

# Letters To The Editors

Dear Editor,

While walking downtown one recent afternoon I came upon a scene that caused me dismay -- workmen topping the fence surrounding the old Scranton Estate with barbed wire. "Something there is that does not love barbed wire." I thought to myself and I pondered the question of its erection. Curiously, the standards to which the wire was attached were two-pronged, indicating that its purpose was to inflict injury on individuals on either side of the fence who would dare traverse it.

"I know that religious orders are having some difficulty recruiting and keeping members, but this is ridiculous," I mused as I considered the consternation of a cassocked individual dangling head first, his hem snagged on a barb. Clearly, this

could not be the reason for the wire. And since we spend much time and effort seeking out local residents to fill our classrooms why should we try to fence them out?

But then the full magnitude of the plot hit me. The Administration is attempting to gain a clear military superiority over the University through a cloaked but steady build-up of resources. First the issuance of guard dogs to top officials; then the construction of a glass-enclosed observation post atop the Student Center; now the barbed wire.

As faculty and students we have but two courses of action. We can arm ourselves in similar fashion or negotiate an arms limitation agreement with the Administration. I hesitate to recommend the former for fear the hallowed halls of St.

Thomas would soon take on the fragrance of the Humane Society. Therefore I call for an immediate halt to the U of S arms race before it gets out of hand.

Peacefully yours,

William L. Shade  
Assistant Professor

P.S. Do we really need that silly fence?

letters --

Dear Friend:

I am happy to report to you two new legislative initiatives which should substantially aid you in meeting the high costs of education. I know you have a personal interest in this matter.

First, I am introducing today a bill which allows a tax deduction for tuition costs incurred by any taxpayer, his spouse, or dependent. This is applicable for costs of vocational education as well as costs of higher education and would allow a maximum \$2000 deduction for tuition and fees. Anyone earning less than \$25,500 annually would be eligible to receive this deduction.

I have been especially disturbed recently by the skyrocketing costs of education which seem to hit the middle income taxpayer the hardest. I hope this legislation measure will provide a cost cushion and will further serve as an incentive for many people to continue their education.

Secondly, I have joined in cosponsoring a bill (S. 3680) to prevent the taxation of the 'forgiveness' portion of education loans. In a little noticed action last June, the Internal Revenue Service judged that the canceled portion of educational loans should be considered taxable income, either retroactively or in the future.

These are just two of the measures which I am advocating to aid the middle income taxpayer as he attempts to overcome the extreme hardships imposed on him by escalating inflation and the cost of living. You can count on my strong, personal efforts to gain Senate approval of these measures and I will certainly keep you informed as events progress.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Hugh Scott  
United States Senator

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## In Their Opinion...

By Joseph P. O'Malley and Karen L. Pennington

The day school of the University of Scranton is beginning the 1974-75 school year with problems such as over seven hundred freshmen and commuter students who can not be accommodated properly, insufficient facilities for lectures and a general lack of administrative knowledge, all of which tend to lower the standards of education. These problems affect all the students at the University complex as well as the teaching methods of the professors.

The day student chooses the University for many and varying reasons. The student may find tuition lower than at other private institutions, maybe he or she likes Scranton for some reason; the University of Scranton may just be the perfect size; the quality of education at the University might be the deciding factor. For whatever reason, the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Scranton attracts over 600 day students a year. This year there are approximately 750 students in the incoming class. The University is made and shaped by these people and therefore, the school should make every effort to meet their needs. Unfortunately, their needs are not taken to heart by the administrators.

Each of the past three years, the number of new students admitted to the University has increased. The dormitories have been expanded to adequately house the rising numbers but the lecture rooms, which should also have been a main concern of the University administrators, have not been increased. This has created an intolerable situation in St. Thomas Hall, where the halls and the class rooms are overcrowded, providing a very non-conducive atmosphere for class attention.

Mrs. Murphy, the Assistant Registrar, finds it increasingly difficult to locate rooms to fit all the lectures at their given time slots.

