

# Opinion

## A Message From the Asst. Student Defense Counsel

Dear Editor,

As a Senior I am angered with the latest fiascos that have been brought to my attention. The first thing is the 60 page epistle that was written by the Dean of Students. A copy of this document is available in the Library.

She writes, "The players in the system are: an 'Attorney General,' a 'Student Defense Counsel,' and two 'Assistant Student Defense Cousel,' and a 'Prosecutor.' A student may be a 'defendent' in 'court' and a student may be 'prosecuted' and receive 'sentencing.' It is unclear why such legal terms are used in a judicial system that should be informal and have educational value instead of giving the appearance of being punitive." (p. 31)

I see this as a direct mockery of the Student Judicial System. Since this is an institution of higher learning, why use terms that would have a lesser meaning than 'defendent' or 'counsel'? These words have a definite meaning that a college student - nay an adult - should know! Therefore, we should keep the clear 'legal' language. If the JUDICIAL System is not punitive, then just what is it?!

This system is for students who deviate from the Honor Code, for them to be tried by their peers. A decision will be made by the Court, placing limitations on defendent's activities if necessary. If this is not a sentence, what is it? The Attorney General and the other players have a legitimate role included in a system that the Dean wishes to dismiss. The students involved as players were elected by a majority vote of their own peers. This empowers them with the right to represent the student body.

As long as we are on the topic of 'players,' what of the Dean's actions in deciding cases? It is the Attorney General's job to charge students with Honor Court violations and then to investigate the cases. During this academic year, the Dean has called the 'students in question' into her office and has told them what they had done wrong. She then proceeded to intimidate them into a sentence, set by her and not by a forum of their own peers. She either neglected to tell the students that they had a right to a trial or by the time she told them they were too scared to take anything but their 'sentence.' ALL STUDENTS: YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A COURT HEARING, DON'T

LET THE DEAN TELL YOU OTHERWISE. Also, you have a right to have a counsel present when you are called to the Dean's office for such matters. At this time, I call for a forum with Dean Greer so that she will answer questions regarding this letter and her actions against the St Andrews community.

Personally, I believe that the Dean's actions are only a continuation of her 'power hungry' efforts to gain almost absolute power over the students at SA. I am also appalled that the administration would neglect the requests made by Neal Bushoven.

These requests are certainly warranted, especially those regarding student safety. If there are priorities within the SA system, what are they? Who decides them? As a student who pays \$10,000 a year to attend this establishment, I believe that in some areas we are being robbed blind. (The educational quality is not in question here at all, it is the quality of life that I am concerned about.) As consumers we have rights--rights that the administration seems to neglect!!

As students, we need to band together and make our demands for justice and our rights known. The administration cannot lend a deaf ear to 800 paying customers. We have rights! Use Them!

**Sharon Fields  
Assistant Student  
Defense Counsel**

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