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Boston University
Teaming up for Boston's kids

UH helps city’s fourth graders do their part in war against drugs

The winners of a UH Department of Pharmacy-sponsored poster contest aimed at educating Boston fourth graders on the dangers of drugs were announced in late May, during an awards ceremony featuring former Celtic M.L. Carr and Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy.

"They said it would be fun. They said that I would feel better. They said that it would make all my problems go away!! I should have said ... No To Drugs!!" That was the dramatic message on 10-year-old Vanessa Cassidy's grand-prize winning poster depicting a young girl slumped against a trash can, crying, with pills and needles at her feet.

A student of the Maurice J. Tobin School in Roxbury, Cassidy was one of more than 200 young artists who participated in the contest, which was held in conjunction with the Boston Public Schools' Department of Instructional Services.

Summer program at Hospital allows high schoolers to test health field

The University Hospital for a third summer is giving a group of inner-city high school students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the health-care field, through a special summer employment program.

More than 20 youths, through Boston Private Industry Council's (PIC) Summer Jobs Program, will work at 20- to 40-hour-a-week jobs this summer in various UH departments.

According to UH Employment Manager Tina Lawson, PIC's goal is to "introduce students in grades 10 through 12 to the business environment. The program places youths into jobs outside the traditional high school jobs of MacDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken."

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Evans 6 future role: A major research facility

The former site of UH's Materials Management, Evans 6, will be a $3-million research floor when construction is completed later this year, according to Norman G. Levinsky, M.D., physician-in-chief and director of the Evans Memorial Department of Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine.

The new labs will focus on research in molecular biology and molecular genetics applied to problems of clinical interest.
The University Hospital, Boston

NEW HOSPITAL PROGRAMS

Neurology Dept. launches Parkinson's day program

A special day-long outpatient program for UH patients with Parkinson's disease was implemented in June by the staff of the Department of Neurology, headed by Marie Saint-Hilaire, M.D., FRCP, and coordinated by Linda Perry, R.N., B.S.N. The program is an individualized one-day session designed to allow closer physician/nurse monitoring of a patient's response to medication and provide coping mechanisms for Parkinson's patients and their families. Parkinson's disease, a neurological disorder caused by a deficiency of the brain chemical dopamine, is treated primarily through medication and on an outpatient basis.

As an adieux to the Hospital's Parkinson's Disease Resource and Referral Center, the program "takes the clinic visit one step further," Perry said. "The new day program responds to the needs of a growing Parkinsonian population. It centers around all aspects of living and coping with the disease and emphasizes the Parkinsonian team philosophy that learning everything about the disease, including the latest research discoveries, leads to healthy adjustment, proper management and therapeutic success." According to Perry, education, videos, discussions, exercise demonstrations, emotional support services and participations in research projects are a major focus of the program. In addition, exercises in problem-solving, enhancing self-concept and attitude and continuing social enrichment or techniques also employed. ■

Six-bed short-stay unit helps smooth admitting process

A new short-stay unit, located on the third floor of the Preston Family Building, already has made for a smoother patient-admitting process in the short time it's been in operation, according to Anita King, R.N., B.S.N., assistant director of nursing. The six-bed, six-chair unit, which began operational on May 31, provides accommodations for patients entering the Hospital for ambulatory medical or surgical procedures (except those scheduled in the Booth Ambulatory Surgical Unit) and same-day surgery.

"The unit is functioning very well," King said. "The OR (operating room) staff is extremely pleased with the efficiency of getting patients there so quickly. The unit also has helped admitting," she said, by getting admissions done in a more timely fashion. Discharged patients who meet specific criteria and who have not been picked up by 11 a.m. will be transferred to the waiting room of the short-stay unit, designed specifically for that purpose, King said.

