



VDC NEWS

VINELAND DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER/HOSPITAL
VINELAND, NEW JERSEY

DR. M. CRUZ
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNETTE LANGER
EDITOR



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT
OF
HUMAN SERVICES

VOL. II

MARCH 1984

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AN "INCREDIBLE" STORY



Renee and Foster Grandmom Abromaitis use the typewriter to communicate.

Renee, a school age client enrolled in the SFEA Program, has everyone excited these days. She has made amazing progress and has us all wondering what's next. The story begins about two years ago when her teacher became aware of Renee's developing ability to read. At the same time a Foster Grandmom, Mrs. Bernice Abromaitis, was assigned to Renee and began working with her in the classroom. Her teacher, Mrs. Kathy Bellan, felt that Renee needed to increase her hand strength as well as eye-hand coordination and secured a typewriter for her use. Grandmom Abromaitis and Renee began using the typewriter and gradually it became a means of communication for her.

Today, Renee has the ability to read with the help of pictures and sign language, type what she sees, and then with help, read back what she has typed. Grandmom Abromaitis has learned sign language in her spare time and can communicate with Renee who is nonverbal. After Renee types a few sentences grandmom will ask her to identify a word she has typed which she does without any difficulty. With the use of a typewriter Renee has command of the alphabet and quite a large vocabulary. She can type sentences from a book and any word grandmom shows her in sign language. Grandmom continues to attend Renee's speech therapy sessions in hopes of furthering Renee's progress and enabling her to reach her highest potential whatever that may be.



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Communication is the key to success in any organization. We can define communication as behavior that leads to an exchange of meaning. It requires a sender, a receiver, and a medium. All day, every day in our work life, we communicate with those we work with and with our clients. The medium most used is words, therefore most of our communication is verbal. You are all aware that I have always been very strong in my disapproval of the use of profanity or vulgar slang. In the course of my life I have traveled widely and have been in a wide variety of social settings. I learned that the use of profanity has no boundaries limiting it to any type of individual or particular social structure. It is not related to education, affluence or social status.

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It is my firm belief that those individuals whose vocabulary is largely composed of four letter words quite simply don't think very much of themselves. They have little self esteem or sense of self worth. I believe that professionals whose language is highly colored with profanity have feelings of professional incompetence or inferiority as well.

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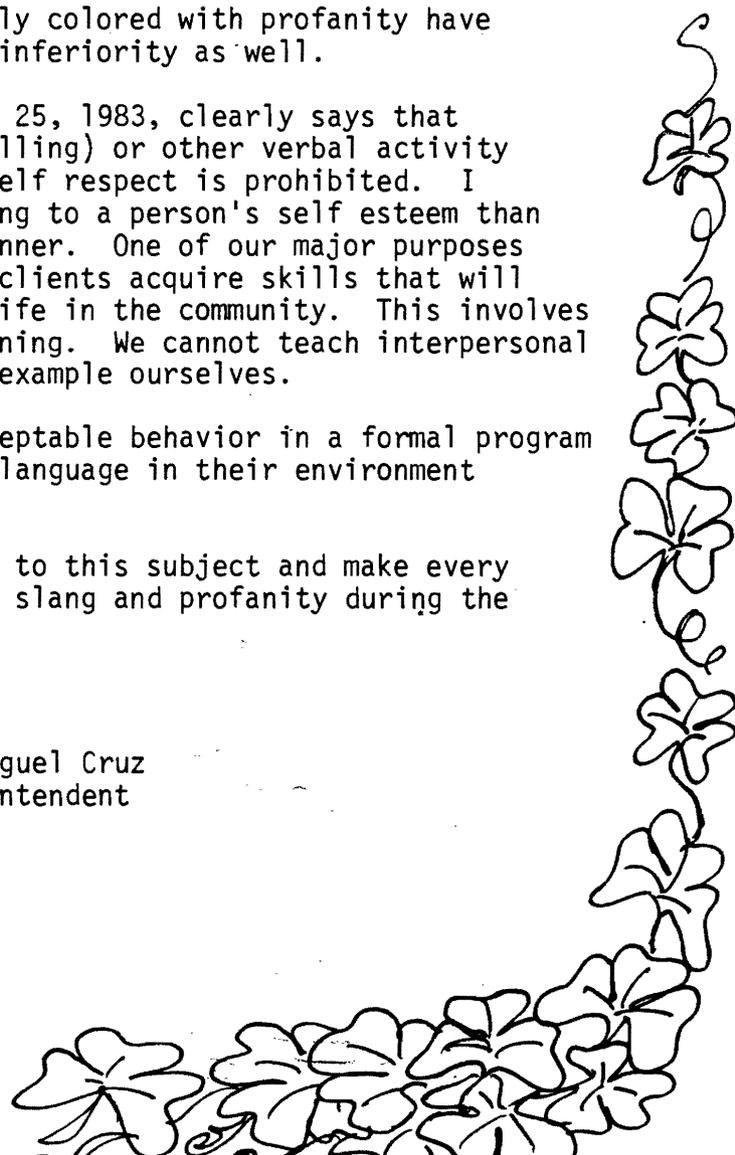
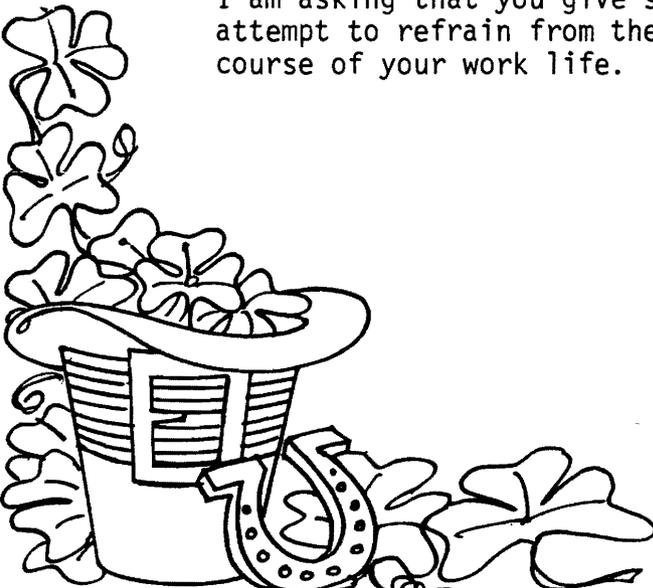
Executive Policy #105, which I issued May 25, 1983, clearly says that verbal abuse (shouting, swearing, name calling) or other verbal activity that may be damaging to an individual's self respect is prohibited. I don't think there is anything more damaging to a person's self esteem than to be addressed in a degrading, vulgar manner. One of our major purposes as a Developmental Center is to help our clients acquire skills that will enable them to cope with the demands of life in the community. This involves raising the level of their social functioning. We cannot teach interpersonal and social skills if we don't set a good example ourselves.

