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Dr. Bird Announces His Resignation From Dental School

John T. Bird, Dean of the Washington University School of Dental Medicine, has announced his resignation from the faculty and as Dean of the School, effective July 1, 1976.

Chancellor William H. Danforth said that he has reluctantly accepted Dean Bird's resignation after having encouraged him to remain at the University as Dean. "Dean Bird has overseen the School of Dental Medicine during a period of remarkable progress," he said. "The School has moved from fiscal disaster to stability. The largely antiquated physical plant has been modernized. The faculty has been strengthened, and the student body is bright and able," Danforth said. "These accomplishments are not Dean Bird's alone; they belong to a large company. But he has been the leader. It is hard to see how we could have succeeded without him."

Bird said that his decision to resign has been "in the making for many months, concurrently with my growing desire to do something different with my remaining active career days. There is nothing wrong that has led to this action—rather everything is right for it. The School has excellent staff, faculty and students; loyal alumni; renovated and expanded facilities; and a supportive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs, Chancellor and Board of Trustees. I will leave with no regrets or doubts about the viability of the School."

Bird has served for 28 years on the faculty of the Dental School, from which he was graduated in 1943. He was appointed a full professor and dean in 1967.

Danforth said that he will soon appoint a search committee for Bird's successor.

Neuromuscular Disease Research Center To Be Established at WU Medical School

A Jerry Lewis Neuromuscular Disease Research Center designed to bridge the gap between patient care and laboratory research will open July 1 at the Washington University School of Medicine.

Established with an initial $327,755 grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Associations (MDA), the center will be co-directed by Dr. Darryl C. DeVivo, associate professor of neurology and pediatrics at WU, and Dr. Michael H. Brooke. Currently an MDA clinic director at the University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, Brooke will join WU as a professor of neurology on June 1.

The Center will emphasize patient care, research and education. Brooke explained that the care of patients with neuromuscular illnesses, for which there are no known cures or effective treatments, has lagged behind other areas of medical care for many reasons. These include the lack of advanced training programs for physicians, and insufficient collaboration between researchers in the basic and applied sciences.

"Almost all significant progress in medicine has been brought about by the collaboration of different groups of scientists," Brooke said. "The researchers working in the basic sciences are in general unaware of the clinical problems in neuromuscular diseases. Those of us in clinical medicine are ignorant about the vast amount of basic information already available in the laboratory. I am joining Washington University in an attempt to bridge this gap."

DeVivo said that one aspect of collaboration planned for the Center would be to make available to researchers muscle biopsies used to diagnose neuromuscular disease in clinic patients. The scientists will use the tissue samples for a wide range of studies. These studies will be one of several long-range searches for specific clues to underlying causes of the diseases and may lead to more definitive diagnosis. DeVivo added that "It is extremely important to understand how a normal system works before one can expect to uncover the abnormality which produces the clinical signs and symptoms."

The Center is designed to generate a multidisciplinary approach to neuromuscular diseases. The WU Medical School departments participating in the study are: Anatomy, Biology, Biochemistry, Medicine, Neurology, Pediatrics, Pharmacology, Physiology, and Preventive Medicine. In- and out-patient services have been available at the Medical School since the early 1960s under the auspices of MDA. These clinic facilities provide for accurate diagnosis and ongoing medical care, physical therapy, social service, carrier detection studies, and genetic counseling.

A muscular dystrophy patient

Dr. DeVivo (left) and Dr. Brooke (right) with an electron microscope which will be utilized in muscular dystrophy research

(Photo by Cail Cistna)
“One Ringy-Dingy”—WU Switchboard Operators Challenge Lily Tomlin’s “Ernestine” Stereotype

To know what a switchboard operator must cope with, you have to try it yourself.

What follows is a recent sampling of calls which persons placed to WU on a Saturday evening during a 15-minute period:

“Cage” (not a question, or a request, but a command).

“Is this the campus police?”

“How long is that carnival on?”

“Batch desk.” (another command).

“Is the law library open?”

“I’m trying to find out about a film you’re showing . . .”

“Thurtene carnival please.”

“Good evening. I’m trying to locate a student from India.”

“Cage, please.” (a pleasant request).

Cage is WU vernacular for an area in Wohl Center which is a clearing house for activities there and was once encompassed by unattractive, ceiling-to-floor wire walls. The batch desk is a contact point in the Computer Center.

Evening calls are handled by the night switchboard supervisor, Irene Burton, who has been an operator at WU for 12 years, and Mary Freeman, a WU employee for 22 years, the last five of which have been part-time on the switchboard.

