

update

Vol. 7, No. 3

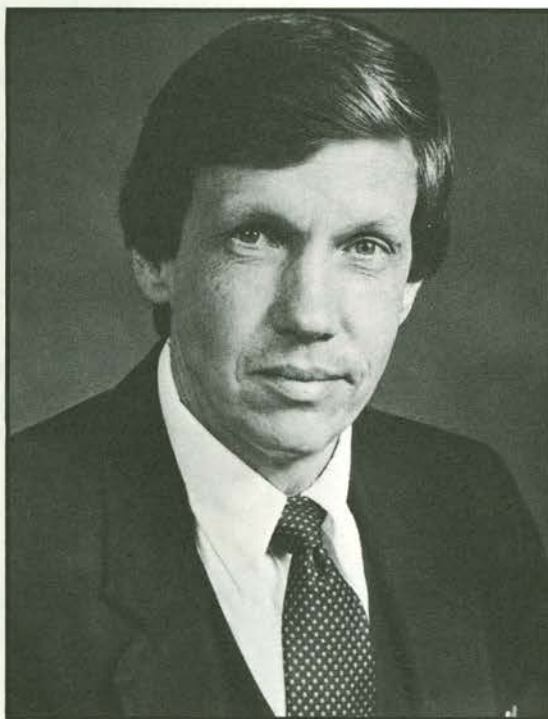
May 11, 1984

HealthEast appoints top administrator

HealthEast, the parent corporation for the Hospital Center and The Allentown Hospital, will have a president and chief executive officer on July 1. He is David P. Buchmueller.

The new CEO will be coming to HealthEast from Norwood, Massachusetts where he has been president of the Neponset Valley Health System (NVHS) for the past two years. As NVHS president, Buchmueller has been responsible for the operation of two general hospitals, an alcoholism treatment center, two satellite health centers, a home health agency, and a fund raising foundation.

Buchmueller has a masters degree in business administration from the University of Chicago and has spent most of his life around hospital administration. He is the son of a hospital administrator and began his career as an administrator in the U.S. Air Force Medical Service Corps.



David Buchmueller

While he was in the Air Force, Buchmueller served as chief financial and personnel officer at a military hospital in West Germany. After leaving the air force, he joined the management staff at Rush-Presbyterian-St Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois where he worked for six years. He left Chicago to take the position of administrator at Norwood Hospital in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts and he held that position for 10 years before taking over at NVHS.

The selection of Buchmueller brings to a close a year long search for HealthEast's first CEO. Because of his strong background in health care systems, HealthEast board members feel that Buchmueller will provide strong leadership for our system. And that leadership will be important as we face the challenges of a rapidly changing profession.

The ultimate gift

Driving down the little country road, you wind your way through gently rolling hills. Weathered split rail fences border the road marking off the fields which belong to each of the well kept farmhouses you pass along the way.

It's a quiet place, a peaceful place. It's the kind of place you look for when you want to get away.

For 19 years, Frank Serrill wandered the paths through these pine covered hills. He traveled these scenic roads. He spent his share of lazy afternoons sitting among the trees dreaming. For all he knew, he had all the time in the world.

But on April 7, Serrill's time suddenly ran out. While trying to cross a heavily traveled road, he stepped into the path of an oncoming car. He never made it across.

It was the first week in April and spring had finally arrived. The windows in the Drohan house were open to let in the fresh air. Through the open windows, John Drohan could hear the happy sounds of children finally able to escape to the out of doors.

Among the voices Drohan heard were the voices of his own children, four of them. A few years ago he would have been out there with them, playing baseball, coaching Little League.

But no more. With his 43rd birthday less than two weeks away, Drohan's days as a coach were over. His heart couldn't take it. He had cardiomyopathy, a condition which left his heart muscle so weak that it couldn't pump sufficient blood.

Because of his condition, Drohan had been told he only had about a year to live. He probably wouldn't make his 44th birthday. He wouldn't get to see his 10 year old twin daughters and his 14 and 16 year old sons grow up. He would never know what happened to them.

