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Southern Voices: Editors Engage in Dialogue

Friday night, November 8, Pat Watters and Allen Freeman, Editor and Managing Editor of "Southern Voices," met students and faculty of St. Andrews in Avinger Auditorium to discuss their new magazine. They answered and asked questions concerning the image of the South and the purpose of "Southern Voices."

The dialogue opened with various questions about the editorial policies of the magazine. Watters and Freeman emphasized that they looked for integrity in articles submitted to them, rather than any particular viewpoint.

Asked if there were any controlling image they were trying to generate, Watters replied that she wanted to show that the South does not fit the usual stereotype of stupidity, black tap-dancers and singers, cornbread and grits. "Southern Voices," she said, hopes to be a sounding board, to generate prides, to express the feelings and thoughts to creative people in the South.

Some people in the audience expressed the opinion that the South has a kind of integrity which does not need to be defended, so Southerners should not be too defensive. Watters said that many Southerners do not know that Southern things can be wonderful. S.V. is making an effort to awaken them to this knowledge.

From that point, the discussion took a number of related directions. Dick Prust and others said they had not found Northerners taking an

offensive attitude towards the South, so why be defensive at all. The editors mentioned that one purpose of "Southern Voices" was to give a Southern perspective on life in general.

Dean Valentine said that the Southern perspective, as far as he could tell, consisted largely of a belief in its own distinctiveness and uniqueness, much like that of California. Editor Watters expressed her own feeling that Southerners are regarded as freaks in other parts of the nation, that there is a feeling of inferiority in the South which S.V. is trying to overcome.

Someone asked if perhaps the distinctive thing about the South is that it lost the civil war. The editors replied that the point is not that the South is so much greater than anywhere else, but that Southerners don't realize they are as good as everyone else. "You don't have to think you're dumb, just because

you're from the South."

The dialogue then took a more positive turn. Several people pointed to the politeness, hospitality and friendliness of the South as points in its favor, regardless of intellectual achievements. "There is no need to convince Southerners that they aren't stupid. The humaneness of the

South is worthy in itself," said one member of the audience.

Someone brought up the traditions the South has been built on. The sense of slow-passing time, of closeness and security in being near home have influenced Southern attitudes. Another person brought things back to earth with the reminder that race

and class have always affected the famed Southern hospitality.

"Southern Voices" has been termed "a magazine for Southern liberals." Tom Patterson questioned this designation, asking how the Editors themselves saw it. Mr. Freeman said "Southern Voices" wants to get out of the "Southern professional" image and away from the "new South" industrial ideals.

What about the "new South," came the question. Can we avoid Northern industrial problems. Freeman replied that one way to do this would be to develop a post-industrial society in the South. But he wondered if there is the necessary cohesion and will to bring this about.

Returning to the magazine itself, Nancy Sullivan noted the sense of humour implicit in its articles. She said that humour pervades the South, whose people know how to laugh at themselves.

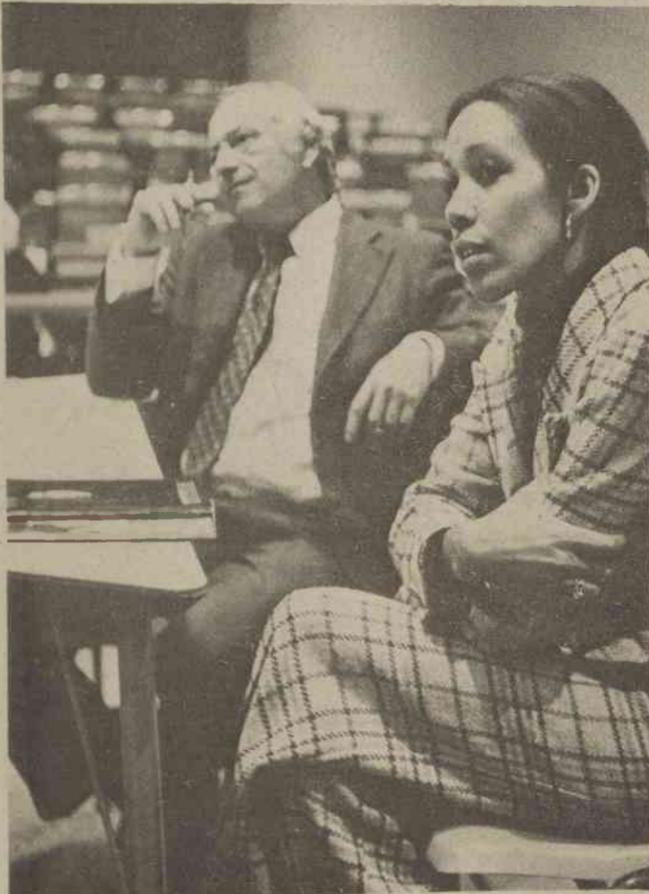
Whitney Jones remarked on the fact that "Southern Voices" is not yet locked into any particular audience, much less a purely white-

middle-class one. Since it has no financial ties with industry and politics, the magazine can get closer to the truth and cover a wider range of experience.

