

ANTHONY XU | NICHOLAS
HOURIHAN | MacPHEARSON

STRASSBERG | JOSEPH

A FAREWELL TO

“Joey” SCHLATTER |

The Boys State

TAEBEEN “Kevin” HAN |

Chronicle

SHATTOCK | SILAS

GREEN | DAVID FOSTER |

“THE FINAL SCREECH

COLE McCONNELL | DIEGO

OF FREEDOM”

QUINTANAR-PEÑA | ELI

KOPP

Thank You Counselors and Citizens!

“Citizens of Boys State — It has been my honor and an absolute pleasure to write for y’all. I have enjoyed nothing more than getting to know each and every one of y’all. I can safely say it has been worth it to get to bed at 3-4AM (and wake up at 6:30 AM for band) to write for y’all. I hope y’all enjoy the rest of your summer and keep in touch with one another.”

- MacPhearson “Bagpipes” Strassberg, Bradley City

“To the counselors—I initially was going to say that the speakers we listened to were the best part of Virginia Boys State with y’all in close second. I’m sorry, y’all were just a little less eloquent. But I have revised my opinion. To my counselors (Mr. Stramm and Mr. Kimlick) and all other counselors that were willing to both dish unfiltered life stories and listen to them at the same time, you were the best part of Boys State. The wonderful speakers we welcomed to Boys State worded their wisdom well, but you did something even better: you gave us wisdom and made us use it, because wisdom unapplied is worthless. You saw the best of us and encouraged it. You believed in us more than we believed in ourselves. For that, thank you. To the citizens—make sure to remember Virginia Boys State. Firstly for its fun and camaraderie, but also for the disappointments. Because life, while not a legislative body, is also bipartisan. It is the divide between disappointment and dreams that builds the full human experience and will make Boys State as close to (without being) life changing as possible. I say that Boys State is not life-changing not to downplay its impact but as a vote of confidence in the members of Virginia Boys State and our generation at large. We are resilient and ready to take our place in service for our nation. If we had went to beach week instead, we would have returned with just as forgiving, civic-focused minds with complete faith in the future and democracy. The only person that can make Virginia Boys State life-changing is yourself. So go home. Sleep. But then reflect until you are able to sow something forever lasting, something solemn and sacrificial.”

- Anthony Xu, Patton City

“Working on this paper has taught me two things: how enjoyable writing a paper is, and that sleep is VERY important. After many late nights working alongside them, I know for certain the boys that have worked on this paper with me will all go on do great things, similarly to many of you all! This experience has been one I will never forget. Thank you all!”

- Cole McConnell, Puller City

“I feel like I’m a zombie in the walking dead from all of the sleep deprivation that I faced as a newspaper reporter. Thank you to Mr. Hillman for being oblivious to my AI articles, and thank you to the counselors for not kicking me out for forcefully imposing Tickle Time on my co-writers. The ritual of ‘Tickle Time’ will only be known to Washington City, as well as the newspaper staff who were lucky enough to experience it. If you can decipher this text, you will find the secret of Tickle Time: .. / — .. . -.. -.- .- .- - / - . — — .. -. -./... .. - Most of all, thank you ChatGPT for writing my articles this week. Made insanely good papers for me while I played on my phone. 10/10 recommend for any future newspaper reporter in Boys State. Hopefully you all had a better week than me, and godspeed to all.”

- Nicholas Hourihan (ChatGPT), Washington City

Thank You Counselors and Citizens!

“I hope all readers of The Boys State Chronicle enjoyed reading the paper this week. I would like to thank both Mr. Hillman, the newspaper counselor, and my roommate Tristan for accommodating my late nights. I had so much fun writing and editing the paper this week and I am ever impressed of all of the staff of the Chronicle.”

Follow me on Instagram: @elikopp_

- Eli Kopp, Burke City, Co Editor-in-Chief

“Over the course of this week we have learn and grown as a result of the hard work from our counselors, teachers, and speakers. We have enjoyed the long sleepless nights, extremely tiring days, and amazing meals provided by cafeteria. That you all for providing a fun and safe learning experience for everyone.”

