

# The Lance

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## EDITORIAL

The battle between Mecklenburg and Winston-Salem dormitories last Thursday night brought some life to the campus and focused attention on the need for more student social gatherings and parties. But what started out as a relatively peaceful water balloon battle turned into a destructive and dangerous affair. Baseball bats and chains are not ordinarily used in the spirit of good, clean fun. The student in Granville who was cut by broken glass when someone shattered his window is painfully aware that this did not end up as just another game.

The battle served to form divisions between the normally close knit male student body. Some explained the war as evidence of animosity that has built up between three different types of people who each live in their own particular dorm. This tendency to stereotype individuals according to the dorm they live in gives a ridiculous and damaging misconception. The male students at St. Andrews are certainly not as different in their outlooks and perspectives from each other as this viewpoint seems to believe.

The battle did not help to strengthen relations any between the administration and the students. Why should they redecorate and spend money in the dormitories only to see their efforts answered with vandalism and abuse?

The individuals involved in this escapade should have used more restraint over their own actions and the actions of their friends. If another incident occurs and gets out of hand like Thursday night's battle did those involved should be ready to take the responsibility and possible punishment for their actions.

### Regulations

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All instructors will meet their regularly scheduled classes during the two class days prior to and the two class days following each recess. Alterations in or deviations from the schedule must have the prior approval of the Dean of the College upon recommendation of the Division Chairman."

A large number of students already have unexcused absences recorded in the Registrar's Office as a result of absences before and/or after, the Fall Recess. Therefore, many students are in danger of being withdrawn from one or more courses if additional unexcused absences are recorded before or after the Thanksgiving Recess.

Dean Ronald Crossley has indicated that no exceptions to the Attendance Regulations will be made for unexcused absences. Students who feel that they have a valid excuse for missing classes immediately before or after the Thanksgiving Recess should contact Dean Crossley.

## LETTERS

An Open Letter to New Editor John Patton and Our College Community:

Congratulations upon your acceptance of a "thankless" job!

My letter might well be entitled "Three Resigned and One Ran". I am sure there may be some genuine and sufficient reasons for discouragement we all feel at times for the lack of thanks for our efforts. Most of us are guilty of insensitivity for taking people and the services they render for granted. In the November 11th issue of THE LANCE, I was struck, however, by the apparent irony of two behavior accounts in the face of doubtful results.

The "three" who resigned decided to do so "simultaneously in order to attempt to focus attention on the need for some kind of

To The Editor:

While I do not relish reopening the circumstances of my recent resignation for public debate at a time when it might impede the work of my successor, I nevertheless feel compelled to respond to Dr. Daughtrey's attempt to portray my motives childish, reluctant and egocentric by contrasting them with the performances of members of the cross country team.

To compare the job of editor of "The Lance" to a member of the cross country team is about like comparing apples and oranges. The nature of the public's perceptions of athletic and nonathletic endeavors on a college campus are quite different, as Dr. Daughtrey, who has been teaching in colleges for some time, ought to know. Sports get better notices than the newspaper trade even in defeat. The telling point in his letter, though, is his assertion that cross country runners are not paid. A realistic assessment of the situation would reveal that in fact they are, as they receive course credit for participating in varsity athletics. While they are not paid, as Dr. Daughtrey said, they thus do receive compensation of some sort which is what was advocated in the article dealing with resignations last week.

As for the reasons surrounding my departure, let me summarize them.

My departure was due to a series of events dating back to February of this year which, building on one another reached, an intolerable level for me a few weeks ago.

1. From the first week of February to the end of the last school year I was intensely embroiled in the controversy surrounding the denial of tenure to a member of the faculty. I was wrongly accused of conspiracy with

compensation for all Key student association posts". The authors went on to say that this is the only way "to help ensure a continuing supply of able and willing people in such jobs".

The "ones" who ran and captured the DIAC harriers championship were also reported in this same issue. I assume they likewise were NOT paid for their efforts - "Thankless", in other words. As a matter of fact, we might find that the Coach is a volunteer for this duty. But one of the harrier's stated, "I've worked for this for four long years". This cross-country runner ran his best time in his final meet. Is there a lesson for us to learn in these two stories, Mr. Editor?

John P. Daughtrey, Director  
Teacher Education  
Program

the administration, lying deception, and stupidity in letters from students and faculty alike. I was harassed at meals. I was coroner at the foot of the stairs outside the cafeteria by the wife of the member in question and shouted at. At the end of the year I was turned out of the Senate Seat to which I had been elected unopposed a year earlier, lost a student association election that under normal circumstances I would have fared much better in, and saw the negativism inspired by the Spring's events pursue me even into this fall, when it adversely affected my self-nomination for a faculty-student committee.

2. The staff and editors of "The Lance" labored for a year and a half on the fifteenth anniversary issue, which appeared on September 23 and disappeared with barely a trace of public notice or approval for what had been the biggest project ever undertaken by the paper. This we all found frustrating as we did a much diminished level of cooperation offered by the Cabinet and News Bureau.

3. The incident which decided matters involved the Smithsonian Institution exhibition on journalism which will be on display until tomorrow in the Main Lounge of the College Union. The exhibit was scheduled through proper channels for a month's showing. Shortly before the exhibit was scheduled to open, we were advised that there had been a decision to have a luncheon for the Board of Trustees in the Main Lounge during their fall meeting.

Though this event had not been scheduled through the proper channels, we were able to work out a nice arrangement under the terms of which the Trustee would still have their luncheon in the Lounge, and would, in the process of doing so, officially open the exhibit for viewing.

Three days before the exhibit was to open, everything was in place except the panels that make up the exhibit; they were to be hung the night before the opening. Though I have been told a variety of stories by those involved in the incident a decision was made that there was not enough room for the luncheon in the Lounge, in spite of our having made efforts over the previous weekend to compact the amount of space occupied by the exhibit.

A token effort was made to contact me, hampered by the fact that Student Personnel had no campus address listed for me and thus concluded that I lived off campus. With no consultations with me of any other member of the staff of "The Lance" maintenance was called and told to come over and dismantle the doorway protecting the exhibit and the partitions upon which it was to be hung. This they did in the space of less than an hour, and piled it into a truck and drove it away.

Protesting, I was told that it would be restored the day after the luncheon. Then I was told that owing to the unfortunate nature of the whole affair, the luncheon would be moved downstairs to the President's Dining Room and the exhibit materials restored the very next day.

They weren't, but the luncheon was still moved downstairs, thus rendering the entire wasteful exercise unnecessary. Because of more inept scheduling we were unable to get the exhibit re-erected and open because of other events until this past Monday for a considerably shortened showing.

This kind of official insensitivity to a properly scheduled event by officials of the College, piling on top of cumulative frustrations and the time consuming weekly requirements of the post, made it impossible to continue without feeling that my efforts almost totally wasted. Given the shoddy state of affairs "The Lance" was in when I assumed the editorship nearly two years ago and its rise to its present position as one of the best small college newspapers in North or South Carolina, I cannot help but feel that the price that has been exacted from me, in terms of loss of the trust of friends, the precluding of options for further service to the college and personal disquietudes caused by a year of constant harassment and frustration, has been rather high. I trust that this will redress the imbalance Dr. Daughtrey's negative appraisal of my motives creates. If there is a lesson to be learned in two stories he tells, it is that he should know the facts before he writes.

Lin Thompson

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