



We Medics as Others See Us

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The Editorial Board

It is always interesting to note the discrepancy between the self in our own eyes and other peoples. Self-analysis is good, but is not always unbiased. We tend to be less critical as far as ourselves are concerned and hence our friends' views are often more true than our very own. A total of seven students from other faculties were interviewed and here are some of their comments on us medical students.

“A United Group in the University”

A: Let me be personal and talk to all medics in direct speech, “I must say that yours is a rather united group in the University. This is made possible by the fact that you chaps know each other and share the year, together with the efforts of your sports captain and social secretary in creating both ‘a sporting sense’ as well as ‘a social sense’ of belonging among you.”

B: “Medical students form a strong group in the University because, for one reason or indeed, they are bonded tightly together. This bondage may be established during their five years’ close contact or indeed, it may well be their unique sense of superiority among all fellow students that has bound them together.”

C: “Medical students are united in a sense that they are all proud of their profession and their intimate knowledge of the dreaded enemy of mankind—illness and disease.”

Hallmarks of a Medical Student

D: “I can identify the medical students only by their wearing a medic tie, swinging a white gown, and bringing a stethoscope or a pile of medical books; without these they are just like ordinary men.”

E: “Before I entered University I had always heard of people talking about medical students as if they were a special ‘species.’ Throughout my University life, I come to know quite a number of this ‘species’ and among the thousand and one things that qualify them to be classified as ‘special,’ I would like to

say a word or two on the well-famed medic-tie and Gray's Anatomy. The dark blue medic-tie which, I was told, can be worn only by clinical clerks (i.e. After passing the First M.B.) seems (at least most medics think so) to carry with it a symbolic status — 'the budding doctor' — and perhaps this is the reason why medical students are so proud as to wear it to parties and whatnot. Gray's Anatomy is indeed an impressive volume and it is excusable that the Medical freshmen especially, should be so proud of it. Well, I suppose every subject has a famous book e.g. Psychology's Morgan and King. The thing is that not every student brags about the thick volumes that he has to go through."

B: "Medical students are on the whole co-operative, lively and sociable. But one thing I am against is that they tend to be very 'medical' in their conversation and sometimes the terms puzzle and bewilder us poor non-medics."

C: "White-gowns, cars, speed-driving, thick books — well, all these are the hallmarks of medical students."

Personality

F: "On the whole, medical students are friendly and easily approachable. I really enjoy talking with them on account of their frankness and the lively expressions they use."

G: "All the medical students I know are residential members and whatever personality they may have, it has been modified by their residence in hostels. In my eyes, they are all lively persons, active in sports, social functions as well as in taking up posts."

B: "I think every person has one's own personality and medical students are no exception. But in general. I think they are easy to get along with — despite the fact that they are a bit conceited some times."

Medical students — bookworms?

F: "Considering the volumes of books that a medical student has to read through, and the immensity of a doctor's work, it is expected that medical students are inevitably hard-working, diligent and book-worm type of fellows. Surprisingly they are active. Card games, mahjong, and sports-cars are some

hobbies that keep them busy besides their books.”

C: “While many medical students are very lively, book-worms are by no means lacking in the medical faculty, (as far as I know). I guess this is the case in every faculty.”

Medics in the Library

D: “Medical students are a nuisance to the Union Library.”

E: “During my final year I spent quite a lot of time in the library and came to view medical students from another aspect. The studious ones who sit in almost the same position from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. form one group. No doubt they contribute to the strung-up atmosphere in the library. The most abominable groups are those who gather together to hold an improper ‘seminar’ in the library (which I must say is a very common practice among the senior medical finalists) and they seemed totally oblivious to meaningful looks and angry glances.”

C: “I love to sit near a medical student in the library because his or her diligence and ‘stationary posture’ is most inspiring when I need to concentrate.”

“A Peculiar Disease Called “Showing-off” and “Superiority-complex”

A: “You medics seem to suffer from a peculiar disease called ‘showing-off.’ Life in the University appears to be intolerable or inadequate for you without a good-looking car. Perhaps you think it befits your status as a future doctor or gives you much satisfaction and convenience in your work, I don’t know. And don’t be misled into thinking that I am jealous. All I have in mind is that, you are more exposed to the dangers of materialism than any other faculty students because you are ‘potential money-makers’ under the existing situation in Hong Kong.”

F: “Medical students seldom admit that they feel ‘superior’ among all other faculties. But sometimes their pride is expressed in other forms: the noise they make in interhostel matches, the way they behave around the campus, and their manners in social gathering... all these show that they have a high degree of self-confidence and a sense of superiority.”

G: “One defect I can see in Medical students is that they are too conscious of their being medical students. They show the sense of superiority in one way or another, especially in the possession of cars etc.”

It must be said that some of these comments are a bit strong. Nonetheless there seems to be more than a grain of truth in them. We now know what our fellow students really think of us and it is high time for us to carry on our good points as well as to do away with and ones so as to create a better image of ourselves in the eyes of our friends.

