

American Legion Boys' State of Kansas Staters Union

Volume 69 Issue 7 • Saturday June 17th, 2006 • Marlatt, Goodnow Halls • Kansas State University



One last goodbye...

Curtis Thom
Whorley, Seitz

It's not a secret. The paper that our staff has published throughout the week has been very good. As the editor-in-chief, I believe that we have assembled an amazing staff of journalists, and I am proud to be a part of such talent. They make my job so much easier, by having an extensive knowledge of journalism, and a swell of creative ideas. While I could pronounce

this avid respect for my staff all day, I believe that our work, at times, goes unnoticed.

Our lives as members of the Staters Union, has been 'life in the fast lane'. From the moment we wake up, and the moment we go to sleep, we live and breathe this paper. While some writers responsibility, extend beyond the call of duty. The first orientation we had was over our expectations. No one could envision the grueling work that we would

do this week.

For the past week, everyone on our staff has been introduced to the lifestyle of an insomniac. With early meetings and extremely late deadline nights, our need for sleep has been compromised for the good of achieving our common goal. Since our sleeping hours are down, our efficiency during the day has been sliced to merely nothing. The sad thing being, we are sometimes faced with a misunderstanding of our

feelings, and our work ethics.

Each person involved in writing for our paper carries a common love for it. We all understand that we have the opportunity to display something that truly matters, and let everyone read about it. We are the voice of Boys State. We unify the Nationalist & Federalist parties, to share stories that accommodate both sides' views, and cut to

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Dreams are realized by delegates

Carey Gabbert
Kyle, Marshall

Almost every Boys Staters' biggest dream is to become the Kansas representative to Boy's Nation. It is one of the biggest achievements that a Boys State delegate can accomplish, so it's kind of like a big deal.

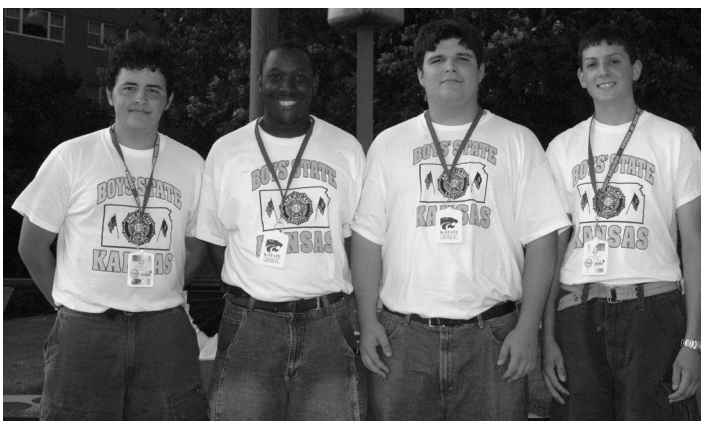
On Thursday evening the entire congregation voted on who they thought would represent the Boys' State of Kan-

sas the best. As a voter myself, I realized that the decision wasn't going to

a bunch of characters, and their speeches included everything from comedic

speech, their speeches all had just as much of an impact.

In my personal beliefs, I think they all deserve to attend such a prestigious event. However, this cannot happen, and the citizens had to make a decision. The 1st and 2nd alternates for the position were Shane Wilson from the City of Kyle in Marshall County, and Ryan Miller from the City of McCoy in Patton County. The



be easy. The ten candidates who ran were quite

to truly heartfelt speeches, but despite the tone of the

Staters treated to night of fun at Union

Riley Ross
Harris, King

Last night was an especially entertaining night. There was bowling, a movie, pool, and a final chance at bonding. If anything, it allowed us to "hang loose" with our newfound friends. You must admit, had we done the visit to the Student Union earlier in the week it wouldn't have been such a success. We were all aliens to one another at the beginning of the week, or at least most of us. This

week has shaped us, it has allowed us to become one and unite for a common cause, the future of America.

