

apologize for obvious
wrong perp...

Jordan's Long Legacy
of Lies, Distortion
and Decep...



The dramatic and historic events of May 1, 2006

Exactly one year ago today at approximately 2:30 pm, May 1, 2006, an assembly was held in the Swindells Auditorium on the Gallaudet University campus.

THIS VIDEO taken by Gallaudet student Tommy Korn, shows the historic event.

Here is a transcript of the audio track:

BOARD CHAIR CELIA MAY BALDWIN (*voice of interpreter*):
The Board came to a unanimous decision. We presented an offer to this individual. The entire Board is in support of that offer. The offer **was** accepted this morning. And so it is with great pleasure that I announce to you the ninth president of this university will be.... Doctor... Jane... Fernandes...

Scattered applause. Loud jeers and boos

Celia May Baldwin turns her head, inviting individuals off stage to walk onto the stage, while Ryan Commerson walks down the center aisle of the auditorium toward the front so that deaf audience members can see his signs.

The interpreter interprets Celia May Baldwin's comments made to people (Board members) off stage.

BALDWIN: Please join me in giving her a warm welcome, to President-Elect Jane Fernandes...

MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Oh, my God!

BALDWIN: ... [*unintelligible*] to the stage.

Upon reaching the the area near the front, Ryan Commerson manages to make a very brief announcement, saying that all those people who disagreed with the decision should leave the auditorium. Only about 5 or 6 people rise to give a standing ovation, per Jordan's hand-wave signal to his supporters. Others rise to prepare to walk out. Several students are shown walking out, apparently in disgust.

Just as Ryan Commerson arrived in place in front of the podium, Irving King Jordan, Jr was seen signaling campus police officer Patrick Rader who was in the back of the auditorium. Jordan walks calmly down the steps of of the stage toward Ryan Commerson, while Patrick Rader rushes down the aisle and apprehends Ryan Commerson, manhandles him, and forces him out to the lobby.

[*End Tommy Korn video*]

THIS VIDEO uploaded to YouTube.com by Elisa Abenchuchan on May 1, 2006 shows Gallaudet alumna and former Student Body President Tawny Holmes making the first speech of the then-unnamed protest. By this time, at approximately 3:00 to 3:15 pm, Tawny Holmes motivated the crowd by chanting in sign: "Better president now! Better president now! Better president now!...."

[THIS POST](#) by Elisa Abenchuchan gives a dramatic account of how the events of the day unfolded...

[THIS POST](#) by Elisa was written and posted later that evening.

[THIS POST](#) by Elisa was posted in the early afternoon of May 2, 2006.

[THIS POST](#) by Elisa was posted in the late afternoon/early evening of May 2, 2006.

GALLAUDET UNITED SAME!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read previous posts of the Gallaudet Protest Legal Issues blog.

posted by Gallaudet Protest Legal Issues | [2:42 PM](#)

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Date: Tue, 1 May 2007 14:19:18 -0700 (PDT)

From: "Brian Riley" <brianriley4@yahoo.com>

To: brianriley4@yahoo.com

Monday, May 01, 2006

today gallaudet has spoken

The announcement were televised on TVs on campus and in Foster's Aud. We tried entering the auditorium, but it was full so we went to the computer lab to watch it... Saw some other people there, we sat together and discussed who would be our next president. Ron, Ron, yeah, it has to be Ron. But I already had a sinking feeling... Please let it be Ron. Or even Weiner. Just not Jane.

The head honcho of the BoT took her sweet time, thanking the Jordans for their past 19 years on Kendall Green, thanking everybody that we were so involved in the process, and all that bull...crap. And then.. she signed with excited furor.. "We are pleased to announce our new president..." We held our breath....

"Dr.."

That was it. All the breath went out of my body.

"FERNANDES!!!"

We looked at each other in shock... Some people in the lab were shouting, "She's hearing! She's hearing!" Some swore... most of us were just looking at the screen with our mouths agape. Then someone said Ryan Commerson (famous for his Starving for Access protest and a Gallaudet alumni) got arrested. What... so we started to walk to GUKCC to see what was up.

And then suddenly, the fire alarm went off!

We arrived at GUKCC to see a huge crowd outside of the building. I had gotten there just in time to see Ryan in the back of a DPS car driving away. I asked around and found that Ryan had walked to the front of the audience and said something like, if you disagree, walk out. That's it? Geez.. he even got a PNG (means he can't go on campus) but an appeal is in the works.

Then everybody said to go to the mall (the center of Gallaudet). There, I saw a huge flock of students and in the middle of it, the new SBG president Noah Beckman (in white, in the picture) giving a improtu presentation...



...and then Noah told us all to go to the gate to block the entrance to Gallaudet...

