



Shifting Dullness

June 1988



First year students enjoy a picnic in the gardens.



SECOND OPINIONS

Second Year Ethics

Stefano Cazzaniga

Josephine Evans, MS III, Davison Council President, and Jim Bass, MS II, AMSA Regional Representative for Medical Ethics, gave a talk entitled "Facing Ethical Issues in Second Year Clinical Rotations," on Monday, May 9th in the Duke North Lecture Hall 2002. While the presentation did not deal specifically with ethical issues, it did cover the broad range of personal conflict and confusion which inevitably arises during second year clinical rotations.

As Jim Bass phrased it in his introductory remarks, the second year student is like a 'medical voyeur,' an observer with little responsibility or authority in the clinical setting. On the one hand this is a good thing, for students start off being ill-prepared to tackle some of the difficult tasks that are normally handled by the residents or attendings, but who sometimes relegate these to students, either out of laziness or naivete; for example Jo Evans recounted her experience of being told to deal with a deceased patient, something she did not feel was within her capabilities at the time. On the other hand, lack of command of the situation may lead to frustration and a sense of helplessness, for example being told to observe a dying patient that is about to herniate, or witnessing the calling of a code, an 'extremely undignified and unhappy' chaotic procedure of resuscitation, as Jo Evans described it, however necessary and life-saving it may be.

Jo and Jim seemed to agree that a major problem was lack of 'institutional support' in times of emotional duress, especially upon the death of a patient whom they had befriended in however brief a period of time. They noticed a reluctance by many of the staff to openly acknowledge that the death of an individual had indeed occurred, and that it hurt. Though they admitted the need to maintain a certain emotional detachment from sorrowful situations in order to retain efficiency and objectivity, they also stressed the need to express their emotions, and to have the other health care workers recognize their turmoil and to empathize in some way. Otherwise, sorrow might turn to unchanneled anger or to shock, or may lead to assuming a dehumanizing attitude toward the patient. But both speakers noted that

support among students did exist, and on many occasions other hospital workers offered support and showed respect once made aware of the students' feelings.

Other problems were discussed, such as remembering to treat the hospital staff, patients and their families with respect, despite being tired or upset; preserving patient confidentiality, especially since friends/relatives may be nearby; and working with patients who do not possess a pleasing personality or a pleasant appearance, such as the homeless. Furthermore, they addressed the fact that conflicts may arise between the student and the resident/attending, as happens when the latter does something, inadvertently or not, to make the patient embarrassed or uncomfortable, at least in the student's eyes. The possible conflict is especially significant since the student's grade may be adversely affected. There was disagreement in the audience as to how best handle such a situation, although some consensus emerged that while a direct confrontation in the presence of the patient and/or other students/residents should be avoided, talking privately with the offending resident/attending is in order, and perhaps obtaining a reaction from the patient about the incident. As a reassurance, Dr. Graham mentioned the 'Code of Conduct,' which sets guidelines to protect students from 'intimidation and dignity-robbing' by other hospital staff, as long as the students are reasonable in their own conduct.

Jim's take-home advice was to learn as second-years and fourth-years what it feels to be students as well as patients, so to become in turn more understanding and compassionate residents and attendings; Jo stressed openness with the hospital staff, even with one's own resident/attending, asking for help when in ignorance, and almost certainly receiving it enthusiastically (but not a good strategy for oral exams!). We thank Jo Evans and Jim Bass for taking the time to help make second year a better experience for others.

Shifting Dullness accepts letters of opinion from all members of the medical school community which encourage responsible dialogue. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial staff. Submit responses and articles to the Shifting Dullness box in the candy room or the Dean's office.

Med Women's Meeting

Leslie Rokoske

On Thursday night, May 12th, the women of the first year medical class gathered at Mina Choi's to share food and fellowship and to discuss the concerns of women in medicine. The turnout was superb, as 31 of the 34 women in the class brought homemade dishes from Blackened Redfish to Peking Duck. Deans Deborah Kredich and Deborah German, and Dr. Shirley Osterhout, a pediatrician and former dean, then led a discussion on how women doctors raise families and practice medicine. These women shared with the students their personal experiences in their roles as mothers, doctors and wives. Dr. German emphasized the need to set priorities and then not to be afraid to stick by them. Her message was that if you tell yourself that your children are your first priority, then you should not be upset if you are not promoted to assistant or full professor. All three women agreed the best environment for a woman interested in having a family was private practice, since academic medicine requires research and publishing, both of which take an enormous amount of time. "More and more women doctors are taking administrative jobs [like deanships] because they are primarily nine-to-five desk jobs," according to Dr. Osterhout.

