



THE PULSE

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University of Oregon Medical School

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45% of AMA's operating budget comes from the drug and medical supply industries. The AMA thus has vested interest in the exorbitant profit rates of the drug companies. The high cost of drugs reflects the more than \$4,000 per doctor per year spent by the industry to promote their products.

Grand Mal 11/69

From the Office of Public Affairs: 1) A book of externships is available to interested students 2) Any students vacating present living quarters are requested to leave such information at Public Affairs; new listings are now being compiled for incoming residents and interns.

The scores on the National Boards, Part I, have been received. I am pleased to report that in comparison to other medical schools our students this year did the best of any class since we have participated in the examination program. In relation to the 73 medical schools participating, our second year students placed 8th in anatomy, 13th in microbiology, 17th in physiology, 18th in biochemistry, 23rd in pathology and 26th in pharmacology.

Charles N. Holman, M.D.

The Pulse invites reply to its articles. Send your comments, responses, and observations to: The Pulse, UOMS, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland,

May 2, 1970 - the date of a proposed student-physician beer informal. Time: 5:00 p.m. Details: To be announced.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy has proposed a national health insurance plan to cover all Americans by 1975. The proposal also would provide draft exemptions to doctors in a "national health corps." The Massachusetts Democrat said he will file legislation in the coming congressional session to provide for phasing in a comprehensive health plan beginning with children in 1971 and working up to those over 65 by 1975.

A Question of Priorities! U.S. spends \$28 billion per year on the war in Vietnam, but only \$5 billion per year on the war on poverty.

OEO News

INCOMING

To the Editor:

In the February 16, 1970 edition of THE PULSE the letter by Stephen Thomas in which he recommends considering careful acceptance of gifts from the drug companies does have some valuable ideas I feel. However, I am far more troubled by the tremendous amount of monies spent by the drug companies on massive bulk rate mailings of promotional artwork. They spend millions for the preparation and production of these advertisements and then the American public helps support their mailing because they are all mailed by bulk rate. In most doctor's offices these bulk rate mailings are never looked at. Even their disposal creates difficult problems in some cases.

There is significant benefit to the practicing physician of an ethical person to person relationship between representatives of the drug industry and the practicing doctor, although in a busy practice it is often difficult to work in interviews with all of the detail men. I also feel that money spent by the drug companies in advertising which helps support some of our excellent journals is quite worthwhile. The dollar value of a gift which is useful to the doctor and to his patients is probably a very insignificant amount of the money spent by the drug companies and both the doctor and the patients benefit from this. Therefore it offends me far less to have the drug companies spend their advertising budgets in a useful manner than it does to "shovel out several pounds of junk mail from my office each year."

Ward Curtis, M. D.
Albany, Oregon

To the Editor:

This is a cry of anguish--one of many--but all unheard. Where does an American go who wants to participate in his democracy? Where is the complaint department? Or the telephone with an ear--and a head and a heart--at the other end of the line? Who will respond to my written words with effective concern instead of with polished phrases or impotent platitudes? In God's name, how can I influence the overpowering, thoughtless, faceless forces around me?

This nerve gas is only one instance, but it is an important one. As a physician I knew that such stuff existed, was being "perfected", even though its use was outlawed before I was born, nearly 50 years ago. The scientists (I among them) read of the accident in which thousands of sheep died from it, read with disbelief of the repeated government denials, and arrogance, and untruths, and were glad we were not sheep.

Or are we? This dangerous stuff is to be "stored" among us. No one will say why; we, as a nation, have agreed to its outlawing. Some Pacific Islanders say it is too much like poison for them, so we are getting it. They sound less like sheep than we; our senators and congressmen protest, our governor (sadder-faced and, I suppose, sadder, than ever) makes bleating noises, our petitions are long. But its coming, we hear, is "inevitable", like my grandmother thought the day of judgment was.

OUTGOING

Editorial: NATIONAL BOARDS SCORES - IMPROVING?

