

Fireworks in Reed during SGA debate

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

Fireworks went off in the Reed Lecture Hall on Monday night. They were not your ordinary fireworks, they were political ones.

The first of two SGA debates occurred on Monday night involving the candidates for Student Organization Council president and SGA president and vice president.

The first debate of the night was between Paul Lorio and Ray Graham for SOC president.

Lorio opened by saying he wanted more interaction between the 70+ groups on campus.

"In order for groups to work better, there would be a forum between organizations, a push for more co-sponsorship, and examination of somewhat inactive groups," Lorio said.

After outlining this plan, he listed off some of his credentials, including president of Eco-Action, VP of Student Programming Council, and numerous activities at his former campus, Penn State Schuylkill.

Next, Graham read from the six purpose outline of the job of SOC president as stated in the SGA Constitution. After each one, he gave a suggestion for better implementing it.

"One thing clubs need is to have better budget training," Graham said. "Also, we should have a wall list or calendar of registered activities posted in Reed for residents and commuters."

Along with these suggestions he also pledged to be more

accessible to students and to hold regular leadership seminars.

He emphasized his presidency of Living Off Campus (formerly Commuter Council), because understands commuter concerns.

One concern raised during the question and answer period was that of the activities fee. The activities fee would add \$10-20 to students' accounts to benefit clubs and organizations.

"The activities fee would make students want to participate," Graham said.

Lorio equated the activities fee with the problems of the computer fee.

"Not all students use the computer lab, yet everyone is charged \$35," Lorio said. "Now there is a proposal to add more money to students' bills for something not all students use."

Graham disagreed with the comparison between the computer and activities fees.

The final question came from Inter-Fraternity Council president, Rick Krlevich.

Krlevich brought up a flyer circulated by the Committee to Elect Ray Graham. On it, Lorio is quoted as saying certain anti-Greek comments.

BOOM. And the fireworks began.

And series of mud slinging shots ensued between Lorio and Graham.

"I am a voice that is heard. If something needs done, it will get done."
-Hugh Rosenblum

Lorio ended saying, "Ray talks about building long lasting friendships as SOC president. Well, so far, he is 0 for 1."

As the smoke cleared from the opening debate, the SGA presidential/VP candidates walked on stage.

One notable absentee was Sam Epps' VP running mate, Betsy Sauer. Sauer had a death in the family, and was unable to attend.

The two presidential candidates began with opening statements.

Hugh Rosenblum said he wants better interaction between SGA and students.

"I would like to see an open forum for students or senators having individual meetings," Rosenblum said. "Students should be heard."

Epps gave a three point platform: to be informative, to be accountable to students, and to be accessible to students.

"The SGA president is accountable to everything," Epps said. "He has to be accessible to student concerns."

Next, Matthew D. Cissne, Rosenblum's running mate, voiced his concern towards the poor turnout at the debate.

"The reason we have a college is because of the students," Cissne said.

The actual turnout was around 30 people, plus media, co-chairpeople of the election committee, and the candidates.

Epps spoke again, this time about funding problems.

"The biggest concern is underfunding for organizations and clubs," Epps said. "Funding for organizations is ninth out of ten priorities in the 'Behrend Strategic Plan'."

Later responses dealt with general improvements.

Cissne said senators need to have meetings to voice concerns.

"SGA is too impersonal," Cissne said. "The only way to change the image of SGA is for everyone in SGA to contribute."

Epps wants to abolish SOC and make it VP for Internal Affairs.

"This new position would have authority to have small group meetings on important issues for groups and organizations," Epps said.

Another audience member wondered what each candidate's major goal for SGA is.

For Rosenblum, student involvement is job one.

"I am a voice that's heard. If something needs done, it will get done," Rosenblum said. "Without students, SGA is nothing."

Epps said experience is what distinguishes his ticket from that of Rosenblum-Cissne.

He then listed some of his past positions in organizations such as president of the university chapter of the NAACP and Multi-Cultural Council.

Cissne said he is never satisfied with what he is doing.

"There is always another level to achieve," Cissne said.

He then listed several of his accomplishments, including serving as Secretary of IFC and being in "Who's-Who in American Colleges and Universities."

Cissne rebutted Epps' claim that the Rosenblum-Cissne is less experienced in SGA politics.

"We don't have the experience,

but the only way to learn about a job is to do it," Cissne said.

As for promoting SGA, Epps said co-sponsorship is vital.

"SGA should help promote an identity through promoting Homecoming and the Snowball formal dance," Epps said. "We are concerned with student life. I want to build pride in Behrend."

Continuing his message of involvement, Rosenblum said senators must go out to tap the concerns of students.

"We are concerned with student life. I want to build pride in Behrend."
-Sam Epps

"Senators must find out what students want and what they like at this campus," Rosenblum said. "What makes students proud to be at Behrend?"

The final question dealt with why Greeks on campus are passed over for funds.

Cissne said this is a total misconception.

"Everyone is given a fair shake," Cissne said. "Allocated funds need to serve the entire campus."

Epps agreed with Cissne's comments.

And with that, the first debate of the spring 1994 elections ended.

With the elections postponed until next week (April 12-15), a second debate for the SGA presidential tickets has been added. This will take place in the Commons (old Library) on Monday, April 11 at 8 p.m.

The Collegian Classified Advertising

GREEKS & CLUBS

EARN \$50-\$250
for YOURSELF

plus
up to \$500 for your club!
This fundraiser costs nothing
and lasts one week.
Call now and receive
a free gift.
1-800-932-0528 Ext. 65.

The Card Gallery

K-Mart Plaza East
4437 Buffalo Road
899-8782

Because you don't need a holiday
to send someone a card!

Alaska Summer Employment

Fisheries - Many earn \$2,000+/mo. in canneries or \$3,000-\$6,000+/mo. on fishing vessels. Many employers provide room & board & transportation. Male or Female. No experience necessary. For more information call:
(206) 545-4155 ext. A5250

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Make up to \$2,000-\$4,000+ per month teaching basic conversational English abroad. Japan, Taiwan, and S. Korea. Many employers provide room & board + other benefits. No teaching background or Asian languages required! For more information call:
(206) 632-1145 ext. J5250

Camp Sussex



Enjoy a helpful and rewarding summer at Camp Sussex which is located in the beautiful mountains of northern New Jersey and is about one hour from New York City. We need M/F counselors. Head pioneering, social worker, LPN/RN/Student Nurse, kitchen steward, WS/LGT. Salaries are attractive! Please call for more information or write to: **Camp Sussex**
33 Blatherwick Dr. Berlin, N.J. 08009
Phone (609) 753-9265 or (718) 261-8700

WANTED:
2 bedroom apartment for rent or sublet over the summer. Preferably near Behrend. If interested call 899-4210 or 898-7084.

*** EXTRA INCOME '94 ***
Earn \$200 - \$500 weekly making 1994 Travel brochures. For more information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Travel Network, P.O. Box 612530, Miami, FL 33161