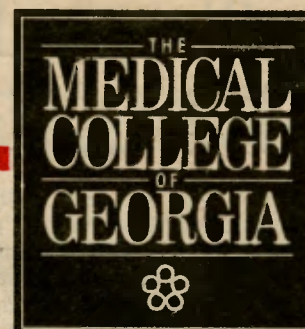


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Volume 9, Number 8

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Week of April 18, 1988

New clinical facilities planned



Dr. Francis Tedesco (left), R. Edward Howell discuss new facilities

Graduate studies employee has grown up with school

Gwen Corinth

Times have changed since Judy Whisenhunt joined the School of Graduate Studies as a secretary eight years ago.

For one thing, her title is now administrative manager I, which is "50 percent that and 50 percent assistant to the dean," she says.

Student enrollment has more than doubled to 225. The administrative staff has grown from a part-time dean and two assistants to a full-time dean with a staff of four. That original staff worked out of one room. The present staff has a freshly renovated suite, one of them Mrs. Whisenhunt's powder pink office decorated with photos of her favorite country music stars.

Mrs. Whisenhunt has essentially grown up with the graduate school. In her secretary days, the young school was fleshing out its programs and faculty. Today, the push is also toward such efforts as minority recruitment and retention. Among other projects, Mrs. Whisenhunt is gathering information to propose a minority student fellowship that

would provide stipends for qualified students.

Although her job doesn't involve as much contact with students as it once did, Mrs. Whisenhunt is still inclined to say, "We're here to serve the students."

"We have some (students) here for six years," she said. "You really get to know them. You almost feel like you've got children graduating."

A student leans in the doorway to say hello. "Hi, Ben," she responds to his greeting. Ben teaches chemistry at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, but he's back at MCG briefly to revise his thesis.

Another staffer now handles student inquiries about admissions and graduation requirements, but Mrs. Whisenhunt works on several student-related projects including a planned English language institute to orient foreign students to an unfamiliar language and culture.

"We're also trying to get more involved with international students," she said. "We have the most enrollment of international students on campus."

Most students and faculty around

the graduate school see Mrs. Whisenhunt primarily as an aid to Dean Lowell Greenbaum. In that respect, not much has changed since she was secretary to former dean Sam Singal, who retired in 1984. Dean Singal was an energetic man who took brisk walks around the perimeter of the R&E building during his lunch hour.

"If I had to get a message to him, I'd have to catch up and keep with his pace to tell him," she said. "It's pretty bad when you get winded keeping up with a man in his late 60s."

Mrs. Whisenhunt nowadays must be more careful about getting overly tired. Three years ago, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a degenerative neurological disorder that often strikes young adults. She realizes now that she had had symptoms such as numbness for several years before then.

An alarming attack of numbness and partial paralysis sent her to the emergency room. She had no idea what was wrong.

"I'm very lucky. When I first was

Conceptual plans have been developed for two new clinical facilities that will enhance outpatient, emergency, trauma and critical care capabilities at the Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics.

Design and development, which are necessary for construction, will begin immediately, according to R. Edward Howell, executive director of the hospital.

The design phase should take a year and construction should take 18 to 24 months.

"It should be emphasized that much has yet to be done, but we're proceeding in a timely manner with what needs to be done," Mr. Howell said at a March 30 press conference announcing the plans.

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the plans last fall.

Plans call for the projects to be funded by a \$37 million general obligation bond issue.

The Georgia General Assembly is expected to vote on issuing the bonds

in the 1989 legislative session.

In the 1988 session, the legislature endorsed the concept, saying, "It is the intent of this General Assembly that the Board of Regents shall proceed to develop plans for the improvement and enhancement of the facilities of the Medical College of Georgia."

