

# what's

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

# happening

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## MMC-Yale ultrasound phone link proposed

Inquiries are being made into the possibility of establishing electronic transmission of prenatal diagnostic ultrasound between the Yale-New Haven Medical Center and MMC. The inquiry is a result of discussions earlier this Spring by Drs. John Hobbins and Maurice Mahoney at Yale-New Haven Medical Center.

Participants were Harry Bennert, M.D., Thomas Brewster, M.D., Edward Kloza, M.S., and Anthony Salvo, M.D., representing the Ad Hoc Committee for reviewing ultrasound use in pregnancy, Robert Klein, M.D., and Wayne Miller, M.D., representing the Quality Control Committee—New England Regional Genetics Group, and James Haddow, M.D. representing both groups.

**ULTRASOUND**, page 2

## Poison Control Center's help sought by victims of aerial spray projects

Maine's Poison Control Center—in the MMC Emergency Division—has been on the active firing line in the continuing controversy over insecticide and herbicide spraying in the state's northern and eastern forest areas.

The Center has received 50 to 60 phone calls just in the past three weeks from eastern Washington County residents concerned about possible herbicide poisoning, according to its director Dr. Frank H. Lawrence.

"Unfortunately, there is concern about two problems there, however," Lawrence said.

Besides the growing anxiety over the potential hazards of Tordon 101 residues, reports of acute poisoning by the insecticide Guthion, which is sprayed over blueberry bushes, have been received, he said.

Tordon 101, a mixture of 2,4-D and picloram, causes no such acute toxicity such as vomiting and nausea, Lawrence said.

Its components have been found to cause cancer and birth defects in laboratory animals, however, and "We really just don't know the long term effects of the herbicide, like so many things," he said.

Because the herbicide kills broad-leaved and pod crops, like the hardwood trees which suppress softwood forest growth, Lawrence and the Poison Control Center have been advising all Dennysville area residents not to eat locally harvested leafy and pod vegetables such as peas, beans and lettuce.

No fruits or vegetables showing unusual curling or twisting or discoloring should be consumed either, he urged.

Dr. Lawrence and others of the PCC have worked with Donald Mairs of the Maine Pesticide Control Board in developing facts about the spraying, the agents employed, and the danger to human health involved.

## R1 area designated as new classroom

Associate Vice President Reynold R. Welch told department heads and chiefs last week that it has become necessary to use classroom No. 1 "to accommodate the growth of the Central Laboratory and Pathology Department."

He said the former office of the Vice President for Health Affairs on Richards 1 has been designated as a classroom replacement. The schedule of meetings will be transferred effective August 1,

**CLASSROOM**, page 2



CRITICAL CARE Nurse Interns at a recent educational seminar are from left, Ann Pooler, Ann Atherton, Lynn Buchanan, Greg Cyr, Susan Rowe, Isla Estabrook, Heidi Shaw, and Leroy Oullette. (A/V Photo)

## ULTRASOUND, from page 1

The possibility of a telephone link between the two medical centers is currently being explored with ITT. The telephone transmission line would allow physicians in New Haven to directly monitor ultrasound studies being made at MMC and vice-versa. This would allow experts in fetal pathology at New Haven to assist in diagnostic ultrasound investigation of women in Maine. It also would allow "live" demonstrations and case studies originating in New Haven to be displayed in a classroom setting at MMC.

## New EMD folder off MMC presses

An attractive folder dealing with the MMC Emergency Department has been produced and is being distributed to patients and family members.

It places special emphasis on REMIS and the cooperation of MMC, Mercy and the Osteopathic Hospital in the disposition of emergency cases, and the interaction of the Poison Control Center, the MMC specialty units, the public safety services and the Coast Guard and local ambulance units.

And—in a section that's unusual in a hospital publication—the folder explains the triage system by which emergency patients are grouped into categories according to the seriousness of their injuries. It points out that the system has been developed for benefit and optimal care of all patients.

Other sections describe the EMD facilities and its staffing, the Poison Control Center and give details about finances.

It notes that the MMC Emergency Department operates 24 hours daily, seven days a week, with eight full-time physicians, 18 full-time nurses, two physician assistants and many technicians, volunteers and secretaries. Between 100 and 200 patients are treated during a typical 24-hour period.

## Thanks...

Albert "Bud" Burke, formerly of MMC's department of Materials Management, has asked us to express his gratitude and appreciation to the many friends and colleagues who honored him at the recent testimonial.

## Poison Control Center publishes list of dangerous plants, shrubs, flowers

The Maine Poison Control Center has issued an attractive folder listing and illustrating a number of common plants, shrubs and even vegetables that can be dangerous if ingested by humans.