Both of them know the University extremely well: the persons behind the 1100 stations which channel through the switchboard; where all the University’s scores of buildings are located; and strange-sounding places such as the cage and the batch.

“You know what almost always works with crabby people is to treat them especially nice,” said Freeman.

This philosophy must be applied doubly to the day-time operators, who in general have a more complex job. Their volume of calls is considerably higher, and the callers’ requests are more varied. The majority of callers are pleasant. The more unsettling callers fall into two broad categories, according to Eleanor Franey, manager of the WU telephone office, who has been a switchboard supervisor on campus for 13 years. First, there is the person who phones the switchboard and has only the vaguest idea about what he wants: for example, some callers ask for names or details about an event on campus, but they know only that the event “took place last winter and a scientist was speaker.”

The other category of “most upsetting calls” is the result of vagueness on the part of the person being called. Some persons on campus, for example, fail to tell their families or close friends where they may be working or studying and they have been impossible to locate when an emergency has occurred. The operators turn these calls over to the Campus Police who do their best to locate the needed party.

To anticipate the vague caller, Franey requires that her 15-operator work force keep individual, detailed notebooks of University offices, events and information. “I think that most callers will find that my operators will try very hard. If they don’t try their best, I would appreciate hearing about it.” Switchboard operators, however, aren’t very often accorded a great deal of patience; they are expected to have answers at their fingertips. And because of this awesome condition of their employment they must have a world of patience.

Franey and her assistant, Linda Schepers, who manages the considerable bookwork (billing for the long-distance area includes about 300 completed calls per day), both have great patience and a good sense of humor. When asked about the craziest call ever received, they responded by poking fun at themselves. A few years ago, an operator reported to Franey that she “kept getting a call from a man who was having a heart attack.” This sounded rather odd, so Franey listened in on the suffering caller, then informed the inexperienced operator that she was not dealing with a cardiac case, but instead had been listening to that dismal nemesis of the phone lines: the obscene caller.

WU Rugby Club

Scrum to Title

Rugby is unknown to most Americans. It has its own esoteric vernacular with words such as “scrum” and “hooker.” Scrum is short for scrummage, which is something like football scrummage when the two lines converge. A hooker is the middle man in the front row of either side in a scrummage.

WU’s Rugby Club is not only adept with the sport’s language, but also can handle rugby’s rough-and-tumble ways on the field. Last week the club captured its league championship with 10 wins and only one loss.

The team is most proud, however, of the fact that it finished third in a highly competitive college tournament at the University of Missouri at Rolla. They won three games and lost only one.

In league play with the Missouri Rugby Football Union, the WU club was almost invincible. “We should have 11 wins and no losses,” said Dan Lebioda, one of the players. “The game we lost was scheduled during the week of the Thurtene Carnival so we didn’t have our best team on the field. We had beaten that team 60-0 when we played them before.” Most players on the 30-man team, he said, are Bears’ football players and Phi Delta Theta fraternity members.

In a rugby game, each team has 15 players on the field. The only time play is stopped is when a player is injured.

Rugby players are like hockey players; after an injury they can’t wait to get back into the action. Some players will sign themselves out of the hospital just to get back in the game. Unlike football, the players have no padding or helmets to protect them from injury. “The only thing that helps is a mouthpiece to protect your teeth,” Lebioda said.

Still, when the game is over, the combatants shake hands in Stanley Cup hockey fashion and hold a traditional beer-drinking party. The NCAA won’t sanction rugby unless the players refrain from the beer party, but the players aren’t about to part with that long-standing tradition.

Rugby has not been an entrenched WU tradition. The present club was organized last year by Duane Goddard, a transfer student from St. Louis University.

There is one last chance to see the WU club. They will do battle on Saturday, May 17, against the Little Rascals team in Forest Park for the championship of the third division. The time of the game was not available as this issue went to press, but can be learned by calling the Phi Delt house at 727-2111.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR. MICHAEL RUTTER, professor of child psychiatry at the University of London, will give three lectures as follows, Tuesday, May 20, in Clopton Auditorium: WU Wohl Clinics Bldg.: 9 a.m., Psychiatry Grand Rounds, “Adolescent Turmoil—Fact or Fiction?”; 10:30 a.m., Resident Seminar, “Treatment of Child Psychiatric Disorders: Progress and Evaluation”; 12:15 p.m., Pediatric Conference, “Psychiatric Consequences of Brain Damage in Childhood.” Rutter, in addition to his position as professor of child psychiatry, is also honorary consultant in psychiatry at Maudsley Hospital and at the Society School for Autistic Children in London. He is European editor of the Journal of Autism and Childhood Schizophrenia and is author or editor of ten books and monographs. He is noted especially for his studies in the epidemiology and classification of childhood disorders and childhood autism.

