Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Work on Bldg. 10 ‘South Entry’ To Begin in August

Next month, NIH will enter the first phase of construction on the new Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center (CRC) with creation of a new main entrance for the current hospital. Because the CRC will occupy part of what is now Center Drive, a “South Entry” to the current building will be constructed, giving the hospital and clinic a new, temporary “front door.” The South Entry will be located at what now serves as the rear of the hospital, near the NIH Library and Masur Auditorium.

Vehicle access to this “entry” will be one way with the entrance from the intersection of South Drive and West Service Drive and exit via the service road fronting Bldg. 29. The exit roadway will run through what is now parking lot 10H. Plans call for a three-lane canopied drop-off area and one additional lane for emergency vehicles. This new entry will be complete with a lobby that offers security and information centers and two large seating areas.

Construction will begin in August and be completed in May 1998. As far as exterior changes, NIH employees will be affected.

HIghlights

1. Bldg. 20 Gets 86'ed
2. MEDLINE Now Free
3. Back Door Becomes Front at Bldg. 10
4. Kudos for ‘Back to Sleep’ Campaign
5. Parkinson’s Gene Found
6. NIH Turns Into ‘Toque-ville’

Federal Flat To Fall

NIH Apartment House Must Yield To New Hospital Construction

By Rich McManus

The hopeful spray of purple irises at its front stoop notwithstanding, Apartment Bldg. 20, which since 1954 has been home to NIH directors, foreign scientists, nurses, heart surgeons and on-call panjandrums of various stripe, will yield to the wrecking ball around Oct. 1. Rendered nearly charmless and irrelevant by its position in the shadow of its mammoth neighbor across the street—the Clinical Center is allegedly one of the world’s largest brick structures—Bldg. 20 lies in the path of the federal flat.

ORs’ Lenora Vauss (l) and Karen Queen managed 20 in its twilight years. It will be leveled this fall.

Info Superhighway Becomes Freeway

Vice President Gore Launches Free Access to NLM’s MEDLINE

By Melanie Modlin

With a few clicks of the keyboard, Vice President Al Gore recently performed the inaugural search opening up free access to MEDLINE on the World Wide Web. At a June 26 press event on Capitol Hill, he forecast the benefits of making the world’s largest medical database available to consumers, health professionals and scientists around the globe.

“This development is going to do more than anything we’ve done in a long time to make people healthy,” the Vice President noted at a Capitol Hill press event attended by key congressional leaders, NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus and officials from the National Library of Medicine, which created MEDLINE.

“From a computer in the comfort of your own home or from one in your neighborhood library, you will be able to access timely and accurate information,” said Gore. “Already 30,000 people a day are using MEDLINE. By making it more accessible—free and
Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore, recently agreed to be spokesperson of the Back to Sleep campaign to reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and is already spreading the campaign message of placing healthy infants on their backs to sleep. At the same time, Gerber Products Co. became the campaign's first corporate sponsor and is including the Back to Sleep message on the backs of 3 million Gerber rice cereal boxes and in 2.7 million mailers to parents of newborns. These two new partnerships mark an increased effort to expand the campaign's outreach and join an already committed group of both public and private organizations, led by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Dr. Marian Willinger, NICHD special assistant for SIDS and the Back to Sleep campaign developer who earlier received a DHHS award for the campaign, was named one of "10 Parenting Leaders: Men and Women Who Dedicate Their Hearts and Minds to Improving the Lives of Children," in conjunction with the American Academy of Pediatric's task force on infant positioning and SIDS, by Parenting magazine.

The groundwork for the national campaign was laid overseas, where growing evidence from several countries with back sleeping campaigns reported a drop in SIDS rates of about 50 percent and led to more than 90 percent of infants sleeping on their backs or sides.

The campaign has been widely accepted in the U.S. and has changed the way babies have been placed to sleep, breaking a predominant pattern of stomach sleeping that had been handed down from generation to generation. Although the causes of SIDS are still not known, what is known is that simply placing a healthy baby on his or her back to sleep can help reduce the risk of the disorder. The success of this recommendation is borne out in a 30 percent reduction in SIDS deaths between 1992 and 1995 (source: U.S. Vital Statistics), much of which is credited to the Back to Sleep campaign, and a 6 percent reduction in infant mortality this year. This reduction in SIDS deaths means that 1,500 fewer infants will die of SIDS this year.

For more information, contact Ruth Dubois, 6-5133. For free campaign materials, contact the Back to Sleep toll-free number: 800-505-CRIB.

