

The Lance

Comment

SAGE: A Sensible Solution?

As a core program, SAGE has won national acclaim in the past few years. The program has also stirred up a great deal of controversy on the St. Andrews campus recently. The revision of the 401 and 402 sections of the program are at the heart of the matter which is affecting the environment of students and faculty alike.

First of all, "The Lance" is not attempting to address the question of whether or not the revisions should be added. Instead, we wish to take a look at some of the questions the revisions beg, the communication involved with the decision, and the atmosphere of the campus since the plans for revamping the program were announced.

The experiences one gains in four years of college, both educational and social, are the tools with real world is attacked. The revisions involved in the new SAGE 401 and 402 courses would certainly serve as a "capstone" for one's years at St. Andrews. This "capstone" would be useful to any student who saw it as a positive part of an education and not just a lot of required work to fill up a senior year or a graduation requirement.

The communication surrounding the revisions is partially to blame for the intense debate surrounding the issue. It does appear that the students could have been informed of the decision during the summer months, even if the main thrust of the revisions are scheduled to take place Spring Term. Students have a right to closely monitor decisions such as this one and communication between the faculty and students is an essential requirement for this to occur.

Now, that the changes have been announced it is time that St. Andrews community to deal with those changes in a mature manner. The students should refrain from complaining loudly to the faculty and administration. If people have problems with the decisions, groups should be formed to construct reasonable alternatives. If there seems to be room for criticism, it should be made constructively or not at all. The last thing the students need to do is appear as if they are only offering opposition to the decision in order to get out of the work involved.

As for the faculty, it can only appear as if the decision was announced before there was total agreement on the issue. The same rules would seem to apply to the faculty as well as the student body. Certainly public displays of intense disagreement are not the best method for the handling of this issue.

As a community dedicated to learning, it seems that St. Andrews would not want to handle this problem as maturely as possible. This mature handling of the issue does not include petty arguments among sensible adults, students, and faculty alike. The initiative required to formulate a well-planned, constructive and reasonable defense or attack on any decision is great, but it does not appear to be too much to ask of a community of adults.

Windows On The World

By Bob Martin

This column provides a marvelous opportunity for me as Director of International Programs to get certain kinds of information out to the St. Andrews community in ways other than the infamous "memos!" It will give me an opportunity to "fudge" now and again as College Pastor regarding issues and/or events that we all must acknowledge if we have commitments to being humane citizens within a global community.

In this "inaugural" column, I want to remind the student community about the International Winter Term offerings and the schedule that needs to be followed to explore and to secure a place to participate in one of them. By now, each of you has received the brief summaries for each of the courses. Many will have met with us this past Wednesday afternoon. For those who could not or did not attend that meeting, let me say several things:

1) The date for off-campus Winter Term registration has been moved from Thursday, October 6 to Wednesday, October 12. With the date change, we have bought you more time to pursue the matter further with your parents or with other possible funding sources over your Fall Break, Oc-

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An Open Letter

Cafeteria Carding

By Therese Beebe

St. Andrews' students who subscribe (and some who don't) to the cafeteria service provided by SAGA, have endured the enforcement of a few new policies in cafeteria procedure. Unfortunately, the policies, including having to have, on hand, one's identification card in order to enter the cafeteria, were initiated by "surprise attack" -not notices were posted and no effort made to inform the student body as a whole beforehand. According to Nathan Wannall, Food Service Manager here at St. Andrews, the "surprise attack" was unintentional. He stated, though, in defense of the action, that the Saltire ("which every student has a copy of") states "Students must show their St. Andrews I.D. cards a all meals." However, since the rule has not been strictly enforced for at least several months, it does seem a trifle unfair (if not annoying) to be slapped with the idea as one is sent back to his room to trace the elusive card. (A search, for some of us, that could develop into days of starvation.) Wannall admits that unavoidable conflicts have called for compromise. Disabled students have been granted permission to slide through the door if they have memorized their food service numbers (the numbers will be checked off of a special list). Athletes who arrive at dinner just off the playing field may exercise the same privilege. But what of the run-of-the-mill student who just plain loses his card? If he is fortunate enough to have money, he can pay for the meal in cash and, upon locating or replacing the card

(if this location/replacement occurs before 2:30 p.m. on the following Sunday), can obtain reimbursement for the meal(s) paid for by the student.

Why the crackdown? According to Wannall, the cafeteria was losing money to people trying to cheat the system by passing off cards for double usage, by using stolen cards and/or by just charging through the door without stopping at the desk. Thus, the students who are paying for the service would end up footing the bill for the freebies. Dozens of lost or stolen cards have been replaced since the implementation of the crackdown. Fraudulent cards are con-

fiscated and are then turned over directly to the Dean of Students for Honor Code violation investigation. Again, the masses suffer the inconvenience due to the actions of a few.

SAGA workers have been made aware of our opinions of the inconvenience (in a variety of ways) and counter that the procedure is even more inconvenient for their staff since they have to expend more time and energy on the paperwork, use an extra person at the entrance desk and tolerate some not-so-friendly reactions from the students. If this is the case, has it been worthwhile?

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