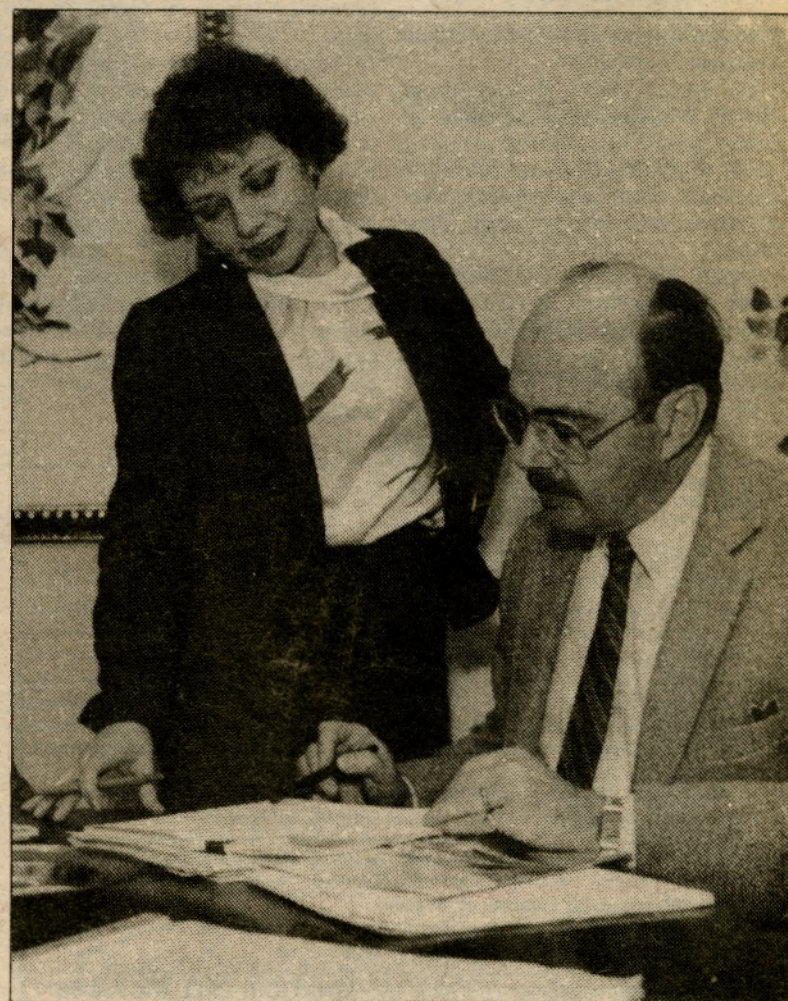
Atlanta architects Jova, Daniels and Busby have been selected by the regents to design the facilities.

The firm was recommended by committees comprised of representatives of the regents and MCG.

Daniel J. Fenyn, a member of the Atlanta firm, has been named project director for the facilities' conceptual plans. Timetables for architectural work and construction were outlined at a called faculty meeting March 30.

Presenters included Mr. Howell; Dr. Lois T. Ellison, associate vice president for planning (hospital and clinics); Mr. Fenyn and John Busby, both of the architectural firm; and

cont'd on p. 2



cont'd on p. 4

Judy Whisenhunt confers with Dr. Lowell Greenbaum

Dr. Steflik will speak to four groups in Japan

Karin Calloway

A Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry research scientist will address four meetings in Japan this month.

Dr. David Steflik will address the Third World Biomaterials Congress in Kyoto, Japan, and the Bioceramics Colloquium and the Japanese Society for Implantology in Osaka, Japan. He will also serve as the keynote speaker at the Third International Congress of Implantology and Biomaterials in Stomatology in Osaka.

Dr. Steflik will discuss his research on ceramic dental implants. He has found that the tissues of the jaw (gum, bone and soft connective tissues) respond to ceramic implants (called single crystal sapphire implants) much like they do to actual teeth.

"The gingival epithelium (gum tissue) attaches to the ceramic dental implant to form a biological seal like

it does with a regular tooth," Dr. Steflik said. "Bone and soft connective tissue heals to the implant to provide an adequate support system."

Dr. Steflik's findings are the culmination of experimental studies on animals and clinical studies on humans conducted with his colleagues, Drs. Ralph McKinney and David Coth. In both types of studies, he has found that the tissues form a biological seal. His clinical studies on humans have shown that the success rate of the implants after eight years is 90 percent. Dr. Steflik's work constitutes one of the longest controlled implant studies ever performed.

Dr. Steflik is a research scientist in the School of Dentistry's Department of Oral Pathology. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, his master's degree in electron microscopy from the State University of New York at Binghamton and his doctorate in education from the University of Georgia.



David E. Steflik

Dr. Steflik is a member of the International Association of Dental Research, the American Association of Dental Schools, the Society of Biomaterials, the American Educational Research Association and the Electron Microscopy Society of America.

Nursing school begins weekly radio program on health care

The Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing's Department of Adult Nursing has begun a weekly radio program featuring discussions about health care.

