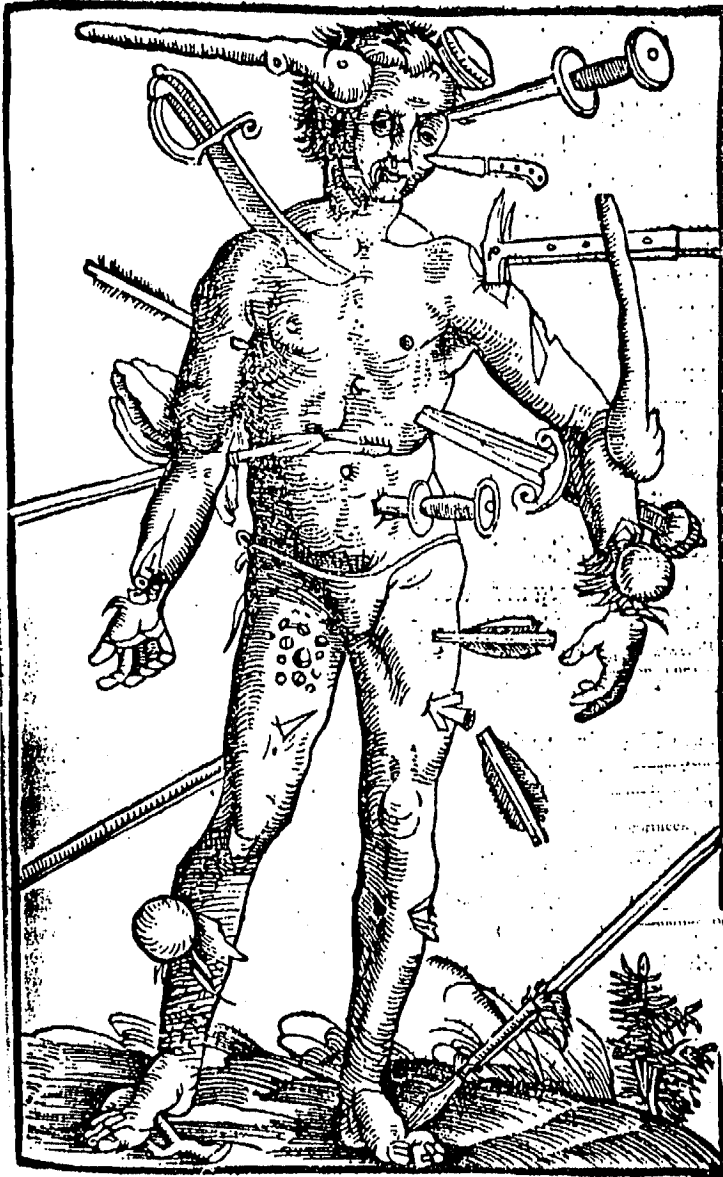


Shifting Dullness

March 1993



Inside:

E Bach (page 8)
The Septic Skeptic (back cover)
Endless announcements (scattered throughout)

MSIs Respond to Parody

To the Editor:

February 2, 1993

It was with shock and disappointment that we read the front and back covers of "Shifty Dullards." Unfortunately, some individuals harbor sexist views. However, we would not expect these views to be aired in such a blatant manner.

It is hard to fathom that the commitment and dedication of so many women faculty, staff, and students could be questioned by a concerted effort to undermine what they stand for. Although we respect the right of these individuals to express their views (joking or not), it must be understood that such sexist insinuations can adversely affect the morale and work performance of colleagues of both sexes. We encourage all members of this prestigious institution to acknowledge and be sensitive towards sexual discrimination in any form.

Sincerely,

Renee L. Quarterman, Allyson Tevrizian, and 81 other MSIs

MSIV News

Lyndon Jordan

- 1) Congratulations to the newest additions to the Engagement List: Larry Kelly, Steve Day, Steve Lee, Scott Dean - all planning for the "big match" this spring and summer.
- 2) Match Day: March 17. Watch for details regarding the celebration.
- 3) Graduation Plans: Contact me if you would like to help with the festivities. Senior Banquet - Thursday May 13; Hippocratic Oath/Hooding Ceremony - Friday May 14; Graduation Picnic - Saturday May 15; and Graduation - Sunday May 16. Thanks to the MSIs who have volunteered to help!
- 4) Financial Aid Exit Interviews this month: watch for information.
- 5) Don't miss the Fifth Annual Davison Ball on 3/19/93! Tickets available through Linda Chambers.

