



Bellwether Magazine

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The Loyal Red and Blue

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Rather than presenting our usual column on Alumni Society activities in this issue, we thought our readers might enjoy hearing about two recent alumni who are engaged in some rather unusual work.

The following is from a letter received from Dr. Susan D. Morgan (V'78) who lives in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Practicing in the Dominican Republic was not exactly in my plans when I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania four years ago, but survival for a two-career family too often involves compromises. My husband is in the Cultural Section of USICA (United States International Communications Agency) and really likes his work. We get to attend all the art openings, concerts, ballets, and receptions, and the life style we enjoy here is one we could never afford in the United States.

With the Ambassador's approval I have been able to build up a small practice, mostly of English-speaking people, but a few Dominicans have been brave enough to visit the "gringa" who works on animals. I have an arrangement with a Dominican practitioner who kindly lets me use his office, and I am learning the joys and frustrations of a house-call practice. I know though that without Dr. Alba I wouldn't be working at all. It shows that there are nice veterinarians worldwide.

About three months ago I placed an advertisement in the local English paper and was asked by them if I'd like to write an advice column. The column has proven to be its own advertisement and has been fun besides. When I don't get enough questions, I just make them up.

There are many medical and veterinary students here trying to get an education. I say trying only because it seems to me that they have to fight so hard for what was handed to me on a

silver platter. It does make me realize how lucky I was to have been educated at the University of Pennsylvania. Because there are virtually no practice laws here, two of the students have their own large animal practice. They convinced me to help them do some surgery on a horse's eye while they handled the anesthesia. All went well but it was the first time I'd touched a horse since I left school. Since then I have even treated some chickens. They have asked me to do some surgical demonstrations for their class but because this is "manana" country this has been scheduled and canceled twice. It may take place in September. In the meantime I have been helping other students practice ovario-hysterectomies."

The hardest part of practice here is the language problem. I was going to say it was obtaining the medications I am used to using, but that's not really true. The drugs are here but I don't know what they are called yet. I can't seem to get prednisone or amoxicillin or betadine. So I use DeproMedrol and ampicillin and Phisohex. Importing being what it is, the one thing I have learned is to buy quickly because what I can find one day may not be there the next.

We have an x-ray machine, which just returned from Chicago where it was repaired. It takes reasonable films. We also have a gas anesthetic machine. When I first used it I had to make a sealer out of an old rubber tire, so I've only tried once.

Dr. Alba uses pentobarbital or ketamine and ten assistants to sit on the dog. Labor is cheap here. All-in-all it could be worse. I am learning to work with what I can find and I realize how spoiled I had become working in AAHA hospitals in Oregon. Practitioners in the United States are very lucky.

In February 1983 we will be moving to Lima, Peru. Anybody have any information about llamas?

Next we would like to tell you about Dr. James Sadwith (V '77). Those of you who were fortunate enough to be tuned to the CBS/GE Theatre on Saturday, October 9, 1982, already know about Jim's current activities.

Dr. Sadwith wrote and was associate producer of the film titled "Two of a Kind," starring George Burns, Robby Benson, and Cliff Robertson. Jim tells us that this enthusiastically-acclaimed film was inspired by "the wasting away of my grandfather in a nursing home near Gladwyn during my years at the Vet School." Prior to the time the film went into production, Dr. Sadwith was doing relief work in practices all over Southern California. However, with this first film to his credit, Jim is now at work on a second production for CBS. It appears as though we have lost a veterinarian (at least temporarily) but have gained a playwright! Best of luck Dr. Sadwith!

We would like to hear from other alumni. Please drop us a note and let us know what you are doing. Thank you.

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine

The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine's first educational forum will take place from May 8 to 12, 1983, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the Marriott Hotel.

This debut of an outstanding educational series will feature many timely topics in both large- and small-animal medicine, presented by nationally-known clinicians, in areas such as urology, dermatology, anesthesiology, immunization, cardiology and diagnostic techniques. The format will include addresses, conferences, and seminars. Registrants will be able to meet with speakers to discuss problem cases.

The fee for the three-day program is \$225. Full payment must be made in advance. Early registrants, prior to April 1, receive a \$25 discount. The daily rate is \$100. ACVIM candidates, residents, interns, and senior veterinary students pay \$100; early registration, \$80; daily rate, \$50. A \$50 deposit reserves hotel accommodations. Registration at the door is permissible.

Contact Dr. William J. Kay, general forum chairman, at (212) 838-8100; Dr. John E. Oliver, program chairman, at (404) 542-3221; or Ruth Asher of Alice Travel, for registration and hotel information, at (800) 526-6453.

Aquavet '82

Aquavet '82 began May 16 when thirty-two students arrived at the Swope Center at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Classes started that evening with an opening session and laboratory class and the group settled in for four weeks of intensive studies.

The students represented eleven veterinary schools and sixteen home states. The largest contingent came from Cornell University with ten students participating. The University of Pennsylvania was represented by eight students: Christina Dougherty, Craig J. Goldblatt, Joseph M. Groff, Bruce T. Herwald, Mary S. Lombardo, Virginia Niehuhr, Keith Niesenbaum, and Catherine Pient.

Aquavet '82 was taught by thirty-seven faculty from twenty different institutions. The program was administered by Donald A. Abt, V.M.D., associate dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, who is director of Aquavet, and by Charles G. Rickard, D.V.M., Ph.D., associate dean for academic programs, New York State College

of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, who is associate director of Aquavet.

Both men are now planning for Aquavet '83. Those interested in the program should contact Donald A. Abt, V.M.D., Director of Aquavet, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 3800 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

