

SHIFTING DULLNESS

DAVISON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Box 2889

April 4, 1977

Special-For Y'all

ZEN AND ALL THE BEER YOU CAN DRINK

The year's "Student - Faculty show", "Zen and All The Beer You Can Drink" will be unleashed on Saturday April 23, 1977 at 8 PM in Card Gymnasium. The doors will open at 7:15 PM. Tickets are \$2.50 per person (on sale this week in front of the cafeteria) regardless of one's caste level within the medical center. For all those left standing at 10:30 PM, there will be dancing, frog-gigging, and a cake-walk - the first of these for sure, the others by popular demand.

Zen is rated "X" for "X"ceptionally fine. Identification is not required for admission, and everyone is encouraged to bring their own shoes. Contrary to current rumors, there will not be barbecued spinach on sale as our wholesaler has been sent up the creek without his paddle.

So, Mr. and Ms. Med Stud, COME ON DOWN!!

SEX ED

The Davison Society Sex Ed Committee needs WARM BODIES! Everyone interested in being involved in the Committee's activities next year (1977-1978) needs to come to a general planning meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 6:00 pm in the Medical Center Amphitheatre. Contact Bill Griffin, DUMC Box 2760, for further stimulating information. This group is responsible for local junior high sex education classes and discussion groups in Duke undergrad sexuality classes each spring.

AMSA CONVENTION

Last week seven members of the Duke AMSA chapter attended the AMSA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Their travel expenses were funded through contributions to the AMSA Chapter. The North Carolina Medical Society, the Durham-Orange County Medical Society; other county medical groups in North Carolina, numerous pharmaceutical companies; and national AMSA all helped in funding. Only 10% of this year's AMSA travel expenses was funded from Davison Society dues. The remaining \$90 from the initial \$250 allocation will be returned to the Davison Society general account.

A complete AMSA convention report will be in next week's Shifting Dullness.

HELP WITH NATIONAL BOARDS

Dr. Henry T. Frierson, Office of Medical Studies, University of North Carolina, offers no cost desensitization sessions on Saturday mornings for up to twenty students in Chapel Hill. He tries to teach concepts behind the questions on simulated National Board sub-tests and to identify weak areas as a guideline for further study. Interested

students call him during regular office hours at 966-5170 or 966-5179.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

There is a hospital-wide campaign to keep posters only in designated areas (bulletin boards, show cases, etc.). Anything attached to the walls will be torn down, so beware of where you post announcements.

FREEBIE

The second issue, of Medical News, a new bi-monthly newspaper prepared exclusively for med students, is available free in the 6th floor student lounge. It is "designed to help you keep abreast of the world of medicine" with major features on nutrition and sexual medicine and all aspects of life as a medical student.

GOLDEN APPLE AWARD NOMINATIONS

It has been a tradition at Duke to recognize excellence in teaching each year by awarding the Golden Apple to one person in each of the three categories below. Anyone who received the award within the past 5 years is by regulation excluded. We ask that each student nominate 5 persons for each category. A final selection will then take place among the top 3 nominees in each category. Please return your nominations to the ballot box in the post office by April 8.

Please do not list the following who have received awards within the past 5 years:

Harlen R. Giles	Shirley K. Osterhout	Steven Vogel
Michael E. McLeod	Andrew Wechsler	Bruce Dixon
Lois A. Pounds	Robert L. Hill	Michael Fried
Norman F. Conant	Catherine Wilfert	William Hylander
Donald B. Hackel	Charles H. Scoggin	Adhemar W. Renuart
		Mitchel Freedman

Nominate 5 for each category:

Clinical Medicine	_____	House Staff	_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
Basic Science	_____		

IN MY OPINION

As of March 8, 1977 Duke University School of Medicine requires passage of the National Boards for graduation. I think this was an unfortunate decision that may penalize students who can not pass these examinations and one that may adversely affect the atmosphere and philosophy of Duke medical education.

