

Justice Stephan's Speech Goes Down Well

Rob Durland

Gettysburg

Tuesday night's assembly featured a speech by the Honorable Kenneth C. Stephan. On a scale of one to awesome, it was pretty good. It was just like a really good made for TV movie on the Nebraska Judicial System, except there wasn't anyone shining a laser pointer on the screen (mostly due to the fact that there wasn't any screen). I feel that Justice Stephan delivered a powerful and beneficial presentation. Personally, I was moved and to be perfectly honest, there were tears. The highlight of Stephan's speech had to be his opinion of how the merit system of choosing justices far surpasses popular election of justices.

I used to be one of those people who takes the Judicial System for granted, but I've learned that it's quite possibly the most powerful branch of our government. I've also learned that judges aren't really taller than everyone else, they're of normal height except they sit on really high chairs and I think that's important. Overall the presentation was like a slightly cooled Dr. Pepper: still cool enough to be tasty and fizzy, but warm enough to go down smooth.

Multi-Cultural Speaking

Jeremy Hutcheson

Alamo

I'll give you a potentially startling fact: in a few years, America's population will not be the same; the majority of the population will not be Hispanic, Asian, African, or European/White. The reason for this is because the racial mixture and immigration into the country will provide room for a majority race. Our country will be a collection of all races of the world, with immense diversity of culture. In the Multi-Cultural Speech today, many of us were posed with this reality and scared of the imminent outcome.

"We must recognize and respond to the changing world," said Don Wesely. We, as Nebraskans, have responsibility to embrace the changing world and encourage the updating of traditional mindsets. This is an issue that affects you where ever you reside.

Things are changing before our very eyes; all races rush to defend our country. Yet, racism still festers within our borders. A month ago, south of Atlanta, an all-white prom was held; a month earlier, south of Iraq, an Arab-American soldier was mistaken to be Kuwaiti. In Jasper, Texas, a man was drug behind a truck and killed because he was African-American; in Iraq (as Mr. Frank Lamere alluded), a Hopi woman was killed because she was American.

I commend the Boys' State group for bringing all the Multi-Cultural speakers to share their thoughts with us. To survive respectively in the coming years, Boys' Staters must be open to many different races and opinions. Just as Thomas Christie said, "The reasons our county is the way it is, is because of things that happened in the past. What we do now will determine what happens in the future."

HIV Speech Brings Up Life Questions

Marvin Wright

Belleau Wood

We have all heard that condoms, help prevent sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs, and HIV. But the shocking news, according to Joe Conrad, that they are not as reliable as we thought. First off, I would like to thank Joe for coming in and sharing with us his views on STDs and HIV. The afternoon session was about controversy, and was filled with opinion; this is mine.

Joe's words struck me so far that it practically scared me to not have sex—and I know some of you are probably groaning—till I am married. The risks are too great. As he explained during his speech, many STDs are passed after being drunk and doing drugs. I believe that even if you ask about STDs and HIV, many won't tell you truthfully. And as he said also, "I had a friend who only had sex once, now he is dead." Like having a baby, it only takes one time to get pregnant; it is the same with all STDs. So as I close just remember what he said: Nebraska ranks near the top for some STDs, and the majority of HIV/AIDS carriers are in the Lincoln and Omaha area. In my opinion, practicing safe sex means no sex until marriage!

A Closer Look



Jordan Colwell (F)

Colton Lueck
Belleau Wood

Jordan Colwell, from the Federalist Party running for Cornhusker Boys' State Governor has many ideas concerning different viewpoints. Jordan is from Alliance so it is a mix of big town life with small town views. One of his major campaigns is not to have restrictions on water for farmers and ranchers in the state of Nebraska due to the drought. He says, "I have seen it first hand that small family farms go under due to these tough economic times."

Colwell is striving to introduce a bill promoting gambling and by supporting increases in income, luxury, and sales taxes. He says "I hope to increase these taxes enough so that property tax can be decreased; it would be beneficial for everyone in Nebraska."

