

American Legion Boys' State of Kansas Staters' Union

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Farmers allegedly tamper with finances

Jamie Kite

Bluemke, Bradley

"Taking what we want," the well known slogan for the Farmers' Alliance was called into question Monday after embezzlement accusations began to circulate. It is widely believed that the Farmers' Alliance has been transferring money from the accounts of other Political Action Committees into their own.

The Staters' Union appealed to the District Court of Patton County after allegations continued to circulate.

Upon examination of the Farmers' Alliance bank transaction records, the Staters' Union uncovered some (interesting/startling) information. At the time of this publication, the Farmers' Alliance account has a balance of \$2217.59, but nearly 60% of their funds have been acquired under questionable circumstances. Records show that the Oil and Gas Workers Organization donated \$500 to the Farmers' Alliance, an action the Oil and Gas Workers Organization denies ever being conscious of. The remaining \$800 apparently came from the Assembly for the Advancement of Minori-

ties, another group that denies ever being involved with the Farmers' Alliance in any financial matters. The Farmers' Alliance defends their organization by calling the "donations" just that: money consciously transferred from one group to another.

Rumors have begun to circulate about the process by which the Farmers' Alliance acquired the \$1300 in question. The most prevailing among these is the belief that a member of the Farmers' Alliance in some way acquired the bar codes of at least two other organizations and used those to transfer money from other PACs' accounts to their own. The Staters' Union staff received two different reports concerning the Farmers' account balances.

The first only revealed the total balance of the account: \$3717.59. The next, more detailed record showed all of the Farmers' transactions beginning Sunday. Strangely there is a \$1500 discrepancy between the first record and the second; one that does not appear in the official back records.

The Farmers' Alliance has issued reports of its own. One such report blames the \$500 deposit on a deal gone awry with the Oil and Gas Organization that the Farmers'

Alliance decided to keep.

The Oil and Gas Organization, on the other hand, has denied ever knowingly giving the Farmers

funds. The Farmers' simply referred to the Minorities' deposit as a donation but never offered any specific information as to its nature.

The Assembly for the Advancement of Minorities, however, denies ever dealing with the Farmers on any financial issues. The Farmers' Alliance feels that they have been antagonized by rumors and bad press and in response have had the unaccounted-for

\$1500 stolen from their account by someone attempting a sort of vigilante pay-back. The Farmers' Alliance also produced bank records of their own, but it should be noted that they lack references to the "donations" from the two other PACs.

Early Tuesday morning, the Staters' Union received more startling news about the Farmers embezzlement scam.

New reports indicate that the magnitude of this scandal may be greater than anyone

See Farmers on Page 8

Potter professes alternative energy reforms

Joe Bridgewater

Gardner, Kennedy

The primary candidates in the Nationalist party represented themselves very well today in the primary race. Education and social reform were the main topics of the speeches given. The general consensus of governor candidates on education was that education should be promoted very strongly by increasing the amount of funds in the schools, however one candidate separated himself from the pack by advocating a removal of public education. Most of the candidates came to

the conclusion that the current welfare program was in need of reform, but had many different ideas on the way to solve it.

The race to represent the Nationalist party as a potential governor was won by Andrew Potter. Andrew's main platform consists of a desire to pursue an alternative energy source in E-85 ethanol, and a desire to create a minority counsel that would be better able to identify abuses of minorities in society.

Mitchell Haverty, who was another candidate for the governor position said during his speech, "Education

will solve crime." Joey Stromberg was inspired by the opening speaker, Delano Lewis, and used this inspiration to promote an alternative energy source, and social and religious tolerance. Chris Goble followed suit with the other candidates on the welfare issue with the exception that he wanted to create a review committee for the welfare program. Phillip Grubb created the most controversy with his unique plan of eliminating public education. He did this in the hope that the money that would have been used

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Tidings from Justin Brokar

It is not my wish or anticipation to miss out on the 2007 Kansas Boys' State week. Last Wednesday, I celebrated one year of being involved in politics. It was one year ago that I became the County Campaign Chairman in Kiowa County. My home was in Greensburg where I turned out more voters than most counties and made sure certain that all my candidates won. Today, I am still working on campaigns but something changed the course I was taking. At the beginning of May when I was at State Speech, a Tornado ripped through my hometown. Everything I owned was taken in the destruction.

