

shifting dullness

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ANYONE FOR ROAST DUCK?

The AMWA Cookbooks are finally here. You can pick one up from any AMWA member.

ANYONE FOR GETTING ROASTED?

The 1984 Aesculapeans have been delivered. Pick-up times have not yet been finished.

MAA SPONSORS STUDENT EVENTS

The third year class has been invited to a reception at the Searle Center by the Medical Alumni association. It will be held on Saturday April 28, 1984, from 6-8 p.m. Dress is informal and please repondez s'il vous plait (RSVP is requested). The fourth year class has received invitations to a dinner in the Von Canon Hall the following week -- more details to come.

FREE REGISTRATION

The 31st Annual Society of Nuclear Medicine Meeting, June 5-8, 1984, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, will be open free of charge to medical students. Topics include: Nuclear cardiology, tumor imaging, monoclonal antibody studies, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, emission tomography (PET, SPET), clinical applications of computers, etc. All registration and course fees will be waived if students are properly pre-registered or upon presentation of a letter of identification from Duke medical school. The deadline for pre-registration is May 1, 1984. Registration forms are in the Office of Medical Education.

DAVISON COUNCIL MINUTES

FROM 4-9-84

The meeting was opened at Don Frush's house by outgoing President, Bob St. Peter.

- A. Treasurer - Previous Treasurer, T.J. Maroon, presented a typed budget update to the Council. T.J. has sent memos to various groups detailing how much money they have not yet spent. The Budget Committee has met and recommended positive action on the following requests: 1) The M.D.-Ph.D.'s had requested reimbursement for the Doctor Glut forum and were granted it; 2) The 4th year class requested \$80 and were given \$125 by voice vote; 3) AMWA requested a \$560 loan for cookbook production and this was approved; 4) The Semi-formal dance ran \$500 over expenses. \$600 was added to the social budget to cover the loss and the upcoming Faculty Appreciation Day. All requests were approved unanimously.
- B. Thesis requirement - This idea has not yet been discussed by MEDSAC. Students will be represented at the MEDSAC meeting by the new President, Don Frush.
- C. Thanks - Bob St. Peter moved that the students express their appreciation to the faculty wives who run the Nearly New Shop, etc. They have, through entrepreneurship, made over \$500,000 for a student scholarship fund over the years. A plaque will be procured to show our gratitude.
- D. Assistant Dean Candidates - These two people, one Clinical and one Basic Schience, commit 50% of their time to the position for

DAVISON COUNCIL MINUTES (CONT.)

- D. Assistant Dean Candidates - These two people, one Clinical and one Basic Science, will commit 50% of their time to the position for a period of about three years. Candidates will be interviewed and hopefully in place by this summer. Bob St. Peter is still taking student nominations.
- E. Shifting Dullness - The editor is retiring. A new editor will be approved by the full Council.
- F. May meeting - A date has not yet been set for the next Davison Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Pharr, Secretary

Editor's Soapbox

A MORAL OBLIGATION

It is easy to shy away from an argument involving personal habits because of the potential for stirring up an emotional whirlwind. Cigarette smoking is one of these areas where "hands off" has long been the rule. Only in the last ten years has the right to smoke in public places come into question. Changes in the form of no smoking areas in restaurants have become more commonplace, although less so here in North Carolina, as the rights of non-smokers have been recognized. San Francisco, in its extension of non-smoking areas to include the workplace, has caught national attention. Duke University Medical Center has made a few steps toward creating areas where people can breathe without being subjected to cigarette smoke. These include the Pediatrics floor of Duke North and the non-smoking sections of South and North cafeterias. The medical center does currently have a policy on paper designating areas in the hospital where smoking is allowed. The smoking of various materials in off-limits areas such as corridors is so commonplace, though, as to call into question the presence of any regulations at all.

There are several reasons why smoking should be restricted within the hospital. One of these is the benefit of patients. Evidence in the medical literature continues to accumulate that smoking is harmful to those who smoke and to those who are constantly exposed to others' exhaled cigarette smoke. The breathing of exhaled smoke can be irritating to non-smokers and to patients with compromised pulmonary status. Yet, here at Duke, one of these patients may get wheeled through the hospital by an attendant who is himself filling the air with cigarette smoke. There seems to be little awareness among members of the public or employees of the fact that smoking is prohibited in corridors.

Another important reason for adequate smoking restrictions lies in the ultimate purpose of our institution. Who should take a pre-eminent place in promoting general public health if not the medical community? We realize that cigarette smoking is easily among the top causes of preventable disease in the U.S. Therefore, why not take a stand on smoking in our home turf? This stand does not have to be one that denies patients, visitors, and patients the right to smoke if they so choose. It should, however, be made clear that the hospital does not support cigarette smoking and will permit it only in certain areas. In other words, by having a well-defined and well-enforced smoking policy, the medical center can help to make people realize that we as a medical community indeed consider smoking to be a serious health hazard. A ban on cigarette sales within the hospital would be an even more effective move in this direction.

OBLIGATION (CONT.)

As a minimum, Duke University Medical Center needs a smoking policy with teeth, one that will be taken seriously. Prominent signs should appear at all entrances to the medical center informing people that smoking is forbidden except in certain areas. All elevators should carry "no smoking" signs. Most importantly, these restrictions should be enforced by Public Safety officers and hospital personnel who stand at the entrance. Additionally, the policy should cover the library, one of the only ones in the U.S. to freely allow smoking.

In the present state of affairs, Duke Medical Center is a silent partner in the promotion of cigarette smoking by both selling cigarettes and by allowing smoking to take place with abandon. Duke can, however, help non-smokers to breathe more easily here while causing a minimum of discomfort to smokers by taking some of the previously mentioned steps. To do less would show a lack of commitment to the Hippocratic Oath.



" SORRY--THE SMOKING SECTION IS ALL FILLED UP!.... "

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IM SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS - I

It was the confrontation of the cutthroats as the Stream Team (7-0; MS III) faced a young, but experienced Calmodulin Cowboys (MS I) in the first round of single elimination playoffs. The battle was intense. The Team wanted to field 10 players, bat 26, use 5 DH's, and run the bases backwards. Calmodulin protested the rules-change request, claiming burnout from the 1st year schedule and inexplicable desiring to keep the game "simple." The Stream Team eventually won, 9-5, and had only 40 minutes to eat at Wendy's before playing again....

Shifting Dullness is the newsletter of the students of Duke University School of Medicine. All letters to the Editor should be addressed to Walter Pharr, P.O. Box 2802, DUMC.

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The Stream Team (8-0) faced Sigma Nu in the second round of single elimination playoffs. F*L*A*S*H The Team straggled over to Wendy's after defeating the Calumodulin Cowboys, hoping to find the beef. An unnamed source has revealed that Sigma Nu secretly laced the Team's burgers with mercuric choloride. While 24 medical student kidneys were undergoing acute tubular neurosis, the Sigma Nu squad exploded to a seemingly insermountable 6-0 lead by the third inning.

Lo and behold, the Sigma Nu's dastardly plans proved to be for naught. Combining subtle defense planning with the bladder control effects of months of training at Satisfaction, the well-entrenched and detoxized team tied the game by the 7th inning, 7-7. Finally, Charlie "Michael Graham" Veronee took out the catcher in a close play at the plate to win it, 8-7. While the Team continues their title quest, the Sigma Nu's are under police and FBI investigation. High level talks between Uncle Terry and DUMC officials have led to the suspension and possible permanent revocation of (continued at the top of page 7B).

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