



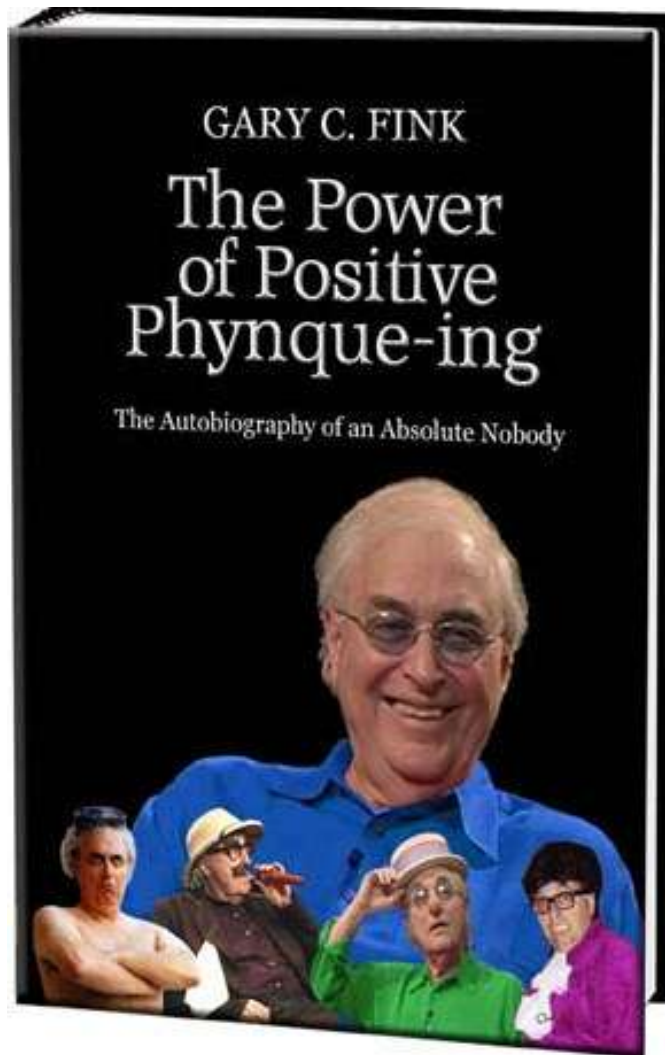
Volume 33, March 2012

WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

NEWS • EDITORIALS • SPORTS • MOVIES • RESTAURANTS • CARTOONS

“QUIET NUMBSKULLS, I’M BROADCASTING”

“START THE PRESSES!”



The autobiography of my first 77 years is currently being printed and will be available soon!

An initial review by former Mpls/St.Paul Magazine Editor-Burt Cohen follows!

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WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

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Burt Cohen review for Minneapolis Club Newsletter

In the Grill, at 12:30pm, approximately three weeks ago, just as I was about to dip my spoon into a cup of Butternut Squash soup; timid, humble, soft-spoken Gary Fink nailed me. Approaching my table with his cane, sheaf of papers, and a maroon pillow, he announced, "I just wrote my autobiography and I need you to write a review—a really upbeat, positive, flattering review for the Minneapolis Club magazine. They need it by Tuesday.

"Wait a minute, wait a minute", I said. "There's absolutely no way I can do that, whoever you are. First of all, it means I'd have to read the book, which makes the whole idea a non-starter. Besides, the club doesn't have a magazine, it has a newsletter, and the newsletter doesn't contain book reviews—a very wise policy."

What I failed to remember, as I sat there watching my soup get cold, was that Mr. Fink, prior to his retirement, had been the most successful salesperson in the long history of the Prudential Life Insurance Company, and that you don't become the most successful insurance salesman in history by taking "no" for an answer.

"I'll loan you a copy of the book," he said, "but don't get smudge marks on it because I won't be able to give it to my brother-in-law for his birthday, although he has macular degeneration and maybe wouldn't notice." And with that, he handed me a book, walked away clutching his pillow and leaving me with cold soup and wondering why it was that I like to have lunch at the club.

It was when he phoned me early that evening and asked, "Did you read it yet?" that I realized my life would not be my own until I wrote the review, so I sat down in my big chair, opened the book to chapter one and promptly fell asleep. When I awoke, I began to read, all through the night and most of the next day, canceling appointments with my banker (she had left a message about tardy payment problems) and my doctor, who was inquiring about a missing specimen container, in order to finish the entire 300-page book. It was a fairly slow read because I had to keep stopping to laugh, laugh, laugh at the situations, anecdotes, language, cartoons and jokes.

It turns out Mr. Fink's book, *The Power of Positive Phynque-ing/ The Autobiography of an Absolute Nobody*, is hilarious. It's filled with characters who kept reminding me of *You Can't Take It With You*, except these characters, parents, relatives, friends, are all real. It's filled with adventures and experiences as colorful and interesting as they are zany. It's filled with the philosophy and techniques that really did result in making Gary Fink the all-time leading sales leader from a group of approximately one and a half million sales reps for the Prudential Life Insurance Company, an astounding achievement. And yes, he tells how he did it.

It's filled with endless numbers of jokes stolen from some of America's greatest comics, along with original cartoons and illustrations. And finally, it's filled with stories about Gary's devotion to philanthropic causes, his deep concern for animals and nature, and his touching and refreshing take on what it all means.

This is a light, fast-paced view of what makes this extraordinarily multi-dimensional, successful, witty, generous and definitely imperfect man tick. Read it and you'll laugh and you'll learn a lot and have a different picture of this longtime Minneapolis Club member who walks around with a maroon pillow.

COST OF WAR

Sgt. Robert Bales and the cost of war

Karl Marlantes, author, decorated Marine and a Vietnam veteran, was recently interviewed on Minnesota Public Radio by Kerri Miller about the cost of war in light of the accusation that Staff Sgt. Robert Bales killed 16 Afghan civilians.



Sgt. Robert Bales

Here is a transcript of that interview:

Miller: Karl Marlantes knows about the toll that multiple deployments in a war zone can take on a soldier. In the preface to his new book, "What It's Like to Go to War", he writes, "The violence of combat assaults psyches, confuses ethics and tests souls". Mr. Marlantes is a decorated Marine and a writer and he joins us this morning from Washington State. Karl it's a pleasure to talk with you again.

Marlantes: Thank you

Miller: We don't know many of the details of what happened in that Afghan village but I'm very interested in the questions that came to your mind when you heard the details of the case.

Marlantes: Well, you know the first thing that happen is just another of the great sorrows war that these sorts of things happen. We know they do and it's just I've always said I'm not a pacifist but you've got to be very sure you enter into warfare you're going to see very ugly things like this. Sixteen dead Afghan's and their families and this soldier who is going to be punished and I think that you know I have all a lot of thoughts about it. I mean four tours and he snapped is what it looks like to mean. I can't make a judgment on that you know without hearing all the evidence but you cannot that somebody could do that time and time again, but I'm thinking of is this, in World War II that 25% of the casualties were psychological that's because there was no way out except winning the war or getting wounded so the psyche says how am I going to get out of this. In Vietnam and it went to 2%. Why? 13 month tours, 12 for the army and you knew if you did your tour you were probably done. So you could hang on. Multiple tours? I was talking to a kid who has done seven. At what point does the psyche say, I'm out of here? And I think it is something that we as a people need to think about seriously. We sent them to war, we pay the taxes and we're seeing a tiny percentage of the population carrying the entire load so I think this kid snapped.

Miller: When you say that and I think this is also the term that the lawyer has used, what do we really mean from the soldiers point of view

Marlantes: Well, it's really hard for me to say because I can't get into a mind like that. I know that I experienced rage when I was in combat and I can remember one time taking my K-bar, a large knife and attacking a plant, I just destroyed it. Something had to come out, just an enormous amount of tension and responsibility. I mean a twenty-three year old; I didn't know what was going on. I know that just happened to me. Luckily for me I was not in a state where I was going to go off and kill people in some village. I do remember that happening to me because things just boiled over and exploded after months of combat and I don't think that we should be surprised, I meant road rage is very evident in this

country, people do boil over, you give them weapons and put them in situations like that the very same kind of psychological thing has horrible, horrible consequences.

Miller: You have a chapter in your book titled, "Numbness and Violence" and we talked about this when you were here that you write about how the shadow of the violence that you've witnessed and maybe participated and never leaves you. That's why you I think you think of it as a shadow?

Marlantes: Well, the use of the word shadow there, you will often will project your own darkness, things you've repressed, the thing you don't like about yourself on other people. We do it very commonly. You know he's lazy. Well I'm a little lazy. That's what I was talking about shadow and I think the numbness comes and it's almost like a projection, but the protection at some point falls apart. You can look at your enemy as sort of a non-human. It's the only way that we get decent kids to kill our country's enemies. You're raised thou shall not kill, how can you pull the trigger. You sort of fool yourself when you're in combat that it's some sort of animal that is attacking you or your friends. It's not really a human. Well you go in to that situation and then back to the States and oh gosh everybody is human and then back into the situation and they're animals again, back and forth, back and forth. I think at some point things are going to wobble a bit and you're going to snap. You forget that you're dealing with human beings. Twenty years later you really understand that you've killed another human being and you have to deal with that sorrow. Right there on the spot that numbness is a way I think that allows the soldier to do basically what we've asked that soldier to do.

Miller: I remember you talking about this in the studio and you were saying, No you are at war, you are compromising the moral norms of the society that you live in and then it becomes I think I hear you saying quite confusing to move back and forth between that.

Marlantes: I mean we used to go to war; there was an actual movement to a separate physical space. My father got on a troop ship during World War II and it took him a month to get there and it took him a month to get back. Then he was back here. Today, you've got cell phones, the Internet I mean the confusion of the two spaces is much more difficult psychologically to deal with and then like I said, coming back record in and how many more towards my going to do and going back to doing another two are coming back saying, "how many more tours am I going to do?" and then going back and doing another tour I think we have moved into a way of doing war that is very different than we have done for thousands of years. I used to be that you'd go off to war and in fact the chief of the tribe would go with you, everybody would come back, the whole community was involved. Our community is not involved anymore. These kids go over there basically without us really caring, we borrow the money from the Chinese to fight the war. We've got to start thinking about being responsible for the fact that we are all involved this and these terrible things happen we instead just say oh well that guy did it. We have to take more responsibility and say how are we going to try and help these people, t what are we going to do about this as a nation. I think that this is a real wakeup call this tragedy.

Miller: We are talking to you in Washington State; he was out of a base in the state of Washington are you anywhere near there?

Marlantes: Yeah, it's probably about 60-80 miles from here.

Miller: I just wondered what the discussion is been like there so close to the base.

