

Presidential Endorsement

One would have to look hard to find a candidate better molded to the job of SA president than Bill Weitz. His vast amount of experience and commitment to any task he undertakes were key in the Board's decision to endorse him. With five years of experience in student government on a college level, Weitz has held the positions of Section Representative, Resource Coordinator, President of Dutch Quad, Interquad President, and most recently, Group Programming



Director. Weitz has also served on the President's Task Force on Women's Safety and has an exemplary record of attendance at Central Council meetings.

All of this experience has given Weitz a clear understanding of the internal workings of SA. He sees it as a "political machine" which does nothing to benefit the students. While the Board is confident that Weitz will work for the students, we are concerned that he may be too close to the politics to approach them with a fresh view.

Solving internal problems in SA is Weitz's biggest priority. "We get too bogged down with policy," he said. Weitz would be able to bridge the gap between SA and Council. His prior experience with Council has led him to the realization that there is a total disrespect between the two branches. Weitz would try and remove personality from the system and enhance communication.

Weitz is by no means a "flashy" candidate. His focus on internal SA was a little overwhelming for the Board. He answered questions with middle of the road, SA colored glasses. For someone that sees SA as too political, Weitz is a real politician.

Education was Weitz's answer to everything. "The problem is people don't understand each other," he said. Weitz supports Affirmative Action. He said it teaches people to look past skin color. Applying the principals of a Just Community, Weitz said everyone has the right to a difference of opinion, but not based on skin color, ability, or sexual preference.

SA needs more diversity, Weitz said. "People feel as though they're being pushed out." He claimed there is no multi-cultural programming. Multi-cultural students need to be included too, he said, because they are students. In addition, the Just Community idea is not satisfying enough to students, according to Weitz. As it stands now it is "just words". The University should work harder to enforce the ideals behind it, he said.

Apathy is also a problem. He would cure it by finding out what students want. "Too many people come in with their own agendas," he said. Weitz also plans to reach out to freshman by having them fill out interest questionnaires and then actually responding to them. "We had them this year, but no one did anything with them."

Because of the recent tuition hikes, Weitz suspects enrollment will decline, which will mean less money coming into SA. Much to his credit, Weitz suggested having groups co-sponsor events to conserve individual budgets.

According to Weitz, the Board of Trustees was "jumping the gun" when they raised tuition. "It should have been the last thing they tried," he said.

Weitz does not rule out a move to Division I athletics, but only if its "not harmful." "Academics come first," he said. "Perhaps we could work on Division III."

The Board found Weitz's position regarding the *Hokum* affair to be very non-committal. "They have a right to print. But we (SA) have an obligation to talk to them after," he said.

Weitz was in on the Mayfest cancelling that has many students upset. He explained it was a "drastic" measure that was necessary to prevent fiscal debt. He also questioned the student community's commitment to Mayfest since only "1,000 people showed up last year."

Weitz comes across strong regarding issues of campus safety. As a member of the President's task force, he assisted in pointing out lighting problems back in November and plans to see those problems corrected. One again, education is key, as well as expanding the services of Don't Walk Alone.

Weitz is a very non-controversial candidate and a safe choice for SA President. His experience has brought him far, and the Board feels he will carry out the role of President with professionalism and competence.

Vice Presidential Endorsement

Although she lacks specific knowledge of the internal workings of SA, Nicole Sharpe is aware of the problems plaguing SA and she is quite realistic about how to face them.

Maintaining an air of confidence and professionalism throughout the interview, Sharpe said she wants to help students by representing their concerns and the Board is confident she is qualified to do so.

Sharpe has served as Alumni Quad Board President, the social/cultural chair for the Albany State University Black Alliance (ASUBA), Assistant Multi-cultural Coordinator for SA, Multi-cultural facilitator for Alumni Quad, a founding member of the Multi-cultural Pre Law Association and a legislative intern at the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). She also worked with the President's Task Force for Women's Safety.

All of her experiences have kept her attuned to the problems prevalent on our campus including minority concerns, safety issues, financial problems, and a lack of unity and school spirit. Her experience in administrative positions will allow her to handle her role of overseeing the Programming Office and the internal affairs of SA and do it well.

Addressing the current budget crisis and how it will affect students Sharpe stated succinctly that the State has not sought a sufficient number of alternatives for raising revenues and instead increased tuition. "A lot of students will suffer from increased tuition, reduction of aid and since classes will be cut," she said. Sharpe said with her experience as a legislative lobbyist, she would like to teach students how to lobby effectively in order to get their opinions heard in the legislature.

