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The Montclarion

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Sonjui Lal, one of two women ever to be elected to the position of SGA president, will take office June 1.

Lal won the election with a total of 723 votes. Her opponents, Art Massei and Jim Finnegan, had tallies of 518 and 335 votes, respectively.

"Obviously the best man for the job was a woman, Sanj deserved it," Ron Naples, Lal's campaign manager said at her victory party.

Undoubtedly the most suspenseful moment of the campaign results came when the position of vice president was announced. Phill Karali won the position by just one vote over his opponent Mike Sinatra. The vote was 728 to 727.

Sinatra later said that he would ask for a recount but that he would not contest the final outcome. "Obviously enough people liked what I had to say and agreed with me on what changes should be made in the SGA," Sinatra said, adding, "I'm going to run as a legislator for next semester."

Some of the key points which Lal would like to launch when she gets into office are an investigation into a judiciary branch of the SGA. "I feel that the executive board has too much power. I want to be open to ideas from the legislature and the students," Lal said.

Lal would like to initiate a grade plus system. Someone who received an 87 grade point average for the semester would then receive a 3.5 recorded on their cumulative average instead of a 3.0. "It's a more accurate way of assessing someone's grade instead of leaving it up to the teacher's discretion," Lal added.

Brian Cigc, the SGA president, said of his successor, "What's important is that she knows the students and the SGA well. Experience is the key to success. The students at MSC know this and voted for her and her record. I am confident that the transition period will go well, and that Sanj and her executive board will make all those who voted for them, and those who didn't, proud. The SGA is in good hands."

"This was the best election I've seen in four years," Steve Dempsey, the attorney general for the SGA said. "The election was fair and Sanj will do a good job. She's the most experienced with the SGA."

Dempsey said that he hoped that the people who lost would not be wasted, "We have to work together, pull together, a kind of unity behind one candidate."

The voting for the unopposed candidates went as follows: Laura Pedalino, secretary, 1,271; Sandy Schlanger, treasurer, 1,006; Craig Stugart, student representative to the Board of Trustees, 1,275.

"Being unopposed you expect to win, but it's not a reality until the votes are counted," Schlanger later said. She said that one of the things she was hopeful for was that a fairly big company might want to donate a van for tax purposes. "The van could be used for our student organizations which use buses or trains or cars to get to meetings or conventions," she said.

"I'm really excited. I can't wait to do my job," the new student rep said that he wants to keep in contact with the students. He said that when he represents the students at board meetings he wants it to be their voices, their ideas. Schlanger said he is hoping to establish office hours so that students can come up and talk about their ideas.

The referendum to change the limit of the cap on SGA fees from 12 to 15 credits was passed with a 297 yes to 247 no vote. However, according to Schlanger a 21 percent yes vote by the entire student body is necessary in order for it to take effect. Roughly 15 percent, or 1669, MSC students voted in this year's election.

The votes were tabulated Saturday at 2 p.m. after weekend voting was completed.
Best wishes

The Montclarion would like to extend their best wishes to Sonjui Lai, the newly elected president of the SGA. We would also like to offer our congratulations to Phill Karali, the newly elected vice president; Laura Pedalino, secretary; Sandy Schnlager, treasurer, and Craig Stugart, student representative to the Board of Trustees.

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SGA elections—Who wins?

by Jules Korzeniowski

Another May has come and with it another SGA election. For weeks, the fourth floor of the Student Center has been the scene of countless campaign meetings, regulation meanderings, hurt feelings, and uptight temper tantrums. Everyone is focused on saying hello and smiling (a fourth floor ritual) and now, hopefully everything will get back to normal.

The organizations which supported the winning candidates can count their good fortune in the form of their members being appointed to the new legislature in the fall. Those persons most active in the campaigns of the winners may expect cabinet position appointments and invitations to the SGA banquet in June. The losing candidates will either drop out of sight or will run for SGA legislative seats later this week. Some may even be appointed to a cabinet post or the legislature by the presiding elect just to show there are no hard feelings.

After the inauguration, the presiding elect will settle down to a summer job as executive director of the SGA corporation. The treasurer is also expected to be around, but doesn't get paid for his efforts, but why did Sonni Lai win? Why Phil Karali and Laura Pedalino served for two years in the SGA, as a member of a Class One organization, as a legislator and cabinet member of Maryanne Prezumik's administration. In short, you have to be an SGA insider to win an election for president, or if you're an outsider, you must have the support of a significant part of the fourth floor students (FFS). No fourth floor support, no win.

The FFS at MSC speak their own language. They all know each other, they know who is intelligent and who is a fake, they know who is efficient in administration and who isn't. The FFS take themselves very seriously and they take the yearly elections seriously. But then you would too if collectively you spent $500,000 annually. There is also institutional loyalty. If a FFS isn't loyal to the central SGA administrative or legislative structure, then they are loyal to the bureaucratic one: the Class One or Two organizations. And since their organizations spend a good deal of money, they want to make sure they have a friend in office.

At where any real issues in SGA elections? Yes, but with certain exceptions, they are usually the same ones each year and they aren't the ones the average student reads about in The Montclarion or in campaign literature. With the exception of the Fuentes Administration.

Four years ago two issues were significant in SGA elections. One was the confrontation of part-time student body. These leaders, in other words, they know who is intelligent and who is a fake, they know who is loyal to the central SGA administration, then they are loyal to the bureaucratic one: the Class One or Two organizations. And since their organizations spend a good deal of money, they want to make sure they have a friend in office.

In short, SGA elections are not about parking spaces for commuters, improving shuttle bus service, judicial committees for students, or more rights for students in the appeal process for grades. SGA elections are about the yearly budget and who support the right candidate and reap the benefits the following academic year during budget time.

This is not to say that SGA don't care about the student population at large. They genuinely believe that their organizations provide legitimate services to students. And in many cases this is so. But as with any institution, a certain amount of its creative energy is spent perpetuating itself. It is rare for any organization to dissolve itself voluntarily and this is so at SGC as well. Our Class One and Office of Student Legislative and administrative apparatus recruits and socializes its leaders not the general student body. These leaders, in turn, administer their organizations to dissolve itself. It is rare for any college president, Angelo Genova is in law school; Manny Mendez, a business executive for a large corporation; Nader Tavakoli is in law school; Brian Cige is applying to law school. And the former SGA president, Angela Genova is presently working as a legal advisor to the Senate.

Many members of WAMSIC

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PHONE IN THE CORRECTIONS? SURE, WHY NOT?

“Hi, there's been a change, to return the groom's介绍一下 stuff later.”

by Garry Trudeau

Winners?
continued from page 3

Ife, students get into business administration or work in entertainment management, accounting, or work in various publications as reporters, editors, graphic personnel or photographers.

In other words, MSC SGA fees subsidize handsome training for many of MN political elite. So next May when someone approaches you with a petition as candidate for an SGA office, pay close attention to what they say. They're spending your money building their resumes.

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