Apparently, the medical profession is becoming more accepting of women doctors having children. Dr. Osterhout told of the OB/GYN department at Duke, where a baby is born to one of the female residents every six or seven months! She said that the head of the department was extremely supportive, and that the male residents filled in as necessary, there being few, if any, complaints. Drs. Kredich, Osterhout and German feel that the senior year of one's residency is the most feasible time to have a child, because it is when "[you] don't have anything to do [comparatively]."

One point which each of the doctors underscored was the need for a *supportive* spouse, someone who shares similar priorities and is willing to work mutually to realize them. Joking that they were "all married to the same man" (implying that each of them was married to a doctor), nonetheless these physicians said that women doctors need not marry other doctors for their careers and families to be successful. This put a lot of women in the room at ease!

The last part of the discussion centered on discrimination against women in medicine. Dr. German said that it was usually subtle, but that it did exist, and therefore women should be prepared for it. She recounted a story about when she had been the only female medical student in her surgery rotation group; the male

medical students went to scrub up with the surgeon (who of course was male) in a room marked 'Doctors,' while she had to scrub up in another room marked 'Nurses.' Furthermore, she could not be present when the surgeon discussed the information pertinent to the case before the surgery, since this occurred in the very same Doctors' room.

Overall, the talk generated a positive feeling among the group because it informed the women of some of their options as physicians. It also shed light on what still needs to be addressed in the medical profession vis-a-vis women. Many suggested that there be another meeting in the near future to cover other aspects of women in medicine, so stay tuned to *Shifting Dullness* this summer for such an announcement!

On Music and Medicine

Holly Lisanby

The noontime sky was overcast but the sound of strings and a flute brought a shaft of sunshine complete with spring birds. Most of all, the noontime concert of I Solisti di Durham on May 4 provided a chance to smile and pause in the middle of a hurried hospital day. The baroque melodies played against the gothic backdrop of the Davison building had a timeless quality. As I watched members of the Medical Center Community gather to listen and appreciate the music, I reflected on the importance of listening and quiet attention in medicine. A large amount of clinical information comes from the patient's description of his symptoms and manifestations of illness. The doctor attends to the patient's complaints with the knowledge that the first hand experience with illness will be found in the patient's words, not in lab values alone. Important clues to the time course and natural history of the disease will come from the patient's account. Even beyond its clinical value, listening to a patient is a way of caring. Listening and attending to music shared in a concert is a form of love and appreciation for beauty. What better way is there to care for a patient than to attend to his concerns—to listen.

Summer Arts Festival

American Dance Festival

Page Auditorium Series

- June 15: Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival
Award presented to Erick Hawkins
June 16-18: Erick Harkins Dance Co.
June 23-25: Classic Revivals of the Black Tradition in
American Modern Dance
June 30-July 2: Paul Taylor Dance Co.
July 7-9: Lar Lubovitch Dance Co.
July 14-16: Pilobolus Dance Theatre
July 21-23: Merce Cunningham Dance Co.

Reynolds Theater Series

- June 13-14: Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane and Co.
June 20-21: Molissa Fenley and Dancers
June 27-28: Anita Feldman Tap
June 29: ADF Mucisians's Concert
July 5,6: Eiko and Koma
July 11,12: Young Coreographers and Composers in
Residence Program
July 18-19: International Choreographers
July 20: ADF Faculty Performance

Summerjazz in the Gardens

The Paul Jeffrey Quintet will perform on the flagstone near the Fountain in the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on July 31 at 5pm. Admission free, bring a blanket and a picnic.

Chamber Music Festival

Thursday evenings at 8pm in Reynolds Theater, Bryan Ctr. Free to Duke students and those under 17. Others \$5.

Ciampi Quartet

- June 2: Bach's Brandenburg Concertos #3,4,5,6
June 9: String Quartet in A Major by Mozart, Sonata for Cello and Piano in E Minor by Grieg, Quintet for Piano and Strings by Schumann.

Mallarmé Chamber Players

June 16: featuring Randy Reed, classical guitarist, *Mouvements Perpétuels* for Flute and Guitar by Poulenc, *Sonata* for Violin and Guitar by Giuliani, *Éclogues* for Flute, Clarinet and Guitar by Castelnuovo-Tedesco, plus modern Spanish pieces for solo guitar by Roussel, Fernando Sor, Francisco Tárrega and Moreno-Torroba, *apres Wagner* and *apres Poe* by McCarty, the world premiere of the completed work.

