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March 1992

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Published for the employees, medical staff and volunteers of Saint Cloud Hospital.

Friday, May 15 &
Saturday, May 16,
in the Benedicta
Arts Center

Revue Again

It's back: the Way-Off Broadway Revue, with a professional Broadway director, support from the J. H. Cargill Producing Organization of New York City, and a cast of local talent performing songs, dances and comedy sketches with an overall theme of Broadway music.

Just like last year's Revue, the event's primary goal is to raise money for the Mid-Minnesota Health Clinic. On the way to reaching that goal the Revue participants plan to put on a great show and have a great time!

The talent, people power, energy and desire will come from volunteers who want to be part of the show. Last year's production required the time and talents of 300 generous volunteers. Marge Parry, event coordinator, is looking for the same kind of spirit and involvement from the hospital and community this year.

A special Way-Off Broadway Revue luncheon will be held in the Riverfront Dining Room on Wednesday, March 25 at noon to generate inhouse enthusiasm for the event. Anyone interested in being part of the Revue in any way should plan to eat in the dining room and visit the several committee reps at sign-up tables. Those who cannot sign up on the 25th have a chance to do so at the casting party on April 28 at the Radisson Suite Hotel from 7-10 p.m.

This year's performances are slated for Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, in the Benedicta Arts Center, St. Joseph. Tickets for this benefit are \$10 general admission and \$7 for the Saturday matinee.



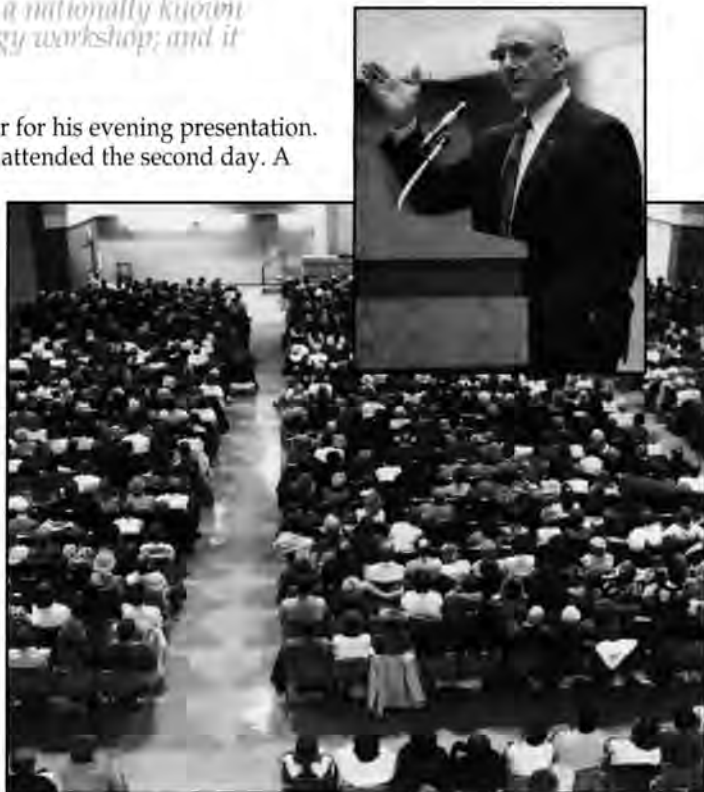
Siegel Draws Big Audience

The oncology nurses stuck out their necks by bringing a nationally known celebrity speaker to St. Cloud for their annual oncology workshop, and it paid off.

Bernie Siegel drew a crowd estimated at 2,000 to the Civic Center for his evening presentation. Approximately 275 attended the workshop's first day, and some 350 attended the second day. A wide range of health care workers attended which included physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians, psychologists and others. They came from Duluth, Fargo, Rochester, Willmar and many places in between.

Large fees to book Siegel and the Civic Center, as well as sizeable bills for food and advertising, forced the workshop committee into some unfamiliar fund raising territory. They negotiated deals with Waldenbooks and B. Dalton for a percentage of book sales at the Civic Center. They requested educational grants from foundations and drug companies. They got into the marketing campaign and talked to the media.

"It was a big team effort," said Jane Vortherms, oncology nurse educator and workshop coordinator. "It would not have been possible to put on an event of this size without the support of administration, and without support and assistance from the communications department, education and professional development department and print shop. Our hospital has a high tech, high touch philosophy, and Bernie is definitely on the high touch, inner person side. He raises a lot of questions, sometimes even controversy, about how health care is delivered. Not all hospitals would be willing to support a workshop of this nature, but SCH did and succeeded."



