



# The Boys Statement

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## Opinion Piece: Regarding Yik Yak

James Spear

staff writer

“Give a man a mask and he will show his true face.” Oscar Wilde

My working relationship with Noah McBride is an interesting one. I didn't know him, and he certainly didn't know me. We had little to bond on in terms of conversations, and I can count the amount of times he's smiled at me on one hand. He meets me at the entrance of our dorm at two in the morning, and I feel intimidated by a combination of his physical stature and the fact that I misspelled his name in our first issue. But when he stepped up for Bradley City's elections, with the goal of Sheriff in his sights, I knew he was the right man for the job. Noah is serious, and he conducts himself in that manner. He certainly has a humorous side, but the man's an enigma; he's difficult to read. And there's a reason for that; any leader with an understanding of professional relationships

would know that while it's good to befriend those working around you, as a figure of authority, it's important to keep others at arm's length. Not because a relationship is wrong, but because it might cause difficulty in enforcing justice should something come between them. But I didn't truly appreciate this until yesterday morning, when he approached me on behalf of the Mayors from multiple cities and his fellow Sheriffs with regard to the issue of a certain social media site.

Founded three years ago, Yik-Yak took Boys State of Virginia by storm as an effective medium for communicating with new faces. Differing from Facebook and Twitter, the site has the unique capability of allowing its subscribers to post anonymously, bypassing the need to coordinate a group of seven hundred high schoolers. Utilizing features that offer a ten mile localized access radius for all users, students were able to keep up with the fast pace of a mock government where campaigns rise and fall in a matter of minutes, and elections continue to bring new players into the fold. And while some of the posts have

been genuinely funny with their observations of the quirks that make this program memorable, it does have a dark side. With no way to moderate the chains of new postings, what started as effective mode of communication soured, and morphed into a collection of hate speeches ripe with bullying.

The matter quickly drew the attention of multiple city council boards, who in turn alerted the American Legion staff, but the damage was irreversible. Even with the threat of immediate expulsion of those conducting further activity found unethical, lines between cities have clouded, and mistrust has been sown. But what blows my mind, on a personal level, is the fact that this happened in the first place. When I heard about Boys State, I immediately dismissed it as a foolish goal; Langley High School is one of the most competitive environments in Virginia. From the perspective of a resume, I didn't have much to offer; I have no illusions shrouding my own imperfections. But something must have caught their eye, and I was given the opportunity of a lifetime: to work with the best minds

in the state, and see what a future in public service might mean. I held my constituents at the highest level because of what they represented.

We embody the communities who sent us: our high schools, our families, and all the alumni of the American Legion. We've been told time and time again that we are the leaders of tomorrow. I expected a society that had moved past the frustrations of today, because even after a past with no shortage of backstabbing and bullying, I still try to see the best in everybody. My mistake. But what makes it worse for me, is that there continues to be derision surrounding those attempting to remedy the mistakes of a minority. Guys like Noah McBride, and the rest of the state sheriffs. Counselors like Steve Cox, who have already come under fire from those posting online behind a false name. People who will be ridiculed because they have to act impartial, bringing justice to the people they have to call their brothers. I've learned a lot of things this week, and I know now, without a shadow of a doubt, that a claim without evidence is as hollow as its source.



# Yik Yak

# Aim High, Vote For Lowe



# Vote Andy Lowe Lt. Governor

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## Highlight and Review: CPR

Bailey Cupp

*staff writer*

**T**he CPR instructional training class that takes place during the afternoon activity time is a great learning opportunity for everyone at Boys State. Upon entering the Moffett Hall building, the Heartsaver CPR training session, conducted by the Radford school nurses, can be found at the end of the hallway straight upon entering the doors. The boys that wish to participate in

this activity can expect to watch and listen to CPR methodology and then perform the action themselves. At the end of the 1 hour and 30 minute long session, participants can expect to receive CPR certification and an informational booklet to remind them of the knowledge they gained afterward. Anyone interested in going to CPR training will not be disappointed when they do get to experience this invaluable learning opportunity throughout their remaining days at Radford.

# Corruption and disrespect threaten Boys State

## An Opinion Piece

Jack Craver

*staff writer*

**B**oys State, 2016: Perhaps a more accurate model of America's government than most would care to admit. Such a controversial statement would typically be amiss, but with recent conventions rocking the entire campus, and with perhaps unprecedented intervention from our counselors, one thing is clear: our seventy-fourth Boys State of Virginia is not what it was intended to be.

The third rule of the Basic Rules and Regulations Governing Participation in Boys State reads as follows: "I will perform my duties as a Boys State citizen to the best of my ability and endeavor to conduct myself as a gentleman, so as to honor my parents, school, community, state, and nation."

