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Boston University



Boston University Medical Campus

Campus UPDATE

October 1990 Vol. 2 No. 8

Lot C crowding prompts action by administration



Last month saw a first: Lot C reached capacity. Although the lot had neared capacity during previous Septembers (traditionally a peak time for parking in the Medical Center lots), this is the first time that Lot C demand has actually exceeded capacity. Ironically, Lot A is underutilized, resulting in excess capacity there. This excess capacity was tapped, as an interim measure, to deal with the Lot C problem.

Additionally, an area of Lot C not used for two years was cleaned and reinstated as Lot C parking, thereby alleviating part of the problem. Also, Parking Services is aggressively reviewing contingencies to further address the problem, should it persist.

Parking Services requests that drivers using Lot C park efficiently, to maximize the available space and park only in authorized areas to ensure that adequate circulation is maintained for all vehicles and pedestrians.

Space is available in Lot A for those who wish to transfer from Lot C. Interested persons should contact the Office of Parking Services, at x4915. □

Safety Office works aggressively to educate staff, students about hazardous chemicals

Preoccupied with their work in laboratories, libraries and offices, the employees and students of the Medical Center don't have time to research the latest safety standards for the use of chemicals or worry about whether they will be able to get out of a building if a fire breaks out.

The Safety Office, located in Vose Hall, takes on these responsibilities and many others, working to provide the safest possible work environment for all members of the Medical Center community. A top priority of the six-person force is to educate

all employees and students about the handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals. In July, the staff held seminars for all employees to educate them about their rights under the Hazard Communication Standard, also known as the federal "Right to Know Law," which the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) established in 1988.

The law requires the purchaser of hazardous chemicals to inform its employees about what products are present in the workplace and to provide them with the

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) that companies are required to submit with all hazardous chemicals. These MSDSs explain how to handle the chemicals safely. The Safety Office staff maintains these MSDSs and is currently updating the notebooks for each work area and providing training to employees on the use of the chemicals. The staff also now makes a presentation during the Medical Campus Office of Personnel's new employee orientation pro-

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Campus Update celebrates its first anniversary

This month marks *Campus Update's* first anniversary of publication. We began this monthly newsletter last October to provide a forum for information concerning all members of the Medical Campus community, both here at the Medical Center and at outlying campuses. Our intent was, and remains, to emphasize that while we are a large, diverse group, we are also a community.

Most Medical Campus employees are located at the Boston University Medical Center, which includes the School of Medicine/School of Public Health and the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry. However, Medical Campus employees also are located at Boston City Hospital (BCH) and the Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center, as well as at the Veterans Administration Medical Centers in Boston, Bedford, Brockton and

West Roxbury. Still others are located at the Sloan Epidemiology Unit in Brookline, the Framingham Study in Framingham and at various other facilities in Boston and outlying areas.

Campus Update provides information on subjects ranging from employee benefits, to parking, to various activities and services. Our newsletter also looks at the departments and people who make up the Medical Campus, profiling the wide variety of individuals who play a part in this dynamic medical research and academic institution.

We want to know what you think about this newsletter and we welcome suggestions on ways to improve it. Please send recommendations to me at the Office of Business and Financial Affairs, Robinson 3, or to Michael Donovan, director of personnel, Office of Person-



Bill Gasper, associate vice president, business affairs

nel, Talbot Building. To suggest story ideas, contact Jennifer O'Brien, editor, at x8482. This newsletter is for you. We trust you've enjoyed the first year of *Campus Update* and look forward to another year of reading it.

Bill Gasper

Associate vice president for business affairs

Department Profile

Safety

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gram to inform new staff about the safety procedures and standards for the use of chemicals on the Campus. The office currently is in the process of implementing "The Laboratory Standard," a set of guidelines set by OSHA to prevent the occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals in the laboratory. As part of this effort, the staff is helping to develop a chemical hygiene plan and standard operating procedure (SOP) for each laboratory.

The Safety Office's responsibilities aren't limited to promoting the safe use of chemicals, however. The staff is responsible for making sure all exits in the Medical Center are clear, that fire extinguishers are in place and that employees are not in danger from hazardous materials.



