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CONTROVERSY AT CONA

Mallory McCampbell, New Mexico and Daron Vaught, Virginia

The upcoming presidential election in November 2008 has provided an interesting and passionate debate topic for outside the committee rooms. As a result, this year's political atmosphere on the Mountain is even more intense and involved than usual. Seeing as this conference is made up of politically involved and opinionated individuals, it only makes sense that the upcoming election will stimulate ardent debates and discussions. The diversity of all the people at this conference is an important part of the experience of being on this Mountain.

We interviewed both Barack Obama and John McCain supporters about various political stances and issues. Michael Horanburg, the Youth Governor of New Mexico, is the Southwest Finance Director for the McCain campaign. As a Republican, Horanburg supports McCain mainly because of his stance on tax reform and the environment.

When asked what he thought McCain's weaknesses were, Horanburg said, "I would say his greatest weakness is his age and his tendency to speak without thinking.

That can potentially ruin a candidate. He has a lot of strengths as well though," Horanburg said, "his military background and his experience will be incredibly beneficial."

"My main problem with Obama is that he is always talking about change, but I have yet to see him say specifically what changes he is going to make and how he is going to make them," Horanburg said.

Max Susko, a second year delegate from Pennsylvania, is a Democrat and an Obama supporter. In response to Michael Horanburg's argument about Obama's lack of specificity on his change mantra, Max Susko said, "Well it's hard to see the change before he is in office, he can't really do much if he isn't the president."

Susko went on to ask McCain supporters what his policies and plans of action are for improving the economy. Phil Seggio, a McCain supporter from New Jersey, admitted that McCain doesn't have a real set plan for economical improvement. "He has recognized that something needs to be done about oil, but otherwise he hasn't really said much, which is a problem," Seggio said.

(CONTINUED top of Page 2)

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR P.O.S

INTRODUCING PRESIDING OFFICER DANIELLE DESAULNIERS

Katie Alsup, Oklahoma

Danielle Desaulniers, from New Jersey, is a Presiding Officer with a twist. While sitting and speaking with her, I came to realize that unless you know she is a Presiding Officer, you don't know that she is a Presiding Officer. She is so down to earth, so real, and because of this, Danielle blends in well with everyone else. When asked about her hobbies and interests, she responded with reading, watching trashy television, and teaching herself to cook. She feels so strongly about our generation and the future of America that when asked her favorite quote, instead of quoting some dead, but incredible person, she chose, "the best quotes of our generation are yet to be said." She has faith in the future leaders of the world and believes each and every one will dream great dreams and achieve great goals.

Desaulniers answered all the random, somewhat ridiculous questions I threw at her with little trouble. If Danielle was an animal she would like to be a bird, "when I was little I always wanted my super power to be flying, so I guess it works," Desaulniers said. Her favorite candy is peanut butter M&Ms. "Yummy in my tummy," exclaims Desaulniers. And she does still depend on her parents, especially momma, for certain things. Her mother buys the toothpaste she uses, therefore eliminating a favorite toothpaste.

Desaulniers is a determined and happy Presiding Officer. She has the potential to do amazing deeds and change the world, and has every intention of doing so. Desaulniers has a large heart and looks forward to the rest of the week and getting to know so many new people.

CONTROVERSY AT CONA (CONTINUED)

Seggio also thinks that McCain's wealth of experience and his mild conservatism are his core strengths. "The fact that McCain is not completely conservative will help him to be able to negotiate with Democrats better," Seggio said. He believes that the oil problems this country are major issues that needs to be addressed immediately. Seggio's questions Obama's oil policy: "Why is he so against drilling? What is his immediate solution for the oil crisis? Personally, I think that American citizens are more important than caribou. Considering the oil problem, instead of 'Yes We Can' Obama is taking the stance of 'No We Can't.'"

CJ Davis, a third year delegate from Minnesota, is an Obama supporter. "I'm an Obama-can, that's my party," Davis said.

