

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

December 11, 1985

Vol. 17, No. 19

## Reception plans to include food and fun

Planners are gearing up for the December 17 transformation of the Cafeteria to the festive wonderland of the Holiday Reception. On that day the Cafeteria, already brightened by recent renovations, will become even grander. Window decorations applied the week before by MMC employees, food and decorations supplied by Food Services, and other touches supplied by reception planners will create a gala setting for the event.

The reception will be 6:30 - 8:30 AM for night shift employees, and 2:00 - 5:30 PM for everyone else.

Once again, the Department of Food Services will go all out (and nearly all night) preparing a holiday buffet of grand proportions. Quiche, scrambled eggs, assorted danish, and nut breads await morning reception-goers, and the afternoon crowds will find hot hors d'oeuvres, cheeses, Quiche Lorraine, eggnog, and an array of desserts.

Excitement is building toward the window decorating contest the week before the reception. Teams of employees from hospital departments will have their choices of two nights -- Tuesday, December 10, and Wednesday, December 11 -- to work their artistry on the 24 Cafeteria windows available for decoration. The prize this year is no doubt a prime motivation: the team producing the winning window will earn for itself and the rest of its department -- all shifts included -- a round of free coffee and snacks. And the coffee will be delivered to the department by President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D.

Full rules for the window decorating contest are inside this issue of *What's Happening*.

The list of door prizes, drawn as always from a pool of all employees, is not final yet. Planners say, however, that this

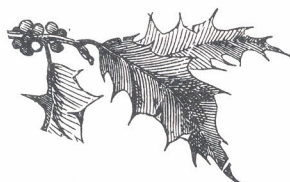


**RELAXING (A LITTLE)** after the Open House held December 2 to celebrate the return of the shops sponsored by the Women's Board of Maine General Hospital are Carol Low, left, Chairman of the Gift Shop, and Ceil Harnden, Chairman of the Coffee Shop. For a glimpse inside the shops that re-opened this week after three months of renovation, turn the page. (A/V Photo)

year there will be fewer prizes but larger prizes. The grand prize for instance, will be a \$150 gift certificate at Shop'n Save.

So plan now to attend the biggest, best, most fun-filled Holiday Reception ever at MMC. Everything will be ready and waiting -- just for you -- on December 17.

## THE FLOWER BOX Holiday Sale



**A Christmas Wonderland  
now, in the Flower Box**

## Holiday caution urged to prevent trouble

The holiday season brings special plants, decorations, toys, and craft materials -- and potential danger from all of them. In order to keep holidays a safe time, especially for children, the Maine Poison Control Center at Maine Medical Center makes the following safety suggestions:

- Most Christmas greens, such as Balsam, Juniper, Cedar, Pine, and Fir, are low in toxicity. They can produce skin, eye, and stomach irritation in some individuals.
- Holly is very toxic, especially the berries and leaves. The results of ingestion can include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and central nervous system depression.

**CAUTION**, page 2





**JOSEPH McVETY**, pictured here checking orders in MMC's Pharmacy, is winding up his Externship Program, part of a University of Rhode Island School of Pharmacy and Maine Medical Center affiliation. In the seven-week program, McVety has observed procedures on nursing units, in CSD, the Maine Poison Control Center, and REMIS; he has observed surgical procedures, made rounds with MMC's Oncology and Clinical pharmacists and worked in the pharmacy. A resident of Augusta, Maine, McVety is in his fifth and final year at the URI School of Pharmacy. (A/V Photo)

## Language Bank needs more volunteers

The MMC language Bank, which provides volunteer interpretation services for non-English speaking patients, is in need of more volunteers. The need exists for more people in all languages, but specific needs are for Cambodian, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Polish. Interpreters are needed on all shifts.

If you are able to serve as a volunteer interpreter, or know someone in the community who would be willing to help, please contact the Public Information Office, x2196, during the day, or Unit Manager Ed Moore, RP 253, nights. Volunteers will be put in touch with a health professional for a briefing on the responsibilities of interpreters.

