

SGA: Not Another Social Organization

By Von Corbett

Is the Student Government Association (SGA) just another social organization? Some students seem to have this opinion of the SGA because they fail to see how the organization benefits the student body and they basically are unaware of the SGA's functions.

Ivory Bailey, president of the SGA, said, on behalf of the organization, "I strongly disagree. Social events have been the SGA's lowest priority this semester; our primary concern is to stress academics." According to Bailey, the SGA serves as a com-

munication link between the student body, faculty and administration. It also transmits the concerns of the students to the faculty and those of the faculty back to the students.

Some SGA activities of the year included the Big Brother, Big Sister Program, an organization of students which involves underprivileged neighborhood children with arts and crafts, sports and one-to-one rap sessions; "Operation Survival," a joint effort by the SGA and the Alumni Association to provide job opportunities for students, preparation for the job world, and tips on preparing good resumes and conducting successful interviews; and the sponsoring

of buses for students to off-campus football and basketball games. The SGA is presently co-sponsoring, along with the Political Science Club, "Children of Atlanta," a campaign to alert students of the seriousness of the Atlanta, Georgia crisis.

Nevertheless, some students complain and say that they know nothing of when the SGA holds its meetings. In response to this, Bailey said that the SGA does have call meetings that are for the cabinet only, but they also have had a few meetings that were open to all students. Bailey further added that these meetings, which were advertised with posters and fliers around the campus, were proposed to be held every 2-3

weeks, but they have not been successful in fulfilling these plans.

Bailey does think that there is room for improvement in the SGA and basically, the SGA needs more student involvement. Unfortunately, Bailey has no quick solutions to this problem and said, "I'm open to suggestions because the methods we've used and the tactics of the past have not turned out a major clientele of success."

Bailey feels that we as students need to place current events higher on our priority list. "Students should get more involved with everything from what the SGA does to ordinances passed by city councils and budget cuts. They fail to notice things until they hit them directly."

Student Election Rules Change

By Renee Wilkins

The Student Election Committee, in an effort to organize the upcoming Student Government Association (SGA) elections, has found it necessary to change the election procedures outlined in the SGA Constitution.

The committee, which is comprised of students, administrators, and staff, changed the 1981 election date from the first Tuesday in April - as stated in Article VI Section I of the Constitution - to April 23. According to committee member, Mrs. Manderline Scales, who is also WSSU director of student activities, the original date conflicted with spring break which begins April 8 and with the changes made in the university calendar for this year. She stated that the committee feared that most of the students will leave early to go home before voting. When asked about an earlier date, Mrs. Scales responded that the Greek lines were getting underway and that there would be too many activities.

The committee approved certain criteria for the selection of Miss WSSU, which also applied to the other candidates. The criteria included character, reputation, personality, the ability to be effective in oral and written expression and a 2.0 cumulative grade point average. Each candidate is also asked to write in 50 words or less why they decided to run, and what they plan to contribute to the student body.

According to Mrs. Scales, the student should be academically able to handle the activity involved with that office.

Mrs. Scales and Bobbie Brown, SGA director of social affairs, stated that the GPA's for these positions should be higher and the committee will be reviewing it in the future.

See Page 9

President Reviews Year

By Von Corbett

How does a small town boy from Erwin, North Carolina, adapt to the nerve-racking pressures placed on a college Student Government Association (SGA) president? Ivory Bailey, a 22-year-old senior, said, being from a small high school and small town made the adjustment somewhat difficult, but his newly acquired friends eased any pressures he may have had. "Many a day, I thought about dropping out and going back home," he said.

Born on January 29, under the astrological sign of Aquarius, Ivory comes from a family of one brother, six sisters and two parents. During high school, he participated in the student government, was senior class treasurer, played basketball for three years, ran track two years and was a bus driver. His hobbies include outdoor sports, reading, horseback riding, and listening to music, all, things he said he never has any time to do.

His college choices were North Carolina State University, UNC-Chapel Hill and A&T State University, but he chose Winston-Salem State University because he was impressed by the students' attitudes and the administrators' concern for the students' education. Upon entering WSSU, Ivory selected, as his major, mathematics, because he said it was his favorite subject through grade school, as well as in high school.

Ivory credits most of his leadership ability to the backing from his fellow classmates and to, he said, "a dynamic and inspiring advisor, Mrs. Manderline Scales," director of Student Activities.

As SGA president, Ivory said he constantly carries a heavy load. His biggest problem in running the SGA, he said, is finding enough time between studying and classes to fulfill the duties of the office. "The officers of my cabinet make my job much



Ivory Bailey

easier for me," he commented. He said he has very few problems because "after the SGA and the administration are on one accordance to what is feasible to the students and the University, things are able to flow smoothly." When asked his most frustrating encounter as SGA president, he failed to elaborate, but commented that one should look out for bad business and make sure that a party under contract follows through on their part of the agreement.

Nevertheless, Ivory liked leading the SGA. Although it is hard work, it is a good experience, he said. "My being a full-time student and having the responsibilities of the office gives me the opportunity to watch myself work

under pressure and in tight situations."

Ivory's goal in life is "to help other people to try to better themselves, because so many have provided assistance to me." As of now, he has set no specific goals as far as his career is concerned.

When asked what advice he would give to the next SGA president, Ivory said, "Stay here over the summer and plan out the year's activities, begin to get orientated with the various procedures concerning fiscal affairs, student activities, etc, try to create ideas to get students actively involved in the SGA, and display an image that students and the entire Ram family, in general, might be proud of."