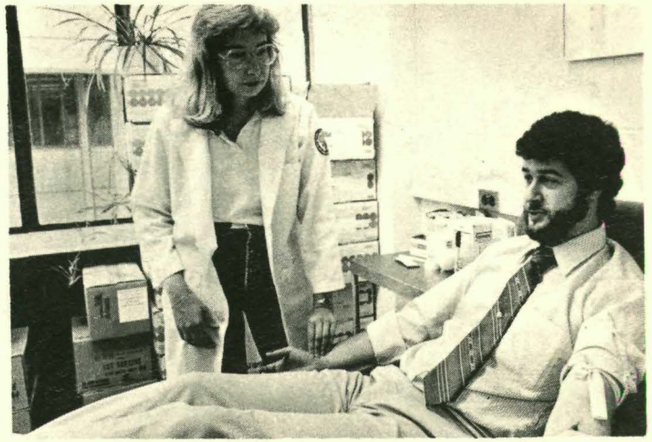
1983-08

Take one: August 1983

August 4, 1983

take one

a publication for the people of University Hospital



"A REAL SPIRIT LIFTER" Hematology specialist Robert Daigneault, a section supervisor in Hematology, donates a pint at UH's Blood Bank as medical technologist Mary Caito takes his pulse. See story about the Blood Bank, inside.

short takes

EXPANDED BUMC AND UH SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE MAY RETURN TO COMMUTER HOURS ONLY

The recently expanded schedule for the Medical Center shuttle bus, which runs between BUMC and the MBTA Red Line's Broadway station, may be discontinued by October 1 if ridership during non-commuter hours does not increase. If the expanded schedule is cut back, the shuttle will continue to operate during commuter hours, 6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.

On March 14, the Medical Center expanded the shuttle service to operate continuously from 6:30 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, in order to make transportation to and from the Medical Center easier for patients, visitors, employees and students. However, a BUMC Plant Services Department evaluation of the new schedule has found that the shuttle is underused during non-commuter hours, and the department has recommended a cutback in the shuttle's expanded operating schedule.

Shuttle bus ticket prices are still $2 for 10 tickets and are available at the Cashier's Office in Vose Hall. Tickets also may be purchased on the bus for a cash fare of 25 cents per ride.

TOWING TO BEGIN FOR ILLEGALLY PARKED CARS IN C-LOT

Unless parking restrictions in C-Lot are obeyed, cars parked in off-limits spots will be towed at the owner's expense, according to Herbert D. Klein, BUMC plant superintendent. Klein said that illegally parked cars would be towed to a secure area in C-Lot.

Stricter enforcement of parking regulations is necessary because drivers who park in C-Lot's no-parking zones often block the roadway and properly parked cars, interfere with the shuttle bus, and inconvenience fellow UH and BUMC employees. Klein suggested that greater courtesy by C-Lot users could improve parking lot congestion.

GALA BENEFIT EVENING RAISES $$ FOR UH ANNUAL FUND

The tally is in: The 372 persons who attended the 6th Annual Gala Benefit Evening on April 15 raised $26,500 for the University Hospital Annual Fund.

BOSTON'S "CASA" PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP FIND HOMES FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

In the Boston area there are about 1,200 children who, because of abuse or neglect, cannot live with their families. In response to those children's needs, the Boston Juvenile Court has started the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program, in which trained volunteers work within the court system to assure that these children are placed in permanent homes. About 20 such volunteers now exist in Boston, and many more are needed.

Under Massachusetts law, the court appoints a CASA as a child's "guardian-at-law," one who protects the child's interests throughout the judicial process. The CASA makes sure that the child remains a unique person in the eyes of the court and child welfare system, and doesn't become merely a "case" or "client."

The CASA Program invites anyone interested in becoming a CASA volunteer to contact Kim Marrkand at (617) 725-8535.

UH BLOOD BANK'S SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE CONTEST

University Hospital employees who donate blood during August will be eligible for the UH Blood Bank's Summer Blood Drive Contest. Over 25 prizes will be awarded, including a camera, gift certificates from the UH gift shop, free parking in C-Lot and a canvas tote bag. Winners will be determined by a random drawing to be held at the end of August. For more on the UH Blood Bank, see the article on the reverse page.

Copy for this issue, except for the Blood Bank story, was compiled by Steve Stiles, an intern in the Office of Informational Services.

Take One is published for the employees of University Hospital every second Thursday by the Office of Informational Services, Boston University Medical Center. For copy submission or information, please contact Owen J. McNamara, director, Office of Informational Services, DOB-600, x5606.

