

The Lance

Comment

Community Extends Beyond St. Andrews

Throughout the academic year, St. Andrews has been striving to make students, faculty and administrators aware that we live in a community. The "community awareness" push at St. Andrews has been led by a number of organizations and committees, which all aspire for a heightened community awareness on campus.

In striving to become a true community, St. Andrews must work to meet a great deal of goals and expectations. As a community, St. Andrews must strive to be self-determining. Activities that occur on campus should be appealing to most if not all of the campus voices should be heard when rules and regulations are being formulated. Discontent should be expressed in a mature fashion and dealt with in the same manner. In short, the members of the St. Andrews community must gather and exemplify the type of community they want to live in. This community is inclusive of the government, academic and social realms of the college in addition to any other aspect of interaction which would have an impact on the St. Andrews community.

Futhermore as a community, St. Andrews must learn how to deal with the problems it faces. Security problems affect the entire population and the entire community must do its best to combat these problems. Violations of the guidelines set forth in "The Saltire" also constitute a problem the whole St. Andrews populace needs to be aware of and know how to handle.

Thus, it appears that when we arrive at St. Andrews we are pledging ourselves to become a working member of the community. Our daily lives are governed by the events and policies of the college. Although it is beneficial to work towards enhancing life at St. Andrews, it is just as important not to become absorbed into and sheltered by the life and community St. Andrews offers.

Just recently, the United States has been very active militarily in other countries. On the one hand, the United States Marine barracks in Lebanon were the victim of a suicide bombing meant to be protest the United States' presence in the Middle East. Almost simultaneously, United States forces invaded the Carribean island of Grenada in order to, as the Reagan administration indicates, stem the every growing spread of Communism. The ramifications of both these actions are still being felt and dealt with on a worldwide scale.

At first glance, neither of these occurrences would appear to directly influence the St. Andrews community. With further inspection; however, these events strike very close to home. Many of the participants in both these incidents were 20 years old, which is the exact age of a good deal of the St. Andrews population. When one stops to think that of the over 200 Marines a little closer to the St. Andrews community. With the United States on the move in Grenada, one cannot help but be reminded of a similar "preventive measure" that was taken in Vietnam. Another fact that ties these incidents into the St. Andrews community is that before a male student can receive financial aid he must be registered in good faith with the Selective Services Board. Thus, as one can see, a good percentage of the St. Andrews populace could very possibly be affected by the events in the global community.

Considering just this one example of how incidents outside of the St. Andrews campus can affect us, we need to remember to notice these events. It would be very easy to come to St. Andrews and spend four years immersed in its community, while totally neglecting the "outside world" and its events and it is exactly this type of actions that St. Andrews needs to guard itself from. Instead of using St. Andrews as a shelter, the members of our community must try not only to enrich our campus environment but also to be constantly aware of the worldwide community, its actions and their consequences. Then, as a community, St. Andrews will be much better prepared to respond to them.



Commuter Student Integration Sought

By Maureen Ingalls

This year, a directive was issued by the Student Life Office under the coordination of new Assistant Dean Laurey Murphy, to address long neglected concerns of commuter students. Proposed changes to deal with specific concerns and effective leadership by Murphy as well as off-campus Senate representative will integrate off-campus students more closely into the college community.

The interest in concerns relating to commuter students began with several reports produced last year by students requesting improved services for off-campus individuals. The report called for the "placement of post office boxes for commuting students on the academic side of the campus..." in addition to the "installation of lockers for commuting students in an adjacent area." This study began with a questionnaire as well as interviews with administrators and other officials of the college. The second report was a survey on background information concerning commuting students needs.

Laurey Murphy with off-campus members of the Senate, Lisa Phillips and Mike McIntyre, have coordinated the initial stages of activity. They helped organize a meeting of all commuter students (153 currently attend St. Andrews either on a part-time or a full-time basis) during which specific changes were discussed and complaints were voiced. The top priority of the group is the establishment of a lounge in the Liberal Arts building designed especially for commuter student needs. As part of the formal proposal concerning the student lounge, requests were made for tables and chairs for adequate study space, additional sofas, vending machines with a change machine, non-pay telephone

for local and campus calls, lockers with mailslots for individual students.

Other proposals have been brought up to school official and are currently being considered. An administrative response is expected within the next several weeks.

There are some special problems that the organization (Commuting Student Association) will necessarily address. The range of ages and variety of background of the commuting students have presented an interesting situation between those younger individuals who are concerned, by and large, with social issues and maintaining communication with the "student life" and those older individuals, who are for the most part women and their needs revolve often around transportation and childcare. Eventually, it is hoped that concerns from

either faction of the organization will have its needs met adequately.

Murphy believes that the commuting student population would become a more integral and visible part of the St. Andrews community. She has been pleased with administration response to specific proposals thus far. Following a closed meeting with President Perkinson, Murphy said that the discussion proved that the President was "... open, supportive and understanding of commuter students' needs..." such that the chasm between the commuting and residential populations would be eliminated. In addition, Mike McIntyre remarked that, "This (the lounge) would be a step in the right direction towards bringing commuting students into the St. Andrews community."

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