She believes his main strength is his charisma and his ability to get a crowd excited. "I think Obama is more open-minded and more diplomatic than McCain is, that's why I think he will be a better president," Davis said.

As tensions rise in the impending elections, so will people's passions, arguments, and opinions and there is no better place to see people express their political beliefs than on this Mountain.



INTRODUCING PRESIDING OFFICER DEREK SUMMERVILLE

Being part of a "student-led, student-run" organization, such as Youth in Government, has helped Derek Summerville come to the conclusion that his life will be dedicated to watching other passionate delegates experience that phenomenon. Having served as Senate President and Lieutenant Governor of Florida and traveling to the Mountain three times before becoming a Presiding Officer, Summerville can truly say he has always been a part of servant leadership.

"Contrary to popular belief, being a Presiding Officer in Florida is not very different from being a PO here," Summerville said. He emphasizes that both positions oversee the growth and confidence of the other delegates, and the civic process leading to greater understanding.

When coming to CONA in the past, Summerville brought his favorite proposal in 2006 to abolish the electoral college, which he combined with six other delegates.

"The fact that the proposal made it to General Assembly doesn't matter," Summerville said. "It was the fact that I met six other people who felt strongly about the same issue I did."

He emphasizes sharing and observing in every speech he gives, and every opportunity he has.

"In the movie Kung Fu Panda, I am definitely the audience member watching all of the characters develop into who they truly are," Summerville said.

After the 41st Conference on National Affairs, Summerville returns to Dartmouth College where he is studying Public Policy and is in the process of gaining his teaching certificate in Social Studies.

"The feeling you have at CONA when you see a shy delegate steps up is the same feeling a teacher receives when a student steps up," Summerville said.

(CONTINUED top of Page 3)



Presiding Officers Danielle Desaulniers (top) and Derek Summerville (below) hang out on the mountain.



DEREK SUMMERVILLE (CONTINUED from Page 2)

Whether he will teach in Florida or New Hampshire is undecided, but he knows his Youth in Government life will continue.

"I would love to advise a chapter someday," Summerville said. "This program can always improve, always aim to achieve perfection. There is no limit to leadership."

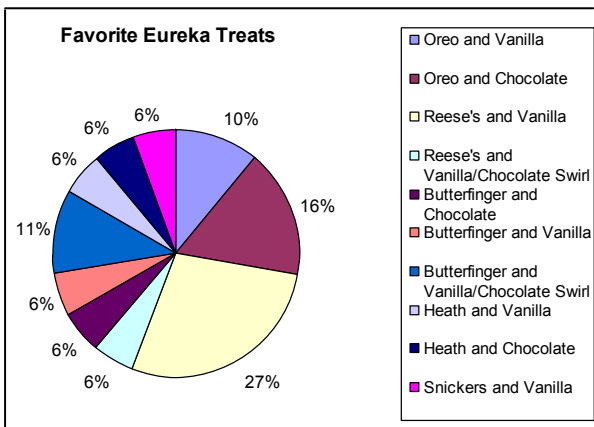
EUREKA! I HAVE FOUND IT!

Darryl Tibbs, D.C. and Jermaine Richardson, Ohio

When asked the question, "How long ago did someone discover Eureka Treats?" the staff's response was, "We don't know how long. It's been a while." Well if that while ago was a long time ago, whoever discovered this mixture of candy and ice cream must have taken one spoon and said "Eureka!" CONA is known for a lot of traditions, but none like the Eureka Treat. The treat comes in Reese's, Oreos, Heath, Butterfinger, and the newly added Snickers, and costs \$2.75. The Eureka Treat is worth it in my opinion, but don't take my word for it,



Yummy!
Yummy!
Yummy!



we have delegates who can testify to the goodness that the Eureka Treat has to offer. Jonathan Mojica, Massachusetts, said "Deliciously Delicious!" Giiehti Christian, Delaware, called his treat "Oreoy!" According to the employee it is "Simple and good," simple enough to make, and good enough to eat.