Marlantes: I think it has been very similar to all across the country, it's like what happened? What do you do with someone who people are pretty sure snapped? You can't let something like this go unpunished. You can't just say, oh I'm sorry he snapped and let him go. People here are in fact wrestling with a very deep moral issue that has no easy answer. It is unlikely in my opinion, that the guy had pre-meditated some sort of murder it is unlikely. But if not premeditated and it is psychological snapping now what? Now what do you do?



Miller: I know because I mean, how do you find justice for everyone involved, the families of the people that were killed, the soldier who allegedly committed the crime, with all of the complexities we just talked about?

Marlantes: Exactly I think that, that's in fact what's facing us as a nation with something that is such a conundrum, a very difficult thing to work out and the only thing that I can think of have to remember our compassion. I hear people saying we should give him the death penalty. I think he's got to be punished because we cannot allow people to get away with this sort of thing and there has to be some sort of a civilizing force that says that you can't just go in and do these sorts of things. That helps, it actually helps. You cannot punish without an enormous amount of compassion. This could've happened to anybody, he was the first one. A race driver at Daytona gets into a crash and we say ah well he must have wanted to kill another person, the logic is wrong and I think that whatever happens we need to do it with a heavy heart.

Miller: Karl it's a pleasure, it always to talk with you has to talk with you. Thank you so much for the time today. Karl Marlantes is a writer and novelist his newest book is called "What It's Like to Go to War." A decorated Marine, he has received two purple hearts, giving us his perspective today on this latest news of the Afghan soldiers alleged to have killed people in Afghanistan.

MEDICINE



On the Fink Frontier

On February 2nd of this year I started acting and feeling different first thing in the morning. I actually drove to a local breakfast spot-Yum's, went in and up to the counter; but couldn't remember why I was there. While the waiter behind the counter began typing my standard breakfast into the computer, I immediately turned around and left. I proceeded to drive the wrong way on Minnetonka Boulevard. Thankfully, I arrived home safely.

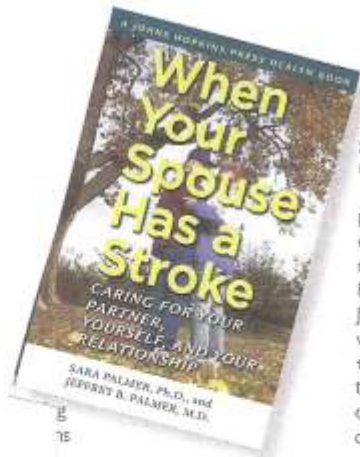
My wife came down from the bedroom and noticed me confused, slurring my words and not making much sense. Fortunately, she insisted I go with her to the emergency room at Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

The emergency crew took me immediately to radiology and tested me with a CT scan and MRI. They determined I was having 2 strokes-both dry strokes-no bleeding, just blockage somewhere in my system. After my complete recovery with no symptoms of affects 2 days later they still had not diagnosed a specific cause or physiological/mental problems.

I've been symptom free ever since and have passed a battery of tests by my internist, neurologist and my urologist!

My doctors, as a precaution doubled my diabetes medicine-Onglyza and added 1 buffered aspirin every morning by my regimine. I have also started taking a blood pressure medicine-Lisinaprill (5mg)-so far so good!

My wife JoAnn was an angel thru-out this episode. Spending the night at the hospital and non-stop calls and visits!



When Your Spouse Has a Stroke: Caring for Your Partner, Yourself, and Your Relationship

Sara Palmer, PhD, and Jeffrey Palmer, MD (*Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011*)

Each year, about 795,000 people have a stroke in the United States, and an estimated 6 million stroke survivors strive to surmount its impact. Married stroke survivors often are cared for primarily by their spouses or other family members—a now fully recognized “social group” of caregivers that is estimated at 29 million people.

As husband-and-wife Hopkins physical medicine and rehabilitation experts Sara Palmer and Jeffrey Palmer observe, a stroke impacts both the person who sustains it and that person’s spouse. Clearly, “the effects of your spouse’s stroke on your emotional health and your relationship can be far-reaching,” they write, making it likely the “biggest challenge to your married life.” Its “shockwaves” also can have a direct, potentially deleterious impact on the physical and emotional health of the caregiver, who may be worn down by the demands of the full-time attention they must

give to their stricken spouse’s needs.

Sara Palmer, a rehabilitation psychologist who has been on the faculty of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation since 1999, and Jeffrey Palmer, a psychiatrist who joined the department in 1983 and became its director in 2004, have more than a quarter century of experience caring for stroke sufferers.

They write that “a major source of inspiration” for their book has been the stories that they’ve heard from stroke survivors and their spouse/caregivers. These are adapted, sometimes combined as composites, and included as reference points throughout their narrative, providing compelling examples of how couples learn to cope with the frequently devastating impact of a stroke on the non-afflicted partner.

Jargon-free, the Palmers’ book contains a broadly informative introduction to the issues, an excellent epilogue on the future of caregiving, and six chapters. These cover such subjects as how caregivers can obtain support, especially emotional support, for their spouses—and themselves—from other sources; how to balance the role of caregiver with other marital, social, and work roles; sexuality after a stroke; and how caregivers can find ready assistance from stroke clubs and other social activities to provide help. In addition, the book deals with maintaining a satisfying marriage after stroke, as well as an overview of how to prevent another stroke and plan for the future. Each chapter concludes with a list of “Practical Tips” for following through on its advice. Neil A. Grauer

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January 11, 2012

Mr. and Mrs. Gary C. Fink
2728 W Lake Of The Isles Pkwy
Minneapolis, MN 55416-4337

Dear Gary,

At last, after more than two decades, we have made remarkable progress in the search for genes that are responsible for hereditary prostate cancer. Attached is a press release that summarizes the major findings in our paper, which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. I know that many of you have been interested and have wondered why it has taken so long to reach this point. Let me review our progress.

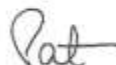
In 1990, we were one of the first groups to show that men with a family history of prostate cancer have an increased risk for developing the disease. In 1992, we were the first to demonstrate that this increased risk was caused by Mendelian inheritance of a gene. And again in 1996, we were the first to report the location of an inherited prostate cancer susceptibility gene on chromosome 1. At that time, we thought that identification of these genes would occur rapidly. Who would have guessed that it would take fifteen years? Thanks to the outstanding contributions of Dr. William Isaacs, the William Thomas Gerrard, Mario Anthony Duhon, and Jennifer and John Chalsty Professor of Urology, working in collaboration with investigators from the University of Michigan, we have finally discovered a genetic mutation that causes early age of onset disease in multiple family members.

In this paper, we report on a mutation of HOXB13, a gene that is responsible for development of the prostate in fetal life. Individuals who carry this mutated gene have a 10-20-fold higher risk for developing prostate cancer. In the 18 men with prostate cancer in the four families we studied, *all carried this mutation*. However, this mutation is responsible for only about 5% of hereditary prostate cancer cases. That means that there are a number of other similar genes yet to be found.

I know that many of you with a strong family history want to know when this test will be available. The answer is "not yet", but stay tuned. Like any other discovery, we are looking for validation from other groups. Once this happens, we will go through the arduous process of getting approval from the FDA. Hopefully in the near future, we will have success identifying other genes and some day it is likely that there will be a panel of genes that will need to be screened to identify which mutations are present in which families.

This work would not have been possible without your support – your generous financial support, your participation in our studies, and most of all your warm and generous encouragement. We continue to work hard – stay tuned.

Very sincerely yours,



Patrick C. Walsh, M.D.
University Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Urology

pcw:agc
Enclosure

RESEARCHERS FIND FIRST MAJOR GENE MUTATION ASSOCIATED WITH HEREDITARY PROSTATE CANCER RISK

Discovery may provide clues on disease development and who may need earlier screening

After a 20-year quest to find a genetic driver for prostate cancer that strikes men at younger ages and runs in families, researchers have identified a rare, inherited mutation linked to a significantly higher risk of the disease.

A report on the discovery, published in the January 12, 2012 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, was led by investigators at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the University of Michigan Health System. The research team found that men who inherit this mutation have a 10 to 20 times higher risk of developing prostate cancer.

While accounting for only a small fraction of all prostate cancer cases, the discovery may provide important clues about how this common cancer develops and help to identify a subset of men who might benefit from additional or earlier screening. This year, an estimated 240,000 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer.

"This is the first major genetic variant associated with inherited prostate cancer," says Kathleen A. Cooney, M.D., professor of internal medicine and urology at the U-M Medical School, one of the study's two senior authors.

"It's what we've been looking for over the past 20 years," adds William B. Isaacs, Ph.D., professor of urology and oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the study's other senior author. "It's long been clear that prostate cancer can run in families, but pinpointing the underlying genetic basis has been challenging and previous studies have provided inconsistent results."

For this study, the researchers collaborated with John Carpten, Ph.D., at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) in Phoenix, Arizona, who used the latest technology to sequence the DNA of more than 200 genes in a human chromosome region known as 17q21-22.

Cooney, working with Ethan Lange, Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina on the U-M Prostate Cancer Genetics Project, was the first to identify 17q21-22 as a region of interest.

Researchers started with samples from the youngest patients with prostate cancer in 94 families who had participated in studies at U-M and Johns Hopkins. Each of those families had multiple cases of the disease among close relatives, such as between fathers and sons or among brothers.

(more)

Members of four different families were found to have the same mutation in the HOXB13 gene, which plays an important role in the development of the prostate during the fetal stage and its function later in life. The mutation was carried by all 18 men with prostate cancer in these four families.

The researchers collaborated with Jianfeng Xu, Ph.D., and Lilly Zheng, Ph.D., at Wake Forest University to look for the same HOXB13 gene mutation among 5,100 men who had been treated for prostate cancer at either Johns Hopkins or U-M. The mutation was found in 1.4 percent—or 72 of the men. It turned out that those men were much more likely to have at least one first-degree relative, a father or brother, who also had been diagnosed. The researchers also looked for the mutation in a control group of 1,400 men without prostate cancer, and only one of those men carried the mutation. In addition, the researchers studied men who were specifically enrolled in studies of early-onset or familial prostate cancer.

“We found that the mutation was significantly more common in men with a family history and early diagnosis compared with men diagnosed later, after age 55, without a family history. The difference was 3.1 percent versus 0.62 percent, Cooney says.

“We had never seen anything like this before. It all came together to suggest that this single change may account for at least a portion of the hereditary form of the disease,” says study co-author Patrick Walsh, M.D., professor of urology at Johns Hopkins, who is one of the pioneers in prostate cancer treatment. In the 1980s, Walsh was one of the first to publish a study showing that the risk of prostate cancer was higher among men with close relatives who also had the disease.

The researchers say with further study, it may be possible one day to have genetic test for inherited prostate cancer in much the same way that tests are available to look for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations that greatly increase a woman’s chance of developing breast and/or ovarian cancer.