That is why I am writing to you today to inform you that I will not be able to attend this year's session. I was looking forward to sharing information about Greensburg to the delegates and running for my position. It is with determination that I look forward serving in a life of politics and government. I do hope to see many of the delegates involved and have a chance to meet some of them as I continue my work for the Republican party.

May this year's camp be blessed and flourish richly as young Kansas leaders are equipped with the skills everyone needs. It takes someone special to lead a county, a state, and

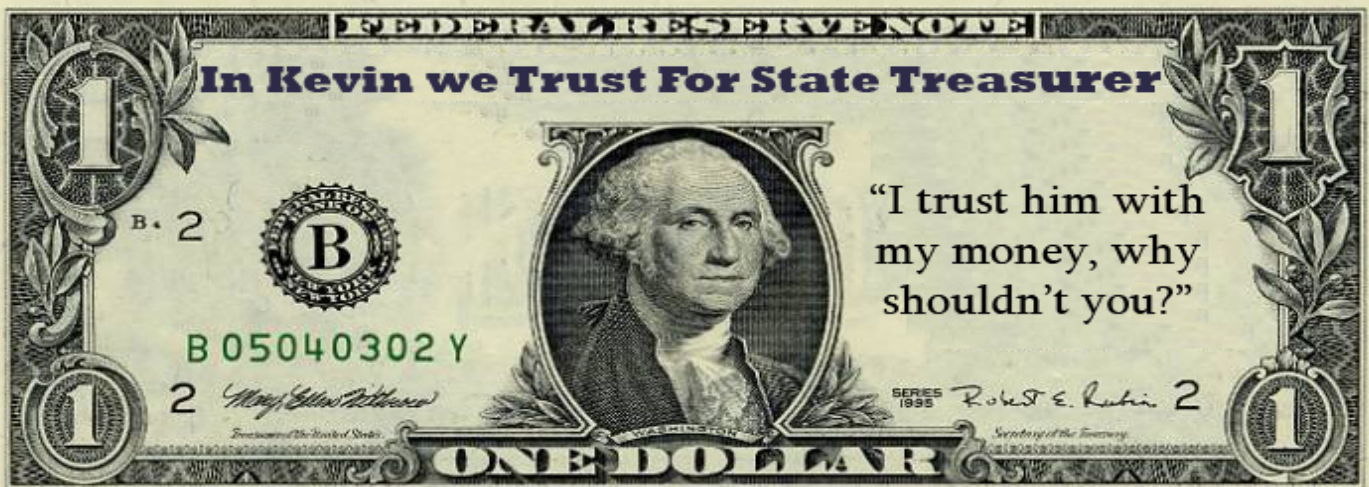
a nation. Not everyone can do it nor do many people feel fit to try. That is why it is important that everyone at State takes something small and turns it into a huge impact on their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity but I regret to inform you due to the tornado and having to take care of family and many issues, I will miss out this week.

Have a great program this year and in the future.

Sincerely,

Justin L. Brokar
Greensburg High Class of '08
Kiowa County, Kansas, USA



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Federalists adopt anti-nationalism

Matt Picht

Chastain, Eisenhower

Screaming staters filled the Umberger auditorium to the brim for the Federalist Convention held last night. Organized by the precinct committeemen and hosted by Matt Onstott, the convention was a huge success that skyrocketed the morale of the Federalists.

With music blaring, Onstott introduced the Federalist candidates running in the general election. Each candidate then gave a short address to the cheering staters, while precinct committeemen showered the audience with candy.

The night began with the introduction of the Lieutenant Governor Candidate, Jackson Shuttleworth from the city of Wiles in Sikes County. Shuttleworth was a former Federalist governor candidate, and will be running alongside current governor candidate Tabias Wilson.

In his address, Shuttleworth expressed his extreme confidence in his party.

"I think that there is no reason why we can't completely sweep this thing," Shuttleworth yelled to the audience.

The other candidates had the same message for the receptive staters.

"I've heard that there's never been a sweep at Boys' State before," said Commissioner of Insurance candidate Michael McClung. "This year, I think we've got a real chance."

The other candidates who spoke were Ben Roller (State Treasurer), Joe Blessing (Secretary of State), and Paul Baumgardner (Attorney General). Onstott kept the crowd excited throughout the night with jokes and cheers, and there was a real feeling that the election might be a sweep.

