Today the Boys State of Virginia held its elections and subsequent inauguration for the state offices of Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor. Every candidate spoke today before lunch and ballots were cast. For Attorney General, Brandon Cox ran under the Federalist party and was defeated by the Nationalist candidate Kaise Dualeh. For Lieutenant Governor, the nationalists won against the Federalist once again as Eric Ozkaptan defeated William McClennan in the race. For a hotly contested Governor race there was actually three candidates. The Nationalist Candidate, Justin Carroll, the Federalist candidate, Linroy Dasilva, and an independent candidate, who went by AJ. After the votes were tallied though Linroy Dasilva came out with a win for the governorship.

Jack Rhodes and Nathan LePere

Connor Delaney has had a different experience than most of us. With a physical disability, Connor has lived his life in a wheelchair, learning how to conduct himself differently than the average teenager. Although he faces unique struggles, Connor has always spoken out for those with disabilities who may not be able to fully represent themselves. His passion for leadership and public service stems from his father, who has consistently encouraged Connor to share his voice and ability to speak on behalf of the unheard.

When his counselors approached him about attending Boys State, he was not one to shy away from the challenge - Connor applied and was overjoyed to hear that he was accepted to the program.

As with the majority of us, Connor has learned more than ever before about the operations of the Virginia government. Specifically, Connor most enjoyed the riveting presentations shared by our high ranking officials like Mark Herring and Justin Fairfax, which provided a unique opportunity to learn from some of the most powerful public figures in the Commonwealth. Connor has also enjoyed living on the Radford University campus, as it has given him the opportunity to prepare for life at college and the different struggles that he may encounter being away from his home. One of the ways Connor has taken advantage of the program is by running for Federalist nominee for Boys State Governor.

Connor was excited for the opportunity to be the face of Virginia’s Boys State as Governor, although he was nervous about competing against the more qualified opponents. In the first round of the race, Connor presented the last speech of the set of Federalist nominees (representing Washington City). Even though he has admitted to being terrified of public speaking, Connor delivered an astounding speech sharing his desire to represent Federalists and all Boys Staters as Governor. At the conclusion of his speech, Connor rolled himself to the podium and stood himself up out of his wheelchair, ending with the awe-inspiring line, “I will stand for you!” which received a standing ovation and thunderous applause. In the first round of voting, Connor was amazed to see that he received 57 votes, more than any other candidate, although not a majority. In the second round of voting, Connor discussed how FDR has inspired him as the most prominent disabled American public figure. He ended this speech with the signature line, “Roll with Connor Delaney!” Although he did not ultimately win the nomination, Connor stated that the run was bittersweet - he was sad to get so close to the nomination, although proud of his competitive run and the standing ovation he received. Connor was very thankful to hear that the victorious nominee, Linroy Dasilva, applauded and offered him a position in his cabinet. On Thursday, Dasilva won the Governor race, and later oversaw the inauguration of Connor as his Secretary of Commerce and Trade, granting him the opportunity to serve his city, party, and Boys State as a whole.

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CPR: Learn to Save a Life

Despite the recent political chaos and sectionalism, one afternoon activity has given us a class where all can work together to advance Boys States’ primary goal: to cultivate a generation of community servicemen. Mr. Ortel and his team of medical volunteers have contributed their time to offer us a basic CPR course in compressions, breath, and AED usage. Such a skill allows every individual to become a walking lifesaver, increasing the chance of survival for the millions of Americans that walk in fear of heart disease.

Standing for CardioPulmonary Resuscitation, CPR allows a first-aid responder to circulate the blood of a patient with a malfunctioning heart. The procedure is split into three sections: compression of the chest, breaths into the lungs, and usage of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Compressions are done by placing the heel of your hand on the center bottom of the chest and forcing the weight of your body down onto it. Breaths are done by tilting the head back, pinching the nose of the patient, and breathing straight into his/her lungs. Recently, the American Heart Association has recommended samaritans deliver breaths only with a certified filter to prevent personal contamination. Finally, the AED is operated by pressing the ON button and following its vocal instructions. This article only serves as a preliminary dive into CPR (do not give CPR without certification), and we hope it convinces you to obtain certification at your nearest AHA or Red Cross location.

Recipe for Democracy

Yesterday morning at 9:30am the citizens of Boys State gathered in Preston Bondurant auditorium to hear the Honorable Former Lt. Governor of Virginia Bill Bolling speak. Lt. Gov. Bolling spoke to the citizens passionately about division in America as well as how to make a democracy run smoothly. He solemnly stated that his generation was responsible for the current division within this great country of ours but also that he had faith that we as the next generation could mend it.

If nothing but one thing was taken from Lt. Gov Bolling talk it was this: we are responsible for a successful democracy. He spoke of the four pillars needed to achieve this successful democracy too. The first of which was civic engagement. People need to participate in a Democracy for it truly to be a democracy. Part of this engagement, as Bolling explained, is being part of an informed populace. Bolling paused for a moment and touched on statistics before continuing to the next pillar of conversation and explained the importance of civil discourse. He was adamant that we couldn’t “let the extreme voices of the right or the left make a democracy run smoothly. He soulemly determined to determine the course of American policy.” The final pillar of Bolling’s talk was compromise. To drive home this point Bolling even disclosed his party by saying, “I’m a Republican and Democracts are not my enemy”.