The program, Vital Link, is broad-

cast weekly on Clearwater, S.C.-based WCNA (98.3 FM) Saturdays at 9:15 a.m. Vital Link is hosted by Dr. Shirley Davis-Martin, chairwoman of the adult nursing department. Dr. Davis-Martin earned a

master's degree in nursing from Duke University and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Florida. She has 30 years of experience in adult nursing in the United States and abroad.

Listeners are invited to write in questions about health care. A different topic is featured each month; cancer is featured in April. Dr. Davis-Martin consults with health care professionals and answers the questions during the program. Topics such as AIDS, stress, diabetes and strokes will be featured in the future.

Listeners may send questions to Dr. Davis-Martin, c/o WCNA, P.O. Box 1260, Clearwater, S.C., 29822.

New facilities planned

cont'd from p. 1

Robert Douglass, president of Robert Douglass Association.

In August 1987, Houston-based Robert Douglass Associates was retained by MCG to examine identified needs of the hospital and clinics and develop a detailed description of the facilities required to meet those needs.

About 100 faculty and staff who work in programs affected by the planning effort worked with the Douglass firm in the developing preliminary plans.

The conceptual plans were

developed based on Douglass' findings.

The specialized care center will include expanded emergency and trauma services and will more than double the current number of intensive care beds at the hospital. The ambulatory care center will include expanded clinic space.

"We're seeing a very clear shift in the health care environment away from the traditional inpatient setting," Mr. Howell said. "In anticipation of the continuation of that trend, we need facilities to meet outpatient needs."

BEEPER

Division of Institutional Relations

Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia 30912

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Jim Potyraj



Jan Culbreth

Two appointed to hospital posts

The Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics has named James Potyraj assistant hospital director and Jan Culbreth quality assurance director.

Mr. Potyraj will oversee activities in the MCG clinics, employee health, respiratory therapy and environmental services. He previously served as an administrator for Hospital Corporation of America in Nashville, Tenn., and as vice president in charge of operations for Sunlife OB/GYN Services in Durham, N.C.

Mr. Potyraj received a master of

science degree from Towson State University in Baltimore and a master's in hospital administration from Duke University in Durham, N.C.

Ms. Culbreth will coordinate quality assurance activities in support of the Medical Staff Quality Assurance Committee. She has served as a staff nurse in MCG Hospital's nursery since October 1987.

Ms. Culbreth earned a master's degree in adult nursing from the MCG School of Nursing. Before joining

MCG, she served as director of nursing at McDuffie County Hospital in Thomson and as training coordinator for East Central Georgia Emergency

Medical Services Council. She has 21 years of adult nursing experience, with extensive work in critical care nursing.

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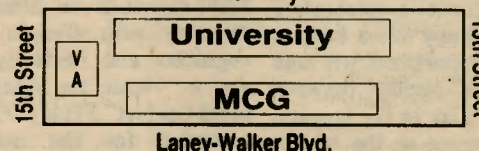
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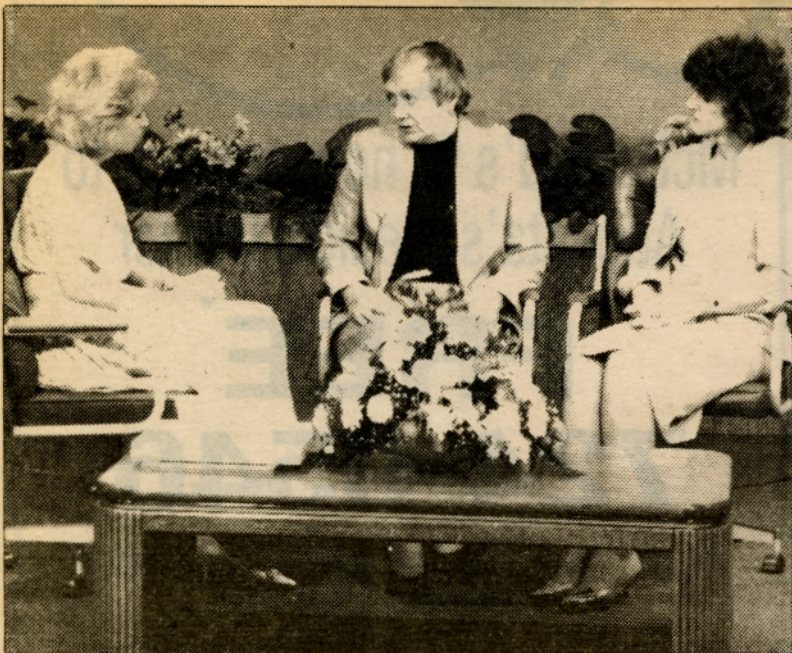
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Easter bonnet

Nancy Wade holds daughter Stacy, dressed up in an Easter dress and bonnet in the MCG Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Registered nurse Barbara Bagby, who works for Fort Lauderdale-based Hospital Staffing, bought Easter outfits for the babies in the unit. Hospital Staffing supplies nurses as needed; Ms. Bagby has worked on the neonatal unit for a year and a half.



