

Opinion



Editor's Desk

Michael Roberts

Somewhere in a distant corner of the LA building is a Macintosh computer that is the lifeblood of this student newspaper. Every issue of the Lance is a result of desktop publishing. Access to this necessary commodity is limited. This is also the computer used by the very lovely Publications Coordinator and Sports Information Director, Carol Tremblay. Therefore, during the hours of 9:00 to 5:00 access to the Mac is impossible. What this means to me and my staff is that we can only begin our work in the evenings, and only one person at a time can work. This time must be split between myself, the Quill and Ink Editor, Jennifer Hitch, and my Advertising Representative, Mary Cay Gibson.

Some have suggested that increasing the size of the Lance staff would make this operation run smoother. But it doesn't matter how many students work with the Lance if only one staff member can be working at a time. All stories, ads, and design features must be done on this computer. So what happens is that while everyone else is visiting dreamland, a very few frustrated, yet dedicated members of the student newspaper are trying to meet a deadline. Considering the lack of sleep, time spent in limbo because of computer access, the number of times security has attempted to lock us in, and the complaints by several members of the administration and staff that students shouldn't be in LA at these late hours, one could say, for lack of a more descriptive term, that the entire process sucks.

If it were feasible, I would either pay to have an outside company typeset this newspaper, or have one put in, of all places, the Lance Office, where at this moment because of the kindness in someone's heart, sits a Digital Computer that is absolutely of no use to anyone. But our budget is much too small to consider such propositions. That is, small compared to the budget of the fine yearbook that we receive around Christmas every year.

So why doesn't the Lance come out more often? And why are there typos and minor design flaws? Why isn't the Lance 20 pages thick? These are pertinent questions. I think I've provided a few answers. Here are some more pertinent questions: Who in their right mind would be up until 7:00 am doing newspaper layout? What kind of person would do this for free? Is it worth the trouble just to see your picture in a column called The Editor's Desk? I don't have answers for these questions.

I don't enjoy this process. I think it is archaic, ludicrous, and worth examination by persons who are in a position to make a change. Many express their concern over what appears or doesn't appear in this student publication. But absolutely no one has said, "Mike, there may be a better way." Except for Ms. Tremblay, who has offered both her sympathy and her assistance, but has as much power to change things as I have. It has occurred to me that I might enjoy resigning this post and kicking back to enjoy the fruits of my senior year. But somewhere in my mind is the thought that what this student newspaper represents may mean something to some of you.

Honor Code Reviewed By Committee

In light of the many concerns voiced about the effectiveness of the Honor Code and the efficiency of the Student Judicial System, we, as members of the Student Life Committee, have been charged with the responsibility of reviewing the Honor Code and our judicial policies. Our task is primarily to evaluate the community's perceptions and implementations of the Honor Code. Also, we will examine how the Honor Code reflects the new St. Andrews Statement of Purpose.

Our role will be basically to serve as a vehicle for sponsoring a campus-wide forum on these issues, and to collect and document facts that may lead to a revision of

our current policies. These revisions would reflect opinions and ideas generated by the entire community. During the review process, we will be examining Honor Codes and their effectiveness and implementation at institutions similar to St. Andrews.

When our findings are complete, we will present them to the Student Senate and the Student Judicial Committee, who will be charged with suggesting changes in the Honor Code and judicial policies in light of these findings. Any member of the St. Andrews community interested in contributing to these early discussions is welcome to attend a Student Life Committee meeting. Our Winter

Term meetings are at noon on Tuesdays in the Senate Meeting Room, and 1:30pm on Fridays in LA 152. Our Spring Term meeting day and time will be publicized at a later date. Your help is encouraged and needed.

St. Andrews Student Life Committee.

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The opinions expressed on the Opinion page are not necessarily those of the Lance Editors or staff, but of the writers themselves. The Lance staff reserves the right to edit submitted material as seen necessary. Letters and articles are welcome from the St. Andrews Community.

Editor's note: Heart-felt thanks to Chad, Eric, Mary Cay, Jennifer, and Rooney for their work on this issue.