



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALBERTA**

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August 10, 2005

Daniel J. Pesut  
President  
Sigma Theta Tau International  
Honor Society of Nursing  
350 West North Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Nancy Dickenson-Hazard  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sigma Theta Tau International  
Honor Society of Nursing  
350 West North Street  
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Dear President Pesut and CEO Dickenson-Hazard:

Thank you for your letter of July 27<sup>th</sup>.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to the Editor of the Edmonton Journal from Dr. Rene Day, Acting Dean of Nursing, and Dr. Tom Marrie, Dean of Medicine and Dentistry, which summarizes the current state of the matter:

1. The views expressed in the objectionable song were intended to mock an antiquated stereotype.
2. A full apology has been given to Dean Gray by the organizers and the Medical Students' Association.
3. There will be no Med Show in future.

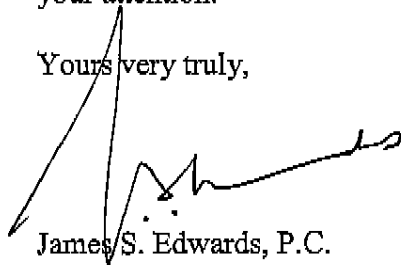
Having spent most of my life in the public sphere, I am abundantly aware that impressions count as much as do intentions. Thus I support Dean Marrie's decision to terminate the Med Show.

What now becomes important is: where do medical students focus whatever creative energies remain to them in the few hours available away from their studies? Dr. Marrie has conveyed to the student body that, within the context of the bold and massive development of our new Health Sciences Ambulatory Learning Centre, we will be placing major emphasis on interdisciplinary and interprofessional education.

A further example is in the area of community service which, along with teaching and research, has been for the past century one of the three purposes of the University of Alberta. One manifestation of this service is the Student Health Initiative for the Needs of Edmonton (SHINE), which is described in the latest issue of the student newspaper, The Gateway. A copy of the article is enclosed.

In closing, I wish to thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention. I would further ask you to share my letter with all who have brought their views on this matter to your attention.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James S. Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke on the left side.

James S. Edwards, P.C.

Enclosures

July 14, 2005

Editor  
Edmonton Journal

Dear Editor:

We are writing to clarify some details surrounding "The MedShow" and your article which appeared in the *Journal* on Thursday, July 14, 2005. First of all, the "Nurses Song" which was performed in March 2005 as part of The MedShow was done in a setting in which the views expressed in the song were meant to convey mockery of an antiquated stereotype. The students deeply regret that some interpreted the performance as an endorsement of such a stereotype.

The organizers subsequently apologized to Dean Gray of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta and met again today where the president of the Medical Students' Association reiterated that apology on behalf of the medical students. There will be no such MedShow in future.

As Dean of Medicine and Dentistry and Acting Dean of Nursing, we are satisfied that the students involved do not hold the views they were mocking, and that they understand and regret the hurt members of the nursing profession experienced as a result of a very failed attempt at humour. This has strengthened our resolve as Faculties to be second-to-none when it comes to graduating health science professionals who multiply the impact of individual excellence by working seamlessly as members of a health-care team.

Sincerely yours,

Rene Day, PhD  
Acting Dean  
Faculty of Nursing

Thomas J. Marrie, MD  
Dean  
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

AND EDITOR.

PLEASE SEE MARRIE PAGE 2

Thursday, 4 August, 2005

## Medical students showcase their professional talent

CHLOÉ FREDO  
Deputy News Editor

After the dust settled and it was announced that Medshow, as the University has known it for 57 years, will no longer exist, Dean of Medicine Dr. Tom Marrie said it was high time for medical students to focus their skills on helping the community.

One such initiative, the Student Health Initiative for the Needs of Edmonton (SHINE), is a student-led clinic that brings together all the health sciences faculties to reach out to the needs of the community. With supervision from professionals, students from different faculties put together a plan to provide medical care for street youth who may not have access to it otherwise.

Ashish Mahajan, executive director of the SHINE clinic, is a third-year medical student who was instrumental in the creation of the project almost two years ago.

"As students, we felt that we weren't able to put our skills to use in the community during our education, and that was something that was important to us.

"We didn't really have many

opportunities to work together with other health sciences faculties during the course of our education [but this project made room for that]," said Mahajan.

**"As students, we felt that we weren't able to put our skills to use in the community during our education and that was something that was important to us."**

ASHISH MAHAJAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHINE

While the Medshow did provide the opportunity for students to show that they have senses of humour aside from their academic faces, Marrie said it was more damaging than anything else.

"There's no question we've had adverse publicity from the Medshow. Medshow won't be occurring as it did in the past, because in this day and age it's actually inappropriate," Marrie said.

PLEASE SEE SHINE PAGE 2

## SHINE helps street youths

SHINE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The negative attention given to medical students, including an influx of letters from nurse advocacy groups due to the portrayal of nurses in the Medshow, has taken away from the contributions that medical students give to the community, Marrie said.

Despite comedic skits that displayed antagonism between nurses and doctors in the Medshow, it is not reflective of the true relationship between the two groups, Marrie continued.

"There's no doubt in my mind, having observed [medical] students in action and seeing how they've interacted with nurses, that they're respectful of nurses," Marrie said.

Mahajan, who was not involved in the Medshow this year, agrees that the role of nurses should not be undermined and that it's important for faculties of different disciplines to find a common ground to work together.

"I can tell you that [SHINE] is working very closely with nurses; there are nurses on the executive of this initiative and there are nurses in strong leadership positions. In fact, the two biggest faculties involved are nursing and medicine, so it's very much a joint project," Mahajan said.

SHINE has given students an

opportunity to learn hands-on and work in a multidisciplinary environment while providing a service to a group in need, perhaps better than the standard medical system, Marrie explained.

"Street youths are going to be able to relate to students a lot better than the average physician," Marrie said.

While students were proud of their efforts in creating the cutting-edge humour that was the Medshow, projects like SHINE make evident their talents as professionals, Marrie said.

**"You can't start to deliver care to people and then walk away from it. The students realize that responsibility."**

DR TOM MARRIE,  
DEAN OF MEDICINE

"SHINE is a long project that keeps on going. Once you do this, you've got an obligation to sustain it.

"You can't start to deliver care to people and then walk away from it. The students realize that responsibility," Marrie said.