



August 1988

## From the Editors

To the class of '92, welcome. And welcome to this first academic year issue of *Shifting Dullness*. Despite any appearances to the contrary, this is a quite serious piece of medical student ingenuity. A student-run 'monthly' publication funded by the Dean's office, it features articles of general interest to the Duke medical community as well as some directed specifically to medical students, opinions on medical issues, upcoming events, and activities from the other areas of Duke U (we are not alone!). On the lighter side there are humorous pieces (including stupid quotes from lecturers), sports news, poetry, wedding announcements, requests for rides during vacations, etc.

Needless to say, this paper contains what the student body submits. *Shifting Dullness* accepts articles from all students and others of the medical community, but the readers themselves must make the effort to submit

# Shifting Dullness

their work. There are no official reporters to seek out news, nor official photographers to enliven the front cover. There's just a few MS's who decided to call themselves 'Editors', but who are now entering clinical rotations, and who are not so sure they can handle the responsibility anymore. So if you want to replace the 'old guard', do so! And if not, submit something now and then. There is a collection box located in the Alumni Office (aka candy room); just write legibly and include name, phone number and/or box number. Or get in touch with one of us (Holly Lisanby 688-7347; Stefano Cazzaniga 383-0808, box 2711 DUMC).

And a final note. The title is in no way meant to indicate that this mag ranges from the simply boring to the irresistibly soporific. It does mean something, but it's up to you to find out what. Your Big Sibs should know, and if they don't they don't belong here.

# SECOND OPINIONS

## Memorandum on the education of the first year

*Second Opinions* is a forum for discussion and debate concerning issues of medical practice, ethics, and education. This month covers the light side of first year to orient the new and amuse the old.

He was tall, like a bull standing on end or a Winchester pointed straight up in the air. He fingered the nonsterile blade in the pocket of his white lab coat, and called it "Luis."

"Luis," he said, "today you will do substantial work, more substantial than gutting fish or carving initials in the side of a grizzly."

He approached a table surrounded by five tall men wearing aprons. The blood continued to drip from the pocket of his white lab coat.

"Yes."

"No."

"Cowards," he said. He head-butted the tallest of them.

"I am sorry, old man," he said to the figure on the table. "It was a good fight, and you showed much dignity."

He worked quickly, with both hands, and used the saw when he couldn't break something apart, stopping only to curse at the others and lunge at the instructors with his knife, and he apologized again to the figure on the table (what was left), saying he wished it was him and it was a noble thing and he thanked him and stepped up the dissection...

---Ernest Hemingway, "*The Importance of Being Ernest*"

Coevals, welcome to Palo Alto East (a.k.a. Stanford-upon-Eno or Boy, Is Our Place Red). It doesn't take a child prodigy (and whose scale would we use to measure pre-pubescent intelligence?) to realize last year's dictum from the trustees to the Office of Admissions requesting more students "in the Sanford mold" (re Terry Sanford - N.C. governor, Duke president and U.S. Senator) was tragically adulterated by an indifferent secretary and an intercalated 't', resulting in the all-out recruitment of anyone even remotely connected with the Jr. University.

Indeed, thousands of autographed Duke basketballs were "Life-Flight"ed out to California and dropped over the Stanford quad, low GPAs and MCAT scores were overlooked in favor of anatomically correct renditions of the summer camp standard "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes", and all of our telethon money was squandered in a futile attempt to woo John Elway from the Broncos.

But do not despair. The same drive and intense

neglect of person that, within the space of 50 years, catapulted Duke into the elite group of hospitals that can overcharge with impunity, the same sense of urgency that compelled us to dismantle a working curriculum in the 1960s and compress it into one year of bad lectures, that same elan and strength of spirit can salvage even this seemingly unsurmountable setback. We can edify the cuadrilla from the coast. We can overcome 20+ years of faulty training in comportment, healthy neuroticism, and what plays best off poplin and melton jackets with one week of orientation.

We must capture their imagination - give them figures to emulate and facts that their classmates can

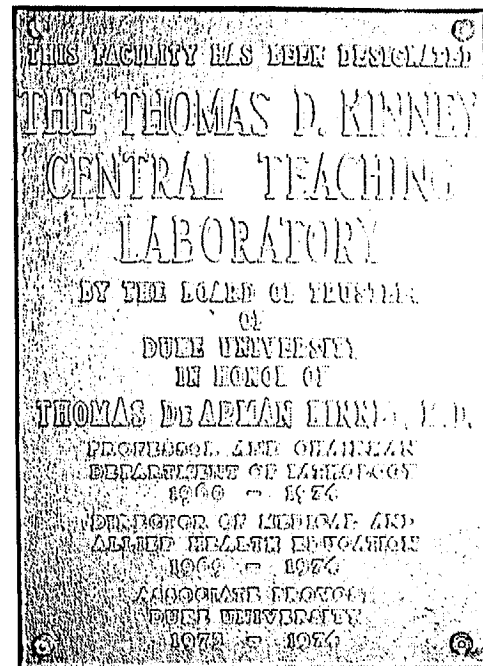


Fig. 1. CTL is open 24 hours per day for studying, sleeping, and etc. Caution: do not eat here.

