



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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Sparks Fly Between Political Columnists

Willimantic, Conn. – The saying goes, “If you can’t stand the heat then get out of the kitchen.” The heat was most definitely cranked up during a debate between popular political commentators David Corn and Jeff Jacoby at Eastern Connecticut State University on Oct. 25, so much so that they might both have been chefs. With Corn as the left arm and Jacoby as the right, the two helped show Eastern Connecticut State University students the benefits of flexing some political muscle.

The debaters accepted an invitation to campus from Eastern’s College Democrats and College Republicans student clubs. Both groups are interested in heightening political awareness among Eastern’s undergraduate population, and brought Corn and Jacoby to campus to do just that as one of the school’s University Hour presentations in the Paul E. Johnson Community Room.

Before the debate, the two sat down with interested students and members of the sponsoring clubs, as well as political science professor Nicole Krassas. Even moments before the debate, Corn and Jacoby stood chatting together, evidence that as harsh as things would get later, it wasn’t all for blood and glory.

Among the issues debated were American involvement in creating democracies in other countries, searching for weapons of mass destruction in North Korea, and foreign perception of the United States. The two debaters took opposing stances on each issue.

“George Bush has shown time and time again that he does not care about the rest of the world’s agenda,” Corn said. He proceeded to point out the imminent threat of global warming and how multitudes of scientists agree that if something isn’t done, the phenomena could mean disaster, and that Bush has yet to seriously express concern. He spoke out against the current situation in Iraq and said irresponsible distortion of the truth had led to U.S. involvement in the first place. He said the United States is poorly perceived in other nations due to some of the above factors.

Jacoby’s stance was more conservative. “It seems to me that in a world where there’s only one superpower, there’s always going to be some resentment. We worry too much about who likes us. I hope you spend some time traveling around the world,” he said, “because there are many areas where the United States is not hated at all.”

The event was moderated by the College Republicans’ Andrew A. Powaleny and the College Democrats’ Summer Spellman and ended with questions and a signing of Corn’s book.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state’s public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

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