

## Third World Should Buy Basic Health Care

Reducing the amount of money available to hospitals in Third World countries may sound like an unusual way to improve health, but that's just what the World Bank is working toward.

Bank officials believe recent changes in the way they assist developing countries in financing health services could save millions of lives around the globe, according to a University of North Carolina economist who helped bring about those changes.

Dr. John Akin, professor of

economics at UNC-Chapel Hill, says new policies at the bank will encourage governments in poorer countries to pay less for expensive health care for individuals and shift their resources to basic health services that benefit society as a whole.

Akin has spent the past two years on leave at the bank where he worked with Dr. Nancy Birdsall on a study titled "Financing Health Services in Developing Countries: An Agenda for Reform" which has since been adopted as official policy.

Birdsall is chief of the Policy and Research Division in the bank's Population, Health and Nutrition Department.

"Some of these ideas grew from things the bank has learned over time, and some represent new directions," Akin said in an interview. "What Dr. Birdsall and I have done is to pull together these ideas on how resources can be shifted to have a very large impact on basic health problems. There has been a lot of interest in them at both the World Bank and the World Health Organization."

A report on the study appears in the current issue of Finance and Development, a quarterly publication of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In their report, the economists say that while health services in developing countries vary greatly, the poorest nations face the same three problems. They are inefficiency, too little spending on broad preventive programs compared to costly curative services, and an equity problem in which the poor benefit little from public health spending.

"One symptom of inefficiency is the widespread use of higher-level health care facilities by patients who could be treated in less sophisticated units," they wrote. "Typically, urban health facilities (both clinics and hospitals) are overcrowded, while rural facilities have few clients."

In Colombia and Somalia, for example, city hospitals have occupancy rates of more than 80 percent, while secondary hospitals in smaller towns have rates of 40 percent or less.

Another symptom of inefficiency is that there are critical shortages of fuel and drugs in public health systems. Some free government health services in Zambia and elsewhere, for example, aren't operating because there is no budget for fuel and drugs.

Bangladesh illustrates well the problem of spending for costly services while in effect almost ignoring some more basic health care, the authors say.

"The government subsidizes specialized orthopedic, cardiovascular, and eye institutions catering to a relatively small number of persons, while each year an estimated 324,000 active tuberculosis patients above the age of 10 received no treatment, at least 90,000 children under age 5 die of pneumonia and 136,000 infants die of tetanus."

"If the public resources tied up in the few, mainly urban, hospitals were directed to lower levels of the health system, the authors say, many common causes of illness and hospitalization could be treated at an earlier and controllable stage or prevented altogether."

## A Page From South Iredell's Scrapbook

We welcome your contributions. Submit photos of anything to do with anything around here. They must be at least 25 years old, and the older the better.



### High Above The Square About 40 Years Ago

Older Mooreville heads call the intersection in the center "the square." It's where Main Street meets Moore Avenue. Main and Moore still meet there, and Broad still parallels Main across the railroad, but not much else is as it was when this photograph was taken around 1947. Then, extreme left of the side of the 100 block of North Main facing you contained John Mack and Son, as it does now, but the store, one of the town's pioneer businesses, has changed more than somewhat. Other businesses on that side of the street then included Gabriel's Grocery, Mayhew and McNeely, Miller Drug, Merchants and Farmers Bank and W.C. Johnston Hardware—all gone—and Kelly Clothing, which today is out of this picture at 222 North Main. Across Main, the service station was next door to Raylans, which was next door to the Carolina Theater, which was next door to the tree-shaded home of teachers and sisters Belle and Mary McNeely, which was next door to the Commercial Hotel—all gone.

