

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

January 29, 1986

Vol. 17, No. 24

## MMC is included in lawmakers' area tour

Three dozen Maine legislators visited Maine Medical Center last Friday, as part of a tour organized by the Institute on the Maine Economy. The Institute is a program of the Maine Development Foundation, and is designed to give lawmakers and others a first-hand look at Maine business and to bring public and private leaders together.

The tour included MMC as a major economic force in the Greater Portland/York County area. Other stops were L.L. Bean in Freeport, Pratt & Whitney in North Berwick, Fairchild and Hannaford Bros. in South Portland, and Unionmutual and Ventrex in Portland.

MMC President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D., spoke to the tour group in the auditorium of the Dana Center. He said that MMC plays a large role in the area economy, with an annual budget of \$120 million (\$65 million of which is payroll). He estimated that about 71% of the hospital's expenditures for labor and supplies are local, and noted the further economic impact of the private offices maintained by the hospital's 330 medical staff members.

Dr. Andrews spoke briefly about MMC's role in the education of residents, nurses, medical students, and allied health professionals, and the role education plays in keeping the hospital up-to-date.

In an environment increasingly concerned with competition among health care providers, Dr. Andrews said, MMC maintains its long-standing commitment to cooperation with other hospitals. He pointed to MMC's efforts in helping other hospitals establish programs and services, its involvement in public policy development, and its commitment to the not-for-profit philosophy as evidenced by

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**MAINE LAWMAKERS AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS** shared opinions during the economic fact-finding tour sponsored by the Institute on the Maine Economy. (A/V Photo)

## Task force looking at confidentiality

Last fall MMC president Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D., created a Patient Confidentiality Task Force, and charged its members with seeking "ways to achieve a common understanding on the part of all members of the MMC community necessary to properly protect one of our patients' most important rights, their right to privacy." He appointed Jerry Edson, Data Management, chairman, and named as members of the task force: Alice Cirillo, RN and Jean Atherton, RN, Nursing; Karen Fletcher, Administration; Richard Balsler, Medical Rehabilitation; Mary Keysor, Dietary; Robert Hackford, M.D., Attending Physician; Mark Kjeldgaard, M.D., Pulmonary Medicine; Patricia Lerwick, M.D.,

Resident, Anesthesia; Susan Williams, Staff Development; Barbara Burns, Public Information; Elisabeth Belmont, Legal Affairs; and Pam Taylor, Social Work.

In a letter to hospital employees, volunteers, and physicians, Dr. Andrews urged all with concerns on the subject of confidentiality to make their concerns known to any of the task force members. Edson and other members report that some employees have already been in touch--to applaud the task force's mission, to discuss the definition of confidentiality, and to share specific concerns or questions.

Employees' initial general reactions, combined with the findings of the first two monthly task force meetings have helped the group identify some of the issues involved, and have certainly lead

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## Parent/Child series offered to employees

Parents are invited to attend a continuing series of Parent/Child presentations covering a wide range of topics. Sponsored by the MMC Office of Training and Development, the series is scheduled for Noon every other Wednesday beginning February 19. To sign up for one presentation or the entire series, call x2824.

**Your Birth Order: Its Impact On You, Your Marriage, Your Family, and Your Work** February 19, Noon – 1 PM, Classroom 7.

Larry Roy, LCSW, a marriage and family counselor in private practice in Portland, will talk about understanding children's behavior and characteristics in relation to their birth order, and the extent to which partner selection and the way we relate to our children is influenced by birth order.

**Dilemmas of Adolescent Sexuality** March 5, Noon – 1 PM, Classroom 9. Pauline Pinkos, a health educator, will discuss parent and teenage concerns about sexuality, and highlight the typical questions and concerns expressed in

health education classes. She also will help you explore your own values in relation to your children's sexuality.

**Sugar, Food and Your Children's Behavior** March 19, Noon – 1 PM, Classroom 3.

Susanne Sickle, a Registered Dietitian, will present current research on the relationship between sugar and behavior, signs of food sensitivities, and guidelines for improving health and behavior through good nutrition.

**Depression in Children and Adolescents** April 2, Noon – 1 PM, Classroom 7. Bernard Gordon, M.D., an Associate Attending Physician in MMC's Psychiatry Department, will provide an overview of the signs and symptoms of depression in our kids and what can be done about it.

