

February 1991

Shifting Dullness

• With the anti-vivisection movement going strong today, it is interesting to note that John C. Dalton, born Feb. 2, 1825, was the first American physician to use animal experiments in teaching. He taught physiology at several medical schools, including the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

• Elizabeth Blackwell, born in England on Feb. 3, 1821, attended medical school and practiced in the United States, becoming the first American female physician. In opening what became the New York Infirmary and College for Women, and in organizing a nursing unit during the Civil War, she sought to disprove her early detractors, who had called her "either mad or bad."

• John Hunter, one of the greatest surgeons of all time, was born Feb. 9, 1728. His much-admired manual dexterity was said to have been enhanced by an early apprenticeship to a cabinetmaker.



SIXTEENTH-CENTURY LYING-IN ROOM, SWITZERLAND

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• On Feb. 13, 1489, a *casa de orates* was founded in Valladolid, Spain for "the insane and those not in their right minds to be healed, cared for and counseled." For the time period, Spain, under the rule of Ferdinand and Isabella, showed unexpected understanding toward the mentally ill. Some of this mercy may have occurred as a reaction to the insanity of the only child of the king and queen, Joanna the Mad.

• Oliver Wendell Holmes read his groundbreaking essay "Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever," in which he traced transmission of the disease, on Feb. 13, 1843.

• In earlier centuries St. Valentine, martyred about 270 AD and recognized on Feb. 14, was regarded not as the patron of lovers, but of epileptics. This association may have arisen because of the similarity between his name and the early name for epilepsy, "falling sickness."

• Edward IV of England granted a charter to the barber surgeons on Feb. 24, 1462, essentially separating the surgeons' and physicians' guilds and delineating the limits of surgical practice. After 1092, when monks were forbidden to wear beards, shaving came into fashion. Barbers exploited their rising popularity by functioning also as bloodletters, dentists, and wound surgeons.

• On Feb. 28, 1936, Charles Jean Henri Nicolle died. As director of the Pasteur Institute in Tunis, he made several notable contributions to tropical medicine. He showed that typhus could be transmitted from humans to monkeys, and that the body louse is the common vector. For his work in solving the puzzle of typhus he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1928.

About the Front and Back Cover
"Brain and Mind" is a collage by Holly Lisanby.

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Second Opinions

Assisted Suicide

The case of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who attached Janet Adkins, a woman suffering from Alzheimer's disease, to his "suicide machine" and allowed her to kill herself, encompasses many ethical and legal issues. It is easy to ignore specifics and judge Dr. Kevorkian solely in terms of the appropriateness of Ms. Adkins' death. The status of suicide and euthanasia is an intricate problem that cannot be solved in any brief discussion, yet even in the absence of a conclusion concerning the acceptability of Ms. Adkins' death – or even if one is certain that her death was entirely appropriate – Dr. Kevorkian's actions raise many serious questions.

Dr. Kevorkian correctly points out that Ms. Adkins had been previously diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and made an informed decision to end her life. But Dr. Kevorkian never claimed that he would be willing to provide his services to any competent patient wishing to end his life, and provides no satisfying explanation of why Ms. Adkins' diagnosis made his cooperation appropriate. A wide range of individuals can be imagined, from those who have unbearably painful conditions and will be dead within weeks, to those who are perfectly healthy but would rather be dead. There may be some point along this continuum where assisted suicide becomes appropriate, but it is impossible to see what entitled Dr. Kevorkian to determine that point. Even if one claims it is right to assist any competent person who wishes to end her life, no one can claim to know whether she is making an informed decision free of coercion.

Dr. Kevorkian was forced to act on his own since what he did is not generally condoned by the medical or legal professions. One might claim that his action was analogous to supplying unproven drugs to an AIDS sufferer contrary to the guidelines of the FDA. Unfortunately, he did more than assist a person in need. The medical profession's prohibition against becoming involved in cases in which one has a personal stake is (or should be) more than a ploy to control its practitioners. It is related to the Kantian principle that one should treat an individual as an end rather than as a means. By immediately contacting newspapers, he reduced Ms. Adkin's death to a political ploy.

