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College Voice Special Election Issue

Connecticut College

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SGA Election Candidates

Presidential Candidates

Fernando Espuelas-Asenjo

[Editor's Note: This issue of The College Voice has been written without any input from Mr. Espuelas-Asenjo. Should he be elected SGA President, Mr. Espuelas-Asenjo will resign as a member of the staff of The College Voice before he is officially inaugurated as President.]

SGA has a responsibility to the students primarily not by being confrontational but by seeking new solutions, being involved in all facets of college life, addressing the problems that need to be fixed, improving what is not broken to make it more efficient. SGA needs to

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Sam Seder

Sam Seder is running for S.G.A. president. This year he is House President of Burdick, and a member of the South African Scholarship Committee. He was also President of the sophomore class and a member of both class council and the Student Life Committee.

According to Seder, "SGA should be the primary advocate for student concerns." He believes that SGA should be a forum for students to voice their concerns, and bring these concerns to the attention of the administration.

Seder doesn't think that the

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Vice Presidential Candidates

Victoria Johnson

Victoria Johnson, Class of 1988, is running for Vice President/Finance Committee Chairman. Though she was away last semester Johnson believes she can bring "new blood" to the make up of S.G.A.

She said, "I think that S.G.A. should represent the student body, and that’s its primary goal. I don’t think it does that right now." Johnson believes the majority of people on campus do not feel comfortable going to an S.G.A. meeting to voice their opinions.

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Tom Price

Tom Price, a junior, is running for Vice President/Finance Committee Chairman. He has been the S.A.C. Rep for the Class of 1988 and the Activities Coordinator of the Undergraduate Alumni Board.

Price said "SGA’s primary role is to hear the concerns and needs of the student body at large and then to voice the concerns to the administration." He does not believe the current S.G.A. has effectively fulfilled this role.

Price identified the house president positions as a specific

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SAC Chairman Candidates

Greg Gigliotti

Greg Gigliotti, ’88, is running for S.A.C. Chairman. After two years of experience with S.A.C., he is presently a member of its executive board. As Chairman, Gigliotti said he would like to improve the attendance and recommendation procedures of the dorm S.A.C. representatives as a means of increasing student input. By preparing a daily agenda of topics to be discussed at S.A.C. meetings he hopes to better inform the students.

"SGA should represent students in such a way that things don’t slip by us. S.G.A. is

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Quentin Nason

Quentin Nason, ’88, is running for the position of S.A.C. Chairman. He has previously served as the S.A.C. Representative for Marshall Dormitory and has also sat on the Food Committee.

Nason’s primary focus is choice and the need for diversity. "Things are getting monotonous and students feel alienated because there is nothing to do. S.A.C. must break up the week with variety so that there will not be any dry weekends, meaning weekends with nothing to do," said Nason.

Nason would like to plan events that would "attract

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Written by: Elizabeth Huffman, Alexandra Stoddard, Peter Falconer, Sarah Schoen, Cynthia Fazzari, Mary Haffenberg, Lisa Broujos, Jackie Whiting, Michelle Conlin, and Liz Michalski.

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ENDORSEMENTS

The Editors of The College Voice met with each candidate for fifteen minutes. During the interviews three standard questions were asked followed by impromptu questioning and discussion. The three questions were: 1) What do you think the role of a Vice President should be? 2) What are the current S.G.A. fulfill your definition? If so, what should be maintained? If not, what should be changed? 3) What can you bring to the position that you are running for?

Endorsement For Vice President

The position of Vice President entails filling in for the President in his absence in addition to acting as chairman of S.G.A.'s most important committee: The Finance Committee. It is important to consider a person who has a broad perspective on S.G.A. as a whole, understands where change may be needed, and has a strong sense of his own role in the direction of change or improvement. More specifically, as Vice President, the elected person must be skilled in working with the budget and must understand the best manner in which to allocate funds to clubs or activities.

We endorse Tom Price for Vice President of the S.G.A. Our reasoning behind the endorsement:

1) Mr. Price has had solid previous experience in S.G.A. He has been his class S.A.C. representative for two years and has gained valuable experience in the allocation of funds to different activities within his own class's budget. He has served as the Activities Coordinator of the Undergraduate Alumni Board.