Since Albany is part of the state public education system, Sharpe is against tuition increases. She would concede only if they are absolutely necessary and they are gradual. She wavered on the subject of differential tuition but concluded it did not seem fair to her.

She also advocated a strict re-evaluation of budget allotments for SA funded groups. By distributing funds more effectively, Sharpe said she would not cut out any SA groups entirely, although she admitted cuts would

have to be made.

Sharpe also saw with perceptive insight the possible beneficial effects of going Division I athletics. In addition to increasing school spirit and unifying the students, Sharpe suggested that perhaps the revenues it raises for the University will ultimately reduce the need for future tuition increases.

Programming was one of the channels Sharpe said she would utilize to unify the diverse student population at Albany, which she named as one of her foremost priorities. Students feel excluded when they come to Albany and aren't welcomed, she said, especially minority students.

She believes multi-cultural organizations are instrumental in unifying students and making the transition to life at Albany easier, especially for freshmen. It's important to grab them early and get them involved, she said.

Specifically, Sharpe mentioned expanding programs such as LINK, which pairs freshmen with an upperclassman volunteer who assists them and hopefully helps make their transition to college life easier. She also spoke of creating a Big Brother/Big Sister program that would help involve freshmen in activities from the beginning.

Sharpe also said while we are lucky to have diversity on our campus we must understand and appreciate each others differences. Through cultural education, she said, we can begin to decrease the discrimination that exists on our campus.

Sharpe also exhibited great understanding and concern for safety issues. Advocating better lighting, expanding Don't Walk Alone, and increasing security, Sharpe also gave practical advice such as not to prop open doors. She was also partly responsible for having a blue phone placed on the downtown campus at Alumni Quad.

She once again offered fresh ideas for how our campus can continue it's environmental efforts: promote conservation of energy. Simple, but good.

Sharpe's "look before you leap" attitude would be a change for the better. She picked out SA's greatest

weaknesses perfectly: they are not educated enough about issues before they act, they don't know or follow policy, and there is not enough communication between the officers.

Speaking of the recent *Hokum* controversy, Sharpe impressed the Board with her suggestion of holding a forum to allow everyone to voice and discuss their opinions in a controlled setting. This would have been a constructive way to handle the problem. However, Sharpe said she does not like to dwell on the past or past mistakes.

This is exactly what is needed is SA; a hard working, determined student who refrains from judging others because she would rather get the job done.



Candidates Forum

The candidates were asked to submit answers to the following questions. Their answers are printed verbatim, with a limit of 65 words.

President

1. What are your qualifications for SA President?

Jose Maymi- I am currently President of Fuerza Latina. I have held positions the student government such as: Central Council Rep., Student Senator, Chair of the Executive -Legislative Budget Committee of SA, Chair of I.C.A.C., and member of Student Affairs Council. In addition, I am a 3-time Captain of the Men's Track and Field Team and a Member of the Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Bill Weitz- In my years at the University at Albany I have held many positions. I had moved up the ranks of Dutch Quad Board, serving as a Section Representative then Resource Coordinator and finally President. This year I served as Interquad President and Group Programming Director for Student Association. These positions have led to my serving on many committees which effect students. I have learned to work with many organizations and departments on this campus. My involvement has given me the experience necessary to be Student Association.

2. How would you define the role of SA President?

Maymi- The SA President is the official representative of the Student Association. He or she must make a commitment to enhance the quality of student life by overseeing and creating programs that will enrich the collegians experience.

Weitz- The Student Association president needs to be more than a figurehead. The president needs to be more visible and active within campus events and the groups. The president must listen to the student body and speak on behalf of the students of this university.

3. What are the most important issues facing this campus?

Maymi- The most important issues ranged from diversity, lack of school spirit, minimized relations between students and administration, to campus safety, relations between students and UPD, relations between the University community and the Albany community, and tuition increases.

Weitz- There are many important issues facing this campus including safety, the need to increase multicultural programming, tuition increases, financial aid decreases, Division I, racial incidents, the need to make a Just Community a reality, apathy and community relations.

4. Choose one of the issues stated above and expand on it.

Maymi- In a campus where the number of students of color are consistently increasing, there must be a Student Association that will reflect and represent all the different ethnic groups. As President, I will oversee the implementations of new programs by the groups, clubs, and student organizations that will strictly exist to educate and integrate all students on this campus.

Weitz- To overcome racism we must educate. Student Association must do more multicultural programming and educational programs. We must learn about each other in order to understand one another. Education is a key to understanding and it's a lack of understanding we must overcome to rid our community of racism.

