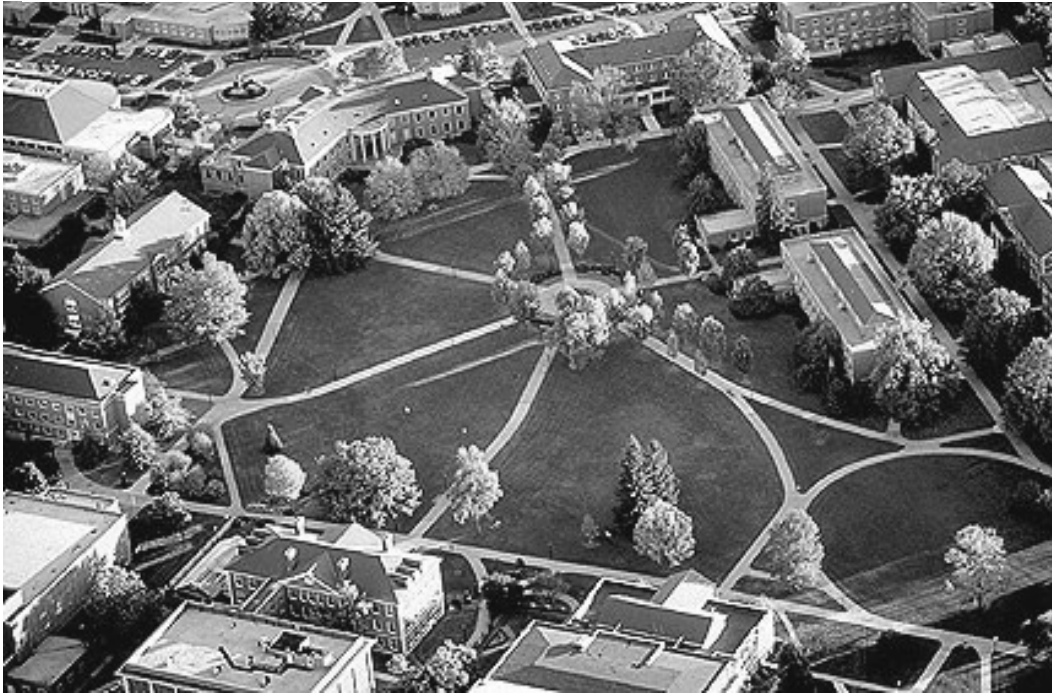


THE LEGION'S POST

Edition I | June 18, 2018 | VA Boys State



The Need for an Educated Public | By: Adam Notley

At our time here at Boys State, we heard from the prestigious RADM William Cobb. When answering a question, RADM Cobb emphasized the importance of being an informed citizen. In a country that has several voters vote on policy based on emotion without knowing the true effects, a fundamental knowledge of the cause and effect of local, state, and federal policy is crucial to preserving a prosperous democracy. One field that many overlook when making political decisions is economics. As members of Boys State it is imperative that we learn to consider policy from all angles including their economic impacts. Failure to consider policy from all angles can have serious consequences, as it did in San Francisco. As low-income individuals flooded into cities in the first few years of the 21st century, many city officials began discussing ways to make housing more affordable for these new individuals. The most common solution officials came up with in cities like San Francisco was the implementation of price ceilings on rent. The philosophy behind such a policy was to have the cost of rent be affordable to the new low-income individuals moving into the city. While good-intentioned, the price ceiling did not have the effect city officials hoped. The cheaper prices of rent in San Francisco caused many middle-class and upper-class apartment residents to purchase new apartments that were once too expensive to afford. Many middle-class individuals who once shared an apartment now decided to live on their own because of the price ceiling. These middle-class individuals ultimately purchased many of the new homes that were supposed to be for low-income residents. In addition to the crowding out of the cheaper housing by the middle-class, the price ceiling led to severe housing shortage. Businesses once motivated to build homes to rent out no longer

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First Day, First Impressions | By: Justin Carminucci

