

Boston University

OpenBU

<http://open.bu.edu>

BU Publications

Campus Update

1992-05

Campus Update: May 1992 v. 4 no. 4

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/19027>

Downloaded from DSpace Repository, DSpace Institution's institutional repository



**Boston
University
Medical
Campus**

Campus UPDATE



May 1992 Vol. 4 No. 4

World Class Commuting Day seeks 'commute'-verts

Tall smokestacks spewing dark clouds of emissions, untreated waste gushing from outfall pipes into Boston Harbor, oil seeping out of the side of the Exxon Valdez—these are the images most people conjure up when they think of pollution. Dramatic though these visions may be, however, their impact pales in comparison to the number-one source of air pollution in Massachusetts, as in most of the country: the automobile.

In Massachusetts, 40 to 75 percent of the air pollution, depending on the pollutant, comes from the tailpipes of cars, trucks and other vehicles, according to Daniel Greenbaum, who heads the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Automobiles and light trucks alone emit 20 percent of the country's fossil fuel, in the form of carbon dioxide, which is the key factor in causing the "greenhouse effect." And while cars today are dramatically cleaner and more efficient than they were 15 years ago, their negative impact continues to mount, because Americans still are burning more gasoline. They drive more than twice as much today as they did 15 years ago.

"We are automobile addicts," said Doug Foy, executive director of the Conservation Law Foundation of New England.

Grim statistics on automobile emissions in the Boston area serve as the battle cry for this month's World Class Commuting Day, set for Friday, May 15. Members of the Medical Center community are being asked to tackle these problems from the driver's seat, by doubling up, hopping on the "T," peddling a bike, joining the fight—at least for this one day—in an effort to cut back on the number of cars being used to commute to the medical area daily.

The hope is that this symbolic effort will prompt a change in commuters' behavior for the long term. "If we could get even half of the 9-to-5ers to ride with just one other person, the impact would be dramatic," said Maureen Flaherty, the transportation coordinator for the Interinstitutional Transportation Management Associa-

tion (ITMA), a consortium that joins the efforts of Boston University Medical Campus, the University Hospital and Boston City Hospital. The association was established last year to work to decrease the use of automobiles to the medical area and to improve public transportation service to the area.

A strong incentive for choosing an alternative to commuting to work via car is that parking fees in the medical area parking lots will continue to rise in response to a reduction in available space.

Those commuters who participate in World Class Commuting Day by carpooling with three or more people will receive preferential parking that day and be eligible for a special drawing (lunch at Rebecca's). Depending on the

Commuting

continued on page 2



May heralds commencement, Alumni Weekend

Commencement Day 1992, as well as Alumni Weekend, are fast approaching. On Sunday, May 17, the 489 new graduates of the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health and the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry will join their fellow Boston University colleagues in a joint graduation program on the Charles River Campus. Mario Vargas Llosa, a celebrated author and champion of democracy in Peru and throughout Latin America, will be the commencement speaker. On the preceding two days, Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, alumni of the School of Medicine will gather for Alumni Weekend at the School of Medicine campus.

The School of Medicine graduation program, the 119th in the School's history, will be held later on Sunday, also on the Charles River Campus. Gene Wilder, the renowned actor, director and writer, will be the commencement speaker. The speaker for the School of Public Health's (SPH) graduation program will be Robert Master,

Commencement
continued on page 2



Sarah McNulty, an administrative assistant in the Department of Physiology, left, was one of 70 Medical Campus employees recognized at last month's annual Boston University Employee Recognition Dinner. McNulty, who has served the University for 21 years, is retiring. She is pictured here with her daughter, Laura Cahill, a receptionist in the Educational Media Support Center.

Consider a car-less commute to Medical Center

Commuting

continued from page 1

response, ITMA hopes to make preferential parking for three or more carpoolers part of the regular parking program at a later date.

Likewise, bicyclists and walkers will be given free access to showers in the South End Block Recreation Center for the day, compliments of Boston City Hospital.

All participants in World Class Commuting Day are eligible for raffle prizes that include a weekend for two at the Long Wharf Marriot, an annual MBTA pass, and a car-pool pass for the Massachusetts Turnpike (one year).

The raffle, as well as food and prizes, will be provided at

transportation information tables that will be located on the H-2 bridge in the University Hospital, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. that day.

Information about commuting options will be offered at the transportation tables, as well. On hand will be representatives of CARAVAN for Commuters, Inc., which operates a ride-matching database called Ridesource, 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. Those interested in learning about carpooling/vanpooling options may gain information through a Ridesource database that deals exclusively

with members of the Medical Center.

Reducing the number of cars used for commuting is seen as the most powerful way of combatting the ravaging effect of automobile emissions on the air quality in Boston. A reduction also would lessen the congestion in the roads approaching the Medical Center as a result of disruption from the construction of the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project.

For the second year in a row, World Class Commuting Day is being carried out at the Medical Center in recognition of National Transportation Week (May 11-15). □

Gene Wilder to speak to BUSM graduates

Commencement

continued from page 1

M.D., the chairperson of the SPH Health Services Department, while the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry (GSGD) speaker will be Dan Nathanson, D.M.D., chairperson of the GSGD Department of Biomaterials.

