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Boston University



**Boston
University
Medical
Campus**

Campus UPDATE

June 1992 Vol. 4 No. 5



Blackstone Square concerts to begin June 24

Members of the Medical Center community are invited to a series of free summer concerts in nearby Blackstone Square, beginning June 24, that are sponsored by Boston University Medical Center/University Associates. The first concert, set for Wednesday, June 24, at noon, will be performed by the New Black Eagle Jazz Band.

The musical programs and a number of other enhancements are being funded by University Associates as part of an annual \$25,000 donation to the neighborhood associations of nearby Blackstone, Franklin and Worcester squares.

There will be a performance on Wednesday, July 29, at noon featuring a brass ensemble. The third and final concert of the season, scheduled for Sunday, August 30, at 2 p.m., will feature a 13-piece orchestra.

"We're thrilled to offer these concerts," says Joanne Jaxtiner, BUMC community services director. "We invite people to bring blankets and pack picnic lunches—whatever it takes to get them out there, because the entertainment is really top-notch." □

A Peruvian's advice, a comedian's insights offered to BUSM grads



BUSM graduation speaker Gene Wilder (right), the actor, director and writer, gathered with students prior to his touching, often emotional speech on May 17. Pictured at center is graduate Andy Chiou, winner of the William F. McNary Jr. leadership award.

The words of wisdom, insight and guidance offered by this year's Boston University commencement speaker and the School of Medicine graduation speaker on Sunday, May 17, were as weighty as the two speakers were different.

Mario Vargas Llosa, the renowned writer, politician and champion of democracy in Peru and throughout Latin America, urged the 5,000 graduates of Boston University to take up the causes of liberty, and to fight for an end to discrimination and violence.

Gene Wilder, the actor, director and writer, speaking with his customary humor, offered the 153 School of Medicine graduates subtle insights into the impact physicians can have on the lives of their patients. He expressed his advice to the fledgling physi-

cians by describing in poignant, often heartbreaking, terms the ordeal undergone by his late wife, Gilda Radner, following her diagnosis with ovarian cancer. Radner was a highly acclaimed, well-loved comedian.

Wilder did educational public-service announcements about ovarian cancer following Radner's death, in reaction to the evident lack of information and knowledge about the disease in the public arena.

Radner developed symptoms of her sickness in January 1986, but was misdiagnosed with the Epstein-Barr virus, and told to "go home, relax, forget about it." Ten months and many inconclusive blood tests later, she was diagnosed with stage 4 ovar-

Handicap ramp constructed for School entrance

Construction of a handicap ramp at the entrance to the School of Medicine Instructional Building will be ongoing for the next two months. During most of this time, regular access to the entrance of the building will be available. During one week, however, that entry will be closed, and the doors to the New Evans Building, which is adjacent to the Instructional Building, will be opened to provide access into the complex.

The handicap ramp, which will run along the outside wall of the School of Public Health and then veer right toward the entrance of the Instructional Building, will displace the bike racks, which have been relocated to a spot near the entrance to parking Lot A. □

New bicycle-storage area opens

A new bicycle-storage area for employees and students has been established near the entrance to Lot A, as part of the new configuration of the Medical Center's parking lots along Albany Street. The area is secure and located within view of the Lot A attendant's booth.

The new storage space replaces the bicycle racks that had been located at the entrance to the School of Medicine, while a rack outside of the University Hospital's Emergency Department remains available for use. □

Commencement

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Anatomy of a building

Research building takes form with structural steel

The Boston University Center for Advanced Biomedical Research is no longer just a design on a blueprint. Two thousand tons of structural steel are in the process of being hoisted into the upper segments of the emerging structure, giving form to the planned nine-story building.

The steel beams that frame the building are lifted into the air by a crane. Ironworkers guide them into place using their hands, and then bolt and weld them together.

Once a floor of framework has been constructed, the same ironworkers put a metal deck down that serves as the bedding for the concrete floors. Some 45 workers are carrying out the erection and welding of the steel and the metal decks.

Meanwhile, the "oil-ers,"

who work alongside the crane operators, carry out another full-time job, serving as the mechanics who maintain the upkeep of the crane.

The traditional "topping-off" ceremony, held to celebrate the completion of the structural steel placement, was held on May 29. This custom, which originated with the Viking builders, involves (in its modern form) hoisting to the top of the building the final steel beam with an evergreen tree and an American flag attached to it. Adding to the spirit of the event, dignitaries, as well as construction workers and other people closely involved in the construction of the building, sign their names on the beam.

