

# Opinion

Alan Abrams asked, "What makes St. Andrews St. Andrews?" I can up with my own answer as I interviewed the debate team just before they broke the record. None of the debaters could really put into words what they felt as they looked with amazement at the enormous crowd. This is when I reached my reaction to Alan's question.

To me, it's a combination of people and attitude. It's a pledge that we will not let our size dictate our achievement and aspirations. There was an undeniable sense of "community" present at the debate. The record was a monumental achievement for the debate team, but was no small occasion to the college itself.

Part of the attitude that I'm speaking of is cooperating or lending a hand when it is needed. This is not only exemplified by the atmosphere at the debate, but at sporting events. No matter what the record, St. An-

draws crowds can be as supportive, and noisy, and crazy, and original as any school five times its size.

It is also an attitude that one can be an individual and still belong. It's that spirit of unqualified acceptance that makes the word "community" appropriate. There is a certain ability to communicate and share ideas which I think is indigenous to St. Andrews.

From my own experience, this attitude is present in much of the faculty and even the administration. I think that the rapport that

we share with these members of the college is in itself unique.

I have noticed through various contacts this year, that certain people just seem to "fit" here. And new people, students and administration, seem to just catch on.

Part of what makes us who we are, are people like Dean Benson, who is never too busy to stop and converse with you in the halls, and who year after year gives graduation that cert-



## Editor's Desk

Michael Roberts

tain St. Andrews flavor.

Part of what makes us who we are are professors like WD White and Ron Bayes, who could easily have taken their talents elsewhere. It's Coach Mark Simons, who stresses academic excellence as well as achievement on the court. It's Coach Gary Swanson, who despite our size, manages to continually bring good baseball talent to this college, and gets the most out of his players. Swanson earned a national ranking last year, and pulled what some might consider, major upsets. So why does he stay here? I think it's a certain

attitude that to believe in ourselves, we need someone to show a little faith in us.

The attitude extends to people like O.E. Smith, who will go out of his way to help anyone. It's Neal Bushoven, who teaches us things that we don't even realize we learned until we call upon it in a given situation, or are able to apply to to another aspect of our lives.

We can call professors by their first names. We have access to their home phone numbers. We occasionally see them at our parties. These are what come to mind when Alan poses that question.

I feel that what gives us our identity is the willingness to challenge ourselves. Sometimes, we may play the role of the underdog. But you have to be involved with us here to see that that's probably the way we like it.

## Staffers Attend Seminar

They flew, they brought chartered buses, and they even drove 15 hours to attend the Investigative Reporting Seminar in Washington, D.C. There were over 1100 students from 125 colleges, representing 25 states, and we were in the midst of it all. Jennifer Spangler and I represented the Lance staff this past weekend at the IRE Seminar. It was an experience I'm sure

we'll never forget. We heard the great Carl Bernstein as he described his philosophy of investigative reporting in comparison with his involvement with the Watergate scandal. We attended various seminars in which 11 professional reporters with Pulitzers gave their own beliefs and advice.

At the luncheon, Spangler and I spoke with students

from Ball State University and Western Michigan. We were stunned and amazed listening to how their newspapers were run. A budget of \$700,000, a profit of \$500,000 last year in advertising, a staff of over 100 students that are paid, and a college newspaper that is printed daily with world news, and even cartoons!

We knew that we could never make a St. Andrews newspaper anything close to that, but we knew we could make a good newspaper. Twelve hours of driving gave Spangler and I the chance to do plenty of brainstorming. We have so many great ideas that we know we can incorporate within the newspaper.

I hope to be a great asset to Mike because I know that so far he has been doing it all on his own. It will be difficult

to completely create a strong paper this term, but hopefully by Winter Term we can begin with a clean slate. We need a strong organization of staff, ideas, and support. I'm asking everyone—students, faculty, and staff—to come to us with their ideas and questions, and work to help make this a great newspaper. It can be done. There are so many wonderful and even terrible things happening on this campus and community

and we must be informed. As a newspaper we have a great power because we can reach and influence everyone. The job of a good student newspaper is not just the editorial staff, but the whole campus. You can make the difference. Let's do it St. Andrews, and make this the best paper we've seen in years.

## Comments on "Nail 'Um"

Being a new student here at St. Andrews, I have found the students' and professors' relationships towards one another open and honest. Never have I seen so open a community with little fear of revealing "the truth."

This brings me to my point. How many new students received "Nail 'Um" in their boxes? I did. I am appalled and shocked and very confused. First of all, if this is supposed to resemble an underground newspaper, why are the names on the articles? Secondly, what possessed the editors to scandalize the Student Life Committee and the staff? Granted, the students like to moan and groan about Student Life and Dean Greer,

but what kind of power trip are they on?

We "new students" thrive upon the opinion of the student body towards the professors and the administration. "Nail 'Um" also clusters all opinion that Dean Greer and the Student Life staff are incompetent. Unless the editors are willing to actually speak to Dean Greer and the administration as to why, in their opinion, they are bureaucratic maniacs, I think (I'm free to express my opinion also) each of them should watch their backs for a while. Some very displeased people may be looking for them. If the editors have a personal problem, let them take it up with Student Life. Our boxes are for information, not junk.

Kimberly Graffeo