Office of Admissions
Any College
Wherever, U.S.A.

Dear Any College:

Having now reviewed the many rejection letters received in the last few weeks, it is with great regret that I must inform you that I am unable to accept your rejection at this time.

While I realize that, whatever you might read after that first sentence may be of little consolation, I would still like to clarify some points for you.

This year, I applied to a great number of fine colleges and universities and, of course, received many rejection letters. Unfortunately, the number of rejection letters that I can accept is very limited. It is for this reason that I was forced to reject the rejection letters of many qualified institutions.

This was not an easy task. Each rejection was reviewed carefully and on an individual basis. Many factors were taken into account, such as size of the institution, student-faculty ratio, location, reputation, cost and social atmosphere.

I am certain that most of the colleges applied to are more qualified to reject me. I am also sure that some mistakes were made, but I hope they were few in number.

I am aware of the disappointment that this decision may bring, for those were not easy judgments. Throughout my deliberations, I have kept in mind the importance to you of this decision. I wish it were possible to cite specific reasons for each of the determinations I have made, but, frankly, it is not.

It was even necessary for me to reject some letters that were clearly qualified as rejections. This is surely my loss.

I appreciate your having enough interest in me to reject me, and, although it may seem inappropriate to you at this time, let me take the opportunity to wish you well in what I am sure will be a highly successful academic year.

See you all in the fall!

Sincerely,

Paul Devlin
Applicant at Large

Paul Devlin, a high school senior who lives in North Brunswick, has accepted rejections from Harvard and Stanford. Brown, he says, is on his waiting list. "I hope," he says, "that by having the opportunity to laugh at the whole situation, students who are in this predicament will have their disappointment eased a bit."