

March 29, 1985

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Fellow AUCE Executive Members:

It all started quite innocently and in my naïveté I believed it would remain so. After I committed myself to being recording secretary for the President's Safety Committee and being the Union Safety Officer the position developed into one where I am now writing letters for the committee and union, co-ordinating the answers, distributing minutes and reports, trekking across campus once or twice a month for meetings in Mary Bollert Hall, calming desperate people down on the phone and seeking help for them. I love it!

I must say that through my Dark Time it seemed the only positive feedback I received was from the Union and members of the Committee. I received great satisfaction knowing I counted for something and my contributions were easing the hurt of others. The rewards increased as I spent more time and dedicated myself more deeply to the welfare of those on campus. I knew it was becoming a full-time job.

Recently, I realized that I am trying to do 2 full-time jobs and be on a re-training program. Attempting them at half time while under varying degrees of discomfort presents a challenge!

I cannot continue. Imagine the irony of a Health and Safety Officer who cannot maintain her own health!

I recognize that the Union has spent much in shaping me into their Safety Officer, but the hundreds of hours and portion of my heart that I have poured into the effort has been no small investment.

I want to produce material of which I, and you, can be proud. I can no longer do that.

Until I can fulfill that desire I am requesting a 3-month leave of absence from Union duties (April, May, June). I have two letters to do for the Union and I must return material to the office. That I will do before passing my mantle on to a successor.

I have no idea who would replace me in this capacity. Given the present circumstances, I cannot find one. I pray, and trust, that someone who is both willing and capable will step forward to fill the gap.

As you know, the structure of the campus safety committee is changing, as is the job of their secretary. I do not know what expectations are in store for the one acting in the capacity as secretary.

The experience has been rewarding and a pleasure -- but the time has come for me to concentrate my efforts on myself to better serve you.

Please forgive me and release me.

Sincerely,

*K. Shaw*

Karen Shaw