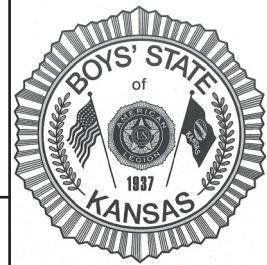


American Legion Boys State of Kansas Stater's Union



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Cello fellow, others wow audience

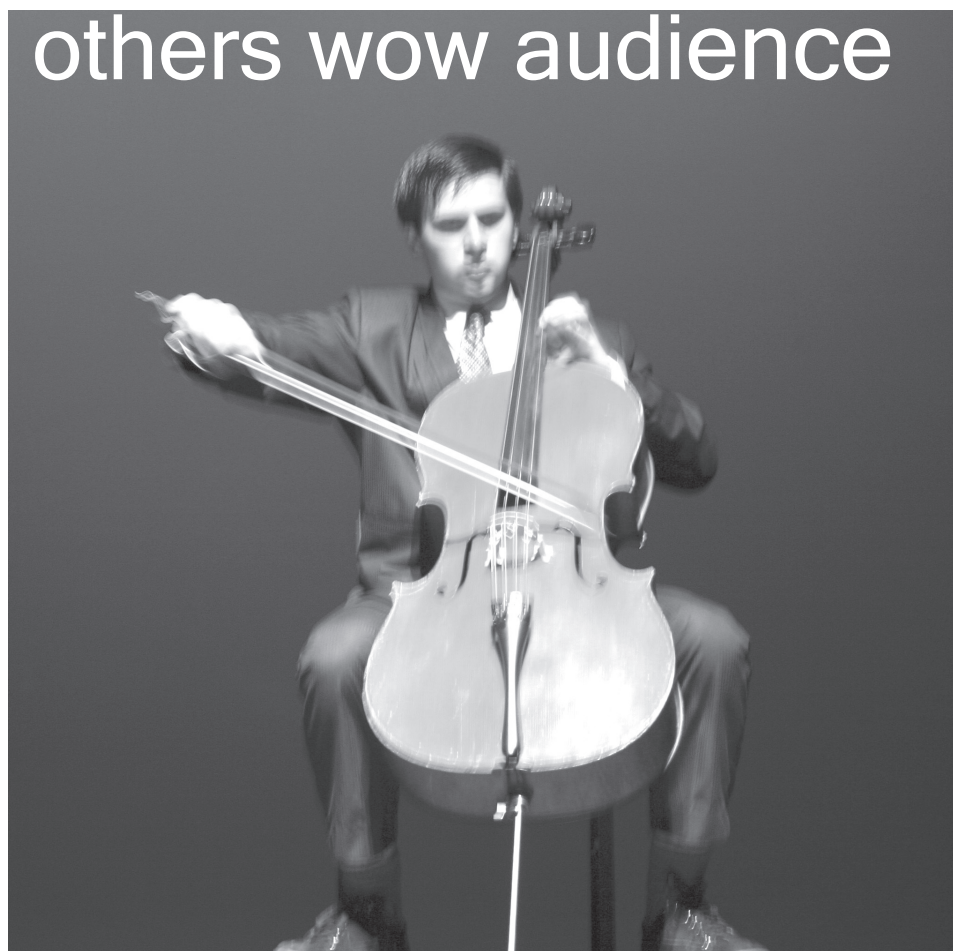
BY DAN KNAPP
MCCOY, PATTON

Aside from the political aspect of the Boys State simulation, delegates have also possessed the ability to take part in things such as the statewide talent show. Last night the audience was astonished with what their eyes and ears had beheld. The selected delegates themselves as well as councilors put up things of all sorts for exhibition, which were nothing less than dazzling. Words cannot express the emotions felt sitting in the McCain auditorium the night of June 15, 2005, it was truly an indescribable moment.

