Cornhusker Boys' State Bulletin

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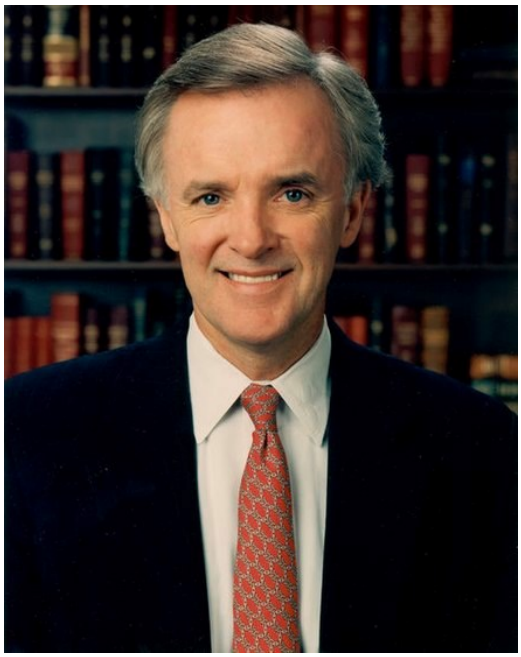
Leadership in Action

By: James Padgett, Gettysburg

On Wednesday night, we had the privilege of listening to Bob Kerrey, the former Governor of Nebraska from 1983 to 1987, who spoke about his experiences as a politician and how it shaped him as a person. Before becoming Governor, Bob Kerrey served as a Navy SEAL officer in the Vietnam War. After his governorship, he served as a Senator for Nebraska in the United States Senate. In 1992, he ran for the Democratic presidential nomination.

After providing his background full of experience, Governor Kerrey turned his attention to the audience for questions. His first comment was regarding the microphone: "You know how weird it looks, you speaking into a box?" This became a topic of discussion for the first few minutes of the questionnaire until he was asked about what one of his greatest achievements was. To this he responded, "Well, I got married." Governor Kerrey also spoke on the topic of what makes a good leader: "You've got to be sufficiently humble. You need to be able to laugh at yourself." He stressed the importance of these traits when describing his past career as a politician and reflecting on his experiences.



After Governor Kerrey provided us a few more life lessons and took music recommendations from the crowd.

Dr. Lawrence Chatters, the Executive Associate Athletic Director for Strategic Initiatives at UNL, gave a talk regarding what it means to be a leader and how you can implement strategies in your own life to accentuate leadership qualities. Chatters shared an acronym about leadership that he lives by: LEADERSHIP. The L stands for listening, E for engaging, A for accessible, D for dreamer, E for empathic, R for relationships, S for safety, H for honesty, I for inspiration, and P for praise. After giving explanations for each letter, Dr. Chatters revealed his previous aspirations: rapping. Under the name "XL," he pursued a brief career in music during his college years. After exciting the audience with his story, he rapped two sets of lyrics, causing the auditorium to erupt in applause and cheers.

Republican and Democratic Party
By: Preston Larson, Manila Bay

On the fourth morning here at Boys' State, we got to take a trip back to Hawks hall. The reason for this trip was a special opportunity to hear from a Democratic Party representative and a Republican Party representative. We got to see both viewpoints in a whole new light. The first representative we heard from was the Republican. She told us that she started her career in politics in 2021. She was a State Director for two years and studied in international business. They had actually just got done with their 90 day session in the capital. She discussed many things that her party stands for. One of these things that stuck out was how she cared about family farms. She said "family farms are the bedrock of our state." She talked about how it's very important that we keep people coming back to Nebraska. Nebraska doesn't thrive without its young people. Some other things she discussed were how they support law-enforcement, first responders, and most importantly the American flag. She also said the Republican Party has pro-life views. She talked about how we need to keep Nebraska's ag industry growing. The last thing she added was the misconception of how State Senators get paid a large amount of money. The truth is that they only get paid $12,000 a year .

