

6/27/05

To: Mrs.Reidy

From: Helen Kellert

Re: Dr. Robert Drake

I would like to record my professional opinion that Dr. Drake has unjustly received a "U" rating for the teaching year of 2004-5.

This rating brings to mind the "U" ratings received by several Biology teachers during and at the end of 2001. In particular, biology teacher Emily Krieger was spoken of by students in my Research Literacy classes (a joint English Biology Dept. program) as the best teacher in that subject they had ever had. Krieger's crime, apparently, was a protest against teaching the scripted, predetermined lesson plans drafted by the Biology Department. Likewise, guidance counselor Livia Sklar was dismissed from the school for critiquing Reidy's policies and attitudes.

These cases bear relevance to Dr.Drake's "U" rating. In retaliation to Dr. Drake's critique of her preferred teaching methodology - the controversial and widely discredited "Discovery Method" - Reidy has attacked Drake on several pedagogical counts. These are unfounded. Drake joins the list of those professionals who are dismissed and given a failing grade for disagreeing with the principal.

I was witness to the witch-hunt and trap engineered by Reidy in the College Office. A college mentor has admitted to me that she was unwittingly "used" (her words) by Reidy to make Drake appear negligent in college duties. Dr. Drake is one of our more literate, highly educated letter writers. He cares erroneously about the welfare of students and his college letters have served them brilliantly.

Dr. Drake represents that section of our school who is unafraid to criticize that which is education finds condemnatory. It is the democratic humanism which he represents and his superior education which have been "U" rated by Reidy.

Helen Kellert

