

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

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April 9, 1980

## Patient named Anztest admitted to MMC; first of (how) many to test MIS capacity

Mr. ANZTEST will be admitted to Maine Medical Center at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 14. If he proves to be a statistically average patient, he will be here up to eight days, and hospital personnel will be busiest with him during the first three or four days of his stay.

Mr. ANZTEST may or may not prove to be Mr. Average, but he will be decidedly different in one respect: He's the first of we-know-not-how-many patients who will be admitted for the sole purpose of testing the Medical Information System — and he will exist only within the computer.

Associate Vice President for Data Management Donald Dods explains how the MIS function of the computer will be tested: "Starting Monday, we will bring the census up to 545 patients by admitting however many are necessary to adjust the figure up from the real census. During the week we will input all orders and results relating to the test patients.

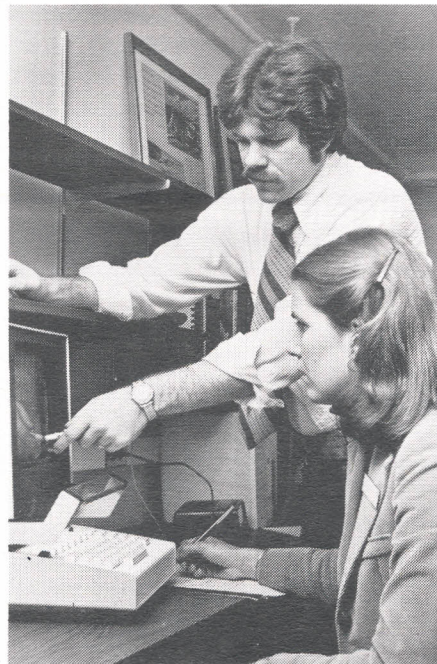
"Each patient will have an account number assigned. There will be physicians' orders, nursing reports, lab orders and results, medication and special diets ordered. Some patients will go to surgery, some will have complex problems, and some will be fairly simple to treat."

On Monday, April 21, the census will be brought up to 555, and a week later to 565, and so on, until there is evidence that the system or the users of the system cannot tolerate any further increased traffic in the computer.

Such a test — code named Smoke by the MIS staff — is necessary, Dods says, because neither IBM, the equipment provider, nor Technicon, the systems

provider, can tell MMC at precisely what point the system will reach its absolute capacity. We have to determine at what point that will be before it happens, Dods says, in order to allow the Finance Committee ample time to consider all options should it be determined that the hospital needs a larger computer.

At the present, MMC's data management personnel are dealing with theoretical capacities as they program the system which handles so much of the hospital's day-to-day communications. For example, an average Technicon patient day averages 3,300 to 3,500



Eric Anderson, RN, a Technicon employee, and Julie Wooden, MIS Training Coordinator, give the computer "pre-admit" data on the first wave of test patients. (A/V Photo)

requests for items about a patient; at the moment, Dods says, MMC is averaging about 4,500 requests for information per patient day.

The computer's traffic has increased with the increasing bed occupancy, but at an even greater rate. With the hospital operating at or near capacity and often having to cancel or postpone elective admissions, only the most seriously ill patients have been admitted. Naturally, the computer is busier handling information on the more acutely ill. With a 5% average monthly increase in occupancy since June, the computer has registered a 22% increase in traffic.

It may not necessarily be the computer that calls a halt to the Smoke test, Dods says. "All the departments involved TEST, page 4

## Cafeteria to shift smoking sections

Designated smoking and non-smoking areas will do a flip-flop in the Cafeteria, effective Monday, April 14.

With the pillars running the length of the room as the dividing line, the new arrangement will be as follows: The area on the serving/cashiering side of the pillars will be the non-smoking section; the area beyond the pillars will be the smoking section.

The reason for the change is two-fold, according to Director of Food Services Bob Underwood:

1. It will allow non-smokers to get themselves and their food to a table without having to travel through a concentration of smoke.

2. It will move the smoke to the Charles Street side of the cafeteria, where an exhaust fan is soon to be installed.

## MMC Trustees vote for new positions

Responding to the continuing pressures of high occupancy and increasing out-patient use, the MMC Board of Trustees has approved an administration request for the equivalent of 10.5 new full-time positions.

These mid-year hirings will compensate for increases in the hospital's workload since the 1980 budget was first developed.

The new positions include: one anesthesiologist, one clerk in cardiology, one supervisor in the laboratory, one secretary in Nephrology, two respiratory technicians, two physical therapists, and one occupational therapy assistant. Three part-time positions were also approved: a perfusionist and secretary for cardiac surgery, and an EEG technician for Encephalography.

