

# On Campus

## Burriss Center Source of Campus Concern

### Denise Peck

Newly inducted SGA president Howard Hall met with the trustees of St. Andrews and the internal affairs committee last week to discuss campus concerns.

The foremost issues at this meeting were some concerns about the Burriss Center and Highland Dorms. Hall pointed out that many of these problems were the result of a small budget and understaffing.

Mike Murray, a spokesperson for the Burriss-Highlands committee said that one of the problems residents of these dorms face is transportation. The vans supplied for this purpose are sometimes used to take students to doctor's appointments, or there are no drivers available. "Burriss Center does not have a male attendant from 12 midnight until 6 a.m.," said Murray. "This means that disabled students are often unable to stay up late studying or having a good time."

Hall said that according to an admissions brochure wheelchair repair is supposed to be available five days a week. Currently this service is only available Tuesdays and Thursdays. Another concern of disabled students is the cost of living in the Burriss Center.

"It costs close to \$20,000 a year to live in Burriss, whether or not you use the attendants, van services or other programs," said Murray.

"The college should not charge the same fee if you are not receiving as much help."

Hall said the Board of Trustees and the Internal Affairs Committee were very receptive to the concerns of the Burriss Center and Highland Dorms. A directive for action has been sent to the college administration and the Board requested to hear from the disabled students regularly.

"The Board of Trustees is looking out for the students," said Hall.

## Myers-Brigg Test, Is It Effective

Bruce DeWit  
Brian Herbert

The Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator questionnaire has been used for the past three years by the Career and Personal Counseling Center as a means for matching one student with another student who would be a compatible roommate. Earlier this year, Dr. Elbert Patton, the director of the center, expressed to me an interest in seeing a validation study done to find out if roommates matched by the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator were less likely to move during the year than those matched without the use of the Indicator. I decided that I, too, was interested in the validity of the Meyers-Briggs test. With the help of Dr. Alvin Smith, who has had a great deal of experience with psychological experimentation, I implemented a study on the freshmen who entered St. Andrews in the Fall of 1986. The results were surprising. There appeared to be no difference between the success of roommates who took the Meyers-Briggs test and those who did not.

A word about the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator is in order before we begin. It is a test with the purpose of determining the personality of an individual. Although every individual's personality differs to some degree, the components of each personality can be categorized into combinations of one from each of four separate areas: extraversion (E) vs. introversion (I), sensation (S) vs. intuition (N), thinking (T) vs. feeling (F), and judging (J) vs. perceiving (P). Psychologists have studied the compatibility of many different combinations of the 16 separate personalities, and found several working combinations. However, my study showed that even though these combinations were used this year by the Counseling Center to match roommates, there was no significant difference between the success rate of students who found a roommate through the Counseling Center and those who found a roommate through the Student Life Office.

The study proceeded as follows. By examining the Student Life Office's list of the freshmen who entered in the Fall of '86 and who were matched by the Career and Personal Counseling Center using the student's Meyers-Briggs scores and comparing this list to a second list of those students matched by the Student Life Office without the aid of the Meyers-Briggs scores, I prepared a statistical study of the success rate of each group by noting the room/dorm assignments for each student at the beginning of the school year and at the middle of the year. When I finished compiling the statistics, I had a surprising result. There appeared to be a strong dependency in favor of those students who were not matched using the Meyers-Briggs test; that is, the results showed that roommates matched by the Student Life Office were more likely to stay together. However, I soon realized that I had not taken into account the fact that quite a few people choose their roommates themselves. Taking this factor into account, it seemed logical to assume that those who chose their own roommates would be quite successful in choosing a compatible one. Thus, some of the success of the matching done by the Student Life Office might have been due to people who chose their own roommates. With these ideas in mind, I requested from the Student Life Office a list of freshmen who chose their own roommates.

After eliminating those freshmen who chose their own roommate from the data, I again compiled my statistics. The new results showed that the matching method and the compatibility of roommates were independent of each other. In other words, there was no significant difference between the success rate of the Meyers-Briggs matching process and the success rate of the method employed by the Student Life Office. Also, since the sample size was large, we can conclude that the results are a good indicator of the effectiveness of the Meyers-Briggs test as a tool for selecting roommates.

## Premiere Children's Opera A Success

Denise Peck

The premiere performance of "Lazar and the Castle of the Peers" drew a full house Friday, April 29, the last day of its three day run.

The opera for children told the story of Lazar, (Mark L. Parsons) a young boy, looking for a group of peers to join. After nearly drowning during his search, Lazar finds the Peers, but he must pass a test to become a member. He must kill the dragon that rescued him from the river.

Lazar can not bring himself to kill Drucilla the Dragon (Pamela Stone) and he leaves the Peers, but some defect and follow Lazar and his sister Aurora (Elaine Rorie) home.

The songs and dreams of the Taco Bell

Peer (J. Elizabeth Marks), the Burger King Peer (Babara L. Tilton), and the Ice Cream Peer (John Ward) brought smiles to the audience of children, parents, students and professors. As the other Peers played a rap tune, the Basketball Peer (Jeff Frazier) delighted the crowd with a song and some creative basketball dribbling.

Bravo to all the cast of "Lazar and the Castle of the Peers" for a fine performance and to Thea Engleson for superb directing.

Charlene Swansea and Loonis McGlohon have created a lighthearted, fun, opera with a very important meaning, that sometimes your peers can keep you from being yourself.

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