-David Foster, James City

“This week, we have all learned how absurd and ridiculous the world will be. I don’t think anything will make sense anymore, so thank you to Boys State for teaching us about the real world.”

-Diego Quintanar-Peña, Eisenhower City

“Although I may not have published a substantial number of articles, I greatly enjoyed my time working jointly with my colleagues on this newspaper, and we are touched by the positive reception that it has received throughout the week. Despite the arduous time constraints and occasional detriments in the writing process, this has simply been a revelatory experience on many fronts and I am glad that many of my co-writers share these sentiments, and I hope you all felt the same sense of reverence relating to Boys State in general. Have a great summer and live long and prosper.”

-Joey Schlatter, MacArthur City

“Thank you to all of you guys who read our newspapers this week! I enjoyed my time in the newspaper room (even though I got less than desirable hours of sleep most days) and I hope we were able to bring you guys quality and interesting news. Also special thanks to Mr. Hillman, our newspaper counselor (and Mr. Fargo “Santa” Wells)! Have a great summer everyone!”

- Taebeen Han, Marshall City

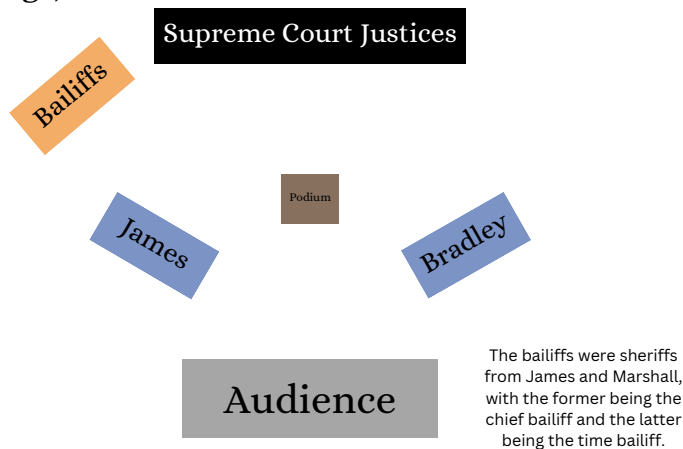
Moot Court Finals

Taebeen Han - *Marshall City*

MacPhearson Strassberg - *Bradley City*

Finally... the Moot Court Finals are here, and it's Bradley vs. James, with Bradley representing the Commonwealth of Virginia and James representing Mr. Joseph Swift (I'll get to this in a bit).

First, I'll describe the setting to the best my memory allows me (I literally wrote down everything - including the table orientation on stage).



It looked something like that, with the Supreme Court and sheriffs facing the audience (the crowd, I suppose) and everyone else facing away.



The trial was held to answer two questions (pretty much).

Question 1: Was Mr. Swift in possession of illegal “primo joints” (drug cocktails of cocaine and marijuana)?

Question 2: Was it Mr. Swift's intention to distribute these substances?

There also was a condition set before the trial, which was that since there were no witnesses, both sides had to present arguments using actual VA case laws, meaning that law and facts from the case were the only supporting evidences that either side could use during the trial.

The court was set up so that each side, starting with James, would get a total of 12 minutes to state their claims (6 minutes per person - each side had 2 members of the council designated for that). Then, each side would get a chance for rebuttal (3 minutes per person, 1 person per side).

James began by stating that there was no evidence beyond reasonable doubt that Joseph Swift had illegal substances or that he had intent to distribute those substances.

Bradley, however, raised a very strong counterargument by establishing that there was sufficient evidence against Mr. Swift to declare him guilty. Due to case law, the burden of proof onto the defendants, meaning the prosecution did not have to disprove every theory the defense came up with.

The trial was received well among the Boys State project, with Logan Downey saying, "it was interesting. I had never been to moot court but it was interesting."

During the session this late afternoon (after the march), the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court came up on stage to announce the winners, the prosecutors: Bradley, representing the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Congratulations to Bradley (and Nathanael Ho in particular) and I hope every participant of Moot Court enjoyed their time in Moot Court!

