



State of the Boys



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Secretary of State addresses Boys State participants

By Paul Lueders, St. Peter

As Boys Nation Senator Travis Nordgaard announced, "Please welcome..." to the assembly at Boys State, you could tell something big was going to happen. The room became quiet, allowing the following, "...The Honorable Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie," to be heard. One of the most distinguished speakers we will meet this week, it was an honor to have Secretary Ritchie here.

Ritchie began his speech by addressing Boys State as one of the greatest events anyone can experience. As Secretary of State, he helps with state emergencies, talks to other secretaries of state, manages



Secretary of State Mark Ritchie

elections and oversees business practices. He went on to talk about the historical aspect of his position. Afterwards, Ritchie discussed the importance of history in society and

gave examples, such as the Declaration of Independence. Ritchie then told how this country isn't made on words, but on deeds.

He emphasized the need for us, the young leaders of Minnesota, to be active in our communities.

The Secretary explained how Minnesota has the highest voter turnout in the nation, 78 percent, and went on to say that some counties, such as Red Lake, have voter turnouts over 90

percent. He recalled a story from a past lecture at Red Lake where he inquired as to why the voter turnout was so

Ritchie continued on page 6

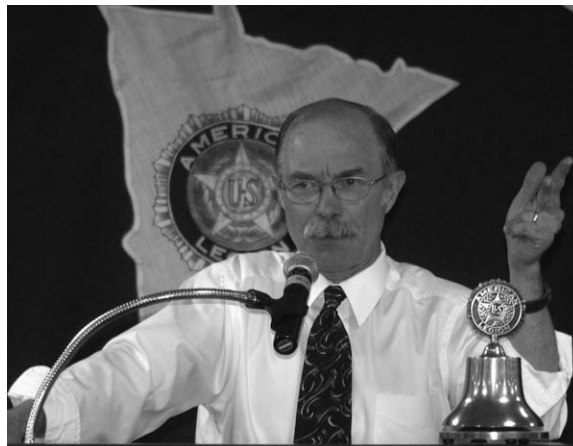
Kunkel shares political wisdom and advice

By Eric Stangeland, Minneapolis

Having ideas without putting them into practice is pointless, but practicing without ideas is nothing but blind. Thus one must study ideas and put them into practice.

That is the best way to sum up Dr. Joseph Kunkel III's speech Monday evening, when he talked about a small number of parts of our not-so-small political system.

He started with the basics. Politics is, simply, the process of making decisions for a group. This, by its very definition, involves a certain amount of conflict. Conflict often seems to turn people away or



Minnesota State, Mankato Professor Joseph Kunkel III

completely alienates them. Kunkel pointed out that if there were no disputes in the world, we wouldn't need government. The Holocaust, the

gulags, slavery, and any number of instances of genocide, point out that for some strange reason, people don't seem to get along that well. Thus we have government, and why we allow it to enforce its will onto us, with the ever so subtle threat of coercion.

The "Good Doctor" also touched on more concrete subjects. Kunkel referred to the common error of most Americans to refer to our government as a democracy.

The U.S. actually follows the style of a republic. A republic is a

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Proper retirement of a flag

By Alexander Knowles, Duluth

On Monday, the 40 & 8 Society showed Boys Staters how to dispose of an American flag with dignity by means of burning. The ceremony was somber as one member of the “by-invite-only” society presented a flag for decommission. The process begins with a member submitting a flag for disposal to two other members of the council. Those two members assess the nature and condition of the flag, and then decide whether it is fit for an honorable disposal. The flag is then presented to the head of the council, who makes the final assessment and commands its decommission. When a flag is ap-



Members of the 40 & 8 show how to properly retire a U.S. flag.

proved for honorable disposal it is then taken and burned. ‘Taps’ is then played, and then the ceremony is adjourned.

Any flag that has faded or sustained damage can be taken to a number of patriotic organizations, such as the American Legion.

Flag dedication



Mary Thelen, wife of Jim Thelen, along with her son, Jamie, are greeted by Boys State staff after the dedication of a flag in Jim’s honor Monday afternoon. Thelen, the Vice Director of the Minnesota American Legion Boys State for six years, died earlier this year. The flag will be displayed permanently in the Student Center at Southwest Minnesota State University.