THE MALLINCKRODT INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY, WU School of Medicine, has been selected to be one of the first three world-wide institutions to perform scientific and clinical investigations of diagnostic radiological equipment developed by the EMI Corporation of England. Achievements by the WU Division of Radiation Sciences in research and knowledge related to the use of computers for diagnostic examinations with x-rays or radioisotopes, were given as reasons for the selection of the Mallinckrodt Institute for the studies. The Division of Radiation Sciences is headed by Dr. Michel Ter-Pogossian, director and professor of radiology. Studies with the EMI Whole Body Computerized X-Ray Tomograph are expected to begin in July, 1975.

Eads Hall for many years housed the Physics Department and was the site of the famous “Compton Effect” experiment for which the late Arthur Holly Compton (WU Chancellor from 1945-53), won the Nobel Prize. The faculty offices of the Psychology Department are presently located in Eads.

The WU Record is published weekly during the academic year by the Office of Information, director, Roger Signor; editor, Kathy Pearson; contributing editors, Dorothy Brockhoff, King McElroy; calendar editor, Anne Hallett, Photographs by Herb Weitman, Rick Levine and Gail Cissna. Address all communications to the editor, Box 1142.

THE OFFICE OF HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE has announced that a limited number of white parking stickers will be available through the Bilateral Housing Services and Security Committee next year. Sophomores who reside on the South 40 may be eligible for the stickers, but must show they have a real need for having a car at WU. White-stickered autos will be allowed to park only in the lot east of Brookings and in the Campus Police parking lot on Big Bend. A policy of strict enforcement of all parking regulations will be followed.

THE PAPERS PRESENTED at the recent Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Conference on “The Status of Women in Higher Education and the Professions” held on campus will be published by the Lexington Press of Lexington, Mass. The firm is a subsidiary of the D. C. Heath Co. Laurie Epstein, director of the conference and assistant to Chancellor William H. Danforth, will serve as editor.

THE ASIAN ART SOCIETY of Washington University is sponsoring a two-day air tour to Kansas City, Mo., on May 21-22 to see “The Exhibition of Archaeological Finds of the People’s Republic of China.” Tour cost is $95 plus a tax deductible contribution to the Asian Art Society of $5. The St. Louis Art Museum is also sponsoring a series of air tours to Kansas City for those who want to see the Chinese exhibition. Tours depart at 8:50 a.m. and return the same evening at 7:50 p.m. on May 28, May 29 and June 3. A two-day bus trip is also scheduled for May 31-June 1. Call 367-3000 for details.

THE URBAN STUDIES AREA has announced a pilot program of internships for students arranged through the cooperation of the Personnel Office of the St. Louis County Government. This program, worked out in cooperation with Margaret Stroup, Commissioner of Human Relations, will enable urban studies majors to be assigned internship posts through the St. Louis County government.

THE ST. LOUIS STRING QUARTET will present four free outdoor concerts at WU this summer. The concerts are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on four successive Mondays: May 26, June 2, 9 and 16. The Quartet is composed of four St. Louis Symphony Orchestra musicians: Max Rahimovitsj, concertmaster of the Symphony and violinst; John Korman, associate concertmaster and violinist; John Sant’Ambrogio, first cellist; and Darrel Barnes, first violist. The concerts will be held on the lawn near Graham Chapel.

Murdoch, Bayley To Speak at Eliot Honor’s Day

Iris Murdoch, a leading English novelist, and her husband, John O. Bayley, English writer and critic, will speak on “The Idea of Education Today” at Washington University’s Eliot Honors Day to be held at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, in Graham Chapel.

The assembly’s name commemorates William Greenleaf Eliot, a founder of the University. Both Miss Murdoch and her husband will receive honorary doctor of letters degrees at the commencement at 9 a.m. Friday, May 23, in the University Quadrangle.

Miss Murdoch is the author of numerous books including her latest novel The Sacred and Profane Love Machine. Many of the human situations that she portrays in her fiction are similar to those found in the novels and plays of Jean-Paul Sartre. William Van O’Connor believes that “Miss Murdoch is a kind of twentieth century Congress.” Her books on philosophy include: Sartre: Romantic Rationalist. She is also the author with J. B. Priestley of A Severed Head, a play in three acts which was produced in New York in 1964.