The publication says, in effect, that holly and mistletoe may be great Christmas decorations, but don't use them in a salad. Holly berries, they say, can cause severe gastroenteritis, and all parts of the mistletoe plant, especially the berries, can be fatal.

The folder, available at the Poison Control Center in the MMC Emergency Department, lists about 45 house plants, flowers, vegetable plants, ornamentals, trees, shrubs and wild flowers and plants that are poisonous. Iris, the early-summer showpiece of many gardens, has roots that if eaten can cause a severe digestive upset. The leaves of potato and tomato plants may cause digestive upset and nervous disorders, and the leaves of rhubarb may be deadly.

Azaleas and rhododendron flowers, leaves and stems can cause nausea, depression, difficult breathing, coma and death; horsechestnuts can bring on paralysis, and the juices of buttercups can severely injure the human digestive system.

The folder says more than 700 species of plants that grow commonly in the U.S. and Canada are known to have caused illness or death in humans, and "no doubt the list is still incomplete."

Children, the folder says, must be taught to keep all plants out of their mouths. The publication is an effort to help parents and children learn to recognize poisonous plants, and to avoid problems—maybe tragedies—associated with them.

## Night shifters list fall bowling plans

The MMC Swingers—the men's and women's night-shift bowling group—is the first we know to have made their plans for the fall and the new winter season.

President Barbara Turner, LPN, said this week that the members will meet at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the Northgate Bowl-A-Rama and at the same time on every Tuesday morning thereafter. An awards banquet is slated in June.

Paula Emmons, RN, is vice president; Pam Thurston, LPN, is secretary, and Pat Davis, LPN, is treasurer. Other interested night-shifters may contact one of the officers.

## CLASSROOM, from page 1

when renovations for laboratory use will begin in the old Classroom 1.

Use of the new R1 classroom will be scheduled through the Office of Health Education, 2111, just as other classrooms are scheduled. Welch said the new classroom will provide space for the same number of seats, and that audio-visual equipment may be used there.

He urged MMC people to avoid using P1A as an access route to the new R1 classroom, and to use the Richards passenger elevators or stairwell "K" from the Cafeteria to reach the area.



Walter R. Christie, M.D., director of residency training and research in the Department of Psychiatry since 1974, has assumed his new duties as assistant chief of psychiatry and director of inpatient psychiatric services.

Christie was educated in Presque Isle schools and attended Bowdoin College and Temple Medical School before returning to Maine for an internship at the Maine Medical Center in 1968. He did two years of psychiatric residency at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and returned to the Maine Medical Center as chief resident in psychiatry in 1971.

## MMC's ten-speed commuters burn their own energy biking to work



"CAR FREE is carefree!" says Chris MacKenzie, A/V graphic designer, shown making a properly signalled left turn on her way to the hospital. Chris and husband Doug MacKenzie are among MMC's most dedicated cycling enthusiasts, making the daily round trip between their South Portland home and MMC. (A/V Photos)



"My bike model is a Trans Am 12 speed which sure beats the Pontiac model. Best of all, I get 50 miles to the cheeseburger!" says Dave Tardy, Clinical Engineering.

The good weather has brought out the buds and the bicycles in the past few days, and whatever the reasons, the benefits are energy savings, good economics and great exercise.

If you doubt it, spend a minute or two in the parking areas some summer morning and watch the bikes arrive. The riders are of both sexes and all occupations, in a variety of dress...some for working, some for biking. They come to MMC from anywhere in Greater Portland (does anyone bike further than Dr. Edgar Caldwell's 12 miles...one way?)

Bike-riding employees park their vehicles at several points within the hospital complex, using racks provided and maintained for the purpose. Although most riders use these racks, locking their bikes for security, others find the racks full and must leave them elsewhere...perhaps in a spot that isn't quite as safe as they'd like it to be.

Up to now, bike-riding has been a spotty thing...up and down, and it's never presented much of a problem. It now appears, however, that the energy crunch and dollar-a-gallon gasoline will be with us for a while, and that bicycles may be the answer for a lot of MMC people.

So would you answer these questions and send them to Doug MacKenzie, Audio/Visual Resources?

- I bike to work and use the parking racks.
- I do not bike to work, but might if cycle parking were improved.



"It's challenging, especially the trip across the South Portland bridge," says Al Wicken, chief Physical Therapist. "I'm also too cheap to buy gas!"



Dave Gallant, LPN, Orthopedic Technician, rides 12 miles round trip to MMC. "When everyone else is in a traffic jam, I go right on through."

