



State of the Boys



Volume 61, Issue 3

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Conventions Convene



Left: A Nationalist delegate raises a question; right: pushups were a negotiating tool for the Federalists.

Well-traveled Riley spends time in Minnesota

By Jim Tate

Joe Riley wishes he had more time to hunt and fish, but his duties as Boys Nation president have kept him busy the past year.

"If it walks and it's not human, and it flies and it's not a plane, I am hunting it," said the personable Riley, who addressed Boys Staters Sunday night and stayed until Wednesday.

Riley is an Etowah, Tenn., native and the oldest of three children in the Craig and Becky Riley family. Etowah is a town of 2,000, and Riley had big dreams when he attended boys state last year in Tennessee. "I knew I wanted to run for governor," he said. He would go on to be elected Boys Nation president.

He's been to Boys State in Tennessee, South Carolina, Minnesota and Ohio this summer, and will soon be off to the Future Business Leaders

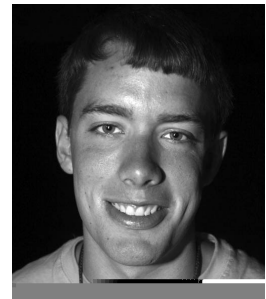
of American convention in Anaheim, Calif. He is president of that organization, also, and will oversee 8,000 participants at this year's event.

He feels that leadership is genetic, and developed. "I think you are born with it, but it also has to be developed through your individual experiences," he said.

His tenure as Boys Nation president has been rewarding. "It's a wonderful experience," he said. He's had the opportunity to meet with former President George W. Bush, and his position has opened many doors. When given a hard time by Boys Staters for his southern accent, Riley replied, "I danced with Miss Teen USA because of this accent," he said to uproarious laughter.

He will major in economics and foreign affairs at the University of Virginia, where he will be an Army ROTC member. He turned down

scholarships from Harvard, Yale and Princeton, though he will likely attend law school at either Harvard or Yale once his military duty is fulfilled.



Joe Riley

He is the recipient of the prestigious Jeffers Scholarship at Virginia. His ROTC commitment will pay for his education, and he'll be able to pocket the \$160,000 from the Jefferson Scholarship, a consideration, he said, that went into his college selection process.

His advice to college-age boys is this: "Keep your options open; don't close doors."

State conventions open: A look at the Nationalists

By Luke Prairie, Duluth

Being assigned our party designations the night before and meeting with our sister cities in our respective counties and parties, it's now time to come together and rise at a great state-level party convention! Perhaps, however, it will turn into an unconstructive squabble.

It started off with counselors' instructions that we begin the voting process to elect a House chair to preside over our meetings. How hard could this be? All the delegates vote and the nominee with the most votes wins, right?

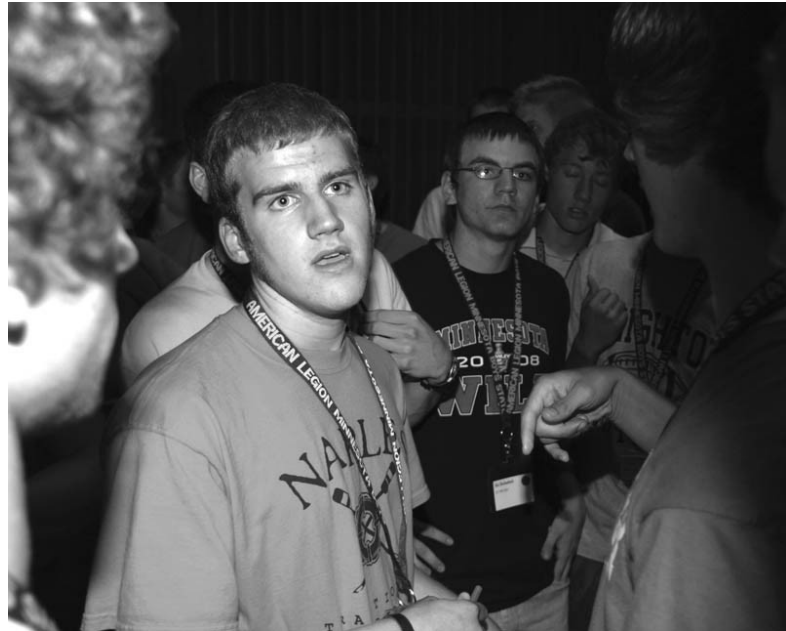
In the game of favorites, this is not always quite so easy. When every county is thinking about themselves and not the greater good of our political party, little can be accomplished. When the election of a single position takes well over a half hour, that's when one knows that things are not going smoothly.