5. What was SA's biggest fault last year? How would you prevent it next year?

Maymi- The SA's biggest fault this year was its lack of creativity and productivity from the executive and legislative offices. There wasn't enough educational and social activities catering to all students that made SA visible and accessible to the campus community. As SA President, we will make a greater move to "pro-activity", which in turn will foster better communicational lines with the students. By having a tighter control of the internal offices and organizations, this can be prevented next year.

Weitz- Student Association's biggest problem has been a lack of communication. SA has not communicated among its own internal offices let alone the student body. Student Association doesn't listen to the needs of the students. They deal mostly with their own political agendas. The president must remove the politics and create a Student Association that works for the needs of the students. By starting the year off by setting goals and communicating with one another the groups internals and branches of SA will work together to better the students and SA will be respected.

6. What would you do to improve school spirit?

Maymi- The SA groups and clubs, along with the Greeks, play a vital role in promoting school spirit. The Student Association will work with these organizations to create special programs starting as early as the summer program with the incoming freshman. Having more similar events as Guinness Day and Mayfest, which will cater and be inclusive all groups, will promote school enthusiasm and Pride. Projects sponsored by local and distant radio stations such as Fly 92, Hot 92, and 97 Kiss FM, along with giveaways in school games, will increase school spirit.

Weitz- Student Association must work to decrease apathy on this campus. To do this we must be responsive to the students. By programming what the student population wants rather than just programming for the sake of saying we programmed we can get more students to be involved. We must promote the university for what it does for the students. By accenting the positives with forgetting the negatives we can increase the student body's spirit.

7. Why should a student get involved in SA?

Maymi- Greater diversity in programming that will be enjoyable to all students sponsored by the cultural groups, Clubs, and Greeks, such as the Great Dane Weekend, with Bands, Cultural presentations, and educational workshops.

Weitz- Student Association has become an organization closed to the student body. Students don't feel that they can enter SA and get anything out of the experience. We cannot as student leaders to alienate students from SA. The office must be open to everyone. An open door policy creates an atmosphere that students can get involved. This involvement leads to diverse programming and a Student Association of a represented student body.

8. Define the first amendment to the United States Constitution.

Maymi- My definition the first amendment is the freedom of free speech and expression of ideas.

Weitz- The first amendment is a guarantee of the rights of all people to freedom of speech, religion, congregation and press.

Vice President

1. What are your qualifications for SA Vice President?

Larry Diamond- I'm already the SA Vice President. Knowing the job you want to do through experience is, at least in my mind, a good qualification. Before this, I served as the Student Community Committee Chair for Central Council, and before that the Vice Chair for the same committee. At the same time, I was working as a secretary for SA and was the president of an SA funded group. All of these provided me with a very strong working knowledge of the inner workings of the Student Association.

Nicole Sharpe- My qualifications include leadership, cooperation, and dedication. Leadership is illustrated in my overwhelming involvement in student organizations. Fortunately, by interning with the U.S. Congress and New York State legislature my leadership skills are enhanced. Cooperation, I have the ability to communicate and mobilize student involvement. Dedication is my persistence to reassure the representation of all despite difference.s. Fortunately, by interning with the U.S. Congress and New York State legislature my leadership skills are enhanced. Cooperation, I have the ability to communicate and mobilize student involvement. Dedication is my persistence to reassure the representation of all despite difference.

2. How would you define the role of SA Vice President?

Diamond- The SA Vice President is responsible for:

1. Appointing and overseeing the Programming Office, the Media office, the Student Voice, the Elections Commissioner, and the Transportation Director.

2. Working on campus concerns with the President.

3. Seeing to it that SA internally works, and follows the policies set out for it.

Sharpe- The role of V.P. is to empower the executive branch members to work to their potential. To establish a close relationship with the president in order to create an environment where the president doesn't feel overburdened. There should be a relationship where duties are delegated efficiently. To represent SA responsibly so not to tarnish the image. Lastly, V.P. must recognize the need to be a good listener, in order to be objective to diverse opinions and make sound decisions.

3. What are the most important issues facing this campus?

Diamond- My qualifications include leadership, cooperation, and dedication. Leadership is illustrated in my overwhelming involvement in student organizations. Fortunately, by interning with the U.S. Congress and New York State legislature my leadership skills are enhanced. Cooperation, I have the ability to communicate and mobilize student involvement. Dedication is my persistence to reassure the representation of all despite difference.s. Fortunately, by interning with the U.S. Congress and New York State legislature my leadership skills are enhanced. Cooperation, I have the ability to communicate and mobilize student involvement. Dedication is my persistence to reassure the representation of all despite difference.

Sharpe- This campus is comprised of many separate and competing factions with varying interests. Above the issues of importance to specific groups, continued access to programs and services, and increased awareness and sensitivity to difference are this campus's most important issues. To guarantee the promotion of these issues would be of great significance to SUNY-Albany.