I know when I first arrived, I didn't have the slightest clue as to what was about to take place. I had no idea that the week was to change me forever. I entered this position for the wrong reason, yes, I wanted to write for the newspaper, yes, I wanted to provide all of you great Staters with entertaining yet truthful articles, but I also thought the access

of a computer would help ease the upcoming "pain" of the week.

As it turns out, I've only used the computer for the newspapers sake. I am a better person because I learned from my mistake. My profound moment of clarity came when I realized that I really was into journalism. It's a great way to express yourself while helping and inspiring others. I came into this with no prior journalist skills, and I am leaving with the willpower to excel by improving my

grammar (of which is horrible, I'm surprised Curtis hasn't choked me to death yet). It doesn't sound big, but to me it is, grammar is my worst enemy. I always thought that some day I might have the inspiration to conquer it, and Boys State has provided me with the means to do so.

To me the Union celebration represents the change in all of us, the growth we have achieved through this great pro-

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Courts are important to government

Michael Chang
Johnson, MacArthur

In democracy, the judicial branch of the government is expected to uphold the law. The people of America rely on courts to remain honest and true, even when the world around them cannot act the same. This idea remains true for most courts, though not all of them live up to the expectations of the people.

Some surprising evidence was brought up against the members of the district court of Seitz

County. MacArthur County handles the cases that pertain to Seitz County and vice-a-versa. According to the district judges of MacArthur County, the Seitz County judges were attempting to get the MacArthur judges to swing votes in favor of the City of Whorley, which was the city to which all the Seitz judges belonged.

The MacArthur judges responded by saying that they would do what they could, but would not break, change, or mess with the laws. They also said that if the evidence for any cases

involving Whorley were substantial enough, they would have no choice but to rule accordingly to the evidence.

To solidify the deal, the Seitz judges, led by Emanuel Montoya, tried to get the MacArthur judges to sign a vague non-aggression pact.

"We didn't want to sign it," exclaimed a MacArthur judge. "We finally did, but just because we wanted to get them to go away. It was vague, but basically stated that 'We have each other's backs.'"

According to the Ma-

cArthur judges, shortly after signing the contract and getting the Seitz judges to leave, the Seitz judges returned because they were afraid that the non-aggression pact might be discovered. Montoya proceeded to rip up the contract and quickly disposed of it, but failed to do so in an effective manner. One of the MacArthur judges stumbled upon the shredded contract and kept the many pieces.

The reason for the Seitz judges' withdraw-

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Marshall and MacArthur receive mental facility

Dale Owen
Newman, Patton

Marshall County has filled up its mental hospital facilities. That's right, they're facilities are completely booked. The short term mental illness patients must travel to MacArthur County and stay in a long term mental hospital for more time than they require for healing.

The Coalition of Cities and Counties (CCC) and all the cities from Marshall and MacArthur Counties lobbied before the Department of Health. One spokesman

from each team would be allowed in the room to speak. The presentation included a plan to fix the problem and a plan to acquire the funds needed.

Lane City started, but had no definite plan. They did, however, mention that their city had sufficient funds to help pay the cost. Kyle City then came in and talked about a new health center they had built, which did not pertain to the situation at all. The representative quickly recovered and changed his plans. Klassen City walked in next and got right to the point. They had neither the land

nor the funds to create the new hospital.

Johnson City proposed a remodeling of the long term mental hospital, but the department shot that idea down. Janssen then entered (17 minutes late) and offered the best plan yet. Not only did they have an official estimate for the price, but they could provide land by rezoning a lot. The hospital would cost \$1,940, and the rezoning an estimated \$700. The Department of Health loved the idea.

The CCC offered a different plan by proposing downsizing the long term mental hospital and upsiz-

ing the short term hospital. After a little debate, the department decided against it. In the end, the same problem would end up occurring, only in a different way. However, the CCC was impressed by the Department of Health's dedication. One member said to the department, "You're the only serious department. You're at least trying to be something." The department humbly accepted the compliment.

Icenogle City presented last and suggested a halfway house add-on to the current hospital.