Nurses' month

Cindy Pleasants (from left) of WRDW TV interviews School of Nursing Dear Mary Conway and faculty member Marion Broome during March 5's Midday on 12 program. The School of Nursing is featured this month during MCG's 160th anniversary celebration.

Occupational Therapy Week set

The Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics Occupational Therapy Department is celebrating Occupational Therapy Week beginning April 18. The department will hold a daily hands-on display between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the hospital dining room entrance on the second floor.

The following aspects of occupational therapy will be featured: sensory activities on Monday; splints Tuesday; grip strength Wednesday; cognition and dexterity Thursday; and a "Name the Adaptive Equipment Contest" Friday. A prize will be awarded for the most correct responses.

Health fair draws 960 participants

Some 960 men and women attended the 1988 Medical College of Georgia/American Red Cross Health Fair held March 5 and 6 at the Augusta Mall, according to a Red Cross count.

The fair offered a series of health screenings, including cholesterol, blood chemistry profile, blood pressure, pulmonary function, skin and oral cancer and vision.

Sixty percent of the participants were women.

Nine hundred and two of the participants had their blood pressure checked, 410 had their cholesterol level screened, 262 had their blood chemistry profile tested and 222 had their blood typed.

Referrals were conducted at a table manned by Department of Nursing nurses. Of those screened for skin cancer, 30 percent were referred to seek further medical attention. Sixteen percent of those who performed the pulmonary function tests were given referrals, as were 14 percent of those who had their blood pressure checked.

Employee grows up with school

cont'd from p. 1

diagnosed I was told that a third of the people diagnosed (with MS) don't have serious symptoms," she said.

Mrs. Whisenhunt has occasional bouts of dizziness and numbness. She has been able to continue working and caring for her husband and son — but only because she knows her limits.

"I try to keep my general health up and know when to quit," she said. She also has regular checkups with her doctor.

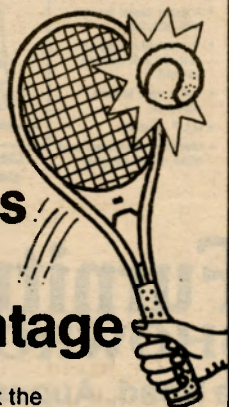
"I try to do as much as I can. I'm not going to give in to it," she said.

Most of her productive time goes to the graduate school. But working with a dedicated dean and supportive staff make it worthwhile, she said.

"We're in a situation that we have to get along," she said. "Our jobs kind of overlap.

"We are small but we've kept our people, and that says something."

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Organ donation autograph party slated April 24

An autograph party April 24 will provide the opportunity for Augusta-area residents to say hello to some familiar folk and sign a card that could save lives.

The Medical College of Georgia Organ Procurement Program will have organ and tissue donor cards ready for signing April 24 from 1-4 p.m. at Augusta Mall.

Television and newspaper personalities will be on hand to witness the card signings.

Media personalities include Charley Britt and Sharon Spears, WRDW-TV, Channel 12; David Alan, WJBF-TV, Channel 6; Brian Roberts, WAGT-TV, Channel 26; and Stephanie Neal, The Augusta Chronicle.

Charles A. DeVaney, the mayor of Augusta, will sign a proclamation officially declaring April 24-30 Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week in Augusta.

Grovetown, Ga., toddler Alicia Snellings, who received a liver transplant Jan. 2, will be a special visitor at the autograph party.

At 2 p.m. April 25, Alicia will help release 100 balloons with attached donor cards from the front lawn of MCG Hospital and Clinics at 15th and Harper streets.

A simultaneous release of balloons across the country on April 25 is part of an effort by the American Council on Transplantation to increase public awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation.

The council is an umbrella organization for professional and lay groups involved with organ and tissue donation.

President Ronald Reagan declared April 24-30 National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week at the request of council and its members.

