

## Letters to the Editor

### Is Efficiency the Goal of Human Endeavor?

Dear Editor:

Well, here I go again. Sometimes I feel like the only person left alive (or mobile) who likes to walk. I'm referring to the article titled "Proposed Library Learning Center Comes Under Fire," and the question of the proposed location of the building. I find Student Court Chief Justice Todd Hammaker guilty of extreme laziness and rationalization. Mr. Hammaker claims that "half of the time (of a free class period) will be spent going there (the new library) and back (to the Olmsted Building)." It just so happened that I picked up the paper while leaving Olmsted to walk (heaven forbid!) to the CRAGS Building. Being an engineer led me to perform a quick experiment. First, I checked my watch as I passed the current library. Then, I tried to walk at a pace that a student would if headed somewhere to study. Upon arriving at the CRAGS Building, the total elapsed time was 3 minutes and 35 seconds. Assuming a 50 minute class and two 10 minute periods for transfer, a round-trip walk would take 7 minutes and 10 seconds, or 10% of the available time. Considering the increased alertness from the fresh air and the enjoyment of the short walk, I conclude that there would be little net impact on "efficiency." I suggest that Mr. Hammaker (and those with similar concern) read one of the books mentioned in the same issue of the Capital Times, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. Machines can be made more efficient, but is efficiency the goal of human endeavor?

Andrew Lau

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### Student Finds Not Everyone Is Rude

I would like to add my own two cents to the recent spate of letters concerning the quality of the office people and administrators we find here at Capital College. I do not wish to oppose or ridicule the attitudes held by any of those who have written, but to merely present my own point of view.

I feel it is proper for us to examine the nature of those we are dealing with, and report it if there are any serious abridgements of our rights, but regardless of the way we are treated, we should always try to behave in a polite, Christian manner towards them. Try it sometime. If nothing else, you will have the satisfaction of being able to say, "At least I didn't descend to her level." Try to figure out why the lady is behaving in the manner she is as well. We do not show our best sides to everyone we meet and work with at all times, so why should a secretary be expected to do so every minute of the day? Blame it on gas or indigestion,

and offer her a Tums or Roloids established bureaucratic procedure, which is the path they felt out of consideration.

More importantly, we should recognize excellence when we see it. My nomination would be for Mrs. Flo Salinger, who is temporarily in Dr. Townley's position as administrative head of Heindel Library. I had turned in a book, and a misunderstanding resulted when it was misplaced somewhere within the confines of the library. The cost I was assessed for it was considerable, so I sought out Mrs. Salinger. I found her willing to listen to me, impartial, and exceedingly polite. In short order the book was located, the entire process by which it was found explained to me upon its recovery. I was even offered an apology, which I thought was unnecessary, as these ladies were merely discharging the duties given to them. It is very difficult to derail oneself from the track of

it necessary to follow, as one derailment usually leads to more—and could be possibly disastrous.

Mrs. Salinger has one valuable trait that made the resolution of my problem so agreeable: empathy, or the ability to place herself in another's position and thus feel her duty more keenly. This allows her to treat those she deals with as equals, which any good secretary or administrator will do, rather than hide behind an egotistical disdain for those who come to them for help, which the more venal types will do when given any office, no matter how small, because it makes them feel larger than they truly are. So hats off to Mrs. Salinger!

So don't forget these two things. Compliment those who do well, and behave cheerfully towards our administrative personnel. They may reciprocate. And if they don't, that smile on your face will drive them crazy.

Roger A. Shetty  
314 Wisberg Hall  
(A small town person with a Bachelor's degree)

## Blumberg

(continued from pg. 7)

most about what's going on. I tend to be involved with broad policy issues and not . . . scheduling of individual programs. Again, we have eight hundred and some students and . . . six majors right now, and I'm just not in touch with all of them. But we have people who are," said Blumberg. He said that these other outlets include the advising center and Beth Jones, coordinator of undergraduate Business programs.

Dr. Khosrowpour said that many minor problems can be solved by going to the advising center or Beth Jones, and he added that there are six program chairs with expertise in their respective fields. Of Dr. Blumberg, Khosrowpour said, "He's the last person, you know, that you should go to. . . You go to see him when you [have] exhausted all your other resources."

[Part II, covering the February 4 forum, will be in the March 18 issue of the Capital Times.]

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