

2003 Issue 2

Lincoln, Nebraska

Tuesday, June 3rd

And the Results are In...

Tallies From Monday's Primary Election

Lieutenant Governor

By, James Hartline

At exactly 9:30 a.m. Monday morning, the race was on. The feet started running, the paper was going up at an almost impossible rate, and the sound of tape was echoing up and down the halls. Boys Staters were overwhelmed with campaign slogans, names, and "If I were Lt. Governor, I would..." Then came the pre-primaries, the speeches, and the voting. The last ballot was cast, and there was no doubt of the result. David Slobotski would be the Nationalist candidate for Lt. Governor. David is from Omaha Northwest in Omaha. He ran his campaign on the slogan "Slob...He'll do the Job." When asked what he would like to do if he was elected Lt. Governor, he replied, "I want to serve as well as I can. I plan on making choices that please the entire state, while still holding onto my own values." He continued, "I want everybody to know I will be honest and fair, and may the best man win. I'll keep my opinions truthful. I'll take everyone's opinion to heart, and learn all I can about every person in the state and their beliefs and values." His main concern is being honest and fairly representing those who elected him. He places a great amount of emphasis on hard work. His record leaves no doubt on his qualifications for the job. He is active in both National Honor Society, his school's baseball team, and is a Parliamentarian in FBLA. In closing, David said, "I want to thank all of my brothers in Alamo, and all of the honest voters."



David Slobotski (N)



Aaron Persinger (F)

By, Josh Johnson

The road to the election started on Sunday night as each town divided into their parties to come up with their nominees for each office. Then, the next day, the campaigning was on.

After all the speeches were made and the votes were counted, Aaron Persinger of Alamo came out on top in the race for the Federalist nomination for the Lieutenant Governor position. Persinger came to Boys' State from Kearney, NE.

After hearing the news of his victory, Persinger felt relieved. "This first round was tough because there were a lot of good candidates for the Lieutenant Governor," Persinger said.

He was able to be successful in this election because of his level of campaigning. "I made sure to campaign at each floor and answered as many questions as I could," he said. "I also had a lot of good campaign managers that I have to give credit to."

Persinger knows that the Lieutenant Governor position will involve a lot of work, but he feels up to the challenge.

"My goals are to contribute any way that I can and to make a big impact on this Boys' State legislation. I will listen to each and every person to find out how I can make their Boys' State better," Persinger said.

Holding an office here at Boys' State would be a stepping stone for Persinger. He plans on going into a career in politics later in life.

"I think I may start my own business, maybe in sporting goods, but after I had a successful career, I would like to be a state legislator of possibly a real Lieutenant Governor," Persinger said.

The campaigning and the general election will take place on Tuesday, June 2. His opponent will be a fellow Alamo citizen, David Slobotski.

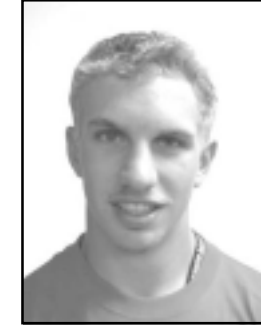
Secretary of State

By, Harish Tella

After the primary election results were released, I had the opportunity to ask Jeremy Hutcheson, winner of the Secretary of State primary election for the Nationalist party, a few questions about himself and his campaign beliefs. The first question I asked Mr. Hutcheson for his most important campaign ideals. He believes it is necessary to maintain an efficient government while exercising the principles of organization and accountability. Mr. Hutcheson also listed for me his numerous leadership positions. I asked Mr. Hutcheson what set him apart from his opposing candidates. He takes pride in his strong work ethic, which comes from his native ranching region. Hutcheson is confident in his skills as a communicator and his ability to get things done. He regards himself as a "compassionate nationalist." A man who wants to "rid the world of evil-doers." Mr. Hutcheson does not want to raise or lower the current tax rate, but rather cut spending on unnecessary and wasteful programs. He also believes in the legalization of gambling, which would provide more jobs and income. He believes this income would lower the crime rate which is often associated with a weak economy.



Jeremy Hutcheson (N)



Blake Woodward (F)

Shortly after the results of the Boys' State Primaries were posted, I had the opportunity to quickly interview the Federalist Party Candidate for Secretary of State, Blake Woodward. He is from Alliance, Nebraska and he currently resides in the Boys' State Town of Alamo.

When asked how confident he was that he would make it through the primaries he responded by saying, "On a scale of one to ten, I'd say about an eight." Just goes to show you that he's got confidence. His campaign revolves around the beliefs of "accountability" and "getting the job done right." What he really wants to see is more money getting to the schools. Now that he's made it through the primaries, his only remaining opponent is Jeremy Hutcheson. He thinks he deserves your vote because he is personable, he's easy to talk to, and very cooperative. If elected in the general election, he promises to do the best he can and serve to the best of his abilities.