4. Choose one of the issues stated above and expand on it.

Diamond- Nationwide, one out of every four college women are raped. Our campus is about average in this respect. We have to work to stop this horror. We should also see to it that counseling is provided to its victims. The Don't Walk Alone program is understaffed, and needs volunteers. The Middle Earth program is facing cuts from the State. SA needs to see to it that these essential programs remain available, and help them expand. In addition, lighting on our campus remain a problem. That also needs to be addressed.

Sharpe- SUNY-Albany's strength and weakness lie in its diversity. If the breadth depth of the many varying interest were to combine on our campus, our living conditions, spirit, and energy would be compounded. The force of a united community has proven successful in our nation's history, and would surely benefit SUNY-Albany.

5. What was SA's biggest fault this year? How would you prevent it next year?

Diamond- SA's biggest fault this year was the fact that there were three Vice-Presidents this year. This prevented many positions from being filled, and also created a hole in SA that prevented adequate communication between the offices, groups, and students. If elected, I will see to it that all the appointments are done in a timely manner.

Sharpe- The structure of our student government has a system of checks and balances built into it. The failure of to educate our student leaders has hindered their ability to question leadership and balance judgment. Communicating the complexities of the issues, not only to our leaders, but also to our students, would build in yet another check on our leaders and foster a more democratic campus.

6. What would you do to improve school spirit?

Diamond- If you want to have school spirit, you've got to have programs, and you have to have programs that draw well. Having Mayfest next year, along with Party in the Park and the rest of the programs that the Programming office did this year will go a long way. Strongly publicizing athletic events, as well as SA events is a strong key to it.

Sharpe- As indicated in the previous questions, a unified student body would promote spirit and energy. As additional strategy would be to include more students in organizing and leading activities. Our groups must open doors and welcome the participation from more students. A reverse indicator of apathy is leadership, thus our leaders should encourage and promote participation which in turn would raise spirit.

7. What are your programming goals for next year?

Diamond- Mayfest, Fallfest, Party in the Park, Guinness Day, New Student Picnic, Fall and Spring Group Fair DDays, and all the other events that are typically held. I'd like to add more programs that would also appeal to cultural groups. SA should also be creative enough to add new events as well.

Sharpe- The major goals will be to promote more diverse programming in university wide groups. Thus creating a "Just Community" where differences are appreciated instead of ostracized. Develop informative forums to discuss controversial issues instead of allowing opinions to offend the under-represented. Initiate faculty and student contact outside of the academic setting.

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President

9. To what extent should freedom of expression be upheld on campus?

Maymi- The freedom of speech should be upheld to the utmost. Yet the SA must be able to defend the rights of the student when they are being infringed upon by derogatory literature. As President, I will enforce affirmative Action rules against all literature that exits the SA office.

Weitz- We have an obligation to uphold students rights. As the elected representatives we must protect these rights. Freedom of expression must be upheld for all individuals. It is when this expression crosses into slander or purposeful harm that we must make a decision on it.

10. How does the previous question relate to the *Hokum* issue?

Maymi- Referring this question to the *Hokum* issue, the Affirmative Action Office, along with myself, will review all literature emanating from that organization. In fact, all literature will go under review by these two offices. Student's feelings must be taken into consideration.

Weitz- *Hokum* has the right to print. What we need to do if students are upset by an issue of *Hokum*, or any written or asspoken word, is not to go to Central Council and accuse each other of violations but rather discuss the issues. By arguing we create large problems rather than solve the issue at hand. We must educate on why things are offensive and be more sensitive to different groups.

11. Do you support a \$500 tuition increase next semester?

Maymi- I do believe it is necessary to make increases in tuition but at a gradual progression. A \$500 increase in tuition is absurd, especially when State and Federal aid will be reduced.

Weitz- The Board of Trustees looked at the budget deficit and immediately thought students. They didn't look at the other options to overcome these cuts. The State took the "easy" way out and stuck the students to cover their mistakes.

12. What is your stance on the possibility of a move to Division I?

Maymi- A Division I move would be a tremendous boost to the school's level of pride and spirit. It will enable the students to take more of an interest in school athletics. Yet, with the current financial crisis that we are experiencing, I believe that it would not be feasible

Weitz- Sports are a great way to get a diverse group of people to rally behind a common goal. It raises school spirit and involvement. A move to Division I would be great if we as a university can afford it now and it will not jeopardize our academic programs. To start we may be able to strengthen our existing programs.

Referenda

1) "Shall the students of SUNY Albany continue to fund the Student Association of the State Universities (SASU) at the present rate of \$2.00 per student per semester?"

