

Editorials

Off to the Polls

This week we'll go to the polls (at least, a few of us will) to select the chief executive in student government for the 1969-70 academic year. The President-elect of SGA will have a task before him that approaches epic proportion - he must pave the way for a smooth transition to a resident college. We may have as many as a thousand students living on campus next semester, and it will be the job of the President to see to it that dormitory living is integrated into the University experience of these students in the most efficient manner possible. Community relations will be important next year, but not central. There will be plenty of time for setting up long range studies and committees; the next problem will be far more immediate, far more urgent. From what we've seen of plans for student services for next year, the SGA President is going to have a lot of unhappy students on his hands.

UNC-C has a long standing tradition of experienced SGA presidents. The roll call begins with Gus Psomadakis, who served as SGA Vice-President before assuming the reins. He was followed by Tim Britton, a former Speaker Pro-tem in the Legislature. Both were members of the Student Party. The University Party supplied the last two presidents in the persons of John Gaither, twice Student Court Chief Justice and v.p. of the junior class, and Bill Billups, a former class officer several times over and an SGA Vice-President. It's a rather impressive list, but it could be better. We've always had good SGA presidents, but we've never had a great one. Next year we'll need a great one.

And what experience does this year's slate of candidates bring with them? Arthur Williams cites concern and willingness to work. Gary Killian cites a semester's work in the Student Legislature and the fact that he has "attended four colleges." F. N. Stewart has a neat list of credits, but few of them seem to relate to the sought office. He has been an ardent worker in publications and has done a good job on the Student Activities Committee. This last property may be his redeeming quality, because the SAC has concerned itself with many issues that are directly related to student government.

Gary Killian has demonstrated his ability (or lack of it) in past Legislature meetings and at last week's University Party meeting. Arthur Williams is of unknown quality. F. N. Stewart shows promise, but most of it has yet to be proven. However, we feel that Mr. Stewart's close association with past administrations and tendency to investigate make him the most plausible candidate in this lean year.

Hickok for V.P.

Mr. Alan Hickok is running unopposed for SGA Vice-President, but this does not guarantee his election because there is a write-in factor to be considered. We certainly hope that students will consider the selection of a vice president as acutely as they will the office of president. Mr. Hickok is the only non-graduating student in the entire school who meets all of the formal and informal requisites for this position. He has served on the Student Legislature, the chairmanship of which is the primary duty of the v.p., for two years and has seen the need for immediate action if that body is to make a return to meaningfulness. We hope that no unforeseeable events crop up and that we can look forward to a more healthy and active legislature next year under the leadership of Mr. Hickok.

The nature of the candidates and offices this year might be a discouragement to prospective voters in this week's election. Don't let it be. Unless you exercise your right to vote, you have no legitimate right to complain next year when you begin to disagree. It would be nice to see a thousand votes cast, but that's not likely. At least do YOUR part and take the time to vote today and tomorrow.

Chavis Runs — In Circles

Ben Chavis has ignored both University regulations and city laws. He brought Stokely Carmichael to the Parquet Room by "some of the slickest maneuvering this side of the west coast." He has headed the racist Black Student Union since its formation here on campus. He has employed emotionalism and half-truths in attempting to get his way for a long time. Now he asks us to vote for him for Charlotte City Council. There's no telling what he intends to do on the Council if he is elected, but no doubt that he will try every trick in the book to get your vote. We intend to ignore him, and we suggest that you do the same.

It's Union Grove Time

By F. N. Stewart

About nine miles outside of Statesville, North Carolina, is a wide spot in the road where a post that has the name of a town on either side stands. The town is Union Grove, North Carolina. Union Grove has a school, a filling station, and a small grocery store. It is not a big town.

Once a year Union Grove holds a fiddlers' convention. So on Easter weekend thousands of people from all over the United States and Canada gather in the small town of Union Grove. The purpose of the pilgrimage is not to see sunny downtown Union Grove, but to listen to music.

The music is string music. Music made from banjos, guitars, basses, fiddles and just about anything else that has a string on it. It is country music, folk music, blue-grass music from amateurs and professionals. The object of the convention is to be the best group or single player in one of the divisions of entry. One of the rules for the contest is that none of the musical instruments be electrically amplified. Another of the rules bans brass and reed instruments.

The music is mostly ethnic. It is the classic sound of what many people call "hill music." But the music is not all there is. For there are no hotels or motels in Union Grove. Everyone sleeps in the surrounding fields and cow pastures.

Most people will carry tents, and sleeping bags, and for the weekend the two of Union Grove looks like a mecca for traveling nomads. A kind of fellowship develops that only open fires and camping can bring. There are public toilets, so that one inconvenience is removed.

The campers will begin arriving Friday the 4th of April and the Festivities will continue until Sunday night. There is a

small church on the outside of town so that those there will be able to attend services Easter morning. Saturday there will be a parade. This will be the 45th Annual Union Grove Fiddler's Convention.

are subject to change. EVERYBODY is welcome (Rumor has it that a couple of administrators and faculty members will be tagging along.)



It takes all kinds.

Last year a group of about two dozen UNC-C students went to the Grove and had the time of their lives. The music was fine, and more than one person carried on his own study of persons and personalities. The music fans in attendance came from all walks (and rides) of life; they became a group with a personality of its own. From farmers to hill people to hippies to motor cycle gangs to big dogs to just-about-anything-under-the-suns. Story telling and wide open partying were the other activities, besides pickin' and singin'.

The group that went up last year is hungry for another satisfying experience this year. They will meet in the UNC-C Union parking lot at 11:00 am Friday morning. The plans are to stay for one night, but they



All kinds



Even 49ers