The event itself was filled to the brim with talent ranging from musical performances to poetry readings etc. Nothing bad about the entertainers can be gathered as they commanded the audience's attention with relative ease. Judging by the immense cheering of the crowd the Stater's Union has selected its top three talent show classics. They are as follows:

1.American Pie — This piece of musical literature genius was not only performed to a tee, but it also was successful in uniting every delegate in song and dance. Thus, there is no other spot for this act. It just had to be in the top three.

2.The second selection made by the news team was undeniably a

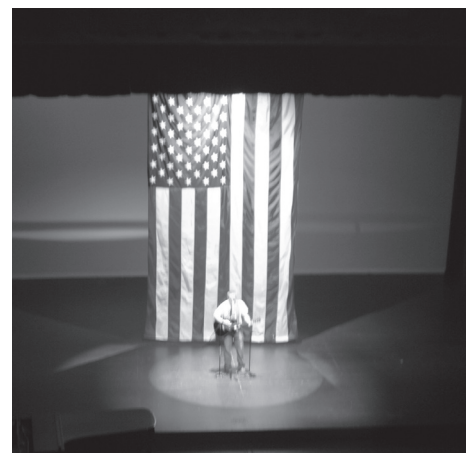


NICK BROWN/UNION

phenomenon. It can be described as a rare and elegant attraction played by the most talented of musicians. The cellist piece was absolutely breathtaking. This style of music is few-and-far-between but it is safe to say the onlookers received the full effect as the sensation of chills trickled down their back.

3.You can't go wrong with the National Anthem. Not a single person lacked appreciation for the Hendrix technique of such a national

see Talent Show, page 6



SCOTT JOHNSON/UNION

Above Left: Etienne Maillard performs his chello piece which garnered a standing ovation. Above: Mike Zimmers performs American Pie, the last act.

Staters: mind your manners, grow up and listen up

BY DEAN SYMES
JOHNSON, MACARTHUR

Everyone remembers their grandparents' stories. Sitting in front of them while they sway forward and back in their rocking chair, listening to stories fake and true, possibly with a small snack after. Yes, those were truly the days.

We are getting this same treatment every morning and night at our assembly and announcements. From Flag Day to the history of the American Legion itself, these stories are being told to us to enlighten us about what it means to be an American. Yet, some delegates can't seem to be quiet long enough to even hear the speakers' names.

How is it that "America's future leaders" can be so high-priority? The counselors should not have to stand there and hold hands with Staters and make sure they don't mess around.

These speakers have agreed to speak to us as a favor, without any pay. They are speaking to us because they truly believe that we should know this. Whether you like it or not, what they are saying could be helpful.

Even if you don't think that it is important, you should at least be quiet out of respect for the speaker, as well as the other delegates. It is almost impossible that no one else in the State will be uninterested.

Staters need to learn what maturity is and hold their conversations until later in the day. Assembly is a time to listen, not to give your opinion about everything a legionaire says.

This is also a time, especially, to honor our country. If you have any patriotism at all, you should understand the meaning of Assembly.

So, in conclusion, grow up. We are all going to be seniors, which means huge responsibility, no matter what you do to participate. Part of responsibility is letting other people carry out their responsibility. Let's show the legionaires that we are capable of being adults.

Correction:

In the June 15 issue of The Stater's Union a quote was miscredited. Timothy St. Arnold said "you can't go popping Grandma down the street" during the debate on Wednesday. The Stater's Union originally credited John Blessing. The Stater's Union regrets the mistake.



The Stater's Union

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Steven Zigtema *Lane, Marshall*

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed to be considered for publication. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Stater's Union office.

All stories pertaining to Boys' State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial licence may have been used to report the 'facts' of such stories.

Union Readers voice opinions on candidates, elected officials and the flag-retiring ceremony

Letter to the Editor from: Crazy
Ivan & fellow concerned citizens
Cunningham: A Cunning Thief??

