

The Lance

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Printing by The Laurinburg Exchange Co.

President Perkinson's Reply To The Student Petition

Dear St. Andrews Students:

This letter is in response to the petition signed by more than four hundred of you which Steve and Keith delivered to me and which was worded as follows:

As members of the St. Andrews Student Association, we believe there is a moral dimension violated by the secrecy surrounding your decision, and by the attendant communications breakdown between administration and faculty concerning administration reservations. Our greatest reservation is that the manner in which this was handled is indicative of your stance on determination of goals and direction of St. Andrews. We feel that your handling of the situation has raised serious questions regarding who determines goals and direction of St. Andrews and regarding the procedures used to decide goals and directions. Accordingly, we urge you to reconsider your decision.

I must confess that I experienced some difficulty in interpreting precisely what you intended to convey by the wording of the petition. Hoping that I have interpreted it correctly, let me respond to the questions as I understand them.

In connection with the recent tenure decisions I have met with Faculty committees, with individual students and members of the faculty, and with several trustees. Letters have been exchanged between the Senate and me, and I have made a statement on the matter to the Faculty in its February meeting. In addition, Dean Arnold met with the Senate in a public meeting attended by some 150 persons, and THE LANCE has devoted a great deal of space to the matter.

All of this discussion and review confirms in my mind that academic freedom was protected. All legal requirements were met and moral obligations fulfilled. Furthermore, there is now under way an active effort to improve procedures for consultation between the Leaves, Promotion & Tenure Committee and the Dean and/or President, so that questions such as those raised in your petition will not occur in the future.

In regard to the concerns raised about the overall decision-making process at St. Andrews, an objective look at the manner in which the questions of goals and directions are being approached should relieve the minds of those who are concerned. Two projects currently underway will illustrate my point.

The Task Force on Retention of Students and the Task Force on Counseling Needs are committees reporting to the Faculty Executive Committee and the President. The Task Forces are dealing with two very basic matters which have implications for several other important aspects of our community life. Both groups are combination

faculty/student/administration committees, with a solid majority of the membership being faculty and students.

The Faculty Executive Committee is charged with the responsibility of long-range academic planning. I have begun to involve the FEC in budgeting matters far beyond what had been done previously, and I expect both long-range and current budgeting to be a shared concern.

In summary, I do not want nor expect the determination of goals and directions at St. Andrews to be a one-person show or an administrative exclusive. I am not smart enough to pull off such an act, nor dumb enough to try it.

In any institution, the arrival of new leadership raises both hopes and concerns. We have experienced those feelings since my arrival at St. Andrews. As a result, there is an inevitable process of each taking the measure of the other as we seek a comfortable working relationship among the several elements of our community. I hope that faculty, students, and administration are ready now to work together in a spirit of mutual trust toward our common goal of a better and stronger St. Andrews.

Sincerely yours,
 A. P. Perkinson, Jr.
 President

EDITORIAL

A New TV Series

Television viewing at St. Andrews shows signs of becoming standardized. Every Monday night for weeks, for example, half the campus has gathered around the tube to watch ABC's marathon soap opera, "Rich Man, Poor Man." Tuesday nights everyone watches the primaries.

The primaries have become a new weekly series this year. There are thirty of them, double the number extant in 1968. They began with New Hampshire on February 24, and continued on March 2 with Massachusetts and another of those New England blockbusters, Vermont. This week it was Florida. Next week Illinois. The 23rd the game comes to North Carolina.

We get out for spring break on the 26th, and as if to keep us from getting behind, the powers that rule have declared a week's moratorium on primaries. The next ones, New York and Wisconsin, are on April 6, the day we get back.

After that you will have to wait three weeks for the Pennsylvania primary, which happens on the 27th. Here we get to see what will become of Milton Shapp, the governor of that state and so far the most also of the also rans. Shapp considers his home state the essence of his presidential plans, and wants to win every one of its 168 delegates to the Democratic convention. For quite a while he was claiming to have "broken it all open," and the Pennsylvania primary may give us some clues not only to how he broke it all open, but as to just what he broke open as well.

The primaries are going to follow you home, too. After Louisiana and Texas May 1, Alabama, Georgia, the District of Columbia, and Indiana on the 4th and Tennessee of the 6th, come Connecticut, Nebraska and West Virginia on May 11. Maryland and Michigan come the 18th, and you get to spend your first Tuesday of the summer reveling in the accumulated totals of Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Nevada, and Oregon, all of which occur on May 25.

Now you get a week of light entertainment: Rhode Island, Montana and South Dakota come up on June 1. June 8 wraps up the primary season with three blockbusters; California, Ohio and New Jersey. Then, just like the other television serieses, the primaries go into summer replacements: conventions. The Republicans go to Middle America to nominate, it's beginning to look like, Gerald Ford in Kansas City. The Democrats are meeting in Madison Square Garden in New York City. The last time they met there was in 1924. They deadlocked and ended up going on for 104 ballots before settling on a dark horse compromise, John W. Davis. Hmmm. Could history repeat itself? Maybe Milton Shapp knows something.....

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Trustees' Reply to

Art Students' Letter

Students in the Art Department
 St. Andrews Presbyterian College
 Laurinburg, North Carolina
 28352

Dear Students:

Your letter of February 7, 1976 addressed to the members of the Board of Trustees has received careful attention. I have consulted with members of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, other Trustees, and members of the College administration.

As you know, there is a defined process or reaching tenure decisions which involve student evaluation, peer evaluation, consideration by a faculty committee, and recommendations by the Dean and the President. Their recommendations are considered by the Academic Affairs Committee, and final action is taken by the Board of Trustees. With full support of Trustees, Dean Arnold and President Perkinson are working with appropriate faculty committees seeking ways to clarify all aspects of the process in hopes of avoiding misunderstanding and conflict in the future.

In the case of Professor Smith, it is clear that proper procedures were followed.

There is no evidence of vindictiveness. Professor Smith has all of this spring, plus a full academic year, to find a position at another institution. In view of these factors, it is our belief that he was treated fairly and with proper consideration.

The Board of Trustees as a group and as individuals have committed themselves to exert their full effort in support of St. Andrews Presbyterian College. You may be assured that when we make a difficult decision, as we have in this case, it is our purpose to be fair and impersonal, and to keep the im-

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