Criticism of Candidates Produces Nothing Positive

Guest Column by Efuku L. Hanley

I am thoroughly disgusted at the treatment that this year’s Undergraduate Association President and Vice President candidates have received from several of their vocal peers and from The Tech itself. “Disappointing” appears to be the catchword in discussing this year’s election, and until now it has been directed at the candidates. I would like to redress this adjective to point it at all those people who complained about the candidates.

Few people on this campus are entirely sure of what the UA does for the student body, or even what the UA is. I don’t claim to know the bureaucratic intricacies of this group either, but I do know that the UA’s accomplishments over the past few years have included pushing ARA towards a greater commitment to students, increasing the awareness of campus safety, and the installation of their most tangible and appreciated achievement, A Safe Ride.

Only a very limited number of students are currently active in the UA. These students probably have wonderful ideas on improving undergraduate student life, but have no impetus with which to implement those ideas. It takes an intense combination of motivation and human power to actually set these ideas in motion, let alone accomplish any goals.

So where are the motivated undergraduates willing to work for this change? This rhetorical question echoes down living hallways yet no one answers it or at least acknowledges its existence. The aftermath of their term study for their third exam in two days, or try to pass 8.01 before they graduate. MIT students may be politically apathetic, but they are for the authors of the editorials to know and for the rest of the undergraduates, including the candidates themselves, to find out — upon publication. If the candidates are not addressing certain issues, ask them to answer specific questions. If you have reservations about their past activities as elected officers in the UA or in their respective class councils, ask them to explain their decisions rather than level insinuations in a public forum.

If you can take the time out from your busy schedule to condemn the pasts of the current UAP/UVP candidates, you could probably accomplish more by personally expressing your concerns to them. Similarly, if you can flame to your friends about ARA’s schedules, locked gyroscopes, or snow removal, why not do the same to a UA representative who could actually help put your thoughts into action? Or even more constructively, why not take the time to join the UA yourself? Unfortunately, so many people the latter solution would require too much initiative and motivation, especially when there is so much easier to complain about the existing system. If the current UAP/UVP candidates are “disappointing” or “not compelling,” then why aren’t their critics running for office? The candidates should be praised for their initiative and motivation, especially when it is so much easier to complain about the existing system.

Letters To The Editor

Letters, from Page 4

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DeWitt C. Seward IV ’93

Preliminary Housing Proposal Needs Clarification

We were quite pleased with the front page article on the release of the preliminary findings of the Undergraduate Association Committee on Housing and Residence/Orientation (“Housing Proposal Calls for Dorm Upgrades,” Feb. 25). We were very satisfied to see The Tech and the MIT Community respond so positively to the candidates’ proposal.

We were pleased to hear that the candidates were pleased with MIT Housing. Therefore, it is important that we know where the Committee is headed in their housing initiative. The candidates should be praised for their initiative and motivation, especially when it is so much easier to complain about the existing system. If the current UAP/UVP candidates are “disappointing” or “not compelling,” then why aren’t their critics running for office? The candidates should be praised for their initiative and motivation, especially when it is so much easier to complain about the existing system.

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