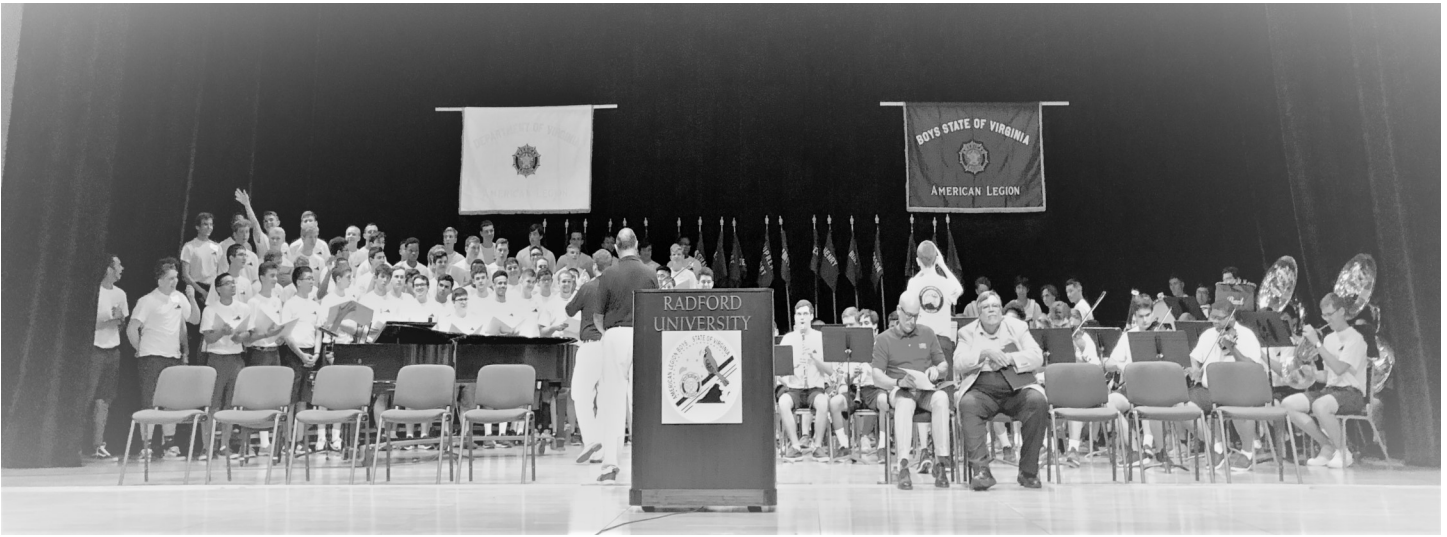
The 76th annual American Legion Boys State kicked off on Sunday, with over 600 young men from across the Commonwealth of Virginia gathering at Radford University. Traveling everywhere from NOVA to Virginia Beach, the state's best and brightest came ready to learn and immerse themselves in the political world that Boys State has to offer. After spreading out across campus in search of their dorm rooms and cities, citizens settled in, meeting their roommates and getting accommodated to the rules and responsibilities of the program. During this time, the first positions were determined, with each city selecting a chaplain and color guard to represent their groups.

At the opening assembly, citizens were introduced to the members of the dedicated staff that generously allows this program to operate. They also learned the Boys State song, a clear highlight of everyone's first day. At the flag lowering ceremony, cities proudly yelled out their slogans, making it clear that competition between cities would be quick to form. While some stuck with a classic approach, others, like Maury, got creative.

The Boys State chorus and band welcomed cities into the auditorium with several great performances at the official opening of the 76th session. Citizens were then given the opportunity to hear multiple insightful speakers, including the Vice President of Radford University, Mr. Joe Carpenter, the Mayor of Radford, the Honorable Bruce Brown, as well as the keynote speaker, RADM William Cobb. Each gave inspiring words of advice to the citizens, touching on their own experiences and making the impactfulness of Boys State known. Following this, cities met once again to decide roles, such as athletic teams and sheriff. This concluded the first day of Boys State, leaving many excited and eager about the days to come.

