

# American Legion Boys' State of Kansas Staters Union

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## Political debates causes doubt

Peter Del Nero  
Haney, Kennedy

Many Staters agree that yesterday's political debates were tepid at best.

"I was not impressed with either party," Korey Carter said. "They were not consistent with their platforms, they shared the same ideas, and they didn't seem knowledgeable. It seemed like they were making up answers, which makes it scary, the possibility of them

being in power. Overall I was very unimpressed."

According to Staters, John Grice did a better

job according to their syllabus, which often included consistency with party platform and knowledge on issues.

"[Grice's] answer [to evolution] was really good. It fit both sides of this issue and was very diplomatic," Alex Earles said. "I am a Nationalist

precinct committeeman, but I had to agree that the Federalists were more united and knowledgeable on their party platform."

"I was disappointed that the platforms were so similar," Adam Steen said.

Ji Liu, the Nationalist candidate for Lt. Governor, sparked murmurs when he said that we can't control the weather, but we need to control the weather. His awkward

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## Former Stater Svaty makes return

Curtis Thom  
Whorley, Seitz

The return of former Stater Josh Svaty was one that was accepted, and also appreciated by the masses, after finishing his speech about his previous experience.

A member of the House of Representatives, Svaty was a member of the 1997 session of Boys State.

"My time that I spent here, was one that has

truly molded me in the person that I am today. Boys State takes a tool that is used to teach young men about politics, and places it in front of a backdrop of fun, and friendship," Svaty stated.

While Svaty noted that the overall makeup of Boys State is the same, he also stated that the focus of issues have changed drastically since his time as a Stater.

"There is more atten-

tion on issues. In my experience, the Senate has never dealt with such important issues."

When asked how the Boys State stint prepared him for his present job as a Representative, Svaty replied, "it helps display how every one is involved, in one way or the other, to ensure the success of every level of the

government."

Svaty captured the crowd's attention early, with his energy, and his

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## Sports Statistics

30000  
 Brinkley 3, Feltner  
 Brinkley 3, Feltner  
 Kennedy 1, Feltner  
 King 2, Galt 2  
 Marshall 2, Marshall 0  
 Marshall 0  
 Marshall 10  
 Brinkley 21  
 Kennedy 00  
 King 21  
 Marshall 00  
 Marshall 00  
 Galt 00  
 Marshall 2  
 Patton 10  
 Patton 0  
 Patton 0  
 Patton 0  
 Brinkley 7, Feltner  
 Brinkley 1, Feltner  
 Patton 2, Kennedy 2  
 Marshall 7, Marshall 6  
 Galt 0000  
 Brinkley 20  
 Brinkley 11  
 Kennedy 1  
 King 02  
 Marshall 02  
 Patton 1  
 Patton 02  
 Galt 20  
 Marshall 1  
 Patton 20  
 Galt 0  
 Brinkley 4  
 Brinkley 10  
 Kennedy 8  
 King 2  
 Marshall 10  
 Patton 0  
 Patton 2  
 Galt 0  
 Marshall 14  
 Patton 1  
 Table Tennis  
 Brinkley 2  
 Brinkley 12  
 Kennedy 14  
 King 20  
 Marshall 2  
 Patton 8  
 Patton 8  
 Galt 14  
 Marshall 8  
 Patton 5  
 Chess/Starling  
 Brinkley 20  
 Brinkley 08  
 Marshall 08  
 Patton 04  
 Galt 00  
 Patton 40  
 Marshall 47  
 Kennedy 42  
 Patton 36

## Swapping treasurers

Dale Owen  
Newman, Patton

Everybody heard the announcement of the primary candidate winners. Everyone heard the name of the Federalist State Treasurer primary winner, Blake Kramer. He didn't win though, a simple mix-up swapped Blake's name with the real State Treasurer candidate winner, Ryan Miller.

During the primary elections, the Federalist ballot included the name

of Blake Kramer as a candidate. Miller actually spoke, and told everyone that his name should replace Kramer, but Blake received the praise for an election. Unfortunately, the office did not receive information about the change. When the ballots went through the computer, a name associated with the winning number appeared on the printout.

"I was kinda pumped. I won when I didn't speak," Kramer stated. Miller felt differently.

Since he told the Federalist he had replaced Kramer, Miller should have been standing on the podium with the other primary winners.

"I was pretty much pissed, and then I cooled down. Once they said his name, I pretty much knew what happened," said Miller. Boys State staff soon released a memo with a fix, replacing Kramer with Miller.

Kramer nearly

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## Speakers inform Staters in Town Hall

Michael Chang  
Johnson, McAurthur

Staters were presented with a special treat yesterday. The Town Hall meetings took place at Cardwell and three speakers, each representing a branch of the government, were present to speak about their respective areas.