After a few counties lost their candidates they had no choice but to vote for someone else or not vote at all. Finally, a leader was elected. Aaron Yaggie finally emerged the House Chair in the fourth round of voting. Surely, now that the convention had a strong central leader, the meeting could go forth smoothly and functionally. That would be a mistake. Many people wrongfully challenged and interrupted the chairman,

who did the best he could given the chaos around him. The chairman has a tough job indeed.

The next order of business that stalled us down was the discussion of party platforms. Many people failed to realize that there was little to no arguing taking place about the planks of the platform ideas. People continually stretched the conversation when a short consensus could have been reached quickly.

In conclusion, I hope we can all settle the differences, support our leaders and carry on with business. Though arguments are healthy and good, engaging in dead-end arguments is not a great way to spend the highly limited time that we have. We must work together to achieve our goals and compromise to win votes, and, ultimately, get as many of our candidates elected as possible.



John Yost, Stillwater, discusses candidates during the Nationalist state convention Tuesday.



From left, Ed Walczak, Clara City; Christian Myers, St. Cloud; and Aaron Yaggie, Anoka, discuss strategy Tuesday.

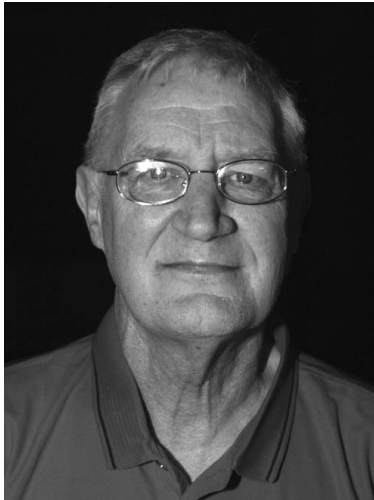
Brad Brandt: Boys Staters keep him coming back

By Brett R. Ubl, Hibbing

Brad Brandt, a 36-year veteran of Boys State, has returned once again to share his love of music with the 2009 Minnesota Boys State. Despite being born in Reinbeck, Iowa, he considers himself a true Minnesotan. Brandt attended Drake University and graduated from Lea College. He also served three years in Vietnam as a member of the Army Band. Since then, he has taught music at several high schools for 28 years. Now, in his retirement, Brandt enjoys traveling and still works for the Growth Music Company.

Brandt’s college director first inspired him to serve at Boys State. Despite his annual warning of departure, his dedicated and heartfelt program has brought him back year after year. “I just like youth. They rejuvenate me.”

Brandt especially finds passion in his music. He has taught theatre, orchestras, bands, and choirs as a high school teacher. He enjoys any



Band director Brad Brandt

genre of music (he even admitted to listening to country occasionally). His favorite music was penned by the composer Puccini, especially his opera, *La Bohem*.

On Friday night, the Boys State Choir will be performing a concert at 7:15 p.m. in the Schwan’s Community Center for the Performing Arts

at Marshall High School. A variety of music will be performed, featuring oldies, classical, patriotic, and religious. The concert will include “Hey, Good Lookin’,” “Rise Up, O Men of God,” and “I Like the Sound of America.” The audience can also expect a surprise performance of an unusual instrument that will surely excite every listener.

His humorous yet humble personality has made him an instant favorite among Boys Staters for many years. This year is no different. His service to youth and respect of their talents has touched countless lives. When asked what advice he would give to students, he said, “Give music a try. Appreciate what the composers have done. Even if music is not for you, you can certainly learn valuable lessons.”

On behalf of the Boys State Choir, we appreciate you, your dedicated service, and the lessons you have taught us, both as young musicians and as young men.