The Federalists also didn't neglect the opportunity to attack their competition.

"What do the Nationalists want? They want to raise taxes," said Ben Roller. "We are Federalists, and we don't want that."

The speeches and comments grew increasingly more anti-Nationalist, culminating in the final statement of Attorney Gen-

eral Paul Baumgardner.

Reflecting on his control over the jail system, Baumgardner stated, "We have about 60% Federalists and 40% idiots in this. We freakin' rock every vote in this room, and every Nationalist will be in jail!"

Added Onstott, "Given our views on the death penalty, they won't be in jail for very long."

Of course, the main highlight of the convention was the address delivered by governor-elect Tabias Wilson. Wilson used the opportunity to lay out his platform for the election.

"One of the big things we're dealing with is education..." Wilson stated. "Most of the counties do not even have schools built... the Nationalists pour money into education, but what good is it if they don't have schools?"

Tabias also described his other political plans, including his plan to intergrade ethanol 25% by the year 2025, a new three

See **Federalists** on Page 10

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1/3 PAGE - \$200

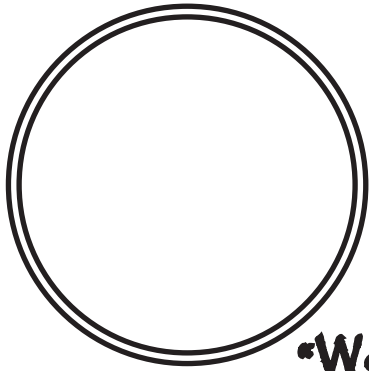


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Features

States Union



FARMERS ALLIANCE

"We take what we want"

- * Lower Taxes on low income workers**
- * Higher Taxes on oil to save the environment**
- * Support of Worker's Protection Act**

**MAKE THE RIGHT
CALL
VOTE FOR PAUL**

PAUL B. FOR ATTORNEY G.

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Ads

States Union

From Tobias:

Phase out welfare

- * Rehabilitate lower class
- * Education Reform
- * Official language English

For Governor

From Minorities:

Association
for the
Advancement
Minorities

- ~ Knows the issues best
- ~ Effective solutions
- ~ Great Education policies to develop minorities
- ~ Candidate promising to work for our cause specifically

Andrew Potter and Joey Stromberg

~ Nationalist Gubernatorial Candidates

"This is the party for YOU!!!"

Jeremy Harding: Attorney General Kevin Booker: Secretary of Treasury
Vincent Lau: Comm. of Insurance Dylan Works: Secretary of State

Odd habits of Staters exposed

C. J. Schalle

Icenogle, MacArthur County

In an effort to bring out the individualism in our staters, I, C. J. Schaller, went out and about and around the scene simply to see what makes these staters special. The feedback was truly surprising and somewhat troubling.

In a random poll of just more than 80 people, a startling 60-plus number of them could not think of any silly hobbies or even silly habits they have at all! A few of them had slightly unusual ones, but some of these seemed to repeat themselves throughout the campus henceforth making them less unusual. Personally, as you all well know, I'm just your standard, normal, everyday-amazing journalist, but even I have a bad habit or two (I tend to zone out in front of my mirror every morning and of-

ten spend extensive amounts of time in the bathroom). It seems, however, that within a select 25 percent or so of the staters, individualism still holds high importance, and uniqueness will never be shut out of society completely. From collections to jobs, from obsessive compulsive habits to completely useless rituals, the randomly questioned staters did have unique contributions to this human-interest portion of our paper. For example...

Four of the questioned staters have unusual collections. Zack Bahr of Powell county actually still retains a toenail he broke off in the third grade. Brian LeSage of King county collects artificial fly-fishing flies. Pershing County's Sean Leoni collects Jones Soda bottle caps. Even a counselor chipped in, as Jacob Wieneke (the MacArthur County Counselor, and rumored possible head of the notorious 'Ice

Cube' party [see the follow-up story in the Wednesday morning paper]) admitted willingly that he owns a set of plastic fast food knives.

