

Some Mistakes Can Be Very Humorous

Recently, one of my colleagues (and former doctoral student), Dr. Thomas Hohenshil, was honored as one of the Kent State University, College of Health and Human Services' inaugural Hall of Fame inductees. It was a wonderful evening, and a tribute to Kent State University and the many outstanding people who have been educated there.

At dinner, Ruth and I were introduced to Tom's brother, Bob, who we soon realized had attended The Ohio State University (OSU) at about the same time I had, and that we had graduated one year apart (1957 and 1958). During the course of the evening, Bob told about one of his funniest classroom experiences at OSU. I had told the same story many times over the years, and Bob and I, after comparing dates and classes, determined that we had been in that same class together over fifty years ago. The story goes like this.

In a large physics lecture, comprised of over three hundred students, a very distinguished professor was explaining centrifugal and centripetal forces to his young audience. After a brief explanation, he stepped onto a small turntable and asked his graduate assistant to give him a spin. The graduate assistant insisted that the professor to let him being the one to be spun around, but the professor said that he would be doing the experiment himself. With arms out stretched, the professor slowly spun around...still talking to the class. As he drew his arms to his chest, much like a

spinning ice skater, he rotated much faster and finally said, "Enough!" to his graduate assistant, who quickly took hold of the professor and stopped his fast spin. Disoriented, the professor stumbled off of the turntable, into the arms of the graduated student...where he stayed until he had gained his equilibrium...and turning to the class with a stunned look said, "Wow! I sure hope my wife doesn't have anything on when I get home tonight!"

Of course he meant that he hoped his wife hadn't made any plans for the evening, but that is not the way the class of young people took his comment and many started to snicker. He turned away and then finally turning to face the class said, "Go ahead and laugh!" The class irrupted in laughter until the professor finally said, "Now let's get back to work." Pretty racy stuff for 1964-55! And, Bob and I had been in the same class.

That story reminded me of an early faculty meeting at the College of Medicine. Dean Liebelt had attended a Rotary meeting that day and said to the faculty that he had observed a nice custom carried out by the Rotarians. He explained that when some visitor, or new member, was introduced, the members would say, "Hi Bob" or "Hi Sally" and he thought that would be a nice custom to start when he introduced a new faculty member.

He then introduced our new librarian, Jean Jerow and turning to the faculty said, "I give you Jean Jerow. Before anyone could respond, Dr Truitt said, "Excuse me Dr. Liebelt!" The Dean said, "Yes, Ed." And Ed said, "Should this

be a personal hygiene or a community hygiene?" Everyone laughed...and we never used our "new" custom again!

Both of the above were more uproarious than when the young medical student raced up to me after one of my better lectures and taking a pinch of my jacket said, "Oh Dr. Saltzman, every lecture you give is better than the next!" No one was near to hear her comment, but it was one I will never forget.

Some mistakes can be memorable....and very humorous.

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