The intent of the early builders was to give thanks to the gods for the trees they felled to build their struc-

tures. Today, though perhaps not for that intent, the tradition remains strong.

The "detailing," or welding, of the structural steel is scheduled to be completed by the end of June, while the concrete floor slabs are scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

Ongoing with the construction of the floors is the rough installation of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing materials.

Work on the exterior skin of the building will begin in early June and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The exterior skin is a combination of brick, con-



Iron workers on the site of the Center for Advanced Biomedical Research guide a steel beam as a crane lifts it into the air.

crete precast and window curtain wall. The building will be surrounded by pipe scaffolding in order to facilitate construction of the exterior skin. □



Harrison Court apartment units open for viewing

Students interested in viewing model units in the new Harrison Court apartment complex on Harrison Avenue may arrange appointments for tours by calling the Medical Center Office of Rental Property Management at 1-800-344-BUMC (2862). The reaction to the units so far has been "very, very enthusiastic," according to Peter Reich, assistant to the dean.

Wilder urges graduates to be "great detectives"

Commencement

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ian cancer. She died May 20, 1989.

Wilder shared with the graduates his assessment of what qualities make a good physician. "I want a great detective, someone who smells about and says, 'Let's try this,'" he said. "I think if Gilda had had a great detective when she first went, they may have found the answer if they had asked the right questions."

He urged the graduating physicians not to let their egos get in the way of their diagnoses. He entreated them to seek out opinions from their peers so as to avoid making errors in diagnoses and treatments.

He also encouraged them to form an open, honest line of communication with their

patients and the patients' families. "I want someone who not only allows a free flow of information between the patient and yourself, but demands it, grabs it, holds it up, insists on it...[so that] once the patient feels that you're doing it together it's not just two separate beings it's 'we're both suffering this together—my illness and my doctor are working together, solid.'"

The last insight he offered spoke to life in general, and applied to all people in the audience. "You've got to try hard to be happy," he said. "I've never met a greater force on earth than happiness. I think most of the evil in the world comes from unhappiness. I wouldn't be surprised if most illnesses come from that as well. If you're not happy in what you want to do, if you don't want it with all your heart, then you're go-

ing to suffer. And, in that case, your patients are going to suffer. So be happy, be good doctors." Wilder, referring to his new wife who sat in the audience, made it clear through the love he expressed for her that he was glad he'd found happiness again.

The School of Medicine Class of 1992 included one student who graduated *summa cum laude*, three who graduated *magna cum laude* and 10 who graduated *cum laude*. It also included four students who received both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, and three who received both M.D. and M.P.H. degrees.

The graduates included 63 women and 48 minorities, 20 of whom were women. The class as a whole represented 23 states, the District of Columbia, and two foreign countries. □

World Class Commuting Day stirs employees to action

World Class Commuting Day struck a chord in Medical Center employees on May 15. Some 500 people stopped by at information tables to learn about alternative means to the car for commuting to work, and several hundred signed up to participate in a computer database that matches people up for carpooling.

The event was the latest effort by a BUMC/UH and Boston City Hospital consortium to reduce the number of cars being used to commute to the medical area daily. The goal of the group, called the Inter-institutional Transportation Management Association (ITMA), is to reduce the high level of air pollution caused by automobile emissions in the Boston area, and to reduce

the traffic congestion both approaching the city and the medical area.

Amidst colorful tables, a large popcorn machine, and a raffle set up on the H-2 bridge in the University Hospital, employees picked up brochures providing information about commuting options and about the devastating impact of auto emissions on air quality in the Boston area. There was information about carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling and public transportation options.

The employees who signed up with Ridesource, a ride-matching database operated by CARAVAN for Commuters, Inc., will learn whom the other Medical Center employees are from their regions who would be interested in

carpooling to work. Representatives of the MBTA, the Commuter Boats, Commuter Bus Carriers, Walk Boston, the Boston Area Bicycle Coalition and representatives of the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project were on hand also.