The mystery of Parliamentary Procedure

By Jeremiah Peterson, Stillwater

The wisdom of our government’s wig-wearing ancestors was passed on to Boys Staters yesterday. Bret Collins enlightened us about Parliamentary Procedure Monday afternoon.

Collins opened with a bit of history, telling of “Robert’s Rules,” named after Henry Roberts, who studied the English procedure and added them to the United States’ government in 1876. His rules provide a guideline for an agenda. This agenda maintains order, civility and expediency. It also ensures the minority party has a voice.

Some specific parts of Robert’s Rule’s are: unfinished business must be attended to and all members of a committee should be educated about the rules. All topics of conversation opened in previous meetings must be closed before new ones are opened in order to make sure that no topic is forgotten or left out.

Collins reinforced his summary of Parliamentary Procedure through a mock meeting that he had a few Boys Staters act out. The skit had the boys rolling with laughter. What otherwise would seem like a boring discussion actually turned out to be an enlightening experience.

And with that, the meeting was adjourned.

If you think you’re a poet
And you really know it.
Get your prose to the State
But don’t be late!

Mulso explains role of school board

Twenty years ago, Bill Mulso left his hometown of Sherburn to attend Southwest State University, and he has never looked back.

After attending the university, he went on to achieve a master’s degree in Educational Leadership. In 2000, he began to put this education to use when he joined the Marshall Leadership Academy. His education again came into play in 2007, when he was first appointed to the Marshall School Board, and in 2008, when he was elected to the same board position.

Mulso said that the board has four main roles. These roles are vision, structure, accountability, and advocacy. As a testament to the hard work and dedication of the board,

he gave examples of some of these roles. One example consisted of the structure part of the board, when three vacancies opened up in a grade level and decisions needed to be made in the best interest of the youth and the budget. Do you fill the openings in that grade, or are personnel resources better served in other academic areas?

The board used its ability to review the situation and recommended a solution to the problem that the board felt served the district in the best possible way.

A favorite quote of Mulso’s is, “Emotions must be kept in check. Everyone has two ears and one mouth because they are meant to listen more than talk.” On Monday



Bill Mulso, a member of the Marshall School Board.

night it was very educational for Boys State citizens to have Mulso do the talking while the citizens were privileged to listen.

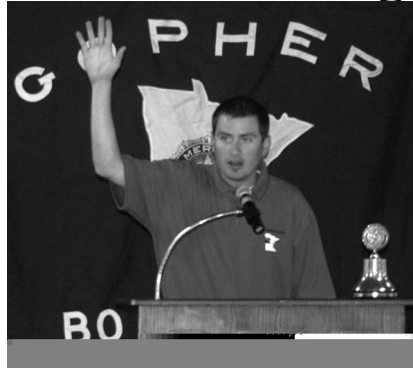
Culhane gives advice for finding the right college

By Austin Howes

Yesterday, Sean Culhane, an admissions counselor for Southwest Minnesota State University, delivered a speech to the Boys State audience regarding the college admissions process, SMSU in general, and what high school juniors can do to create a better springboard for themselves into the college atmosphere. Culhane has been a counselor at SMSU for four years now, and deals with many of the admissions tasks that most students today find daunting. With his admissions experience, he was able to present some useful advice to Boys Staters that are having a difficult time figuring out what to do as a junior in high school.

First, Culhane spoke about SMSU to the students. The school has invested \$95 million construction and renovations over the past six years and a new 250-bed residence hall will open this fall.

Culhane also introduced the Boy’s State participants to a few of



Boys State Counselor Sean Culhane

the more unique majors that SMSU offers. One of those is culinology, which is a mixture of culinary arts and food science. This major, which can potentially earn over \$100,000 coming out of college, offers a chance for students to mix a more liberal art element into a science-related major. Another major that Culhane mentioned was agronomy, which focuses on the science of soil. This major was created to offer students from agricultural backgrounds an opportunity to pursue a career that

is similar to their upbringing.