Healthy Volunteers Wanted

The NIA Laboratory of Neurosciences is seeking healthy volunteers ages 18 and older to participate in research studies. Participation involves full medical evaluation, psychological testing, and brain scans (MRI, PET). Procedures require approximately 13 hours and participants will be paid $300 to $500 depending on time involved. For more information, call 6-4754, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; or 6-4273, after hours.
Gene for Some Parkinson's Found

Scientists at the National Human Genome Research Institute have for the first time precisely identified a gene abnormality that causes some cases of Parkinson's disease. The gene spells out instructions for a protein called alpha synuclein. In the abnormal version of the gene, the researchers found a mutation in a single base pair—one incorrect letter in the string of more than 400 that compose the instructions for making the protein. Because the normal gene plays a role in the function of nerve cells, the finding gives researchers a powerful new tool for understanding cellular abnormalities in Parkinson's disease and demonstrates a connection between Parkinson's disease research and research into other neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

The research appeared in the June 27 issue of the journal Science. According to NHGRI's Dr. Mihael Polymeropoulos, lead author, “the finding opens completely new horizons in understanding the disease and interpreting the biology of the illness. Moreover, the finding will have an application in the not too distant future as a clinical research tool within families especially prone to Parkinson's disease and may permit us to design clinical studies for investigating drugs or other ways of postponing or offering protection from the illness.”

The paper confirms last fall's report, coauthored by the same NHGRI team, that a predisposition to at least one form of Parkinson's disease is inherited and that the gene responsible was situated somewhere in a large region on the long arm of chromosome 4.

Until that report, most experts believed that Parkinson's disease was probably due to unknown factors present in the environment.

Parkinson's disease afflicts about a 500,000 people in the United States alone, with about 50,000 new cases reported every year. Its hallmark is shaking or trembling of a limb and, in the later stages, a slow, shuffling walk and stooped posture.

Parkinson's disease is a common progressive neurological disorder that results from loss of nerve cells in a region of the brain that controls movement. This degeneration creates a shortage of the brain signaling chemical dopamine, causing impaired movement. When symptoms grow severe, doctors usually prescribe levodopa (L-dopa), which helps replace the brain's dopamine.

NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci explains the new draft Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents that were announced June 19 by the panel on clinical practices for treatment of HIV infection. All people with CDC-defined AIDS should receive combination antiretroviral therapy, preferably with three drugs including a protease inhibitor, says the document. Fauci is cochair of the panel of federal, private sector and academic experts that wrote the guidelines, which will be updated periodically.

To view the document on the Web, visit http://www.cdc.gov.

‘Alternative’ Web Site

The Office of Alternative Medicine recently launched its website, which includes comprehensive information about its program and research activities, sponsored conferences, and links to other sources of information. Access the new website through the NIH home page link for “Office of the Director” or use the URL http://altmed.od.nih.gov.

Healthy Volunteers Needed

African American males ages 45-65 are needed to participate in a study of the causes of kidney failure. Study is looking for healthy men, taking no medicines, and takes approximately 1 hour. For more information, call 6-2711 and leave a message.
private—we can increase that number many times over." Previously, MEDLINE had been available only to those who registered and paid a fee.

The new method of MEDLINE access, known as "PubMed," makes available more than 9 million medical articles from 70 different countries, and is growing at a rate of 1,000 articles a day. In addition, more than 30 scientific journals and another 230 academic scientific journals are expected to be online in the coming weeks, allowing researchers to pull up the full text of articles right on their computers.

While conducting the first free MEDLINE search, the Vice President looked for information related to the treatment of a ruptured Achilles tendon. Gore, who had previously suffered such an injury, quickly found several articles that dealt with the subject. He was impressed that the information he found in the MEDLINE database was remarkably similar to what he had received from his doctors when he underwent surgery not long ago.

The Vice President's subsequent searches, on ear infections and the benefits of flu shots, were carried out in an entertaining and informative exchange with Dr. David Lipman, director of NLM's National Center for Biotechnology Information, who acted as his guide. NCBI developed PubMed, the new gateway to MEDLINE.

The press conference was sponsored by Senators Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), chair and ranking minority member of the Senate appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over NIH's budget.

"Today, ER meets the Internet," said Harkin at the Dirksen Office Bldg. event. "I am proud to play a role in this launching. It is historic. It will make a real difference. And if you listen closely, the clicking you will hear today will be the sound of millions of computer users bookmarking the MEDLINE site."

