

# THE AQUINAS

Serving The University and community since 1916

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## The ideal presidential candidate

### Search criteria needs to be broadened

With the announcement of Rev. Joseph M. McShane's departure from The University presidency not more than six months ago, the administration is desperately searching for a replacement from the pool of available Jesuits. This rush might lead one to a state of uncertainty pertaining to the adequacy of the final choice for president of our university.

The qualities, experience and know-how of this candidate will undoubtedly affect the changes that occur throughout the University in the coming years, for better or for worse. So then, what should we require of a president? What minimum standards should we impose? Surely, we cannot be too picky, and conversely we should not let our sights slip too far down the barrel.

In short, let us not wander astray from such traits as prior administrative experience; this being somewhere on my own personal top five list. Our ideal presidential candidate should be accustomed to a multi-faceted position that caters to many audiences. Academic concerns, infrastructural changes, and external relations will rest on the shoulders of the chosen candidate. Administration, faculty, students, and the community all base concern on the people deemed worthy of the position.

If times is on the line, and decisions must be made, make not haste. Broaden the search criteria until the not only the bare minimum of skills and attributes are found, but rather past the edge of the Board of Trustees' table until a president who exemplifies the leader we imagine at the head of The University of Scranton, is uncovered. With lay persons and administration insiders included, the choices have increased significantly.

Time is never on the side of the hard-pressed, true, but I'd rather not drop another quarter into the crane game.

I had a dream one afternoon. A dream that filtered down through a greyness, through the murk of 1000 winters. A thousand winters on planets whose airy reaches are occluded by methane, perhaps. It was obvious within several seconds that it wasn't a dream where I'd have control of my faculties, I felt the acute panic of disembowelment, of a severe torque gripping my limbs. "You're in Stalingrad, walking into the Sverdernask Machine Works," said my wife (she lying dead amid the rubble spoke through a shrapnel hole in her chest). "Either you're in Stalingrad and a Stuka killed me or you've smelled the dawn after 1000 winters." Her mouth was marble-colored. "Either that or you're in Scranton, Pennsylvania during the year God ordained we all atone. Probably that." And she ascended like a vapor and became one with the whine of bombers and tulips emerging.

### Editorial Policy

The content of The Aquinas is the responsibility of the Editor in Chief and Executive staff and does not necessarily reflect the views of The University of Scranton, its staff or faculty.

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The Aquinas does not print anonymous or pseudonymous letters.



THE AQUINAS/WILL PEOPLES

### Your Letters

## Affirmative action is racism

Dear Editor,

Ladies and gentlemen, institutional racism is very alive on the campus of The University of Scranton. The Mar. 27, 2003 issue of The Aquinas reported that The University decided to continue its policy of racial preference, also known as affirmative action. I must applaud The University's decision to file a brief to the Supreme Court requesting that the government stay out of private universities' business, even if they are practicing blatant racism.

However, I am disgusted that The University continuously chooses to engage in the racist practice of using a racial preference in the admissions process. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired me to write this article. Why you may ask—why—when my critics are claiming that I am against helping minorities? King inspired me because he advocated judging people by "the content of their character" not "the color of their skin." Affirmative action judges people by the color of their skin.

While I am very much in favor of diversity and, therefore, very strongly support The University's minority recruitment program, I feel that to accept someone or deny someone admission to The University, based upon their race, a factor they are unable to control, is ludicrous and racist. Critics of my position will say that affirmative action is necessary in order to help boost the admittance level of minorities whose races were previously discrimi-

nated against in order to broaden campus diversity. Does this mean that some of these minority people are inherently "less than" Caucasians? If you answer yes, then you're racist, and you're wrong. Affirmative action's first negative consequence is the way it degrades minority students and sends them the message that they are not qualified enough to gain admittance into schools on their own merit.

The second negative effect of affirmative action is the racial tension that it causes. When a white student walks down the halls of an affirmative action college and sees a minority student, the white student often wonders if the minority student is there on merit, or because of his or her race. Without affirmative action, there is no question that every student who is at The University is there on merit. Affirmative action seeks to provide diversity throughout schools so that people of different races may live in an atmosphere of mutual acceptance. When all students equally earn their way into The University, acceptance builds. However, when white students are outraged that they are considered "less than" minority students in the admissions policy, only toleration and resentment build.

