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UNTOLD STORIES OF A MISUNDERSTOOD PROGRAM

Jessica Ayers, Florida

Backed into a dark corner of a busy room, with a ballpoint pen in one hand, and a Memo notebook in the other, lurks a legend some know of, many choose to ignore, and few strive to become: A Press Delegate.

Similar to the Hulk, Mussolini, and Lindsey Lohan, the Press Corps at CONA is truly misunderstood. When authors are worried about debate, research, and advancement, they hardly remember the individuals that are insuring that you'll remember these good times 30 years from now, when you're Senators in the middle of crude sex scandals.

Therefore, The Blue Ridge Journal presents: E! True CONA Story: The Press Corps. (For the safety of our reporters and others, the following delegates have decided to remain anonymous).

Voices from the Press:

- "Sometimes when I'm walking down the mountain, minding my own business, a horde of delegates attack and throw their proposals at me."

- "When I'm working on the porch enjoying my Eureka treat, which of course I am allowed to eat anytime I desire, I can feel their penetrating glares."

- "The first night, I was talking to another delegate who asked me what my proposal topic was. When I said I was a media delegate . . . he just walked away."

- "Ken Hussey constantly asks if I do any work. I don't have my therapist Dr. Freud's number, its making me begin to crack. I'm not made of stone!!!"

- "I would speak to you, but my language probably wouldn't be Y-rated."

- "It's a tough life we live. Hard work, sleepless nights, and we are still ostracized from the CONA community. All we want is to be accepted. Is that so wrong!?! We just want a piece of the Blue Ridge Spirit!!"

"In Press Corps, we're all still active, even on the last day.

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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR P.O.S

INTRODUCING PRESIDING OFFICER BRIAN TINSMAN

Katie Alsup, Oklahoma

Brian Tinsman is a true joy to speak with. He is a Presiding Officer, originally from Delaware. He has an amazing sense of community and an appreciation for others. His determination to better himself and his community shines through in his interests and hobbies. Tinsman is a swimmer and the hours upon hours he puts into training shows his desire to be the best he can become. Tinsman also enjoys anything having to do with public speaking and leadership.

As a fifth year delegate on the mountain Tinsman gives back to his community by tutoring and lifeguarding. He feels service to community is important and encourages others to serve. Tinsman feels that service lifts moods and helps everyone.

Tinsman's sense of humor shines through when asked a few, more outrageous questions. He stated that he prefers the toilet paper to, "come over the roll, instead of under. That's not even debatable." When asked which Disney princess he would be, if in fact a Disney princess, Tinsman replied, "I would have to be Pocahontas for a couple of reasons. One- she is clearly the only princess who is American and two- she talks to a lot of trees, and that takes a lot of confidence." After his fellow female PO's approve of his choice of princess, Tinsman answers one final question with a large smile, "Crest extra whitening with scope," is the toothpaste he uses and prefers.

Tinsman has an amazing heart and an impressive hope for America's future, as well as it's youths' future.

We would like to say a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following delegates:

Kesha Berg, Wisconsin
Mackensie Becker, Missouri

We hope all your birthday wishes come true here on the mountain!



Congratulations to Sarah McClure from Texas and Logan Finucan from Wisconsin for the publishment of their article "Internationals" in the Blue Ridge weekly paper The Ridgerunner. We're very proud of you!

INTRODUCING PRESIDING OFFICER VICTORIA ROMANO

Jessica Ayers, Florida

The first time Victoria Romano cam to CONA, she was in culture shock. Coming from Mississippi, she was surprised to hear so people with so many different opinions, views, and thoughts. "I really saw the light my second year, and saw that this conference would teach me something about life," Romano said.

hospitable," Romano stated. Deep to her roots, she continues to be the respectful, fair person she was raised to be, and hoped to use these qualities during her reign as a PO.

When it was announced that she became a PO, Romano was in shock. "I thought they must have made a mistake," she said.

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Of the three times she traveled to the mountain before becoming a PO, her favorite proposal hat she authored mandated healthier alternatives of food found in vending machines at schools around the nation, which made it to Second Committee. She also served as President Pro-Tempe of the senate of Mississippi and CLC, both of which prepared her for the leadership position of Presiding Officer.

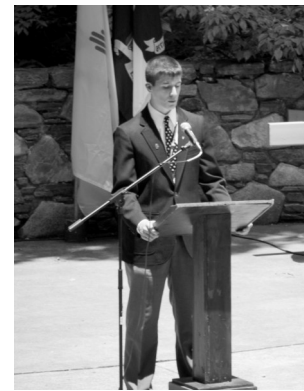
Now attending Millsaps College in Jackson, Romano studies Public Policy, and just like all of us, she feels a tight connection to her state. After college, Romano plans to attend Law School and focus on bettering Mississippi's health care and education, possibly working as a medical malpractice

"Mississippi holds such a potential to be greater, I would like to see it as strong as it is



Victoria Romano (above) during Opening Session

Brian Tinsman (below) giving a statement at Opening Session



MISUNDERSTOOD PRESS (CONTINUED from Page 1)

Although you yourself are already supporting the program by reading this article, you're probably eating dinner right now. For our sanity, and for the safety of others if there happens to be a media delegate around, please check that they are not using the paper as:

1. A napkin
2. A coaster
3. A weapon (sharply pointed paper airplanes, paper cutters, and things of that nature)

The YMCA and Aretha Franklin, both tell you R-E-S-P-E-C-T, read the paper, respect the press, and honor the diversity that the Mountain gave us. You'll find out what it means to us, more than a little bit.