Unrelated cases? They would have been except for one thing -- the courage of the Serrill family.

After the accident, Frank Serrill was MedEvaced to the Hospital Center with severe head injuries. Within a few days, it was evident that he wouldn't recover.

Tests showed that there was no brain activity. His body kept functioning only because of the machines attached to it. And in a matter of days, even the machines would make very little difference.



After hours of talking among themselves, the Serrill's decided that the life and the hopes and the dreams which were so much a part of their son had to live on. If any of his organs could bring hope and life to others, they wanted to donate them.

The phone rang in the Drohan's home in Brookfield, Connecticut. A donor had been found to give John Drohan a new heart and a new lease on life. In a six hour operation on April 10, John Drohan received Frank Serrill's heart.

The bottom line

Nobody wants to believe that tragedy might strike them or those they love. It's always going to happen to someone else.

But tragedy does strike, thousands of times a year. And every year, thousands of families who thought it would never happen to them suddenly have to deal with it.

In about 12,000 of these cases each year, organ donations would be possible. Yet, organs are actually donated in only about 2,500 of them.

At the same time, throughout the United States there are over 7,000 people waiting for kidneys. Another 120 are on active waiting lists for livers and 22 are on active waiting lists for hearts.

But these numbers don't tell the whole story. In addition to the 140 people on active waiting lists for livers and hearts, thousands more need these organs desperately. They are never put on waiting lists because they don't have enough time to wait for the few livers and hearts which become available.

These thousands die, often within three to six months. About 10% of the people waiting for kidneys also die. They run out of time. Thousands more go without vision because corneas aren't available. And thousands who could be helped with skin and other tissue transplants aren't helped.

There are a lot of reasons why so few organs are donated. In some cases, people don't know about the donor programs. In others, families have never considered donating before and they can't deal with the issue in the midst of their grief. Or they don't know how the potential donor would have felt about it.

But the bottom line is the same. Each year, thousands die because there are simply not enough organs being donated. Many of those thousands could be saved. If only people would think about the need.

Today, Drohan is up and exercising. He will soon be able to return to his family and begin putting the pieces of his life back together.

Because of a family able to see through their own grief to the good that could be done, John Drohan has a second chance to live. Because of a family they didn't even know, four children in suburban Connecticut will have a father to share their lives.

In the Philadelphia area, two women, each with young children, will be freed from dialysis machines after receiving Serrill's kidneys. Two others will be able to see the beauty which Frank Serrill saw, through his eyes.

The Serrill's suffered a tragic loss. They wish desperately that they could bring their son back. But they are comforted knowing that in a sense they did just that.

Their son lives on, in five different families. And because he does, those families are whole again. Once again there are dreams, there are hopes, there is life. There can be no greater gift.

How to sign up

In the state of Pennsylvania, anyone over the age of 18 can sign up to be an organ donor. It's done by simply filling out and carrying a uniform donor card.

To make it easy, we've included a donor card at the bottom of this page which you can clip out and use. If you need more cards for other family members, they are available in the Hospital Center's emergency department waiting room, radiology waiting room, administrator's office, public relations office, patient representative's office, or in the pocket of a poster by the cafeteria exit. Cards are also available through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

On the card, you will notice that you have choices. You can decide that you only want to donate a certain organ or organs. You can decide to donate any organs which are usable. Or you can decide to donate your entire body. You indicate your choice by checking the appropriate block or blocks on the card.

Once you have made your choices, you need to sign the card in front of two witnesses. They also need to sign. It's a good idea to use close family members as witnesses so you are sure they know about your decision to be a donor.

Once the card is completed, it should be attached to your driver's license. This insures that emergency personnel will see it if anything happens to you.

Carrying the donor card is the only thing you have to do to register yourself as a donor. You don't have to sign up with any state or local agencies. If you change your mind about being a donor, destroy the card.

