

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

NANCY NICHOLS

Sitting in Chicago's O'Hare airport, one day before I was supposed to rejoin the class of people known as students, I began to think about school and my job as the co-editor of the Aletheia. Missing out on Leadership week put me sort of behind in my planning but I had ideas running around in my head from last semester and when I got here, our other editor, Kim Thompson and I began to discuss the future of the Aletheia.

I really feel that Kim and I work well together-- we complement each other as the saying goes. I am the editor who does most of the actual text editing and also works with the business managers, budgets, public relations, etc. Kim gets things organized (which is something I've always had a problem with) and makes assignments, organizes staff meetings and works on layout. Hopefully, all you readers out there, faculty, staff, and students will find us both equally accessible and approachable with any comments, questions or information that you think would be helpful to the paper. We have already started to implement some of our new ideas and I hope, by the end of this semester, we'll have the Aletheia better than it ever was before.

One of the "new ideas" is a column called "Wisdom From Above." This column is a means for the faculty to be able to express their views. Although the Aletheia's main purpose is to be "the voice of the student" I feel this column can be advantageous to us as students. I know in my previous two years here, there would never be enough time or space to comment on how much I have learned due to my interaction

with the professors, staff, and administration. Hopefully this column will be another way for all of us, including the people submitting print to it, to learn from each other.

For this first edition of "Wisdom From Above" we have two submissions; one from the Aletheia's advisor, Dr. Rich Gray and one from the President of Montreat-Anderson College, Dr. Si Vaughn.

Again, I hope this year will be the best one yet for the Aletheia and I would welcome any type of response to this idea or any others.

Sincerely,
Nancy Nichols

TEACHERS WERE 18 YEARS OLD, TOO

DR. RICH GRAY

It had hit my emotions as if a run-away semi had rammed into the back of my Toyota. For the whole first semester of my freshman year in 1967 I had been happy. New friends scurried around campus with me, several attractive young women went out with me on casual dates, classes were better than I had figured, and being 100 miles from my parents' quarrels was a relief.

That is why when it happened, I was completely unprepared. And it jolted me so hard that I contemplated dropping out of college right in the middle of my second semester.

What happened, you ask? Something so common and simple that you may not believe that it threw me down so hard. In the middle of a cold, windy, dark February, I caught the flu.

I missed classes for nearly a week. My flock of friends vanished. My sense of success seemed to have migrated south to Cuba. In short, I became horribly depressed, addicted to self-pity. I was behind in my courses, bored with the lousy Ohio weather, lonely in my solitude, unable to sleep properly, and tired of the cafeteria food.

I wanted my Dad. He was not warm and comforting, but he did love me. I needed my twin brother, the one I had fought with for 18 years. And where was mom? She used to take my temperature and bring me ginger ale and aspirin.

Well, as you must have guessed, I survived. But why mention this now, trivial event? Because nearly every college freshman and sophomore has an experience like this that is almost universal and practically inevitable.

So, why talk about it? My hope is that in knowing we are vulnerable to discouragement and in helping each other grapple with it, we can get through it successfully. We staff members, though we may have forgotten about it, went through this slump too. Go ahead and ask us about it. And keep looking in your emotional rearview mirror for a runaway semi.

Ten Commandments of Human Relations

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, only four to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost everybody, if you try.

6. Be generous with praise—cautious with criticism.
7. Be considerate with the feelings of others. There are usually three sides to a controversy; yours, the other fellow's and the right one.
8. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.
9. Learn to trust people, for trust builds lasting relationships.
10. Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility and you will be rewarded many fold.

Submitted By
PRESIDENT VAUGHN

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