



# The Boys Statement

## Nationalist Party Convention Spotlight

**Khalil Russell**

*staff writers*

The Virginia Boys State Nationalist Party held its first convention today. Over the course of the meeting, the party discussed three planks as part of its platform. The first, the freedom plank, is intended to extend free time for participants of Boys State by limiting the number of questions asked after speakers present, amongst other things.

It passed with a confident voice vote of "yay." The second, the education plank, moves to replace the Standards of Learning (SoL) curriculum and its accompanied standardized tests with unique curriculums and tests designed by individual teachers, schools, and school boards, specific to the locality in which the education is being received. This was heavily debated, with opponents of the legislation spending a total of four minutes speaking before being followed by the legislation's proponents. Following this debate, there was a bit of confusion as the Party voted once, in favor of voting, before vot-

ing again for the actual legislation, which passed in favor. Finally, the third plank, the girls plank, plans to integrate Boys and Girls State on the same campus with the intention of creating a more well-rounded learning experience for everyone. The third plank passed with almost absolute support.

After the passing of all three planks, the convention seemed to rumble into a second gear. Up until this point, the proceedings had progressed in a relatively organized manner. Though cities were loud as they discussed their votes amongst themselves, that was nothing compared to what

came next. Once nominees became involved, cities from all over began cutting deals and creating alliances with one another in the hopes of securing their own victories. The electoral board struggled to maintain order as cities made promises just as quickly as they broke them. All in all, though the party will undoubtedly have to find a way to maintain order in future conventions, the single most important question we should ask ourselves going forward is this: Are we voting for who we want to win, or who deserves to win?

## Federalist Party Convention Spotlight

**Peter Diaz**

*staff writers*

Two days have passed since the convening of the 74th annual Boys State and already we are engulfed by the raging sea of politics. Members Federalist party met at the Porterfield building to hold a convention, feverently positing ideas and debating as to the best course of action. The party could only choose three platforms to take a stand on for the governor election, and citizens filed in eager to vote. Eight bills were suggested, and for each one citizens were allowed to address the pros and cons of these points. These following points were chosen.

Point 1: Increase vocational school funds. Advocates for the bill passionately argued that vocational schools, up till now, were being neglected in favor of universities and colleges. They pointed out that all things we take for granted - from lights to toilets - owed their existence to a man from a vocational school. Additionally, these schools would bring jobs back to America and most importantly

would educate people on how to build the wall. Immediately, citizens came forward asking where they would get the money to pump into these schools, why they could not put this money into another part of government, and what this bill had to do with Boys State. Amidst the shouting and clapping, the counters eventually tallied the results revealing a landslide victory for the platform.

Point 2: Decriminalization of non-violent criminals. This bill aimed to deal with the state's overcrowded prisons by releasing minor criminals, specifically those arrested for drug possession. Such criminals and future delinquents arrested for these charges would be given counseling. Again, concerned citizens questioned what this bill had to do with Boys State and called attention to the fact that the counseling would be paid for by the state. The opposition's final argument was that counseling for drug addicts already existed in the form of charities and rehabilitation centers. However, they fought in vain, and once again the bill's acceptance received a majority vote.



Point 3: Increase in citizen possessed keycards. Currently, the right to hold keycards has been restricted to sheriffs, mayors, and councilors. Ratifying this platform would allow more citizens this right, easing access to dorms. The speeches for this platform's commission so exceed the previous two in vigor and profanity that a councilor threatened to suspend the convention unless it the citizens restrained their language. The opposition tried their best to resist this final bill knowing that its affirmation would fill the third and final slot for the party's platforms. They poured forth these cons: citizens were not

mature enough to have keycards and it was not practical for the Legion to get more keycards for the last three days, as they might be lost and fall into the wrong hands. The vote for this was the closest of the three, but like its predecessors, it too was sanctioned. Thus, the three platforms for Federalist campaign were chosen.