Trustees also approved a plan to allow retired MMC employees to return to work for up to 14 hours per week without a reduction in retirement benefits.

## "Shock is . . ." a new course set for May 9

The Southern Maine Chapter of the AACN is presenting a Critical Care Symposium on May 9, entitled "Shock is . . ." The day-long program will address the mechanisms of shock and means of dealing with the condition.

"Shock is . . ." will be presented at the Sheraton Inn in South Portland, and will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any RN, LPN, or nursing student is welcome to attend. Cost for the symposium, including workshop materials and luncheon, is \$30 for AACN members, \$35 for non-members, and \$20 for students.

More information is available from Pat Jordan, RN, CCRN, at the Southern Maine Chapter AACN, P.O. Box 3093, Portland, Maine, 04104. Registration deadline is April 25.

## thanks....

MIS and the Technicon staff wish to thank everyone for their patience during the hardware system problem with the computer last week.



MMC HOUSEKEEPING AIDE ALICE AMERO enjoys her retirement party, given by co-workers last week. Alice has 21½ years of service to her credit, and now plans to take what her supervisors call a "well deserved" rest. (A/V Photo)

## New EEG lab unit is now in place at MMC

Maine Medical Center's EEG Lab now has a computerized brain wave instrument called an Evoked Potential Response System, (EPRS). The system uses electrical, visual, and auditory stimuli to detect neurological, visual, and auditory disorders, providing information not available from x-rays, CT Scans, or existing EEG equipment.

The system differs from a conventional EEG in that the EEG records the spontaneous activity of the brain, whereas the EPRS induces a stimulus and records the response evoked by it. Significant delays or changes in the expected response to a particular stimulus indicate a problem.

According to director of Electroencephalography William H. Leschey, Jr., M.D., the EPRS is extremely valuable in the early detection of multiple sclerosis. Signs of the disease may be picked up by the equipment long before there are any external symptoms, providing an early diagnosis without extensive and expensive testing.

The reaction of the brain to a visual stimulus may be used to determine the potential of cataract surgery for improving a patient's vision, and auditory stimuli are used to assess hearing. Unlike most

hearing tests, no voluntary response from the patient is needed, so the test may be used on the very young, the autistic, or the mentally retarded. The test is especially useful in detecting tumors of the acoustic nerve.

Perhaps the biggest advantage of the system, says Dr. Leschey, is its potential for decreasing the number of invasive diagnostic procedures. The EPRS is a non-invasive tool, and can be used quickly and painlessly to screen candidates for invasive tests. If the EPRS tests are positive, then other workups may be indicated; if tests are negative, the patient is saved hospitalization and often any invasive testing.

Maine Medical Center is the second hospital in Maine to obtain the EPRS equipment, the other being Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor.

### RESEARCH OFFERS

#### REWARD

for blood samples

from any healthy male,

non-smoking and non-diabetic,

between ages 60 and 80.

Telephone 871-2163

## Call direct lines for engineering help

For the speediest solution to any engineering-type problems within the hospital, telephone directly to the people prepared to solve them. The following shops should be dialed directly, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays:

Mechanical services (plumbing) - 2392; electrical shop - 2396; carpentry - 2394; painting - 2307; outside building services - 2395; building services operator (heating, cooling, ventilation) - 2231 or radio page 135; clinical engineering - 2393; bed repair - 2855.

After 4 p.m. and on weekends, the quickest response to a problem will come from the building services operator on duty. This operator can analyze the problem and has access to all craftsmen necessary. Reach the operator on radio page 135.

Engineering Services suggests that the above list be cut out and posted prominently near at least one telephone per department.

## Dr. Ritchie to speak at Warsaw seminar

Robert F. Ritchie, M.D., medical director of the Foundation for Blood Research, will address an April seminar in Warsaw, Poland, at the invitation of the Polish Society of Clinical Diagnostics and the Polish Ministry of Health.

The seminar, to deal with health care in the Eastern Bloc Nations and the U.S.S.R., will be held April 11 and 12 in the Polish capital.

Dr. Ritchie's presentation will include serum protein testing in the U.S. and Western Europe, and the structure and regulation of clinical immunology laboratories in the U.S.

Dr. Ritchie also will attend scientific meetings in Paris and Edinburgh.

## you should know

Security chief Bill Burnham suggests that the loss of school and merit pins could be reduced remarkably if owners would just remember to remove them from lab coats and uniforms that are left unattended. All lost pins and jewelry should be reported promptly to Security, ext. 2124.