Hambrock serves dual role as counselor, band director

By Collin Erickson, Moorhead

When you first see the Boys State band, you will probably notice one glaring difference between the band and any other you have seen before — the Boys State band has a much different instrumentation than a typical concert band.

You see, the band is made of all boys, and is dominated by ‘boy’ instruments (trombone, trumpet and saxophone). The band has just one clarinet player and one flute player, but band director Robert Hambrock does the best with what he has been given. He planned ahead and knew the way the instrumentation would turn out. “You have to do what you can,” and he is willing to adapt for



Robert Hambrock

School in 2005, attended Boys State in 2004 and Boys Nation that same summer. He was chosen for Boys

the band. Hambrock specifically chose songs that would compliment his band’s instrumental makeup. Hambrock, who hails from Apple Valley and graduated from Eastview High School in 2005, attended Boys State in 2004 and Boys Nation that same summer. He was chosen for Boys

Nation not because he won many elections (he didn’t, the only office he held was in the House of Representatives), but rather because he demonstrated leadership and was strong in the party. Since then, Hambrock has returned for the past five years to work as a counselor, and he has been the band director for the past three years.

This year, Hambrock is a counselor for the city of Anoka, and he says he plans to keep coming back if it is still possible with his schedule. Hambrock graduated from Michigan Tech in May of this year with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering,

Hambrock continued on page 4

Know Your Stuff

Editor's Note: This will be the final set of test prep questions. Good luck on the test!

1. Which of the following is the date of township elections in Minnesota?
 - A. 2nd Tuesday of March
 - B. 2nd Tuesday of November
 - C. 1st Tuesday of March
 - D. 1st Tuesday of November
2. Who may call a special session of the legislature?
 - A. Speaker of the House
 - B. President of the Senate
 - C. Governor
 - D. Any representative, with a 2/3 vote in each house
3. Which of the following is NOT a duty of the state auditor?
 - A. Serve as the chief accounting officer of the state

- B. Serve as an ex-officio member of the state executive council
 - C. Keeps record of state investments
 - D. Conduct elections of local officials
4. How many people serve on a grand jury in Minnesota?
 - A. 20
 - B. 21
 - C. 22
 - D. 23

Answers from Tuesday's Edition:

1. C, 67
2. B, Noon
3. C, 10
4. B, Be born in Minnesota

Hambrock *continued from page 3*

and is currently searching for a job.

Hambrock hopes to spread his excitement for the Friday concert, because of the good music that the band will play. The band will be playing a variety of songs, and many are marches or military songs. The band, along with the choir, will perform during the assembly which will take place at 7:15 p.m. at the Schwan Community Center for the Performing Arts at the Marshall High School.

Hambrock said this year's band members have been working hard to learn the music, and he's impressed with the cumulative sound they bring forth.

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



The SCHWAN FOOD COMPANY™

www.theschwanfoodcompany.com

www.schwans.com

*Point-counterpoint***Brett Favre: Should the Vikings pursue the ex-Packer ?****Brett Favre's return: Pro***By Charlie Ward, Austin*

With the Brett Favre conflict gaining more and more attention, people are wondering: Is Favre going to play another season in the NFL?

The possibility of Favre coming back to the game that he loves is likely. Without a veteran quarterback, the Minnesota Vikings are looking to sign the once-great Green Bay Packer.

The Vikings have talent in every area of their team, but lack the vital component of a leader that can carry the team to a championship. Favre is that player.

There are speculations, however, as Favre completed an unsuccessful year under a one-year \$12 million deal with the New York Jets. But there is no doubt that he still possesses the talent to lead a team to success, if he's healthy. The Vikings provide a significant opportunity for Favre to win his second Super Bowl ring, and they are stacked with talent — both defensively and offensively. Favre has never played on a team with as much talent in players like Adrian Peterson, Bernard Barrian, and Percy Harvin.

It is possible to make this deal a reality with recent news about Favre taking physicals from the Vikings' trainers, Favre's family buying tickets for the Vikings-Packers game in Minneapolis, and a team representative taking a trip to Mississippi to talk with Favre.

Whether or not Favre wants to get revenge on Cheesehead Nation is irrelevant, in my opinion. The Vikings provide him an opportunity to write a successful final chapter to his career. If the Vikings sign Favre they will definitely make it to the NFC Championship game.