According to disturbing interviews from both Nationalists and Federalists, however, selective few at Boys State have been anything but gentlemen. The following interviewees bravely agreed to have their names published in our paper, risking harassment from these dishonorable few who have already collaborated to destroy the reputation of an entire city. The city in question shall go unnamed; the writers of the Boys Statement endeavor to fulfill the oaths we pledged upon our arrival at our State, unlike the dishonorable few who conspired to degrade the

reputations of said city and defile all that Boys State represents. Know and respect those who agreed to speak out through our paper, for they do not allow peer pressure and threat of harassment to compromise their integrity.

"I think it's disgusting," stated State Electoral Board Chairman Jack Chen, perhaps the highest authority on such a matter. "It's ridiculous; everyone deserves a chance to give a speech and get elected based on how well they did. I know that [dishonesty] is how it works in the real world, and that's the excuse some are giving, but this is Boys State. This is where we learn about our government, and how to change it. It's not fair that people are buying out votes for their own purposes. [Others] are even altering ballots to further themselves."

Chairman Chen refers to the numerous backroom deals and betrayals that plagued our conventions on both sides of the aisle, votes often pledged to other candidates before the very eyes of those who sought to sway our citizens through honesty and true leadership. Many nominees did not even bother with completed speeches, often cracking jokes at the stand and counting on their pre-bought votes to carry them to the top, mocking the procedure before the dismayed veterans who organized and paid for our program.

"The exchanging of votes and favors is absolutely disgusting, as

it is the [same thing] the politicians we hate do. If we do not recognize and fix the problem of political corruption, we are failing our country," said Samuel Sjoberg, when questioned on the matter. His thoughts echo the sentiments of many throughout Boys State, often silenced by the dishonest few by means of ostracization and blatant disrespect. It is this rampant lack of dignity that has also poisoned many electoral processes, both at city and state levels.

"I thought Boys State would be civilized," said City Councilman James Mim, referring to the ever-present onslaught of giggles and jabs which echoed in the background throughout every speech. Not a single potential candidate was able to deliver a speech without the snickers and hisses of the dishonorable few, who worked to interrupt the deliveries of other candidates, whether they knew it or not. This corruption is not limited to the voters; but in unscrupulous efforts to win the favor of the dishonorable yet loud few, some candidates for state elections were seen joining in on, or even directly encouraging, such disgusting discrimination. This sickening discrimination was based on everything from race to mocking personal disabilities, a shameful display before all.

"As far as voting goes, this entire week our leaders have been stressing integrity and honesty in our positions. We should strive to live up

to that," said citizen Caleb Beckner, who shared his disappointment for the dishonorable few with our paper. His statement perfectly encapsulates the frustration of the silent majority, the disgust of the citizens who are simply unable or unwilling to shout down the dishonorable few who insist on tarnishing the Boys State name.

However, not all hope is lost for our great state. Even though the dishonorable few tried, and in some cases succeeded, to pressure others into collectively trading away their votes and backstabbing other cities, many clandestine alliances simply dissolved as the dishonest pillars their alliances were built upon crumbled under the weight of their collective ambition. Rousing speeches made it possible for certain cities which eschewed alliances to secure nomination against all odds.

The Boys Statement, while impartial to the elections which take place in our great State, reminds its reader that it is ever-faithful to the organization itself. Each and every writer of the Boys Statement this year has been committed to objectivity and upholding the principles upon which our program was founded. The Boys Statement endorses no candidate...but it encourages its readers to remember why they are here; we urge you, fellow citizens, to honor the organizers of our program, the State upon which it is based, and the Nation we all love.

## An Independent Candidate for Attorney General

**Tim Brown** is an independent, bipartisan candidate for the office of Attorney General. He has studied and written various online editorials concerning the freedoms guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, with over ten million visitors to his websites over a four-year period.

### The Two-Party System is a Scam

For hundreds of years, America has been dominated by two major political factions. Although they were both founded for good reasons (the Democrats to oppose the elite, and the Republicans to eliminate slavery), the two political parties of today have become bitter enemies. Half of the time, mentioning the trigger words “Republican” or “Democrat” instantly closes people’s minds to ideas that could potentially benefit American freedom and prosperity.