While it is true that Ms. Adkins told Dr. Kevorkian to publicize her death, perhaps this should have made him wonder about her own motives. Dr. Kevorkian ad-

mits that he was at first uncertain about Ms. Adkins' case, and had other subjects in mind who may have been more appropriate. I am forced to wonder whether Dr. Kevorkian would have responded to his patient's condition in the same way if he was not seeking to make a major public statement. Dr. Kevorkian's justifications of assisted suicide do nothing to reassure me. He points out that the rate of suicide attempts among the elderly have been increasing dramatically, and suggests that it is society's obligation to help them end their lives with dignity. These suicides actually show that society has failed to allow citizens to grow old with the respect they deserve; to help kill them instead of making their lives more tolerable is a cruel mockery of their dignity.

The Hemlock Society, this country's most vocal pro-suicide group, was formed when similar groups in the U. S. refused to publish guidelines for suicide, fearing that some elderly persons would conclude that it was their responsibility to "get out of the way." While the Hemlock Society has attempted not to give this impression, Dr. Kevorkian has not been so conscientious. Although the Hemlock Society supported Dr. Kevorkian, Ms. Adkins did not fall under the Society's definition of a terminal patient for whom assisted suicide should be legal. Furthermore, Alzheimer's disease is mainly a disease of old age, and Alzheimer's-like symptoms are experienced by many of the elderly (though to widely varying degrees). Hence, I believe that Dr. Kevorkian is sending a dangerous message.

Anyone familiar with the many cases of people hooked up to machines and doomed to lingering deaths in hospitals can sympathize with Ms. Adkins' desire to escape such a fate and Dr. Kevorkian's wish to help her. But I believe that the questions I have raised and many others should have caused Dr. Kevorkian to think more deeply before using his machine, especially on an individual such as Janet Adkins and with the public fanfare that he purposefully created. It is ironic that Dr. Kevorkian, so aware of the indiscriminate use of life extending devices developed for positive purposes, did not give more thought to the dangers inherent in his suicide machine. Whereas a respirator or feeding tube can be removed, Janet Adkins' condition is permanent.

Moshe Usadi

Letters

Shifting Dulness 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. *Shifting Dulness* reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and fact. Submit responses in the *Shifting Dulness* box in the Alumni Affairs Office, the student lounge, or mail to PO Box 2765 DUMC, campus mail.

An Open Letter to Duke Medical School:

The Duke Gay and Lesbian Association (DGLA) seeks to increase people's awareness and knowledge of gay issues, particularly AIDS. As part of this effort, we have planned a panel discussion entitled "North Carolina's response to AIDS," which will take place on February 13, 1991 at the Durham County Library.

On December 4, 1990, I asked the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) to cosponsor and support this panel discussion. They refused. The proposal was open ended. I sought help from the SNMA in deciding content, format, target audience and panelists. Instead of focusing on these issues, members of the SNMA had other concerns. One member was curious about the role and goals of the DGLA. Another student was concerned that such a discussion could not be planned in two months (although panel discussions have been organized on shorter notice). One member was afraid that association with the DGLA would place their professional reputations in jeopardy. He supported this belief with the observation that Harvey Gantt's loss in the November election was due to support from the gay community.

I did not know how to respond to such comments. I thought that given the severity of AIDS in the black community working with the SNMA on such an issue would open up paths of communication, help increase people's awareness about the risk factors for AIDS, and hopefully help prevent the spread of this disease. It

upset me that members of a minority organization seemed to me to be so insensitive and narrow-minded. It upset me that the members of the SNMA did not support this forum. What if they had come to the DGLA with the same request and we had responded that our professional reputations would be in jeopardy if we were to associate with a black organization? Or if we had made the observation that it was Harvey Gantt's support from the black community that had cost him the election? It would not have been an appropriate response.

Several days later I met with members of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). They agreed to cosponsor the panel and since then have essentially organized the discussion. I would like to thank the members of AMSA, not only for their organizational help but also for reminding me that the attitudes of some of the members of the SNMA are not the attitudes of all medical students. To deal effectively with a crisis as far reaching as the AIDS epidemic requires a change in attitudes about this disease; and change requires open hearts and open minds.

