

SEVEN TEXAS DELEGATES GRADUATE ERIC SMITH & JAMIE DRILLETTE

One star. One state. One delegation. Seven outstanding graduating seniors. The Texas delegation pays its respects to the class of 2007 as they make their final trip to the mountain.

The seven graduating seniors from the Texas delegation include the former governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state, as well as the 2007 President Pro Tempore. All of these Texans are veteran CONA delegates and well-respected in the Texas circuit.

Morgan Gibson, a fourth year CONA alum, explained her feelings regarding her final year at CONA. "It's kinda bittersweet," she said, "because I've made so many friends and so many memories and all of them have been amazing. My favorite part was the debate because there were so many diverse people and so many diverse people and so many diverse topics."

Nathan Capper, another one of the graduated seniors, had quite an illustrious history with Youth & Government. He began his first year as a top ten state-ranked judge and earned 1st place this year. This is his second year at CONA and he regrets it being his last. CONA and Youth & Government affected his college decisions completely. They revolutionized what he wanted to do with his life, giving him an opportunity to explore his interests in the legal profession. He liked that profession so much that he plans on first becoming an attorney and then a judge. He claims that other than Jesus and the Bible, Youth & Government is the single thing that had made the biggest impact on him in high school.

David Broockman served as the Youth Lt. Governor for the state of Texas. David says that Y&G and CONA didn't influence his college decisions as much as it influenced colleges' decisions about him. He claims that Youth & Government and CONA were two major strengths which ensured his entrance into Yale University, which he will be attending. "Youth & Government," he said, "is there to educate you about other people and their views but mostly to educate you about yourself. You learn a lot about other people from around your state and, here at CONA, around the nation. Mostly you learn about yourself as a speaker and debater through your interactions with them. ... You are able to put a human face on ideas which you may not have been able to relate to before. You also get the chance to represent your ideas and to be the face of your particular lifestyle whether you be a Jew, Democrat, Republican, or homosexual."

Travis Lee has participated in the Texas legislative program for two years with Texas Y&G. He claims that Youth & Government and CONA have radically changed his college plans. They got him interested in political science—his soon-to-be major—at Texas State University. (Before joining Y&G, he wanted to be a music major.) He says that Youth & Government is "a way of expressing yourself, as cliché as that sounds. It's a real time to set yourself and mold what you will be in the real world. You go to your classes and you go to your church or whatever and you begin to be able to talk about yourself and this allows you to express yourself."

Overall, the consensus is the same. All of these outstanding students have been undeniably influenced in one way or another by both CONA and Y&G. All of them have also left their mark permanently on the Texas Y&G program. We will be sorry to watch all of them go, but excited to witness the beginning of what we know they will accomplish with their lives. May they forever remain deep in the heart of Texas Youth & Government.

In honor of the graduating class of 2007: Michael Admire, David Broockman, Jon Bullock, Nathan Capper, Morgan Gibson, Travis Lee, and Jesse McCluskey.

PROPOSAL NOT GUNNED DOWN MORGAN SMERAGLIA

A unique and impressive display was shown Wednesday night at the Heaton Hall General Assembly in the debate over a controversial gun restriction proposal (#80). Entitled, "A proposal to mandate a full psychiatric evaluation for all potential buyers of firearms," the proposal was authored by David Murdter of the California delegation.

In response to the growing problem of gun violence in the United States, the proposal would require that any person wishing to purchase any type of firearm would be required to "submit to a full psychiatric evaluation at his or her own cost using the DSM-IV-TR, administered by a licensed psychiatric professional who is appointed by the federal government."

The con intent speech was delivered by Delegate Weber of Alabama. In her speech, Weber pointed out, primarily, "psychology is a budding field," and thus is perhaps not able to be considered credible. The first con debater, Delegate Scagnelli of Florida, voiced several other concerns, claiming that the plan "is subjective, it is expensive, and it is simply not plausible."

Delegate DiBilasi of Massachusetts, the first pro debater, shot back at

these arguments, claiming, "It is ludicrous that a system such as this is not already in place...How can we give people deadly weapons without knowing what is going through their heads about what they're going to do with them?"

Delegates Mojica of California and O'Connor of New Jersey illustrated the reality of the magnitude of the issue, citing the events of Virginia Tech this past spring, which may have been prevented because the shooter is believed to have suffered from severe mental disorders. Mojica and O'Connor felt that if this proposal had been in place during that time, the massacre could have been prevented simply by denying the clearly troubled youth from purchasing a gun in the first place.

At the end of the debate, with four minutes and ten seconds remaining for his summation, Murdter managed, in a quick, rapid-fire succession, to shoot down every claim made in objection to his proposal, at the end of which the auditorium erupted with an uproar of applause and commendation. Murdter's impressive debate skills allowed for this highly controversial proposal to become one of the few to be passed in the Heaton General Assembly.

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EUREKA! TREAT SURVEY JESS WILLIS

The Eureka! Treat is many delegates' favorite part of CONA, so you must be interested to find out which flavor is the most popular! (Due to space and time constraints, these contain only one mix-in. If you prefer more, consider yourself special!)

#11: Swirl soft-serve with M&Ms

#10: Vanilla soft-serve with sprinkles

#9: Chocolate soft-serve with sprinkles
Swirl soft-serve with sprinkles

Chocolate soft-serve with Butterfingers

#8: Swirl soft-serve with Reese's Pieces

#7: Swirl soft-serve with Oreos

#6: Chocolate soft-serve with M&Ms

#5: Chocolate soft-serve with Oreos

#4: Vanilla soft-serve with Reese's Pieces

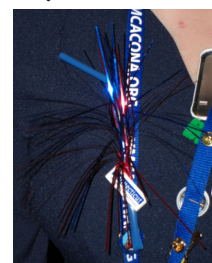
Chocolate soft-serve with Reese's Pieces

#3: Vanilla soft-serve with M&Ms

#2: Vanilla soft-serve with Butterfingers

and the number-one most popular flavor of Eureka! Treat...

#1: Vanilla soft-serve with Oreos, which is great news for you addicts out there, since it's basically a McDonald's McFlurry.



Delaware delegates wore red, white, and blue firework straws for the Fourth of July.