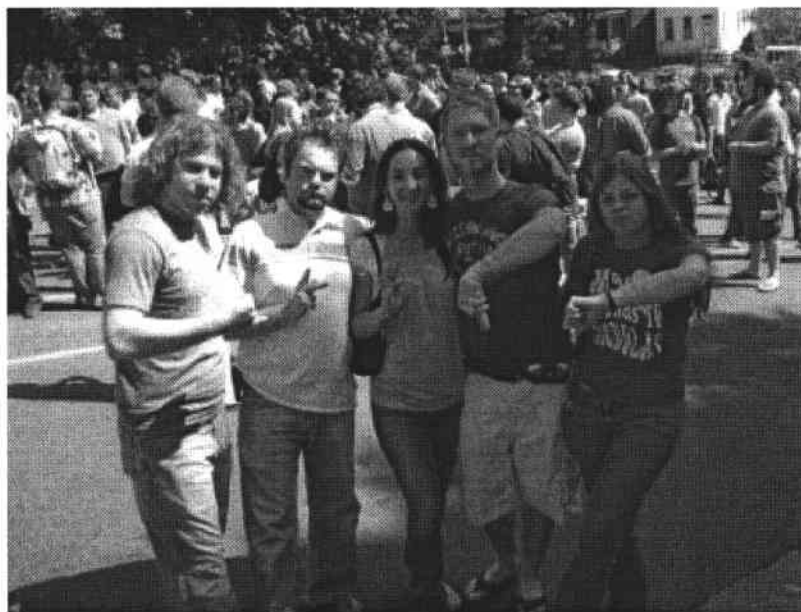


Everybody, including students, staff, and faculty, went over there.. some angry and ready to protest, others just curious what would happen. Then a car tried to get out through the gate, but the people surrounding the gate wouldn't move... the car tried to bully its way through, but failed. Then a student had the idea to use his car to block the gate more efficiently.



But then the Dean of Student Life, Carl Pramuk, asked him if he was a representative of the student body... and then found Noah Beckman. During this, Tawny Holmes grabbed the opportunity to get up on the car and give a fiery speech -- "Better President Now!"

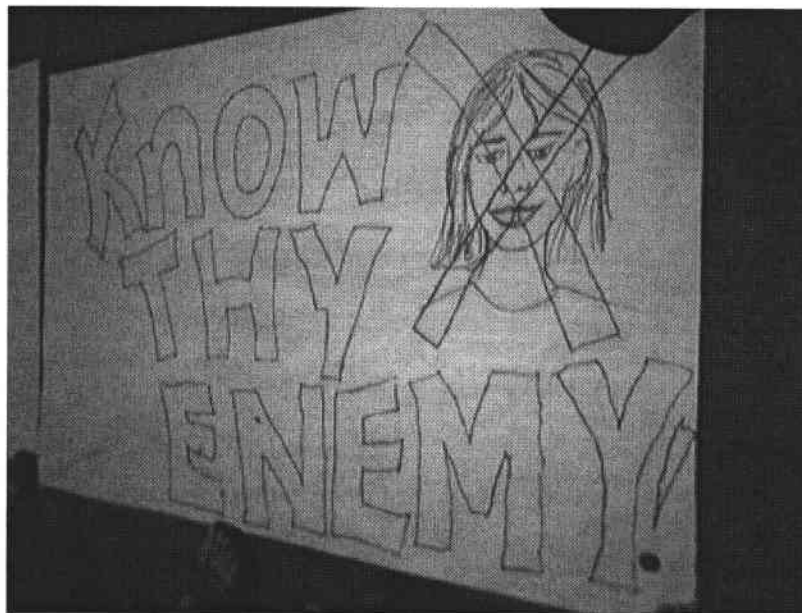
The car was moved. But more people flowed in, so the gate was even more blocked. We grabbed this opportunity to take a photo op and express our disappointment with the BoT decision.



Various student leaders stood up on the gate and gave passionate speeches and led chants. Here, Anthony Mowl is pictured.



Then all of a sudden, white posters were being laid down on the floor in the middle of the crowd and people started drawing and writing down just what they thought of Jane being our new president.





It was official. We were getting attention... people with cameras, from tiny digital cameras to huge black manual cameras with long lenses, and people with videocameras, from me with my video on my camera and the famous Flash setting up his videocamera on a tripod. One guy even got on the top of a townhouse to take pictures of the crowd!



The media came and interviewed some student representatives. We were told that it would be shown on the 6 o'clock and the 11 o'clock news on ABC, NBC, and FOX.

Then Ryan Commerson came to speak to the crowd. He wasn't permitted to step on the ground of Kendall Green, but he was allowed to speak as long as his feet stayed behind some imaginary boundary.

The speeches continued, with a different student taking the stand every 10 minutes or so. Then Jeff Rosen, son of Roz Rosen and a lawyer and one of the Seven Ducks of the DPN movement, gave a speech that was chock-full of cussing, but it was done with good effect and this fired up the crowd even more.



I was able to key in some things on my pager from his speech -- but don't quote me word by word. He said:

"I'm a deaf motherf---ing person!"

"Deaf schools are dwindling, job opportunities are reducing, we need to show that a deaf leader can not only heal but unify us...Jane doesn't reflect that!"

"The BoT is damn wrong!"

And much more.



Speech after speech after speech... We were starting to get restless, some people complained of hunger (including me) and we didn't know what was going to happen

next. Some speakers called for a meeting with the BoT, for the BoT to come and address us, for Jane to come and address us...



Tawny kept her energy up all throughout the protest, cheering on the crowd with chants and declarations of "JK is not acceptable!"...

My stomach was killing me and nothing more was happening, so I walked off campus (my car is currently still stuck in the Field House parking lot and I totally don't mind) and saw banners lined up --

What an experience, what a protest, but what kind of results will all this bring? What happens next?

Posted 5/1/2006 7:04 PM - email it

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16 Comments

Elisa,
Found this article.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/01/AR2006050100770.html>
this may be a sneak peek of what's to come...media-wise.
Julia