Remember, anyone can give the gift of life. You don't have to be young or in perfect health. While some of your organs may not be usable, some will be.



The Recreation Committee is recruiting new members. Anyone interested in having fun and making decisions regarding the types of activities and trips sponsored by the Rec Committee should make it a point to come to the meetings. The committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 12:00 Noon in Classroom 2. We hope you will join us.

Detach Here For Photo License Pouch Cut on Dotted Lines

Pennsylvania Department of Health Voluntary Uniform Anatomical DONOR CARD

Print or type name of donor

I hereby voluntarily make this anatomical gift, if medically acceptable, to take effect upon my death. The words and marks below indicate my desire.

I give (A) ☐ Any needed organs or tissues

(B) ☐ Only the organ(s) or tissue(s) specified below:

☐ Eyes ☐ Kidneys ☐ Skin ☐ Liver
☐ Heart ☐ Pancreas ☐ Ear bones

Other _____

Limitations or

Special Wishes _____

For the purpose of transplantation, therapy, medical research or education.

(C) ☐ My body for anatomical study, if needed.

FOLD

UNIFORM ANATOMICAL DONOR CARD

Signed by the donor and two witnesses, who must sign in donor's presence.

Signature of ☐ Donor ☐ Parent ☐ Guardian Date of Birth of Donor _____

Street, City, State _____ Date Signed _____

Signature of Minor (If Donor) _____ Date Signed _____

1. Witness (age 18 or older) _____

2. Witness (age 18 or older) _____

THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT UNDER THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIFORM GIFT ACT

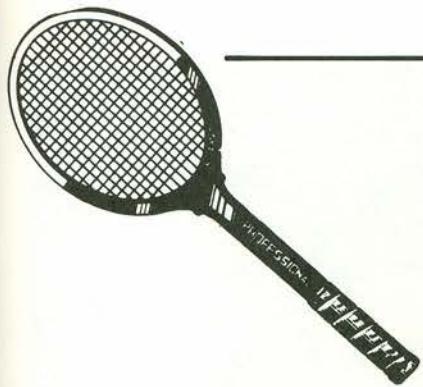
Employee health office moves

If you want to find Rose Haas and the rest of the employee health staff, don't go to 7A. You won't find them there.

On April 20, employee health moved to new quarters in the office formerly occupied by MedEvac flight operations on 7B. With the opening of the new shock/trauma unit, MedEvac flight operations was able to move off the 7th floor.

This put the MedEvac staff closer to their operational area. And it opened up badly needed space for the employee health office.

The phone numbers for both employee health and MedEvac flight operations were unaffected by the change in locations. Employee health is Ext. 8869 and MedEvac flight operations is Ext. 8600.



We've been challenged

Challenges have been issued to the Hospital Center by The Allentown Hospital for both tennis and bowling matches.

For the tennis tournament, which will be held on Wednesday, July 11, beginning at 2:00 P.M., at Muhlenberg College, we are looking for team members interested in playing men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles, women's doubles, or mixed doubles.



For the bowling match, we are looking for a team of five bowlers with established averages. The date for the bowling match has not yet been set.

Anyone interested in playing on either the Hospital Center's tennis or bowling teams should contact Janet in public relations at Ext. 8900. Deadline for signups for both teams is Friday, June 1.

The Recreation Committee now has discount tickets for Great Adventure, Hershey Park, and a Fun Finder discount card for Dorney Park.

Great Adventure combination tickets for both the park and safari are \$11.85, and park tickets only are \$11.05. Tickets for Hershey Park are \$10.25 for adults, and \$8.95 for juniors (ages 5-8). The Fun Finder discount cards for Dorney Park are good for \$2.00 off the all day ride tickets on weekdays, and \$1.00 off on weekends and holidays.

Tickets may be purchased in the public relations office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Don't forget to stop by the Recreation Committee's Wine Booth at May Daze, Friday, May 18, through Sunday, May 20.