AOA Research Symposium

Mike Sicard

Each spring, the Duke Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha sponsors a Research Symposium designed to allow medical students participating in research to present their work to the entire Duke Community. The quality of work presented at last year's symposium was outstanding, and to ensure the continued success of this forum, we are contacting you early so you will be aware and plan accordingly. The format will be similar to most scientific meetings in that we will request abstracts in advance for platform presentations and poster sessions. Additionally, the abstracts will be reproduced in the Symposium Proceedings, and awards will be presented in several categories.

In previous years, the highlight of the symposium has been the keynote address. This year's speaker is Dr. Rick Aldrich, Department of Molecular/Cell Physiology, Stanford University School of Medicine. He is one of the leading figures in cloning ion channels and understanding the molecular basis of ion channel function.

We strongly encourage your participation in the program, as it will give you the opportunity to see work conducted by other students and can serve as a "warm up" for other scientific meetings. Finally, we realize that many projects will be ongoing at the time of the Symposium; we therefore encourage abstracts submitted as progress reports and summaries of continuing work. The date of this year's symposium is

April 27, 1993. Abstracts will be due in late March. More instructions on abstract submission will be mailed soon.

Don't have enough to do?

Shifting Dullness needs writers, editors, photographers, and layout people. So give one of us a call today.

... Do something your parents can be proud of for a change.

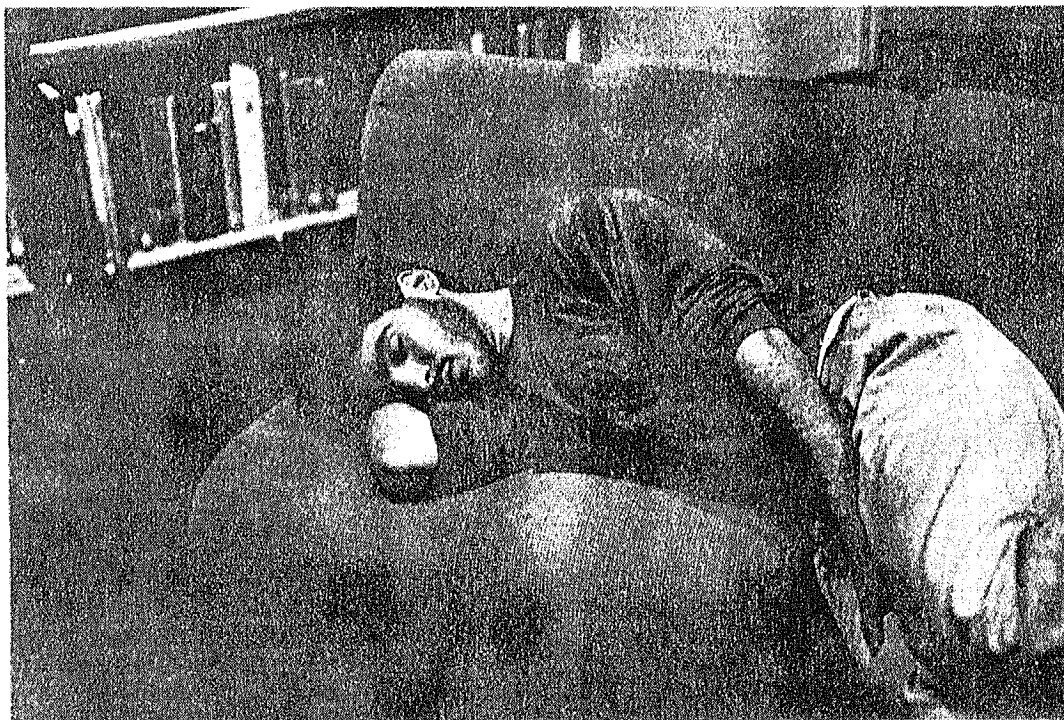


Photo by Steve Chui

MSI Joseph Paydarfar catches up on some much needed sleep.

February Student Curriculum Committee Notes

Amy Pickar

1) Rory Pryor MSII is the new SCC chair-elect and Steven Feingold MSII will be serving in the new capacity of vice-chair for the 1993-4 year.

2) Nominations for Associate Deans of Clinical and Basic Science were taken and evaluated by the SCC. Five final nominations for each position were selected and presented to Dean Blazer as suggestions for consideration in these new positions.

3) The core curriculum is currently being entered into a database. The goal is to enable course directors and lecturers to identify which information is being taught during the 1st and 2nd years, and at what time. Hopefully, this will help limit duplicate lectures and avoid gaps in the curriculum.