2) Mr. Price responded to our questions with confidence and ease. He conveyed a complete understanding of the duties of the Vice President and of the importance of his position as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

3) Mr. Price expresses himself well. He is capable of communicating and debating ideas within S.G.A. He is well equipped to become an active and productive Vice President oriented towards change and meeting student needs.

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Paul Hyde, '88, is running unopposed for Chairman of the Judiciary Council. He is presently Chairman of the Student Activities Council (S.A.C.) and serves on various committees including Alcohol and Polidend Recommendation Committee, and Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee.

Hyde said that his perspective of S.G.A. has changed after one year on the Executive Board. "Students are asking for something. There's a lot that we can get done, and we have to let students know how effective we really are. In most respects we are getting things done. We're making sure we're not running away." Hyde said he believes that if S.G.A. has had an effective voice with the students, it can blame itself. "That's our fault for the most part. I would argue that S.G.A. has had a wide range of perspectives on various issues and it should keep it's voice with the student body strong. In addition, Hyde plans to keep the Honor Code strong, as there could be more communication coming out of our assembly to the students about what we're doing that's positive."

The complicated role of House President is a prime example of how S.G.A.'s own structure has hindered itself, according to Hyde. "The role of House President is complicating because it is an uneasy compromise between different jobs. A House President has to be an S.G.A. member, a political being, and a dorm member on House Council and have those responsibilities. It's almost impossible for anyone to be good at both. In that way, the basic structure of S.G.A. hampers itself. You can't criticize individuals, you have to criticize the system."

Hyde suggests that next year S.G.A. should try to keep it's voice with the student body strong. In addition, Hyde plans to keep the Honor Code strong, as there could be more communication coming out of our assembly to the students about what we're doing that's positive. "That's our fault for the most part. I would argue that S.G.A. has had a wide range of perspectives on various issues and it should keep it's voice with the student body strong." 2) During his interview, Mr. Price responded to our questions with confidence and ease. He conveyed a complete understanding of the duties of the Vice President and of the importance of his position as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

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area of S.G.A. in need of change. He supports the proposal that north, south, and central campuses elect regional representatives to S.G.A. The house president would then be oriented towards a definitive presence at S.G.A. meetings. In addition Price backs current Vice President Dave Flemister's proposal that sports club funding change from S.G.A. to the administration. And Price suggested that all funding be more closely monitored in the future.

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PLAT FORMS

Presidential Candidates

Fernando Espuelas-Asenjo

My philosophy of student government is straightforward: proactivity. Too many times in the past the S.G.A. has been sidetracked towards issues that do not benefit the college as a whole. I am running for President because I believe that the college can remain a traditional unchanging organization or it can explore its potential and resources. I believe that there is a much needed flow of communication between the different constituencies on this campus. If I am elected President of S.G.A., I am confident in my ability to be an effective advocate of student concerns. The S.A.C. Chairman has taught me much about listening to others opinions and using them to improve life on campus. I hope that next year S.G.A. will take an active role in changing the latter. As vice-president I feel that I have the determination and dedication to do this.

My three years on The Voice Editorial Board have given me the chance to be in touch with most segments of the community, to learn how they operate, and to appreciate their positive and negative points. I have served on the S.G.A. Review Committee for the last two years and have been on the Committee on Co-Curricular Life and the Students for Coherence in Education. I was elected House President and am currently serving on the Dean of the College Search Committee. This diversity of experience has given me the ability to adapt quickly to any situation, and to find the best solutions to challenging problems.

I would like to share with you the four items which will top my agenda if elected President of S.G.A.

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Vice Presidential Candidates

Victoria Johnson

I believe that S.G.A. should be an effective voice of the student population. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the student body, it must first and foremost represent that student body. It must be open to new perspectives and approaches to both old and new issues on campus. In addition, S.G.A. should also serve as a spark for new ideas and innovation. I feel that the college at this point is at a crossroads. The college can remain a traditional unchanging organization or it can explore its potential and resources. I believe that there is a much needed flow of communication between the different constituencies on this campus. If students are to be active participants in strengthening that relationship so that we can best take advantage of each other's resources. I feel that there is a much needed flow of communication between the different constituencies on this campus. If students are to be active participants in strengthening that relationship so that we can best take advantage of each other's resources.