At first glance, it would seem that the class of '71 did exceedingly well on Part I of the National Boards. Of 73 participating medical schools they were 8th in anatomy, 13th in microbiology, 17th in physiology, 18th in biochemistry, 23rd in pathology, and 26th in pharmacology. Is this year's junior class composed of geniuses? Has the I. Q. of students admitted to the UOMS suddenly jumped in the last three years? Or could it be that the National Boards are testing a teaching method still strong at the UOMS but changed or changing at other medical schools?

Given the fact of Boards, most preclinical courses here teach toward them. It will be interesting to see what happens after the new curriculum is instituted here and at more medical schools. Will the scores (or the I.Q.'s?) of the classes drop if the Boards aren't changed? Or, wonder of wonders, might the awesome Boards be changed? It's anyone's guess what would happen to our scores then. Maybe we'll still be admitting whole classes of geniuses!

Karen Ireland, MS II

An OREGON HOSPITALITY ROOM will be at the National SAMA Convention on May 7th & 8th in Philadelphia, Penn. The object of the room is to recruit future physicians to Oregon by making available information about Oregon's opportunities, natural beauty and need for physicians. In addition detailed information about hospital residencies and internships will be made available to interested students by students who have first-hand knowledge about each hospital facility.

Financing for the hospitality room will be through hospitals offering internships, medical societies throughout the state and groups interested in helping meet future medical personnel of Oregon. Any one wishing further information on how their county or medical group may be represented contact John G. Meyer, MS III in care of UOMS or OMA.

John S. Meyer, MS III

OMPAC Opinion Survey - Here are a few samples of answers given by 1st and 2nd year medical students.

Do you favor continuation of the Basic Science Examination as a condition for medical licensure in Oregon?	Freshmen	Yes - 31	No - 28	N.O. - 9
	Sophomores	Yes - 9	No - 48	N.O. - 3

Do you believe the creation of a Department of Family Practice at the UOMS is desirable?	Freshmen	Yes - 65	No - 3	N.O. - 0
	Sophomores	Yes - 58	No - 1	N.O. - 2

THE PULSE - Office OPC 4352. Editor: Bud Nicola

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Where shall we go? To that Pacific Island where our government listens? How shall we vote? Given the choice between the obscenities of the Democratic convention and the hypocrisies of the Republicans, who can choose? The pleas and prayers of people are heard. Can I keep my self-respect if I choose the Madison Avenue inevitabilities and get back to my beer and the midnight movie? Can I blame those who protest with vulgarity or violence; how can I blame them when I can't find a better way?

James Metcalfe, M.D.
Professor of Medicine

AMA Faces Decision

Fundamental change in philosophy and approach to health care problems is being considered by the AMA as a result of the Report of the Committee on Planning and Development. Presented last December, the report states the AMA should adopt the philosophy of health care as a right of every citizen and should define health as the World Health organization has defined it. It proposes that an action-oriented positive approach is needed to lessen the discrepancy between presently available health care and the ideal state. Included in the report are suggestions for priorities of health services, health bill of rights, audit and postgraduate study, cost control of health care, delivery systems for health care and proposal for a National Academy of the Health Professions for Research and Policy. This last suggestion is one of the most crucial because it would have the AMA sponsor and promote the establishment of an organization made up of representatives of all the health professions for the purpose of national policy making in the field of the health care delivery.

National Health insurance is at most five years in the future. There is no longer a question whether there will be insurance but only a matter of the details of implementation. Those details will determine how medicine will be practiced once the system is established. If physicians are to have any say in how this system is designed, they must accept its coming and help to plan it, not fight it. Failure to heed the warnings in this document and failure to support at least its philosophy will certainly result in elimination of the AMA from involvement in the formulation of national health legislation.

Mason Smith, MS III

LAST CHANCE! This is the last issue of The Pulse to be sent statewide to OMA members. If you would like to continue to hear what students and physicians are saying to each other, send in your \$6.00 subscription. Make checks payable to: The Pulse.

Name

Address

City

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