Seven of our questionees owned up to interesting or simply ridiculous hobbies. Allen Herbert, a Kennedy County Counselor, actually has the privilege of learning to fly airplanes. People such as King County's Dong Kyu Lee, Brandon Montgomery, and Andrew Wojtanik prefer the less conventional routes and specialize in neck-flatulence sounds (ask him for a demonstration), whip-creaming people's faces, and captaining an International Geography Bee winning team, respectively. MacArthur County resident Spencer Boan enjoys climbing buildings in his spare time. Pershing's Zack Rebarck spends his time filling Wal-Mart carts with unusual items and abandoning them in convenient places throughout the store. Finally, yet another counselor, Jehovah H. Roosevelt of Seitz, can actually make his own pocket universes.

In the wierd career category, 2 young men have already dedicated their time to unique lifestyles. These people are King County counselor Andrew Rozenboom (into artificial insemination) and King resident Curtis Cancannon (a horticulturalist).

Clearing the table are those of unheard-of habits. MacArthur's Michael Mitchellson is simply a man with too many goals, and his friends report that he actually wants to pogo to Joplin, Missouri. Ike County counselor Justin Herron claims that he is late to absolutely everything he ever does. Last but not least, however, comes my personal favorite. A man, now known simply as '2 A.M. Dude', will set his alarm, every

see **Habits** on Page 10

LEGION VOICES

Kram Niawt
Advisor

"Why do you volunteer at Boys' State?"

"I enjoy the camaraderie and working with the young men, the leaders of our future. A great satisfaction!"
Legion Advisor Bill Wheeler

"I was in a war zone when I was 17. I made a wrong turn. I don't want to see the young men go in that direction. That's why I come here to help."
Legion Advisor Terry Watkins

"I find it inspirational. It renews my faith in America. I feel better going home for

having been here."

Kansas Department Rev. Jim Akers

"I volunteer for Boys' State because as a member of the American Legion, I want to be more than a 'card carrying member.' It has become a part of my life. I enjoy watching the young men change their lives."

Legion Advisor Larry Andrews

"I feel it is a very good program for our youth to become citizens in cities, counties and all over. It was worthwhile for me when I attended."

Legion Advisor Russ Whorley

"The boys are our future. We want to assure they are going in the right direction with a good education."

Legion Advisor Everett Budenbender

Marching Madness: Pride or problem?

Emmanuel Perez
McCoy, Patton

When I first heard about Boys' State from my school counselor, I thought that coming here would be a great opportunity for me to improve upon my leadership skills. Later on I found out that this is not just a brand new concept to teach young adults about citizenship, it is a place with a long and rich history full of traditions. Even though I knew that, I never thought that it would involve marching. I was surprised when I first heard of this, but I put it out of my mind quickly because when you are invited to someone's home you must try to follow the traditions of the house. So, when we were getting ready to march I was shocked to hear someone say, "Why are we doing this if we are not in the army?"

Boys' State was first created 70 years ago. Legionaire Russell Whorly, who was a stater in the 50's said that when he came, marching was already established and everyone just did it. However, as time passed, the meaning behind it started to fade away due to the changing personalities of people today. For example, parents today may complain that their kids might get too tired or get hurt if they march for long periods of time. To the people who think this I say: Get over it! Marching is not enforced here just because there is nothing to do. It is enforced, among the other traditions to teach kids how to become better citizens and be able to help their community and their country. This has been proven to be true. Some of the staters from previous generations have gone to do great

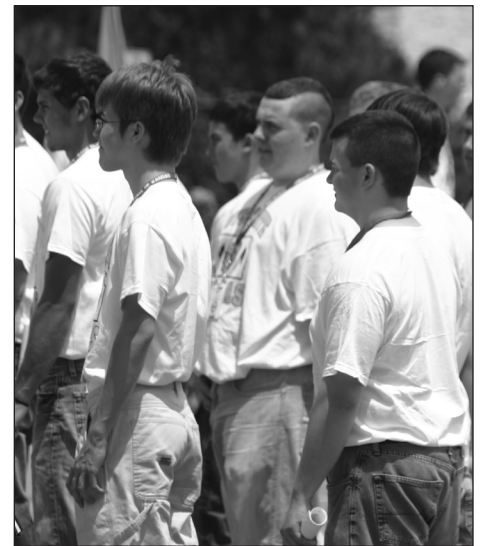
things for their country.

Marching is just one of the many things that are taught at Boys' State to make the staters become good leaders. However, they all work together to help people achieve this. One of the people who took advantage of all of this was Delano Lewis. Lewis was a stater in 1955. After that he became a lawyer, joined the Peace Corps, was C.E.O. of National Public Radio, was U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, and many other great things. Could he have done this without the encouragement from Boy's State? Probably. However, it gave him the courage to pursue a career and be someone that could make a difference in the world. Marching was one of the things that he benefited because while it may seem silly to walk together in lines and keep up with you companions it has a meaning behind it.