4) The curriculum committee is presently searching for current 2nd or 3rd

years to fill positions on the Third Year Committee and CPX Test Committee. If you are interested, please contact Chris Cabell.

5) The SCC meetings will return to the third Monday of every month at Noon in the Medical Center Boardroom, Duke South. The next meeting is 3/15/93.



Shifting Dullness

Women's B-ball Prevails

Steve Lee

Congratulations to our women's IM basketball team for winning the championship! MSills Maggie Lee and Allison Toth were among the players rocking the hoops. Congratulations also to the volleyball team for making it to the finals. Unfortunately, they lost in the championship game. Good luck to the two co-ed basketball teams we now have starting up.

The Big Four Sports Day to be hosted here at Duke will be on March 27. The sports will be basketball, soccer, volleyball, and ultimate frisbee. Look for the flyers in your box for more details!

Computer Interest News

Library Multimedia Room

The library has a new multimedia room with loads of medical software, both basic science and clinical. It is on the first floor in a small room between two xerox machine areas, and consists of one Mac and one IBM, each of which is hooked up to a laser disk player and a TV monitor. The only catch is that it's often locked, and to have access to it you must schedule a fifteen minute session with one of the A-V people in the library, and then get your name put on a special list of people allowed to use the room. The session is basically a quick tour of how to use the two systems without blowing them up, and, once you're on the list, you have access to the room whenever the library is open.

NIH Medical Informatics

The NIH has a bunch of clinical electives for med students, one of which is an eight week session in medical informatics offered each spring. It is basically a series of lectures and demos, and an individual project. Topics covered include workstations, the Unified Medical Language System, the Visible Human project, medical expert systems, medical and molecular biology information systems, interactive video disk systems/hypermedia/graphics for medical education, image analysis, computational linguistics, and more. I have some more info for those interested.

Fluid and Lytes Software

The division of Audiovisual Education has begun to

Announcements

- Sketch the winning t-shirt design for the spring student-faculty tennis tournament and win dinner for two at Parizade. Call Brenda Maness at 419-3200 for questions.
- The Davison student-faculty tennis tournament will be held Saturday, April 24 at West Campus Tennis Courts. Registration forms have been sent to your boxes. Call 419-3200 for more information.
- The Davison Ball will be held March 19 at the Durham Arts Council Bldg. Teaching appreciation awards will be presented at the ball.
- The Annual Family Med Interest Group Dinner is on April 20, 1993 at 6:30 at the Sheraton University Center. Round table discussions on Family Medicine/ Primary Care Issues will follow. RSVP to 684-3620 ext 200. It's free!

Emile El-Shamma

sell the Acid/Base program developed here by Dr. Vincent, which is used with the fluid and electrolytes elective that Dr. Yarger now teaches. It contains tutorials, cases, and questions with answers for acid/base physiology. The software runs through Windows, and is available through the A/V office for \$30.

If you need any additional computer-related information, don't hesitate to call me at 382-0203.

Shifting Dullness Staff

Editors	Greg Lucas Fred Rimmel Kenny Boockvar
Business Manager	Hussein Elkousy
Writers	Eric Bachman Fred Rimmel Christopher Cabell Emile El-Shamma
Curriculum Committee	Amy Pickar
Photographer	Steve Chui

Shifting Dullness is a publication of Duke University medical students. The contents herein are copyrighted by *Shifting Dullness* unless otherwise indicated.

March 1993

Clinical Electives Survey

Attention MSIVs: please take a moment to share your wisdom with the huddled masses. The following is a brief survey that has been helpful in the past in guiding the many decisions that MSIVs must make regarding fourth year electives. Unlike CTL surveys, you don't have to fill out hundreds of ovals; so just take a minute and jot down some thoughts, fold the page and drop it in the campus mail. Thanks.

1. What rotations did you find particularly helpful?

2. What rotations did you find weak or overrated?

3. Do you have any advice about the best way to schedule early rotations to expedite the application process?

4. Is there a best time to take a month off? For completing applications? For interviews?

5. What is your specialty choice? What rotations would you recommend for your specialty?

6. What are your thoughts on away rotations?

7. Any other comments you feel would be particularly helpful:

.....

Please fold and return to:

Shifting Dullness
Box 2865, DUMC

Calendar

LITERARY LUNCHTIMES

The Osler Literary Roundtable meets Fridays at noon in Room 14218 Red Zone.