“We need to continue studying this variant and look at larger groups of men. Our next step will be to develop a mouse model with this mutation to see if it causes prostate cancer,” says Isaacs. He adds, “Future DNA sequencing may also identify additional rare variants that contribute to prostate cancer risk in families.”

This particular mutation was found in families of European descent, while two different mutations on the HOXB13 gene were identified in families of African descent. Since only seven of the 94 families studied were of African descent, more research will be required before the significance of those mutations is known. African-American men are more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer at younger ages and have a more aggressive form of the disease.

Cooney says patients with questions about prostate cancer screening, particularly if the disease runs in their families, are encouraged to speak with their doctor.

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Trivial Pursuits

Sure you may know all about the big moments in the history of Johns Hopkins Medicine, but what about the little known nuggets of lore? Herewith, a sampling of fun facts, odd observations, and fascinating footnotes—unearthed and compiled by writer Neil A. Grauer while researching his book *Leading the Way: A History of Johns Hopkins Medicine* (Johns Hopkins University Press), due out in April. | ILLUSTRATIONS BY SANDY NICHOLS

Brain Trust: As the first physician-in-chief of Johns Hopkins Hospital, William Osler changed the course of modern medicine. But what was the source of his genius? As he lay dying from pneumonia in 1919, he directed that his brain be sent to the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, where anatomical studies were made of the brains of prominent individuals to see what might have distinguished them from others. An examination in 1927 didn't reveal much—but Osler's brain is still there.

Say Ahhh ... and Mmm! In the 1920s, The Johns Hopkins Hospital's carpentry shop used cherry wood to make tongue depressors because the physicians thought they would taste better.



All in the Name of Science: Frederick Henry Baetjer (class of 1901), Hopkins Hospital's first chief radiologist, was so devoted to exploring radiology that he overexposed himself to radiation before its inherent dangers were fully understood. It cost him all of his fingers and one eye—but *The New York Times* reported in 1926 that he planned to "continue his work as long as he lives, fingers or no fingers."

Beer Baron: During Prohibition, Max Broedel kept his buddies—including Baltimore newspaperman H.L. Mencken—supplied with great beer. Starting with some beer yeast that Mencken had obtained in New York, the founding director of the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine grew and perfected it in the Hopkins bacteriological laboratory, creating a pure strain that produced a delicious brew during the Prohibition drought.

Pearly Whites: In addition to formulating medicines during the 1930s, Hopkins Hospital pharmacists made all of the toothpaste used in the Hospital, producing some 25 pounds of it a week.





Jokester: Adolf Meyer, director of the Phipps Psychiatric Clinic from 1912 to 1941, enjoyed practical jokes. At dinners that he and his wife hosted at their home for first-year students, a large, dome-covered silver platter would be brought to the table. Meyer would ceremoniously lift the lid—revealing a flustered, live turkey.

Batter Up! Neurosurgeon Walter Dandy didn't spend all his time in the operating room. Asked by Brooklyn Dodgers president Larry MacPhail to create batting headgear that would look like a normal cap yet protect players from getting beamed, he set to work with Hopkins orthopedic surgeon George Bennett. The result of their labors: a cap that had zippered pockets on each side into which curved, plastic protective shields could be inserted. It was first used in 1941.

Hat Trick: Before the advent of smart phones and email, Thomas B. Turner (School of Medicine Dean, 1957-1968) had a unique way of managing his schedule. A gentleman of the old school, Turner wore a hat every day—a homburg in the winter, a straw hat in the summer. So he and his executive assistant, Claudia Ewell, communicated by hatband. Before she left every evening, she would leave an index card in Turner's hat, providing him with information about his schedule for the evening and what he had to do first thing the following morning.

Seeing Red: It was not until 1977 that The Johns Hopkins Hospital, which opened in 1889, at last got out of the red. Due to its commitment to Johns Hopkins' mandate to care for those who couldn't pay, the Hospital operated at a loss throughout its first eight decades. Annual deficits were covered by gifts from trustees and dipping into the endowment. When Robert Heyssel became head of the Hospital in 1972, it was running a \$1.2 million deficit. To help raise the \$100 million needed to upgrade Hopkins, Heyssel persuaded the state's Health Services Cost Review Commission to allow higher fees for those who could pay, improved the Hospital's efficiency, and cut costs wherever he could. By 1977, the Hospital was making money.

Hill With a View: Mr. Johns Hopkins originally wanted his hospital to be built on the grounds of his 330-acre estate, Clifton, in northeast Baltimore City. He later was persuaded to purchase new land in the city for the hospital, a 13-acre site at the crown of what was then called Loudenslager's Hill (named for a prominent butcher and innkeeper, Jacob Loudenslager). Hopkins paid \$150,000 for the site. It is where the original Johns Hopkins Hospital was built—and where the soon-to-be-opened new Hopkins clinical towers now stand. *



ANIMAL CONSERVATION

Hello –

As one of our top supporters, I want to share with you the details of an upcoming rescue that will be taking place at the end of this month.



Aftermath of the Ohio exotic animal tragedy – what happens to the others?

The Wildcat Sanctuary is here to help.



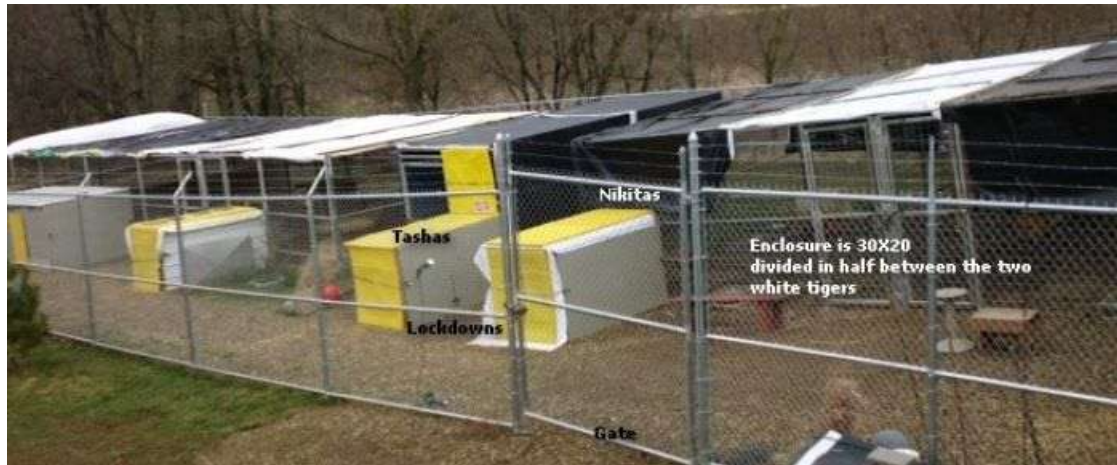
Like you, we were devastated as we heard the shots ring out that killed dozens of animals in Ohio last year. These were animals that, through no fault of their own, were fleeing from cages that had imprisoned them for life. Those few moments were their only taste of freedom. We so desperately wanted to help.

Ohio has been one of the easiest states to own dangerous exotic animals. Now, in order to prevent this tragedy from happening again, authorities are finally trying to change that. Only

weeks ago, The Wildcat Sanctuary was contacted for advice on how to shape new regulations there. Since the Sanctuary played an integral role in getting tougher exotic animal laws passed in Minnesota in 2004, we have become a resource for other states as they pursue stricter guidelines. The state's goal is to prevent future tragedies, without displacing animals that are currently well cared for.

But, there have been other calls, too. **We received a tearful call from an Ohio woman asking us to help her and her cats.** She is a USDA licensed owner who realizes what the future will mean for her and the animals she has in small cages in her backyard. Though she'd like to provide more for these animals, she's struggled financially, [including a near foreclosure](#), to keep up and is fearful she can't meet the regulations the new legislation will require. She researched different sanctuaries and contacted The Wildcat Sanctuary because she felt we could offer what her animals deserved – a home for life, where they wouldn't be uprooted again and where they would have the open space she couldn't provide for them.

Sadly, the story of her animals and what they've been through is as heart wrenching as many of those who died that day in Zanesville, Ohio. And, like most others, hers is not their first home. **Nikita, the tiger, and Tasha, the cougar, could be poster children of what it truly means to be a captive wild animal. They deserve a place they can finally call home and the space to be wild at heart.**



These are the small cages Nikita and Tasha are living in now in Ohio.

Meet Nikita



Before arriving at her current home, **Nikita was a white tiger cub bred and sold at a very young age**, taken far too early from her mother. She was expected to earn her keep by playing with people and posing for pictures – all for money. When most outgrow this stage, they're used to breed and bring other helpless cubs into the world to suffer the same fate – and bring in more money for their owner.

Who was Nikita's owner? He was [Sam Mazzola](#), an Ohio breeder, exhibitor, and ex-convict. Mazzola's history of abusing animals was notorious and well documented. He had been in prison for

cocaine and steroid trafficking, was arrested for illegal gun possession and sentenced to court-ordered anger management. He claimed to have been arrested hundreds of times.

And yet, in Ohio, it was perfectly legal for him to own some of the most dangerous exotics. Besides Nikita and other tigers, he owned bears, lions, wolves and coyotes and would proudly show off the 2000 stitches from injuries inflicted by his wild animals. Nikita grew up in a small,

cement slab cage with a few other tigers and was forced to fight for her food. She became dominant and dangerous.

Mazzola's animals were big business for him. His bears were forced to bring in money, \$1000 a fight, by wrestling people in bars, clubs and fairs. He claimed that over 22,000 people had wrestled his bears since he started the business over 25 years ago. He bragged about being a tiger/bear wrestler himself.

But that part of his business ended in 2010, when Iroquois, one of Mazzola's bears, [mauled and killed a caretaker](#) who suffered 600 wounds during the attack. The victim's family demanded Iroquois be put down and threatened to charge Mazzola with reckless homicide. He then filed bankruptcy.

But there were other ways Mazzola found to make money with exotics. He would travel around with them, putting on exhibits that would bring in over \$20,000 per event. Investigators claimed his employees used a bat on a tiger at one of his exhibits. Could Nikita have suffered blows like this? Sadly, we'll never know the horrors she endured while with him.



Last year, life changed for Nikita. [Mazzola died and his death was no less controversial](#). He was found wearing a mask, chained and handcuffed to a waterbed, asphyxiated by a foreign object in his throat. Authorities finally stepped in, divided up his animals, and sent them to other facilities.

That's how Nikita ended up at her second home. Though she had a caretaker who claimed to care for her at Mazzola's compound, he never visited her. At 7 years old, she now lives alone in half of a 20×30 backyard cage, but still looks over her shoulder, fearful of what might happen to her. She's never had privacy before and adjustment has been hard for her.