Spring Fling brings back memories

jitterbug, the twist, the sloop, and line dances when the band for the evening transformed themselves from Chaparral into Ronnie and the Hubcaps during a break. Complete with a poodle skirt, ducktails, t-shirts with cigarette packs rolled up in the sleeves, and tight jeans, they quickly took everyone back to the 50's and 60's.

And the record size crowd responded by packing the dance floor. After all, in spite of what James Watt says, there's no better way to welcome spring than by dancing to the sounds of Beach Boys surfing music.

They say you'll never grow old if you love to rock and roll. If that's true, the 300 plus staff members and their guests at this year's Spring Fling showed they have what it takes to stay young.

Current dancing styles quickly gave way to the

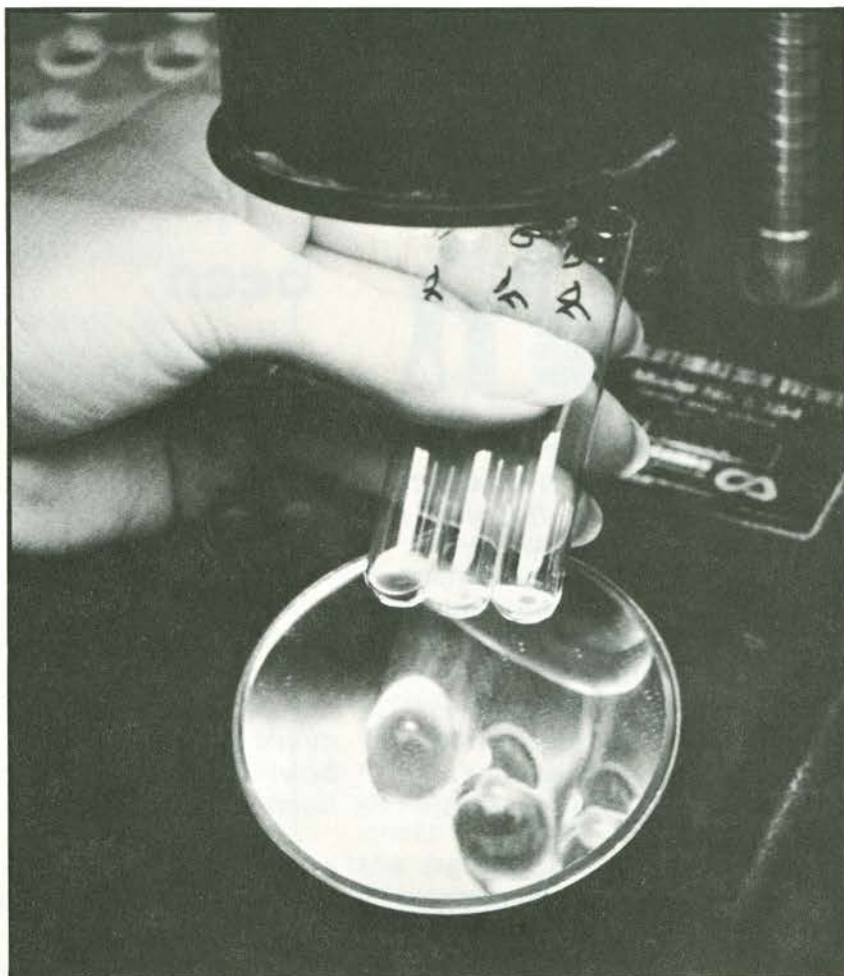


It's not magic . . .

It's 7:00 A.M. and dawn is just beginning to break. Throughout the Lehigh Valley, people are crawling deeper under the sheets trying to ignore insistent alarm clocks.

But in our clinical laboratory, the scene is very different. Many members of the laboratory staff are already hard at work. And though they don't get the kind of visibility or patient contact enjoyed by some members of the health care team, the work they do is critically important.