March 5: "The Bufords" by Elizabeth Spencer.

March 12: Sestinas.

March 19: "Goodbye, My Brother" by John Cheever.

March 26: Visiting writer TBA

ART

Duke University Museum of Art: "Andy Warhol: The Politics of Pop" can be seen through March 12.

Duke University Museum of Art: "Soho at Duke IV: In Search of Self, March 26-May 30.

Duke Hospital Courtyard: "Critters" by Clyde Jones until March 93.

Eye Center: Works from around the world and selected works from Bynum artist Clyde Jones.

Mars Display Case: Social work exhibit March 5-22 and charcoal drawings and portraits March 8 - April 2.

Rauch Display Case: Social work exhibit

MUSIC

March 7, 3 p.m.: Dawn Upshaw, soprano will perform works by Haydn, Debussy, and Mussorgsky in the Page auditorium.

March 26, 8 p.m.: Steve Nelson, vibraphonist and Pedro Moreira, tenor saxophone will perform with the Jazz Festival Ensemble in the Baldwin Auditorium.

March 27, 8 p.m.: Ron Jackson, guitarist and Pedro Moreira will perform with the Duke Jazz Ensemble in the Nelson Music Room.

Announcements

STUDENT/ FACULTY SHOW

Attention all participants in the Student/Faculty show. Please check the rehearsal schedule for March, which is posted by the mailboxes.

MSIII PARTY

A party for all MSIIIs will be held for the Duke/Carolina game at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 7 at 1716 Cole Mill Road.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Medical School Blood Drive will be held this month on Mondays from 11:30 - 4:30 and Thursdays from 9:00 - 2:00. All eligible medical students are asked to donate blood during this period. Call Susan at 684-4799 for an appointment. Walk-ins also welcome.

Shifting Dullness

Announcements, cont.

WOMEN IN MEDICINE

Women in Medicine would like to thank Lori Bastian, M.D.; April Perry, nurse clinician; Mary Jo Romero, RN; Anita Wilborn, MSII; Ebony Boulware, MSII; and Andrea Coviello, MSII for being panel members at the MSI forum, "The Hospital Experience: What to Expect the Second Year." The event was well attended, and the answers and comments of the speakers resolved many of the questions and concerns of the audience.

STUDY AWAY

Study away elective booklets are located in the Medical Center Library in the Reserve Room in a file drawer labeled "Study Away Elective Booklets." For other information about a fourth year elective away, contact Barbara Gentry in the Dean's Office.

ACLS

The Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course will be held May 3-8, 1993. The course follows the American Heart Association guidelines and successful completion will certify the participant as an ACLS provider. The prerequisite is Basic Life Support (CPR) certification. Significant interest has been demonstrated in this course and with continued interest the course may be offered in October as well. Contact Mary Greenway or Landra Brown (681-6709 or 684-3026) for information.

AOA

The Duke Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha is planning an induction banquet for all newly elected members on the evening of April 12, 1993. This year's keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Robert Petersdorf, president and chief executive officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges. All AOA members are encouraged to attend.

TUTORING

The Methodist Home for Children, located at 808 Knox Street by the Northgate Mall, provides a residential environment for academically troubled youths 10-18 years old. Its aims are to improve learning and provide scholastic encouragement. The teachers running the program are looking for tutors in chemistry, biology and Spanish. Time commitment is approximately 90 minutes per week. Please contact the home at 683-2490 if interested.

EVA J. SALBER AWARD

The Eva J. Salber Award of \$1000 is available on July 1, 1993 to a third or fourth year Duke student for support of a project, designed by the student and supervised by a faculty advisor, to improve the health of a disadvantaged population group. Contact Barbara Shelline at 684-3620 ext. 368 for more information.

OSR Update

Chris Cabell

The Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) to the AAMC is the liaison group that represents the medical students of the 126 allopathic medical schools in the AAMC. Duke currently has 3 representatives: Larry Kelly MSIV; Chris Cabell MSIII; and Doug Skarada MSII. In addition, applications have recently been received from the 1st years, and the Davison Council election committee will be selecting a representative from their class soon.

Currently, there are a number of projects that the OSR is working on nationally which will be available to the collective medical student body soon. The first initiative examines how medical students get involved with the curriculum evaluation process at their individual institutions. Last fall, the AAMC put out a report titled *Assessing Change in Medical Education: The Road to Implementation (ACME-TRI)*, that highlighted problems in medical education and provided some suggestions on ways to improve medical education in this country. The AAMC has plans for Phase II of this study, which may assess how medical schools are going about making changes to improve education, and how these changes are working.