Tasha needs TWS too



Tasha, the cougar's, first home was sad, too. At a young age, she was used for breeding. She lived in a garage for 9 years but one day escaped through a hole in the roof. Her owner didn't report her escape, fearful Tasha would be killed. But Tasha did finally return, scared and hungry.

Now, Tasha is at her second home living in a 10×20 cage. Declawed by her first owner, it has left her tender footed and she also has vision problems. Her current owner says she trembles, shakes, and drools at the sound of machinery near her cage. But with all she has gone through in her 11 years in captivity, she still craves attention from her human caregivers.

We need your help to bring Nikita and Tasha to The Wildcat Sanctuary

Thankfully, Ohio is finally ready to pass new laws that will impact ownership of wild animals, though a total ban on breeding would be ideal. The owner, who took Nikita and Tasha in last year, realizes this and is concerned for her animals' future. She and her husband researched to find the best possible home for them.

They are 800 miles away, which means 28 hours of driving to get them to the Sanctuary. I'm sure you've all heard the latest news about gas prices climbing to record highs. This will be the first of many expenses we'll face. We have several weeks to work on arrangements for them. We're busily preparing habitats that will finally let them enjoy the wide open spaces and freedom they've always longed for – and deserved.

Your past support has helped us provide so many second chances for animals like Nikita and Tasha. Thank you for all you have done. I know many of you have initiated this year's Miracle Match program which will go a long way in helping all of our residents. If you haven't given and would like to contribute to the transport or initial enclosure cost of for Nikita and Tasha, please don't hesitate to contact me. Our overall goal is \$30,000.

I'll be sending you more information as the rescue gets closer.

Tammy Thies
Director
The Wildcat Sanctuary
WildcatSanctuary.org
PO Box 314
Sandstone, MN 55072
320-245-6871

They will never know freedom.
Can they at least know compassion?



Five cougar cubs were orphaned in Cokeville, Wyoming when a bow hunter unknowingly climbed too close to the cougar's den and was confronted by an aggressive female. The hunter shot and killed her in self-defense. Moments later the hunter heard the cubs and realized why the cougar had been so defensive. He brought the cubs to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department where it was determined the cubs could not be released back into the wild.

The Wildcat Sanctuary took in three of the cubs while another facility took the other two. This is Noah, one of the males. He and his siblings, Carlo and Langley have grown up to be healthy, well-adjusted cougars. They live in a free-roaming enclosure off Cougar Cove where they have a temperature-controlled building and plenty of space to run and climb on perches.

The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, no-kill, rescue facility located in Sandstone, Minnesota. TWS provides for the humane rescue and sheltering of unwanted, mistreated and neglected privately owned wildcats that pose a risk to public safety. We do not buy, breed, trade or sell animals. TWS is committed to public education about the captive wildlife crisis by offering veterinarian training opportunities and supporting legislative solutions to the public safety issues created by private ownership of wild animals.



THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY

PO Box 314 Sandstone, MN 55072
wildcatsanctuary.org

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inside the conservancy

Speaking Up for Conservation

The Nature Conservancy takes a stand on federal legislation

This past summer, The Nature Conservancy took an unprecedented action—we let the U.S. House of Representatives know that we opposed passage of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. Never in our 60-year history have we opposed passage of this legislation.

This was such a bold move that Conservancy President and CEO Mark Tereck explained the Conservancy's motivation in a series of posts in the Conservancy's Cool Green Science blog.

This bill proposed deep cuts in funding for several of the federal agencies most important to accomplishing the Conservancy's mission—the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Conservancy has long advocated for legislation that funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other sources of capital for conservation land acquisition. We have always worked with lawmakers to find constructive and cooperative solutions to keep natural resources healthy and productive.

The Conservancy recognized that these dramatic funding cuts would affect the kind of cooperative,

results-oriented conservation programs we know to be both effective and popular with the American people. The bill also included riders that undermined the ability of government to protect our nation's air, land and water.

We understand that the country faces a budget crisis and that all federal programs, including conservation initiatives, should share a fair proportion of spending reductions. But as Mark noted in his blog, "Conservation spending did not cause the budget deficit and cutting conservation cannot fix the deficit."

Consider that conservation and environmental programs together account for 1.26 percent of the federal budget and have remained almost flat for 30 years, while the rest of the budget grew rapidly. And then consider the benefits we all reap from conservation of our natural resources. These include:

- **Protection from natural hazards:** Intact floodplains reduce damage from floods. Healthy forests can protect communities from fire while also providing water supplies for cities. Oyster reefs and coastal marshes buffer the shore from storm damage. Recent natural disasters remind us that the millions of dollars



ABOVE: Mark R. Tereck, president and chief executive officer of The Nature Conservancy, photographed at the Conservancy's worldwide headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. © Dave Lauridsen

needed to manage healthy forests or protect wetlands is minimal compared to the billions needed to rebuild homes, businesses and the lives affected by floods and fires.

- **Jobs and livelihoods:** Farming provides about 24 million jobs in the United States. Forest products account for approximately five percent of the country's total manufacturing gross domestic product and employ nearly 900,000 people. Commercial fishing supports one million full and part-time jobs and generates \$116 billion in revenue. Hunting, angling and other recreational activities dependent on wildlife contribute \$122 billion annually to our economy.

Taken together, it is easy to see that conservation is a smart and economical investment. Tragically, this bill would have reduced funding for the Land and Water

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Conservation Fund to the lowest level in the 45-year history of the program: to \$66 million—a 78 percent reduction from last year. It would have reduced the highly successful Forest Legacy Program by 94 percent, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act by 47 percent and the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program by 65 percent.

Even in these hard economic times, public opinion polls continue to show support for conservation. A poll last January sponsored by Colorado College reveals that among voters in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico:

- 66 percent believe environmental laws should be strengthened and only 11 percent believe they are too strict;

- 87 percent believe having clean water, clean air, natural areas and wildlife is extremely or very important to the quality of life in their state;
- 84 percent agree that even with state budget problems, we should find money to protect land, water and wildlife.

Nature Conservancy members know we have always worked together with government and a range of partners. Therefore, we know they also understand how difficult it was for us to oppose this bill. In the end, though, we did because the bill is central to our mission and to our vision to leave a sustainable world to future generations.

Supporting conservation is part of U.S. history and the core belief that each generation has a responsibility to pass on to the next natural

resources that are healthy, clean, productive and beautiful. The Conservancy believes that not to speak up against the bill would have been a disservice to that legacy and contrary to the mission that has guided us for 60 years.

The Conservancy's opposition to the bill, in addition to the more than 1,000 other organizations that signed on to a letter asking Congress not to make disproportionate cuts to conservation programs, had an impact. The bill never came to a vote on the House floor and the Senate version is much less devastating to conservation programs. We are hopeful the final result will be a win for the protection of our natural resources.

VISIT NATURE.ORG/BLOG to learn the latest in conservation news.

The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Off limits. To protect Karnataka's tigers, the state has barred most researchers from tiger reserves.

INDIA

Field Biologists Cry Foul Over Ban

NEW DELHI—For 12 years, Anindya Sinha would camp out for weeks at a stretch in Bandipur Tiger Reserve to observe social behavior in a troop of bonnet macaques, and how the monkeys responded to tourism pressure. Then in 2010, his study came to a grinding halt. The wildlife manager in southern India's Karnataka State revoked Sinha's research permit, citing a need to safeguard the reserve's tigers. It was a "high-handed, unjustified decision," charges Sinha, a primate biologist at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore. After failing to land a new permit, Sinha recently abandoned his study.

Sinha is not the only researcher to have suffered such a setback. In the past 2 years, Karnataka has canceled 40 out of 42 research permits in four tiger reserves, shutting down studies on topics as diverse as Asian elephant migrations and long-term ecological plots. Karnataka's chief wildlife warden, Brij Kishore Singh, says he has barred most researchers from reserves to protect Karnataka's estimated 300 tigers, perhaps the single largest population in the wild. The reserves, he says, are "critical tiger habitats, and all human activity inside them has to be curtailed as it causes disturbance to the conservation of the tiger." A 2011 census found that India's adult tiger population in the wild has declined to about 1700, half the number it was a decade ago.

Scientists are perplexed by Singh's belief that their research is not compatible with conservation. After months of fruitless efforts to persuade Singh to reverse these decisions, they are now going public with their complaints. "I see no logic in this denial of permissions. Tiger reserves are natural scientific laboratories," says Raman Sukumar, an ecologist at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Last year, Singh

revoked Sukumar's permit to monitor tree growth patterns and forest hydrology in Bandipur. Keeping researchers out of tiger reserves undermines conservation, Sukumar contends, because most reserve managers welcome sound scientific advice.

So far, only Karnataka has cracked down on research. But Singh is lobbying other state wildlife wardens to follow his lead and ban research in all of India's 39 tiger reserves. Singh's "discriminatory and arbitrary decisions," asserts M. D. Madhusudan, a wildlife ecologist at the Nature Conservation Foundation in Mysore, could "ruin field research in India."

At the center of the dispute is the 40-year-old Indian Wildlife Protection Act, which grants states the authority to regulate research in tiger reserves. The act spells out that tiger poachers would be subject to at least 1 year of imprisonment and a \$100 fine. Those penalties were not an effective deterrent. In 2004, poachers wiped out the last of 15 tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan State. Decrying that extirpation, India's Parliament amended the wildlife act in 2006, declaring



Proper credentials. K. Ullas Karanth deplores the "draconian restriction."

tiger reserves "inviolable" and giving the act more teeth by hiking up the punishment for poaching to a minimum of 3 years in prison and a \$1000 fine.

Singh has invoked the "inviolable" clause in justifying his decision to bar most scientists from Karnataka's tiger reserves: Bandipur, Nagarhole, Bhadra, and Dandeli-Anshi. He points out that India's tiger habitat has shrunk to just 8% of the area it occupied a century ago, leaving tigers "very vulnerable." Singh says he doesn't want the tigers under his protection to suffer the same fate as those in Sariska.

One scientist whom Singh tolerates in his reserves is K. Ullas Karanth, a tiger biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society in Bangalore. "Ullas is the real grandfather of all tiger research in India," Singh explains, noting that Karanth also has the endorsement of the central government to study tigers throughout India. Karanth told *Science* that research in reserves should be regulated. "I know of some cases where totally unqualified people have been given research permits to indulge in commercial photography, filmmaking, or even to release potentially dangerous hand-reared big cats," he says. But he also feels that Karnataka's policy has gone too far, calling Singh's ban of researchers en masse "a draconian restriction on the access to our natural laboratories."

Field biologists have appealed to the federal government for help. "India is still a nation of walls, fences, and permits. The policy on research permissions needs to be unambiguous and clear," says Gladwin Joseph, director of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment in Bangalore. He worries that if other states follow Karnataka's lead, then talented students may steer clear of ecology—jeopardizing the field.