**Surviving Adolescence** April 16, Noon – 1 PM, Classroom 3.

Judith Redding, a Registered Substance Abuse Counselor, will talk about strengthening self-esteem for adolescents and parents, the importance of family rituals, and what we can do to help ourselves through hard times and heal ourselves afterwards.

**TOUR**, from page one \_\_\_\_\_ its membership in Voluntary Hospitals of America.

Dr. Andrews pointed to the aging of the population and the growing problem of providing health care for the poor as two major issues for the immediate future. He said the immediacy of the problem was evident in the fact that 40% of the patient days at MMC were for people over 65 years of age, a group which comprises only 12% of the population. Care for the poor and uninsured is a growing problem nationwide and in Maine, he said, noting that MMC's current budget includes a \$9 million allowance for uncompensated care.

The legislators had trends and issues on their minds as well, and asked about heart transplantation, Medicare payments and discharges, the supply of nursing home beds, and cost containment laws and strategies.

## New Employees

**HOUSEKEEPING:** George M. Atsales, Jeffrey A. Ells, Michael H. Mezoian

**NURSING:** Karen Beatty, Esther I. Boucher, Mary P. Caselden, Lori L. Coro, Kathleen A. Currie, Deborah A. Douglas, Cathy Fogarty, Michelle P. Foley, Bonnie L. Fossett, Sandra J. Hetzel, Rebecca L. Hunter, Arthur H. Hutchins, Karole L. Johnson, Nancy A. Lavoie, Karen A. LeClair, Sarah G. Love, Leslie S. MacGregor, Vicki L. Mancuso, Linda M. Miller, Patricia M. O'Regan, Tracy L. Pierce, Julie A. Polland, Cathy A. Ross, Dana M. Sangster, Lori L. Scelza, Karen L. Smith, Rose M. Soule, Bobette H. Turner, Dianne M. Whiston, Bobbea A. Wilcher

**MED. RECORDS:** Elizabeth T. Bernard, Rita L. Jean

**PHARMACY:** Anita I. Boutin

**ENDOCRINOLOGY:** Marjorie L. Coleman

**DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY:** Elizabeth K. Gibbons

**FOOD SERVICES:** Heather A. Graves, Robert Simmons Jr.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY:** Lucy T. Haskell, Christine S. McCann

**LINEN PROCESSING:** Linda E. Norton

**HEMATOLOGY:** Elizabeth A. Paradis

**OR:** Evelyn L. Peterson

**DATA MANAGEMENT:** Kathryn A. Taylor

**PSYCHIATRY:** Paul B. Voss

**ENGINEERING:** Brian K. Wall

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# Volunteer Opportunities Open House

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**Tuesday, February 4, 1986**  
**9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
**at the**  
**Dana Health Education Center**

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**Preregistration Required: call 871-2205**





## Downhill costs less with EAC discounts

The Employee Activity Committee has discount lift tickets for four major ski areas in Maine. All are on sale in the Cafeteria 7:15 - 8:00 AM, Monday - Friday, or call Joyce at x2672 to make alternate arrangements.

**Sunday River** lift tickets are available at \$19.50 weekend, \$14.50 weekday.

**Mt. Abrams** lift tickets are available at \$15.50 weekend, \$10.50 weekdays.

**Sugarloaf USA** passes are available at \$19.50 (adult) and \$12.50 (child).

**Saddleback Ski Area** Saddlepasses are available for \$5.00. The Saddlepass is good for \$5.00 off the daily lift ticket price at the mountain.


## Bad, good news for those who would pool

The MMC Carpool Project, started three years ago to put potential ridesharers together, is officially over. Difficulties in keeping information current as well as a low level of participation brought the effort to an end.

Those who want to find rides or riders may use one of two options:

The *Greater Portland Rideshare Program*, a project of the Greater Portland

# CARPOOL



It'll give you a lift.  
**871-POOL**

Council of Governments, offers computerized matching services for the Greater Portland area. Just call the Rideshare office at 871-POOL, and they'll send you an application.

The "Marketplace" section of *What's Happening* is available for "Ride Wanted" ads. Just call the Public Information Office at x2196 or place your ad in the interoffice mail.

## TASK, from page one

them to determine what their first steps should be, and in what direction, Edson says.

