

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

## Candidates Clash in Heated Debate; elections final

Joe Zigtema

Raymond, Pershing

The state government candidates came to verbal blows at the podium during the Boys' State Debate yesterday, engaging in a series of arguments just before the general elections. For governor, Troy Smith, Haney, Kennedy, represented the liberal Nationalist Party against Christian Corrigan, Gardner, Kennedy, who spoke for the conservative Federalists. Corrigan seemed extremely confident. "Speaking to my party won the primary... I believe that my ability to collect my thoughts into a statement is a tremendous asset."

Smith seemed self-assured in his cabinet and himself. "I have a good group backing me, and I think we have a good chance."

The Association Debate Committee, consisting of

representatives from the various associations, served as the interrogators during the Debate, inquiring into the candidates' plans and opinions on topics such as abortion, education reform, same sex marriage, gun control, and immigration law.

Francisco Vieyra, Parroll, Pershing, believes wholeheartedly in debate between candidates. "Debate provides a better way to compare and contrast the candidates' views, so that the Staters will be well informed to make the best decision."

For many candidates, the debate decided the election. Going in, virtually all of the races were close, but over the course of the debate, some of the candidates began to separate from their counterparts. Vieyra in particular seemed to draw more applause as his portion of the debate progressed.

Christian Corrigan seemed pleased with his performance, "I think I showed my skill and made

factor in this election. Winning candidates answered questions comfortably and decisively,



All ten candidates sit before a crowded McCain Auditorium Tuesday. Each association (beyond candidates) and both plitical parties presented the dandidates with their questions. Photo coutesy of John Moeder.

clear my points and my passion for government."

The debate was the deciding

clearly stating their points, beliefs and devotion to their duties.

## Mudslinging on posters prevalent before elections

Shane Chrisman

Sullivan, Seitz

Anyone near the banking center Tuesday may have noticed the "Anti-Huther" posters. As the day progressed, the posters went from bad to worse as a wild variation of loosely veiled, and in some cases completely unveiled insults were strewn about the campus. I learned early the identity of the organization in charge of the mudslinging (Association of Cities and Counties) and investigated the reason behind the madness.

The ensuing conversation is

best said in the organizations own words:

Stater's Union: "So guys, I have to know... Why did you run your anti-Huther campaign?"

Andrew Nadlman (ACC): "Basically he stood for everything morally vindictive of rational thought. And although his beliefs were firmly and completely founded in ideological faith-based propaganda, we found certain contradictions and idiosyncrasies in his approach to government and the role of government in our society.

SU: "So basically, you thought he was an idiot?"

Nadlman (ACC): "Actually no, we respect his opinion but we simply found his beliefs to threaten the moral fabric of the United States by jeopardizing civil liberties and certain equalities guaranteed by all levels of the United States Government."

Nadlman (ACC): "We were successful this time in preventing Huther's election, although he contributed substantially to his downfall on his own, and we are all adamant that in the event of a real-world campaign by Huther for any publicly elected office, we'll always be there to do it again."

After this brief interview, the

talks degenerated into opinions on the particular pressing issues of the times. However, I managed to get a question off here or there. As far as anyone can tell, the ACC intends to carry the Anti-Huther campaign on until they either get bored or the world ends... Whichever comes first.

As I backed my way out of the heated debates that were erupting around me, Nadlman yelled his last warning to the society of Boy's State: "Basically, you can expect our voice to be heard loud and clear anytime we feel any need to talk about anything."

## Pershing

Pershing County voted yesterday to improve its highway system by repairing roads on a section of highway in the county, including a major bridge. County Commissioner Adam Weilert gave the release. "It has come to our attention that the County's highway system has become a major problem in Pershing County. Many of the county's existing highways are in poor condition. Due to lack of proper maintenance, there are copious amounts of potholes that can cause damage. Also, a major bridge has fallen so out of repair that it had to be shut down, causing a sharp decline in business around the area. Many citizens are concerned. The county has formulated a plan that calls for repairs of a section of highway, including the bridge, which will then have a toll booth built on it to help cover expenses. Citizens can buy a \$10 pass that grants them one year of free passage. The cost of this plan will be \$495."