Officials in New Delhi may be powerless to intervene. "Banning research is not logical, and this is a foolish move," says Rajesh Gopal, member secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority here, which oversees tiger protection efforts on behalf of the federal government. In a letter to Singh last year, Gopal argued that forbidding research based on the inviolable clause "was not a fair interpretation of the law." Gopal concedes that there is little he can do, because authority to grant research permits rests with the states.

Gopal plans to write a letter to the Karnataka government insisting that "the spirit of the Wildlife Protection Act is to facilitate research, not ban it," Singh intends to hold his ground. "I have to save the tiger from extinction, come what may," he says.

—PALLAVA BAGLA

CREDITS (TOP PHOTO) PALLAVA BAGLA; (BOTTOM PHOTO) KARANATH; PROVIDED BY ULLAS KARANATH

Downloaded from www.sciencemag.org on March 23, 2012

ANIMAL WORLD



In a zoo in California, a mother tiger gave birth to a rare set of triplet tiger cubs.

Unfortunately, Due to complications in the pregnancy, the cubs were born prematurely and due to their tiny size, they died shortly after birth.

The mother tiger after recovering from the delivery, suddenly started to decline in health, Although physically she was fine.

The veterinarians felt that the loss of her litter had caused the tigress to fall into a depression.



The doctors decided that if the tigress could surrogate another mother's cubs, perhaps she would improve.

After checking with many other zoos across the country, the depressing news was that there were no tiger cubs of the right age to introduce to the mourning mother.

The veterinarians decided to try something that had never been tried in a zoo environment. Sometimes a mother of one species will take on the care of a different species.

The only orphans' that could be found quickly, were a litter of weanling pigs. The zoo keepers and vets wrapped the piglets in tiger skin and placed the babies around the mother tiger...

Would they become cubs or pork chops?
Take a look... you won't believe your eyes.



Patient Pets

Photographs by Sher Stoneman

Text By Meleah Maynard-University of Minnesota Alumni Magazine-Spring 2012

About 100 dogs and cats visit the University of Minnesota's Small Animal Hospital every day, where they receive state-of-the-art veterinary medical care.



Above: Muggins, an Old English sheepdog, had surgery last year for hip dysplasia but fell at home during his recovery and fractured his femur. He's been in rehab since September, walking in the hydro tank to strengthen his leg and hip muscles and receiving laser treatments on his hips. The hydro tank is full of warm, chlorinated water and has a treadmill on the floor. Muggins has progressed to walking 0.8 miles per hour for three 9-minute sets.

Many patients dread the hard work of physical therapy. But Sushi, a 10-year-old chocolate-and-red dachshund, always gets



excited when he arrives at the rehabilitation clinic at the University of Minnesota's Small Animal Hospital. "He knows he'll get to see other dogs and eat a lot of treats," says Sushi's owner, Nicole Kanne of St. Paul. Stroking Sushi's side, she pops snacks into the dachshund's mouth and talks to him in a soft voice as he lies on a table where he receives a neuromuscular stimulation treatment on his hind legs. It's been two and a half months since Kanne called Sushi to go outside and noticed he was dragging his back legs. "We brought him here immediately," she says, and Sushi was diagnosed with degenerating discs. "They did spinal surgery right away because they said time was of the essence." Sushi's recovery has been slow, but weekly (twice weekly) treatments along with exercises and laser therapy have put Sushi well on his way to recovery.

Rehabilitation is one of 16 board-certified specialties practiced by 60 veterinary medicine specialists at the Small Animal Hospital, which is the biggest and busiest of the 20 veterinary teaching hospitals in the United States. Other specialties include neurology, cardiology, anesthesiology, dermatology, and oncology. "It's our research mission that really sets us apart," says Dr. David Lee, director of the University's Veterinary Medical Center, which includes the small and large animal hospitals, as well as the satellite equine hospital in Maple Plain.

"We're not just providing veterinary medicine," Lee says. "We're creating it and teaching it so others can use what we've learned here, and that's the exciting part." Competition for admission to the University's College of Veterinary Medicine is fierce: Just under 1,000 people applied for 100 open spots in 2011. Currently, 384 students are enrolled in the college, and about 44 percent of the students in the class of 2011 focused their studies on small animals.



Millie, hospital director Dr. David Lee's 3-year-old pug, became an unhappy patient at the Small Animal Hospital in September after she ate almost an entire pack of sugar-free gum. Xylitol, a sweetener in the gum, can cause liver damage in dogs. Veterinary technician Monique Rambo cared for Millie while vomiting was induced, and Millie eventually threw up 31 pieces of gum.

Open since 1983 on the University's St. Paul campus, the Small Animal Hospital is a nonprofit supported primarily by fees charged for services, though some state funding helps offset the teaching aspect of its

mission. “Money spent here is used to directly support veterinary medicine in the state by teaching students, driving research, and doing outreach,” Lee notes, adding that 62 percent of practicing veterinarians in the state graduated from the college.

Jillmarie Stich (left) of Minneapolis brought Samantha, a 7-year-old beagle, to the Small Animal Hospital after years of failed attempts to solve the dog’s skin allergy problems. Dr. Sandra Koch (M.S. ’03), right, an assistant clinical specialist in dermatology, discusses treatment options, including antibiotics and a new hypoallergenic shampoo, and removes a skin lesion to test it for bacteria.



The Small Animal Hospital records about 32,000 visits annually. Patients come primarily from the Twin Cities metro area, but the specialized treatment offered at the University also draws pet owners from around the country, and even the world. In the past few years, for example, a cat from North Dakota

received treatment for mammary cancer, a dog from Florida had heart surgery, and a dog from India had orthopedic surgery followed by rehabilitation. In the third case, the dog's owner, Ratan N. Tata, chairman of the India-based business conglomerate the Tata Group, was so pleased with the treatment his dog received he established the Tata Group Chair in Veterinary Orthopedic Surgery. The gift will also be used to advance veterinary education in India by creating an exchange program with the Karnataka Veterinary College in Bangalore.

Right: Kelly Gasper (left) adopted Uno, a calico cat, in South Africa several years ago and brought her back to Minnesota, where the cat now lives with Gasper's mother. On a recent visit to her mother's, Gasper noticed Uno was ailing, with swollen limbs and belly, and brought her to the Small Animal Hospital. Uno's kidneys aren't functioning properly, and the medical staff believes she has nephrotic syndrome, a type of renal failure in which the kidneys leak protein from the blood into the urine. Dr. Kristin Schafgans (D.V.M. '08), right, a resident in internal medicine, listens to Uno's heart.

Below: Ultrasound images of Uno's kidneys help the doctors diagnose the cat's health problem.





Local veterinarians often refer pet owners to the U’s Small Animal Hospital, though people may bring their sick or injured pets to the hospital without a referral too. And sometimes animals end up at the U hospital in dramatic fashion. Just over a year ago, the hospital opened its Animal Trauma Center (ATC), offering state-of-the-art emergency care to dogs and cats that are triaged and treated by a team of critical care specialists. Considered efficient and highly successful, the ATC’s treatment model is currently being adopted by the American College of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Specialists.

“We frequently have clients say, ‘Gee, I don’t take this good of care of myself,’” says Lee, acknowledging the costs associated with specialized veterinary care. “But the people who come here typically want to know they’ve done everything they could for their animals.” In some cases, Lee points out, that may mean opting to do nothing. “An awful lot of pet owners don’t realize they have the option to see a specialist,” he explains. “Here, we offer a lot of possible alternatives for treatment and people can decide for themselves that they want to do.”



Above and left: Sophie, a yellow Labrador retriever, is put under anesthesia in order to undergo dental work, including a crown and teeth cleaning, by Dr. Wade Gingerich, a third-year resident in dentistry and oral surgery. College of Veterinary Medicine students Ann Kinsley (left) and Jean Kim look on while veterinary medicine student Jen Gallus monitors Sophie while under anesthesia.

Below: Jennifer Marcus Newton of St. Paul brings her rescued greyhound Ryan to the Small Animal Hospital every day for radiation treatment following surgery to remove a cancerous facial tumor. The two were photographed on day 14 of 22 days of treatment. Before each treatment, Ryan must be sedated so that he lies still during the procedure.



Meleah Maynard (B.A. '91), a Minneapolis-based freelance writer, and photographer Sher Stoneman (B.A. '87), based in St. Paul, worked together at the Minnesota Daily.

HOLOCAUST

Minnesota teachers grapple with lessons from the Holocaust

By Rose French-StarTribune-March 3, 2012



Training seminars are helping teachers recount the horrors of genocide to increasingly diverse classes.

Kacie Holcomb moves slowly through galleries, contemplating exhibits that leave her stunned: Jewish concentration camp prisoners in striped uniforms. Black-and-white photos of emaciated survivors. Photos of lifeless bodies -- men, women and children who didn't make it out of the nightmarish camps.

"If we don't remember what happened, all of those people died in vain," said Holcomb, a social studies teacher from Fergus Falls, who toured the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington with students last week. "If we remember them, we're honoring their lives and families and the suffering they endured." For teachers like Holcomb, trying to explain the Jewish Holocaust to students is one of the most tortuous lessons they'll ever face in the classroom. And yet the atrocities of Nazi-occupied Europe some 70 years ago matter today as much as ever, as Minnesota classrooms grow more diverse and include children of refugee families escaping war and other strife.

Like Holcomb, a growing number of teachers in Minnesota and nationwide are turning to Jewish groups for help in understanding and teaching this complex and horrific subject.

Last year, more than 500 teachers and other educators from Minnesota participated in seminars offered by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC). The council also takes students and teachers like Holcomb on an annual trip to the Holocaust museum.

"Students from war-torn countries -- from issues of racism or bigotry or prejudice -- there's something that's documented in the Holocaust curriculum that you can go back to and learn from," said Laura Zelle, director of Tolerance Minnesota, the JCRC's education arm.

Zelle said teachers are looking for resources beyond textbooks -- the latest in memoirs, articles, multimedia and other materials -- to help them teach the subject.

Adding urgency is the fact that a generation of Holocaust survivors is now passing away, leaving few eyewitnesses who can give personal accounts.

Teachers say, "Let's make sure we give this to students now while we still have the witnesses to talk to them," said Peter Fredlake, director of National Outreach for Teacher Initiatives with the Holocaust museum.

Lessons of war

Even as World War II recedes from the memory of living Americans, its lessons remain important, said Dan Wildeson, director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at St. Cloud State University.

"There is a growing interest in trying to find ... lessons from history, particularly the Holocaust, that would help us reflect upon the kinds of social dynamics we encounter right now ... immigration, same-sex orientation. I think the Holocaust provides a prism for looking at some of these other tensions."

Wildeson led a group of about 25 St. Cloud students who took part in the council's trip to the museum Tuesday.