read to them. Sure, we'll start with the mundane, quieting their fears regarding the ambivalence of the Seeley G. Mudd library/chemistry building (resolving the similar, yet more easily grasped Hellman's/Best Foods dichotomy may ease this transition). But then we will soar.

We'll inculcate the timelessness of Sir William Osler (and anyone who aspires to pedantry had better quote the Big O (which reminds me: the more frequently I nest parenthetical asides or cite obscure works like "Malleus Maleficarum", the better my chances for the MacArthur thing)). What prescience, this: "The blackboards were covered with elaborate diagrams in

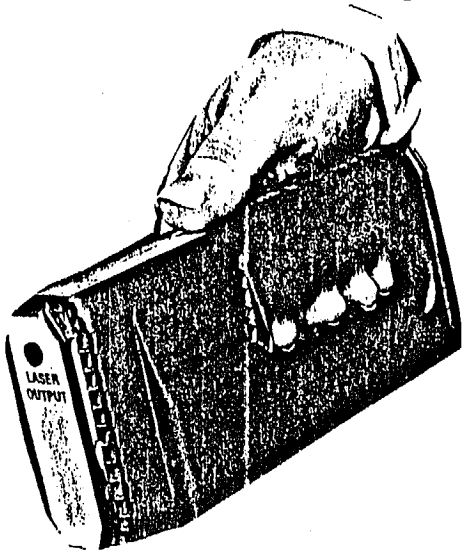


Fig. 2. Helium Neon Class II Laser Device. Caution: do not stare into beam. Each lecturer will use the laser pointer to highlight the most exciting field of medicine (theirs). Successful operation of pointer 66% of lecture time indicates 83% reliability of lecture material and correlates with greater than obtunded level of consciousness.

coloured chalks of the origin of the cranial nerves." ("Letter To My House Physicians", circa 1890)! Not only does the Anatomy department (what's left of it) still use colored chalk, but the core course gives them time to mention 4 of the cranial nerves.

We'll expose the neoHooverites to the gentility of life in the South, and the charms of Southern cooking (like the filet de boeuf en papillote at the Tulip on 3400 Westgate Drive). We should point out that the era when "giants walked the earth" was apparently the time when all of the apartment complexes in Durham County were built, since they all claim to be within walking distance of Duke University.

In deference to the founding tenets of this institution, it is our duty to impart a sense of the numinous. Students should be encouraged to spend each weekend in solitude with a religious text (Bible, Koran, Talmud, "Pete Rose on Hitting", etc.), locked in communion with a Higher Being (since God only knows how they'll pass Siegel's Biochem quizzes).

Finally, we must force them to be wastrels at the bookstore (I don't have to remind you who's authored most of the required texts). Only then will they gain an appreciation for literature, for what a good book can do for them. Remember, our fondest hope is not that we turn out good doctors, but that we turn out doctors who are good on paper.

Now shred this memo before we find ourselves in even more trouble.

Edward: I say, Reginald, you were frightfully witty this evening.

Reg: Yes, and handsome too.

Edward: Quite. Too bad the Commonwealth won't allow any women at these prison dances.

---Oscar Wilde, "The Wilde Years"

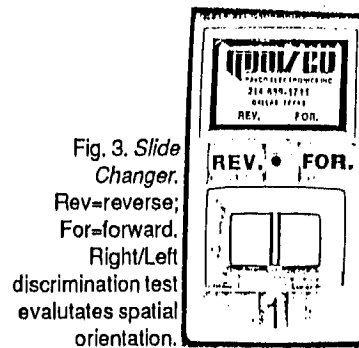


Fig. 3. Slide Changer. Rev=reverse; For=forward. Right/Left discrimination test evaluates spatial orientation.

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# STUDENT BODIES

## From The Social Ledger

Eric Bachman

Firstly, we would like to extend a hearty welcome to the incoming medical students and hope that some will be interested in joining the ranks of the Davison Society Social Committee. As the group responsible for the expenditure of the majority of the money in the Davison budget we solicit the ideas and efforts of any interested students. Last year's social success marked a new height for social activities under Tom Brown. This year can eclipse that with your assistance. We remain dedicated to the notion that idle time is better spent in the company of peers and in social settings than in the achievement of couch potato status. We also sponsor house parties by students if given prior notice. People interested in any of the above 'trivialities' should contact Eric Bachman, MS II, Davison Social Committee Chairman at 382-0497.

