SGA Presidential Candidates: A Varied Group

BY CARL BAA

(The following is the first part of two parts on the candidates and the issues as discussed by the presidential and vice presidential aspirants with The Gamecock. This part considers only the presidential candidates. Part Two featuring the vice presidential candidates will appear Monday.)

The major issues on campus as seen by those seeking the SGA presidency are not definite. The only agreement among the candidates was that student government has to get closer to the average student. Also, most presidential candidates see the office in the fold of administration antagonist, though they vary widely on what this means and to what extent it should be carried.

JOHN H. WHITMIRE

One of the major problems on campus, according to Whitmire, is that students need to be more informed about student government and campus activities. This applies especially in the case of off-campus students, Whitmire said. As English major, Whitmire believes that student government's voice in running the university should be equivalent to the amount of money put into it. Students and student government don't have that amount of power right now, he said.

Challenged by the Bison Party presidential candidate, Whitmire said that student government has not been successful in terms of what student government has done any many things, but it needs more room for student input.

WAYNE ADAMS

Adams, a junior majoring in political science, said one of the most important questions facing USC students is the issue of mandatory fees.

Another major problem, he said, is making SGA more open to the students. One way to do this Adams suggested, is to have more publication of what student government has done and is doing. Adams, like Whitmire, defended SGA's past successes. According to Adams, students mainly need more information into the university governing process and need more encouragement to do so.

Adams said he anticipated a total expenditure of between $100 and $200 in campaign.

WALTER METZ

Metz, a member of the American Student Party, is a junior majoring in philosophy. Metz said he did not have a figure broken for the amount spent on his presidential bid. He did say, however, that the Bisons were spending about $200 for the campaigns of their entire 18-man ticket.

His platform, which is the platform of his party, is "Whatever you want, we'll give to you."

"BUDMAN"

Budman, dressed in his red super hero outfit, is a sophomore chemistry major. He has spent almost nothing on the election. His basic platform is "promise nothing and will do less." He asserts this will make him just as efficient as student government officers of the past. On a more specific plane, Budman says the two major issues in the election are mandatory fees and janitorial services. Concerning the former, Budman says the mandatory nature of student fees should be done away with.

LEIGH LEVENTIS

Leventis, a junior in accounting, is current vice president of the student body. He said his total election costs will run less than $200.

According to Leventis, the foremost issues facing the student body now are the increase in housing fees, university governance, and the problems of athletic ticket distribution. Concerning university governance, Leventis said, "It's the best possible method for running the university, because no single group would have too much influence." Leventis also said he felt university governance had a pretty good chance of passage.

Accused by a Bison candidate student government has done nothing, Leventis said, "We have tried to be as responsive to student needs as possible."

MIKE HONEYCUTT

Honeycutt, a junior majoring in journalism, said the total outlay for his presidential candidacy would ultimately run about $140. He said he doesn't see any problem on campus that should be called the major issue facing student government. According to Honeycutt, the essential problem now is getting student government to concentrate more on the short range day to day problems that confront most students, and not so much on the longer range plans like university governance. However, Honeycutt said he did not want to dismiss the long range plans.

Like most of the other presidential office seekers, Honeycutt sees one of the major problems being that of student apathy towards student government.

JIMMY T. EFIRD

Effird, majoring in Business Administration, said his campaign expenses will amount to about $25. According to this candidate, there are several issues that need examinations and solutions.

The major problem, said Effird, is the housing office's policy of sex discrimination in which female students can't get the dorm plans of those males. Accordingly, Effird said he is investigating the possibility of legal action against this practice.

Concerning the closing of Green Street, Effird said it should be closed temporarily now to determine if it's feasible in the long run. Effird then said if city university officials refused to accept the closing of Green Street after proper study indicated it would not greatly disrupt intra-city traffic systems, the students should physically block the street after proper warning to the authorities.

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