



Shaffer Library 'Ripout' Jeopardizes Patient Care

By MITCH BAMBERGER

Early last month a patient was admitted to AMCH for meningococemia and soon went into respiratory failure — an uncommon complication of this infection.

The resident, who was unfamiliar with this clinical picture, sought out the relevant literature and located two references dealing with respiratory failure in cases of meningococemia. Upon consulting the journals, he found both of the articles torn out and was forced to pursue his treatment without the benefit of the information contained in them.

As luck would have it, the missing articles turned out not to be essential to the patient's treatment and he recovered. The fortunate outcome of

this incident does not diminish the alarm aroused by such library "ripouts." There is no guarantee that a missing article won't someday be directly responsible for the demise of a patient.

A few years back, the security system now used in the library was installed because of the "wholesale ripoff" of books and journals. While the improved security has cut back on the theft of entire volumes, it has, according to Mrs. Thelma Gewirtzman (who is in charge of serial bindings), ironically led to an increase in the number of articles being cut out of journals.

The cost of replacing the missing articles presents a constant drain on library funds. The bound volumes must be sent to Syracuse for replace-

ment of the missing pages. Not only does this cost money, but the entire volume, maybe an entire year of a journal will be off the shelves, inaccessible for a period of two or three weeks. Thus the entire College and Hospital community may be deprived of important sources of information for extended periods of time.

Currently, the first year class at AMC is having trouble with study materials missing from the circulation desk. Books, atlases and even sample tests from the test files have "disappeared" prior to the examination period. This is not to say that individuals are trying to compete with each other, but instead that those involved are not realizing what actions they are committing.

Students are expected to understand that we are all here to help one another, and that actions such as these are directly contrary to this concept. I do not believe that the pressure here has driven students to revert back to the "pre-med cut-throating" of undergraduate institutions, but rather that some students are overwhelmed by the material and are clutching to reference materials in a desperation effort to prepare for examinations.

Theft of library materials at undergraduate colleges is a common enough occurrence so that many people have become desensitized to the seriousness of the problem. While not being able to find a book which you were counting on in preparing for an exam is a hassle, the inconvenience is generally only temporary. When materials potentially crucial to the care of patients are stolen, the matter of library ripouts takes on far more serious consequences — consequences which we would all do well be contemplate carefully.



Second year students Nannette Hoffman and Bruce Seideman relax on the first floor of the library with their favorite reading material.

Pondering The Growth Of HEW

By ARTHUR W. PERRY

This is the second of two parts featuring the history of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

At the time of its formation in 1953, the HEW was a small department; its chief function was to coordinate the activities of various established agencies such as the PHS and the FDA. Health affairs were the responsibility of the Secretary's Special Assistant for Health and Medical Affairs.

Around this time period, the NIH experienced extremely rapid growth, adding the National Heart Institute in 1948 and the Institutes of Dental Research, Microbiology, Mental Health, Neurological Diseases and Blindness, Experimental Biology and Medicine, and Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases by 1950. A clinical center added a new dimension to NIH when it was opened in 1953 as the nation's model for clinical research.

As HEW grew throughout the 1950's and 1960's, it underwent a series of extensive reorganizations to more efficiently administer its programs. Health related activities in particular, have sky-rocketed since 1963. That year, the \$1.6 billion spent on health was 7.2 percent of the total expenditures while 1972's \$18 billion accounted

for 24 percent of the total. Concurrently, health related programs in the Office of Economic Opportunity, the VA, and the Department of Labor also have expanded.

With this exponential growth came a variety of structural problems. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation began to develop legislation which was formerly handled by individual agencies. This, as well as the unwieldy nature of the Department, created internal struggles and conflicts. As a result, in 1965, another reorganization saw the appointment of the first Assistant Secretary of Health and Scientific Affairs who replaced the Surgeon General as the country's chief medical officer. Legislative duties were once again in the hands of physicians.

The year 1965 would mark the beginning of adolescence in U.S. sociomedical history. Besides the establishment of the Assistant Secretary position, Medicaid and Medicare were initiated. Medicare was run by private insurance companies originally for the SSA. This program pays approximately 40 percent of the costs of medical care to persons over 65 and is supported largely by social security payments from workers and their employers.

Medicaid, on the other hand, provides federal matching grants to

the states for medical services for those poor people eligible for federal assistance. This program was originally administered by the Social and Rehabilitation Service.

