

ect and the problems of the Appalachian communities.

At one of the Sunday camping meetings, which are exercises in self-examination, project member Rod Lorenz, who had spent the previous week at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, offered a thoughtful critique of the project. He said, "In some ways, we're practicing sloppy medicine. Our gowns are not laundered; hands are not washed between patients; the sheets are not changed between patients; we don't smell nice. We have sometimes made contemptuous and rude remarks about the faculty and the university [because of their lack of cooperation]. These comments get back. We have to have the medical faculty on our side." The medical students resolved immediately to use disposable gloves when examining patients and to change the gloves between examinations. The group as a whole resolved to hold back from verbalizing its resentment against the university.

When the Vanderbilt group had a health fair near the town where two SAMA medical students were located, the SAMA students dropped their regular schedules to join the Vanderbilt group. The two SAMA students became so excited about the Vanderbilt project that they spent most of the next 3 weeks traveling and working with the group.

In evaluating these two projects, the personal biases of this reporter will undoubtedly make some difference. In Tennessee, it was possible to spend 2 working days and a weekend living with the Vanderbilt group and examining every facet of their program. The Vanderbilt experience often made one want to participate rather than just observe. On the other hand, it was feasible to visit no more than ten people connected with the SAMA program because the 141 SAMA students are geographically so widespread.

The SAMA program is really 141 independent projects. It is a difficult program to assess because so much of the student's experience depends on his own initiative and on his preceptor. SAMA's most important goal is to attract future physicians and other health professionals to practice in Appalachia. At present, it does not seem likely that SAMA alumni will swarm back to Appalachia. Even though one-fifth of last year's SAMA students said at their debriefing that they might return to Appalachia (a very encouraging statistic), the enthusiasm of some will certainly wane.

Others who still want to return may find that their wives will prefer a less isolated life. C. H. McKee, a SAMA dental student based in Harlan, Kentucky, made a typical comment: "This is a professional Utopia. You can do as much as you want with no limitations. But as far as my family, I can't see putting them through it. Every weekend we escape to Kentucky's fabulous state parks but you can't live in the state parks forever."

Critics of the SAMA program, both within and outside of the ARC, assert that the ARC supports many SAMA students who experience nothing more than a "nice summer." They say that if the program is to have any chance for success, that it should take students almost exclusively from Appalachia. The problem, however, is that there are comparatively few students born in Appalachia who will become health professionals and that some of these are intent on practicing in an urban setting.

The Vanderbilt project, unlike SAMA, seems to be meeting its primary goal: working with grass roots organizations to plan a week of free comprehensive physical examinations. By the end of the summer, more than 6000 Appalachian residents, many of them children, will have benefited from the Vanderbilt effort.

The results of most lab tests are sent back to the field workers within a week or two after each health fair. The field workers then give priority to contacting and making treatment available to those patients with acute illnesses. In any one community, the names of those individuals who are acutely ill will be learned within a few weeks, and an effort will be made to get Medicaid to finance their hospital costs. A computerized statistical analysis on all patients' charts, with totals and cross tabulations, will not be available until late September.

Even without an extensive array of numbers, the accomplishments of the Vanderbilt group are evident. For example, children are being taught how to brush their teeth and are given free toothbrushes and toothpaste. Miners get help in applying for Black Lung benefits if TVA x-rays show that they qualify. Vanderbilt field workers make sure that at least those with the more serious ailments receive proper medical follow-up. But perhaps most important, the Vanderbilt field workers are strengthening eight community health organizations so that residents have in-

creased confidence in fending for themselves.

In White Oak, for example, the local residents have formed a group which has obtained a commitment for a free, prefabricated clinic. Of course, White Oak is likely to have the same problem that plagues Jellico—lack of health manpower.

What the Vanderbilt group accomplishes for eastern Tennessee health care over the long run is still uncertain. Most Vanderbilt medical and nursing students, when asked whether they will return to practice in Appalachia, reply, "Who knows?" Nevertheless, for those interested in improving rural health care anywhere, the Vanderbilt group should provide a helpful model. In addition to Vanderbilt students' having created a program to which they are obviously deeply committed, the residents of eight eastern Tennessee communities will be more conscious of the importance of adequate health care and will be better organized to pursue their needs.—SAMUEL Z. GOLDBER

RECENT DEATHS

Erwin H. Amick, 59; chairman, chemical engineering department, Columbia University; 9 July.

William J. Bowen, 58; chief, bioenergetics section, biophysical chemistry laboratory, National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, NIH; 28 July.

Thomas F. Bridgland, Jr., 43; professor of mathematics, Drexel University; 17 July.

Felton G. Clark, 66; former president of Southern University; 5 July.

Edward R. Collier, 75; former professor of social sciences, Boston University; 2 July.

W. Marshall Denison, 35; president, John Tyler Community College; 26 July.

Harris Fahnestock, 64; assistant director, Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 26 July.

Richard Ford, 55; Massachusetts state pathologist; 3 August.

Jesse W. Fox, 63; chairman, chemistry department, Memphis State University; 8 July.

Louis C. Graton, 90; professor emeritus of mining geology, Harvard University; 22 July.

William E. Ham, 53; professor of geology, University of Oklahoma; 10 July.