

The Times-Picayune

Parole board letters decried

Metairie

Your recent articles on influential letters to the State Parole Board struck a familiar chord. This kind of misuse of trust and influence is found not only at the Parole Board but also in the courts.

I write from personal experience. In 1995, my daughter was a vehicular homicide victim. A Louisiana State University Medical School doctor was convicted on Nov. 30, 1995. He was placed in jail on Dec. 5, 1995, by the trial court judge.

Shortly thereafter, numerous letters on LSUMC, LSUSD, LSU Eye Center and state Department of Health letterheads were sent to the judge urging compassion and leniency if not outright forgiveness for the convicted felon because of the involvement of alcohol. Unfortunately for the institutions, the judge placed their letters on public display with other case proceedings.

The letters are still on public file at the Orleans Parish Crimi-

nal Court record room. The dentists and doctors who wrote these letters are as follows: William Scott Grieffies, M.D.; Donald R. Bergsma, M.D.; John N. Kent, DDS; Fred A. Loe, DDS; Andrew K. Chang, DDS, M.D.; Richard F. Howes, M.D.; Michael S. Block, DMD; Kenneth E. Kratz, Ph.D.; William H. Woods, DDS, MS; Francine Morrison, M.D.; Denise St. Clair.

The LSU Medical Center chancellor, unlike his counterpart at LSU, did not make a public statement regarding the inappropriate behavior of his leadership, nor did he write the trial court judge correcting the situation. This kind of inappropriate behavior will continue because there is no policing or consequence attached to such action.

The state spends substantial money to apprehend, investigate and convict criminals, and then another part of the state bureaucracy tries to undo the process. How ridiculous.

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