Long Live King Kyle

Diego Quintanar-Peña - *Eisenhower City*

Though King Kyle™ was unsuccessful in his run for governor, his following has only become more focused and passionate. One could describe them as almost cult-like. Citizen Collin Crooker of Washington City is one such devotee. He has gone to such lengths as to make Kyle his home screen, and has taken to collecting his signatures. With almost missionary-like loyalty, Crooker spends his free time preaching to anyone who will listen why Kyle is so great. "What's not to like?" he states. Certainly, Kyle is a leader who has truly listened to his people and shows monastic humility. What other candidate would have the guts to start a speech by saying "I'm not special?" In these few words, he levels himself with the people. He shows he understands where he comes from, and that his success comes from his supporters. Yet, he simultaneously resists and rejects the temptation of pride that comes with such accomplishments. Who knows what comes next for Kyle. "I hope he runs for president," says Crooker. "I just know he is what America needs. His leadership, his humility, his aura, all his special qualities." While critics deride this cult as a circus, Crooker sees no reason to feel shame. "Through Kyle, we all find meaning," Crooker says. Clearly Kyle has become more than a politician. To many, he symbolizes, hope, freedom and justice. He is truly one of the brightest and best.



The Cocky Counselor

Silas Green - *Nimitz City*

Alexander Frederick Dixon, a counselor in Nimitz City, expressed his strong dislike for country concerts during a community discussion. As someone who frequently works at concerts, he claimed to despise them due to what he described as the obnoxious behavior of many attendees who, he asserted, come solely to "party" and are often "drunk". Alexander emphasized that dealing with these revelers made working at such events difficult.

His comments sparked outrage among Nimitz City residents, especially among country music fans. One citizen remarked, "I'm really disappointed in Alex. I never knew he felt this way." Another said, "Alex used to be one of the coolest people I knew, but now I'm not so sure."

The backlash quickly led to a call for a trial against Alexander, which took place on Thursday night in the Nimitz City common room, known as "The Cooler". The trial began with emotional testimony from Mr. Babcock, who tearfully professed his love for country concerts and music, accusing Alexander of harboring a hatred towards country music itself. Alexander was swiftly found guilty, his punishment being to drink from a cup filled with a concoction of unique substances including yogurt, rice, fruit punch, ranch, and hot sauce.

Refusing to face this penalty, Alexander attempted to flee from the courtroom. However, after running to the building's basement, he was promptly apprehended and brought back to "The Cooler" to face his punishment. With evident reluctance, Alexander took a swig from the cup and proclaimed it to be absolutely awful. With justice served, peace was restored in Nimitz City.



The End of Owengate

David Foster - *James City*

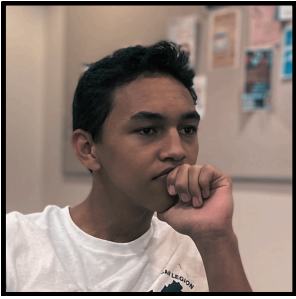
After the highly contested and sought after position of Governor was declared, the biggest scandal of the week emerged. During the elected governor's speech, Owen Hupp distributed toilet paper to all of the city mayors. The scandal arose from this act, distributing a twelve pack of toilet paper, and promoting his ideas of two-ply toilet paper for all. The distribution itself was not what was questioned, it was how Owen obtained the rolls. Allegedly, Owen asked a counselor to go off campus and get the rolls for him. The house, vowing to impeach Owen for his heinous crime and passed a resolution to impeach him. The Senate struck down the resolution and there were mixed opinions on this decision. Some claimed that we needed to impeach and remove Owen entirely from the governors position. Others claimed his innocence because this would be the first case of impeachment in Virginia Boys State history and that it was obtained by a counselor.

However, the House did pass another resolution that would require the governor to do two things. The first would be to make a public statement and apology about the incident at yesterday's speech. The second was that after apologizing, Owen would be prevented from giving his speech entirely. While this was also a resolution, and not passed by the senate, the governor had to power to veto the proposal. Yet Owen did something unexpected. Owen, at the start of his speech decided to publicly apologize for causing the scandal. He apologized to Kyle personally all while being as sincere as he could be. Owen showed us that, by being humble, and caring about the opinions of the people, he truly cares about the betterment of Boys State and welfare of its citizens.



