

# Editorial

By DAVID JOHNSON

The new dorm life policy developed by the Task Force on Student Life is official now, and already many students are downplaying its significance and predicting no change in the status quo.

"It just won't happen," is the phrase heard most often from residents of the "louder" dorms regarding the attempt to get students to keep the noise level down on weeknights so their neighbors can study in their rooms. The option to change the "quiet hours" policy by unanimous suite vote is anticipated to be exercised with vigor, and peer pressure is expected to negate suite leader and dorm council attempts at enforcement, if indeed any attempts are made.

Student leaders have pointed out that students who prefer a more sedate environment will seek out quieter suites and dorms to move to, as more raucous types will also congregate.

Some resident directors and assistants candidly point admit out that "policy" for the most part is just words on paper, often irrelevant to the reality of running a dorm.

The conservative trend in lifestyle, academic orientation and job market concern for students in college now likely play the major role in any dorm life changes that do take place this year.

But problems exist for some students, and concern about vandalism and other problems is not limited to the administration and the Student Life Committee.

The Task Force policy guidelines seem to be a positive method of addressing these concerns, and few students would agree that freshman dorms are preferable. The policy indicates the Student Life office is sincerely seeking student input and participation in solving residence hall problems. The hall is in the student body's court and any substantive changes this year will be by the students themselves.

The consequences of apathy towards the new policy have been spelled out. Any program aimed at improving the already high academic focus of the school deserves at least consideration and discussion, if not a chance. Policy that promotes student involvement in the affairs is far more desirable than policy that takes responsibility away. And the consequences of non involvement on this one are freshmen dorms next year.

## Dorm Living

Adhering to the old truism that "birds of a feather flock together," St. Andrews students have once again taken up the task of finding a niche within the college community in which to nest during the months ahead. Each student will seek residence in a dorm that best suits his social and academic lifestyles, a dorm with a personality much like his own.

The personality of a dorm seems to vary with the type of persons that live in it. Stereotyping seems unavoidable when discussing dormitory life, since the previously stated folws' law seems to apply whenever people find themselves grouped into an unusually large flock.

The tendency is to ally oneself with the familiar. It seems logical then that people with similar lifestyles would congregate in one place; thus, endowing that place with a certain personality.

Granville, for instance, has previously been noted for its affiliation with the beat generation, i.e., its fondness for rock-and-roll, smoky rooms and elevated spirits. The dorm is turning co-ed this year though, and is sure to show the influence of womankind.

The residents of Granville's sister dorm have traditionally been known as the wild women of Wilmington. They have been, in short, Granville's female counterparts. The signs say, that too is changing however, as the Resident Director may well confirm.

Tradition is the name of the game in Concord. The clean-cut, all-American Concord girls have been considered the most conservative group on campus.

Albemarle and Orange are both co-ed. They may be likened unto the myriad of condominium complexes in

Florida that advertise 24-hour tennis, raquetball and sunbathing.

Mecklenburg has been known as the home of the hermits and possible pyromaniacs—St. Andrews' Animal House. And finally, Winston-Salem has been tagged the jock dorm due to the athletic prowess of its residents.

The character of every dorm can be expected to alter this year due to a trend toward conservatism among the student body. This trend is reflected in renewed efforts by the Student Life Office to better enforce existing regulations and its implementation of new ones.

Robert Claytor, Dean of Students, pointed out, "Students are becoming more serious about the academic program." He explained that, as an education institution, St. Andrews' primary emphasis is on academics, and therefore, "The dorms should provide an atmosphere conducive to study as well as a healthy social life."

Dr. A.P. Perkinson, Jr., President of the College, reinforced Claytor's comments, "Interest in academics is much more serious today." He continued, "The whole country seems to be going through a conservative swing. The trend is conservative in the sense that there is not an outreach to establish a new set of social values, as there was in the sixties. But, there is a concern with individual freedom and an individualized curriculum.

Perkinson stressed, "The job of the college is to help people prepare themselves to exercise their freedom for things as distinguished from their freedom from things. . . to see that the circumstances here enable the student to develop individual potential." He noted that residential life should reflect the purpose of the college even at the cost of limiting students' "freedom from things."

# POLIS

by granville m keys

As many of you are now learning, "quiet-hours" are being instituted this fall. When I first heard of this news my initial impression was that whatever happens, one thing is certain: There will be strong feelings among the students when word gets around.

I have not been directly involved in the writing or researching of the news article covering this story but as a staff member I have been partly aware of what went on. As LANCE reporters interviewed administrative and student leaders one thing I noticed was that no one seemed willing to acknowledge the reality that these new rules may not be universally popular. Enforcement may not be easy.

Saint Andy's has long had a name or image as a party school. While not necessarily a drawback, heavy party activity on a campus level does carry the risks of alcoholism, academic failure, and many assorted personal nightmares. If someone thinks that Andy's party life is out of hand, the issue should be given serious and careful attention.

Are quiet hours a good idea? Frankly, I don't know. My personal lifestyle won't be affected but I know that plenty of people have a different style.

Thus, I view the new guidelines with caution and anxiety. If not enforced fairly, they bring more harm than good. If the rules are not a success, we can possibly expect freshman dorms. That proposal met with little enthusiasm from most students last spring.

The thing to avoid is screaming at the Administration for making a new rule on the books. Think carefully and objectively about this situation. If you don't like the rules or their enforcement talk to others. If they agree with you, organize and do something. This student body should be able to take care of itself without student life holding our hands. But the reality is that our hands will be grabbed anyway if we don't think and act carefully.

## "I APPLIED MYSELF AND GOT FEDERAL STUDY MONEY."

—Robin Clark

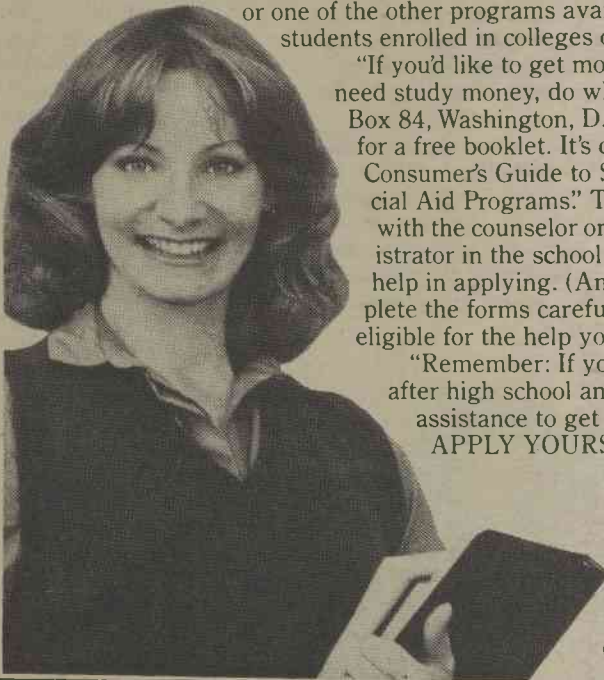
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