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## Student Expresses Concern Over Publishing Issue

Dear Editor,

I have been following the debate you have initiated over the publish or perish issue with extensive interest. As Brenda Murphy pointed out in her recent letter to the editor, this discussion of the "role that teaching and scholarship properly play" is indeed long overdue.

I seriously doubt that anyone would debate the issue that good teaching and scholarship are intimately related. A teacher would have difficulty in igniting student interest and learning if they were not themselves able scholars. The dilemma revolves around how scholarship is defined, and does that definition necessarily entail publishing.

Murphy raises the point that students pay tuition for the privilege of "learning from scholars who make the pursuit of knowledge their life's work" and that we should "consider carefully what faculty members bring to that interaction." I find the implications of such statements, that faculty research and publication are of foremost importance in their student interaction, highly questionable. A primary interest for me in coming to St. Lawrence

was the small size of the student body, allowing for greater student-faculty contact. In my "ignorance" I assumed that a teacher was just that, a teacher interested in the student and facilitating learning.

As a small liberal arts college, St. Lawrence University offers students the opportunity to benefit from contact and input from teachers in a variety of departments as the make important decisions about their careers. I believe it is this personal interest in the student that is of foremost importance in student-faculty interactions.

Murphy also raises the point that a lack of current research would be detrimental to future teaching. How is this prediction substantiated I would ask? Dr. Connors did not publish, yet students are outraged that a teacher they regarded as excellent will be replaced by an inexperienced graduate student. "Excellence in teaching is the primary criterion for awarding tenure," to quote Brenda Murphy, but it is presumptuous to assume that publishing will necessarily make one a better teacher. A good teacher equates with be-

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## Clash A Waste

BY PETER WISBEY

The extra money in the SLUSAF account has been in the news quite often this year. There have been quite a few ways found to decrease the surplus but none seems better than to put on a concert which is guaranteed not to break even.

The Clash is coming to Appleton Arena next weekend thanks to our SLUSAF dollars. If the Arena is packed, which it is expected to be, we will only lose \$10,000. We are paying \$40,000 for this group and planning to lose \$10,000. Why is there such waste?

Although The Clash is a group which will be popular with students, they are only coming to SLU because we have such a ready cash surplus that we are willing to spend. If our activity fee budget were even with our expenditures, no one would ever consider sponsoring a concert that is guaranteed to lose money.

It would be much more sensible if a series of smaller concerts were planned over a long period of time rather than one major concert near the end of the year. Think of the winter doldrums at the end of February or the beginning of

March. It would be a good way to keep everyone happy before Spring Break if we had a well-known play here then.

When it was built, the Leithead field house was designed to house concerts. One was held there, and Thelmo paid \$10,000 for mats to protect the floor. Later the field house was found to violate fire code regulations for concerts; it didn't have enough exits. If there were some way for the students to cooperate with the administration so that the field house could be fixed up, we could have concerts there anytime of the year. We've already invested \$10,000 in floor mats which do us no good. Through a long term investment of money and labor, we could hold concerts which possibly could return our investment and make money.

The SLUSAF fund is monitored by the central treasurer. There should be no surprise surpluses, only planned ones. If things are planned carefully between the UCA and SLUSAF we could have a concert series featuring well-liked artists at a reasonable cost and without blowing \$10,000 wastefully.

## Murphy's Letter Rebutted

Dear Peter:

This letter is in reference to Brenda Murphy's recent letter to the editor ("Teaching and Scholarship," Hill News, April 12, 1984, p.4). With regard to her letter, I have three comments. First, I agree wholeheartedly that the campus discussion of the roles that teaching and scholarship should play in a professor's job is long overdue. Hopefully, her letter along with the many other letters and articles that have appeared in the Hill News, the St. Lawrence Plaindealer, and elsewhere recently concerning the importance of teaching effectiveness vis-a-vis research and publications will help to encourage those who have the authority to call certain meetings so that these important issues may be discussed in greater detail and by a greater number of individuals. I have in mind three kinds of meetings: (1) an open forum — the primary objective of which should be merely an exchange of information and ideas, which would be open to the entire campus community, and during which no actual voting would take place (to be most productive, I honestly believe that the President and the Professional Standards Committee should not only attend this forum, but also actively participate in this forum by sharing their views and listening to the views of others in attendance); (2) a formal meeting

of the student body on this matter — wherein this issue could be thoroughly discussed prior to a vote on the matter; and (3) a formal meeting of the faculty on this matter — wherein this issue could be thoroughly discussed prior to a vote on the matter. As a responsible institution of higher learning, I honestly believe that St. Lawrence University owes it to itself to have such meetings on important issues such as this one. I hope that those who have the authority to call such meetings actually do so.

At such meetings, I would propose that those in attendance discuss the following issues, among others: (1) the apparent shift of emphasis away from teaching effectiveness to research and

publications regarding tenure decisions; (2) the current procedure whereby the President and the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) are not required to share their decisions to deny tenure with the Board of Trustees; (3) the inconsistency that exists between the reality of recent tenure decisions and the University's continued promotion of the image that teaching comes first at St. Lawrence; and (4) my proposal that we change the tenure question from "Does individual X measure up to an arbitrary and inflexible standard (e.g., excellence in teaching, excellence in scholarship, excellence in community service)?" to the questions:

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## Insider's View of East College

Dear Mr. Wisbey: Recently there has been much controversy concerning East College, its existence, purpose and success. Unfortunately most of the problem has been a lack of communication resulting in some very fundamental misconceptions. While we at East always welcome interest and input, we are somewhat distressed at some of the things we hear. As an insider I wish to present my views of East College.

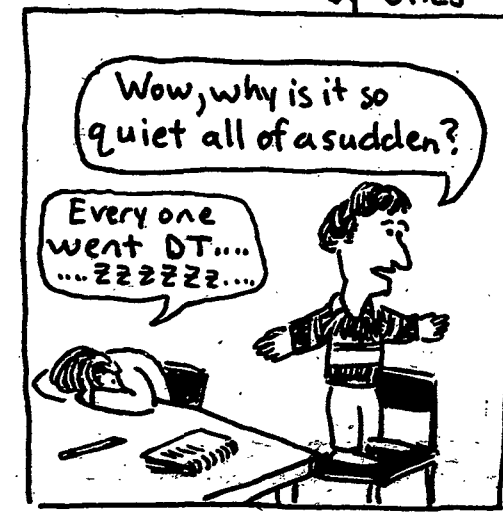
One of the most frequent comments I hear is that East must be an academic college. It

is not. The program aims to make us better students, but we were no different than any other freshman upon arrival at St. Lawrence. In fact, the students that were chosen for East were intentionally diversified as a group, our academic backgrounds and extracurricular activities vary greatly. In these aspects we have not changed.

East College students are well represented in the extracurricular activities on campus. I would like to list

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The World According to Giles "One night at ODY..."



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