The Dixie Chapter of Telephone Pioneers of America also is a supporter of the simultaneous balloon release. The pioneers will release balloons from their work stations at Southern Bell and American Telephone & Telegraph offices throughout Augusta and Georgia. Telephone pioneers also will help with the balloon release at MCG.

"The need for organ and tissue donation is always with us," said Mary Anne House, administrator of the MCG Organ Procurement Program.

Approximately 16,000 Americans are waiting for new hearts, lungs, livers, kidneys, corneas, bones and tissues.

"Events such as those in the upcoming week hopefully will help

make even more people aware of the needs of children and adults across this country for vital organs and tissue," Ms. House.



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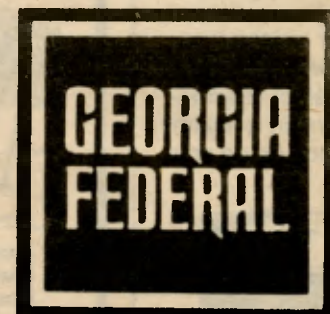
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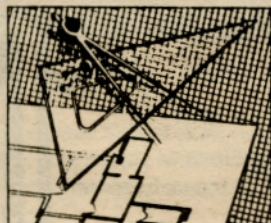
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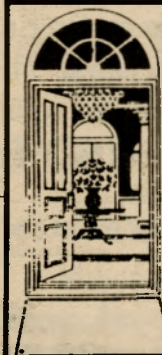
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Study sheds light on breast cancer

Gwen Corinth

Studying the mechanism by which a virus can cause breast cancer in mice may yield important information about human breast cancer, says a Medical College of Georgia scientist.

Dr. Nurul Sarkar, MCG professor of cell and molecular biology, is studying how the cancer virus changes normal cells to cancer and how diet affects breast cancer development and metastasis, the spread of cancer cells through the body. He will discuss these projects in a lecture titled "Molecular Biology of Breast Cancer: Current Results and Scope of Future Work" at 4 p.m. April 26 in Room 108 of the Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D., Memorial Library. The lecture is part of a series, MCG Research Reports, sponsored by the MCG School of Graduate Studies, and is open to the public.

Cancer results if the cancer virus enters the mouse breast cell at a particular site in the cell's DNA, a process called integration. By studying genetically transmitted cancer virus integration in strains of mice which vary in cancer incidence, Dr. Sarkar hopes to understand whether the

cancer incidence is due to differences in the viruses or in the mice.

Also, Dr. Sarkar hopes to discover which segment of the cancer virus DNA prompts a healthy cell to become cancerous.

Another experiment seeks to discover proteins unique to tumor cells. Dr. Sarkar is extracting pro-

teins from several normal and cancerous cells, both human and mouse, and is allowing those proteins to react with a specific DNA sequence of the mouse cancer virus to see if they bind together.

Dr. Sarkar has found that certain proteins obtained from mouse and human cancer cells bind with the

viral DNA, which indicates a possible link between human and mouse breast cancer.

Dr. Sarkar's studies of the effects of calories and fat on breast cancer development and on cancer cell metastasis suggest that a diet reduced in both calories and fat may be important in cancer prevention.

Dr. Sarkar has spent 20 years in breast cancer research, including work at the Institute for Medical Research in Camden, N.J., and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He has received more than \$3 million in grant support from the National Cancer Institute over the past 10 years.



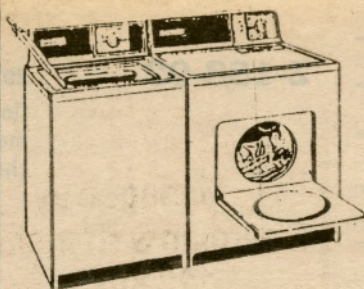
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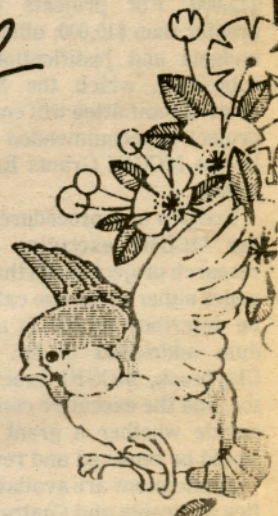
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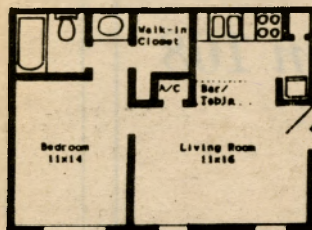


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Newsbriefs

Grant applications

May 15 is the next submission deadline for Medical College of Georgia Research Institute grant applications. Grants are available for: interim support for faculty members whose grant applications to major funding agencies have been approved but not funded; and support for new full-time MCG faculty (three years or less) to establish pilot studies required for the development of a grant application to a major funding agency.

