

Random Thoughts . . .

Editor's Note: Carole Yocum, *CEE's* longtime managing editor, retired this summer after 28 years with the journal.

A FOND FAREWELL

RICHARD M. FELDER
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ms. Carole Yocum, *Editoribus Managerimus in Excelsis*
Chemical Engineering Education
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

Dear Colleague, Friend, and Partner in Crime,

I suppose it's not fair for me to criticize you for retiring when you've been trying so hard for so long to do so, seeing as how I retired from N.C. State the very day I became eligible. However, do as I say and not as I do has always worked for me as a philosophy, and so with no qualms whatever I can say, **"YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO US!"**

Follow me on this. Chemical engineering professors who have been dedicated for years to the cause of high-quality education have relatively little they can count on in life to sustain them. They've got their old K&E slide rules or HP calculators that took the place of their snuggly blankets when they came of age, the appreciative notes from department heads that accompanied their 0.01% annual merit raises, and *Chemical Engineering Education* . . . and it seems to me that their years of service to the profession have earned them certain rights regarding the latter resource. When they send in a manuscript, should they not expect to have someone on the receiving end who can root out their fragments and redundancies and dangling participles and turn their jargon-ridden professorial prose into readable English? Whose e-mail messages are invariably models of grace, elegance, and when the occasion calls for it, great humor? Who treats them with unfailing gentility, whether the thumb goes up or down on the submission? I hold that they're entitled to nothing less, and if I had time I'm sure I could find text in the U.S. Constitution to support this position, not to mention the *Magna Carta*, the *Kama Sutra*, and the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*.

But I'm working under a deadline here and don't have time to dig out the supporting documentation, which I suppose means that I have to reluctantly allow you to go through with your selfish plan to get a life for yourself that doesn't involve endless typesetting and proofreading and managing page layouts and mailings and departmental and corporate and individual subscriptions and student supplements and ads and budgets and annual reports and over-committed editors-in-chief and upset authors and probably a few dozen other things that no one but you even knows about.

So go, with my blessings. But when you go, please take satisfaction in knowing that everyone in our profession — the few who know the incredible job you've done over the years and the many who don't have a clue — will be forever in your debt. *CEE* has for years been the best disciplinary education journal in the world. Much of the credit of course goes to Ray Fahien and Tim Anderson, but most of it goes to you, for having the dedication and skill to do whatever it took to translate their vision into reality. I hope that your successor will come close to maintaining the standard of excellence that you have set. Coming close is the best we can hope for, though — finding someone who can do everything you've done as well as you've done it is simply inconceivable.

Have a wonderful life. You've earned it!

Love and admiration,



© Copyright ChE Division of ASEE 2005

Chemical Engineering Education, 39(4), 279 (Fall 2005)