

## CHIMERA

SETON HALL HIGH SCHOOL  
VOLUME XXI

No. I

PATCHOGUE, NEW YORK  
1972

### SETON HALL FORCED TO CLOSE

Seton Hall High School will be forced to close after the graduation of the 1974 class. The reasons stated by the principle, Sister Mary Louise Brink, were the lack of religious personnel replacement combined with financial difficulty.

On Oct. 26, 1972 at 1057, Sister Mary Louise slowly approached the center microphone at the auditorium front. Then suddenly the room lost all its life as the juniors and the seniors became attentive. Sister firmly began, "All the rumors you have heard are true. Seton Hall is closing. We must not let the school die slowly. This is a vital year."

The reasons sister stated for the closing were the flow of young nuns was decreasing. Women today just aren't joining the order. Furthermore, by 1980, half the Sisters of Charity would be retired and the future must be secured for them. Also, financial difficulties could not be met. The lighting bill alone amounts to 800 dollars a month. The salaries of the increasing number of lay teachers (18 out of 41) also presents a problem. At Seton, tuition pays most of the expenses. State assistance two years ago amounted to \$32,000. This aid was cut.

Continuing, Sister said no freshmen would be admitted next year. Also, all the teachers and custodians would be insured employment. This guaranty was made by Father Shanahan. There would not be an increase in tuition to compensate for the problem. Sister Mary Louise added that the freshmen and the sophmores would be given the option to transfer or stay. Also, the transferring students would not encounter any problems.

The Diocesan High Schools conduct a money drive to solve money problems while St. Anthony's in Smithtown has an alumni association. Both solutions could be used here at Seton. However, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity would have the last word.

### EDITORIAL

Seton Hall is closing. Even in print the words are unbelievable. Many of us realized the inevitability of the decision, still the words left a hollow feeling. Catholic education is becoming a thing of the past. "The times - they are a changing," perhaps Seton didn't change with them.

I heard many students expressing their alarm at the not putting up a fight. This is not the case. Many alternatives were discussed in trying to avoid the closing. Unfortunately, it was too late. There are mixed emotions in all of us. Anger at not being told of the financial situation earlier if very evident. Dismay at the end of a tradition is there. Let us consider the teachers, though. They are not deliberately turning their backs on us. They are dedicated men and women who have made Seton Hall an integral part of their lives. No one could be more distressed at the decision than the faculty is.

Now that we are all faced with this ultimatum, the true value of Seton Hall is sinking into us. I wish I could have been more appreciative before, but it is still not too late to get the most out of our education here. I hope more people will get involved with the school, show more spirit and strive for more unity. At least then you can say that you were really a part of Seton Hall.



"Why Seton Hall?" This was one of the most frequently voiced of the dozens of yet unanswered questions posed by the stunned, damp-eyed Seton Hall students who learned that their school will have to close.

The effect of the disclosure was immediate and evident. Amid the expected responses, the general shock, and anxiety of the lower classmen who will not graduate from Seton Hall, another reaction was very apparent. For the first time people began to realize that they really care about Seton Hall and everything it is and that it stands for. They began to feel and appreciate that intangible, inexpressible something that makes Seton Hall mean so much.

It is sad that it took something so grave to make us aware of what Seton Hall means to each of us. What is important, though, is that in this crisis the entire student body is united within itself and with the faculty as it has never been before. It is really moving to see the seniors, who do not have to worry because they are leaving the school anyway, concerned about what will happen to our school. They don't know why they care so much but they keep caring and hoping.

The most heartening result of the announcement was the fact that so many students immediately began to discuss among themselves and with the teachers ideas to save the school from closing. Perhaps it is idealistic to think that, even with the help of the Fathers Club, we could possibly raise enough money to meet the costs of continuing to run the school without enough sisters. Certainly the decision to close Seton Hall was not made without careful consideration of every possible alternative. It seems that we must continue our efforts to find a way to keep this school open. If we are united in our efforts, as we are united in our concern, we can find a solution to our problems facing Seton Hall. We must do something to give others the opportunity to experience what we have experienced here.

\*\*\*\*\*

When the tragedies of life become personal it is often very difficult to accept them. Because of such tragedies in life man is often reminded of the many things which are taken for granted. Too often we are inclined to criticize that which we have.

Now, the students of Seton Hall, are given a chance to express their gratitude, their loyalty and their deep concern for their school and dedicated faculty.

Seton Hall High School has grown from a one room school house that it was thirty years ago because of the need of improvement, the desires for change and most important the constructive and realistic plans of action. Is it time for us to accept Seton Hall's death or do we once again see a hope and a prospective plan of action?

The future of Seton Hall might lie in the desecration of those students who have attended this school and those whose lives are still being molded because of this school.

The future of Seton Hall may vary, many feel we can merely prolong the school's existence, others have projected the future of our school.

It is possible that one day we may drive by Roe Blvd. to find the once school a Cetty Service Station or a Burger King. As one interested and realistic faculty member said, "It might be converted into a hospital where we will find the salvation of bodies instead of souls."

Nevertheless, we must not forget what the result of those whose lives depend on the existence of the school. We must not allow ourselves to become indifferent of our situation. We are the students of Seton Hall in spite of its future outlook. It is now up to us to show our Gratitude and our loyalty to our school.