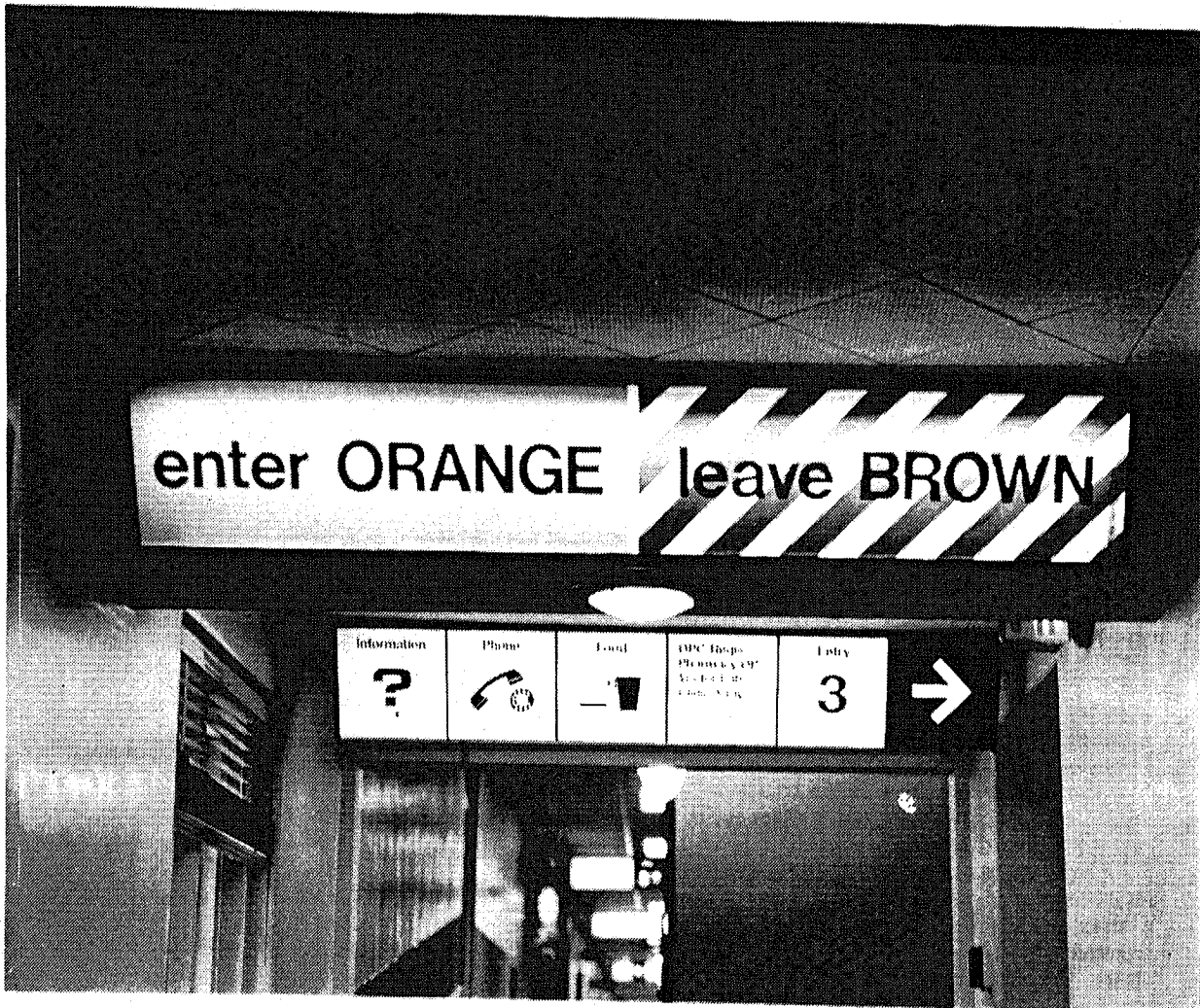


August 1990

Shifting Dullness



The journey continues...