John Clemons, director of the Medical Center Safety Office

In addition to managing the office, Director John Clemons participates on various standing committees on safety matters at the Medical Center and conducts fire safety training. His staff consists of an industrial hygienist and a trainer who

develop and perform training programs related to chemical and laboratory safety and monitor indoor air quality; a waste-management coordinator and technician who manage the hazardous chemical-waste program, perform laboratory inspections with

Clemons and other related duties; and a data-entry coordinator, who works with the hygienist and trainer to ensure that all chemical and personnel databases are up to date. □

Who to call:

Clemons urges employees and students to contact the Medical Center Safety Office with any questions regarding safety and health concerns. Located in Vose Hall, room 305, the staff can be reached at x8830 during normal working hours. In emergencies, they can be reached 24 hours a day by calling the following numbers: x5555 (chemical spills) and x4144 (other questions). □

Goldman School opens facility for sterilization of equipment

The opening of the Central Sterilization Unit in the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, room 521, was celebrated on Sept. 12 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by Dean Spencer Frankl. The new facility, which replaces several smaller units, boasts state-of-the-art technology for the cleaning, sterilization and storage of dental instruments.

Instruments purchased

The School recently purchased three large cleaning units and three sterilization units and implemented an instrument-management system in order to ensure that instruments are sterilized in a practical, cost-effective manner.

The dental instruments are now owned by the School, rather than by students, and are kept in standard cassettes that are designed to minimize handling. They are organized

within cassettes according to the dental procedure for which they are designated. This enables the dentist to retrieve the tools easily while he or she is sitting at a patient's side. It also improves the manner in which they are managed.

"This is the fulfillment of a dream come true for many people in the School, myself included," said Harold Newman, clinic administrator. "The project was given the green light just last spring, and it could not have been completed in this time frame had the undertaking not been met with such enthusiasm by our faculty and staff."

"The facility will fulfill a need to provide adequate instrument sterilization and will be a teaching tool and a model for students' future practices," added John McManama, D.D.S., associate professor and chairman, operative dentistry. □

Recycling can be an on-the-job effort at the Medical Center

Interested in helping to reduce the amount of material, such as paper and styrofoam, that is thrown "away," only to land in an incinerator or a landfill where it will continue to plague the earth's environment?

Employees and students of the Medical Campus can join the fight to reduce waste during working hours by cutting down on the number of paper and plastic products they use on a daily basis and by reusing some of those taken.

Here are some hints:

- Don't accept bags when buying small items at food carts, in the cafeterias and in the gift shop and drug store.
- Cut back on the number of paper and styrofoam plates, cups, napkins and utensils taken from the food carts and cafeterias.
- Wash the plastic utensils taken from the cafeterias and use them again. They can be stored in pocketbooks or desk drawers.

Soda cans may be disposed of in bins in the Medical Campus cafeterias—Chequers, in the Instructional Building of the School of Medicine, and the Rite Bite Cafe, in the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry. The money earned from the deposits is given to the Kid's Fund at Boston City Hospital. Last year, the Medical Campus contributed \$500 from the proceeds of the cans to this fund. □



Medical Campus employee gives a hand to kids who need help

Arlene O'Neil, a development officer for the School of Medicine, spends her days working to raise money for the School. On the side, however, she shifts gears, serving as a volunteer, court-appointed special advocate (CASA) for abused or neglected children as their custody cases make their way through the Boston Juvenile Court system.

The CASA Program is designed to ensure that the case of a child under a care-and-protection order continues to move through the court system until the child receives a permanent home. The goal of the program is to make sure that the child does not get "lost" in the system and remain in an indefinite temporary custody situation.

O'Neil's role is to evaluate a child's home environment and personal needs, and then, based on that assessment, make a recommendation to the court as to what is in the child's best interest. At the appropriate time, she makes a recommendation of who should have permanent cus-

tody. During the long period that the court case typically drags out, O'Neil also works to ensure that the child is given the care he or she needs, whether it be psychiatric counseling, special educational tutoring or any other type of assistance. Her role is necessitated by the inability of court and child welfare professionals to give each child who comes through the court the time and attention he or she needs, due to their large caseloads. For this reason, a CASA is assigned one child at a time, so that that he or she can focus 100-percent attention on that child.

