

Stressed, overworked residents risk patients' safety

By Delores Lutz
 ■ The Minnesota Daily
 U. of Minnesota, Twin Cities

The young doctor was tired, but the patient had to be examined.

So the physician put his stethoscope to the patient's abdomen. While listening for telltale sounds, the doctor fell asleep — right there on the patient's belly.

The patient had to wake him up.

This story circulating in the U. of Minnesota Medical School illustrates a growing controversy in the nation's teaching hospitals.

Across the country, professionals debate the pending revolution in residency programs — the postgraduate medical education that turns doctors into specialists.

The stress of 16-hour work days and 120-hour work weeks must end, reformers say. The "macho" custom of depriving young doctors of sleep and food — even bathroom breaks — is out of date.

"It's the John Wayne mentality of resident training — the idea that the man who can hold his urine longest is the best," said Laurel Ferris, a consultant who teaches the doctors of the American Medical Association how to deal with stress.



ALAN GIBSON, THE DAILY FORTY-NINER, CALIFORNIA STATE U., LONG BEACH

Reformers are led by the New York state government, which passed regulations that took effect July 1 limiting residents to 12 consecutive hours on duty in emergency rooms and 24 consecutive hours on call in other departments. Those residents also will be restricted to

an 80-hour work week.

The changes not only will cut down on stress among residents, advocates say. The rules also will benefit patients with higher quality care.

National experts at a forum at the U. of Minnesota recommended that medical

students help speed reforms by refusing to apply to the most demanding residency programs.

The reform movement began in 1984 when circumstances surrounding the death of Libby Zion, an 18-year-old patient at a prestigious New York hospital, were brought before a grand jury.

The grand jury concluded that fatigue forced Zion's four young doctors to make errors in judgment and decided to indict the system instead of the residents.

The state health commissioner then initiated an investigation that brought about the reforms the New York health department has adopted.

In some states, such as California and Massachusetts, legislators are considering bills that would force residency programs to change.

The subsequent hearings have shocked the public, according to Dr. Janet Freedman, an attending physician at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

Doctors have calmly told stories about surgeons who fell asleep standing up in the operating room and about doctors who have stabbed themselves accidentally with needles.

"People were horrified to learn what is going on in teaching hospitals," said Freedman.

IN BRIEF

Juggling fun and classes . . . Students at Humboldt State U. don't have to run away to join the circus. Students can take a half-semester circus arts class and learn to juggle, tumble, walk the tightrope and ride a unicycle. "It's playing for units," said theater arts major Kevin Lingener. "It's something most people have always wanted to do." Bob Morse, who teaches the class, said this specialized physical theater helps performers because it takes extreme coordination and concentration. Students in the class said they like to entertain friends with their newly developed skills and also like to teach them to others. "It's fun to teach, fun to learn and fun to watch," Lingener said. ■ Melissa Jauregui, *The Lumberjack*, Humboldt State U.

Students protest optional prof evaluations

By Michelle M. Perez
 ■ The Miami Hurricane
 U. of Miami

The U. of Miami Student Government was outraged by a Faculty Senate decision to give faculty members the option of not having their evaluations published, but the university president promised students he would veto the proposal.

"Through our advertisements, through coverage in the *Hurricane* and through our actions in SG, the student body is going to be made aware of this problem, and I hope we can muster their support, because it's something we all feel very strongly about," Student Government President Freddie Stebbins said.

A month after the Faculty Senate decision, U. of Miami President Edward T.

Foote said he would veto the proposal. "I think we need to go back to the drawing board and come up with a solution that takes into account the various interests involved and benefits both faculty and students."

The Student Government had passed proposals calling for mandatory, published evaluations with the option for student government to publish its own evaluations if the university did not comply.

In February, the senate allowed for the release of the results, but also permitted professors to opt out of both being evaluated and having the results published.

George Alexandrakis, chairperson of the Faculty Senate, said the measure is primarily aimed at new faculty members who may be hesitant about being evaluated.

Alexandrakis called the vote an improvement because professors now can be evaluated without having to worry about the results being published.

In any case, he said, faculty members have always had the option of not being evaluated.

The only exceptions made to the student government's proposals would be for professors who had taught at the University less than three semesters. Evaluations of such professors could be withheld by the Faculty Senate, the legislation maintained.

The issue began a year ago when the Faculty Senate decided the release of faculty evaluation results was unnecessary.

■ Cindy Corzo, Amy Ellis and Jon Leinwand, *The Miami Hurricane*, U. of Miami contributed to this story.

Student gambler tells story of debt, bookie tells story of easy money

By Kenny DeBenedictis
 ■ The Observer
 Northern Essex Community College

It's college football time. The road to the bowl games. It's time for spectacular half-time shows and Keith Jackson.

It's also a peak sports gambling season, a time when some people — including students — see visions of dollar signs dancing in their heads.

"People just don't realize the number of students who are involved. It's a big business," said Ben, a Northern Essex Community College student who wished to remain anonymous.

Ben gambled heavily during last year's football season. Everything went smoothly for him until New Year's Day. Ben placed bets on all eight college bowl games played that day and lost them all.

"I remember being at a friend's house and feeling really nauseated while staring at the TV screen in disbelief. I was \$360 in debt with only \$11.50 to my

name, no job and a week to come up with the money. I now call it 'Black Monday.'

To earn money to pay off his debt, Ben was forced to have a house party and charge admission.

One local bookmaker doesn't see the harm in gambling. "I don't think it is a problem because people have been gambling for generations. It's sort of an American tradition," he said.

According to the bookmaker, who was interviewed during the NCAA basketball tournament this past spring, the number of clients in the area is growing, and the majority of them are college students. "I booked action for a lot of gamblers from a certain high school. Now they are college students with many friends," he said.

"And just because they bet doesn't always mean they lose," he said. "A significant number of them win. It's a real easy way to make money." But soon after New Year's Day, Ben quit gambling. "I still have the urge, but I know the price I might have to pay if I lose."

Tutors

Continued from page 1

on the subject the volunteer prefers to tutor. For example, a volunteer can help a student learn to read, or to understand algebra. Tutored inmates range in age from 17 to 57. To qualify for the program, inmates

can't be accused of a violent crime, and must have bail set no higher than \$75,000, Cosey said.

Speech senior Doyt Conn, who has been a tutor since his sophomore year said, "It lets me step out of this isolated environment we're so used to at Northwestern. It's too bad more NU students don't go down there."

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