The plan will be put up to the citizens of Pershing County, to vote on today.

## MacArthur

The county office issued a press release yesterday, announcing a plan to improve transportation in MacArthur County by expanding the highway through the county from a two-lane to a four-lane highway. "Due to declining highway conditions in MacArthur County the County Commissioners have decided to present the following plan. We will turn the road running north south between the cities of Johnson and Janssen, and the road running east west between Icenogle and Janssen into a four-lane highway. We have chosen to do this because of all the great things it will do for our county. It will increase the movement of goods from city to city. It will also allow citizens to travel around easier and share services in other cities. See your commissioners for more information.

## Internal improvements abound across county lines

### Bradley

The Bradley County Commission has discovered from a recent study that there is an urgent need for repairing highways. The highways are currently in an unsafe condition that is costing the county and its citizens, money. The commission proposes that all county highways be repaired and two inches of condemned highway be replaced. This will cost approximately \$850. By doing this we increase safety as well as business through our county.

Secondly we propose a new bridge be built to replace the current inoperational bridge over the river. This will greatly increase traffic and business and we are getting a great deal by sharing the bridge with Marshall. The bridge will cost \$250. We will be having a vote on Friday so please approve these necessary improvements.

-Bradley County Commission

### Eisenhower

ATTENTION CITIZENS OF EISENHOWER COUNTY: The Eisenhower County Commission has authorized the Road's Construction Project (RCP). The aims of this project are to improve the quality of the road conditions in Eisenhower County. The first goal of the RCP is to rebuild the existing highways that are in very poor condition. The second goal of the RCP is to have a new bridge built in Eisenhower County to replace the current extremely unsafe bridge.

### Marshall

The County Commission of Marshall County needs you to approve Issue A. Issue A replaces two inches of bad roads in Marshall county as well as replacing a bridge that has been closed for two months.

The County Commission of Marshall wishes to thank for their donations: Lane City, Ryan Harris, Michael Elliot, Andy Frisbie, and Jordan Williams.

## Today's Menu

### Breakfast

- Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage Links
- Coffee Cake
- Donuts
- Oatmeal
- Apple Juice

### Lunch

- Pork Ribette on a bun
- Grilled Cheese
- Soup
- Rice Krispy Squares

### Dinner

- Chicken Tenders
- Brocoli Rice Casserole
- Lyonnaise Pot
- White Rice
- Corn on the Cob
- Pot Rolls
- Apple Pie
- Chilled Berries



## Bain recounts own Boys' State experiences

**Vic Tackett**  
Johnson,  
MacArthur



**P**rogram Coordinator Kristofer Bain attended Boys' State in 1998 and has been back every year. Bain comes back to Boys' State every year for many reasons, but mainly to give back everything he received as a delegate here in '98.

"I was very fortunate because I ran for an office and lost, but while I was campaigning I had gained the

respect of all the members of my county as well as many others," Bain said. After losing the candidacy for office, his county convinced him to run for Boys' Nation, and he won. Bain felt that it was amazing that he could come to Boys' State with complete strangers and earn their respect. He works hard to better this program so that we can have the same experience he once had.

"The best thing that I can hope for the delegates this year to take home with them is the lifelong friendships that come from this," Bain said. He thinks the projects "are just a vehicle to get to the end, and the end is finding a common goal for a common cause, which is

what government is all about."

"All of my close friends, I met at Boys' State," said Bain. He went on to describe how he keeps in touch with all of them and he wants us to have the same thing in five years. The friendships acquired hold a unique and irreplaceable bond that only delegates at Boys' State can claim.

He prepares for Boys' State all year long, constantly modifying all aspects of the program to make it the best experience possible. Bain said, "I don't remember all the projects I did my year at Boys' State, and I don't expect all this years delegates to. I just want everyone to remember the friends that they meet here."

## Hill promotes American Legion to world, Continued from page 1

work force, but he found that balancing Legion responsibilities and supporting his family was more than he wanted to handle. Upon his retirement, Mr. Hill decided to become more active. He became the local Post Commander at Post 79 in Ulysses, where he served for four years. After that, it was just a steady climb up in the ranks for him. He served as a district commander for 2 years before being promoted to Master At Arms for two years. Last year he served as the Vice Commander for Kansas. At a Legion convention at Great Bend in May, Leonard Hill was elected to serve the one-year term of Department Commander of Kansas.

