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STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

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DEPARTMENTALIZING DEPARTMENTS

BY EASTON ANDERLIK, OMAR
BUSTILLOS-ANDRADE, AND
JOSEPH CORREDOR
Staters Union

The various government departments met today for the first time after being elected for their positions. There are three departments: Economy, Natural Resources, and Humanities. Although people were elected into these offices, many delegates do not know the functions of these organizations. We got the details from the heads of the various departments.

The Department of Economy's responsibility is to allocate funds in grants for cities' and counties' departments and balance state budgets. Currently, their first goal is to legalize marijuana not only medically, but also recreationally, as they believe with imposed taxes, the legalization would bring in more revenue for the state. They believe their primary goal is passing it, because they believe the response at first people would disagree and complain, but that after it had been legalized, people will realize the benefits and positive economic impact it would bring to the state. For their final statement, they said that if marijuana were to be legalized, they



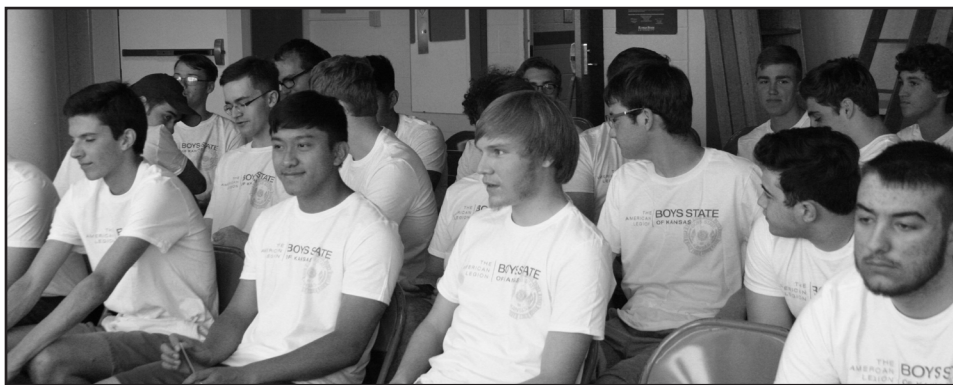
STATERS meet in their departments to begin planning for a productive week ahead. Photo Credit Julian Kincaid

would work on legalizing other drugs as well.

The Department of Natural Resources manages infrastructure, agriculture, and energy. At the moment, Kansas has dirt roads and unclear, insufficient energy production. This department focuses on improving these conditions for the state. Their first priority for this week is the improvement of roads and the proper distribution of food throughout the state. Their main focus is on maintaining a secure infrastructure of

roads in the state as a whole. The main problem that they are facing is budget issues; they only have enough funding for a minimal amount of road work at the moment.

The Department of Humanities believes in providing equal access to opportunities and activities for all Boys State delegates as declared their mission statement. They deal with a number of social issues such as education, the arts, and safety. This department is an interesting paradox; a mix of chaos and extreme efficiency, because despite the barrage of ideas, they have made impressive headway into their agenda. The priority for the department is "basic equality" according to the department head, Ryan Neill. Neill continued to say, "without us [the] schools, libraries, hospitals, etc. don't exist". While their intentions might be pure, this group might have trouble in pushing their agenda due to a lack of funding.



STATERS assemble on their county floor for the first time. Photo Credit Jonathon Volker

The Staters Union is a designated forum of free speech. The print edition is published every day of Boys State by the Staters Union Staff. It is distributed throughout Kansas Boys State for no charge. 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. Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed and the writer's county indicated to be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing for length, legal, grammatical and factual reasons. Letters should be taken to the Staters Union office in Wefald Hall 329. To contact the Staters Union, please email us at media@ksbstatesim.org.

New Nationals



CURTIS addresses Staters. Photo Credit Dustin Curiel

BY ANGELO ANDOYO Staters Union

Boys State, a program deeply rooted in over 80 years of tradition, is branching out and providing a new supplementary position.

The Boys' State National Guard program is being headed by Jack Curtis, Pershing County Counselor, with some help from Maximillian Curtis, Bradley County Counselor. The idea for this new position stems from Jack Curtis's military background and realization that delegates in previous sessions lacked important knowledge about the inner


workings of the National Guard, as well as its impact on the state budget.

The introduction of the new position is meant to take a deeper look into the personal relations, state government aspect and, particularly, the lesser known emergency response procedures that the National Guard practices. This position was created in response to several Boy's State Delegates creating a so called Boy's State Militia in the past. Jack Curtis seeked to eliminate this issue by designing an official position, and thus the National Guard office was formed.


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Popularity Over Professionalism

BY HUNTER HOTALING
Staters Union

Boys State has officially begun and delegates have been assigned and voted into very different but equally important roles. However, what truly disturbs this stater is the overwhelming lack of professionalism in the early un-balloted decision making. Based on evidence obtained by the Stater's Union, the majority of delegates decided who would run their county based off of their jokes over their qualifications. After hearing rumors from those heading to their first operation, I decided to further investigate.

A stater from Eisenhower County said that one of their senators or representatives got voted in on the basis of wild promises over another candidate who had actual experience and qualifications in that field. Another city congressman from Bradley County commented on the fact that "good jokes" and "funny behavior" were more likely to earn you spots on your

desired committee rather than an educated approach towards solving issues in the community. A stater from Kennedy County even stated "A lot of people did not know what they were doing or applying for; people just wanted a job."

My prediction based on my own voting experience and what was heard from other delegates from Marshall and Pershing County was that well-spoken arguments started to bore the balloters. This lead to a few staters in each county coming to the conclusion that the only way to stand out was to be outrageous with their claims. Soon, this spread into a wildfire of egregious statements and shocking accusations all in the sake of comedy (a.k.a. votes). Not only does this damage the integrity of Boys State, but it also puts dedicated delegates on the sideline while comedians get the spotlight in councils. Hopefully, this was only a phase we will see at the beginning of the simulation and nothing more.

Editor's Corner Sam Danneberg, Editor-in-Chief

From Ulysses S. Grant's illegally doubling of the presidential salary to Bill Clinton's swearing he did not have relations with that woman, scandal has engulfed politicians since the beginning of time. Soon to be candidates can learn from mistakes of men before them, to avoid a scandal at Boys State.

First things first, it is never okay put one's personal interests or a select group's interests over the general populations. The public is always watching.

A politician's greatest tool is a set of ears. If a leader cannot listen to the followers, their popularity

will diminish. At the very least, political figures need to make an effort to represent the opinions of those they represent.

Trust is a politician's best friend. One lie can ruin one's reputation. Power within officials should be utilized professionally and efficiently. There is no room for favoritism, greediness, or closed ears. Scandal can be found everywhere, and while there may never be a Boys Stater who is charged with funding criminals, there is a possibility for corruption in everyone. Those flaws can and will be found.