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Clients who are being taught socially acceptable behavior in a formal program cannot help but become confused when the language in their environment utilized by staff is the opposite.

I am asking that you give serious thought to this subject and make every attempt to refrain from the use of vulgar slang and profanity during the course of your work life.

Dr. Miguel Cruz
Superintendent



BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Randy Cerana, Group Homes - a boy
 Carolyn Dickson, Hospital - a girl
 Charlotte DiGiovacchine, Hospital - a girl
 Louise Hopkins, Donahue - a girl
 Barbara Pierce, Sykes - a girl
 Delores Scruggs, Education - a boy
 Kim Speer, Social Service - a boy
 Chloe Fowler, Owens, Pond - a girl

WEDDING BELLS RANG RECENTLY FOR:

Mrs. Kenneith (Porch) Hayman - East
 Mrs. Alverta (Lute) Prato - East
 Mrs. Kathi (Green) Rush - Landis
 Mrs. Michele (Dolbow) Watson - East

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BEST WISHES FOR RETIREMENT TO:

Alex Levin, 5 years - Patient Accounts
 Magdalena Melendez, 11 years - Lee
 Alexandra Pelich, 28 years - North
 Edward Polatsek, 5 years - Mental Health
 Laura Quairoli, 12 years - Giles

SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO:

Sandra Asselta, Hospital, on the loss of her father
Ida Brelsford, Pond, on the loss of her father
Maria Ciarlante, C-AR/Sewing Center, on the loss of her mother
Fannie Gause, Brown, on the loss of her brother
Laura Gregory, Brown, on the loss of her brother
Rosa Holden, Jones, on the loss of her father
Joan M. Miller, Giles, on the loss of her mother
Marian Murray, C-AR Housekeeping, on the loss of her mother
Esther Owens, Brown, on the loss of her son
Jackie Saul, Hospital, on the loss of her father
Josephine Sayres, East, on the loss of her father
Mary M. Taylor, C-AR/Section III, on the loss of her husband

