

opinion

Editorials

Another try

USC's student elections, which never got off the ground last week, will be attempted again this Tuesday and Thursday. It is important for a number of reasons that students exercise their right to vote.

After last week's election's mix-up there is probably a natural tendency for students to be discouraged and to stay away from the polls. However, this should just be one more reason why students should want to vote.

There has been a general apathy of USC students to the Student Government Association (SGA) for many years. The SGA has been said to have little or no power, except the power they are able to exert in getting midcourt basketball tickets.

It is true that SGA has little power to make University officials act in a manner favorable to students. SGA is a relatively weak organization in

the workings of the University and most of its actions require the support of the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees.

Thus, it is easy to argue that SGA is just a formality granted to students so that there is an appearance at least of student input in the University.

Even though it is not easy, hardworking and industrious student representatives can make the system work to a greater extent than SGA has in the past.

Face-to-face confrontations between student representatives and administration officials can help to express the point of the students and push measures through that ordinarily would not be passed.

Conscientious student representatives would seek frequent face-to-face contact with administration officials and would see to it that the Administration knows that the students are concerned with a certain measure.

Diligent student representatives could find other means of making the Administration aware of the students' views, other than simply passing resolutions in a weekly Student Senate meeting that often have no impact with the Administration at all.

Because the SGA is such a weak organization, it makes it all the more important that students willing to a little more work than the SGA Constitution requires be elected this week.

Let it grow

With all the construction going on around campus it is almost an oasis when a patch of green grass appears among the mud and dirt created by the construction crews.

The University has planted several plots of grass around campus in an attempt to make the campus more aesthetically pleasing. But, at times it seems as though some people are not inclined to allowing the grass to grow as they stomp through the freshly planted seeds.

With a little more thought students can see how much better the grass will make the campus look and stop walking on the grass.

IF YOU LIVE HERE, VOTE HERE:

DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE
1) HORSESHOE	HORSESHOE LOUNGE	17) HEALTH & PE.	PE CENTER
2) MAXLEY/THORNWELL	MAXLEY	18) NURSING	NURSING PHARMACY
3) PRESTON	PRESTON	19) PHARMACY	
4) WOODACRE		20) LIBRARY & CULTURAL BLDG.	HUMANITIES
5) INTERNATIONAL	LOBBY	21) ARTS & LETTERS	Le CONTE
6) MEN'S TOWERS	RUSSELL HOUSE	22) SCIENCE & MATH	BARKWELL & CAL
7) M'BRIDE	BATES		COLISEUM
8) BATES	ROOST		B.A. BLDG.
9) ROOST	BATES		WARDLAW
10) BATES WEST	BATES		ENG. BLDG.
11) BAKER & BURNEY	BAKER LOBBY		COLISEUM
12) WOMEN'S QUAD	SIMS		LAW CENTER
13) SOUTH TOWER			
14) SOUTH BUILDING	SOUTH BUILDING		
15) CAPSTONE	CAPSTONE		
16) COLUMBIA HALL			
17) WOODLAND TERRACE	UNIVERSITY TERRACE		
	CAROLINA GARDENS		
	CLEET APARTMENTS		

OFFICE

SGA Election will NOT Take Place Today!

Official word from SGA bulletin board

Johnny Drumming

SGA election plans come 6 months late

By Bill Grant



It was election morning and the scene at the SGA offices was one of confusion and disorder. Secretaries were constantly on the telephone, hastily dispensing instructions and information. Candidates and their supporters were milling around waiting on the official word of the fate of the elections and their candidacies. Administration officials were also wandering around, slowly shaking their heads at the whole mess.

And what was that official word: were the elections on or had they been called off? One elections official told The Gamecock at 11:30 a.m. the elections had been cancelled, yet one floor below voting continued. It was not until early afternoon that all polling places had been officially closed and all votes nullified.

The problems encountered in Tuesday's attempted elections are too numerous to mention in this space. Most can be explained in the haphazard method in which the elections were planned and organized. Rather unjustly, the brunt of the blame for Tuesday's debacle has fallen on former Elections Commissioner Bob Swelgin. Yet others, notably the Student Senate and SGA President Leigh Leventis, must equally share the blame.

Under the SGA Constitution, Leventis is required to appoint 12 elections commissioners to oversee all SGA elections. He appointed only one, Swelgin, in early February. Swelgin was thus given sole responsibility of organizing SGA's elections in less than two months.

In addition, the Student Senate has been debating aspects of its various elections bills for months now. A final budget was approved

only three weeks ago. Needless to say, an event with the scope and relative importance of a student government election takes months of planning and organization. Working out minor details, such as how to work voting machines, cannot be crammed into one night. Elections cannot be handled by just one person.

If SGA officials seemed to be in a state of disorder, one can only speculate about the state of mind of those few students who attempted to vote. What was the guy thinking about who stood in line helplessly watching as poorly trained poll watchers attempted to fix voting machines? Or how about the graduate students who were coldly informed that they, according to the University's computer, were ineligible to vote? Or the student who went down to his polling station at 3:30 p.m., only to find the whole thing shut down and nobody around to tell him what the hell was going on?

How they will react to the cancellation remains to be seen. Totally disillusioned over Tuesday's events, many will stay away from the polls. The chances of a good voter turnout, always

slim, seem to be almost non-existent now.

The issue of credibility is a question SGA will have to face now. One can only envision USC's high and mighty sitting back and enjoying a good laugh at the expense of student government. Can they be expected to take seriously a group that completely botches the relatively simple matter of an election?

The general ineptitude in the way elections were carried off Tuesday also raises the question of whether SGA election results will ever be validated. The thought of candidate after candidate filing suit over election irregularities is not far beyond belief. Any similarities to Tuesday's effort will give any candidate all the grounds they need to invalidate results. The possibility of SGA elections stretching into April is a real one.

It might be noted that since Tuesday appointments have been made, reforms approved and constitutional by-laws changed and-or by-passed in an attempt to make next week's elections proceed a little smoother.

It's a shame it wasn't done six months ago.

Green Street issue alive

The battle over Green Street is again heating up now that Campco Engineering's traffic survey findings are in the hands of the city manager. And, based on the firm's recommendations, a full-time closing of the street, which students have been fighting for years to get, looks increasingly doubtful.

The University is now drawing up a list of alternatives to the permanent closing of Green Street, including closing the street except from 4 to 7 p.m.

However, maybe USC should not give up so soon on the chances of a full-time closing of the street. City officials still may be susceptible to pressure to close the street if enough people show that they favor that measure.

Although it is almost a cliché to say so, perhaps the best thing USC students and other people who want the street closed could do is overwhelm the city manager, Gray Olive, and city council members with letters demanding that the street be closed and then attend the meeting in which the fate of Green Street will be decided.

THE GAMECOCK

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