My primary responsibility in this position is to clubs and special interest groups of the student body. In order to fulfill this responsibility, I will work towards the growth of such groups because their energy and motivation will help lead Connecticut College to new levels. The delegation of finance is essential to the maintenance of such groups, equally important is the support and recognition on the part of S.G.A. Another important issue to be addressed is that of the college's relationship with the New London community at large. I hope that my experience as S.A.C. Chairman can be an active participant in strengthening that relationship so that we can best take advantage of each other's resources.

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SAC Chairman Candidates

Qenttin Nason

Unlike other candidates, my platform is unique in that it is stated in one word - CHOICE. The issue of CHOICE will not only become evident at Conn Cave parties but it will also permeate student life in a whole. For instance, it is my firm conviction that Cave parties must change in focus so as to encompass everyone in spite of the new federal laws. Next year, every party should have additional events such as live bands, clowns, games, etc. Hopefully, these attractions will add a spark that sometimes is lacking.

Nevertheless, it must not be assumed that all campus-wide activities are parties. I will do my best to promote a stronger sense of community and coordinate this schedule with UMJOA, La Unidad, SOAR, and ASIA. I would also like to encourage more functions such as coffeehouses, comedy nights, etc. A concerted effort will result in a more enjoyable social life. This way, when one is asked what there is to do on campus, he/she can list off several options. The existence of these options is essential to our campus setting.

My "CHOICE" platform is based on new ideas and concepts and on our past political experience. The S.A.C. Chairman must be good at organizing events but, importantly, he/she must be able to effectively compromise and cooperate with S.G.A., the Executive Board, the administration, trustees, and alumni. The stronger the S.A.C. Chairman, the better S.A.C. will be as an organization. My active involvement in both S.G.A. and S.A.C. for two years has helped me expand my leadership qualities and has added me in developing a keen insight of the inner workings of the system. For these reasons, I hope you will allow me to enhance student life and give me the opportunity to bring to Connecticut College the concept of CHOICE by supporting me on March 31st and April 1st.

Public Relations Director

Carla Munroe

The most important quality of any elected position is commitment. One must be willing to put into it the time and energy necessary to complete the job. I am not only a candidate for the Public Relations Director position but I am also a student at Connecticut College and I can make this commitment towards the position of Public Relations Director. I want to give time and energy to help our body and Connecticut College as well as all students on campus.

As Public Relations Director, one is primarily responsible for publicizing all S.G.A. related meetings and events. Introducing students to Conn's various clubs and activities. I hope you will give me a chance to prove that I am capable of handling these responsibilities.

Please come and vote on March 31st and April 1st.

The platforms were submitted by the candidates and were not edited by the Voice.

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Sam Seder

The Student Government Association enables us to exert influence on the decisions that affect us and our college. If the potential impact of SGA is to be realized, its leadership must earn and maintain the support and confidence of the entire student body. This can only be achieved by focusing SGA's efforts on resolving issues registered on a clearly defined agenda.

Through extensive restructuring of SGA's committee system, forceful publication of pertinent issues, and interactive leadership, SGA will have the ability to address specific student concerns. SGA must work to improve the deteriorating housing situation, to strengthen Student Advisory Committees, and to receive more physical and financial resources from the administration to meet the needs of a changing social environment on campus. As SGA President I will concentrate on legitimating SGA as the most significant and effective advocate of student concerns.

My extensive experience as Sophomore Class President, House President, and a member of numerous prominent committees, has prepared me well for the intricacies involved in working with the administration and in leading SGA. More importantly, I feel I have the ability to make SGA a truly credible student voice by making our student government more responsive, more communicative, and more pertinent to all of the student body. To the position of SGA President I shall bring experience, hard work and a commitment to promoting student concerns. Please vote.

Greg Gigliotti

I am running for S.A.C. Chairman because I believe my experience as well as my creativity and enthusiasm will allow me to make a positive contribution to Connecticut College. I have been involved with S.A.C. for the past two years and as the Special Events Chairman of its executive board I have gained experience organizing and planning major events which few others have had the opportunity to be exposed.

With the reorganization taking place next year in our administration it will be important to have a chairman who is familiar with this process of transition to our newly restructured Student Government Association. I am confident in my ability to be an effective Iudiciary Board Chairman, and I would like to continue to build upon this new reputation we have developed. I believe I have all the necessary qualities which will allow me to pursue these goals next year.