Education is one of the major cornerstones for the Nebraska's success. He would like to propose an increase in funding, and teacher competency through better training and incentives. He would like to thank everyone for their support to make this Boys' State an unforgettable experience.

Education is one of the major cornerstones for the Nebraska's success. He would like to propose an increase in funding, and teacher competency through better training and incentives. He would like to thank everyone for their support to make this Boys' State an unforgettable experience.

Education is one of the major cornerstones for the Nebraska's success. He would like to propose an increase in funding, and teacher competency through better training and incentives. He would like to thank everyone for their support to make this Boys' State an unforgettable experience.

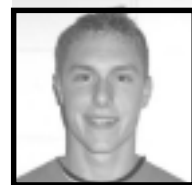
Travis J. Ptacek (N)

B. J. Davlin
Gettysburg

"I plan to stick to my party platform," says Travis J. Ptacek, the Alamo Nationalist Governor candidate from O'Neil. "Sticking to the plan is important, but I'm also going to stay open minded to Federalist ideas and opinions. I haven't heard the Federalist Party platform yet, but I believe a combined effort from both parties will produce the best Boys' State Governor."

Although he admits he doesn't know everything there is to know about the government and Boys' State, he promises to do his best to stand up for his own morals while representing the people at the same time.

And lastly he mentioned a new plan he was going to try to implement that he is affectionately calling "Governor's Ideas of Rebuilding Legislative Status at STATE". He did not make me aware of the exact intentions of this new plan.



Andrew Boyle (N)

Blake Waggoner
Valley Forge

Andrew Boyle has been campaigning for governor since his arrival at Boys' State. Boyle hails from Bataan, where he was chosen to represent his town on the Nationalists' Gubernatorial ticket.

In his speech, Boyle asked tough questions to the other candidates; however, he was reluctant to offer answers to questions asked towards him. Mr. Boyle refused to be interviewed. Boyle's platforms include: not raising property taxes and doing away with the Boyd County Radioactive Waste Site, while moving it to a less populated area such as Montana. Other platforms include raising sin taxes and legalizing gambling.

Boyle has overcome great obstacles and continues to campaign tirelessly

Jeremy Petersen (N)

James Hartline
Yorktown

Jeremy Petersen has quite a few plans he would like to implement, should he become governor. His foremost concern is bringing more money into the state and stimulating the economy.

The education system is also very important to him, and he would like to use some of the revenue generated by the stimulated economy to improve the schools statewide. He feels that he would be a good governor because he has "good leadership skills." He also claims that he "will always try to listen to everyone's opinion." Jeremy Petersen is from Atkinson, in northeast Nebraska, and he feels that he has many of the values that come from living in such a setting, like a strong work ethic. He is involved in football, basketball, baseball, National Honor Society, and in class leadership. When asked what other things he would like to do if elected, he replied, "I think Boys' and Girls' State should spend more time together. I think we should get the dance back and spend more time together."




SPORTS

Trent Albers
Alamo

In a game of blood, sweat, and tears, the basketball action of the Boys' State mini season Wednesday contained nothing but all three: the physicality of the down-low battles for the boards and the block, the soaked Boys' State shirts after a fast paced, up and down contest, and the tears....well, you know who you are. Wednesday's hotly contested basketball game placed Bataan face-to-face with Belleau Wood. Belleau Wood hit the ground running in the first half lead by Zach Siel and Todd Smith. The physical play of Siel as well as his outstanding ability to get defenders up in the air allowed him to make his gold at the charity stripe. Todd Simon seemed to dominate the first half with his ability to drive and mutually be an outside threat. This was symbolized after he slammed it home two handed towards the end of the first half. However, after being down 20-17 at halftime, Bataan shifted the momentum in their favor. Kyle Beulke led the charge with his strong inside game, well executed drives, and his work on defense to keep the ball out of Smith's hands. Joe Spencer also helped turn the tides by his unselfish dish for numerous buckets. When asked how they had planned to beat Belleau Wood, Smith remarked, "We needed to shut down their big guy (Smith) and handle the ball well." Smith commented that in the second half his team missed too many key shots and made too many turnovers. Bataan went to 3-0 after the contest with Belleau Wood dropping to 2-1.


