

Kuester Comes to Burriss

By John Cohen
Staff Writer

Many positive changes have already been seen in the few short weeks that Dr. Ken Kuester has been at St. Andrews. Dr. Kuester replaced Dr. Roger W. Decker, the former director of Health and Rehabilitation Services and resident director of Highland Hall.

Born and raised in Maryland, Dr. Kuester has spent the last 30 years of his life working at administrative level positions for different rehabilitation centers. His most recent job, which lasted from 1980-1989, was as the assistant commissioner of rehabilitation facilities at the Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services, where he brought national attention to the company with his outstanding leadership.

When Dr. Kuester first came to St. Andrews, he was very impressed with it, calling it "one of the finest colleges in the country." He still feels the same about it today.

Dr. Kuester says his main goal at St. Andrews is to "bring the Burriss Rehabilitation Center to the leading edge of rehabilitation services." He was quick to try and deal with the problems he saw with the rehabilitation services, such as the quality of the staff and the structure of the building. To him the two biggest problems are having the main switchboard in Highland Hall from 5 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., and the fact that only one of the three vans used to provide van service for wheelies is operable. His main concern, though, is the overall improvement in the quality of the rehabilitation services at St. Andrews.

While Dr. Kuester did acknowledge the fact that there were problems, he felt that the rehabilitation services here did meet the student's needs in the past. He believes that St. Andrews is "without a doubt" capable of handling a program like this, and claims that "The fact that we are fully accessible gives us an advantage over 98 percent of the other schools." Dr. Kuester feels that our program is "a popular program with a national profile and a long waiting list of applicants."

Further citing some of his major accomplishments as our new director, Dr. Kuester credits part of his success to the increased cooperation between the Burriss Center and the Physical Plant. He said, "Before I came here, if a student wanted something done, he or she would have to wait forever. I just work the process and things get done." He claims to have improved the quality of the staff at Highland Hall by encouraging the attendants to work together more, and improving staff and student morale. Dr. Kuester also mentioned the renovations made in Highland Hall, such as removing some of the partitions from the bathrooms to make them more accessible for wheelies, has helped improve the quality of living conditions there.

He claimed that there are fewer complaints from Highland Hall students about the service there and that there are now "enough resources here (at Burriss) to meet the needs of the student population that we serve."

For further improvements, Dr. Kuester wants to "add rehabilitation

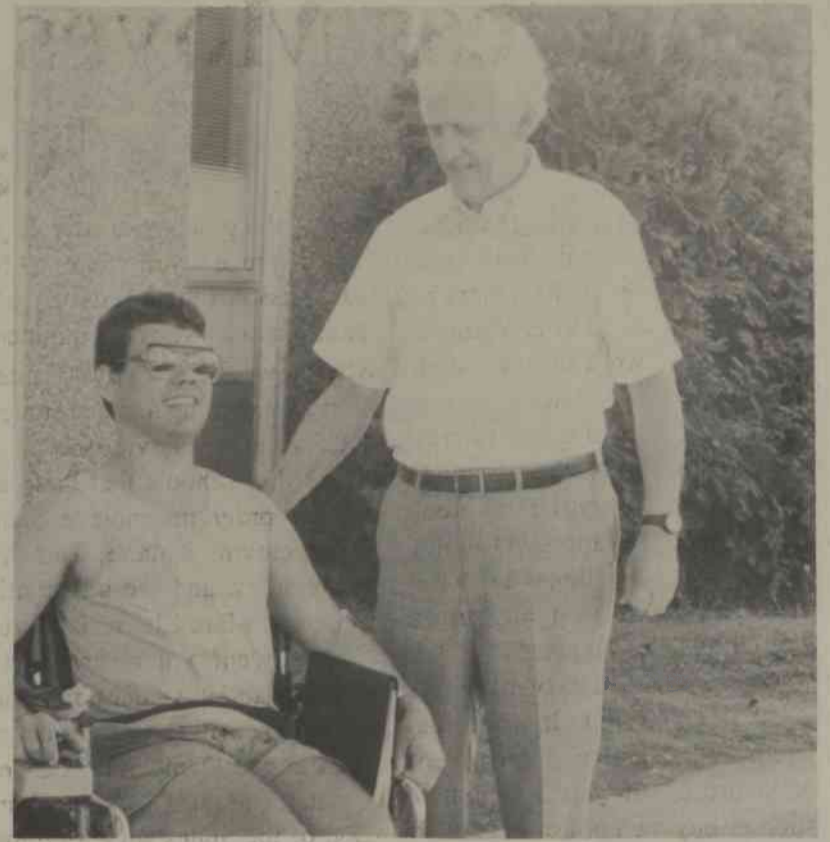
engineering services as an overall component to St. Andrew's rehabilitation services," and provide available help for wheelies 24 hours a day.

As far as the question of whether or not more money is needed by the Burriss Center for further improvement is concerned, Dr. Kuester says the answer is yes. He plans to raise it by simply "identifying the essential needs and presenting them through the proper budget channels." He says that he might seek outside help in raising money "eventually," but that he has (of late) "been too busy doing and learning the job and working 12 to 14-hour days" to worry about Burriss's financial needs.