Teachers are seeking "lesson plans, images, techniques ... to open up a conversation about ... these extraordinarily difficult and tragic events," Wildeson said.

Six states have passed legislation mandating that the Holocaust be taught in the classroom: Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, California and Florida. In most states, social studies standards explicitly mention the Holocaust as a topic of study, including in Minnesota for seventh to 12th grades, according to Fredlake.

Eleanor Minnema, an English teacher at Humboldt Secondary School in St. Paul, teaches Elie Wiesel's seminal work "Night," based on his experience as a prisoner at concentration camps. Among her students are the Hmong and the Karen, an ethnic minority in conflict with the government in Myanmar. Most of the estimated 5,000 Karen in Minnesota came from refugee camps in Thailand.

"We couched it ["Night"] in a bigger unit on genocide," said Minnema, who was among the nearly 50 educators who last month attended a daylong JCRC training session at the Orono School District office. "I had one student who was Cambodian, and she researched the Cambodian genocide. We touched on the Armenian genocide. The forced famine with Stalin. Rwanda, Darfur. We tried to get a blend of areas in the world to show how genocide is still a modern issue."

Survivors share stories

Besides the JCRC in Minnesota, other Jewish groups across the country help educators teach the Holocaust. The museum itself is one of the largest providers of such training, reaching between 4,000 and 5,000 educators a year, Fredlake said.

"It is a sensitive topic," he said. "By bringing this into the classroom, you're bringing in material that could be upsetting to kids. Especially now, we have immigrants from Southeast Asia, Africa, South and Central America, whose families may very well have ... been victims of the kinds of crimes against humanity you learn about in the Holocaust. It's really making teachers sensitive."



Neil Anderson, a social studies teacher at South High School in Minneapolis, has participated in the council's training seminar and has gone on 17 of the council's museum trips. This year, he brought nine South students with him.

A key lesson Anderson learned early was to incorporate survivors' testimonies. For years, they've come to his classroom and recounted their stories.

"You can throw around numbers -- 6 million this, 100,000 that, 10,000 this," Anderson said. "But each number is a person that had a life.

"I've seen kids listen to a survivor relate their story and explode out of the desk at the end and want to give them a hug. I've seen kids openly cry in a high school classroom. It's just amazing what you see."

PHILANTHROPY

Children's HeartLink International Activities Updates



Arvind, a patient at AIMS in Kochi, India.

October 2011

India – Children's HeartLink presented at the 13th Annual Conference of the Pediatric Cardiac Society of India in Trivandrum, India.

Children's HeartLink facilitated the second annual networking meeting for our partners in India.

Children's HeartLink facilitated a meeting to discuss development of a pediatric cardiac nursing certification course.

November 2011

India – Children's HeartLink worked with India Academy of Pediatrics and volunteers from Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), Children's HeartLink's global partner in Kochi, to organize a pediatric cardiology workshop for practicing pediatricians in the state of Gujarat.

An interventional cardiology workshop was held at AIMS with Children's HeartLink support.

Vietnam – Two nurses from Nhi Dong 1 (Children's Hospital 1) in Ho Chi Minh City traveled to Singapore for training.

December 2011

Vietnam – An intensive care nurse from Singapore spent several days at Nhi Dong 1 in Ho Chi Minh City to continue nursing training and began planning for an advanced training module for local critical care nurses in pediatric cardiac post-operative care to take place in Spring 2012.

January 2012

China – Medical volunteers from University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital spent a week training doctors and nurses, diagnosing and treating children with heart disease at the First Hospital of Lanzhou University in Lanzhou.

India – An intensivist from AIMS in Kochi spent two months at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada, for off-site training.

An interventional cardiology workshop was held at AIMS with Children's HeartLink support.

In collaboration with the National Board of Examinations of India, the new platform for providing weekly online training to pediatric cardiology fellows in India was launched.

February 2012

Vietnam – A team of medical volunteers from Singapore will travel to Nhi Dong 1 in Ho Chi Minh City to train doctors and nurses, diagnose and treat children with heart disease.

Winter 2012

Vietnam – A diagnostic cardiologist from Nhi Dong 1 will travel to India for training at AIMS in Kochi.

March 2012

India – A team of medical volunteers from Children's Hospital Boston will spend a week training doctors and nurses, diagnosing and treating children with heart disease at the

Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, a new Children's HeartLink partner site in northern India.

Malaysia – A team of ICU nurses from Institut Jantung Negara in Kuala Lumpur will visit Birmingham Children's Hospital in the United Kingdom for training.

April 2012

Ukraine – An interventional cardiologist from the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center (UCCC) in Kyiv will travel for off-site training to Seattle Children's Hospital.

India – A volunteer intensivist and an intensive care nurse from Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford will spend a week at Innova Children's Heart Hospital in Hyderabad to provide training.

Brazil – An infection control specialist and intensivist from Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota will travel to Hospital de Base in São José do Rio Preto to provide training to local staff in infection prevention and control and post-operative care practices.

May 2012

Ukraine – A volunteer nursing team from Seattle Children's Hospital will spend several days at UCCC in Kyiv to provide training and participate in a nursing conference.

Spring 2012

India – The Parent Education/Discharge Instructions (PEDI) project will be introduced at AIMS.

Future activities are subject to schedule changes. To support our programs, e-mail brian@childrensheartlink.org.

THE ARTS

The Tracy Awards for were adjudicated on February 13th and the winners were announced in conjunction with the Viva City Fine Arts Festival on March 7th.

This Year's winners were:

1st Jane Thompson
SW High
Teacher: Cecily Spano

2nd place Maddy Johns
SW High
Teacher: Cecily Spano

3rd Place
Storm Artio
Henry High
Teacher: Andrea Rose

Marisa Erickson
South High
Teacher: Dennis Sponsler

Eduardo Sanchez Beltran
Roosevelt High
Teacher: Anton Daisa



WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU DO



TO HELP OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVE SUCCESS!

To Gary Fink and Family,

What a wonderful honor for our 5 Minneapolis High School students to receive the Tracy Award this year. Our team is so very grateful to your
THANK YOU!

family for continuing this tradition of presenting scholarships to Minneapolis High School students. It was a pleasure to meet you and John at our Awards Night in early March. Thank you so much for your generosity towards our blossoming visual arts students.

Brenda Butler



Gas Station, Palm Springs, CA, USA, 1997

ROBERT POLIDORI: WORLD INVENTORY
NOW ON VIEW

Weinstein Gallery is pleased to present *Robert Polidori: World Inventory*, a selection of 18 large format color photographs taken by the internationally acclaimed photographer Robert Polidori. In each of his bodies of work, Polidori captures the color palette of the location and records the fragile beauty of the history that surrounds him. At Versailles, he reveals a chateau where dust coats the floors, paintings wait to be hung and velvet coverings hang loose from their walls. In Beirut, daylight floods rooms where richly pigmented walls have been reduced to rubble. On view in this exhibition are photographs taken in California, New York City, Chicago, Shanghai, Beirut, Havana, Brasilia, Italy and France, images shot by Polidori over a 25-year period.

Below is recent press on the exhibition in the Minneapolis Star Tribune (Friday, February 24, 2012).

Weinstein Gallery
908 West 46th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-822-1722
www.weinstein-gallery.com



Robert Polidori's images of Michelangelo's "David" and other large-scale photos are on exhibit at Weinstein Gallery.

ROBERT POLIDORI: WORLD INVENTORY
Just opened: A go-to stainless cocktail for writer wanderlust these 18 large-scale photographs seethe with unconventional locations, whether it is a spare, modernist passage in Southern California or a theatrical lineup of midcentury apartment buildings in Havana. Observe detail competes with jewel-toned color in Polidori's "Historical Revisionism" series, which documents with a critical, sometimes humorous eye the restoration of the Palace of Versailles. (Polidori has just published a three-volume boxed set on Polidori's 25-year project.) In France, Cuba and California are too terse, the acclaimed French-Canadian photographer presents idiosyncratic views of Beirut, Beirut, Shanghai, New York City and Chicago, all laced with a surrealist light that lingers comically behind the eyelids. The gallery is also presenting images of Michelangelo's "David," a project it announced in 2009. Once again Polidori teaches us how to see. (11am-5pm, Tue-Sat, Ends May 5, Weinstein Gallery, 908 W 46th St, Mpls 612-822-1722 or www.weinstein-gallery.com)



Off Broadway Welcomes ‘Old Jews Telling Jokes’

By Adam W. Kepler-March 12, 2012-New York Times

One would be hard pressed to find a more honestly titled theater production than “Old Jews Telling Jokes,” an new Off Broadway show that promises to reinvent classic Jewish jokes and perform them on stage. Co-created by the authors Peter Gethers and Daniel Okrent and directed by Marc Bruni (“Fanny”), the project is inspired by the Web site oldjewstellingjokes.com which, true to its name, hosts videos of older Jewish raconteurs telling some of their favorite jokes.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Okrent explained how the concept behind the site became a stage production. Mr. Gethers had the notion of an Off Off Broadway show that was a cabaret act. That idea evolved into its current, and more theatrical, form in which Broadway actors will perform the jokes, complete with costumes. “It is a real set and like all good Jewish operations the furniture will have plastic slipcovers,” Mr. Okrent said. “It’s not standup. We’ve taken jokes and turned them into little playlets.”

The show will also feature songs — old and new — and pay tribute to comedy giants of the past and present. Previews are to begin on May 1, with an opening scheduled for May 20 at the Westside Theater. Casting has not been announced.



HUMOR

GROUCHO & COMPANY
Or
The Marx of Time*

Groucho, Harpo, and Chico
Were the only Marxist party
America ever took to heart.

While Caesar divided Gaul into
Three parts, the three Marxes merely
Unleashed it...teaching Caesar to
Beware the Ides of Marx.

The lecherous leader of
These men from Marx was
Groucho-their home-grown King Leer.

Groucho was also the only
Literary Brother-a regular
Book Marx in comic clothing.

Together their socialism of silliness
Seldom missed the Marx-a
Depression team treating various forms of
Depression ever since.

Truly, these are Marx of Time!

*The author appreciates being given this forum for his re-marx. (Wes Gehring)





In April of 1961, the inimitable [Groucho Marx](#) received a glossy annual report from the Franklin Corporation, a company in which he had recently become an investor. After flicking through the report, Groucho had some concerns, and so wrote the following letter to the company's President, Herman Goodman, to inform him.

April 24, 1961

Dear Mr Goodman:

I received the first annual report of the Franklin Corporation and though I am not an expert at reading balance sheets, my financial advisor (who, I assure you, knows nothing) nodded his head in satisfaction.

You wrote that you hope I am not one of those borscht circuit stockholders who get a few points' profit and hastily scam for the hills. For your information, I bought Alleghany Preferred eleven years ago and am just now disposing of it.

