

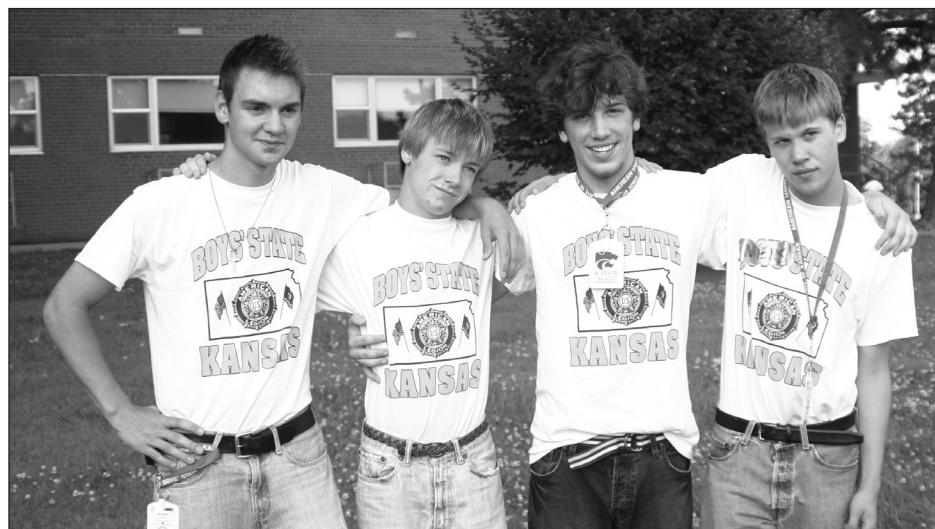
American Legion Boys' State of Kansas Staters Union

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Staters choose Nation delegates

2007 Delegates



The four Boys' State delegates take a moment together after being selected to attend the event, held later this summer in Washington, D.C.

Thomas Gregory
Bradley

Paul Baumgardner
Eisenhower

Alternates

Jeremy Harding
Pershing

Logan Keener
Powell

Letting Loose: Staters celebrate at student union

Emmanuel Perez
McCoy, Patton

For the last day of Boys' State, the staters had the opportunity to go to the K-State Union for many activities. This is a reward for the staters for all the hard work they have done all week. There was a variety of things to do to satisfy every taste. These included sports and movies.

For the sports fans there were many indoor sports. One of these was bowling. When everyone arrived at the student union, most people went straight into the bowling lanes to save seats. Another sport was ping pong. This activity was the other must sought after sport.

For those who were not interested in sports there was other activities. There was an arcade for those who were willing to spend some money. Also, there was a presentation of the (very bad) movie *We are Marshall*. At first there was not a lot of people in the theater but by the end of the movie the auditorium was nearly full.

Overall, it was a nice way to end the week. After a week full of hard work, it was nice to get some time to relax by bowling or watching a movie, no matter how bad it was. This is the cherry on top of all the memories that were created by Boys' State.



A stater waits as a bowling ball sails toward pins in the bowling alley in the K-State Student Union.

June 16, 2007

Oddball tactics keep staters on their toes

Jamie Kite

Bluemke, Bradley

Absolute insanity. That's the only way to describe the 24 hours here at Boys State. It seems that all of the staters have decided to try to go out with a bang (some quite literally). All that the staters and staff have worked for may seemingly fall to pieces in the much anticipated last days of Boys State, but simultaneously the drugs, assassinations and pranks galore have helped relax tensions among staters and staff.

Even early on in the week, many staters were characterized by an intense desire to bend the rules. By the end of Monday, the first full day of camp, over \$1000 had already been embezzled by the Farmers Alliance. Briberies were made; after being on the newspaper staff for roughly 30 minutes, I was bribed by two staters, one of whom would rise to a high office in the state. No money was exchanged, but it was the first event of its kind that would become very common as the week dragged on.

In the past one and half days, the staters have been on a mission to top their peers in every manner conceivable. We've

seen see **Arrests** on page 3



Tim Lemm, IT counselor, cringes as he is arrested on charges of drug trafficking. He was released short time later.



Staters Union

Staff:

Staff Writers:

Jamie Kite	Bluemke, Bradley
Emmanuel Perez	McCoy, Patton
Shawn Schaller	Icenogle, MacArthur
Spencer Lickteig	Harris, King
Matt Picht	Chastain, Eisenhower
Joseph Bridgewater	Gardner, Kennedy
Joshua Donaldson	Schulz, Powell
Spencer Harding	Whorley, Seitz

Editor N Chief: Jonathan Shorman
Raymond, Pershing
Layout Editor: David Kohman
Lane, Marshall



Stater's Union layout editor David Kohman was arrested Friday afternoon by the Highway Patrol. He was not charged with drug trafficking, however, because he was actually serving a decoy in the sting operation which was connected to the arrest of Counselor Tim Lemm.



from **Arrests** on page 2 t h i s while

marching, while in respective offices, in the cafeteria, and everywhere in between. Counties have built parks, hospitals, colosseums and the world's tallest building just to top the others. Case in point: Bradley vs. Eisenhower. Eisenhower thinks that they're the best county because they win more banners than Bradley. Bradley knows they're better because they're the trend setters of Goodnow and probably the entire state (chair bombs, floor jumps, the funniest jodies, etc.). But, overall its about proving that the friendships and

esprit de corps that guys have developed has somehow made them better than any of the other inferior counties.