Specter described his own computer search to determine the best form of treatment for his brain tumor. He also noted that, with the advent of free MEDLINE, "The superhighway of medical information just became a freeway."

"The National Library of Medicine's debut of free Web-based searching could not be more timely," said NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg. "The health care delivery landscape is changing. Citizens are increasingly turning to the Web as a source of information to improve their daily lives, including their health. So it is vital," he continued, "that they, and the health professionals who serve them, have access to the most current and credible medical information."


Summer Term and the Learning Is Easy

DCRT's computer training program offers NIH employees more than 60 computer-related courses and seminars in July and August.

The emphasis this summer is on networks and the Internet, and classes range from basic LAN and Netscape to more advanced topics such as "DHCP, WINS and DFS Under Windows NT Server," and "Advanced Features of HTML." The Java and C++ multi-session courses may be of particular interest to programmers with C language experience.

"Introduction to the Helix Systems," will demonstrate the use of email, access to network services, and scientific applications. Other offerings include "Computer Security for Unix Administrators and Users," "Fundamentals of Unix," and "C Language Fundamentals."

Since developing and acquiring information from large databases is a major function of computing at NIH, DCRT is offering 13 classes covering general concepts and advanced topics in: Relational Database Design; Using SQL to Retrieve DB2 and Oracle Data; Oracle PL/SQL for Application Developers; and NIH Data Warehouse: Property Management.

Note that the Molecular Modeling Interest Group lecture, "Docking and High Throughput Drug Discovery," has been rescheduled for Aug. 12 at 10:30 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.

DCRT training is free and available to all NIH employees and registered users of DCRT systems. To receive a catalog or register, call 4-DCRT (4-3278), send email to 4DCRT@nih.gov, visit http://www.dcrt.nih.gov/, or drop by the DCRT help desk in Bldg. 12A, Rm. 1011.
Baldwin To Receive Public Service Award

Dr. Wendy H. Baldwin, NIH deputy director for extramural research, will receive the 1997 National Public Service Award for her outstanding accomplishments in the areas of science administration and reinvention. This award is cosponsored by the American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration to recognize outstanding practitioners in public service—individuals who have “made a difference” in public administration over a sustained period.

She will receive the award at a luncheon in Philadelphia on Tuesday, July 29.

Baldwin is responsible for the quality and effectiveness of the NIH investment of $8.5 billion of grants, and cooperative agreements that are awarded annually in support of the scientific programs of the agency’s institutes and centers.

She came to her current position 3 years ago following two decades of increasing responsibility and achievement at NIH. Building on her success as chief of demographic and behavioral sciences in the Center for Population Research, NICHD, and then deputy director for that institute, she brought both experience and fresh vision to the Office of the Director, NIH. For many years, she distinguished herself in the management of a nationally recognized program of research on adolescent pregnancy and childbirth. At NICHD she made outstanding contributions to research programs on behavior related to overall health, women’s health, AIDS, and reproductive behavior and helped negotiate legislation pertaining to the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research.

Her leadership is recognized not only across U.S. research agencies but also internationally. Baldwin represents the U.S. in the World Health Organization and the Human Frontiers of Science Program (a consortium of industrial nations supporting biomedical research). She also chairs the World Health Organization steering committee on social science research on reproductive health.

Baldwin developed a collaborative project with the Department of Labor that led to the development of a unique and cost-effective statistics database for researchers studying the impact of family and work experiences on children. This common set of statistics strengthened the scientific basis for understanding key components of a healthy, productive citizenry.

As one example of her leadership, she succeeded in having NIH’s extramural program designated a National Performance Review “reinvention laboratory” under Vice President Gore. She provides leadership for this effort to streamline the administrative processes for receiving, reviewing, awarding and monitoring grants, to “streamline administration while maximizing the investment in meritorious research.” This 3-year effort has already resulted in significant savings for both government and the scientific community.

She was selected for the National Public Service Award because she is a dedicated public servant and a model administrator who consistently sets a high standard of excellence in every domain of public service.

Workshop on Bone, Immune Systems

NIAMS will sponsor a 2-day workshop on “Bone and the Hematopoietic and Immune Systems” on Aug. 5-6. It will be held at Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 5, and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 6. Co-sponsors are ORWH, NIA, NIDR, NIAID and NIDDK.

