

THE LANCE

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Barth, Bacchanalia Headline Wild Week

A busy week marking the last fling before exams begins today with an appearance by author John Barth and a new play by St. Andrews' Bob Blumenstein.

Winner of the National Book Award for fiction in 1973 and called the "best writer of fiction we have at present and one of the best of all time" by the New York Times, the 45-year old Barth is a native of Cambridge, Maryland. Graduating with an MA from Johns Hopkins in 1952, Barth joined the staff of Pennsylvania State University as professor of English and served there until 1965. In that year he became Edward Butler Professor of English at the State University of New York at Buffalo before moving on to Boston University. Presently he is Professor of English and Creative Writing at his alma mater, Johns Hopkins. Best known to St. Andrews students as the author of "The End of the Road," required reading for all freshman SAS students, Barth is also the author of "The Floating Opera", "The Sotweed Factor", and "Giles Goatboy". His reading at St. Andrews, entitled "John Barth's The Electric and Unpublished Works in Progress", will take place tonight in Avinger Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Tonight at 6:30 and again tomorrow night at 8:00 in Farrago, Bob Blumenstein's new play, "A Penny For Your Thoughts", will be performed. Directed by Bob Thames and featuring Bill Peterson, Mary Lou Brown, Houston Freeburg and Susan Lowry, the play considers an intellectual's encounter with a park bench bum.

Friday will see the begin-

ning of the long awaited Bacchanalia, with a beer-supplied dance entertained by The Brice Street Band at 8 p.m. in the College Union. Saturday morning from 10:30 until noon there will be held the Great Bacchanalia Relay. Teams of women, men, and wheelies will attempt to navigate their way through a barrage of events so complicated in nature as to defy imagining.

Beginning at the front of the College Union, the Relay starts with The Wheelie-Walkie Hopalong, in which a male team member must push a wheelchair student around the traffic circle and up the ramp at the Union using only one foot—that is, hopping.

Upon completion of this enterprise, another team member must down an entire bag of marshmallows. The College

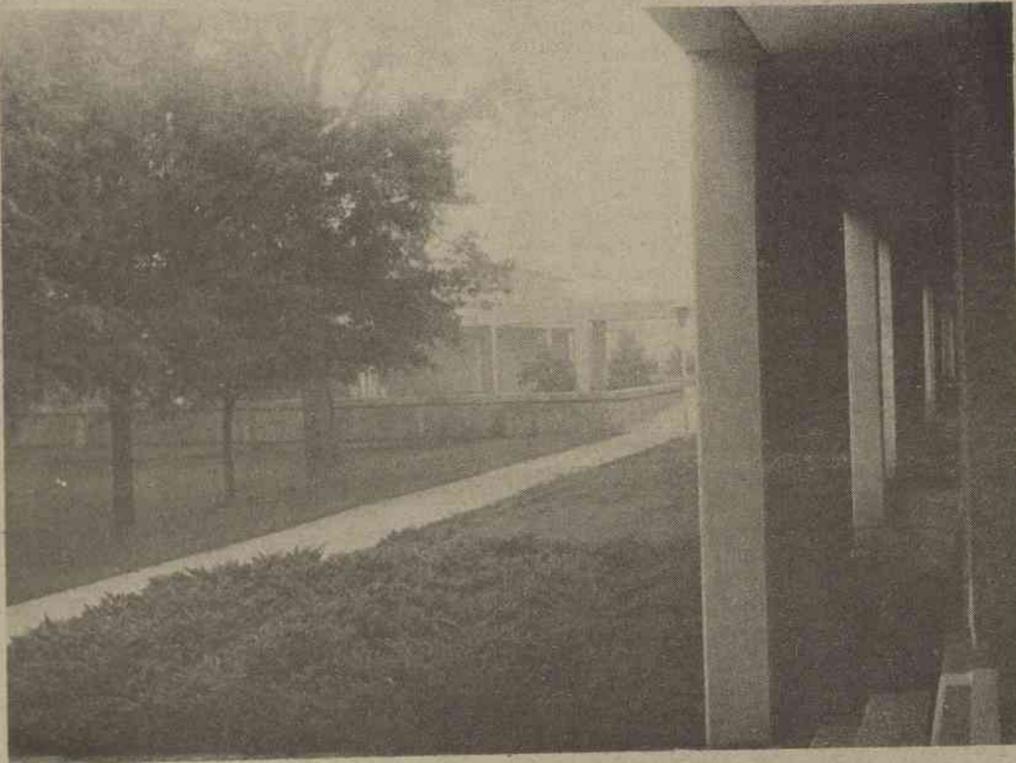
Union Board has issued a statement that the bag will be a small one and there is no required time limit for holding onto the marshmallows once one has eaten them, but most contestants are approaching this contest warily.

