

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

November 4, 1987

Vol. 19, No. 10

## Multiple victims test trauma system

"NewsCenter's Jim Smith is *Live* now at Maine Medical Center, where doctors are fighting to save lives."

That's how Channel 6 co-anchor Richard Rose opened the 6 o'clock news Thursday, October 15, reporting on the aftermath of a double accident that sent seven people to MMC. Standing with the reporter was the physician in charge of trauma services at Maine Medical Center, David Clark, M.D., who provided an update of a still-evolving situation.

The two accidents occurred at virtually the same time and within just a few miles of each other. Two of the seven victims were seriously injured, four required surgery, and all were brought to MMC. The situation provided a good test of the way MMC can respond to a sudden influx of severe injuries. Dr. Clark, along with the others involved, was very pleased with the results.

The anchorman's statement that doctors were fighting to save lives was correct, he says, but not complete. "There are many, many people involved in proper trauma care," he explains, "and it was the quick and correct response from all parts of the team that made the system work."

Chief of Emergency Medicine George Higgins, M.D., agrees. "The circumstances were fortuitous," he notes. "Because of the day, and the time of day, we had enough personnel to assign a team to each patient." This enabled those involved, he says, to observe the way in which the team worked and how the pieces of the system fit together. They fit well, Dr. Higgins says.

Clark notes that in a "disaster" situation, *everyone* has to mobilize to respond. "It starts with the volunteer rescue personnel in the field," he says.

TRAUMA, page 2

## National Radiologic Technology Week

This week, November 2-8, 1987, is dedicated to saluting the professionals in Radiology at Maine Medical Center. One hundred thirty-four employees work three shifts, seven days a week in Radiology, the department that specializes in the use of medical radiation and imaging techniques to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The six divisions of Radiology, serving inpatients as well as outpatients, are Nuclear Medicine, Ultrasound, CT Scanning, Radiation Therapy, Diagnostic Radiology, and Radiological Physics.

RADIOLOGY, page 3

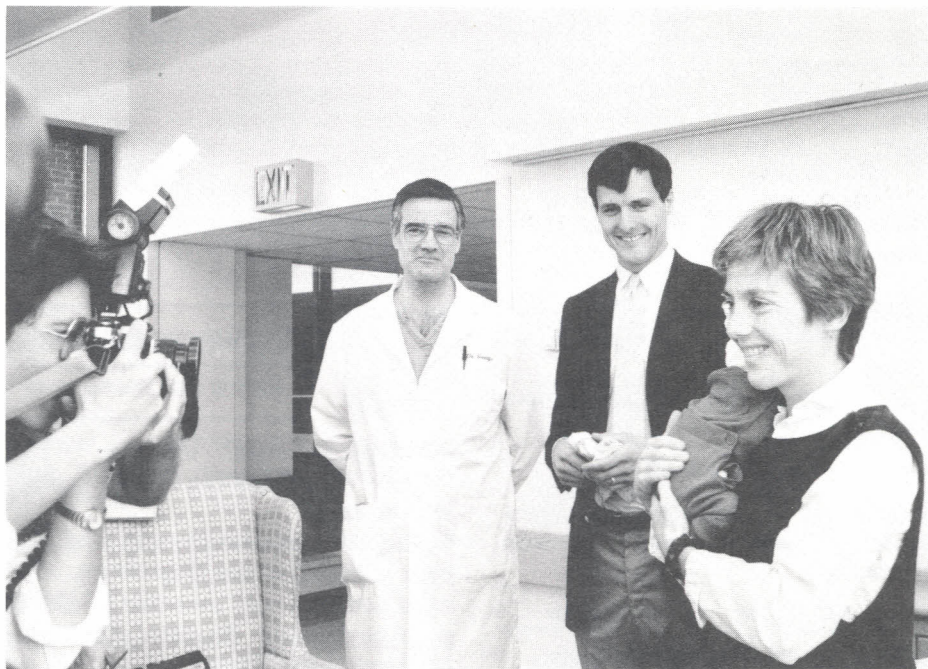
## Nurse Practitioners recognition week

Recognition for Nurse Practitioners is celebrated this week, November 2-8, across the nation. The eight Nurse Practitioners at Maine Medical Center share this week-long observation of pride in their profession.

