

I won't attempt to characterize these last few weeks with a single word or phrase such as "crazy", "scary", or "exciting", because although our community is united by a common graduation year, the definitive truth is that college- and life- is different for each individual person. However, in that same sometimes daunting level of uniqueness that each of us carry with us, I see room for progress. From the most extroverted and sociable of you to the more reclusive and reserved, I truly believe that your voice can be found in my candidacy. Here's why:

In most regards, I like to remember my high school experience as a "happy medium". I wasn't a superstar athlete, but I ran cross country and track. I wasn't always hyper-focused in class, but found a (sometimes unstable) balance between binge-watching sitcoms and getting work done on time. I was by no means introverted, but still found occasional dread in the moments before class ended, knowing I would have to walk past hundreds of people I barely knew in a labyrinth of hallways.

But, for every time I felt afraid about my schooling and sometimes life, I found a myriad of healthy outlets to release my stress. I found joy in writing for my school's newspaper, where I told my favorite stories about alternative music and crafted exposé pieces on social inequality. I found a sense of community and purpose in the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, which I established alongside two of my peers to create a safer space for marginalized people in our privileged community. I found my first introduction to leadership as a cross country coach for my local youth running team. And lastly, I found the invigorating passion to make change when I ran for, and was elected, treasurer during my junior year of high school.

Becoming a member of student government was something I never had a planned interest in; but, as an officer for only two years, my peers and I were able to make a great deal of change. I facilitated discussions with experts on racial inequality in order to educate our own faculty on battling microaggressions; I organized thousands of dollars worth of sales during a mask fundraiser amidst the height of the pandemic; I arranged various school events ranging from senior t-shirt day to junior and senior prom. Reflecting on high school- a time which brought me many highs and lows- I feel comfort in knowing I can always reminisce on student government for a smile.

The biggest issues I hope to address as a senator are the ones that I have already begun the fight for. I've always been outspoken when it comes to social justice, and one of the most valuable lessons I've learned from my own time in student government is that smaller steps, such as the general promotion of inclusivity, can have a monumental impact when implemented under the right people. I am also extremely involved in activism outside of school, organizing protest groups in the past and taking to the streets to voice my opinions. I truly feel confident that, if elected, my experience, rationality, and wide range of personal interests will allow me to represent and advance our community towards unification.

The great poet Henry David Thoreau once said "Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves." In such a mystifying time, I hope I can be a senator- and more importantly a friend- to help us all get lost together.