Museum Exhibits

- Paintings by Goochi van Stricklin are on exhibit in the Mars Display Case of Duke North until June 3 so take a look while you still have a chance!
- Photographs by Scott A. Dobihal, RBP, are on exhibit in the lobby display case of Duke South until June 10.
- Collages by Kate Murphy are on exhibit in the Rauch Display Case of the Morris Bldg. until June 30.
- Works acquired by Nancy Hanks, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, will be exhibited in the Duke Museum of Art, East Campus, June 17-August 21. Museum hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm; Sun, 2-5pm
- Gospel Music Concert at the Duke Museum of Art in connection with the above exhibit. June 18, 7pm at the museum and June 19, 5pm at the Duke Chapel.

Craft Center

The craft center offers a variety of classes and workshops this summer. The studios on East Campus (pottery and wood working) and the Bryan Ctr (weaving, photography, jewelry, enameling, and batik) are open to those who would like to work independently. Call 684-2532.

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HAPPENINGS

Children's Miracle Fair

June 4 at Cameron Parking Lot
5-7pm — Pig picking, \$5
7pm-1 — bands featuring "the Amateurs" and
casino night

June 5
8am — 5K run
clogging, spacewalk, professor dunking, kids' play
area, volleyball tournament

Social Calendar

Eric Bachman

The 1988-89 social calendar kicks off in mid-July with a court party at Tarawa place. We are restricted until the Davison Council funds open on July 1. The Social Committee is soliciting help from any interested persons with enthusiasm and ideas. We remain dedicated to the notion that Duke students demand an active social schedule to complement the rigors of classes and rotations. Please sign up for the Social Committee across from the mailroom. There will be an organizational meeting at my apartment in early July. Please contact me regarding any aspects of the social scene that concern you.

Coming events:

- Kick-off party at Tarawa Place
- bowling party at Fairmont Lanes
- arrival of first years (new blood)
- renewal of systems
- and numerous house parties

Freewater Films

Every Thursday night at 9 pm in the Bryan Center film theater, for the months of June and July:

June 2 Play it Again, Sam
June 9 Jaws
June 16 Beach Blanket Bingo
June 30 Rear Window
July 7 Body Double
July 14 Rebel Without a Cause
July 21 Breakfast at Tiffany's
July 28 The Apartment

Announcements

•Wedding Announcements:

Andrew Alspaugh MS I, to Carrie Deene, who is a medical student at MSC UNC; on June 25.

Tedra Anderson MS I, to Darrell P. Brown of the Durham Police Dept; on June 25.

Christopher Famitano MS I, to Lisa Hinely, who works at Wellesley College in Boston; on June 25th.

Pamela Geertgens MS I, to Michael Kantorowski, of the Durham Police Dept.; on June 25th.

William Harlan MS I, to Betsy Stelzenmuller, who works in the Psychology Dept. at Duke; on June 25th.

R. Eric Lilly MS I, to Mary Klingensmith, who is graduating from Wellesley College in Boston and will attend Duke Med in the Fall; on June 25th.

Edwin Page MS I, to Pam Harmann, who teaches French at a high school in Raleigh; on July 23rd.

•Microwave in the student lounge. Who says renovations never take place in our lifetime? In response to student request, a microwave and a wall clock will be purchased for the student lounge in Duke South during this month. This is another exciting example of how the Dean's Office, Florence Nash, and Linda Chambers work to meet students' needs.

•Has anyone found my nice black Littman/3M Stethoscope? I lost it during the first week of April. Please call MariAnn at 383-2078.

•The Nearly New Shoppe gives \$100,000 per year for Medical School scholarships. Bring in your unwanted clothes and household items to convert into Duke scholarships from 10am to 1pm daily. The shop is located at 615 Douglas Street, behind the Brownstone Inn.

•Ride Wanted. I need a ride to the NYC/Westchester area on June 17, and coming back on July 9 or 10. Will split tolls/gas, and am willing to share the driving as well (if AT). Contact Stefano at 489-5105.

The Forensic Fight for Human Rights

Holly Lisanby

Dr. Robert Kirschner, Associate Professor of Pathology of the University of Chicago and Deputy Chief Medical Examiner of Illinois, addressed "The Role of the Forensic Scientist in the Documentation of Human Rights Abuses" during the May 10 Dept. of Pathology Research Seminar. Kirschner spent time in Argentina collecting forensic evidence for human rights investigations and on questions of paternity of abducted children during the rule of the military junta.

