

FORUM

THE HOT SPOT

By JESSICA RAMOS
Classifieds Manager



It is very seldom that you see school functions, such as games, that have students attending the activity.

Lack of school spirit in the student body and students comprises one of the University's biggest dilemmas. Students just don't get involved in the events around them.

I used to think that school spirit was only shown through attendance of a game or if you attended a Student Government activity.

But this year, I realized how much of the "big picture" I was missing. School spirit consists of more than attending basketball games. There is so much more to the University students than they are given credit for by many people.

University students will help out a fellow student, whether he or she is a friend or merely another member of the University community.

I experienced this aspect of school spirit over intercession when my friend's car was stuck in the snow. Three different groups of people came to our rescue and offered their assistance, and I was dumbfounded to see so many people stop to help.

This is when I came to the conclusion that the University does have school spirit, which many fail to see.

Students might not make it to a game or a function, but we are all there for each other. And whether we like it or not, we are all one.

You might hang out with a different group of friends than I do, but the fact remains, we all have one tie that binds—we are all Scranton students.

And one other factor remains. No matter who we are, we know what it feels like to suffer the loss of someone.

Whether we are mourning the loss of a family member or a friend, there are many University students who are currently dealing with this pain along with us.

This is the time to remember our friends and express the loyalty which we have for each other in an effort to hold each other up through these difficult times.

In being there for each other, we place value on each other's lives and the lives we have lost.

I would like to end this by remembering the lives of Brett, Andrea, Mike, and Dave. They will never be forgotten, as they are a part of both the University and the lives that they have touched, forever.

Over the remaining months of the spring semester, one that, for some of us, will be our last, please try to take some time out of your life, be it a few minutes at random, or a collective effort, and remember the ways that you have been affected by the lives of these brothers and sisters from our community.

Make a point of casting their existence in stone, so that they will forever be remembered in your hearts, and the heart of those who had little chance to know them in a deeper sense, in their own lives.

McShane decries campus prejudice

To the University Community:
As you know, several incidents of racial tension and homophobic intolerance disrupted the life of the University community during the Fall Semester. Like many of you, I found myself quite disturbed by these incidents, for when I first joined the Board of Trustees in 1992, I was impressed by the fact that the University seemed to possess a tremendous sense of community. Moreover, I believed when I accepted the Trustees' invitation to assume the presidency of the University that this community was characterized by a welcoming spirit and a commitment to diversity. Therefore, the incidents that marred the last semester were—and continue to be quite unsettling to me. As a Jesuit educator, I simply cannot understand how the spirit of hatred could have found a home in our midst.

Because our life as a community is informed by the values proclaimed in the Gospel, we are called to live lives marked by love and a conspicuous dedication to justice and mutual respect. Therefore, I call upon all of the members of the University community both to reflect on the special responsibilities to justice and harmony that we bear as members of a specifically Catholic and Jesuit university community, and to recommit our-

selves to the task of driving intolerance out of our community.

Since the incidents that occurred during the waning days of the Fall Semester were so inflammatory, however, I believe that it is not enough for me to issue a benign call for reflection and a renewal of our dedication to the values of tolerance and respect. In light of both the harm done to the specific targets of hatred and the enormous damage to our sense of community, I feel that it is essential that I remind all of the members of the University community that such incidents will simply not be tolerated. Any person (whether he or she be a student, a faculty member or a member of the staff) found responsible for such acts will be subject to removal from the University community and turned over to the civil authorities for criminal prosecution.

As we move more deeply into the Spring Semester, let us ask God our Lord for the courage and the strength to be and to become courageous men and women of the Gospel, men and women devoted to the work of building up the human family.

Joseph M. McShane, S.J. is President of the University

Bagdzinski (continued from page 6)

as the overcrowded funeral parlor testified. Driving to work early one Saturday morning, I had no idea that the accident on the other lane of the highway had taken my friend, with whom I had exchanged holiday good-byes two days earlier. Truly the revelation was an incommunicable experience. The last time I had seen him, at the close of our

community's production of *The Boyfriend*, he was colored in a pasty-white shade of makeup, I now confess cowardice at discussing the obvious allusion.

Talent never dies, it simply lives to inspire. I did not steal this from a dictionary of quotations. Rather, I speak from experience. I think back to working with Mike on the play, a comedy

that ends in tragedy though the audience continues to laugh. I now see the irony. "You're a sick man," Mike told me. Thank you, friend. By and by, we got the joke.

In memoriam to a great talent and friend.

Jeff Boam is a graduate student from Moscow

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