

## Food events tempt students' palates

by Amanda Willoughby

Anyone looking for a break from the ordinary rounds of mashed potatoes and gravy, or waffles and Captain Crunch, was in luck last week. The Black Student Union and the World Cultures Club brought delicious foods from all over the world right here to St. Andrews, with two marvelous celebrations of international cuisine.

The first of these two events, the BSU International Food Fair, was held at the Gathering Place on October 18. Admission was a dollar, and that dollar bought participants a taste of native dishes from Spain, Liberia, Kenya, and Korea, among others. BSU member Ihuoma Bailey called the fair "pretty successful." It was so successful, in fact, that the food went much too fast, and a second fair is in the works for Spring Term.

The following Sunday,

members of the World Cultures Club invited students, faculty and staff to Granville, where they were offered the chance to stuff themselves yet again, this time with Thai rice, Vietnamese chicken and lemongrass, curried potatoes, Afghan rice, Ecuadorian style potatoes and onions, Mexican pork chops...and too many other goodies to name.

This gathering, however, was about more than just scarfing down food. First year student Sinath Suryanarayanan sang a Hindu kirtan, and the drum section of the pipe band favored listeners with an impromptu mini concert from the courtyard.

WCC members Kate Brady and Donna Sammander also spoke of the WCC's mission to raise awareness about the situation of oppressed Af-

ghan women, and offered everyone the chance to sign a petition to raise the issue in congress.

They also shared their hopes of making the World Cultures Club a real tool for helping international students adjust to new surroundings, "because it's not cool to arrive in a foreign country and not know where the bank is for a week."

WCC member Christine Aubain called the event "a chance for international students to share their experience...splendid...better than SAGA." Better than SAGA or not, these two gatherings brought the St. Andrews community an opportunity to get together as friends, and as lovers of food—the hearty, the spicy, the savory, the sweet. And to think, they got to top it all off with apple pie for dessert.

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## Guest Column

## Highland Hall must help itself

What would it take for St. Andrews to recognize Highland Hall as just another dorm? First, Highland Hall must wake up; secondly, the outside community must take interest, starting within the college itself.

Something is terribly wrong when Highland's representatives do not receive proper feedback from its own members. Something is also very disturbing when that dorm's residents don't even express a desire to become engaged in college sponsored activities.

Saying that we in Highland should remain asleep, content that we have the opportunity and privilege of attending St. Andrews only renders multiple, unnecessary excuses. Yes, everyone here in Highland has the right to be pleased with themselves by the fact that each of us have overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to be here. But this praise can only go so far, especially when one considers the

sheer array of parties, events activities, and clubs each of us, individually or as a dorm, could partake or join in.

Extreme sadness and terror overtake me when I see the complete and utter apathy assigned to this dorm by both parties. There are two basic reasons why I feel this way, each feeding off of the other. The first deals with the harsh fact that as each succeeding class graduates, I estimate, 15 to 20 disabled students go out into the world without any real sense of well-being and independence. This point must be dealt with by each student here in Highland on an individual basis. The second point needs to be accepted and addressed by the members of the community, starting with dorms such as Albermarle and Granville: understanding what we want and expect from ourselves and the rest of the community.

As I've said before, independence starts from within. Once someone wants

to gain his or her independence, it can become very discouraging to find that no one is willing to help guide them on the right path. Gaining the will to become active in the community where for years, society has not noted the achievement of the minority, can lead to the most destructive emotion: apathy. Since the will is evident within the individual to make hard choices, and (s)he has the support of his or her friends, nothing can stop that person from achieving his or her intended goal, no matter how bold it may seem.

This semester Highland Hall has a new, progressive outlook toward the community. As Hall President, together with Pennie Hardin, Ann Orr, Candace Finkelstein, Joseph Lowe and Lisa Hinton, I hope to put it back on the campus map!

The weekend that the Art Club painted the mural on the center wall between rooms 117 and 119, the whole ap-

pearance of the Hall changed for the better. This type of encouragement is exactly what the residents of Highland need the most. The picture on the wall represents a good beginning in what could become a very bright future for Highland. But right now, that's all it is, a beginning, a starting point.

Currently, Highland exists in a very discriminant, inclusive, and introspective atmosphere, which will ultimately lead to our inability to relate to the outside community if something isn't done soon, and vice versa. The answer lies within each resident of Highland, and must originate here. If everyone takes of his or her subjective and collective blindfolds, each of us will clearly see what must be done. In order to accomplish this aim, everyone must willingly partake in the struggle to redefine Highland's role in the community at large.

The time to act is now!

-Jason Cohen