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# THE CARBON EXTRA

**VOL. 3, NO. 18.5,**

**FEBRUARY 12, 1986**

## STUDENTS PROTEST RETIREMENT

"I have recently been shown a petition containing 462 signatures of students of Marian College. The petition was circulated in protest of the recent decision not to offer Sr. Vivian Rose a one year extension of her contract.

"The students and faculty of Marian obviously have a great love for Sr. Vivian Rose, not only for her personally but also for her professional contributions to the college. We feel that she is a great asset, and if she is forced to retire not only will the Music Department suffer, but the college as a whole will be damaged. There is no doubt that both sides have the best interests of the college foremost in their minds.

"At Marian we have always taken pride in the fact that we are somewhat unique from other colleges, that we place the emphasis on people. For these reasons, not just for the students, not just for the faculty, and not just for Sr. Vivian Rose, but for the well-being of Marian College, we are asking the administration to reconsider its decision regarding this matter." (Address to College Council by Student Board President Wayne Hoeing, Feb. 11, 1986)

Over 150 students and concerned faculty appeared at the College Council meeting yesterday to address the situation regarding the forced retirement of Sister Vivian Rose. This issue has blossomed into a complexity which neither students nor faculty understand completely. This special edition of The Carbon is an attempt to clarify this sensitive

situation.

Tension was obviously high as Sister Jean Gabriel Jones made a move to add to the Council's agenda a discussion which would clarify the College's policy of retirement. Sister Carol Slinger responded that the policy was stated in the handbook to which Sister Jean Gabriel responded, "How it's stated is one thing and how it is followed is another."

In 1983 Sister Vivian Rose turned 70. The Board of Trustees, which has the ultimate authority over the College, states that the mandatory retirement age is 70. Therefore, anyone who reaches the age of 70 is retired--voluntarily or otherwise solely on the basis of age. If this policy is uniformly applied to all employees, then it is perfectly legal.

Within Marian College, however, when an individual reaches 70 the Academic Dean reviews the contract and decides whether or not to propose a part-time assignment. "Part-time assignments for those who have retired may be approved by the president. The initial recommendation for such action will originate with the retiree's executive officer." This statement is taken from the notes of the October Board of Trustees Meeting. The executive officer is the Academic Dean.

Sister Margaretta Black informed Sister Vivian Rose of the "mandatory retirement" clause in 1983 but recommended that Sister continue to teach part-time as a "transition" to allow Sister to adjust. The part-time position was meant to be temporary.

The decision to retire Sister Vivian Rose came after much observation and consultation. Sister Margaretta commented that it was due to

"various things that I saw in the Department." Sister Margaretta expressed the wish that these things not be made public because of the sensitivities involved.

Legality is not the concern of the students and faculty who oppose the decision. For 150 students and faculty who were left standing yesterday and were not recognized by the Council Chairman, is not a question of a violation of legal principles but of moral ones. This is the feeling of the student body; "A flagrant misuse of bureaucratic red tape..." Sister Margaretta, in turn, stated that the issue is too complex to be addressed in such a setting. It's not a question of black or white, "It's gray," Sister replied.

As far as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sister Marie Kathleen Maudlin, is concerned, the matter is closed. President Gatto confirmed this view.

The rumor that President Gatto has called a meeting of the Board of Trustees is invalid.

The students echo Wayne Hoeing's address to the College Council: "At Marian we have always taken pride in the fact that we are somewhat unique from other colleges, that we place the emphasis on people. For these reasons, not just for the students, not just for the faculty, and not just for Sister Vivian Rose, but for the well-being of Marian College, we are asking the administration to reconsider its decision regarding this matter."

The CARBON STAFF

January 30, 1986

Dr. Louis Gatto,

We, the members of the Music Faculty, would like to express our concern and wish that Sister Vivian Rose be with us for the school year 1986-87 as a part-time faculty member, teaching private lessons and the music sections of the Humanities course.

Our reasons are as follows:

Sister Vivian Rose is in good health, enjoys her work at Marian and is quite capable of part-time teaching.

She is still an excellent, dynamic teacher, loved and respected by both students and colleagues.

We also have a concern for the strain that uncertainty places on an individual. Therefore, we ask that this situation be resolved in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Sister Mary Geria Gallagher*

*Sara E. Reid*

*Kitty O'Sonnell*

*Sister Ruth Ann Vintz*

cc: Sister Margaretta Black

Sister Marie Kathleen Maudlin

*James Larnet*



# MARIAN COLLEGE

3200 Cold Spring Road - Indianapolis, Indiana 46222



February 11, 1986

We, representing 417+ students of Marian College, understand that Sister Vivian Rose Morshauser has been dismissed from her teaching positions for the academic year 1986-87. Also, we understand the following statements:

1. There is a provision for faculty members to teach on an annual basis after the prescribed retirement age.
2. The members of the Music Department faculty unanimously requested that Sister Vivian Rose be permitted to continue teaching part-time for the coming academic year.
3. Without further consultation with members of the Music Department staff this request was denied by the Academic Dean, with no professional reasons.

We, the students, want to know why this action was taken--or on what basis was the action taken? We feel that it is in the best interest of this college to have the official reasons behind her dismissal revealed, and that she be permitted to teach on a part-time basis in the up-coming academic year.

Very sincerely,

STUDENTS WITH A CAUSE

cc: Sister Marie Kathleen Maudlin  
Dr. Louis C. Gatto  
Sister Margaretta Black