

OCTOBER 16, 1973

TO THE EDITOR:

The two editorials in your issue of October 11 match together very well, even though the writers were probably not aware that this was the case. In the editorial titled "Don't blame the innocent", the writer has put her finger on a major problem at Wilkes - one rarely seems to be provided with the full story, especially as to hard statistical data on the college.

This can be seen in the figures on new students given in the letter to the editor on the same page. Not only new students pay tuition, old students do the same. The official enrollment figure for the Fall of 1972 was 2467 students - that for this year is hovering in the vicinity of 2281. The loss in tuition thus appears to be a decline not from 58 but from nearly 200 students. Whatever this may be, it cannot be considered as stability by any dictionary definition.

The editorial on tuition increase is another case in point. The editorialist is comparing the tuition of Wilkes with schools of "Wilkes' caliber" and finds that the tuition is the lowest of such schools in the area. He also states that the low tuition is a "credit to the administration and the board of trustees".

In allotting credit, our editorialist is overlooking the faculty. One major factor involved in Wilkes' low tuition appears to be in the salary range which leaves the faculty in the position of subsidizing the education of the student body.

A comparison of figures on salaries shows this clearly. The colleges and tuition figures used in the editorial are shown below and average faculty salaries as shown by the AAUP Bulletin for June 1973 are added:

	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Full Professors</u>	<u>All Faculty</u>
Gettysburg	2550	21,800	13,800
Franklin and Marshall	2550	21,200	12,900
Moravian	2350	19,200	11,700
Lebanon Valley	2050	19,000	11,500
Wilkes	1900	17,700	11,500
Kings	1950	16,800	11,500

As purely undergraduate schools without graduate programs, every school on the above list except Wilkes might be expected to pay lower salaries. In fact, the AAUP places all of these schools in one category and Wilkes in another category with schools offering Master's degrees. Kings ranks in the middle pentile nationwide among undergraduate schools. Wilkes ranks next to the bottom pentile among schools with greater pretensions.

Chas. H. Fark

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