The John Thompson Interview

Nathan Benyame - *Gravelly City*



Yesterday, I got the chance to interview a candidate from my own city of Gravelly, who ran for Governor, named John Thompson. This was a man that I had seen committed to run for Governor long before our current one was even considering his run. This was a man that I had personally seen commit tirelessly to his own campaign, forgoing numerous meals at the chow hall to advocate himself. In Gravelly, it was widely accepted that the entire city would throw their weight behind Thompson, fully expecting his success in the election. In a stunning turn, however, the emerging superstar Kyle Soliday supplanted him as the nominee for Governor. Below is an account from an interview with him, written with as little bias as possible with respect to my connection with him.

I first asked Thompson why he thought he failed to gain the nomination, John said that “something I did not do well was moving people through friendship,” instead of through ideology, in a way that Kyle and Owen had the ability, to command the vote. I then asked him about his bargains he made in the first round; he said that even though he “made sure not to go overboard,” he began assigning cabinet positions on Monday and establishing numerous deals early on. My concern on this note was that making too many deals in the early primaries would diminish the trust of other teams. According to Thompson, he initiated talks with Bradley and James citizens discussing cabinet positions, which backfired on him as those two cities turned out heavily in favor of Kyle, in fear that Thompson could not deliver on his promises, causing many swing-cities to vote towards Kyle’s favor.

We then discussed Kyle’s victory. I and him shared a consensus that the main driver behind’s Kyle’s nomination was that the crowds at the convention either felt it humorous to nominate him, or even in a move of pity. Nevertheless, Kyle’s nomination gave Thompson insight on a characteristic he needed for victory: charisma. Since his crowd was not as serious, he should not have been so. Alongside charisma, being personable and capable of networking was also a very important trait. At this point, I also mentioned the Secretary of Transportation, Travis Delk, collaborated with Hupp to gain support in Henry City.

When I asked about Thompson’s initial reaction to the final election contenders - Hupp & Soliday - he explained he thought at first that both were “poor candidates”; he and I both noted how Governor Hupp initially presented himself on a “Shaggy” persona, but despite that, we remained loyal to Hupp because he was from Gravelly. Between Hupp and Lt. Gov. Aarya Rajashekara, Thompson admitted his preference for Aarya. At this point of the discussion, my interview was interrupted by two Peter Sheridan (Nimitz) at the Bonnie center to discuss the impeachment topic.

After a bit, we brought up William Jackson - a Governor candidate on the Independent ballot. Thompson related heavily to Jackson in the sense that both of them ran on not-too-different planks and both felt that they had lost out to candidates that appeared less qualified than them. He maintained that he did not feel *cheated* at all, but that he felt that Bradley - the neighbor city of Gravelly - did him wrong even after he offered two cabinet positions. Back on Kyle, I brought up a one-on-one conversation that I had with Kyle, noting that I believed that he was very apt in his political planks, but that he was susceptible to please the crowd, wherefore Thompson failed to achieve the vote, due to a “minority” of voters that cared about the joke-factor of the campaign.

Next, we discussed the impeachment, and specifically Malachi Montgomery - the Senior Majority Leader - who touted impeaching Governor Owen. Thompson and bystanders to the interview agreed that the speech wasn’t the best quality, but it was dubious whether his speech was drafted for him (which does not break any rules). Moreover, Thompson also added that it would be sad if Owen was being “used as a puppet” lest he didn’t write his own speech. It was more probable considering Owen’s dramatic persona shift from “Shaggy” to “Owen”. By now, Elijah Stevenson (Gravelly) also joined the conversation, and we kept talking about the impeachment. I noted how Owen’s legal troubles were - in my opinion - irrelevant as many of the resolutions passed in the General Assembly could be tabled*. Thompson made a note, though, of how he received some closure when the legal troubles began. In his eyes, it felt like there were still citizens that felt any concern with the political state of Boys State - closure that he did not receive when he lost nomination to Kyle.

Our consensus was that - given how Owen was being accused on numerous *unimpeachable* offenses - people at Boys State were just trying to do something exciting or controversial for the last days of Boys State, given the inutility of calling for a trial with *one* more day of session left. Or, just trying to be petty.

ANTHONY XU | NICHOLAS
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TAE EUN KIM | HAN |

SHATIQUE WILLIS | SILAS

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