In the end, the week went out on a sarcastically, brazenly disobediant note. Drugs were trafficked by more than a few "honorable" individuals; even one of the Staters Union own was busted for cocaine possession. I can personally testify that there are drugs hidden in Eisenhower County, and even Tim the Bank Teller was arrested by the highway patrol for drug trafficking. Technically, everyone at Boys State is dead because C4 was detonated in both Goodnow and Marlatt, and unfortunately none of those responsible can be

tried because the entire Supreme Court was assassinated. The governor's title was changed to "Princess Tabias," and all of those in appointed positions are now the "Knights that say: NI !"

All in all, I think that the chaotic behavior of staters was forged from the great friendships that guys have made and memories that will last for years to come. Everyone wanted to leave their mark on this pseudo-society, and with relaxed tensions and responsibilities during the last two days, staters creativity and stored up energy combined to make for some of the funniest and mostmemorable pranks and camp moments.

June 16, 2007

Departments angered by Governor's absence

Matt Picht

Chastain, Eisenhower

The scheduled governor's address to the governmental Departments had to be postponed for half an hour today when the Governor did not show up. Department heads had gathered to discuss with the governor their primary plans and how they would fit into the governor's overall administration. Departments were also looking for support for different pieces of legislature and for

projects.

When the governor remained missing at 10:10, vocal dissent began to rise from the department representatives. The general feeling of the representatives was that they were being neglected by the governor. They felt that the governor has certain responsibilities that should not be neglected.

"If he can't show up on time, should he be the governor?" asked Kyle Straton

The governor was able to conduct a truncated version of the meeting when he

finally did arrive. He states that dealing with legislation in the House and Senate kept him from attending the meeting in a timely fashion.

The governor also believes that he was able to accomplish the main goals of the meeting, and felt that the department representatives were able to express their plans and projects to him. However, numerous department representatives also expressed regret that they did not have more time to talk with the governor.

State in Perspective: Staff view

Spencer Lickteig

Harris, King

When everyone came to Boys' State, the first thing that we did was stand in line. The second thing we did was get introduced to the first staff member of a long list, the first taste of the rest of the week, Rex Gardner. Rex opened up the introduction with kind words, a sense of care, and needed humor. He has shown the social effects of magic tricks, dislocated joints, and relating to everything that the teenage mind can think up. The entire staff has accepted us into their lives and looked after us to make sure we are having the week to change a lifetime. The 70th addition of Boys' State is coming to

close, how did they think it went?

The first answer that Rex gave to the question of the overall quality of this year was that it went extremely well and he is always amazed at how into the simulation the Staters get. Simulation wise, Rex said it was pretty standard and straight-forward, yet the Staters all seemed to take it serious and enjoyed most of it.

"The spark in people's eyes, the excitement in their voice...it makes the entire thing worth it, year after year" said Rex.

Rex has been doing Boys' State for the last 35 years. Yes, that is officially half of the whole duration of the event. He continues

See **Staff** on page 9



Courtesy/Thane Chastain

Rex Gardner greets staters as they come into the Kramer complex at the beginning of every session of Boys State.

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Features

Staters Union

Goodbye, it's been real

Matt Picht*Chastain, Eisenhower*

It's been such a long week. The days flew by, but the hours and minutes piled up until Sunday seemed to be a distant memory from years ago. In a way, I suppose, it was years ago. Every stater has grown and matured by years since the start of this camp. The people that you know now at Boys' State are not the same people that you met at the start of the week. They have become a little more older, a little more thoughtful, a little more respectful, and a lot more enthusiastic.

This last week has been the busiest and most intense week of my life. From

seven in the morning to 1 AM, my whole week was packed with near-nonstop work and activities, and I'm sure I was not the only one. After all, we had to replicate the entire Kansas government in a few days. It was a hectic time.

And yet, I had a lot of fun. Whether it was barging into meetings of people working on serious government business for an interview, working on a story till way past midnight, singing raucous and really dirty jodies on the way to McCain, or just talking to people, I really enjoyed Boy's State overall. I didn't come into this program expecting anything in particular. I was depressed after the second day of marching. But after everyone really started getting into it, I started to be enthusi-

astic about Boys' State.

