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Cafeteria Defended

Veal cutlet, Swiss steak, and Italian ravioli--better known to students as "mystery meat," "leftover hamburger," and "imported canned goods."

Complaints are one item that every campus has in abundance, and the one organization that receives an unjust amount of these daily gripes is the cafeteria committee.

Does a student ever consider the planning and the budgeting that such an organization must draw up? Does he realize that such organizing takes place far in advance of any given semester? Does he know where the financing for such a budget originates?

The entire cafeteria budget stems from the student's board fee, \$515 a year from freshmen and \$485 from upperclassmen. This is the equivalent of 72 cents a meal, three meals a day, seven days a week per student, but also pays for supplies and wages of employees.

Unlike many college cafeterias, St. Andrews is dependent upon the school for its salary. In other words, it is not a profit-making organization. It is here for the sole purpose of aiding the student and meeting the student's demands. These requests are transmitted to the management of the cafeteria by the Senate Food Committee.

This committee represents all the students' opinions about cafeteria programming and policy. Recently a list of suggestions for the improvement of cafeteria foods was forwarded to the management by this committee and already results have been secured. Such suggestions were for corn dogs, pizza, honey and pickles, and for less hot sandwiches at the lunch hour.

A major student complaint is "why doesn't the cafeteria prepare enough of a certain course to last throughout the entire meal hour?" This in itself is a difficult commandment. An estimation of the correct quantity must be made in advance and only through trial the management can learn exactly what foods are the most popular.

The quality of our cafeteria's food has also often been questioned. Again through trial, meats and produce are being improved.

Why don't they open two service lines on weekends? The cafeteria staff, too, needs a weekend break. Comparing an average weekly expenditure of this year with last year, it will be found that cafeteria staff is receiving \$2390 as compared to \$2145. This increase is to be expected if the quality of service is to increase also. Again in comparison on the average week, it can be noticed that an increase of \$200 is being spent for meats alone.

In a survey of 340 schools, St. Andrews was among four which allowed seconds to be served for all items on the menu. We have a unique system, an efficient staff, and contrary to minority belief, excellent food.

As a result of "grade A" service, the cafeteria this year is operating in the red. For instance, on a Thursday night steak dinner a good deal of money is lost. The steaks alone cost 71 cents of the allotted 72 cents per meal.

Students ask, "Why doesn't the money that results from students who miss their meals pay for such occasions? When the budget is drawn a figure of 30% of the student body is estimated as not attending each meal.

It is this left-over portion of the budget which finances steak nights and buffet dinners. If a greater percentage of students were to attend each meal, the board costs could rise as much as \$165 per student. It is because of this tight budget that the cafeteria does set up its few standards of procedures such as no food or serviceware leaving the cafeteria. Such items must be replaced out of student funds.

If you feel that the cafeteria service is inadequate to meet your needs, then tell your Senate representatives. Or if you feel that the food is not up to par, do like the caption suggests; "eat somewhere else."

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Letters To The Editor:

Senate, Slams And Slammed; Students Show Sincerity

DEAR EDITOR:

There has been much criticism lately, directed toward the Senate as a body and toward the Senators as representatives of their dorms. For the most part, I can say that this criticism is welcomed by all who are in any way connected with the Senate, and by those interested students who are concerned about student government.

This criticism is good for several reasons. First of all, it is quite possible that some Senators are unaware that their positions require more than just personal concern for student legislation, and it is also possible that being human beings they have made errors. Thus the criticism can keep Senators "on their toes." But this criticism also has further implications. It shows that students are taking a more active interest in the Student Government. Furthermore, I think the Senate itself deserves some credit, for this year it has already presented controversial matters, matters that concern the entire student body. Can one honestly say that the representation of Senators has changed, for the worse, from last year and the year before that? I think not. But because the Senate is more active, the Senators are in the spotlight.

Now, what responsibilities and duties do Senators have? There are two extreme schools of thought concerning the role of the Senator, neither of which is practical or plausible; one is that the Senator takes it upon himself to use good judgment on bills passed and ideas presented on the floor; the other is that the Senator reach each student individually, getting his ideas and opinions. The workable definition is mid-way between these two extremes.