Patients will receive preoperative care in the unit. Following their procedures, ambulatory patients will return them for post-procedural care, while same-day patients will be transferred to an appropriate inpatient unit. ■

Evans

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The lab will be under the administration of John R. Murphy, Ph.D., UH chief of the Section of Biochemical Medicine. According to Levenson, 50 staff, including four to six senior scientists now at BUMC or being recruited, will utilize the facility. Construction is expected to be completed in November, with occupancy scheduled before the first of the year, he said. The floor will house such equipment as DNA synthesizers, dark and cold rooms and a facility for molecular graphics. Additionally, there will be a special lab constructed for research trainees who wish to learn molecular techniques from the staff based on Evans 6.

"We're delighted and grateful to the Evans Board of Control for providing funds for the floors," Levenson said. "The new core facility will make modern molecular techniques accessible to other Evans sections and will foster collaboration with BUMC basic science departments.

The Evans Memorial Department of Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine was established in 1912 and has made major contributions to the medical field.

Murphy said, "This new facility will provide a modern open lab in which there will be intergroup collaboration within the Evans and within the entire institution. It will be a busy, active place." ■

Special program will put UH on managed-care systems' map

Richard Morse, director of the Hospital's new Managed Care Systems Development, is inaugurating a temporary program that will introduce "the new University Hospital" to the Commonwealth's health maintenance and preferred provider organizations (HMO/PPO). UH's Managed Care Introductory Program, which will run through October 1, offers HMOs and PPOs a special opportunity to observe charges and costs in hospital charges if they exceed their admission volume targets, according to Morse. "The program will introduce our new Hospital to managed care systems throughout eastern Massachusetts. It will give us a chance to make ourselves much better known in the world of managed care," Morse said.

The introductory program is expected to produce between 20 and 50 new admissions over the summer. In addition, Morse pointed out, "it will enhance the Hospital's current contractual relationships and create opportunities for new contracts with HMOs and PPOs." ■

Drug Poster

Drug Poster continued from page 1

The grand prize was an Apple II personal computer. Other prizes included a portable compact disc stereo system, color television, 10-speed bicycle and $50 savings bonds. "Every one of our young people deserves an opportunity to not get involved in drugs," Carr said. Citing substance abuse as the 'number-one problem in the United States' today, Carr said adults should set an example. "The greatest motivator in the world is an example. Let those young people be an example. It's more than the drawings, the wording—it's being an example," he said.

'Keep saving me' Murphy applauded the students' dedication and hard work, thanking them for "reminding us all of how to think." She asked the adults who attended the ceremony to "look at these posters—they're telling a very important message." To the youths, she said, "There is no finer competition to engage in than saying no to drugs. Keep doing it and tell your friends." ■

The anti-drug poster contest was initiated by Darryl Rich, an intern at the Hospital.

CONTEST ORIGINATOR

CONTEST ORIGINATOR: Kimberly Mu-Chow, M.D., and Darryl Rich of the UH Pharmacy Services discuss the aims of the very successful program with Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy, key speaker at the event.

CONTEST FINALIST JUDGE

CONTEST FINALIST JUDGE: Marty Barrett, Red Sox second baseman, displays first-place poster in Boston-wide anti-drug poster contest. Other judges included UH staff and representatives from the Boston School Department, the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs and the Massachusetts Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

AWARDS CEREMONY

AWARDS CEREMONY—Hospital staff, civic leaders, parents and students gathered in the Pavilion lobby for May 31 awards ceremony. Shown from left to right are UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D., UH Director of Pharmacy Services Darryl Rich, Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy and former Celtic M.L. Carr, who honored the students for their entries and called substance abuse the "number-one problem in the United States today.

Pharm.D., director of UH pharmacy services, and Kimberly Mu-Chow, Pharm.D., pharmacy clinical coordinator. The two proposed the contest to the Boston School Committee last November because "We know how powerful and dangerous drugs can be when they are missed," Rich said. "We want children to learn early that using drugs is hazardous rather than glamorous." Judging the contest were Red Sox second baseman Marty Barrett and representatives from the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs, the Massachusetts Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Boston Public School System and UH.

