

D.C. forum was enlightening, enjoyable

By KEN HOOVER
Dallas High School senior

Last month I attended the *National Youth Leadership Forum* on Defense Intelligence and Diplomacy in Washington D.C. with 303 other students from all over the country, three from Ecuador, and two from a military base in Japan.

When I arrived in Washington on February 11, I was surprised at how efficiently things ran. As soon as I checked into the Omni Shoreham I hotel, I was rushed off to a seminar on government decision making processes that would prepare us for a crisis simulation that was scheduled later in the week. Later that day I met with my group of 23 students. (The 304 students attending were broken up into groups of 19 to 23 students.) Scott Flanery was my group leader who acted as our chaperone. He also became a good friend to everyone in the group.

During the week we visited several government and military sites. Our first visit was the Pentagon. Here we met with a Medal of Honor recipient. The next thing we did that day was to visit Capitol Hill, where we had the chance to meet with our elected officials if we had made prior arrangements. I was privileged enough to meet both Senator Rick Santorum and Congressman Paul Kanjorski. They were both friendly and cordial. I appreciate the time they took out of their schedules to meet with me and hope I get the chance to speak with them again. At the National War College we were taught in

depth how the government and military make decisions. This again was in preparation for our crisis simulation. One day, we went on an elective visit. We picked from a list of sites the top three



KEN HOOVER WITH CONG. PAUL KANJORSKI

where each of us wanted to visit. Our choices were: the State Department, a visit to the embassies, Andrew's Air Force Base, or the United States Naval Academy just to name a few. My top choice was the Naval Academy, but I ended up going to Andrew's Air Force Base. At Andrew's we got to go on former President Nixon's *Air Force One* and we got to see the cockpit of an F/A-18 Hornet along with other helicopters and planes.

Near the end of our week the crisis simulation began. Throughout the week we were to have been reading notes given to us explaining this situation: Cuba's government was in chaos. A military coup headed by Raul Castro, Fidel's brother, had taken control

of the government after Fidel's death.

We were to decide on the U.S. policy toward Cuba that would be in our and the world's best interests. Everyone in the group was given a part to play from the President down to the Attorney General of Florida. I was the CIA Analyst. I was to gather intelligence information about the situation. This ended up being a good position since before I left I had looked up information about Cuba on the internet.

During the simulation everyone gave their input about the situation, but the President was the one who made the final decision. In the end we decided to offer the Constitutional President of Cuba aid in his fight against Raul, economic, political, and military if in turn he would make Cuba a democracy and help the U. S. with its War on Drugs.

During my visit I learned about the complexity of government and military work. I also came to realize that people need to rely on many sources of information in order to understand what is happening in their country. The media can only supply sides of the information and do it accurately.

Finally, I thought the most important part of my trip was that I learned how to work with people from all over the country whom I had never met before to accomplish a common goal, and to appreciate the chance I did get to meet with these other students who are my future colleagues.

LETTERS

Cellular tower could be tourist attraction

Editor:
Some will decry the looming communications "eyesore" that threatens the pristine Dallas skyline with a 20 story construct at the Dallas Township Municipal Complex. Undoubtedly this will dominate the Dallas landscape for years to come.

But, with a little foresight and

innovation, I suggest that this could become a "theme" for a Dallas entering the millenium.

For communications purposes a tower is needed. But there is no particular reason that it has to be a utilitarian spike jutting 200 feet into the atmosphere. In Paris, for example, the 984 ft. Eiffel Tower which was constructed in con-

nection with the 1889 World's Fair has become a national symbol.

Why couldn't we seize the opportunity to turn this utilitarian construct into something different? Perhaps something that would put Dallas on the map for the next century! Think about it.

Hugh P. King
Dallas



Dinner to honor Manny Gordon May 1

Committee members for the Manny Gordon Testimonial Dinner on May 1 met recently to finalize plans for the event to be held at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. Gordon, former district forester who is well-known for his "Enjoy! Enjoy!" slogan, will be feted by a grateful community and the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus to recognize his lifetime of service to northeastern Pennsylvania. Manny Gordon shown posing on Penn State's campus in Lehman. The committee is, seated from left: Joey Shaver, Ray Crisci, Karen Clifford, Judge Gifford S. Cappellini, Attorney Michael Hudacek, Sr., co-chair, and Juanita Namey. Standing: Committee Chair Joe Perugino, Attorney Sandor Yelen, Bobbie Steever, Jay Karnofsky, Nancy Eckert, co-chair, Robert Fortinsky, Pat Solano and Tom Robinson. For dinner reservations, call Attorney Michael Hudacek, 779-9591, or Leonard Motzki, 288-6479. For donations to the Manny Gordon Scholarship Fund to benefit students at the local campus, call the development office at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, (717) 675-9228.



Lehman High spring concert April 25

The Lake-Lehman High School Band's Spring Concert will be held on Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior High Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for children and senior citizens. For further information contact Edward Richards at 675-7458.

River watch to hold meeting April 28

The regular monthly meeting of the Susquehanna River Watch will be held Monday, April 28, at the Dorranceton United Methodist Church, Wyoming Avenue, Kingston at 7:30 p.m. Agenda items include appointment of committee members, follow up on Earth Day activities, and update on the Local Rails to Trails Project and continued discussion of the Susquehanna River pollution activity.

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