

# Season for Suicides

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during that period with psychiatric disorders other than depression were also charted. That curve did not follow the seasonal curve found for suicide and depression. Admissions for other diagnoses peaked in May, January and October.

Zung also checked the data to see whether suicide rates are any higher during special holiday periods—New Year, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dividing the total suicides by 52 weeks, he found that the average number that could be expected any week of the year was 10.

He found that the suicide frequency was no greater during holiday weeks than during any other weeks of the year. There were 10.4 suicides Christmas week, and the rates for the other special weeks ranged from 9 to 11.9.

Zung also found no difference between suicide rates on weekends and weekdays. However, he found that Monday has the highest rate of any day of the week. The rate drops throughout the week to a Saturday low, then climbs Sunday and peaks Monday.

Comparing suicide figures with the average temperature for each month, Zung found a strong negative correlation between the two. The hotter it is, the lower the suicide rate. But he found no strong correlation between the temperature and cases of depression.

"We must ask what is it about spring and early winter that will help us know something about suicide and depression," Zung said.

In the late 19th century, sociologist-statistician Emile Durkheim found that suicides peaked in summer. He hypothesized that it must be based on conflicts in interpersonal relationships since people interacted with others more



DR. WILLIAM W.K. ZUNG

in the summer than when they were shut in for the winter.

But Zung said most authors today when they look at the seasonal variation in suicides base it on intrapersonal feelings.

"The suicidal and depressed people feel out of step with the changing seasons," Zung said. "They're dead inside, cold, empty. It's warm outside, alive, changing. The contrast makes them feel out of step with the world."

"The poets have always been able to express this dichotomy between the inside feelings and the surroundings," he added.

—YVONNE BASKIN

## Duke Receives Grant

The Surdna Foundation, Inc., has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the medical center for support of its cancer research program.

The funds will be used over a five-year period to provide research fellowships in the cancer research program.

The Surdna Foundation, of Yonkers, N.Y., was created in 1917 by John Andrus.

## Trading Post

You may send ads to "Trading Post," Box 3354, Hospital. Ads are printed free, but we do not advertise real estate, personal services or commercial enterprises. Please give your home telephone number; Duke extensions will not be listed.

WANTED--Leica camera in mint condition, also extra lenses, prefer screw mount model. Call 682-7056.

FOR SALE--1969 12 x 60 2 bedroom mobile home, spanish decor, bar with bar stools, many extras including washer dryer, air conditioner, large utility building, front porch with wrought iron railing. Located on large shady lot in mobile home park, 15 minutes from Duke and UNC. Call 967-3811 after 6 p.m. weekdays and weekends.

FOR SALE--Kenwood AM/FM receiver (40 watts) \$100, Martin alto saxophone, \$95; riding boots and hat. Call 477-1901.

WANTED--Air Conditioner, around 18,000 BTU. Call 477-1901.

FOR SALE--Easter bunnies, \$2 each, make great pets, easy to care for, quiet and clean, California rabbits, white and black nose, ears, tail and feet. Call 929-6120 or write Box 3463, Duke Hospital.

## Intercom

is published weekly for Duke University Medical Center employees, faculty, staff, students and friends by the Medical Center's Office of Public Relations, Joe Sigler, director; Miss Yvonne Baskin, medical writer; Mrs. Nancy Hayes, secretary

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DAVID WILLIAMSON  
DALE MOSES

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FOR SALE--6,000 BTU Sears air conditioner, originally \$180, asking \$100; triple pleated drapes, sky blue polyester, 71 1/4" x 54"; \$15; and blue cotton cafe curtains, \$3. Call 383-1915 nights or write to Box 2853.

LOST--Gray cat, female, spayed, identifying mark - small white spot under neck. Call 286-9289.

FOR SALE--1967 Dodge Polara, 4-door, one owner, very good car, \$895. Call 682-2578.

FOR SALE--1968 Chevrolet Impala, 4-dr sedan, air conditioner, power brakes and steering, rear-window defroster, good condition, clean, 76,000 mi., \$775. Call 489-2530 nights and weekends.

FOR SALE--1971 Kawasaki 90, 2,180 mi., good condition. Call 682-2503 after 4 p.m.

FOR SALE--1964 Thunderbird, very clean, A/C, mechanically sound, \$600. Call 489-6781 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE--Cox camper, 10 foot, 1968 model, opens to 18' and includes gas stove with bottle, sink with water supply, ward robe and ice box, sleeps 6, excellent condition, \$850. Call 477-6178.