Nurse Practitioners are registered nurses with additional training for an expanded role that incorporates many tasks previously done only by physicians, along with all the traditional nursing skills.

Found in the hospital's outpatient clinics, Nurse Practitioners are involved in

N.P., page 2



JOAN BENOIT SAMUELSON, Olympic marathon gold medalist, greets the press with her new born baby girl, Abigail Webb, dressed in a red Maine Union suit and tiny Nike shoes. The infant was delivered by David Youngs, M.D., at MMC, Saturday, October 24, 1987, and weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces. Left to right are Dr. Youngs, Scott Samuelson, and Joan. (A/V Photo)



the direct provision of care for patients with acute illnesses. These patients are seen by Nurse Practitioners, who review their health history and examine them. They identify the nature of illness and confer with a physician to prescribe treatment.

Nurse Practitioners are also found working closely with physicians in the Employee Health Office, where they treat employees. They also examine people as part of the pre-employment screening that clears them for employment.

Nurse Practitioners are also supportive in the follow up care of patients with chronic illnesses. They assist a team of medical residents in coordinating the care for patients at home to ascertain the

progression of prescribed treatment.

In the community, Nurse Practitioners are active in health promotion and disease prevention, frequently speaking to groups on nutrition, alcoholism and other health issues, like the anti-smoking campaign they recently helped launch in a local school.

Nurse Practitioners play a major role in health maintenance, often teaching diabetics how to give themselves insulin shots, or teaching people how to take their own blood pressure. They also aid the family members of patients in treating illness.

Although few in number, Nurse Practitioners at MMC make a large contribution to quality patient care.



BECKY HITCHCOCK, RN, NP, examines the ear of employee Denise Amegian in the General Clinic. (A/V Photo)

## New Employees

**PHLEBOTOMY:** Leigh Chinchillo, Debora Cressey.

**PARKING:** Douglas Adams.

**DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY:** Mary Berwick, Shannon Castle, Steven Thibodeau.

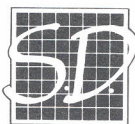
**OPERATING ROOM:** Robert Crozier.

**MEDICAL RECORDS:** Debrah Davis.

**NURSING:** Paula Brennan, Valerie Dinan.

**HOUSEKEEPING:** Donna Gorham, Leo Rochefort, Sarim Sin, Barbara Valeriani.

**FOOD SERVICES:** Marie Higgins, Cheryl Smith.



## Continuing Education

Nursing Staff Development

### • Cardiovascular Update: "The Patient Who Requires Hemodynamic Monitoring,"

Tuesday, November 10, 1987

prior registration required

eight contact hours awarded by MSNA

### • "Age-Related Physical Changes: Atypical Manifestations,"

Doris Legere, RN, MS, Gerontology Nurse Specialist

Friday, November 13, 1987

7:30 AM R4 Conference Room 13

2:30 PM R4 Conference Room

one contact hour awarded by MSNA

"Then REMIS [Regional Emergency Medical Information System, the radio net that coordinates the transport of patient by rescue units in southern Maine] channeled all the patients to MMC for evaluation, and alerted nearby hospitals to be ready to help.

Meanwhile, in the half-hour before the patients arrived, enough physicians and nurses had to be assembled; X-ray, CT Scan, and Respiratory Therapy, and the laboratory must be put on notice; as many patients as possible must be discharged from the Emergency Room; the maximum number of beds must be made available, particularly in Special Care; operating rooms must be opened and staffed."

"Every time we have a situation like this, we learn more about how to improve our response," Dr. Higgins says. During the hospital's last disaster drill, the need for a central "status board" in the Emergency Room, to help keep track of patients, was identified in follow-up debriefings. The board had been put up shortly afterward, and proved invaluable during the October 15 disaster.