We have for August, along with a number of TBA parties, a few key events:

**Annual Soccer Clinic Classic.** Sat. Aug 13, 2:00 pm. It's age versus beauty in this perennial crowd-pleaser as MS Is meet MS IIs in soccer at the I.M. fields. Spectators are advised to arrive early to secure seating.

**Annual Big Sib-Li'l Sib BBQ and Bask.** Sat. Aug 13, 4:30-12:00. at the Central Campus courts and pub. This will be a food and sports day as we have full run of courts, pool and pub for a powerhouse party. Bring trunks, rackets, archery equipment and surf boards (if wind prevails). Food, fine spirits and alternative beverages will be available INXS. This is a must for MS Is and MS IIs.

**1st Annual Duke Med Student Potluck Dinner.** Sat. Aug 20, 5:00 pm. at the house of Mina Choi, 1015 A Buchanan Blvd. Sign up your favorite recipe on the amphitheater or post office sign up sheets to bring food for about 5 people. Regional specialties are welcome (ie. California sushi, Buffalo Wings, etc.). Beverages will be provided.

### Up and coming:

- Duke Med Tailgate Party - September.
- Annual pig-pickin' and sports day at the beautiful estate of Dr. Vogel - late September.

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- Annual Duke Med-Business-Law (in order of importance) Halloween Bash at Daniel Boone's.
- Party for charity - our big push to contribute to a local charity at Christmas time.

In closing, don't be feeble. Come out and enjoy yourselves when the time is right!

## Around Duke

Stefano Cazzaniga

For those of you not from Duke, and whose Big Sibs weren't from Duke (or who are too lazy to show you around), here is a short and by no means complete list of what's around in what has been called the Gothic Wonderland.

a) **Perkins Library** - located along the way from the Davison building to Duke Chapel, this is the place to be if the Med Center Library gets to be too oppressive. On the bottom level there are 6 Macs and a laser printer, and a room with newspapers from all over the nation and the world. The first floor (entrance level) has a magazine area and a few large study rooms. On the second floor (not the stack levels), near the Political Science department office, is the Gothic Reading Room with its pleasant (some would say drab) atmosphere; outside it are tables and carrels at which to study.

b) **Bryan Center** - located somewhat behind and to the left of Duke Chapel. The top (entrance level) floor has a generic campus bookstore, which sells everything from Duke stationery to computers; the Gothic Bookstore (all books but textbooks); a small snack shop which usually stays open late; and the Information Office, which among other things has schedules for Duke and Durham city buses. The floor below has the BP cafe, Duke's version of a fast food joint, and the more cafeteria-style Rathskeller and Licks ice cream; there is also a post office, various bank ATMs, two TV rooms, and the movie theater. On the bottom floor are the Von Canon rooms, where the Med School holds its "Renewal of Systems", as well as the arts and crafts center.

c) **Union Building** - the building on the left corner while facing Duke Chapel, it has a variety of eating establishments, from the restaurant-like Oak Room to the more mundane (and popular) Cambridge Inn (aka the CI), which features 'custom-made' sandwiches and greasy pizza, and you can watch TV while eating. On the ground floor is Duke Haircutters (not bad, despite

what everyone else says).

d) **Duke Chapel** - the main landmark of West campus. There are Methodist Sunday services each Sunday at 11:00, and Catholic mass in the nearby York chapel. In the basement of Duke Chapel are located the student religious centers of many denominations.

e) **East Campus** - is connected to West campus by Campus Drive. Why go there? Well, there's another library (also with Macs), Baldwin Auditorium, the music building with practice rooms and the music library, the gym, playing fields, and tennis courts.

So explore Duke! As a medical student you have borrowing privileges at all University libraries and use of athletic facilities can be arranged.

## Ways to give your mind a break

Rowenna Dolor

### On Campus:

There is always something happening on campus at Duke, especially when the undergrads are in session. The key is to look in *The Chronicle* where most events are publicized. Ads for *Major Speakers*, *Major Concerts*, *Touring Broadway shows*, and *bands-on-the-Quad* will definitely be advertised in the paper. Movies are shown every week by *Quad Flix* (\$3 admission) and *Freewater Films* (FREE with student id.). If you like the theatre, *Duke Players* has 4 major productions and 2-3 studio productions every year; *Hoof-n-Horn* stages two musicals annually; and *Broadway-at-Duke* presents 5 shows this year (see schedule). *Duke Artists Series* also presents major performers in opera, dance, and music (see schedule). For art appreciators there are 4 campus galleries — 2 in the Bryan Center, one in the East Campus Library, and one in the lobby of Page Auditorium. For sports enthusiasts, there are tickets for the *football*, *soccer* and *basketball* (!) games or attend any of the track, tennis, lacrosse, and other events. And

if you like to have a brew after studying, go to the *Hideaway*, the on-campus bar, or grab a beer at the *Cambridge Inn* (CI) or the *Rathskeller* (Rat).

