

FACULTY UPDATE
to student body
OCTOBER 7, 1987

Thank you Mr. Court.

In a few minutes many of you will be leaving to go home for our extended weekend.

We asked to meet with you all briefly to give you an update on our status so that you leave today and come back on Sunday with the same sense of optimism about our future that the administration, faculty, and staff have.

Last July, after the Legislative session and when we knew that we only had enough money to remain open

for the first semester, we formed a
* Legislative Strategy Task Force
composed of Academy administrators,
faculty, parents, business leaders,
and local legislators.

That Task Force has been extremely
active during the last four months
contacting legislators by phone, by
mail, and in person and meeting with
business leaders and educational
leaders across the State.

Your parents have received numerous
letters and phone calls asking them
to call and write to legislators.

After four months we are beginning to
see some very positive results, and
are quite positive - strong

indications that the Governor and
Legislative Leadership, our
Legislators and the business and
educational community do not want
the Academy to close.

They want to see it continue. There
are no guarantees - we are not out
of the woods yet.

But I am very optimistic about our
future.

A great deal of money has already
been committed to the Academy. - Over
40 million on buildings and 7.5
million in operating dollars.

That's an investment of almost 50
million dollars that is very
difficult to ignore.

The Academy is also tied very closely with our State's competition to secure the Superconducting Super Collider - the world's largest accelerator (atom smasher).

Illinois has put up over 50 million dollars in incentives to attract this 4.5 billion dollar machine and one of the criteria the National Academy of Science and the National Academy of Engineering will look for in deciding which state will get the SSC is the quality of the state's education program.

The Academy figures very prominently in Illinois.

Other encouraging developemnt -
Apple Computer \$94,000 , Furnas
\$100,000. - Chicago Tribune
editorial.

You will, no doubt, be asked many
questions this weekend.

So I want to give you the
information you need to answer them
and to be positive ambassadors for
the Academy.

The Legislation convenes on October
20th and ~~the session override~~
last until November 6th.

We are requesting a supplemental
appropriation of \$3.2 million
dollars, which is what we need.

That decision can be made any time between October 20 and November 6 but we believe it will be made on November 6.

Without a tax increase, Illinois does not have the revenue it needs to pay for the level of public service it wants.

Many public agencies will be seeking a supplemental and there is only so much money, however, we have good indications that the Governor will support and the key leadership will not approve our supplemental for 3.2.

I have heard several rumors that many of you are concerned and

anxious about our future - and that many of you are studying hard so you will have A's and B's when you return home next semester when the Academy closes.

Let me remind you of Mark Twain's words when he said "The rumors of my death are grealy exaggerated."

I do not believe the Academy will close.

I do not have a crystal ball - there are no guarantees - but I am very optimistic that once we get over this hurdle that was caused because we did not get a tax increase, the Academy will begin to become the

institution that Illinois can be proud of.

Many states and nations are watching what Illinois does to the Academy.

We believe it would be a great embarassment to the State to close us down and because of that, I do not believe it will happen.

But as they say - it ain't over till the fat man sings

Please be positive and optimistic when you go home when you talk to people.

If you can make an appointment to visit your legislator, your former principal, teachers and superintendent - tell them what the

Academy means to you and
respectfully ask them to support a
supplemental for the Academy

The academy has a new video -The
Illinois Mathematics and Science
Academy: Illinois' Investment in the
Future -

I'll stick around if any of you have
questions.

The video we are going to show in
the pit will last approximately
10-15 minutes.