The workshop will explore the mechanisms that link the development and maintenance of bone to the functions of the hematopoietic and immune systems, and should contribute to an assessment of the potential for future research in this area. To register and for special accommodation needs, send email to: amsconf@od.niams.nih.gov, or call Sharon Nouzari-Louis, 6-0801. Preregistration by July 18 is required.

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way of construction associated with the new Hatfield Clinical Research Center.

Because the CRC will bulge from the northwest face of Bldg. 10, Center Drive—NIH’s Main Street—will wrangle into the path of Bldg. 20, which must yield by eminent domain. The new building “will be 8 or 9 feet away” from where Bldg. 20 now stands, said Yong Duck Chyun, CRC project director.

While the bulk of the apartment house space will lay inside the courtyard of the new hospital, he explained, a realigned Center Dr. will also clip the property. One by one, the names are coming off the directory inside the lobby of the 7-story, 79-unit structure divided into one and two-bedroom apartments and efficiencies at 120 Center Drive (formerly 12 West Drive, notes longtime resident Dr. Tillye Corman, now retired to Gaithersburg). And with each name vanish decades of residence.

“It’s very sad to watch,” said Joyce Gormont, a critical care nurse who, for 27 years, shared Unit 211 with fellow nurse Eleanor Bayer. “Living there was like being part of a family, even though we weren’t involved in each other’s lives. It’s hard to even realize we don’t live there any longer,” said Gormont, who recently moved with Bayer to an apartment in Rockville.

“It was not just an apartment house, it was a way of life for [residents] and for me,” said Ophelia Harding, who was resident manager of the building for 23 years before retiring for health reasons in 1995 after 40 years of federal service. “I just loved it. It was like an extended family. It’s a real special building and I’m saddened by its closing. It served lots of needs. But there were rumbles that it might close for some time.”

“I’m sad to see it go because it served a good purpose,” said Karen Queen, building manager at 20 for the past 8 years, who is presiding over the facility’s gradual dismantlement. Last October, she and other colleagues from the Division of Space and Facility Management, ORS, which operates the Quarters Program that manages NIH’s inventory of residences (including three single-family homes, a dozen duplexes and five houses at the Poolesville animal center), held a “town meeting” in Masur Auditorium, which introduced tenants of 20 to their building’s bleak future. Residents learned then that everyone had to be out by Aug. 31, 1997.

“There were basically two reactions to our announcement,” said Queen: “Those who were displeased, and those who were unhappy but understood why we are doing this. The people who were sad felt that [Bldg. 20] was a major icon for NIH—it helped recruit people from foreign countries to come here to do studies. But many people also understood that change means progress in research, and that this is best for the NIH mission. I think they all took it in stride, but there were lots of questions at first. Some couldn’t understand why NIH was tearing it down.”

Over the years, the polyglot building has been a virtual United Nations of Bethesda, housing scientists and their families from all over the globe. There were Fogarty scholars-in-residence, future NIH and ICD directors including Bethadine Flaley, Harold Varmus and Francis Collins, assistant secretaries for health, heart surgeons in training, physicians-on-call, hospital administrators, nurses, participants in sleep studies, and, increasingly, office types.

“It wasn’t the same when they started turning some of the apartments into offices,” said Harding, who recalls with delight the young surgeons just starting families that she met while NIH still housed a heart surgery program. “It takes away from the apartment house—it’s just not the same. It was like night and day when the offices came. I knew all the residents and guests, and then there were so many people straggling in and out with the offices. It was good while it lasted. It will be missed.”

Ironically, one of the invading offices, located in Unit 101, belongs to Boston Properties, a management concern that is planning construction of the CRC.

Six of the building’s units were furnished and reserved for Fogarty scholars. “All they had to do was just put in some food and go right to work,” remembers Harding. “The Fogarty scholars were the most delightful people. They were very humble. You could be talking to them today, then see them on TV later that night making some big announcement. They were very important people, but they wouldn’t tell you that. You’d have to know that.”

She recalls that Varmus spent 6 weeks at the apartment house while his home in Washington, D.C., was being made ready for occupancy. “As long as he had his bicycle, he was happy,” laughs Harding. “The first question he asked me was ‘Did my bikes arrive?’ He was more interested in his bikes than in where he was going to stay.”
surgeons had to live there when NIH still did heart surgery. You met a lot of doctors who stayed there also patients: "There are seven rooms over there for the past 15 months or so. Rooms are on the first floor. I guess they've been managing by themselves, and their relatives. All those jobs quickly," said Ferguson, "because the quicker the autopsy, the better the results for the scientists. They don't do as many of those cases now, though." Harding said that Bldg. 20 served NIH's research mission by keeping scientists close to their work and disengaged from the hassles and congestion of workaday life in ever-urbanizing Bethesda. "The convenience of it gave them lots of time for research. All of the scientists were such dedicated people. They wouldn't eat if their wives didn't drag them to the table. But they were always very humble and gracious. If you did anything for them, they appreciated it."