VOTE YES

SASU is the state-wide student association that fights for low tuition, protects your right to vote in your college community, and represents the student interest on the SUNY Board of Trustees. In order to protect student rights at SUNY Central and have Gov. Mario Cuomo hear your concerns, vote "yes" for the SASU referendum.

2) "Should the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) continue to be funded at the current level of three dollars per student per semester?"

VOTE YES

Since 1974, NYPIRG has provided SUNYA students with a valuable training ground in the political arena. Just in the past two years, they have effectively banned styrofoam from campus, issued a rental car report that proved companies discriminate against people under 25, and have registered many students to vote. In addition, this consumer advocate group offers internships that educate students on their rights as citizens. A vote for the referendum means you wish to continue the services of NYPIRG on this campus.

3) "Shall the students of SUNY Albany continue to be funded the United States Student Association (USSA) by \$.25 per student per semester?"

VOTE YES

USSA is a national student advocate organization that lobbies the U.S. Congress on educational issues. They are especially prominent in saving vital federal financial aid programs such as the Pell Grant and Guaranteed Student Loans. Considering the recent assaults on financial aid, USSA needs your 25 cents.

4) "Pursuit to Resolution 71-90 of the Board of Trustees be it hereby enacted:

VOTE FOR A or YES

(That the Student Association Activity fee be MANDATORY for all full-time undergraduate students.)

(That the Student Association Activity fee be MANDATORY for all part-time students as follows: 6-8 credits \$ 27.50
9-11 credits \$ 41.25
PER SEMESTER)

It is imperative that you support the mandatory activity fee or you risk losing funding for the many cultural and social groups SA supports. If you think you are not affected by SA, you are sadly mistaken. From student services such as Test Bank and SUNY Tunes, to programs like Fallfest and intercollegiate athletics, SA touches every part of your life as a student. Athletics derives its money from SA, as do cultural groups such as ASUBA, Hillel, and the Chinese Student Association. SA is vital to student life and power. Also, presently part time students do not pay an activity fee. They benefit from SA services as much as the next person. Don't let all your government has worked for slip away. Vote "A" or "yes" for both resolutions.

5) "Shall the students of SUNY Albany provide for a Dippikill fee of \$1.00 per student per semester for the building and maintenance of properties of Camp Dippikill?"

VOTE YES

For those of you that have been to Dippikill, you know its importance. For those of you that have not been there yet, you should go. Dippikill is a valuable retreat for SUNYA students, that offers camping, boating, and recreation, all at a reasonable price. It is one of SUNYA's most valued treasures, and a chance to get away from the pressures of college life. It is funded by SA. Support it.

Vice President

8. Define the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

Diamond- It says that Congress is prevented from making a national religion, and also says that it can't prevent people from observing any religion they wish. Congress is also prevented from impinging on the freedoms of speech and press. People have the right to peaceably gather, and have the right to petition the government.

Sharpe- The First Amendment grants the freedom for one to have an opinion and the right to express one's opinion. We the students at SUNY-Albany must honor this right, yet we must learn to be sensitive, for we live in such a diverse community.

9. To what extent should freedom of expression be upheld on this campus?

Diamond- We all have the right to say what we feel. If a group makes a poster or prints a paper that expresses its opinion, they are within their rights to do so. I don't think that any action should be taken against people who are merely expressing their opinions. There was a poster around campus saying that some people hoped Iraq should win the war. I didn't agree with the sentiment, but they were within their rights.

Sharpe- Freedom of expression is a guarantee from our nation's "Bill of Rights". On this campus, "we the students" should have the opportunity to express ourselves. If our press decides to express an opinion in print, they should voice a multitude of opinions, for our nation is bipartisan and our people have diverse interest.

10. How does the previous question relate to the *Hokum* issue?

Diamond- You have the right to state your opinion on a subject, but you don't have the right to yell "FIRE" in a crowded theatre. SA has adopted a policy of Non-Discrimination. When I made my decision on *Hokum*, I was interpreting that policy. I felt it was discriminatory, and acted on that. I'm sure that *Hokum* will come out again, and somebody may very well be insulted by it. Without a clear cut policy saying how far both the Non-Discrimination policy goes, and how far the First Amendment goes, there will be controversy on what to do. Is it time for Central Council to rule on humor, and for once and for all decide the issue.

Sharpe- Journalism is one of the major forms of the freedom to express oneself. Unfortunately, some are not sensitive to difference. The diverse student population at SUNYA demands sensitivity on issues. The press should be responsible to balance the opinion, in order to equally represent its readers.

