

CCE SGA

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"My goal is to maintain the balance of the budget and to find new ways to save some money," said Bowks.

Victor Vincent, a current student representative accepted his nomination as vice president. He would like to see the SGA participate in fund-raising for local charities next year.

"I believe this is where, as a government, we have dropped the ball," said Vincent. "However, recent large turnouts, like 'Evening on the Patio,' (shows) I am challenging students to get involved with SGA. If you don't like something about the school, get involved to change it."

Kathleen Winkler, whose background is in non-profit event planning and has been involved for 27 years with the Greensboro Jaycees and the Wyndham Championship golf tournament, will keep the office of activities director

"I have waited 26 years to be able to attend college and I want to be able to experience everything that I can about being a college student," said Winkler. "The SGA not only brings experience to the table, but also the hard work and dedication in the making sure that all CCE students are able to enjoy the full experience of being a college student. It is nice to be apart of a team that works so hard together to accomplish the same common goal!"

There are six contenders for the five available student representative positions. Yolanda Mason, Gracie Harris and Mischa Miles are the current representatives who look forward to more student participation this year.

"I'd like to see the CCE SGA re-introduced to the CCE students of Guilford," said Harris. "Then, together, we

ELECTION

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legitimate. But the fact that it was backed largely by a group of people who were disqualified is hypocritical," said current Senate President Joe Pelcher. "I believe a lot of the concerns listed by the people abstaining are being addressed by the by-laws committee and have been addressed in Senate all year."

Students who chose to vote for a ticket felt abstaining would detract from working towards progress through the current system.

"I didn't abstain because I had something I wanted to do with my vote," said first-year Evan Sterling.

"I chose to vote for Nancy's ticket, who I heard from several credible sources had more experience than (Hemeter's), rather than support a mystery third party that I knew nothing about."

All of the new executives have experience in leadership roles and attribute their win to their knowledge of the workings of Senate as well as their desire to work with Hemeter's ticket while running a fair campaign.

"(In terms of campaigning tactics) our current involvement and experience spoke for us," said Klosteridis. "All of the important proposals in Senate lately have gotten a lot of publicity and caused people to ask us questions about our platform."

Klosteridis's ticket spent 12 hours campaigning in front of Founders Hall on

can become an integral part of life in the Guilford community.

Mason also discussed the lack of student involvement in their government.

"Low participation in SGA activities is discouraging, I'd like to see that change," said Mason. "My advice to the adult students would be to get out there and vote because the CCE SGA represents them and without representation a lot of the needs and challenges just might get overlooked."

Miles raised the idea that the SGA should provide more transparency and visibility.

"I will reach out to the population of CCE to ensure that all voices throughout the community are being heard and acknowledged," said Miles. "There needs to be a voice that brings awareness to the adult population on campus about what SGA is and stands for, because there are many that do not know. I plan to be that voice."

New to the ballot for student representatives are Brandon Sasnet, SGA Vice President Jennifer Agee and Steveland McSwain.

"I want to be more involved with the school," said McSwain. "I'd like to see others immerse themselves as much as possible."

Due to the high attendance for the CCE SGA announcements, some have high expectations for the upcoming year.

"The CCE SGA is in a state of growth reaching more and more people and getting the word out that the SGA gives back to the students," said Agee.

The online elections will be held from April 4-6. A voting booth will also be set up in Hendricks's Hall. The board will be introduced at the Spring Fling and Awards event on April 25.

election day talking to students about their concerns.

"There were conversations that lasted a few seconds and others that lasted 45 minutes," said Klosteridis. "We were continually challenged to stand up and justify our beliefs and that was a really cool and worthwhile process."

In addition to gathering student input, the new executives plan on continuing to revise Senate's purpose and image.

"We're hoping the infrastructure changes going through now (in the by-laws committee) will change the way standing committees are set up and will make Senate more of a resource for policy updates and voicing community concerns," said Kennedy.

According to the current Senate executives, Klosteridis's ticket represents the culmination of several years of hard work and dedication.

"I feel that Senate has been on a road for change," said current Vice President Dana Hamdan. "From last year when Vital was president to this year when Joe was president, we talked a lot more about policy and cutting the piggy-banking element out of Senate (than in years past) and I think next year's Senate will finally break even."

Reflecting on his hopes for Senate's new leadership, Pelcher said:

"I'm really excited to see this new ticket take advantage of the door we've been slowly unlocking for the past two years and watch them finally step through."

SEALE

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successfully pretended to be a panther despite Seale's expulsion, Warren Kimbro, and others involved in the torture and murder of member Alex Rackley in New Haven.

Some acknowledged how certain cases of violence occurred when people did not adhere to party laws.

"Although I don't know much about specific instance of violence, the chapters that moved away from the party laws, moved towards violence," said Jada Drew, Africana community coordinator.