## MMC Research hosts environmental health sessions at Orono

During the last two months Dr. Peter W. Rand and Eleanor Lacombe of the MMC Research Department have been contacting clinicians, scientists and educators throughout the state, encouraging their participation in the Environmental Health section of the Sixth Maine Biomedical Symposium, to be held in Orono on June 12 and 13. The Symposium will consist of presentations from workers in ten separate areas of biology and medicine, plus a plenary session in which invited speakers and a panel will consider specific issues related to the main topic, environmental health. Dr. David P. Rall, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, has accepted an invitation to be the keynote speaker.

Dr. Rand says that to date 25 reports have been scheduled for the Environmental Health session alone. The broad range of subjects include the health aspects of groundwater radiation, wood smoke and aerial sprays; paralytic shellfish poison research; problems related to hazardous waste cleanup and to epidemiological studies; pulmonary irritants and carcinogens in the environment.

For further information regarding the symposium, interested individuals should call 871-2163.

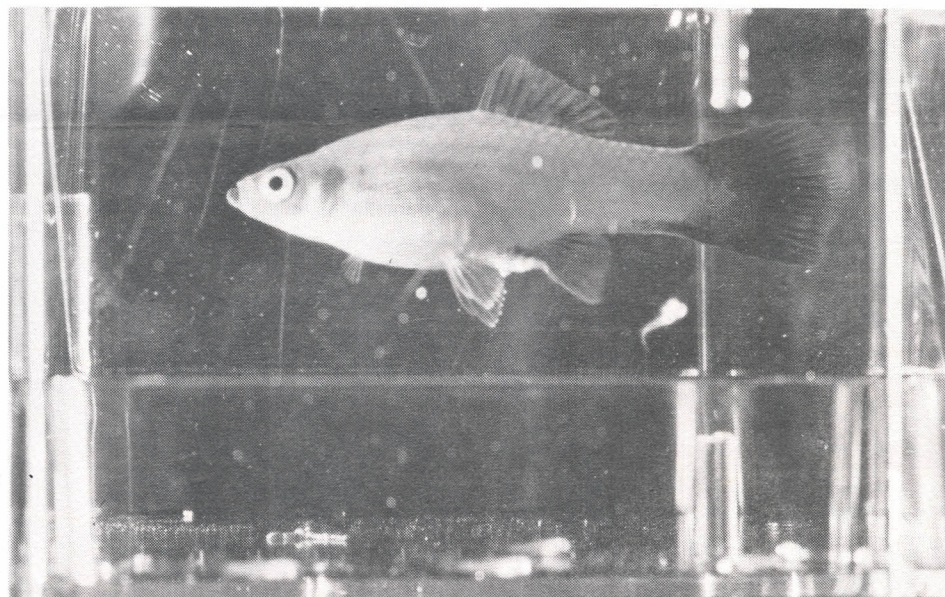
## Junior Volunteers wanted and welcome

The summer Junior Volunteer Program at MMC is gearing up again, with a greater variety of jobs than ever before. The program offers young people between the ages of 14 and 17 an opportunity to spend one day or more each week of their summer vacation doing useful, responsible work at the hospital.

The Junior Volunteer Program is an excellent way to learn about hospitals and health careers, and to develop good work habits and a sense of responsibility. Of course, as for all volunteers, the greatest benefit is the sense of personal satisfaction that comes from helping others.

Several of this summer's positions will be designed with young men in mind, in hopes of attracting more to the program. In addition there will be positions in the Admitting Office, the various clinics, the Physical Therapy Department, nursing units, and other areas of the hospital.

The program runs from the week after schools close in June until the Friday before Labor Day. Any young people interested should call the Volunteer office at 871-2205 as soon as possible to arrange an interview. Interviews will be scheduled for Spring vacation, the week of April 21.



MOMMY, A RED SWORDTAIL living in the Housekeeping Dept.'s aquarium, is shown giving birth March 20. The aquarium was donated to the department, and Clerk/Secretary Jackie Oliver has become the caretaker. Have the four surviving babies been named? Of course: Eenie, Meenie, Minee, and Mo. (A/V Photo)

## TEST, from page 1

in the test are enthusiastic about it; we expect very realistic evaluations from all the users. They can come to us at any point in the test and tell us they are at the point where further delays in getting into the system cannot be tolerated.

"At that point, the test will stop. We can clear the system of test patients within an hour."

No one in data management is predicting the census figure that will bring the system to its knees nor the date on which that might happen. But when it happens, the follow up will begin at once. "We plan to be very candid about the results of the test," Dods says. "We'll report back as soon as possible."