11. Do you support a \$500 tuition increase next semester?

Diamond- No. One of my goals this year is to sue the state to re-credit our accounts for the TAP, regents, and extra tuition money we paid this year. It is my feeling that the state had an implied contract to deliver the TAP and regents it promised. We just took a large increase in what we pay to come here. To raise it again so soon would prevent even more students from returning here next year.

Sharpe- No, I do not support a \$500 tuition increase next semester. Due to New York State's fiscal crisis, SUNY students will not only have another tuition increase (in a matter of months), but certain financial assistance programs will be eliminated. I strongly believe that a gradual increase would be more effective.

12. What is your stance on the possibility of a move to Division I?

Diamond- President Swygert has, for the moment, ruled out a move to Division I, with the state budget the way it is, the money just isn't there for a move. The NCAA also just recently made it harder for a school to move up. We can start to improve ourselves now, and then after the state budget crisis lessens, we may be able to move up then. There is the question of creating an athletics fee, but I feel that the students should make the decision in a referendum, rather than the administration making the decision for us.

Sharpe- Considering the state's fiscal crisis, a move to Division I would be in our interest in order to draw revenue to the University. In addition, this move will also be beneficial to develop a strong sense of school spirit and participation.

What is SA?

What is SA?

Student Association is made up of an executive branch, a legislative branch called Central Council, and a judicial branch, with a system of checks and balances, similar to the US government.

Central Council is divided into six committees: Finance, Academics, Intercollegiate Athletics, Student Action, Student Community, and Internal Affairs. Every Council member sits on at least one committee; any interested student can join. The committees work on a variety of projects and draft legislation which Council votes on every Wednesday night. The SA president and vice president can submit legislation and make motions, but they can't vote on bills.

The executive branch is comprised of seven positions: the president, vice president, controller, programming director, minority affairs director, affirmative action coordinator and educational affairs director.

Each year we are taxed a \$110 mandatory student activity fee. The fee goes to pay for intercollegiate athletics and campus groups.

The annual budgetary process begins in the spring semester when a budget committee, comprised of interested students including some not active in SA, is appointed. The committee reviews all budget applications from all the SA groups and sends a proposed budget to the SA president who then sends it to Council. Once it has been reviewed and approved by Council, it must be approved by the SA president and the University president.

If you have any more questions about how SA works, call them at 442-5640 or stop by CC 116.

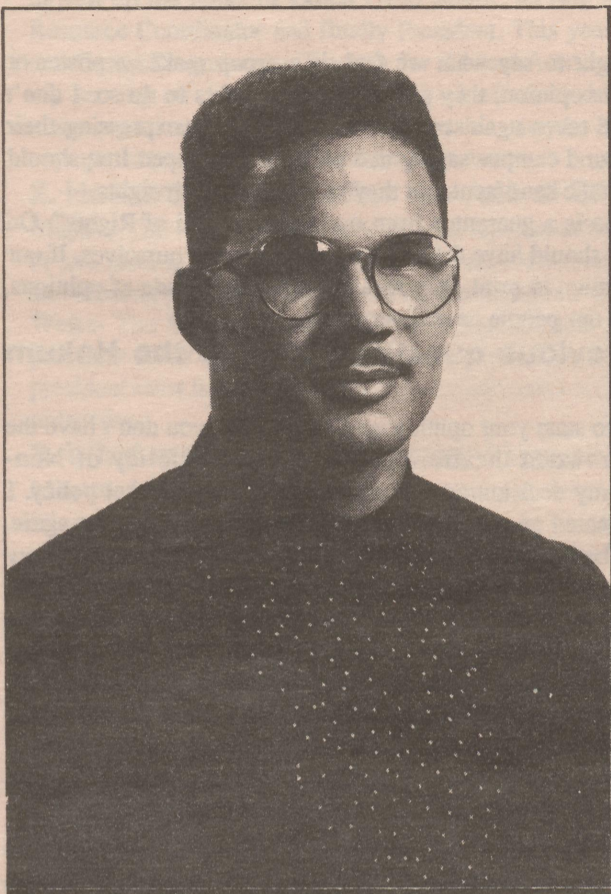
How to vote:

The only thing you need to bring with you when you vote (besides your opinion) is your University of Albany student identification with a tax sticker on it. You will normally receive a tax sticker immediately after you register for your classes. If you have not received one yet, bring your schedule to Copies Plus, which is on the first floor of the Campus Center (near the cash machines). They will give you a tax sticker and you will be all set to cast your ballot.

Presidential Evaluation

There is no doubt that Jose Maymi offers the initiative and creativity that is needed for the position, but the board found him lacking in some key areas, especially his opinion of how Hokum should be dealt with.