During the critical period on October 15, Drs. Clark and Higgins were able to stand by the status board and coordinate activities. Vice President for Medical Affairs F. Stephen Larned, M.D., and Director of Critical Care Nursing Susan Doughty, RN, were on hand to coordinate hospital-wide support activities, such as tracking available beds and monitoring staffing requirements. Emergency Representatives were working at a furious pace registering information and contacting family members, and Security and Public Information were managing the intense press interest in the accidents.

Dr. Higgins says several multiple-patient incidents in the past few weeks have tested the trauma system at MMC. What works, he says, "is an expansion of what we do every day." Both Higgins and Clark believe the system will continue improving.

## Please Note

**Healthstyles Volleyball Meeting  
Thursday, November 5, 1987  
4:30 PM**

**Dana Center Classroom 1**

*Bring your roster and team name.  
Limit of 12 teams.*



## RADIOLOGY, from page one —

Technologists in *Nuclear Medicine* use radioactive materials to aid in the diagnosis of disease. Patients are injected with radioisotopes that settle in the body's "hot spots" or troubled areas.

Cross-section imaging is used in *Ultrasound* to detect disease by bouncing ultrasonic sound waves off parts of the anatomy. This radiation-free imaging tool is a common procedure for pregnant women, as it is safe for the fetus.

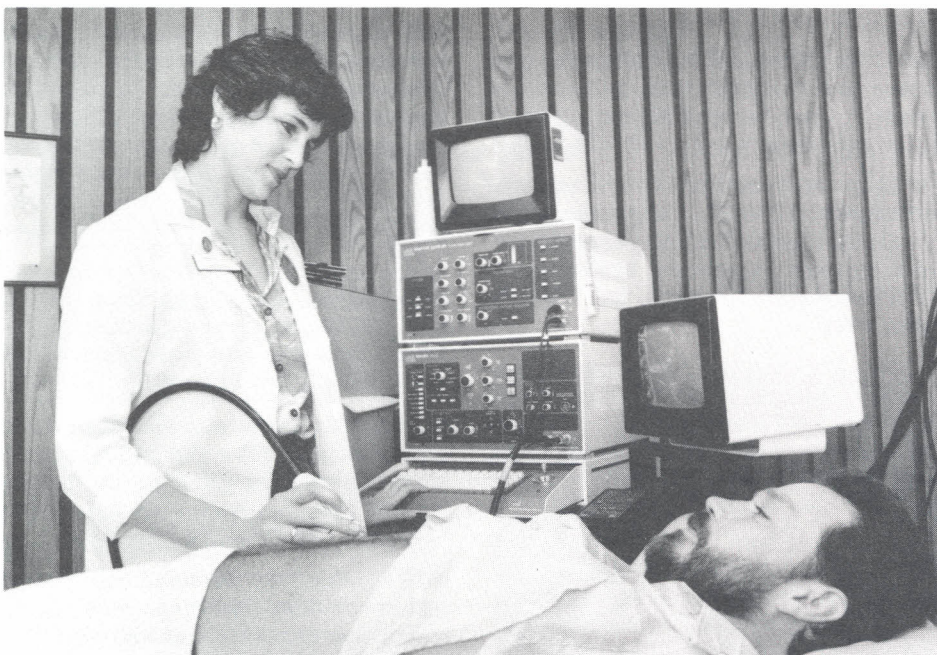
In *CT Scanning*, technologists obtain a cross-sectional image of the body sensitive to small differences in the types of tissue. It allows organs difficult to observe on a regular x-ray to become more distinguishable.

*Radiation Therapy* technologists administer therapeutic doses of radiation under a physician's direction for the treatment and cure of malignant disease.

*Diagnostic Radiology*, the largest division, is where all routine and special procedure x-rays are taken. The procedures run from simple chest x-rays to complex invasive procedures like angiograms.

*Radiologic Physics*, the newest division in Radiology, supports the other divisions by monitoring the radiation therapy administered to patients. Technologists perform diagnostic studies to ensure that patients receive therapeutic levels of radiation with minimal exposure.

Radiologic technologists are professionals with a two or four year degree in radiologic technology from programs approved by the American Medical Association. In addition to work in the Radiology Department, Radiologic Technologists may be found in the cardiac catheterization labs, cardiology, SCU, the operating rooms, and the emergency room.