As a brand new member of your family, strategically you made a ghastly mistake in sending me individual pictures of the Board of Directors. Mr Roth, Chairman of the Board, merely looks sinister. You, the President, look like a hard worker with not too much on the ball. No one named Prosswimmer can possibly be a success. As for Samuel A. Goldblith, PhD., head of Food Technology at MIT, he looks as though he had eaten too much of the wrong kind of fodder.

At this point I would like to stop and ask you a question about Marion Harper Jr. To begin with, I immediately distrust any man who has the same name as his mother. But the thing that most disturbs me about Junior is that I don't know what the hell he's laughing at. Is it because he sucked me into this Corporation? This is not the kind of face that inspires confidence in a nervous and jittery stockholder.

George S. Sperti, I dismiss instantly. Any man who is the President of an outfit called Institutum Divi Thomae will certainly bear watching. Is he trying to impress stockholders with his knowledge of Latin? If so, why doesn't he read, "Winnie ille Pu"? James J. Sullivan, I am convinced, is Paul E. Prosswimmer photographed from a different angle.

Offhand, I would say that I have summed up your group fairly accurately. I hope, for my sake, that I am mistaken.

In closing, I warn you, go easy with my money. I am in an extremely precarious profession whose livelihood depends upon a fickle public.

Sincerely yours,

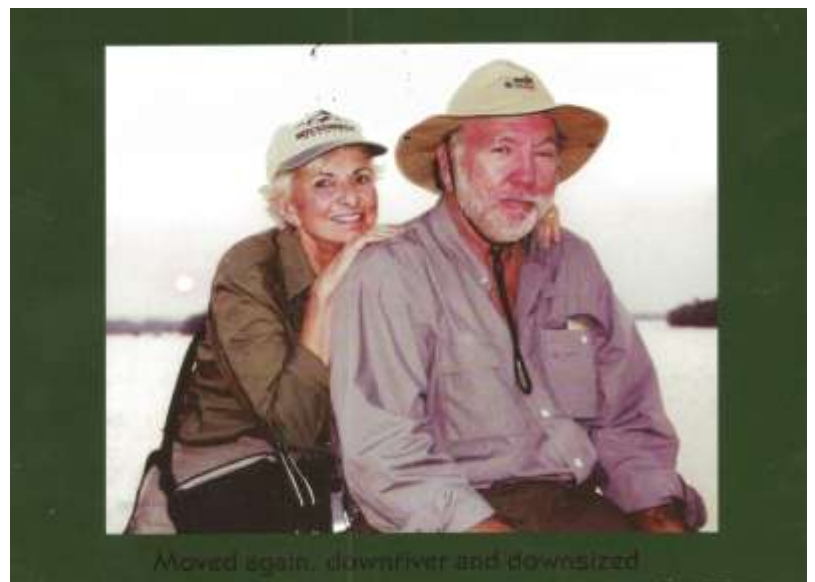
Groucho Marx
(temporarily at liberty)

A birthday card received.....



If all you're thinking about is how much potassium she's getting, you're older than I thought!

The rebirth of Ernest Hemingway and his female chiropractor!



Moved again, downriver and downsized

The longer you've been married, the funnier this becomes!



An elderly married couple was at home watching TV.

The husband had the remote and was switching back and forth between the motorcycle racing and the porn channel.

**The wife became more and more annoyed and finally said:
"For god's sake! Leave it on the porn channel. You already know how to ride a motorbike !!!"**

The Psychiatrist and the Proctologist

Best friends graduated from medical school at the same time and decided that, in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share office space and personnel.

Dr. Smith was the psychiatrist and Dr. Jones was the proctologist; they put up a sign reading: "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones: Hysterias and Posteriors".

The town council was livid and insisted they change it.

So, the docs changed it to read:
"Schizoids and Hemorrhoids".

This was also not acceptable, so they again changed the sign.
"Catatonics and High Colonics" –
No go.

Next, they tried "Manic Depressives
and Anal Retentives" - thumbs
down again.
Then came "Minds and Behinds" -
still no good.

Another attempt resulted in "Lost
Souls and Butt Holes" -
unacceptable again!
So they tried "Analysis and Anal
Cysts" - not a chance.

"Nuts and Butts" - no way.

"Freaks and Cheeks" -still no good.

"Loons and Moons" - forget it.

Almost at their wit's end, the docs finally came up with:
"Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones - Specializing in Odds and Ends".

Everyone loved it.



MAN'S ASS OPENS CAR TRUNK!

Minneapolis, MN -

Mechanics found that a human ass was responsible for automatically opening the car trunk of local insurance legend, Gary Fink, every time he entered his car (2008 Cadillac STS).

After exploring every mechanical possibility with professional auto experts, it was initially concluded that the car must be inhabited by a yet-to-be-identified ghost or spirit.

Producers of the "Paranormal Activity" movie series rushed from Hollywood in an attempt to purchase the rights to the movie script about this frightening phenomenon.

After grueling negotiations with the producers, Gary finally admitted that he traditionally carried his car key (including his trunk remote control) in his right rear pocket. Ultimately, whenever he sat down in the driver's seat of his Cadillac, the trunk button on the key fob was pressed, popping the trunk wide open.

Gary was bitterly disappointed at the final discovery, since the he was attempting to sell his "possessed automobile"

on eBay for twice its original retail price...including tax and license. Thus far, the leading bid had been issued by Jerry Van Dyke, former star of the 1960's television comedy, "My Mother The Car."



Upon learning that he had been traded to the New York Jets, Tim Tebow exclaimed, "There is no God!"

OPINION

FORGIVENESS, HOPE WIN OUT OVER CRIME IN JUVENILE COURT

By Jon Tevlin-StarTribune-March 17, 2012



Sally Packard had waited seven months to get the chance to talk to the teenager who stole her car, and with it some of her independence.

The car, a 1989 Dodge, wasn't worth much. But it was important to Packard, 76, because she needed it to drive to mass at the Church of St. Peter in Richfield every morning. It also got her to doctors appointments at Hennepin County Medical Center three times a week.

When Packard finally got to meet the boy, 17, in Hennepin County Juvenile Court recently, she started with a quote: "When we forgive, we don't deny the hurt that we have received. We don't deny that it was wrong, but we acknowledge that there is more to the offender than the offense."

Already, Packard had the boy's attention. But she also had the attention of Judge Kathryn Quaintance and the lawyers and court staff in the room.

Packard went on to tell how she was called to the impound lot several days after the car was stolen and found it totaled and filled with garbage. Her driver's license was gone, along with religious books and a rosary given to Packard by her mother.

Then Packard talked about being a foster mom for about 50 kids, many of them who had been abused and neglected, and how much she empathized with the young man standing before her in court.

"I personally know most of these kids have not been parented, and maybe their parents haven't either, or maybe they got into the wrong crowd, or got into drugs," she said.

"I would like [the teen] to know that I pray for him and the other two [boys who were with him] daily, and that it is not too late for them," Packard continued. "I would also like these boys to think of their own families. Would they want their families to experience what I have?"

"Again, please let [the boy] know that I sincerely care about him, and I am praying for his redirection and rehabilitation," she said. "A good life awaits him, if he will just choose a new path. God bless." Packard then asked the judge if she could give the young man two stones. One said "Hope," the other said, "A special prayer for you."

The young man took the stones, and began to sob.

"The hurt, I never thought of that," said the teen. "I'm really sorry. I regret this decision. I'm sorry for all of the hurt that I caused you."

"I care. Lots of people care about you," said Packard.

Then Packard did something none of the people in the courtroom had seen before, she hugged the person who had upset her life. He squeezed her hard and sobbed.

By now, everyone in the courtroom was crying. For years, many of them had watched hardened, defiant kids and angry, vindictive victims. But nothing like this.

Judge Quaintance, known to be stern and no-nonsense, finally spoke from the bench.



"I think many of us have been doing this work for a very, very long time, and I have never seen such a powerful moment in my career," Quaintance said.

"The [teen's] recognition that you had an impact on somebody, that this is not an anonymous hurt, this is a personal hurt," said the judge. "[It] just so happened that you by chance chose as a victim somebody who can change your life."

After court, Quaintance was so moved, she sent me an e-mail: "It was the genuine concern and love for this kid who stole her car that blew us all away," wrote Quaintance. "It was a miracle."

Packard did not want the teen to pay restitution for her car because he'd lost his job. He did have to pay \$500 for another charge, something that worried Packard.

A few days after the court hearing, Packard sat in her small Minneapolis home and talked about the experience. "When the police told me [the car thieves] were underage, I just kept praying for them," she said. She recalled the hurt in the teen's eyes as she spoke in court. "He was hugging me so hard I couldn't believe it," Packard said. "I felt everybody in that room was affected. I'm not sure what happened, but I call it a spiritual moment. That was God."

Packard said she knows judges and lawyers toil away without praise, and often get jaded because they deal daily with violence and sorrow.

"There is often so much disillusionment," she said. "I found myself thinking that everybody there needed this. Everybody needed the kind of attention that boy got. We all need some source of value in our lives."

MACALASTER COLLEGE PRESIDENT: Appalled by Rick Santorum
By Brian Rosenberg-StarTribune-February 28, 2012



The unexpected rise of Rick Santorum in the Republican presidential field has provoked more than a few questions about how to respond to assertions that seem to test the limits of both democracy and truth. For me, one of the most interesting questions bears directly upon my own responsibilities as president of a college. Under what circumstances and to what extent should a college or university president speak directly to political issues and even speak publicly on particular political candidacies?

The rule of thumb has for quite some time been that on such matters presidents had best remain silent. One of the chief jobs of a college leader is to raise money from alumni and other constituencies.

The political views of those groups are likely to be diverse, and silence is therefore preferable to the risk of alienating or aggravating any significant group of potential donors. Fiduciary responsibility requires political restraint.

More important (or at least more noble) is the argument about the preservation of academic freedom on a campus. College and universities should be places where all civil and reasonable views on important issues can be expressed and debated, and a president who takes a public stand on too many of these issues risks stifling debate.

As usual, Bill Bowen, former president of both Princeton University and the Andrew Mellon Foundation, put this best: "The university should be the home of the critic, welcoming and respectful of every point of view; it cannot serve this critically important function if it becomes the critic itself, coming down on one side or another of controversial issues."

To the extent that the president, appropriately or not, is often seen as the personal embodiment of the institution, a politicized presidency risks creating an unhealthy politicized college. By and large I am a firm believer in the soundness of both of these arguments. But the Santorum candidacy, in my view, provokes the question of whether there are limits to their validity -- that is, is there a set of circumstances under which the responsibility to speak out trumps the responsibility to remain publicly neutral or silent?

I believe the answer to that question is yes, and I believe the circumstances are these: When a policy or an argument or a political platform -- or a candidate -- is antithetical or threatening to the fundamental educational mission of the institution, then in my view it is the responsibility of the president to say so publicly.

