

EDITORIAL

Secret Speakers At St. Andrews: The Communications Problem

While you are reading this there may be a famous person speaking on the campus of St. Andrews. The person may well be talking about something you want to hear about. Whether or not you get there in time, though, is purely a function of luck, for it seems that the practice of scheduling clandestine speakers at St. Andrews is catching on.

About a month ago the world renowned scholar Kenneth Boulding spoke at St. Andrews. Very few students heard anything about it. The editor read about it in The Laurinburg Exchange the day it was to occur, too late to publicize it in THE LANCE.

Tuesday a Nigerian professor currently teaching in Illinois and serving as president of the African Studies Institute was on campus to talk about the political situation in Africa. There was no advance notice of his presence, and a great many students who would have been interested in being there were not. They heard nothing about it.

On the other hand, a few weeks ago the Deering Milliken textile company brought its "award winning" multimedia presentation on the free enterprise system to campus for a Wednesday Common Experience program. Never have so many advertisements been proliferated for so little. The presentation was a canned, one sided bore. Yet it was publicized, which gives one pause when one considers the apparent order of priorities.

The idea that someone can be on as small a campus as ours and no one know it is at once incredible, true and disgusting. It is a symptom of the information crisis the college is wallowing in and doing practically nothing about. (No, wait; that is a little harsh. It could be that something is being done and no one has gotten around to making it public, either.) Bulletin boards are brimming with outdated material. No one reads them because there is so much old stuff on them that one can't really tell the old from the new.

A relatively simple solution could be gotten through a little organizational discipline. The key to it is making the News Bureau do its job better. How to do that?

Simply make the Bureau the one place from which news for both internal and external consumption emanates. Instead of every program and committee and group trotting out its own PR stuff, let them notify the Bureau, which would then handle getting word out to the campus and the outside world as well. If a given sponsor of a person or event wanted to devise the posters or whatever used to convey the message, they could send them along to the News Bureau too. The News Bureau could then establish a master calendar upon which everything would be entered and made available to the public.

The News Bureau, being charged with the responsibility for disseminating information, and having thus gathered all the information on what would be happening at a given time, could then alert WSAP and THE LANCE. (When the bureau was established under Ron Bays this was the case. Copies of all press released were sent to THE LANCE. The practice was discontinued when News Director Tom Patterson came into office this past fall, and continued even after his departure shortly thereafter. To this day THE LANCE is forced to be perpetually asking if there are any new releases and could we please have a copy.) With this level of cooperation the news of events could be easily and widely spread throughout the various elements of the St. Andrews community.

The News Bureau could also, being in charge of dispersal of news on campus, take charge of all the public bulletin boards on campus. Anything not specifically time-dated would be posted for two weeks and then promptly taken down. Divisional bulletin boards would be exempted with the hope they would take care of their own. This would be no problem for the Bureau, as they have a large staff of workshop people who could be put to use in this effort.

Realistically speaking, there seems to be little chance that the Development Office and its child the News Bureau could get their act together enough to implement such a proposal this spring even if they tried. An effective stopgap measure, however, would be for every person or group arranging an event to notify THE LANCE by Tuesday night before a Thursday's issue. We exist to convey news and are unfortunately unable to keep up with every thing that happens or is about to happen. A little cooperation on the part of the people organizing things would produce salutary results for all: more news for us to cover and better attendance for their events. Just drop us a line, to Box 757, or tell Editor Lin Thompson, Managing Editor Michael Green, or any of the staff members listed on this page. We'd like to see the end of secret speakers at St. Andrews, and think you probably would too.

PIRG Reorganizes Campus Board

Last week the St. Andrews chapter of NC-PIRG held elections for new board members. Elected by acclamation were Cindy Houben, a freshman, sophomore Sandy Hart, and Johnny McNair, a junior. The new members became officially involved at their first meeting last Wednesday when new officers were elected. The new officers, member Johnny McNair told THE LANCE, are:

- Local Board Chairman - Elizabeth Scott
 - State Board Representative - Sharon McGee
 - Treasurer - John Copeland
 - Public Relations - Cindy Houben and Johnny McNair
- other new and returning board members are David Swanson and Sandy Hart. As the name implies, PIRG's primary objective is

to do research in the area of public interest. Projects in which PIRG is presently involved include the investigation of the quality relative to the cost of Everest and Jennings wheelchairs and supplies. Everest and Jennings is the largest manufacturer of aides for the handicapped in the United States; thus their products affect the lives of millions of handicapped people. PIRG is also compiling information for students concerning voter registration and reviewing regulations for crop dusting and the use of pesticides. New projects concern evacuation plans for the Wilmington-Southport Nuclear Power Plant and working on comments for the state land use policy bill to be presented at a public hearing in Fayetteville.

There are still two positions to be filled on the PIRG board, McNair told THE LANCE. "Anyone interested should contact one of the board members. Although St. Andrews is the smallest chapter of PIRG, our activity level has been equal to that of the larger schools. Other chapters include schools such as Duke, Davidson, Wake Forest, and Elon." He urged St. Andrews students to take note of PIRG activities as posted on their bulletin board at the downstairs entrance to the Student Union.

Dr. Barnes Serves NSF Review Panel

Dr. Donald Barnes, chairman of the science department at St. Andrews College, will be a member of a five-man panel for the National Science Foundation that has been called upon to review grant proposals of RULE (Restructuring of Undergraduate Learning Environment). The panel will meet in Washington, D.C., on April 4 and 5. The men will review an estimated 250 proposals sent in by faculty members across the country requesting funds to improve their courses, ways of teaching, etc.



Farrago Reopens



Farrago reopened this past Saturday night for a well-received evening of music and song featuring a number of St. Andrews students, faculty and guest singer Priscilla Hedman, whose voice won rave reviews from those in attendance. Clockwise, starting above on the left, are Farrago Director David Niblock and Lee Barnhardt; Priscilla Hedman; Andy Finnegan; professor John Williams; and history professor and Folklore expert Charles Joyner. (Photos by Billy Howard)



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