The children brought before the court have been identified by the Department of Social Services (DSS) as living in unhealthy home environments and needing protection and care. When a judge receives a petition from the DSS, he or she appoints a court investigator to assess the allegations, and assigns separate legal counsel for both the child and the parents. If the severity of the charges warrant that the child be removed from the



Development officer Arlene O'Neil volunteers as a Boston Juvenile Court-appointed special advocate for children.

home immediately, the judge places him or her in temporary custody with relatives or in a foster-care home.

At this point begins the long, often bumpy court proceeding that ultimately determines who will gain permanent custody of the child. The process drags out over months and even years, and, while attorneys and social

workers work on the case, they are often too overburdened by the sheer number of their assigned cases to be able to totally focus on investigating and monitoring a particular child's needs. Often, attention is focused on the parents involved in the case, since they are the

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Women's Guild welcomes members

The Boston University Women's Guild is gearing up for another year of activities, ranging from lectures on medical ethics, art, science and politics, to pot-luck suppers and volunteer efforts. Guild service projects include international student hospitality, Boston University/Red Cross blood drives and reading and taping for the blind through the University's Disability Services Offices.

All female employees and students affiliated with Boston University on any campus, as well as female spouses of employees, are welcome to join. Last year the organization, made up of some 200 women, raised over \$6,500 in scholarship aid for women graduate students over the age of 30.

Those interested in joining should call Amanda Gazin, at 353-9511, or Marie Miller (president), at 326-0720. □

Benefits handbook is distributed

During the next month, regular employees will receive The Boston University Faculty and Staff Benefits Handbook. The booklet provides detailed information on each benefit plan offered by the University.

Employees with questions about the contents should contact the Medical Campus Office of Personnel, Benefits Section, at x4610. □

Opportunities to volunteer are right next door, at Boston City Hospital

Medical Campus employees and students who are interested in volunteering at Boston City Hospital can choose from a variety of programs. Possibilities range from reading to children who are waiting to be seen by doctors in the outpatient pediatric

clinic, to visiting with patients who receive no visitors. There are six other programs as well. For more information on the opportunities, and to arrange an interview with the Office of Volunteer Services, call 534-5122. □

Fly the Trump Shuttle at a discount

Taking to the skies? Medical Campus employees can take advantage of discounted tickets for the Trump Shuttle by requisitioning them at the Accounts Payable Department, Robinson 3, before June 15, 1991. The discounted price for tickets for flights between Boston and

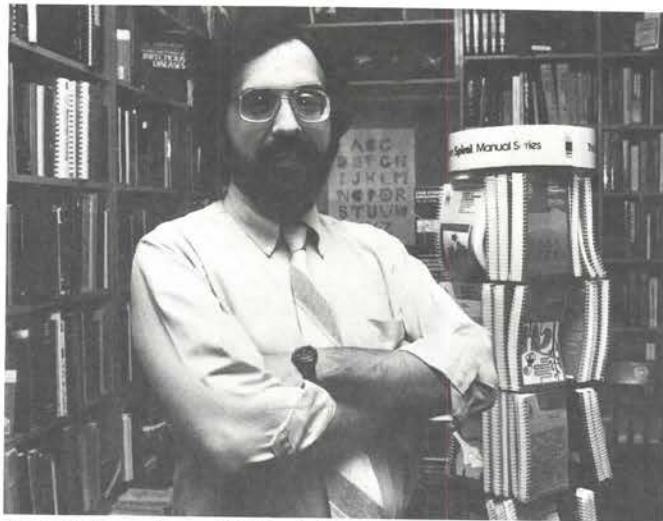
New York is \$89. The regular price for tickets is \$139 Monday through Friday and \$89 all day Saturday and until 3 p.m. on Sunday. The University purchased the tickets en masse primarily for employees traveling on business. They are good through Sept. 4, 1991. □

New Campus Shop manager can talk books and finance

The new manager of the Campus Shop has a penchant for 19th-century English literature and a background in finance. Joseph Moore, 35, assumed his new role in the Instructional Building in mid September, following three years as the manager of the Walden Books store in Saugus. Prior to this job, he was the head of the mortgage department at a small bank in Saugus.