On the opposite end of the spectrum, Manila Bay and Alamo went head on to see which team could pick up their first win as well as to see who would find themselves winless going into the intercounty games. Manila Bay took the first half 35-26, with Joel Endorf taking the reins of leadership. Endorf's impressive ball handling as well as his ability to drive, dish, and create a score help his team to their early lead. The second half on the other hand was controlled by Alamo, who symbolically wouldn't go down without a fight. Travis Ptacek brought his game in the second half by knocking it down from downtown, with key supporting roles played by team members like Brandon Anderson and Alex Laudenklos. Alamo won the contest 58-52. "In the second half we played better team ball and knocked down our shots. Manila Bay's poor shooting definitely helped us out late in the game," Ptacek noted. Alamo picked up their first win with a record of 1-2 while Manila Bay's record dropped to 0-3.

Learning the Lessons of a Lifetime at Boys' State

 Issac Weyeneth
Belleau Wood


Boys' State is an experience I hope to carry with me for the rest of my life. As far as I can tell, this one week will be full of different experiences that will pertain to many different parts of not only our state government, but government and leadership in general. The leadership skills I hope to learn at Boys' State are some I hope will help me further my education and my future career. Even if I do not decide to follow a career in government, the leadership and citizenship skills I hope to learn here could be helpful in other career fields. The leadership skills alone would be a great help to anyone who would choose to begin a career in business management. The skills for the management of any company, from the largest corporation to the smallest business run out of the loft over the local video rental store, would be greatly enhanced by the leadership skills learned during this one week of Boys' State. Also, the citizenship skills learned at Boys' State would be helpful in many different jobs, from social workers to law enforcement. All in all, I think the skills learned at Boys' State will not only be an asset to my future and the future of my fellow Boys' Staters, but also to the future of the state and the nation as a whole.

The Answer to All Our Problems

 Rob Durland
Gettysburg

On Thursday, some of the boys from Gettysburg decided that it would be humorous to use the Alamo's facilities, and much like the solid waste that they left behind, Nebraska's economy is going down the drain. With education hurting, toxic waste being put in our communities and prisons overflowing, where do we turn for the economic help we need? Some would say that gambling is the answer, but no one is willing to boost the economy at the expense of the family. I believe that the answer lies within the prison system itself. The prison system is currently an untapped resource with infinite fiscal potential. How, might you ask? It's through the miracle of modern gladiatorial games that the answer lies. Think of the possibilities. Why execute one inmate when you can have an all-out, eight-men-enter one-man-leaves gladiatorial battle to the death televised on Pay-Per-View? The contestants would be death row inmates and would be given the choice of either conventional execution or the gladiatorial games to avoid cruel and unusual punishment and the winner would be given life in prison for winning. Prison populations would go down, Nebraska income would go up and there would be a reality show to surpass all other reality shows. Heck, you could even have corporations sponsor the contestants for even more revenue.

How To Lose a Girls Stater in Three Days

 Aaron Rouse
Valley Forge

Ahhhh! The birds and the bees are out and about, flowers are blooming, and you've got that felling deep inside of you. Unfortunately, it's not that feeling of love. It is the feeling that is associated with nightmares. If you have a Girls' State nightmare of biblical proportions, you may be finding yourself attempting to get out of the relationship that has blossomed over the past week as quickly as you can. If so, grab your running shoes because you are about to enter the race known as, "How to Lose a Girls Stater in Three Days."


As you enter step one of this five stage situation, you may be thinking about doing everything in one swift swoop. Be advised, that doesn't work! You must work slowly. All right here we go. Its Sunday morning and you can't wait to dump the extra baggage you picked up at Boys' State. What you need to do is call that "I thought she would be the love of my life, but now I realize what type of mistake I've made" special someone at six in the morning. This may sound early, but drastic situations call for drastic measures. As many of the Boys Staters may be doing, she too will probably be sleeping in. If you called her too early, she would dump you in a flash.

