

The Lance

Comment

Questioning

The Honor Code

Recently, there has been a great deal of discussion concerning the Honor Code: what is it (if in fact we have one), is it enforced (if in fact we have one) and what is or should be done to make the statement a more integral part of the Code of Responsibility which governs all members of the St. Andrews community.

The 'Saltire' states that, "All members of the community - students, faculty, administration and staff personnel - bear all responsibility for maintaining high standards of conduct, and all are pledged to deal with violations of the Honor Code in a respectable way." (pg. 17) It is clear from this policy that, in order to be effective upholding the Honor Code must be valued by the community in its entirety (or as close to as possible) in addition to the close attention given it by the individual. The problem as we perceive it then is not so much directed at actions of an individual nature but rather at the impact that an "isolated" incident has.

Tremors of this particular and individual (?) incident are felt community-wide because at some level authoritative recourse will be taken if the action is discovered, investigated, and deemed "lying, cheating, or stealing;" so as to attempt to counteract such behavior in the future. But what we would like to question the community is, what good is an Honor Code if it is used only for a vehicle of punishment? We in the community rarely hear the term used in a positive way. In order to be truly addressed beneficial to the St. Andrews community, the Honor Code has to be a regulator of behavior across the board. For example, at some institutions those taking exams are in no way proctored. Students are responsible for signing up for a specific time and taking the exam. Officials of the college have said to the students that they are being trusted; responsibility has been entirely left with them. At St. Andrews, in some cases, this is true. Some faculty members and administration are making it clear that the Code of Responsibility extends into the classroom as well as in all other academic and social pursuits; whereas, others are indicating that the Honor Code must not be valid because it is necessary to proctor a student examination.

There is tremendous inconsistency here. Either we have a valid Honor Code or we do not. The blame lies not with the students or the faculty or the administration but with us all. If we shirk this responsibility as individuals and members of a larger whole than the community has, in fact, been structurally weakened. What measures, then should be taken to insure that the Honor Code becomes a sound foundation for academic life here at the college? Firstly, more exposure must be given its intent and its purpose. Towards this end, an open Forum was held on Tuesday, October 11 involving concerned students and faculty.

Other assurances would include making sure that students, faculty, administration and staff/personnel know what constitutes a violation and what does not constitute a violation. A Code implies standardization in usage and enforcement. Neither is present currently at St. Andrews. Give students the opportunity beyond what is given now, to take tests independently, without having to be protected as was the case in secondary school. Because we all live in this community it is in our best interest to establish standards and live by them. In order to do this, however, we must assure that responsibility if meted out will be acknowledged and returned in full.

Maureen Ingalls
(for the editorial staff)



FALL BREAK SYNDROME

ML King Rally Attended

By Leslie Palmer

This summer Dr. Martha Knight, Ms. Cheri Throop, wife of Professor Bill Throop, both members of Scotland County's chapter of the National Organization for Women (Scotland NOW), and David Sauner attended the August 27th march on Washington in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the march led by Dr. Martin Luther King in August of 1963. The march was organized in honor of Dr. King. One of its purposes was to push for the commemoration of Dr. King's birth and life as a national holiday; but it also served to bring into focus some civil rights issues that are very important now in 1983.

One theme of the rally was 'We Still Have A Dream: Jobs, Peace, Freedom.' Thus, the march brought together groups of people of varied as well as common interests. Among the many organizations represented were NOW, Gray Panthers - an organization for civil rights of senior citizens, Vietnam Veterans of America, NAACP, Nuclear Freeze Political Action Committee, National Education Association, Friends of the Earth, and the United Presbyterian Church, USA. Speakers included Ms. Judy Goldsmith for NOW, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Stevie Wonder, and Mrs. Coretta King.

Speakers at the march rally seemed to stress the importance of voting in order to get one's choice of representatives and senators in Congress and to get his/her president in office. While the mood of the rally was "We are for..." rather than "We are against...", one undercurrent of the march seemed to be "Vote Reagan out!" Booths were set up on the mall for Washington voter registration.

While Dr. Knight and Ms. Throop, who attended the rally together, were obviously interested in the political significance of the march, both of them seemed very impressed with "the overwhelming sense of caring and unity" among so many people. Dr. Knight and Ms. Throop estimated that 250,000-300,000 people of various ages and backgrounds marched; yet, even in such a diversified crowd, people were very friendly, cooperative, and helpful.

Both Ms. Throop and Dr. Knight expressed a great feel-

ing of peace and inspiration in being a part of the crowd. They also said that being a part of the group gave them a chance to stand up and be counted for issues that they feel are important and, also, to share in the opinions and concerns of others. It was politically significant to "bring one's body to the march." Every individual was important in making the march a success. Ms. Throop and Dr. Knight are to be commended for their participation in the march and for their support of basic human rights.

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