



# Intercom

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

## Volunteers from Duke

### **Crisis and Suicide Center Listens to Lonely Voices**

Many centuries ago, Greek playwright Menander wrote, "in adversity, a man is saved by hope."

This statement, the truth of which is immediately apparent to anyone who has experienced physical, emotional, spiritual or financial difficulties in his or her life, forms the motto of a group of concerned area citizens who serve as volunteers for the Durham Crisis and Suicide Center.

The group, which includes many Duke people, has taken on the responsibility of manning telephone lines on a 24 hour basis, offering counsel to fellow citizens with problems which range from how to apply for food stamps to how to overcome periods of depression severe enough to foster thoughts of suicide.

Established in 1969 by Dr. John Altrocchi, formerly a member of the Duke faculty, the Crisis and Suicide Center is now a part of Durham's Mental Health Center under the direction of Patricia Guarino. Altrocchi began the center on his own initiative by getting 25 of his friends together for training in how to best respond to callers with a host of difficulties.

After two years, each original volunteer brought a new volunteer into the organization, and this procedure has remained as one of the more successful ways of recruiting new volunteers.

What kinds of problems might stimulate someone to call the center?

Janet Krigbaum, a 1973 Duke graduate who majored in psychology and who is currently serving as a volunteer while attending the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health, said that there are possibly as many different

kinds of dilemmas as there are people in the area.

"The last call I received," she said, "was from a person who needed to get to California, but didn't have any money. I haven't had any calls from anyone who was threatening to commit suicide, although several people have told me that they had considered it."

Occasionally, volunteers do get calls from people who say they are going to kill themselves, however. It is to their credit that no one who has called the center with this intention has ever followed through with the act.

"Callers who mention suicide generally aren't completely sold on the idea," she continued. "And that's why it's good to have someone to talk to."

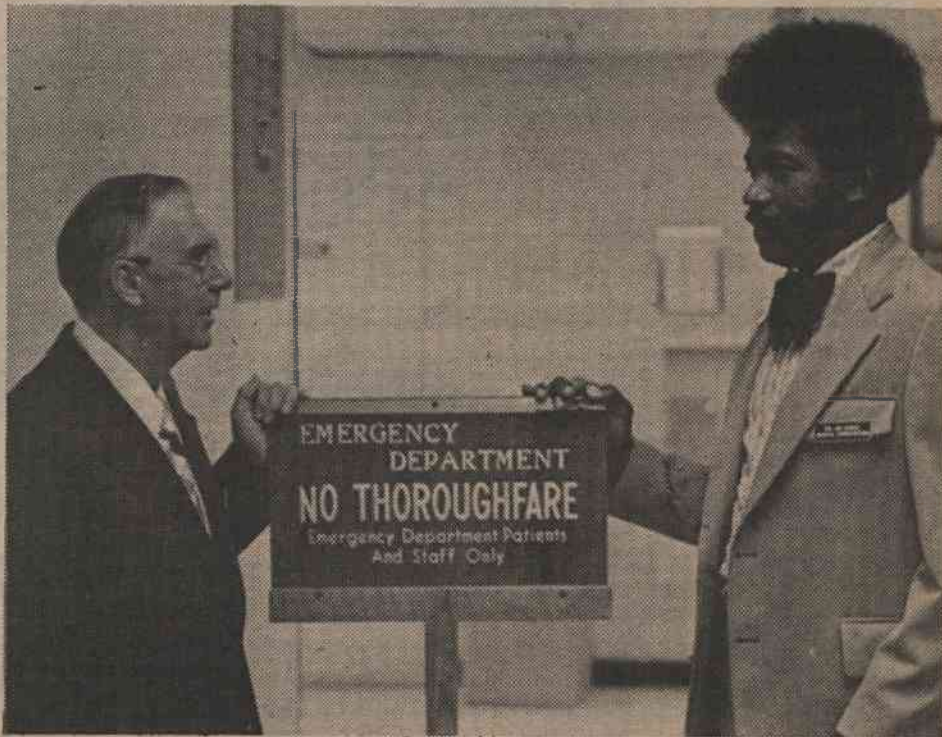
Ms. Krigbaum explained that many of the calls that come into the center are the result of interpersonal problems between a man and his wife or parents and their children, for example. Other calls are from alcoholics and still others may be from individuals needing information on pregnancies, drugs, what to do about rapes and where free psychotherapy is available.

Why did she become a volunteer?

The 22-year-old future public health administrator said that she is interested in all areas of mental health generally and that her work with the center is a way to learn how the county provides services to its citizens. Also, she admitted she wanted to "see whether I was up to it."

Not the least important of the considerations was her belief that "it's important to have someone somewhere

(Continued on page 3)



**ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN THE ER**—Former ER administrator George Brandon (left) discusses various facets of the emergency room with its new administrator, James Daniel. Following promotion, Brandon has assumed the position of administrator of the operating rooms, the Acute Care Unit and the Recovery Room, succeeding John M. Stribling, former assistant administrative director of the hospital. (Photo by Dale Moses)

## OR, ACU and ER

### **New Administrative Posts Go to Brandon and Daniel**

Two medical center administrators and graduates of Duke's Health Administrators Management Improvement Program have been promoted.