- Deborah R. Greene, MSII
Duke Gay and Lesbian Association

AIDS Awareness Week

Feb 8 - opening ceremony for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, 5 pm, Bryan Center

8 - "Common Threads," 5 pm, 211 Perkins

9 - AIDS Quilt on Display, Bryan Center

10 - AIDS Quilt Closing Ceremonies and candle-light Vigil, 7:30 pm, Bryan Center

11 - Panel Discussion: Gay Parenting - What if the Kids are Straight?, 7:30 pm, 136 Social Sciences

12 - Lesbian Potluck: bring a dish or a lesbian, Southern Sisters will have a Book Table! 6 pm, Epworth

12 - Films: "Maurice" and "I Hear the Mermaids Singing," 7 pm, 211 Perkins

13 - Panel Discussion: NC Response to AIDS, 7:30 pm, Durham Public Library

13 - Leah Zicari, Lesbian singer, 9pm Coffee House

14 - Panel Discussion: Racism and Homophobia, 7:30 pm, 116 Old Chemistry

15 - Keynote Speaker: James Holobaugh on Discrimination in ROTC, 7:30 pm, Gross Chemistry

16 - Harmony Dance, 9:30 pm, Coffee House

North Carolina's Response to AIDS:

February 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Durham County Library auditorium.



Dean Andrew Puckett will moderate. Members of the panel include:

Dr. John Bartlett, head of the Duke Infectious Disease Clinic,
Stan Holt, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Health Project,
Mandy Carter, former chair of Senate '90 and now forming the North
Carolina Caucus on AIDS in the Black Community,
Louise Alston, co-chair of the Durham AIDS Network,
Dr. Chip Walters from Duke's Department of Pediatrics, and
Dr. Milton Quigless, representing Americans for a Sound AIDS Policy.

AMSA News

Steven Morefield

AMSA (the American Medical Student Association, not to be confused with the Student AMA) has some exciting plans for the coming weeks and months. We will be sponsoring a talk by Martha Garrity from the Physicians for a National Health Program on February 12. All are invited to come hear her speak on this proposed solution to limited health care access.

The next day, February 13, AMSA is cosponsoring the panel discussion: "North Carolina's Response to AIDS: Is It Enough, Is It In Time?" A diverse panel of experts has been invited and we anticipate a lively debate on issues such as anonymous testing, mandatory testing of health care professionals, and discrimination against those seropositive for HIV. The forum is being cosponsored by the Duke Gay and Lesbian Association and PISCES. See above ad for more information. For those of you who have yet to leave the Gothic Wonderland, here's your chance to go to something off the Duke Campus.

Plans are underway for the trip to Kansas City for AMSA's 41st Annual Convention. The theme for this year's convention is "Access to Health Care: Serving the Underserved" and the preconvention conference will be "Financing Medical Education: Time for Change."

The preconvention conference starts on March 13 and the main convention begins on March 14 and runs through March 17. This coincides with spring break for third and fourth year students interested in going, and the Dean's office and department heads have traditionally been willing to grant time off for first and second year students interested in going. All are invited, even if you are not yet an AMSA member. Keep an eye open for further details or call Steven Morefield, MSIV 493-1555 if you are interested.

Crafts

register now in the Craft Center located in the basement of the Bryan Center, Mo-Fr 2-6 pm, for the following classes: batik, blacksmithing, calligraphy, color photography, frame loom weaving/tapestry, jewelry/metals, knitting, photography, pottery, stained glass, weaving II, woodworking and woodturning. For more info, call Krista Cipriano at 684-2532.

Davison Council News

Betsy Hilton

A Habitat for Humanity service project, headed by Jim Davidson, will take place on Sat. Feb. 9 from 1-5 pm. Fifteen volunteers are needed. See Clubs Med for more info.

Christmas party with a project for charity, Share Your Christmas, was a great success. Many thanks to Natalie Cvijanovich's mother for catering the party. Through donations at the party and in the candy room (\$135), we were able to purchase every gift that the family we sponsored wished. The tree and bows will be donated to a needy family.

The council voted unanimously in favor of the Student Advocacy Committee, formerly called the Student Appeals System. The purpose of the committee is to represent students in disputes with faculty and course directors. The committee will be composed of the president of the Davison Council and one member from each of the four classes. The committee will first listen to the student complaint, then discuss the complaint in private, and finally advise the student on a course of action and issue a statement of opinion to the student and appropriate faculty and administrators. The committee will have no power to implement any recommendations. Under this system, a student with a complaint should approach the faculty member in charge of the course first, then if necessary, she or he should follow one of three options: (1) discuss the problem with Dean Graham, (2) discuss the problem with a student on the Course Committee for the course in question, (3) bring the issue to the Student Advocacy Committee. All issues brought to the committee will remain confidential.