By 1968, the evolving Department of HEW reorganized again. At this time, the FDA was placed within the PHS. In previous years, the country's major health program was NIH research, but by the end of the 1960's, various other medical programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and health manpower development were competing with NIH for funds. This created problems within the PHS and HEW.

Throughout this time period, numerous proposals for the separation of health from HEW had been presented. The most notable was probably that of the Senate Government Operation's Committee directed by Senator Abraham Ribicoff, himself a former HEW Secretary.

Although the structure of the Department is again in a state of flux, today it does not appear likely that a separate health department will be formed. From 1972 to 1977, the Surgeon General's position was vacant. The duties were assumed by the Deputy Surgeon General. In the present administration, the Assistant Secretary for Health serves concomitantly as the Surgeon Gen-

See HEW, Page 2

Community Day Decks AMC Halls

By PAUL Z. SIEGEL

On Sunday, November 12, the big event in Albany took place right here at AMC. More than a thousand visitors filed through the revolving entrance to the Neil Hellman Medical Research Building eager to get a look at what the College had to offer on Community Day. They weren't disappointed. Greeted by an array of over 30 exhibits, which spanned the gamut of clinical and basic sciences departments, perusing passersby swarmed the halls of both the College and the Hospital between 1 and 5 p.m.

It was an audio-visual extravaganza designed to educate as well as entertain. In addition to eyeing dozens of placards and posterboards, slurping down hundreds of cups of coffee, and munching away 6,000 cookies (which, to the dismay of many, were all gone before 3:30) many visitors were able to take home a little insight into what health care is all about and a little understanding about AMC's role as a purveyor of health care.

In keeping with the theme "Preparing for Tomorrow's Health" Community Day demonstrated to the public that you don't have to be an M.D. to play an active role in health care. Dozens of women attended the Oncology Department's free Breast Exam Clinic and learned the technique of breast self-examination. An even greater number visited AMSA-AMWA's Hypertension Screening for a blood pressure check. Perhaps the most popular exhibit of all was the CPR demonstration put on by Dr. Carroll and Cindy Ferrucci (AMC II). Awe-struck Cub Scouts ogled as Dr. Carroll repeatedly breathed life into expiring dummies.

As a special feature of Community Day, Dr. Tim Johnson (AMC Class of '69) made a special appearance. Dr. Johnson, Director of Lay Health Information, Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, gave a series of talks on "Current Issues and Trends in Health." Each talk was followed by an open question and answer session and, of course, a trip to the refreshments table.

Dr. George Allen (Professor of Biochemistry), who masterminded the Community Day proceedings, recalls that the original inspiration was rather serendipitous. After landing at Albany Airport a friend of Dr. Allen's hopped in a cab and asked to be dropped off at AMC. "Where is that?" asked the cabbie. "Is it anywhere near the hospital?"

If a cab driver could be completely unaware of AMC's whereabouts it struck Dr. Allen as a sure bet that the College was suffering from a widespread lack of public exposure. When the Faculty Organization began kicking around the ideas of running an "open house" Dr. Allen, as Vice President, volunteered to run the show.

Planning began back in December of last year and culminated in a three-week frenzy of activity headed by Director of Medical Illustrations Steve Shapiro, in order to whip all the displays into final form. Dr. Allen is pleased with the results. He feels the College succeeded in demonstrating its importance to the Community and in making some new friends.

The highlight of Dr. Allen's day occurred when an elderly lady approached him and declared, "You saved my life today." She had just come from the Hypertension Screening. "I have high blood pressure and I'm overweight," she continued. "I'm going to see my doctor this week and get on a diet."

Throughout the course of the afternoon, Dr. Allen paid frequent visits to the Student Lounge for a gaze at the art and photography exhibits and to catch an earful of the String Ensemble (music by Steve Kornbluth, Dr. Alan Miller, Frank Pobalan and Phil Shapiro). It was a chance for a brief respite from the rigors of a hectic day. For Dr. Allen, this display of diverse talents at AMC is of more than incidental importance. "It shows we're maturing as a school when we can do the Arts too."

Will Community Day turn out to be an annual event? Plans are not yet definite. According to Dr. Allen, "We'd be crazy not to do it." Many exhibits could be reused with only slight modification. It wouldn't require nearly as much work the second time. There is a chance that Community Day will be instituted as a feature of Alumni Weekend which takes place in April.

See Community, Page 2



Guest speaker, Dr. Tim Johnson (center) strolls the halls with his former professors Dr. S.H. George Allen, Community Day Coordinator (left) and Executive Associate Dean Robert Friedlander.

