



# THE LEGION



An opening perspective.

## Cannabis for Congress?

**John Dell'Olio** Tonight kicked off the beginning of the Nationalist and Federalist party conventions. When the Nationalist party members strolled in, the atmosphere was pretty calm. However, this calmness did not last long. As soon as the convention began, the Preston Auditorium turned into a competition of who could yell the loudest and who could come up with the funniest remarks. What started as a peaceful convention, quickly turned into something like the Instagram comment section on a WNBA post. The night started with the election of the State Party Chair. Only three cities put forward candidates to run for the position. After two solid speeches from Austin P of Bradley and Henry G of Jackson, Cale R of Nimitz delivered an electrifying speech. Cale got the crowd chanting "U.S.A" while calling communists pigs in the process. The people seemed to love it, as he was elected as the state party chair for the nationalists. Cale was now tasked with running the meeting, and it got even crazier from there. The chairs put forward three planks including more sleep for citizens, logos for each city, and something about deer and guard rails. Most

citizens came up to the microphone trashing the ideas with a few people agreeing. After three blowout votes, all three ideas were scrapped. All of the citizens were then asked to come up with ideas for planks. Key Cards and Cannabis? Yes. As soon as the words came out of Cale's mouth, the room began to bounce off the walls. Members of the party went to the microphone to declare their support for the idea with many using the example of Colorado legalizing weed. With that being said, everyone who went up and opposed the idea were booed. It's hard to tell if weed is the answer for the Nationalist Party, but one thing is for sure: the nationalists are 100 percent in on this idea and they are loving it. Oh, and Kaise D of Washington was chosen to represent the Nationalists as Attorney General. After three rounds of election, Kaise was able to edge out Emon G of Puller. With Governor and Lieutenant Governor still up for grabs, the Nationalist party will continue to make deals and push their candidates to the top. If you didn't take away anything from this convention, just remember that the legalization of weed may just be making its way up the totem pole.

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## Where We Are From: Boys State Notable Alumni

**Jack Rhoades** Boys State programs across the country have bolstered the leadership and political skills of

public figures in every aspect of our society. The program has been home to nearly 40 current and former Governor and U.S. senators over 20 Senators among a plethora of other politicians, including Michael Dukakis, Dick Cheney, Chris Christie, and of course, Bill Clinton. 2020 Democratic Presidential candidate and Rhodes Scholar Cory Booker also attended Boys State in New Jersey in 1986. The athletic activities of Boys State have also influenced the lives of many professional athletes, including Michael Jordan and Carroll Dale (who contributed to the Green Bay Packer's 3 consecutive Super Bowl championships). Musical alumni of Boys State include renowned singers Jon Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen. Additionally, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Carl Walz both attended Boys State in Ohio. Other former members of Boys State include Apple CEO Tim Cook and Chairman of the FCC Ajit Pai. The motto "A week that shapes a lifetime" has proven true in cultivating enormous success throughout the careers of all of the program's alumni. Bill Clinton reflected on his Boys State experience, saying, "I went in the summer of 1963, shook hands with President Kennedy in the Rose Garden. . . I was deeply moved by the whole experience and wanted to go back to Washington." Additionally following the commencement of the program, Boys State members may join the VA Boys State Alumni Association.



# NEWS AND UPDATES

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## Virginia Attorney General Defends Record on Voting Rights And Diversity Despite Recent Controversies

**Patrick Scolese** Virginia Attorney-General, Mark Herring, visited Boys State Tuesday for the afternoon instruction. During student question time, a student asked the Attorney-General about a time that he had let others down in his work, to which he expressed deep regret and embarrassment over the recent controversy surrounding his alleged use of blackface in 1980.

The Attorney General said he was “deeply embarrassed and ashamed that I was not aware of how my actions could have hurt people.” He went on to say that it was because of his meeting and diversifying his group of friends as well as reading about Virginia state history that lead him to realize his actions were wrong and understand why and the negative impact on the work to make Virginia a progressive and diverse state.

