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2004 SGA Election Results after a Disjunctive Forum

by Jana Neplechovitsj

Roughly 30 people from our entire student body that consists out of "664 students from 37 states and 20 foreign countries," as the Brevard College website states were there to support the nominees and hear their motives in running for office. The Forum met in MG 125, the "amphitheater"/ lecture room. The candidates looked slick and our host Elliott McKenzie was dressed in sports-wear, while Dr. Ralph Hamlett joked that he could barely keep his head straight (he had had to attend a canceled meeting at 7am that morning and kept looking pitiful into his empty coffee cup).

The forum was opened with a little *spiel* by Dr. Hamlett, claiming that information is extremely important in a federal system, that SGA has an immediate effect upon our lives as students, and that the officers that we elect are of vital importance for us and the well-being of Brevard College.

The candidates running for the position of President were Jan-Michael Cohen, Vinny Wong, and Austin Ornelas. Running for the position of Vice-President were Aleece Fosnight, Jordon Huppert and John Billingsley. The other candidates had no opponents and therefore didn't have to participate in the forum. Positions already filled are Jesse Bozeman for Secretary and Davis Whitfield-Cargile for Treasurer. The CAB (Campus Activities Board) officers are Sarah Lange for President and Becky Fincannon for Vice-President.

The candidates that ran for the office of President were on equal footing. Both were and are very active members of our BC community and have worked closely with faculty members and administration.

Jan-Michael Cohen's past and present involvements include: President of CAB, president of Debate Society, Co-President of YPA (Young Politicians of America), and President of Pastimes. Cohen also attended a leadership forum conference in Washington DC where he represented Brevard College.

Cohen's mission statement included changes that he wanted to make in the visitation policy, having limits for freshmen and none for upper class members, and a larger budget for CAB so that we can have more activities on campus.

Our second candidate Vinny Wong was, at the time, our Vice-President. His involvements include: working closely with the President (Elliott McKenzie at the time), stepped up for Elliott when he was on a mission trip, worked on a new constitution for the student body, and talked with other colleges and universities about SGA. Most of his work has been behind the scenes since SGA was in need of a new foundation to build on for next year. One of the main issues has been the SGA budget, of which a new proposal was made to The Board of Trustees that met at the beginning of this month.

Our "third" candidate was Austin Ornelas who stated that he is running for President to create excitement: "I'm sorry, but 30 people at a Presidential debate is not excitement. This is amazing that we can have 600 people here, but yet, less then 30 people at this debate. SGA is not turning this around and therefore I refuse to stay at this debate. If you don't agree then please don't vote for me." Then he left. Dr. Hamlett interferes by starting: "This makes for a very interesting (people break out in laughter)," and then he demands from one of the audience members to bring him a cup of coffee with a cube of sugar...

Continuing with the Vice-Presidents, Aleece Fosnight, a pre-med major with a minor in music, is also Secretary of the Presidential Circle, a member of the Internal Relations Committee, a member of the Chemistry Club, and a Cheerleader. Brevard is her home town. She works at a local family business and is an advisor for the Transylvania Youth Council. Fosnight's mission statement includes tying the community and the college closer together: "Many families look for a college town to raise their children in; colleges have a lot to offer to the community."

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