Candidates For Undergraduate Association Vice-President

Tom Thomas '57

UAVP Statement

On Tuesday the election for the Undergraduate resident and Vice President will be held. If this section follows the pattern of its predecessors five o'clock less than one third of the students will have expressed its voice. Some will cast this as a mark of student apathy; I don't agree with this point of view for I believe a lack of knowledge and not of interest is the reason for our shortcomings at the polls. Should you vote if you do not know whom you are voting for or what they wish to accomplish? Having had the opportunity to talk with a number of students it seems that many are much more at fault for the lack of interest at the polls than the students. In general a candidate for an office takes a nomination petition, collects the required number of signatures, puts up a few posters and then stops. Well I might ask what more have I done. From the start of the campaign I have devoted my time going around meeting people individually. It's been impossible I have tried to get your hall chairman or some members of the fraternity house and express my ideas to them so that you might know what I will try to do for you. I believe that personal contact is more effective than the printed word and I hope through such contact you will become interested in what I wish to accomplish. To me the working of InsComm in general. I only believe that if most of the students were speaking acquaintance with two members of InsComm they would become more interested in its activities.

Concerning general indifference it seems that the cellular life we live at Tech, because of studies, is at fault. By a cellular life I mean arrangement by which most of us don't know many of our classmates outside of our part of the dorm or the fraternity house. I believe that InsComm can foster classwide social and student activities carefully planned to foster the mixing among the various living units. In addition to these ideas there are other important matters for InsComm action.

1) The issue of the Senior Ring Committee will be settled once and for all. I do not feel at InsComm's yearly legislation of morals for the committee after the damage is done is either effective or proper. There are two courses of action open. First to draw up rules of conduct the committee more in the line of practical

(Continued on page 3)

Fitz Rawls '57

UAVP Statement

The position of the Vice President requires plenty of experience on the Institute Committee, plus a working knowledge of the other components of the Undergraduate Association—-the activities. Experience is necessary if the Vice President is to give sound advice and leadership to InsComm, and aid the President by handling special duties and committees that may be formed.

During the past year my position as Secretary of the Institute Committee and member of the Executive Committee has enabled me to work with Dick Peskin, the present Vice President, and learn the duties of the office. The experience gained while on the Executive Committee and while Chairman of the Secretariat makes me well qualified to perform the duties of Vice President.

Certain situations present within the Undergraduate Association deserve discussion in order to inform the voters of my views:

1. Undergraduate Association Financing—At present the U. A. must prepare a very detailed prospective budget once a year. Then the Finance Board must literally beg the administration for every penny, explain each small item in the budget, and finally take what it can get. A new plan, which I am supporting, is to receive the money on a direct amount-per-student-enrolled basis. This will allow the U. A. to set up its budget without administration control, to make long range plans, and to provide for truly independent student government.

2. The Athletic Association—The A. A., which is larger in its degree of student participation and in its budget than all other activities combined, is relatively low in the organization of the U. A. This was made noticeable when InsComm acted on some problems in which the A. A.'s opinion was needed, but was not available. I would like to give the A. A. representation on InsComm equal to that given to the other activities through Activities Council.

3. Intramural Sports—The high cost of referring fees has caused students to miss out on some of the better sports. I am in favor of an appropriation to cover a portion of the larger fees and thus increase participation in the Intramural Program.

These three issues are not the only ones concerned.

(Continued on page 3)

Donald Aucamp '57

UAVP Statement

Believe it or not, my opinions on present day issues do not necessarily form the most important element in this election day discussion. Students are tired of hearing the campaign promises of all politicians. They have no way of knowing whether or not political promises will be carried out, or even whether or not the candidates will greatly strive to put forth their election day platforms. I shall not, therefore, bore you with campaign "lies", but I shall show you the true value of an excellent Undergraduate Association Vice President.

The Vice President is a liaison officer between the Institute Committee and the students. I believe that this position on the Institute Committee and the administration. He must, therefore, not only possess knowledge of the Institute, but must also be able to work with people in an effective, efficient manner. I cannot emphasize enough the absolute importance of this liaison function. The Vice President's actions are almost negligible in significance as compared to his ability to seek out the problems of the community, to logically present them in both Executive and InsComm meetings, to contribute a worthy part of the ensuing discussion, and to strive then for the adoption of the best possible solution.

I really shouldn't be perfectly honest with you if I were to say I shall push through legislation all of my present viewpoints on controversial issues. We all know that certain opinions on certain subjects sometimes change in the light of intelligent discussion. The most important thing is not what the incoming Vice President initially believes, but rather how he intends to seek out all those opinions and problems of the community, how broadly he presents and discusses them, and finally how capably he acts on the whole proceedings.

I firmly believe that both disclosure and broad discussion of issues are necessary elements to the democratic process. Obviously, a communications system must be found which will enable our government to reach out and touch each and every hand. Perhaps a few of the following suggestions may better the present situation. Affected parties should be called in and encouraged to voice their opinions in InsComm debate on the issues at hand; boxes could be placed around the campus to receive suggestions and complaints from the students; more important,