Members of the lab staff begin the day early,



It's people and technology

collecting and analyzing tissue, blood, and other fluid samples from patients throughout the hospital. And it's the results of these tests which will form the basis for hundreds of patient care decisions through the course of the day.

When lab staff members pull the light switches in patients' rooms, one of two things frequently happens. The patients either mistake them for nurses and begin talking about their care or they start with the vampire jokes.

So who are these staff members who are neither nurse nor vampire? Most of them are medical technologists, graduates of college medical technology programs with years of clinical training.

To receive their certification as medical technologists, they have passed comprehensive national certifying examinations. Most

of them have also gone on to take exams for advanced certification in their specialty areas.

And this is unusual. Our lab staff is more highly qualified and better trained than the lab staffs in many other hospitals. The result is an extremely high level of professionalism and national recognition on a number of occasions.

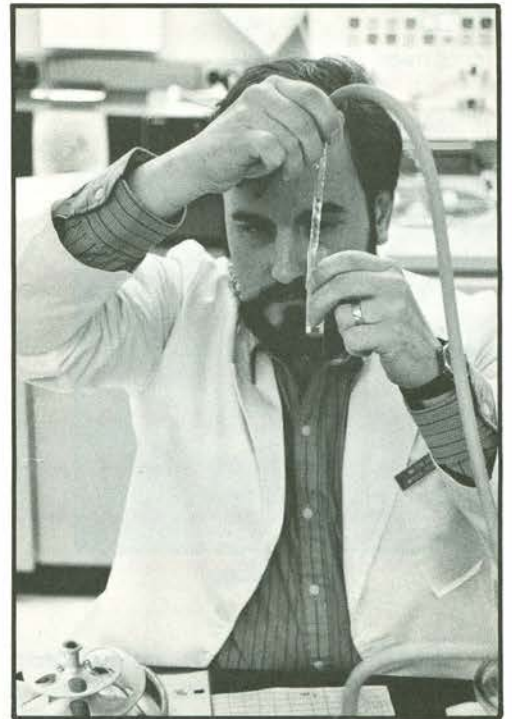
Most recently, members of the hematology department found and identified two very rare cell types. Their finding was submitted to the American Society of Clinical Pathologists who then reported it in their national publication.

Within the lab, these professionals work in one of 10 specialty areas. Those areas are general chemistry, toxicology, endocrinology, immunology, hematology, coagulation, blood bank, microbiology, cytology, and histology.

Toxicology



Perhaps the most important work done in toxicology is the emergency toxicology screen. This test involves the use of highly sophisticated equipment to help identify the drugs used in overdose cases. But staff members do much more. They do urine drug screening for drug rehabilitation centers and for the bicycle races at the Lehigh County Velodrome. They work with local and state police, providing measurements of alcohol and drugs in blood samples. They also do therapeutic drug monitoring to help physicians insure that the dosages of prescribed drugs are correct.



Blood bank

The blood bank works as a transfusion service in the preparation, testing, and issuing of blood products. Staff members there perform a variety of extremely time consuming and complicated tests. These are needed to insure that transfused blood products are compatible with the blood of those patients receiving the transfusions. During 1983, staff members in the blood bank performed nearly 25,000 compatibility tests to make possible 18,700 transfusions of blood products.



Chemistry

Staff members in general chemistry are responsible for analyzing blood and other body fluids to see what's in them. They measure ions and magnesium. They check for enzymes. They measure the levels of 20 different chemicals in the blood. And they do STAT testing of patient samples from the emergency department and the operating room.



Endocrinology

The primary focus in endocrinology is hormones. When patients have certain kinds of tumors, they produce higher levels of some hormones. By doing a series of lengthy urine tests, endocrinology staff members can spot those unusual hormone levels. In addition, endocrinology is responsible for tests which help evaluate patients' kidney function. They do this by measuring the levels of certain waste products in patients' blood and urine samples.