In addition to researchers, the building housed a cadre of personnel essential to CC operations, including the late Jesse Ferguson, clinic administrator in the hospital's outpatient department, who died in his apartment in Unit 312 just days before he was scheduled to retire July 1, 1997, after 34 years at NIH. He had moved to Bldg. 20 in the spring of 1983 to meet a somewhat grim need—as the hospital's AIDS patient volume grew in the mid-eighties, officials with authority to spend funds were required to be on-call 24 hours a day so that autopsies and funerals could be arranged at any time of day or night. "They needed someone to do these jobs quickly," said Ferguson, "because the quicker the autopsy, the better the results for the scientists. They don't do as many of those cases now, though." Ferguson, who was remembered at a memorial service in Masur Auditorium July 8, said the building was essential as a residence for employees who always had to be able to get to work, no matter the weather. "It's been a convenient thing," he noted. "I'm sad to leave because this building is going to be destroyed, but I'm happy I was not one of the executioners," Cormann noted.

As of late June, some 50 residents—mostly short-termers who have lived there a year or less—still called 20 home, said Queen, who along with Lenora Vauss, a housing management specialist, is wrapping up the show there. "It will be a ball-and-chain demolition," said Queen, "no imploding at all. They're going to bring it down with a wrecking ball." On Sept. 1, site preparation work will begin, followed by demolition a month later. Queen has had NIH property managers assess what objects remain of value in the building; a public auction will disperse whatever items the General Services Administration does not tag for other facilities. Among these are kitchen cabinets, toilets and sinks, appliances and light fixtures. "We haven't had any offers yet for the Murphy beds that come out of the walls," laughed Queen. "The doors will come down with the building, but some locks will be reused." Queen herself will continue to do facility management, "but it just won't be an apartment building." She is scheduled to work at Rockledge temporarily before moving to a new eight-story Neuroscience Center being built off of Executive Blvd. for NIDA, NINDS and NIMH employees, due to open at the end of 1998.

Queen reports that when rental rates "increased drastically" at Apartment 20 some 5-6 years ago, occupancy rates fell off and never recovered. Those who remained were, as both Harding and Queen say, here to do a job. "They basically live in their labs when they are not in the building," observed Queen.

"It's been a good ride," she concludes. "I've learned a lot. I've grown a lot. But I know I'm going to learn more where I'll be placed." That's pretty much how other subjects of the Bldg. 20 diaspora feel. 1
only slightly by this construction:

**Exterior Impact**

- Pedestrian traffic to Masur Auditorium from South Campus will be interrupted until the new entrance is completed. However, employees may still use the B1 cafeteria entrance, the stair tower at the west end of Bldg. 10 near the department of transfusion medicine, and the entrance through the MRI wing. With the exception of some temporary sidewalks around the construction area, no other exterior pedestrian impact is anticipated.
- Vehicle traffic patterns are not expected to be affected by this construction. Movement of construction equipment/vehicles to this project and the Bldg. 50 project nearby may sporadically cause short delays during nonrush hours.
- The exit road for the new entry will take a portion of parking lot 10H. In an effort to keep the current number of parking spaces, the lot will be resurfaced, restriped and reconfigured. Employees currently using lot 10H will experience some minor phased decommissioning of parking spaces.
- Clinical Center employees, visitors, and patients will see various renovation-type construction on interior corridors to allow the new south entrance to link more directly to the ACRF and other major components of the CC.

**Interior Impact**

- Extending and enclosing the existing corridor west of Masur Auditorium and adjacent to the library.
- Adding a new enclosed corridor along the east wall of Masur to handle patient and visitor traffic.
- Upgrading and relocating existing mechanical systems for the library, Masur, and portions of the Medical Arts and Photography Branch, which is located on B2. These systems, now located on B1 under the auditorium’s stage, will move to the top of the new entry.
- Provide direct access from the new lobby to B1. During the 9-to-10 month construction period, NIH’ers can expect noise, vibrations, dust and general construction disturbance. However, construction will be coordinated around the Masur and library schedules, with some work scheduled during off hours. All procedures for power shutdowns and noise abatement will be followed.