Then we were onto the Democratic representative. She informed us that she had started her career in politics in 2018. She had a once in a lifetime opportunity to become the first woman of color to cast an electoral vote for a president. She said that her party believes in law enforcement and that there is good and bad in it and that it takes the good to help us all. She said "people always talk about defunding the police, but what are you gonna do when you're in trouble? You're gonna call the police." She talked about how there is no American dream without recognizing the outcome of slavery. She discussed with us that her party is concerned about climate change, and that the outcome could be catastrophic for our world. One last thing she discussed with us was that she supports the legalization of marijuana. Her main concern was medical marijuana, but she would also be in support of recreational marijuana that got everyone in the room fired up. The final word she left with this was to make sure you get your voice heard even if you're young you still need to make a stand for what you believe in. All in all it was a great opportunity for all of us, and I believe it opened our eyes to better society.

Cornhusker Boys' State: What it Really Takes
By: Hayden Cunningham, Belleau Wood

Yesterday marked the fourth day of Cornhusker Boys' State. After a day of flag raising, walking to Hawks' Hall, meeting Governor Robert Kerrey, and auditioning for the talent show, the day finally came to a close with the daily town leadership session. The topic for discussion was "What it Takes". The senior counselor kicked things off with a John F. Kennedy quote, and asked for opinions. The topic sparked a lot of discussion, ranging from citizens talking about what a successful leader should be like to debating if the USA is doing enough to help the Ukrainian citizens. It got emotional quickly, with citizens using personal examples of what it took for them to get through loss. The counselors joined the discussion by giving examples of when they were going through loss and how they turned it into motivation.

Yorktown Report
By: Brodie McConville, Yorktown

Over the past week, Yorktown has grown as a brotherhood and this was shown perfectly through last night's leadership discussion. They discussed the ways to be a good citizen in the United States and also ways to show admiration towards our Veterans. The night was ended by a discussion about family members that fought for our freedom in a variety of different ways. Many of the Yorktown members shared very personal stories that most of them would never even consider sharing when they came to Boys' State on Sunday, but because of the members growing admiration towards each other, they knew the other townsmen had their backs.

Manila Bay Today
By: Braeden Stastny, Manila Bay

Things are picking up now during the last few days of Boys' State. Since yesterday was the general election for statewide roles, governor candidates Clay Brandenburger and Jeremiah Theork put in a little extra time to prepare their speeches the night before for yesterday's caucus assembly. Sparing no expense, Manila Bay pooled enough money to buy mic time for their governor candidates and lieutenant governor candidate Austin Allen. While each candidate fought valiantly for each of their positions, the ballot turnouts resulted only in sensations of sadness among the candidates and their brothers who put in so much effort to get them their positions.

In lighter news, talent show auditions took place last night in which Manila bay had three contributions. Two personal acts performed by Preston Larson and Isaac Van Leer and one humorous skit performed by the entirety of Manila Bay. The talent show brought laughter and smiles to everyone in town, certainly making the event the highlight of the day.

Federalist Caucus

By: Jafar Liebers, Manila Bay

Yesterday we attended caucuses for our respective parties. Candidates for the general election of state offices and candidates for the primary election for governor had opportunities to speak. After their opening statements, they went around to the towns and answered questions. During that time, some towns asked real questions, and some asked some joke questions. After the question asked by the towns, the candidates then had 2 minutes to come up with a question to ask another candidate. This was a fun part, because candidates knew what to ask to get the other candidate to stumble a little bit.

Gettysburg Town Report
By: Nayan Vel

The legendary town of Gettysburg has made its mark on the 83rd Boys' State as the most extravagant town in the state. Starting on the first day, we all recognized our Senior Counselor, John Willy, as the town's leader. As such, current legislator Joe Burgess made it his mission to make an image. After achieving a picture, and replicating it as a sketch on parchment, the sketch was displayed. Continuing on the thread of city council ordinances, the city council also established a walking speed limit on the 6th floor. This ordinance was established to ensure minimal damage during walking collisions, but also to prevent slow walkers from taking up time as the ordinance mandates a walking speed anywhere between 50-100 steps per minute. In order to begin enforcing these ordinances, the city council recognized a need for a bureaucratic system of agencies and commissions. Thus, town's county supervisor Carson Trompke was given the power to create and employ various agencies through the Supervisor Creation Act. Trompke's first order of business was to establish the Department of Walking Legs (sister of the DMV) to enforce our various laws (some yet to be seen).