From the Legislative Branch, was Josh Svaty. Svaty is a former Stater who currently holds the position as the youngest

member of the House of Representatives.

He was interested in politics at a young age, and was inspired to run for a position after his senior year of college, when a candidate made him angry. He began his career in 1997, and his early start in politics makes him a role model for Staters.

"My favorite speaker was Josh," said Camron Thissen. "It was mainly because he was closer to our age so we

could relate better to him."

Svaty is in charge of two counties and serves for the 108<sup>th</sup> District. He works in four committees: the utilities, budget, environment, and agriculture. Since his House position duties only last from January to May, he spends the rest of his time on his family farm.

His basic message for the Staters

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# Diversity in platforms needed

Curtis Thom  
Whorley, Seitz

A single vote is a sacred thing. That single vote is an extension of one person's beliefs and moral values. Everyone is given one voice and that can be unified into a single voice to speak for a vast amount of people. With recent events such as yesterday's debate, many voters have been left to wonder if their vote is actually a matter of importance.

Speaking with others, I have gotten the distinct impression that many were largely upset with the diversity offered by both parties. When one decides to take on the important task of governor one of his many responsibilities is to create a space between him and his opponent. This space that I mention has yet to be seen, or is very vague to the common person. This leads to

groups that have the same principles and direction. With such a common ground being held by both parties, voters were then forced into voting for the candidate that they believed to be more charismatic, ending with Staters wondering if their vote was cast for the correct opponent.

With the Grice administration cashing in on an unappealing debate on both sides, many are left awaiting Grice to

prove his worth in the Governor position. With a large set of problems waiting to be resolved, it is now time for our Governor to "put up or shut up." Grice must silence his critics, and prove his ability as the leader of this state. While he is highly capable, he must now tackle his most important task, displaying that his trust is well deserved, and prevails over his doubters.

## Voices and opinions overlooked in state procedures

Corey J. Gabbert  
Kyle, Marshall

They may not realize it, but the generous benefactors of Boys State are generalizing the attending population. They unknowingly assume that just because most of the people here believe in one concept, that everyone believes in that concept.

Although the program is one of the most true-blue, American organizations, they

have unintentionally been neglecting America's biggest defining standard, pleasing not just the majority, but pleasing the minority as well.

It's quite a balancing act, but just because doing the right thing is hard, such as practicing equality, it has never stopped America from doing it. Equality IS America. Many aspects of the desired equality have been overlooked.

We only pray under one religion here at state, which is Christianity,

yet there are several Staters that aren't of the Christian faith. Although there is a large number of Christians attending, not everyone is a Christian. This way of praying is not equal to everyone, and it suggests that the Christian religion is superior to others.

It may not be that big of a deal to some, but in several of the speeches and public announcements speakers have been talking about the boys here having girlfriends waiting

at home. However nonchalant this small talk may seem, it may offend people that don't have or prefer to have a

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*Political*  
Word of the Day

**Word:**

*Meme*

**Definition:**

n : a cultural unit (an idea or value or pattern of behavior) that is passed from one generation to another by nongenetic means (as by imitation); "memes are the cultural counterpart of genes" ex: raising ones hand when a yes or no question is asked to a group; the questioner may not request a show of hands, but it is a reflexive gesture in such a situation.

Food Schedule  
Wednesday**Lunch:**

BBQ pork ribs on a bun  
Grilled cheese sandwiches  
Carrot coins  
Onion rings  
Chips  
White rice

**Dinner:**

Garred roast beef and gravy  
Chicken tenders and dipping  
sauces  
Broccoli rice casserole  
Lyonnaise potatoes  
White rice  
Green peas

## Powell county proposes to improve

Press Release  
Powell County

As the Powell county commission, we have decided that it is in the best interest to repair all of the damaged roads in the county. This includes a bridge that is heavily damaged and has been

closed for two months. We are confident that the repairs made on these roads will improve the safety and the economy situation here. Without the needed repairs there is an increased risk of accidents, and less

travel on the roads. Less travel on the roads means less business for the county, therefore decreasing the economy. It is obvious that changes are needed and we need your support.

## Opinion

## State can enlighten

Carey J. Gabbert  
Kyle, Marshall

Boys State is an underestimated establishment. Young people can get quite a bit out of this experience, but not just fond memories and leadership skills. I'm talking money here, lots of it, through scholarships, grants, etc. Colleges and universities have been known to award a fair amount of money to those who have attended Boys State. They have awarded even large amounts to people who have made a substantial impact on the camp, such as getting elected as the

governor. This stuff is very possible; the job just needs to get done.

