



ALETHEIA

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Last in Our Series: Pregnancy and Pre-Marital Sex

Lance Encourages Consistency Despite Conflict

By Joyce Downs

Allegations of premarital sex and pregnancy on campus have recently agitated rumors and raised questions about administrative disciplinary methods and the college's role in educating students about sexual behavior.

The student handbook's sexual behavior policy states that students engaging in premarital sex are subject to disciplinary action.

Vice-President for Student Development Charlie Lance handles such cases. Lance explained that if a student admits to violating the policy, they used to receive disciplinary probation but they were not expelled from the college.

However, as of Tuesday, the unwritten policy had been changed. Now, unmarried pregnant women will have no disciplinary action taken against them.

Married pregnant students also will go unpunished and their sexual activities before the marriage took place are no longer to be considered. Lance explained that married couples will be treated in the present.

Lance added that violators will still be encouraged to seek counseling. Lance expressed that he wishes to encourage and support pregnant students, and hopes that the new policy will promote this.

The most recent alleged violators of the policy are newlyweds Jeff and Kim Lang. Neither have admitted to violating any school policy. Each claimed that they have been unfairly accused by the administration. This confrontation between Lance and the Langs occurred last Wednesday, March 2, six days before the policy was revised.

Lance called the Langs into his office to discuss allegations concerning the sexual behavior policy. According to Mr. Lang, "He [Lance] treated us like children." His wife added, "I've never been treated as badly by any faculty or staff member, or for that matter, any student."

The Langs claimed that Lance's condescending attitude towards them was inappropriate.

Lance defended, "[That's] not the way that I remember things happening." He added that further comment would only lead to counter accusations and that nothing would be accomplished.

Lance explained that in trying to deal with disciplinary cases, he struggles to be consistent. He claimed that he tries to treat accused violators as kindly and openly as he can.

Several people canvassed observed that Chapels and Convocations either do not address the sex issue enough, or do not do a satisfactory job explaining that honesty and straight-forwardness is just not practiced.

"There's a lot of beating around the bush. We're treated more like children than adults," admitted an anonymous sophomore.

Chaplain Ed Bonner encouraged students like these to listen more closely to his messages: "They cannot be more straight-forward."

As to the frequency of discussion, Bonner added that a whole week to focus on the issue is enough and suggested those that need more insight sign up for the Marriage and Family course offered by the college.

Uniforms, Attitudes, Money: The Cheerleading Story

Disillusioned Team Fizzles After Unsuccessful Semester

By Chad Smith

Students that met last semester to form a cheerleading team have called it quits on the basis of new uniforms that have not come in. Because of variations in stories from the parties involved, the actual reasoning of participants leaving is difficult to determine.

Karen Schutt coached seven young ladies last semester in the hopes of having a cheerleading team at some of the athletic games. However, Schutt explained that when an order of new uniforms did not come in due to company complications, the team decided to give up.

Schutt explained that uniforms were ordered last October. Although the company promised that M-AC would receive them by Thanksgiving, the order never arrived.

The company informed Schutt that they would need more time because one of the pieces needed for the uniform was back ordered.

Schutt also stated that old uniforms were available. She suggested that if worn with white t-shirts, the outfits were presentable. However, the majority of the team refused to wear them.

Cheerleader Jessica Bonard supported Schutt, "The old uniforms were

fine if everyone wore the same kind of shirt."

Student leader Daniell Hartness defended that the old uniforms did not have bloomers, which are used as underpants to accompany the cheerleading outfit.

Other cheerleaders claimed that there was more to it. Because each cheerleader was required to pay \$147.20 for their uniform, they decided that the amount was excessive considering that the majority of the sports are now over.

Other cheerleaders remarked that they were not really led and coached to cheer, but rather left on their own. The ones who were experienced in cheerleading were pressured into teaching the others a few cheers, because they thought they were eventually going to cheer at a game.

However Schutt claimed that since a few of the girls lacked experience, they did not realize the hard work that would be involved. She added that after meeting three days a week last semester, the girls grew tired and lost their enthusiasm to cheer.