The OSR hopes to get involved in Phase II by documenting how students have become involved, at an institutional level, in the evaluation of medical education. Our goal is to provide ideas and examples that other students may use so that they too may become involved at their schools.

In addition, the OSR is planning on writing a position paper on ... THE BOARDS. This often talked about and maligned subject is a topic of hot debate not only at Duke but nationally as well. The OSR plans to survey student opinion nationally and then compile the results in a report that may be used by medical schools, the NBME, and program directors of residency programs. We realize that student opinions vary widely on this subject. Our goal is to document these opinions and their supportive arguments. In this way, the OSR hopes to dispel many myths about the Boards and create a more cooperative environment between students, the people who administer the exam, and those that use the scores.

If you have any questions about these issues or have anything else that you think OSR may be able to help with, please contact Chris at 598-1843.

Dear E. Bach,

As you are well aware, the Med School is in horrific scandal over the recently published *Shifty Dullards*. Naturally, I, Jeff Hartman, being the most offensive and just down right naughty person in the medical school, caught most of the blame/credit. I must confide in you, though, E. Bach. I have been out of town for the last eight months and had absolutely nothing to do with it. However, the whole ordeal of being blamed for this pretty much forces me to write a little paper of my own, just so you all would know what it would have been like had I written it. So E. Bach, for me, please print my own version of the highly controversial *Shifty Dullards*.

Oh, one last question, E. Bach. When something offensive happened and everyone immediately thought of me, I thought it was funny. The fact that someone who doesn't even know me well enough to know where I've been the last year felt comfortable telling someone in the Dean's Office I was responsible for this is not so funny. So I ask, who is more irresponsible — the person who may overstep his or her boundaries of humor or the person who knowingly commits false rumors to his superiors about an individual they do not know? (The following is an excerpt from a parody of *Shifty Dullards* by Jeff Hartman, MSIV)

Surgery Shuffle (Part 1 is to be sung by a non-surgical enthusiast and part 2 by a surgical enthusiast. We all stand and sing the refrain together)

1. Alarm clock rings at quarter to five
Gotta be in house before the sunrise
I'm sleep deprived but I'll do my best
So I'll check a few labs and listen to a chest
I must assess the GI status
So I'll ask an old lady if she's had some flatus
I listen to her stomach and I hear some growls
Maybe today she'll move her bowels!
Write a quick note that goes unread and unseen
Then I watch a couple cases with a nap in between
I'll button up my coat! Iron out the ruffle
Straighten up my tie and do the surgery shuffle!

2. Prerounding is fun, before the morning sun
And I won't go home until the work is done
Skip my dinner, there's no time to cook
Gotta read a little more from the big blue book
The history of surgery, that's what I read
God bless Blalock and my boy Halsted!
I learned about "The Day" is 1962
The color of the gallbladder is robin's egg blue
I'll present to the man and no flaws he'll detect
And make astute observations and be quite correct
I ask questions in grand rounds, make my write-ups neat
And I'll take home an "H" on my big pink sheet! (repeat refrain)

March 1993

Skeptic (from p.10)

Another possible argument is that this person should be made aware of the fact that date-rape-as-humor is a bad thing, in a sense educating him/her about what is acceptable at Duke, if not the world at large. Let's assume, if we must, that I'm totally wrong about supposing that the author of SD deliberately chose an inflammatory topic just to set good ol' Duke Med on its ear. Two possibilities then exist. One is that this person intended SD to be funny, genuinely thought that date rape would make a quaint, chuckle-filled topic, and was shocked and upset to find that his/her project generated such a vehement response. Possible? I suppose. Plausible? You tell me. The other scenario is that the SD author is truly misogynistic. As much as I'd like to discount the fact that the admissions committee, in their infinite wisdom, could ever allow such a phlegmwad to matriculate, I can truly say that there is a very, very, very small group of my colleagues who embarrass me far more by their existence in the field of medicine than the SD issue ever could (In other words, yes, Virginia, there are social apaxics here at Duke Med - if you haven't noticed by now, maybe you need to look harder, perhaps into a mirror). In this instance, while a

formal letter of outrage is certainly appropriate, it (and any other letter - or petition, for that matter) is likely to fall on deaf ears.