Moving away from bureaucratic processes, the town also developed its very own frolf (frisbee golf) course (mentioned in an earlier article) to encourage tourism. High interest in the course led to revenue windfalls as members from several distant towns visited and paid the fees to play. On the topic of passes, the DWL, in conjunction wiith Supervisor Trompke, developed official walking passes for those responsible members of the town to ensure their right to walk, within the laws, of course. All the Getty Boyz were given free passes signed by both Trompke and Mayor Clayton Zavodny, while all other Boys' Staters wishing to walk on the 6th floor had to pay a small fee. Recognizing the need to speed up Frolf games, a recreational edition walking pass was created allowing holders to move at faster paces.

The last significant ordinance to be established was the Migratory Defecation Act. Realizing the real threat of foreign defecators in our town, the city council mandated that all non-Getty Boyz purchase a bathroom pass to use one of three designated stalls. This came in quick succession to Trompke's creation of the town's S.W.A.T. team. Only the best of the best were selected to serve and protect our great town.

Finally, all our town's elected officials were formally sworn in just yesterday. Taking the general outline, the town unanimously decided to modify the general script. Instead of the usual oath, the Getty Boyz instead chose a much shorter oath that ended, of course, with "so help me John." Once all the officials were sworn-in, they synchronously chanted the Dew Committee approved town slogan: "Do the Dew before the Dew does You!" Clearly, the town of Gettysburg has made its mark, not only on the 83rd Cornhusker Boys' State, but also on the unique and enthusiastic Getty Boyz.

Judicial Report

By: Elio Nila, Gettysburg

There were three main cases from SCOTUS presented before the county and district judges of Suchy and Triola counties. These consisted of: 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis, Gonzalez v. Google, and Biden v. Nebraska. Boys' Staters in the judicial court system were separated into groups to create reasonings for why a panel of judges should favor their side. After preparation, the cases were ready to be presented. The arguments were informative with an obvious indication that both sides were well educated on the case that they were presenting. With careful deliberation, there was an interesting mix of opinions between the judges and attorneys of both counties. Once the results were announced, we had a brief discussion about the reasoning for the decisions and discussed the plans for assignments of the cases when they will be presented in the Supreme Court. Today, one case will be presented in front of the Cornhusker Boys' State Supreme Court in the morning at the Hawks Hall. The other two will be displayed in front of the Supreme Court in the afternoon at the Nebraska Capital.

Federalist Caucus For Governor

By: Jacob Gill, Alamo

"The purpose of government is to enable the people of a nation to live in safety and happiness. Government exists for the interests of the governed, not for the governors." (Thomas Jefferson). As delegates of the Cornhusker Boys' State, we have come to the time to choose our governor. There were two governor caucuses in Hawks Hall on Thursday, June 8th. The Federalist Party gathered in Hawks Hall B on Thursday to hear the delegates speak. Delegates who ran for Governor that were Federalist include Anish Amin - Bataan, Clayton Zavondy - Gettysburg, Charles Yale - Bunker Hill, Dahlton Fisher - Belleau Wood, Jeremiah Theork - Manila Bay, Luke Reiter - Valley Forge, Owen Weidner - Yorktown. Some of the campaign issues mentioned in the federalist caucus were men's mental health month (which is going on now), irrigation, farming tax relief, and much, much more. But as you may know, there was a winner for the Federalist Party. We want to congratulate Anish Amin for representing the federalist party. Anish will go up against Porter Nelson - Alamo from the Nationalist Party for the General Election today! Good luck to both representatives.

Nationalist Caucus For Governor

By: Jonah Fagiolo, Bunker Hill

June 8th was the day of the caucus for Nationalists and Federalists. The Nationalists had a very tight competition, featuring at least 1 person from every town, and even 3 people from Gettysburg! Many discussed some of the big issues that Nebraska is facing right now, while some took a much more different approach to their speech. Some of the speeches talked about expanding agriculture so that Nebraska can make more money, possibly by using vertical farming, working on fixing the roads to make it much safer to drive on, decriminalizing marijuana and having similar restrictions to alcohol, and changing health care to be more affordable for many low income families. Other speeches focused on building a community with everyone and that despite them being nationalists, they can still team up with the federalists towards a common goal.