The solution is to elect independent, bipartisan candidates to office based on their personal agenda and their desire to put America first. Traditional candidates have always had to answer to the political agenda of their party and donors, crippling any resolve to act independently from the richest elites’ wishes. **We need to unite as Americans, not as members of a party.**

### Tim Brown’s Agenda

Tim is a devoted supporter of the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

**We need responsible gun owners** – The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees that “... being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed”. In his first draft of the Virginia Constitution stated that “No Freeman shall ever be debarred the use of arms”. Yet today, many party-controlled politicians are calling for a ban on guns, leaving armed criminals free to steal, kill, and destroy. **The solution is to eliminate “gun-free” zones. With only one exception, every public mass shooting in the United States since 1950 occurred in a place where guns were prohibited** (Lott, John R., Jr). Even though half of the U.S. population lives in the 30 states that allow citizens to carry guns in public places, about **90% of public shootings and the resulting deaths and injuries take place in states without the right to carry** (Landes, William M.) For example, in 1995, the year of the nationwide ban on guns in schools, the 22 states with right-to-carry laws accounted for a mere 9% of multiple victim public shootings. Overall, the facts reveal a consistent, compelling argument for the idea that **prohibiting guns increases gun violence.**

**Our flag represents a distinct nationality** – Our national flag serves as an indicator of the area in which we can exercise our rights as citizens: our rights to free speech, religion, and press, our right to assemble, our right to vote, and our right to keep and bear arms. In the wake of growing globalism, all American citizens should put American interests (USA) before globalist interests (NAFTA/UN/EU/NWO). I call for all Americans to oppose the removal of “offensive” American flags from schools, firehouses, police stations, and courthouses across America.

(An advertisement created and paid for by Tim Brown)

**Vote**  
**for**  
***Jack Burns***

**Independent Party**  
**Canaditate**

**Let's make history**

## Federalist spotlight on Attorney General race and nominee

Khalil Russell  
staff writer

The Attorney General candidate from the Nationalist Party came down to the two finalists on Tuesday evening, and today the competition reached its final peak. The two nominees, Thomas Mecherikunnel and Anthony McAvoy, were as polarly opposite as fire and ice. The first speaker, steady and eloquent with his words and his points, carried himself in a professional manner matched by few other nominees. Instead of taking advantage of the countless voting deals and broken promises others used to secure their positions, Thomas opened his address to the Nationalist Party by being one of the first to formally and publicly acknowl-

edge the corruption that had become so commonplace within the convention. His most notable point was to beseeching the members of the party to vote not with the goal of securing votes for members of their city, but with the intention of placing in office the best man for the job.

The second nominee, Candidate Two, was surely the most original speaker the party had ever seen. Where each and every other speaker of Boys State until that point used microphones, Anthony without hesitation passed the equipment off to the next nominee in like. Mere syllables into his address, it was clear that he didn't need it. In his first two speeches, McAvoy made a point of his originality, the intensity of his passion matched only by that of his voice. He did

what most other nominees did, assuring the audience that he would speak on their behalf, but in such an original way that he was unforgettable. In his third, final address to the party, he made a lasting impression on all in attendance when he stepped down from the stage and walked into the audience, shaking hands as he moved up and down the aisles, all the while continuing his address.

Competing for the Nationalist Party Attorney General nominee were perhaps two of the greatest nominees the party could have hoped for. They were the cream of the crop, the one percent of the one percent. Where one brought fire to the stage, passion and intense in his delivery, the other cooled the heat of corruption, bringing order and reason

to a chaotic convention. Though they were both more than qualified for the position, there can only be one Attorney General nominee in the general election. As the votes were counted, it became clear that ice had won out over fire this time. Reason beat passion. And because the votes were today intended to be for the best nominee, independent of all intra-city deals and connections, prayerfully, the right man was elected for the job, the one the Nationalists believe will lead them to victory.

## Speaker enlightens Boys State: Choice and Consequence

John McSorley  
staff writer

There are few words that can describe the response many of us experienced last night listening to Chris Skinner speak besides truly moving. From the moment he first spoke, every member of the audience could see that he would be unlike any speaker that had come before him. "I'm not an emotional guy, but that [speech] was raw," one Lee citizen said. Undoubtedly, his words moved the audience as effortlessly as though he was having a one-on-one conversation with each and every attendant listening. They laughed when he cracked jokes and were deadly silent when he began to get serious. Not an eye was closed as it became clear that Skinner's words and message would be impossible to forget.

Skinner's effect was two-fold: for many, he served as an

inspiration, as Lee citizen Yuki Murata said, "If he can do what he did, I can do anything." In addition, many citizens felt a reflective response, as Lee citizen Hunter Hickman said, "I want to take more time to be thankful."

Regardless of your response, it is important that all of us here at Boys State realize the repercussions of all of our actions. Choice and consequences were a recurring motif in Skinner's speech, a lesson we should all adhere to not only for the rest of this week, but throughout next year as we make choices about colleges. Even into the future for the rest of our lives, it's vital that we carefully consider the impact of every decision we make from here on out because the consequences will only become greater. In the wise words of Lee Sheriff Robert Doherty: "responsibility is essential both now, and in the future."

