

# THE LANCE

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## Things Are Afoot

Too many things happened this week. We were going to use this column initially to talk about the sudden acquisition by the Senate of a dual feeling of their own importance and impotence. After a couple years of trying, the Senate seems to have finally discovered that it was its own worst enemy when it came to getting things done. And lo and behold, unlike most groups at St. Andrews, when the Senate finally came to this realization it actually proceeded to begin to set its house in order. Yes, we were going to talk about the Senate...

And then people began dropping out of student government like flies in a cloud of Raid. At last count there were at least four more by-elections for Senate and CUB seats scheduled to come up on Monday. So we were going to wonder about just what causes mass resignations from positions of power, what sort of general malaise must have set in somewhere to suddenly make everybody lose interest at the same time. That's what we were going to write...

Then about Tuesday we heard something very disturbing. Something that began to give us this sinking feeling in the pit of our stomachs that we'd heard this song before. If our layout staff has done its work well you've already noticed that Yearbook troubles are rearing their ugly heads again. In just about any league you only get three strikes and you're out. At this point we can only hope the problems are still surmountable. And it was going to be such a short, simple editorial.

## Changes In Senate

A turnover of Senate members unprecedented in recent years has served in recent days to fuel a move within the Senate to reorganize the legislative body to get more done of substance.

Three seats have changed hands in a week. In Mecklenburg Hall, Lin Thompson was elected to fill the seat vacated by Steve Newton last Thursday. The same day Orange Hall Senator John Courtney gave his notice, and it was learned Monday by THE LANCE that Granville Senator John Patton had resigned his seat last Wednesday.

Elections for the Orange and Granville seats will be held Monday.

No such exodus from student government has been seen since 1971 when three Senators resigned in a dispute over a now-forgotten issue.

While each of the recently departed Senators had his own reasons for leaving, each had expressed the same feeling of frustration that the Senate has not been getting anything done.

In recent meetings, though, the Senate has begun to take action to spruce up its image. A revision committee is at work to reorganize the Senate, a second committee is rewriting the college's badly organized and poorly written handbook, The Saltire, and the Senate is embarking on a series of meetings in each dorm to seek out, first-hand students' gripes, praises and suggestions.

## Next Week

A DETAILED FEATURE on the progress of the Yearbook.  
 TOP SCORERS and detailed results of intermural play.

## Why Get Down On Li'l Ol' Vietnam?

To The Editor:

I object to the printing in The Lance of David Craft's "Vietnamese Still Holding Prisoners, Ex-P.O.W. Says." The fact that it includes the State Department's denial of any knowledge of P.O.W.'s in Vietnam, a Far East journal's dismissal of the story, and the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia's conclusion that there is no evidence that Americans are being held in Southeast Asia might lead one to wonder why The Lance used the piece at all. But seen in its political perspective The Lance's use of this article fits into the latest outbreak of hostility against Vietnam and is an

example of journalistic irresponsibility. The U.S. has refused to lift its trade embargo on Vietnam, has stalled on normalizing diplomatic relations, and has refused to pay war reparations pledged in the Paris Peace Agreement. In addition, the U.S. has also attempted to obstruct humanitarian efforts by several U.S. organizations to send relief aid—wheat, medical supplies, and clothing to Vietnam. The Lance's timing contributes to the climate of public opinion hostile to Vietnam, and thus to an acceptance by the public of the U.S.'s continued aggression.

Prof. Cheryl Brown  
 Psychology Dept.

## And The Editor Says -

Someone once told me that a wise man never lets himself be trapped into a short answer to a political question. "Either go into detail or don't say anything. Nonetheless, I will risk the following brief responses:

1. Attempting to write off a story simply because the State Department and one journal hadn't heard it in enough detail (particularly the Vietnamese refugee's account) to comment, makes about as much sense as assuming a 6 to 4 vote by a House Select Committee resolves all the questions in any area.
2. Nor does it strike me that

The Lance, in printing a story raising serious questions about both the good intentions of Vietnam as well as the completeness of the work done by various government agencies, is aiding and abetting "the U.S.'s continued aggression."

3. While the story obviously struck a political nerve, to object to The Lance having a position (which I'm not at all sure printing this article constitutes) simply because you happen to disagree with it, appears from my viewpoint both ludicrous and dangerous. If that's "journalistic irresponsibility," so be it.)

## Grade Appeal System Approved

BY: STEVEN J. KUNKLE

A new grade appeal procedure for students was approved February 15 at a faculty meeting.

As usual, the student is advised to "make every attempt to resolve the difficulties by discussion with the instructor involved." If this does not meet the student's satisfaction, then he should "seek the assistance of the appropriate program chairman in resolving the problem."

If these avenues fail, then "an ad hoc committee shall be formed by the program chairman. This committee shall consist of three faculty

members: one appointed by the instructor involved, another by the student, and the third (who shall be the chairman) by agreement of the first two faculty members selected. It is expected that the committee will receive full cooperation from all parties involved. To take effect, the committee's decision must be ratified by the Dean of the College.

If at this point the student remains unsatisfied, the decision of the ad hoc committee may be appealed to the President of the College.

"Any formal grade appeal action involving a committee must be initiated by the student at least two weeks prior to the date for clearing incompletes for the term in which the course was taken. The committee shall reach its decision before the date for clearing incompletes for that term. When special conditions exist, the timetable may be altered by the Faculty Executive Committee."

This new appeal procedure will appear in the 1978-79 St. Andrews Catalog and Saltire.

To The Editor:

Many people attribute extraordinary powers to the senior senator from North Carolina, but if Senator Helms has a polygraph into which you can feed a tape recording and tell if the person speaking is lying, then maybe he ought to quit the Senate and go into business. He would make a fortune as well as making a lot of Democrats happy. I refer to The Lance\* article on POW's in which Helms' administrative assistant, Clint Fuller, is quoted as saying, "He is sending a tape of the meeting he had with the refugee. We will feed it through a polygraph machine to determine if the man is telling the truth..." The last lie detector test I took I was all wired up to test respiratory, cutaneous and cardiovascular reactions, and that is the truth.

J. Bruce Frye  
 Vice President for Development

## Heavy Turnout Returns Thompson To Senate

With a surprisingly heavy turnout for a by-election, Mecklenburg Hall sent Senior Lin Thompson to the Student Association Senate by a lopsided margin. Thompson handily defeated Sophomore Bill Moseley by a 46-10 margin, rolling up over 77% of the vote.

The result was not unexpected as Thompson had



carried 92% of the dorm last spring in his unsuccessful attempt at the Presidency of the Student Association last spring.

Thompson was defeated by current president Celeste Tillson by three votes.

Becoming Vice-President of Mecklenburg will start Thompson's second trip to the Senate, having also served as a senator from Granville Hall in the 1975-1976 Session.

Thompson had been serving as Acting-Vice-President of Mecklenburg since Steve Newton announced his resignation in December.

"It's nice to be back," Thompson told The Lance. He said he would be particularly involved this session with Senate reorganization, a long-time area of interest for him.