"I met my better half in 1945, when I came home," he says. Time has proven him right. In 1946, he married a woman named Norma, and just last year they celebrated 58 years of marriage.

"We've had four kids, who have given us 14 grandchildren,"

Norma says, beaming a motherly smile of affection. "It always seems like we have kids running around our house."

Fatherhood must have taught Leonard Hill something about hard work, because his schedule as Department Commander is full of speaking dates, district meetings, ceremonies, and other items. As Department Commander, Leonard is in charge of the Legion College in Concordia, where they train new appointees to office. He is in charge of any meeting that he attends of any Legion post, but he's frequently traveling around the state. When the World War II Memorial was opened in Washington, DC, Mr. Hill traveled around the state promoting awareness and appreciativeness for the historic monument. His schedule is busy enough that he couldn't even stay for the entire Boys' State session, with speaking dates in Topeka and across the state. However, that's

not to say that he doesn't spend time promoting Boys' State.

"I think Boys' State is one of the Legion's finest programs," he said. "I try to raise awareness for State and other programs as often as I can."

Nationwide, the American Legion is the largest organization in the United States, with membership of 3,000,000 veterans. Most of them are working just as hard as Leonard Hill to recruit new members, and sponsor Legion programs such as Legion Baseball and Boys' State.

Above all, Leonard Hill is proud of what he is.

"I'm proud to be a Legionnaire. I worked for the honor to be able to join, and I work at my post very hard. I promote it *everywhere* I go."



**Commander Hill poses with his wife Norma of 58 years.** photo courtesy of John Moeder

## Offense may win games, but defense wins championships

**Marty Boeschling**  
*Coss, Eisenhower County*

**W**alking onto the home court of the Detroit Pistons for Game 5, Shaquille O'Neal saw no one to blame for his team's atrocious playing in the past two games except for his teammates who "never give him the ball."

"It's simple, and if you don't stick to simplicity you die a horrible death," said O'Neal. Shaq should have seen the ball more in Tuesday night's game after the Lakers decided not to suit up Malone, and, according to O'Neil, the Lakers should have easily stepped all over the Pistons.

The Pistons, who held a commanding 3-1 game lead going into last night's game, looked to finish the series early and permanently devour the crown of authority the Lakers have held for far too many years. Possibly the greatest upset since the '75 Warriors, the Pistons successfully blasted the NBA's version of the Yankees by defeating the seemingly invincible Lakers 100-87. The

all-star stacked Lakers were expected to walk over the Pistons in this year's series, and bring home the fourth championship in five years.

At halftime the Pistons held a moderate lead over the struggling Lakers 55-45. The Pistons were led by Ben Wallace and Richard Hamilton's 11 points, followed by 8 points each by Tayshaun Prince, Corliss Williamson, and Chauncey Billups. The Lakers (once again highlighted by the somber play of Kobe Bryant) were led by Bryant's 14 points and Stanislav Medvedenko's 10 points, flanked slightly by Shaquille O'Neal's first half 7 points.

The Pistons shot 61% from the floor in the first half, while the Lakers shot 47%. The Pistons free-throw percentage ranked above their season average at 78%, while the Lakers shot their customary 69% from the charity stripe.

As the whistle blew for the opening of the third quarter, the Lakers saw any hope of a second half comeback flow down the toilet with the sound a three-pointer by Rasheed

Wallace, and from that moment, the Pistons never looked back. The Pistons gradually increased their lead throughout the third quarter and choked the Laker offense, which scored only 14 points. As the horn sounded to signal the end of the third quarter, with the scoreboard reading 82-59, and Shaq and his boys walked to their bench; they had to be wondering how a team of their stature could have underestimated the dominant Detroit Pistons.

The fourth quarter prettied the messy picture slightly for the Lakers, but the dagger appeared already too far encased in the heart of the lion for the "King of the Jungle" to recover. Hamilton led the Pistons with a team high 21 points, trailed by teammate B. Wallace contributing 18 points and an extraordinary game high 20 rebounds. Price added 17 points and 10 rebounds, with Billups rounding out the Pistons in double digits with 14 points.