They are George Brandon, who is now administrator of the operating rooms, the Acute Care Unit and the Recovery Room, and James Daniel, now administrator of the Emergency Room.

A native of Indianapolis, Ind., Brandon is a retired military man who served in the Air Force from 1940-63. During his last four years of service as a liaison non-commissioned officer for an Air Force reserve squadron stationed in Durham, he did part-time work at Duke in the ER and the business office.

Following retirement from military duty, Brandon served as business manager of the outpatient clinics at the University of Florida's Shands Teaching Hospital in Gainesville.

Prior to his arrival at Duke in 1968 as manager of the five surgical outpatient clinics, the Discharge Unit and the ER, Brandon worked in the business office at the University of North Carolina's Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Succeeding former assistant administrative director of the hospital, John M. Stribling, who left Duke to assume the position of administrator of Broad Oaks Hospital in Savannah, Ga., Brandon's present duties include the management and operation of three central areas in the hospital which are staffed by over 250 medical personnel.

Among his other responsibilities, Brandon will be involved in long-term planning for the new Duke Hospital North, the compilation of cost studies and the preparation of innovations in the

OR.

Former night administrator James Daniel has succeeded Brandon as ER administrator.

A native of Creedmoor, Daniel is presently enrolled as an undergraduate at Shaw University (University Without Walls) and will receive his B.S. degree in administration and behavior science in May of 1975.

Following graduation from high school in 1960, Daniel worked as a salesman at the Saks Store in Newark, N.J., an

(Continued on page 2)

### **Scholarship Fund To Honor Minah**

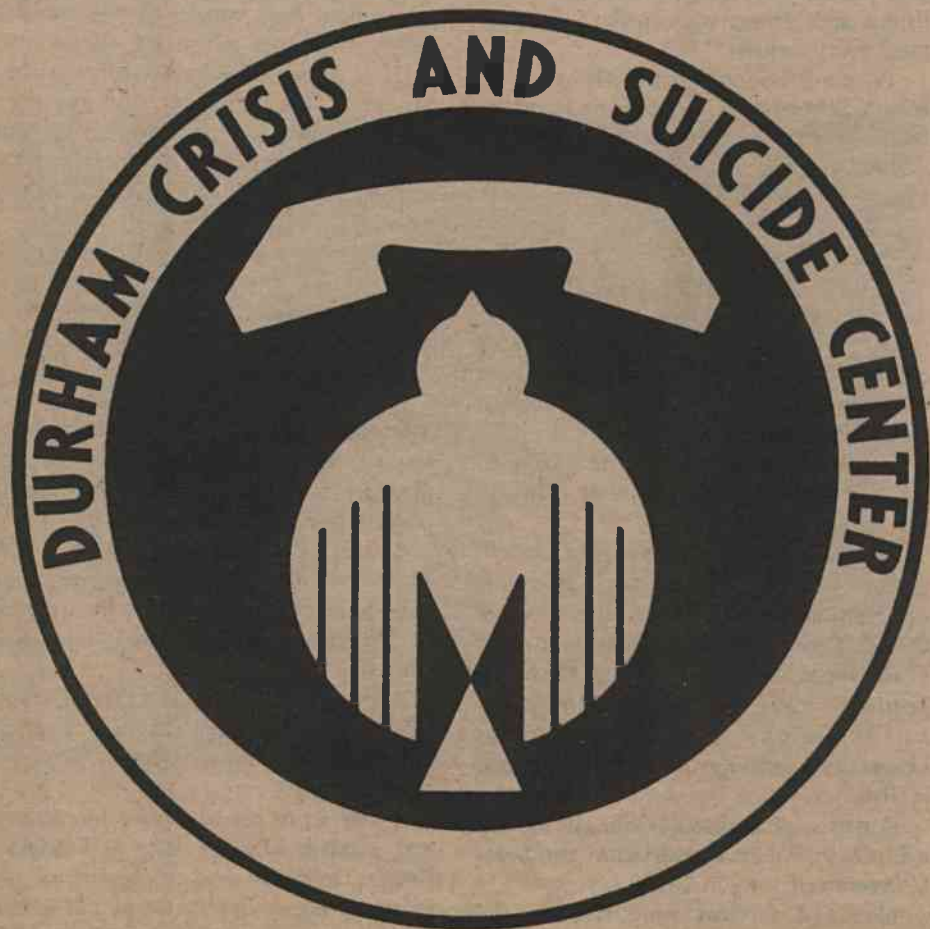
Ted Minah, director of the dining halls at the university since 1946, is retiring this year. In observance of his retirement and the high regard in which he is held by thousands of students, alumni, faculty and employees of the university, a scholarship has been established in his name.

The scholarship, to be known as the Theodore W. Minah Scholarship Endowment Fund, will be used to provide financial aid for students currently working in the dining halls.

During his 28 years with the university, Minah has had responsibility for 12 dining areas offering an extensive variety of services on both campuses, serving between 12,000 and 15,000 meals each day.

He is the past president and vice president of numerous national and state

(Continued on page 2)



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24 Hours A Day