

Editor's Desk

Staff

Michael A. Roberts	Editor-in-Chief
Eric Eubank	Associate Editor
Eric Lien	VP Advertising
Dr. W.D. White	Columnist
Pat Hoss	Columnist
Nancy Often	Staff Writer
Debbie Harding	Staff Writer
John Pargas	Quill and Ink

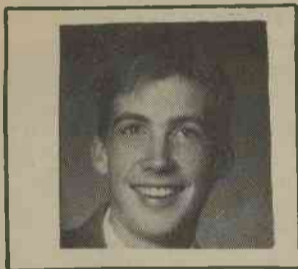
The opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the Lance editors or staff. The views expressed in columns are specifically those of the Columnist. Letters must be signed, and anonymity will be respected. The Lance editors reserve the right to edit stories and letters as seen necessary.

I feel that since this is the last issue of the Lance, I would like to take this space to thank the people who made this paper possible. I feel like this is how good every edition of this publication can be. This is an issue of which I am particularly proud. We had some problems last time, some mechanical, some human. But, accept no excuses. In the future we hope to bring you information that you can use, and stories that you care about. We will try our best to address matters that concern the student body at St. Andrews. Your input is greatly desired, and your participation is welcome.

I would like to thank Rooney Coffman for being so prompt with this issues photographs. Thanks to Nancy for all the running, and tracking down all the people. Thanks to Mary Cay for the moral support. Thanks to Ron Bayes and his Journalism class for their contributions. Thanks to Mark and Toni for being so patient with my nagging. Thanks to the person who took the trash from my office. Thanks to the person who put the coffee outside my door. Thanks to all the writers who contributed to this issue. A special thanks to Eric Lien for all he's done this year. (No particular thanks to the person who took the photos off my door, and the one who keeps putting paper in my envelopes.)

Congratulations seniors. I hope everyone has a good summer.

Michael A. Roberts
Editor-in-Chief



Hossin' Around

Pat Hoss

Lately there has been a lot of discussion about the subject of animal rights, and I thought it was about time I added my two cents. I will not be the one who let it all go by without raising a finger. I will not be silent in the face of what I see as an affront to those lesser creatures, that make up and share this world with us.

The first thing that will happen is somebody out there will say, "Look, they are lower than us." It is a given that most animals, with the exception of porpoises and whales, are lower than us. But does that mean they cannot have rights? Animals are living, breathing organisms that feel; maybe not in the same sense as you and I, but do not say that when one pours acid into an animals eye it does not feel pain. They may be lower, but nerves are in every beast, so why not give them some credit, and a fair shake?

No, animals cannot speak our language, but can we speak to them? No, they

cannot stand in a court of law and defend themselves, nor can they pick up a fork or spoon and eat with it. No, they are not civilized creatures as we see it, so therefore their rights are foregone to them?

Who are we to give out rights anyway? We call lesser creatures animals; is it not the same as the pot calling the kettle black? Who are we to call those creatures "animals" when what we do to them, and ourselves is less than animalistic? It is pure and malicious cruelty that only the Homo sapiens seem capable of doing.

Let us take some examples of this cruelty. Do animals like to kill each other over such petty arguments as "What do you believe?" Do animals kill for sport? Do they threaten the existence of this entire world? Do they complain about absurd things like the car not starting? Do they go on shooting rampages? Which is the animal, the Homo sapien, or the creatures we call animals?

How can we call animals lower than us, then treat them the way we do, and call ourselves civilized? We use the old standby: "They eat people." For example, the alligator coming out of the water, chasing a man or woman, and then eating them whole and raw, is good. When it comes down to it, this is the line that humans always use; self-preservation. Animals lower than ourselves kill because they are hungry or threatened. An old tiger kills humans because a human is the only thing it can get its paws on. An alligator snatches babies and children because they attract attention and do nothing to get away. Our born are the only animal babies in the world that cannot survive within a day or two upon birth in their natural environment. Think of that temptation to something wild. What's to be done when an animal is hungry and his natural habitat and its inhabitants are being destroyed? It is only natural to

go after Mr. Simplistic Human.

We compensate, or cheat because we cannot survive in the world of survival. We eliminate the competition by means of which they cannot fight back. And if one, two, or fifty people get eaten by a wild animal; is that our entire population? Are we so petty and stupid that when a human kills thirty people, and a bear kills one, the bear is killed and the human freed in seven years because he is insane?

Can a human who kills maliciously kill at will, while an animal who kills for survival is put to death at the mere scream of a Homo sapien? Who is the animal here?

Who is the animal when we kill for no other reason than to collect an animals oil to make our cosmetics glow better? Who are we to judge a creature, when we leave our own to die in the streets, right under our noses? Who are we to assign names, when we cannot even co-

exist on this planet? Who is the animal here? Who kills whom?

All anyone can ask is for a little respect for our fellow creatures, although they are not blessed with a mind as sophisticated as ours. I'm not asking that one spay or neuter their pets so the Humane Society will not have to kill six-hundred a month to keep them from spreading infectious diseases that could hurt the people who abandoned them in the first place. I know that would cost money, just like giving to a nature organization costs money. But by all means, give to the one that will save another million humans because after all we are the ultimate winners of anything we play. Let us pound the other lives out of existence, and we can be the sole rulers of a lifeless planet. Then we can start shooting each other more frequently, and maybe even eradicate ourselves. I ask once more, "Who is the animal here? Who is the beast in reality?"