

Warwick, N.Y. 10990
September 11, 1973

Dr. John G. Kemeny, President
Dartmouth College
Hanover, N.H. 03755

Dear Dr. Kemeny:

I have just completed an outstanding summer in school at Dartmouth. Well in advance I knew that Dr. Hannah Croasdale was internationally recognized in the field of Phycology, but I did not realize that her fame as a teacher was so widespread too. One student in her class came from Colorado with a mandate from her department to study under Dr. Croasdale!

Never have I experienced such a hard-working, well-organized, knowledgeable teacher. In fact, with 48 graduate credits and fifteen teaching years behind me, I have had and seen so many poor and lazy teachers that Hannah Croasdale was a revelation and a joy. There isn't a lazy bone in her! Despite her arthritis, she personally sewed collecting bags on her sewing machine, sawed off can openers and made algae-scrapers by sharpening them and devised algal drags out of old pipe and clothes hangers for each member of her class! When I admired this industry, she explained that she had long taught the class with no budget and had thus learned to improvise.

From a friend, I learned that Dr. Croasdale had never earned from Dartmouth even half of what I currently earn teaching secondary science. (\$15,100 and that for years, despite her very respectable Ph.D. from the University of Penn., she was hired in the position of a lab lackey and not permitted to teach. It seems impossible that an institution such as Dartmouth could have done such an injustice to such a capable woman in what really was true discrimination. Apparently, this treatment is well known and thoroughly disapproved of by her students who have had the rich experience of contact with her.

Dr. Croasdale has never once expressed any resentment or bitterness over this degrading treatment. However, she is really living on a minimal minimum retirement income - thanks to her minimum salary. While I realize there probably is little you can do at this time to rectify the injustice done to this marvelous teacher, I did think of an indirect way Dartmouth might help her. She has stacks and stacks of "not-half-bad" paintings her mother did in later life. Dr. Croasdale has never had the money to frame them for sale but was told they were worth a minimum of \$25. apiece. They are all of local scenes and would be lovely framed for new dorms or in groups in dining or sitting rooms. Perhaps somehow you could look into this matter? It would be a very small way of helping make amends for unbelievable discrimination at a time when Dartmouth should have been more enlightened.

The worth of Hannah Croasdale cannot be measured in terms of what one has learned from her. She is one of the finest persons I have ever had the privilege to know.

Sincerely yours,

Elmire L. Conklin
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