Front & Center: July 1971

Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
CONSULTATION & EDUCATION PROGRAM - A PORTRAIT OF CONCERN

The invitation was quite clear. It's no laughing matter, it read, to have 40 inner city children with special problems ready to go to summer camp and no money to send them.

But Mrs. Ruth Batson, director of BUMC's Consultation and Education Program (C & E), soon changed that, as she has other problems related to mental health in the community.

Dr. Rysia Lombroso, director of the C & E Children's Services, suggested to Mrs. Batson a summer camp program for epileptic children and those with learning and emotional difficulties. The doctor organized a specially trained staff of 20 to work and live with the youngsters for two weeks in a Vermont farmhouse, and arranged for a followup program in a Roxbury day camp during July and August.

Missing was the money.

C & E's Lyda Peters organized a benefit performance by the Proposition, an improvisational group, to which the BUMC community was invited. It helped solve the financial fiasco.

"The response was resounding," said Mrs. Batson, "and the benefit, along with other fund raising efforts, succeeded. Now those children have the opportunity all children are entitled to - a chance to develop to their fullest potential."

Such has been the progress of the C & E program since it began in January, 1970 - steady and unyielding in the maze of community mental health problems.

The program provides consultation and education services to patients, as well as to 50 area agencies, and training of mental health personnel in the community. Presently there are four teams of specialists, each composed of lay and professional talent, serving 150,000 area residents. Two backup teams are also planned.

The goal, according to Mrs. Batson, is to link existing mental health services within the community and to develop programs to extinguish the fear of mental illness and establish the trust necessary for community people to seek and accept help.

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NURSING GRAND ROUNDS:
CARING ENOUGH TO DO MORE

He lay there totally paralyzed, able only to click his teeth weakly for the crucial care he needed and hope that someone would understand.

Fortunately, UH employees did, and today Mr. Kingston Houlihan is completely recovered from a rare, disabling disease—Guillain-Barré syndrome—that had him hospitalized here for months last winter in the Intensive Care Unit.

Initiated by the Staff Nurses' Council to learn how to better care for critically ill patients, the grand rounds panel included seven members of a health team: staff nurses, a head nurse, an occupational therapist, an inhalation therapist, a doctor, and a patient. Cheryl Pactovis, head nurse of Collamore Three, suggested the idea of nurses' grand rounds and it was organized with the assistance of Aldona Kazak, specialist in medical nursing.

Attending the grand rounds, which was held in the auditorium on Evans 8, were nurse's aides, dieticians, ward secretaries and a host of individuals involved with patient care.

"We discussed Mr. Houlihan's case because his recovery hinged upon skilled nursing care and health care professionals who were especially alert and attentive," said Cheryl Pactovis.

Nursing grand rounds eloquently illustrated the patient's predicament: the feeling of degradation that develops during a lengthy illness; the feeling of fear that shrouds a patient unable to vocally seek help; the absolute dependence on others for care. It also underscored the need for a better way of communicating with such patients and the importance of a combined effort on the part of a health team.

Nursing grand rounds will be continued at UH on a regular basis.

DR. ... WHO?

During recent months a team of graduate students from BU College of Business Administration conducted a study of the organization of Boston University Medical Center. One reason was that BUMC, which harbors a dazzling collection of medical and other health experts, is always glad to listen to expert advice. And what better wilderness for students to explore than one of BU's own groves of academe, where admittedly there are some organizational thicket?

There is not enough space here to summarize the team's report other than to say better communications and understanding are urged. One example of a lack of knowledge of BUMC is worth noting:

When the new President of BU visited BUMC, a sign in University Hospital lobby announced: "Dr. Rohrbaugh invites you to a reception for Dr. Silber, the new Boston University President."

A typical reaction of hospital employees was said to be: "Who is Dr. Rohrbaugh? What do we have to do with Boston University?"

Just for the record, Dr. Lewis H. Rohrbaugh is director of BUMC, vice president for medical affairs of BU and executive vice president of University Hospital. The answer to the second question is: Everything.
* Membership on the Trustee Council of BUMC has been accepted by B.U. President, John R. Silber and Richard D. Driscoll, senior vice president, retail division, New England Merchants National Bank. The Council oversees the activities of the School of Medicine, the School of Graduate Dentistry and University Hospital.

* The B.U. Credit Union has reduced rates on several loan categories. The interest on signature loans has been cut from 6% to 5 3/4%. The interest on loans against securities with monthly payments is now 4% from 4 1/2%. Interest on loans against securities is reduced from 8% to 7 1/2%.