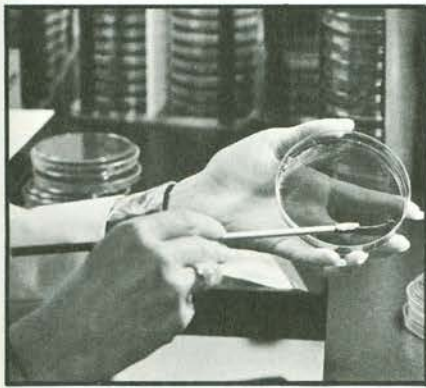
Hematology

Hematology is responsible for complete blood counts. Staff members measure the number of red cells, white cells and platelets and the level of hemoglobin in patient blood samples. They also identify the type and proportion of white cells present.

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LAB

(continued from page 7)



Microbiology

Staff members in microbiology are detectives who look for the microorganisms responsible for infectious diseases. They do this by culturing organisms in small dishes of selected media. The organisms are then biochemically identified and tests are done to determine the most effective antibiotics.



Coagulation

Staff members in immunology spend most of their time looking for proteins. These proteins are the fingerprints of certain diseases. By finding certain types of proteins in a patient sample, immunology staff members can help identify what's wrong. Different proteins will identify that a patient has rheumatic disease, a certain kind of infectious disease, a myocardial infarction, multiple myeloma, or multiple sclerosis.



Immunology

Histology works with the examination of tissue samples received from the operating room or from autopsies. The tissue samples are put through a series of steps which prepare them for examination. The finished slides are then viewed under a microscope, providing valuable information about what has happened or is happening to a patient.



Histology



Cytology

It's a large staff and one which has many talents, interests and responsibilities. Helping to pull it all together is another very important group. It includes the phlebotomists, staff members responsible for collecting the samples to be analyzed, and the laboratory assistants.

They all help coordinate the activity in the lab. They help to control and track the samples brought in for testing. They insure that information is entered correctly into the computer system. And they keep the rest of the hospital's health care team up to date with the activity in the lab.

Coagulation looks at patients' ability to control bleeding. This involves evaluation of certain vascular functions, measurement of proteins needed to control clotting, and examination of blood platelets. Every patient coming into the Hospital Center for surgery is tested to determine his or her ability to control bleeding. Coagulation staff members work with the medical staff to identify patients with abnormal clotting tendencies. They also monitor the blood of patients receiving anticoagulant drugs.

The early detection of cancer by microscopic examination of cell samples is the work of the cytology staff. Cells are stained with special dyes. This allows staff members to identify abnormalities in the nucleus or cytoplasm of the cells.

It's not magic, though it may seem that way to those of us who don't spend our time in the lab. It's a lot of hard work by a group of very dedicated professionals. And the 5,000 tests they do each day make a lot of what the rest of us do possible.



MAY DAZE

The book barrel is in the lobby and so are the Auxiliary raffle ticket sellers. So May Daze must be getting close.

In fact, it's only a week away. And the Auxiliary still needs help. For those of you who have time and energy, help is still needed to set up and to staff the festival. Anyone interested should stop by or contact the volunteer station (Ext. 8899) or leave a message for Alma Pfeiffer, president of the Auxiliary, in the Tree Top Shop (Ext. 8822).

Those of you who have a little less time and energy can also make a contribution. Check your attics, check your basements, check those boxes of books you've been meaning to do something about. See if there are any treasures there you can donate.

Donations of white elephant items can be arranged by contacting the volunteer station or by calling Barbara Sander at 435-9223. Books can be donated by placing them in the book barrel located in the Hospital Center lobby.

Dinner

Bar-b-qued chicken or ribs
Lyonnais potatoes
Cole slaw
Herbed green beans
Rolls - Butter
Dessert - Beverage

Adults - \$5.00
Children - \$3.00

Brunch

Fruit bowl
Sausage - Eggs
Muffins - Beverage

Adults - \$3.75
Children - \$2.50

Dinner will be served Friday and Saturday, 4:30-7:30 P.M.