Now, if it turns out that your Girls Stater is a morning person, you will find yourself entering step two. This step I call, "The Proposal." It is exactly what it seems. If you want this girl out of your life forever, you need to pop the question. But don't do it the old fashioned, down on one knee, beautiful diamond way. You must do it via E-mail or telephone and offer up some cheap Crackerjacks ring. The cheesier you are, the quicker it will be over and done with.

In extreme cases, you may find yourself entering step three. This step is for those of you who unfortunately picked the girl who rises early and is desperate to get married. Since the situation has developed into such a severe problem, there is only one thing to do. Change your name and move to Europe. If you're hopelessly trying to avoid the apocalypse, you will take the necessary action.


So, the Girls Staters didn't turn out to be exactly what you pictured them to be. They may actually be the type of picture you never want to see! Believe me. If you need to escape a complete nightmare, follow these three steps and you will be single before you know it.

We Have Been Honored

 James Hartline
Yorktown

As the week has progressed, I have been amazed at the quality and variety of speakers we have been privileged to have here at Cornhusker Boys' State 2003. On Monday, former Husker football player Scott Frost was willing to speak to us and answer some very personal questions. On Tuesday, the Honorable Kenneth C. Stephen, Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, spent his personal time with us to give us an overview of the Nebraska Judicial system and help conduct the swearing in ceremony. On Wednesday, Attorneys Eugene Crump and Andrew Loudon helped us further understand how the Nebraska court system works. We were very privileged to have Joe Conrad speak very candidly and personally with us later in the day about his experience with HIV and AIDS, and give us quite a few words of advice on how to live a healthy lifestyle free from STDs. After that, we got to hear Don Wesely, Frank LaMere, and Thomas Christie speak with us about many cultural issues. However, despite all of the speakers we were grateful to have with us on Wednesday, no doubt the highlight was having Mike Johanns honoring us with a speech and a very informative Q&A session (although I have no doubt spending the evening with the Girls Staters was also a high point in the day). On Thursday, Michael J. Nolan spoke with us on character and leadership. The National Guard bused all of us out to their base to show us much of their equipment and speak with us on their role in keeping the United States safe from terrorism. On Friday, the President, Chairman, and CEO of The Gallup Organization spoke with us and also granted us with an extremely interesting Q&A session, and JoAnne Owens-Nauslar gave us an interesting speech on motivating ourselves to succeed in life. And no one can forget the surprise appearance of Representative Tom Osborne and his motivational talk with us. As long as this list is, it does not even begin to truly account for all of the talent and sacrifice that has been contributed to Cornhusker Boys' State this year. Many, many people have given us their time and support to make this week possible. As Boys' Staters, we should be very thankful for what our sponsors have done for us, both directly and indirectly. Truly, Cornhusker Boys' State does command a level of respect, and we see this in what we have been allowed to do, where we have been allowed to go, and who we have been privileged to hear. This has been a very enlightening week for all of us here, and on behalf of all of us here, I want to thank all of those who have contributed and made this week possible.

I'm Home. What Do I Do Now?

 Darren Brandl
Yorktown

Wow, what a week! Sunday's schedule kicked off so fast paced that by Tuesday it felt like we should be graduating any minute. As I look back on all the things we did I realize that we participated in an incredible amount of events. All of the public speakers, debates, elections, chants, trashcans, meals, sports, band, choir, and the two visitations with the Girls' Staters made this quite a week. Maybe I will start getting up at 6:30 a.m. when I get back home to accomplish more...or maybe not. Most of us can admit that this week was a great time; however many agree that there is nothing like returning home to an inviting, familiar atmosphere. I interviewed a few Boys' Staters and asked them their thoughts on returning home.

Expressing without hesitation Alamo citizen Mathew Barr of Omaha said, "The first thing I will do is sleep, of course." Manila Bay's Brian Hopp of Fall City showed different interest with his response, "Play American Legion Baseball, I have been looking forward to it all week." "I have to check my email," said TJ Lee of Cedar Bluffs and Bataan adding, "It's probably full of junk by now." Gettysburg's Nick Easterly of Sidney excitedly voiced, "I got a date with my '69 GTO." Ross Nielsen of Bunker Hill and Lynch, Nebraska said, "I will hang out with my friends, probably go to a movie or something." Belleau Wood's Jake Blake of Louisville took a more political standpoint stating, "I will call Dick Lichtas obviously." Finally Valley Forge resident and Arapahoe native Pat Nott was in high spirits when he announced, "I have a long awaited camping trip scheduled with a bunch of girls."