## Please Note

The Medical Services Federal Credit Union will close at Noon on December 24, and will be closed Christmas Day. It will close at 2:00 PM December 31, and will be closed New Year's Day.

## HealthStyles winter schedule is coming

*HealthStyles* has a new series of programs beginning in January. There will be Lifeline programs, including aerobic exercise, low back, relaxation, aquatic fitness, and walk/jog, and additional self-help and educational programs. New schedules are available in the Personnel office, or call x2974.

## Housekeeping looking for help with toys

The MMC Housekeeping Department is continuing its Holiday tradition of collecting toys for donation to Toys for Tots, and would like to enlist the help of people from other departments. Anyone with toys to donate can bring them to the Housekeeping Department anytime (unwrapped, please).

The Department will present the toys to the Salvation Army at its departmental Christmas party at 2:00 PM December 16, in Classroom 7.

## CAUTION, from page one

- Mistletoe is extremely dangerous: one or two berries may cause poisoning and even death in children. The berries in packaged mistletoe are often plastic, greatly reducing the potential for harm.
- The Poinsettia's reputation as a deadly plant is not deserved, although it can cause skin or stomach irritation.
- Some decorations require caution. The liquid in bubbling lights is methylene chloride, which is moderately toxic if ingested or inhaled. Fireplace colors are composed of various metal salts of moderate toxicity. The propellant for snow spray is toxic if inhaled.
- Alcohol, whether in beverage form or as part of the formulation of cosmetics or aftershave lotions, is potentially dangerous to children.
- Button batteries (disc batteries) are dangerous if swallowed. The casing corrodes in the stomach and intestinal tract, releasing the caustic contents.
- Most glues and adhesives have some toxicity; caution is in order.
- Keep the Poison Control Center's telephone number -- 1-800-442-6305 -- near your phone.
- Buy and have on hand a bottle of Syrup of Ipecac to induce vomiting, but use it *only* if directed by a physician or the Poison Control Center.

## Lung cancer is topic for oncology nurses

The Southern Maine Oncology Nursing Society will meet Thursday, December 12, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, in Classroom 3 of the Dana Education Center at MMC. Christopher Seitz, M.D., will present "Lung Cancer in Women" at 5:00 PM. A short business meeting and reception will follow.

All interested persons are welcome to attend; a \$2.00 fee will be charged to nonmembers.

## Murphology

### ABEL'S CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLE

*Never do anything for the first time.*

### KOMMEN'S LAW

*If you look like your passport photo, you're too ill to travel.*



## New weight sessions to begin next month

The "Weight Watchers at Work" program will continue with the new year, with a new session beginning the second week in January. The *HeathStyles* sponsored program offers classes on Tuesdays, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, Wednesdays, 7:30 – 8:30 AM or 3:00 – 4:00 PM, or Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:30 PM.

The program cost is \$50, with a \$25 rebate to regular participants. Each class must have a minimum enrollment of 20. Call x2824 to register.

## Dinner is "on us" if you work Christmas

As always, those employees whose schedules require them to work on Christmas Day are invited to have their dinners as guests of the hospital. For employees working during the day, dinner will be served from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM. The evening meal will be served from 4:00 until 6:30 PM. Employees working a night shift are invited to attend whichever sitting is more convenient, or to use their ticket for a comparably-priced breakfast Christmas Day.

Departments will issue a ticket to each eligible employee.

