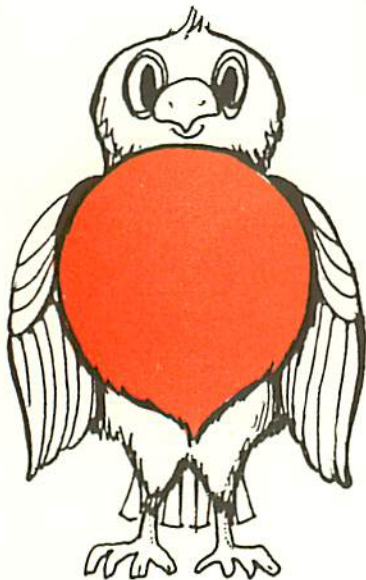
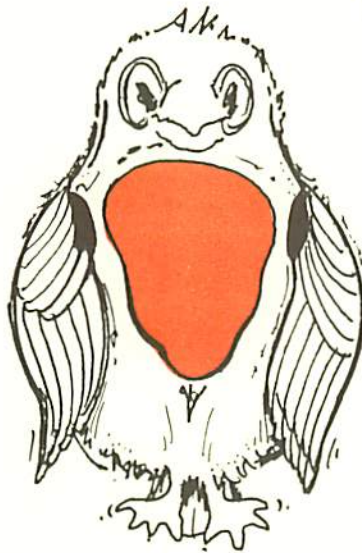
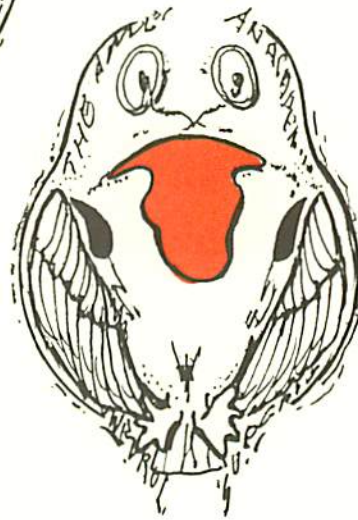


THE NEUROSURGEON



THE ROUND ROBIN LETTER
OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

SEPTEMBER 1984

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY



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VOLUME 43 NO.2

SEPTEMBER, 1984

August 29, 1984

Eben Alexander, Jr.

The Bowman Gray

School of Medicine

Department of Surgery
Section on Neurosurgery

Dear Academician,

The number of letters available for The Neurosurgeon is barely enough to justify publishing this issue — which indicates, as several of our younger members have stated, that we may not be able to continue to print this long standing letter to members of The Academy. Several older members write encouraging letters urging the continuation of the letter, especially retired members and wives but they rarely come through with a contribution. We have given it a good effort and will see what the membership decides in October at The Homestead.

I have stopped operating as of July 1, 1984, am continuing to see patients and do what the chief of the Department wants me to do.

On the outside there are a number of busy and to me important duties, e.g. The Council on Medical Education of The AMA, The LIPSON Committee on Medical Education, The Board of Directors of The National Board of Medical Examiners, and The North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners. I am part of the Group which interviews medical students for admission to our School and I am

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privileged to sit with the Admission committee. Of course I see a lot of our own students as they rotate through our service and the superb resident staff we have in our program. It is something one can be proud to see at close range.

In November I will be the E. Harry Bottgerell Lecturer in Toronto and the occasion should be a great stimulus to me since I have known and admired Harry for so long. Harry is one of the Academy's most distinguished members, finishing his career not as a neurosurgeon but as Dean at Queen's University in Kingston. I learned much from Harry and from Dr. Ken McKenzie in 1948 during my fellowship in Toronto. It was a time of great pleasure for Betty and myself.

Attached to this epistle is an excerpt from the University of North Carolina Alumni Review by Albert Captes. This may appeal to some of our older members.

Sincerely
Eben

George L. Maltby, M.D.
470 Black Point Road
Scarborough, Maine 04074

June 1984

Eben Alexander, Jr., M.D.
Boxman Gray School of Medicine
3900 South Hawthorne Road
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103

Dear Eben and New & Old Academicians:

I am ashamed of my lack of contributions to "The Neurosurgeon". You have been doing a grand job and I am sure with a struggle in keeping this important part of the activities of The Academy going. Please excuse the total lack of professional typing but lack of secretarial help is one of the penalties of retirement.

