

THE LANCE

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Subscription rates \$2.50 per semester.
Advertising rates \$.90 per column inch.
Semester contracts, \$.80 per column inch.

Blessings. . . Pope

They did it again.

The Lance staff, lazy as usual took a week's vacation and did not bother to tell me.

There I was last Wednesday night, all ready to write another column and the Editor broke the news to me.

I swear, that staff is about as consistent as the food people here.

And while we're on the subject (talk about hokey openings), did anybody notice the unsupper we had last Sunday night? Just like home cooking - leftovers.

My roommate started the rumor that the Pakistanis were fasting to improve conditions here.

Speaking of the fast (Lord, where does he get it?), I heard the story that a non-faster tried to give a faster five dollars for the cause and was questioned. Seems the faster didn't want the money of a non-faster.

There's some kind of logic in all of that, but I'll never be able to figure it out.

I'll have to start using a star-dash (****) from now on 'cause I can't think of any other way to tie the rest of these rambling thoughts together.

Maintenance came by to fix my air conditioning the other day, or at least I think they came by. The evidence points pretty heavily in that direction because, now, instead of just blowing air my air conditioning is putting out heat.

Keep up the good work guys, your speed and endurance will pay off some day, like when they reinstate the Pony Express.

To the Seniors:

I've got a suggestion for the graduation committee. Why don't you set the date for graduation for December 11?

If you think about it, it really makes a lot of sense. For one thing it won't be as hot, so you don't have to dread that muggy last walk across the causewalk. With the brisk, cool weather we've been having lately, there is no doubt in my mind that the class would quickly make that walk.

And maybe for a change we'd be unified, if for nothing else, then just for warmth.

The speeches wouldn't be as long, because only a fool would speak for more than two minutes in the breeze that sweeps across that lake.

The best part of all would be that we would get out of second semester C&C.

It's just a suggestion, but I think it would work. Think about it.

About second semester senior C&C anyway, if the population people are right, then we have no future to look forward to. Therefore, the course has no real purpose.

Think I'll just hand in a blank 25 page paper and say that's what the future looks like to me.

Why don't they let children have a childhood anymore?

The other day I picked up a comic book to read and the darn thing was so relevant that it was sickening. The story was something about Santa Claus taking away Christmas if the public did not clean up the environment.

I'm all for education and all the bull that goes with it, but don't people realize that children need a way to escape too?

No wonder we aren't going to last much longer, they're making people grow up too fast now. By the time a kid's 14, he has already faced most of the major problems of life.

That's a said and scary state of affairs.

I'm 22 and still believe in Santa Claus. He's about the only thing we have left.



The Fast: Some Issues, Some Problems And Contradictions

BY MARSHALL GRAVELY

A great deal of noise and much ado has been made about the Wednesday fast for the benefit of the East Pakistanis who are starving. This whole issue brings to mind several problems and contradictions.

The posters for this effort claim nine million starving people to be the greatest natural disaster of modern times. Greater than World Wars I and II? Hardly. The persecution of the East Pakistanis does not even rival that of the Jews by Hitler.

It is also claimed that these people are innocent victims, which is also untrue. The Bengalis voted en masse for Sheik Mujib and his party with the full knowledge that he intended to secede from West Pakistan if not allowed to take over the government.

The history of Pakistan is one long series of clashes between West and East. Several incidents of massacre and genocide are already recorded. This civil war is not different, only larger. Actually, the Bengalis are winning, because the army has not crushed them already.

The fact that nine million are starving anyway can be questioned. India's government does not plan to let them starve because they represent an issue against West Pakistan.

There are several problems with the fast itself, though. First is the idea that it is really no sacrifice because it lasts only one day. Furthermore, the Pakistanis don't care if you fast - they just need the money to buy food, however it's gotten. They won't even know

you fasted. They just need food.

Why then the fast? It seems it exists mostly because of the collective guilty consciences of students here. They feel that a three-meal fast will become a highly symbolic sacrifice full of higher meaning and deeply appreciated by the East Pakistani beneficiaries. A one-day fast amounts to nothing. The time would be better spent canvassing the area for contributions.

The largest problem is that the Fast aims only at East Pakistan where "people are starving." People are starving or suffering in this country and all over the South as well as in Pakistan. Why not fast for them, too?

It could be that Pakistan is remote from us and a real personal involvement is not required. We don't have to see the starving millions, just feel for them.

On the positive side, the Fast represents an idealistic effort that needs further continuation. As it is, many thousands of people in peaceful India starve each year, also. There are starving people in Biafra, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and everywhere else.

It seems that the only real problem that makes this effort fail to inspire one is the symbolism and sense of sacrifice attached to it. Fast, sure; but don't get all caught up in the greatness of your effort.

Disappointments Of A Prospective Glutton

Dear Editor:

I am directing my criticisms to the readers of this paper hoping that whoever is in charge will notice this letter and propose a solution.

I know that many readers are aware of the glories of eating. "I'm not talking about hate. No, I'm talking about eight. Dinner at eight! Let's eat!" Yes, gluttony is fun! When I came to St. Andrews they told me I could be a glutton without any hassles. "You can have as much as you want!" was what all the upper classmen told me. "More Sugar!" I thought, and with a hollow leg, I enrolled in St. Andrews. Now that I have my schedule of classes all morning til the conclusion of STMS at 1:30, I have found that the "people" whoever they are have arranged things so that by the time I have stood in line and eaten my first helping of lunch, a big fat woman is standing in the door waiting for me to approach her so that she can have the pleasure of closing the door in my face. I acknowledge that being a servant offers little reward, challenge or stimulation, and these people must have something to do for fun, but I feel cheated now that my parents have paid money so that I could eat, and things have not quite worked out that way. I am not complaining about the quality of the food. Usually the meals are adequate. With the exception of the glass in my "make your own sundae" on Saturday night, and the cottage cheese and garlic in the roquefort dressing, the food is usually quite adequate.

I do not believe it is the fault of the servers either. They are only human, and while their job is one which must be terribly boring, they do it well enough, I guess. I doubt that it is possible to open another line for lack of room, but I would suggest an extension of hours; Continental breakfast till 10 a.m., lunch till 2:30, dinner till 7:30 p.m.

"Yes dear friends, I'm marching to dinner cause God-a-mighty I'm hungry, we're all hungry. So, let's eat. Ah, the glories of food!" Many readers may feel this trivial because of the many starving people all over the world. I acknowledge them, but fortunately for me my parents have provided me with the privilege of gluttony, and since they have paid for this, I feel quite cheated that things haven't worked out.

Kenneth McCauley

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