Culhane touched on the actual admission step, a subject many students find frightening or intimidating. According to his presentation, every college is different; students will have to find a college that best meets their needs and interests, whether that be a community college, a four-year college, or a military career.

Culhane emphasized the importance of working hard during the senior year of high school. Colleges look at these final transcripts, even if they were finalized after a student was accepted into a college, as they can still affect grant and scholarship money. ‘Senioritis’ should definitely not be a part of a student’s vocabulary.

Standardized tests can also impact the admissions process.

Culhane continued on page 5

Boys Staters elect 14 mayors

Congratulations to the following Boys Staters who were elected to serve as mayors of their respective cities:

Duluth: Alec Lykken
Rochester: David Banks
Anoka: Alex Ringhand

Clara City: Nathan Lehman
Moorhead: Tanner VanAuken
Hibbing: Chris Satterthwaite

Austin: Michael Graff
Mankato: Taylor Mathiason
St. Cloud: Luke Braun

Winona: Samuel

Crockett
St. Paul: Dakota Huseth
Minneapolis: Bobby Schoen

St. Peter: David O'Brien

Liedl
Stillwater: Zack Pochucha



A Boys Stater votes for city officials, while the City Clerk (left) checks his voter registration card.

Boys State snapshot

Editor's Note: Each day during Boys State, our reporters will randomly select a participant for a snapshot profile.

Name: Andrew Ferguson
Hometown: St. Clair
Boys State City: Mankato
Why I am attending Boys State: To learn more about our government.
Favorite Movie: *Rambo*
What's on my iPod: Metallica
Favorite School Subject: Science
People would be surprised to know that I ... can eat a lot.

Ice Cream Treats are provided to Minnesota American Legion Boys State attendees courtesy of:



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Is a two-state Middle East solution viable?

By Leif Lusty, Austin

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, stated in a speech Sunday afternoon that he is “open to a Palestinian State,” but on very restricting terms: A complete demilitarization of Palestinian territory, and a full acknowledgement of Israel as a country. This speech comes on the heels of Barack Obama’s speech in Cairo, where he pushed Israel for a two-state solution to the situation in Israel.

Palestinian leaders responded very negatively to the speech, stating “He (Netanyahu) announced a series of conditions and qualifications that render a viable, independent, and Sovereign Palestinian state impossible.”

Israel has quite a bit to worry about at this point, with the recent re election of Mahmud Ahmadinejad, who has been openly hostile to Israel as well as toting a nuclear weapons program, a very dangerous combination for the small nation, as well as a potential conflict with the United States, who supports Israel.

This potential political boiling point has created somewhat of a see-saw act for Netanyahu, who has to balance pressures from the United States for a two-state solution, to the opinion of the Muslim world, which is often at odds with Israel. This situation gives very little room for political maneuvering for Netanyahu, and it shows in this speech, in which he presented what at first looks like a good solution, but really would put Palestine at a disadvantage.

Kunkel *continued from page 1* system of government in which people elect others to make decisions for them, as opposed to a democracy, in which everyone votes on every issue. This actually seems to make some peoples attitudes towards politics even more pathetic, because they question why they should allow someone else to make decisions for them?

Another relevant topic Kunkel graced in his speech was the two party system. While he admitted that parties have made politics much fiercer and more cut-throat, Kunkel said that as much as he would like to see other prominent parties, the two party system is here to stay because it simplifies decisions.

Any way you look at it, we should all feel quite honored that Kunkel paid us a visit, as his speech was very insightful.

SPORTS ROUND-UP: Lakers clinch NBA title

By defeating the Orlando Magic Sunday night, the Los Angeles Lakers not only won the NBA championship, but set a few milestones along the way.

Phil Jackson, head coach for the Lakers, won his 10th NBA championship, tying Red Auerbach for the most championships won. He previously won six titles during the 1990s Chicago Bulls dynasty, making this his fourth with the Lakers.

This title is also the 15th for the Laker program — two short of the NBA record of 17 by the Boston Celtics.

Kobe Bryant also added his fourth ring to his hand by clinching the title Sunday — his first without the assistance of Shaquille O’Neal. Bryant was also named MVP of the Finals, scoring 30 points in the final game.