Bernie Siegel workshop 1992

Hospital Expansion Underway

Construction plans for SCH have taken on a new twist.

Instead of a separate medical plaza building, there will be an expansion to the south end of the hospital and an expansion to the St. Cloud Clinic building.

The expansion to the south end of the hospital will be six stories high (four above ground) and will be vertically expandable by three floors. The heliport will be on the roof of the new expansion. The emergency trauma center, an outpatient surgery center, a heart center (cardiac rehab, the cardiac catheterization lab, cardiac diagnostics and the cardiologists' offices), kidney dialysis and the laboratory will be housed in the south expansion. Endoscopy will remain in its present location but will be expanded into the new area. There will be some unfinished space on the third floor.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer and be completed by December 1993. Related remodeling should be complete by spring 1994.

The St. Cloud Clinic expansion will include a new medical oncology area, some expanded space for the St. Cloud Clinic and some unfinished space.

The interior layouts of the entire project are being developed and should be finalized and distributed to managers in April or May.

Cost of this expansion and renovation project will be \$22.4 million, about \$12 million less than the original plans. No physician offices will be added (as was previously planned) and there is one-third less department space and 40 percent less circulation (public, hallway) space.

"This change has significantly reduced capital expenditures at a time

when the uncertainties of health care economics can tremendously impact our future," said Paul Gray, senior vice president.

Also included in the construction plans is the addition of a 4 1/2-story, 520 stall parking ramp on the north side of the hospital. Ramp construction will begin in April and is scheduled to be complete in December 1993. The garages and temporary MRI pad will be torn down to make way for the entrance to the ramp. The accounting, communications and day care houses will be left in place. "Also, the majority of the parking in the north lot will not be affected during this process," Gray said. "The ramp will not butt into the bluff. There will be short bridges to the ramp and the whole ramp will not rise above ground level."

Gray also noted that teams of employees, managers and physicians have been meeting weekly with the architects, offering input to the design process.

Black Tuesday

Up in Information Services they call it "Black Tuesday". Manager Chuck Dooley's memo to managers began this way:

"On Tuesday, February 3rd, at 6:00 p.m., we had a major hardware failure on our AS400 B/45. This system is used for Office, Payroll, Hospice/Homecare, Pathology, and Physician billing."

The failure occurred when one of ten disks in an IBM computer crashed and, like a collapsed arch in a bridge, brought the rest crashing down with it. A computer's disk drive, Dooley explained, is the part most likely to break down. The disk spins constantly while electronic heads dart across it, searching out or laying down information. As with any complex machine, failure is unpredictable but always a possibility. Therefore, the hospital backs-up its computer systems to minimize loss in case of a breakdown.

The computer system that processes admitting and medical record information has a mirrored system that backs-up all information as it is loaded. In the event of a system breakdown the second system takes over while repairs are made. Such a

system is expensive, but justified because of the critical information involved.

The system which failed had been backed up weekly on computer tapes, and the Payroll data had been backed up daily. "Of course, this happened on a Tuesday night before payroll was due, the very worst time possible," Dooley said. Payroll data was reentered on a different computer system as repairs continued on the failed one. IBM service personnel replaced the damaged disk drive by 10 p.m. Information services staff worked through the night and into the next day to get all systems back in operation.

"This was gut wrenching," Dooley admits, "But it identified some failures and it's going to help us be better prepared in future." The department is instituting quarterly disaster drills and a procedure check-off list. It is also compiling a manual to help individuals master the complexity of entire systems during an emergency.

"There's a lesson here for anybody who works with a computer," Dooley said. "We have over 300 personal computers in the hospital, and just about every month somebody's disk drive crashes. People may want to reevaluate how they are backing up their data."

Starlight Foundation Delivers Smiles On Wheels

Saint Cloud Hospital's pediatric unit is the happy recipient of a self-contained mobile entertainment unit that houses a 13" television, VCR and Nintendo game set.

The unit was donated as part of a joint promotion by the Starlight Foundation and local Colgate-Palmolive wholesaler Coborn's/Cashwise.

The Starlight Foundation is an international non-profit organization that brightens the lives of seriously ill children. This includes granting special wishes as well as providing entertainment and recreation activities for hospitalized pediatric patients.