As concerned citizens, we feel it's our duty to inform our fellow boys staters why their cities are in a dire financial situation. It's come to our attention that Federalist Governor Nick Cunningham has been embezzling funds from several cities and counties. An anonymous member of the Association for the American Way though he was spending an over-excessively amount of money on his ad campaigns. To many boys state citizens this is a concern. Was the budget proposal we saw today (Wednesday) at McCain Auditorium really the one the state officials came up with? Or did Cunningham change it even more after the members adjourned for the night? From what we citizens of boys state have hard was a few members of the budget proposal committee saw a totally different budget proposal than they had decided on. So why would Cunningham go behind their backs and change it on his own? That is what we would like to know... is Cunningham really the guy we want handling our government? Especially when every county in this state is going broke, primarily because of Governor Cunningham. Should we reconsider our choice of Governor? We think so.

For elected officials, the time has come to begin fulfilling promises made to supporting organizations. Officials have to make tough decisions on how they are going to please multiple contributors, each with a varying multitude of interests.

Deciding on whose interests to favor while bills are proposed and put up for determination can become daunting.

Is it possible to support all causes and include everyone?

Many would immediately answer no. But we at the Association for Cities and Counties feel that this important problem has a viable answer.

Instead of making decisions supporting one group's interest and inevitable disregarding another's, choose to support everyone's cause through our organization, the ACC.

The ACC stands for the three key interests. We feel that education, business, and transportation are areas that need improvement and support and will benefit everyone.

Also, all associations, whether they admit it or not, will in some way or form be benefited by increases in business supporting the economic growth. This support will help groups such as the Heritage Association, Association of Oil and Gas, Association of Industry and the Association of Farmers, to name a few. All communities will in turn benefit.

*Randy Wichman, Vice President
ACC Shelton, Powell*

Dear editors,

My name is Isaiah Salmans from Johnson City in MacArthur County. I believe that it was the legions best intent to make us, Staters, feel honored at the flag retirement, but to me it was handled all wrong. I am a Boy Scout, waiting for my paperwork to pass to become an Eagle Scout. I have seen and participated in numerous flag retirement ceremonies. My observations at the event are more judgmental than most for the fact of my experiences. I was gravely disappointed is the retirement as a whole. It seemed rushed together and lacked the feel and atmosphere that it was due. Several comments to make it better for next year are: cutting the flag in strips and burning one at a time doing the blue field and stars last. All I have done were in that way. The use of lighter fluid was wrong to me. I understand they were thing to do it quickly but by doing so they sacrificed the mood. No accelerants. Also I believe it is extremely disrespectful to take pictures during the ceremony. The timing was awkward and many Staters couldn't see what was going on. More over, many didn't seem to take it seriously. Next time it should be voluntary to see such a ceremony. I hoped not to have offended anyone but by the high standards of the American Legion the ceremony should followed suit.

Respectfully yours,
Isa

Banner days for Bradley County

County collects hardware in first two days of state

BY ISREAL MONTANTES
PERRILL, PERSHING

Its Monday, the sun is melting one side of your body and everyone is waiting at the parking lot patiently for the evening retreat to begin. The events counselors finally prepared to give out awards starting by giving the awards the few lucky counties. Then came Bradley, winning the best county award.

After a frustrating and busy day, came Tuesday and again we went back to the lot and déjà vu, Bradley again won the best county

award, twice in a row. All the other counties went into shock when they announced Bradley's unexpected win.

The County Commissioners, Ryan, Jordan, and Scott said, "We didn't expected it at all." They agreed that they won because of factors such as "we worked hard in all aspects of Boys State county life." They also said, "it motivated us to work as a team, because we got along very well"

The cities themselves were amazed such as Barmlage, one of the Bradley County cities.

"We felt rewarded, and it was really cool cause we've never won

it twice," mayor CJ Beunar said. Beunar also added that they wanted to congratulate everyone especially Hogan & John for a job well done, "Go Hondo."

Continuing, Birk of Bradley County also agrees that it was amazing. "It was pretty good, we pulled together and we really clicked as a county," said their mayor, Joseph Doze. In addition, he also said, "I hope all the counties do well and make Boy's State better."

The county has been doing a good job of keeping up with their work and projects, and is working hard to continue to try and hope to win the best county award for a third time.