Bryant's game high 24 points and 4 assists, Shaq's 20 points and 8 rebounds,

and Derek Fisher and Medvedenko's ten points led the Lakers, but proved not to be enough without the help of the "Mailman" himself. The Lakers finished the night shooting 41% from the field and 64% from the free throw line. Without the performance from the Lakers in the fourth quarter, their numbers would not have even been that high.

While the minutes of the sad, and at times completely flabbergasting NBA finals faded away, coaches throughout the world had to be looking for the key that opened the Pistons to the world of greatness. The answer can be found not in the skill of the Pistons' offense, but rather in the all-consuming presence of their defense. In 5 games the Pistons were able to accomplish what every other team in the NBA wishes they could have done: Beat the Seven-Headed Dragon deep in the Jungle of Los Angeles, and all because they found the secret. It's all about defense. Offense may win games, but defense wins championships.

## Rec season starts off with a bang

**Marty Boeschling**  
*Coss, Eisenhower County*

While it was Bradley County that marched away with yesterday's Boys' State Best County Banner, it was Pershing County that slaughtered the competition on the athletic battlefield. After a few short hours of intense, heat stricken competition in beach volleyball, basketball, soccer and softball, it was MacArthur County took home the silver medal, and King County the bronze for

their stellar athletic fights.

Bradley County received fourth place, Kennedy fifth place, and Seitz County sixth. Seventh place went to Powell County, while Eisenhower grabbed eighth place. Patton and Marshall counties rounded out the bottom of the competition after the first day, awarded ninth and tenth places, respectively.

### MLB Scores

Minnesota 8 F  
Montreal 2

Detroit 10 F  
Philadelphia 3

Anaheim 4 F  
Pittsburgh 2

Chicago Sox 7 F  
Florida 5

Texas 4 F  
Cincinnati 5

Cleveland 2 F  
NY Mets 7

Kansas City 2 F  
Atlanta 3

Chicago Cubs 4 F  
Houston 2

Oakland 4 F  
St. Louis 8

*News from the outside*

# What we miss during Boys' State

## Terrorist group threatens to kill American hostage

**Vic Tackett***Johnson, MacArthur*

**P**aul Johnson, a 49-year-old man, was abducted Saturday in the Arabian Peninsula by the group al-Qaida. Al-Qaida, headed by Abdullah-aziz al-Moqrin threatened to kill Johnson unless the Saudi authorities free al-Qaidan prisoners within the next three days.

U.S. officials are

taking this very seriously because the video was posted on a credible web site that the al-Qaidan militants have used before. Johnson is shown being held by a man in a hood with an AK-47.

This current situation in the Arabian Peninsula is also a serious issue for the Saudi government as well. The Saudi government adviser

Adel al-Jubeir, told the Associated Press that

they were determined to find out how authentic the video is, and will tell Bush's administration what they should do to continue. "Their strategy is to try to sow fear in people's hearts, and to panic, and to cause an exodus of foreign workers from Saudi Arabia, in particular Westerners," al Jubeir said.

The belief of many advisors of both Saudi and U.S. government is

that al-Qaida is trying to use Johnson as a fear factor. The thought is that if al-Qaida can scare foreign workers into leaving Saudi Arabia it will in turn hurt Saudi's economy furthermore hurting the Saudi government.

On Monday, Johnson's son spoke of his father's love and respect for Arabic culture. Johnson often read the Quran and had highlighted many passages that were

important to him. "He felt he never had any fear for his safety and respects and honors their traditions and cultures," Johnson III said. "Dad said many times he loved living in Saudi Arabia."

Although Saudi Arabian government is stepping up the security, the American embassy is advising Americans to leave the country, as is the British embassy.

World News Today  
As reported by CNN  
Shane Chrisman

## Nations discuss Korea

A new round of six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear program will be held next week in Beijing, China has confirmed. The talks involving China, Russia, Japan, the United States and North and South Korea have been scheduled for June 23-26, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Tuesday.