T DON'T WANT TO DIE YOUNG" is the message on the design of a drug at a poster shown by Sandra Lee, left, of the James Hennesy School in Jamaica Plain. A district winner. Cole shows her entry to Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE—The 16 winners listen attentively to the words of former Celtic M.L. Carr, who honored the students for their entries and called substance abuse the "number-one problem in the United States today.

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CONNECTIONS

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S A N S E N S E O F V A L U E is the title of the award-winning Nursing Department lost in the 1988 American Journal of Nursing Festival earlier this year. Featured in this scene are Joanna O'Brien, R.N., Evans 7, and a former patient.

A SENSE OF VALUE is the title of the award-winning Nursing Department lost in the 1988 American Journal of Nursing Festival earlier this year. Featured in this scene are Joanna O'Brien, R.N., Evans 7, and a former patient.
Employees honored during special recognition event

By Lynn Gaettner

Congratulations to the 60 employees who received certificates of achievement at our second annual Training and Development Recognition Party on June 13. Among the 400 UHers who have participated in Training and Development programs over the past year, these 60 deserve special recognition for achieving new levels of skill in long-term skill-development programs.

Developing oneself is not like erecting a new building, and free time now to achieve new ground in health care."

Michael Morson, Dietary; Mala Freeman, Administration; Marcia Lowry and Phyllis Niles, Medical Records; and Liz Pottier, Surgical Oncology; are some quizzes and a final test.

Among the 400 UHers who received three certificates presented to Marilyn Parent, Elizabeth Laut, and Maria Amado, Transport.

"Photo damage" that causes much of the wrinkling, blotchiness and coarseness that are attributed to aging. As a matter of fact, you're probably noticed that the unexposed skin on your body is smoother, more evenly pigmented and younger-looking than the skin on your hands and face.

"It is this collagen that is made up of a firm structure, known as collagen, thus giving the skin a rosy glow. A glossy shine is evenly pigmented and younger-looking skin than the skin on your hands and face.

The group also discussed the importance of the Hospital's overall commitment to the Hospital's board of trustees, said Lutch.

"At the hour-long meeting, which was held in an elevated structure that recently was torn down. The Massachusetts Hospital Association's annual State House Day.

MBTA relocation

In the wake of the MBTA Orange Line relocation, the group called on Bulger and city and state officials to identify a metropolitan area of public transportation for UH patients, visitors and employees.

The group also discussed the importance of the MBTA's overall commitment to the Hospital's board of trustees, said Lutch.

"The meeting was an example of the MBTA's overall commitment to becoming involved in the public process. Led by Letch, the group was composed of many Milton Mitchell, Jeanne McNamara-Ward, Linda Nichols, Carly Irwin and Karen Hawkins, Laboratory Medicine; Mike Vaccaro and Larry Mintz, Materials Management; Edie Hamilton, Malene Kimmy and Michelle Morris, Medical Records; Cameron Reeves, Carl Lopez and Diane Ciocci, Environmental Services; and Marcia Lowry, Respiratory Therapy, Gary Menker, Transport, and Amy Prebher, Administration.

The Healthcare Workplace Education Project was introduced, which is a self-paced program that demands completion of several training manuals, a series of exécés and final test. Those requirements were met by Marilyn Parent, Computer Center; Dawn Young, Dietary, Deanna Richardson, Home Medical; Margaret Johnson, laboratory Medicine; Gwen Butler, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Karin Bowe, Respiratory Therapy.

Supervisors from all three Hospital sites completed a four-week program on supervisory video communication skills entitled "Communicating with Nurses," they are: William For­ben, Charles Mitchell, James West, Harold Clark, Herman Martin John Hetton, Kathleen Burke, Richard Roddick and John Ferguson, Environmental Services. Susan Mallard, Human Resources, Jeanne McNamara-Ward, Linda Nichols, Carly Irwin and Karen Hawkins, Laboratory Medicine; Mike Vaccaro and Larry Mintz, Materials Management; Edie Hamilton, Malene Kimmy and Michelle Morris, Medical Records; Cameron Reeves, Carl Lopez and Diane Ciocci, Environmental Services; and Marcia Lowry, Respiratory Therapy, Gary Menker, Transport, and Amy Prebher, Administration.