So, what's the point of marching? There are many possible reasons why it is enforced such as to keep order while going somewhere and make sure that staters do not cause mayhem around campus. But it has a deeper meaning. The meaning behind marching is to teach people about unity and staying together when it is necessary. Because of unity, U.S. Soldiers were able to raise the American flag in the island of Iwo Jima during World War II, and therefore symbolizing the victory of the U.S. This is one of the teachings that staters learn during Boys' State. And taking marching out would not only deprive staters of an important lesson, it may have the same effect as taking away gift giving out of the holidays, it would be rude because it is a tradition that people have gladly continued for many years.

What if every TV network in the world decided to stop broadcasting the Superbowl. It can be assumed that a majority of Americans would be enraged. Something similar may happen to the many generations of staters if marching was taken out of Boys' State. They would be sad to think that something that they learned a lot from was taken out and that future generations would not learn all the things that made them great citizens and leaders.

If there was an alternative to marching, and it was up to me to decide whether or not it will be used, I would not support it. Why? I think that we should do everything possible to learn how to become better citizens. Also, tradition should be followed, and if the staters are not willing to do so, the week would just be a waste of time. To those who do not agree with it, should just try to look at the positive side of things, and if not, just get over it.



Courtesy/ Luke Snyder

Staters pay close attention to counselors as they receive instruction on marching.

June 12, 2007

Brunner starts WPA *Farmers from* page 1

Spencer Lickteig
Harris, King County

Well the preliminaries are over, the winners announced, and the campaigns well under way. The main topics discussed by the candidates this year included use of tax dollars, education, alternate energy sources, and the commonly used Worker's Protection Act(WPA). Many Staters are familiar with all these issues except for possibly the WPA. What exactly is the WPA and why is it important enough to sway voters?

The idea for the WPA was originally put forth by a group of members of The League of Industrial Workers(LIW) who pooled together separate ideas and combined them to create it. The WPA is an economic idea centered around reorganizing the current welfare situation and increasing the overall standard of living in Kansas for everyone. The basis of this is the hope that the rich will stay rich while the poor get richer. This idea seems improbable in any real-life situation but support for the act has grown swiftly over the last day. Reasoning behind the support is due to the fact that it relates to both parties. Liberals will favor the act because it aides the poor community and Conservatives will like it for the welfare reform that the act provides.

Politically the WPA is being used in many campaigns and for some candidates even helping support their whole funding. The LIW has strongly backed some of the candidates for the general elections. Andrew Potter, Nationalist Governor candidate, has used the WPA as a central point in his strategy, is fully endorsed by the LIW. Along with Potter, others have used the idea of the WPA to get votes and to voice their opinions on the touchy subject of welfare. One of these is Joe Blessing, Federalist Secretary of State Candidate, who has been with

the idea of the WPA since its creation.

WPA is also heavily supported amongst the PACs of Boys' State. Other than the LIW, a few key PAC's have aligned with them to get the act approved at all costs. These parties include the Farmer's Alliance, Heritage Foundation, and the People for the American Way. These groups have supporting the same candidates as the LIW, and basically fully backing them in all they do.

Brandon Brunner, President of The League of Industrial Workers and main creator of the WPA, hopes that the act will decrease the need and use of bureaucracy in the state. He believes that if parents on welfare are allowed and given the opportunity to get jobs and therefore get off welfare all together. If this was possible and the citizens would take part in it, then the state would be able to use a large amount of money on something other than welfare. Brunner's vision consists of the children of these citizens following the example of their parents and soon past welfare families will be able to completely support themselves. The chance to support your family will hopefully be enough to convince them to get off welfare and begin the working life anew.

"Passing WPA makes jobs more attractive and more obtainable, this will then stop people from living off welfare and to start working for what they have and being proud of it" said Brunner.

The WPA may be the first major reform passed by the State's new government and may even affect who will be running that government.

*All the information presenting in this story were gathered in an exclusive interview with Brandon Brunner.

ever imagined. Updated reports show that the Farmers' Alliance may have been transferring thousands of dollars more than what was originally believed to be in their bank account.