Freeman commented on the creative ferment which is noticeable today in the South. He said the magazine is receiving a phenomenal number of manuscripts. There are certainly people with something to say in the South, and S.V. gives them a place to say it.

Dr. Hix almost closed the discussion, summing up by saying that the South has always been reacting to a stereotype. Only in the last fifteen years have some people begun to feel free of the stereotype. "Southern Voices," he said, is giving Southerners the opportunity to express who they really are.

Two or three others brought up further points and questions. Dr. White brought the dialogue to an end with a well-chosen proverb: "You should pick a watermelon when it's ripe and not let it lie on the vine till it's rotten." There was no more to be said.



PAT WALTERS AND ALAN FREEMAN, editors of Southern Voices Magazine hold an informal discussion with members of the audience.

Admissions Office Tries New Approaches

Under the new direction of Jean Rayburn, the Admissions Office has shifted its emphasis this year in order to focus on the academic and intellectual aspects of St. Andrews.

Regarding Admissions as an "Integral part of the college," Ms. Rayburn has attempted to make the Office primary role that of co-ordinator for all the personnel of the College—students, alumni, faculty, and trustees. In doing so, less emphasis is being placed on the lifestyle and social pursuits of the applicants.

Although the number of applications for next year is currently down, Ms. Rayburn has found that high school students tend to be generally slower in applying to any colleges, as a result of the country's uncertain economic situation. Thus, despite the small number, she is encouraged by the feedback

from applicants, considering them "stronger students."

This year's admissions staff is composed of individuals who regard admissions as a profession. Included are: Elaine Liles, assistant director; Bruce Taylor, a 1974 graduate of the college; Mac McMillan, a former high school guidance counselor who, during his tenure, succeeded in placing a higher percentage of students in college than at any other time in the school's history; Jerry Bailey, a former admissions counselor as Tift College in Georgia; and Carol Joyner. Working also for the Admissions Office are six workshop students and 45 volunteers.

New strategies for mailings have also been developed. Qualified students, identified through College Board and

(See 'Admissions Office' p.3)

Morgan Scorches Politicians

One of America's most controversial attorneys, Charles Morgan of the American Civil Liberties Union, kicked off last week's Southern Voices Festival with a Thursday night speech at Avinger Auditorium.

Celebrated for his defense of heavyweight champion Mohammed Ali in his fight against the draft as well as that of Army Captian Howard Levy, who refused to train Vietnam-bound doctors, the 44 year-old Morgan, a lawyer since 1955, is currently head of the ACLU's Washington office.

Using the theme of the Festival—"Southern Voices: Is Anybody Listening..." as a springboard for his wide-ranging talk, Morgan said, "in a non-magazine sense, Southern voices have always been heard. They've been the loudest, most strident, most powerful voices in the history of the United States." Using the civil rights movement of the early 1960s as an example, Morgan cited the efforts of the ACLU and other groups in the desegregation of prisons, schools, and juries. He called the jury "the most powerful body in America—a sort of supraleislature which imposes the public will on certain kinds of conduct. Desegregating the jury was

probably our most important accomplishment of those days," he said, "because it allowed you to have a more accurate peer group sitting in judgement. Blacks see things from a different perspective than whites do, and this needs to be reflected in the composition of our juries."

In reviewing Watergate, Morgan, who began campaigning for impeachment in December, 1972, said that "Nixon tried to take the country away from the people in a predesigned and planned manner that was as obvious from the day the 1968 election ended as it should be now to anyone with any education." He then catalogued a series of "abuses" which he claimed were designed to subvert the 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution. Turning to the members of the Nixon administration exposed as participants in the scandals, the Birmingham native scored Congress for its rubber stamp method of approving presidential appointments. "John Mitchell didn't change a bit from the day he took office as Attorney General to the day he left, and they approved him anyway. For the Senate to reject a nominee," Morgan

(See 'Charles Morgan' p. 4)