

# Random Thoughts . . .

## SPEAKING OF EDUCATION – III

RICHARD M. FELDER

North Carolina State University • Raleigh, NC 27695

There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened.

(Douglas Adams)

A lecture is a process by which the notes of the professor become the notes of the students without passing through the minds of either.

(R.K. Rathbun)

A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on a cold iron.

(Horace Mann)

Teachers who cannot keep students involved and excited for several hours in the classroom should not be there.

(John Roueche)

**Richard M. Felder** is Hoechst Celanese Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering at North Carolina State University. He received his BChE from City College of CUNY and his PhD from Princeton. He is coauthor of the text *Elementary Principles of Chemical Processes* (Wiley, 2000) and codirector of the ASEE National Effective Teaching Institute



If a professor can be replaced by a CD-ROM, he/she should be.

(Jack Wilson)

I'm sure the reason such young nitwits are produced in our schools is because they have no contact with anything of any use in everyday life.

(Petronius, d. ~66 AD)

Times are bad. Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book.

(Cicero)

What's on your mind, if you'll forgive the overstatement?

(Fred Allen)

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.

(Albert Einstein)

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice; in practice, there is.

(Chuck Reid)

To state a theorem and then to show examples of it is literally to teach backwards.

*(E. Kim Nebeuts)*

---

Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.

*(Albert Einstein)*

---

Education is what happens to the other person, not what comes out of the mouth of the educator.

*(Miles Horton)*

---

Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

*(Robert Frost)*

---

Lack of education is an extraordinary handicap when one is being offensive.

*(Josephine Tey)*

---

Education is one of the few things a person is willing to pay for and not get.

*(William Lowe Bryan)*

---

Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.

*(B.F. Skinner)*

---

A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that individuality is the key to success.

*(Robert Orben)*

There is a legend that the difference between classes of freshmen and post-graduates is that if you say "Good Morning" to the first, they reply "Good Morning." But the graduate students write it down.

*(Donald Bligh)*

---

I used to keep my college roommate from reading my personal mail by hiding it in her textbooks.

*(Joan Welsh)*

---

Predicting the future is easy. It's trying to figure out what's going on now that's hard.

*(Fritz Dressler)*

---

If I knew what I was looking for, it wouldn't be research, would it?

*(Richard Feynmann)*

---

If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse; however if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I help you become that.

*(Goethe)*

---

Teaching is the greatest act of optimism.

*(Colleen Wilcox)*

---

Try not to have a good time...this is supposed to be educational.

*(Charles Schulz)*

All of the *Random Thoughts* columns are now available on the World Wide Web at [http://www.ncsu.edu/effective\\_teaching](http://www.ncsu.edu/effective_teaching) and at <http://che.ufl.edu/~cee/>