

Minnie Kelly Writes To Administration and Paper

A letter to the Student Body in care of Nick Gordon through the facilities of THE LANCE (I have addressed this letter in care of Nick Gordon for two very distinct, but related, reasons--first of all, because he was brave enough to attempt to echo the voice of the student body; and secondly, because he uttered, or rather muffled, what I feel to be the prevalent attitude on campus.)

To those of you who read Mr. Gordon's article, "Disapproval Begins Now," which appeared in the January 14, 1966 issue of THE LANCE, vol. 5, no. 7, page 7, column 5, I would like to ask one question: "Did you, by any chance, agree?" I would not be surprised if you did--either partially or wholly. If you did agree, I ask still another question: "With what did you agree?" There was no one substantial statement of fact in the entire article. In short, I found it to be the most illogical and irresponsible piece of writing that I have encountered (with the possible exception of a few previous "LANCE" articles).

Allow me to lead you through the maze of generalities so artlessly constructed by Mr. Gordon. His crucial point is that "there has been a lack of understanding between the administration and students." Now isn't that nice. He has fired at us any hostilities we may hold against any member of the administration. He has invited us to forget that the administration is not an abstract monster, but rather a certain group of particular people. He is using us, friends. But we MUST stop and ask him: 1) which member of the administration has come to you, Mr. Gordon, and asked that question? 2) when was it asked? 3) wrong with exactly what?

He then goes on to put these words into the mouth of the administration: "lack of unity and school spirit", "Why do students... not seem to care really what happens on campus?" So now you are all but sure that the administration thinks that we are a conflicting bunch of apathetic do-nothings (and he may even have you believing that you are). Well I know differently. Every one of you cares, one way or another. Sitting at the supper table tonight, I was asked ten questions by seven different people about some aspect of what is happening on campus, and that was at only one meal. It happens at every meal, in the halls between classes, and many times during the day and night over the telephone.

Next we have the most blatant statement of the article--and the most irresponsible: "The answer, I believe, lies in the plaintive gripe of a student the other night, "We have no where to take our problems and ideas. The administration doesn't care what we think." Assuming that there is a student that made this exact gripe, then, my friends, it is exactly no more than that--A gripe from A student. It is not a statement of fact; it is not even given the respectability of being an opinion.

Mr. Gordon then gives light reference to "student leaders, student representatives, and administrative officials to represent the student interest." It is nice of him to recognize their presence. But he then says (with absolutely no stated foundation for judgment) "if these leaders and representatives are the answer then why doesn't it work...?" My friends it is again time for us to make a judgment. First of all, Mr. Gordon is ordinarily assuming that "IT" DOESN'T work. What, in the name of St. Andrews, is this nebulous, ambiguous "IT?" Is he referring to those people to whom he has previously only referred? Or perhaps he is referring to the entire Student Association structure. Let me tell you what he is really referring to, whether he is aware of it or not (and obviously he is not or he would never have been motivated to write such an irresponsible statement of his own problem).

The problem-- "What is wrong?" -- is you Mr. Gordon, and you, my friends. And the answer--"Why doesn't it work?" --is the same as the problem --it is you, Mr. Gordon, and you, my friends.

But that is really no more of an answer than Mr. Gordon's. So allow me to elaborate. Mr. Gordon sees the problem as one of opinion expressing. But he has shown it as only a matter of griping. A gripe gets no one anywhere. Mr. Gordon turned out eight paragraphs of griping, but no where in the article was there one substantial piece of material for anyone to work with. He makes several references to "student body opinion." But what exactly is student body opinion? As long as it is only gripes, it is no more than about 900 personal opinions on matters of hearsay.

Mr. Gordon states that "matters that effect the student body as a whole should be brought to the attention of the student body." (he does not indicate what he considers these matters to be, since he later in the article excludes the new calendar when he excepts from consideration "Matters that the administration of the school, tuition and faculty matters, and course offering.") We have student body meetings. Minutes of the Senate and the Cabinet meeting are posted on the bulletin board. They are there for the ATTENTION OF THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY.

