

Opinion



Editor's Desk

Michael Roberts

I was looking through some old Lance issues, and found a previous Editor's list of "Murphy's Laws" as they apply to the Lance. This goes to show that some things never change:

1. In any field of endeavor, anything that can go wrong will go wrong.
2. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will go wrong is the one that will do the most damage.
3. Every activity takes more time than you have.
4. Whatever you set out to do, something else must be done first.
5. By making something absolutely clear, somebody will be confused.
6. Nothing is ever as simple as it first seems.
7. Life is a bitch.

Doggone Shame

Dogwood Mile is the heritage of every class which enrolls at St. Andrews. It is the gorgeous display of Spring flowers which brighten our days and remind us that Summer Break is finally close at hand.

Now Dogwood Mile needs our help in order to maintain its integrity. Trees are growing old, and some are dying. Tri-Beta is launching an effort to re-plant areas along the road which are bare of trees, but they need help. Approximately thirty-five trees are needed to restore Dogwood Mile. You can help. Each tree costs \$30.00. Bentley Crabtree, chairperson of the

"Adopt a Dogwood Campaign," has sent out a campus-wide request for donations. Faculty, staff, residence halls, and student organizations are all encouraged to "dig-in" in order to realize the campus-wide goal of thirty-five trees. To recognize each donation, plaques with all donators' names will be raised at both ends of Dogwood Mile. If you are interested in assisting Tri-Beta, please contact Bentley Crabtree at 276-8173 or Dr. Michael Torres at ext. 357. With your help, Dogwood Mile will continue to flourish each Spring.

DeAnne McKinney

What Makes St. Andrews St. Andrews?

Again I have one of those questions which seems to have limited significance: What makes St. Andrews?

I think that it's obvious that the buildings and campus do not constitute St. Andrews. They may be the setting, but I don't think that the unique mix of people, ideas, attitudes, and enthusiasms exists because of the collection of buildings on a small campus in the middle of Nowhere, N.C.

Is it the administration? If so, how is it that the college continues even though there has been a nearly total administration turnover in the past two years? Perhaps, though the function of administration is necessary to the continuance of the college, neither that function nor the specific administrators are critical to the life of the college. In other words, the act of administrating and tending to financial business is not a characteristic unique to St. Andrews.

Is it then the faculty, the professors, those people who have insights and experiences to share in the classrooms? I personally want to say yes, but the faculty have been turning over rather quickly in the last few years. Does this mean that St. Andrews is in

the danger of becoming run of the mill? I hope not, but I don't know. I rather doubt it — I think that the faculty retains the whateveritis that makes their part of the St. Andrews concoction work. However, the question arises, can the faculty develop a personality, can they find their respective niches in St. Andrews without some stability? The education department was virtually emptied last year. The theater and communication department has had the same problem — nearly 100% turnover in two years. What about the stability that students have a right to expect, but more importantly, allows the faculty to define itself and to develop a coherent and relevant curriculum?

That leaves the students. This is the hard part — I cannot be totally objective. Ideally, though, I think that the students of a college are the lifeblood. After all, what is a school without students? This college has, and has had for a long time, a rich mix of talented, intelligent, articulate students from a wide variance of backgrounds, with points of view and opinions covering the entire spectrum from "Reagan is God" to "God

doesn't exist." This breadth and depth in the student body must be considered to be one of the most important, most salient factors of St. Andrews uniqueness.

The combination of faculty and students, the continuing interaction between them and the closeness that can develop because of the exchange of energy and ideas in this relationship are, I think, what makes St. Andrews not only a "liberal arts college," but a liberal "arts college." Both are important to the identity of St. Andrews.

My question, then, is this. Are the priorities of the administration changing to the detriment of this identity? Does the spending of available funds to spruce up the campus instead of to pay the faculty signal a change in priority from providing a solid college-level education to making St. Andrews as "attractive" as possible on the surface? While aware that compromises must be made to promote income, I am afraid that the "St. Andrews" in St. Andrews, the integrity of the college is being placed on the altar in order to attract that money, regardless of the consequences to the future of the school.

Alan Abrams

Editor's Note:

We regret mix-up in Alan's article in our last issue. This is how it should have read. Our apologies.

Thanks to Nancy and Carol for helping me produce this issue.