**ROBIN PELLETIER, RT, RDMS, conducts an abdominal sonogram on a patient in Ultrasound. (A/V Photo)**

## More Marketplace

**FOR SALE:** 1981 Chevy Chevette, 55,000 miles, good condition, 4 door, \$1,200 or best offer. Call 879-1613 after 6 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1979 VW Rabbit, \$900. Good condition, AM/FM radio, radials, front wheel drive, great in snow. Call 773-2191.

**FOR SALE:** Kenmore refrigerator, almond, 3 years old has ice maker, \$350. 1 picture window, thermopane glass, like new, 4½'x 5', \$150 or best offer. Call 799-4432.

**FOR SALE:** 1977 BMW 320, sunroof, a/c, blue, excellent condition. \$4,000, call 781-2395.

**FOR SALE:** Whirlpool washer \$175, dryer \$75. Hammond organ \$2,000. Call 797-5452.

**FOR SALE:** Ashley wood stove and Olympic Franklin wood stove. Will take offers on both. Call 839-3725 before 8 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1977 Honda Civic, runs well, good sticker, \$800 or best offer. Call 774-2350.

## Author Larry Pray to speak at MMC

Author and educator Lawrence Pray will speak at Maine Medical Center Saturday, November 14, as part of the hospital's observance of National Diabetes Month. The free presentation is scheduled for 1-4 PM in the Charles A. Dana Health Education Center, and is open to the public.

Pray is the author of "Journey of a Diabetic," a book many consider required reading for diabetics and their families. In the book, Pray traces his own struggle to live with his diabetes and examines the lessons to be learned from chronic illness.

## Employee Benefits Enrollment Meetings For the Pre-tax Premium, Reimbursement Accounts, and Supplemental Life Insurance Plans.

### Wednesday, November 4,

7:45 AM	Classroom 4*
4:00 PM	Classroom 7
10:00 PM	Auditorium

### Friday, November 6,

7:45 AM	Classroom 2*
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### Saturday, November 7

1:00 AM	Classroom 7
12:00 noon	Classroom 7**

### Tuesday, November 10,

10:00 AM	Auditorium
12:00 noon	Classroom 7**
3:30 PM	Auditorium

### Thursday, November 12,

1:00 AM	Auditorium
2:30 PM	Classroom 7

### Friday, November 13,

1:00 PM	Classroom 7
3:30 PM	Classroom 7

\* Coffee will be available  
\*\* Bring your lunch

## CORRECTION

August J. Valenti, M.D., is the new Hospital Epidemiologist for Maine Medical Center, not Director of Infectious Diseases as reported last week. Thomas F. Claffey, M.D., is Director of Infectious Diseases.



# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** Newly decorated, 1st floor, 2 BR apartment. Includes micro, off-street parking w/garage. \$650/mo. utils. included. References and security deposit required. Call 774-1214 days, and 797-2558 evenings.

**FOR RENT:** North Deering duplex on bus-line. 3 BR, W/D hook-up, off-street parking, storage, large back yard. \$500/mo. plus utils., Call 797-9130.

**FOR RENT:** West end top floor heated 2 BR apt., parking, closets, lease, references, no pets. \$650/mo., call 774-5317

**FOR RENT:** West end furnished living quarters, and house privileges for non-smoking professional. References required, parking available, \$450/mo., call 774-5317.

**FOR RENT:** Up to 3,000 square feet of professional office space. Located in a restored early 1800's farm house on route 25 in Gorham. Plenty of parking, very competitively priced. Call 839-2559 days, and 839-4664 evenings.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR apt., newly remodeled, large bath, nice kitchen with lots of cabinets. Paddle fan in living room, W/D hook-up in basement. \$475/mo. plus security deposit. Call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR 1st floor office space, Victorian with parquet floors, marble fireplace, bath and shower. \$475/mo., call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR apt. Chandler's Wharf. New, on waterfront, 24 hour security, underground parking, dishwasher, microwave, W/D hook-up. \$600/mo., call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR apt., the new Breakwater in South Portland, balcony with views of Casco Bay, 24 hour doorman, galley kitchen, equipped with blinds, dishwasher. \$650/mo., call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** 2 BR apt., newly remodeled, W/D hook-up, pets considered. \$485/mo., call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** Old Orchard Beach, Cape style brand new condo, beautiful layout, dishwasher, backyard, \$650/mo., with 6 month lease. Call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** Tri-level, Chandler's Wharf, all amenities, security, fireplace, 2 balconies overlooking ocean. \$1250/mo., call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** 2 BR home in Cape Elizabeth, dining room, living room, garage, all 1st floor, plenty of storage. \$675/mo., call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** Room in private home. Share with only one other person. \$55/wk., call 774-9303.

