

THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 44th General Assembly

Today's Schedule

9:00: 5th Legislative Session

10:30: Joint Session

11:45: Lunch Legislative Plaza

12:30: Joint Session

1:30: 6th Legislative Session



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“SCISL” Meets TISL

S.C. Mock Governor Visits General Assembly

This year, TISL has somewhat of a foreigner wandering through these marbled halls. Cody Simpson, the student governor of the South Carolina Student Legislature, has joined TISL this year in hopes to work together and expand model state government programs throughout the nation.

Simpson has been working closely with TISL's very own Governor Alex Brown to formulate the Intercollegiate National Governor's Association, an organization that will comprise of the governors of other model state government associations.

“We've been very fortunate to come together and work together in order to bring everyone on the same table so we can reach out and get all the states involved,” Simpson noted in an exclusive interview.

Although TISL has its differences from other model state government programs, such as the fact that it experiences much more involvement from universities all over the state of Tennessee, Simpson concludes with the one major similarity among us all: “We've all got the same passion.”



S.C. Gov. Simpson and T.N. Gov. Brown

-Lina Kilani

Editorial: Capitol's Statue Sparks Criticism

Disclaimer: This piece is editorial in nature, and the views presented below in no way reflect the views of the TISL Times, nor those of its writers and editors.

As I walked into the Tennessee State Capitol yesterday, I was struck by its beauty. The high ceilings, the beautiful artwork, the influences of various architectural styles whose names I don't know. Then, when I observed the busts of the various historically significant people, I noticed a bust of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, a man you may recognize as the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. Yes, you read that right. The Tennessee State Capitol building has a bust honoring a man who became the first national leader of an organization dedicated to preventing the newly freed slaves from exercising their newfound rights.

This bust represents a man who made his fortune selling other human beings as property, then went to war to preserve his right to continue to do so, and then joined an organization committed to the violent repression of newly freed slaves. Nothing about these actions is worthy of glorification in an otherwise stunningly beautiful building. And there is nothing to be gained by placing a bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest in the halls of the Tennessee State Capitol. It amounts to a glorification of a racist past, at a time when the morals of the South, and arguably most of the nation, were so inverted as to



From left: Zachary Sullivan, Governor of the Model Illinois Government; Alex Brown, Governor of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature; Cody Simpson, Governor of the South Carolina Student Legislature sign the Intercollegiate National Governor's Association charter.

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None of this is new to me. I was born and raised in Mobile, Ala. Driving from Nashville to my hometown I would see a Confederate flag flying above I-65. Statements such as, "The South will rise again!" were a common occurrence growing up. In Selma, just a few hours away from my hometown, there stands a monument to General Forrest. If I had to bet on it, I wouldn't be all too shocked to find out that members of my [very] extended family have Klan regalia in their closets to this day. All of which combine to represent a South that is unable to move on from the war we lost and therefore memorializes men such as Nathan Bedford Forrest, who, military brilliance and heroic acts aside, remains the first leader of one of the most violently racist and intolerant organizations in United States history.

-Chandler Schneider