However, the Attorney-General spoke at length about his record both as a councilor on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, as a state

senator, and Attorney-General in working to, as he put it, “be on the right side of civil rights cases.” He mentioned his recent action in the Supreme Court regarding racial gerrymandering in a number of Virginia’s Assembly districts. Thanks to his work, a number of the districts in this November’s general election.

In addition, Herring spoke about his actions during 2017 when President Trump instituted a travel ban from several African and Middle Eastern countries. Herring was particularly opposed to the religious test requirement as part of the travel ban legislation.

Herring’s past actions ultimately raise several important questions about how past actions affect one’s future. Are some actions too bad to be made up for? Should we allow people to amend their actions and learn from their past to shape future decision and policy? For each of us, we must ask ourselves what issues are most important for us and where we draw lines about supporting candidates. It’s of paramount importance that we ask ourselves these questions to become better informed about issues and decisions facing our state.

## Election Results for Mayors, Delegates and Senators

	Mayor	Delegates	Senate
James	Austin Hogeboom (N)	Julian Bowes (F) Ben Graves (F) Aiden Herzog (F) Denial Grubbin(N)	Ben Condem (F) Amandeep Atwal (N)
Lee	Riley Oats (N)	Alexander Pellicani(F) Owen Ghaphery (N) Adam Dietrich (F) Patrick Johnson (N)	Tristin Mazurani(F) Lanston Jackson (N)
MacArthur	Conor Murphy	Zachary Barabji(F) Evan Kirby (N) Joseph Brown (F) Alexander Williams (N)	Sachin Sanjay (F) Forest Melton (F)
Marshall	Declan Boyle	Ned Derleyn (F) Brandon Tweedy (F) Rohan Jan (N) Austin Schmitt (N)	David Lim (F) Ian Holman (N)
Maury	Johnthan Woods (F)	Matthew Blankenship (N) Brandon Burton(F) Zack Burns (F) Connor Logwood (N)	Ben Dabich (F) William Rush (N)
Nimitz	Holden Kerr (N)	Nathaniel Bracy (F/NF) Zackary Elliott (F/NF) Kyle Gushell (N/NF) Leo Murphy (N/NF)	Jacob DiNovi (F/NF) Jacob Morin (N/NF)
Patton	Pierce Delcourt (NF)	Colter Adams (NF) Derin Mason (NF) Leo Cohen (NF) Jacob Maschner (NF)	Bryce Buchanan (NF) Aalton Burton (NF)
Pershing	Revely Keese (N)	Jacob Andres (F) Tyler Keam (F) Dominick Lazurri(F) Jeremy Taylor (N)	Michael Menton (F) Garrett Heider(F)
Puller	Garrett Quagliata	Gather Comeau (F) Tristan Williams(F) Perry Ayers (N) Jacob Buruch (N)	Joseph Moore (F) Michael Parler (F)
Stuart	Trae Bailinger	Ethan Clark (F) Joseph Kigallan(F) Tyler Yeatts (F) Kirk Casper (N)	Siddharth Kanden (N) Rory King (N)
Washington	Christopher Kuahr (F)	Jowen Callahan (F) Jacob Hopper (F) Graydon Smith(F) Christopher Hall (N)	Vincent Panel(F) Chris Hillen (F)
Bradley	John Paccassi	James Kim (F) Vannik Rai(F) Christian Guel (N) Mohamed Seener (N)	Ritz Culbreth (F) John Phipp (F)
Burke	Christopher Schaidle (N)	Graydon Anders (F) Jack Van Straten (F) Luke Cabog (N) Paul Migliara (N)	Dario Balke (F) Staurt Taylor (F)
Eisenhower	Jed Prockett (N)	Jackson Trout (F) Asa Iem (N) Tucker Krasotte (N) Demarcus Lewis (N)	Lief McCoy (F) Patrick Zhang (N)
Henry	Jack Bush (F)	Passon Gilmore(F) Jacob Tisdale (F) Matthew Baba (N) Joaquin Smith(N)	Canor Buttenworth (F) Bryson Overton (N)
Jackson	Timothy Oillen (N)	Roman Davis (N) Noah Falk (N) Joshua Houston (N) John Follis (F)	JENN COOPER (N) Noah Harding (N)