## marketplace

**FOR RENT:** Studio apt., quiet environment for sleeping during the day or evening if you work at night or early in the morning. In the West End on Cushman St. near Reiche School. \$225/mo. including heat and elec. Call 773-8274 weekends, any evening or 6-8 a.m. on weekdays.

**FOR RENT:** 134 Neal St., near MMC, 3 bdrm. apt., heated, \$375/mo. Call 865-4841 or 781-4140.

**FOR RENT:** Contemporary home in South Freeport, adults only, \$400/mo. & utils. Call Linda Balzer at 865-6311 during the day.

**FOR RENT:** Deering Ave. furnished 2 rooms and bath w/in 5 min. walk of MMC, heated, 1 adult, \$215/mo. Call 772-8530.

**FOR RENT:** 134 Neal St., near MMC, available June 1, sunny, 2 bdrm. apt., 2 adults, no pets, sec. dep., lease, \$325/mo. includes heat and hot water. Call 865-4841 or 781-4140.

**FOR RENT:** Share - 7 room Cape on 2 acres with another professional, \$200/mo. Call Linda Balzer at 865-6311 during the day.

**FOR SALE:** 1975 Dodge Power Wagon (Snowfiter), plow, summer extra wide tires, Jackman white mag wheels, cap, call 846-9638 (leave message).

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Sears Craftsman Snowthrower, 7 h.p., 24", seldom used, original cost, \$650, will sell for \$450. Call 799-5133 eves.

**FOR SALE:** 30 gallon aquarium, stand, pumps, fish, etc. Cost - \$275, will sell for \$175. Call 799-5133 eves.

**FOR SALE:** Honda Accord, 1977, auto, 27,000 miles, \$4200. Call 799-7962.

**FOR SALE:** Never used furniture. One ¾ size box spring, mattress and frame, 1 kitchen table and chairs, 1 couch, 1 set of glass tub enclosures. All prices negotiable. Call 854-9630 after 6:30 p.m. Ask for Kim.

**FOR SALE:** 1972 Plymouth Fury III, good running condition, little rust, mags and sunroof. Must sell \$700. Call Rock at 883-4971.

**FOR SALE:** Audi-Fox, 47,000 miles., 4 drs., auto, air conditioning, AM/FM, 2 new tires, new battery, poly-glycoat, \$2,200 or best offer. Call 773-8516 from 6-9 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** 1977 Chevy Malibu, 2 door, 6-cyl., auto., vinyl roof, 30,000 miles, good cond. asking \$2795. Call 797-5442 after 6 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Subaru DL, 4 dr., 5 spd., ex. cond., \$3,900. Call 797-0282 after 5 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Cutlass Supreme Oldsmobile, 20 mpg, 32,000 miles, ex. cond., rustproofed plus many extras. Call 892-6351 or 657-2156.

**FOR SALE:** Counter top freezer (34"x30"x24"), \$25. Zig Zag sewing machine in ex. cond., \$25. Call 772-4533.

## 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 the Editor, Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, Me., 04102. Barbara Burns, Editor.

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**FOR SALE:** 1973 Kawasaki 500 H1-E, three cylinder, 8,400 miles, 42+ mpg, electronic ignition, ex. cond., 2 spare tires, extra parts, \$675. Call Al at 282-1895.

**WANTED:** 30"x60" refrigerator in good cond. Also need a separate freezer. Call 883-9277 after 6 p.m.

**WANTED:** Housemate to join friendly single man and woman (MMC employees) on small farm in No. Yarmouth. Garden space, large room, call 829-5077.

**WANTED:** Free or at token cost: a good used piano for 100 State St., contact Sally at 773-4217 (days).

**WANTED:** Professional, responsible couple seek furnished apt. or house rental in suburban or rural setting. Interested in starting anytime from June to early Sept. Call Bob Garber at 797-8999 days, 627-4852 eves.

**WANTED:** Infant or toddler to care for full-time (evening shift), call anytime, 773-7911. References on request.

**WANTED:** Need somewhere to stay for the month of May? House in Cape Elizabeth overlooking ocean, \$100/mo. & utils. Call Barb at 799-0880.

**WANTED:** Roommate. Career-minded female, age 23, wishes to share expenses in an apt. In-town or close to bus line. Reasonable rent preferred. Call Stephanie at 773-0066.

**WANTED:** Summer babysitter for weekends and some evenings in the Western Prom area, accommodations available. Call 772-0774.

**WANTED:** Roommate (female) to share lonely, large, furnished apt. on State & Spring Sts., non-smoker, no pets. Call 773-6813.

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