It is quite obvious the administrators have turned a deaf ear to the complaints of the students and the faculty members. All the administrators would have to do is walk down the second floor corridor of St. Thomas Hall during a break between classes and open criticism of the situation which exists there, would be heard and the actual problem seen. These people, who run the school, many times seem to forget the not so difficult art of logical thinking while making their administrative decisions.

Unfortunately, the concern of the University officials is exemplified by their conversion of the lecture rooms on the third floor of St. Thomas into offices. These rooms were by no means small, they contained 1316 square feet of valuable lecture room space. Here at the University, the axiom of the schools which is for the students seems to have been done away with.

If the administrators wanted to expand office facilities, why not look into purchasing a building such as the YWCA and convert its rooms into offices and lecture rooms? Also, an added bonus to the University would be the pool at the YWCA facilities. We would no longer be dependent upon Nay Aug or Marywood, and what better all round physical training is there then swimming? Instead of encroaching upon the students right to education, the YWCA would have been, and still is a much better alternative.

In conjunction with the above mentioned problems, a most illogical situation has developed at the University, for it seems the more administrators the community acquires, the more problems seem to be created. If the University tries hard enough, we could attain the ratio of one administrator for every ten students. The administrators main objective seems to be making more money for the University so they could get more pay. It's time they wake up to a change of priorities and put the needs of the students first.

The very situation which the administrators are afraid of occurring, that is, a dropping enrollment, will surely materialize if nothing is done to alleviate problems which exist. Attitudes of potential commuter and dorm students will change for they are not exactly blind to situations existing at an institution which they are interested in attending. If facilities are not expanded to keep educational standards on the high level which has been attained over the years, these same students in the near future may not be so attracted to the University of Scranton.

## Aquinas Comments

The school year has now officially begun and with the new beginnings, I deem it a good time to welcome all the students here at the University and extend to you all the best of wishes for the upcoming year that is upon us already. To the Freshman class, we hope that your time at the "U" will be both rewarding and enjoyable, both socially and academically. As you've probably been told time and again, college is what you make of it. If you see something which you think is wrong, tell someone. Chances are that someone else may not detect the flaw. Don't be afraid to express your ideas and viewpoints. Speaking out is nothing to be ashamed of. It is, rather, something in which to take pride.

To the upperclassmen, welcome back for a time of positive thinking and acting. To just sit on the sidelines and let the time go by undaunted is giving up your voice. There are things to be accomplished; these cannot be completed by only a handful or by one special group. This University is composed of over 4100 students and it is not fair that only a hundred or so make the policies. Get your ideas to others and work on them until they become realities. Don't take it for granted, thinking that someone else will do it. Take the initiative and make a stand. The semester is young, there is a lot of time. Waiting will only prolong and distort the ideas.

Apparently things are not as pessimistic as one might imply. There is a strong governing body of the students. The academic arena is strong with a full and working faculty. Socially, there is always something to do in the student's spare time; some take this benefit more so than others. However, the availability is there when needed. The outlets are there, but new ideas are also needed to prevent stagnation. Never has there been a shortage of ideas, but there is always fewer people implementing these ideas than desired. No one can deny that fact. This is all the more reason for new blood in each and every system. For what initiative can be taken when the initiative falls on sullen and deaf ears?

The time for gathering is here. The time for harvesting and fostering a fresh outlook is slipping away quickly. Let's start this academic year with something which has been used only furtively in the past, that is, a renewed vigor in the endeavors started last year. The chance to climb out of the rut is here IF you wish to accept it. Remember, no one can do it for you.

R.K.R.

## Prose and Poetry Column Added

There is a lot of writing talent on this campus but it has found its largest audience on the bathroom wall. That is up until now. This column is here to change all that, it will be devoted to presenting a forum through which the writers on campus might be read. Unless of course you happen to frequent the same sexist graffiti parlors.

The written word is a meaningless

set of symbols if it has no literate audience. So if your work has been enlightening the back corner of a dresser drawer, send it in. The best of the works that I receive will be printed here for all to share.

I have been given Carte Blanche with this column so I will accept poetry and prose of any length for consideration. Just send them to The Aquinas, c/o Chris Bubb Box D, U of S.