Press Releases

Bradley

To ensure the future of Bradley County prosperity and to rely on the county and its decisions we, as County Commissioners propose to install a four-lane highway in the central transportation district, complimented by a two-lane on the outskirts of the region. We feel this is an essential and necessary step to improve all economic and social issues. This new system will in turn provide a dignified and sharp "turn" in the potential right direction of our counties well being as it will limit the burden placed on the current Highways. It will also allow adequate transportation and will continue to contribute to the

counties revenue in every aspect. We urge every county member to consider, even if it requires sacrifice, for those that have come before have done so and that is the only true way to instill what is yet to come.

Seitz

Attention Seitz County residents: The Seitz County is in dire need of repair. A bridge needs to be replaced, a highway repaired, and a new highway to connect our three cities. The Seitz County will be holding a vote on Friday asking the public if they are in support of this bill. The Seitz County regulators recommend that the county does all three. These improvements will help our country immensely, and we hope that you will make the right choice on Friday

Kennedy

Kennedy County will be voting for a new transportation bill on Friday. The new bill will instate a plan to build much-needed highways, roads and bridges.

If passed, the plan will give rise to a county highway that will connect the three cities in the county and replace the existing highway that is obsolete.

The new transportation bill will hopefully bring in new industry and business for the county and stimulate economic growth.

The county will become more united and be able to work together more efficiently to serve the people.

So please, on June 17th, vote yes for the new transportation bill in Kennedy County.

Drunk in public



NICK BROWN/UNION

Life expectancy in Kansas has gone up for every age group, except for teenagers.

"Although teenagers make up only seven percent of the driving population, they make up 22 percent of fatal accidents," advisor and state trooper Tod Hileman said. "Also more teenagers die from drinking and driving than any other demographic."

Yesterday the Highway Patrol members participated in drunk driving simulation. Patrolmen drove through a road course with Fatal Vision goggles. The goggles are supposed to simulate a blood alcohol level of .12 percent. That is four-tenths of a percentage point higher than the legal limit.

"When I was driving through the course, I was thinking 'hey look I'm doing pretty good,' then 'oops I just hit a cone,'" Nick Good, Schmitt, Pershing said.

Cabinet puts big issues on shelf

BY ANDREW ROBINSON
FINLEY, KENNEDY

The governor's cabinet meeting on Wednesday afternoon was the first time that the newly elected officials met since the election. During the meeting governor Nick Cunningham asked the representatives about their concerns and possible solutions to problems that faced them.

Absent from the meeting was the representative from the Department of Corrections, the Department of Corrections took the largest cut in the budget as they lost almost \$7,000. Cunningham started the meeting reviewing some of the changes made to the way things were done.

"We did make some cuts, but we left money for the oil refinery," Cunningham said.

The first problem brought up in the meeting was the newly planned irrigation system that would include Bradley County. Representatives pointed out that if the irrigation system was built, which includes a dam, the city of Bramlage would be submersed because the city sits low and close to the river.

It was suggested that the dam be moved to another location along the river, unfortunately, the simulation would not allow the change in location.

Bramlage city officials were going to look into the idea of alternative irrigation system.

Also brought up as a major issue was the oil refinery planned for one of the oil counties. Patton County has already built an oil refinery and state officials plan to put the oil

refinery in Eisenhower County. This idea was really forwarded when it was revealed that Eisenhower had raised \$1000 and is willing to put it towards the oil refinery.

If Eisenhower County does donate the \$1000 to the oil refinery, it will leave money left over from state budget that could go towards the irrigation system if a more expensive alternative system is needed for Bradley County.

Powell County should anticipate the youth correction facility simply because they already have the State Penitentiary and a county jail

In the end Cunningham encouraged the representatives to speak to the senate and the house.

"If you think you need more money, this is your time to make your case," he said.



NICK BROWN/UNION

Above: Brad Johnson of Crum, Eisenhower requests permission of his superior officer to perform a solo rifle drill in last night's talent show. **Right:** Coordinator Mike Zimmers performs his annual rendition of the classic song American Pie. Staters and Counselors alike rose and sang along with the most well-received act of the night.