FOR SALE--Minolta camera, SRT-101, with 57mm, f.1.4, 1 MC Rokkor 135mm, f.2.8, 1 MC Rokkor 35mm, f.2.8, also color and black and white filters, will sell in part or as a system, absolute mint condition. Call Thom Haney at 286-2786.

FOR SALE--White Chevelle Mailbu V8, 227 c.i., 1967, 47,000 mi., very reliable car in excellent condition, driven mostly to and from Chapel Hill, power steering and power brakes, radio, tinted glass, automatic transmission, \$900. Call Hal or Barbara Hawkins at 383-4760 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE--One oak desk with chair, 48" x 34", natural wood color, excellent condition; one oak bookcase with two shelves, mahogany color, excellent condition; Smith-Corona portable typewriter, practically new; and two desk lamps, good quality. Call 489-1272 after 5 p.m.

WANTED--Dining room set with six chairs, prefer type that has extension piece. Call Chapel Hill at 942-1154 after 6 p.m. or write Box 3708, Duke Hospital.



**HONOR STUDENTS**—Pictured above in their nursing uniforms are LPN Mary Burkett (left) and ALPN Wilba Gerald who will complete work for their B.S. in nursing degrees in May. The two are among five Duke employees who are to receive bachelor's degrees this spring sponsored by the Paths for Employee Progress program. Ms. Burkett and Ms. Gerald were recognized April 6 at the North Carolina Central University's annual Awards Day ceremony for maintaining dean's list academic standing for at least three and a half years. Flanking them in the photograph are P.E.P. counselors Lee Edwards (at far left) and Sylvia Smith whose job it is to advise and assist employees who have taken advantage of the advancement opportunities which the university provides. (Photo by Dale Moses)

## Professional News

### Presents Papers

Grace Polansky, associate in psychiatry, presented a paper entitled "Patient's Use of Health Service Systems Over Time - The Impact of Patient and Family" at the Institute on Social Work in Health Care, at Quail Rost on January 25. The institute was initiated and sponsored by the N.C. Council of the National Association of Social Workers; Virginia-Carolinas Chapter of the Society of Hospital Social Workers; UNC School of Social Work; and the UNC School of Public Health.

Ms. Polansky also led a symposium on Understanding and Helping the Aging Client at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work in Richmond, March 7-9. At the symposium she presented papers on "Prevalence of Problems of Functioning: Social, Physiological, Mental;" "Recognition of Signs of Impairment;" "Psycho-Dynamic Approach to Understanding the Elderly and Their Dependent Needs and Behavior;" "Psycho-Dynamics of Helping;" and "Knowledge, Attitudes, and Skills in Understanding and Helping the Aging Client."

### Speaker

Wilma A. Minniear, director of the nursing service, was guest speaker at the Management Institute sponsored by the Society for Hospital Nursing Service Administrators in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 25-26.

### Attends Meeting

Dr. Ruby L. Wilson, dean of the School of Nursing, attended the North Carolina League for Nursing annual convention in Raleigh, March 22-23.

Dr. Wilson also attended an alumni dinner in Charleston, S.C., March 23.

### Speaker

Dr. David C. Sabiston Jr., James B. Duke Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery, was a speaker at the Kansas City Surgical Society meeting in Kansas City, Mo., March 21.

He also was a member of the University of Miami visiting committee which held its meeting in Miami, Fla., March 23.

### Delivers Papers

Dr. W. Doyle Gentry, assistant professor of medical psychology, was invited to participate in two symposium deliveries at the Southeastern Psychological Association meetings in New Orleans, La., April 5-7. The papers he delivered were "Shock and Schedule-Induced Aggression: Past Reflections and Future Directions," and "Behavioral Treatment of Somatic Disorders."

### Attends Meeting

Mrs. Chancellor Driscoll, associate in psychiatric social work, attended a meeting March 14-16 of the sixth annual International Fibrosis Congress.

## Radiology's Lucy Bass Wins Award

Lucy Bass, a P.E.P. sponsored participant in the medical center's X-ray Technology Certificate Program, has been awarded first place in a student technical writing competition held by the North Carolina Society of Radiologic Technology. She will journey to Asheville tomorrow to receive the award and present her paper before a meeting of the society at the Holiday Inn West.

The title of Ms. Bass's discussion is "Adrenal Angiography." She explained that adrenal angiography is a complicated procedure infrequently done in radiology. In her paper she has attempted to describe to students the anatomy affected by the procedure, the equipment utilized and the proper method for carrying it out.

The paper was selected from more than 150 entries representing 22 X-ray technology certificate programs throughout the state.

Ms. Bass will complete her work for the certificate in August and hopes to remain at Duke in the Department of



LUCY BASS

Radiology. November 19 will mark the beginning of her twelfth year at the medical center.