I had an awesome week, and I hope that everyone else did too. A lot of the fun I had this week came from the reporting of various events in the counties, PACs, and government. Playing semi-organized sports for the first time in a long time felt awesome. But for the most part, my fellow staters were what turned the experience from a good summer camp into an awesome, unforgettable week.

To everyone who reads the paper, thank you for your support. Just the fact that you made it this far into the column is praiseworthy. You are all awesome people, and I'm glad to be with you, here at the end of Boys' State.

AD PRICES

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June 16, 2007

What it takes to publish a newspaper

Emmanuel Perez

McCoy, Patton

When I attended a meeting at my school for information about Boys State and heard that it was like a politics camp I said that I didn't want to go. However, as soon as my parents heard this they started to tell me all the time that I should go because it would be a great learning opportunity. I still wasn't buying it, but after days and days of reminders about Boys State I finally gave in and decided to go even though I didn't really want to. So, I set out to find my sponsors, and then sent the application. When the information packet arrived and said that I had to run for some political office, I was not happy. Then I saw that there was a newspaper and that one person for each county was going to be selected to be a reporter. Then I thought, well since I got people to give me money to attend I might as well do something that I already know how to do, which is to write.

Pursue the truth behind the curtain

Jonathan Shorman

Raymond, Pershing

I'm tired.

Not in the "I wish I could take a nap right now" way. No, the force that wears me down is a deep fatigue that you feel in your bones. My usually quick stride while walking has become a measured step. The quick, witty banter that I love to engage in has become a mellow discourse.

Boys State is wearing me down.

At the very beginning of the week, when all of us were nervous, skeptical, and still sat at the edge of our chair, I made a quick decision to volunteer to be editor-in-chief. Because of my journalism experience, assuming a leadership role in that area seemed natural to me.

Because of that decision, I am now chronically sleep deprived. Remaining conscious at four in the morning, while trying to be productive, has proven to be a challenge. Every morning when I wake up and feel an ache in my bones, when my eyes droop as if tied down by weights, that is when I say "No more. Not again. There's no possible way I'm going to do the same thing again."

Yet I continued to do so. Why?

So, the first day came and the counties were suppose to elect their newspaper candidates. When the counselors asked who wanted to run for the position I raised my hand to be a candidate, but I ended up running unopposed because no one else wanted to be in the newspaper. Up to that point I thought that it was going to be easy, but later on that evening when we met for the first time, I realized that it would involve more hard work than I could have imagined.

Being in the newspaper staff means more than going somewhere for a couple of minutes, take some notes, and then write a couple of paragraphs. Sure you have to take notes, and write stuff, but it also requires other things. For once, you need physical strength to go from one place to another, climb the stairs, etc. Also, you have to be willing to do whatever is needed to publish your story. For example, if you are assigned to cover an event that happens during the evening, you have to take notes over the whole event and then come to the

newspaper office, type it, have it approved, edit it if needed, then fix everything, and save it. How long you stay up depends upon the length of the article and how long it takes you to write it.

Now, if you are the editor-in-chief or the layout editor, it is a completely different story. Both of these people have different duties. The layout editor has to stay up until the paper is completed because it is him who is responsible for the way the paper looks. The editor-in-chief also stays up until the paper is completed because he is the chief and must oversee the entire process.

This is what the newspaper staff does every day. Writing the newspaper does not take 30 minutes. If people complain about their specific duties as representatives, etc., they should be thankful that at least they get to go to bed early for most of the week because the newspaper staff has stayed up late for the entire week to be able to make a high quality newspaper to inform staters about the happenings in Boys State.

The answer came Monday evening.

The had been a busy news day. And all day, we had been trying to confirm rumors and hearsay in the embezzlement case. This was before the story had become public, before most people knew. We had dedicated one reporter to pursuing this story, and each time he returned to newsroom he brought new tales of off-the-record conversations and veiled threats. As evening came, I began to feel that we were starting to run into a wall. Nobody was stepping up. No one was willing to come forward. No one was willing to step out from behind the curtain of fear.

It was frustrating. There is nothing more frustrating as a journalist than not knowing the truth.

But then something happened. News broke. And it broke quickly.

It began when we obtained the bank records of Farmer's Alliance. That one piece of paper gave us the information we needed to allow us to begin to crack the case. There was a palpable energy in the room, a sense that our quest for truth would soon be fulfilled. It didn't matter that it was only a simulation. In that moment, the satisfaction of knowing the truth was just as great as it is in real life.

That's why I love my job. That's why I don't mind sacrificing the majority of my sleep for this paper. Moments like that make it worthwhile.

Those moments of enlightenment, those times when my mind goes from ignorance to knowledge in an instant, are what I love.