## New Employees

**HOUSEKEEPING:** Jean M. Bryant, Stephen J. Osgood

**PHARMACY:** Deborah S. Gonyea

**NURSING:** Donna R. Gould

**PEDIATRICS:** Deborah W. Karp

**MEDICAL RECORDS:** Gracia C. Landry

**ULTRASOUND:** Janis M. Lopez

**CAFETERIA:** Shirley M. McAloon

**MED. TECH. SCHOOL:** William E. Meggison

**PATIENT ACCOUNTS:** Vickie L. Stanton

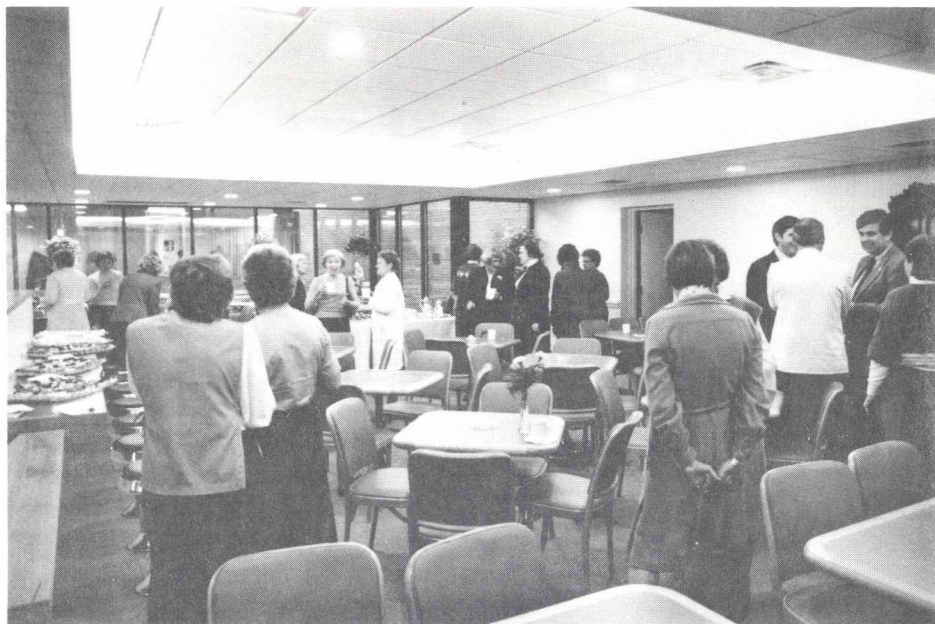
**PAINTING SERVICES:** Rose M. DesLauriers

**HOUSEKEEPING:** Alan L. Gresham

**MED. TECH. SCHOOL:** Carolyn A. Hanson

**SWITCHBOARD:** Ruth A. Kimball

**ANESTHESIOLOGY:** Diane Pariseau-Child



**OPEN HOUSE GUESTS** admired the muted colors and comfortable furnishing in the new Coffee Shop. This view includes the new counter dining space, left, and the walls of windows enclosed the seating area that has expanded into the old courtyard. (A/V Photo)



### Continuing Education

Nursing Staff Development

#### • Professional Issues Seminar:

*"Community Reaction to AIDS:  
The Role of the Professional Nurse,"*

Michael Bach, M.D., Susan Benoit, RN  
Thursday, December 19 4 - 5:30 PM  
Dana Auditorium  
(2 CERP's approved)

## Here's next year's Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day Wednesday, January 1, 1986; President's Day Monday, February 17, 1986; Patriot's Day Monday, April 21, 1986; Memorial Day Monday, May 26, 1986; Independence Day Friday, July 4, 1986; Labor Day Monday, September 1, 1986; Veteran's Day Tuesday, November 11, 1986; Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 27, 1986; Christmas Day Thursday, December 25, 1986; Personal Day.

With prior departmental approval employees may substitute one other religious holiday for Christmas Day. The Personal Day is a floating holiday which may be used by the employee at any time throughout the year with prior supervisory approval. However, the Personal Day may not be used to extend any of the holidays listed above.

## 1985 Holiday Reception Window Decorating Contest



The 1985 Holiday Reception Window Decorating Contest is underway! Teams of artists from hospital departments had their choice of last night, December 10, or tonight, December 11, to render their masterpieces. Be sure to stop by the Cafeteria to check out their work, and see if you can guess which department will win the grand prize of coffee and snacks delivered by President Andrews.



# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** Room and bath in private home. Private entrance, furnished, color cable, HBO, parking. \$70/wk. including utils. Call 883-5711.

**FOR RENT:** West End apt. with 1 BR, cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, exposed brick, new Jotul woodstove (some wood included), off-street parking. Avail. approx. Dec. 15. \$450/mo. plus utils. Call 773-0428 after 5 PM.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR apt. on Pine St. \$475/mo. including heat and hot water. Call 773-3676 or 772-0153 and ask for Marc.