Money has been moving through the PACs, either with their knowledge or not, and reaching some of the highest offices of the upcoming election.

The complete truth may never be uncovered, but the PACs may have lost a good deal of credibility in the ordeal. The Staters' Union WILL run a follow up story on this scandal and use all means possible to expose the corruption. In the words of Farmers' Alliance member Michael Hazel of Lane in Marshall County, "We decline to comment; I guess that's what they say when they're guilty."

**GOVERNOR CANDIDATES,
PLEASE APPOINT**

**WADE MESSIER AND
KODY SONGS**

FOR

**DEPARTMENT OF WILD-
LIFE AND PARKS.**

"WE'LL KEEP YOUR PARKS
AND ANIMALS HEALTHY."

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Features

States Union

FEDERALIST PARTY!

Support the party of...

- + Lower taxes
- + Stronger education
- + Welfare reform

CROSS THE LINE AND VOTE FOR CHANGE

June 12, 2007

PACs send representatives for support

Matt Picht

Chastain, Eisenhower

Various Political Action Committee (PAC) members presented their political positions to the Federalist and Nationalist parties yesterday. The PAC's sent representatives to both precinct committee meetings, and stated the issues with which their PAC was concerned.

The precincts, in turn, used the event to determine what issues they would have to support on their platform in order to garner support from candidates.

Both PAC's and political precinct committees spent an hour preparing for these events. The PAC committee members reviewed their budgets and determined which issues they would lobby for, while the precincts decided how best to win the support of the PAC's without compromising their

from Habits on Page 6

evening, for 2 A.M. in the morning!!! After awakening, he simply resets the alarm, flips his pillow over to the 'cool side', and rolls back over to fall soundly asleep for hours. He says that he would just sleep badly if he didn't, but has refrained from this unusual behavior here at camp for the sake of his roommate. So on behalf of your roommate, thank you '2 A.M. Dude'. You unanimously take the cake for individuality in my hobbies and habits book.

from Federalists on Page 3

point, 5-10 year conditional phase-out welfare plan, and the naming of English as the state language of Kansas. The party gave an enthusiastic reaction to the platform

The night ended with the Federalist party electing a new slogan, "Feds are flossing." The entire convention displayed the true enthusiasm of the Federalist party and left the staters feeling energized and excited.

platform.

The Political Action Committees that presented were as follows:

The League of Industrial Workers supports the rights of industrial laborers and blue-collar workers. Their main lobbying points were lower taxes for industrial workers and the advancement of renewable energy sources. They also agreed to support the party that backed the Worker's Protection Act.

The Oil and Gas Worker's Organization represents the industries involved in the production and distribution of oil and gas. They supported reductions on the environmental regulations inhibiting oil production and limits on the introduction of alternative energy sources into the economy.

The Farmer's Alliance represents the agricultural sector of the economy. They lobbied for tax breaks given to farmers who grow corn for ethanol, no-till farming, and advancement of alternative energy sources. They also support the Worker's Protection

Act.

The Heritage Foundation is an organization that represents the interest of the conservative right wing.

The People for the American Way represent the liberal left wing. Their key lobbying points are a tier system of taxation, per capita funding for school systems, and an anti-death penalty platform.

The Assembly for the Advancement of Minorities supports the rights of minority citizens.

The Coalition of Cities and Counties is the representative of the collective cities and counties in the state. They lobby for the preservation of historical landmarks and monuments, increased income and business taxes, and increased funding and safety of law enforcement.

The PAC committees made their positions clear to the precincts over the course of eight minutes. They would later consider individual candidates for various positions at the political fair.

from Nationalists on Page 6

in the schools could be transferred to other functions of the state government. Sam Starks focused mainly on the implementation of wind generators in Western Kansas and the use of ethanol. Zach Bahr's topic motto was: "Keep it in Kansas." To follow through with this motto, he proposed that there be tax breaks for companies outside the state that might move in. Kevin Blake's platform focused almost entirely on the environment.

The other positions for state office were also filled with qualified candidates, but a few rose above the fierce competition and won their respective elections. Jeremy Harding won the Attorney General position; Kevin Booker was the victor in the Treasurer primary; Dylan Works won the Secretary of State primary; and Vincent Lau was the champion of the Commissioner of Insurance position. Good luck to all the candidates in their elections today.

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 Staters Union office.

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