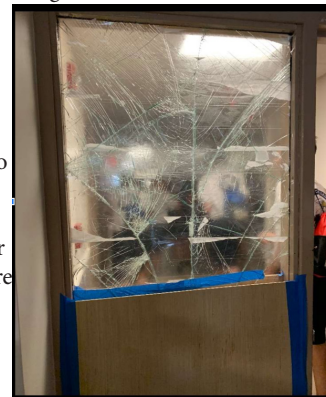
## Burke City: More Like “Broke City”

### David Donnan

It was a normal Monday afternoon for Burke City before things took a sharp turn for the worst. When heading back to their rooms at Floyd, the Burke City citizens were not expecting anything but a relaxing break between activities. They got more than they bargained for. Returning to the dorm turned into an attempt to fit as many people through the door as possible, before the alarm went off. One citizen made a devastating miscalculation. He thought the glass beside the door was an opening. It wasn’t. He ended up colliding with the window causing serious damage to the window and some noticeable

scrapes on his knees and nose.

Burke received some serious demerits that may jeopardize the accuracy of their chant, “Burke city, best city.” The rest of the cities seemed to be a little confused by how this could happen. Running into a door or breaking a window is not an ordinary occurrence. However, sometimes a strange series of events can result in a strange result. This seems to be the case with this incident, and, although unfortunate, all the citizens of Boys State can learn from Burke City: have a good time but stay safe.



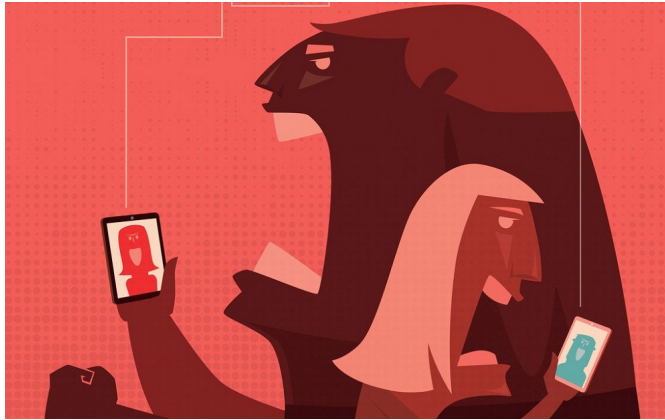
# OPINION

## The Semantics of Hate Speech

Jacob Tisdale

When Attorney General Mark Herring joked at the conclusion of his presentation that the final question of the day should be the most important, he got exactly what he wished for. Herring was asked his opinion on hate speech as it relates to our personal freedom of expression. The Attorney General's answer was thoughtful, however a bit too narrow. He said that the line between free speech and hate speech is drawn "at the point where the language can be used to incite violence." While I certainly do agree that hate speech can be used to provoke violence, there are many instances of malicious language being harmful to society without violence playing a role. Ultimately, language should never be censored because of individuals who are already set on the wrong path, but we must do better with regard to self regulation as an efficient means to restrain the use of legally protected hate speech. As our country recognizes it, hate speech is defined it as "speech that demeans on the ba-

sis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, or any other similar ground is hateful." (Matal v. Tam) Thus, whenever a public official dictates that hate speech is not protected as free speech, they are being misleading. Time and time again,



the Supreme Court has defended the 1st Amendment in cases that involve the condemnation of hate speech. Since the Brandenburg v. Illinois ruling stated all speech was tolerable unless it would prompt "imminent danger", the Supreme Court has fallen on the side of our freedoms rather than those threatened or offended by language. This has many benefits as well as detriments.

Legal speech can lack the threat of violence and still lend itself toward ruining lives. While targeted harassment is directly prohibited, speech that undermines psychological or intellectual weaknesses in people can be very easily protected under our current precedents. This is particularly relevant with the exploitation of current social media. What some may view as harmless talk can drive others to drastic choices or states of mental disrepair. What some may find satirical, others will rearrange their values to fit, even if the ideology is exceptionally flawed. The right to express oneself in certain ways can have tragic nonviolent consequences, but it ultimately must remain safeguarded.