Lastly, when he was asked about his feelings on the candy Pez, he said "I like Pez. Pez is good."

## State Treasurer

By, *Jacob Rundle*

The Boys' State finalist for Treasurer in the Federalist camp is Jon Jensen of Manila Bay. He comes to us from Neligh, Nebraska. Jon was voted from among eight candidates, myself included.



Jon Jensen (F)

"I'm excited that I made it through the primaries," Jensen said, "I tried hard, as hard I could, and will give it all I have to move on another step."

Jensen's campaign strategy was to point out how a good leader can fill a leadership position by using teamwork, showing understanding, and by being trustworthy.

"A true leader embodies the qualities that allow him or her to adapt and learn to succeed in adverse circumstances."

Jon hopes to be the Boys' State Treasurer, and with a little luck and a lot of campaigning today, he will be.



Nate Anderson (F)

By, *Zach Jensen*

In the Primary election, the position of Treasurer for the Nationalist party was won by Nate Anderson. Now Nate must try to win again as he competes for title of State Treasurer.

According to Nate, he would be a good State Treasurer because he is organized, a leader, honest, a good role model, and involved in many activities.

Those activities include: the Spanish Honor Society, the Multi-Cultural Club, and the National Honor Society.

Nate also has experience in working with money. His mom works at bank, and Nate has helped her out with her position there. Nate also works as a cashier at his dad's medical office where he collects money from patients and handles their finances.

Nate particularly wants to be the State Treasurer because it is a highly sought after position and he thinks he can manage it well with the qualities he possesses. Nate believes that he can have a positive influence on Boys' State as a whole.

Nate's main message is simple: "Vote Nate the Great for State Treasurer."

## State Auditor

By, *Darren Brandl*

Valley Forge citizen Andrew Fullerton will run for auditor on the Federalist ticket. Andrew is from the small rural farming community of Cody Nebraska. His leadership experience includes Junior Class Vice President, local FFA Chapter Treasurer and local 4-H Vice-President. Fullerton's practical applications with finance include balancing family budgets and filing taxes for home and the local Co-op.



Andrew Fullerton (F)

If elected he plans to make state budget changes, focusing more attention on education and agriculture. "The budget situation is the number one priority. It will be difficult to cut places without reducing the quality of Nebraska education and without reducing the productivity of agriculture." When asked how he planned to increase spending in education and agriculture while still managing budget cuts Fullerton responded, "Some taxes have to be increased and because an increase in property tax would discourage new business I believe it may be necessary to raise the state income and gas taxes."

The final question pertained as to why he would want to be an auditor and Fullerton responded, "I enjoy making things more efficient and I believe that I can make the budget more efficient." He added, "I would also enjoy the opportunity to serve and represent my delegation."



Matt Grunke (N)

By, *B.J. Davlin*

The Nationalist State Auditor winner in the primary election is Matt Grunke from Norfolk representing the town of Belleau Wood. He was extremely hard to find, but it worked out in the end. He wasn't upset about me abducting him from dinner and making answer my questions rapid-fire as we walked hastily back across campus to the press room.

When I asked him how it felt, he said he was surprised because he didn't think he'd win.

"I didn't plan to run for State Auditor when I got here, it just looked good," said Matt.

A few things that he thought helped him win were emphasizing his leadership skills, his high school experience, and his math skills. He also thought that his campaign signs helped as did his talks with other Boys Staters.

He has no clue if his win in the primaries will carry through to the general election, but he's hoping for the best.

To get that last important victory in the General elections he plans to campaign more, talk to more people, and visit more floors.

## Attorney General

By, *Brian Hernandez*

Craig Hughes, from the Boys State's town of Gettysburg, describes himself as an outgoing and spontaneous risk taker. Taking the risk to run for the Nationalist's Attorney General has evidently paid off.

Hughes lives in Meadow Grove and goes to school at Battle Creek where he participates in track, cross country, drama, National Honor Society and mock trial.

Although Hughes was initially uncertain how he would compare to the other candidates; his exuberant personality, great oratory skills, and enormous intellect on relevant subject matter has won him the majority of the Boys' State votes.

Hughes prepared well enough to win his primary election for Attorney General. Hughes' preparation consisted of reading the Boys' State Manual of Nebraska Government, arranging a speech in his head for Primary Election, and making logical comparisons of himself to the current Attorney General.

As Attorney General, Hughes promises to stand by the Governor on any issue needing improvement.

