



SHIFTING DULLNESS

DAVISON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

September 23, 1976

Special-For Y'all

STUDENT DIRECTORY

If you did not turn your address, phone number, class, and spouse's name in for the new edition of the Medical School Student Directory, please do so immediately. Mail to Med. Student Directory, Box 2889, DUMC.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGET REQUESTS

These organizations have submitted the following budget requests:

1. Ad Hoc Comm. for teaching of pelvic exams to 1st year students	\$250.00
2. AMSA	\$680.00
3. Edgemont Community Clinic	\$2,500.00
4. Forum for Primary Care	\$3,247.00
5. Freshman Orientation Dinner Parties	\$400.00
6. Med Center Cabaret	\$925.00
7. Shifting Dullness	\$678.40
8. SNMA	\$1,550.00
9. Sex Ed	\$1,540.00

DAVISON COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS

Davison Council Budget Committee will hold hearings on budget requests on Monday, September 27 promptly at 5:30 pm in the conference room, 133, next to Dr. Bradford's office. Organizational representatives are urged to attend and anyone else interested is welcomed. Questions to Anthony Limberakis, Box 2850 DUMC.

DUKE UNIVERSITY JUDICIAL BOARD

Duke University has a University Judicial Board which decides cases pertaining to student strikes, disciplinary problems, etc.

telesis-- WOMEN IN MEDICINE

Telesis will be a new monthly series in Shifting Dullness. Any comments, questions or irate remarks can be addressed to Beverly Spivey, Box 2801. Replies are welcome.

It was Shakespeare who said that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet", which is all well and good if you're a flower. But few of us fit into that category. People attach a good portion of their identities to names. So it should come as no surprise that they are offended when those names are misused. However unintentional, misusing someone's name implies that the person you are addressing is insignificant (because if they were important, you'd use more care).

Of course, this applies to everyone, not exclusively women, but being a female has, in my opinion, led to interesting variations on the theme. My experience with physicians who have mispronounced, forgotten, ignored, or otherwise abused my name has led me to the following conclusions:

First, most physicians often make an effort to remember names, but the number of patients she/he sees may make this a near impossible task. These people have good intentions and usually make up for this shortcoming with a pleasant manner and a good sensitivity for your problems. Too many others don't really bother to remember names because they don't really care. This usually shows itself in other ways.

However, the blame cannot entirely be placed with physicians. The patient, by submission, is also at fault. There is no rule that says you can't tell your doctor how you would like to be addressed. It probably never occurred to them to ask. (This is especially true of those who call you "honey" or "dear"). It would probably clear up a lot of indecision on the part of the MD who may have been trying to think of a good way to address you. At any rate, if this doesn't work, you can at least say you made an effort.

Of course, if you really don't care what (s)he calls you, there's no point rocking the boat. After all, just that (s)he remembers your name doesn't make (him) her a good doctor. If I had to choose, I'd rather have a good doctor, even if he called me John. But sensitivity does count, and given two good doctors, one with sensitivity and one without, I'd go with the fringe benefits.

-Beverly Spivey, MSII