

Thomas Aids Students

By Kathy Kern

Part of the red tape most students get caught in during the September confusion of school is the process of obtaining financial aid.

Upon replacing Wayne L. Nelson last June as Capitol's financial aid officer, Mr. Robert Thomas has made it his goal to be as accessible to students as possible, in order to see that they get the help they need in receiving financial aid.

"We're always willing to deal with a student's needs on a day-to-day basis," Thomas noted, adding that a student's aid status may change because of the financial situation at home.

The new financial aid officer would also like to hold informal evening sessions with students to discuss the availability of aid. Mr. Thomas feels it is possible to make the Financial Aid Office part of a student's life, and he would like to send an open invitation to student organizations to have him speak to their members about aid.

As for problems faced on the job so far, Mr. Thomas concluded that most difficulties in obtaining aid are caused by missed application deadlines. "There is little I can do if the deadlines are missed," he said.

Also, the dwindling availability of aid due to President Reagan's budget cuts has made it more important than ever to meet aid application deadlines. And although media attention to the budget cuts may be great, Thomas feels that the coverage is necessary because, "it gives us an early warning of what to expect." Also, he said that the university may be

able to "identify additional funds to replace what we are going to be losing from the federal government."

So far this school year, Thomas has seen the budget cuts have their greatest effect on the availability of Work/Study jobs. Yet his office has been able to add a new source of money for students to its list, "The Auxiliary Loan To Assist Students," formerly the "Parent Loan For Undergraduate Students." More information on this loan can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office.

Other than problems caused by missed application deadlines, complications stem from the financial aid network itself. "You have to understand the nature of the system since it is so big," commented Thomas, adding that it may be wise to send acceptances of aid by registered mail to be assured it will be received. "It does not take a lot of time and it is a good thing to be thinking about," he noted.

Mr. Thomas feels that his background, which includes a Masters in Education of Student Personnel (Bucknell) and admissions experience (Dickinson), has been part of the "natural developments" which moved him into his position at Capitol. He also appreciates his June appointment to the job, since it gave him the opportunity to "know" Capitol before the September rush.

Saying that he enjoys contact with students, Mr. Thomas could not stress enough his willingness to talk to any student about the financial aid program. And though the system may be complex, perhaps Mr. Thomas can help a student master it to at least some degree.



"What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?" seems to be the question on this lion's mind during orientation.

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Photo Club

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Prof Threatened

Something To Crow About

TUCSON, Ariz. (CH)—A University of Arizona student faces charges of threatening and intimidating a professor after he complained about a bad grade in an unusual fashion.

John J. Wenass shot a textbook with a 12-gauge shotgun and placed it in a mailbox of John E. Crow, associate professor of political science, after Crow refused to alter his "D" grade.

Wenass took a political science course from Crow last spring and initially received an incomplete. After it was changed to a "D," Wenass met with Crow to complain.

Five minutes after that meeting, a witness saw Wenass put the book in Crow's mailbox. It contained the note: "Thanks John...P.S. This is not a reflection of you, but a reflection of Pol. 102."

Wenass told UA police he shot the textbook several months before, and had no intention of intimidating or threatening Crow. The gesture was a joke, he said.