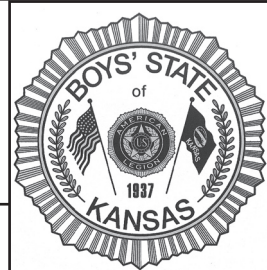


American Legion Boys State of Kansas Stater's Union



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It takes 'Cunning'

Federalists ride governor's coattail into state offices

Nick Cunningham of Seitz set to preside over Boys State through 2006

BY KYLE HAAS
WHORLEY, SEITZ

The recent Boys' State election was one that fulfilled Staters' expectations throughout the counties.

Following the journey to McCain Auditorium and the Staters' jubilant county "roll call" the debates began without any further ado.

In the first meeting of candidates Alex DeSocio (Federalist) went up against Stephen Fischer (Nationalist) for the position of Commissioner of Insurance. DeSocio the slight favorite played on that appeal and was able to bring more voters to his side of the argument. DeSocio spoke on the results of the debate by saying, "I was pretty excited to know that I had the support of all the Boys Staters'."

Next the battle for Treasurer began; Tyler Rayl (Nationalist) took on Hogan Miller (Federalist). Playing off the fear of "too much Ethanol, too quickly" Miller was able to fight off Rayl's attacks and secure a place on the Boys State Executive Council.



NICK BROWN/UNION

Then a bright spot showed for the Nationalist Party in their Secretary of State candidate where Christopher Valencia (Nationalist) defeated Alec Shamas (Federalist) by attacking the platform of Federalist Party and Shamas' inability to fully answer the questions presented to him.

To anyone looking to see "mudslinging" could say that their prayers answered in the forms of John Blessing (Nationalist) and Timothy St. Arnold (Federalist) in the competition for Attorney General. As the two took minor "shots" at each others personal stance and names, St. Arnold at Blessing's platform and Blessing at St. Arnold's unsaintly ways. Though the mud had dried up Blessing came out the victor for the Nationalists.

Executive Director Scott Johnson escorts Governor Nick Cunningham and Lieutenant Governor Andrew Schoonover to the front during assembly before swearing in.

Concluding the debate was the spirited arguments between the Lieutenant Governors Andrew Schoonover (Federalist) and Jordon Craft (Nationalist) and Governors Nick Cunningham (Federalist) and Stuart Bell (Nationalist). In the first meeting between Lt. Governors, both candidates took turns agreeing with the opposing party's statements which indicated that both Feds and Nats would be allowed to act as a cohesive unit after the election. The Governor debate went similarly with Cunningham and Schoonover eventually winning out to become the lead governing bodies of Boys' State.

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Debate the debate

Revare, Knapp choose debate winners, losers

BY BRAD REVARE
JOHNSON, MACARTHUR

The political campaigns of both parties came to a spectacular end Tuesday after the debate. In typical fashion, the audience wanted blood, but depending on whom you ask, they received tame arguments and evasive answers. The Federalist Party came in with the sheer numbers, sporting a 60-40% majority in terms of demographics. Here is my rundown of the Federalist candidates and whom I think won the debates.

Commissioner of Insurance:

Alex DeSocio was the Federalist candidate for this position, and he put up a strong front. In his clear, rational speeches, Alex trumpeted lowering healthcare costs for veterans and an interest for finding new solutions for tax problems. DeSocio ended up winning the position, mainly because he appealed to moderates, while Steven Fischer (Nat.) appeared hostile.

Treasurer:

Hogan Miller, another smooth talker from the Federalist Party, answered questions concerning new businesses and budget relocation, mainly hitting on oil and ethanol, as well as

trotting out the Party line of smaller government. Hogan mainly won because of the large contingent of loyal Federalist voters.

Secretary of State:

Alec Shamas laid out the party platform for the Federalist bid for Sec. of State, but Chris Valencia countered with several excellent points, sealing the deal for his winning of the position.

Attorney General:

Tim St. Arnold followed party lines when answering questions about gun control, but lost the election after making several extreme remarks such as claiming he was "pro-death" and quoting Hammurabi's Code, advocating revenge in certain murder circumstances.