If you, my friends, as members of a student body would realize your responsibilities to find out what 'matters' exist and then formulate substantiated opinions, the situation might be different. But the attitude expressed by Mr. Gordon--"Once policy is decided upon it should be explained to the student body with logical reasoning."-- reveals ultimate irresponsibility. What makes anyone think that he has even the right, as a citizen of the St. Andrews community, to sit back and wait for policies to be formulated and then demand an explanation. Student policies (which is a most inappropriate

word) are formulated in Senate and Cabinet -- where you are represented. And if you know nothing about it or feel that you cannot express your opinionated gripes, it is totally your own fault. Your Senators are available, you elected them; The doors to the Senate are open, all you have to do is come in and listen.

As far as the administration is concerned, they have tried to both express policies and hear the concerns of the student body through Cabinet-Administration meetings. The Cabinet is your elected body of communication. And this fact leads directly into one particular matter concerning THE LANCE. Mr. Gordon stated that "matters that effect the administration of the school, tuition and faculty matters, and course offerings" need not be brought to the attention of the student body. Mr. Gordon is WRONG! Any responsible St. Andrews student should want to

know in what directions his college is moving. Yet when the administration asked that just such a matter - the matter of rising college costs--be presented to the student body (to "be explained to the student body with logical reasoning") nothing happened. Let me tell you why, my friends. This suggestion was made to the Cabinet during the Cabinet - Administration meeting of October 21, 1965. The Cabinet decided on October 26 (of that same year) that THE LANCE could best handle the situation. The Cabinet sent a letter to THE LANCE concerning the matter (seeking to both inform the student body and to supply THE LANCE with a much needed article of ENTIRE student interest). Well my friends, as you might expect, THE LANCE has done nothing to my knowledge.

THE LANCE has done nothing. It has published--nothing. Now that may seem to you to be a rather direct slam. And, my friends, it is.

I am sick of the 'pocket of apathy' that is turned inside-out twice a month. And, my friends you are the reason--the cause of such a disgrace. You take it out of your mailbox, you read it, and you gripe. My friends, you are condoning THE LANCE if you can do no more than gripe in vague generalities that have no substantiation.

I realize that all of us have more than enough to do. But do we? We have enough time to gripe--there is always enough time for that. And some of that time could be spent working on THE LANCE. Maybe the working conditions are not exactly what some of you would consider desirable. Well unless you do something, they and their product THE LANCE are going to forever remain the same--a disgrace to you, as a St. Andrews student.

If you have not gathered by now, I would like to say that this letter is not an attempt to directly attack either Nick Gordon or THE LANCE. Rather it is a direct attack against you, my friends (have I manipulated you?) But it really isn't even an at-

tack. It is a violent invitation for you to realize your responsibilities as a student in a growing college community. We can not afford to make personal, narrow-minded, short-sighted gripes that are initiated by little more than hearsay. We have a college to consider--the one that is to bestow upon us our undergraduate degree. Our concerns should not be entirely with how I will be affected next week or next year, but rather with how will what is happening affect the desired future of this college. We can scream about our rights, but those rights are rights WITHIN a college community. And unless we take the time to responsibly show the concern that each one of us has, we have given up our claims to those rights, as well as our position in the college community.

Minnie Kelly

Justice

Jefferson College, 1942, William and Mary College, 1943, Rollins College, 1947, National University, 1949, New School for Social Research, 1952, University of Toledo, 1956, Bucknell University, 1958.

He was admitted to the New York bar in 1926, and practiced in New York City from 1925-1927. He was a member of the law faculty at Columbia from 1925-1938, and at Yale from 1928-1934.

Justice Douglas was secretary to the Committee on Business of Federal Courts, National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement, 1930-1932. He was director of the protective committee study, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. from 1934-1936, and was commissioner and chairman from 1936-1939.

He was nominated to be associated justice of the U.S. Supreme Court by President Roosevelt on March 20, 1939, and took his chair in April of 1939.

He is a member of: Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Delta, Delta Sigma Rho, and Beta Theta Pi. He is a Democrat, a Presbyterian, and a Mason. He has written various law case books, and several other books such as OF MEN AND MOUNTAINS, 1950; STRANGE LANDS AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE, 1951; and DEMOCRACY'S MANIFESTO, 1962.

He now lives in Glenwood, Washington.



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