NICK BROWN/UNION

Talented Staters, counselors steal show *Talent Show from 1*

emblem. This act spoke for itself.

These three were opinionatedly picked. There were many other candidates that are star worthy. Among these lie the extravagant acoustic/electric guitar players and singers. Also, one must not forget the jokester of course who pulled off the difficult art of enticing many to laugh. Speaking of jokes hopefully Rex digested his salad and mushrooms in the healthiest manner possible.

Nothing is more soothing than the sound of a drum, whatever type it may be. They are the heart and the pulse, in turn contributing a vital backbone to all of music.

The rifle showmanship had viewers stumped with dumbfounded awe because they were mystified by it's uniqueness and difficulty.

The piano recitalists withheld the task of playing the most difficult instrument known to man. They were unfortunately under appreciated compared with some other acts but nonetheless extremely talented performers.

This experience has impacted the stater's in a way that has helped them to view the entire state as a family rather than political opponents. Many have concluded that last evening was the best night so far.



Left: Bringing the crowd to its feet, Jesse Austin of Aylward, Bradley performs the National Anthem on electric guitar to start the show. Top, inset: Staters rise to applaud the performance by Etienne Maillard on the cello. Above: Legionnaire Chuck Shoemaker performs his original piano medley for the Boys State audience. Shoemaker began by feigning inability on the piano but drew resounding applause from the Staters after his segment ended. Below: All members involved in the talent show including crew. Cast members include, in order of appearance: Craig Alejos, Jesse Austin, Ben Proctor, Caleb Parker, Daniel Linville, Simon Li, Mike Brookens, Dean Symes, Michael Linville, Brad Johnson, Etienne Maillard, Alex Wise, Jason Carlson, Chuch Shoemaker, Kyle Rogler and Mike Zimmers. Crew: Michael Davidson, Daniel Glascock and Randy Klassen.



Cunningham introduces budget; flaunts veto power if not passed

BY STEVEN DICKSON
LANE, MARSHALL

As Governor, Nick Cunningham (Federalist), has the power to veto any legislation. In his speech yesterday Cunningham was not shy about discussing his use of this power.

"I am not afraid to veto the budget or another piece of legislation, especially if it is something ridiculous or against a major issue on the Federalist platform," Cunningham said.

Needless to say, this could cause some friction between the Governor and the Nationalist senators and representatives.

"I hope he won't veto anything just because it is a Nationalist idea or a Nationalist introduces an idea, I hope he will look closely at the idea for what it is, not for who brought it up," Nationalist Senator Alexander

Wait, Janssen, MacArthur said.

Not only has the threat bothered Nationalists, it also troubled some members of his own party.

"I don't know if it was right for him to make such a strong threat, but I do see where he is coming from. The threat probably will help to speed up the passing of the budget," a Federalist Senator who wished to remain anonymous said.

Cunningham said that with the Federalists in majority in both parties his budget should not be too difficult to pass.

"I think for the most part he has the budget taken care of. I just think he threatened to veto to keep people from trying anything stupid," Federalist Senator Jake Clark, Coss, Eisenhower said.

If Cunningham chooses to use the veto power on the budget, it will go back to the legislature. The



NICK BROWN/UNION

Nick Cunningham speaks to staters for the first time as the Governor. Cunningham shared the proposed budget cuts during the assembly. legislature would have two options, pass the budget with a super majority (two-thirds majority), or make the necessary adjustments the Governor requests. If the legislature cannot do either of those and the budget is not passed, Boys State would shut down.

WHAT'S TO EAT?

Lunch

-Italian Turkey

-Provelone Cheese

Sandwich

-Crisp Shell/Soft Shell

Tacos

-Refried Beans

-Beef Needle Soup

-M&M Cookies

-Ice Cream

-Fruit

Dinner

-Chicken Fried Chicken

Breast

-Italian Meatballs

-Newman's Marinara

Sauce

-Whipped Potatoes

-Cream Gravy

-Vegetable Blend

-Carrot Coins

-Hot Rolls

Dessert

-Chocolate Cream Pie

-Chilled Berries

Pershing County pushes high tax rates to fund policies

BY JORDAN WATSON
HIATT, KING

A long, long, time ago in a county far, far, away, a Jedi Council was almost overtaken by the dark side. Evil mill levy taxes had risen up to eight percent and pushed thirty-eight citizens into unemployment. The tax wars have begun.