"The key is in our charge from Dr. Andrews. We are looking to achieve a *common* understanding of the concept of confidentiality," Edson says. "But before we can arrive at the common understanding, we have to determine what understandings exist or prevail now; we may find that we need, actually, to seek a common definition of confidentiality or privacy as they apply to our patients and information about our patients."

Confidentiality in a health care situation, and especially in a hospital setting, is universally held to be a patient's right and an institution's responsibility. In any literature, be it employee instruction, or patient information, the subject is almost always mentioned and is always high in priority. In the MMC Employee Handbook, under the section "What Maine Medical Center Expects from You," there is a full portion headed *Patient Confidentiality*, and it states:

*Every patient treated at Maine Medical Center should be given privacy within the limits of the hospital's resources. You are responsible for protecting the privacy of patients and their families. You are cautioned to avoid discussing patients or patient information in any area of the hospital where the conversation could be overheard. You should never discuss a patient's case outside of work, either with the patient, or with family or friends. Policies which limit access to medical records, charts, discharge information and other patient information also must be carefully observed by all employees.*

That is an excellent introduction to the subject, and it serves to alert all employees to the importance of their role in protecting patients' privacy. Serving, as it must, as a message to all employees, it is general in scope and does not list specific guidelines.

Nearly every discipline in the field of health care has (and publishes) its own guidelines, policies, or strict protocols and these include patient confidentiality. Generally, the more specialized the discipline, the more precisely outlined and specifically stated are the protocols or policies; definitions are stated, violations are described, and any disciplinary measures are outlined. Sometimes, state or federal laws determine in some measure how a health care worker may or may not proceed in regard to patient information.

The task force has found there is very little, if any, literature that provides across-the-board guidelines; there seems to be no rule of thumb, no language common to the many employees representing the many disciplines that come into play every day, touching ultimately on the case and care of every patient in a hospital.

At Maine Medical Center, Edson says, employees will become the first source of information for the task force. Its members are seeking input from all employees; they welcome general comments as well as specific views on: What forms of privacy or confidentiality can we assure our patients? What constitutes a breach of confidentiality? What conditions or events can lead to breaches of confidentiality (like lack of available private space for discussion, pressures of time, unclear definitions of what information is confidential)? What measures can be taken to eliminate all breaches of confidentiality?

The task force meets monthly, and during its deliberations, will report preliminary findings and recommendations to the Patient Care Committee which is chaired by David Youngs, M.D. Final recommendations will be presented to Dr. Andrews.



## Continuing Education

Nursing Staff Development

- *Critical Care Seminar: "Ethical Dilemmas: To Whom Does the Nurse Turn,"* Jan Collomy, RN  
Thursday, February 6  
8 AM and 2 PM Classroom 2
- *Basic Management Principles for the Charge Nurse*  
Friday, February 7  
Prior Registration only

## Please Note

The MMC Coffee Shop is changing its hours, on a trial basis, to 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

## Correction:

With apologies to Clara Smith, who retired from the Coffee Shop this month: Along with her photograph, we printed the misinformation that she had worked here 40 years. Not so; Mrs. Smith retired after 16 years of service.



# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** Elegant, sunny, 3 BR apt. with double parlor, DR, large KT, hardwood floors, and 2 decks, and parking. West End. \$635/mo. plus utils. Call 772-1653.

**FOR RENT:** Westbrook. 2 BR townhouse with hardwood floors, W/D hook-up, parking, driveway plowed, quiet residential area. Refs. and sec. dep. \$425/mo. plus utils. Call 854-1712.

**FOR RENT:** Westbrook. 1 BR heated apt. with parking, driveway plowed, residential area. Refs. and sec. dep. \$400/mo. Call 854-1712.

**FOR RENT:** Westbrook. Exceptional 1 BR heated apt. with W/D hook-up, picture windows, parking, driveway plowed, residential area. Refs., sec. dep., and lease. \$500/mo. Call 854-1712.

**FOR RENT:** New 2 BR apt. with w/w carpet, parking, yard. West End; landmark building. \$425/mo. Call 1-625-4451.

**FOR RENT:** So. Portland. Immaculate, newly renovated 1 BR apt. near ocean. W/w carpet, new appliances, fully insulated, unheated, parking. No pets. \$325/mo. plus lease and sec. dep. Call 799-8934.

