

EAST CAROLINA TEACHERS TRAINING SCHOOL
Day Students,
October 2, 1925
GREENVILLE, N. C.

Now, young women, I suppose I am going to have to talk to you again, perhaps one day next week. My time is limited this morning.

When you write home to your home folks and other folks who are going to write to you, give them your town address and don't have your mail sent to the college post office. This is not a post office. It is just an arrangement that the college has made for getting mail to the students who live here in the dormitories. Now I do not mean that we are not going to get your letters if they come here. We are going to do our best to take care of them, but you will get your mail much quicker if it is sent to you at your town address.

You young women who are not at home in Greenville, I mean who are boarding in Greenville, you parents have made arrangements for you to live with Mr. A, or Mr. B, or Mr. C. These folks have opened their private homes and some of them have gone to considerable expense just to give you girls a chance to go to college. In most cases they are not doing it for money. They are doing it just to give you young women a chance to go to college. Now, if you have made arrangements to board with one family and you find that your friend is boarding with another and that they can take you, you can't go to that other place. Did you know that it would not be right? These folks have gone to considerable expense to give you a place to live in Greenville and you just run off and go over there. How would you feel if in your family you had spent \$100 to fit up a room for my girl and she spends one night with you and goes over here to the next door neighbor's or some other place to board. You are going to have this same kind of thing happen to you when you go to teaching. You are under obligations to those folks, and you stay with. But you say - "Mr. Wright, it is not like home". Of course, it isn't. There isn't any place like home.

Sometimes that is a good thing and sometimes it is not. We are doing our best to make it homelike. I know we cannot do it, but we are going to do the best we can.

Now, one other thing -- this applies to everybody -- you are not to be go-betweens. Do you know what a go-between is? Some girl in the college wants x or y or z that is contrary to the handbook and she cannot get off the campus to do it and she wants you to do it. If you carry or bring, that will get the other girl into trouble and it will get you into trouble because it is just isn't the right thing to do. You don't know her yet and she does not know you.

There was an old man who lived in Guilford County, next to where I did my first year's teaching -- no, my second year's teaching after graduating from college and he ran a farm. He was a good farmer. He had a neighbor who was always finding trouble and fault. He came to him one day and told him a terrible tale on one of his neighbors who had a farm adjoining. When he got through, this wise old man said, "John I can make \$35 a month attending to my own business", and he was never an enemy to this other person. He went on attending to his own business and making his \$35 per month. It is a mighty good plan in life to attend to your own business. You have heard the old story, and it is true that the "dog that will bring a bone will carry one", and a girl who comes to you with a terrible tale will leave you and take a terrible tale to somebody else. Make your "\$35 a month" attending to your own business.

I want you young women to realize fully that the college has absolutely no jurisdiction over you off of the campus. We are not responsible for you and I want your folks to know that. But, girls, we love you just the same and want to help you. You can go outside of the campus and do whatever you please. Maybe we will hear about it and maybe we won't. We may call you into the office and ask you to withdraw, not expel you, just ask you to go home.

And maybe we will call you in and say we are glad that you had backbone enough to do the right thing, or we may not say anything. We want you to make good, and we don't want you to be a source of bringing trouble into the college or taking trouble out of the college. Now, you help us and we will help you.

You have all the privileges of every character within the college so far as work is concerned. You are not under student government. You have the privileges of the Y.W.C.A. You have as much right and privileges there as any student in the college. But over your home life we have absolutely no jurisdiction, because we could not do it. You are not living in boarding houses. You are living in private homes. If we had a string of boarding houses, we could take charge of them and make certain rules governing them, but you are living in private homes.

I boarded thirteen years before I was married, and my wife made me board one year after that. Then she had enough. As well as I remember, I never left the home without telling the lady of the house. I do not mean that I told her in the morning when I went to school. I did not go to her and say "now, I am going to school". I boarded with a family named Alford. I give you this as an example. If I was going away and did not expect to return that night, I never left without telling Mrs. Alford where I was going and when I expected to return. I was not compelled to do this according to any law, but I owed that to the woman of the house and you are the same way. If you are living in my home, you owe me something, I mean something besides your room rent. Your home folks try to get in touch with you and they don't know where you are. Let the people where you live know where you are. You owe that to yourself, your own self respect, and you owe it to the people that you board with.

Now, young women, we are all your friends and we are all working for you.