The North lounge continues to have problems with dining room trays being left, books remaining unshelved, towels and scrubs scattered everywhere, and a filthy microwave. Dean Graham sent a letter to all students urging them to keep the lounge clean.

The Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) is holding TGIF every other Friday at the Hideaway. The Hideaway is also open for lunch and as a daytime lounge. Chris Cabell suggested that we send a

letter to people who have been accepted into the first year class from students to welcome them to Duke in a fun and friendly way. We also might consider sending them a copy of *Shifting Dullness*. Everyone agreed that the idea of sending letters to acceptants was excellent. Chris agreed to head-up the project.

Herb Chen reported on the social news.

2) Feb. 5, 6-8 pm Ob/Gyn and Pediatrics Renewal of Systems in the Searle Center.

3) April 6 - Davison Balle at the Sheraton with the band, Mr. Potatohead. This year, the ball will also be part of the "Make A Wish" fund raiser for the Pediatrics Dept. The party will include gambling tables sponsored by different departments and the chips will be cashed in at the end for raffle tickets. At the end, many excellent prizes will be raffled off. Todd Levine is heading up this year's party and needs suggestions for raffle prizes.

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Student/Faculty Show -Herb Chen

Anyone interested in helping to build the set for this year's Show, or in helping with props and costumes, please call Herb Chen at 382-0107.

Parties -Herb Chen

- There will be a Review of Systems on Tuesday, February 5th at the Searle Center, sponsored by the departments of Obstetrics-Gynecology and Pediatrics.
- Eric Bachman will be throwing a party at his house on February 2nd, from 9:30 till ? Call him at 382-0497 for more details.
- Valentine's Day party - stay tuned for more info.

SNMA -Wendy Olivier

• SNMA is sponsoring a program for Black History Month on the topic, "History of Blacks in Medicine." This will be held on February 28th, 7-9 pm, place TBA. Call Wendy Olivier at 596-9448 for more details.

MSIV -Debbie Shih

- From now until Feb. 22 you may enter your match list on the CTL computers.
- Match Day is March 20th. There will be a reception in the Board room in Duke South at noon and a class party at TJ Hoops from 3-5 pm.
- Congratulations to Katherine Liu and Christopher Suhr on their marriage in January.
- Congratulations to Michael Battistone on his recent engagement.

Women's Studies -Holly Lisanby

The Duke Women's studies program hosts a Soup and Sandwich Supper series designed to facilitate the professional development of feminist scholars. In each session, you will have the opportunity to learn about resources, debate your approach to professional issues and develop collegial networks. Medical students are welcome to attend. The series will be held on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm in the parlors of the East Duke building on East Campus. There is no charge but registration is required. The next program is on Feb. 27 and is titled "Transitions: Women's studies students talk about moving from feminist activism to feminist theory; from the 'real world' back to the University." For more

information call 684-5683.

Service Committee -Jim Davidson

Once again the Davison Council and Service Committee will be sponsoring a project with Habitat for Humanity, this time on Saturday, February 9th, 1-5 pm. We will be helping Habitat build a home for a family in Durham. Our last project was rained out, but we are hoping to make this a regular activity. Those interested should contact Jim Davidson at 596-9863, or dropping a note to Box 2740 DUMC. Even if you cannot make it Saturday but are interested, please contact Jim to be put on the mailing list.

P.A.S.S. Council -Alison Weidner

The PASS Council has recently been occupied with two projects: initiating a program of upperclassperson advisors for MSI Dean's groups, and studying how to better integrate substance abuse education into the medical curriculum.

A mailing was recently sent to MSIII's asking for people interested in 'adopting' an MSI Dean's group and acting as a peer advisor in a supplemental position to the current Big Sib program. Response was terrific and we currently have 1 or 2 students to coordinate with each group. We'd be happy to accept anybody else who's interested, so feel free to contact Alison Weidner at 383-2136.

