

# The Lance



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## EDITORIAL

### Conducting Business More Efficiently

Mark Six, a senator from Mecklenburg Hall, made the best suggestion that body has entertained in quite a while Tuesday night: that the Senate appoint a parliamentarian.

The circus world nature of the budget session Tuesday evening was just the latest example of a problem which has plagued the Senate for a number of years. It has been unable to run itself efficiently and its leaders have been unwilling to face up to that fact and do something about it. Six's motion, which was subsequently withdrawn because the Senate was in the middle of the annual BSU budget brawl, represents the Senate's best chance to put its house in a semblance of order.

#### Partial Agreement

Senate President Donald MacKenzie objected to Six's motion on the grounds that as presiding officer he was empowered to make parliamentary rulings.

To an extent MacKenzie was correct. As President of the Senate, he is supposed to direct the orderly debate of issues by granting or denying the floor to speakers. He may also decide parliamentary questions. The function of a parliamentarian would not be to usurp MacKenzie's rights; it would be to advise him on parliamentary questions in which he is uncertain about how to rule. Tuesday's session was abundant proof that a parliamentarian is needed to advise the chair.

#### Acting Beyond His Bounds

While we defend the Senate President's right to rule on parliamentary questions, we object to his consistently taking part in the debates on budget items. Taking partisan positions on matters before the senate is beyond the constitutional authority of the office, and is altogether inappropriate.

#### Dividing Time To Save Time

Another tool the Senate should adopt is the division of time rule. Used in the House of Representatives, it simply requires the presiding officer to set a time limit on debate agreeable to the members, and appoint managers of that time for the pro and con sides, the time being equally divided. Persons wishing to speak on the issue have to be granted time by the appropriate manager. Once all time expires, a vote on the question is taken.

The advantage here is that both sides are guaranteed equal time to air their views, and that speaking under a time limit would allow business to be conducted in a more orderly and expeditious fashion than has been the case in the past.

Unless action is taken to make the senate more orderly and efficient, we may end up sharing the sentiments Will Rogers used to express in his vaudeville act. Reading an imaginary headline, he's say "Senate Deadlocked - Unable To Act". Well, thank goodness for that."

#### Plaudits For Maintenance

The men of maintenance deserve the praise of everyone at St. Andrews for the outstanding job they did this summer in sprucing up the appearance of the dorms.

Fresh paint, carpets and curtains abound, giving the dorms a somewhat more human aspect. Credit should go to Ellen Perkinson for her efforts in this area as well.

All of this was paid for with money saved by Maintenance Director Chuck Westberg, whose electricity conservations efforts have saved the college over \$75,000 this past year.

Another real plus is the lounge in the Liberal Arts building. Redecorated and now featuring food dispensed by people rather than machines, it is serving as a pleasant gathering place for students, faculty and staff. This kind of social, non-classroom mingling is a good thing, as it strengthens the closeness of the St. Andrews community, a facet of life here of which we are all justly proud.

## Budget Handled Clumsily

To The Editor:

I am writing to express my concern with the Senate meeting which was held Tuesday September 7 to discuss the Cabinet's proposed budget.

I attended this meeting to represent the St. Andrews Health Sciences Club. Last Spring, along with other clubs and organizations, the Health Sciences Club submitted an itemized budget.

I attended this meeting to represent the St. Andrews Health Sciences Club. Last Spring, along with other clubs and organizations, the Health Sciences Club submitted an itemized budget requesting funds for the '76-'77 year. A would not have attended this meeting had I not "happened" to overhear a conversation in which a senate member said "I think they're gonna allow one representative for each club to speak, but I'm not sure." As I was not sure myself, I decided to attend. Apparently, representatives for other clubs or organizations were not so lucky, and had no one present to represent them. The results

of this lack of representation were time-consuming period of unanswered questions. Who wants to allot money to an organization he doesn't know anything about?

My complaint is not with whether or not the Health Sciences Club received money from the Senate. (Indeed, at this writing, I do not know the outcome of our request). It is with the apparent lack of communication that already exists between the Senate and student body this year. Perhaps I have been blind and at some place around campus there was a notice which explained organizations could send a representative; I don't know. I do think the leaders of the various organizations should have been and could have been contacted individually—at least through campus mail -- and made aware of what would be going on and how this might affect their clubs. Plans for some organizations have changed since the budgets were submitted last spring, and a club representative could have explained the need for a larger, or possibly smaller sum.

As I have stated, I was there more or less by chance, and though I could not stay the entire time, I was allowed to speak for my club before I left. I thank the illustrious president of the Senate for that privilege. I know this was an important meeting. I hope that next year, when the Senate is meeting to discuss the budget, someone will let those it will most greatly concern - the leaders of the organizations - know they have a right to speak. I also hope that this meeting was not indicative of the way our Senate will act this year.

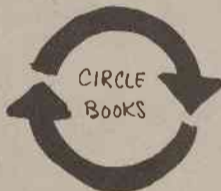
Ioma Whitaker

(The writer is President of the St. Andrews Health Sciences Club)

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## Behind The Lines

OH, SAY, CAN YOU SEE...Streaking lives at St. Andrews; two unidentified men bared all in Concord early Sunday morning after the party at Farrago...Reaction, we hear, was mixed ("Get them Out! Get them out!" "Bring 'em back! Bring 'em back!")...

WHERE IT MIGHT BE AT...Everyone is going to, or coming from, Suite 6, Wilmington. Word has it the place is full of desirable freshmen women.

THE PRINTED PAGE...Underground competition to The Lance grows...Wilmington dorm has begun an in-house newsletter, "The Casual Observer"...word has it, though, that it pales in comparison with the eldest such communication, "The Mecklenburger," which, under Neal

Bushoven, has survived six years and an en masse move to Granville Hall. Bushoven, by the way, has let it be known that, in reference to last week's article on him as SAS director, that he prefers "Stalinist" as an adjective describing his rule, rather than "authoritarian," as printed in the paper. Very well, Comrade B.

BACK TO UN-DERENROLLMENT...The giant new class is causing problems. Cafeteria seating is getting hard to find...lines are longer...private rooms grow scarce...some classes have a glut of students (Donald Paxton's "Principles of Economics" has a cast of thousands) ... all you psych students pull out your pads. Impress Alvin Smith with your understanding of this new social problem at St. Andrews.

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