Freshmen Julie Piersma agreed, "The team unity was not what it was suppose to be and most of us were inexperienced. However, we needed more of a

coach than an encourager."

Although Schutt shifted the team's break up to lack of enthusiasm, the girls had a different opinion. Over half of the team members complained that Schutt often failed to show up for practices, leaving them untrained, and often appeared apathetic.

Schutt defended, "I admit I did not come to some of the practices, ... because I was having morning sickness all day long. But not all the girls came to every practice either. I regret that the team disbanded, but it takes time to teach cheerleading from scratch to those who have never cheered."

Student Gov't Nixes Religious Liberals

By Kerle Peterson

The proposal for acceptance of the Student Religious Liberals (SRLA) as an association was rejected during a SGA legislative meeting last month.

Two weeks ago, the *Aletheia* incorrectly referred to Kim Dockery as Vice-President of this organization. At the time the article was printed, this organization was still pending SGA approval.

According to Jeff Lang, founding officer of the group, the purpose of the SRLA was to provide a "religious fellowship for the Shinto, Muslim, Hindu, and non-Christian students on campus."

Lang further explained that the organization was intended to be a fully universal, paradigmatic, parareligious group that would raise the consciousness of the student body regarding social justice issues like: black rights, gay rights, women's choices in reproductive matters, etc.

Lang added that the group would have contributed to service projects in the area, such as trail maintenance, erosion control projects, and Habitat for Humanity.

The SRLA received the necessary votes to be passed through the executive branch. But when it was brought up for a vote in the legislative branch, it was rebuked, and it did not receive the necessary three-fourths majority needed to become an association.

Schutt further added, "I have coached two cheerleading squads to the national level. I was a division One College cheerleader, an all-American cheerleader, and I taught cheerleading camps for five years all over the country. Cheerleading is not about uniforms, but about supporting your school or college."

Despite Schutt's comment that cheerleading is not about uniforms, certain team members disagree. Those who paid for their uniform have not received their money back. They complained that they should have already received their refund by now since the team broke up in January.

SGA President Jeff Reardon commented that the group followed the necessary guidelines to be passed by legislation, but that some of the voting members "may have gotten confused on the intent of the group".

After an association is passed through the executive branch of SGA, it is then presented on the floor of the legislative branch and a statement of constitution is given, along with the chance for SGA representatives to ask questions.

Reardon stated that "Lang's statement of purpose was exceptional" but that Lang could have been more persuasive in his argument. Reardon felt that the reason the group was not accepted by legislation was because "some of Lang's answers to the questions raised didn't correspond with the statement of purpose. That contributed to the doubt and confusion that lead [to the decision]".

Lang on the other hand argued that the negative reaction came from the "evangelical conservatives in the SGA legislative" and further stressed that it "wasn't from the faculty or the staff at M-AC".

Lang also expressed that because M-AC is a liberal arts college, because it receives federal and state funds, and because M-AC invites students of all faiths here, he feels that an organization such as the SRLA to be officially recognized and to be funded by the school is very reasonable.

Alicea, Campbell, Cauley Fly South

By Jeff Lang

Spring Break begins today, and some students will be heading for sunny Florida. The mountain's winter snow and bleak skies have most ready for the warmth of the beach.

M-AC's most famous "spring breakers" this year are senior Karen Campbell and former student Naj Alicea, who are vacationing courtesy of KISS FM. Alicea exclaimed with a smile, "Karen and I are going to Daytona Beach."

Some Florida natives will travel home for other reasons. Bible major Chris Cauley declared, "I'm going home to date my fiance and to work on my thesis. I have a depressing life."

Other students will be remaining in North Carolina. Senior Scott Ward proudly proclaimed, "I'm going home to Burlington to watch people make coats."

Howerton resident Jonathan Woody gladly explained his plans, "I'm going to worship with my brother in Erwin. He just became a Christian."

Family Science major Lovanda Fast will spend her Break in Ohio: "I'm going to be involved in a friend's wedding."

Senior Tracy Job joyfully declared, "My break will be spent with my boyfriend in Virginia. It will be the longest road trip I will have made by myself."