Favre will make the decision to play for the Vikings because he needs to take one last risk and go out with a bang in his already Hall of Fame career.

“The Vikings have talent in every area of their team, but lack the vital component of a leader that can carry the team to a championship.”

Brett Favre's return: Con*By David O'Brien Leidl, St. Peter*

Another offseason, another drama-filled Favre Watch. Just when we all thought the Brett Favre drama had finally come to an end, the ol' gunslinger decided he wasn't quite done.

After last year's debacle, (larger even than this year's Minnesota Senate race) in which a disgruntled Favre was shipped to the New York Jets, Favre not only left a team divided, but an entire fan base. The Green Bay Packer's entire organization was shrouded by the dark cloud that was Brett Favre, a constant distraction and threat to team unity. The Packers did just about the only thing they could do.

Here we are again, almost exactly one year later, in a sticky situation. Favre has once again expressed interest in returning after telling the world he was done. The situation this time is slightly different. Favre is currently a free agent — he is not currently on the roster of any NFL team. This means that any team in the NFL is free to pick him up providing that he really is interested in returning and that his surgically repaired tendon is ready to take on the NFL intensity.

It may appear that I am a Favre-hater, but that is not the case at all. I grew up in Madison, Wis., and from the moment I took my first breath in this beautiful world I was a Brett Favre fan and a Packer fan. I love the Packers; I love Brett Favre. In fact my little brother, Henry, actually shares a birthday with the greatest quarterback in NFL history, Oct. 10. It hurts me, a beloved fan, to see what has happened with Favre and the Packers over the past two years. For 17 seasons Favre was the Packers and now a bitter and resentful Favre seems to be out for revenge. To see Favre in those ugly purple uniforms would completely tarnish the amazing legacy this man has made for himself. No person who calls him/herself a Packer fan will ever forgive Favre if he sells himself to the Vikings, a team that has become the main rival of the beloved green and gold.

So I say to you Mr. Favre, stay home in Mississippi, enjoy your land and your Wrangler commercials and save some of the legacy that you worked so hard to create. Please.



A shirtless Boys Stater drives hard to the basket for a score. Competition continues daily for team championships.

Boys State snapshot

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

Name: Zachary Vanoverbeke

Hometown: Marshall

Boys State City: Hibbing

Why am I attending Boys State: An American Legion member told me Boys State was a great program.

Favorite movie: *The Lord of the Rings.*

What's on my iPod: Side winder, by avenged sevenfold

Favorite school subject: Computer science.

People would be surprised to know that I ... Am a skateboarding, guitar playing, computer nerd.

— Daniel McKenzie

Menus

Wednesday

Dinner: Hamburgers, baked potato bar.

Thursday

Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, waffle sticks, tri-tators.

Lunch: Cheese and pepperoni pizza, breadsticks and sauce, cheesy chix casserole, mixed vegetables.

Dinner: Baked chicken, corn dogs, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetables.

Tuesday's athletic results

Volleyball

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

Basketball

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

Note: Softball was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Throwdown on the Sand

If your city thinks it can beat the undefeatable counselors at volleyball, be at the courts at 4 p.m.

Old Tensions Flare In Russia As Georgian Envoy Rejected

By Leif Lusty, Austin

Russia rejected a UN resolution that would allow a UN observer mission to stay in the small country of Georgia, effectively ending the presence of UN forces in Georgia by June 16th. The rejection comes as a shock and puts UN Security Council member nations on edge, bringing back memories of the Cold War and, more recently, the 5 day war fought in August between Russia and dissenting Georgia.

However, despite the obvious controversy surrounding this rejection by Russia, the UN is following through on the rejection, pulling UN personnel and troops out of the region in which they have been present since 1993. Russia has said very little over the matter, other than threatening the veto before going through with it. Russia now considers South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the two states that broke away from Georgia, independent nations. Russian UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin stated, "There is no point in extending it as it is based on old realities." Churkin also explained that he had proposed the deadline be moved to July 25th, but it was rejected by Western nations on the Security Council.

