

"THE STATESMAN"

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Two Political Parties: A Chink in the Chain of NBS Democracy?

Four grueling NBS days full to the brim with governmental vying and deep-seated political compulsions would surely be enough to reduce almost any active participant to a state of inquiry as to whether or not a single political party might ever be enough to accurately reflect his own set of personal values. In other words, many members of this program, including myself, happen to believe that two main political parties may not be truly enough to encompass the views of all NBS delegates, let alone an entire nation. Perhaps the matter in question should be viewed from a longer-term, more intimate perspective. After coming into contact and spending time with numerous strongly opinionated kids this week, I have come to the steady conclusion that many would soon rather join a middle ground faction, a sort of purple shurtle (sheep-turtle) party with political platforms that might skillfully blend viewpoints and perspectives in relation to certain key issues that real voters and delegates alike might feel they could have a rapport with. Indeed, as a private case involving a delegate within the confines of my own city has recently shown, people find it easy enough to team up with camps on either side of the political spectrum. Many cardinal countries in Europe have multi party systems (often with ten to fifteen) in which no one party can gain the capability of gaining power alone, and parties often must work alongside one another in order to form substantial coalition governments. At first glance, this unique form of government by the people would seem to make sense on NBS and American soil in that it would largely help in solving the political identity crisis hereby discussed. And yet, some would argue that part of the distinctiveness of America's version of democracy comes from its exclusive two-party system, which allows for individual parties to rally more support and thus gain more consequent power. In the end, I guess it all boils down to whatever technique allows large groupings to mobilize large numbers in the easiest and most efficient way possible.

--By Jake Reid (Lindsey)

Halfway Through: A Look Back on the First Half of Boys' State

As hard as it seems, Boys' State is half over. Even though it seems as if we have been here for weeks, it has only been four days. What exactly happened those four days? On Sunday, most arrived from an extremely long bus ride here. We all checked in and began to interact with our cities. Monday dawned, and many things took place. We went through Daily Honors, and had our first two speakers, Jay Hansen and Senator Bob Nolan. We went through our first day of competitions in both sports and the Quiz Bowl. That night, we faced our first city crisis: Radioactive meteors, fanatics, explosives, and birds. That night, we all got our taste of just how little sleep we were going to get this week. When we awoke Tuesday morning, we felt the effects of having only two hours of sleep the night before. We listened to speeches from Jill Derby, Charles McNeely, and Bill DiBenedetto. All three speeches were interesting, even though it was hard for some of us to stay awake. After city matters, we all settled down for another two or three hours of sleep. If anything, we were more exhausted than the day before. Wednesday was one of the biggest days of the week. On Wednesday, we narrowed down the candidates to the candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and the Supreme Court Justices. It was also the last day for inter-city athletics and Quiz Bowl. We now compete in those same events against a team composed of Counselors. We are now half way through Boys' State. This means that you only have a little more time to apply yourselves. It also means that we are closer to leaving, and may never see our city members again. Nevertheless, we should still apply ourselves so that we will always remember our experiences at Boys' State.

--By Daniel Williams (Howard)

Tait's Great Mum

Having recently heard the horrendous and thoughtless roll call chant first issued by the city known as Martie, swim fanatic Tait Ecklund was blindsided with a blow directed at his mother. This tragedy was pursued further, with Anderson continuing the onslaught towards Ryan Hamilton, or infamously dubbed, "Hammy." This shot was aimed below the belt, as Tait has done nothing but contribute his valuable intellect towards group discussion within each city meeting, guided each delegate along with the utmost confidence, only failed to appear for Martie's athletic periods. In fact, he claims it was not his fault. He was at a director's meeting in order to improve Nevada Boys' State next year. This is being written to bring to light what Susan Ecklund truly stands for. Such an incredible woman should not be the subject of another cliché *your mom* joke issued forth by excited, yet groggy delegates functioning on three to four hours of sleep. Granted, not every roll call is brainstormed too thoroughly, and may quite possibly be fabricated as the cities take their seats in AB 106. Susan is currently sixty years old and the oldest of four girls in her family. She was born in Texas and has been married for thirty-eight years. According to the near-godlike Tait Ecklund, what makes his mother so great is the "infinite patience for having to raise three boys who have caused her so much grief in her life." When asked about how his swimming career took off, Tait described that Susan "took my two older brothers to swim since I was a baby and always being around the pool, I guess I wanted to swim. She has been extremely supportive all of my life," he says. She also is a librarian for the Clark County School District. As shown through these truthful words, Susan Ecklund is in fact the sole example of the modern intellectual woman, raising sons to succumb to absolute greatness in the not too distant future. She most definitely did not deserve the slander thrown against her, despite the occurrence a good hearty laugh, and the same goes towards Ryan Hamilton and his mum, who Zach Heit claims is a "very nice woman." The least thing we can do in the matter of the *ur mom* assault is look at the usage of teamwork, and how cities joined forces to harass a counselor simply because he was there.

