

Medical school teaches both ethics and tactics

By Debbie Monroe
Reporter

Should terminally ill patients be allowed to choose whether or not to continue a medical treatment that could prolong life, or should a doctor make that decision?

This is the question posed to students enrolled in medical humanities classes at the Texas A&M College of Medicine. Between classes in pathology and microbiology, the physicians-to-be get a strong dose of bioethics.

Dr. Bill Ward, associate dean of student affairs for the college, says because of advances in technology, doctors face ethical problems today they've never faced before.

"Who shall live, who shall die?" Ward asked. "Who shall receive a transplant, who shall receive a second transplant? These are all knotty problems."

The A&M College of Medicine is one of the few schools in the country with an established humanities department geared toward preparing

students for the ethical questions they will probably face during their medical careers.

Dr. Don Self, associate professor of medical humanities, says the department's goal is to help produce good doctors.

"It's an attempt to produce physicians who are more than just technically competent," he says, "ones who will have respect for the cultural and religious values of others, even if they're different from the doctors' own."

The ability to listen is what keeps doctors from simply being well-trained technicians, Self says.

"We try to teach a sense of tolerance, a sense of openness, an ability to relate to people as people," he says, "and not to see medicine as simply a business."

Ward believes students entering the medical school understand the responsibilities and challenges associated with their chosen profession.

"The students we're seeing today are dedicated to wearing the healer's

mantle," he says. "They want to help people, and I think they understand what they're getting into."

Tight competition for the 48 slots open each year at the A&M medical school tends to eliminate students who don't understand the pressures that accompany medical school and a career as a doctor. Prior exposure to the medical profession could be the difference between a student's acceptance or rejection. It is the responsibility of the admissions committee, of which Self and Ward are members, to select applicants who understand these difficulties.

"I ask them, 'What's the greatest challenge to the medical profession over the next two decades?'" Ward says. "If I get a blank look, then I'm concerned that the individual may not know what he or she's getting into."

"If I get an answer, I don't judge it against my bias because that's what that person feels is important."

"A good medical student is a person who is bright, inquisitive, aggressive, and compassionate."

Contractor for Star Wars project will hire only union hall workers

EL PASO (AP) — Labor leaders are delighted that a primary contractor with the Star Wars project to be built in neighboring New Mexico will hire only from union halls after employers there tried to change a contract provision.

U.S. Rep. Joe Skeen, R-N.M., asked Fluor Constructors Inc. to meet with the Army Corps of Engineers to see if a contract provision requiring union labor on the construction site could be changed. After talks, it was determined the contract could not be broken, Skeen spokesman John Sneed said.

Ray Brown, business manager of the Plumbers and Steam Fitter Local Union in El Paso, said, "I get tired over talk of Fluor cutting out the poor, little non-union contractor when we've been cut out for years here."

The construction site is in New Mexico at White Sands Missile Range, 50 miles north of El Paso and 30 miles south of Alamogordo, N.M.

Fluor has agreed to hire only from union halls, although non-union workers can sign up on lists of

available workers kept at the locals. Non-union subcontractors must agree to work under conditions acceptable to unions.

Wayne Andrews, business manager of the Electrical Workers Union Local 583 in El Paso, said, "I have 30 people on the list that are non-members. They're going to be treated just like anybody else."

In an area where the unemployment rate is high and cheap labor plentiful, the provision has created many critics who say smaller subcontractors will be shut out because they'll find conditions unaffordable.

Frank Gentile, president of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce, said, "It is going to take many, many New Mexico contractors out of the picture."

Sneed said Fluor signed a labor agreement with 15 unions after it received the construction contract. The Army then approved the agreement.

Andrews said he had listed 200 workers, of which about 165 are union members. He said there are

16 union contractors in El Paso and 80 non-union.

"It's always been a weak situation here" for labor unions, Andrews said, "I was pleased to see that Fluor got it."

Jitters on opening night fail to throw 'Picnic' performers

Cast, story make for an enjoyable evening

By Karl Pallmeyer
Reviewer

Typical opening-night jitters and the lead actress' cold tended to hamper the Aggie Players' performance of William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Picnic" Friday. But four fine performances from the cast and Inge's brilliant story made the evening enjoyable and showed great promise for upcoming performances.

Rudder Forum was filled almost to capacity, due to Parents' Weekend and to Aggie Players' growing reputation

of putting on first-class, professional plays. "Picnic," which marks the end of Aggie Players' 42nd season, will continue throughout April with weekend evening performances on the 16-18 and 23-25.

"Picnic" is the story of four lonely women living in a small southwestern town. One of the women is the beautiful Madge Owens (Reland Garrett, a junior theater arts major from Whitehouse). Madge recently graduated from high school and is unsure of her future. Her mother wants her to marry Alan Seymour (Mark Wilhite, a freshman theater arts major from Mt. Pleasant), a college-going son of a rich local businessman. Madge and

Alan have been dating for awhile, but they are insecure in their feelings toward each other.

Madge's younger sister, Millie (Pamela Saxon, a sophomore theater arts major from Houston), is a tomboy with a passion for art and literature. Millie envies Madge's good looks and popularity while Madge envies Millie's intelligence and artistic talents.

The girls live with their mother (Ginny Green, a sophomore theater arts major from Ft. Worth) and Rosemary Sydney (Emma Charlotte Reading, a junior theater arts and English major from College Station), an unmarried school teacher who fears she is on her way to spinsterhood.

Living next door to the Owens is Helen Potts (Jennifer Gordy McMakin, a senior speech communications major from Beaumont). Potts was married, but her invalid mother drove her husband away after a few days.