**FOR RENT:** Available 12/1/87. Woodfords/Osteopathic area. 5 rooms, 2 BR, new kitchen, dining room, living room, hardwood floors, garage, storage, W/D hook-up, porch and back yard, \$525/mo. plus utils., call 774-2194.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Falmouth, near ocean and Portland. Male or female to share 7 room home. \$300/mo., plus 1/2 utils., non-smoker only. Call 772-3479.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Female to share with female 2 BR apt., living room, kitchen, shower and bath, appliances, also furnished except for bedroom. \$200/mo. plus 1/3 of electric. Heat included. Call 775-5308 after 5 PM.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Professional non-smoker wanted to share convenient, very attractive 2 BR townhouse in South Portland, 5 minutes from MMC and Maine Mall. Parking, W/D on premises. \$250/mo. plus 1/2 utils., call 761-3915 evenings.

**FOR SALE:** 1986 Mercury Zephyr, 4 door, power steering, power brakes, 82,000 miles, well maintained, AM/FM radio, \$1,200 or best offer, call 772-0389 evenings.

## what's happening

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** is published every Wednesday at Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine for members of the hospital community and for friends of the institution throughout Maine and northern New England. Comments, questions and suggestions may be addressed to Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, ME 04102. Telephone: (207) 871-2196. Wayne L. Clark, Editor.

Contributors to this issue:

S. Helena Goss, Public Information  
Terry McGarvey, Public Information  
Rick Beebe, A/V Resources  
Ron Gillis, A/V Resources  
Larry Gorton, A/V Resources  
Judy MacKenzie, A/V Resources  
Sandy Walling, Print Shop  
Henry J. Guiod, Jr., Print Shop

**FOR SALE:** Bedroom furniture, dresser with mirror, 5 drawer dresser, bedside table, full size bed frame with head/foot board, all matching walnut finish, \$275. Magnavox radio/stereo console, \$50. Charbroil gas barbeque grill, still in original unopened packing box, \$90. Sears portable color TV, 21' screen, \$10. Mens ski boots, Nordica size 10 1/2, \$5. Call 767-4130 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1981 Chevy Sport Van, 8 seat, 305 V8, a/c, excellent condition, new AM/FM radio cassette, good tires, 90,000 miles, \$4,500. Call 774-0381 or 781-4090.

**FOR SALE:** West end Victorian town house. Brick, 6 BR and 2 baths. Modern kitchen, master BR with fireplace. Parking for two cars. 4 minute walk from MMC, \$269,000. Call 773-4216 after 4 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1983 Mercury Lynx, 2 door, good condition, AM/FM cassette, 62,000 miles, must sell, \$1,000 or best offer. Call 883-4612.

**FOR SALE:** Kero-sun kerosene heater, 11,000 BTU's, \$100. Call 774-7637.

**WANTED:** Ride to and from Old Orchard Beach to MMC (temporarily), shift 3-11 PM. Willing to share expenses. Call 934-4559 days, or x4455 evenings.

**WANTED:** Ride from Sebago/Gorham area to MMC, Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4:30 PM. Call 642-3210, or x2336.

**WANTED:** Homes to clean. Not enough time to do housework? Domestic cleaner will come to your home days. Call 892-3706.

**WANTED:** Willing to tutor Spanish levels I-V, experienced tutor/teacher, BA Spanish, lived 3 years in Spain. Call 773-2191.

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Portland, Maine 04102

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