When asked whether the SA-sponsored humor publication should be censored, Maymi replied that it should not, but the student association should have "the power to edit what we think is offensive (with the



assistance of an affirmative action officer) since we fund them." According to Maymi, there is no infringement on the group's rights unless material is totally deleted. Frankly, the board found this idea scary.

Overall, Maymi is a strong advocate of affirmative action. As president, an affirmative action officer would be "right there with (him)" when hiring his staff, he said. In addition, multicultural programs should receive a boost, he said, and should include activities at freshman orientations.

We can't argue with the sincerity of Maymi's zeal about improving minority issues, but there seems to be an improper focus in his motivations. His interpretation of "minority" seems geared too much towards blacks and Latinos, although Maymi, the president of Fuerza Latina, proved highly knowledgeable in these areas. However, his familiarity with the issues concerning homosexuals, Jews, disabled people, and other minorities was far less extensive.

Besides his current position, Maymi has a strong and active background. He has been a Dutch Quad representative to Central Council, member of the Presidential Task Force on Division I, Student Senator, chairman of the Executive-Legislative Budget Committee of SA, member of the Intercollegiate Athletic Board, three-time captain of the men's track team, member of a fraternity, and member of the Affirmative Action Grievance Board. That's quite a resume.

Using these experiences, Maymi has formulated an educated opinion on what goes on behind the scenes of our student government and what should be done to change its inadequacies. He thinks, above all, SA needs to check on its finances more effectively and sees an absence of commitment as the root of this problem. Also needed in SA are improved "networking" with other campuses across the state and better accessibility, which can be accomplished by more outdoor events and a

newsletter of current programs mailed to every student.

What Maymi failed to discuss, though, is the internal strife that has plagued SA as of late, something a presidential candidate should be aware of at this stage of his or her campaign.

When the subject of a proposal for a mandatory student athletic fee was brought up, another of Maymi's quirks surfaced. He believes that the University of Albany "can't survive without sports," and therefore, students will be more than happy to pay as much as \$25 to fund the school's athletic teams on top of the \$55 student activity fee they will already be paying. The board finds this assumption questionable. Maymi's logic ("it is a big part of the university - it affects over 600 people") is weak, even if intramurals and those who attend games are accounted for, when considering that about 12,500 undergraduates are enrolled at SUNYA. It is true this fee would probably allow more money to go to SA's non-athletic activities, but in light of SUNY's rising tuition, we doubt such a hike will be as popular as Maymi suggests.

Maymi is in touch with the campus-wide concern over a proposed \$500 tuition increase for next semester and finds it unacceptable, although he supports a gradual augmentation. The board was unpleasantly surprised that Maymi was unaware of the much-publicized differential tuition plan recently considered by the state.

Maymi had a generally solid stance on several of the other social agendas - i.e. better lighting on campus for safety enhancement and a complete ban on alcohol at the university, but decreased his credibility by suggesting that campus beautification is a potential "environmental conservation" measure.

Although Maymi is well-educated in several issues we felt were important for students, the board did not think he was educated in enough of them to merit consideration as the strongest candidate for office.

Vice Presidential Evaluation

Although the endorsement board found Larry Diamond to be experienced in student government, and to have well defined goals for the office of vice president, he failed to convince the board that he would take his job seriously if elected.

In fact, Diamond's lack of professionalism was evident throughout most of his interview. He used the expression "it sucks" to refer to both women's safety and racism at the university. Furthermore, on more than one occasion he answered serious questions lackadaisically and addressed several others with vague answers.

Larry Diamond was not there to impress us with his determination to work. He assumed he could sail through the elections with the student body's knowledge of his previous experience.

His resume is impressive. He is currently the SA Vice President, and has served as the Student Community Committee Chair. He is President of the Gaming Club and has worked for Don't Walk Alone and Middle Earth. Also, he has served on the President's Task Force on Women's Safety.

Unfortunately, someone forgot to tell Diamond that lengthy resumes have never been enough to get the job done. Referring to his SA experience, Diamond said, "Well, I'm Vice President, so I've got that one under my belt!"

To his credit, Diamond expressed an impressive determination to make this campus safer for women; in fact, it was his number one priority. He is one of the founding members of a new campus group, Women Against Rape (WAR), and emphasized the need for student feedback on lighting conditions. He even suggested reserving an entire lecture center to hold a forum where students could express their concerns.

Commendably, Diamond's second concern was what he referred to as "self-segregation." It is his opinion that SA should do more for all students by encouraging them

to "intermingle" with each other. Unfortunately, Diamond's approach to interracial problems is somewhat restricted by his focus on administrative solutions. He suggests broadening the role of SA's affirmative action and multi-cultural affairs officers and ensuring that only "competent and aware" people hold those positions. He does mention improving SA programs so that they will include more people, but he fails to give specific ideas.

