

Share your experience and
photos with us on social media.

Twitter: @KSBSMedia

Snapchat: kansasboysstate

Facebook: KansasBoysState

STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2017 • MANHATTAN, KANSAS • VOL. 80, ISSUE 6

BUDGET PROTEST FILLS KRAMER

BY DEREK BRYANT
Staters Union

Thursday afternoon, a mob formed outside the office of the state executive council. Leaders in the mob informed Attorney General Connor Casey that the mob was formed in order to put pressure on the governor to sign off on the budget that had been passed through the house and senate. The statement was then made by a member of the mob, "We're exercising our first amendment right to peacefully assemble."

Casey responded saying, "That's amazing that you are civically active."

As the mob remained standing in front of the office, the council members would return into the office and a new member of the council would come out to explain more about the situation. Almost each and every member that came to speak with the crowd assured them that the budget was currently being signed by Governor Thill, however it was obvious that Thill was not signing it as staters were able to view him through the glass walls without a pen in his hand.

As the mob began to talk with more and more of the council members, the mob again became restless and



STATERS crowd Kramer Hall, just outside the state office. Staff Photo

a member of the mob made the statement referring to the governor, "Tell him to come out here and explain it to us." Thill then came out to address the mob.

During his address to the mob, Thill stated, "The budget I had [proposed] had lower taxes than this one and lower expenditures, and that's the one I want to pass." Thill later brought his proposed budget back to the senate and signed the bill about an hour after the mob disbanded.

As we all know, government is collectively an adaptive problem. To

successfully solve adaptive problems, government officials need to work well together with other branches of the government and other parties in the government. It is clear that Thill knows these to be truths as these issues were mentioned in both his caucus speech and at speeches at the debate. From the governor's platform on working with other parties and branches of the government, it is clear that he can talk the talk, but will he be able to walk the walk with the end of Boys State of Kansas so close?

WITZKE SHARES BOYS NATION EXPERIENCE BY MEDIA STATERS Staters Union

Government counselor Mason Witzke had the humbling privilege to attend Boys Nation in 2016 representing Boys State of Kansas. When Witzke entered Boys State of Kansas he "came with two goals in mind and nothing else one was to win the gubernatorial

race and the other was to win the Boys Nation race." Mason however did not win the gubernatorial race which is one of the reasons that he says his Boys State experience was so influential. Mason was then placed in one of the nine departments that Boys State had at the time and eventually was pulled up to be an assistant to the governor. From this department position, Mason was then given the ability to live out his second goal at Boys State, which was receiving the honor of representing Kansas at Boys Nation 2016.

Mason talks about Boys Nation as something that changed his life and he consistently credits some of his personal experiences as, "Experiences that really, really humbled me." While at Boys Nation, each delegate is treated as a United States senator. You live, work, and act as a any US senator would while abiding under the specific privileges of a national delegate. "You have special privileges in the Library of Congress," Witzke elaborated.

(More online at ksbstate.org/news)

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 for no charge throughout Kansas Boys State. 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 the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20). To contact the Staters Union, please email us at media@ksbstatesim.org.

Letter From the Editor

Farewell and Thank You

BY JACOB CLANTON
Editor-In-Chief, Staters Union

With Boys State nearly over, it's time to look back on the week and reflect on what we learned.

As a member of the media, I had a different experience than most did. I didn't really feel like I was a part of the simulation. Rarely, if ever, did I know what was going on in Congress, King County or Icenogle.

At times, that was frustrating. Sometimes, I wished that I had been in the House or the Senate. The job as the media seemed insurmountable.

As the week went on, I felt like it got worse. It all climaxed when the governor decided to say there rumors that the media was becoming "scandal-seeking tabloids." I'll be honest, that ticked me off. As a journalist, to be called a tabloid hurts. It goes against everything I do.

Journalists are supposed to be fair, yet critical, of public officials. It is our job to say things that government officials don't want the public to hear solely because it makes them look bad.

Now, this isn't to say that we are out to get anyone. Rather, we are looking for the truth. Martin Baron, Executive Editor of the Washington Post, told those assembled at a recent Landon Lecture that the fundamental task of journalism is to tell the facts, whatever they are, no matter what. It doesn't matter if these facts go against your beliefs... (See ksbstate.org/news)

Media County Secedes

BY MATT GOECKEL
Staters Union

A new county formed following Wednesday's press conference. The media has decided to become an independent county with their own totalitarian government. Supreme Overlord Editor Inchief has declared war on Kansas. The Media has already captured most of Marshall and areas of Patton. Clashes are ongoing, and the 1st Camera and 93rd Copy Editor Battalions have suffered heavy losses. The newly formed "Media County" may be in trouble following Thursday's battle in the southeast area of the state.

Attorney General Connor "Tomahawk" Casey took a very firm stance on the topic. "This is what Kansans have been waiting for," he said excitedly.

"It took us a little longer than we wanted to, but preparations are over, we have our Tomahawk Missiles ready to launch at the Media," Casey said.

"Be warned," he continued. "Justice - is cruising for you."

Governor Thill is worried the missiles may not be effective enough to defeat the media. "It's a powerful enemy, and we've had to completely reconstruct our budget for the conflict," he said.

"There have been attacks on my person. Yesterday someone had broken into my office and corrected a misspelled word in the budget," he asserted.

"Wars have been started over less."

The budget has now allowed for an expedited space program to combat the Media nuisance. A total of \$3.5 billion has been borrowed to build a nuclear-capable space station to permanently... (This obviously satirical piece is concluded online at ksbstate.org/news.)

Staters Share Value of Boys State Experience

BY GUTHRIE TURNER AND LUKE STEINLE
Staters Union



BOYS State is a busy week, but there's plenty of time for reflection. Photo Credit Julian Kincaid

As this busy week of Boys State comes to a close, the transformation in the attendees becomes increasingly apparent. The young men were even eager to share their personal benefits of participating in the governmental event.

One Stater, James Sayles of Marshall County, said, "Actually, It's really fun to work with people when you have a common goal." He also realized that he is more of a people person than he previously thought. Another Marshall County city council member, Mike Coopridier, said, "City council is my lifelong passion, along with building and using my own trebuchet. Right now I'm trying to get my city to sue itself." After that, no more information was collected from Marshall County, because everyone began aggressively suing each other.

On the advice side of things, Michael Miller of Seitz County, jokingly recommended not yelling too much, cautioning a lost voice. One particular aspect of Boys State that these and numerous other Staters mentioned was the fact that they had established amazing friendships to last a lifetime.

This paper would not have been possible without the following Staters:

Jacob Clanton

Derek Bryant

Oliver Pinckney

Thomas Reece

Guthrie Turner

Luke Steinle

Kodi W. Reed

Matt Goeckel

Trey Peat

Thank you for your hard work and an amazing week.

The paper is also published online daily at

<https://issuu.com/ksboysstate>

and more articles can be found at

<http://ksbstate.org/news/>