Lt. Governor:

Despite the fact that the Federalist Governor was elected, which meant an automatic appointment for Andrew Schoonover, he would have won anyway.

Governor:

Considering it would be a major upheaval if the Nationalist Candidate won the Governor election, it came as no surprise that Nick Cunningham won with the 60-40 cushion he had coming into the debates.

BY DAN KNAPP
MCCOY, PATTON

The debate between the candidates raged deep into the afternoon as the proclamation of stances were made known. Here is the play by play of how the debate evened out.

Commissioner of Insurance:

Candidate's dealt with concerned topics of lowering premiums for veteran's health care. The Fed candidate DeSocio as well as Fischer lead us out on tangents of ideas but never clearly stated their plans of action. DeSocio rightfully took the win because of his good ideas and also is level headedness approach as well. Don't get me wrong, I love the Nationalists ideas but he did not convey them in as much of an appealing manner.

Treasurer:

This segment involved the issue of encouraging new business to come to the state. Rayl of the Nats party spoke about switching from pure gasoline directly to ethanol immediately. Hogan Miller wanted the same ultimate goal but had different views of going about it. Rather than switching to ethanol he wanted a more gradual plan. All in all, again I thought

my party was out debated on this issue.

Secretary of State:

The Feds or Alec Shamas went step for step on the platform and supported that big businesses are responsible for themselves. Nat Valencia dominated the debate with his intelligent reactions to his oponent. In my opinion Valencia won because he made efforts to find happy mediums between the two parties.

Attorney General:

Regarding gun Laws Nats and Feds were both backing the idea of protecting the people. Arnold lost this election to Blessing because of his aggressive views on the death penalty.

Lt Governor:

Had Jordin Caft been less confusing in his speaking he might have had a chance. The charismatic Characteristics are what lead Andrew Schoonover to victory in this election.

Governor:

Again as a Nat I completely believe that Bell was the better choice. Otherwise the debates centered on gas, evolution and welfare and again most were agreed upon which deviated in political style. In the end Cunningham was the better speaker which propelled him to victory.

Afternoon debate provides Staters delightful discussions

BY ANDREW ROBINSON
FINLEY, KENNEDY

With the executive state candidates narrowed down to one candidate per party the annual debate was held in McClain Auditorium on Tuesday. Representatives from different associations and parties presented the questions, which ranged from stem-cell research to education, to the candidates.

In the Commissioner of Insurance portion of the debate, the fluent speaking Alex DeSocio came out guaranteeing to subsidize small business.

"When we subsidize they are able to provide coverage," DeSocio said.

On the Nationalist side Stephen Fischer believed that they didn't have to raise taxes because they could solve problems other way.

In the Secretary of State candidate's time, fast-talking, well-rehearsed Nationalist Candidate Christopher Valenica came out claiming that

Federalists just wanted money and they were too worried about the big businesses.

"There is no real guarantee that you are going to get what you've heard," Valencia said.

Next came the State Treasurer debate in which Federalist Candidate Hogan Miller sought to focus on getting more funding for agriculture and education.

Perhaps the most exciting portion of the debate came with the Attorney General candidates as Federalist Timothy St. Arnold and Nationalist John Blessing provided puns, shout-outs and analogies for the audience. Gun control was a large portion of their debate as Timothy St. Arnold came out saying he was pro-death. Blessing went partially against gun control.

"You can't go popping Grandma down the street," Blessing said.

Last came the much-anticipated Governor debate where gas prices and the teaching of evolution provided the

foundation for the conclusion of the debate. The federalists want to go away from foreign oil and domesticate oil production.

"Texas is a great example of what Kansas can be," Federalist candidate Nick Cunningham said.

Nationalist candidate Stuart or "Stewie" Bell believed that Kansas had the potential to be a leader on the oil and gas scene in America. When it came to evolution Nationalist Bell believed Evolution is a science and that belonged in schools. They would also give students an option on whether or not they wanted to take the class. Cunningham and the Federalists presented for no option in the schools for evolution or creationism

"We are on the forefront of teaching creationism," Cunningham said.