**Female Volunteers Needed**

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks female volunteers ages 18-45 to participate in a 5-month study of the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles with no changes in mood in relationship to menses, be free of illness and not taking any hormones or medication on a regular basis. They will complete daily rating forms, be asked to participate in one of several protocols, and will be paid. Call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 6-9576.

**Correction**

The Web address for the new Human Resource Information and Benefits System at DCRT was incorrectly printed in the last issue of the NIH Record. The correct URL is http://eos4.dcrth.nih.gov/dcrthr.
Sometimes, the only way to confront complex problems is head on. That's what NHLBI and its ad hoc committee on minority populations are doing—with creativity as their weapon. The committee represents four U.S. minority populations: African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, and Latino/Hispanic Americans.

The 16-member multidisciplinary committee met recently with NHLBI staff to develop an action plan to help improve minorities' health into the next millennium. The plan includes recommendations on current NHLBI activities and on the development of two new cardiovascular health initiatives—one for American Indians and Alaska Natives and the other for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. The group used the powerful symbolism of the “circle” to explain bridging the knowledge gap by sharing information and experiences among the groups to stimulate dissemination of health information and improve the health of minority communities.

In his welcome, NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant said, “We face huge challenges, unfortunately in an era of shrinking resources. Yet, minority populations in the United States already bear a disproportionate burden of cardiovascular disease and, without continued help, the situation will worsen.

“But the past has shown us how effective we can be when we work together,” he continued. “Commitment and creativity are powerful public health tools when applied strategically.”

Dr. David Baines, an American Indian physician from Idaho and chair of the committee, agreed that creativity is just one of the factors that will be required in the wake of shrinking resources to achieve community-wide dissemination of heart health information to minority populations.

The 2-day meeting concentrated on reviewing two successful NHLBI outreach efforts, including the Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) in Blacks Initiative and the NHLBI Latino Community CVD Prevention and Outreach Initiative, Salud para su Corazón, (Health for Your Heart). Salud para su Corazón was recently recognized by the DHHS Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service.

Key action points and recommendations emerged from the meeting’s presentations and discussion groups for each of the four groups. The American Indian and Alaska Native and the Asian and Pacific Islander recommendations focused on new efforts to be initiated. The African American and Latino recommendations focused on developing partnerships and disseminating materials and tools that were developed previously by the CHD in Blacks Initiative and the Salud para su Corazón. Recommendations ranged from involving community members at all levels of the projects to increasing the use of high technology to help speed and broaden dissemination of health information.

The committee is demonstrating what can be accomplished if there is a shared vision among minority communities to improve cardiovascular health.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter (l) visited the National Institute of Mental Health’s intramural research program to learn about research on the brain, behavior, and mental disorders. Carter, who has spearheaded national conferences and other activities devoted to mental health issues, is shown on the 4th floor of the Clinical Center with Dr. Susan Swedo, acting NIMH scientific director. Swedo and Dr. Rex Cowdry, NIMH acting deputy director, presented an overview of intramural research. Dr. David Pickar, chief of the Experimental Therapeutics Branch, guided Carter on a tour of the schizophrenia ward.

The Clinical Psychobiology Branch, NIMH, needs subjects who habitually sleep 9 hours or more, or 6 hours or less, ages 21-30, for a 5-consecutive-night sleep study. The volunteer should be very healthy, with no history of mental illness, no sleep disorders, and should not be on any medications, including over-the-counter medications and birth control. Study subjects will be paid. Contact Holly Giesen or Michael Jackson, 6-6981.

GEHA Health Plan Service Day

GEHA Health Plan will have a representative on the NIH campus Thursday, July 17, to assist enrollees who have questions or enrollment/claims problems. The representative will be here from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Rm. 3C05.

No appointment is necessary. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Down Syndrome Study Recruits

Adults ages 18 and older with Down syndrome are sought for memory and aging studies conducted by NIA's Laboratory of Neurosciences. For more information call 6-4754, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours call 6-4273.
'Science in the Cinema' Begins July 24

Right before your eyes at NIH this summer, a man gets cloned, an alcoholic vows to drink himself to death, and a talented pianist suffers a mental breakdown. These things all happen in the movies, of course, and are part of the "Science in the Cinema" film festival.