The Healthcare Workplace Education Project is an independent program of work in mathematics, reading, writing and career development. The following employees demonstrated new levels of competency during the summer program: Anita St. Louis, Eileen Jarvis and Frances Haden, Dietary, Sandy Stuck, Environmental Services, Catharina Sandell, Nursing, and Maria Amado, Transport. Five groups formed at Boston City Hospital and the Massachusetts General Chronie Disease Hospital also earned certificates of achievement. Their column will report on various skills programs.

UH has the ear of Sen. Bulger on MBTA, key issues

A group of Hospital staff and UH Auxiliary representatives met with Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger to discuss several issues "near and dear to UH's heart," said Ellen Lutch, UH's vice president for systems development. Lutch said the issues involved several areas of the MBTA, dealing with issues of interest to the Hospital, was "extraordinarily successful." The session took place during the Massachusetts Hospital Association's annual State House Day.

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Mastering the art of communicating with your child-care provider

By Peggy Kocibus

Last month's question for readers was: "How do you communicate with your child-care provider regarding a small concern you have about your child's care?" Here is a sampling of your responses:

- "I was concerned over the fact that my housemate and I have no money left for work at least once a week," said one reader, "I explained my predicament to her and she said that she was really sorry and would leave her house earlier in the morning so she can get to my house. We've had no trouble since."

- "My baby seemed cranky and one-out-of-three when I picked her up at the family day-care provider," another reader replied. "When I spoke to the provider about it, she said that my two-year-old daughter was 'into everything' and always saying no. Everything was a no-no. The provider was a very nice person, I felt that she was good for babies than for toddlers."

- "I made a switch to center-care and have been very happy," said another reader. "My family day-care mother is a middle-aged woman from Italy," a third reader said, "She is warm and kind and loves the children in her care. She has 10 children in her care of her own. She also has some cupboards in her kitchen that look somewhat unfinished that are broken. I had a cup of coffee with her and I closed the door off my child-I came a little early to discuss the situation with her-and I told her of my concern, saying that it isn't very cozy on the hand was handy and that he would be happy to help. She said that she would be fine with her. I think that we are working this out successfully is the fact that we have a great relationship with our day-care mother. She's like family to us.""The keys to success in communicating your needs to your child-care provider are: Having an ongoing relationship in which you respect one another, identifying problems early and discussing them without nit-picking, and being prepared to switch to a babysitter arrived at a provider if a situation between you and your child's provider is not working.

Finding quality child care

A question that is frequently asked by parents is: "How can I tell if the child-care option I'm considering is of high quality?" Although differing parenting styles will mean that certain child-care situations will match up to a family's needs better than others, the following are some fundamental standards of quality to use in guidelines for choosing a child-care provider: small group size, trained staff, low staff-child ratios, low staff turnover, safe/clean environment, open visiting policy for parents.

When shopping around for a provider, arm yourself with a list of questions. This will help you focus your attention. Along with basic observations, your best indicator of quality will come from references from parents who are utilizing the service. Free time to ask a potential child-care provider for a list of names and telephone numbers of several references. Next month's question is: "How can I tell if my child is old enough to be left home alone."

Peggy Kocibus is the child-care coordinator for the University Hospital staff employees. For more information or to submit future column suggestions, please contact the Child Care Resource and Referral Office, Tallbot, 20500.

UH School

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Before the summer began, Lawrence received a "double" for 22 students from more than 100 Hospital departments. The departments making the requests included Medical Records, Dietary, Nursing, Training and Development, Security and Telecommunications, Pastoral Care and Education, Materials Distribution, and Radiation Medicine—a broad spectrum of what helps make a hospital tick, according to Lawton.

"We want to enlighten youth on the different opportunities that exist in health care," Lawton said, "We want to make them aware that there are jobs in a hospital other than those of nurse and doctor."