However, several of the boys aren't taking advantage of this opportunity. It's only been a couple of days since the curriculum has been handed out, and already there have been reports of fooling around, and mocking of the system. A strip club has been built, money has been embezzled, and many more ignorant things have been done. Some of these guys are treating the simulation likes it's a game, feeling free do whatever it is they want. Sure playing conquer the world is fun, and building a Death

## King county offers highway

Press Release  
King County

The poles are open for the King county highway. Support our cause to increase property value and raise economic revenue throughout

King county This major highway will provide a quick and effective way for industrial workers to travel.  
When? Friday morning at 11:00 a.m.  
Where? King county commons

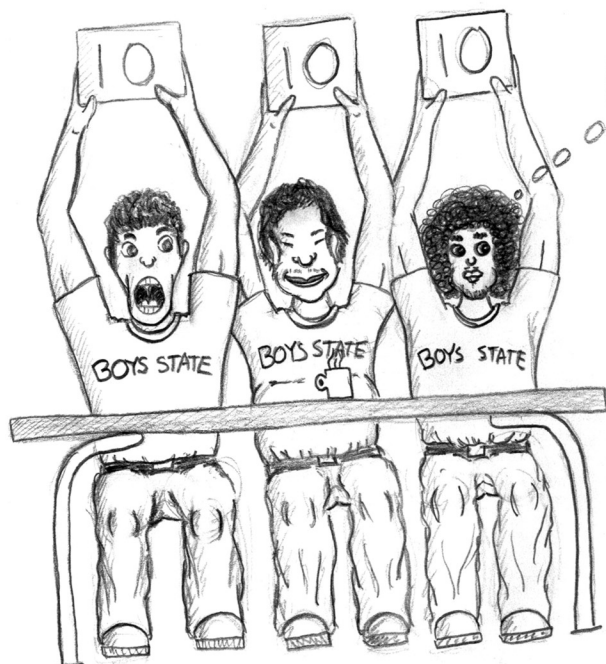
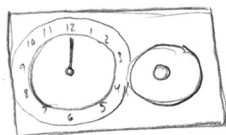
Star using state funding sounds intriguing, but that is not what they're here to do. The reason their parents/schools have sent them here is to participate in a program that teaches them extremely valuable skills, to prepare them for their future, and to get some help paying for college.

Another aspect of the situation that Staters are being so naive about, is the way we are treating the staff. Numerous people have put countless

hours into preparing this program for them. Little known fact: 51 weeks out of every year Boys State is being prepared for, and the other week is when the program is going on. Concerned adults have put all this time in for a reason. Is it right to sit around playing childish games during the valuable time so selflessly put into the program for the Staters?

It's only a  
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BOYS STATE

DAY: 5

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# Precinct committee revises platforms

Riley Ross  
Newman, Patton

Tuesday morning was a morning of hard debate and last minute changes for the Precinct Committees and their platforms.

All in all, the Nationalists kept the same platform. Evolution was the subject that was affected by change. It was officially decided that evolution should stand as a single option in education. This was

done to show the parties strict ideals on separation of religion and state.

The Federalist Party's platform remains the same, but becomes extra defined. The Federalists are completely against abortion in all cases, rape or otherwise. There stand point here is that it's not the child's fault, therefore its life shouldn't be terminated. They support the death penalty where it is available and practical. However, they do not believe in

the death penalty for juvenile use. One more thing became indefinitely distinct, the punishment for employing illegal immigrants was set at an ideal amount of around \$1500 per worker found. There will also be a myriad of random checks by some department (there was talk of highway patrol as well as local police) in order to catch these workers in a more efficient manner.

Since these platforms can be great tools, it was

thought that people should be informed of any changes or advancements. Now that the elections are over, it wouldn't be a bad idea to keep checking up on the candidates, their platforms, and promises. Make sure they go through with their promises, and if they don't, voice your opinion, after all that's what the simulation is all about.

# Federalists nearly sweep elections

Dale Owen  
Newman, Patton

Yes, it is true. Save one position, the Federalist Party swept the general election. Such a sweep required strong support by voters from both parties. How did the Federalists acquire the votes? A strong, continuous platform ensured them the win.

Governor Grice said it himself, to win would require unity. During the debates, that is exactly what the Federalists

accomplished. The Federalists stood united on their platform, and each knew his stance. Governor Grice was strong in his positions and didn't waver, supporting all his stances with straight, knowledgeable answers.

By uniting his party, the governor accomplished exactly what he set out to do. The election results say it all, a Federalist sweep.

Governor Grice said this about the sweep: "We've got a lot of good guys on the cabinet, and even though we do have

a Nationalist on executive staff, it's good to get some outside ideas."

Once again, the general election winners are:

Governor- John Grice, Federalist

Lt. Governor- Alexander Barbuto  
Secretary of State- Stuart Warkentin, Federalist

State Treasurer- Ryan Miller, Federalist

Commissioner of Insurance- Gaarret

(bowtie) Blasé, Federalist

Attorney General- John Davis, Nationalist

## 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.

**Svaty from page 1**

knowledge of current events. Attributing to his success was the fact that he was just a kid. At 26 years old, Svaty gained momentum, by relaying the fact that he was not much older than the Staters that were listening to him deliver his speech.

