

The Tower Goes on

Beyond the Tower, what? Sears? Bankruptcy? Responding to the question in a recent **Griffin** interview, Father Edward Gillen, S.J., discoursed on the college's current construction program.

Fr. Gillen, who is Assistant to the President for Planning, explained that the new dormitory, the physical education complex, and the faculty tower are part of a carefully considered plan based on the needs of the college as assessed by a committee of the Board of Trustees. In addition to these structures, A Health-Science Center in the old telephone building on Delevan Avenue, and expansion of the Bowrouis Library are scheduled.

"With the completion of these projects, we expect to have adequate facilities for a day-student population of 2500, Fr. Gillen stated. "It was decided four years ago to stop at 2500 in order to retain the college's identity as a comparatively small school emphasizing personal relationships. Higher figures sometimes quoted include night and part-time students. All planning was based on the 2500 figure," the Jesuit said.

The faculty tower was designed to serve a faculty of the size required by this number of students, according to Fr. Gillen, but not all instructors will have offices in the new tower. It has been the experience of most colleges and universities that the science departments prefer to be near their labs. For this reason, Chemistry and Physics will remain where they are, and Biology and Psychology will move into the Health-Science Center when it is completed."

When queried about the fate of the houses which the college owns, Fr. Gillen said that they were not under his direct jurisdiction, but that he expected some to be replaced with parking space, while the remainder would be returned to private ownership. Outlining their history, he explained, "The college issued a policy some years ago covering the acquisition of houses in the community. We did not go from door, trying to buy all the homes on

Hughes or Eastwood," Fr. Gillen emphasized. After asking to be notified by residents when they offered their houses for sale, the college employed a policy of selective acquisition based on need.

The need for at least one of the houses, the Psych house, is likely to continue for some time. "The Health-Science Center has turned out to be a harder project than we had thought," Fr. Gillen told the **Griffin**. He explained that changing and updating the existing building will be more difficult than construction of a new edifice would be; "putting labs, science rooms, and hot-houses into a building not originally designed for them requires a lot of remodeling."

Continuing on to the problem of space in the library, Fr. Gillen stated, "something has to be done in five years. The library is the core of the college. It is the first tool of the faculty and undergraduates. No plans have been made as yet, but at least temporary storage space will be needed sooner or later. Discussing this postponement of final plans Fr. Gillen noted: "The nature of library science is changing. Modern techniques may enable us to add only a small addition." Father was referring to a new storage method that allows for the storage of "at least ten times the number of books in the space we have now. Convenient and foolproof microfilm is being developed. We are looking into all the possibilities." Father Gillen said.

Fr. Gillen also discussed the economics of current construction, the debt which has caused some students to fear they may become alumni without an Alma Mater. "The college must cover 15% of the cost from its funds, federal grants and subsidy loans when obtained will provide the other 85%." The grants are outright gifts of money. The subsidy loans will involve the government

in sharing the interest payments on the long term of 30-50 year loans. The length of time involved prompted Fr. Gillen to note: "I'll be long gone before the college pays off the debts I've contracted." The library extension will have to be done without federal grants.

The perennial rumor that the college might obtain the Sears' property was mounted by Father Gillen; "I've heard that rumor ever since I've been here", he said. "I don't believe it for two reasons; one they have built the parking ramp; two, they are doing a very good business in appliances".

Fr. Gillen asserted that planning is done for a space of five years, with periodic reviews to adapt it to changing needs.