Bayley, a professor at Oxford University, England, is the author of the novel, In Another Country, and several books of criticism, including The Romantic Survival: A Study in Poetic Evolution. During the spring of 1972, Bayley and his wife were Visiting Hurst Professors of Creative Literature at WU.

A total of 598 awards will be made to graduating students who will be honored for distinguished records in scholarship and leadership.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, a nonprofit environmental group based at WU, is offering an organic gardening service to area residents this spring. The basic garden service includes soil testing and tilling; a personalized and well-balanced selection of vegetable, herb and flower seeds, and planting. Offered for the second year, the service includes the basic garden plan, plus follow-up visits at least twice a month from planting time through September, and seeds for succession and fall plantings. A special inducement to neighborhood gardening is a 25 per cent refund of cost when neighbors plan gardens straddling common property lines. For more information, call ext. 4070.

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**Calendar**

**May 15-21**

**THURSDAY, MAY 15**

2:30 p.m. Department of Mechanical Engineering and Department of Civil Engineering Colloquium, “Finite Element Methods in Plasticity,” Professor Philip G. Hodge, Jr., Dept. of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, U. of Minnesota. 213 Redstock.

4 p.m. Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Seminar, “Regulation of Immune Responses by T Lymphocytes,” Dr. David H. Katz, Dept. of Pathology, Harvard Medical School. 213 Redstock.

4 p.m. The Twenty-Third Robert J. Lewontin, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology, Harvard. Carl Moore Aud.

**FRIDAY, MAY 16**

2 p.m. Department of Chemical Engineering Seminar, “Motion Measurement Through Time Dependent Light Scattering,” Professor Robert V. Edwards, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, Case Western Reserve U. 101 Cupples H. Coffee at 1:45 p.m.


**MONDAY, MAY 19**


**TUESDAY, MAY 20**


**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21**

7:30 p.m. School of Continuing Education Certificate Awards Ceremony, with main address by University Vice Chancellor Lattie F. Coor, “Is Higher Education Really Worth It?” Edison Theatre. Reception in Beaumont Lounge following program.

**FILMS**

**FRIDAY, MAY 16**

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, John Boorman’s “Deliverance” with Burt Reynolds and John Voigt. Admission $1. Wohl Center Line D.

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**EXHIBITIONS**

School of Fine Arts Student Exhibition ‘75, of painting, graphic communication, drawing, multi-media, ceramics, and photography. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday 1-5 p.m. Steinberg Hall. Through May 23.

Isidore Silver Exhibit of Manuscripts, honoring Professor Silver, Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities, who will retire at the end of June. Olin Library, level five. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Through July.

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**SPORTS**

**FRIDAY, MAY 16**

4 p.m. Track, United States Track and Field Federation Qualification Meet. At Florissant Valley.

**SUNDAY, MAY 18**

7:30 p.m. Soccer, St. Louis Stars vs. Seattle. Admission $3.50 adult, $2.50 student, center section; $2.50 adult, $1.50 student, terrace. Francis Field.

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**RECOGNITIONS**

GREGG MAYER, assistant professor of dance at WU, is preparing an “Introduction to Motion” teaching materials package for CEMREL, a federally funded, non-profit laboratory which develops new and creative curricula for the classroom. The package, part of the series, “Aesthetics and the Physical World,” designed for kindergarten and first grade teachers, includes a teacher’s guide, film, and record.

WILLIAM PIEPMEIER, a senior in the WU School of Engineering and Applied Science, has won third prize in a student paper competition which was sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery. The prize is a $50 cash award. Piepmeier wrote a paper entitled, “Optimal Balancing of I/O Requests to Disks.”

Marilyn Miller, Ph.D. candidate in a joint program of Comparative Literature and Chinese and Japanese Languages and Literature, was awarded a one-year research fellowship by the Japan Foundation in Japanese language, literature and culture. Miller, who has spent the past year at the International University Language Center (sponsored by Stanford University) in Tokyo, will use the grant to do research for her dissertation in Japan next year.

**TWO SENIOR BIOLOGY STUDENTS, Mark Sanford and Wanda Terrell, are co-winners of the William E. B. DuBois Award given in recognition of academic excellence and student leadership. The award was made at the Black Honors and Awards Program May 6 in Edison Theatre.**

Curtis A. Price, assistant professor of music, has received a Younger Scholar Summer Stipend for 1975 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete research on a book concerned with music in late 17th century English drama. He expects to study in libraries in London, Cambridge, Oxford, Dublin and Edinburgh. Price joined the WU faculty last fall after receiving his doctorate from Harvard University, where he was the recipient of a Martha Baird Rockefeller grant for music history.