In the end, only five candidates were selected, but the debate provided a good facility for the candidates to add to their platforms what they really believed.

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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.

Court report

Finley takes on Chastain in no-sleep battle

BY ANDREW ROBINSON
MCCOY, PATTON

Unusual irritability and a lack of sleep were just a few things that Finley City Attorney Andy Weaver presented before the District County Court in Kennedy County. Finley was presenting their case in a lawsuit against the City of Chastain from Eisenhower County.

Finley was asking for \$200 for damages following noise problems coming from the floor above in Chastain. Eric Hooks presented the closing

arguments for Chastain, claiming that Finley's arguments had contradicted what they had prior presented.

"We think there should just be a mutual understanding," Weaver, Finley, Kennedy said.

In the end, all three judges found Chastain guilty and needing to pay \$75 to Finley following damages on Sunday night.

"It's weak, I was shooting for \$250 but we will take what we can get," Weaver added.

City of Haney takes on Association over broken promises in to-be-decided case

BY ANDREW ROBINSON
MCCOY, PATTON

More excitement ensued in the district courts on Tuesday in the Haney v. Heritage Association case.

According to sources close to The Stater's Union, the Heritage Association had promised Haney money earlier in the week and the Heritage Association is yet to come through.

The case was originally set to be tried in Kennedy County, but the Heritage Association called that bias by asking for a change in location, making it so that the new location was in Pershing County.

Tuesday's problem found the defendants and plaintiffs walking between Goodnow and Marlatt halls trying to find the right courtroom. After much deliberation in the hallways

both parties agreed to go back to Kennedy, but with a lack of time, and an investigation that found both parties had not completely filed correctly using the District Court Handbook, the case was delayed until both parties repeat the handbook process and re-file for the case.

Nathan Zimmerman

"I guess it is a blow to bureaucracy."

In the end the case was delayed due to lack of time. Another factor in the delay was a need for both parties to back through the District court complex.

"I guess it is a blow to bureaucracy," Nathan Zimmerman, Gardner, Kennedy said.

Despite the fact that the Heritage Association had brought quite a posse behind them to the hearings, both parties will have to wait another day for the decision.

STATE WALKING

Question: If you were stranded on a deserted island and you had the option of bringing one item with you, what would it be?

Jake Reeves
City of Manty
Patton County
"A boat"

Scott Johnson
Executive Director
"My Ipod"

Minorities Association
"Hot women"

Taylor Brenn
City of Birk
Bradley County
"A cell phone"

Patrick Slingsby
City of Schults
Powel County
"Pamela Anderson"

Logan Rivers
City of Birk
Bradley County
"My MP3 player"

Jim Grannell
City of Finley
Kennedy County
"Matches"

Austin Hake
City of Finley
Kennedy County
"Wilson"

Answer:
Responses may vary

'Crumunist' society evolves in Ike County

City citizens put community needs above personal interests

BY NATHAN BURROWS
COSS, EISENHOWER

The city of Crum, a small town located in Eisenhower County. The city wasn't special or out to achieve an "evil" plot but were only out to try to make their community the best they could.

After getting out to a good start the city was able to build a local police station and the necessities for any city, having barely any troubles or problems; however, the city wanted change, they wanted something that they believed would allow them to succeed and hopefully beat the other cities in their county, as a result raising the bar for the Eisenhower County.

Even with the great support of the people, Crum was having trouble retrieving the funds for what they needed to further the success of the city. A solution arose, the "Crumunistic" way instead of the traditional democracy.

Surrounding cities frowned at the new way believing it was a form of the Communist party. Crum insured nearby cities that they weren't trying

to force their view on any others. They wanted what was best for the county and they thought that Crum would be able to help them. Crum stressed that they weren't fully Communistic but were only taking some ideals from the Communist doctrine.

Crum decided to still have elected positions such as city officials.