CURRENT EVENTS

- RADM William Cobb gives Keynote Address
- Cities elect numerous officials
- Sheriffs to be sworn in at 2:30 p.m. Monday
- Mayor results to be announced 11:15 a.m. Tuesday
- Sports teams require lower numbers because of lower Boy's State citizen population
- New Jersey Art Festival attacked by two shooters
- The U.N. tries to take control of Major Yemen port for humanitarian aid
- New invasive plant in Virginia that can cause burns and blindness
- Japanese earthquake kills three
- Columbia elects new Conservative President



Band Welcomes in Boys State | By: William Clemons

To kick off the first speaker at the 76th Boys State event, a group of participants displayed their musical ability by performing for the rest of the citizens of Boys State and their many counselors. These musicians were split into two groups led by separate directors, a concert band, led by Christopher Fens, and a chorus, led by Demas Boudreaux. In funneling the excitement and nervousness of the first day, the performers welcomed their fellow citizens to a week of learning and camaraderie at Radford University.

The concert band had performed two different songs with polarizing tones. Firstly, the group played a rendition of a classic *Blue Swede* song, "Hooked on a Feeling" to ease the tension in the room, a result of the anxiousness many felt at being in a new place and meeting many new people. The second song performed by the concert band was "Anchors Aweigh," the anthem of the US Navy, to usher in one of the night's speakers, retired Rear Admiral William Cobb.

The chorus took on the responsibility of singing the Star Spangled Banner appropriately and impressively. Fortunately, the choral director was able to lead all attendees of Boys State in the Virginia Boys State Song while the audience patiently awaited the arrival of their guest speaker, the aforementioned Admiral Cobb. Much like the concert band, the talent of the musicians in the choral group helped them perform their duties well. In this way they were able to help in setting the lessons that will hopefully follow the citizens of the Boys State for the duration of their attendance, those being passion for learning, appreciation of privileges, and respect for yourself and others.

Overall, the two groups were able to not just introduce the citizens of Boys State to the breadth of experiences they will share this week, but were also simultaneously able to lift the spirits of those in the audience who may have not yet felt comfortable or able to join in the social aspect of Boys State. In doing so, these musicians have brought together those attending Boys State, extended an open hand to those who may not feel at ease in this new environment, and helped these people join in gaining as much knowledge,

The Need for an Educated Public | (cont.)

had an incentive to do so because of the pricing limits implemented by the new policy. Based on a study in 2001, 49 percent of San Francisco's rent-controlled housing had only a single occupant per apartment. Additionally this same study identified that when these figures were accumulated, there was a severe housing shortage in the city. Ultimately, the policy made by city officials backfired. Instead of granting more homes for low-income individuals, the policy gave more money to the upper-class and middle-class while also increasing the severity of the housing shortage present in the city. So how does this relate to Boy's State and RADM Cobb's statement? RADM Cobb asked all of us to pursue education and make informed decisions. City officials of San Francisco failed to consider all angles, and ultimately worsened an affordable housing issue present in their city. It is important for Boys State attendees to learn the importance of approaching all causes and effects of policy in the week ahead. As you and the rest of your city begin to create your laws, keep in mind the dangers of ignorance and the possible effects of your laws.

Casting the First Votes | By: William Helms

The first day at Boys State has already sown the seeds of citizenship and commitment among its citizens. As such, many people have stepped up to the occasion to run for public positions. All these positions represent an innate responsibility to follow and execute abilities in the best way possible. The responsibilities and positions in each city at Boys State are numerable; additionally, during the first day cities have voted on their chosen sheriff and chaplain.

The position of Sheriff in respect to the Boys State Cities is to become a role model for all citizens to follow and to enforce rules to a degree. Sheriffs are responsible for the well-being of the citizens and making sure they are acting appropriate. Furthermore, the Sheriff also assists the mayor in many of his duties to create a functioning city level government. Each candidate elected to the position of Sheriff represent a good role model and leader to those he is responsible. The Sheriff of each city will be sworn into office Today, the 18th.

Religious Services held everyday are handled by each cities' chaplain. Holding prayer has always been apart of Boys State and is used to reinforce the faith held by many in attendance. The role of chaplain helps each city feel like a community when the citizens participate. Their help in non-denominational service is an essential part in what makes Boys State the communal program it is. The first day at Boys State was an introduction to the roles, processes, and routines of each city, and the votes of each citizen will have an impact on the future of this year's Boys State.