Dan Coborn, Coborn's President, and Diane Dunn, pediatric unit assistant manager, were photographed together with the 'Smiles On Wheels' entertainment center.



Pharmacist's Idea Cuts Antibiotic Costs

In 1991 the hospital saved about \$60,000 on the cost of parenteral antibiotics compared to calendar year 1990.

One of the cost-cutting approaches that proved effective is called the dollar sign antibiotic information program, a simple idea that became reality through cooperative problem solving.

When an infection is cultured, lab produces a report identifying the microorganism and listing its sensitivity to various antibiotics. In the past, nothing on the report indicated the relative cost of those antibiotics.

Arne Tilleson, pharmacy assistant manager, had the idea of determining the cost of antibiotic use (including pharmacy costs, lab tests required, and nursing administration time) and putting a dollar sign rating next to the antibiotic name on the report. The more dollar signs, the more expensive the drug. After discussions that included pathologist James Hernandez, M.D., lab microbiology section supervisor Dorothy Berg, infectious disease specialist Perry Severance, M.D., and information services programmer/analyst Mike McGuire, M.D.,

McGuire wrote a computer program giving Tilleson the ability to include and update the dollar signs as necessary.

"The primary focus of physicians is drug efficacy," Tilleson said. "They will prescribe what works best. This approach provides additional timely information to help with their decision making." Combined with other factors such as pharmacist intervention and shorter parenteral antibiotic regimens, the saving amounted to 11.9 percent per patient.

ETC Nurses Dare To Care

Do you dare to care?

The Emergency Trauma Center's nurses answer to that question is a resounding YES!

Our ETC is the first emergency department in the state to join a national program called EN C.A.R.E. — Emergency Nurses Cancel Alcohol Related Emergencies. The program was started by two emergency nurses in Massachusetts who decided to help, in some meaningful way, reduce serious injuries resulting from drinking and driving.

Getting this program rolling here has been a year-long process, according to Diane Deters, ETC educator. The ETC's efforts came to fruition when 14 nurses were trained and began making presentations to schools in December.

Students, nationally and in Central Minnesota, take their first drink (on average) to get high at age 12. The presentations are geared to eighth through 12th graders and include true tragic stories and a powerful slide show which emphasize the point that drinking and driving don't mix. The discussion revolves around blood alcohol levels, binge drinking, use of seat belts, blackouts, etc. "We don't mince words. The facts and statistics are there," Deters commented. "Our goal is to tell teens, in very realistic terms, what happens when you drink and drive. If this stops one person from coming through the ETC's doors, then we've been successful."

Response to the new program has been excellent. As of the end of February, about 550 students had seen the presentation from a variety of schools and towns including St. Cloud Tech, Sartell, Princeton, Pierz and Upsala.

Two ETC nurses have now gone to Boston to become trainers and upon their return they'll teach other hospital emergency nurses about the program. "We've already been contacted by several other hospitals so we know there is interest out there," Deters said.



Making a presentation to nursing staff at Health One Buffalo Hospital are SCH ETC registered nurses Jenny Moores and Jan Beebe.

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March 1992 Volume 5, Number 2

Center Scan is published monthly by the communications department. Any comments or questions should be addressed to the editor.

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A RECYCLED AND RECYCLABLE PAPER

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PROMOTIONS

Krista Angus, med. rec. clerk-adm., medical records, to transcriber, 4 North.

*Mary Casper, file clerk, human resources, to audiometric technician, OHS.

*Jerrri Chaffee, RN, Family Birthing Center, to women's health/project coordinator.

Carol Ergen, cert. resp. therapy tech., resp. care, to registered resp. therapist.

Norman Gaud, escort/shuttle service, safety & security, to porter, environmental services.

Mary Muhlhauser, resp. ther. (non-reg.) resp. care, to registered resp. therapist.

Scott Stelle, resp. therapist (non-reg.) resp. care, to registered resp. therapist.

Vicki Stenseth, resp. therapist, (non-reg.) resp. care, to registered resp. therapist.

* Will work both positions

ACHIEVEMENTS

Carol Ergen, Mary Muhlhauser, Scott Stelle and Vicki Stenseth, respiratory care, passed the National Board of Respiratory Care exam.

Deb Thornton, Journey Home recently received her CCDC-R from the Institute for Chemical Dependency Professionals of Minnesota.