* BUMC Security officer John Carroll, who holds a Th.B. in theology and a Ph.D. in philosophy, recently delivered a sermon, "The Love of God," on SPIRIT, a program shown Sundays at 11 am on Channel 7. Mr. Carroll is also minister of the Mt. Pisgah Pentecostal Church in Dorchester, a post he has held for 40 years.

* The Harbor National Bank, located at the corner of Harrison Avenue and East Newton Street, is open for business. Banking services are available Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, to all Medical Center personnel.

* BUMC Assembly took note: the Consultation and Education Program (C & E) needed money to send 40 city children to summer camp. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Marlene Adams of UH Personnel, the committee of 20 organized a benefit coffee hour and invited the BUMC community. More than $250 was raised through contributions, according to Treasurer Mrs. Estelle Davidoff of the UH Volunteer Service. The sum helped the C & E staff meet its $7,500 goal.

* Dr. Thomas Dawber, BUMC Planning Officer, attributed his recent election to the Wellesley Board of Health to "honesty, integrity and selecting an office for which no other candidate was running."

### SGD EDUCATION FIT FOR A PRINCE

BUMC's dental education will be exported to Monte Carlo this year.

For the second time, a professor from the School of Graduate Dentistry will conduct a course sponsored by the Prince of Monaco for dentists from European and North African countries. Last November the course was given by SGD's Dr. Herbert Schilder, assistant dean for continuing education. Next November it will be given by Dr. Henry M. Goldman, dean of the school.

The course consists of an intensive series of lectures and demonstrations, with television as an aid, presented in the Palais de Congrès in association with Dr. Yves Fissore, who is dentist to Prince Rainier and Princess Grace.

According to Dr. Schilder, the course is designed to attract European dentists who are eager to upgrade their concepts and skills in modern dental practice.

### PASS-FAIL SYSTEM ADOPTED AT BUSM

With student and faculty approval, Boston University School of Medicine recently joined ranks with a vast number of American medical schools by instituting a pass-fail grading system.

The new method, in which students will receive a grade of honors, pass, or fail, emphasizes the use of written narrative faculty evaluations. Such comprehensive evaluations will communicate a student's progress, while stressing his strengths and weaknesses and methods of correcting the latter.

Dr. Murray Freed, Chief of Rehabilitation Medicine and chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Evaluation and Grading, said he does not anticipate any major problem for the student wishing to apply for internship or transfer with no letter grades on his record. "I think the major hospitals are beginning to realize that this system is here to stay, in one form or another, and they are making use of the evaluations," he said.
FOR RENT: 4-rm. town house apt. in Charlestown home. Redecorated. Suitable for doctor and wife or prof. couple. Call 242-2262 after 6 pm.


ROOMMATE WANTED: 1st yr. stud. seeks roommate for fall. Call Bill, 969-5187, or Ext. 6375.

FOR SALE: Furniture and household goods: 2 sofa beds, 8-speed blender, vacuum cleaner, GE fan. Call 267-8066 after 6pm.

FOR SALE: 4-door, 6-cyl., automatic transmission 1965 Chevelle. Good cond. 72,000 miles. With roof rack, 6 tires (2 snow). With FM Stereo: $325; without, $275. Call Steve, 244-0657, eves.

NEW AFFILIATE

Jewish Memorial Hospital is the newest affiliate of BUMC. The announcement was made at a dinner for trustees of the two institutions, held recently at the School of Medicine.

Jewish Memorial becomes one of 20 BUMC affiliates whose facilities are available for the training of undergraduates, interns and residents. Located in Roxbury, it is a non-sectarian hospital with 238 beds.

(C & E Program, Cont’d.)

"We’ve been dialogued to death," said Mrs. Batson. "It’s time for change."

The C & E program is doing just that. It reflects the Medical Center’s conviction that community involvement and control are essential in community programs. In fact, program personnel must be approved by both a community committee comprised of area residents and representatives of BUMC’s division of psychiatry.

Mrs. Batson herself is a symbol of change holding the title of associate professor of psychiatry at BUSM though she lacks the formal academic credentials required.

Her credentials rather lie with the people she has long worked with and knows well; with the experience she has acquired from the community by living there. And with an impressive administrative background that ranges from holding the position of executive director of METCO to being the first Negro ever to serve on a Democratic state committee.

Low-pitched, but determined, Mrs. Batson has definite ideas formed by experience, tempered with common sense. She has hope and ideas and grass-roots know-how. And an insatiable thirst for change—constructive change—which the community can share in, in full partnership, and build upon.