### Off Campus:

Information about events in the Triangle area can be found in *The Spectator*, a free weekly newspaper distributed locally. You can pick one up at the Bryan Center and check out what concerts, bands, shows, and movies are appearing. As for the bar scene, Durham has one favorite student hangout, *Satisfactions*. Students can also go to a *Durham Bulls* game for the baseball and beer. Once that grows old, most people venture over to Chapel Hill to places like *He's not here*, *Bubs O'Malley*, and *Spanky's*. Or they go the other direction and head over to Raleigh to drink at *Barry's*.

Soon you'll discover that there's too much to do and not enough time to study — a problem you have to work out on your own! In the meantime look for these coming events:

### Broadway at Duke 1988-1989

The Mystery of Edwin Drood	Oct. 11, 1988
Nunsense	Oct. 27, 1988
Little Shop of Horrors	Nov. 10, 1988
Comedian Jerry Seinfeld	Dec. 3, 1988
A View from the Bridge	Mar. 5, 1989

### Duke Artists Series 1988-1989

Jessye Norman, soprano  
Don Giovanhi, opera  
Vienna Chamber Orchestra  
Hubbard Street Dance Company  
Lazar Berman, pianist  
Budapest Symphony Orchestra

### Staff

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# Unofficial MS I Calendar

John Armitage

- Aug 8-12 Meet numerous classmates you'll not talk to again for months.
- Aug 15 Fall permanently behind in your medical education.
- Sept 2 Return useless Biochem and Physiology texts to the bookstore.
- Sept 15 Laugh at score your Big Sib made on last year's first Physiology exam.
- Sept 16 Fail first Physiology exam.
- Oct 15 Impress your instructor, stay in Anatomy lab past 2:30.
- Nov 15-22 (midterms) Pick up Business school or Law school applications from the Career Placement Office.
- Dec 4 Astound the CTL staff, accidentally get immersion oil on your microscope ocular lens.
- Dec 15 Finally read Lachman's text and try to outscore the PTs on an Anatomy exam.
- Xmas break Rationalize the value of a "Pass" (P=MD, etc.).
- Jan (Neurobio) Interrupt Duke's "random fact" curriculum with a month devoted to a single organ system.
- Feb 15 Witness epidemic narcolepsy in Human Behavior class.
- Mar 21 (midterms) Miss celebration of Duke's NCAA basketball championship because of Microbio exam.
- Mar 26-27 Fulfill pact with God, attend religious services if you passed the Microbio midterm.
- Apr 15 Start home study courses in Pathology and Pharm.
- May 1 Face Dean Graham's wrath for organizing illegal PRT races and paramutual betting pool.
- May 15 Sell your body for medical experiments to fill a shortfall in your financial aid award.
- June 15 Confirm your ignorance, take some National Board exams.

# Planning for Third Year

Tom Oetting

During a meeting of the Short Term Curriculum Committee, I came across the following schedule of events for second year students to plan third year programs.

- mid-Dec 88 Latest copy of "Elective Program for Junior and Senior Years". See Big Sib, shelves in the dean zone or Registrar for the Jan 88 version.
- mid-Jan 89 1) Curriculum Fair, an undetermined Tuesday night in the Searle Center. Study programs present their wares. 2) Deadline for the Howard Hughes-NIH Scholarship. Applications in the Dean's office, and see Elective Book Jan 88, p. 99.
- Jan-Mar 89 1) Meet with advisory dean to select a Study Program. 2) Meet with the director of the Study Program to select preceptors for lab. 3) Meet with preceptors and visit labs. 4) Develop an elective program for third year with the Study Program director.
- mid-Feb 89 Deadline for Duke Research Scholarships. See 88-89 catalog, pp. 51-52, or Elective Book Jan 88, pp. 97-100.
- Feb-Mar 89 Elective program approved by the Home Base Study Director. Note: away programs follow a different process; see Elective Book Jan 88, p. 33.
- early Apr 89 Howard Hughes-NIH and Duke Scholarships awarded.
- mid-Apr 89 Register for Fall 89 term.

