

Witnesses for Defendants

Witness #1: Sara Kennedy

Live statement (summary): Friend of Farias, Sara Kennedy admitted to taking *The Collegian* off the racks during her statement to the Court followed by an apology for her actions. Kennedy said she was not affiliated with ASCSU or the campaign but was shocked and hurt by the lack of evidence presented in the [article](#) as well as the content of the article itself. Kennedy said she would see a paper, take it and throw it away when she got home.

Witness #2: Gillian Trahan

Live statement (summary): Roommate of Farias also admitted to throwing away copies of the April 9 edition. She expressed Kennedy's sentiments saying she was appalled and disgusted by the content printed. She said that throwing away newspapers was not a crime and denied Taylor's previous statement regarding the harassment claims to one of the paper distributors.

Alex Farias' parents: Statement read by Farias

Live statement (summary): Farias' parents attended the debate and unknowingly sat amongst Braun-Taylor supporters. They said that the supporters were very disruptive and that made her parents unable hear the debate clearly. Said to be speaking rudely, bullying and crinkling cans in the audience, Farias' parents were shocked about the behavior they witnessed.

Witnesses for Complainants

Witness #1: Dominick Quintana – ASCSU 2019 Presidential candidate

Written Statement: Throughout the elections season, I tried to maintain a healthy relationship with everybody. Although, the Ben & Alex campaign was the only administration that did not make me feel comfortable and they had a team that was rude to me on more than one occasion. It was one thing that they always talked trash about the LGBT community which made me feel uncomfortable and unsafe to express my identity. But the moment when the Ben & Alex campaign yelled at me and called me petty names such as "fake," "Need to get over myself," and "don't know what I'm talking about," is when I drew the line.

Early that morning I saw Alex and a few of her team members, carrying a stack of papers that looked very similar to news articles. I tried not to get involved because I did not

want to be a part of the campaign drama; So, I did not tell anyone right away. Although, I begin to question why their team consistently had had a stack of newspapers throughout the morning had, so I decided to take a walk to see what was up. I walked around the areas where there were newspaper racks and found that all the articles were gone. I typically grab a collegian article a couple of times a week, and never have I seen that many were gone by noon. I told a few of the campaigns of what I saw, Ben & Alex campaign doing and that several collegian articles were disappearing. After we all talked about it, I begin to tell every CSU student to read the collegian through social media, since there were no paper copies. It must have made the Ben & Alex administration mad because they came up to me and began yelling at me. After that, I could not stay silent anymore, so I then reported it to an editor inside the collegian, Jayla.

Witness #2: Madison Taylor – ASCSU 2019 Vice Presidential candidate

Written Statement: To the Supreme Court of the Associated Students of Colorado State University, I am writing this statement in reference to actions committed by the Ben + Alex campaign that I witnessed. As someone that promised to look out for the best interests of the students, I am holding myself to that promise by providing this testimony to the disturbing and obstructive behaviors I witnessed.

In the morning, around 8:20 a.m., I came in to the LSC from the plaza. I noticed that all of the Collegians from the distribution rack were gone. I thought this was odd considering it was so early in the day and not that many people had come through.

Again, around 9:30 a.m., after the Collegian had been restocked, I noticed that the racks were mysteriously empty again. Finding this odd, I went downstairs to notify the Collegian. They stated that they had just restocked not too long ago and would let the property authorities know once again.

A little after 10:00 am, I was at my campaign tent when I noticed a member of the Collegian distribution team was surrounded by people from Ben and Alex's tent.

Moments later, several women with Ben and Alex buttons approached the Bigbelly trash cans closest to the ASCSU doors. They proceeded to tear copies of the Collegian in half before throwing them in. I remember gesturing in disbelief to my campaign manager, CJ, asking, "Do you believe this?"

After, I heard that the distribution team member was being harassed with questions asking why they wrote this (they didn't write it), why they were passing out so many, and if they would be passing them out this much tomorrow when a "presidential apology letter" came through (it never did).

In the past week I have been approached by several constituents asking if anything will come of the clear theft, corruption, dishonesty and harassment committed against members of the student body at CSU. To mass destroy copies of the Collegian is not only

an insult to the employees that work so hard at its production and distribution, but an insult to every student on this campus. Rocky Mountain Student Media has a contract with the Associated Students of Colorado State University, worth more than half a million dollars a year. To knowingly throw away copies of the Collegian is to knowingly waste student fee dollars. I find it deeply disturbing that these candidates thought it was appropriate to waste student fees before they were even in office. What's worse, Ben, Speaker of the Senate, was wasting student fees and obstructing the First Amendment as a CURRENT official of ASCSU. These actions are trespasses against our United States Constitution, our ASCSU Constitution, and our governing Code of Ethics. Even more disturbing than that, a poor member of the distribution team was harassed and obstructed for nothing more than doing their job. We as student leaders are tasked with representing students, not tearing them down.

I would strongly encourage the Supreme Court to take these allegations seriously and host a hearing to answer the concerns of the student body of CSU. Students must hold other students accountable.

Thank you for your time and effort. Please let me know if I can provide any other information. My contact information is attached.

Sincerely,

Madison Taylor

Collegian Note: Taylor also presented a live statement at the hearing. She presented additional description of the newspaper theft and harassment of the distributor she witnessed.

Witness #3: Jayla Hodge – Collegian Opinion Editor

Written Statement: Yesterday between 6:15-6:30 I was walking and ran into Benjamin (Ben) Amundson. It was a casual conversation, friendly in nature, he told me he wanted to apologize for his inappropriate behavior. I asked specifically what he meant and he said, for throwing away newspapers, to which I said so you did throw away a newspaper and he responded, "yeah, I threw away several". He claimed he saw my Facebook post about it and he felt bad and wanted to be a better Representative (he just became next's years CSU president). I was shocked and just told him I did not know how to respond, but personally I appreciated the apology but as an Editor at the Collegian I know how hard people worked and stayed up and it was terrible of his campaign to do that. He said he knows. Conversation changed to talk about ASCSU and we parted ways. I made my other editors aware of it immediately. When I went into the newsroom later that evening around 8 pm I was asked if I would let the CSU police know of the interaction. I called and was told to write it down and email it to you.

Thank you for your time, please let me know if I need to do anything else.

Jayla Hodge

Collegian Note: Hodge also presented a live statement at the hearing.