

EDITORIALS

One of the characteristics of a "mass society" is that such a grouping of people share common feelings and actions only when stimulated by common fear or common danger, or by a trend or event which affects each of them as individuals and as a people. St. Andrews is not a mass society; each student is aware of other students in differing degrees. This awareness may be on an individual basis, or the recognition that others on the campus are here for the same fundamental purpose as oneself—supposedly seeking an education. Nevertheless, at times the campus community tends to react as a mass society, giving way to panic, anger, distrust of the administration, oftentimes without justifiable grounds. One attends college to rise above the mass of society. A mark of an educated person is his pride in his individualness and his unceasing quest to be his own master in issues regarding his mental prowess and ability to make decisions.

Common sense is a universal prerequisite for anyone who expects to live rationally anywhere, at any time. The truth in this statement has been evidenced many times in the past, and there is no doubt that the principle will hold true in the future. There have been several incidents lately which have caused some students to feel that their personal safety is in jeopardy. These fears have not always been groundless, and some which were groundless did not seem to be so when they occurred. St. Andrews is not the only place where sights and rumors of prowlers abound, but here the tendency is to feel that each rumor is an endangerment of one's own life. Danger is inherent in any life situation, in any location. Recent events on this campus have motivated students to band together in their demands for protection, perhaps the most adamant request being for the school to provide a night watchman. Hiring such a person would be an expensive undertaking for the school, but expense is not the only factor involved, as many seem to believe. Here, a bit of common sense must prevail. Where could a reliable person be found who would be willing to perform this duty? There is a tremendous unrecognized responsibility involved in the job. It is not inconceivable that a student might be mistaken for a prowler and injured. And, what is the man to watch out for? Couples parked in dangerous areas, boys roaming around the girls' dorms after hours? These people would not need protection if they were where they should be.

Other student demands have been more realistic: flood lights behind the isolated sections of the dormitories, a method to lock the gates in the single story dorms. These requests are the products of common sense reasoning. This same common sense should logically result in the taking of other precautions, such as keeping one's windows locked and the shades drawn at night, not going out alone after the activities of the remainder of the dorm have ceased and the area is isolated (trips to the drink machines could be made in groups), and reporting (in a sane manner) any unusual disturbances which one might hear or witness. These are the precautions one might take in his own home, where danger exists perhaps even more than it does on this campus, where there is safety in the sheer number of people clustered together.

Common sense—individual common sense, and not the warped reasoning of a crowd, is necessary for a mature life. One's personal actions determine to a large extent what situations he will encounter and how he will handle them.

Speaking again of the night watchman: Only in an incidental way is it ironical that the student body that loudly clamors for protection is often begging for protection from itself.

The Roving I

By LONNIE MANN

Now it can be told at long last. The tuition is definitely going up. I have gotten this information from the horse's mouth, as it were. In a visit to a local stable I personally carried on a conversation with a swayback mare that has assured me beyond a reasonable doubt that she overheard a conversation between two deaf-mute stable hands who are second cousins once removed to President Moore's barber.

Sound ridiculous? Maybe so, but recently a vast number of our supposedly discriminating student body blindly accepted a myth of nearly equal authenticity. If you weren't among the gullible masses you have due cause to polish your ego to a shiny lustre; but if you bit, shake out a little ear wax and take heed.

As college students we are expected to be mature, rational people. Through our studies of truth we should learn to recognize the common fallacies in thinking. An essential factor in this discriminatory process is the analysis of false reports. I shall briefly try to review the general dynamics of a rumor in hopes that you will apply them to the dubious stories which have a tendency to breed just before campus election week, or for that matter, at almost any time.

Curse the tongue whence slanderous rumor like the adder's drop, distills her venom, withering friendships, faith, turning love's favor—Hillhouse

Rumor travels when events have importance in the lives of individuals and when the news received about them is either sparse or subjectively ambiguous. In fact, the insensitivity which a rumor possesses is a multiplicative function of the rumor's personal importance to a group and its ambiguity. Obviously, when there is no interest in the theme of a rumor — for instance, the price of school supplies at other colleges — the rumor will not perpetuate itself. If one is in possession of all the facts, there is no ambiguity and thus no rumor.