Editor-in-Chiefs

Ryan Pinkney

James Spear

Staff Writers

Ian Anspaugh

Benjamin Werner

Eli Thies

Jack Craver

Aaron Hodges

Bailey Cupp

Peter Diaz

Khalil Russell

John McSorley

Zion Harris

Yosaph Boku

Christian Moore

Micah Cohen

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## Highlight and Review: Session with the Circuit Court Judge

Boys state continues to dive head first into learning about the government. Yesterday we were lucky enough to have the honorable Judge of the general district circuit court Edwin Burnette deliver a fantastic lecture on the structure of the Virginia league system and court level. Burnette starts off teaching us about the lowest level of the court system: General and Juvenile court.

It is in these courts where the vast majority of cases end. This court primarily deals with low level claims (less than 25K) minor drug offenses, and civil cases. There is no jury at this level of court. The next level, Burnette counties, is the circuit courts (where Burnette



works). At this level major offenses such as rape, murder, and claims of more than 25,000 dollars are decided. This level includes a jury. Virginia sees an average of 250,000

cases a year at this level. The next level is the court of appeals. This is the court you go to if you wish to exercise your right to appeal. Any case can be appealed from a lower

court. This court focuses primarily on making sure there were no mistakes in the lower courts. Lastly is the Virginia Supreme Court. This is the highest court in Virginia. This deals with the most controversial and major cases.

They only hear around 2,000 cases a year. We would like to thank Edwin Burnette again for giving his time to speak with us. We all at boys state learned a lot.

Ian Anspaugh  
staff writers

# VOTE WORDEN



TO GET YOUR



# WORD IN

Phillip Worden, Nationalist, for Lieutenant Governor

## *RAYMOND A. ARROYO*



GETTING JUSTICE FOR **YOU!**

### **Who is Raymond Arroyo?**

As a young boy I survived Hurricane Katrina. That terrible event profoundly impacted my life. Witnessing the complete and total anarchy following the storm gave me a new appreciation for the law of this great nation. It has made me strive to pursue a life dedicated to ensuring the laws of this nation are preserved and adhered to. As the first step on a long road it would truly be an honor to become the next Boys State *Attorney General!*

VOTE RAYMOND ARROYO FOR

**ATTORNEY GENERAL!**

# What is Boys State about now?

Aaron Hoghes and Jack Craver  
*staff writer*

As party conventions stretched on into the night, tensions silently rose between the various cities across both the political parties. All cities fought vigorously to ensure that their candidates had the honor of representing their party until the final elections. However, the means to achieve this ultimate honor became questionable to some citizens of Boys State, as certain delegates proposed unscrupulous incentives to guarantee votes during both the Nationalist and Federalist conventions.

When trying to succeed in politics, it is essential to discuss and compromise genuinely with other candidates. Otherwise, the

odds of proposing and debating ideals seems utterly overwhelming. Although, the way this is conducted is where many begin to draw the line. This became an increasingly controversial issue as Mayors and Sheriffs alike began to express their disappointment with the current state of affairs.

“We want to see courtesy, respect, and a sense of honor, as well as emulation of this effort in all the cities,” stated one of the Mayors of yesterday’s convention. “We came here to make a difference by voting based on merit, not by the potential of the candidate based on who has claimed to back them with [promised] votes.”

With the primary convention drawing near, many citizens expressed the same concerns, reporting that they were pressured to

drop their ideal nominee in favor of a candidate with more “potential.”

The concern comes from cities pledging votes to each other before the respective nominees could even present their speeches, with many cities practically electing their representative before the process could even begin. This practice was cited by many as being highly counterintuitive to democracy, defeating the entire point of Boys State in the eyes of some. And of course, our reporters can confirm that there was consistent talk of backstabbing other cities, which left distaste in the mouths of some and resounding cheers in the mouths of others.

On the other hand, some may argue that these occurrences represent politics in the real world. Politicians negotiate and make deals on a daily basis in order to ensure

they obtain the votes necessary to gain an office. Boys State represents the American political process, with all its strengths and arguable weaknesses. In crafting a realistic election, we must respect the strategies employed by the citizens, no matter how divisive they may be. But one thing is certain - we must always heed the Boys State regulations, which do emphasize - and demand - honorable behaviour from the State’s citizens.



**FOR THE CITIES... FOR THE STATE... FOR THE BOYS**

**Vote  
Nicky Lazaroae  
for  
Lieutenant Governor**

Boys State Byline

Reports indicate Boys State Song “cannot be unheard...”