PASS representatives and Andrew Puckett, Associate Dean of Medical Education, have also been meeting with people from faculty involved in curriculum changes and substance abuse services and counseling at Duke. One in ten of all patients is likely to have a problem with substance abuse, yet no organized effort has been made to integrate into the medical school curriculum training in dealing with this kind of problem. Currently the Psychiatry department offers a great fourth year elective, and some time in Human Behavior and Pharmacology is devoted to this topic. However, overall exposure is minimal and we'd like to ensure better coverage. This would ideally include a series of lectures, given by a variety of departments. Anyone interested in helping out can contact any PASS member.

February

Freewater Films

at 7 and 9:30 pm in the Bryan Center. free with ID.

- Feb 1 - Longtime Companion
- 5 - Filmmaker: Heather McAdams
- 7 - Rude Awakening
- 8 - Solaris
- 9 - Dark Crystal @ 10:30 am (free)
- 12 - The Marriage of Maria Braun
- 14 - Lust for Life
- 15 - Wild at Heart (also at midnight)
- 19 - In a Year of 13 Moons
- 21 - Easy Rider
- 22 - Good Fellas
- 22 - The Elephant Man (midnight only)
- 26 - Querelle
- 28 - Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry

Quadrangle Pictures

at 7 and 9:30 pm Sat, 8 pm Sun, Bryan Center, \$3

- Feb 2,3 - Rocky V
- Feb 9,10 - Child's Play II
- Feb 16,17 - Flatliners
- Feb 23,24 - Arachnophobia

Music

for tickets call Page Box Office, 684-4444

Feb 2 - Faculty Recital: Tibor Szasz, piano, 8 pm, Baldwin Aud.

8 - Duke Artist Series: Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 8 pm, Page Aud. Tickets \$25, \$19, \$12

16 - The Ciampi Quartet: Twentieth Century Quartets, 8 pm, Nelson Music Room, \$8

17 - Duke Chorale Concert: 4 pm, Duke Chapel

20 - Chapel Lunchtime Concert Series: Duke University Chamber Choir, Rodney Wynkoop conductor, 12:30 pm, Memorial Chapel

23 - Julia Wilkinson Mueller Concert Series: Music by 20th Century Masters, 8 pm, Nelson Music Room.

24 - Organ Recital: Robert Parkins, University organist, 5 pm, Duke Chapel

27 - Smithsonian Quartet: Randall Love, fortepiano, 8 pm, Nelson Music Room



Theater

Feb 5-16 - Duke Drama: World Premieres Festival 4 by Duke writers

Feb 9 - Broadway at Duke: Neil Simon's "Rumors," 3 and 8 pm, Page Aud. Call 684-4444 for tickets

Feb 19-March 3 - Duke Drama: "Butterfly's Evil Spell," by Federico Garcia Lorca

Special Events

Feb 5 - ObGyn & Pediatrics Renewal of Systems, 6-8 pm, Searle Center

Feb 18 - George Will, 8 pm, Page Aud.

28 - Andrew Young, 7 pm, Page Aud.

Men's Basketball

Feb 2 - at Notre Dame (NBC), 4 pm

7 - Virginia (ESPN), 9 pm

9 - Maryland, 1 pm

10 - LSU (CBS), 2 pm

13 - Davidson, 7:30 pm

16 - at Wake Forest, 4 pm

20 - NC State (ESPN), 9 pm

24 - at Arizona (ABC), 4 pm

27 - Clemson (ESPN), 9 pm

I Want to Read You a Poem

12:00, M133 Green Zone, Dean's Conference Room call Cedar Koons, 684-2027 to obtain copies of readings

Feb 1 - Poets of the Harlem Renaissance: reading and discussion of poems, followed by open reading

Feb 15 - Poet Lou Lipsitz, author of five books of poetry, will read from his new work

Mar 1 - Poet Andrea Selch, MFA UNC-G, teacher at Continuing Education, will read

Stellar Stories

12:00, M133 Green Zone, Dean's Conference Room call Cedar Koons, 684-2027 to obtain copies of readings

Feb 8 - a story by Triangle area short story writer Alice Adams will be discussed

Feb 22 - Joe Ashby Porter, author of "Lithuania," a new collection of short stories, will read.