This free series of movies—all related to medical science—begins its fourth season at NIH on Thursday, July 24. A movie will be shown once a week for 6 weeks at 7 p.m. in Natcher Auditorium. Following the screening of each film, a guest speaker with expert knowledge of the film's subject area will lead a discussion with the audience about the film.

Opening night will feature The Elephant Man, the 1980 film based on the true story of John Merrick, who suffers from a disfiguring disease, likely Proteus syndrome. John Hurt portrays the title character, so nicknamed during his degrading life as a circus freak.

On July 31, moviegoers will see the 1940 classic Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet. This film stars Edward G. Robinson as real-life German doctor and researcher Paul Ehrlich, who, against the will of his colleagues in the medical establishment, develops a vaccine for syphilis.

Multiplicity will be screened on Aug. 7. Michael Keaton and Andie McDowell star in this comedy about an overworked contractor who clones himself so he will have time to spend with his family.

Shine, the 1996 film for which Geoffrey Rush won the Academy Award for best actor, will be the feature on Aug. 14. Rush portrays Australian pianist David Helfgott, who suffers an emotional breakdown following a concert.

On Aug. 21, the heartbreaking story of baseball legend Lou Gehrig, The Pride of the Yankees, will be screened. Gary Cooper portrays Gehrig, who retires from the game after he learns he has a fatal neurological disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The film series closes on Aug. 28 with Leaving Las Vegas, the wrenching story of a depressive alcoholic who goes to Las Vegas, vowing to drink himself to death. Nicolas Cage won the 1995 Academy Award for best actor in this role.

The films are sponsored by the Office of Science Education. Anyone can come on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information call 2-2469.

Memory Loss Study Needs Vols

Individuals with mild to moderate memory loss who are suspected to have Alzheimer's disease are sought by NIA's Laboratory of Neurosciences. For more information, call 6-4754, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours call 6-4273.

FARE Rewards Research Excellence

The Fellows Award for Research Excellence (FARE) this year will again provide recognition for outstanding scientific research. The NIH fellows committee, financially supported by the scientific directors and Office of Research on Women's Health, will award 120 basic science and clinical fellows with $1,000 each, toward domestic travel and other costs associated with a scientific meeting. This money must be used between Oct. 1, 1997 and Sept. 30, 1998.

Applications, including abstracts, may be electronically submitted through the fellows Web site ftp://helix.nih.gov/felcom/index.html. Access to this site is available at the User Resource Center in Bldg. 31 as well as the Bldg. 10 library; ask about it at the information desks.

Alternatively, paper applications will be available from the Office of Education (6-2427) or your fellows committee representative. Applications are being accepted now until Aug. 15 at 5 p.m. Winners will be announced by mid-October. Questions should be directed by email to fellows@box-f.nih.gov or to your institute's fellows committee representative. The application form and instructions, as well as examples of last year's winning abstracts, can be accessed at Felcom, the fellows Web site.
NIH Officer Tops Training Class

NIH Police Officer John Laurito recently won the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Highest Academic Average Award after completing 8½ weeks at the center's Glynco, Ga., facility.

A former member of the U.S. Coast Guard who joined NIH in January, Laurito trained with federal officers from several other agencies including the Bureau of Engraving, U.S. Mint, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Postal Service, rising to the top of his 48-member class with a 99.66 overall academic average. “The hardest part was probably the legal aspect of the written exam,” he said, explaining details of the intense training required of all federal police officers. “It’s also tough being away from home that long, but other than that and the long days, the training is enjoyable.”

Seminar on Assessing Contractor Performance

The Bethesda/Medical chapter of the National Contract Management Association is hosting a brown bag lunch seminar entitled, “Implementing the Past Performance Regulations—One Year Later.” Speakers include David Muzio of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy and Mary Armstead of NIH’s Office of Contracts Management. Open to all, the meeting is Wednesday, July 16 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. EPN, Conf. Rm. G. Call Sharon Miller, 6-8611, for details.

Former NIGMS Fellowships Officer Dies

Dr. Roger B. Fuson, a former NIGMS fellowships officer, died on June 19 of a heart illness at Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick, Md. He was 81.

Fuson retired in 1982 after 31 years of government service, 20 of which he spent at NIGMS. During the period he worked at NIGMS, he held positions in the Research Grants Branch, Research Fellowships Branch, and Clinical and Physiological Sciences Program. After receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, Fuson went to the University of Utah, where he earned a master's degree in bacteriology and a doctorate in anatomy.