The resolution was made to extend the time allotted by the UN for the observer group to stay by two weeks, which would allow time for the U.S., Britain, Russia, France, and Germany to make an agreement over the purpose of the group, and which direction to take it in the now shifting political climates in the region, which is nearing the one-year anniversary of the conflict in August. Russia itself considered sending additional troops in April, but did not, recognizing it was in violation of their treaty to end the war.

The South Ossetia War started on August 7th, 2008 as Georgian forces launched a military attack on South Ossetia. Russia, in reaction to this, deployed forces and began bombing parts of Georgia. Over the course of the next 5 days, Russian forces systematically crushed opposing Georgian forces, which eventually lost out to overwhelming Russian pressure, and were observed as the losers in the war. The Russians officially pulled out all troops in early October of 2008, while keeping an occupying force in South Ossetia and Abkhazia up to present day, under the observation of the United Nations staff that are being removed as of today.

Who's in Obama's House?

By Scott Challeen, Hibbing

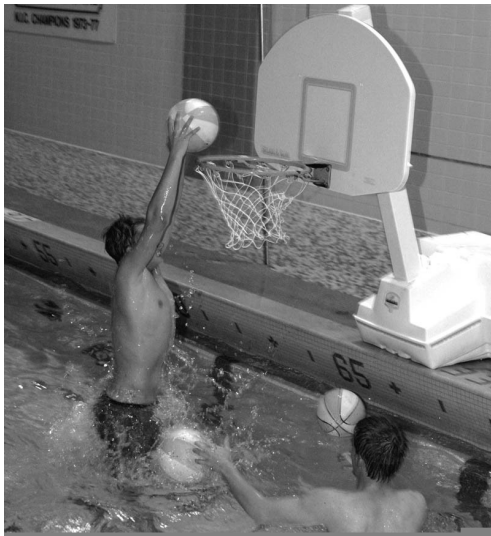
Rahm Emanuel, White House Chief of Staff:

Known to many as "Rahmbo," White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, the former House member from Illinois's 5th Congressional District, is a celebrity in the political world. Emanuel was born and raised in Chicago, to an American mother and an Israeli-American father. He made a name for himself in the Clinton White House as a senior advisor. Emanuel is also credited with keeping the Clinton campaign afloat in the 1992 presidential primaries, as well as playing a key part in the Democrats' 2006 capture of the House, where the party gained 30 seats. His bold personality was said to be the inspiration for the character Josh Lyman on "The West Wing." Legendary stories of his personality from the Clinton years include rumors of him stabbing a knife into a table repetitively when he was angry at Clinton's opponents, and mailing a dead fish to a coworker after the two parted ways, instead of the usual piece of Eli's Cheesecake he mails as a friendly gesture. Friends have noted that he has since "mellowed out." After working at the Clinton White House, Emanuel worked in the private sector for a few years, before he ran for Congress in 2002. He was elected chairman of the Democratic Caucus, making him the fourth-ranking House Democrat, behind Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn. Emanuel resigned his House seat after being selected to serve as the White House Chief of Staff in the Obama administration.

Gary Locke, Secretary of Commerce: Washington Governor Gary Locke was Obama's third choice for the position of Secretary of Commerce. Before him, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and Republican Senator from New Hampshire Judd Gregg withdrew their nominations for different reasons. Locke was elected governor in 1996, becoming the country's first Chinese-American governor. He was re-elected in 2000. Locke served five terms in the Washington state House of Representatives before becoming governor, and served as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee from 1989 to 1994.

James Jones, National Security Adviser: National Security Adviser Jim Jones is a retired four-star general in the Marine Corps. From 2003 to 2006, Jones served as the Supreme Allied Commander of Europe. Jones was also the Marine Corps commandant. He was also the special envoy to the Middle East in 2007 for then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Boys State Images



Boys Staters are busy from early in the morning to late at night during this 61st annual gathering of the state's best and brightest. Clockwise, from top left: Some singing practice; the city of Mankato met outside on Tuesday during city caucuses; the 14 elected mayors had breakfast with Director Mike Bredeck and Boys Nation president Joe Riley; the band practiced for Friday night's concert; dunking in the swimming pool.



Photos by Jim Tate