☆ BIG BOI BRUNNER ☆  
FOR GOVERNER  
MAKE BOYS STATE  
GREAT AGAIN!

Boys State Byline

Local buses break down, too many cities thrown underneath simultaneously...

*“You know that you gotta go with Mo!”*



Vote Morgan Alexander Harrison for Attorney General

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## Moot Court continues with deliberations

Christian Moore and John McSorley

staff writers

Our fellow citizens' crash course on Constitutional law continued yesterday in Moot Court, honing their knowledge about trial case *Smith v. Commonwealth*. So far, citizens have learned the ins and outs of the Judicial system that makes our country so great. Lee City citizen Daniel Villegar said he's thoroughly enjoyed the class so far this week. He found the lesson on "probable cause" the most interesting because it has an unclear definition open to interpretation. Others cited an array of different rules that they found most peculiar. The citizens will put all of this judicial knowledge to the test later this week.

Our apprentice lawyers met with attorneys and judges from across the Commonwealth. A panel of four, one judge and three attorneys, spoke briefly

to the attendants about their jobs and responsibilities before opening the floor to questions. Once the question session had ended, the four revealed they would be judging for the Moot Court competition, accompanied by three of the counselors. The panel then notified each team about which side of the case they would argue - defense or prosecution.

One of our reporters met with Christian and Samuel from Pershing City in order to interview them about what they had experienced that day. For all the teams participating, yesterday was a time devoted to getting the facts straight and developing cohesive argument. After receiving tips from their judicial visitors, Pershing learned they would be arguing on the side of the Commonwealth, the prosecution. Both prosecution and defense have six minutes to outline their case before the judge, their performance being



judged on their ability to use their wits and knowledge to give an excellent presentation. As of the time of interview, the particular judge assigned to each trial was unknown.

"I expect a lot of curveballs from the judges, because they've heard these cases before and they're professionals," noted Samuel. "They're going to try to trip us up - but the way we intend to win is to let them ask questions, answer the questions, and get back on track." He was optimistic about the competency of his team. "I expect us to learn

a lot about how the legal system works," said Christian, who was also optimistic of the team's chances. "I feel like once we ourselves get into the experience of arguing before the judges, and having them ask us questions, it'll give us a working knowledge of how appellate court system works." If one thing is certain, the boys that are attending Moot Court will require solid cooperation amongst the team, giving them the skills necessary to exceed beyond the boundaries of Boys State.

Boys State Byline

Controversial rumors exacerbated by local newsletter...