I am delighted to say that Sim's recovery from a high cervical injury--fracture of the dens, dislocation of C1 on C2, and high cord contusion--has been amazing.. All last summer in the hospital, two and one half months. This hospitalization included severe electrolyte imbalance, prolonged confusion and irrationality, treated by hyperalimenation, high spinal fusion and finally gastros-tomy. I do not believe many of us would have expected as satisfactory end result as she has had. I dreamed all last summer of a permanent wheel-chair life and all that goes with quadraplegia.

However walking without a cane. Her balance and coordination are impaired because of moderate spasticity, plus posterior column symptoms. She drives a car but has a hell of a time backing up. She is furious that her former lousey golf game is gone. We all thank God that she is as well as she is. The children were a marvelous help and encouragement to me during the dreadful summer of 1983.

Enough of our personal problems for the moment. We hope to get to Hot Springs but Sim has trouble driving long distances. I was very pleased to get the April "Neurosugeon" and learn about the election of the four really outstanding new members. With this kind of stimulus the Academy should continue to prosper as it has over the years.

George L. Maltby, M.D.
470 Black Point Road
Scarborough, Maine 04074

I am doing practicalll no medical work. For the past few years I have enjoyed working as a medical advisor to the Department of Health and Welfare in the Bueau of Hearings an Appeals evaluating and testifying in the administrative courts\claimants for disability because of neurological and neuosurigal conditiond and injuries. Now that is essentially gone due to our man in the Whit Hcuse. Edo get to rounds and meetings at the Maine Medical Center, where im an honorary consultant. Incidentally, The Medical Center is continuing to grow by leaps and bounds ,being one of the primary teaching Hospitals for the University of Vermont Medical School.

I hope you can decipher this letter, ^{it's} not too personal and boring. Sim and send our very best to you and Betty.

Best regards

George Maltby

On becoming a cat

by Albert Coates



I am listed in the Law School Records as a "Professor Emeritus." What is a Professor Emeritus?

The "Emeritus" title originated in the Roman Empire, and was given by the Roman Senate to old soldiers who had fought through a lifetime of campaigns, and were retired on a piece of land big enough to make a living on. They had worked their way through the wars.

The title was adopted by medieval universities and given to scholars let out to pasture after they had worked their way through school and outlived their usefulness, and American universities have followed their example.

According to the *Random House Dictionary*, a Professor Emeritus is a teacher who is "retired or

honorably discharged from active duty because of age, infirmity, or long service, but retained on the rolls." In other words, he is kept on the "rolls," but not on the payroll.

Here is the way the procedure works in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Until a professor has reached the age of sixty-five, the University has to show cause for throwing him off the rolls. From sixty-five to seventy, the professor has to show cause, from year to year, for staying on the rolls. From seventy to seventy-two, he is allowed to frazzle out with half-time teaching for two years.

That is the point at which the Professor becomes Emeritus. He is the tail end of academic tenure and the lowest form of academic life. I am a Professor Emeritus. Like the astronauts in outer space, I have no weight to throw around.

The process is similar to the disappearance of the Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland*. According to Alice, the cat "vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail, and ending with the grin, which remained sometime after the rest of it had gone."

"Well! I've often seen a cat without a grin," thought Alice, "but a grin without a cat! It's the most

curious thing I ever saw in all my life!"

That is the best description of a Professor Emeritus that I have seen in print. A "grin without a cat."

In justice to the Cheshire Cat I think it should be pointed out that it kept its head to the end of its life — it was the last thing to go. The grin was simply a hang-over, recording a lingering sense of humor and irony of life in a Cheshire Cat, and I hope the same is true of a Professor Emeritus.

I hope that I can keep my head to the end of my life as the Cheshire Cat kept his, and that like him, I will go out grinning.



— Reprinted from a pamphlet written by Albert Coates '18, founder and first director of the Institute of Government, for distribution to first-year law students at UNC-CH, fall, 1983.

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INSTITUTE**



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August 22, 1984

Eben Alexander, Jr., M.D.
Editor, The Neurosurgeon
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103

Re: The Neurosurgeon

Dear Eben:

A year has passed since I contributed to The Neurosurgeon. I had hoped to see more responses to your requests during the past because The Neurosurgeon is such an excellent way for old and new friends in the Academy to communicate. Perhaps the fall edition in 1984 will be more inclusive. I would like to compliment you for your efforts to increase the participation of the Academicians and for the excellence of the 75th anniversary volume of the Society of Neurological Surgeons.