"It helps the city become more efficient, instead of hunting down citizens asking them for donations we can just automatically take money out of their account for them," Mayor Jordan Palmateer said. "By taking the profit of every citizen's pay, they are able to give as much as they can as a model citizen would."

Advantages have already started showing up. Crum is now back on track with the building of their oil refinery, and are looking into new things to help improve their city next.

When questioned about the cities direction a legionnaire seemed against the idea. Although he admired the unusual thought process, he took exception to the overall idea

"When is the line drawn?"

Legionnaire RC Shoemaker said. "Who determines the profit of the citizens? Does the government use the same philosophy with businesses?"

Legionnaire Shoemaker asked, "When you take "profit" from citizens it stifles the inherent desire to earn a living that provides for families and their future.

"How do you replace the government officials if the citizens cannot run for office due to the lack of funds?"

One of Shoemaker's last and most important point of his opinion was, "What happens to peoples' motivation to get ahead? At the heart of their plan as I understand it, the city will enforce a form of wage control administered by non-accountable governmental employees stifling the citizen's ability to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Crum will continue on their strive to be the best city and with their slogan of "Crum to Crump" and there new "Crumunistic" government their plan seems to be on track. Or are they really on the right mindset for their city? Only time will tell.

—Press releases—

COUNTY WRAP-UP

The Powell County Commissioner will be conducting a vote on various parts of the Highway Improvement Plan on Friday, the 17th of June 2005. The Highway Improvement plan is a remedy to dire conditions of current

highways, a key bridge, and the implementation of a new highway to attract business and increase the quality of life for citizens of Powell County. These remedies will make life easier for citizens and attract higher paying jobs. The tolls on the bridge and new highway will create funds to maintain the highways so that such a negative state does not ruin the reputation of our county again. Powell County must rate for these improvements to help make life better for all of its citizens.

The county commission of MacArthur County is calling on the cities of Icenogle, Johnson and Janssen concerning the county's insufficient highway systems. The MacArthur county commission would like to hold a meeting on Friday the 16th of June to discuss the possible renovation and construction of the existing highway bridge; as well as the building of a new highway. During the meeting, the county will formally present these issues followed by a vote.

Thrilling case over, Jackson not guilty

Jacko jurors acquit after 14 weeks of trial

BOYS STATE NEWS WIRE

"Mr. Jackson, your bail is exonerated and you are released," Judge Rodney S. Melville said. Michael Jackson, who was being tried for 10 felony counts, was found innocent yesterday, June 13, 2005. These accusations carried a maximum penalty of 18 years in prison, but Jackson, and many of his family members who were present at the courthouse, breathed easy as the verdicts were read.

The Jury of ten deliberated for 7 days, and said that they felt "the weight of the world's eyes upon us all."

The world's eyes were truly on the jury and the case. Television cameras,

Helicopters, and masses of fans followed Jackson throughout the day. Jackson arrived in his typical style with

a flamboyant suit and full entourage and vehicle convoy. What happens now that Jackson has been found innocent?

According to Jermain Jackson, Michael Jackson's brother, who was questioned before the Jury reached a verdict said "He'll become a complete recluse if found not guilty."

If Jackson does indeed go into exile at the Neverland Ranch, it will likely be due to trust issues. The defense argued that he was set up by his accuser. Famous comedian Chris Tucker testified during the trial. Tucker along with Jackson befriended the accuser, a cancer patient. Tucker said that the accuser was "cunning."

The defense chief, Mr. Mesereau also said that the accusers family were, "con artists, actors and liars."

It is difficult to see through the cloud of Michael Jackson's infamous legacy. Behind the jokes and spoofs it is difficult to tell whom the real victims are. For now the Jackson saga comes to a close, but for how long is a mystery.

Staters state opinions on singer's trial

-RC Shoemaker
Pershing County Advisor
"I have no plans to send anyone to Neverland."

-Tyler Rayl
City of Lane
Marshall County
"I think it's wrong to touch little boys."

-Patrick Slingsby
City of Schultz
Powell County
"It ain't good."

-Jake Reeves
City of Mantey
Patton County
"I think we have enough child molesters out there."