Announcements

Curriculum Committee Activities

Mary Amato

The next Student Curriculum committee meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 4 at noon in room 2253, Duke North. The meeting in March is scheduled for the 25th. All students and other interested persons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Volunteers are needed to serve as small group leaders for problem-based instruction modules for the Immunology course offered in the first year curriculum during the Spring. One to two MSII, III or IV students would be assigned to one of the six MSI lab groups, where students will be divided into groups of 3-4 to work on problem sets in Immunology. The student volunteers need not have a ready knowledge of Immunology, but rather skills in the facilitation of group problem solving; the goal is not to provide answers, but to provide needed direction and perspective. The time commitment would be:

Feb 13, 2-5 pm

Feb 30, 2-5 pm

Feb 27, 1-4 pm

Additionally, volunteers would need to meet with Dr. Jeff Dawson once prior to beginning the modules and briefly following each session for debriefing.

Interested students may contact Mary Amato at 286-4983, or Dr. Jeff Dawson at 684-3749.

Nearly New Shoppe

615 Douglas St.

(behind the Brownstone Inn)

receiving donations 10AM-1PM daily

The Nearly New Shoppe gives \$100,000 yearly for medical school scholarships. Bring us your unwanted clothes and household items to convert into Duke scholarships.

Cultural Services

Joy Javits Stewart

1. Doctor's Dilemmas or the North Carolina Medicine and Society Readers Repertory Theater will be performing William Carlos Williams' "Face of Stone" for medical societies around North Carolina. Peggy Rouleau and Jimmy Schaffer, first year medical students, will play the wife and husband and Todd Levine, a third year, will portray the doctor. The director is Ann Shepherd. The play will be performed at Duke at 2 pm, Feb 26 for the MSI Clinical Arts class.

2. Several medical students came to the tour of the Duke Museum of Art offered Saturday, January 26. Docent Phyllis Parker gave a tour of all of the centuries that have been condensed into the small museum. Julie Levin, the head of the student docents, gave an interesting tour of the new exhibit called, "Soho at Duke," which presents an artists perception of the Big Apple. Julie has offered to give the tour again if there is a request. Call Joy at 684-2027 if you would like to set up a tour for a small group.

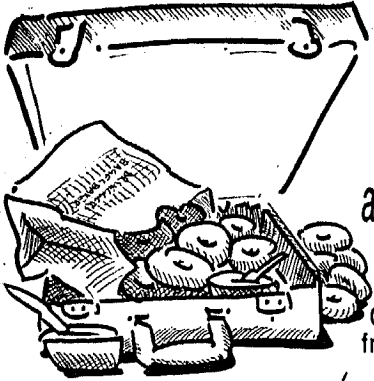
3. Friday, February 15 there will be a performance of three short plays in the New World Premier Plays. The topics of the plays will include AIDS and Rape, written by John Clum of the Drama faculty and Kate Wilson, respectively. Tickets are \$4, a group rate would be less. A discussion with the playwrights following the performance could be arranged. Please call Joy at the above number if interested.

4. A workshop "The Body Doesn't Lie," on the mysteries of body language is set for Wednesday March 20 from 6-7:30 pm. The workshop will be presented by visiting artists Shapiro and Smith. Please call Joy at the above number if you are interested.

5. Interested in creating an exhibit about the visuals of madness? In the Spring, we would like to put together a display on the visage of madness as expressed through photographs, paintings and poetry. Please call Joy at the above number if you are interested in participating.

Office Pak

MORNING SPECIAL



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The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

Feb 8-10th at DUKE

Feb 8, 5pm Opening Ceremony, Bryan
Ctr.

7:30 pm Common Threads, docu-
mentary, 211 Perkins

Feb 9 Quilt on display

Feb 10, 7:30pm Candlelight Vigil,
Bryan Ctr.

Volunteers are needed as quilt, infor-
mation, and vigil monitors, Grief
counselors, and advertising executives.
For more information contact John
Blevins at 683-1073 or the Duke Gay
and Lesbian Association at 684-3414.



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The Deacon's Masterpiece

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Have you heard of the wonderful one-hoss shay,
That was built in such a logical way
It ran a hundred years to a day,
And then, of a sudden, it--ah, but stay,
'I'll tell you what happened without delay,
Scaring the parson into fits,
Frightening people out of their wits,--
Have you heard of that, I say?

Seventeen hundred and fifty-five,
Georgius Secundus was then alive,--
Snuffy old drone from the German hive.
That was the year when Lisbon-town
Saw the earth open and gulp her down,
And Braddock's army was done so brown,
Left without a scalp to its crown.
It was on the terrible Earthquake-day
That the Deacon finished the one-hoss shay.