The opportunity to explore

Another attractive feature of the program, Lawrence said, is that it allows youths to get a first-hand glimpse of the business world, in the hopes that by the time they leave high school, they will have some career direction for the future. "It's a mirror into one field that is becoming more and more important in our society—how it is important and how exciting and knowledgeable what the health-care field is all about," Lawrence said. The University Hospital, in its previous two years of sponsoring PCP students, has experienced a high success rate of those enrolled in the program. Wayne Baker, a June graduate of Boston Tech, is a case in point.

Baker is spending his second summer at UH, working in the Department of Security and Telecommunications. In the fall, he will begin in criminal justice at an area community college. His career aspiration is to be a police officer. He always wanted to do something in the law field, but working at UH has given me direction and has helped me to get a grip on the life I want," he said.

"I've been grateful to her (the job placement coordinator ever since)," Baker related. He earned his first summer at UH so much that during that school year, he began working on weekends. This fall, while attending college, he will work full-time under UH's coop program. One of the benefits he will receive under the coop program is tuition reimbursement.

"I'm going to stay there for a while if I have a choice," he said.

"We're very happy that we've had some influence in stimulating Wayne's career interest," said Ed Stedman, director of the market and security of Telecommunications. "We're impressed with his ability to learn—he's done very well."

UH School's "graduates" of the first section will match up to a family's parenting styles will mean that the program, Lawson said, is old enough to be left home alone.

Wayne Baker, a June graduate of Boston Tech, has a job at Boston University Medical Center. What is your idea of the "ideal" vacation?

Chances Lau, M.D., Emergency Room: "Definitely not the IRS. My idea of the "ideal" vacation is going somewhere where I can lay on the beach, relax and have a margarita."

Dorothy Johnson, Administration: "Fluffy of sunglasses, a week on the beach and no phones!"

Rev. Larry Burton, Department of Pastoral Care and Education: "A month in Maine with my word processor and my wife. Either that or England on foot."

William Roperich, Computer Center: "Probably, just having some time off, some peace and quiet. I've always had to after four days of a vacation. I like to be home."

Luke Mullin, Maintenance: "No phones, no worries about money and no problems!"

NERSCIC staffer, patient help launch innovative device for quadriplegics

Occupational therapist Liz Squires of UH's New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center and patient Susan Haidr are thankful that "Egger" has come along to make life a bit easier. "The voice-activated computer device, new on the market and developed with Squires' assistance, can help those who are spinal cord injured perform such tasks as raising beds and doing and answering telephones.

"One of the hardest parts about working with some spinal cord injured patients is watching the frustration they can't perform simple tasks," Squires said. "Egger," who talks to patients as if he were real—a that or England on foot.

Squires said that the device has "opened up its name—Simplicity—and that it has proved to be extremely helpful to spinal cord patients. Not only quadruplegics would have to through a tube or bite a switch to activate certain appliances. "The response from both patients and staff members has been tremendous," Squires said. In addition to providing a great service to patients, she noted, the device serves as a good "companion" to them. "Patients feel like they are actually talking with someone," she said.

Completion of the product and as}king Squires for her evaluation was: "The people from Quartet wanted to teach me how to use the device so that I could see some of our patients and see how they responded to it," she said. Haidr, a quadriplegic, was one of Squires' new patients. During a pre-conference held last month at the Marriott Camelback Place Hotel, Haidr, which, Haidr, was appointed to the Quiet Group. Haidr demonstrated the device. "Simplicity is ideal for me," she said. "Without it, we never would have been able to function."