## Saddam handed over Man cleared of rape

Deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and all Iraqi detainees will be handed over to Iraqi authorities in the next two weeks, Iraq's interim prime minister says. But Pentagon officials insist they are not aware of any immediate plans calling for the United States to hand over Saddam or any detainees. They say U.S. forces will continue to hold Saddam and thousands of other detainees even after power is transferred to the Iraqi government at the end of June.

The city of Cleveland, Ohio has agreed to pay more than \$1 million to a man cleared of rape after serving 13 years in prison and allow an independent review of its police laboratory, officials said Tuesday.

## Iran condemned by UN

Iran has been condemned for breaking its agreement with the U.N. nuclear watchdog, but has not been reported to the Security Council for possible sanctions, as Washington had wanted.

# THE STATER'S UNION

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## Legionnaire Lester Paul shares Boys' State memories with '04

Jarrold Holiday  
McCoy, Patton



Lester Paul addresses Staters at Monday's flag day ceremony. Paul stressed the value of lives lost fighting for the Stars and Stripes. In a moving ceremony, Boys' State honored the American flag as well as deceased President Reagan. Photo courtesy of John Moeder.

Today, Legionnaire Lester Paul takes the *Stater's Union Spotlight*, and shares his Boys' State experiences and wisdom with us. Lester Paul's first experience with Boys' State didn't come from attending as a stater, but rather from his relations with State as a school administrator.

"I was a high school principal about twenty years ago at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, and some of my friends talked about it...it was one of the highlights for the students in school."

Soon afterwards, his close affiliation with Boys' State and the American Legion began.

"I've served as an advisor now for about eighteen years...and I've been in the American legion now for about twenty years. I played baseball for the American Legion back before I went to college."

More important, however, were his meaningful experiences with the staters themselves.

"Some of the greatest experiences I had were when I saw the successes of young boys that have the skills and abilities, but not all of the opportunities to do everything in high school that some of the other boys do, because of popularity and various other things. They have the

opportunities at Boys' State, if they have the qualifications; at least a 3.0 GPA, leadership, and lots of activities in the community, and of course be of morally strong character. Those young people have gone on to be very successful. I have a lot of friends who, after they got back for their senior year, have gotten involved with things that lead them up to where they are at. They are successful attorneys, in successful positions...a group I know, because of their experience at Boys' State, were able to get into the Military Academies, which they had been trying to get into through another source but were unable to. And that is the real reward, when people can get into those places and be successful...it's amazing, the Christmas cards and such that I get from the young people who are appreciative, especially those who come from the Hutchison area, which is where I live... it makes you feel good to think that you have not done a lot, but have given lent a helping hand."

It must be said that Lester truly holds the staters and their futures in high regard, and that he feels their experiences here are among the most rewarding they will encounter.

"The opportunities that you young people have - *don't* pass them by."

## County Fact File

### PERSHING

**Building:** Marlatt, 4th floor

**Cities:** Perrill, Raymond, Schmitt.

**Leaders:** Jacob Bluhm (County Counselor), Chanler Dorgan (Assistant County Counselor), Zack Ewert (Perrill), Darren Rottinghaus(Raymond), and Michael Hammett(Schmitt)

**Commissioners:** Adam Weilert, Ryan O'Neil  
Chad Blackwelder

**Fact:** Pershing won Monday's County of the Day banner though it had a financial mishap and lost \$630 that cannot be recovered.

"We're trying to get a brewery." -Ryan O'Neil

### PATTON

**Building:** Marlatt, 5th floor

**Cities:** Mantey, McCoy, Newman.

**Leaders:** Jeremy Harland (County Counselor), Kevin Phillips (Mantey), Brent Arnold (McCoy), and Jacob Wieneke (Newman).

**Commissioners:** Derek Bemery, Cameron Maler, Danny Konert

**Fact:** Patton is currently working to build a hydroelectric power plant jointly with Eisenhower county and improve its roads

"We're a county on the rise." -Derek Bemery



## Clash of the Monoliths: break down of rally, debate

**Quintin Kahmeyer**

*Aylward, Bradley County*

Just a few thoughts and questions when considering the implications of the rallies and the debate on the campaigns overall:

Insurance Commissioner Aelmore touted at the Federalist rally that he, "changed parties to serve you (Federalists)." More realistically, Aelmore observed the obvious potential of the Federalist Party majority and switched, betraying his true alignment for better chance at victory.