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Anonymous assailant attacks

Curtis Thom
Whorley, Seitz

The previous night's hard work was starting to wear on my eyes. Lunch was quickly approaching, but that mattered very little to me. It was sleepy time, and dammit I was going to sleep. Quickly slipping into bed, I covered myself and closed my eyes.

Amongst clouds in my dream world, I had no worries. Many things crossed my mind at this specific time, such as

the NBA Finals, eating a solid meal, the insanely delicious chocolate milk offered in the library, and finally what I would feel like to finally gaze upon a woman. Thoughts aside, I was suddenly awakened by a large clash of doors opening and closing. Catching my attention, I rolled over and saw a strange figure entering my room. Thinking it was my roommate, I rolled back over to once again enter my dream world. Then the strange person strolled to

the side of my bed, and removed the mattress that was above me. Throwing it to the floor, he reached down and began to tug my mattress. Rolling over I asked him "what the hell he was doing". Once my eyes cleared, I noticed someone who wasn't my roommate destroying our room. Finding out my true identity, the individual scurried out of my room, yelling a loud profanity as he ran.

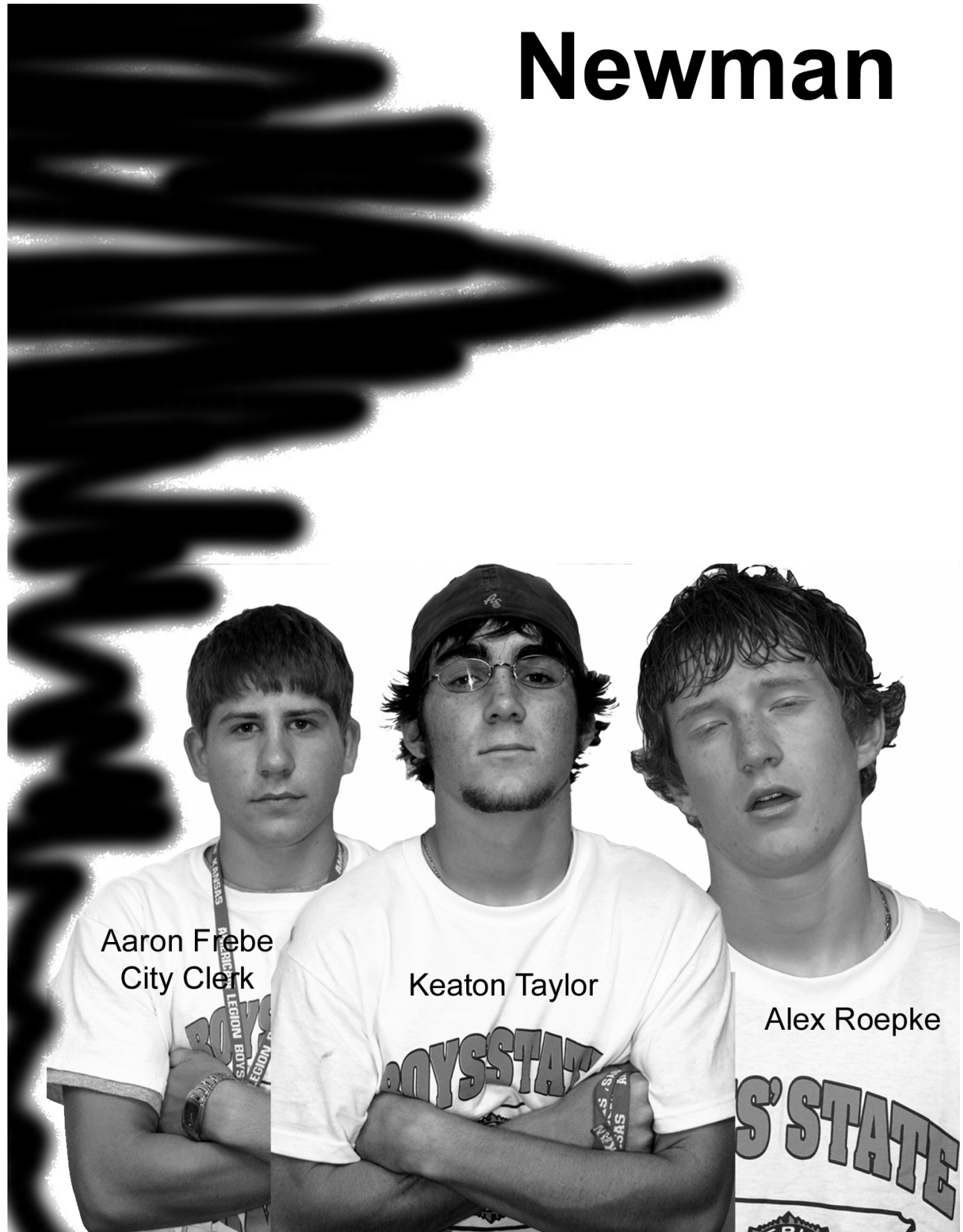
After seconds of deliberation, he peered around

