



JUST RESTING

I thoroughly enjoyed the most recent edition of *Pitt Med*, but was just thrilled when I saw the photo on the next to the last page of the sleepers in Scaife Hall ("Last Call," Jan. 2003). In the bottom right corner is the man who, next to my dad, had more influence on me than any other man I have come to know: Dr. Ameene Makdad (MD '53).

Ameene entered my life when he served as a chaperone for the marching band at Greensburg Salem High School. He went on just about every trip that we made over a three-year period. Then, when my mother became ill with cancer, he actually hired me to do odd jobs around his home—not because he had odd jobs that he needed to get done, but because it allowed me (a kid who lived about 12 miles away from the hospital) a way to be near my mother on a daily basis, right up until her death.

I could go on and on about the things he did for me and my family, ranging from making house calls, to saving the life of my father, both my grandmothers, and our youngest son. He believed in giving back to the community, and he did so through the fire department, community nursing association, and by taking in kids who were in tough family situations and nurturing them through difficult times. He was a truly amazing man. He died a few years ago, leaving a great void in the Greensburg community, but I, for one, will never forget him.

Thank you for publishing that photo. He was proud to be a graduate of the School of Medicine. I know he was resting up on that day in 1953. He had to save all of his energy for all of the projects he needed to complete, for all of the patients that would call on him, and for the community that he was compelled to serve over the rest of his life.

Albert J. Novak Jr.
Interim Vice Chancellor for
Institutional Advancement
University of Pittsburgh



KEEP THE CUSTOMER SATISFIED

I look forward to receiving each new issue of *Pitt Med*. You have done an excellent job of highlighting the school's past achievements; detailing its current rapid progress; and providing a glimpse of an even brighter future.

This information builds solidarity and pride among alumni, faculty, and staff and informs the academic and hospital worlds of the school's distinguished position in American medicine.

Thomas J. Gill III
Duxbury, Mass.

Thomas Gill is the Maud L. Menten Professor of Experimental Pathology Emeritus and an emeritus professor of human genetics at the University of Pittsburgh.

THANK YOU, DR. BAHNSON

Once upon a time, there was a baby girl born in Florida with a hole in her heart. As she grew to be a 2-year-old, her skin was blue; her tongue was blue. She could take a few steps on the living room floor, but then she would fall down and fall asleep.

During a visit to Pittsburgh, the little girl's parents and grandparents met with Dr. Hank Bahnson ("The House That Hank Built," Oct. 2002). A doctor in Florida had thought that open-heart surgery would be too risky. Thankfully, Dr. Bahnson tried the surgery anyway.

I was that baby girl. Now, I am 38 years old. My husband and I have been married for 20 years. God has blessed us with four happy, healthy children. I would like to thank Dr. Hank Bahnson for trying to save a "too risky" case like me.

Pam Dornburg
Springs, Pa.

Henry T. Bahnson died Jan. 10, after a stroke. A remembrance may be found on page 38.

With this issue, we've shifted Pitt Med's schedule. The magazine now comes out in February, May, August, and November. (Our old schedule was January, April, July, and October.) You'll receive Pitt Med just a couple of weeks later than usual.

We welcome photos and letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

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Henry Bahnson (left) and Thomas Starzl

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