Along with his four rings, he also holds a gold medal from the 2008 Summer Olympics.

The final score of the game was 99-86.

Twins begin home series with Pittsburgh Pirates

The Minnesota Twins open a three-game home series today with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Game time is set for 7:10 p.m.

Minnesota Wild name new head coach

The Minnesota Wild held a press conference today at noon announcing their pick for new head coach, Todd Richards.

Culhane *continued from page 3*

Sean repeated to the Boys State audience that it is strongly recommended to take these tests multiple times, as this can potentially raise one’s score, making a drastic difference in college acceptance and the amount of grant money awarded. Sean also told the Boys State participants to stay organized in respect to dates, and understanding scholarships. He also encouraged students to

do their research on colleges of interest, since every school is different.

Taking college tours is imperative— the college campus is a great factor in deciding which school is the best fit. Students should narrow their colleges of interest down to three to five, since it becomes overwhelming if too many schools are taken into account. Simply put, students during high-school need to take responsibility now in order to better prepare them for a secure future.

Monday's athletics results

Basketball

Austin def. Anoka
 Duluth def. Clara City
 Hibbing def. Mankato
 Moorhead def. Minneapolis
 Rochester def. St. Cloud
 St. Peter def. St. Paul
 Stillwater def. Winona

Volleyball

Austin def. Anoka

Clara city def. Duluth
 Hibbing def. Mankato
 Minneapolis def. Moorhead
 Rochester def. St. Cloud
 St. Paul def. St. Peter
 Stillwater def. Winona

Softball

Anoka def. Austin
 Duluth def. Clara City
 Mankato def. Hibbing
 Moorhead def. Minneapolis
 Rochester def. St. Cloud
 St. Paul def. St. Peter
 Stillwater def. Winona



Softball is one of a trio of competitive sports offered at Boys State, along with volleyball and basketball. Boys Staters take a lot of pride in their individual cities, which compete with others for team honors throughout the week. Boys State counselors will take on the volleyball champions later in the week for bragging rights, continuing a long-held Boys State tradition.

Ritchie continued from page 1 high. The response, from a young woman in the crowd, was that, "We love this place, and we vote because we take care of the places we love."

The students asked question ranging from economic policy to current political issues, such as voting and education. One Boys Stater asked the Secretary about the services his office provides for start-up businesses. If any of you are interested in starting your own business, the Secretary encouraged people to e-mail his office with questions pertaining to the services the government provides. His e-mail address can be found at www.sos.state.mn.us.

A large portion of the question-and-answer period dealt with the unresolved Senate race between Al Franken and Norm Coleman. The Secretary addressed the questions head on, but emphasized that the race had not been a complete debacle. When asked about the possibility of a run-off election, or instant run-off (where a second vote would be taken in place of a recount), the Secretary said that they would be testing that idea in future small-scale elections.

Secretary Ritchie's speech was inspiring, showing that we need to be active in our communities to protect our democracy.

Know your stuff

Editor's Note: This section will provide you with questions to help prepare for the test on Minnesota government and flat etiquette.

- How many senate districts are there in Minnesota?
 A. 87
 B. 77
 C. 67
 D. 57
- At what time of the day on Memorial Day should the flag be raised from half-staff to its peak?
 A. 10 AM
 B. Noon
 C. Sunset
 D. The flag should remain at half-staff throughout the day
- How many district courts are there in Minnesota?
 A. 8
 B. 9
 C. 10
 D. 11
- Which of the following is NOT a requirement for being governor?
 A. Be a citizen of the U.S.
 B. Be born in Minnesota
 C. Resident of MN for at least 1 year preceding the election
 D. 25 years of age or older

Yesterday's Answers

- D, 1896
- B, may declare war
- C, 1973
- D, 87

Menus

Tuesday

Dinner: Tator tot hotdish, baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable.

Wednesday

Breakfast: Blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, pork sausage patty.

Lunch: Chicken nuggets, cavatappi, meat sauce, marinara sauce, broccoli.

Dinner: Hamburgers, baked potato bar.