

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE

MARTIN TURMAN, JR.

Indiana is the home of the Indy 500, Lincoln's childhood home, and the United States' largest children's museum. Indianapolis, the U.S.'s 12th largest city, is a comfort for any person who enters.

Indiana, which is tucked snugly in the middle of Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Kentucky, brings a down-home southern flair with the sophistication of the North, the fast pace of the East, and the mellowness of the West.

Indiana remains committed to helping move America to the nation it should be. Training students to believe in our Nation of freedom, preparing them to learn and grow through academic rigor, and allowing them to draw from whatever region fits them makes Indiana a mini-America with commitment to our people past, present, and even president.

"If you're ever in Indiana, ask anyone you meet and hospitality will always be placed at your feet."

LOUISIANA: WE'RE STILL HERE

LIBBY INGRAM & KATIE HUMPHREYS

When the members of the Louisiana delegation gathered for pre-CONA only a short while ago, they discussed many serious and pending issues. Of course, the most important issue was the design for our t-shirts. After agreeing upon it being of utmost importance, we exercised our political smart mouths while brainstorming and several ideas were brought up. Two ideas went to the showdown: how to say the commonly mispronounced "Louisiana Style," and secondly, the phrase "We're still here."

Delegates laughed and rolled their eyes at the questions we foresaw: "Did your pet alligator survive Katrina?," "Is New Orleans still underwater?," and our personal favorite, "Did you survive?" (Sorry if anyone's intelligence is offended, fellow delegates, but we all have those state stereotypes that tickle our sensibility bones. I still wonder how the New England states can bear to gorge themselves with lobster and crabs at every meal.) Louisiana, even through our problems and disasters, is here at the 2007 CONA conference debating over issues we all relate to.

Our ideas over gun control may oppose yours, but here we are, defending our positions on the issues. Here we are, representing our state and giving you a taste of our "southern spice." So yes, we are still here.

NEW YORK: A DOUBLE DYNASTY EMPIRE

EMMA COREY

I'm sure you're all familiar with Presiding Officer Andrew Vigliotta. A man with a small voice but a great heart, Andrew is passionate in his work and is incredibly wise. However, I'd bet you're unaware of his legendary status within New York's borders or the younger (and equally charismatic) brother quickly filling his shoes.

Vigliotta Sr. served as youth governor of NY at the 2006 state conference, proving to be what most consider the most progressive and effective in some time. He now returns to CONA in his fourth year as the first presiding officer from New York in 16 years. In March, his brother Matthew was elected as New York's youth governor and is in his second year of attendance at CONA.

Another active pair from the Empire State are the Bolan sisters. A member of NY's gubernatorial cabinet, Laura (the eldest) is in her third year of attendance at CONA, returning this year as a successful committee chair. Her younger sister Emily, New York's President Pro Tempore, is a fresh face at CONA and never fails to greet you with a smile. The New York delegation has high hopes for these core Youth and Government families and all of its delegates and is pleased to attend such an esteemed conference with such an impressive group of individuals.

On another note: New York's prized mascot, Veto the lobster, has disappeared. However, we're not totally in the dark as to who did the lobsternapping...Hey, Mississippi! We appreciate sharing relationships between states. Please enjoy your *temporary* possession of our most beloved friend, and we would really appreciate his return as soon as possible.

REPRESENTIN' THE STATES

BROOKE STEVENS

On Saturday, June 29th, 2007 delegates arrived at the Blue Ridge Assembly in great masses from all over the country. So how could anyone possibly tell who came from what state? Aside from the vocal accents and the name tags there is one way a person can tell where each delegate came from: a wide variety of state t-shirts.

Each CONA t-shirt is a literal representation of what that state is about. Often times they display interesting facts about that particular state as well. "[The Model UN t-shirt] design was based on the Dunkin' Donut ad and altered to represent former UN Secretary General Kofi Annon," said Morgan Smeragila.

Other delegates' t-shirts, such as that of Alabama, represent the advisors who helped them come to this program. Alabama's t-shirt is a design based on Bob, their advisor. "It's a spin-off of the Almighty movies because Bob runs the whole Alabama program," said Alabama delegate Chase Child. The Pennsylvania delegation did something similar as well. Designed by John Bruni, the t-shirt depicts the Pennsylvania advisors as South Park characters who turned down Kenny's proposal.

The rest of the t-shirts are based off of interesting facts about that particular state. The Minnesota design depicts the ruby slippers and yellow brick road in *The Wizard of Oz*. Minnesota is the birth place of Judy Garland. Oklahoma's t-shirt design is based on famous people who came from Oklahoma. Wisconsin design depicts a cow representing them as the Dairy State.

No matter what t-shirt each state might wear, they all have one thing in common: each state takes pride in representing themselves at this year's conference.



Delegates do the cha-cha slide at Monday night's mixer.