our door, and walked back in. Coming toward me, he uttered an inaudible fake name, and shook my hand.

Talking for a short time, I was given the information on his county, and his purpose for pulling the mattress to the floor. Bradley County was the county name I was given, but somehow I didn't believe him. Staring at the mattress resting on the floor, I thought to myself "you

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Newman



Aaron Frebe
City Clerk

Keaton Taylor

Alex Roepke

State in disarray near the end of simulation

Dear editor,

Right now it seems that our state seem to be in a state of corruption. Cities embezzling, building off-the-wall stuff, our governor accused of using illegal drugs. While these are thing that happen in real states, i would like to focus on something that is bigger than all that.

The issue is what boys state has done for 16 men, myself in particular. One sunday, 16

men arrived at boys state. They then completed registration and all learned that they were in the city of aylward, county of bradley.

That night these 16 men had their first, awkward, city meeting. No one felt comfortable. Each one of these 16 individual men sat there thinking, "why, why, why am i sitting here?"

Over the course of the week these 16 individual men began to work to-

gether, but more importantly they began to become 16 united men.

These men learned that life is hard and that you never know exactly what another person has gone through.

Last night these 16 men were forced to make one of the hardest decisions of our time here at boys state. They had to pick which man would get the city's nomination for boys nation. After 4 emotional speeches and 2 votes, one

of these 16 men, me, was left with a pile of shattered dreams at his feet.

You might be asking yourself, "where is this letter going?" And i'm getting ready to show you right now.

The conversation the turned to what we thought about boys state so far. At this point tears began to flow as several people, including myself, were hit with the

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Religion and the truth about government

Caleb Kersenbrock
Chastain, Eisenhower

Since its inception, the republic of the United States of America has been a majority rule system. While this is a fair way to represent a large portion of the population, the majorities' rights need to be considered in the decisions. However, decisions should not be based on the minority.

For example, "under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954. It was added because the majority of American citizen wanted it to incorporated. The campaign by the

Knights of Columbus was presented before congress and was passed due to the popularity of Christianity in the United States. Like it or not, the United States of America was founded based on Christian morals.

Since 1954, non-Christians, a minority in America, have tried to remove "under God" from the pledge. This, however, would grossly misrepresent the majority of Americans. If a non-Christian has an issue with Christianity in the pledge they do retain the right to not say "under God." Again, the United States of America

was founded on Christianity by Christian people. The history of the United States cannot be erased and we need to honor the heritage that has made us the greatest nation on earth.

In 1963, non-Christians again lead a crusade to remove religion from public places, this time by attacking public prayer. As I research the topic, I find it amazing that test scores have dropped, teen pregnancies have increased, school violence has increased, and disciplinary action in schools has increased in public schools almost immediately after

prayer was removed from them. I am a firm believer that religion has made this country great and all attempts to remove it are the nemesis of this country.

Also, the United States is not a democracy. If you can recall from our Pledge of Allegiance the line: "...and to the republic for which it stands," the founding fathers understood the form of government they helped to establish.

As according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a democracy is: "a government in

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Criminal activities prolific in wind down

Wesley Eckols
Schmidt, Pershing

Criminal activities have been going on all around here at Boys State. Many meetings have been held to try and find a solution to this problem. People want criminals to spend more time in prison, and want the crimes to stop.

