

Teachers

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disruption. According to Dr. Thomas Scapaticci, chairperson of King's Education Department, "Dallas Area teachers have decided not to take King's College student teachers because of a policy the college has adopted which has nothing to do with the quality of our student teachers or our department."

The King's admissions department and the administration have adopted a policy of tuition reimbursement for diocesan high school students, announced in local papers in June, 1995.

The policy, as it is stated in King's College literature, works as follows:

- High school graduates in the class of 1996 who have attended Scranton Diocesan schools, and have applied and been accepted for admission as full-time freshman at King's College in the fall of 1996 are eligible for the grant.
- The student will receive a grant, equal to the average amount of annual high school tuition paid, to be applied towards the cost of tuition for a year at King's. Only the actual dollar amount paid by the family will be considered for the grant.

For example, if a student attends Bishop O'Reilly, where tuition is currently \$3,010 annually (more if the parish doesn't subsidize) for four years, the student will receive a grant of \$3,010 for each of the four years at King's. Currently King's annual tuition is \$11,710, not including room, board, or books.

According to Daniel Conry, King's dean of admissions, the program's intent is to "increase our attractiveness to private parochial schools from the Scranton Diocese area." He said currently 60% of the student population is made up of public high school graduates. As a result, "King's expends a lot more money to public school students in terms of grants and scholarships, based on both academics and need."

"The first class that will take advantage of this is the 1996 high school graduating class. We've processed roughly 40 applications so far," Conry said. "Private school parents are paying for their high school children double - taxes and then tuition," Conry said. "Granted, it's of their own volition. We're trying to help them recoup some of their double expenses and see that Catholic colleges are affordable."

According to Dr. Nick Holodick, director of student teachers at King's, "The tuition policy was a college decision, not the education department's decision."

"I had three placed," Holodick said. "Then we got a phone call in early to mid January from Gil Griffiths, assistant superintendent at Dallas, who was told by Bill Wagner that they wouldn't be accepting teachers from King's."

According to Holodick, Dallas

"I was really torn. I could see what the public school teachers are saying and I support public schools."

Helen Roderick
King's student teacher

is the only district which denied their student teachers this semester. He was able to place the three in Wilkes-Barre area schools by late January.

Holodick said the majority of King's student teachers are placed in Wilkes-Barre Area schools this semester. They have 23 elementary student teachers in Wilkes-Barre, Pittston and Wyoming Valley West schools. King's also has 10 secondary student teachers in Wyoming Area, West Side Vo-Tech, Wilkes-Barre Area and Bishop Hoban schools.

Holodick said it's ironic because, "This was started by Wilkes-Barre Area. However, I think they realized if they locked us out for this semester that would be unfair without looking first at any other options. They took a professional attitude. We feel this is not a decision made by all teachers - but made by officers of the teachers' association. We're not criticizing teachers as a whole."

"We're open to speak to any teachers association to resolve it," Holodick said.

He then posed the question: "Are they going to deny a Dallas graduate attending King's the chance to student teach at Dallas?"

William Wagner, president of the Dallas Education Association and a biology teacher at Dallas High School, is a King's College and Dallas High School graduate. He did his student teaching at Bishop Hoban High School.

He said the PSEA LCCC (Pennsylvania State Education Association Luzerne County Coordinating Council) is concerned for King's student teachers, but, "we feel they could get their student teaching done at a parochial high school."

Wagner said the reason the DEA refused King's student teachers is "Two or three months ago King's announced a tuition reimbursement policy and no-holds-barred admission for parochial students."

According to Wagner, the reason for the objection is two-fold: "He feels King's will eventually raise the tuition at the expense of public high school students," who would then be paying more for the same college education.

"They'll also be giving parochial students special treatment by foregoing the usual screening process for being admitted."

However, both Conry and Rev. James Lackenmier, King's presi-

Union head says King's eventually will shut out public school students

Dallas Education Association president William Wagner explained why he feels that King's College is actually giving admission privileges to parochial high school students with their tuition reimbursement plan:

"It breeds discrimination. It's a Catch -22 situation in that the college would have to accept parochial students regardless of their acceptability because parents spent that money (on parochial high school tuition) and expect to get a return."

"Then eventually (the program) will be limited due to space. First they'll take the paying students. What if they're not accepted due to limited money or space?"

"If they did let all the parochial students in that applied, they may be taking up some of the slots for public school kids that do qualify academically."

Wagner asked the following questions about the program: "Will this be limited due to money or space? This is unclear. Will there be a lottery system? We don't know their format or how this will work."