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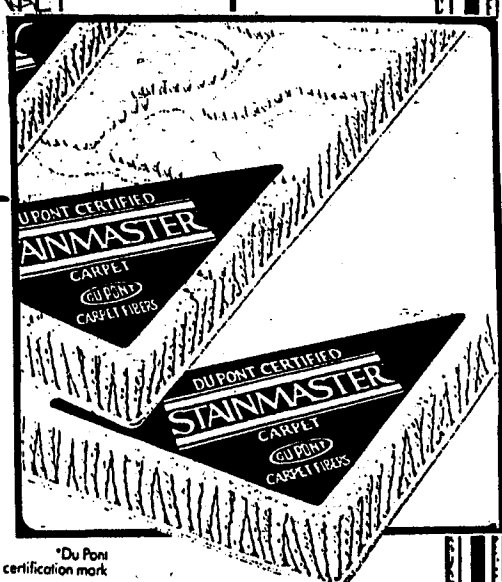
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## Bell Grants Available At Schools

Southern Bell Telephone Co. has renewed its scholarship program established last year at 21 institutions of the North Carolina Community College System.

Jere A. Drummond, Southern Bell's vice president for North Carolina, announced the company's renewed commitment to the system.

Southern Bell will again contribute \$25,000 for the scholarships which will be awarded to 42 students attending institutions in the Southern Bell service area. The individual \$500 awards are available to students this fall quarter.

Current or prospective students can contact the financial aid office at their local institutions for more information about available scholarships.

"One of the most important challenges facing our state today is to educate a work force that will be prepared to deal with the constantly changing demands of our technological society," Drummond said.

"Southern Bell wants to continue to help face that challenge," he added.

"We realize the crucial role that quality education will play in our state's future, and we know that the state's businesses and industries must support our educators," he added.

In a recent survey, 86 percent of 50 of the state's largest private employers rated the community college system either excellent or above average in providing educational and training opportunities.

John A. Fortines Jr., chairman of the State Board of Community Colleges, called the scholarships an example of Southern Bell's commitment to the communities it serves.

"Too many of our citizens lack the advanced skills and abilities needed to make it in the workplace," Fortines said.

"We need more corporations, businesses and industries to follow the example of Southern Bell and reinvest a portion of their profits in education," he added.

Companies, groups or individuals wishing to establish or contribute to scholarships can contact the Department of Community Colleges at (919) 733-7051 or the presidents of local community college system institutions.

The animals in the picture are the lowest form of animal life.

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This clause, the "elastic clause" - is basic to a broad interpretation of the Constitution. It gives Congress power to make any laws that may be needed to carry out the specific powers granted in other sections of the Constitution. It has been used many times since it was written. In fact, our government would be very different today if we did not have the "elastic clause."

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## Fascination Fuels Award-Winning Professor's Interest In Teaching

Medieval poet Geoffrey Chaucer must have had someone very much like Professor Gail McMurray Gibson in mind when he composed the line, "And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche," in the general prologue to "The Canterbury Tales."

Gibson, associate professor of English and humanities at Davidson College, has been named 1987 North Carolina Professor of the Year in recognition of her passionate interest in teaching and learning about the literature and social history of the Middle Ages.

Gibson was selected over 13 other nominees as the state's outstanding college professor by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education based in Washington, D.C. Although CASE judges consider such factors as scholarship, service and former students' achievements, the single most important criterion

is that winning professors demonstrate a "profound impact on their students' lives," according to Donna Orem, director of public affairs programs for CASE.

Gibson, who taught at Princeton University for eight years before coming to Davidson in 1983, has definitely touched her students' lives, and not always in predictable ways.

David R. Maynard Jr., a senior at Davidson, declared English as his major after taking several of Gibson's courses, including a course in Chaucer's poetry.

"We read the whole Canterbury Tales in Middle English, and it was a labor at times, but she kept it exciting," he says. "She came to class armed with a slide projector, and she had us keep journals. By the end of the course, I was able to take Chaucer and analyze him critically. I may not use that in my career, but it's something I'll always carry with me."

Neil McCorkle, an '87 graduate of Davidson, found that Gibson made a wonderful adviser because she urged students to explore course offerings outside their majors.

"She really encouraged me to broaden the scope of my studies, so that I took courses I would not have taken otherwise," says McCorkle. "Some of those turned out to be delightful surprises."

This openness to other fields shows up in Gibson's teaching as well. She uses medieval paintings and sculpture to show her students concrete, visual images that embody some of the ideas and themes she discusses in her lectures.