We have had a very good and a most interesting year in the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix. Three new and excellent Divisional Chairmen have been selected and are in various stages of productivity. Robert Spetzler joined us on September 1, 1983, as the J.N. Harber Foundation Chairman of Neurological Surgery. He has done an exceptional job as Program Director of the Neurosurgical Residency Program, has activated new neurovascular research laboratories including a baboon colony, has proven in one year his mastery of neurosurgical operative techniques and is now doing slightly more neurosurgery than anyone else on the staff, in spite of his national, international and regional commitments. He is hosting the International Revascularization Congress in Phoenix in October. He has put together an Institute-based 8-man neurosurgical group containing excellent coverage of all of the subspecialties. Hal Rekate of Cleveland will join us in January, 1985, to do full-time Pediatric Neurosurgery. The residents have never been more productive. Spetzler is an extremely talented person and couldn't be doing a better job than he is now doing. Peter Johnson came to us as Chairman of Neuropathology in December, 1983, from the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson. He has proven to be an exciting teacher and investigator and is delighted to be in the cross stream of so much and such varied clinical material. He is marvelous with the neurology, the neurosurgery, and the pathology residents. James Bloedel starts with us next week as Chairman of Neurobiology and Director of Neurological Research. Jim had a highly successful career in Minneapolis in collaboration with the Physiology and Neurosurgery Departments under the direction of Lyle French and Shelley Chou, answered our advertisement in Science and came with the highest of recommendations from Lyle and Shelley

Neuroanesthesiology
Neurobiology
Neurology
Neurological Surgery
Neuropathology
Neuroradiology
Neurological Rehabilitation

August 22, 1984

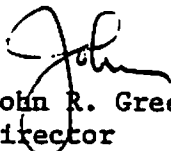
who will miss him. He is an Associate Member of the Neurosurgical Society of America, and we will get him involved with future programs of the Academy, Neurosurgical Society of America, Senior Society, as well as the larger associations.

Our endowments are now up to 4½ million dollars, and I'd love to double them before too many more years elapse in order to foster security and growth for our programs. My personal surgery seems to be more and more confined to spinal and epileptic problems. I am planning to pass on the responsibilities of day-to-day direction of the Barrow Neurological Institute on January 1, 1986, but to participate in those areas agreeable to the new leadership thereafter as long as I am healthy and useful to all concerned.

Charlie Wilson, Sidney Goldring, and Lindsay Symon served as our Sally Harrington Goldwater Visiting Professors during the past year. Alan Hudson and Bob King are due in this capacity in November, 1984 and January, 1985.

Our family are all well, busy and productive and join me in sending our best regards.

Sincerely,


John R. Green, M.D.
Director

JRG:sz

John J. Lowrey
P. O. Box 4302
Kawaihae, Hawaii 96743

8-3-84

Dear Ebon,

Since you were good enough to phone me I feel obliged to write as you requested. The list of speakers at meetings these days contain so few names which are familiar to me indicates very few will recognize this has been.

Since retiring in 1978 we have lived quietly here on the beach in Hawaii half way between the beautiful Mauna Kea and Mauna Lani Bay Hotels. We do all our own landscaping, gardening and planting, maintenance etc. We grow for our own use papayas, bananas, coconuts, limes, orange pomploms, ~~etc.~~ etc. Swimming daily keeps the joints limber. For six years I have been attempting to install a new water system for fire protection and will luck expect to accomplish it this year.

Our older son Patrick is the leading real estate salesman for Coldwell Banker in Denver and had his picture in The Wall Street Journal. He and his lovely wife have one son.

Our younger son Mike is a carpenter, trucker, mechanic and welder. He with the help of his friends built our present home. He and his wife have just completed a new home across the island from us. Their first child Chester is just 2 weeks old. They have just installed a telephone but are still without County water or electricity. With generators and solar panels they manage very well.

I feel fortunate to have helped start and been first Chief of Staff of our hospital in Honolulu in the days before D.R.G.s etc etc How present day doctors find time to be with their patients must be a problem.

Naty is fine and enjoys her plants, quilting and family.

We really believe we are lucky to be in good health and living in this beautiful spot. We would be happy to have visits from any of the Academy who are visiting here so we can catch up with you who are keeping medicine on its proper course

Aloha to you all
Our love to Betty
John



The Ohio State University

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Phone 614-421-8717

June 12, 1984

Eben Alexander, M.D.
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
300 S. Hawthorne Road
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Re: "The Neurosurgeon"

Dear Eben:

I am happy that you are steadfast in trying to keep "The Neurosurgeon" an active forum. You pointed out how difficult that is. I realized that I missed the last one when it arrived, fully completed, on my desk.

An important thing has happened to me in the last year. I have served as Vice President of the AANS and spent a year on the Board of Directors. In spite of missing some meetings due to circumstances beyond control, I was impressed with how much work there was even for the lowly Vice President who isn't around long enough to be on any of the long-term committees.