On Labor Day, Potts offers a young man room and board in exchange for some chores. The man, Hal Carter (B.J. Thomas, a junior psychology major from El Dorado), was once a college football star and member of Alan's fraternity. Now he is no more than a bum trying to find work and a place to stay. All the women are drawn to Hal's masculinity and boastful nature, and his presence changes each of their lives.

Although Garrett's voice was a little hoarse Friday night, her

performance was marvelous. She showed the confusion her character felt as she was confronted with the choice between the security provided by Alan or the wild sexuality offered by Hal. Saxon was also brilliant, especially when she begins to let her girlish ways drop in favor of womanhood.

The show was almost stolen by Reading and Donnie Wilson, a freshman theater arts major from Bryan, who played Howard Bevans, Rosemary's boyfriend. They were both humorous and touching in their roles as two people who don't want to face growing old alone.

McMakin and Wilhite turned in fine, believable performances as did the rest of the supporting cast. The only weak performances were those of Thomas and Green. Thomas was unconvincing in that he displayed none of the raw sexuality that causes the women to be attracted to the character of Hal. His swaggering boasts and sexual innuendoes seem empty and false — not seductive. Green was often dry in her delivery and somewhat melodramatic.

The Aggie Players' performances of "Picnic" will begin at 8 p.m. and will be held in Rudder Forum. Tickets are \$4 for students and senior citizens, and \$5 for the general public, and are available at the Rudder Box Office.

Humorist amuses audience at A&M autograph session

By Karyn Miller
Reporter

Jim Everhart paused to tell a joke while his wrinkled but steady hand scribbled an autograph on one of six volumes of his *Illustrated Texas Dictionary of the English Language*. A few people around him heard the joke and inched closer.

The author of these six volumes visited the Texas A&M Bookstore Friday to autograph his humorous books. He probably did more talking than signing, but the more Everhart talked, the louder the laughter grew.

He had once been a stand-up comedian, but he quit because he couldn't stand up long enough, he said. So, he took up selling his jokes and writing books instead of performing.

Everhart said he originally planned to write a book entitled *A Texan Interviews the President* with President Lyndon B. Johnson as the source,

but couldn't find a starting point until he watched one of Johnson's addresses on television.

"My fellow Markins," said President Johnson, according to Everhart. That introduction gave Everhart his starting point.

The author decided to write a Texas dictionary instead of a book specifically about the President.

The 46th entry in his first volume of the Texas dictionary reads, "Markin — a citizen of the United States. 'Ah am a Markin.'"

Everhart is an American, but he is not a native Texan. He is originally from Evanston, Ill.

Coming to Texas from a northern state helped him hear the Texas accent portrayed in his dictionary, he said.

His volumes of Texas dictionaries don't make fun of Texans; they just flatter and entertain

them. He said the dictionaries "build themselves" because Texans are so willing to contribute words and phrases.

One of Everhart's next ventures is to write a book on Aggie lingo. Everybody in Texas knows about Aggies, he explained.

When he said that he wants to find two Aggies to help him, several people among Everhart's A&M bookstore audience volunteered.

He added that he doesn't want to make another Aggie jokebook, although he has the experience and know-how to write one — having written jokes for entertainers and disc jockeys.

Everhart's age is catching up with him. His progression of years is obvious from the photographs in his six volumes of the Texas dictionary.

"I'm 26," Everhart said good-humoredly. "I'm just in rotten shape."

The small audience that Everhart collected in the bookstore left laughing.

"I've got a terrible secret. If they only knew what I go through to stay thin."

"I feel completely out of control around food. I eat everything in sight and then purge, by vomiting or taking laxatives. I am so obsessed with being thin that I exercise until I literally collapse. I am irritable, depressed and self-conscious."

Anorexia the excessive pursuit of thinness can result in malnutrition, loss of hair, low blood pressure, irrational thinking and even death. Bulimia, compulsive eating binges followed by the purging of food, can lead to severe dental problems, kidney failure or cardiac arrest.

Greenleaf's ABL Program (Anorexia and Bulimia Learning Experience) can help you regain control of your life. The 4-week program is scheduled to coincide with school and work vacations.
Session 1: June 1-26
Session 2: July 13-August 7

Living with your secret could be killing you. Call us now for a free confidential assessment.

(409)822-7326

Greenleaf's services are covered by most health insurance plans

HCA Greenleaf
Psychiatric Hospital
405 West 28th Street, Bryan, TX 77803



• Books • Gifts
• Supplies

Hours:
M-F 7:45-6
Sat 9-5
845-8681

TEXAS A&M
bookstore

Problem Pregnancy?
we listen, we care, we help

Free pregnancy tests
concerned counselors

Brazos Valley
Crisis Pregnancy Service

We're local!
1301 Memorial Dr.
24 hr. Hotline
823-CARE

FORT SHILOH GRILLE

\$1⁰⁰ off one pound
of the best beef or chicken fajitas in town!

Served with: Grilled onions, beans, rice, sour cream, quacamole, pico de gallo, cheddar cheese and homemade flour tortillas

693-1164 or 764-0076 for guaranteed delivery in 29 minutes

Good thru 4/18/87 • Limit 1 coupon per order • Delivery area incl. all of C.S.

2628 Texas Ave. S. College Station

PI Beta Phi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Aggie Dating Game

April 16 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium

Door prizes include: a Razz Scooter You could win a date with
courtesy of Scooter Brown's Troy Ireland - Yell Leader
(1 semester rental) Lisa Murray - Diamond Darling

Tickets: \$4 in advance
\$5 at the door

Benefiting MDA and Twin City Mission