VICTORIA RAMANO (CONTINUED from Page 2)

But throughout this year of higher education, and her retreat with the fellow Pos, Romano has decided that she is ready for the job that will be presented to her this week, not unlike Po from Kung Fu Panda, the character she relates the most to. She would like to promote CONA to high school students, and emphasize its complete contribution to one's leadership skills, as well as providing self reflection.

If there is one more thing she is confident about it is the fact she will someday come back. "You leave a little piece of your heart on the Mountain, so it is very hard to leave."

For more Articles on CONA 2008 Proposals go to:

TO COMBINE OR NOT TO COMBINE? THAT IS THE QUESTION.

Logan Finucan, Minnesota and Cyrus Goudarzi, North Carolina



CONA 2008's largest combined proposal met a grim fate Monday as it failed to make the cut to Second Committee. The diverse group of seven delegates, ranging from New Jersey to Missouri to South Carolina, independently came to the same conclusion and drafted proposals to eliminate the Electoral College American Presidential elections. "We all had basically the exact same proposal," Sean Costello, an author from Massachusetts, said. They were united in their belief that the Electoral College be replaced by a simple popular vote. "I've never been a fan [of the Electoral College]," Siofra Robinson, author from North Carolina said. "I couldn't count the number of people on one hand that support it."

All of the authors were understandably disappointed that their proposal did not make it further. They all agreed that they did most poorly on their originality rating, just by virtue of their being seven of the same proposals, in addition to debatability. Also critical was the proposal's placement on the docket, dead last. "By the time ours was up for debate, people were sick of Electoral College proposals," explains Courtney Arnold of South Carolina. "By the end] voting gets meaner."

What makes this defeat surprising, however, is the situation that arose just two years ago. In that session, seven delegates, including current PO Derek Summerville, combined to create the same proposal for eliminating the Electoral College.

This nearly identical situation and proposal passed Washburn General Assembly. Ten years before, the advisor to Derek Summerville created the same proposal with ten other delegates and also went to General Assembly. Even in this session, two other proposals for eliminating the Electoral College who did not combine with the other seven advanced.

Summerville expressed surprise at the early death of this proposal, especially because of the large number of authors. "Usually the opposite happens," Summerville said. "Often those who stay out of that alliance get left behind. They probably would have gone to Plenary or GA if they had combined."

Despite the disappointment, all the authors were enthusiastic about the experience. "It was really great," Costello said. More than anything, they were all glad to have the opportunity to work with and get to know one another. "We were all really diverse and learned about each other's cultures," Morgan Jordan of Tennessee said. "I know I wouldn't have bonded with as many others as I did if we didn't all combine and work together."

The failing of this proposal displays just how influential and unpredictable combining can be. Although many times combining can advance a proposal's prospects, it can just as easily bring it down. Although a proposal's failure can bring frustration, combining always brings the opportunity for new experiences and new friendships.

HOROSCOPES

Sharde` Fleming Michigan

Aries (Mar 21- Apr 19): The delegate that you've been eyeing across the room in committee really wants to talk to you, but is too shy to do so. Unleash your true bold colors and pursue who you want.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) You are not the only one that can smell. You should really be tired of that odor following you around everywhere you go. Now all you have to do is find out where it's coming from.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) You're feeling exhausted, your legs and arms ache constantly. You should take the "No Lifeguard on Duty" sign as a warning from a higher power. Jumping in the deep end of the pool may not be your brightest idea.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) Get some brownie points from your advisor, and buy them an eureka treat. They're bound to enjoy it.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22) Don't hide your true enthusiasm when you see a delegate that you remember from last year, because everyone likes to be remembered. For example: Kevin, you're still alive!

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Remember that hilarious thing that you thought of today? It really was funny, it doesn't matter that there wasn't anyone around to hear it. Just thinking about it makes you want to laugh all over again, doesn't it? It's okay, do so, people are only going to think you're crazy and there really won't be anyone

around the next time you think of something funny, because everyone will think you're crazy.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) The Dannon Gods suggest that you squish yogurt (with active cultures) into your hair to relieve dandruff. Don't worry about those fruit flies that seem to hover over you constantly; they're just a small side affect.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) It's not about how much you say and do; it's about the quality of your actions. Act on what you feel, even if it's just a small spark.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Keep yourself amused while in sessions make squishy sounds whenever someone walks past. But make sure you're not loud; you wouldn't want anyone getting the wrong idea.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) It really doesn't help your delegations become premier by coming in late to every session, nor does your load of sarcasm while at the podium.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) You know how you secretly try to annoy the person sitting in front of you by quietly tapping their chair, hoping no one else notices it? Well people notice it, and they just think you're annoying, so stop it.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20): Don't let sessions overwhelm you, take some of your free time and meditate. The feelings that you have for that person aren't something that you can just sweep under a rug, so act on them.

THERE WAS A CONFERENCE WHO HAD A NAME O *Nicole Geier Alabama*

Bingo anyone? Well, actually, CONA Bingo. A few years ago a delegate from the Model United Nations created this game. Delegates find it soothing to play when they are stressed about their proposals, or when they are bored during committees. To play the game one must receive a paper containing daily phrases heard daily. In order to cross out a box containing a phrase one must hear the phrase in a conversation or during committee. To obtain bingo one must have a row, column, or diagonal completely crossed out; it does not matter where or when bingo is achieved one must stand up and shout "Bingo!" Many delegates presenting their proposals use the phrases in their speeches to help players of the game win bingo. There is not necessarily a prize given to the winner; however the game is rewarding itself. Join the fun! Listen closely in committee and you may be the next winner of CONA Bingo.



Stand up and
shout BINGO!