Looking Backward | By: Jacob Lewis and Ronan Donovan

The fight for freedom and democracy has been one of many trials and tribulations. It brought our fellow countrymen to the beaches of Normandy, the Korean Peninsula, and through the jungles of Vietnam. Not only have these conflicts been fought on foreign soil, but many men and women contributed their valuable time, money, and energy into fighting these dangerous forces domestically in what has become a widely unremembered struggle.

The veterans of the first "Great War" of the 20th century saw the dangerous emergence of Nazi and Communist pioneer youth camps in America. These veterans sought to oppose these camps and instill patriotism and educate the young men and women of this country on the democratic processes that run our states' governments. One example of a successful opposition to these forces is the creation of Boys State in 1935 by Hayes Kennedy in Illinois. Over many decades, this opportunity has greatly fostered the development of young leaders across the country. The program has reached hundreds of thousands of young men and women who are aspiring leaders of not only their communities but also their state and federal governments.



Top: Attorney General Mark Herring

Right: Governor Ralph Northam

Looking Forward | By: Samuel Gardner

The first day of the Virginia Boys State program opened with a myriad of guest speakers, including Ret. Rear Admiral William Cobb, Radford University Vice President Joe Carpenter, and Radford Mayor Bruce Brown. These speakers, however, constitute only a small minority of the guests who will be addressing the citizens of Boys State throughout the week.

On Monday, an instructional session on the Virginia General Assembly will feature State Senator Charles Carrico and State Senator Rosalyn Dance. Also speaking are Delegates Richard Bell, Nick Freitas, T. Scott Garrett, Christopher Hurt, Sam Rasoul, and Nick Rush. VA House of Delegates Deputy Clerk Jeff Finch will then provide a short address.

In the afternoon, Dr. Stephen Farnsworth, professor of political science and international affairs at the University of Mary Washington, will deliver a lecture on the Virginia Candidates Selection Process, emphasizing the difference between primaries and conventions. Dr. Farnsworth recently published *Presidential Communication and Character*, a book which "traces the evolution of White House news management during America's changing media environment over the past two decades," according to Dr. Farnsworth's website. The day will close with a joint speaking event featuring Mayor Robert Coiner of Gordonsville, City Manager Mike Hamp of Waynesboro, and the returning Mayor Bruce Brown.

Tuesday will feature Circuit Court Judge Ed Burnette and the Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Slemple of Wise County delivering a lecture on the structure of the Virginia legal system. Later, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring will make an appearance to address the nature and duties of his office. Wednesday will commence with a similar address delivered by Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax. That evening, representatives from the Virginia State Troopers will present a presentation on highway safety.

Perhaps the most anticipated of all guest speakers, Governor Ralph Northam will join the Boys State citizens on Thursday to discuss the duties and logistics of the office of governor. At Boys State 2017, then-Lt. Governor Northam delivered a similar address during his gubernatorial campaign. Elected to the position later in 2017, Governor Northam succeeded Terry McAuliffe in January, 2018, returning to Boys State 2018 as the Governor of Virginia.

On Friday, Adjutant General Timothy P. Williams of the Virginia National Guard will lead an instructional session, followed by a final instruction session regarding Virginia fisheries delivered by Conservation Police Officer Mark Brewer and biologists David Kalb and John Copeland.

Boys State 2018 will end on the following day, concluding a series of informative and prestigious lectures.



MEET THE NEWSPAPER STAFF OF 2018!



Justin



William



Jacob



Keagan



Ronan



William



John



Xavier



William



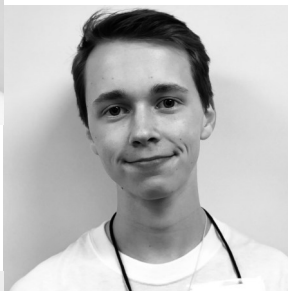
Carter



Brooks



Samuel



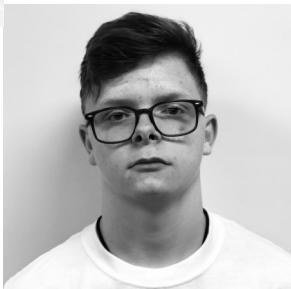
William



Adam



Michael



Raymond