Finally, you could argue that the SD author brought terrible shame upon our venerable institution, and that I, as a concerned student in a position of some journalistic influence, should eloquently defend the dignity of my medical school, rather than keeping silent. What, are you kidding me? Have you gotten into the Demerol drawer again? Me, the Septic Skeptic, defend the honor of Duke Med? C'mon, guys, gimme a break.

Ok, just so I don't wake up tomorrow to find myself randomly hauled off before a board of inquiry, let me reiterate that the SD author was entirely out of line, and adequate steps have been taken for the school as a whole to vent its displeasure. But please, this thing's getting old; *no mas, no mas*! Let's just punt the whole issue under the rock from which it crawled. Then maybe we could get to some more pertinent business. Like why second year medical students are getting arrested for attempting to provide the highest quality blood drawing equipment to our nation's veterans.



photo by Steve Chai

"Wow! All the answers are 'B'!"

The Septic Skeptic

Fred Rimmele

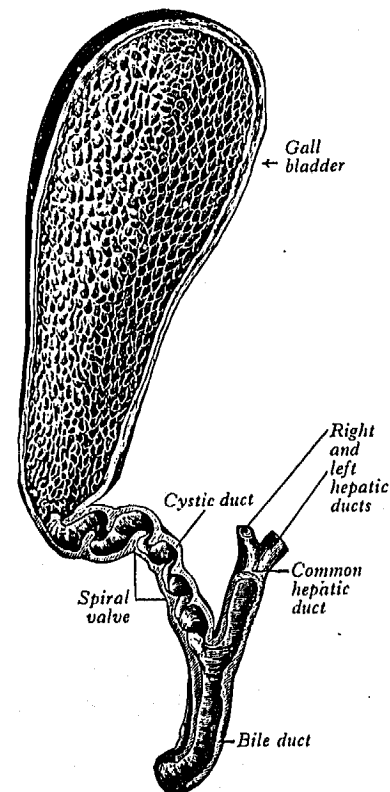
I thought about throwing my two cents into the pot with respect to the whole 'Shifty Dullards' thing for quite a while, because I felt it was a pretty insensitive and dunderheaded move by whomever perpetrated it. Eventually, however, I decided against it for several reasons. First of all, it's been done. To the max. Everyone but Bucky Waters' mom has written in and reiterated how scurrilous and unprofessional SD was, and how not one shred of DUMC money was used to produce it (thank goodness!). Secondly (and let me say this has really never discouraged me before), SD is too hot a topic, and I might be accused of being non-pc were I to write some subtle satire and underhanded commentary about it. This is Duke Med, where the overwhelming majority of folks have a woefully feeble liberal arts background and wouldn't know simile from salmonella, parody from parity, or satire from sartorial. And those that used to be able to have been so thoroughly trained to react than to critically think, that anything less factual than a Chem-21 is lost on them. Were I to write about SD, I guarantee you someone somewhere would misconstrue the point I was trying to make, and wham! I'd be in hot water faster than you could recite the Jones criteria for rheumatic fever. Finally, writing about SD would just generate more writing about SD, and, like a sickler in severe crisis, things would get out of hand fast. Personally, I suspect that whomever wrote SD is giggling in delight, because I sense their motivation was not to be funny *per se*, but to piss off as many people as possible. While I agree that one thoughtful letter about this incident was appropriate and sufficient (kudos to the Davison Council), I feel that by parading around multiple letters of indignation (instead of ignoring SD for the piece of trash that it was) people inadvertently fulfilled this individual's goals.

Because I'm unwilling to slap SD and its author around with my sabre-like wit, I automatically open myself up to criticism from multiple sides. Having gotten used to this situation while being torn to hash during many memorable attending rounds during my second year, I'll take them in stride and dismantle them one by one, letting them land harmlessly at my feet.

The best argument I can use against myself is actually one I which feel is pretty valid - the Conspiracy of Silence Theory. Essentially, it goes something like this: By

not openly and thoroughly condemning such a socially perverse attitude (to wit, centering a piece of humor around the topic of rape), I am, in fact, condoning it. I find this a tough accusation to deal with, mainly because I think the "silence = death" mantra is a damn good one. In fact, having known several people whose lives were scarred by rape, I far from condone the SD parody. I choose to ignore it because copious amounts of literature have already been generated about the subject, and because the *shmo* ("a hapless, clumsy, unlucky jerk," according to The Joys of Yiddish) who wrote it is probably trying to generate a great big controversy for his/her personal delight; I, for one, refuse to swallow the bait.

(continued on page 9)



The Gallbladder