Rodman ignores smoking facts

By Gordon Hunter

The "attitudes and actions" of the Medical Department Director show that "he approves of smoking," according to Gary Schultz, a staff member in the Laboratory for Nuclear Science. A charge which Medical Director Melvin Rodman "could not disagree with more."

Both Schultz and Rodman agree that many members of the Medical Department, including Rodman, smoke. Rodman insists that these people have a right to smoke in their own offices. Schultz maintains that "people who have the right to smoke around consenting adults in their own environment." The right does not extend to doctors within their offices or nurses and secretaries within patient lounges. These are not just their own environments but that of others, as well. He added that "anyone who wants to work in health related fields should be prepared to give up smoking while on duty."

Rodman, on the other hand, claims that "no one in any field should offend any one, while on duty," but that "on duty" meant only when dealing directly with customers or patients. "This is a no smoking office," stated Rodman. "The staff does not smoke in front of patients, except when the patient lights up or when consent is given. He added that "there may be an occasional exception to this rule but that is because this department has no policy."

Rodman pointed out that smoke can spread under doors, through walls, and between windows, and that the smell can linger in a room or on clothing. He also said that there are many people who are sensitive to this smoke, especially in a medical environment. Thus, he concluded, a doctor shouldn't smoke in his office.

Rodman says that the staff is hired by their qualifications, not by whether or not they smoke. He "expects them to act with a sense of responsibility," which he calls "professionalism." This means that he expects them to try not to offend anyone and not to be in front of patients "because it is disgusting." However, he says that he can't expect to "prevent these professionals from smoking in their private offices."

As for his own smoking,

Walters talks on Mideast

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...but the feeling was that seven or more people in the news are not supposed to get that sort of money." Yet, "No one complains that Carson gets five million a year for working four days a week, with sixteen weeks off." She said that she "deplored" the fact that Henry Kissinger and Gerald Ford were being paid to "give" interviews. Overall, her suggestion was "to kill the messenger if you don't like the message."

Although she has never seen Saturday Night Live, Ms. Walters said that she had heard about it and was "hurt and embarrassed" by the Baba Wawa routine. Some members of her staff and the original sketches, she met Gilda Radner at a party and persuaded her to perform. Walters was "amazed," she said by the way she spoke, but her husband Jay "even said the way I did."

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