

Josh Duksin

By Emily Drake and WheatBread staff

As a freshman, Josh Duksin was an unknown candidate for treasurer who shook things up with his outspoken demeanor and promise to invest the SAF in the stock market. Although he lost to Pat Moran, it was clear that we had not seen the last of Duksin.

Now a sophomore, Josh had another unsuccessful run in the recent Student Council presidential elections. During the campaign, amidst charges of early campaigning (a Studco no-no), he spoke to WheatBread's own Emily Drake.

Duksin's views expressed here are not the views of WheatBread, its staff, or damn near anybody with the exception of Josh. He's raw, he's controversial, and you'd better get used to him because he's probably going to lose a few more elections before reality sets in.

Here he is, Clark's very own red Cherokee-driving, Theater Arts majoring, friend of every race, creed, ethnic group, and organization, and a role model for all...

Ladies and gentlemen, Josh Duksin.

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WheatBread: Can you talk about what you are going to do if you are elected President?

Joshua "P.J." Duksin: I am at this point not allowed to talk to anyone because under the bylaws of the StudCo Constitution, I am not allowed to campaign yet.

WB: This won't be out until



Bill Evans (left) and Josh Duksin (other left)

around the time of the election anyway.

J: Well, still, I wouldn't want to take that risk. That's how anal they are.

WB: Did you tell your parents that you might not be able to run?

J: My step-father ran for state senator in New York and is a politician and the family is friends with... uh—and I spoke to my step-father about it and he said to appeal it and fight for this.

WB: So they're on your side.

J: Oh yeah, everyone's on my side. There are very few people who aren't on my side. I'm going to win this election if I get the chance to run. I have a tremendous amount of

support.

WB: Worst case, you can run next year.

J: Right, worst case I'll run next year. But I don't want that to happen. I really believe that I can help this school now and do this now. They need a leader—not a quiet timid leader who doesn't have the gregarious wit that I have. I have what a lot of these other candidates don't have.

WB: Imagine that the Interviews and Elections Committee informs you that they will let you run if you "make them an offer that they can't refuse." How much money would you offer them?

J: It's not important enough for me to pay them. I have the money to pay

them. I could give them a lot of money, but that would be ridiculous.

WB: What if that was the only way that you could run?

J: That's a ridiculous question. I would never accept or give bribes ever. I would never do that.

WB: If the decision to not let you run stands, who will you vote for?

J: If, God forbid, and this is a travesty— if they don't let me go and run, I will vote for who I feel is the best candidate.

WB: Who do you think is going to vote for you and why?

J: I think I'll win by a comfortable margin. My supporters will be the people that know that I care, the people that I have talked to. I think I'll have a very large percentage of the student body.

WB: Anyone specific?

J: I'm not going to name names.

WB: No, I mean any group in particular?

J: You mean the blacks, the whites, the hispanics, the jews? I think just the people that believe in me and believe that I can make a difference. There's no specific group that I'm pushing.

WB: So you're reaching all races and religions?

J: All races, creeds, sexes, BILAGA [Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Alliance], yeah.

WB: You recently said that you "support all women— freshmen and gay." Is this still true?

J: That I support all women?

WB: "Freshmen and gay." And what about those of us that are neither?

J: I support all men, women, gays, blacks, jews, hispanics, everyone. I may have stressed my support for them at that time, but I have no more support for gays and women than I do for jews and hispanics.

WB: Are you attracted to Casey Frantz? Even just a little?

J: Casey Frantz is not attractive to me personally, that is not to say that he's not attractive to other people.

WB: You're not on academic probation, are you?

J: I have a 3.5 GPA. I have never received less than a B.

WB: What accomplishment stands out as a highlight of your high school career?

J: Uh...

WB: Where did you go to high school?

J: In Bath, Maine. It's a boarding school where a lot of celebrities go, where a lot of kids of celebrities go. I'm friendly with Cher's son, Elijah Blue Allman, the Belushis. That was exciting— to meet the celebrities. A lot of the kids there all had money. It was that kind of environment. It was also...

WB: A really good time?

J: No. Yeah, it was a good time, but it was a disciplined time. It wasn't military, but it was a very strict school. There was a sex ethic.

WB: Explain, please.

J: There was no oral, anal. You weren't allowed to have intercourse. There was a sex ethic and there was an honor code.

WB: So you're still a virgin.

J: No, I'm not a virgin.

WB: Was this at or before Clark? Are you telling me that you violated this code?

J: No, we had vacations, Christmas, spring and summer, where we were not on ethics.

WB: Did you ever date any celebrities?

J: No. The celebrities' kids were guys and I didn't date them. I'm heterosexual.

WB: It wasn't a male boarding school, was it?

J: It was co-ed. There were some very beautiful women there.

WB: Would you like a cigarette?

J: I don't smoke, but I do own stock in Philip Morris.

WB: Really? How does that make you feel?

J: I do not condone cigarettes, but unfortunately though, from an economic standpoint, it's highly lucrative to invest in the tobacco industry at this time. Especially for someone who has a trust or money, because obviously people are addicted and they need to smoke. But the tobacco industry remains strong. Despite the fact that I am not an advocate against smoking, I am not an advocate for smoking. I have no stance.

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WB: Which one of The Village People do you most relate to?

J: I don't know who they are. I know the YMCA song, but that's about it. I don't know them personally nor am I a fan of them.

WB: Did you play little league? What position did you play?

J: I remember little league. I don't remember what position. Maybe first base. I played when I was much younger. I don't remember.

WB: You strike me more as a tennis/racquetball guy.

J: I play tennis. I love it. I was on the tennis team. I played singles and doubles. My father plays racquetball. I never really got into it.

