

Letters to the Students



Faculty member finds accusations incorrect

To the Students:
This letter is in response to one written to the *Carolina Journal* by Maryle Davis and published in the April 2 issue.

I have refrained from responding to the vicious attempts to assassinate the character of the dean of the College of Nursing and several of my colleagues as long as I can. I consider it an honor my name has made it into the ranks of those maligned. All of us who have been attacked in print by your irresponsible editorial staff and slandered by anonymous letterwriters have one thing in common; we

stand for quality education. I, for one, like my colleagues, do not apologize for maintaining a standard of excellence in collegiate education.

You expressly said you do not print unsigned letters and yet you printed a very slanderous letter written about me which was signed by a Maryle Davis. There is not now nor has there ever been anyone by that name enrolled in the course I teach, N-302, nor in the College of Nursing. You have in essence printed damaging material submitted anonymously about a faculty member, for which you can and

likely will be held legally responsible on an individual and collective basis. It takes only a few moments to check out whether a signature is authentic or not. Where is your sense of journalistic integrity? I have been advised by the chancellor the editor of the *Carolina Journal* will be required to prove the accusations alleged in the letter printed. I expect this letter will be printed and a retraction will be offered by your staff in the next edition.

In answer to the accusations made in the letter, I will cite facts. The letter written said I have "played a great part in the reputation of the college." I am quite proud of the fact I am known for upholding quality in nursing education standards. High standards are difficult to meet . . . some meet them . . . some do not. I do not apologize for saying to a student, "You have not met the objectives of the course and are not ready to progress." I do feel stu-

dents generally give the best care available . . . better even than many long standing professionals.

A few don't learn how to do that. I ask only a student be clinically safe and "appropriate," a word which I find essential to the delivery of good nursing care. All patients deserve good physical and sensitive emotional care. Inappropriate behavior on the part of a student indicates a lack of concern for the needs of the patient.

As to the statement I have caused students to lose financial help, I might state faculty don't cause students to do anything or lose anything. Grades are "not given" by faculty; they are earned by students. A student does not lose financial support because of a faculty person. He or she loses the benefit because of his failure to meet the objectives of the course. I refuse to "buy" the responsibility for the students' failure to qualify for financial support.

The imaginary Maryle Davis requests my roll-book be checked for the number of students who have had problems. By all means let me share this information with you. In the last four years, I have had clinical and classroom contact with 275 students. In that time, 21 students have failed to pass N-302, that represents approximately seven percent. I can fairly say a record of success represented by the 93 percent who pass-

ed would be hard to beat anywhere on campus.

I trust you will be more careful to screen your letters fully before appearing foolish and sensational in print.

If you print information about a person which may be damaging you must be willing to accept the responsibility for legal ramifications of the actions. I trust you believe that faculty have the right to freedom of speech.

Lan Whitlock

Give president authority to appoint assistants

To the Students:

Now that a new president is about to be sworn into office, the Student Legislature should review its policy concerning presidential appointments.

Student government should be structured like that of the federal government regarding appointments. The president of

the student body should have the sole right to appoint to positions of attorney general, treasurer, elections chairperson and all assistants. These positions are in the executive branch and should be appointed by the head of the executive branch, the president.

When the president is elected, in order to have a successful administration, there should be at least some degree of unity on policy matters dealing with the executive matters dealing with executive branch. This should be the same relationship the legislature should have with chairperson of the legislature.

Student government the past year has been seriously weakened by the presence of non-presidential appointees in the executive branch.

Should the authority of the appointed members of the executive branch be returned to the president, it will lead to a much more harmonious atmosphere in student government.

Tom Chumley

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