

THE LANCE

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Registration Cited for Lack of Organization

In recent weeks I have heard many people express their feelings on the changes that have occurred within the St. Andrews community. For most upper-classmen, I believe these changes are at least intuitively apparent. I speak primarily of the social ethos of the campus. And by this I refer to the particular sensibilities and attitudes of students toward themselves, toward their education, and in respect to their taste for social environment - if the last is separable from the former.

These changes have also been expressed and to a degree recognized by the faculty. What attitudes and sensibilities have actually changed, and the evaluation of these transformations will hopefully be fruit for other articles in the future.

What I am about in writing this article, is to point out what I believe to be familiar pattern within this community. That is, to refer before the community for its inquiry, the deficit of administrative organization, in specific regard to the recent carnival perpetrated as winter term registration.

The entire mode in which this "pre" pre-registration was instituted was an insult to the intellectual integrity of the students, and to the innate humanity of all who comprise this community.

I refer specially to the lack of prior notice given to students, to the inadequate information regarding prices of off-campus courses, to the deficiency in the exposition of course content, and to the timing and implementation of the registration procedures.

The one week notice of pre-registration was hardly a reasonable amount of time for the contemplation and communication needed by most students to reach a responsible decision. I have been informed by several responsible sources that the handout finally given to the students regarding winter term registration was unnecessarily delayed. It has been said that those involved received the material requested for the handout long before it was actually distributed. And even upon its circulation it left many students confused, and most uninformed as to crucial matters of cost and course content. One week's time is hardly sufficient to arrive at a responsible decision, especially when written communication with parents is often required.

One might remark at this point that another registration period is yet to come. However, many courses are already closed and the selection greatly limited. I will deal with this point at greater length near the end of the article.

It was wisely pointed out to me by one distinguished professor, that the costs and actual travel plans were not necessarily known at the time of this "pre" preregistration. However, I fail to see why these expenses were not estimated and the travel plans at least tentatively set down to aid

students in their decisions. I also realize the complex nature of contracting for trips with airlines and agencies, yet the question of timing is still left to be answered.

This is not the only fault which insults student sensibilities. The lack of course description, content, sources, goals etc. seems also to indicate irresponsibility in planning. It can be said that this was accomplished by some individual professors through the medium single sheet. But I would point out that this unfortunately futile way of reaching students is itself a reflection of some of the faculty's regard for the winter term handouts.

I believe students have the right to know and understand in advance what they are paying for, and they should not be virtually forced to choose commodities unclearly labeled.

The final point of my discontent with the administrative procedures regarding winter term, originates in the timing and the actual implementation of the process.

While I realize the goal of this first registration was to evaluate the student response to specific courses - particularly in regard to the off-campus studies - I can not help but believe in the potential for better timing. Many students for example seeking a GIS plan of study were cut short in these procedures by the failure of the administrators to wait until division committees had the chance to consider submitted proposals. As I was told when I registered, all students can re-register later, but as I stated earlier, many courses are already filled.

There is yet an even more important side to this final point. Although the pre-preregistration is as the label indicates only provisional, I feel this was not adequately explained in the winter term handouts. Many students have expressed to me their confusion as to the actual procedures involved, and I myself am not entirely sure of my own position. Even many of those who valiantly manned the registrar's tables could not completely explain the system I am calling into question. The word which comes to my mind is "confusion". And it is used in an inclusive sense.

Some may say that taking this position illustrates an immature attitude of complaint - without action. But I would ask those whose potentially good idea was so poorly implemented, if I am not in fact acting now. The question has now become one of purpose. That is, the purpose of this institution..Does it exist for the students, or for the administration? There is no need for a store if there are no customers, and when those buyers are deprived of a clear knowledgeable choice that is fraud. And fraud is an insult to everyone's humanity.

What disturbs me most about this one passing event, is the part it seems to play in a recurring pattern of administrative inability. But this pattern may be muse for further thought, and what has been said will hopefully become a force for change.

BY SKIP TAYLOR

Maintenance Cutbacks

(Continued from Page 1)

tenance jobs by college authorities.

Despite these handicaps, the Maintenance Department has attempted to become more efficient. According to Dean Arnold, "the maintenance problem in past years has been that of knowledgeable leadership." Having hired a new superintendent of the Physical Plant, the administration hopes to catch up on the poor state of buildings and grounds.

Cutbacks have been made in all areas - academics, student life and maintenance - but only in proportion to the total enrollment of the school. Thus, instead of operating as a community of 900, the college now functions as a smaller unit with 250 less students.

The goal of the college, then, as seen by Dean Arnold

is not merely to reduce expenditures but to improve performance; to produce a smaller yet better quality school.

FOR CONVENIENCE
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 QUALITY
 SELECTION...

The Party Shoppe
 across the street

Dear Editor,

I am shocked and disgusted that the editors of the Lance saw fit to print the damnable, palpable lies which appeared in a Sept. 28 "Letter to the Editor" signed by one Nancy Sullivan. I refer, of course to Miss Sullivan's totally preposterous accusation that I, of all folks, ghost-wrote the column "Glancing at Sports" for Brother Bill Wilmot.

I should point out here that Miss Sullivan's revelation is inaccurate even at the most basic level of analysis, the genetic level. I am not Bill Wilmot's half-brother; I am simply the man's best friend.

My present editor with the "Sun" deems it imperative that I, like all Baltimorons before me, remain completely untainted by scandal. Therefore, I hereby categorically and emphatically deny all shady dealings as articulated in Miss Sullivan's epistle. I believe my denial is substantiated by several facts apparently eschewed by Miss Sullivan in her gallant effort to join the rank of Upton Sinclair, Jack Anderson, and the other great muckrakers of our century.

Foremost, a question of logic is in order. I ask you: If I had written a column consisting of the consistent quality of "Glancing at Sports," would I allow someone else to put his name on it? Fraternity goes only so far.

If that's not convincing, I pose a second question of logical deduction, induction, seduction, tommyduktion, or whatever. Would anyone be fool enough to attach his name to "Glancing at Sports" unless he was fool enough to write it?

If you're still not sure, I must admit (lucky son of a - that I am) I never attended a St. Andrews athletic event last year. I understand, however, that most were about as exciting as a subterranean fire hydrant.

It seems, in conclusion, that the bark of Miss Sullivan's argument is much worse than its bite. My sympathies.

Sincerely, S. Wilmot

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