Pistons get in gear; Hamilton rips spurs for 24

BOYS STATE NEWS WIRE

With a two game lead the San Antonio Spurs were looking to take a three-game lead in the NBA Finals against the Detroit Pistons. Behind a dominant performance by Detroit's Ben Wallace and Richard Hamilton the Pistons won 96-79 at the Palace in Auburn Hills.

According to the Associated Press, television ratings have been down for the NBA Finals, but with the Pistons' victory last night the Finals seem to have a pulse again. San Antonio's star-guard and team leader Manu Ginobili was injured in the game's first thirty

seconds, and from there Ben Wallace boosted Detroit and left a sluggish San Antonio team in the dust. Wallace put down a thundering dunk with 4:27 left in the game, which gave the Pistons their largest lead, 88-73, and the energy to hold on to their first victory of their series as they still trail 2-1 in the series.

Detroit's Richard Hamilton dropped 24, and Chauncey Billups contributed 20 points. Ben Wallace added 15 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks to the Pistons' campaign.

Despite the fact that the Pistons had lost by a combined 36 points in the first

two games, they built off the energy in the arena as the intensity on the court was at one of the highest levels of the series.

Thursday night the Pistons look to knot the series at two. Game four and a guaranteed game five will also be in Detroit.



State alumnus speaks to '05 Staters

BY DEAN SYMES
SPIGARELLI, POWELL

Staters were treated to a rare event Tuesday night, when Kansas House Representative Joshua Svaty spoke at the Town Hall Presentations in Cardwell. Svaty is the youngest Kansas House Representative as well as a Boys State of Kansas alumnus.

Svaty spoke to delegates about his journey from a Stater in 1997 to 2002, when he decided to run for Representative of his home 108th District. He explained the joys of a life in politics as well as the dark side.

"I gained support with help from my uncle and paid for it all mostly from donations from people," Svaty said.

One point he knew he was gaining support was in his hometown, where a

full band of students asked to wear a T-shirt supporting him during a town parade. He had asked the kids of the school the day before to march with his float, but telling them not to do it just because he asked him.

"It was just my float, my opponent's, a couple of other floats and the band," he said laughing, "I felt bad, cause for that day they weren't the town band, they were the Joshua Svaty Band!"

At the age of 22, he won the election.

He said although he was working with a lot of older men, there was not much intimidation, simply because his vote counted just as much as theirs.

He did enjoy being the youngest Kansas Representative because it made him different from the others.

One problem, however, was caused by his age.

"I was and am still at the age where I think I am always right," he said. "Whoever disagrees with me is completely wrong."

He said to the delegates that if he were to quit politics, he would want to stay on his family farm. But he added that the only thing that could possibly stop him would be trying to start a family.

As to his favorite memory from Boys State, it is slightly predictable at this point in the week. Carla Stovall, Kansas Attorney General at the time, spoke to the Staters. Since this was the first encounter with a woman in days, the whole State found her to be quite attractive.

Parties not included in yesterday's debate protest at press conference

BOYS STATE NEWS WIRE STORY

In a rare multiparty press conference today, four political parties decried their prohibition on joining the statewide debates today. Represented in the event, were the Green, Socialist, Libertarian and Constitution Parties.

"These parties are really no more than that—a party," Yuri Pementovitch, Chairman on the KSBS Socialist Party. "A party for the elites. A party for the capitalist. A party for the factory owners and a party for the bourgeoisies. These so-called debates offer the masses no choice, no alternatives, no conflict and no power to the workers. The voters of Kansas have far too long toiled for the bosses. With my candidacy and our party, Kansans will no longer mass produce — we will produce for the masses!"

Gumby Williams from the Green

Party coughed in agreement.

"Yeah man, like a party. Like when Ry-dog and Tommy and Little Tommy and Little Tommy's brother come over for a party and they bring some dank BC herbage and we just sit and wheeze grindage with the Aqua Teen Hunger Force and Ry-dog spills the Cheezits and Little Tommy steps on them and they get all like ground into the carpet with like the little pieces and they're everywhere like like stars man like stars at night time."