What ever your plans may be, I hope that your experience here at 2003 Cornhusker Boys' State was one for the history books. I wish you all a swift and safe journey home.

Sleep Enforcement Cruel and Useless

During this past week, I have observed many people sleeping during sessions. "How can this be?" I have thought each time with shock, "All lights are supposed to be out by 11:30, and we don't awake until 6:30. That's at least seven hours of sleep! How could anyone be dropping off during the day after that fairly substantial amount?"

Of course, the previous paragraph is filled with lies. I myself have broken curfew a time or two, and I realize that many people don't adhere to the more stupid rules they encounter throughout life.


Yes, in my opinion, the curfew needs to be abolished, allowing people to stay up as late as they see fit.

It seems almost cruel to me to force people to sleep at a certain time. Some people naturally feel more alert at night, making that time the best part of their day. I realize, of course, that the early awakening is needed in order to fit in all the activities of the day, so I suppose nocturnal Boys Staters will just have to grin and bear it.

The curfew, however, has another mark against it: its impotency. The only effect that I have noticed the curfew having is creating aggravation for and dissent between Boys' Staters and counselors. Then, it forces the boys to be sneaky about when they turn their lights back on and compels the counselors to yell at the boys for having their lights on.


Without the curfew, Boys' Staters would pass out eventually, like they do now. People who actually like to sleep at night and be semi-alert the next day would insist on the night owls' quietness. There would be no problem here because of the fellowship and respect many Boys' Staters have for one another. I am in agreeance with the rule that forces Boys' Staters to be on their own town floors at night because it guarantees that everyone is accounted for. However, as anyone should be able to see after reading this article, the curfew is completely unnecessary and even causes harm in a few ways.

Five Things I Have Learned

 Josh Johnson
Yorktown

All of the packets and stuff I got about Boys' State all said the same thing. They all talked about how Boys' State was an opportunity to be instructed in citizenship and in government. That is all fine and dandy, but what about the real important things in life that I have learned down here? Don't get me wrong, I have learned a lot about government down here. These are the five important things in life I have learned down here.

1. Cleaning ladies can be hot. The big stereotype of women in cleaning services is that they are all old and ugly. I found out differently down here. Did anybody else see those towel girls? They proved that stereotype wrong.
2. When no girls are available, trashcans make suitable replacements. When I leave this place, I will always remember my new best girl... Sally. I probably won't remember who was elected Governor, but I will remember that special girl that was in my life for a week.
3. There is such a thing as meat-less sloppy joes, and they scared me. The whole concept of a vegetarian sloppy joe boggles the mind. Don't think about it for too long though, or brain aneurysms may occur.
4. Girls have something against sleep. Every time that I was about ready to sleep at night the phone would ring. I like talking to girls, but that cost me to average about two hours of sleep every night.
5. I now know what 4H Club is. When I came down here, I was a dumb city kid. Now, I am still a dumb city kid, but I know what 4H and FFA are. Boys' State was a worthwhile experience for me. This list is just the tip of the iceberg for all I have learned down here. One thing I learned that was more important than anything on the list was that it is possible to have fun while you are supposed to be doing serious work.

 Zach Jensen
Alamo

News From Around the State

Town Reports

Marvin Wright

Belleau Wood

We have had so much to do here at Belleau Wood, but so has everyone else at Boys' State. Everyone on our floor is proud of Matt Grunke (N), who had a successful election into the position of State Auditor, and the honorable Taylor Kohl for the position of Associate Justice. Our town has introduced many bills to our representatives in the Legislature and also many to our City Council. One that has passed is where our counselors must knock on our door to wake us up. Our town would also like to congratulate those who were elected to their respective offices and sworn in Tuesday evening.

