

THE LANCE

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The Lance subscribes to the St. Andrews Code of Responsibility in its editorial policy. Signed editorials reflect the opinion of the author, while unsigned comment represents a consensus of staff opinion. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the college. Letters are welcomed but subject to space limitations. Box 757.

Letters . . .

Dear Sir:

Local high school students reached a peak of obnoxiousness on the St. Andrews campus last Friday night, April 11, as they succeeded in making a nuisance of themselves during the Howard Hanger Trio's concert. Not only did they persist in wandering aimlessly in and out of the gym, but at one point became so noisy that a member of the band had to ask them to show a little consideration for the audience and the performers.

We understand that this is not the first occasion of problems caused by these students. Readers of "The Dialogue" will recall recent a protest concerning these students monopolizing gym facilities, especially on weekends. Their cars crowd the parkinglots and they leave beer cans and broken bottles lying about indiscriminately. They have extended the "cruising circuit" to include the St. Andrews traffic circle, where they endeavor to run down pedestrians and make lewd remarks to passing

women.

We realize that Laurinburg's facilities for weekend thrills are limited. Our objection is not to the kids using our facilities, but rather to vast crowds of them loitering, turning the circle into a race track, and to minors drinking beer in the parking lots and then leaving the trash behind. We feel that security should be tightened on the parking lots and that activity cards should be checked more carefully in the gym. Additionally there should be something done about the loitering (merely annoying) and the dragging in the traffic circle (dangerous).

Obviously we cannot expect these people to behave as if they were college students. However, it does seem as if they could display a little common courtesy. After all, this is our home, such as it is, for nine months of the year, and we would certainly not hang out drinking beer in their driveways.

Sincerely,
 Beth Rambo
 Yvonne Mason
 Linda Schillerstrom

To the Editor:

You do not have to know where I am from, but in the case of publications and other matters, I think the facts should be right. There is a joke which goes like this: All Orientals look alike, all Americans look alike, even foreigners—especially blacks-look alike. I may look like a Ghanaian, and although both countries are in West Africa, I would rather remain a Nigerian.

Thank You,
 Mary M. Solomon
 (Editor's note: The letter refers to an incorrect caption under a photograph on the international students' seminar in last week's paper. We apologize.)

Editorials

75% —

Not Bad, Voters

In the last few weeks The Lance has run a number of articles and commentaries on apathy in the student community at St. Andrews toward student government in general and the recent elections in particular. These were attempts to point out areas in which the degree of student interest and involvement leave a great deal to be desired.

In this, though, as in most issues, there is another side of the coin. Last week's elections saw more candidates (if somewhat unevenly distributed) for office than ever before. Seventy-five percent of the students voted, with several dorms registering eighty and even ninety percent of their residents at the polling places.

In terms of most college election participation, this is simply phenomenal. At North Carolina State recently, student government elections drew just over 1700 voters out of a student population of over 13,000. Across the Smokies in Tennessee, Vanderbilt University's student association is being run by an appointed "caretaker" administration because no one would run for anything.

While there are things that still want improvement in our elections process and the level of interest and participation in it, there are as also areas which are really outstanding. For those, especially last week's large turnout, The lance salutes the student body.

Editorial Confessions

Last week's Lance was an interesting issue, mainly in the slipshod way it was put together. An explanation is in order.

Ordinarily I drop by the office of The Laurinburg Exchange, where The Lance is printed on Thursday afternoons, to help out with final proofreading and other odd jobs. The layout of the paper is entrusted to other staff members with experience in that area of newspaper work. Last week I arrived at The Exchange to find that I was the only person from The Lance staff who was able to be present. The paper was yet to be laid out. After several moments of sheer panic, I settled down to my first learn-as-you-go lesson in laying out a newspaper. My inexperience slowed me down considerably, leaving little time for

proofreading. That accounts for the exorbitant number of typographical errors in the paper. For those of you who have been searching vainly for a week to find on page four the continuation of the page one articles on Princess de Rachewiltz and Dean Doubles, they are on page three. I have no idea how I managed that one. Even more mystifying to me is why I took an article on the St. Andrews track team's victory over Methodist College and put on it a headline reading "KNIGHTS WHIP PEMBROKE".

To any and all who were bothered or inconvenienced by my initiation to the art of newspaper layout I apologize. The people who regularly handle layout, having seen my handiwork, assure me it will not happen again.

—Lin Thompson

Want To Be A Doctor?

According to Science Division Chairman Dr. Donald Barnes, the success rate of placing St. Andrews applicants in North Carolina medical school may reach 100 per cent this year. The national average is 30 per cent.

Barnes noted that thus far students have been accepted at medical schools in North Carolina and Virginia, "and possibly Kentucky, California and Missouri." He said that at least St. Andrews' record would more than double that of the national average.

A View From The Real World

Living in a relatively self-contained community as we at St. Andrews do can be a nice thing at times. At other times it can be a real hindrance. One area in which this holds true is when we try to get an idea of how other people see us as an institution and as a community. This in turn makes it more difficult to appraise the strengths and weaknesses of the college and to do something about them.

This puts us in the position then, of relying on outside input, to gain this needed perspective. In that vein, we think the following excerpt from a letter to the Admissions Office staff is worth considering. The writer is a high school senior who was on campus in March as a contestant for a Distinguished Scholars Award and had listed St. Andrews as their first choice. The person was subsequently offered one of the Awards but chose to turn it down.

"The atmosphere around the school," the person writes, "is very 'free' but I sensed a lack of direction and definite commitment. I believe that a certain amount of group and self-discipline must be developed and maintained before true freedom can be achieved..."

"It appears that the campus had suffered an undue amount of abuse. I feel that if I attend a college, especially a small private college, I am paying for my education and for construction and maintenance of facilities. There are certain areas of the campus where students' efforts to 'express' themselves could have been more constructively spent in keeping with philosophy of your school. I think that defacing and ruining property is an infringement upon the rights of other students."

Think about that.

Dick Bakken Poetry Reading: En "chant" ing

The Student Union Lounge was the scene of a marathon poetry reading last night as three guest poets entertained the student body for over three hours.

Scheduled readers Chuck Sullivan and Dick Bakken were joined by Dick Pudassic, a young painter, poet and musician from Greenville, N.C.

The evening began with readings from Chuck Sullivan's newly published book, "Vanishing Species" as well as earlier works. Sullivan, a native of New York City, attended Belmont-Abbey

College and later spent a year working with the Vista program. He is currently teaching in the Winston-Salem area. Sullivan, who describes himself as "basically mad", sipped on a beer during his recitations.

Dick Bakken rounded out the field of poets.

Portland (Oregon) Poet Dick Bakkan read from his own work at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 16, 1975, at the Student Union, St. Andrews Presbyterian College. Bakkan, currently in residen-

ce at Thomas Jefferson College in Michigan, is an authority in American Indian chants and poetry. Founder of the Portland Poetry Festival, which has drawn as many as 5,000 local citizens in its summer celebration, Bakkan worked for several years with underprivileged and retarded children. He recites all of his works from memory. In February, he published "Phallus in Dallus".

The highlight of Mr. Bakken's presentation was not, however, his own work. His reading of several poems