Brunch will be served Sunday, 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Reduced price tickets can be purchased in advance at the Tree Top Shop.

Schedule of events

Friday, May 18

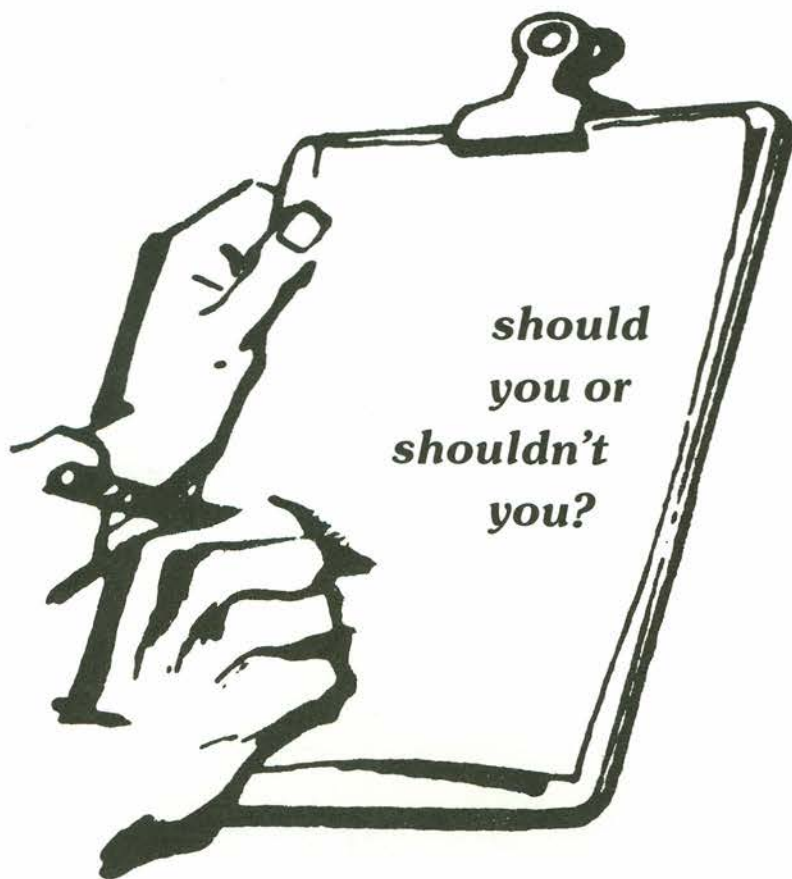
5:00 P.M. - Men of Retirement Age (MORA) Chorus
6:00 P.M. - Lori Felegy Ross (Folk Singer)
7:00 P.M. - Interview with Laura Jill Miller
7:00 P.M. - Bob Good Jugglin
7:30 P.M. - Salisbury Middle School Cadet Band
8:00 P.M. - Barbershop Quartet Singing
6:00-10:00 P.M. - WSAN Broadcasting Live

Saturday, May 19

11:00 A.M. - Stage Door Kids
12:00 Noon - Salisbury Township Jazz Band
1:00 P.M. - Baffle-O-Bill and Daughter (Magic Show)
1:00-4:00 P.M. - Gene Mater (Caricaturist)
2:00 P.M. - JADE (Belly Dancer)
3:00 P.M. - Ukrainian Dancers
4:00 P.M. - Allentown Martial Arts Academy
5:00 P.M. - Jan Nagy Modeling Show
6:00 P.M. - Sharon Plessel School of Dance
7:00 P.M. - Music by Shades
8:00 P.M. - The Baloney Brothers
All Day - Surprise by Shari Davis (Clowns)

Sunday, May 20

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - WSAN Broadcasting Live
12:00 Noon - Mr. Yuk Puppets
12:30 P.M. - Bailey's School of Dance
1:30 P.M. - Kathy Craine (WFMZ) Interviewing Mayor Joseph Daddona and Gina Major, Miss Lehigh Valley
2:00 P.M. - The Happy Boombadeers
3:00 P.M. - The Allentown Juvenile Band
4:00 P.M. - Allentown Martial Arts Academy
5:00 P.M. - The Saucon Squares



Wellness Center makes "house calls"

If you walk into the business office or medical records in the middle of a Tuesday afternoon, you're going to be surprised. Not everyone is sitting at their desks working feverishly to the sounds of muted music played over the Hospital Center's public address system.