Jake Rundle

Bataan

When you walk to Kimball Hall, you might hear the resounding chant from the citizens of Bataan. Although it sounds like they have exponential amounts of energy that is definitely not the case at 6:30 in the morning.

The town of Bataan is woken up in a most unusual fashion. Instead of the regular pounding on the doors, senior counselors have brought with them a sound system to rival all sound systems. It's probably a Wal-Mart stereo, but it definitely puts out the sound.

"I'm cool with the wake up call in the mornings except when they play Tiny Tim," said Ben Varilek, "The first day they played Powerman 5000 and yesterday they played Scatman."

Part of the morning ritual for most of the Bataan residents is the shower, but what has been a surprise all week is the amount of time it took to get access to a shower. "They need more showers," says Chris Gove, "We have like five of them."

The town gathers nightly on the purple carpeted risers to have town meetings, they are very productive, but Derik Light thinks that they have too many of them.

The most important part of being at Boys' State is impressing your counselors and winning the Boys' State title "We're a good town." Said senior counselor Adam Sughroue, "You guys have as good a chance as the other guys (to win)"

Darren Brandl

Yorktown

After the welcoming wake-up, Wednesday's menu for Yorktown citizens featured a lovely entree of speakers from legislative members to AIDS victims. Between sessions, many citizens found time to make some phone calls to their "special Girls' State someone." The excitement was heightened when we caught our first ever glance at the Girls' Staters! The rumors of their incredibly breathtaking features were true.

Kyle Harpster

Valley Forge

As the week progresses, the town of Valley Forge grows stronger, more unified, and more organized. At the beginning of Boys' State, we couldn't even coherently announce who we were. Now Valley Forge goes everywhere in one big group, and we go with pride.

The guys in black have a lot to be proud about. We've had a number of people elected to offices. Blake Waggoner was elected to be the Supreme Court Chief Justice. Todd Keiser won the election for Public Defender. Valley Forge has three other gentlemen who now hold positions at Boys' State: David Danielson, Scott Hackman and Dan Recek.

Valley Forge has a spirit and energy unlike any other town. These qualities are representative of the dedication and hard work that the boys of Valley Forge put into their town. We're looking forward to the remaining two and a half days of Boys' State and we are confident that we will continue to be successful in everything that we do. As we say during our marches, "You better get out of our way, now."

B.J. Davlin

Gettysburg

All is well on the sixth floor. You know, Gettysburg territory, the floor just high enough to be too hard to walk to but just low enough to not make us eligible for elevator rides. Now that the Mayor and City Councilmen have been elected, some ordinances are being put into effect. But alas, we already have a case of ordinance dodging. Dean Borcher received the sentence of waking up early enough to give the rest of us a wake-up call. I'm not at liberty to say what the crime was, but it was unbecoming of a respectable Boys' Stater.

In other Gettysburg news, Senator Zach Fitzgerald and School Board Member Jon Soneson have attacked both Federalist and Nationalist gubernatorial candidates with merciless questioning during the caucuses. It may seem harsh and, well, merciless, but good questioning can be the final important thing that separates a good candidate from a, to put it nicely, a not so good candidate.

Zach Jensen

Alamo

Respected Alamo town counselor David Belieu had to leave for home Tuesday night because of his grandmother's illness. Belieu will probably not be back for the rest of the Boys' State week.

Belieu announced the news during a town meeting after Tuesday's General Assembly. He left amid the well wishes of Alamo's citizens.

The town of Alamo flourished under Belieu's council. Although not very distinguished in sports, Alamo's citizens have dominated politically. State positions of Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State have been filled by David Slobotski and Jeremy Hutcheson, respectively. Alamo also has the strong contenders of Andrew Lingenfelter and Jeremy Hutcheson for Governor. Belieu counts the few days he was at Boys' State this year among his most memorable experiences.

Alamo will manage to strive towards greatness without Belieu, though, as the town has dedicated to him every future Alamo activity.