The Jedi Council of Pershing County was upon dark times this week. Master Slade, Obi Wan Jakobi, and Luke were almost overtaken by an evil that went by the name of "mill". This tax left the county in shambles and over thirty-

eight people were unemployed.

The worst part of this was that even the Jedi Council had lost their jobs. The Jedi Council was in hot water and it was time to form a plan using their Jedi wisdom. First, however, they had to find out who was responsible for this disaster.

After many hours of investigating they found that their own Jedi Wisdom had failed them when they raised the mill tax to eight percent.

They thought that the tax would affect the single income of each property but instead it affected the overall value of the property.

When this tax came into affect the corporations had to pay sky-high "mill" tax fees and they could not afford to pay their workers.

They came to the Wookiee galaxies of Schmidt and Raymond to provide them with donations to help bring prosperity to their people. Being the good neighbors that Schmidt and Raymond are, they gave donations to the Jedi Council. With these donations the Jedi Council built a Jedi Temple, SpacePort, and a hospital. The Jedi Council is once again on the road to prosperity for it's home county Pershing.

Pet Coalition protests pot-pie death

BOYS STATE NEWS SERVICE

According to a report from the Patton County police department last week's riot could have been prevented.

The riot took place outside the county courthouse before the preliminary hearings in the case between the plaintiff, 56-year-old Joanna Johnson, and the defendant, 59-year-old Andromeda Anderson. Johnson accused Anderson of feeding her dog the wrong food while she was on vacation in nearby Finley, Kennedy. Johnson's dog, Marshmallow, a Maltese eventually died following an undercooked serving of "Grammy's Pot Pie."

"She specifically told me that the pot-pie was supposed to be cooked at a sizzling 475 degrees," Anderson said as she made her way into the

courthouse.

Following Johnson's arrival home, she found Marshmallow dead and immediately called for an autopsy. The results concluded that it cause of death was undercooked pot-pie.

"Pot-pie, it is like cooking easy-mac; it is just that easy," a distressed Johnson said in a recent press conference outside the kennel of Marshmallow.

Anderson was eventually arrested outside another residence in Crum, Eisenhower following a warrant issued for her arrest.

On June 11, both parties arrived early in the morning. Also arriving was the Patton Pet Coalition. The coalition was there to support Johnson and her puppy. Eventually support turned to violence, and chaos ensued in the streets surrounding the

courthouse.

"The Andromeda woman is a witch. This woman should never see the bright sunny skies of Patton County ever again," protestor Jane McKain said.

"Marshmallow will never have s'more pot-pie ever again, she will have our unconditional love though," protestor Jackson Hugger also said.

Nearly \$11,000 in damages is estimated for the riot. Four arrests were made and two cars were flipped. Not enough police were on duty that day, even though the Police Chief told the media in Patton County that they expected disruptions.

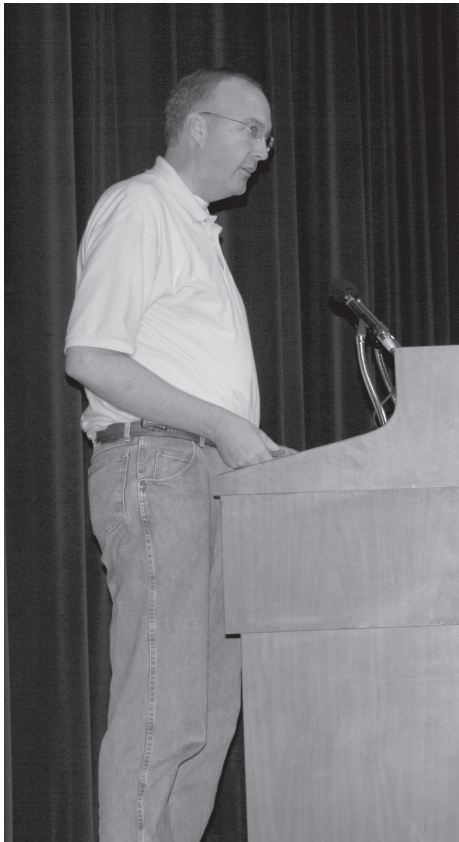
The jury is still out on the verdict for the case, and the District Attorney is in the process of pressing charges against those who caused the chaos over the canine.