The M.D. degree is an academic degree awarded after completion of four years of courses, rotations, and their examinations. I suspect nearly all incoming students intend to practice in some form, so these Boards may not seem unfair requirements. However, there will be and have been students who can not pass these licensure examinations. Due to this fact and changing goals, these students under the old system could seek other avenues to utilize this knowledge - medical research, journal writing for the lay press, teaching assistantships, positions in health organizations. Under the new requirement, however, despite satisfactory performance in academic and clinical work, their options are severely limited without an M.D. in our degree-conscious society. In short, they have nothing substantive after four years of hard work, tuition and learning.

In addition, under the previous system there was another route toward licensure available through FLEX, a three-day exam accepted in all but two or three states. However, this option is no longer open to future Duke students.

The past performance of Duke students has not been good. In fact, the rumored failure rate on Part I for the past two years is embarrassingly high. There does seem to be value in a baseline, standardized test - for evaluation of schools and of graduates. Duke's record brings up questions of the quality of its accelerated basic science year. Some medical schools - the University of Michigan, for example, direct their teaching and testing format toward the Boards. Priming toward a single exam parallels the philosophy of cramming. We should be laying medical foundations for a life time. In a similar vein, requiring passage of this licensure exam approaches the philosophy of a trade school. I maintain medical school is an academic institution that educates, not one that certifies.

I realize that the Medical School Advisory Committee did consider many aspects of this complex issue - such as the future legal implications of the Health Manpower Act and federal requirements for the matriculation of Americans in foreign schools; the future likelihood of licensure re-examinations, and the philosophy of the consortium. I do feel that the welfare of those who do not pass was not adequately considered.

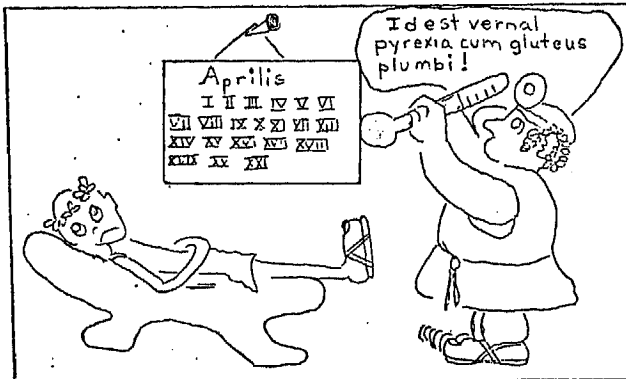
Jodelle Groeneveld MSIV
editor, Shifting Dullness

Editor's note: The previous article does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the majority of the medical students. Responses to Box 2889 are welcomed.

PATHOLOGY PUZZLE

Entries to this puzzle with your name and box number belong in the white ballot box in the post office by noon next Monday. Note: Words are all pure Latin and are commonly heard in the hospital. Ice cream cones go to Val Lightner MSIII for the following solution: POLYDIPSIA: diabetes, insipidus, mellitus, thirst, polyuria. Sharpen your wits and your pencils!!

CURRENT CAMPUS EPIDEMIC:



USMER	00	-----
PHROSYD	-----	0 0
BALIUF	00	-----
VIRGAD	0	0
GIRRO	-----	0
SUNECUL	0	0

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As is the custom in our educational system, summer means booklists in preparation for fall book reports. Though we are beyond that exercise, there are some lessons to be learned by looking at medicine through the eyes of the lay and popular press. Any comments, reviews or additional titles are welcomed at Box 2889.

- The Anatomy Lesson , by Dr. Goldberg
- The Making of a Surgeon, by Wm. Nolen, M.D.
- Surgeon Under the Knife, by Wm. Nolen, M.D.
- Of Human Bondage, by Wm. Somerset Maugham
- Medical Nemesis, by Ivan Ilich
- On Death and Dying, by E. Kubler-Ross, M.D.
- Life after Life, by Raymond Moody, Jr.
- The Magnificent Obsession, by Lloyd Douglas
- Vitamin C and the Common Cold by Linus Pauling
- Stay of Execution, by Stewart Alsop
- Cancer Ward, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- Cooley: the Career of a great heart surgeon, by Henry Minetree
- Myth of Mental Illness, by Thomas Szasz, M.D.
- The Medicine Men, by Leonard Tushnet, M.D.
- The Solid Gold Stethoscope, by Dr. Edgar Berman
- The People's Pharmacy, by Joe Graedon