The Universitywide commencement exercises will begin at 11 a.m., rain or shine, on Nickerson Field. Line-up for commencement will take place at 10:30 a.m. The School of Medicine graduation will begin at 2:30 p.m. in Case Center Gymnasium, while the School of Public Health graduation will begin at 2 p.m. in the School for the Arts concert hall. The Goldman School ceremony will be held in Morse Auditorium at 3 p.m. A review of commencement will follow in the June edition of *Campus Update*.

Earlier in the day, the Medical Campus will host a precommencement breakfast under a tent on the parking lot of the Talbot Green, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. Graduates and their families and friends may park their cars in Lot A (from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.), and buses will provide transportation to the Charles River Campus at 9:45 a.m. The buses will make a return trip at the end of the School of Medicine activities. The parking lot will close at 6 p.m.

Alumni Weekend for the School of Medicine will take place on Friday and Saturday. Along with the individual class reunions, there will be a scientific program on health care. The speakers will be BUMC Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., and Chief Justice Paul Liacos of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. □

Commuting options for people traveling to the Medical Center

- There are commuter rails from a number of regions surrounding Boston that drop employees at MBTA facilities at Back Bay Station, North Station, South Station and Ruggles Station. From these points, employees can transfer to MBTA "T" lines and/or buses, which take employees to the Medical Center.

The options for commuting via public transportation from the "T" lines are as follows:

If you travel the Orange Line to:

New England Medical Station: take #49 bus (free transfer) to the Medical Center

Back Bay Station: take #10 bus to the Medical Center

Mass. Ave.: take #1 bus to the Medical Center

Ruggles: take #8 bus and #47 bus to the Medical Center or take the BCH shuttle

If you travel the Red Line to:

Broadway: take BUMC shuttle to the Medical Center

Andrew station: take #10 bus (Andrew station) to the Medical Center

JFK station: take # 8 bus to the Medical Center

If you take the Green Line to:

Copley Place: take #10 to the Medical Center

- Carpools and vanpools can be established with the help of Ridesource, a ride-matching database run by CARAVAN for Commuters, Inc.
- Shuttle buses run to and from the "T" during commuting hours:
 - Between the UH Atrium and the Broadway Red Line "T" station: 6:30-9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 6:45 p.m.
 - Between Boston City Hospital (Dowling Building on Albany Street) and the Andrews Station red line "T": 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.
 - Between Boston City Hospital (main entrance on Harrison Avenue) and the Ruggles Station orange line: 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- BUMC employees are encouraged to use BCH shuttles.
- Boston Harbor Commuter Service from Hingham to Rowes Wharf, Monday through Friday

Those people seeking assistance in finding out about commuting options may call the Medical Center Transportation Hot Line: 638-7430 (x7430). ITMA Transportation Coordinator Maureen Flaherty will respond to each inquiry.

Walk to combat AIDS seeks people "From All Walks of Life"

Sunday, May 31



From all walks of life

Members of the Medical Campus will have the opportunity to help in the fight against AIDS by participating in the Seventh Annual "From All Walks of Life" walk on Sunday, May 31.

Members of a Boston University Medical Center/the University Hospital task force have organized to rally support for the walk. Some 25,000 people are expected to walk 6.2 miles through the streets of Boston in the hopes of raising over \$2 million for AIDS prevention and treatment. The proceeds from the walk will fund 29 AIDS service organizations throughout Eastern Massachusetts. Approximately one-quarter to one-third of the total monies raised each year from the event are produced from the corporate sector.

"The walk is a way that Boston can organize a response to this epidemic," said

AIDS Action Committee Deputy Director Cheryl Schaffer at a corporate kickoff breakfast on Monday, April 13.

"We need to have everyone connected to the walk because, very rapidly, this epidemic is reaching everyone." According to Schaffer, the number of clients served through the AIDS Action Committee has increased by 50 percent in the past year, while the number of calls to the AIDS hotline has risen 35 percent.

To date, the AIDS epidemic has claimed the lives of more than 136,000 Americans, and over one million have been infected with the HIV virus since the early 1980s.

"From All Walks of Life," the largest AIDS fund raiser in New England, starts at 9 a.m., at the Boston Common. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. on Boston Common. Free food, music and activities at the Hatch Shell on the esplanade will follow the walk. All BUMC/UH walkers, their friends and families will receive complimentary tee-shirts.

"Walking" papers are available through the UH Department of Community Services, Vose 2, or by calling 638-8914 (x8914). □

Talbot Green parking lots to close May 22, 23 for BCH alumni reunion

The parking lots adjacent to Talbot Green will be closed from midnight on Thursday, May 22, through Sunday, May 23, to make room for the Boston City Hospital (BCH) alumni reunion, which will be held on May 22 and 23 under tents on the Talbot Green.

The reunion is expected to include a gathering of 400 to 600 alumni of the three medical services that historically have served at BCH: the Boston University, Harvard Uni-

versity and Tufts University services.