Maximum funding is normally \$10,000. For projects with needs greater than \$10,000, alternate larger budgets and justifications may be submitted, which the MCGRI executive committee will consider if the project is recommended for funding by the MCGRI Grants Review Committee.

Under a new procedure adopted by the MCGRI executive committee, research project needs that do not fall under either of the two categories can be described briefly in a memorandum addressed to Dr. J. Russell Claybrook, MCGRI executive director, and the executive committee will decide whether a grant application would be received and reviewed.

Applications are available in the Office of Grants and Contracts, AA-130, or by calling ext. 2592.

Grant submission deadlines are Jan. 15, May 15 and Sept. 15.

'Beeper' deadline

The deadline for the May 2 "Beeper" is April 25 at 5 p.m. Please inform personnel of any address changes to ensure delivery of "Beeper" to your home.

Training workshop

The Medical College of Georgia will sponsor an assertiveness training workshop May 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Drs. Anne Matthews and Pat Moody will teach participants techniques in communicating without feeling awkward, anxious or uncomfortable. Participants also will learn how to handle conflict and unpleasant situations with confidence and decisiveness. Drs. Matthews and Moody have presented this program to such companies as Chem Nuclear, South Carolina Electric and Gas Com-

pany, Daniel Management Center and Lexington Medical Center. Contact Kathy Baumgartner or Mary Olive Hagan (ext. 3779) for reservations. Space is limited.

Volunteers sought

The MCG Department of Allergy/Immunology is seeking spring hay fever sufferers to volunteer for a drug study of a new antihistamine. Participants will be paid. Call ext. 3531 if interested.

Check for discounts

MCG employees are encouraged to

check with the employee services/training section of Personnel for information about discounts area businesses offer MCG employees.

Discounts are offered at: Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom Club; Ramada Resort, Orlando, Fla.; Busch Gardens; Sea World; Cypress Gardens; Boardwalk Baseball; Opryland; Wall Tire Company; YMCA; Emilio's Italian Restaurant; Health Central; Goodyear Auto Service Centers; Carowinds; Panama City Beach Discounts; Club Paradise, Hilton Head Island, S.C.; Radio Shack; and Andy Jordan's Bicycles.

Book purchasing

Books to be purchased by campus departments should be requested from the bookstore by May 15.

Basic search cost

The cost of a library basic online search will increase from \$10 to \$12 beginning May 1. The basic search includes up to 100 citations from one database. Abstracts, additional citations and additional databases cost extra. Contact reference services, ext. 3667, for more information.

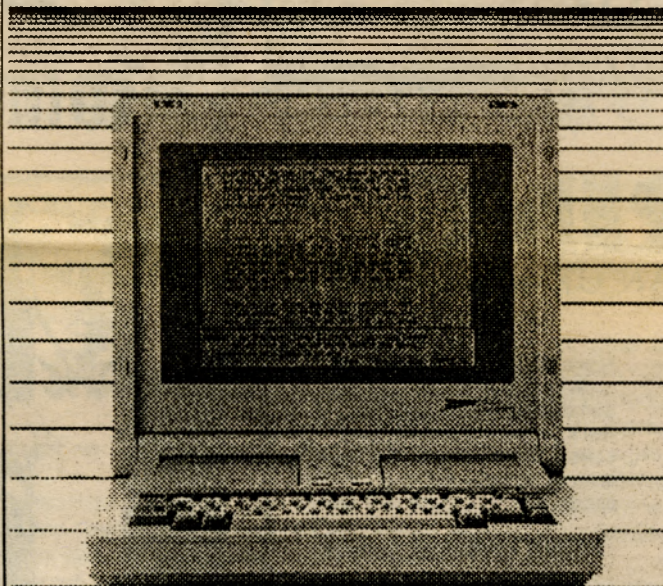
Videotapes available

Four copies of a videotape commemorating MCG's 160th anniversary are available to be checked out. Call Shirley Taylor, ext. 2123, if interested.

Photo display

Medical photography technician Matthew B. Aitken has a display of black and white historic and scenic photographs in the hallway of the Medical Illustration Graduate Program. All are invited to stop by and see it.

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