The Department of Corrections spoke with several different organizations about ideas to solve the problems with crime. The general idea of almost every group

that spoke was too build more prisons and increase minimum and maximum sentences.

What none of these groups realized was that the Department of Corrections is broke. The governor's budget didn't help them at all, and they are currently in debt. The department just doesn't have the money to build more prisons or to support more prisoners.

After telling the Coalition of Cities and Counties about the lack of funds, the Coalition made a generous

offer. For a better score on their grading sheet, they would "donate" all their remaining money to the department, also accept any proposals the department made to help solve the crime problem.

Of course, the bribe was accepted, and the representatives from the Department of Corrections began working on what to do about the amount of crime. After much debate, they settled on extreme measures to cut down on

crime and save money.

Class A crimes, such as kidnapping, result in a public beheading. Class B crimes, such as 2nd degree murder, would be punished with a hanging. Class C, voluntary manslaughter, is punished with the "good old" electric chair. A Class D felony, such as child exploitation, results in a hand getting chopped off. Finally, a Class E felony, such as abandonment of a child, is punished with a year

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Governor Grice addresses press

Dale Owen
Newman, Patton

"I don't really like Eisenhower County," said the Governor during a press conference. He answered many questions thrown at him by the newspaper staff, some serious and some not.

When asked about current legislation, the Governor answered (jokingly), "We are looking at legislation for putting a price on free speech, ten dollars for

each infamous statement against the human race." He also told the press what kind of statements he was focusing on. He said, "It's on the word 'basically' if you're curious."

However, he also provided a serious answer. Grice stated, "Everything on the platform is taking a backseat to the natural disaster." The Governor does have a plan to help the state.

"The government gave \$3000 to the disaster fund, but counties will need to help pay. The water-tow-

er destruction will be covered by the Water Board. We're also sending representatives to the different PACs," said the Governor. He also mentioned government subsidies for those devastated by the tornadoes in southeast Boys State.

Governor Grice revealed his opinion about the attack on his illegal immigrant legislation, "I feel that his words are desensitizing the Holocaust. He wants to compare my legislation on illegal immigrants to the death of

six-million Jews."

The Governor simply answered "No comment" when asked about the projects for Jurassic Park and a space port. He also denied any responsibility for the devastation caused by the disaster. He believes someone may have framed him.

In the best interest of the welfare of the state, the Governor is placing all his effort on disaster relief. However, a little joke here and there helps him retain his sanity.

Thom

from page 1

the heart of each issue. What I am most proud of, is the simple fact that we never hold anything back, and we deliver the uncut truth to the fullest extent. In my opinion, the papers that we have created this year, are the cornerstone of the direction of the Stater's Union. With such a tool as the media, it is only a learning tool for men our age to recognize the magnitude of power that words can have.

In closing, my hope is that the future staffs of this paper carry on our tradition of brutal, honest journalism, and have a hard nose for giving everyone the opportunity to hear what they need to hear. Finally, love it or hate it, this paper has been a source of knowledge this year. We never let a story intimidate us, and never let verbal thrashings stop us. We've been honored to serve you all, and we appreciate your support throughout the week.

Your Editor-In-Chief,
Curtis Thom

Fun at Union

from page 2

gram. It is the bridge between Boys State and reality, and hopefully we can all find some souvenir to carry with us over this bridge. I wish you all the best in your life across the bridge, and if you ever need anything you can always rely on your Boys State friends, Counselors, Advisors, Mentors, and Legionnaires. We're all pulling for you.

Courts

from page 2

al from the contract was because the Assistant Attorney General, who is also from Whorley, was also involved in the pact. The Attorney General John Davis was informed by a score of witnesses of the meeting between the two counties' judges. Attorney General Davis was planning to arrest the Seitz County judges for "obstruction of justice." The MacArthur judges would be key witnesses against the Seitz judges.

As the two sides prepared to appear before the Supreme Court, Montoya took hostage Supreme Court Justice Omeid Se-

raifi-Pour. The two disappeared and Attorney General Davis was unable to present his case.