Johnson steps into top spot 26-year vet assumes executive director position

BY SAM MCCLAIN
BRAMLAGE, BRADLEY

Quiet, smart, humble, a great sense of humor, and a driving force behind Boys State leadership for the last decade. Scott Johnson, this year's executive director, is a dynamic and pivotal leader of 2005 Boys State. He is easy, at 6'9", to pick out of a crowd. However, his character and not his height is what sets him apart.

Scott Johnson attended Boys State in 1979. He came back the next year and has participated in Boys State



NICK BROWN/UNION

Johnson addresses the state in McCain Auditorium as part of the Governor's presentation Wednesday. This is his first year as Executive Director.

through the years. Thane Chastain, Director of Development, said that Scott worked his way up through the staff and held loads of positions. He added "Scott has done more for this program than anyone in the last 20 years."

Blue shirts, yellow shirts, and red shirts alike all comment on how the director has influenced them in many ways. Bubba Burgers is one great example. The week before the Staters arrive, Scott, who works with the American Angus association, cooked burgers and hotdogs for the counselors, directors, and advisors. Counselor Kyle Rogers, who attended the cookout, commented, "Big Johnson serves the largest wieners I've ever seen."

Scott has played key roles in the evolution of Boys State. He played a role in the relocation of the program from Lawrence to the K-State campus in Manhattan. In addition he helped outline and institute the current program that organizes all Staters in a network. Rex Gardaner offers more thoughts about Scott. "He's Tall," Gardaner said.

The compliments, along with the jokes, come from all the positions on the staff, and paint a picture of the Scott Johnson that most Staters don't get to see. Scott is an irreplaceable piece of Boys State. Even after his first year as executive director it is apparent that his future predecessor will have huge shoes to fill...literally.

STATE WALKING

If you could get a price estimate for any item what would it be?

-John Blessing
City of Aylward
Bradley County
"2006 BMW"

-Joel Morrison
City of Schmitt
Pershing County
"a female companion"

-Matt Kaeb
City of Whorley
Seitz County
"a TV station"

-Nathan Burrows
City of Coss
Eisenhower County
"an elevator for the staters"

-Ian Sadler
City of Klassen
Marshal County
"Thane Chastain's personal jet"

-Angel Romero
City of Crum
Eisenhower County
"the price of the United States"

-James Lane
Athletics
"a playboy mansion"

-Luke Harshman
City of McCoy
Patton County
"a HP49G (a fancy calculator)"

Meet your officials up close and personal

BY JORDAN WATSON
HIATT, KING

Two days of campaigning and the results are in. We all know who the new elected officials are at this point, but one question? Do we REALLY know who are leaders are? We'll take a look into the personal lives of these young leaders.

Nick Cunningham, our new governor, is an active leader inside of school and out. He is a student at Olathe East in Olathe, Ks. He is the STUCO president, and he also participates in football and track. Nick is also a big thinker outside the classroom.

He created an eighteen-foot catapult that launched cantaloupes over three hundred feet. This catapult was used in numerous Renaissance fairs and created hours of enjoyment for Nick and his friends.

Our new Commissioner of Insurance, Alex DeSocio, is a multi-talented workaholic.

He participates in numerous extracurricular and academic activities. Alex enjoys acting and drama and acts in plays through the Wichita Children's Theatre, and also through his high school, Wichita Collegiate. He has been a student representative in STUCO for three years. He competes in football, track, and bowling.

