

Editorial Page

Just Say No...

It is crucial to keep in mind certain rights of yours which certain members of the campus security staff either do not know or do not respect.

If a campus security officer comes to your door and asks to search your room, your answer should be simple and to the point. It doesn't matter whether you have something to hide or not. Simply say *no*.

Unless the officer has a warrant signed by the Dean of Students and is accompanied by your RD and one of the elected dorm officers, he has no right to search. If he does have a warrant, he doesn't need your permission and probably won't ask. But if he doesn't, he has no right to look around in your room, nor to search your person. Do not succumb to threats or promises.

There has been a tradition at SA for more than a quarter century that security officers do not come into the residence halls unless there is an emergency. When there are unauthorized parties, accusations, suspicions, conflicts, or any other problems in the suites, it is the RD and the RA's who sort things out.

That policy seems to have been abandoned last fall when phony assault charges had our security staff appropriately lurking in the halls of Orange to catch the perpetrator. For some reason, when that danger proved to be a hoax, they didn't go back to their exclusive traditional role-providing security in the public areas of the campus.

Why not?

I believe it is a mistake just to blame the officers. Sure, they may be watching too many episodes of "Cops" and now tend to confuse dorm rooms with crack houses. And, sure, they may have succumbed to entrapment schemes which have been determined to be unconstitutional. But, by and large, cops do what they are told. What I'm puzzled about is the attitudes of the people who are doing the telling.

Where is the Dean of Students in all of this? He has direct responsibility, through Theiron Young (assuredly the best

cop SA has ever had), to convey our policies to the force and explain what is expected of them.

Where is the Student Life Committee? It is their responsibility to determine, for the faculty's approval, any changes in policy.

And where are the RD's and the Dorm Councils? And Suite Leaders? Why do they seem to be abdicating their roles in solving internal dorm problems internally? Is it really possible that a whole student generation is declaring itself unable to govern itself?

What can we do about this?

Students can post p. 21 of the *Saltire* on the back of every john stall door (that is, if there are any unburned copies among you!). Know your rights and exercise them! If you do not, they will surely disappear. (If only you knew with what blood, sweat and tears the rights outlined on p. 21 were won by an earlier generation of students!!)

Faculty and staff members can think through again what a community of love and justice owes its members. I fear that many of the students recently punished or suspended have received little of either.

Richard C. Prust
Professor of Philosophy

In My Own Words

I want so much for *The Lance*. What I really want is a monthly or bi-weekly format that covers the pulse of St. Andrews with relevant, if not interesting, stories, editorials, and other writings. I want *The Lance* to have a staff that's creative and inspiring and who will continue this job after I graduate next year (provided there is a next year for this much abused paper). I want *The Lance* to be good, much better than this piece of future kitty box liner. I want the students of St. Andrews to like *The Lance* and utilize it as a forum for the exchange of ideas, thoughts, and biases. I want *The Lance* to appeal to all of St. Andrews (or at least the reading majority) so that we won't

In recent years, St. Andrews admissions material and various forms of campus propaganda have adopted the estimable duck as the college symbol, so to speak. Judging by this year's campus elections and a general sense of cynical withdrawal into isolated whining that permeates much of campus life, the duck is a great symbol for our college. Every year, it seems, travels the same course. Events transpire which enrage large factions of students on campus. Student life decisions, *Saltire* policies, and dissatisfaction with how students are being represented end up being large components of discussion for students day in and day out. Quack! Quack! Quack! Many students flap their gums and let loose a cacophany of Quacks with such vehemence that their cheeks flush through and through and indignation floweth over in every pore. One would assume that when election time comes rolling around and the time comes to join various committees or form new clubs that a plethora of candidates and innovative ideas would abound. Such never turns out to be the case. Where have all the whiners gone when it comes time to set agendas or at least attempt to get cracking on solving problems that plague our community?

be obligated to spend of time defending its honor or credibility. Mostly, I want to be proud to have contributed to, at least, next year's editions (because I'm not particularly proud of this one).

That's what I want. In my minimalist dreams I would like a staff of four or five dedicated workers who are willing to bust their proverbial asses to make sure that *The Lance* isn't just for wiping up spills. I wouldn't mind an occasional editorial that I don't solicit from my personal friends (I do appreciate the donations). I also have this dream of uncovering some great wrong that will catapult St. Andrews and *The Lance* to the heights of fame as a humanitarian school that offers altruism like some schools offer pointless breadth requirements but that's another story.

DISCO DOLES SPEAKS OUT

Even if one isn't into the election/running for office scene, there are many opportunities to get involved and turn whining into action. Gosh, if people around our grand old college actually backed up their words with action then the yearly columns that are written on this subject (which are similar in tone to this one) would go the way of the carrier pigeon. Then again, maybe it will be Quack, Quack, Quack. I have just one request, though; if you're gonna quack, could you do it quietly?

Brian Doles

At this point you may have either completely given up reading my editorial or you're totally bored (maybe not). How do we/I achieve this dream of *The Lance*? I don't really know. Next fall, the Communications department is offering a one credit class where you can either work for the yearbook or the newspaper—this tactic is bound to bring in some hedonists who would enjoy working on a newspaper. I'm also hoping that putting out an edition over the summer and during orientation will draw some visibility and get people interested. I suspect that with quiet desperation and some sort of organization that *The Lance* will come out more often than it did this year. I also think that it might achieve some level of quality. Who knows? If nothing else, I learned quite a bit about desktop publishing, a little more about journalism, and my blood pressure has risen comparatively.

I'd like to apologize in advance to any seniors who hoped that they could leave their last wills and testaments. They couldn't make it in this edition. I will, however, be glad to accept them for a summer edition that I'm hoping to publish. I also apologize for any mistakes (grammatical and orientational).

With that I place *The Lance* before you, with much trembling hands. Do with it what you will.
Rebecca Stacy, editor.