Moore considers bookstore management his second career. "I wanted to try something else before I was too old," he said. His interest in literature drew him to the trade. "Literature is what I really like. And I've read a lot of it," he said, noting his interest in 19th-century English works and the Russian authors, particularly Dostoevsky.

While he does not have a



Joseph Moore is grateful for being able to put his management skills and interest in books to use at the Campus Shop.

background in medicine, Moore said he's glad he has the opportunity to be exposed to the field. "It's a chance to learn something I knew nothing about," he

said. Finally, having studied Latin in high school is paying off, he said with a smile. He added that his background as a manager at a bank for 10 years also will serve him well

at the Campus Shop, which is owned by the 660 Corporation.

The Campus Shop sells the medical textbooks required for classes at the School, as well as general-reference medical texts. It also sells nonmedical, general-interest books, stocking the largest supply during the middle of semesters when the textbook stock is lowest.

Children's books

During the Christmas season, children's books line the shelves. The store also stocks a variety of paraphernalia, such as Boston University sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps and mugs, writing cards and candy. The shop is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. □

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ones whose problems have sparked the custody issue in the first place.

When O'Neil is assigned to a case, she is expected to make a careful investigation of the child's home environment and personal needs. She speaks with the people who touch the child's life, from the parents to teachers to therapists. She tries to determine whether the child needs psychiatric counseling, special education or any other type of particular attention.

While the CASA is only one of many people the judge will hear from, his or her opinion is respected in the court. The volunteer is the one person who is free to speak his or her mind to the court and to make whatever recommendations he or she feels are in the best interest of the child.

When evaluating a custody case, O'Neil is careful to try to get an under-

standing of the parent and the parent's difficulties in raising the child. "It's known that most parents who abuse or neglect their children were themselves abused or neglected," O'Neil said. "With an understanding of his or her own problems and with the assistance of necessary services, such as classes in parenting, provided by the state, sometimes a parent is able to make positive changes toward dealing with her or his child, and permanent custody of the child is returned to the parent." Still, O'Neil makes the child's welfare her top priority.

Making a difference

O'Neil has taken on five cases during her five years as a CASA. In all but the first case she feels she was able to make a difference in a child's life. She recalled one particularly gratifying case in which her efforts played a part in discouraging the court from returning a girl to

the custody of her parents. O'Neil persuaded the child's therapist to submit a report to the court saying that the child had indicated during counseling that she had been sexually abused by her father. The judge and lawyer for the child knew that the child lived in a bad neighborhood, that her mother was an alcoholic and that her father was a drug dealer, but they did not know that the child indicated she had been sexually abused. Ultimately, the child was put into the permanent custody of relatives.

O'Neil also has faced her share of frustrations with the court system, such as frequently waiting in court for a hearing to begin, only to

learn two hours later that it will be postponed through a continuance. She says, however, that she finds the work satisfying, and has no plans at the present to stop serving. She is not alone in her commitment to the program. There are 12,000 volunteers nationwide working through the National CASA Association. The program, begun 13 years ago by a judge in Seattle, started out with 50 volunteers. It now extends to 393 court systems in 47 states.

For more information on the CASA program, contact Pat Walsh of the CASA Program of the Juvenile Court Department, Boston division, at (617) 725-8578. □

Campus Update is published monthly by the Boston University Medical Campus Office of Business Affairs; William J. Gasper, associate vice president. Article ideas may be addressed to Mr. Gasper or to Michael J. Donovan, director of Personnel. The publication is produced by the Office of Publication Services: Owen J. McNamara, director; Jennifer O'Brien, editor/writer; Catherine LeBlanc, designer.