The event will serve as a celebration of both BCH's past and its current efforts, including the construction of the new Boston City Hospital, currently under way. A dinner dance will be held at the Copley Plaza Hotel on Friday evening, May 22, and a medical conference and tours of the new BCH facility will be held throughout the day on Saturday. □



First-year students Jagruti Patel and Tim Nicholson were a highlight at the annual Skit Night, held last month, as they parodied Kalidas Nandy, M.D., a research professor of Anatomy and Neurology.

Baxter honored by students

Dottie Baxter, until recently a senior secretary in the School of Medicine Office of Student Affairs, was awarded the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs (SCOMSA) Service Recognition Award at Skit Night last month. The award is given each year to recognize an employee who has made an outstanding effort on behalf of the medical school students. Baxter is now a Safety Systems Assistant in the Safety Office.

Baxter, who sat at a desk just inside the front door of the student affairs office, was known for her warmth and helpfulness towards the students. "We will miss her terribly," said Lisa Scarfo, chair-

person of SCOMSA. "She was one of those people you could always count on. She was always smiling—very sunny. She went out of her way to help students."

Baxter's name has been added to a plaque that has the names of all recipients of the Service Recognition Award. The plaque is displayed in a trophy case in the lobby of the Instructional Building.

Nominations for the Service Recognition Award are solicited by SCOMSA from the student body, and the committee members vote on the top three nominees. Baxter received the most nominations, in addition to being selected by SCOMSA. □



Second-year students Ruth Lamprey and George Waters give serious consideration to a sculpture, created by first-year student Nick Husni, that was displayed at Arts Day last month. Paul Black, M.D., chairperson of the Department of Microbiology, (left), looks on.



Murray M. Freed, M.D., the chairperson of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, right, shown chatting with Boston University President John Silber at last month's Boston University Employee Recognition Dinner. Freed is retiring after 36 years of service.

Meal plans offer students convenience

School of Medicine and Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry students may want to consider selecting a convenient payment method when buying meals in the Chequers or Chequers Express cafeterias. If they live in Boston University housing, they may choose the "graduate plan," one of five plans offered to those living in University housing. Under this plan, which includes 80 meals, payments for each meal are made by deducting a certain number of points. Students living off campus may purchase a "cash card," which has a minimum value of \$50.

Students may purchase these plans on the Charles River Campus, in the Office of Housing, Accounts Area, Room 107, 985 Commonwealth Avenue. □

Free screening for skin cancer is scheduled for May 30

A free skin-cancer screening session will be offered by the Medical Center on Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Doctors Office Building, Suite 402. To make an appointment, call 638-4016 (x4016).

The screening is sponsored each year by BUMC, in conjunction with the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), as part of a national effort to reduce the incidence and mortality of skin cancer, the most common of all cancers.

In 1991, Massachusetts dermatologists examined 6,350 people at about 80 sites, and more than 103,000 people were screened across the country. Since 1985, nearly 500,000 Americans have received free skin-cancer examinations through AAD-sponsored screening programs. Last year, at Boston University Medical Center, a major screening site, some 170 people were examined in a clinic held in mid-May.

Approximately half a million Americans will be diagnosed this year with skin cancer; of that number, an estimated 35,000 will be diagnosed with malignant melanoma, the most fatal form of skin cancer. Estimates also indicate that 7,000 people will die from malignant melanoma in 1992. "Skin cancer—particularly melanoma—clearly is a problem that is on the rise," said Howard K. Koh, M.D., an assistant professor of dermatology and public health, the codirector of BUMC's Skin Oncology Program and the Massachusetts director for the American Cancer Society's melanoma/skin-cancer task force.

The good news is that awareness, education and screening may decrease the incidence and mortality of melanoma and other forms of skin cancer. It is clear that early detection and prevention can help defeat skin cancer. Like some other forms of cancer, melanoma can be cured in its earliest stages. But discovering melanoma doesn't necessarily require an expert's trained eye. A BUMC-based study of 216 Massachusetts melanoma patients found that 53 percent of the melanoma lesions were discovered by physicians. "These cancer lesions are externally and potentially visible, so lives can be saved if people know what to look for," said Koh.

Koh is an ardent advocate of self-examination, especially for people considered to be at high risk for skin cancer (individuals with family histories, many moles or those who sunburn easily and tan poorly). When examining one's skin for lesions, Koh advised, be sure to check for signs of cancer using the A-B-C-D method:

Asymmetry: One half of the lesion is unlike the other half.

Border irregularity: The lesion has a scalloped or poorly circumscribed border.

Color: The lesion varies in color from one area to another and it may exhibit shades of tan and brown, and sometimes white, red or blue.

Diameter: The lesion is larger than six millimeters (the diameter of a pencil eraser). □



Go Bananas!

at Chequers

May Special

All this month, Chequers and Chequers Express brings you a taste of the tropics with fresh and exotic fruit specials—chocolate dipped strawberries, shortcake bar, frozen yogurt banana splits and more!
Ask for your copy of the "Go bananas!" specials.

Register to win a Fruit Basket!

Chequers, at the School of Medicine 638-4146