26 senate seats are uncontested

By BETH HILL
Editorial Page Editor

Last Thursday The Gamecock printed a four-page section on the platforms of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates and a list of the persons running for the senate. Even after reading the candidates’ comments, several students said they didn’t intend to vote in the election. The privilege of voting also means one has the privilege of exercising his right not to vote. But the idea of a student government as a policy-making corps is frightening in light of the disinterest in the upcoming election.

There are 26 uncontested seats to be elected in the student senate April 7. 26 candidates for office will automatically win their seats, with no effort on their part besides taking the time to file for office. There is no one running at all for six seats, including three seats in the health sciences, nursing, p.c., pharmacy, public health and medical school district and one seat in the McCollus-McKune Hampton-Word area. There are two seats in the humanities and social sciences, social work and librarianship districts that will not be represented in the election.

Three districts don’t have anyone opting for their seats. These are the engineering college, the journalism, general studies college and the married students apartments including Cliff Apartments, University Terrace, Marion Street Apartments, Carolina Gardens and Woodland Terrace.

The lack of student interest in SG elections is sad enough, but when they care so little that only 44 vote for 43 senate seats, this is reprehensible. If one looks at election figures, anyone who expects the senator to win can be be responsible to them and foster an effective governing body, they must be willing to share in this responsibility. If no one is concerned enough about conditions at this university to run for office, then students will have to trust that those few who do decide the election are important and responsible persons.

Many students don’t seem to understand that experience in extra-curricular activities and student government in college is important to prospective employers because it shows that you were interested enough to work extra hours on endeavors outside the classroom. Experience in working in your major field of study while in college is often a deciding factor in hiring personnel for today’s tight job market. It’s the physical education majors who helped in university and city recreation programs, the journalism majors who worked in campus media jobs and the business majors who worked for local entrepreneurs who have the best chance of getting the jobs. Anyone who aspires to be a public servant in government would profit from the experience of being a senator or officer in college government.

It is true that say that since being a student senator looks good on a resume, everyone should file to run for office. There’s too many so-called responsible persons (in public as well as university life) who do just that to “get ahead” in the world. There is a certain amount of prestige that accompanies the offices, but the responsibility and work load of the job should be the factors that influence a prospective candidate to run for office.

USC’s student government needs responsible leaders in office to make the policy decisions. But even more than its leaders it needs the support and the trust of the student body. It must earn the respect of the students. But how can it gain respect if the students themselves don’t care enough to want to share its responsibilities by running for office?

Teacher criticizes Leary

To the Editor:

When there are so many interesting speakers available for lectures in this country, why does the Ideas and Issues Committee have to bring to USC such a raving maniac as Timothy Leary? How much was he paid to ramble on for two-and-a-half hours about space migration, his own experience, and “exquisite fusions”? Never have I been exposed to such a sheer proliferation of bodily, buf-}

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When there are so many interesting speakers available for lectures in this country, why does the Ideas and Issues Committee have to bring to USC such a raving maniac as Timothy Leary? How much was he paid to ramble on for two-and-a-half hours about space migration, his own experience, and “exquisite fusions”? Never have I been exposed to such a sheer proliferation of bodily, buffoonish tripe, which no one with any sense of minimal intelligence would stomach. Admittedly, I received at the lecture what I went to hear—total insanity.

Ideas and Issues would have done much better to solicit one of the inmates down on Bull Street (where Leary would feel very much at home). The lecture would have been cheaper, and probably made much more sense.

Hugh M. Ruppersberg
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