

# ***Que' lastima!***

Dear Dan:

I am writing you this letter as a student to an Editor as I wish to comment upon a certain issue as a student and not as an Editor. I refer to the recent retirement of Dr. Adrian Stoner and the subsequent havoc in the foreign language department.

First of all, as to Dr. Stoner's retirement: well and good. Dr. and Mrs. Stoner have served faithfully as members of the University community for 12 years. They have contributed so much to the lives of many students! In their personal interest and friendliness, and guidance and advice, they have helped make the road easier for many students. I know this from experience, they have helped me. And they are one of the very few faculty couples who have been seen at almost every UPS and concert event.

The Stoner's support and help of students is legend. For example, few people know that Dr. Stoner taught several students German last year at no cost -- a course that those students needed for graduate school requirements. How many faculty here would give up their time and their money for such a thing? And the Stoners came here 12 years ago with quite a past: refugees from the Communist invasion of

Rumania in the '50s, they traveled much before they reached America; and they left secure jobs and a home to come to Ottawa. Dr. Stoner, from everything that I can find, built OU's language department himself and kept it going. And I now say, well and good that Dr. Stoner should retire: both he and Mrs. Stoner have worked hard and deserve a rest.

Then why am I writing? Not just to pay tribute, but to protest an injustice. Dr. Stoner has yet to receive official notice that he is or is not to teach this academic year. He is another victim of the screwed-up communication lines of OU's Administration, which include a bureaucracy fit for a school of 4000 or more, and a fine sense of being able to ignore the past deeds of a person when the going gets rough. And OU now seems to have the gall to say in the new Handbook that there is a foreign language department - see page 64. When there's just one teacher in such a department, and two of the three languages supposedly offered have to be taught off-campus or through other schools, that by my lights is not a department:

The money, I'm sure, is not important to the Stoners: what is, is the fact that for 12 years they have worked and helped students, and Dr. Stoner has worked hard at his teaching. (Qualifications? Dr. Stoner just recently finished translating a book on chemistry from Rumanian to English for KU. He has been President for a number of years of a national association of French teachers. He and Mrs. Stoner speak at least 7 languages between them. And in addition, they are both cultured, intelligent, people. If those aren't adequate qualifications for just about anywhere I'd be surprised!) And now good-bye!

But I have gotten off the track, and perhaps given the wrong impression. I'm not angry at Dr. Stoner's retirement -- as I said, he and his wife have worked hard and deserve to relax and rest. What I do mind is the fact that it was done so shoddily and indecisively; and the fact that OU now does not have near as good a foreign language department as it did a couple of years ago; and the fact that now it's going to be harder than ever for students in music or science or other fields to get the minimum languages they need.

Dr. and Mrs. Stoner: thanks so much, for what it's worth, for all that you've done for me, and the kids here and the school. We as students won't forget--even if Ottawa University does.

Craig Smith  
An, OU student