Freshman Lessons

Kenny Boockvar

Welcome first-year medical students! Welcome. Welcome. You are the new keepers of the amphitheater. The second-year students have been warming the seats for you, since you are the ones that will make them feel relatively knowledgeable. Like those before you, you will begin to collect and store the facts of medicine, some for future use, some for posterity only. You will feel the tide of facts ebb and flow in your head, and you will feel as if it were going to brim over and drench you. But do not worry so much about the facts. Medicine is as much wisdom as facts, and you will hardly gain any wisdom in the amphitheater—I learned much during my first year of medical school, but a good deal of what I remember happened outside of it...

I recall trips to the Smoky Mountains, Okeefenokee Swamp, and Snowshoe Mountain, West Virginia. In the Smoky Mountains my party hiked a trail called the Boogerman Trail, which wound through magnolia trees to the remains of an ancient homestead. This poor boogerman—the character of nightmares—lived in a serene, beautiful place, ignorant of civilization's fears. In the Okeefenokee Swamp I canoed with someone who had rowed crew competitively on a Northeastern city river, and, as she had once done for crew practice, she aroused us at dawn, this time to see the sun and mist rise and the birds stretch their wings. There I learned that crocodiles do not regularly feed on humans. Returning from a class ski-trip at Snowshoe Mountain my carpool stopped to take a tour of "Organ Cave," where we were thinking of "organ" in the context of gross human anatomy. The tour leader told fantastic stories about the cave's rock formations, but we could hardly understand a word of his heavily accented speech.—As a doctor would I be able to help a person with whom I could barely communicate? Perhaps, but with less confidence.—He told us of his times of getting lost in caves and of his solo spelunking adventures.

Duke's campus provided many other experiences I remember from my first year. Along with other open-mouthed and like-minded students, I ate Indian food prepared by Hare Krishnas at their free vegetarian dinners. The Hare Krishnas never proselytized, but just continually played their gnawing eastern music (which is so difficult to enjoy) from a tape box. Various artists performed on campus, including Maya Angelou, the North Carolina Symphony, the Indigo Girls, the cast of Tom Stoppard's *Artist Descending A Staircase*, and the

Ciampi Quartet. I remember them less individually and more collectively as time goes on. Together they soothed my mind, which was bombarded by day by medical school lectures. At times I saw my lecturers at these same events, presumably receiving therapy for a similar head ache. I quickly appreciated that health-care workers and trainees experience difficult psychological stresses, which are relieved often enough by their simply (or not so simply) having a drink.

Most spectacular were the performances at the American Dance Festival. The Martha Graham Dance Company embodied the rhythms of Aaron Copeland's *Appalachian Spring*, which portrays life as it was and/or is in the nearby Appalachian valleys. Another dance company, Pilobolus—which means "hat-thrower" and is the name of a spore-shooting fungus—was imaginative and acrobatic, displaying all the quirks, loves, and hostilities of modern people. The strength and agility of the dancers were inspiring: dancers demonstrate the full physical capacity of the human body in a state of good health. I hope that when I am on the wards I will remember the dancers' celebration of health, and that I will help forge new bodies in the dancers' mold. Doctors who sometimes forget their objectives should think of their patients as dancers, athletes, acrobats, and jugglers rather than simply sick people.

Finally, to exercise my mind, I went to discuss fiction and poetry in the Dean's conference room Fridays at lunchtime, and to discuss ethics and the professions in a public policy seminar on Wednesday evenings. I looked forward to these opportunities to read, listen and respond—so rare in medical school—and sometimes left the seminars believing that what had been discussed were society's most important issues. They certainly were important to me, since they helped me understand better what medical practice should mean to me in my life, and how being a doctor will markedly influence my role among people. The emotion of the poets and the pragmatism of the sociologists are good guidance, especially for people in a field as delicately emotional and as brutally physical as health care.

So, first-years, welcome to health care, which means care for your own health as well. Let *Shifting Dullness* be a resource and/or outlet for you, as it was, and is, for me.