One of the biggest concerns facing students on this campus now is the prospect of a further tuition increase and more cuts to their TAP awards and Regents scholarships. While all of the candidates touched upon these concerns, Diamond's solution was by far the most original. As SA vice president, Diamond has recently initiated a lawsuit against the state accusing it of breaking an implied contract with New York State students which guaranteed them a certain amount of money for Regents scholarships and TAP awards per year. He has enlisted the aid of SA's Legal Services and plans to actively pursue the matter.

Furthermore, Diamond's solution to cuts in SA's budget as a result of the state's fiscal crisis was very practical. He listed SA's supplemental allocation line and outside sponsorship as possible money sources SA groups could go to if their budgets run dry next year.

Diamond also expressed an interest in expanding student services, but he failed to convince the board he would follow up on his promise to engage more volunteers in Middle Earth, Five Quad and Don't Walk Alone. His initiative is encouraging; however, he does not seem to have the sparks he needs to create a flame of student involvement.

Apathy on this campus has been approached by student government every year. Unfortunately, Diamond's main solution to this enormous problem is the employment of an SA postering crew to post signs up about upcoming events on a more regular basis than has been done in the past. That's a good first step, but again, this idea needed to be expanded: the board was looking for more meat on the bones of this skeleton of an idea.

Though racism, anti-semitism, able-ism and homophobia concern many of Diamond's constituents, Diamond admitted he really doesn't know about Hillel's recent problem with anti-semitic graffiti on their door. Besides stating he would actively discourage discrimination, Diamond repeatedly said he was open to new ideas. We hope so because he had very few of his own.

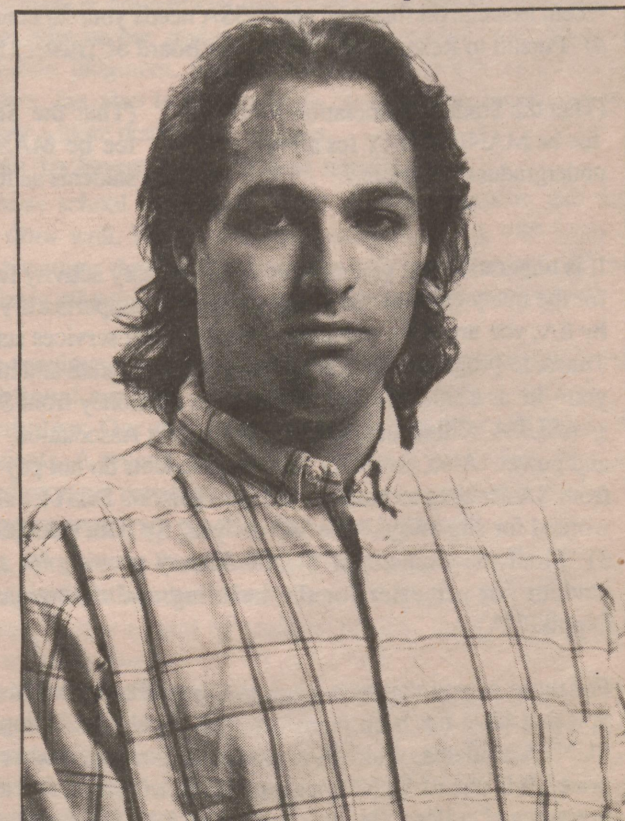
In fact, "the isms", as Diamond calls them, are not the only campus problems he didn't have well defined

solutions for. About recycling, he said, "I'm a computer science major, not an atmosphere major, so I'm not aware of all the ways of recycling."

Diamond, who again reminded us of the limitations of his computer science major, said that was why he was unsure of how to define the first amendment. "I'm not a political science major," he paused. "It's a long amendment. It has to do with a lot of freedoms."

In light of the recent controversy over *Hokum*, Diamond admitted he might have acted hastily, but he said he remains unsure of whether the first amendment should have played a role in the debate over the magazine's content. This opinion did not surprise us after his lack of knowledge about the amendment had become apparent in earlier questions. He said it was more of an issue of discrimination and his intent was to protect those classes of people whom he feels were wrongly portrayed. While this is reasonable logic, it also, like many of his other ideas, falls short. His failure to acknowledge the role of the first amendment in the issue was narrow-minded.

The board feels Larry Diamond sounds credible on paper; however, we are less confident in his ability to handle the office in a mature and responsible manner.



ENDORSEMENT BOARD

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