

EDITORIALS

Meat-Eaters Can Be Environmentalists

Dear Editor,

I must confess that I am completely roused to passion by Ruth Cook's "The Myth of the Meat-Eating Environmentalist," which appeared in the November 2 issue of the *Lance*.

As Environmental Chair of Albemarle, I do appreciate Ruth's concern for the environment and her sincere, heartfelt attempt at converting the masses. However, judging from my response, and the responses I overheard from others about her article, this is the wrong way to go about it.

I do support Ms. Cook in her emphasis on the need for action against these detrimental problems, both environmental and social (remember, our environment isn't just about trees and lemurs--people are in there, too). However, in acknowledging this need for action, how can she or anyone else condone a continuing series of articles containing vague political jargon, which draws conclusions about what it means to be an "environmentalist" with no

substantial references to back those conclusions up? What relevance can a weak thesis about vegetarianism hold, especially in a community where information about vegetarianism can be easily obtained, and which has relatively little control over what they eat?

Ms. Cook considered herself the environmentalist she defines in her article; she would quit writing about the need to become herbivores, and start compiling a list of all the members of Congress and Senate which represent the state's members of our representatives about the issues which concern them and our community at St. Andrews. If she is such a warrior against apathy, where is she during Eco-Action club meetings, joining the task force to turn out lights across the lake and penetrate the walls of Winston-Salem, getting residents to bring their recycling bins to the circle every Tuesday night? If she is so moved to act on behalf of environmentalism,

why isn't she organizing a campaign to get students to turn off shower water while they "soap up," to conserve a resource we waste so readily?

Again, it is not Ms. Cook, but her willingness to argue this age-old issue in several different columns, when more immediate and useful information could be provided to the student body instead. As a fellow environmentalist--who does at times eat meat, for reasons I would be happy to discuss with her (some environmentally related, some health related, and others just hunger related)--I do wish Ms. Cook luck in her endeavors, and hope she will continue to work, individually and with others, towards creating a cleaner planet.

With Sincerity,

Terra McVoy

The Lance

The Lance is the student run publication of St. Andrews Presbyterian College. It is a forum for the ideas and opinions of St. Andrews students. The opinions published in this paper are not necessarily the opinions of the Lance. Although the Lance is a student newspaper, we accept editorials and other information from the community at large. Any response can be left at the Lance office or sent to box 5619.

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The next installment of Ruth Cook's column, "The Myth of the Meat-Eating Environmentalist" will appear in the next issue of the *Lance*

Turkey Time!

BY TASHIA JONES

Ah, it's Turkey Time. What do people do for this holiday? My mother makes anything that has ever been associated with Thanksgiving. The cranberry sauce, the corn, pumpkin and minced meat pies (there is no meat in this), stuffing, green beans, and of course the turkey. We drink cider and wine. One of my sisters makes vodka egg nog. Back to that minced meat; no one really eats it, no one knows what's in it. Well, my stepdad has a few bites but he's just trying to appease mom. "Tell me about Thanksgiving at YOUR house," I ask of several people, and they do.

Yve Howe's family has been known to order take out. Some of the ethnic foods they have celebrated the fertility of American land with include Chinese, Thai, and Spanish cuisine. Frozen yogurt has been known to appear. Laura Cross has an aunt who makes zucchini and squash casserole. Alex Amarin, who perchance has the same aunt, recalls eating tongue that her mother's sister had prepared. Joe Bowers' grandmother, a devout Catholic, does the prayer before they eat spaghetti. The family of Brandi Miss never prayed at dinner before her father became a reverend. Traditionally, after dinner her and her two brothers compose and submit a Christmas list.

Ann Margaret McCuaig is a Canadian, so she'll be drinking beer over the holiday break. She realized the importance of Thanksgiving when her country's celebrated it last month. "It's about family and friends," she comments. "It meant absolutely nothing when I wasn't home." Jennifer Heffner says, "I really used to look forward to Thanksgiving but now it sucks." Her grandparents aren't meshing well with her parents these days. "I hate turkey," she concludes.

I haven't been "home" for Thanksgiving in three years. Damn that minced meat is going to taste good.