Assailant

from page 3

really need to pick that up..." Yet, I was tired so I left it.

When my county had finally returned from lunch, they were confronted with their rooms destroyed, and absolutely no answers. Hearing that I was on the floor at the time, I was then surrounded by an angry mob holding a burning object, and various farming equipment. After calming the crowd down, I told them that the assailant was hailing from Bradley County, but I listed Powell County as a possible suspect. Chaos ensued, and monotonous events occurred that lead to absolutely nothing. Once again, isn't that what you can expect from the last day at Boys State.

While the fact that they trashed everyone's room was horrible, I must voice my praise for them actually having the decency to allow me to continue sleeping, 'cause, as we all know, I was tired.

Mental Hospital

from page 3

When told about Janssen City's plan, Icenogle quickly supported it. After a little planning, the Department of Health settled on building the hospital in Janssen. Janssen and Icenogle would pay for the rezoning, while the other cities and the CCC would fund the hospital.

All said and done, MacArthur and Marshall received a greatly needed mental hospital.

*Staters Union Staff**Editors*

Editor-in-Chief

Curtis Thom-
Whorley, Seitz

Layout Editor

Caleb Kersenbrock-
Chastain, Eisenhower

Advertising Editor

Micah Ankenman-
Spigarelli, Powell*Staff Writers*John Kurtz-Aylward, Bradley
Peter Delnero-Haney, Kennedy
Michael Chang-Johnson, MacArthur
Carey Gabbert-Kyle, Marshall
Dale Owen-Newman, Patton
Wesley Eckols-Schmidt, Pershing
Riley Ross-Harris, King

Letter to Editor from page 5

realization of exactly what boys state meant to us.

To me and many of the 16 men, boys state is life changing. It takes at least 600 men and makes them equals. It takes these 600 or more individuals and through camaraderie, the marching, the campaigns, their county pride, the military components makes them one united state. It forces all of us to dig deep into ourselves and find out who we are. It takes 600 or more men and makes them display their true selves.

In short boys state teaches these 600 or more men that, in my opinion, politics really isn't about the issues about people and how they interact.

Boys state has evoked more change in me in 4 days than anything i've done in 17 years. It has given me a support network of other men to reach out to. Last night boys state gave me 16 shoulders to cry on. To put it simply, boys state has given me everything i put into it and more. It

has made me a man that i am proud of.

And to all the blue, yellow, and maroon shirts: thank you. You don't know how much of an impact you have had in the staters' lives. A special thanks to jake and matt, you truly are men that i feel are some of the best role models that i could have ever asked for. Thank you so much for what you have done for me.

Kyle Nuckolls,
Aylward, Bradley

Religion from page 5

which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections." Clearly Merriam-Webster defines a democracy as a system of government where citizens directly have say in laws, bills, and other areas of importance.

Merriam-Webster defines a republic as: "a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law." This means that this system of government

makes use of elected officials and representatives who handles the laws, bills, and areas of importance for the citizens. They are held responsible by the citizens who they must represent. Only one nation has been able to pull off a successful true democracy. Only the city-state of Athens was a true democracy. Large populations prevent modern nations from being true democracies.

Boys State has been a perfect example of democracy and republics at their best. The election of officials is democratic while the structure of Boys State is a republic. The democratically elected officials represent the wants and needs of the citizens of this fine Boys State. As we this week are a republic, so is the United States. We have democratically elected officials who represent the wants of their constituents.

Religion is a vital part of the United States of America. Our current success is a direct result of our fore fathers' work. To remove religion would be to remove our national strength. Also, understanding the form of government your country of citizenship simply adds to

the experience of Boys State.

Crime from page 6

of "abusive chain gang". Although these new punishments are harsh, the department feels that they are necessary to cut down on crime and save money. The punishments will clean out prisons and allow some of them to be shut down. They will also be a deterrent to all crimes in the state. The Department of Corrections might not be totally honest, but they are doing what they think will be the best for the state.

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.

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.