Now in building of chaises, I tell you what,
There is always *somewhere* a weakest spot,--
In hub, tire, felloe, in spring or thill,
In panel, or crossbar, or floor, or sill,
In screw, bolt, thoroughbrace,--lurking still,
Find it somewhere you must and will,--
Above or below, or within or without,--
And that's the reason, beyond a doubt,
A chaise *breaks down*, but doesn't *wear out*.

But the Deacon swore (as Deacons do),
With an "I dew vum," or an "I tell yeou,")
He would build one shay to beat the taown
'N the keounty 'n' all the kentry raoun';
It should be so built that it *coult'n'* break daown:
--"Fur," said the Deacon, "'t's mighty plain
Thut the weakes' places mus' stan' the strain;
'N the way t' fix it, uz I maintain,
Is only jest
T' make that place uz strong us the rest."
So the Deacon inquired of the village folk
Where he could find the strongest oak,
That couldn't be split nor bent nor broke,--
That was for spokes and floor and sills;
He sent for lancewood to make the thills;
The crossbars were ash, from the straightest trees;
The panels of white-wood, that cuts like cheese,

But lasts like iron for things like these;
The hubs of logs from the "Settler's ellum,"--
Last of its timber,--they couldn't sell 'em,
Never an axe had seen their chips,
And the wedges flew from between thir lips,
Their blunt ends frizzled like celery-tips;
Step and prop-iron, bolt and screw,
Spring, tire, axle, and linchpin too,
Steel of the finest, bright and blue;
Thoroughbrace bison-skin, thick and wide;
Boot, top, dasher, from tough old hide
Found in the pit when the tanner died.
That was the way he 'put her through."--
"There!" said the Deacon, "naow she'll dew!"

Do! I tell you, I rather guess
She was a wonder, and nothing less!
Colts grew horses, beards turned gray,
Deacon and deaconess dropped away,
Children and grandchildren--where were they?
But there stood the stout old one-hoss shay
As fresh as on Lisbon-earthquake-day!
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED;--it came and found
The Deacon's masterpiece strong and sound.
Eighteen hundred increased by ten;--
"Hahsum kerridge" they called it then.
Eighteen hundred and twenty came;--
Running as usual; much, the same.
Thirty and forty at last arrive,
And then come fiity, and FIFTY-FIVE.

Little of all we value here
Wakes on the morn of its hundredth year
Without both feeling and looking queer.
In fact, there's nothing that keeps its youth,
So far as I know, but a tree and truth.
(This is a moral that runs at large;
Take it. You're welcome. No extra charge.)
FIRST OF NOVEMBER,--the Earthquake-day--
There are traces of age in the one-hoss shay,
A general flavor of mild decay,
But nothing local as one may say.
There couldn't be,--for the Deacon's art
Had make it so like in every part
That there wasn't a chance for one to start.
For the wheels were just as strong as the thills,

And the floor was just as strong as the sills,
And the panels just as strong as the floor,
And the whippetree neither less nor more,
And the back-crossbar as strong as the fore,
And spring and axle and hub *encore*.
And yet, as a *whole*, it is part a doubt
In another hour it will be *worn out!*

First of November, 'Fifty-five!
This morning the parson takes a drive.
Now, small boys, get out of the way!
Here comes the wonderful one-hoss shay,
Drawn by a rat-tailed, ewe-necked bay.
"Huddup!" said the parson. Off went they.
The parson was working his Sunday's text,--
Had got to *fifthly*, and stopped perplexed
At what the --Moses--was coming next.
All at once the horse stood still,
Close by the meet'n'-house on the hill.
--First a shiver, and then a thrill,
Then something decidedly like a spill,--
And the parson was sitting up on a rock,
At half-past nine by the meet'n'-house clock,--
Just the hour of the Earthquake shock!
--What do you think the parson found,
When he got up and stared around?
The poor old chaise in a heap or mound,
As if it had been to the mill and ground!
You see, of course, if you're not a dunce,
How it went to pieces all at once,--
All at once, and nothing first,--
Just as bubbles do when they burst.

End of the wonderful one-hoss shay,
Logic is logic. That's all I say.

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