

THE LANCE

St. Andrews Presbyterian College

Laurinburg, N. C. 28352

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Exams-And Finances

The new "non exam" schedule is infinitely worse than the block exam concept for students. Especially upperclassmen are under tremendous pressure with many having two or more large papers, or lab projects due in, as well as up to ten or twelve hours of comprehensive exams. Seniors are in a particularly bad position with GRE's on Saturday. Too many professors have chosen to end their courses with a combination of papers and exam.

This isn't the typical student griping about too much work that they don't want to do. Instead it's the very legitimate problem of having much too much work to finish, and do well, in a two week time span, even if students have been working for the latter half of the semester.

The quality of academic work at St. Andrews is high. Reports from students who have transferred, or gone on to graduate school bear this out. But a saturation point can, and we think has, been reached. The value of education beyond that point must necessarily decrease. There is a very real need for a second look into the current end of the semester hassle.

Many people have been asking why the LANCE hasn't been coming out as often as it has before, and why we don't have some of the features of other papers, such as cartoons, articles which are syndicated and all the goodies that money can buy. Well, there's your answer right there. Money. Now we all know that college finances are not the best they could be. We just feel some explanations are due students who want to know why these things are happening.

This issue has a lot of ads, and we may be attacked for running ads instead of writing articles. Well, it's a financial necessity for us to make money. This last LANCE of the year was planned to be an eight page paper, with lots of features and good stuff. But we decided to run the paper, crammed with ads as it is, as a four page paper so we could make a profit on it, and have a little padding, be it ever so small, to carry over until next semester.

The LANCE is operating on a minimum budget, considering the availability of advertising in Laurinburg, our operating expenses, and the time necessary to put out a paper regularly. We are currently in the situation of having to have a certain amount of advertising to publish a paper, along with a concern for what news is important. Every week there must be a decision both on what copy--articles, features, news items--are available and, as well, on how much advertising we are likely to be able to get. With a budget of twenty-one hundred dollars, we must take into every close consideration the viability of publishing each issue of the paper. Since we are carrying a debt--finally brought home to roost--from three years ago, we must not only break even but attempt to make a profit and STILL put out a paper fairly often which is pleasing to the student body.

And here is our second point: beginning tomorrow the Senate will be distributing a questionnaire to all students to discover whether students read and enjoy the LANCE. On one hand we think this is valuable. The poll at the beginning of the year offered some valid criticisms and good suggestions for our improvement. And if we're not pleasing the students now, we always can rely on the fact that we get very few suggestions, criticisms, or heaven forbid, praise on specific issues or articles.

We have known all semester that the Senate was going to put out this poll, whether we liked it or not. And we don't particularly like the idea, since there's a very real possibility that the LANCE will be phased out--a polite phrase for being told that everybody hates you and just to go away and leave us alone. That's been an added pressure--to know that one bad issue or even one bad article may sound the death knell for you. But enough of explanations, self-pity, whatever, we only ask students to judge us fairly according to their standards within the context of the practical considerations that were outlined above.

This will be our last issue for the semester. We hope that at least some of the things we've done have had meaning for you. If not, we hope that you'll tell us, so we can be better in the future, if there is a future.

SMILE



A Step Toward Pollution End; Stop Appropriations For SST

by Marshall Gravely

The recent Senate vote to deny further appropriations for the development of the supersonic transport by the U. S., marks an important victory for those interested in preserving the environment. The Senators who voted against the measure were

convinced to do so largely through the efforts of Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin). The bipartisan coalition formed by him voted against allotting further money for SST from apparently sincere motives, but the defeated group who supported the bill have charged that the vote was politically motivated. What was the real reason for the vote?

Nelson himself can hardly be accused of political motives, though. He was recently re-elected in Wisconsin with a 72% margin of victory. The reason that the vote is significant is that it may in fact be the first successful coalition in recent Senate history motivated on non-political grounds.

The battle against SST centers around the debate over whether the need for this new

plan counterbalances its pollution potential. The pro-SST forces were obviously convinced that it was needed to advance air transport. But, does the air industry need a plane that is "ten hours from anywhere"? Why?

The pollution potential of the new plane is enormous. The jet exhaust would only add to the pollution over airports and cities. Furthermore, the noise pollution around airports and cities would be greatly increased by the use of the SST.

The battle against the various forms of pollution has just begun. But this reverse for the technology of environmental destruction may show the way for stopping future expansion of pollution. The political interests pale beside the human interest--survival.

Letters To The Editor: Basketball

To the Editor of the LANCE:

It has become increasingly evident to St. Andrews basketball followers that the team has not been playing up to its potential this season. With four returning starters and a respectable bench, it seems very disappointing that the team has lost to a team like UNC-Greensboro. On December 7, a day that will live in infamy for SA rooters for two reasons, an interesting but normal phenomenon occurred in the SA gym. Up by 24 points with ten minutes remaining, the Knights lost by seven. A number of reasons can be cited for this sudden collapse. Inconsistent substitution and poor use of personnel have to rank highly. For instance, in the UNC-G game the substitutes were not removed in time in the second half for the Knights to have a chance at winning the contest. Gary Gredlein, one of our best guards, was not reinserted in the lineup at all in the last seven minutes and well-playing Tony Fernandez was benched having scored 23 points in a half's play.

If Coach Boyd has the skill to coach the St. Andrews team then the St. Andrews fans would be very anxious to see it in the near future.

Ralph Nesbit

Merry Christmas

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