

# Opinion

## Xanthippe

with Mary Griggs

During a recent SAGE 321 plenary, one of the speakers accused the SAGE program of being 'classist, racist, and sexist'. This was met with laughter and applause. Armed with numerous statistics about the status of women, Jesse Johnakin, Mel Bringle, Lisa Dubs, and Cheryl Sparks were very convincing in supporting their accusation.

Toward the end of the discussion period, one student spoke about some feminists that he had met who profess to be man-haters. The curse of being a man-hater has been leveled against those who are active in working against the destructive patriarchal systems. But many who were called anti-man are not man haters. They are anti-exploitation, anti-degradation, and anti-oppression. The one way to keep women from becoming anti-male is for men to stop exploiting, degrading, and oppressing women.

A more active occurrence on this campus is woman-hating. One evening last week, during dinner, a member of the men's soccer team shouted that "[a woman's name] has little tits!" That is not funny, it is misogyny. All of those who laughed at her humiliation were either cowards or collaborators in that hateful act.

A member of the baseball team sexually harasses women by pinching them on the buttock as they walk by him at meals. The act of reducing women or, for that matter, anyone to the status of an object is wrong and destructive. This is why there is a section in The Saltire on the policy and procedure for dealing with sexual harassment.

Respect women as human beings or respect them as adversaries in front of the Honor Court.

On Saturday the 5th of November a vile exhibition took place in Mecklenberg Hall. Two young women signed up to be in a wet T-shirt competition. For the event they were handcuffed to the bed frame and students were allowed to toss their drinks onto the girls. In defense of the affair some of the organizers claimed that since the women 'volunteered', that absolved the participants of blame. Just because they agreed to the contest does not make the degradation they suffered all right. The Nazi's claimed that the Jews volunteered to go to the concentration camps. I doubt whether anyone could condone their abuse of human rights. In the same vein, the behavior of those students on Saturday can not and must not be forgiven as simple college excesses.

Besides being emotionally and mentally abusive, woman-hating can also take the form of physical abuse. In this country a woman is battered every 15 seconds. In 50 percent of relationships the woman will be battered. These statistics were furnished by the Southeastern Family Violence Center which supplies shelter, support, counselling, and a 24 hour crisis line for victims of domestic violence. *Continued page 4*

## Admissions "Blacklists" Writers Forum?

To the Editor,

It has come to my attention that the Writer's Forum Program of St. Andrew's has been "blacklisted" by members of the Admissions Office of our fair school. On November 10, 1988, we held a Forum spotlighting readers from across the world who read works by writers of their native land. This forum was an excellent opportunity for students and prospectives to get a taste of the wide variety of culture that an education at this school could provide. However, I was told that the admissions office had discouraged prospective students who were visiting the campus at the time from attending Thursday night's reading. As director of the Writer's Forum this year, I would like to extend my utter and complete disgust to the closed minded cog in the machine who does not feel that the forums are appropriate examples of the atmosphere of this community of learning and growth and therefore, robbed the prospectives of a chance to hear some excellent world literature.

Jon Pargas

Director of Writer's Forum

## Tired of Unscheduled Happenings

To the Editor,

I feel discriminated against. Not because I am a woman, not because I am short, but because I have classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In the past several weeks, Student Life and various organizations have planned interesting and fun activities on Wed. This is uncool. I would have loved to participate in Jeopardy, but I could not even see it due to a test the following morning. In addition to these scheduled events, there are often unscheduled "happenings" on Monday and Wed. nights. These "happenings" often involve loud noise, yelling and screaming, and late partying. I have nothing against partying, but when I have to get up for an 8 o'clock class in the morning, I get really po'd. I wish both organizations and students would have a little more respect for those of us who have classes 5 days a week instead of 3. The days of no classes on Thursdays are over.

Tired of it!

(Name withheld upon request)