## Michael Swan named Housekeeping exec

The appointment of Michael Swan as Director of Housekeeping Services was announced this week by David I. Lieberman, assistant vice president.

Swan has been director of housekeeping services at Framingham Union Hospital for the past three years, and before that was a manager in the housekeeping division of Servicemaster Industries.

He will assume his MMC duties August 20.

## FOUR WIN LOBSTERS

Twenty-four pounds of lobsters (doesn't that have a fine ring?) were won by four individuals Friday as members of the Employee Activities Committee drew tickets in their latest fund-raising event.

Winners received six pounds of live lobsters each. They were Donna Skillings of Medical Records; Rosanne Taylor, RN, of R2; Carole Duncan, Audio-Visual; and a non-employee, M. Smith of 211 Cumberland Avenue.

But the EAC was the big winner, depositing a total of \$420 in profits in their bank account for later use in a number of MMC employee projects.

## about people

Associate Professor JOHN C. HOBBS, M.D., of the Department of Ob/Gyn, Yale University, discussed "Newer Methods of Evaluating Fetal Conditions and Maturity" at the Ob-Gyn conference Thursday morning in Cafe. Conference room A. Discussion centered on use of sonography and fetoscopy.

## marketplace

**WANTED:** Ride to Pownal, Maine or someone willing to deliver a violin bow to Runino's in Pownal. Please call Pam at 773-6229.

**FOR RENT:** New home at Higgins Beach, completely furnished, 2 bdrms., 2 living rooms, washer-dryer, elec. kitchen, oil heat, avail. Sept. 15 thru June 15. Call 883-2526.

**FOR SALE:** 4 bdrm. garrison with 1½ baths, front to back living room with raised hearth for wood stove. Forced hot water oil heat. Sunset Heights area of Portland. Call 772-3966.

**FOR SALE:** XKE Sport Coupe, 1971 Jaguar, silver, ex. cond., summer driven only. Call 967-4703 after 7 p.m.

**FOR RENT:** 3rd floor apt. on Chadwick St., 2 bdrms., carpet, hardwood floors, newly renovated. Large yard for garden. No pets or children. \$300/mo. plus util. Ref., lease, sec. dep. req. Call 799-3061 or 773-4477.

**WANTED:** Apt. or house within walking distance to MMC, to either rent alone or with another person. For female in 20's who will be working at MMC starting Aug. 6. Please contact Editor, What's Happening.

**FOR RENT:** Deering Ave., 2 rooms furnished and bath, heat and elec. included in the \$195/mo. rent, 1 adult, no pets. Call 772-8530.

**FOR RENT:** Oceanfront, 2 bdrm. house, wood stove, stove and refrig., 25 mins. from Portland (Freeport). \$340/mo. Call 865-3040.

**FOR RENT:** 5 room apt., 214 Park Ave., \$185/mo. & util., parking, sec. dep., no pets. Call 773-2518 mornings.

**FOR RENT:** Available Sept. 1, 5 room apt. near MMC, 2 bdrm., LR, DR, mod. kitchen and bath, sunporch, \$325/mo. includes heat and hot water. 2 adults, no pets, sec. dep. Call 781-4140.

**FOR RENT:** 5 room apt. w/in walking distance of hospital. \$200 includes heat. Call 774-0733.

**FOR RENT:** Apt. near MMC - kit., LR, 2 bdrms., pantry, shed and parking. \$200/mo. plus gas & util. Will accept children and pets. Call 892-6085.

## 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 Relations Dept., MMC, Portland, Me., 04102.

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**FOR SALE:** 3 piece Hamilton Pediatric furniture set including examining table w/ built-in balance scale and measuring rule, utility table, and adjustable stool. Solid light toned wood, very sturdy construction, ex. cond., reasonably priced. Please contact Philip Dachslager, M.D., 72 Winthrop St., Augusta, Me., 622-0403 or 623-3771.

## Volunteers sought

The Poison Control Center is seeking people experienced in identifying mushrooms (mycologists) to assist them in their research. If interested please contact Mary at 2950.

## Welcome... new employees:

ANESTHESIA  
Thomas Delaney, M.D.  
BUYER  
Sandra Lavoie  
CARDIOLOGY  
Margaret Pickering  
Swan Sharkey  
COMMUNITY MEDICINE  
Christine Zukas  
FAMILY PRACTICE  
Harley Racer, M.D.  
HOUSEKEEPING  
Maureen Diolio  
Helen Hoar  
Sakura Pinette  
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