--By Tony Boffelli (Martie)

Ten Ideas For Staying Awake During Lecture Time

1. Chew gum. Lots of gum.
2. Stand in the back of the room, making sure not to nod off against the back wall.
3. Take detailed notes. Not only is this a good habit to get into as a studious member of a Boys' State crowd, but it also happens to be a great method for staying awake.
4. Pour boiling coffee down your pants right after breakfast. The intolerable pain that follows from this action will allow you to sit bolt upright in your chair, offering the full length of your attention to the day's speaker.
5. Pretend as though the mere action of closing your eyes will result in one toe being torn from your foot in a terribly violent manner.
6. Bite your tongue. Let's not have any major injuries, please; keep in mind the fact that tongue-biting may lead to poor speaking if taken overboard.
7. Tap your foot lightly, but not so much as to distract other listeners from enjoying the presentation.
8. Focus on the left eyebrow of the speaker. If it frequently moves, you know they are a Communist.
9. Do not focus on the right eyebrow; it is insignificant.
10. Pinch your earlobes.

--By Jake Reid (Lindsey)

Daily Athletics: Day Three

Well, sports between cities are finally over. Now we await the match with the “All Stars”. All teams showed extraordinary resolve and sportsmanship this last day. For the teams, athletics was a way to blow off some steam, continue the process of bonding and teamwork, and was a chance to get some good old exercise. Team Martie finished athletics with an undefeated record. Needless to say, this placed them first in the standings. Second place went to Lindsey, and third place was a three-way tie between Howard, Bill Valley, and Jay Town. Bringing up the rear was Anderson. All teams will nominate players from their own teams to take on the “All Stars” in today’s events. Good luck to all those participating in today’s events.

--By Daniel Williams (Howard)

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
HOWARD	3	6	0
BILL VALLEY	2	6	1
JAY TOWN	3	6	0
ANDERSON	2	7	0
MARTIE	9	0	0
LINDSEY	6	2	1

Final Quiz Bowl

“Q: What two colors make up of a giraffe’s tongue?” Ben , an Anderson city member, shoots up his hand and says, “pink and black.” Ryan Kass quickly replies, “Incorrect.” For a quick moment the Martie team confers and Kevin Price looks confused. Five seconds go by. “Incorrect!” This is just one of the scenarios that faced the two rival teams of Anderson and Martie. The final quiz bowl round did not disappoint the eager spectators from both cities. It seemed like the questions were impossible to answer, but one of the teams always had an answer. The spectators from both teams were completely focused on the competition, and after every question you could expect to here intense snapping from either side. At the end the game Martie emerged vic-

torious with a score of thirty to twenty four. Both teams fought diligently with team captains Ryan Caste and Ben (last name). This is a fantastic representation of what boy state is all about; to teams trying there hardest to achieve something while being good sports and having fun. Both teams will never forget the intense competition that was forged in this round of QUIZBOWL!

--By Tim Hansen (Anderson)

Jay-Town (32)	V S	Bill Valley (23)
Martie (30)	V S	Anderson (24)
Howard (31)	V S	Lindsey (15)



Chief Justice Maupin

Respect can only be commanded when Chief Justice Maupin is discussed. Beyond his flawless legal career, spanning over 22 years, his role as a chief justice is essential in the judicial process. He graduated from the University of Nevada and the University of Arizona law. He was chairmen of the Nevada Supreme Court committee on alternate dispute resolution from 1992 to 1996, and is said to be the driving force behind the judicial system’s successful arbitration program. He is an inspiration to all who have aspirations in law or politics.