Boys State has given me several of these moments. Sometimes it was a piece of wisdom I had never heard before, or an off-hand conversation that drove home a point a counselor had made. Sadly, sometimes it was also realizing the hypocrisy that exists at Boys State, and the warped perception of values I occasionally saw. If I'm going to pursue the truth, I have to be willing to look the harsh, ugly truths about the world in the eye along with the pleasing ones.

That's one of the biggest lessons that's been reinforced in my mind this week. And I hope it's a lesson you will take away with you.

There's too much ignorance, too much closed minds, and too much oppression in the world to do anything else. Please pursue the truth of a situation.

Because the truth matters.

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Releases

States Union

Come
Visit Newman
in Patton Coun-
ty, Capital of
Boys State!

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to come back for one reason, because he has nothing better to do. Affecting the future of the leaders as much as he can, is the best possible use of his time, and nothing can be considered better than that. His favorite thing to do is to go outside of Boys' State and bring people back to it. Making people feel comfortable and relaxed at State is one of the main duties that Rex puts upon himself. Questioned about the origin of his magic tricks:

Rex replied "I use the magic tricks because it is the best ice breaker you can think of. Yet, the real magic is the smile and the look in the eyes of the people that see it."

The only thing that was specifically changed this year was the closing ceremonies, which they are testing out this year and may not use it in the future if it is not as powerful as they predict it will be. One of Rex's favorite parts of the end of State is the fact that there is a large amount of chaos due to unspent money. He says it shows a whole different kind of creativity and give the Staters a chance to show a little evil. With confronted with the two canceled days of rec, Rex simply responded that the kids didn't mind at all and probably enjoyed sometime to talk to their counties and get some much needed sleep. Rex commented on the Boys' Nation delegates as well as the quality of this year. He stated that before they go,

they must understand that they are not going for themselves but for their state and must represent it with pride and peerless honor.

In closing, Rex stated that he could not have envisioned a better year for the 70th anniversary then the one that took place. He is constantly astonished by how the government is set up at the end of each year, along with all the additions that were made in PACs, Departments, and the bills that are passed.

Rex concluded, "Boys' State is built by the Staters, for the Staters. I am just a witness that gets the pleasure of helping it move along. I couldn't ask for anything more."

Memories from MacArthur County

CJ Schaller

Icenogle, MacArthur

Remember the time Shawn Ellis and myself ran up and down Janssen City hallways yelling 'Ice Cubes!?' Or how about when Joey peed his pants in front of the entire nationalist party? The day the newspaper did the talk show segment with the Oil & Gas and Farmers' PACs and it turned into something similar to a Jerry Springer episode? Okay, maybe YOU don't remember these things, but I do. In Boy's State Camp, I'll be the first to admit that I've learned plenty. Until now I've actually attempted to avoid politics all together. Now I feel like I'm ready to go home and contribute to society. Overall, in my opinion at least, something tells me that this isn't the important part of Boy's State Camp at all, despite the fact that it is what Boy's State is based on. No, the other day when I had the opportunity to interview Mr. Chastain, I got the impression that he was relatively unconcerned about the politics, but actually

had a bigger picture in mind. In fact, he and the ENTIRE STAFF have a bigger picture planned... our picture.

The true focus of Boy's State Camp is fine-tuning important life skills. No matter how much you deny it, you've refined or maybe even acquired brand new life skills here at camp. Everything you've done here has had the potential to teach you something, it's just whether or not you seized the opportunity to learn from these things. Think about the memories that stand out to you, but think about more than just what you did. Think about why you did it. Shawn Ellis and I, for example, were repaying debt to, as well as expressing loyalty and pride to the place that has made camp so special for us. Joey was teaching everyone about motivational tactics, and that sometimes you just have to be shameless (and that a smile is as good as any type of motivation). Even the talk show segment opened our eyes to the often disagreeable real world.

You've probably made new friends (at least if you've tried) here, you've adapted

(temporarily) to a new lifestyle, you've accepted the stress and constant activity of having a career, and you've done it all independently, without help from your family. These are the things that the Staff has been trying to teach us (and in my opinion, they've done an excellent job of it), and so I hope you came here last Sunday with your mind open to knowledge and wisdom. If you have, I think you'll find it has been contently satisfied upon your ride home.

So go ahead, smile at the underwear your whole county wore outside there shorts. Chuckle each time you go into a restaurant and ask you if you'd like any more ice cubes in your drink. You should even laugh every single time you hear the words peanut butter. The important thing, however, is not to remember why they were funny, but why they were important to you.

This has been CJ Schaller, one final time saying, "Don't forget, I don't just report the action, I AM the action.", and thank you to everyone, especially to my fellow ice cubes, for making this a truly special experience that I'll never forget.