



National 4-H Congress

November 25-29, 2011 ♦ Atlanta, Georgia
Become a Catalyst for Change
Oahu County



Eye Opening Words

Dustin Borrromeo

Rarely do I stay awake during key note speakers much less listen. The 2011 National 4-H Congress was different. These speakers actually penetrated my thick skull and the even thicker fog that clouds my brain when key note speakers talk. It's even more amazing that I actually stayed awake and actually listened to all the speakers during congress. From Dan Thurmon who spoke at the Opening Ceremony to Maggie Bergin, then, to Dr. Eugen Schoenfeld who spoke at the Inspirational Assembly, to Teresa Scanlan (Miss America 2011) at the Congress Gala, and finally to Dan Clark who closed the National Congress.



From Mr. Thurmon's crazy juggling tricks that involved juggling sharp axes and knives I got the message that "we try to balance our lives but we never truly are balanced. We need to be off balanced in order grow and learn." From Dr. Schoenfeld I learned a lot. I appreciate how he disclosed so much to us about his life in the interment camps and the struggles he went through during the holocaust. That was intense. What he wanted us to understand was that "God made humans imperfect so that we may work to be perfect. To be perfect we must put the 'E' after human and act humane." The holocaust was an example of how far from perfect we humans are but it also shows that we can work towards being perfect. It's all in how we treat each other.

I also learned from the other speakers but those two speakers are who I learned the most from. They truly spoke eye opening words to me. Mr. Thurmon made me realize that you shouldn't get comfortable, always push yourself and be open minded while Dr. Schoenfeld opened my eyes to how we must act to be perfect. Even Shakespear said "Love all, trust half, and hurt none," that is the secret to being humane. Love All.



"Speed Meeting"

Dwayne-Marie Edades

Speed Meeting is similar to speed dating, you talk to different people for two minutes then we rotate. Within two minutes, I met wonderful people and had wonderful chats with them. The delegates would ask the same things, so I had the same answers. The delegates were very curious about our island and would ask the most weirdest and random-est things, yet I found it entertaining and fun to answer!



Coke

Dwayne-Marie Edades

We took the World's Hot Spot tour, which included the Coca-Cola Factory. The tour guide talked about the history of Coca-Cola, and we then watched a sing-along Coca-Cola film. Then the screen enchantingly opened into the Coca-Cola factory. It looked and felt like the Willy Wonka's candy factory because it seemed so magical! We took pictures, tasted the different flavors of the Coca-Cola served in the different countries! Lindsey and I tasted all 60 flavors of Coca-Cola! Some were delicious and some were very interesting! My favorite flavors were the watermelon and vegetable Coca-Cola.

Giving the Lei of Aloha

Dustin Borromeo

The 2011 National 4-H Congress was a very interesting experience for me! On International Night the Hawaii delegates danced the hula to Lei Halia in front of the entire congress delegation. It was a new experience performing in front of many people. I think I am confident enough to speak in front of that many people but to perform, is something else. It was nerve wrecking yet exhilarating.

Fortunately the hula isn't really known to the mainland people so even if we messed up they did not know. I just smiled and stayed in the back hiding behind Dwayne and Okalani. It was a little weird how there were people in the back of us watching, it was like we were surrounded on all four sides. Yet, I tried to focus and focus on giving the *lei of aloha* to the congress delegates through our hula.

I was relieved when we finished the hula and us boys practically ran off the dance floor at the end. I must admit though that doing the hula in front of the delegates was fun and we did pretty well. Even if we made mistakes, we were laughing and smiling so people didn't see it. A lot of people were also telling us what a great job we did whenever they saw us around congress.

If I learned one thing from this performance, it is that you just have to enjoy doing something and you will naturally do it well. Don't show if you hate doing what you are doing or don't show your mistakes because it will be amplified and it will ultimately make you look bad. Don't stress over new experiences you have yet to do, instead tackle it head on and enjoy yourself. That way you can fully learn what there is to learn from that experience. I know I learned a lot and enjoyed myself as well.



A New Friend

Dwayne-Marie Edades

This year's National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia was a great experience! I created new friends from Hawaii, and met people from all over our nation and Puerto Rico too! While attending a workshop titled "Join the Revolution," I met Danielle who is from Georgia. We hung out all day and I even met her mom! We shared our contact information and have continued to keep in touch.

