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The Misunderstood Role

We have noted with great interest the statements which the candidates for the President of the Undergraduate Association have made.

With reference to some of the views expressed, we believe that some disputation of the position of student government is not without merit. For the first time, there is obviously much conflict on this basic point. Only with a clear understanding of what student government is and its responsibilities will it be possible to elect representatives for the coming election.

Institute Committee was reorganized last year, and with the reorganization the "political" connotation of the group was, for the most part, sent along its way. It has been said, and validly so, that the Institute has only one member: the UAP. Apart from the two class presidents, the voting membership is now composed of the busiest men on campus: the IFP presidents, three house presidents, and the president of the Athletic Association, to name a few.

Institute Committee is no longer a political group. It is, instead, a committee—composed of campus bodies whose primary interest is in the well-being of the students. It is, not a legislative section—rather it is forums. Not a "law" of student action are determined—instead certain items of interest to the undergraduate body seem to be in some attempts to arrive at plans which will be of benefit to the students. The final policy decision lies in the hands of the administration, and an effective Institute Committee should provide the policy makers with student opinion. This communication, between the top student leaders on campus and the administration, ideally is a powerful force which should visibly effect the ultimate policy decisions of the Dean's office.

When the UAP is the only full-time member of this committee, he should be the driving force behind its actions. Since he will represent UAP in all major places in various discussions, he should be an excellent diplomat and public relations man. Since his ideas will largely determine the type of thing that Institute Committee will consider, he should be a true leader who can see what the students need.

Only after a great deal of thought on the purpose of the role does the UAP come to one can make an adequate choice for his political office.

letters

To the Editor:

I have been concerned since I was a freshman that a candidate whom "The Tech" endorses comes out against has almost always been issued of victory by that very action. I am not at the moment certain as to whether you have done your share to endorse the above point of view. But, on the other hand, there are a few points (quite a few of matter) of which I have been aware, that whether 'The Tech' intends to drop its role and that the candidates would be termed a quasi or more effective Diplomat and public relations man. Since his ideas will largely determine the type of thing that Institute Committee will consider, he should be a true leader who can see what the students need.

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