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Community Day Decks AMC Halls



Dr. Carroll gives AMC Class of '95 a first look at CPR — and a little anatomy.

Continued from Page 1

The cost of Community Day ran about \$10,000. Is there any hope that the College will recoup some of this expense in the form of future donations from friends made during Community Day? "You can never tell how many good feelings are generated by something like this," comments Dr. Allen. Who knows, maybe the little old lady who is convinced that her life was saved at the Hypertension Screening is named Rockefeller. (Would you believe Hellman?)

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The Albany Medical Nexus is published monthly September through June by the students of Albany Medical College, 47 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, New York 12208. The newspaper, a service to the students of the College, is also distributed to the faculty, alumni and administration, as well as to the staffs of the major affiliated hospitals. Circulation is 2,000.

Editorial policy is determined by the Editorial Board, an autonomous unit, consisting of the Editor-in-Chief, the Associate Editors, the Managing Editor, and the Business Manager.

All interested individuals are invited to submit letters and opinions for these pages. Criteria for publication include clarity, timeliness and relevance. Material must be typed and signed, and must bear the mailing address of the author. The views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Nexus. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all material. Notices, manuscripts and letters must be received by the 15th of each month.

The Nexus is funded by the Albany Medical College Alumni Association, by the contributions of philanthropic members of the Medical College community, and by our advertisers.

Pondering The Growth Of HEW

Continued from Page 1

eral — an unprecedented move.

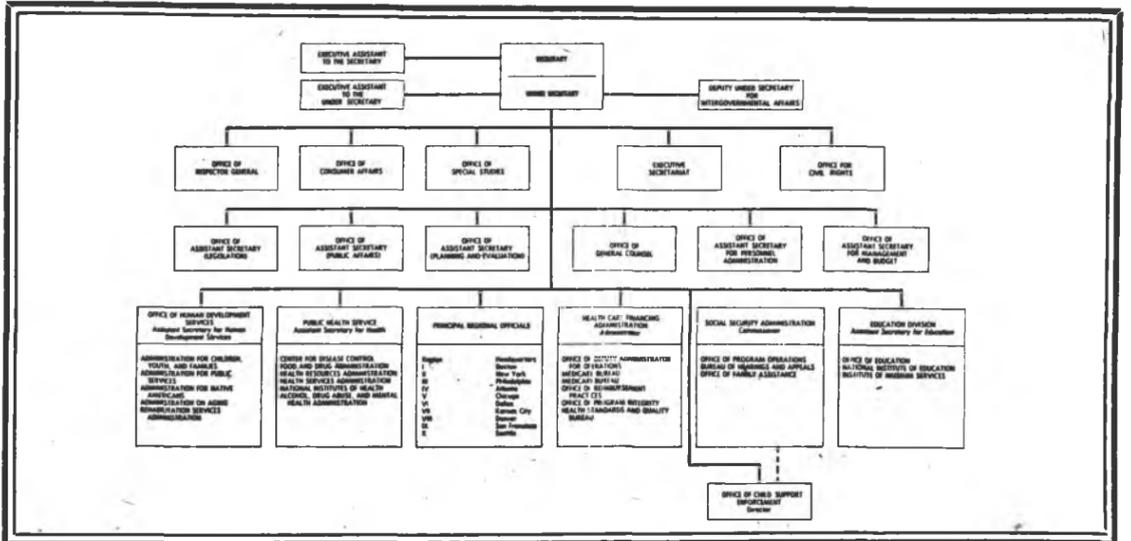
In 1973, the Health Resources Administration was formed with the assurance of adequate health manpower as its primary function. This agency became part of the PHS. The Health Services Administration, also a part of PHS, is responsible for administering direct medical care to merchant seamen, federal employees, and the Coast Guard. It also runs the Indian Health and Emergency Medical Services and the Professional Standards Review Organization. The PHS also operates

expenditures, then certainly the HCFA dominates the PHS. Its formation created "mistrust and territorial insecurity," according to Hale Champion, the Undersecretary of HEW.

Another move promised in the Carter Administration is the establishment of a separate Department of Education. At 5.6 percent of HEW's budget, Education ranks third in power. Should education depart, the remaining Department of Health and Welfare would be composed of three main agencies — the Office of Human Development,

health policy and eliminate waste and overlap in government.