According to Kirschner, about one third of the world's countries continue to torture their citizens and he proposes international pressure as the only viable solution. As an example of the power of international outcry and the work of Amnesty International, Kirschner cites the case of Kenya which has stopped torturing citizens and ceased illegal detentions.

Working with forensic anthropologists, dentists, and radiologists, Kirschner sought to provide documentation of torture and assassination in Argentina. That task involved identifying remains from unmarked graves and group graves which were exhumed with proper archeological techniques to recover all bones, bullets, and other signs of trauma. Following these forensic techniques for the recovery of evidence, the team was able to proceed at a rate of one skeleton per day.

Important to the identification of the remains was antimortem information from medical records which unfortunately were often destroyed by the abductors. Post mortem trauma from coffin collapse and erosion by the acidic soil also complicated the identification. Many skeletons were found to have skull caps removed indicating an autopsy had been performed. When a victim died during torture, an autopsy was performed to determine why the torture had failed to be sublethal. Kirschner points to the participation of Argentinian pathologists in torture as a warning to the medical community as to the role of physicians in human rights abuses.

From the skeletal evidence, the forensic team was able to identify the direction of gunshot wounds and infer the mode of killing. Bullet wounds to the head were considered more likely to be due to execution rather than a police action to suppress rioters. Of the 193 gunshot wounds reported on death certificates from 1975-1981, 81% were single shots to the head. The ammunition was identified as not characteristic of

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military combat weapons. The presence of healed bone fractures which had not received medical attention suggests the individual was tortured and then detained without access to medical care.

Graves of children which did not hold skeletons suggest the children were kidnapped and relocated with adoptive parents. Genetic markers are used to determine grandpaternity to aid grandparents searching for their abducted grandchildren. If the adoptive parents were innocent and unknowledgeable about the kidnapping, current policy allows them to keep the child and provides grandparents with visiting rights. However if the adoptive parents were knowledgeable about or had a role in the kidnapping, the child is returned to the grandparents. 40 such children have been returned to date.

This forensic evidence of human rights abuses is gathered to prepare cases for the Argentine court to try.

Put your stethoscope where your heart is

Mina Choi

There are many countries in Central and South America which are in severe need of basic medical equipment and supplies. As medical students we have been given free stethoscopes by Littman. By now, most of us have either bought or ordered new stethoscopes for clinical use so we could collect the freebies to distribute to the rural health clinics in several of these needy countries: Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Chile.

The health clinics in Nicaragua have become military targets, thus the small amount of medical care which is available is constantly being destroyed. El Salvador is in a state of civil war which has a major impact on the poor rural communities. Basic health care for these people is scarce and often unattainable. Because of increasing economic pressure, Chile has withdrawn most of its support for the rural health clinics. People in these areas rely on private "popular clinics" for medical care and these clinics are in severe need of equipment.

Each of these countries can only provide the most basic medical care. Much of their service is dedicated to primary emergency care, infant dehydration, and basic prenatal care. Even these services are often unavailable due to lack of supplies. Our donations are extremely valuable to these countries because they will go to the rural clinics which have no funds to purchase such equipment. I can guarantee that all donations will be hand-carried to the health clinics of these countries. Contact: Mina Choi, 688-7899, box 2713.

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STUDENT BODIES

AMSA Convention

Jim Bass

Eight Duke med students joined 1,400 other med students at the AMSA national convention in Washington, DC, March 24-27. Speakers discussed topics ranging from nuclear war to the physician's role in torture to health care of refugees to health care in South Africa. Speakers included William Sloane Coffin, a 60's anti-war activist and now leader of SANE/FREEZE; Dr. Christine Cassel, head of Physicians for Social Responsibility; Dr. Helen Caldicott who led PSR during the 70's; Karen Burnes, a CBS correspondent; and Carl Sagan. The following are excerpts from the presentations:

Dr. Helen Caldicott — "We didn't inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrowed it from our descendants. So what are we doing?... It is the doctors, with such credibility and such knowledge, that can decide the fate of the Earth."

Carl Sagan — "We've done something stupid that drained the national wealth and transformed the world's largest creditor to the world's largest debtor nation." [Sagan cited the \$10 trillion in US expenditure for nuclear arms in the past 40 years.] "We're alive today because the opposing leader decided not to kill us.... Are you sure of every leader now and for all time to come?"