He is survived by his wife, former NIH employee Lucy Jewell Fuson, two stepchildren, and seven step-grandchildren.

Like To Have More Money?

Many of us are guilty of being money wasters and most of us could have money if we managed it more wisely. Several guest speakers will help you learn to manage your money more profitably at a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) free program series. Dates and topics for the Wednesday sessions are:

July 16, “Creative Debt Reduction”
July 23, “Working Through the Mortgage Maze”
July 30, “How To Save for Those Special Events, i.e., new home, new car, retirement, etc.”

All sessions are from noon to 1 p.m. in the Little Theater, Visitor Information Center, Bldg. 10. No registration is needed, just drop in. For more information call EAP at 6-3164. Check out dates of other programs at http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/ds/page2/dscal.htm.

DCRT Courses and Programs

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information, call 4-3278 or consult DCRT’s home page at http://csb.dcrt.nih.gov/training/index.html.

Creating Web Presentations with PowerPoint 7/17
Macintosh Shortcuts and Techniques I 7/17
Data Technology Seminar 7/18
NIH Data Warehouse: Procurement and Market Requisitions Mini Session 7/18

Injured on the Job?

Do you have a work-related upper extremity problem or injury, i.e., carpal tunnel syndrome, tendinitis, or repetitive strain injury of the fingers, wrist, elbow or shoulder? USUHS is conducting a study that includes a $40 payment. Volunteers must be ages 20-60, seen by a physician within the past month and currently working. Call (301) 295-9659.

Dr. Terrie Wetle, deputy director of the National Institute on Aging, recently received two awards for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology: the President’s Award from the American Society on Aging, and the Key Award from the gerontological health section of the American Public Health Association (APHA). At APHA’s 124th annual meeting, she discussed the problems of diminishing resources in science today and the important relationship between scientific research and continuing progress in gerontology. She “hopes to continue to make contributions toward improving the quality of the life of older people.”
R&W Barbecue Raises Money for Children With Cancer

To raise money for Camp Fantastic, the summer camp for children with cancer, the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association held its 15th annual Camp Fantastic Barbecue on June 17, which featured live music from “Streetlife” and appearances from Barbara Britt from Mix 107.3 and the Oriole Bird. The fete took place on the picnic grounds outside the Bldg. 31 cafeteria, and according to Karen Ciaschi, director of recreation and employment services for R&W, close to 100 NIH employees volunteered their time to help sell tickets, serve food, set up and clean up. Also present were R&W General Manager Randy Schools, and Camp Fantastic medical director, Dr. Stephen Chanock.

Besides organizing fundraisers for children’s charities, the nonprofit R&W seeks to contribute to the health and well-being of NIH employees and the immediate community by working with local merchants to make available to them many services that make their life easier at the workplace such as gift shops, fitness centers and discounts that can save an R&W member between $50 and $100 a year. R&W-supported activities also include workshops and dynamics for personal and social improvement and sporting events.

Chamber Music Concert, July 20

The Rock Creek Chamber Players will conclude their 1996-1997 concert series at NIH with a performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 20 in the 14th floor assembly hall at the Clinical Center. This free public concert, sponsored by the recreation therapy section, will include songs by Purcell for tenor solo and duet, accompanied by baroque instruments; Dvorak’s Bagatelles for two violins, ’cello and harpsichord; duets for flute and clarinet including Villa-Lobos’ Choros No. 2; and Mozart’s quintet for horn and strings. For more information call (202) 337-8710.

First Native American Youth Initiative

Native American high school students from different tribal nations around the country participated in the first ever Native American Youth Initiative (NAYI) during the week of June 23-27. The students explored academic and career opportunities at NIH, where they visited different IC's and learned about important areas of research.

Phyllis Greene, executive director of NAYI and coordinator of job training at the Baltimore Indian Center, underlined the importance of this program for the Native American community. “Our vision for the future, if our people are to survive, is to become educated and trained in the new biomedical fields of the 21st century. The shortage of Native American health professionals and the lack of culturally sensitive health providers has led to underutilization of the health care system by Native Americans.”

Participants in NAYI belong to diverse Indian tribal nations such as Navajo, Piscataway/Conoy, Osage, Fort Sill Apache, Lumbee, Sioux, Choctaw and Kiowa.

Above, NAYI Executive Director Phyllis Greene is shown with John Medina, Diversity Program manager at NIH (front row, fifth and fourth from l, respectively).