With such an impressive track record at such a young age, Svaty has given hope and inspiration to many Staters to pursue their dream, no matter what age.

**Minorities from page 3**

girlfriend. Though several people may not agree

with these peoples beliefs, this is what's real. This is America, and there will always be a minority. Take a second and put the feelings and viewpoints of everyone aside, and think on the fact that for this program to be the greatest and most unique one it can be, it has to be real. Not everyone in Kansas is Christian, and not everyone in Kansas prefers to have a girlfriend, but these peoples' beliefs should be acknowledged and respected just the same.

The Kansas program was complimented on being the only program in the U.S. that uses its' states' real statistics during the simulation. For example, Kansas is 60% conservative and

40% liberal, making the conservatives the majority party. The staff has gone through the trouble to make this apply to our simulation as well. No other Boys' State program practices this. The goal is to make this simulation as real as possible.

This problem is not really anyone's fault. The matter has just accidentally been overlooked. I'm not saying we should not pray. There are ways to pray as a group without everyone praying in the same religion, such as taking a moment of silence and personal reflection. There are ways to represent both people with girlfriends and people without.

Saying "significant other" or friends and family may be used in place of the reference to girlfriends. As a part of this great country we call America, Kansas will only continue to become more and more diverse. It's a part of our future, and the sooner we accept these diversities, the better we can make Kansas.

**Repercussions from page 4**

couple of days into the program, Staters. There is almost an entire week left to change the way some things have been started around here. The unofficial slogan of Boys State has come to be "You get from Boys State just as much as you put into it."

# ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR CRUM!

**THE CITY OF CRUM OF EISENHOWER COUNTY HAS  
PROCLAIMED TO BE THE OFFICIAL CAPITAL OF  
BOYS STATE**



*Debates*

from page 1

pause in his first response also stirred whispers.

"He reminded me of people in a spelling bee, when they freeze up," Carl Hollingsworth said. "I felt bad for him, standing up there with nothing to say, but that's part of the game."

According to several Staters, presentation played a larger role in the success, or lack thereof, in the debates than the issues themselves.

"They were unprepared for the questions; although the Federal Governor [candidate] did very well. The Nationalist Lt. Governor [Ji Liu] blanked out, and that really turned me off from the party," Aaron Cherney said.

A multitude of inconsistencies accompanied several of the answers. Tyler Thompson's stand on ethanol research proposed a text-book begging-the-question logical fallacy when he said that "eventually research will prove

ethanol is more reliable."

"Some stuff made sense, some didn't," Hollingsworth said.

Cohesive language further influenced the debate. In other words, some Staters did not know what the candidates were saying.

"I didn't understand a lot of questions and answers because of the big words and fancy lettering," Michael Klaassen said. "They should have talked more to the common people, because if I couldn't understand them, I probably did not vote for them. Just say what you want to say."

With confidence pending in the newly elected government, it appears that the voting yesterday was a selection of the better public speaker.

*Treasurers*

from page 2

snagged a candidacy without ever campaigning. A simple miscommunication nearly lost Miller his rightful place.

Kramer admits, "I was crushed when they told me I didn't win, so I hope now that the Nationalist guy wins."

Miller merely hopes another tiny mistake does not occur.

*Town Hall*

from page 2

was to get involved. He emphasized getting involved in someone's campaign to build relationships for the future.

"He [Svaty] was very energetic and dynamic and kept the audience's attention," exclaimed Patrick Kuhn.

Representing the Judicial Branch was Judge Pierron, who has been working for the Kansas Court of Appeals for 15 years. He grew up in Olathe and attended Rockhurst University for his undergraduate degree and later attended KU for law school. For the past ten years, Judge Pierron has been making the three-hour trek from Olathe to speak at the Boys State Town Hall meetings.

Judge Pierron began with the history of politics dating to the fore fathers. He then drew on the audience to participate. He created a mock Supreme Court case that was over the drug testing of public

candidates in Georgia.

"I really liked Judge Pierron's presentation," said Ben Cummins, Johnson, MacArthur. "He got us more involved, which made us pay attention. Plus, the Judiciary Branch interests me the most."

Aaron Otto was the speaker from the Executive Branch. He is the Legislative and Policy director for Lieutenant Governor John E. Moore. Otto is a graduate of KSU, and graduated from George Washington University with a Master's Degree. He was employed in the Navy for four years before joining Governor Kathleen Sebelius' staff.

Otto focused on relationships, showing their importance in his grandfather's relationship with a friend, and how they benefited.

All three speakers gave first-hand accounts political life. They all focused on themes that have proven vital in their lives and will be important to Staters.