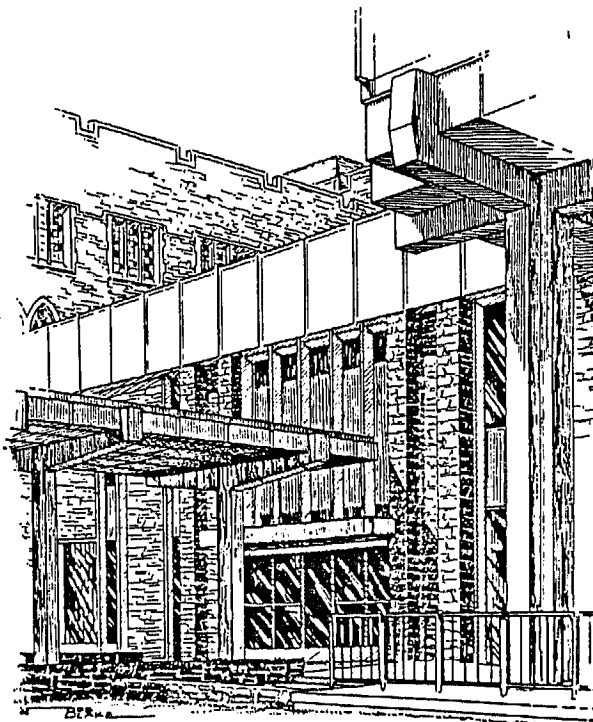
For more information on the convention contact Jim Bass or Julia Paranka. AMSA will be holding speakers and discussions at lunch time on a monthly basis. Suggestions for topics or speakers are welcome. Contact Jim Bass, 489-1323.

AMA News



Susan Hazzard

The annual meeting of the AMA Medical Student Section Assembly will occur June 24-26 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. This year's topic is "Ethics and Economics: The Physician's Tightrope." The keynote speaker on Saturday will be Uwe Rheinhardt, PhD, Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton Univ. He will speak on the means by which economic and regulatory forces are making an impact on patient care and shaping the future of medical practice. If any AMA members are interested in attending, a caravan of students will be leaving from Durham on June 23. To join this group please call Susan Hazzard at 682-0819 or Melissa Corcoran at 688-7636.



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ACHILLES HEAL

Steve Gallup

This month in sports, the MS I volleyball team and the MS IV basketball team both placed third in their respective tournaments at the Big Four competition at ECU. Playing on the volleyball team were Lisa Gangarosa, Debbie Shih, Charlene Chu, John Meissner and Adrian Cotterell (who filled in at the last minute for Parham Ganchi, who was still waiting for an autopsy). The competition next year will be held at Duke.

Duke Med School mens and womens teams swept the corporate team competition at the City of Medicine Road Race. Contributions from the Dean's office and from students that made the entry into the competition possible will ultimately go to the Lincoln Community Hospital's program to provide health services for the homeless. The top three finishers in the mens team were

Alan Mast, Eric Weidman and Mark Forman. Alan also placed first in his age group. For the womens team, Sarah Carpenter, Kim Clausen and Diane DeMallie ran in the winning times. Sarah and Kim placed second and third respectively in their age group. Notably, Tim Oury finished the first half of the 3.1 mile course in the lead but placed number 100 overall at the finish. Other runners were Susan Blackford, Lisa Gangarosa, Mike Mauney, John McAree, Elinor Mody and Debbie Shih. Dr. Puckett ran in the 1 mile fun run. The trophies are still on display in CTL.

The State Games of North Carolina will take place June 16-19. Please call Steve Gallup at 383-7988 if you would like to compete and need more information.

NEGATIVE SENSE

This month's instalment of *Medical Meanderings* honors the negative sense viruses (Bunyavirus, orthomyxovirus, paramyxovirus, rhabdovirus, and arenavirus) which contain negative-stranded RNA referred to as negative sense.

"Take home lesson: no substitute for the real organ." Dr. Kuhn, Pharmacology, 5/6/88

"Pickens! Now you're talking about some real false negatives." Dr. McCarty, Pathology, 5/9/88

"Everyone needs an operation. It's your job as a surgeon to figure out which one. The point is sometimes you have to think; sometimes you have to examine the patient." Dr. Harrelson, Pathology, 5/16/88

"A finger inserted into the lower end of the alimentary canal is of more diagnostic value than anything put into the upper end..."

"If all these studies fail we have to stoop to examining the patient."

Dr. Harrelson, Pathology, 5/16/88

"Have any of you looked at that outline? If I were you, I would ignore it."

Dr. S. Bigner, Pathology, 5/16/88

"I see no need for you to memorize drugs."

Dr. Weatherly, Microbiology, 5/19/88

"Did it make you feel there was something wrong with your mind?" Dr. Gianturco, Human Behavior, 4/88