

Editorials

CONCERT-LECTURE SERIES—
ADEQUATE, USELESS, OR OTHERWISE?

The survey conducted recently by the Student Center Board concerning the Concert-Lecture Series was not highly successful. Why? Because only 65 students bothered to complete and return the questionnaire distributed by the Board. The Board was trying to learn specifically what was thought good and bad about the Series, and to obtain suggestions for possible changes. Is there any reason or justification for over 90 per cent of the student body not voicing their feelings and opinions on this important matter?

Every college or university has a concert and lecture series of some sort. Content and scope varies, as well as cost, from campus to campus. However, general objectives and aims are not decidedly dissimilar. All such series propound to offer the student further education outside the classroom, to bring to campus aspects of culture not otherwise available, and to provide stimulation for thought and individual exploration.

A breakdown of the Series since 1961 shows that, with the completion of the 1963-64 Series in May, there will have been offered in the area of performing arts three solo pianists, three vocalists, three string groups and two string soloists, one dance group, and one drama group. There will have been included one lecturer each in the fields of science, sociology, literature, education, and theology; two lecturers in foreign affairs, and three in political science.

With this diversity of fields represented, the average attendance of a group of 63 students for the Fall series was 1.12 programs per student!

There is, however, one aspect of the Concert-Lecture Series in which St. Andrews is somewhat unique, and that is in the amount paid by St. Andrews students for the Series. Only \$7.50 of the General Fee of each student allotted for the Series—far less than the amount paid by students in larger institutions for similar programs. If events such as those presented in the Series were paid for separately, \$7.50 would hardly cover the price of any two events, all things considered.

Of the 65 questionnaires completed and returned to the Student Center Board, 13 indicated no knowledge of the committee responsible for the planning and content of the Concert-Lecture Series. This year the name goes under the title of the ASSEMBLIES AND PUBLIC EVENTS COMMITTEE. There are ten members on this committee, eight faculty and administration, and two students: Profs. Franklin West (Chairman), Robert Gustafson, Doris Hawse, Arthur McDonald, Charles Smith; Dr. Carl Bennett, Mr. Silas Vaughn; and Preston Stone and Mary Elizabeth Ricks.

The obvious incongruity of the whole matter is that students are apparently dissatisfied with the Series as it now is, yet only 65 individuals bothered to express and voice their dissatisfaction in a constructive and mature manner. However, the Student Center Board feels that this matter is of great enough importance to warrant another attempt to gain suggestions and ideas from the students concerning the scope and content of the Series. Sometime within the next week another questionnaire will be distributed, this time through suite leaders or at dorm meetings, in order to allow for the forms to be completed and returned at one meeting. This should be convenient enough for even the most indolent student.

THE LANCE CHARGED AS
INADEQUATE IN NEWS COVERAGE

It has been charged that THE LANCE contains no news. We deny this charge and assert that THE LANCE adequately covers news, as well as almost all events on and off campus which pertain to St. Andrews. We can safely use the adjective "almost," because no newspaper—college or other—can honestly say it covers EVERY event or happening, even in its particular locality.

We admit to the less than desirable situation of publishing only every other week. This policy was initiated in the first year of St. Andrews' operation due to limited operating funds and shortage of staff members. However, it is the goal of the present editor to organize matters so as to have a weekly publication for the 1964-65 academic year. We are presently in adequate financial shape to permit such, but there is still a problem of enlisting an adequate staff.

THE LANCE suffers from somewhat the same ill-directed criticism as does the Concert-Lecture Series. Last spring a questionnaire was distributed to all students, asking for constructive criticisms and suggestions. Of some 700 forms distributed, less than 30 were completed and returned. Still, we solicit your advice and suggestions, and will try to follow those which are constructive and worthwhile.

NEW WRITERS ADDED

THE LANCE welcomes to the staff Caroline Clower and George Davidson, who will serve as general reporters and writers.

PEACE CORPS

Any Junior or Senior student interested in service with the Peace Corps upon graduation should make applications now, before February 19. Placement tests will be given Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p. m., room No. 116 in the Liberal Arts building. Applications are available in Dean Hester's office.

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LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

(This letter refers to the article "Goldwater-Reactionary," by Robert Ham, which appeared in the January 31 copy of the LANCE.)

It seems in our society that those who expound on political topics, and finding themselves without facts for their position, revert to an unintellectual, strictly pedestrian propaganda technique of "name-calling." Bergan Evans, Professor of English at Northwestern University, in his DICTIONARY OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN USAGE dissents that "Reactionary" is a word so emotionally charged as to be little more than a term of abuse."

Now our society grants freedom of the press, and we most assuredly at times abuse this right. And while outright slander is a prominent abuse, the real problem is born in the presentation of general unsubstantiated statements which represent nothing but an ambiguous insinuation to a thesis.

This is the problem with "Goldwater-Reactionary," in that the "writer" has assumed three general positions of Sen. Goldwater, about none of which is he well informed. Otherwise it would seem logical that he would try to explain the implications of each to his proposed thesis. If not facts, possibly a misguided "pro" or "con" or two, or just one small reasonably thoughtful "con." But the author is proving the adage of "a little knowledge," when he states a proposition and proves that proposition with the same proposition.