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL · EDUCATION · HEALTH · RESEARCH · 18 55

around about UH

A SIMPLE WAY TO SHOW THAT YOU CARE: GIVING BLOOD AT THE UH BLOOD BANK

Over 10 million pints, or units, of blood are transfused into patients in the United States each year. The Boston area uses its share of what blood is available, so it's no wonder that University Hospital's Blood Bank operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep up with the demand. "There is never a surplus of blood and all donations we receive are used," says Susan Eikinas, the Blood Bank's donor recruiter.

The UH Blood Bank, located on the fourth floor of the H Building, uses 1,000 units of blood to serve about 200 patients every month. About 80 units per month are donated by UH employees, and the remainder must be purchased from other sources, such as the Red Cross. But blood is expensive, costing the Hospital from $57,000 to $93,000 a month.

The Blood Bank always welcomes donations by UH employees and their families and friends. Hospital employees can earn four hours of vacation time for each blood donation.

The Blood Bank--which collects, processes, stores and distributes blood--currently receives about ten donors a day. Before a person may give blood, the staff takes a brief medical history of the donor, then administers a "mini-physical," in which the donor's temperature, blood pressure and weight are recorded. It takes only 5 to 7 minutes to collect one pint of blood, although the entire procedure lasts about 45 minutes. "To some, it is a real spirit lifter in the middle of the day," says Eikinas.

Once the blood is collected, the Bank's staff, including 13 medical technologists, "crossmatch" the blood to determine the compatibility of donor and patient blood. They also separate the blood into red blood cells (which are used for most transfusions), plasma (which is preserved by freezing), and platelets (cells that are involved in clotting).

Eligible donors include anyone in good health, between the ages of 17 and 65, who weighs at least 110 pounds and has never had jaundice, hepatitis or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

While the cause and cure of AIDS--a condition in which the body's immune system collapses, leaving the victim vulnerable to disease--are still unknown, some evidence suggests that the condition may spread through blood transfusions.

According to Desiree Carlson, M.D., medical director of the Blood Bank, it is "extremely unlikely" that a blood recipient could acquire AIDS through a transfusion. Only 13 cases of AIDS with a possible link to transfusions are known, out of 12 million patients who received blood transfusions, notes Carlson. None of these cases occurred in New England.

There is no reason to believe that donors can acquire AIDS by giving blood, Carlson added.

As a precaution, the Blood Bank requires donors to read a letter that describes AIDS and its symptoms, and asks persons belonging to the groups most likely to spread the disease to voluntarily refrain from donating blood. These groups include individuals with symptoms of AIDS, sexually active homosexual or bisexual men with multiple partners, hemophiliacs, past or present abusers of intravenous drugs and sexual partners of individuals at increased risk of AIDS.

Concern about AIDS has not greatly affected the Blood Donor Program at UH. In fact, because of this concern, "there has been an increase in the amount of donated blood through our replacement donor program. When patients use donated blood, they often ask their family and friends to replace what they use," says Eikinas.

The UH Blood Bank is open for donations by appointment, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; special evening hours may be arranged. Call Susan Eikinas at x5255 for more information or to make an appointment.

By Susan E. Earabino, an intern in the Office of Informational Services.

ABOVE: Medical technologist Meera Bagal selects a serum used to identify certain chemical factors in a blood sample.

classified

ROOMMATES WANTED: near Boston/Brookline line; 2 males, 1 fem., age 22+, for sunny, spacious 4-bdrm apt.; near T; 223.75/mo. incl. heat, avail. Sept. 1. Jennifer, x5689 (eve. 536-8286).

APARTMENT SUBLET: Sunny, frnshed, 1-bdrm apt. in South End near Pru and Copley Sq., avail. for 12 mo. beginning Sept. 1. $525/mo. Prof. P.T. Robinson, 628-5000 x2055, M-F 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or 437-0803 eve. and wkn.

CONDO FOR RENT: Townhouse condo, White Mts., Lincoln, NH. wk/wknds/seasonal; all-year activities; across from Loon Mt. ski area; awesome mt. view; sleeps 6; completely furn. Further info., C. Bague, 696-0835 (eve.).

FREE FELINES: 2 cats to give away: long-haired tiger, male, and short-haired calico, female. Both altered, with shots, 2 1/2 years old. Lynn, x6611.

WEIGHT REDUCTION STUDY: If you are at least 30 percent over your desirable weight, between 18 and 55 years of age and not diabetic, you may volunteer for a free, supervised, 6-week weight reduction study at UH. The study involves a protein-sparing diet with nutritional supplements. Call Michelle, x5097 (day) or Indira, 964-1220 (evening).

PAID VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Neurophysiology procedure (somato-sensory evoked potential). Non-invasive. x5206.

FORGETFUL? Find out how you can always remember important dates like birthdays and anniversaries. I am a UH employee, and my year-round service can make that happen for you. I can also arrange for errands like shopping or delivering flowers. Low rates. Rosalyce, 277-7056 (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.).