Shifting Dullness accepts letters of opinion from all members of the medical school community which encourage responsible dialogue. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial staff. Submit responses to the *Shifting Dullness* box in the Alumni Affairs Office or mail to PO Box 2765 DUMC, campus mail.

Open Auditions

Two productions will be performed this fall featuring medical students in many of the roles. The first piece, an original work, will form the basis of a retreat for the Cancer Care Consortium (a program of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center) to be held the morning of October 20. The purpose of the retreat is to discuss some of the moral dilemmas faced by health care professionals, patients and family members when dealing with a diagnosis of cancer. Approximately 15 evening rehearsals will be scheduled between the middle of September and October 20. Not everyone will be called for every rehearsal.

The second piece, "The Girl with the Pimple Face" by William Carlos Williams, will be presented four times between October 1 and November 15 at medical associations and public libraries requesting the presentation. After each presentation the social and ethical issues raised in the piece will be discussed. Rehearsals will be held evenings between 6 pm and 9 pm and some weekends from September 12 through early October. Not everyone will be called for every rehearsal.

Auditions will be held jointly for the two productions on September 10 and 11 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm each night in room 1170-b Yellow Zone, Duke Hospital South (near the Courtyard Cafeteria). Refreshments will be provided. A meeting for all those cast will be at 8 pm on September 11 to set rehearsal schedules. A stage manager for both productions is also needed. For more information please call Susan Booth at 684-2748 or Joy Javits Stewart at 684-2027.

If you have any questions, please call. Thanks again for your help!

Staff	
Editors	Kenny Boockvar Stefano Cazzaniga Susan Hazzard Holly Lisanby
Clubs Med	Debbie Shih
Events	Rowena Dolor
Writers	Eric Bachman Eric Weidman
Comics	John Armitage
Business Manager	Melissa Corcoran
Graphics and Layout	Kenny Boockvar Stefano Cazzaniga Holly Lisanby

Curriculum Update

Stefano Cazzaniga

The following are updates on the Medical Student Curriculum Committee meetings of June 4 and 14.

- Committee on Medical Informatics (Mike Flynn, Mike Sicard) - items discussed included the need for more Gross Anatomy time and student opposition to grading in the Clinical Arts course.
- Clinical Arts Committee (Sharon Castellino, Matt Roe) - This Committee is now headed by Drs. Michener and Neelan. Items discussed included whether to make the Clinical Arts course pass/fail, with an exam to encourage attendance, and whether to hold Clinical Arts seminars every other week (alternating with Dean's hour) to discuss ethical issues, articles, etc.
- Dr. Pizzo's Committee (Tracy Gaudet) - the Committee is looking for a rising third year interested in making the curriculum the object of his/her third year project. This would entail sitting in on first year classes, and being part of this Committee. Contact Tracy Gaudet (383-3764) if interested.
- Third Year Committee - items discussed included forming a study track in "Organ Systems Physiology" (a.k.a. biomedical engineering), and opposing changing the third year from its current basic-science-only format.
- Basic Science Committee (Terry Kim) - the main item discussed was the block format schedule for first year, which is awaiting the approval of Dr. Pizzo's Committee; it would consist of 6 blocks of courses with a clinical correlation problem set and break at the end of each, and would have fewer lecture hours in each block, allowing for more independent study. This would result in the lengthening of first year at the expense of third year.
- Odds and Ends (Tracy Gaudet) - Dr. Snyderman will soon have another informal meeting with students. Dr. Raven wants to know whether students would be favorable to the idea of a second year Radiology rotation.
- Votes - the Committee voted that classes should run 8-12, instead of 9-2 with an hour lunch break; and that handouts should be submitted from instructors at the beginning of a course so that they could be inspected for quality by a CTL committee.

Clubs Med

Debbie Shih

Welcome to all new MS1's! Medical student organizations at Duke include the student American Medical Association (AMA), the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), the Student National Minority Association (SNMA), the Rural Health Coalition, and Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA). An activities fair (look for posters and announcements for date and time) will be held to introduce you to these and other groups to which you may choose to belong. Many organizations provide benefits for students and all offer opportunities and activities that you may not want to miss. "Clubs Med" serves as a bulletin board for organizational activities, but this month will attempt to give all newcomers a short orientation to some of the organizations.

