

**October 25, 2015**

**The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**Dear Governor Haley,**

**As a parent, I am sure that you are concerned regarding the influences to which our youth are exposed in our universities. Recently, my husband and I attended a play presented by Coastal Carolina University. As I stated in my letter to the University President (copy enclosed), I am not easily shocked. This play, however, did not meet public decency standards—even by today's standards.**

**Apparently, the President was entirely too busy or not concerned enough to respond to my letter of concern himself, so he passed it off to the Provost and Executive Vice President of the University.**

**If you read my letter to the President, you will see that Dr. Byington failed to address my concerns. I am glad that neither he nor his wife found this play objectionable. Perhaps I am not progressive or enlightened enough to appreciate this degrading play that was disguised as entertainment.**

**At least one issue was accomplished by my letter. In the future there will be a disclaimer to warn sensitive, unenlightened people like me that there may be objectionable material which might offend our sensitivities.**

**Furthermore, it was quite insulting to offer a refund for our tickets. Frankly, I am more concerned about the materials which are being sanctioned and offered to students by this University.**

**While this production was disgusting to my husband and me, we will continue to support the youth productions at many universities. We hope that in the future Coastal Carolina University can find more wholesome and entertaining presentations.**

**Sincerely yours,**



**Sharron E. Lindsey  
Seaside Plantation  
506 Seafarer Way  
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582  
843-280-0588**

**cc: Dr. J. Ralph Byington, Provost and Executive Vice President, CCU**

October 14, 2015

Dr. David A. DeCenzo, President  
Coastal Carolina University  
President's Office  
Atheneum Hall 101B  
P.O. Box 261954  
Conway, SC 29528-6054

Dear Dr. DeCenzo,

On October 3 my husband and I attended the production of "Spring Awakening" by Coastal Carolina University's Theater Department.

As a psychiatric nurse/instructor, I am not easily shocked, but this production disgusted both my husband and me. Several people walked out of the theater. I, on the other hand, felt that in order to express an opinion of the play I needed to sit through the entire play.

Many of the issues that were presented in the production were important issues such as suicide. Other issues, however, were simply base. Biological functions might be better off left to the privacy of the home or psychiatrist's couch.

For example, issues of incest, masturbation, and blatant homosexual love-making. These functions were not implied but performed on stage.

I have tried to find some redeeming qualities of the play, but have found none. We attended this play for entertainment but came away truly concerned and saddened about what is being sanctioned at this University. Furthermore, I am even more disturbed considering that our taxes are used in this manner. One person even said that this play was performed off Broadway as if that made it worthwhile.

It would be easy for me to overlook this play, to pass it off as art. Perhaps that is what is wrong with our society today—too many good people remain silent.

My question to you, Dr. DeCenzo, is who authorized this play?

Does the theater department have an advisor?

My final question to you is: Did you see this performance?—If not, ask for a command performance.

Please accept this letter in the spirit in which it was written—CONCERNED.

Sincerely,

Sharron E. Lindsey  
Seaside Plantation  
506 Seafarer Way  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582  
(843)280-0588

cc: Monica Bell, Theater Department Chairperson



**COASTAL CAROLINA**  
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and  
Executive Vice President

Ms. Sharron E. Lindsey  
Seaside Plantation  
506 Seafarer Way  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

Dear Ms. Lindsey,

The President has asked that I reply to your recent letter regarding "Spring Awakening." The selection of performances each academic year is to provide a variety of training opportunities to students. This production was performed in 2009 by the department.

Please know that your taxes are not being misused. Coastal receives approximately 5% of its funding from the state. Much of the funding for our productions come from ticket sales. I do not offer this as an explanation for the play in question but only for information purposes.

I will also add that my wife and I attended the production. I agree that some audiences might not find this performance acceptable. I have requested that future productions, that contain material that some might find objectionable, contain a disclaimer and that an announcement be made at the beginning of the production.

Additionally, I would be happy to refund your ticket cost. Please contact Susan Talbot in my office.

All the best,

J. Ralph Byington, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President