WB: Did your father vote for Reagan?

J: My father didn't vote, I think, in those years, or... maybe he did. No, I don't think he voted for Reagan. People with money do not have to be Republican. I'm a Democrat. I like Clinton although I think he has trouble with being honest with himself and the country. Deep down he loves the country and has a good heart and has produced a wonderful economy, one of the best economies we've ever seen. Unemployment is at its lowest rate ever, or at least in the last twenty-five years. Four percent unemployment which is phenomenal. Of course, that's only the ones that Census counts, but even so, this is a great economy. Notice how no one is saying this, only 'we're in a recession.' It's all over the news. The economy is just fabulous right now.

WB: So in your eyes, Clinton's a good guy.

Mr. Duksin ponders the fate of Clark and his big, fat tie.



J: I think he deep down cares about the country. I think he just can't be honest with us on some things.

WB: If you are elected, you will hold a position of power that will allow you to make sweeping changes to the academic and financial plans. What will you change first?

J: I have lots of ideas on this subject, and I have connections to the board of Trustees of the school which will enable me to do more than any president has done before. But I, at this time, cannot campaign or divulge any information for fear of this very, very picky board, to not allow me to run.

WB: Do these connections give you an unfair advantage over the other candidates?

J: Oh, I think it's a fabulous advantage for StudCo. Is it an advantage for me in the campaign? An unfair advantage? No, it's not unfair.

WB: What don't you like about the academic and financial aspects of this school?

J: I can tell personally there is half a million dollars or \$450,000 in Student Activity Fee money that is appropriated. I think that some of the programs it goes to deserve the money they get, but I think that a lot of this money is being used in ways that are unproductive and embezzled at some points. Students are actually writing in their purchase orders and doctoring them. And I'm not campaigning right now, but I will say that as a student at Clark, to know that someone will take a purchase order for, hypothetically, let's say—this isn't a club here, but let's say the racquetball club, which we don't have—will take a purchase order for \$900 and write it out, and bring it back for \$2,000, and pocket the difference. That has happened for years now. That is something that frustrates me definitely.

WB: What do you think of the mandatory meal plan for sophomores?

J: It was really needed for Bon Appetit to financially survive. And as much as I don't like having it, I see their need to have to do it. And kids steal food a lot. Not me, but other kids do and this will compensate for their loss.

WB: Why did you choose Clark?

J: I had good SAT scores, but not Ivy League SAT scores. This is an excellent school and it's a good liberal arts program.

WB: So you're a theater major.

J: I am a theater major. As of now, I want to work on Wall Street. To anyone out there who reads this article, enjoy what you're doing in a liberal arts education, don't put yourself through a vocational thing. It's ir-

relevant. Do internships over the summer. Connect yourself into the industry, graduate and then work in the industry. I'm already connected into Wall Street for working there. I love acting, so I'm going to pursue this now while I can. Maybe I'll do a screen test for Lorne Michaels and make it and be on "Saturday Night Live." That's maybe a long shot, but I think I can do that. Maybe be a comedian or do sketch comedy, but I love Wall Street. I love stocks. I love watching the markets. It's intriguing, exciting, and lucrative. It's what I want to do. I've wanted to be an investment banker since I was eight. In fact I have on tape, when I used to do commercials when I was younger, an Oreo cookie promotion on "Regis & Kathie Lee," which was then called "The Morning Show," and this is twenty minutes I have on tape. Not up here, but my friends have seen it. I actually say, "I want to be an investment banker" to Regis. I was eight.

WB: What did he say to you?

J: He said, "When I was a kid, I wanted to be a fireman. Now kids want to be investment bankers."

WB: Please explain briefly what diversity means to you.

J: Diversity means integration, ethnic mix, acceptance of those of different cultures.

WB: Even though our school has a lot different cultures, by the way you define diversity, is our school diverse? Do you think we actually mix & accept?

J: Yes, I think, though, a lot of the foreign students do detach.

WB: Do you think it's because of the way we treat them?

J: I love the foreign students.

WB: Have you ever seen the movie Higher Learning?

J: Yes.

WB: Do you think our school relates to that at all?

J: We are not the homogenous, lacrosse hat, fraternity institute that Higher Learning portrayed. If we had a Neo-Nazi, with our Jewish population, he'd be out the school so fast, he wouldn't have time to shave his head. I don't know what the metaphor would be, but we have very little of that going on here and, if we do, it's not tolerated. That's why I love this school so much.

WB: You're dressing in the dark. Your sock drawer has only blue socks and green socks in a ratio of six to seven. What's the minimum number of socks you need to pull to guarantee a pair?

J: I have a hard time with socks because, as a child, I never liked to wear them. I don't want to talk about socks. My father always made me wear these really itchy wool socks, and even to start thinking about it, literally makes me itchy and I don't

want to be itchy during the interview.

WB: Are you itchy now? You have nice cotton socks on.

J: Yes, but I used to wear wool socks. Jack Duksin made me wear wool socks in the winter. I don't like to talk about socks.

WB: Is Jack your father or your step-father?

J: My real father. I love him very much. He's a great guy. He's a real estate developer and an attorney in Telluride, Colorado. He's friends with Norman Schwartzkopf and a lot of famous people out there.

WB: How much is my vote worth to you? What wouldn't you do to get votes?

J: Everyone is entitled in this democracy of a school, and in the larger picture the country, to have the freedom to choose, and the responsibility to choose well. Whether they follow this or not is clearly up to them, but I urge everyone to vote with their conscience, to vote with their heart, and to vote, period.

Josh entertains locals Linda Brown Connors and Chris Condon.