AMA

Membership in the student AMA provides membership not only to the national organization but also to the North Carolina Medical Society. Benefits include subscriptions to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and American Medical News (AMN), discount and member services, the AMA Drug Evaluation book, and the opportunity to meet other medical students from around the country and discuss medico-legal issues at yearly conventions. Last year the Duke AMA sponsored a drug company fair and outings to Lenox Baker children's hospital. You can find out more about the AMA at the activities fair. If you have questions before then, please contact Lisa Gangarosa, MS4 (493-9583).

AMSA

The Duke chapter of the American Medical Student Association is looking for new members! The organization is interested in issues concerning medical education. Membership provides benefits including insurance discounts. The Duke chapter is involved in the "Meet the Resident" lunchtime program and the yearly medical school book sale at which MS1's may purchase discounted textbooks supplied by upperclassmen. The organization needs new interested members. It will be

sponsoring a Blood Pressure Drive and a Pizza Party for prospective members in the coming month. Look for them at the activities fair. Questions may be addressed to Chris Stille, MS4 (493-4310).

SNMA

The Student National Minority Association is a service organization composed of minority students. It offers many activities for its members and is involved in various community service projects throughout the year. At Duke, the organization has been involved in organizing blood pressure drives, canned food drives, and sponsoring minority artists of the month. Questions about the organization can be directed to Tamera Coyne, MS4 (490-1576).

AOA

Alpha Omega Alpha is a national honor society for third and fourth year medical students honoring and promoting academic excellence. They are responsible for the annual research symposium featuring work of Duke medical students, and for the annual physical exam teaching sessions for rising second year students. Currently, they are looking for new members among rising third and fourth year students. Transcript release slips were recently mailed to all eligible students. The organization must have these back from all students whether or not they wish to be considered for membership. If you have not sent yours in, please do so as soon as possible. Questions about AOA can be directed to Jim Schuster, MD/PhD (383-6218).

Rural Health Coalition

This organization has been incorporated into the Duke curriculum with courses available for credit in third and fourth year. It serves to bring medical students with a resident or attending to rural North Carolina on Saturdays to run a health clinic. In addition, lectures are offered on primary health care. The organization recently brought students from area high schools to the hospital for an introduction to life as a health care professional. Questions about the organization can be addressed to Chris Farnitano, MS4 (493-2534).

Freewater Films

Bryan Center, free with
Aug. 9 - Diner (8pm)
24 - Adv. of Buckar
31 - Roger & Me (7
31 - Bill & Ted's Ex
(11pm in the Bubble, W

Music

Sept. 1 - The Veldt (a h
Terrace, 2-4 pm

Special Events

Aug. 31 - Transactors In
(East Campus), 8 pm.
Sept. 10 - Activities Fair
featuring group presenta

August Calendar

Freewater Films

Bryan Center, free with ID

Aug. 9 - Diner (8pm)

24 - Adv. of Buckaroo Banzai (7&9:30)

31 - Roger & Me (7&9:30)

31 - Bill & Ted's Excellent Adv., and Highlander
(11pm in the Bubble, West Campus)

Music

Sept. 1 - The Veldt (a hard rock/funk band), G.A.
Terrace, 2-4 pm

Special Events

Aug. 31 - Transactors Improv Company, Baldwin Aud.
(East Campus), 8 pm.

Sept. 10 - Activities Fair, 4 pm in the Amphitheater,
featuring group presentations and refreshments.

Dance

Rowena Dolor

Aug. 9 - International Folk Dance Concert, Chapel Hill
H.S., 8 pm, \$8.

