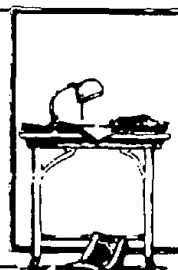

EDITOR'S NOTE



Some years ago, David Knapp made the casual remark to me, "We professors don't profess enough." I had only my own experience to go on, but it seemed (and seems) to me that he might be right.

When one examines the dictionary definitions of the various P words, it can be unsettling. Examples:

Profess — to declare or admit openly or freely

Professor — one that professes, avows, or declares

Profession — an act of openly declaring or openly claiming a belief, faith, or opinion.

The *technical* aspects of pharmacy do not pose much of a threat to the professor. Pharmacokinetics is a science that doesn't leave much room for expressing personal opinion. The mass spectrometer tends to speak for itself. The antibiotic sensitivity disc tends to declare its own results. Yet there is much in pharmacy that *does* offer room for differing opinion: the Catastrophic Drug Bill, Pharm.D. for everyone, generic drug scandals, mail-order pharmacy. The lecturer can also become a pulpit on such subjects as the size of the national debt, college athletes' use of steroids, even foreign policy.

What is appropriate subject matter on which a professor might profess? Student attitudes seem to range from believing little or nothing that a professor says outside his or her discipline to accepting virtually everything, regardless of the professor's level of expertise. The latter group is particularly at risk.

We welcome manuscripts on the subject.

Mickey Smith
Editor