There seems to be three basic distortive tendencies in the passing of rumor. As rumor travels it tends to grow shorter, more concise, more easily grasped and told.

Letter To The Editor

Mr. Charles Quick 2-18-63

Editor

The Lance

Dear Charles:

No doubt you received a copy of the Student Cabinet memo to the Student Body concerning the lowering of the scholastic average requirement for student government offices from 1.5 to 1.0. I trust you have given this memo due consideration; as I also hope those students who signed the petition presenting this modification to the Cabinet have done.

You are in a position to make pertinent comments on this subject and I hope you will not fail to do so. Whether you be for or (Continued On Page 3)

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St. Andrews Ham Station In Operation

This week St. Andrews will have its first "ham" station, WA4JTZ, in operation located in the small building behind the Home Management House. This station will operate under the name of the St. Andrews Amateur Radio Service, a branch of the local Radio Club.

"Ham" radio might be described as direct private experimental communication, from your own location to other amateurs located at points over the globe. Ham radio provides enjoyment not offered in most other hobbies. Part of this enjoyment is the feeling which comes from talking to hams in other countries with equipment you have designed and built yourself.

Ham radio also provides many services to the area around the station. Messages (called "traffic" by hams) can be relayed between ham stations, and in natural emergencies hams often provide the only means of communications.

The ham station located on campus can be a direct service to the campus itself, and to the area around Laurinburg. If you are interested in information about this hobby, contact Mr. David McClean, advisor to the Radio Club. While only licensed hams can operate the equipment, all who are interested are encouraged to come by the "station" any time.

Overseas Study

The Rotary Foundation Committee of the Rotary International is making available a year's all-expense paid study in Europe for two persons. These persons will be selected from those submitted by the Laurinburg Rotary Club and other Clubs in this district.

Mr. Barron Mills of Laurinburg is chairman of the Foundation Committee.

Applicants may be either male or female, and must be rising seniors in college, and must be working toward a 4-year degree. An outstanding academic record is not required.

Winners will be recognized after they graduate and will leave for the country of their choice in the fall of 1964.

Persons interested in submitting an application should contact Dr. L. C. LaMotte at St. Andrews or Mr. Mills in Laurinburg.

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Supper Discussions Mix Food And Thought

For those of the students of St. Andrews who like to mix good discussion with eating there should be some interest in the Supper Discussions planned by the Student Christian Council. These suppers held in the small dining room of the cafeteria are planned to include speakers from certain areas of interest to college students. These speakers are prepared to discuss their topics as well as give vital information about their particular area of interest and qualification.

Such men as Dr. Elton Trueblood, who held a discussion on the nature of the Church and James McBride Dabbs, a noted Southern Author and an informed person regarding problems of the South, have already shared their thoughts with the discussion groups.

There are four more discussions planned for this spring.

The first of these is scheduled for February 20. Mr. Arthur McDonald, who is editor of THE SOUTHERN THEATRE as well as a professor here at St. Andrews, will discuss contemporary religious drama.

On March 20, Rev. Bob Martin will discuss with the group why a person should not enter a church related vocation. Rev. Martin is now the assistant to the president of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.

Rev. Tom Frank, a Presbyterian minister on the campus at the University of North Carolina will discuss existentialism on April 24.

The last discussion group will be held on May 15 at which time, Dr. Eugene Hargrove, North Carolina Mental Health Commissioner will discuss the relationship between psychiatry and religion.

In order to attend these discussion groups, a student must sign a list posted on the bulletin board near the cafeteria. There is space for only thirty people. The list should be signed by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled discussion. The meeting time for the group is 5:15.

There will be a supper meeting tonight at 5:30 in the small dining room for all persons interested in joining the field of the ministry.

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