Tom Price

Connecticut College is a growing institution and the needs of its students are also growing. I believe that the Student Government Association is an important organization which hears the concerns of the Student Body and then voices those concerns to the Administration. In order for the Assembly to be effective, the Assembly must have the confidence and the support of the Student Body.

My past two years as a S.A.C. Representative for the Class of 1988 has increased my awareness of a workable budget. As Chairman of the Finance Committee I promise to have the SGA Vice President as a member of the Trustee/Liaison Committee. I believe I would be a worthy member of this committee. My experience as Activities Coordinator of the Undergraduate Alumni Board enabled the responsibility of promoting and arranging the various events between alumni and undergraduates.

My commitment to fairness, my ambition to represent the Student Body, and my past experience can bring strong leadership to the Vice Presidents.

J-Board Chairman

Paul Hyde

As a candidate for the position of Judiciary Board Chairman, I believe I possess the qualities and skills necessary to make me a capable, effective leader. The academic skills of 1987-1988 are going to be full of changes, especially in the administrative positions. There will be a new Dean of the College, a new Dean of freshmen, and a new Dean of Student Life. Wholesale changes like this could threaten our Honor Code if these key position holders have no previous experience. I will use all of my experience in dealing with the administration to ensure a smooth transition to our newly restructured student life. As Public Relations Director, one is primarily responsible for publicizing all S.A.C. Chairman has taught me much about listening to others opinions and using them to improve life on campus. I feel that there is a much needed flow of communication between the different constituencies on this campus. If students are to be active participants in strengthening that relationship so that we can best take advantage of each other's resources.

Getting our Co-Curricular Life Committee, the Students for Coherence in Education, and the Dean's Search Committee to be made to ensure that "CHOICE" persons have given me the ability to adapt quickly to any situation, and to find the best solutions to challenging problems.

I am confident in my ability to be an effective Judiciary Board Chairman, and I look forward to serving the students in this capacity.
by Elizabeth Hoffman & Sarah Cohen

Richard Greenland, ’87, mediated the SGA Presidential Debate between Fernando Espuelas-Asenjo and Munroe Sed on Sunday at 7pm in the Cave.

In his opening remarks, Esquel said, "We've reached a crisis in leadership. We need to change the way things are done that happened in the past because they haven't worked."

In his opening address, Sed said, "This is a time to be proud that the Student Government can bring this many students out. I hope this debate will prove to be useful in showing the difference between Fernando and myself."

The President of Greenland's four questions addressed the need for greater diversity on campus. Sed believes that SGA has the means to create diversity through awareness and allocation of funds. He said, "The school has not done its job in increasing Financial Aid to enhance diversity."

Esquel-Asenjo responded, "The President is right: He pointed to SGA's Fanning takeover as an example of SGA following the issues. For them to become critical as the lack of minority presence continues." Greenland's second question addressed the problem of "clogged" issues in SGA and asked the candidates whether the solution continued from page 3

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1. CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. The root cause for S.G.A.'s paralysis and inability to bypass triviality is the archaic, irrational, and incoherent constitution. The system, as most people are aware, is a synthesis of divergent political philosophies. Unfortunately, the seams which hold the different parts of the system together are in danger of separation, expectations, goals, and responsibilities. The new constitution must overhaul the representation system, acquiring accountability and effectiveness of elected officials.

2. ACADEMICS. The supposition that S.G.A. should address the problems of the student body is not inherently wrong. As the legitimate representative of the student body, S.G.A. must be a partner with the Faculty and the Administration in promoting and enhancing excellent educational standards. This can take the form of everything from pushing for higher faculty salaries to requesting rational for most fees. A good first step could be lobbying to restructure the academic advising system so as to better guide undergraduate scholarships.

3. PUBLICATION OF CRIME STATISTICS. It is a fact that there are violent crimes committed on Campus by both on and off campus. These occurrences are not only unacceptable, but they also lack the media and student body awareness and promoting common sense. Having the facts of the crime from us-like crime can only lead to a safer environment for all students.

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5. EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP ON THE ALCOHOL QUESTION. S.G.A. must be at the forefront of any and all deliberations concerning alcohol regulations. It must make clear to the Administration that a dry campus is not acceptable. S.G.A. must be proactive in striking a balance between the College's legal responsibilities and a pro-buffalizing social life which might result from a repressive alcohol policy.

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