As the bodies of the marshmallow eaters are carried off to the Health Center, another team member must dribble a basketball over to the gymnasium and shoot ten foul shots. The ten shots need not be consecutive, but each contestant must make ten before he can leave.

The Relay then moves out to the Winston-Salem parking lot, upon which will be held the Wheelie Obstacle course. In this event, participants with electric wheelchairs may navigate the course forwards but those in manually operated chairs must run it backwards.

Successful completion of that phase will bring each team to the Bike Race, which runs out to the corner of the golf course, left on Dogwood Mile past the soccer field and the cypress swamp to the traffic circle; around the circle

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DOWN THIS WALKWAY between Avinger and the Liberal Arts Building cyclists will race as part of the Bacchanalia Relay on Saturday.

Perkinson Meets Students

Beginning his term as president with a whirlwind round of appearances, meetings and conferences, Alvin Perkinson held the first of a series of talks with tie classes at St. Andrews at a freshman gathering Monday night in the Main Lounge of the College Union.

Perkinson called the meeting an opportunity "for us to get to know each other a little" before the school year ends, and a chance to talk over his plans for the next few months. "The first thing I would like to say," the new president remarked, "is that I hope you'll stay with us and be back next year, as well as the two years after that. 'He added that so far it seemed that they would, for a report from the Registrar's Office recently showed that 141 of the 164 members of the Class of 1978 had preregistered for next year.

Telling the students "you are in a unique position to help the college over the next few years," Perkinson said that the Office of Admissions would be sending out student locator cards to the student

body in a few weeks with the request that the students send in the names of people at home who might be the kind of student St. Andrews wants. "All we need are the names," Perkinson said, "You don't have to try and convert them or tell them all about St. Andrews; we'll handle that end."

The new president said there was little that could be done about enrollment for this fall, but that the picture had brightened somewhat in the last few weeks. "Admissions tells me we can expect a freshman class of at least 150 and perhaps a few more."

"I came to St. Andrews because I liked what I saw," Perkinson told the group, "and I think, even at this early date, that I made a good choice. We have an impressive student body and faculty as well, and I think we can do a lot of interesting things together in the next few years." He reaffirmed his commitment to raising enrollment, and said the college would have a successor to outgoing Admissions Director Jean Rayburn by July 1, and hopefully

replacements for several other personnel in that office who are leaving for various reasons. "I see no major overhauls in the way we recruit students," said Perkinson; "we need to shift our emphasis slightly, though, to one involving more one-to-one contact. Most students, for example, never hear from the president until they've already sent in their deposit and committed themselves to come. I plan to get letters out to accepted students and urge them to go ahead and come to St. Andrews."

Another area the president saw as needing examination was the college's purpose. "We've never been able to tell what a liberal arts education is except that it is better than any other," he said. "What we need to work on is telling a prospective student how a liberal arts education will be of benefit to him in his own situation."

Asked about his widely circulated remark about "plain living," Perkinson laughed and said the term was "a euphemism for budget cuts" in the administrative areas of

the college's operations. He said the educational programs of the college had already been trimmed as much as they could be without suffering detrimental effects and saw no further cutbacks.

Perkinson declined to say how extensive changes in the college administration would be except to note the already announced departures of Admissions Director Rayburn, Financial Aid Director Charles Parrish, and Cathy Tighlman in the college pastor's office. "I expect there will be several more," he said.

The president also said he would endeavor to make an open door policy the rule as much as possible and to make information available about the actions of the administration to try and reduce the number of rumors circulating around the campus concerning the state of the college. "Lin Thompson, editor of The Lance) and I have discussed getting together weekly to review the way things are going," he said, noting that he would

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Election Results

Yesterday's elections provided some relief from the confused Student Association situation. In the attorney general's race, Bill Wilmot led the ticket with 115 votes and will face Vernon Alford, who won 86, in a runoff Monday. Trailing the two were John Fail with 50 votes, Abdoulah Sossseh with 48 and Clif Carey with 30.

Betsy Neff steamrolled her opponents, receiving 185 votes to 84 for Annie Myers and 63 for Sharon Hall. In like manner Mo Newton won 175 votes to outrun Dell McLean's 82 and Kathy Lunsford's 56 better than 2 to 1.

Three of the five one-year Judicial Board seats were filled by Libby Flowers, who led the ticket with 192 votes; J.W. Daughtry with 164, and David Southcomb with 63. "Dr." Cyril Spann's No. 133 votes won him a two year term; Lin Thompson received 181 votes for the other two year seat but said he would seek a dorm office in New Meck and would resign his seat on the Board if he won on Monday. Incoming President Keith Gribble will appoint students to the remaining seats.