Many quotes lingered in the audience even after former Lt. Gov. Bolling left the stage. One of the most provocative was one that addressed America’s false feeling of invincibility as the greatest nation of the modern world “There are other countries, who in their day, believed themselves to be the greatest and now rest on the ash heap of history.”
OPINION

Charismatic Speaking

Jacob Tisdale

In Governor Linwood’s inaugural speech, he prompted a variety of emotions within his constituents. From demands for impeachment, to passionate support, I feel Governor Dasilva handled himself in a collected and frankly captivating manner. Channeling the presence and spirit of charismatic real world politicians, the governor managed an easy-going, conversational tone while maintaining a serious attitude toward impactful change.

Consider the image of President William Howard Taft presenting a speech in the early 20th century. Suddenly, a cabbage was flung at his head causing commotion. Taft quickly quipped “it seems someone lost their head” in order to restore tranquility. Today, our new governor faced a metaphorical cabbage lobbed at his head. During his speech, a disenfranchised voter called for a recount. The wisest thing to do would be to ignore this appeal, yet Governor Dasilva chose to address it. “You want a recount?” the governor inquired. “I can't give you that, I will prove you wrong, because that's what I do.” He remained confident, at-ease, and maintained conviction in the results of the election being correct.

Whether you agree or disagree with the methods of President Trump’s off the cuff manner of speech, it cannot be denied that he has an effective means of reaching a certain type of audience. Trump frequently touts his “humble” nature and appeals to voter’s egos as well as his own. Governor Dasilva was extremely congratulatory towards his audience for maturing their mindset as the week progressed. He also touted his humble nature, but in a way still appealed himself to the majority. His certainty and colloquialism was easy to become swept up in.

On Thursday, Dasilva proposed multifaceted policy and sparked conversation throughout Boys State, but his magnetic public speaking tactics undoubtedly lent themselves to his election.

Lord of the Flies vs. the Nationalist Convention

Karl Blue

What would happen if a group of boys were stranded on an island, and were forced to govern themselves without adults? William Golding pondered such a problem, and thus wrote “Lord of the Flies.” Golding insinuates that in a state of nature, boys would respond to savagery and charisma. After I established the correlation between the Nationalist Party Convention and “Lord of the Flies,” I began to delve into deeper connections and implications.

In “Lord of the Flies,” the character Jack brings out the chaos in human nature. He is someone with great charisma, and his followers are literally called savages. I saw similar behavior between candidate and voter at the convention. A common trend was that the candidate with the most charisma would win the votes, at the expense of reason. The result was that the room often fell into a chaotic chorus of boos or claps.

Additionally, the claims of Jack and the most random of the candidates were similar, as they seemed of little importance. Jack used the promise of meat, something unnecessary for living in an island covered in fruit. One candidate outright said he didn’t want the position he was running for, but still managed to get enough votes to advance to the next level.

This example of Boys State politics worries me because this exercise is meant to simulate politics in the real world. I understand that there is a large age gap between us and real world politicians, but I can’t help but wonder if some of the distrust in politicians recently is based in the problem I witnessed.

One might say that what I saw is simply boys being silly, but I believe that it is no coincidence that William Golding’s prediction is so similar to Boys State politics. Stay sharp.
No Shirts, Full Service

The path to victory is often forged with the credence of blood, sweat, and tears. However in this case the only thing forged was victory. Bradley City chewed through each and every team we faced: through crisp passes, lightning fast reflexes, and destructive dribbling. With fact alone it symbolizes the perfect culmination of teamwork. Even if the City of Bradley was down in the first half we came back in full swing with the force of a thousand thunderbolts; no team was a match for our game ending power.

However, in all honesty each team that Bradley faced was a legitimate threat to the Boy’s State Championship, as each team required us to come together as one entity feeding off the talents of one another. The discipline each member showed is impeccable and something we should all be proud of.

Notable Championship Wins
Marshall - Basketball
Bradley - Soccer
Pershing - Football
Pershing - Volleyball

Daily Crossword

ACROSS
7 Relating to or connected with a profession
10 The power or right to give orders
11 An agreement or a settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions
13 The holding of extreme political or religious views
16 The action of helping or doing work for someone
17 What we should wear in the cold assemblies
18 The branch of a nation’s armed services that conducts military operations at sea

DOWN
1 An unusual and exciting, typically hazardous, experience or activity
2 A soldier armed with grenades or a grenade launcher
3 A writ ordering a person to attend a court
4 The action of engaging or being engaged
5 An organized military force equipped for fighting on land
6 The branch of a nation’s armed services that conducts military operations in the air
8 Relating to a city or town especially its administration
9 A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state
10 A talk especially an informal one
12 The state or condition of lacking strength
14 An institution for educating children
15 The intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something.
COLLEGE DAY INFORMATION

Albright College
Army ROTC
Belmont Abbey College
Bluefield College
Bridgewater College
Catawba College
Chowan University
Christopher Newport University

Concord University
Cornerstone College of Virginia
Davidson College
Davis & Elkins College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emory & Henry College
Fairmont State University
Glenville State College
Hampden-Sydney
Hood College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Liberty University
Longwood University
Lyceum Scholars Program
Marymount University
North Carolina Wesleyan College
Old Dominion University
Radford University

Regent University
Roanoke College
Shenandoah University
Texas A & M University
The University of Alabama
The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Tusculum University
U.S. Military Academy
United States Coast Guard Academy
University of Delaware
University of Lynchburg
University of Mary Washington
University of North Carolina Asheville
University of Richmond
University of Tennessee
University of Tennessee Army ROTC
University of Virginia
US Naval Academy

Virginia Army National Guard
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia State Police
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech

Virginia Wesleyan University
Washington and Lee University
West Liberty University
West Virginia University
West Virginia Wesleyan