Art

Aug. 1-30

Mars display case (1st floor DN) - photos by
Humphrey Kendall

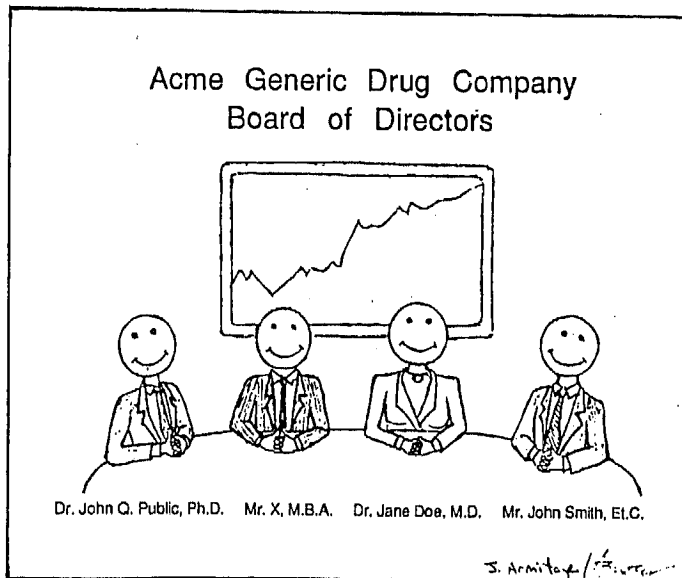
Lobby display case (1st floor DS) - wildlife photos
by Jim Fangmeier

Rauch display case (1st floor Morris Bldg.) -
woodwork by Mike and "Skeeter" Houston
until Aug 21

Brown Gallery (Bryan Center) - "Destinations,"
paintings, collages & drawings by Lynne Srba

Aug. 22-Sept. 18

East Campus Library - Ariel Earth Paintings, by
Clark Whittington; reception Aug. 30, 4-6 pm.



Announcements

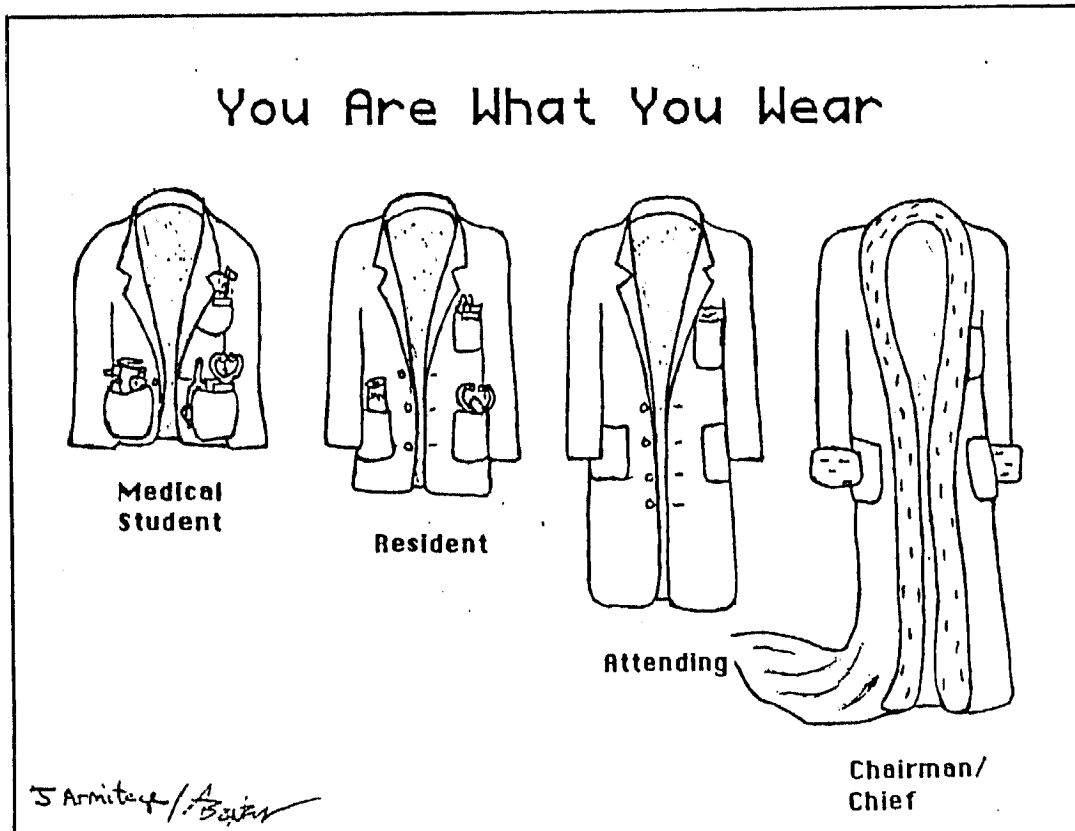
• **Military Medical Students:** Ray Peters is compiling a list of students with military scholarships and ROTC commitments, or other students interested in military medicine. The purpose is to share information about military residencies, ADT opportunities, benefits, and so forth. If you are a military medical student please contact Ray at 489-4146 (evening), or 684-2711 ext. 4351 (daytime), or box 2759 DUMC.