Jermaine Richardson, Ohio, even said "that they make me wanna comeback for more."

I wonder if Eureka Treats will ever go national? But then I realize that some things are best kept a secret.

MAKING IT COUNT. WHAT ARE BEAN COUNTERS?

Cyrus Goudarzi, North Carolina

Delegates are always anxious that their proposals make it through to the next committee; however, many have never questioned the process that calculates which proposals progress. Although the Presiding Officers explain the voting system, few know about the Bean counters.

The Bean counters consist of adults who have volunteered for this position. They work while delegates are in committees; however, they also are known to continue work for up to two hours after committees have ended. The votes are counted very systematically. There are four boxes that serve as marking points for each step of the process. Box No. One, also known as the "Into Box," is where all of the votes initially arrive after committee. Once all of the votes for a proposal arrive, they are checked off a checklist and the collection moves to Box No. Two. Box No. Two contains the votes that are ready for calculation. These votes are spread out on a long table where the volunteers begin counting. For each proposal, they calculate the score and send the total number of votes to Box No. Three. Box No. Three holds the statistics of each proposal. From this box, one volunteer enters the data into a computer organizing the different scores.

(CONTINUED bottom of Page 4)

SHOUT IT LOUD!*Sharde` Fleming, Michigan*

"Hey, Texas. Where's your flag?" Texas' flag is missing and there are a few culprits under suspicion. However, Texas isn't the only delegation who faces ridicule during meal times; Wisconsin's cow has also been stolen.

The Pennsylvania, Michigan, and California, along with Ohio, Wisconsin, and Texas delegations have all been caught in the crossfire of state cheers. Michigan has been called out for "not having any jobs," Texas for "not having any fresh water," "off-shore drilling," "supporting Bush," and for "their incorrect grammar." The Michigan delegation poked fun at Pennsylvania for "not winning the Stanley Cup."

The state cheers are not always bashers, but a majority of them are. Some of them are fun and catchy. "I love them, especially California's and Pennsylvania's because they're easy to remember," said Monica Medina, Connecticut. The Pennsylvania delegation keeps everyone singing with their cheers, which reminds everyone of the hit Rhianna song, *Umbrella*. "The most interesting thus far has been the Michifornia chant," Ryan Cho, California, said. "Go Cali! Go Cali! Go Cali, Go!" is a cheer that seems to raise the enthusiasm of all of the delegations.

A BIG THANKS TO. . .

The CONA Press Corps would like to give a big Thank You to the Tennessee YMCA for providing us with the computers and necessary technology. This contribution enables us to do what we do best, put together an amazing paper for our friends. THANK YOU VERY MUCH TENNESSEE YMCA!

**CALLING ALL CONA MEMBERS!**

Delegates, advisors, and all CONA affiliates with a camera: please remember to submit photos to Colleen Hogan of Memories in Motion for the Conference DVD. See your friends' faces and your own for years to come! DVDs are also still available to order. See your CLC representative or the Info Depot today for more information.

WHAT ARE BEAN COUNTERS? (CONTINUED from Page 3)

This facilitates determining which proposals have the lowest scores. After the data entry is completed, the proposals are placed in the final box. Upon arrival into Box No. Four, if the proposals move on, they are marked as done and are organized to which second committees they will enter.

Different Bean counters have different pet peeves. For Sam Adams, Alabama, it's having to check the math on every proposal. Although it is simple addition, many careless errors can occur after long days of hard work. Along with precise calculations, Christina Yurky, Pennsylvania, stated she is the most frustrated when impatient people can't wait to get it done. Bean counting is a very arduous job that requires a lot of patience and precision.

Although Bean-counters have a very meticulous job, they know how to keep it lively with good humor and fun between working sessions. They consistently tell jokes and supply themselves with different hard candies, and playing with different, decorative toys. Although they keep it vivacious in the Bean counting room, the entire Conference is extremely dependent on this hard-working group.