One thing that is also worth noting about Dr. Kuester is his work philosophy. He likes to "accentuate the positive, and downplay (but not ignore) the negative." He wants to create a positive environment for both staff and students "because if the staff and students succeed, then St. Andrews and I succeed." He attributes part of his success at this new job to this philosophy.

Overall, Dr. Kuester enjoys his new job here, and feels quite impressed with it. He says "I feel that my 30 years of experience has really prepared me well for my services here at St. Andrews Presbyterian College. I feel that I could really build on that." Dr. Kuester thinks he could really turn the program around within 18 months to two years, "as we identify the need for new and essential staff programs and funding options."

In order to find out more about the changes, and to see what others thought of them a Burriss Center em-



(Photo by Jane Karpenske)

ployee and two students were interviewed.

Charles "Michael" Purdie, a.k.a. Mike, is an employee at the Burriss Center. He feels that the rehabilitation program hasn't changed much, but says that he and other attendants "are working together more than before." He calls Dr. Kuester "a great man" and is very impressed with his performance.

Kim Biglin is a student living in Highland Hall and is also the hall president. She thinks that living conditions have improved, and that "He (Kuester) is working hard to see that the attendants are here and to keep everything in working order." She also sees improvement in the program itself, saying that Dr. Kuester "has gotten the attendants to cooperate with each other more and work together as a group." She believes that this "helps them help the students better."

Dawn Smith is a sophomore now

living in an ADL unit in Granville. However, she sometimes sleeps in Highland Hall because she doesn't have a roommate to assist her; something that is causing her a lot of problems. Having lived in Highland Hall last year, she considers the overall program to have improved, but says that "there is still a lot of work to be done." She recommends some further renovations to Highland Hall, such as making the exit doors that are still manual into automatic doors. She says that the attendants are very helpful, but that the Center is still way understaffed, a problem she blames on the College itself and not on Dr. Kuester.

Commenting on Dr. Kuester, Dawn says, "I've received more help from Ken since he's been here than I had most of last year." She calls him open-minded and "willing to listen and to meet the student's needs," and that he "tries immediately to solve problems."

Local Shelters Aid the Abused

By Raylene Kaufman
Staff Writer

The month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. This is a time when crisis centers take the opportunity to create public awareness of domestic violence and what can be done to help stop it.

Domestic violence is a growing problem in our country. In the U.S. alone, a woman is battered every fifteen seconds. Children who see violence in their homes either grow up to be victims or batterers. Alcohol and drug abuse are many times present in homes of abuse.

What can be done to help solve this problem? There are shelters in our area ready to offer their services.

One shelter which serves Scotland County is the Southeastern Family Violence Center which focuses mainly

on the needs of the battered woman and her children. "They are protected; they have a safe home here," says Janet Crumpler, the community education coordinator of the shelter.

It is here that the women and children receive a variety of services such as crisis counseling, advocacy, and individual counseling. However, it is the woman herself who is encouraged to help herself. "If they need guidance, we do that, but they make the choices," Crumpler explains.

Children brought to the shelter also receive individual counseling and are enrolled in a school nearby.

They do this by offering various support groups and providing a shelter which accommodates up to thirty women and children.

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(Photo by Raylene Kaufman)

Twirler Adds to S.A. Diversity

By Candy Round
Staff Writer

What exactly does it mean when St. Andrews advertises the diverse student population?

Well, freshman Elizabeth Simmons is an excellent example of this student diversity that St. Andrews so proudly proclaims. Not only is Elizabeth a regular twirler, she is proficient with lighted batons, fire batons, hoop batons, streamers, knives, and three-batons.

Elizabeth took her first lessons at the age of three. From that early beginning, she went on to join the Junior Varsity twirling team at Wilkes Academy in Washington, Ga. in the fourth grade and was co-captain for five years. During that time the team went to twirling festivals and received

superior ratings on both team and individual routines. Aside from competitions, Elizabeth and the Wilkes Academy Raiders twirled at football games, in parades, and at special events.

In high school, Elizabeth was a member of the varsity twirling squad. She was the "feature twirler" in her junior and senior years as well as being named MVP Twirler last year.

Other activities which she has participated in, include talent shows and teaching a group of first through third grade twirlers called the "Raidettes."

All of this twirling experience has many benefits. "I learned a lot about teamwork. We spent many hours drill-

ing routines and different twirling tricks. Our routines always turned out successful because of our hard work." This close work made the team like a "big family." They learned to help each other and knew the strengths and weaknesses of everyone.

After graduation from St. Andrews, Elizabeth plans to attend the University of Georgia and attain her Master's degree. "Hopefully, I will become a 'Georgette' - the twirling and dance team that 'does their thing' at football games. I want to be a 'feature soloist' twirler for them."

In the mean time, Elizabeth wants to twirl here at St. Andrews, "I thought it might be fun to twirl here since there were no twirlers or a team."



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