It is my personal opinion that the Senator should take the initiative. This could be done by dorm meetings or suite meetings, during which ideas that concern the student body should be presented and opinions obtained. After this, the responsibility is put upon the individual student. If he wants to discuss the issue further, he should then see the Senator, since it would be physically impossible for the Senator to contact every student in the dorm on an individual basis.

One final word: the Senate min-

utes are posted in each dorm, not to be neglected but to be read. And if they do not satisfy a persons curiosity, the Senate meetings are always open to anyone.

Sincerely
HELEN HUDSON

DEAR EDITOR:

Thank you for calling attention to the two major problems of which the Senators have been well aware since our election in May. I also invite you to attend the Senate meetings so that you may better judge whether or not your senators "stand up and defend their fellow students' feelings." I feel that perhaps then you will be inclined to retract such an unwarranted accusation.

May I remind all students that when senators were elected last spring, they were elected to represent your opinions, and they were also entrusted with the power to vote as they consider best for the majority of their constituents. They were not elected to take a student poll on every motion and recommendation mentioned on the Senate floor. Therefore I urge you to make your opinions known to your senators, thereby increasing their efficiency.

Perhaps in not seeking out student opinion before voting, the senators are making much the same avoidable error as the editor when he wrote the editorial of November 18 about the Senate before seeking out the truth of the situation.

Robbie Tatum
Senator
Orange Dorm

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to express my opinions on the work of the St. Andrews Senate. After reading your editorial in the November 18 issue of THE LANCE, several of us were interested in seeing if the Senate, in actuality, was a "sheepish organization", and after an hour we had heard a considerable number of "baa's" from the Senate floor. At one point the senators voted upon a motion only to find afterwards that some of them were unaware of what they had passed. A major portion of this meeting was spent in a confession by Senate President Joe Overton of his bad judgment in holding back the late-hours bill. Mr. Ov-

erton also expressed his regret over the fact that he did not know who had written the editorial in the last issue of your paper. He was promptly read THE LANCE policy concerning editorials (which appeared directly below the editorial in question) by one of the senators.

The Senate, if I am correct, is concerned with student welfare; however, I question this policy when after three months of the school term, only once has a senator informed my suite of what is going on and asked my opinions and suggestions. I recently overheard a senator say that his function was to use his own judgment and not to consult his fellow students on issues concerning them. Am I wrong in assuming that the senator's duty is to ask the opinions of the students rather than guessing what the students want and then padding it with his own ideas?

My complaint is not that I am uninformed about what goes on at Senate meetings, but I find it distressing to read of major Senate rulings knowing that my opinions have not been represented properly.

Sincerely,
Linda Peel

DEAR EDITOR:

Rumors and unauthoritative reports have led many students to believe that our Senate is an inefficient organization filled with and led by uninterested, incompetent students. With further investigation, however, any student can discover that such is not the case.

Instead, there is interest and ambition heretofore unequalled inherent in our most fully representative faction. Through the able and responsible leadership of its president and concerned members, the Senate is moving progressively closer toward the student it represents. Granted, there still exists a gap between the students and the Senate; but this gap has decreased from the considerably deeper chasm which previously existed.

An increasingly larger percentage of students are being made aware that there is a student-run legislative body on our campus, whose purpose and desire is to work with and for the entire student population. As students, I feel that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the enthusiastic leaders, especially the Senate President, whose devotion and loyalty to their cause has effected in us this awareness.

For those students who are dissatisfied with the inadequate role you feel the Senate is playing, I suggest that you examine your position fully. Diagnose the particular reason for your disapproval, and single it out for reprimand; don't criticize the entire organization. Talk to those senators whom you feel are not adequately filling the positions to which they were elected or appointed.

I, too, feel that our Senate is general and our senators in particular leave much to be desired. There are numerous areas in which improvement is needed, but this year's Senate has already initiated a strenuous clumb toward renovation and revitalization. Let's not stifle their effort, instead, let's give them credit where credit is due!

Most Sincerely,
Betty Baldwin



"IF YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE FOOD EVERY DAY WHY DON'T YOU EAT SOME PLACE ELSE?"