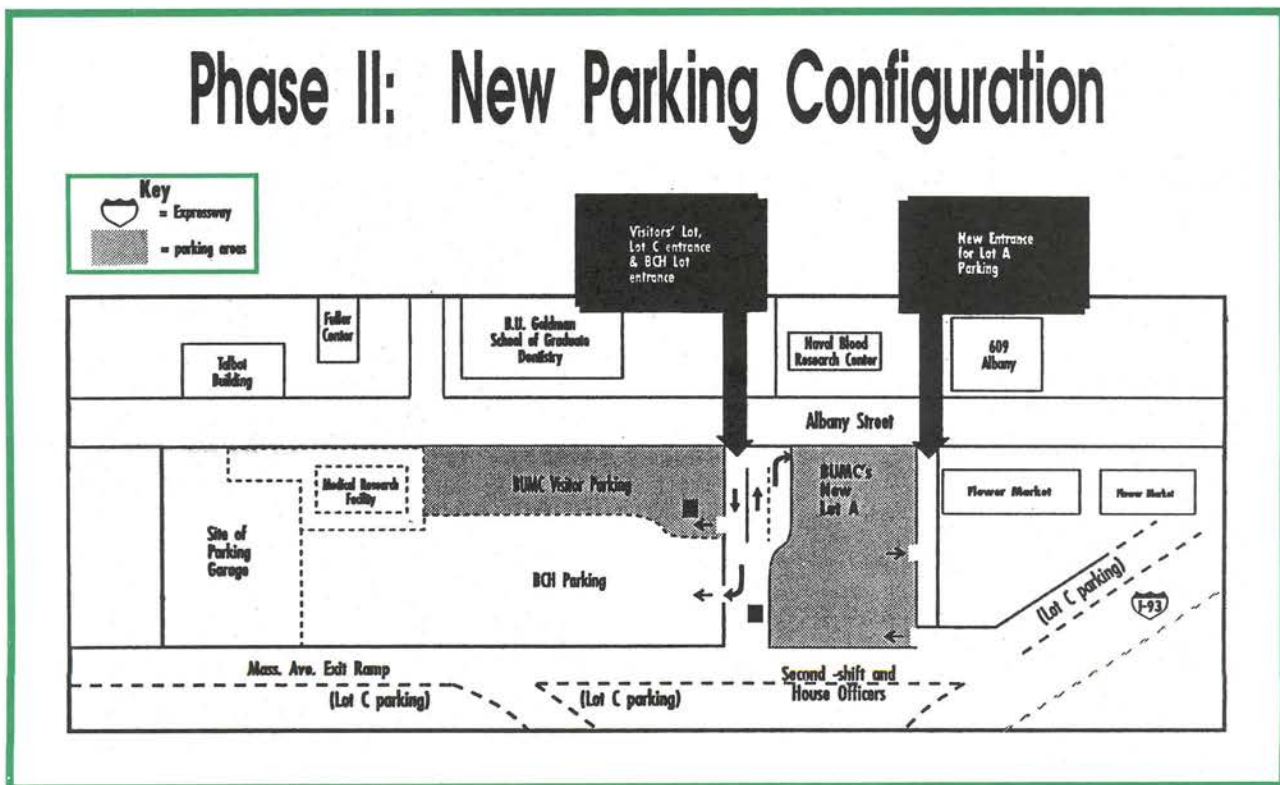
To encourage people to participate in the event, preferential parking spaces were given to cars carrying three or more commuters and cyclists and runners were offered free access to showers in the South End Block Recreation Center for the day, compliments of Boston City Hospital.

Maureen Flaherty, the transportation coordinator for the ITMA, called the day a great success. "We were delighted," she said. "A number of people opted to double



Medical Center employees turned out in droves on the H-2 bridge in UH to sign up for information about carpooling and other alternatives to making the solo commute via car to work.

up in their commutes to work for the first time. We're hoping many more will in the future." □



The Phase II reconfiguration of the Medical Center parking lots will be completed in mid-June. The activity in the lots is related to the University Associates construction development on Albany Street, and was signalled by the demolition of the Creative Distributors building (formerly part of the Flower Market) in the former Lot A East.

Under the new configuration, Lot A parkers will use a new entrance from Albany Street that is directly across from East

Canton Street. The driveway will be shared by staff and patrons of the Boston Flower Exchange. Lot C parkers will enter the lot at the roadway they currently use. Lot C parkers also will exit from either of two new points at the back of the lots.

Parking for house officers and second-shift employees will be relocated to a new area in Lot C. □

Hoopathon for Huntington's disease tallies \$35,000

Boisterous social workers, steady mechanics, familiar TV personalities and many others turned out at the Medical Center for this year's annual Hoopathon for Huntington's Disease, held in April. The more than 200 shooting participants earned some \$35,000 for the New England chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America. The New England chapter of the society is located at the University Hospital.