• The Family Medicine Interest Group needs one person interested in assisting with the Residency Application Workshop. This would be ideal for a third year student who wants to get a jump on understanding the residency application process. The group also needs one person interested in visiting area high schools on their career days to talk about careers in medicine. If you

are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Ray Peters (see previous announcement) or Kathy Schultz of UNC-CH at 933-7639.

• The Dean's office strongly encourages everyone to write to members of the House and Senate in your home state to voice support for the deferment of federal loans through the entire residency training, and not just for the first two years.

• The new Duke North student lounge is located on the sixth floor. It has lockers, sleep rooms, a T.V. and a study room. The combination is 8172. The old Duke South student lounge on the sixth floor will be converted to office space, with some room for Davison Council files. What is now the Davison Council office (also on the sixth floor) will become a T.V. room.



Dear MSIII

Dear MSIII,

When are you going to... Those of us who are on the... prefer to solicit advice from... greater wisdom than our c...

Dear Aged,

Officially, I retain the my Ph.D. You see, I cannot MSIVdom until my degree... humbly offer my advice a... graduate and medical stud...

From this point forward... and to reinstall faith in my... "Dear E Bach" letters in f... remain,

Dear E Bach,

My class has been lab... the extracurricular activiti... Evidence has been cited, s... seventh grade sex ed, lack... Professional Student Cour... numbers at social function...

What can you tell us a... events that span the spectr... otherwise?

Dear MSIII

Eric Bachman

Dear MSIII,

When are you going to graduate to MSIV status? Those of us who are on the four year program would prefer to solicit advice from someone with equal or greater wisdom than our own experiences have lent.

Aging and Ailing

Dear Aged,

Officially, I retain the title of MSIII until the end of my Ph.D. You see, I cannot enter the coveted world of MSIVdom until my degree is completed. Therefore, I humbly offer my advice and impressions as both a graduate and medical student.

From this point forward, in order to avoid confusion and to reinstall faith in my column, I will respond to "Dear E Bach" letters in future issues. As always, I will remain,

Sincerely yours,
E Bach

Dear E Bach,

My class has been labelled as lazy and uninterested in the extracurricular activities in the medical center. Evidence has been cited, such as the poor response to seventh grade sex ed, lack of interest in the Graduate and Professional Student Council and our absence in numbers at social functions.

What can you tell us about activities, clubs and events that span the spectrum of time-consuming and otherwise?

Maligned in Med School

Dear Maligned,

Fear no more the appellation "apathetic." I have founded a club specifically designed for those who care not a lick for involvement or commitment outside of exam deadlines and promptness at rounds.