Dan Conry, King's dean of admissions, answered similar questions by saying, "Any financial aid, whether it be need-based, grants or tuition comes from the operating budget - the endowment program."

"There are no limits at this time. We anticipated a small percentage increase. There is no limit to the amount of space or money at this time."

dent, deny that King's tuition incentive program gives any special admissions treatment to parochial high school students. The policy states that diocesan high school graduates must be accepted for admission first, before being eligible for the grant.

When questioned on that point, Wagner said that he "assumed that's what they meant because they never stipulated that any of these children would be refused."

Wagner said that when King's announced the tuition incentive program, the Wilkes-Barre Area

Education Association, which takes the bulk of the student teachers, met with Father Lackenmier and Dr. Scapaticci of King's, and stated that they feel King's is using public school children's money to finance parochial students' college education. They also said they weren't going to accept King's student teachers if King's didn't withdraw its policy.

According to Wagner, "King's ignored Wilkes-Barre Area's request and felt there wouldn't be enough unity within the PSEA to exert any pressure."

At that point, Wagner says, the PSEA LCCC held a meeting and surveyed the local districts to determine which ones would support Wilkes-Barre Area's decision.

According to Wagner, "All but one district participated in the survey and all nine voted to support Wilkes-Barre Area's decision." He says the results of the survey were put in writing to Father Lackenmier.

He described the situation at Dallas Area this way. "I sent the teachers a memo recommending the DEA executive board's decision and left it up to the individual teachers to make their own choice. The teachers got back to Gil refusing the student teachers. Gil (Griffiths, assistant superintendent at Dallas) asked me what was going on. I told him that's the position of the DEA."

Wagner said he feels the Wilkes-Barre Area teachers' decision to take the King's student teachers was within the guidelines because King's tuition incentive program doesn't take place until the fall semester.

Walter Glogowski, PSEA regional representative agreed. "Wilkes-Barre Area adopted a similar policy to not accept King's student teachers next fall."

Wagner said he feels Dallas teachers reacted so quickly because he immediately communicated to them the PSEA and DEA stand in memo form.

However, Wagner is quick to give credit to King's student teachers. "We feel the quality of their education department is fantastic. We're not boycotting King's College. We have students that attend plays and programs there. We're just trying to get our point across."

In spite of the inconvenience, Roderick, the student teacher, said, "I can see both sides of the issue. I was really torn. I could see what the public school teachers are saying and I support public schools."

On the other hand, she says: "They have no right to tell a private school what to do. The student teachers are caught in the middle. They're the ones suffering and they're future PSEA members."

What if future King's students are forced to train at parochial schools? "I would think the teaching experience is just as good at a parochial school," Roderick said. "But if you wanted to apply for a job at a public school, it would probably be better to do your student teaching in a public school, so you could have that experience on your resume."

Sofar, Roderick says her teaching experience at Heights Elementary has been very positive. "The teachers are really nice. On a personal level, there's never been an issue. Nobody's ever mentioned a problem to me."

Dallas assistant superintendent Griffiths also feels a certain ambivalence toward the issue: "I feel badly for students in their senior year getting ready to go outside in their profession due to the fact that King's made this decision. We should enhance their chances. We should not be closing the door on them because of an administrative problem on the college level."

He continued, "I don't think the college anticipated a problem. On the other hand, our teachers are just making a statement on how they feel about the voucher system."

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Lead

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way in reducing the amount of lead, and costs less than 25¢ a day, Coyle said.

Water which has been left standing in a home's copper or brass pipes and fixtures overnight or all day long accumulates small amounts of lead which have leached into it from older fixtures or solder applied before 1986. People shouldn't drink or cook with water from the hot water tap, since hot water dissolves lead faster than cold water, Coyle said.

The company will take steps to correct the problem in its system and make corrosion control studies during the next year, Coyle said. If the company's portion of a water service line is contributing the lead to the system, it will replace it.

A common natural material found throughout the environment, lead seldom occurs naturally in drinking water supplies

and cannot be detected by taste or smell.

Lead is dangerous to health because it can build up in the body over many years, damaging the brain, red blood cells, kidneys and mental development. Children are especially sensitive to it and can be affected by lower levels than are dangerous to adults.

Commercially available home water filters don't remove much lead, Coyle said. People concerned about lead in their water can have it tested at the Kirby Health Center for approximately \$15.

Homeowners who have copper or brass fixtures in their homes should have a licensed plumber inspect their water systems to determine whether or not they have been joined with solder containing lead, Coyle said.

For more information on lead in home water call United Water at 675-1186.

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