As a result of some negative portrayals of the BPP, BUS members worried that the community would not be open to hear from Bobby Seale.

"The BPP has a stigma of being the black version of KKK" said first-year, BUS treasurer Stephen Obeng. "We want Guilford to know what the movement was really about."

A profile of Bobby Seale

"I was kicked out the air force for running into racism and not knowing how to deal with it," said Bobby Seale in his lecture.

Afterwards, Seale worked as an engineer while attending Merritt College in Oakland. There he joined Donald Warden's Afro-American Association (AAA).

At first, he believed the AAA members were Communists, because he did not know much about his own black history.

He began his quest for knowledge by reading Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois, and defending his new research by debating with professors in class.

"While taking anthropology, I spent most of my time debating with my teacher about terminology," Seale said in his lecture. "I remember objecting to the word Negroid, especially when there was a nice word like Caucasian. One day I proposed that Caucasian be renamed 'Caucasoid.'"

At Merritt, Seale met Huey Newton. After Malcolm X's assassination, they began to consider their own plan to organize. In 1966, they drafted the Platform and Program of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. Police brutality upset Seale and Newton, especially in cases of peaceful protests, a right protected by the Constitution.

According to Seale in his lecture, Newton used his law school experience to benefit the movement, researching California gun laws and teaching them to members.

The Panthers made sure to: have no concealed weapons, have their patrols observe police from at least 8-10 feet away, and have their guns either pointed up or down at all times.

Seale also recalled the importance of appearance on patrols and protests:

"After we trained them, we purchased black leather jackets, and black pants. I insisted on ironed creases and showers. We didn't want anyone thinking we were blippies—black hippies who don't take baths."

In spite of Seale's demand to uphold the laws, the party did not always adhere to his policies. According to "Souled Out: Eldridge Cleaver Admits He Ambushed the Cops" (1980), Cleaver, a Panther who broke away from the party in the mid-70's, admitted to intentionally ambushing the police with Bobby Hutton in 1968. This led to the police shooting ten bullets into Hutton's body while he had his hands in the air, killing him.

"Eldridge was in the wrong to do that, but the police still committed an act of police brutality," said Seale in a phone interview.

Seale cited other examples. In 1969, police broke into Panther Fred Hampton's apartment killing him and Marc Clark while they were sleeping.

He pointed out how the 1968 UCLA shoot-out between the U.S. organization and the BPP occurred because of the FBI sending letters to each group to instigate conflict.

Seale's assertion that the FBI was out to terrorize the organization is backed up by a 1968 document from the FBI's COINTELPRO papers that stated their intention "to neutralize militant Black nationalists" and stop "a coalition of militant Black nationalist groups," as cited in the foreword to "The Black Panther Speaks," (1995).

Seale also dealt with legal troubles. As a result of his demonstration at the Democratic National Convention, the federal court indicted him under a new anti-riot provision. Judge Julius Hoffman refused Seale the legal council of his choice—a right guaranteed to citizens. When Seale verbally protested in court, the judge ordered him bound and gagged. He faced 16 charges for contempt in the Chicago.

While he was jailed, the state of Connecticut convicted Seale of murder, conspiracy to murder and kidnapping resulting in the death of Alex Rackley. After being in jail for two years without bail, his case ended in a hung jury, and the judge dropped the charges against Seale. The judge claimed it was impossible to find an unbiased jury, as cited in "White Justice: Black Experience Today in America's Courtrooms," (1970).

In 1972, the federal government suspended the contempt charges against Seale. In the face of the FBI's actions, the BPP also dealt with internal leadership conflicts.

Seale said in a phone interview with the Guilfordian that he left the party because he did not want to participate in the free breakfast program. After Seale left jail, he found Newton acting more like an absolute leader of the party, going against their democratic centralist ideology.

Seale claimed that this type of attitude hurt the organization and much of the face-to-face community-building that he did to strengthen all the chapters across the U.S. Seale insisted on the importance of the BPP unifying the people to vote and creating organizations that could actually affect politics and policies.

The BPP also included women in the movement. Seale and Newton believed in eradicating sexism from the party to contribute to the liberation of all people. Women such as Elaine Brown and Kathleen Cleaver had active roles, speaking at rallies and working in leadership positions, according to "The Black Panther Speaks."

When asked in the interview why the government and FBI found the BPP so threatening, he explained:

"Because we worked with everyone, the young white radicals, United Front Against Fascism, Anti-Vietnam protestors, SCLC, and Martin Luther King. We took Puerto Rican gangs and made them political, that was what was threatening—we believed in 'all power to all people.'"

Seale said in the phone interview that after dealing with Newton's drug problems and indiscretions, and Cleaver's break from the party, he decided to resign in 1974.

Now, Seale still focuses on community activism, forming the youth education group REACH!, and publishing the REACH Chronicles, an on-line social change magazine.