ROCK ON

I have long considered your publication to be the *Wired* of alumni magazines because of the interesting stories, cool updates on my alma mater, layout, and very clever headlines. I felt as though I could fly like an eagle, bang a gong, and rock and roll all night (and party every day) when I read the Spring issue and identified eight song titles in an ad [see below, "Wish You Were Here"]. Combined with the other creative headlines—like "What Would Galileo Do?"—this willingness to take journalistic risks warmed my heart and soothed my soul.

You see, earlier that day, I found out that the editorial board of one of our surgical journals had changed the titles of four of my papers. For a few years now, I have tried to sneak in lyrics and titles of some of my favorite rock songs. For example, I recently published "Get on Your Boots," a paper on including professionalism in curricula.

This time, however, the editors caught on to my shenanigans. "Handle With Care" was reduced to "Incidence and Management of Adverse Events After the Use of Laser Therapies for the Treatment of Hypertrophic Burn Scars," and so on. Scientifically more accurate? I guess so. Boring? Absolutely.

So, thanks for rejuvenating my sense of humor, which provided me with more than a feeling, but also a sweet emotion. It don't come easy, but while you see a chance, take it. Just like starting over, I will stop my sobbing, pursue a renewed lust for life, and ramble on, right down the line.

Wish I were there. *Pitt Med* is the best!

Scott Hultman (MD '90)
Chapel Hill, N.C.

HIS AND HERNIA

I did my surgery rotation in 1973 as a third-year medical student under Mark Ravitch ["The Surgical Curmudgeon," Spring 2013]. Surgery was not a major interest of mine, and I became a pediatric endocrinologist. I did learn a lot about surgery, though, which helped during my pediatrics residency in Buffalo. The pediatric surgeons there would traditionally fire a series of questions about hernias to the residents to prove to them that they didn't know anything. After correctly answering the fourth question (the most common hernia in girls is the inguinal hernia, but almost all femoral hernias are in females), the surgeon looked up and said, "You didn't go to school here in Buffalo, did you?" I had to confess that Mark Ravitch taught me what I knew about hernias.

Daniel Postellon (MD '74)
Grand Rapids, Mich.

A STAPLE IN TIME

I may have been Dr. Ravitch's ["The Surgical Curmudgeon," Spring 2013] first Pitt med student. I was an acting surgical intern assigned to Montefiore in 1970 when Dr. Ravitch was working with a small house staff and his protégé, Dr. Felix Steichen. I remember him showing me the staplers—my classmates were practicing suture tying, and I was stapling. When I did my surgical internship, and then my orthopaedic residency, people thought I was crazy when I discussed stapling wounds.

Dr. Ravitch encouraged me to go into surgery. I do not recall the horrors of the morbidity and mortality conferences described in the article, but again, I was a low man on the totem pole.

Aaron Levine (MD '71)
Houston, Texas



Mark Ravitch (center) traveling in the former Soviet Union.

NOTICED

I got an unsolicited copy of *Pitt Med* and was quite impressed with the content. Great job. I can tell it was written by those committed to the science of medicine. Truly uncharacteristic of similar publications and a welcome surprise.

Thomas A. Selvaggi (Res '92)
Hackensack, N.J.

RECENT MAGAZINE HONORS

2013 Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, Golden Quill Award, Health/Science/Environment Article or Series, Magazines (J. Miksch, "The Meaning of Life, Told With 13 Polypeptides")

CORRESPONDENCE

We gladly receive letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

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WISH YOU WERE HERE

There must be 50 ways to leave your med school. You can go your own way, ride a horse with no name, or take a midnight train to Georgia. Tell us what you've been up to: career advancements, honors you've received, appointments, volunteer work, publications. And we love to hear old Pitt memories, like: What's going on with this scene we found in Pitt's 1975 edition of *The Owl*? Let us know, one way or another. Write a message in a bottle, ring our bell at the number listed above, or friend us on Facebook at www.pittmedfb.pitt.edu/.