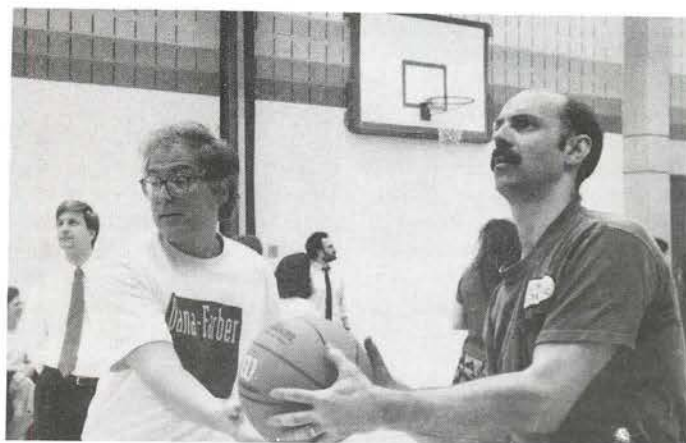
May Long, the executive director of the New England chapter, expressed delight at the results. "Thirty five thousand dollars—from a basketball," she marveled. "It was a wonderful event," she said. "People were coming up to

me and saying they couldn't wait till next year to do it again. It was that much fun."

Long conceived of and started the annual hoopathon 14 years ago. Since then, the idea has spread to other Huntington's disease chapters throughout the United States and into Canada.

On the day of the event, a banner reading "Solomon Carter Fuller Gymnasium—Home of the Hoopathon for Huntington's disease," was placed on the wall of the Solomon Carter Fuller gymnasium, where it will be a permanent fixture.

The money earned from the annual 24-hour hoopathon subsidizes half of the chapter's yearly budget. Most



Chester Kirby, a Medical Campus mechanic, made 218 baskets at the Hoopathon for Huntington's Disease last month. An annual participant in the event, he said he achieved his greatest success at the hoopathon three years ago, when he made 240 baskets. Arthur J. Culbert, Ph.D., (left) the associate dean of student affairs, was one of the many support people there to feed Kirby the ball. His strategy? "The key is to shoot a lot and hope you get lucky," he said.

of the money goes to patient services, including a weekend camp that is held once each

summer at the Boston University camp in Peterborough, N.H. □

Parking repermitting under way

New parking permits will be issued this month for the Medical Center parking areas, which include Lots A, C, D, S and T. Those people who use the lots are asked to complete and return the parking confirmation data sheets that were mailed to them earlier this month. The information is required in order for permits to be processed, and is due back to the Office of Parking Services by Tuesday, June 30. The new permits may be picked up at the parking office, located in the School of Medicine (R-102), behind the mail room or they can be mailed to employees upon request.

BUMC/UH staff step into hunger walk with heart

With the image of 200,000 hungry Massachusetts children spurring them to action, some 300 Medical Center employees participated in this year's Walk for Hunger on a picture-perfect Sunday in May. Most of those who took part opted to walk, while others served as volunteers at a pre-registration session held in the Atrium Lobby on the morning of the event.

The boisterous BUMC/UH contingent—the largest organized group ever to walk from the Medical Center—raised upwards of \$17,000. By turning out such a large number of participants, BUMC/UH trounced by a 2-to-1 margin its proclaimed competition, Massachusetts General Hospital.

Seventy-degree spring weather, sunny skies and a lilting breeze carried 45,000

walkers on a 20-mile, looping trail through Boston, Brookline, Newton, Cambridge and back again to Boston. Their collective efforts raised \$3 million to help feed the hungry at 375 soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters throughout the Commonwealth. Hundreds of Medical Center employees and their friends took advantage of the opportunity to park for free in Lot A and to receive free transportation to and from the walk. The BUMC shuttle bus made 17 round-trips, beginning with a first run at 6:45 a.m., reported driver Dick McHugh, of the Medical Campus Office of Facilities Management. Trips back to BUMC began at noon and lasted until 5:45 p.m.

"I think the attitude of the people—both going over and coming back—was just unbe-

lievable; it was great," said McHugh. "There's a lot of caring out there that you don't realize. The walkers really felt like they accomplished something. It was a great experience for me."

At a Medical Center lunch stop at Daly Field at the Newton-Brighton line, weary walkers gobbled down hot dogs, chips, cookies and other forms of sustenance before making their way back to the street to complete the final 10 miles. Across the field, at a Medical Center first-aid station, UH nurses tended to the sore and blistered feet of some 350 walkers. In addition to applying bandages, vaseline and T.L.C., the nurses treated a variety of ailments, ranging from sunburns to bee stings. □