The department of health would be responsible for "health policy development and program coordination, environmental health, preventive medicine, health education and occupational health and safety, comprehensive health planning, the organization and delivery of health services, nutrition and food stamp programs, food, drug, cosmetic, and product safety, and financing of medical and other health care services." He called for the transfer of all health programs in other



The Department of HEW as it stands today.

the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, the eleven national Institutes of Health, the FDA, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

The Assistant Secretary for Health is in charge of administering these programs as well as developing new legislation and advising the secretary of HEW on health policy. Health related areas within HEW which are not under the control of the Assistant Secretary for Health include Medicaid and Medicare. These were joined in the spring of 1977 to form the new Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), an agency equal in stature to the PHS (see figure).

The formation of HCFA outside the PHS will produce many inter-departmental conflicts, Senate Health Subcommittee Chairman Edward Kennedy has said. Should a national health insurance be approved, the HCFA will administer that, too.

Since the HCFA's 1977-78 budget of \$38 billion dwarfs the PHS' \$7 billion, and since in Washington power is measured in terms of

the PHS, and the HCFA.

The question of a separate department of health inevitably surfaces at this point. As Senator Kennedy has stated, "it makes no sense to separate planning, quality control, and the delivery of health services from the financing and review of them."

Philip R. Lee, M.D., a former Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs under President Johnson, has called for the establishment of a separate department of health in order to achieve greater progress in health programs. This would provide a clearly delineated cabinet position with direct input by a physician to the White House. It would organize the development of

departments to the new department except for those in the VA and the Department of Defense.

This article has traced the development of the health division of the Department of HEW. A century of attempts at forming a separate department of health has been described along with the current source of conflict. Although there is much opposition to these proposals, and it is obvious why the AMA supports them, in my opinion, a federal department of health would organize all health related agencies and allow for the coordinated health policy making, administration, financing, and review. Sooner or later, if American public health reaches adulthood, these proposals may be implemented.

AMC Students Named To State Posts

(MSSNY News Service) Both of Albany Medical College's representatives to the student membership of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) were recently elected as officers of that organization for the 1978-9 year.

Steven Levy, a third-year student,

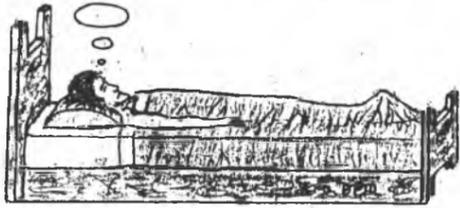
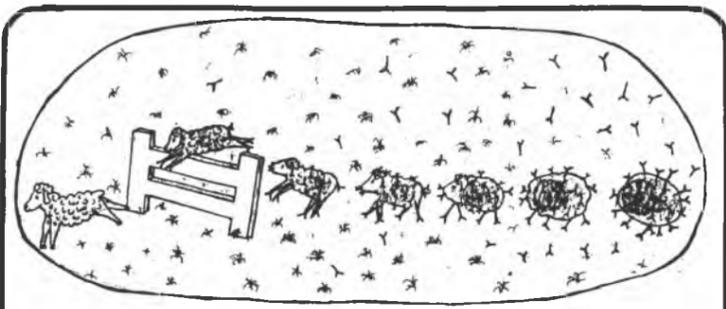
will be one of three voting student delegates to the MSSNY House of Delegates, while Arthur W. Perry, in the second year, has assumed the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

The student MSSNY, formed in 1977, is composed of two representatives from each of the twelve medical schools in New York. These 24 members meet four to eight times each year in Manhattan and discuss various topics of interest to medical students. They then formulate policy which is considered by the MSSNY House. In addition, the group appoints and coordinates the student representation on various MSSNY committees. The publication, *Input*, is written by these students and is distributed monthly to all New York medical students.

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You can talk about "lipofuscin" without cracking up.

You come upon the word "periodic" while reading a novel and completely lose your train of thought because it's not followed by "acid-Schiff".

Italian Cuisine

By HAYAT ABUZA

A recent sampling of Albany's many Italian restaurants provided a study in contrasts. Two of them — Casino at 453 Washington (corner N. Lake) and Cavaleri's at 334 Second Ave. (near Hoffman) — receive an unqualified recommendation, while the third — Lombardo's at 121 Madison — would be worth a visit only if you prefer your Italian food very bland or are on a salt-restricted diet.

Casino was the most expensive of the three, but still falls in the moderate price range. Spaghetti with meat sauce and ravioli are each \$5.95. The lobster and shrimp dishes are \$8.95 with salad. Four different cuts of steak were each \$11.95. A full variety of pasta was available, including spaghetti with chicken livers and spaghetti with either red or white clam sauce. Not on the menu are lasagna or eggplant parmigiana.