Put another way, silence in the face of such threats is a failure of leadership. The next question to be asked is whether Santorum -- or if one prefers to be less personal, let us say the set of views articulated by Santorum, perhaps imagined collectively as Santorumness or Santorumosity -- qualifies as such a threat. Let me choose two examples of recent Santorum statements that I believe suggest strongly that this is so. In a well-documented speech in Steubenville, Ohio, this man who would be president asserted that global-warming claims were based on "phony studies" and that climate science was in fact only "political science." "When it comes to the management of the earth, they"--I'm not sure if this refers to all Democrats, all climate scientists, or all those who believe in evidence-- "are the anti-science ones. We are the ones who stand for science, and technology."

Could there be any more direct threat than this to the very foundations of education: the ability to formulate arguments based on evidence, to use language with precision, to think critically and analytically? This is not first and foremost about climate change; it is about the responsible and appropriate use of words, facts and ideas. Even those who challenge the findings of climate science should be able to acknowledge that its practitioners are scientists.

To concede that Santorum's remarks are within the bounds of the appropriate is to concede that our work as educators is pretty much meaningless.

One more (though there are so many from which to choose): In an interview several days ago with Glenn Beck, Santorum observed, "I understand why Barack Obama wants to send every kid to college, because of their indoctrination mills, absolutely. ... The indoctrination that is going on at the university level is a harm to our country."

He has since repeated this claim in other contexts.

It is not much of a stretch, I would submit, to see the claims that (1) wanting to see more students attend college is "elitist" and bad for our country and (2) colleges are merely indoctrination mills, as ones with which a college president should publicly disagree, and that a presidential candidate who makes such claims is at least as much a threat to our collective mission as any law or court ruling.

So with all due respect to my responsibilities as a fundraiser and as a guardian of open discourse on my campus, I am prepared to make the case that stating publicly that I am appalled by the views of Rick Santorum is not only my right but my responsibility.

I am appalled by the views of Rick Santorum.

Now excuse me while I go check on the water flow in the indoctrination mill on the northeast corner of the Macalester campus.

Brian Rosenberg is the president of Macalester College in St. Paul. A version of this article was previously published by the Huffington Post.

ONE-WAY WANTONNESS

By Frank Bruni-New York Times- March 12, 2012

Hussy. Harlot. Hooker.

Floozy. Strumpet. Slut.

When attacking a woman by questioning her sexual mores, there's a smorgasbord of slurs, and you can take your rancid pick. Help me out here: where are the comparable nouns for men? What's a male slut? A role model, in some cases. In others, a presidential candidate.

"Gigolo" doesn't have the acid or currency of "whore," and the man with bedpost notches gets compliments. He's a Casanova, a conquistador.

The lady is a tramp.

Nearly two weeks since Rush Limbaugh let loose on Sandra Fluke, equating her desire for insurance-covered birth control with a prostitute's demand for a fee, the wrangling over how awful that really was and whether it will truly haunt him continues.

Advertisers bolted in protest; advertisers come and go all the time. It was the beginning of his end; it was ratings chum. He lost his way; he was Rush in Excelsis.

One especially robust strand of commentary has focused on whether Limbaugh, a god of the far right, was smacked down for the kind of thing that less conservative men routinely get away with.

In a spirited essay on The Daily Beast this past weekend, the novelist Paul Theroux joined many commentators in alleging liberal hypocrisy, of which there has indeed been some.

And he said that provocative language is an essential part of public dialogue, arguing that you can't recoil from its deployment against Fluke unless you want to forfeit its use elsewhere.

"You have to give Limbaugh a pass," he maintained, in order to preserve the right to call Newt Gingrich and Eric Cantor "pimps for Israel, and Rick Santorum a mental midget."

It's an interesting point, but it ignores the precise type of language Limbaugh turned to and assumes an even playing field where one doesn't exist.

While both men and women are called idiots and puppets and frauds, only women are attacked in terms of suspected (or flat-out hallucinated) licentiousness. And only for women is there such a brimming, insidious thesaurus of accordant pejoratives.

Decades after the dawn of feminism, despite the best efforts of everyone from Erica Jong to Kim Cattrall, women are still seen through an erotically censorious prism, and promiscuity is still the ultimate putdown. It's antediluvian, and it's astonishing. You'd think our imaginations would have evolved, even if our humanity hasn't.

Anthony Weiner may have been felled by his libido, but the weirdness of its expression and his recklessness were what people mainly balked at. Ditto for John Edwards. No one called them gigolos. You could argue that Limbaugh chose the slurs he did for Fluke simply because the context, a debate over contraception, was in part sexual.

But there are examples aplenty of women being derided as sluts and prostitutes — two of his descriptions of Fluke — when sex is nowhere in the preamble, nowhere in the picture.

Some involve Limbaugh himself. As Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinem and Robin Morgan noted in a recent editorial for CNN.com, he has referred to female cabinet members as “sex-retaries.”

But look as well to Columbia University and what happened last week after President Obama, an alumnus, announced that he would give a commencement address at its all-women’s sister school, Barnard College, instead. A Columbia blog lit up with anti-Barnard rants, several stressing crude, tired sexual stereotypes. A few were apparently written by women.

Last year the TV and radio host Ed Schultz hurled “slut” as an all-purpose insult at the right-wing commentator Laura Ingraham. He got a week’s suspension.

Another radio host, John “Sly” Sylvester, used his Wisconsin talk show to savage the state’s lieutenant governor, Rebecca Kleefisch, as someone given to oral and group sex. This was just random invective, his special way of saying “I hate you.” He went unpunished.

The impulse toward gross sexual caricatures of women is a sick tic without end.

In 1992 the threat to Bill Clinton’s first presidential bid was a “bimbo eruption.” Note how the slur was assigned to the lubricious co-conspirator, not the lustful (and philandering) candidate.

Two decades later, Amanda Knox wasn’t just an alleged killer but an alleged killer with supposedly kinky sexual habits, the latter presumably shedding light on the former.

Just before the Hollywood producer and director Brett Ratner was dropped from taking charge of this year’s Oscars telecast, he went on a revoltingly sexist tear, saying that he insists that the women he becomes physically intimate with are examined first for transmissible diseases. He separately used an anti-gay epithet. His misogyny struck me as more florid than his homophobia, but if you followed the events closely, you sensed that the homophobia did him in. Only because his victim pool included men as well as women did the water get really hot.

Back to Limbaugh: the lawyer Gloria Allred has called for his criminal prosecution, citing an obscure Florida statute. (Limbaugh does his radio show from West Palm Beach.) The statute says anyone who “speaks of and concerning any woman, married or unmarried, falsely and maliciously imputing to her a want of chastity” is committing a misdemeanor.

Good thing it’s not a felony. The prisons might fill to bursting

DON'T TREAD ON US

By Maureen Dowd-New York Times- March 13, 2012



Hillary Clinton has fought for women's rights around the world. But who would have dreamed that she would have to fight for them at home?

"Why extremists always focus on women remains a mystery to me," she told an adoring crowd at the Women in the World Summit at Lincoln Center on Saturday. "But they all seem to. It doesn't matter what country they're in or what religion they claim. They want to control women. They want to control how we dress. They want to control how we act. They even want to control the decisions we make about our own health and bodies.

"Yes," she continued to applause, "it is hard to believe that even here at home, we have to stand up for women's rights and reject efforts to marginalize any one of us, because America needs to set an

example for the entire world."

As secretary of state, Clinton is supposed to stay out of domestic politics. But this was a moment pregnant with possibility, a titanic clash of the Inevitable (Hillary) and the Indefensible (Republican cavemen). The attempt by Republican men to wrestle American women back into chastity belts has not only breathed life into President Obama, it has roused and riled Hillary. And that could turn out to be the most dangerous thing the wildly self-destructive G.O.P. leaders have done.

In some kind of insane bout of mass misogyny, Republicans are hounding out the women voters — including Republicans and independents — who helped them gain control of the House in 2010. Senator Olympia Snowe, who's fed up and leaving Congress, told The Washington Post's Karen Tumulty that "it feels as if we are going back to another era," warning that Republicans could drive women into Democratic arms.

And whose arms would be more welcoming to the sisters than Hillary's? The woman who has been mocked as "the sex-retary of state" by Rush Limbaugh would know just where to hit back. There has been fevered speculation about Hillary ascending. Patrick Caddell and Douglas Schoen suggested in The Wall Street Journal that President Obama should take "the moral high ground" and step aside for his secretary of state. Hillary, they argued sanguinely, could "break the gridlock in Washington." It's an amusing but absurd scenario.

Al Hunt of Bloomberg News wrote this week that Hillary could waltz past Larry Summers into the presidency of the World Bank and that she is the automatic Democratic front-runner for 2016. My colleague Bill Keller suggested that she replace Joe Biden on the ticket in 2012 and demote him to Foggy Bottom: "Vice President Clinton would be a formidable asset in governing as well as campaigning, both as a political calculator and as an emissary to Capitol Hill. She has, to put it mildly, an ability to navigate the world of powerful, problematic men."

She wouldn't, however, be able to navigate past two powerful men who would find her elevation problematic: Obama and Biden. Although chatterers love to chat about the Joe-Hillary switch because she's so much more compelling — and masterful — than the whole Republican field, it's not on the radar screen at the White House. It would make the president seem weak, desperate and disloyal and get him a vice president who would pull focus and be a competitor. Besides, before he would go, Biden would handcuff himself to Bo.

The Republican assault on women does, though, provide a glide path to the White House both for Obama in 2012 and Hillary in 2016.

Women have watched a chilling cascade of efforts in Congress and a succession of states to turn women into chattel, to shame them about sex and curb their reproductive rights. They've seen the craven response of G.O.P. candidates after Limbaugh branded a law student wanting insurance coverage for birth control pills, commonplace for almost five decades, as a "prostitute" and "slut."

American women have suddenly realized that their emancipation in the 21st century is not as secure as they had assumed. On "Meet the Press" on Sunday, Gov. Bob McDonnell of Virginia, a Republican, had the gall to say this, justifying his support for a bill designed to humiliate women getting abortions by penetrating them with a wand to take a picture: "Every invasive procedure has an informed consent requirement." What he really meant is that when abortion is an option, informed consent should require an invasive procedure. Along with Rick Santorum's Taliban views, Mitt Romney suggested in an interview on Tuesday with a St. Louis TV station that to help balance the federal budget he would eliminate Planned Parenthood funding: "We're going to get rid of that."



Women who assumed that electing Obama would lift all minority boats are beginning to think: Maybe he's not enough. If the desire of these conservative male leaders to yoke women is this close to the surface, if they are perversely driven to debase women even though it could lead to their own political demise, then women may require more than Obama.

If women are so vulnerable, they may need one of their own.
Is she inevitable?