**FOR RENT:** So. Freeport. Avail. week of Feb. 16. 2 BR single house. Call 865-6985.

**FOR RENT:** Woodfords area. Avail. immediately, 3 BR apt. with LR, DR, galley KT with appliances, full bath, plenty of parking. No pets. Refs., lease, sec. dep. \$550/mo. plus utils. Call 799-8364 eves.

**FOR RENT:** Newly renovated apt. at 70 Gray St. 4 rooms plus bath. Sec. dep. Call 892-8489 and keep trying.

**FOR RENT:** Furnished rooms for rent. LR, BR, private bath with shower, w/w carpet, private entry. One person only. No pets. Walking distance to hospital, on bus line. \$300/mo. includes utils. Call 781-3850.

**FOR RENT:** Deering Street. Large, sunny, 2 room studio in restored historic building. Hardwood floors, fireplace. Suitable for single person. \$375/mo. includes all utils. Call 775-3265.

**FOR RENT:** Unique 3 level 1 BR apt. in Spring St. Victorian. \$350/mo. utils. Call 773-2843 before 8 PM.

**FOR RENT:** Avail. now. New luxury condo in Brighton Ave. area. 2 BR, 1 1/2 baths, fully applianced KT and laundry, all maintenance services. \$625/mo. with possible purchase option. Call 773-1601 or 797-4457 eves.

**FOR RENT:** Cape Elizabeth. Quiet, sunny 2 BR condo with all KT appliances, w/w carpet. \$525/mo. plus utils. Sec. dep. and refs. Avail. Feb. Call 799-6626 for appointment.

**FOR RENT:** Young people looking for someone to rent lower half of townhouse near MMC on Neal St. 2 rooms, bath, w/w carpet, trash and snow removal, KT privileges, HBO, Cinemax, and cable included, off-street parking, all utils. included. partially furnished. No pets. \$325/mo. with \$100 sec. dep. Single occupant preferred. Call 773-2359 after 5 PM.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** M/F to share cozy duplex apt. near Willard Beach, So. Portland. Organic garden and many extras. Must be financially responsible and stable. \$225/mo. plus 1/2 utils. Avail. March 1. Call Sue at 767-4156 eves. and keep trying or leave messgae.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Female wanted to share apt. near USM in Portland. Call 775-6310 and keep trying.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** M/F, nonsmoker to share completely furnished house. \$275/mo. includes all. Call 799-4243.

**FOR SALE:** 1981 Datsun 210 wagon in good condition with low mileage. \$3,500. Call 761-0124 eves.

**FOR SALE:** 1984 Dodge D-50 Royal diesel truck with 16,000 miles. \$5,800. Call 892-7704 after 5 PM.

## 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.

Barbara Burns, Editor.

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**FOR SALE:** 1982 Toyota Tercel. 1 owner, 4 new tires, excellent condition, 53,000 miles. \$3,150. Call 767-4601 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1984 S-10 Blazer. Very clean, two-tone blue, 1 owner, 20,000 miles, 4-wd., 4-spd. \$10,000. Call 774-1722.

**FOR SALE:** 1974 Porsche 914. 5-spd., excellent condition, new sticker. \$3,495. Call 767-3411.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Olds Cutlas Supreme Brougham with PS and PB, Mich. tires and snows. One owner; excellent condition. \$2,495. Call days at x2491 or 883-9228 eves.

**FOR SALE:** Coleman Versitrailer in excellent condition. Asking \$450. Call 829-3111.

**FOR SALE:** 4-drawer captain's bed with mattress; excellent condition, \$200. Call 854-8839.

**FOR SALE:** Green North Face ski jacket in excellent condition; worn very little. Women's size 12; waist length. Great for skiing. Asking \$60. Call 772-2502.

**FOR SALE:** Size 14 maternity uniforms, \$15 each. Call 727-3910.

**FOR SALE:** Child's no-wax x-country skis and boots; will fit size 4 or 5 year old, \$35. Call 799-3452 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Maple twin beds with mattresses and box springs. Excellent condition. Best offer. Call 892-4771 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Dark oak stereo, 58 in. x 26 in. x 18 in., perfect condition, \$50 or best offer. Hockey skates, men's size 8; never worn, \$15. Call 727-3392.

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happening

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