Hughes has strong beliefs on the issues concerning Nebraska's water rights and monopolies. He supports direct involvement through compromise in both matters.

Participation in mock trial for three years may assist Hughes for this State Office. Hughes confidently considers himself to be knowledgeable on matters pertinent to the Attorney General position and feels it will aid his campaign.



Craig Hughes (N)



Todd Ruzicka (F)

By, *Collon Lueck*

Todd Ruzicka won the federalist primary election for the Boys' State Attorney General. He was shocked that he won because he thought that he would never win this high of a position, even though it is just the primaries.

His whole campaign was getting his name out. Most of the office candidates had campaign managers and people to their hang signs, but Ruzicka had none of that. He went from

floor to floor meeting new people and making new friends. Ruzicka said, "Making friends is what it is all about." He said that this is the best way to run for office because it's putting a name with a face. He wants to thank everyone that supports him through this new and exciting time.

Ruzicka is from the small town of North Bend. He has two older sisters and an older brother. Ruzicka is very studious in his academics and involved in many different activities in his school and community. One of his major achievements was making Eagle Scout.

When Todd was asked about his plans he said that he is a good listener and takes responsibility during difficult times.

# Town Reports

## Belleau Wood

By Isaac Wegeneth

Belleau Wood is not only the name of a town, it is synonymous with the brotherhood and camaraderie, displayed by the fifty young men of a town after only a few days together. Now, I'm not in a position to say that Belleau Wood is better than any of the other towns in Boys' State, but I can say this: the loyalty we all feel to our town does not only rival, but could very well surpass that of any of the other seven towns. Anyone who has to climb 20 flights of stairs because of the elevator is booked, only to find that he forgot something back in the lobby, knows how many of us how Belleau Wood feel. We have talked together, laughed together, even argued together once or twice. And through the few days we have known each other, friendships have been formed in our town and friendly rivalries have been formed with other towns. Through our walks to Kimball Hall, we have gotten to know our competitive spirit, as well as that same spirit in our fellow towns. We have proven that we can match everyone else step for step and chant for chant, and this is after only the last few days. One could only imagine the positive effect on any of us who spend a full week of Boys' State in Belleau Wood.

## Manila Bay

By, Brian Hernandez

Manila Bay (MB): just another town at Boys' State? I think not. With the color green assigned to this town, MB signifies envy. The envy the boys of MB boast is quite promising and will surely shine in the days ahead.

The day began with a lively introduction from counselors Reese Pearson (a former Boys' State Governor), Evan Wolf (a West Point student), and Patrick McEvoy (a former cross-country runner).

This introduction session included numerous amounts of humorous talk as well as intellectually stimulated talk from many of the MB inhabitants of floor number eight.

One MB inhabitant complained jokingly about how enormous his shirt fit to his body. Another added how his shirt was also too large, but also too stinky, both remarks creating laughter in the room.

On an intellectual note, I overheard a possible governor candidate talking about how he would like to legalize hemp. He described hemp as a plant resembling the appearance of marijuana. He also described and how hemp can be used to create paper, which would result in the reduction of deforestation.

As the first meeting in the lounge concluded, the MB inhabitants vividly showed their diversely promising personalities.

The seven other Boys' State towns will soon be inundated with information and laughter from all.

## Valley Forge

By Kyle Harpster

I think that my town, Valley Forge, is one of the most motivated, talented, and diverse groups of people that I have ever met. I don't think that I could have ended up in a better town. We haven't even been together for two days yet, but it seems that we've known each other for quite a while.

I don't know how it happened, but every guy in Valley Forge seems to have his own place. It's as if a big box of puzzle pieces was dumped on the floor and 40 of them came together. Some guys fit in sports, some in band or choir, and many in politics. We are going to have to wait until the end of the week to see what kind of picture we make, but I'm pretty sure that it's going to be a good one.

When we all leave on Saturday, we are going to go back to our lives a little better, a little smarter. A lot of us are going to use the knowledge we gain in this experience in our lives or careers. A lot of us are just going to be glad to be done with it. As for me, I'm glad to have had the opportunity to meet these guys and spend a week with them at Cornhusker Boys' State. Oh, by the way: Who are we?

## Yorktown

By James Hartline

Some people believe in luck. Others would call it God's blessing. Some would say it is fate. Whatever you want to call it, somehow I was granted the good fortune of being able to spend my week at Boys' State with the 48 greatest guys I could imagine. I began to realize this immediately on Sunday night our town gathered in the lounge to meet each other for the first time. Some were studying, others were making friends and talking, still others had their eyes glued to the screen, eagerly hoping that the Huskers would win. We had all the ingredients we would need for a great group (and town for that matter).