Federalists beware.

Maybe I'm crazy, but the Federalist rally reminded me a little too much of 1939 Berlin, with all the stiff-arm saluting that was going on.

Nationalist Gubernatorial candidate Troy Smith was probably more hurt by the rallies than helped. Rallies tend to polarize voting bodies and, considering the size of each party, one can't help but assume that the Federalists benefited most.

The Federalist equation for success was simple: Not make complete fools of themselves at debate, and ride their

majority home.

The Nationalist equation was a bit more difficult: Overwhelm the Federalist candidates in debate and win over their displaced voters. To my great surprise Francisco Vieyra and Spencer King managed to achieve this, proving that the voters came to McCain willing to defy party lines.

Let's face the sad fact- the deck was stacked against the Nationalists from the beginning.

It didn't hurt that the Federalists had Federov as their rally man. I mean one

rally point is good, but five? Unbeatable.

The debate could've had an impact only if the Nationalists gave stellar performances. The Federalists, if they gave even mediocre defense, could've ridden their masses into office. For the Federalists not to have swept the State Offices is a major strategic blunder, or perhaps was the direct effect of Nationalist genius.

Cheers to the victors, but also advice. **Don't forget the presses power to affect the constituency, and therefore the legislative branch.**

## It didn't take a Trojan Horse to defeat Troy

**Jarrold Holiday** **Clint Wiseman**

*McCoy, Patton* *Kyle, Marshall*

Contrary to popular belief, it does not take a Trojan horse to bring down Troy. Rather, the minimum requirements for a potential opponent seem to be simply the ability to defeat a series of unclear positions and failures to take a stand on anything except the incredibly vague statement, "We're helping... everyone." What happened here?

Troy Smith's election campaign appeared to be a sure deal; his speaking abilities in front of small crowds and his irresistible demeanor had generated the rumor that the election was practically predetermined. Even other candidates for governor admitted to Troy's admirable qualities in a governor, some even going so far as to pledge their support for him rather than promote themselves. However, it is obvious that this election was *made* by Tuesday's debate. Candidates who were able to articulate their views in a clear and concise manner swept the polls; Troy was neither clear nor concise. Despite

being impressed by his knee length suit coat and formal attire, we had no idea what he was trying to tell us. We were confused. We turned to those sitting next to us; nothing from them but shrugs and unsure faces. Apparently their trust in their candidate had been misplaced.

Now before the debate we came fully prepared to vote for either candidate; their overlapping viewpoints suggested to us that the better speaker would come away the winner. So we listened, and held our breath. Christian's response to the first question was impressive – a few stammers perhaps, but better than we (or most) could do. As Troy took the microphone with an air of confidence, we expected to be awed. We weren't present at his Whistle Stop Tour, but we heard good things. Along with several other newspaper staff members, we were on location during the Nationalist Party Convention the night before to hear him speak, where he conducted himself in the respectful manner of one deserving such an office as governor. At the time, he seemed confident, if a little nervous about the trials ahead, yet perfectly capable of presenting his and the Nationalist Party

views in the upcoming debate.

However, the next day changed both our minds. At the microphone, we heard vague aspirations and unclear stances. Following Troy's response, Christian seemed to seize on this weakness; throughout the debate Christian appeared to grow more confident, firm, assertive, and even aggressive against the views expressed by his opponent and by the other delegates from the Nationalist party. In response, Troy grew more petulant, unclear, and vague. This tactic, while certainly unexpected, unfortunately failed to win over the polls. Staters who until the debate were undecided on the best candidate were more convinced by Christian's tactics than Troy's. We give our condolences to Troy and his well-thought-out campaign, but the important thing to remember is that in the end, a campaign will only carry you so far – it is the delivery of the candidate that seals the deal.

We hereby give the official "Atta-boy Award" to Troy Smith for his valiant efforts.

**Views and opinions expressed by the Stater's Union are not personal attacks against any person or group, but simply analysis based on personal assessment of Boys' State political affairs.**