

Opinion

Letter to the Editors:

Recently, the residents of Wilmington Hall were given a great shock. Wilmington will be co-ed when we return next fall. At first, I was completely outraged, and although I am still somewhat angry I do see the economical reasoning behind the decision.

However, the factor that distresses me the most is that the residents of Wilmington were not even consulted or informed of the proposal until it was virtually a "done deal." When I was considering coming to St. Andrews everything I read and every person I spoke with stressed the importance and the prominence of student involvement. I feel that my rights as a student have been somewhat violated. This involvement that is supposed to be so important was overlooked or completely ignored. How, as a student on such a small campus, is that supposed to make me feel? Until this incident I had been content with my life at St. Andrews. Sure, I have problems with SAGA and other trivial things, but I have never seriously considered leaving--until now.

As I said before, I do see the economical reasoning behind the decision to make Wilmington Hall co-ed. But as a member of the St. Andrews community I feel that the decision to leave the residents of Wilmington uninformed until it was all but too late was a bad one on the part of Administration.

I think if student involvement is going to be stressed to prospective students, Administration should strive to make it an intricate part of the St. Andrews community.

--Lauren J. McDevitt

Letter to the Editor:

There are currently three major long distance phone companies in the United States. AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. AT&T is the largest carrier, serving over 70% of the long distance market. Each of these phone companies offers calling card service, with ways of accessing that phone company's network. MCI and Sprint use a 1-800 number that can be dialed from any phone, and from there, you may place your call, normally with operator assistance, and operator fees. AT&T uses a prefix system, rather than the 800 system, that is supposed to transfer you to the AT&T network, without the operator assistance, unless you are placing a collect call.

The St. Andrews system serviced by Telecomm and MCI, has created a virtual monopoly over students, by locking out and prohibiting certain calls.

My parents live overseas on a U.S. military base, and since AT&T is the leader in clarity and cost for international calls, I would like to be able to use my AT&T calling card to call my parents.

St. Andrews has locked out the 102880 prefix for AT&T, claiming that students were charging phone calls back to the school, and it took too much time to charge the rooms for the phone calls. The college also removed the 0 for operator so that students could not get a Southern Bell operator, for the same reason. The college claims that it has met the requirements for a phone service by providing a means for everyone who wishes to use a long distance carrier other than MCI or Telecomm.

Sprint users may call an 800 number, and may place their call that way. However, Sprint users are finding that Telecomm is charging Sprint anywhere from \$.15 to \$4.00 in "switching fees" for use of the Telecomm line. But, Sprint is already paying Telecomm for the 800 number.

On the other hand, AT&T decided to use a prefix, so that customers could dial direct, rather than going through an operator, which increased the speed of the dial and eliminated the "switching costs." The college claims that AT&T not having an 800 number is students' and AT&T's problem, not the college's. The college has received an 800 number from AT&T for students to use, when dialing inside the U.S. The number goes through several operators, but you can place AT&T calls. However, from this number, you cannot place international calls.

The college is not giving the number out, because it feels that is AT&T's responsibility, as Sprint and MCI put their 800 number on the back of their cards. AT&T prints their prefix number, which is supposed to be reachable from any public phone.

So, the college is providing for long distance telephone calls, as long as one uses MCI or Telecomm, you can call easily and without hassle. If you use Sprint, you play a game of chance, guessing how much Telecomm is going to charge you for using their lines. The charge can be worth up to 45 minutes of phone time!!

If you have an AT&T calling card, like

75% of the calling cards in the U.S., you have one choice; Complain until the college gives you the national 800 number: 800-661-0661, or you may use the pay phone in the hallway.

I can understand the college's position in trying to keep from having students charge phone bills and not pay them, but if it's going to be this much of a hassle, why didn't they let us keep our Southern Bell service, which provided hassle-free communications? If the college really wants to solve the problem, they might do what most large schools do. Every school in the Florida university system provides local phone service only. If a student wants to make long distance calls, then the student must either sign up with a long distance carrier, or use a credit card. The phone number is attached to the room, and since the school does not provide any type of long distance service, the choice of carriers is left up to the student and the roommate. This would be an ideal situation for St. Andrews because even from phones that are not connected to a long distance carrier, a credit card can be used, via the 800 number system or the AT&T prefix.

I do not believe that in order to call my parents in Japan using AT&T, the largest carrier in the U.S., I should be forced to call from a pay phone on the second floor of Meck at 8PM Saturday night. International phone calls are noisy in the best of circumstances. Try doing it in the middle of a party!

We, the undersigned, demand a fair and equitable way for Sprint and AT&T credit card own-

ers to place long distance calls, without undue hassle or extra charge. Whether the solution comes from the phone companies or the college, we do not care, just that the virtual monopoly the college has extended to MCI and Telecomm is removed.

Matt Clark

[Editor's note: This letter arrived with a list of persons who are dissatisfied with the phone service. Names are available upon request.]

Letter To the Editors:

Printings of "Comings & Goings," monthly calendars, memos, and other items is done in excess here at St. Andrews. Most of the time there are extras. Students and faculty usually discard printings after skimming them.

Upcoming events are usually advertised through posters, sales of tickets, and word of mouth, so the printings are unwanted. A limited number of printings should be made and posted for students and faculty to view. The overuse of paper is a helping factor in the wasting away of trees and forests.

Recycling of paper has been started at the student mailboxes so unwanted papers can be recycled instead of putting them in the trash. Recycling needs to be initiated across the entire campus to make a difference in helping to improve the environment.

--Christina L. Haymes
Box 5143



"Women were God's second mistake." -Oscar Wilde