Everyone in my town has many distinguishing and unique qualities and attributes. We are the only town who has a citizen with cornrows. Most people are nice and outgoing, each brings a special something into the group. Some are incredibly hilarious, others unbelievably smart. The list goes on and on. Our town has two very talented people running for governor (one for each party), and in my opinion, they are as good as it gets. My entire floor was running up and down the stairs eagerly helping our candidates campaign for the various offices. I have to say that without a doubt, Yorktown is the best of the best. I can only hope that everyone else here at Boys' State is having as much fun as I get to have hanging out on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Schramm Hall.

## Tuesday's Weather

By Marvin Wright

The prediction for today is scattered clouds with an isolated thunderstorm developing in the afternoon. Winds are to be out of the SSE at 5 to 10 miles per hour. Chance of precipitation is at 30%. Highs should be around 73. Lows tonight should be around 53 with a few clouds. Winds should be out of the SSW at 5 to 10 miles per hour.

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

## Alamo

By Zach Jensen

Push a button marked “7” in a Schramm Hall elevator and you’ll end up in the town of the Alamo.

On Sunday night, the Alamo divided into its two political parties to vote for its candidates. The Nationalist party nominated Travis Ptacek for Governor, David Slobotski for Lieutenant Governor, and Jeremy Hutcheson for Secretary of State.

The Federalists nominated Andrew Lingefelter for Governor, Aaron Persinger for Lieutenant Governor, and Blake Woodward for Secretary of State.

After making a few posters on Monday morning, the time came for the Alamo’s candidates to travel to other towns and campaign. To the dismay of the counselors, many of the Alamo’s citizens decided to stay in their town’s lounge area instead of leaving to campaign. However, the boys did make good use of their time by listening to and questioning candidates from other towns. Citizens from the Alamo also tested the candidates’ dedication to getting their message out by having them perform several activities in order to state their platform. These activities included: lampshade wearing, singing, dancing, crawling beneath chairs, and leg shaving.

The Alamo has distinguished itself from other towns another way: its citizens lost at least ten phones on Sunday and gained them all back. This occurred because the Alamo’s counselors said they would take the phones away if Alamo’s citizens didn’t lock their doors. However, the counselors neglected to tell the Boys Staters that the button locks on the knobs didn’t work. As a result, all the boys got a free pass and got their phones back.

## Bataan

By Chris Bouc

Located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor and known as cloud 9 we have a pretty nice meeting room. We are one of the biggest towns at Boys State this year; we wear the color of whitish grey. Today we were busy making and helping our fellow members campaign for the upcoming election. Jonathan Sloup is our Federalist candidate for Governor and Brent Jareske is the candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Our Secretary of State candidate is Dustin Cassell and our Treasurer candidate is Jake Rundle. Our auditor candidate is Dennis Krotz and our Attorney General candidate is Tim Pederson. Our Public Service candidates are Thomas Schure, Kyle Beluke, Joe

Spencer, and T J Lee. They all spoke and defended themselves well today at the primaries.

The other night we had discussions and elections for our candidates, we are a good team, because if nobody wanted a job there was always someone to suck it up and fill in for the good of the team. We are a really committed group and we all work together to promote and help our candidates. We have a great basketball team and football team; we are a well rounded group of individuals. Even though I have little journalism experience I am helping represent our teams involvement in the newspaper.

Our four great counselors are Adam Sughroue, Adam DeMuth, Tony Lechron, and Matthew Weeder. They are all smart and have some great strategies for winning best town.

We have all come from a lot of different places and have met a lot of new people so far. As we progress we’re all starting to get into this a little more, it gets better each day, so we look forward to enjoying the rest of the week and helping contribute to the town of Bataan.

## Gettysburg

By Daniel Ocanto

It would seem that as the day rolls on, the Boys in Blue—Navy Blue, that is—have acquired their own sense of pride. Whether it be grunting like a behemoth while marching to Kimball Hall, or dominating on the playing field, the town of Gettysburg has taken Boys’ State by surprise.

Coming back from what seems to have been a fairly upsetting year for Gettysburg last year, the “Getty-B” team is ready for any challenges that lay ahead. Having acquired a heavy presence in the Primary election caucus, it would seem that the Gettysburg team is well-rounded in just about every aspect of the game. Don’t, however, let the seriousness of our team fool you.

Gettysburg, away from the prying eyes of neighboring towns, has many other personalities. Whether you’re drying yourself off with your own pants, or making other town delegates stand on their head and rap “I’m A Little Tea Pot,” we have taken the endeavor of running your own town with style and charisma.

## Corrections

In the Monday, June 2 issue, Rob Durland was incorrectly identified as Rob Perlin.

## **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).