

# editorial

In a week it will be all over. There isn't much time to reflect on student union elections; the campaigns are, like life, nasty, brutish and short. It's time to think seriously about next Friday's election now.

First, the issues. What are issues?

At a PSUA forum on the state of student politics last week this question was raised, but not resolved. Confusion about what election issues *are* infinitely complicates one's ability to choose. Simply, on what basis will you vote for one candidate over another?

Think about it. Are **election issues** those that arise every year, e.g. the responsibility, leadership, or proven ability of individual candidates? Or are **election issues** derived from the particular responses of candidates to current student problems, e.g. the Lister Hall student government crisis?

Are **election issues** based on new approaches by candidates to ongoing problems, e.g. inadequate government funding or SU budget allocations. Or, are **election issues** restricted to election platitudes, e.g. performance of incumbents, or how well one will work as a team?

Is the NUS referendum an **election issue**?

The answer, of course, is some equitable combination of all these elements. In the heat of campaigning, however, candidates will often overlook, or ignore, some of the legitimate election issues. It's best to be aware of all possibilities in the face of partisan pamphlets and rhetoric.

Then again on what basis does one judge the *candidates*? On the strength of their responses to election issues? Sure.

But given our perverted slate system there is a lot of confusion about whether a *candidate* answers for him/herself, or as a function of a slate. In short, which has the greater influence, the candidate on the office he/she seeks, or the office/slate policy on the candidate?

If you consider this problem, you'll likely be more comfortable with voting, and therefore make more responsible choices. Here are some other things to look for:

- the candidate's familiarity with student and university government, and the special relationship between them.
- an air of confidence derived from a genuine appreciation of election issues; also an indication of leadership ability tempered with an interest in other opinions.
- speaking ability — candidates' performance in office depends on the ability to argue articulately and forcefully on behalf of students.
- soundness of election platform — is it based on a comprehensive knowledge of the present situation.

Finally, don't be afraid to ask questions or press candidates for full explanations. If they care enough to run, they should take the time to listen and explain.

Besides, even if you don't care, these are the people that should know about it.

Happy trails.

Loreen Lennon

## the Gateway

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**A NICE STORY WITH NO BIG WORDS**

... Long, Long, Long ago, even before you started waiting in this lineup at the bookstore...

It was inhabited by scholars, truthseekers, swedish toenail dancers and other fugitives of life...

... Since this was before fee hikes and other population controlling devices, there were still a variety of strange creatures hiding from the gardeners.

This was before all the unicorns moved to San Francisco... (2) Delicious recipes for cooking these and other overtly mythical creatures will be given later on, But first, the story.

There was a kingdom that could only be seen by the innocent and pure of heart after a lengthy study of fluid dynamics at 'Fridays' (1)...

In the kingdom there was a young scholar who was winsome, loose and antagonistic enough for our purposes. She was an incurable romantic (3) with agricultural tendencies....

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR THE EXCITING CONTINUATION AND THE ANSWERS TO YOUR ENGLISH 200 ESSAYS ...

Footnotes: \*--and probably no-one taller than you...  
(1) or through the book chute at Rutherford library...  
(2) where they have done very well in a law practise / religious cult...  
(3) today, medical science can relieve the embarrassment of this malady...

## Time does not heal all wounds

In the past several weeks a petition has been circulated both on and off campus. The petition demands that the statute of limitations, which would grant immunity to Nazi war criminals, be revoked. The petition reads as follows:

"To allow the Statute of Limitations to take effect on December 31st, 1979, or at any other time, would grant complete immunity from justice to Nazi criminals responsible for the murder of innocent men, women and children.

This would be tantamount to the condoning of mass murder.

It would constitute the gravest insult to the memory of the millions of victims killed at

the hands of those criminals, and it would encourage the development of a new generation of Nazis.

We demand that the Statute of Limitations be revoked, and that no time limit be placed on the punishment of those guilty of the worst crime in human history."

While circulating this petition on campus I became aware of, as well as shocked at, the uncaring attitudes of supposedly educated people. "Don't you think these Nazis have suffered enough in hiding?" asked one lady.

Lady — I can assure you that Dr. Mengele and the rest of the boys aren't suffering one iota; furthermore, if you are so con-

cerned about human suffering you should want these brought to justice. They caused more suffering than will ever comprehend!

Others spoke to me of Christian compassion — for criminals. One wonders why this Christian compassion is hiding while millions were gassed to death in the camps in Europe.

One girl was amazed to learn that there was such a thing as a real live Nazi war criminal. "I thought they all died," she.

Not so, my friend! The world that experienced the years ago has not died. It will as long as people stay in the dark and refrain from protesting such laws as the proposed statute of limitations in West Germany. If it is instituted on December 31st of this year we can all live in fear — all except the neo-Nazis. You can bet that the boys in their swastika armbands will be ringing ear to ear.

Maxine Wolf  
Education

## Split slates, no

As we are on the verge of another Students' Union election, I feel compelled to voice my opinion in hope that we, the students, elect a government this year which is both capable and cohesive. Cheryl Hume must be commended for her sincere effort to speak out for students. It is no secret, however, that certain ideological and personality differences between Hume and Stephen Kushner resulted in constant dispute and lost efficiency. Through no fault of their own, Hume and Mr.

Kushner were selected to work together although they came from different slates. Election of this split slate executive was the primary cause of many of these differences.

In the next academic year, where a viable opposition to funding cutbacks is essential, I cannot more firmly emphasize the importance of a unified, team-work effort in Student Union. For this reason I strongly urge all students to elect a slate intact.

Nick Arscott  
Arts III

## Split slates, yes

The belief that a unified slate can provide better government than a split slate has shown itself a myth. The slates running in this election provide ample proof of this point. One slate, while appearing progressive and unified, is really a last minute coalition. Another slate is incomplete and could only form a split slate executive anyhow. The last slate is already a split slate because each member appears to be coming apart at the seams.

The ability of a unified slate to run Students Council is not greater than that of a split slate. Neither a split nor unified slate will hold a majority of the votes on the Students' Council.

The only real advantage to a slate is that the presidential

candidate assures himself of five campaign workers and their votes. In the case of Harvey Groberman I'm not sure that this is true.

Split slate executives do have some advantages. They tend to keep an eye on each other. No split slate is likely to fly off to Jamaica with Students' Union funds. They also have input from more areas than from a narrower group.

We should be smart voters and pick and choose the candidate for each position who we believe will do the best job. Why have the Birmingham Bulls when you can have an all-star team?

J. Crump  
Science 2

## Wrong

I would like to clear up misconceptions that may have been left by your coverage of the PSUA forum *Gateway*, Friday, Jan. 30).

I did not say that, in my opinion, leaders should not lead. What I did say was that on issues such as the South African boycott, which are not of direct immediate concern to the numbers of students on campus, the role of the Student Union should, initially at least, be an informative one. On an issue such as South Africa, for example, the Students' Union should have held forums, published a list of "offensive" companies and products, rather than deciding during a summer council meeting to boycott certain products from the university. If the students were really concerned as Students' Council thought they ought to be about activities such as I have mentioned, they would have resulted in a decision in sales of the presently boycotted products—a voluntary boycott.

There are many crucial areas though, where student leaders most definitely should be making decisions.

Tema  
Commerce