

# Editorial Comment

## University Second Campus

The proposed second campus for the State University of New York at Buffalo is no doubt needed if the University is to continue to offer the high type of undergraduate and graduate courses it now offers. It is constantly growing as the new buildings on the Main St. campus testify.

However the proposal that this second campus with its complexities of buildings be located in the Town of Amherst is of concern to the town.

It will require about 500 acres, according to university officials. The University already owns about 246 acres on Millersport Hwy. near Ellicott Creek, the proposed site of the new campus. Purchase of the additional 250 acres is necessary to contain the campus and the seventy odd buildings required for the undergraduate schools.

Just what does this second campus mean to Amherst? It means some 500 acres of property removed from the tax rolls, it means a probable splurge of housing developments, possibly new small businesses catering to the needs of the students and faculty and with the housing developments, more children and therefore more schools as the present schools are already filled to, and beyond, capacity.

Since the University is a state-supported one and the money to support it comes from the taxpayers through the educational channels to the school, it can mean an increase in State taxes to take care of the additional campus.

New housing developments with the need for new schools again mean a probable increase in school taxes, and many district voters are already objecting to the size of the school budgets with the resultant increase in taxes.

This is an undeveloped section of the town in which the proposed second campus would be built. With the coming of the University to this location, it can be a section of the town that can be developed into a most attractive one, for a good, well-planned university with its broad campus and attractive buildings can be quite an asset in every way except perhaps the tax rolls.

To compensate for the tax roll loss, will the possible increase in housing, in small businesses, in visitors to the college, in the

aesthetic value of the university, be sufficient?

The alternative to a second campus has been mentioned as the construction of an entire new campus for the University at double or more the cost of the proposed new facility.

When a new development is constructed, there are always the needed facilities — sewers, water, electricity, good roads, and so forth. Naturally these items must be paid for, and they are paid for by the taxpayer through the taxes.

Whether or not this proposed facility will impose an increased tax-burden on the townspeople could be open to debate, but it definitely will create a school problem in the elementary and secondary levels. New housing is bound to bring school age children. The already over-crowded schools cannot take care of another influx of children without more schools.

More schools bring the school tax question into the forefront. It could be that if and when such housing developments are constructed, new schools in a separate district could be the answer. Whether or not there would be a sufficient number of homes with school-age children immediately occupied is a question that cannot be answered at this point. But it is a consideration that must be given considerable thought by the powers-that-be as well as the townspeople.

Education today is a must from every standpoint, and the three excellent central school districts have, and are, providing students with a first class education.

The accessibility of a state-owned university in the township itself may be the difference between a college education and no education beyond high school.

The loss to the town of this property from the tax rolls has many compensations in the value of such an educational institution.

It is indeed of great concern to the townspeople that this second campus may become a part of the life of the town, adding the attractiveness and activity of a well-planned, well-landscaped group of buildings to an area that at present is undeveloped; and bringing many facets that can increase the economic, social and cultural life of the town of Amherst.



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