Herring was correct that words used to provoke violence are abhorrent. However, the lines he drew in his response Tuesday are a bit more blurry than he made them out to be. Society's advancement depends on the legal tolerance of many unfortunate, disagreeable, and unsightly uses of language. However, we as a country must remain vigilant towards our personal and public condemnation of such language that is malignant and detrimental to our fellow citizens in any capacity, not simply physical.

## The Irony Of Boys State

Jarrett Pearson

Here at Boys State, we are often referred to as the "best of the best" and the "future of Virginia." We are here to emulate our real-life local and state governments and to a degree, we do get that done, that degree being that nothing ever gets done. Sure, we assume the positions and offices of our local and state government, but within our various meetings, lectures, and conventions it seems like an unorganized mess. While I understand that we are teenagers and we like to have our fun, the entire attitude of every citizen and even some of the counselors contribute to the haphazard way many cities are conducted. From the very beginning, it seemed that most of the students here were underprepared and ill-equipped. This has bled into the sardonic mood that seems prevalent

throughout the week. Yes, people are very passionate about their city and the elections all that energy seems to be directed in the wrong places. Clapping at a laptop turning



off or booing people who are proponents of proposed policy illustrates the irony here at Boys State. The good intentions of the Boys State goals contradict with the attitude of the attendees and how many meetings are run. This is not entirely on the teenagers, but I think instead, a byproduct of how this week

is conducted in general. While counselors are doing as much as they can, there is not much they can do about the rushed process and how much is crammed in a day from 6 o'clock in the morning all the way up until 11:30 or even later. Arriving at Boys State with very little information about what goes on and how things are run is a very real problem here. Speaking from experience and after talking with many of my fellow citizens arriving here with very little information about the program just adds to the hastiness of the proceedings. All in all, I do not think any one person is exempt from the blame on this. Our attitudes can be fixed lending itself to a more smoothly run program. On the other side, I call upon the American Legion and the Boys State of Virginia to reach out more before we actually attend the program and prepare us to be complete citizens. Together, we can truly make Boys State the premier program for the rising leaders of this country.



# SPORTS AND SUPERLATIVES

## Legion Sports

It has been a wet week here at Radford, rain and thunderstorms are forecast for everyday save for Friday. Despite these undesirable conditions, a few of our sports teams were still able to play. A special shout out to the Nimitz football team who in a riveting game beat the Eisenhower team 39-24. Congratulations to the Bradley soccer team on their close 4-3 victory against Lee. During the second half of this game the players were drenched with heavy rain. Players recalled how they appeared less than graceful on the wet field and that it was much harder to control the ball. Despite these unexpected circumstances players of all teams rose to the occasion and viewed the whole experience with optimism. Midfielder Nathan Preston of

of Lee put it best: "Although we didn't win, the activities were one of the most memorable parts of Boys State." Remember, whenever possible, get your scores to your local journalist especially if you're a sports director. This way we can continue to ensure an accurate and entertaining sports column for all of Boys State to enjoy.



## Daily Crossword



### ACROSS

- 2 An elected officer who keeps the peace
- 6 Rightist
- 7 A person who studies of practices law
- 13 The governing body of a state government
- 14 taking part in something
- 15 The process of working together
- 17 The highest ranking governmental figure that spoke 6/18/2019
- 18 Leftist
- 19 Elected prosecutor of felony crimes
- 20 The ability of the mind to be creative or resourceful
- 21 concern more with the needs of others than one's self

### DOWN

- 1 The act of leading a group of people or an organization
- 3 friendly association, mostly seen with church groups
- 4 What we all take part in at around 8:45, unless, the schedule has changed
- 5 The rank of the highest governmental figure that spoke on 6/18/2019
- 8 Assigned a job to someone
- 9 The foundation that gave us this amazing program
- 10 Relating to the government or the public affairs of a country
- 11 Mock court session
- 12 A process of voting
- 16 an organized to achieve a goal