Racism is wrong. There is no question about that. Racism is advancing or demeaning a particular person or group of people based on their race. Affirmative action is also advancing a particular person or group of people

based on their race. Affirmative action is racism institutionalized. Over the past century, thousands of The University's graduates came from the families of Irish, Italian and Polish immigrants as well as from various other social backgrounds. Most of these graduates and their ancestors were horribly discriminated against and grossly mistreated both socially and economically because of their ethnic background. However, these graduates of The University never needed affirmative action programs nor did they ever ask for them.

Despite the gross discrimination against these former students and their families of European descent, they managed to succeed in improving their won lives through hard work and merit rather than using institutional racial discrimination to achieve success. I am supremely confident that if affirmative action is eliminated, the minorities of today's America can do the same.

I encourage The University to go out and purposefully recruit minority students in order to improve campus diversity; however, I ask that The University admit these students on merit qualifications, not race. Until The University repeals its racist admissions process, I sternly urge any alumni not to donate money to The University.

*M. Vincent Cruciani is a sophomore from Clarks Summit.*

## The race card continues to be played

Dear Editor,

What is affirmative action? Affirmative action was created by the federal government to provide for the hiring of qualified minorities in governmental bureaucratic positions. This was reputable, necessary, important and influ-

ential in breaking the terrible race and gender barrier in American bureaucracies and corporations.

Now affirmative action is being taken advantage of, blatantly being used and abused. It has become nothing more than an easy way for minorities, women, the economically

disadvantaged or handicapped persons—regardless of their skills or qualifications—to receive jobs, promotions, college acceptance and social benefits.

Instead of hard work, dedication and diligence being rewarded, it is as though it is being con-

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### THE WILL OF THE PEOPLES

## Bleepity-bleep bleep



### Will Peoples

Profanity. It's funny, isn't it?

We all love it when a professor drops an obscene word in class. Everytime Cartman sings about Kyle's mom on "South Park" grins flash from ear-to-ear. ESPN asks people to vote on the top highlight of Monday's National Championship Basketball game between Syracuse and Kansas, with coach Roy Williams' live, on-air expletive during a post-game interview as choice D.

Why is this so humorous and entertaining though? Only a few years ago one would never imagine hearing "the B word" uttered on national television. Now it's quite common. Try walking around the Commons or standing in line in the cafeteria without hearing some dirty-mouthed sailor mutter a few choice words to his buddy. (No offense, Mr. Quinn.) Expletives are even a form of greeting to some people.

"Hello, ---face."  
"Hiya, ---lover."

I admit I am no angel. I admit I often laugh aloud about some full-of-curses incident just as much as the next 20-something guy. However, I believe I am pretty good about watching my mouth. In fact, I don't think I ever heard as much profanity in high school as I do now at our Catholic institution. And, it is from all of you preparatory school fellows that I hear the most offensive material. (I won't even bother to bring up the Irish lads.) I find this all to be quite ironic.

Saturday is full of binge drinking, thus bringing about even more profanity. After a few drinks it is always the same tune: "Man, I need to get some 'A' off some 'Bs' tonight. Look at this effin' guy. Let's get some effin' pizza. Ah man, look at the effin' line. Don't cut, a-hole!" Sunday means heading to church at some part of the day, whereupon exiting out the chapel doors onto Madison Ave. one is commonly heard cursing the test for which he must study off his—um—behind. That is pretty bad. It is even worse for some reason or another—when it is a young lady doing the cursing.

Think about what you or your amigos/amigas have given up for Lent. I know many people who dismiss chocolate or candy, and others try to become a better person some way or another. I have not heard anyone say, "I am going to give up cursing." There has always been the concept of putting money in a jar for every articulated obscenity, but this idea seems to be confined to the world of television.

I am not discussing this because I am some clean-cut mama's boy. I just know that this behavior is not the most professional of mannerisms. Besides, everyone slips once in

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