For an hour every Tuesday afternoon, staff members in both of these offices are kept hopping, literally. And it's all part of the Wellness Center's effort to adapt their programs to meet the needs of our staff.

Up until the beginning of this year, business office and medical records staff members were feeling a lot of unrelieved stress. Their work space was cramped. Their jobs demanded intense concentration with very little movement for long periods of time. It doesn't take long for these conditions to take a toll. Staff members found themselves experiencing back pain, muscle strain, eye strain, and headaches.

Since not much can be done to change the working conditions right now, the Wellness Center was asked if anything could be done to help staff members adapt to the conditions.

Paperwork - most of us aren't thrilled with it. We chose our professions because we wanted to help people. And sometimes, the paperwork seems to get in the way.

So there's a tendency to try and cut down the paperwork wherever possible. Someone slips in the hallway in front of you. You run to help them but they get up and seem to be alright.

Nobody got hurt so there's no need to do an incident report, you think. Besides, there are so many more important things waiting to be done.

But maybe months later, that person sues the hospital and claims serious injuries. Or maybe someone else slips in the same spot and does get hurt. Perhaps the hazard could have been eliminated before the second person fell.

Incident reports are critical to the well-being of the Hospital Center. They help us eliminate hazards before someone gets hurt. And they help us document what happened if someone does get hurt so we aren't subject to inflated claims.

It's important that incident reports be filed quickly. Situations left unattended continue to pose hazards to both ourselves and our patients.

It's also important that they be complete. If the date, the person's name, the location, or the patient's unit aren't there, it may be impossible to follow up on the report.

Once completed, patient or visitor incident reports should be forwarded to Janine Fiesta, director of legal affairs, and employee related incident reports should be forwarded to Rose Haas, employee health. And they should be filed anytime something happens which could lead to future legal action. They should also be filed when a hazardous situation is noticed because of something which has happened.



Wellness Center Instructor leads business office staff members in exercises by their desks

The answer? Set aside a time when staff members could exercise. This would give them a chance to break away from the intense concentration of their jobs. It would help them relax. And it would help them tone up physically so their working conditions are less bothersome.

Department heads in both offices reviewed the Wellness Center's proposal and decided to give it a try. So the Wellness Center developed a series of stretching and motion exercises which people could do at their desks, and the program began.

For one hour each week, an instructor from the Wellness Center comes to each of these two departments. And to the sounds of taped disco music, staff members who want to join the program stretch and reach; twist and bend.

As many as 20 staff members in each of these departments participate each week. All have nothing but good to say about the program. Most of the physical problems they were experiencing are gone. They come back to their jobs refreshed. And many of them find that they are now more successful at keeping up with exercise programs away from work.

If you and other members of your department think that a similar program would help in your unit, talk to your department head. Then contact Susan Weigand at the Wellness Center (821-3184).



Medical records staff members take advantage of cool air in new shock/trauma unit basement.

CPR schedule issued

The following CPR courses will be offered during the months of May and June for all non-nursing personnel:

Certification

*Tuesday, May 29, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon, Classroom I
Wednesday, May 30, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon, Classroom I*

*Monday, June 18, 1:00-4:00 P.M., Classroom I
Tuesday, June 19, 1:00-4:00 P.M., Classroom I*

Attendance is required on both days of the session for certification.

Recertification

Thursday, June 28, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M., Classroom I

Please call educational development (Ext. 8320) to register for these courses. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and is limited to 10 students per class.

Lehigh Valley Hospital Center
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