"Medieval literature is a very challenging subject to teach because it involves making students see in a new way," she says.

She believes Davidson's emphasis on interdisciplinary studies, especially in its humanities program, is a very useful approach to medieval studies.

"You can't understand medieval texts without knowing something about medieval theology, the visual arts, philosophy or history," she says. "I think that all of my courses in the English department are courses in intellectual history as much as they are courses in literature."

History has a strong appeal to Gibson, who studied art history and considered teaching it at one time. Last year, she took two terms of form teaching to work on a book about late-medieval drama, arts and spirituality in the East Anglian counties of Norfolk and Suffolk with a \$15,000 grant from the American Council of Learned Societies. She traveled to England to study manuscripts, wills and public records of Norfolk and the lives of residents of a 15th-century textile community.

The result is a 10-chapter book, "The Conceived Word: East Anglian Drama and Devotion in the Fifteenth Century," currently under review by the University of Chicago Press. The book focuses on morality, saint and mystery plays and their origins in the popular religious culture in eastern England.

"What I have tried to know as intimately as I could are the human beings in that place and time who created such a remarkable theater grounded in their human need, festival and community," Gibson explains.

"If you begin by assuming that as obsessed as you are with the Middle Ages, then it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy," she says. "I just assume students are going to be amazed and marveled at that's usually the case."

If Gibson had to sum up her philosophy of teaching in one word, it would probably be "fascination."

"Whatever you're teaching, whether it's medieval literature or botany or astrophysics, the main point of what you're doing is standing in front of people and showing them someone who is simply fascinated with a subject," she said. "I think Davidson is filled with people who are convinced that their subject is absolutely fascinating and essential to the quality of life on this planet."

Gibson is now eligible for national honors awarded to the top 36 professors chosen from more than 400 nominees in the United States and Canada. Charles E. Ratliff, Davidson professor of economics, was named one of the top 10 college professors in the nation by CASE in 1985.



Davidson's Gibson During Class Lecture

**Alcohol - Drug Information**  
By BILL WEANT  
Tri-County Mental Health Center

May be either natural or man-made drugs that increase the activity of the central nervous system - the brain, heartbeat, and breathing. They usually bring a feeling of alertness and self-confidence.

Central nervous system stimulants include amphetamines, diet pills, cocaine, caffeine and nicotine. Numerous other drugs are often considered stimulants, but these drugs fall under a particular category of drugs such as amphetamines.

Amphetamines include dextroamphetamine, methamphetamine, and benzedrine. They are used to reduce appetite in weight control programs and to treat mild depression, fatigue, and sleeping sickness.

Depending on the drug, they may be swallowed or injected into the veins. When given to children they have the opposite effect than for an adult. They slow the child down while they excite the adult. Amphetamines are used to treat hyperactivity in children.

There are many slang names for amphetamines. Some of the most common are: Benjies, Crossroads, Black Beauties, Brown and Clear, Crank, Diet Pills, Green and Clear, Happy, Leapers, Pep Pills, Speed, Zippers and Up.

Amphetamines have the potential for tolerance. This means that frequent users will have to increase the amount of the drug they use in order to achieve the desired effects.

The abrupt discontinuation of amphetamine does not usually cause physical difficulties, unlike alcohol and heroin.

Large doses of amphetamine are shown to possibly cause damage to the unborn child.

Some side effects from the use of amphetamines include restlessness, dizziness, insomnia, headaches, diarrhea, constipation and lack of appetite.

Psychological dependence may develop from frequent use. The effects of the drug become so psychologically rewarding that the user experiences emotional discomfort when not using the drug.

Death by overdose is not characteristic of the amphetamine user. When a normal user overdoses, it may cause a brain hemorrhage. Individuals with heart disorders may not survive the increased cardiac activity. It is most important to take amphetamines as directed by a physician and to keep them away from those not intended to use them.

(This series is prepared by Bill Weant, substance abuse education consultant with the Tri-County Mental Health Center, 418 East Statesville Ave., Mooresville. If you have a question concerning alcohol or other drugs that you would like answered in a future column, please call 663-3599.)

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