John Blessing is an academic leader in his high school Blue Valley North in Overland Park, Ks. He is Boys' State's new Attorney General. He is captain of his high school's academic team. He received first place in the AAA challenge in Florida, and he is a section leader in band.

Hogan Miller is a promising

young leader with a bright future in politics. He is a student of Blue Valley West in Overland Park, Ks. He is the president of his school's Teenage Republican Council. This council received best political club in the nation at competition in Washington, D.C. He is also a U.S. Senate youth program delegate and Senior Class President in STUCO.

Christopher Valencia is a dedicated citizen and student. He is Boys' State's new Secretary of State. He is part of the Blue Valley West Teenage Republican Club and is a big contributor to its best political club nomination. He is an academic leader in school and is a personal mentor to children through his church Mentorship Program.

He also plays the Alto Saxophone and is proud to drive a 2004 Ford Mustang.

The Stater's Union

Wants to wish all delegates running for Boys Nation good luck. We know whoever is chosen will represent Kansas and the other delegates well.



Search goes bad, reporter endures wild chase

BY KYLE HAAS
WHORLEY, SEITZ

Here at Boys State of Kansas we have found out and experienced many things that make politics what they are today in America. Either it has been meeting with people to compromise on different points of view or the cutthroat business that has given politics a dark side, myself I learned an important lesson on the latter.

I was given the task to find out about the alleged "Mafia" that exists on the fifth floor of a dormitory that wished to remain anonyms to protect their ties with the Congress.

My editors handed me an address at which I could meet with the "Don" or mob boss of the mafia. It simply read, "Fifth floor, ask for 'Snake,'

tell them we sent you." So with that I went on a quest to discover the truth.

I traveled through and around alleyways of all sorts. Then when I finally arrived at my destination where I was greeted by two towering bodyguards (or whatever they were), they stopped me and asked my business for being at their residence and who I was looking for.

They graciously allowed me into their building where I was quickly rushed into a small room that was as bare as Vin Diesel's head.

I was aggressively questioned by a person who I believed to be the "number two" man in charge, he shouted so many questions I could only answer that I was a reporter doing my job on the good things that

the Four Families had provided.

He immediately halted from badgering me, and told me to come back at a 1:31. "No earlier, no later," he insisted.

When I went back to my office at the newspaper, I found something that caught my attention: there laying on my desk was a letter sealed with a wax print of two interlocking "F's." On the inside of the letter was a notice that read, "Dear Mr. Haas, We appreciate your investigative reporting on the alleged "Mafia," however, there is something you need to realize. There is no Mafia nor has there ever been a Mafia. Sincerely, The Families of Four."

So to answer the question of a mafia existing in our Boys' State, to my knowledge there is no such alleged "Mafia," though there are a few groups that "defend" the little guy from all that can go wrong in this topsy-turvy world.

Joshua Allen

"I like cheese. I really like it when it comes from between my toes."

Department of Culture loses funding

BY SAM MCCLAIN
BRAMLAGE, BRADLEY

Government organizations are pushed aside to allow for a balanced budget. The state budget, running at a thirty thousand dollar deficit, needed to be changed. Governor Cunningham decided to cut programs instead of instituting higher income taxes. The result is severely shortchanged and forgotten organizations.

The Department of Culture had their budget reduced by 38%. Why

was this program cut so dramatically? On the surface it seems that the Department of Culture is not an important group. However, the budget cut on this department can have a lasting affect on county's and its citizens. Counties profit from drawing crowds into their borders. Festivals and other arts related activities can draw in large crowds. These crowds spend money and boost the economy. With Governor Cunningham's proposed budget the Department of Culture is spread too

thin to provide adequate funds to promote money making activities.

The Department is going to try to lobby support and get the legislature to increase their spending capacity. Surprisingly the department has remained optimistic, setting a goal to return their funding to its original amount. Laird Bryant and Thomas Gormly agree that there are other departments that are more important, however they believe that their department serves a significant purpose.