**FOR RENT:** 174 Danforth St. 1 BR apt. on 3rd floor in renovated historic building. Water views, wide pine floors, fireplace. \$475/mo. including heat and parking. Avail. Dec. 18. Call 861-8246 or 671-861-7853.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR apt. on Howard St. in Portland. \$390/mo. including heat and hot water, off-street parking, and laundry. Call 773-2259.

**FOR RENT:** 1st floor apt. 1 block from MMC. Newly remodeled 4 rooms and bath. \$390/mo. plus utils., sec. dep. and lease. Call 871-1372 after 7 PM.

**FOR RENT:** Deering area. New 2 BR condo at Glenridge. W/w carpet, 1½ baths, fully applianced KT, DR, LR, patio. \$595/mo. plus utils. Sec. dep. No pets. Call 799-5207.

**FOR RENT:** Near MMC. 3 room apt. with ceramic bath with shower; heat, hot water and electric; furnished or unfurnished; parking; clean, quiet building; no smoking, no pets. Single or married couple. For appointment to see call 998-2373.

**FOR RENT:** Beach front efficiency apt. with 2 rooms, bath, furnished, color cable, HBO, private entrance. \$75/wk. including utils. Call 883-5711.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR apt. sublet for Jan. 1 - May 30. \$275/mo. for everything. Call 772-3113.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Windham female seeks same to share apt. Nonsmoker. \$55/wk. plus ½ utils. and dep. Avail. Jan. 1. Call 892-6487.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** 2 BR apt. in South Portland on bus line. Avail. Jan. 1. Parking. \$225/mo. plus ½ utils. Call 767-3439 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Subaru Wagon DL. Gold, 4-door, AM/FM cassette, hitch. \$925 or best offer. Call Keith at 775-0590 or 772-4022.

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Chevy Chevette. 4-dr., auto., 38,000 miles, snow tires, AM radio, very good condition. \$1,200. Call 775-1284 after 6 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1977 Ford Pinto wagon with 4-spd., 4-cyl., AM/FM radio, 74,000 miles, recently inspected, good condition. Asking \$800 or best offer. Call 772-7143.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 GMC pick-up with 8 ft. bed, 350 V8, new tires and exhaust, very clean. \$1,800 or best offer. Call 846-4476 after 6 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1980 navy blue Ford Fiesta with 69,000 miles; runs good; Florida car; AM/FM stereo radio, and AC.; 2-dr. hatchback. Runs like a top. Best offer. Call x2617 or 883-4673 eves.

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Toyota Corolla. 2-dr., 75,000 miles, new tires and clutch, excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 799-6386 from 2 - 6 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 12 in. Toro electric snow-thrower with 100 ft. cord. Like new, \$75. Call 799-3598 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Commodore 64 plus cassette tape unit and software, in original boxes, used twice. \$125 firm. Call x2596 days or 637-2971 eves.

**FOR SALE:** Skis: Dynamic VR27, 205 cm., 1 yr. old, \$75. Call 775-7285 eves.

## 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.

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**WANTED:** Nanny/sitter for 16 mo. old in our home in Rosemont area 3 days/wk. (Mon., Tues., Weds.). Call 775-2613 after 6 PM.

**LOST:** Pair of old cat-eye glasses during hospital Halloween party. Sentimental value. Call x2606.

**BABYSITTING:** Will sit your child in quiet neighborhood in Sunset Park, So. Portland. Refs. avail. Call Karen at 773-5195 days.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Candid, weddings, portraits, commercial. Reasonable rates. Call Wayne Violette at 775-3669.

## EAC asks help with Christmas baskets

The Employee Activity Committee is once again putting together Christmas Baskets for needy MMC employees and their families. To do this, the EAC is asking for donations from the rest of us, to share our good fortune with others. Instead of donations of food, the EAC is asking for donations of money, which it has found makes it easier to assemble proper baskets and avoid leftovers.

There are big glass jars near the cash registers in the Cafeteria. Please donate whatever loose change or larger amounts you can. The baskets will be prepared and delivered just before the Christmas weekend.

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Portland, Maine 04102

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