Some representatives took their time in the spotlight to attack the Nationalist and Federalist candidates.

"It's more like a small party," Gerald Kharpett said in his 19-minute prepared statement.

"You know, that kind of party that not many people can get into but everyone has to pay for it. I'd rather have my money for myself and throw my own

party. Then if my neighbors wanted a party, they could throw their own with their money. Then if someone else wanted a party I wouldn't pay for it because, hey it's their party not mine, I've already got my own."

Finally, Constitution Party spokeswoman Mary Jackson made her demands clear.

"Party? Who's throwing a party? I insist that I am able to attend. And that there is no alcohol. Nor dancing. Nor Green Party candidates. Nor debauchery of any sort. Nor hand holding. And singing should be kept to an absolute minimum."

Although candidates for both parties were unable to comment as they were debating and not complaining, representatives for the Nationalists and Federalists issued this joint response: "Grow up. Oh, and quit whining. You're prettier than that."

... AND TWINS

Stater siblings share similarities

BY STEVEN DICKSON
LANE, MARSHALL

Imagine waking up in the morning and seeing a reflection of yourself looking back at you from across the room. No it's not a mirror, it's your twin.

"I think we are the only set of twins here who are mirror images of each other. Not only am I left-handed and Michael is right handed, but even when we were kids I would lose a tooth and right after he would lose the mirror-image tooth right after it," Daniel Linville McCoy, Patton said.

The Linvilles are one of three sets

of twins this year at Boys' State. The others are Daniel and Scott Breidenstein and Ben and Brad Schmidt.

"Here at Boys' State, being a twin gives you an edge over people, it sets you apart and makes it easier to get to know people," Daniel Breidenstein Johnson, MacArthur said.

In addition to being twins the Schmidts have another unique characteristic that helps set them apart from the crowd.

"We stand out because we are twins, but also because I am 6'4" and he is 6'5," Brad Schmidt Newman, Patton said.

Brad was also the only one who

would like to try not being a twin for a day.

"I don't think I would want to be a non-twin for a day it would be weird," Michael Linville Gardner, Kennedy said. "The best part of being a twin, and one that most people do not think about is that we can help each other with homework because we have the same classes."

Some individuals who are not twins thought it would be interesting to be an identical twin for a day.

"I'd pull all kinds of pranks if I was a twin for a day, and I would try to do a Doublemint commercial," Bryce Field McCoy, Patton said.

Staters take time to honor flag day during afternoon

BY ISRAEL MONTANTES
PERRIL, PERSHING

Yesterday, every county got to see something incredible and special by our American Legion staff. They got up there and showed everyone about what Flag Day was all about and demonstrated how to retire a worn out flag.

Flag Day was not introduced until 1885, when BJ Cigrand had his school commemorate the flag on its 108th anniversary when "the Flag Resolution of 1777" first introduced it. The newspapers and magazines came from all over the place to see this event that

celebrated their flag for the first time.

The American Legion staff, consisted of Bill Wheeler the Commander of the Unit, Bill Bluemke, the 1st Vice Commander, John Lindholm the 2nd Vice Commander, Jim Schroer the Sergeant at Arms, Don Peters the Flagburner, Larry Andrews the Flagbearer, and RC "Chuck" Shoemaker the Bugler.

The process begins when the public drops a used flag at an American Legion or VFW post. The retirement ceremony is then held on flag day (June 14) in which the flags are burned. In the ceremony, the 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders inform the Sargeant-at-Arms that they have

inspected the tattered flags and they are ready for retirement. The Sargeant-at-Arms reports this to the Commander who, upon confirmation by the 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders, authorizes the retirement of the flags. The chaplain recites a prayer, the Commander calls the group to attention, the flag is placed on the fire unfolded and the bugler plays "To The Colors." The Commander then dismisses the assembly closing the ceremony. Even though it may have been long, everyone will appreciate something of this historical importance that the American Legion expressed about Flag Day.