The conclusion to the "article" is eloquent "gobbledygook" while in the author's words "In short," he sums up the whole one true political dogma in his own mind. But, I assert that he should let his devoted readers know his thoughts, and lead us out of our hopeless state of ignorance on political matters. By the way, Mr. Ham, what are the basic principles of the Republican Party?

Robert L. Hatcher III

Literary
Magazine

This semester, a new landmark will appear in the history of St. Andrews. Posters scattered over the campus have announced to you the formation of a college literary magazine to be made up of student contributions in the fields of poetry, the short story, the critical essay, and art.

You may have wondered about the choice of a name for the magazine, THE CAIRN. The dictionary says that the word, "cairn" is of Scottish origin and means "a rounded or conical heap of stones, heaped up as a landmark, or to arrest attention, as by explorers or surveyors."

The first edition of THE CAIRN will appear this spring, but we must have your help. If you write, or would like to try writing, this is an excellent opportunity for you to begin. Your work should be presented, preferably typed, to one of our co-editors - Maggie Abrams, extension 67, or Harriet Otten, extension 40 - by March 15. A money prize will be offered for the best entry in each area.

On And Off Campus

By JOE CHANDLER, JR.

Politics And Parties On Campus

Americans are a politically minded people, American young people are no exception.

Student government is, of course, practice for the real work to be pursued in life as a citizen. But it is a practice field, and the strength of the team is built here. What, then, ought to be politics on campus? Why parties on campus? Why not issues in place of platitudes?

Politics is the business of democracy. Elections, parties debates, campaigns---all are integral parts of democracy, and all are unmistakable signs of its existence. "Politics is machinery," says a prominent contemporary author. Politics must then exist and be encouraged if students are to have any semblance of real autonomy on campus. But, perhaps this last statement is the real problem on campus. Just how much autonomy does a student have on a campus? How much is a student entitled to have? How is the student's relationship to his superiors reflected in his political maturity?

We have all signed on a dotted line when we entered college. We recognize the familiar and necessary stratas of authority on a campus. A student may be said to have no real autonomy at all. The student does have one right which tends to make him and her much less than a mute and as near to autonomous as a student may rightfully be. This is an inherent right to be informed about and be a powerful influence in decisions that affect students. Secondly, this principle should be extended as far as is possible, placing as much autonomy and responsibility as possible in the hands of the students. Lastly, the force with which the students responsibly push for their autonomy will largely be the measure of how much they get, and this will be a good yardstick of their political maturity. Cooperation, not conflict, is still the by-word. But cooperative efforts are based on the fact that there are at least two sides, as well as two forces, to everything.

Politics on campus is the very real, very good process by which students compete to be the representatives of the students before campus officials, as well as the heads of a student government. To call one a "campus politician" is not to diminish his or her stand for the good of the campus. This is an unfortunate, naive, and grossly immature connotation.

Parties are simply instruments for political action. Most of us, I would venture to say, form groups of various sorts frequently to gain more and better public attention for ideas. As associations for promoting certain ideas, legislation, and people to carry these policies out, political parties are vital to a healthy student government. It is far better to allow students to organize to promote their wants and seek redress of their grievances than to hold down smoldering issues or ignore opposition, or worse, pretend to. Parties force consideration of issues, and on some of their own terms.

Platitudes, like balloons full of hot air, rise at first and often carry the day on campus, it is sad to admit. But, like the air when it cools and the balloon falls, platitudes fail to stay up in days of crisis. The campus, or candidate, that has to dress itself in

excessive finery of phraseology where one may often look for weakness. The yardstick never be what one has done, but what one has said. If a candidate has lived by the ideas he or she espouses, the good and true are found in them. Then demand that they live up to their pledges. Above all, it should be remembered that there will be risk involved if they are not meaningful. That's it, it is meaningful. Platitudes are not. Issues are risky. Platitudes offer nothingness.

As the torch passes fully into the hands of those students who make up the first, second, and third classes of St. Andrews, the first full generation of students to project a future, it is important to assess the situation. If these students fail to be politically mature, if these students fail to organize themselves, if these students prey to platitudes and an illusion of security, they will fail to be mature.

The work here is not accomplished. It is hardly begun to the students of the years to fulfill all our hopes for St. Andrews. Whether they will still and be burned by a shortening torch, or do strike out into the dark with torch held high as a light, the road to greatness remains seen.

NEXT TIME: "Two Little and the Honor Court; the Scene."

Bowlers Break
DIAC Record

The St. Andrews bowlers broke their own league record in a match bowled Tuesday against Methodist College. The Knights had a high game of a 2669 series. The old record set earlier this year by St. Andrews was 941 and 2667.

Lawrence
of Arabia

If your name is listed below you will receive tickets to "Lawrence of Arabia" which begins Feb. 20 at the Gibson Theatre. Present your college identification card at the boxoffice.

Names:

Frances Bounie
Elaine Burton
LeRoy Martin
Libby Lyle
Jack Cole
Thomas Hale
Pat Eisenhut
Ilene Douglas
Richard Johnson
Jerry Marshall