Harish Tella

Manila Bay

Everything seemed to be going the wrong way when Manila Bay was slapped with two "giggy" points Monday night. One of these points came from too many people being on the elevator at once which caused the town to lose its elevator privileges until further notice. This was no laughing matter because Manila Bay resides on the eight floor of Schramm Hall. The town was fortunately given back its elevator privileges on Wednesday. Despite the added exercise, the townspeople are glad that things are back to normal. The town even received the opportunity to appear first at Kimball Hall for the Governor's assembly. This was because of their consistent early appearances. Who ever thought Manila Bay would be associated with earliness?


Robert Lemke

Bunker Hill

Everyone in Bunker Hill has been saying that everything's been going great. We are a very motivated team and everyone is very enthusiastic. All of us in Bunker Hill have a great time on our floor lounge. During our free time we play cards, watch TV, and hang out. Everyone is looking forward to see the girls from Girls' State Wednesday and Friday, and we are also enthusiastic about the pizza party on Friday.

There's no other place in Boys' State like Bunker Hill.

Foreign Policy Failure

 Jeremy Hutcheson
Alamo

The United States is a well-traveled country; we have visited many countries: Mexico, Panama, Japan, Germany, England, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, France, Cuba, Haiti, Lebanon, Libya, Kosovo, the Philippines, and many more. What do I mean? These are all countries in which the U.S. has invaded, occupied, or established a presence.

Though the United States' military is vital to our survival and freedoms, we must not assume that our actions do not have massive ramifications on our own security.

The world community views the U.S. as an arrogant vulture that taints everything it touches.

The catalyst for the creation of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda was the U.S. Military's presence in the Muslim holy land in Saudi Arabia. The Iranian hostage crisis in 1980 resulted from the overthrow of the Shah, the corrupt U.S. appointed leader of Iran. The Communist government of Cuba was formed after U.S. backed Fidel Castro took control. The list of U.S. intervention in foreign countries that lead to devastating results is long, longer than it should be.

Many of our military interventions have been justified and have produced magnificent results. However, the downside to our flamboyant "invade now, ask questions later" attitude towards other countries inhibits us from questioning how we change the course of history for other countries, much like we did before Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Talking about overthrowing the governments of North Korea, Iran, and Syria, often leads to unscrupulous assessment of the threat and the price of failure is terrific.

2003 Boys' State Bulletin Staff Editors

Alex Payne-Alamo

Editor in Chief

Aaron Rouse-Valley Forge

Layout Editor

Isaac Weyeneth-Belleau Wood

Gramatical Expert

Staff

Rob Durland – Gettysburg

Dan Ocanto – Gettysburg

William Davlin - Gettysburg

Darren Brandl – Yorktown

James Hartline – Yorktown

Josh Johnson – Yorktown

Jake Rundle – Bataan

Ken Dorscy – Bataan

Chris Bouc – Bataan

Wes Jensen-Manila Bay

Brian Hernandez-Manila Bay

Harish Tella-Manila Bay

Jeremy Hutcheson-Alamo

Zach Jensen-Alamo

Blake Waggoner-Valley Forge

Kyle Harpster-Valley Forge

Marvin Wright-Belleau Wood


Colton Lueck-Belleau Wood

Robert Lemke-Bunker Hill

David James Heller-Bunker Hill

Frank Dolezal, Leo Glass, Tim Bottum
and Andrew Culp serve as the advisors
to the Bulletin.

Thursday's Weather

 Marvin Wright
Belleau Wood

Today: Cloudy in the morning with scattered thunderstorms developing later in the day. High 71F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%. Tonight: Variable clouds with thunderstorms, especially during the evening. Low 53F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Weather.com

Your Opinion Counts!

Submit a letter to the editor and let your thoughts be heard!

The Boys' State Bulletin welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. All letters must be in good taste and representative of the Boys' State Bulletin and the American Legion. The Boys' State Bulletin staff reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes the property of the Boys' State Bulletin and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name and Boys' State Town. All submissions are checked for authenticity.

Submit all material into the Boys' State "Letters to the Editor" Box located at the front Desk of Schramm hall (Where the T-shirt sales are located).