The manicotti at \$6.95 turned out to be piping hot and tasty with a dinner salad that had a real olive oil and wine vinegar dressing. Even more interesting was the linguini with shrimp and clam sauce for the same price, a peppy blend of flavors in copious quantity. Liquor and wine are served. See Italian, Page 4

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Student Council Spotlight

By LISA CYRAN

As a change of pace from the regular Student Council meetings, the November 13th meeting was combined with a pot luck supper. This enabled members to get to know each other better, particularly the new AMC 1 class officers. At the dinner, however, several matters of concern and interest were discussed.

Morris Millman informed the council of the work of the Tuition Action committee, which is studying an issue facing Albany Med and many other medical schools — that of the rising cost of medical education. It is hoped

that student input can be innovative and helpful in finding ways to slow tuition increase and to alternatively fund medical education.

Other matters of expressed student concern under consideration by the council are:

- 1) the feasibility of getting a student phone enabling us to make calls out of the hospital
- 2) the possibility of getting returnable bottles for the coke machine
- 3) the mail service
- 4) the substitution of an informative section in the student handbook on obtaining part time jobs for the student mediated employment service

Italian Restaurants Spotlighthed

Continued from Page 3

Casino is small, yet doesn't feel crowded. The decor is tasteless but innocuous, including weird wall lamps with Budweiser globes, dark wood booths, floral curtains and Muzak. Hours are 4:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., except Monday and Tuesday.

Cavaleri's

Cavaleri's, on the other hand, is crowded and boisterous; all the customers either know each other or just feel like part of the family. Located in one of Albany's middle-class Italian neighborhoods, Cavaleri's is the kind of place where the red-checked tablecloths are not a put-on. Indeed, Cavaleri's is family-owned and run, with papa cooking (You can watch the whole sweaty kitchen operation if you come in the back door.), the daughters waiting on tables, and two twin sons alternating as busboy and dishwasher.

The main drawback here is that the restaurant is invariably full; you can wait in the

bar, but you may have to stand up. When you do get a table, the food is good, oily, and plentiful. This is home-style cooking, not gourmet Italian cuisine. The dinners come with side orders of spaghetti. Particularly enjoyable are the veal with peppers at \$4.75 and the veal peccata in lemon sauce at \$5.25. Antipasto costs \$2.75, lasagna is \$4.50, and spaghetti with meatballs is \$3.45.

The pizza is a good buy at \$3.50 for a large plain pie. The house domestic chianti, available in a full liter carafe for \$4, was of surprisingly fine quality. It is also available by the glass as a rose or white wine. Hours at Cavaleri's are 4 p.m. to 12 p.m. except Monday. Music is by jukebox.

Lombardo's

Lombardo's was a disappointment compared to the other two restaurants. Service is agonizingly slow and the food was poorly seasoned. Chicken cacciatore at \$5.95 was one-half of a chicken somewhat overcooked, tender but not distinguished. Five different types of manicotti ranged from \$3.35 to \$4.10, lasagna was \$3.80, and prime rib was \$6.35. Seafood and sandwiches complete the menu.

Lombardo's might be a good place to step in for a drink if you are in the Empire State Plaza area. It is downhill on Madison toward S. Pearl. It does have a funky decor dating about 50 years, including folk art wall murals of subjects such as a sunset with palm tree, a manatee rising from the ocean, and storks and flamingos *en pointe*.

The music, entirely old hits from the 40's, was thoroughly enjoyable. Waitresses are of the same vintage. Hours at Lombardo's are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., except Monday and Tuesday.

Neuroscience Seminars

A series of Neuroscience seminars will begin in December and continue on a monthly basis through the academic year. "In order to stimulate intramural interest in this rapidly developing area a group of outstanding investigators from other institutions has been invited to speak," said Dr. Gordon I. Kaye, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anatomy. "Each speaker will be available in the afternoon before his or her talk to meet with students and, because most talks will be scheduled for a Friday afternoon, discussion periods can be open-ended," he added.

The first speaker, on Friday, December 8, will be Dr. Marion Murray of the University of Pennsylvania. After the New Year, Dr. William Whetsell of Mount Sinai Medical School, Dr. Virginia Tennyson of Columbia, Dr. Sanford Paley of Harvard, Dr. Bernice Grafstein of Cornell Medical College, and Dr. Anne Messer of the New York State Department of Health will speak; each on the third Friday of successive months.

The series is coordinated by Drs. Barron, Kaye, Poulos, and Banker. All students and faculty are invited to attend.

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