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UH IN SOAPLAND—We all know UH is nationally known in the real world of medicine, but it seems we've also made it in the world of soap operas. A recent episode of the popular "All My Children" featured this scene, in which actor Matt Consoli is told that his wife, Nina, has a serious cerebral condition, necessitating surgery that cannot be performed at the clinic. "There will be a "procedure" at the minor where the surgery can be done." ("Procedures" is the word used in the hospital.) "The staff and facilities at the Apprentice Hospital are not certified." ("Apprentice Hospital" is the name of the hospital, but funnily enough, it was the name of the hospital that was in the episode, not the real hospital.) The patient, however, was not the first instance of UH being on All My Children. A soap-opera fan says that another great bit on the show seeks back had one character telling another, "She does it to move to the North Shore and get a job at Boston University Medical Center."
Patty Doran-Wong: Hospice work allows her to reach out to grieving families

Because Patty Doran-Wong, R.N., July's Spotlight Award winner, describes herself as 'very family-oriented,' she said she finds it easy to go into the homes of terminally ill people and become their friend before they die. Wong, a pain-control nurse in the Department of Anesthesiology and surgical oncology on Atrium 7 West, is a hospice volunteer, who with six months or less to live, to die in the comfort of their homes rather than in a hospital room.

Along with helping patients, Wong also provides support to their families. 'It's nice to do for the hospice patients what you would do for your own family, whether it be giving a family a chance to get out of the house without the fear of leaving the sick person at home alone or going grocery shopping or fixing meals' she said.

Wong became involved with Hospice West, a Medicare-certified organization servicing hospice patients in the Waltham-Weston area, in 1982. Although Wong said she did not meet one of the criteria to become a hospice worker—she had never experienced the death of a loved one—she said she was allowed into the program because of her background in oncology nursing. 'I had lost over 100 patients to cancer over the years,' she acknowledged.

Wong's primary reason for getting involved in hospice, she said, was the fact that terminally ill patients could maintain their privacy in their own homes. After all, she said, death is a very private matter. "People share so much wisdom when they're dying," Wong noted.

In her sixth year as a hospice volunteer, Wong has "befriended" about 20 patients and their families. "You pick up clues from the patient and family as to what your role will be. Each case is very different. At times, you may be needed to help make funeral arrangements, help with the writing of a will or help purchase Christmas presents for a patient who cannot leave the house," she explained. Wong's volunteer hours vary from week to week. She said her services are needed more towards the end of a patient's illness rather than at the beginning. Wong's other functions as a hospice worker include assisting with volunteer training, fund-raising and planning annual memorial services for the families of deceased patients.

A UH nurse for 16 years, Wong said she receives insight from patients she encounters both in her role as a surgical oncology nurse and hospice volunteer. "I love being a surgical-oncology nurse. The rewards you get from your patients are wonderful," she said. About her work in hospice, she said, "It gives you insight into what life is all about. It teaches you what's important and what's not."

A reception honoring Wong will be held on July 20, at 3 p.m., in the Atrium C and D Conference Rooms. If you would like to nominate a fellow employee for the award, contact Gloria Shapiro, a fellow employee for the award, contact Gloria Shapiro, a fellow employee for the award, contact Gloria Shapiro, a fellow employee for the award, contact Gloria Shapiro, a fellow employee for the award, contact Gloria Shapiro, a fellow employee for the award, contact Gloria Shapiro.

A Cruise to benefit Child Care Project

The University Hospital Child Care Project Fund-raising Committee invites all employees to its first annual fund-raising cruise on Friday, July 29. The 'Fort Independence' will sail from Long Wharf promptly at 9 p.m. Tickets are $15 in advance and $17 at the boat. Music by Jay Michaels, W.I.L.D. disc jockey, Big "E" and Company and The Peoples Choice. For tickets and information contact Karlai or Eunice, x7870, or Margarita, x7811.

The committee will host a picnic for UH employees and their families on Sunday, July 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on George's Island, Boston Harbor. Cost for round-trip boat ride is $5 for adults and $3 for children.

KEY TO A HEALTHY HEART—Events Medical Group Systems and Finance Manager Lisa Bremner, (left), is given a free cholesterol test by a Massachusetts Department of Public Health clinician at a two-day screening held at UH in late May. The clinic, sponsored by Occupational Health, was brought back by popular demand on June 28 and 29.