

SAGA: Renovations to Begin in May

By Heidi Jernigan

Architectural plans have been drawn up for the proposed renovations of the student cafeteria known as SAGA. The SAGA Corporation, which is in its third year of a nine year contract with St. Andrews, will begin some of the changes in May, and their end of the renovations should be completed by the time the summer school session starts. SAGA itself will be making major changes in its serving lines by bringing the salad and condiment bars into the present serving area (note changes made on general floor plan below). The serving area will have an entirely new look and will free up space for additional chairs in the main seating area.

The rest of the architectural changes will be carried out by the college when the money becomes available. The major change which the college hopes to make calls for a new wall to be constructed on the side of the cafeteria facing the lake. The wall would be extended to the edge of the overhang, creating up to 200 additional seats in the cafeteria. The cafeteria currently has only 180 seats with about 544 students on food service. The plans also call for the main seating area to be carpeted, and the television area will be turned into a private dining room.

When students return to school in the fall they should not only look for-

ward to the physical changes of the cafeteria, but according to Steve Tuchten, Director of Food Services (who is better known to students as "Steve SAGA"), SAGA will undertake the expense of providing a soft serve ice cream machine!

Tuchten Talks About the SAGA Corporation and St. Andrews

In a three-hour interview, Steve Tuchten talked extensively about the SAGA Corporation and some of the problems facing SAGA at St. Andrews.

One of the most severe problems facing the food service is the high theft rate of dishes (especially glasses). Each year it costs SAGA approximately \$12,000 to replace the missing items. As a matter of fact, St. Andrews' SAGA has the highest rate of theft of all colleges in the same food service network on the East Coast. Most schools do not exceed a replacement figure of \$3,000. SAGA is not in a position to check students to see if they are carrying dishes out of the cafeteria because college administrators feel that students should be trusted to act according to the guidelines of the Honor Code. Mr. Tuchten recalled an incident where 50 glasses were found in one student's room at the end of last spring, and the student was also a SAGA employee.

One of the important services which SAGA provides are jobs for approximately 40 college students at St. Andrews each year. The students that apply for the jobs do not have to meet any financial aid requirements because SAGA is a private business.

The SAGA Corporation is the largest food service operation in the nation for colleges and universities. Other colleges that are currently served by SAGA are USC-Columbia, Emory in Atlanta, Queens College in Charlotte, N.C. School of the Arts, Louisburg in Raleigh, and Pembroke State University. SAGA serves all fifty states and Canada.

Mr. Tuchten says that he looks forward to student input next year through the revitalization of a Student Food Service Committee. One or two students from each dorm will be asked to serve on the committee to provide input about what kinds of foods they would like or not like to see on the menus.

The Picnic Dispute

Finally, several students became quite upset on Thursday, April 10th, when SAGA threw a picnic on the Belk Patio. Many of the students felt that they had been kicked out of their cafeteria to accommodate an incoming banquet. According to Steve Tuchten, the decision to hold

the picnic was made after lunch had been served that day when it appeared that weather conditions were favorable for such an event. The picnic, therefore, was not announced earlier although it was taped and played on the Dial-A-Menu service for that day. Dean Loftus said that he had looked into the matter after several students called him complaining about the picnic.

As a concerned student and Editor of The Lance, I personally looked into the reasons behind the decision to hold the picnic and I came up with these conclusions: 1) the students were not "kicked" out of SAGA to accommodate the banquet (as a matter of fact, the banquet was not even scheduled to begin until 7:15 pm); 2) the picnic was given by SAGA to provide students with a break from the normal routine of eating indoors; and 3) the picnic would not have been held had weather conditions been poor.

(Editor's Note: THE LANCE will be glad to receive any comments you may have about SAGA in the form of letters to the editor. Such comments will be relayed to SAGA's director of food services for consideration.)

