

Dr. Leone Cites Need For Zorn at Canisius

The following is the opinion given by by Dr. James A. Leone of the Chemistry Dept. about Mark Zorn's dismissal. It is his personal reaction to what has happened and should in no way be considered a "statement" or a pronouncement by the Faculty Welfare Committee which Dr. Leone chairs.

"I should start by saying that Mark is a very dear friend of mine and that I find it sad that he is leaving. There is not too much I know in detail . . . details have a way of getting distorted and confused.

On the surface, the reasons given for letting Mark go are valid—on the surface—the job market being what it is and the attempt by all schools to get people with terminal degrees . . . therefore in this case it seems reasonable.

However, I had been under the impression that instructors were given every opportunity to obtain their terminal degree while here. They've even been given summer grants to work on their Ph.D.s in the past. If in fact there is no stated time that an instructor can be here before he starts working on or finishes his Ph.D., or comes close to finishing his Ph.D., then Mark is being let go early.

Mark represents a viewpoint at the school that is sorely needed. I realize he's drawn the ire of a great number of faculty members, but then, at a truly liberal arts college, many views must be presented.

Mark's views on a variety of subjects and his methodology in the classroom is **essential** to a liberal arts school because the standard traditional views are heavily favored.

Mark doesn't always go by the book but quite often he can get more out of a student than the standard textbook approach would get out of the same student.

I can't emphasize enough that a difference of viewpoints among the faculty is necessary. Mark's methods and motivations are truly founded in the students' best interests. If his methods and motivations are unfavorable to a majority of the faculty, that in itself represents no reason for letting Mark go."