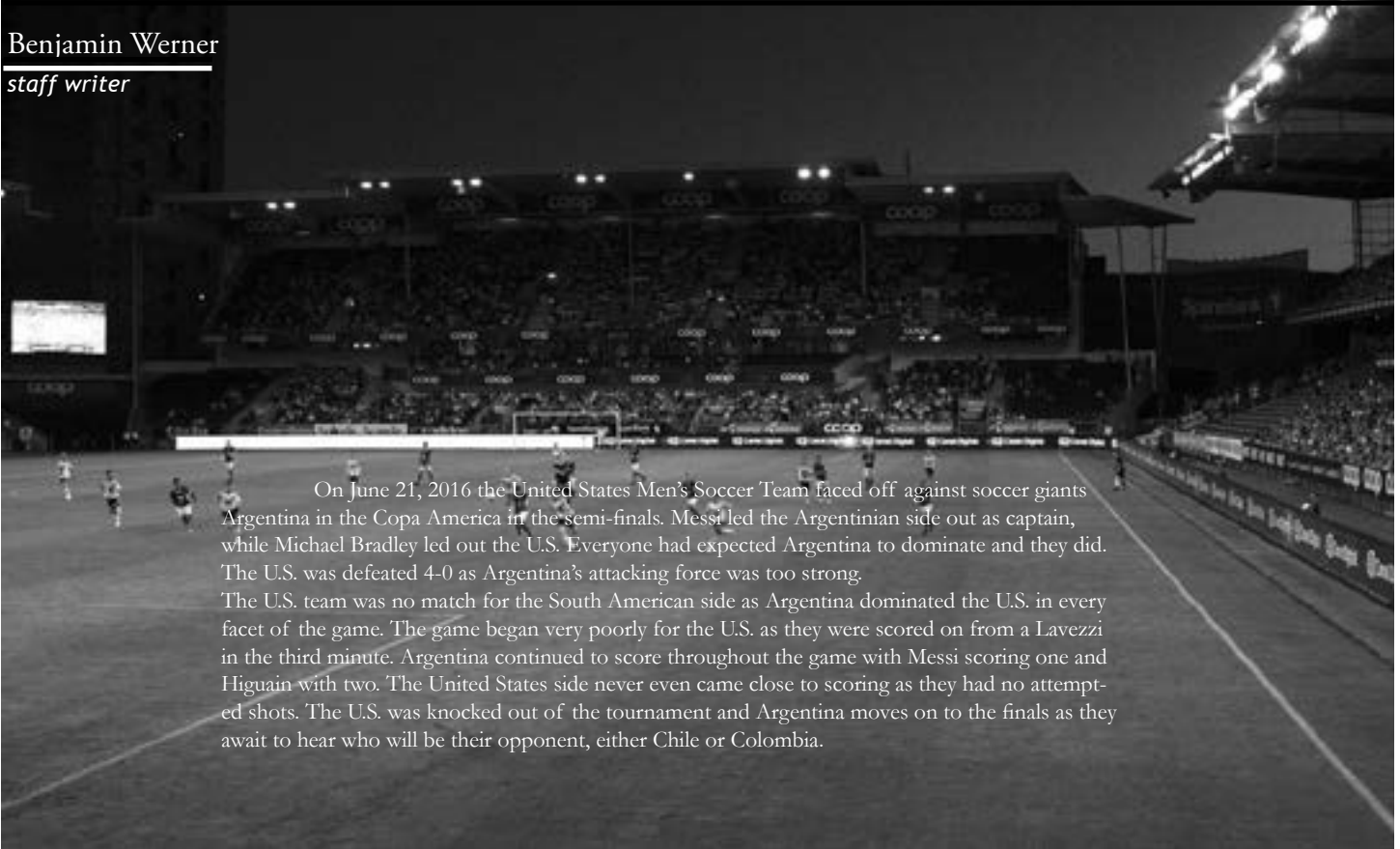
Aim High, Vote For Lowe



Vote Andy Lowe Lt. Governor

# The BOYS STATEMENT

Benjamin Werner  
*staff writer*



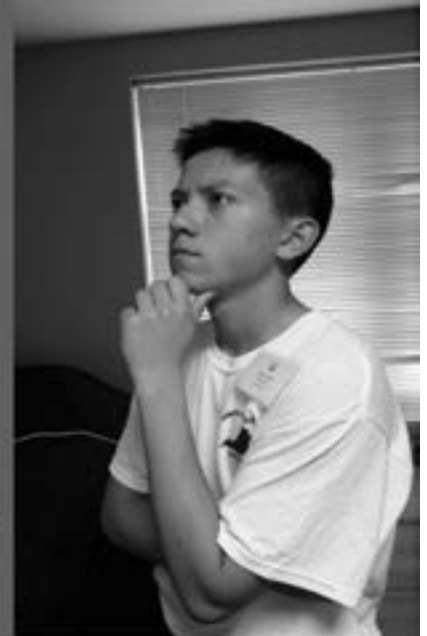
On June 21, 2016 the United States Men's Soccer Team faced off against soccer giants Argentina in the Copa America in the semi-finals. Messi led the Argentinian side out as captain, while Michael Bradley led out the U.S. Everyone had expected Argentina to dominate and they did. The U.S. was defeated 4-0 as Argentina's attacking force was too strong. The U.S. team was no match for the South American side as Argentina dominated the U.S. in every facet of the game. The game began very poorly for the U.S. as they were scored on from a Lavezzi in the third minute. Argentina continued to score throughout the game with Messi scoring one and Higuain with two. The United States side never even came close to scoring as they had no attempted shots. The U.S. was knocked out of the tournament and Argentina moves on to the finals as they await to hear who will be their opponent, either Chile or Colombia.

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"Federalist, but always a Citizen"



Boys State Byline

**Measurements confirm rising saline concentrations in the campus water supply...**