

## Duke psychiatrist says

# Juvenile 'justice system' has little of either

By David Williamson

"The juvenile justice system" in North Carolina is practically a contradiction in terms because there's very little justice and next to no system to it, a Duke child psychiatrist believes.

Dr. Harold J. Harris said in an interview that no state agency and very few private citizens are willing to accept responsibility to see that problem children get the treatment they need.

"Youngsters who are retarded, psychotic, autistic or physically handicapped all have active lobbies and rightfully so," Harris said. "But children who get into trouble with the law are primarily thought of as 'bad kids.' They are unpopular, and there is no Jerry Lewis putting on telethons to raise millions of dollars for them."

Harris is an associate professor in the Division of Child Psychiatry.

### Colonial roots

Outlining the history of juvenile justice in the United States and in North Carolina, he said the current "system" has its roots in colonial times when children who got into trouble could be indentured for a lifetime.

"Amazingly, that law remained on the books in North Carolina until 1919," he

said.

Juvenile courts and training schools arose out of the nation's need for a more humane way of coping with the large numbers of poor immigrant children who were roaming the streets in the 1800s stealing food and clothing, he said. The previous method involved shutting youthful offenders up with adults in jails and prisons, a practice which has yet to be completely eradicated.

"The fundamental idea was excellent in 1899 when the first juvenile court was set up in Chicago, and it's still an excellent idea," Harris said. "But typical of what has happened to these kids is that the services have never been funded adequately, and the system is by and large a failure because those who run it are flooded with many children they don't really understand."

### Not illegal for adults

The psychiatrist said youngsters who are particularly victimized by the system in North Carolina and other states are the status offenders. These are children whose offenses are such that had they been committed by adults, they would not be against the law.

Examples are running away from home, truancy and being "undisciplined."

Although there are no exact figures, Harris said experts believe these children make up about half of the young inmates in America today and a third of the children held in North Carolina. In many cases, their behavior is a reaction to broken homes, sexual abuse by adults or alcoholic parents.

The psychiatrist said that until 1969, North Carolina sent more children to training schools per capita than any other state. Reports of child abuse and conditions at the institutions, including a major study done by Duke law students, "would make your hair stand on end," he said.

### Alternatives to 'junkyards'

The alternative to locking children up in training schools, which have too often been little more than "juvenile junkyards," are what is called "community-based alternatives." These include temporary foster homes, group homes, therapeutic camps and specialized treatment.

"It's encouraging that the last state legislature appropriated \$3 million for therapeutic camps and \$1 million for other community-based alternatives," he

observed, "but there is a lot more that needs to be done."

Harris said a growing number of concerned citizens, including doctors, lawyers, judges and lay people, are forming child advocacy commissions in North Carolina and other states to help agencies serve children more effectively.

### Child Advocacy Commission

The Durham Child Advocacy Commission, which the psychiatrist helped to found in 1973, is North Carolina's oldest. Although there has been periodic opposition from bureaucrats trying to protect their traditional "territories," Harris said, the commission has been increasingly useful in coordinating the services that are available.

"In the past, a child has practically needed a passport to get from one agency to another within the same county," he said. "We're trying to stop that nonsense."

This assessment of the juvenile justice system was the topic of a talk entitled "Malice in Blunderland," which Harris gave during Medical Alumni Weekend in November.

## Six new faculty members named

Provost Frederic N. Cleaveland has announced six appointments to the medical center faculty.

Dr. Elisabeth June Fox has been appointed associate professor of anesthesiology. Appointed assistant professors were Drs. Michael E. McCrory in radiology, Sandra Preissig in pathology, Kwan-sa You in Pediatrics and Elizabeth K. Steinbock in medical psychology. Dr. Sharyn A. Endow will become assistant professor of microbiology and immunology June 1, 1978.

A native of England, Fox received medical and surgical degrees from King's College Hospital Medical School, University of London, in 1955. She was a resident in anesthesiology at Duke, 1963-65.

McCrory holds an A.B. degree from Princeton University and an M.D. from Tufts University, granted in 1969 and 1973, respectively. He completed residency training at the Medical College of Wisconsin in June of this year.

Preissig completed internship and residency requirements at Duke, 1972-75, and for the past two years has been on the faculty of the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio. She

earned a B.A. from Vanderbilt University in 1968 and an M.D. from the University of Tennessee in 1971.

You holds a B.S. from Seoul National University and a Ph.D. from Brandeis University, awarded in 1966 and 1971, respectively, and has done postdoctoral research at the University of California at San Diego.

Steinbock, a 1972 graduate of Brandeis, earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Oregon, in 1976 and 1977, respectively. She has recently completed a psychology internship at the V.A. Hospital in Portland, Ore.

Endow was awarded M. Phil. and Ph.D. degrees by Yale University in 1972 and 1975, respectively. A 1970 graduate of Stanford University, she currently is conducting research in Edinburg, Scotland under a National Institute of Health fellowship.

### Gratitude expressed

The Elon Clark Family wishes to extend its appreciation and thanks for the help, the many kindnesses and the expressions of sympathy extended during the illness and upon the death of Helen Clark.



VISITING FROM IRAQ—M.K. Al-Khateeb (left), Iraq's top diplomatic official in this country, visited Duke recently to meet with Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, and discuss mutual interests between the medical center and medical schools in Iraq. The diplomat was accompanied by Dr. Urabi Mustafa (second from right), chairman of the Department of International Studies at Shaw University, and Dr. Kelly Ingram, a professor in the Duke Divinity School. The visit included a tour of the medical center. (Photo by Lewis Parrish)

## Endowment sought for student mission projects

A special fund has been set up to provide travel and expense funds for Duke students who want to undertake mission projects in other countries.

Several members of the Duke community have provided seed money for the Duke Student Foreign Mission Endowment Fund, and organizers are seeking further help in establishing the endowment.

"In accordance with university regulations, the endowed monies for this fund must have reached at least \$10,000 within a 10-year period to avoid dissolution into general university endowment funds," according to Bob Parkerson, a first-year medical student.

"Consequently, donations to the fund are needed and greatly encouraged from all interested individuals and organizations," he said.

Donations should be marked specifically for the Duke Student Foreign Mission Endowment Fund and sent either

c/o Duke University Chapel or c/o Office of Gift Records, 2127 Campus Dr., Durham, N.C. 27706.

All students from within any school or college of the university are eligible for application to the fund.

Those interested should contact the Office of the Minister to the University for applications.

A committee composed of various

members of the Duke community will review applications to determine which projects are most suitable for funding.

This committee also will assist students in choosing project sites if necessary.

For further information concerning the fund, contact Helen Crotwell, associate university minister, Duke Chapel, or Bob Parkerson, Box 2839, medical center.

## AOA inducts new members

Twenty-two new members have been inducted into the Duke chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, honor medical society.

Students inducted from the medical school's class were Stuart Adler, David Browning, John Fitz, Jean Guyton, Lisa Kaufman, Mary Markert, Bruce Schirmer and Margaret Walsh.

Inducted from the senior class were Kim Boekelheide, Thaddeus Dunn, Margaret Dydek, E. Wilson Griffin,

Anton Nielson, Celeste Robb-Nicholson, Carlton Sexton, Peter Sims, Matthew Stern and John Wood.

Dr. Catherine M. Wilfert, associate professor of microbiology and pediatrics, was elected from the faculty.

Duke medical school alumni inducted were Glenn C. Newman '39 (posthumous), R. David Daniel '42 and Lowell S. Miller '45.

## Intercom

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