The other members of the Board of Directors have assignments laid on them that must make it difficult to run their services and pay attention to their families (or vice versa). I am aware, of course, that our leadership has a lot more capacity for work than I have. For this we can all be grateful. The AANS seems to be on a firm course.

The most significant events in our family comes from #2 son who finished with Joe Ransohoff last June and joined Tom Milhorat at Downstate. His wife, Carol, passed the New York State bar examinations just two weeks before delivering Elizabeth, the first grandchild. Carol used to be head nurse on neurosurgery at New York University Hospital, so she is lady of many parts. Will continues as a government lawyer but has taken the Foreign Service examination. Virginia is still running her own business but she is also playing piano in a rising musical group locally, which specializes in reggae. The latter is in the nature of a hobby but may turn out to be very special in time.

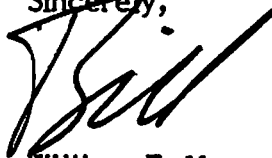
The most notable thing about the service at Ohio State is that we need more help at the senior staff level. Carole Miller, Joe Goodman and I are spread out pretty thin. Pete Sayers continues to run Children's, and Jack Meagher, in spite of his retirement from clinical practice, is contributing significantly to the teaching program and will continue to serve as a clinical professor. Charlotte and I are well past the first decade of our seeing each other on weekends, vacations and holidays. It has not become less stressful with time, but one gets used to it and we are always delighted to be together.

Eben Alexander, M.D.
June 12, 1984
Re: "The Neurosurgeon"
Page 2

Lastly, as I look at what is happening in the Academy and around the country, it is clear that another generation of neurosurgeons is grabbing the reins. While I am by no means over the hill or retired, I am glad that somebody has the interest and abilities to deal with the changing face of medical practice of which, to some extent, I am willfully ignorant!

We are all looking forward to the next meeting of the Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written over the word "Sincerely,".

William E. Hunt, M.D.
Professor & Director
Division of Neurologic Surgery

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August 8, 1984

Eben Alexander, Jr., M.D.
Department of Neurosurgery
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103

Dear Eben:

Thank you for sending the clipping on the Professor Emeritus. Also, I particularly enjoyed your essay on retirement in "Pharos". Both brought back memories of our round table discussion at the Travel Club in Cleveland.

My retirement has been enjoyable. I still have a desk here in Pasadena and try not to act as a Director. My principal activities have been concerned with PS Medical, our new device manufacturing company in Santa Barbara. We are growing slowly but are still "in the red". The future, however, seems bright.

I am also involved in Andrew Talalla's electromicturition project at McMaster University which could make some real contributions to the management of spinal cord injury patients.

Finally, we have many projects at our ranch in Paso Robles which we have now put up for sale after 19 years. We shall miss it.

Rita and I are sorry that we missed the Travel Club. However, we were in Europe during May and June and had to return early because my brother died in Cincinnati.

We are going to Montreal in September to attend Synapse-50, the 50th anniversary of the Montreal Neurological Institute. I am looking forward to seeing many of my old colleagues. It should be a great event.

Our best wishes to you and Betty.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Pudenz, M.D.
Director Emeritus

RHP:jd

August 10, 1984

Dr. Eben Alexander, Jr.
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
USA

Dear Dr. Alexander:

Last year you indicated interest in attending Synapse-50, our anniversary celebrations which will run September 23 to the 26, 1984. However, we have not yet had a return of the registration form which was sent to you at the end of May.

This note is simply to remind you that hotel accommodation will be quite heavily booked in Montreal at that time due to other conventions.

Also, it would be important to register as soon as possible for some of the events for which there is limited space.

May I suggest that if you are coming that you let us know as soon as possible by returning your registration form and, if you find it convenient, by phoning us to indicate your intentions.

If you are coming for the full program, I hardly need point out that in Canada and the United States the registration fee is tax deductible. You may wish to select only certain items from the program. If so, indicate these on the registration form.

We are delighted to have a series of distinguished lecturers at Synapse-50 and we are all excited about the prospect of opening the new brain imaging centre. McGill is marking our anniversary by a special convocation at which Miller Fisher, Donald Tower, Colin Webster (one of our generous supporters) and myself will be receiving honorary degrees. The university has kindly invited me to give the convocation address, this year to be named the Penfield Oration, entitled "The Neuro- A Cerebral Celebration". There will be pleasant social events as well throughout the week with opportunity to meet with old and new friends. I know that the other members of the staff here join me in hoping that you will be able to share this happy occasion with us.

Sincerely,

Bill
William Feindel, M.D.

*Received the
75th Volume -
congratulations
on its publication.*

