By BOB CLARKE

In the midst of the campaign for the upcoming general elections, two matters occur to me to be worthy of serious consideration.

First of all, I urge your support of the proposed alma mater change. Contrary to the letter in last week’s Thresher which charged the Senate with merely "trying to justify its existence this year by getting something... done...", I contend that this is a project undertaken by those who sincerely feel that "Rice's Honor" is not appropriate and wish to establish a new alma mater which will combine student and convey the spirit of the University—criteria which are generally accepted as the bases for an alma mater.

THE ALUMNI Board's suggestion that the proposed change be adopted as a new "academic hymn" is unsatisfactory since an interpretation would have to be made before each occasion to determine if we should use a "dignified" alma mater or "Rice's Honor." This, to me, is puerile. Either we have a new alma mater or we don't; it is silly to dump this most recent effort on the forgotten heap which includes "The Rice Hymn" and others.

The work of the Alma Mater Committee has been very thoughtful and has consumed the greater part of the academic year. On many occasions the student body has been afforded the opportunity to make changes, and several of these suggestions now appear in the final draft. The Senate has acted wisely in determining that a change must be accepted by a margin of 75%—the same percentage required for a constitutional amendment. This is by no means a hasty or irresponsible proposal, and I urge your approval of it.

MY OTHER concern pertains to the election of your Student Association officers for next year. It is discouraging to see one post on the executive committee completely unfilled and two others unopposed, for this reflects a lack of genuine concern and appreciation for the function of student government.

In examining those candidates for offices where there is a contest, I hope that careful attention will be paid to the imagination and enthusiasm which the candidates exhibit and that consideration will be given to whether or not these students will be able to lead their government toward constructive ends—whether interest can be aroused to alleviate the lack of concern mentioned above.

My feeling is that effectiveness in student government requires a certain point of view or a particular attitude. It requires the realization that all-school government should feel obligated to play an important role in University policy formation. It demands the patience and far-sightedness to realize that many important projects of student government such as academic planning are impossible to complete in a single year, and, realizing this, it must make provisions for a continuing program.

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(Continued from Page 3) Government must have a view outside the confines of this campus and knowledge of the way things are done at other schools. At the same time, it must recognize the limits beyond which this involvement should not be carried—for example, official participation in political programs which are not the concern of students.

Above all, effectiveness in student government requires optimism and dedication to these attributes just mentioned. This characteristic is easy to profess and hard to demonstrate, and is, therefore, the most difficult to discover in a candidate. I hope that as the speeches are made questions will be directed to all the candidates inquiring into the practicality and usefulness of their proposals.

During the campaign most of the policies are developed which will be carried out during the ensuing year. For this reason, a thorough examination now, will mean a better program later. Remember that the individuals you elect on Monday will be representing you and your interests to the Administration, to the faculty, and to the outside community. Choose them with care.