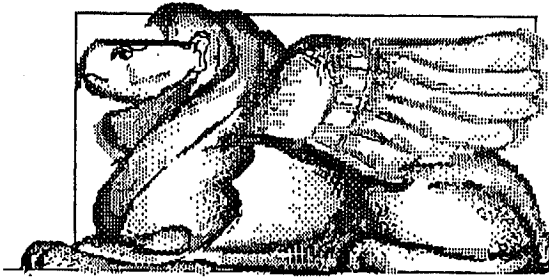
I have founded the ACLU - the Apathetic Council for the Largely Unconcerned. This club is dedicated to the ideal of sheer, unabashed aversion to anything that requires time outside of class or that will not appear on a CV. There are no dues, because there are no meetings, oaths, rules or secret handshakes. My countless followers may not appear at rallies or write for *Shifting Dullness*, or in fact participate in any way altruistically - but they're with me without spirit. We derive our strength from the hordes of silent disciples.

As President, VP, treasurer and secretary of the ACLU, I oversee all of our nonexistent functions. We sponsor no charities. We staff no free clinics. There are no credit lines to be had. The advantage lies in our numbers, which are estimated in the thousands if alumni are considered.

I urge you to join us in the pursuit of slack. If our ranks burgeon as I expect, there will be total dissolution of Davison Council and other clubs due to lack of interest. In hopes of never seeing you outside of our professional roles, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
E Bach

P.S. By the way, the ACLU should be entered under 'Clubs and Activities' on your barren resume. None can distinguish it from the Americal Civil Liberties Union. If they do - sue.



Holly Lisa, 1983

Purely Purulent News Flashes

Eric Weidman

• **DUMC INVADES DCGH:** earlier this morning, Duke Medical Center public safety officers took over the administrative suite at Durham County General Hospital in the latest event of the recent CABG wars. Duke, a formidable member of OPEC (Operate on Patients to Eliminate CAD) complained that DCGH was exceeding their CABG limit designated by OPEC to keep the price of this operation profitable. In outrage, hospitals across the country have demanded an embargo on Duke, refusing to refer any patients to this Durham located hospital.

• **REUNIFICATION:** North and South Hospitals signed an agreement for the physical reunification of both hospitals to form Duke Medical Center. Celebrators from both hospitals were first seen at midnight singing and drinking on the PRT shuttle, while others swung sledgehammers outside Mudd Library in a symbolic gesture of knocking down the walkway.

• **HELMS KNOCKS OBGYN/UROLOGY:** NC Senator Jesse Helms supported a bill that would ban the practice of obstetrics, gynecology, and urology in the US. The republican Senator stated, "These so-called professions are downright obscene. They operate in sin."

• **POISON ROCKS DUKE:** The rock group Poison visited Dr. Shirley Osterhout's office in Duke South earlier this week. When asked about the group's visit to her Poison Control Center, Dr. Osterhout exclaimed, "No gossip leaves these doors!"

• **RAY BANS RAY BANS:** Fourth year student Raymond Peters has filed legal claims against the

popular sunglasses manufacturer, and urges others to join him in a ban on all their products. Explains Peters, "The name 'Ray Bans' bombards me with some really negative waves."

• **ANESTHESIAPHOBIA TOPS BOX OFFICE:** The slogan "8 Hoses, Clogs, and an Attitude" has helped propel this unlikely hit to the top of summer movie moneymakers.

"A must see - it sent chills and catheters down my spine" - *Obstetrics Today*

"Thrilling - I was paralyzed" - *Journal of ECT*

"Frightening - it took my breath away" - *Frank's Journal*

"It had me on the edge of my table throughout!" - *Thoracic Surgery News*

• **ELVIS SIGHTED IN ALTITUDE CHAMBER:** "Elvis saved my life," reported 2nd Lt. Lost Puppy last week. "I was in an Air Force altitude chamber ride, when at 25,000 feet, we were instructed to remove our masks to experience hypoxia. Initially I felt dizzy with tingling in my fingers, but then I felt kind of intoxicated and couldn't think straight. Just then, Elvis appeared, came up to me, and said, 'Baby, put your mask on.' Then he switched my air to 100% oxygen, turned around, and disappeared. He saved my life; he still loves his fans!"

Editor's Note - for you first years, here's a glossary:
CABD - coronary artery bypass graft
CAD - coronary artery disease