### Medical Students

The United States Navy is looking for applicants for two, three, & four year medical scholarships. These scholarships cover the full school-related expenses of your medical education, as well as providing a personal allowance of \$650 per month while you are in school.

To qualify you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be enrolled in an AMA approved Medical school, or AOA approved school of Osteopathy
- Meet academic qualifications
- Be physically qualified

Applications for scholarships are accepted each fall. To learn more about Navy medical scholarships, with no obligation, simply give me a call:

Contact HMC Norm Rogers  
1-800-662-7568

### Magazine Drive

Tired of all those old magazines cluttering up your living room? The Student National Medical Association will place boxes in the amphitheater, cafeteria and CTL to collect magazines to be donated to the VA hospital. People have reported seeing Reader's Digests dated 1965! Boxes will be found in the designated locations August 15-19. All donations are welcome!

### Discussion of Women in Medicine

There will be a gathering (tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Sept 10th at Leslie Rokoske's) to discuss the concerns of women in the medical profession. Dr. Shirley Osterhout is arranging for some women doctors in private practice and academia to join us in looking at the issues confronting today's women physicians in their roles as women, wives, mothers, and doctors. Please bring an ours-d'houvre or cold beverage and plan to meet around 4pm. We should not go longer than 6pm. Plates, napkins, utensils, and cups will be provided. A final notice and map will appear in the next issue of *Shifting Dullness*. Any suggestions should be directed to Leslie Rokoske (DUMC 2816).



Michelangelo's "The Doctor-Patient Relationship"

# ACHILLES HEAL

Steve Gallup

Welcome Duke Med students to a new year of sports satire. As a "not-quite-a-second-year" student preparing to embark upon a medicine rotation rumored to bring you inches from total devastation, I'd like to take this opportunity to address the general populace in the hopes of discovering some daring souls who will join me in the sacred mission of leading our comrades from the wilderness of pedantic suffering to the realm of self-actualization through sports. Sports; many of you curse the word, I know. Perhaps your friends smirked at you when you played kickball or you were brutally abused by a pack of wild tiddly-winks. If this happened to you... well... you better stick to medicine, but for everyone else there are lots of activities being planned this year which don't require muscles like steel coils or cutthroat animosity for your participation. If you feel the urge to organize (gasp!) an activity, please let me know.

A few of the tentative activities include a hang gliding trip to the outer banks, a rafting trip in the mountains, a geography or quiz bowl, a car rally, and an Iron Man (drinking and self-affliction) contest. The Big Four Med School Tournament and Party are being held here at Duke in April. Besides on-campus intramurals and off-campus activities like road races, there will be tournaments in things like table tennis, darts, backgammon and Scrabble.

If you discover other activities that ought to be religiously embraced by the entire med school population, call the sports hotline at once. If you hate all sports then you're the perfect person to write the sports column in *Shifting Dullness*. If you can score at

will, spike from the back row or psyche out the competition then I want you on my team. And if you think of any witty team names call me at once! **The Sports Hotline: 383-7988.** Coming Events:



Aug 13 Round Robin Soccer Chaos - 2 pm astroturf fields.

Aug 14 8th floor pool passes go on sale in CTL.

Aug 15 Last day to sign up for Hang Gliding Trip to Jockeys Ridge State Park on Labor Day.

Aug 20 Bike Ride to the Quarry - 10:30 am from Duke Chapel.

Aug 22 1st years begin mandatory small group calisthenics.

Aug 27 & 28 Varsity sports tickets sold to grad students.

Aug 31 NC State fan club membership drive.

Special messages for first year students :

- Never go to class without your white coat! You must learn to look professional now, and besides, you'll get in TROUBLE if you don't.

- Never look at old tests. You will find that almost all your tests will be asking new, original questions, and the questions will never be obscure or ambiguous. Actually, the tests are pretty easy.

- Watch out for those people who go to Gross Anatomy lectures and claim to be Physical Therapy students. They are really spies for Dean Graham.



"You can never get enough chest."

"It's easier to order a barium enema than to get a barium enema."  
C. Coblentz, Chest Radiology, 7/22/88

"I have no interest in textbooks. I haven't written any."  
B. Tedman, Neurology, 7/20/88

"The Schilling test consists of part 1 and part 2 in that order."  
Nickl, Gastrointestinal diagnosis, 7/28/88

"The picture is blurred but the diagram is clear cut."

J. Chen, Chest Radiology, 7/18/88

"To take a picture of his head you have to use a chest film. That's how big he is." Burch, Endocrinology, 8/3/88

"CT is replacing the physical exam!"  
N. R. Dunnick, Uroradiology, 8/4/88