

Opinion

From The Editor's Desk: Adieu to Both Editor and The Lance?!



Heather Lyn Gupton,
Editor

[Before actually beginning my final column as editor of *The Lance*, I'd like to reprint a portion of one written by previous *Lance* editor Michael Roberts. After reading the reprint I think that you will see, as I did, that many of the shortcomings of the current *Lance* staff, and the difficulties faced by the (very) few devoted *Lance* staffers who aid in the production process are very similar.]

"...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... Here are some more pertinent questions. Who in their right mind would be up until 7:00 a.m. 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 sympathies and her assistance, but has as much power to change things as 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."

But unfortunately I, unlike Michael Roberts, am not completely convinced that the paper does mean something to the student body. One of the few comments I received about the paper was that it, "Looked nice." Great. But did it say anything

important? Cover pertinent topics? Address student concerns? Serve as a forum for student opinions as it should have?

Well, it certainly hasn't served as a forum for student opinion. There doesn't seem to be any on campus at the moment as far as I can tell because I have received no response except a very few verbal comments, all of which were complaints about why this was printed/covered and that was not covered.

As I am completing this final issue with the sole aid of a non-student, I wonder why I have made the effort. I, like Roberts might have enjoyed resigning this post and "kicking back" to enjoy the "fruits of my senior year," or in this case, my last term on the St. Andrews campus.

Who in their right mind would be up until 7:00 a.m. doing newspaper layout alone? What kind of person would do this for free? Someone idealistic who, like Roberts, hopes that the student newspaper may represent something to some of you.

So why doesn't *The Lance* come out more often? And why are there typos and minor design flaws? Because the process is, as Roberts mentioned, archaic and ludicrous. Because al-

though the *Lance* has acquired the much-needed computer that Roberts desired, it still does not have its own printer and therefore must still use the one in the Communications office, and then only when it does not interfere with the steady stream of work pouring into that office. And, as before, we are extremely limited by having one or two Macintoshes (depending on whether the one in Communications is available or not) and therefore only one or two people working at a time. We are also hindered by old software and the fact that we are not properly trained how to use the equipment/software. Problems like these, and many many others, combine to make production of the *Lance* a tedious effort.

Also, the fact that people don't want to devote huge chunks of their time to work for free is a given, and therefore staff is limited. Plenty of people generate wonderful ideas, but few are willing to take the time to execute them.

I hope that someday *The Lance* will indeed carry the credibility, credits and perhaps even payment and/or scholarship that will entice students to continue with it. However, unless someone takes an interest soon, the paper is in danger of "folding" due to lack of student concern over whether it comes out or not. After this issue there will not be an editor, unless one miraculously appears. I can't say I blame anyone for not wanting the post. It's time-consuming, and the lack of student feedback

and support does not exactly make the position a desirable one.

Does this make you mad? Unfortunately a letter to the editor will be too late at this point. I sincerely hope that you, as students, will work to keep *The Lance* alive because I am sure that the administration will have no qualms about absorbing the much-needed *Lance* money back into the school budget. Once defunct, reorganization will become a tedious and time-consuming process. Just think of the radio station. My only motive in writing in this manner is to elicit some sort of response and also to make students aware that a problem exists. I hope that I have now done at least that.

Please believe that I am not completely bitter about this experience. The staff members I've worked with have been wonderful, and St. Andrews has some great journalistic writers in hand. The advice and sympathy of David Malcolm, Malissa Talbert and Ron Bayes has been life-saving, and the staff, faculty and administration have been profuse in their support of the new appearance of the paper. I must also thank Steven Cohn, without whose expertise the paper's overall design would not have been executed properly or as efficiently.

As for the question, "Is it worth the trouble just to see your picture in a column called "The Editor's Desk?" I'd have to say, "Yes!" Adieu!

Catalyst: 'Tis the Season to be Stressed

Nikki G. Holloway
Columnist

'Tis the season to be stressed. My roommate's up to 2:30 a.m., trying to memorize chemistry formulas that are written in Greek, and one of my friends has so much philosophy homework that she doesn't know if she really exists or not. I, fortunately, have a light load this semester and I basically have things under control, but that's only because I know how I get when I'm stressed-out, and believe you me, it's not a pretty sight. I get very, very ill-tempered and I might be known to say some bad words. Of course it's not personal, but if you're around me... I believe the psychology term is displaced aggression. At any rate, I've learned some stress reducing techniques I thought I'd share with y'all.

First of all, if you know you have a paper due, don't wait until the last minute to do it. Standard advice, but not so easy to follow. Who actually begins a paper, three weeks before it's due? No one wants to be called a nerd, even if you're failing the class with an "F+." But in order to get through the end of the semester, you need to plan ahead. Make yourself a schedule and STICK TO IT!! So what if you miss a party or two, at the end of the semester, when everyone is going crazy, you can take a trip to Myrtle Beach.

If, in one of your classes, you know you're having trouble and are in dire straits, talk to your prof., and ask for extra credit assignments and then DO THEM!! Consistency in attendance also helps, otherwise, how can a professor help you out, if they don't recognize your face?

For those of you who are more stressed than others, try meditation — don't laugh, I'm serious. Find a quiet place, turn on some soothing music, like waves crashing and flutes or something, then sit kneeling or Indian style (Native American, excuse me) and concentrate on one particular object. Free your mind of all thoughts and just chill...baby, baby...chill. Stay there for about fifteen minutes. If done correctly, you should feel very refreshed — you know, like a stick of Doublemint gum. If that doesn't work, write a poem about whatever is on your mind. It doesn't matter if it's not a Shakespearean sonnet or consistent with the style of Wordsworth...just write what you feel and guaranteed you'll feel better. Now of course if none of these methods work, take a series of fifteen minute naps. Study for an hour, take a nap, study for an hour, take a nap... see, there's a pattern here. But don't get too carried away with sleeping, you might miss your exams, and then wouldn't you be s.o.l.?

It's a given that Maxwell and Sanka coffee are going to get very rich, along with the founders of the all-important Vivarin and Nodos, but these artificial stimulants really only make things worse. You can't very well write a paper, if your hand won't stop shaking, now can you? Try herbal tea, no really, there are several herbs that are natural stimulants. Go to Harris Teeter, there in the aisle with the Tang and instant Lipton tea mix. There's also tea to get you to sleep, to make you more potent... but that's another column.

Just remember, don't wait until the day before a ten-page paper is due to do it. Staring at a computer for eight hours non-stop will

only make you blind. And what good will a degree do, if you can't read the paper it's printed on?

To the Editor;

I wanted to express the fact that in the previous issue of *The Lance* dated Nov. 22, 1991 in an article written by Robert Novotny, titled, "Student Senate Food Committee Discusses Health Concerns with Marriott," I was wrongfully mistaken for stating things I did not say.

The article mentioned that "Student Jason King," who is the only student of that name at St. Andrews, "noted seeing workers carrying tubs of supposedly hot food without the aid of mits." Also, I reportedly called for a "relaxation of the militaristic attitude occasionally displayed by both sides. We must work with, not against each other."

I must now state that I have said none of the above, nor was I ever interviewed by Mr. Novotny. What bothered me most about the mistake was the fact that I don't even attend S.A.G.A. due to a medical condition. However, I would like to add that in my two previous years of dining at S.A.G.A., I found that all of the workers I came into contact with were always cordial and extremely friendly.

Lately I heard rumors that I was going to sue Mr. Novotny [for libel]... I don't know where the rumor originated, but it is not true!

I would greatly appreciate and expect a proper correction. [Editor's Note: See front page for correction.]

Jason K. King

The Lance

St. Andrews' Student Newspaper

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