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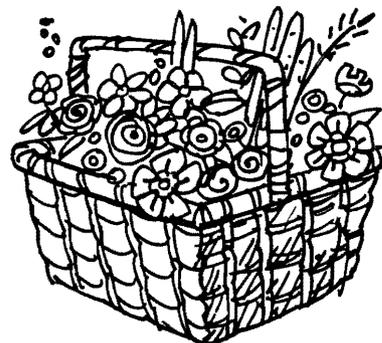
PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Consistent employee attendance is one of the critical ingredients in providing high levels of quality care and programming for our clients. The administration is proud to recognize and congratulate the following employees who have accumulated no absences due to illness for the period of December 1, 1983 through February 29, 1984:

Allen, Bertha-Giles	Cerana, Randolph-Group Homes
Behler, Kenneth-Carp.Shop	Ciancarelli, Barbara-Administration
Bell, Anna-Harper	Ciancarelli, Domenic-Employee Relations
Bell, John-Housekeeping	Clark, Joyce - Fisher
Bellone, Andrew-Grounds	Cohan, Donna Jo - Speech Therapy
Bennett, Geneva-Wolv.	Colon, Harriette - Switchboard
Betsch, Christian-Pat'sAccts.	Cook, Monakay - Brown
Bianchi, Virginia-Donahue	Cruz, Aida - Emery
Botts, Doris-Laboratory	Dandrea, Josephine - Main
Brown, Lillie P.-Fisher	Davis, John - Maintenance
Bryant, Catherine-Wolverton	DeMarco, Samuel - Housekeeping
Bush, Louis-Food Serv.	Derby, Ronald - Pond
Cannon, George-Food Serv.	DeSotomayor, Benicia - B Wing/Health Services
Cardillo, Deborah-OPD/Health Serv.	DiPalma, Ernest - Laboratory
Carlson, Terri-Lee	Dockery, Leola - Main

PERFECT ATTENDANCE - Cont. from p. 3

Dolinski, Elizabeth - Physical Therapy
 Doughty, Mary - Vocation
 Dube, Theresa - Housekeeping Administration
 Ealey, Erika - East
 Emery, Lee - Powerhouse
 Finney, Arnetta - North
 Force, Christine - Mental Health
 Fox, William - West
 Gartland, Gerard - Pond
 Gembiskie, Connie - OPD/Health Services
 Gesty, Edward - Personnel
 Gibbons, Kathleen - Kimble
 Glass, Charlie Mae - Reeves
 Green, Irene - Allan
 Griffin, Jacquetta - Kimble
 Hall, Ann - Arbor Ave. Group Home
 Hannah, Frances - OPD/Health Services
 Harris, Walter - North
 Hamilton, Eunice - Landis
 Hauser, Eleanor - Mental Health
 Haynes, Rosa - Kimble
 Heery, Helene - Reeves
 Holden, Deborah - Wolverton
 Holley, Minnie - Pond
 Irrera, Thomas - Carpenter Shop
 Keim, Dorothea Ann - Health Services
 Kelley, Ethel - Sykes
 Kelley, Marrinetta - Pond
 Kollock, Alice - Harper
 Kubrak, Anna May - Sewing Room
 Lambert, Martha - Housekeeping
 Langley, Sandra - Wolverton
 Letts, Charles - Social Services
 Levin, Rose - Social Services
 Lindsay, Marjorie - Administration
 Madden, Catherine - Medical Records
 Martelli, Ferdinand - Mason Shop
 Martorana, Mickel - Food Service
 Mazzola, Louis - Vocation
 McBride, John - Police
 McCloud, Inez - OPD/Health Services
 Mendez, Emma - OPD/Health Services
 Mennone, Anthony - Pharmacy
 Mobley, Sarah - Sykes
 Monteleone, David, Sr. - Maintenance
 Mund, Walter - Food Service
 Nicholson, Linda - OPD
 Nixon, Artie - Laboratory
 Ortiz, Jane - Reeves
 Pearce, George - Garage
 Peralta, Bernardo - Hospital
 Petro, Mary - Housekeeping
 Peyton, Peggy - Grisco
 Phommathep, Sengdara - B Wing/Health Services
 Piccone, Anthony - Food Service
 Pritchett, Gloria - West
 Prospero, James - Food Service
 Polhamus, Ruth - Timekeeping
 Puri, Ajudhia - Occupational Therapy
 Puri, Rakesh - Sykes
 Rissek, Boris - Housekeeping
 Rizzo, Ettore - Plumbing Shop
 Roberts, Dorothy - West
 Rodriquez, Awilda - Wolverton
 Rolon, Andres - Food Service
 Sarik, Dr. Michael - Health Services
 Saunders, Ma'Rita - Resident Living
 Seabo, Frank - Business Office
 Shaw, Phillip - Garage
 Shultz, Marie - Reeves
 Silvestri, Forquato - Housekeeping
 Small, Jacob - Pharmacy
 Smith, Michael - Recreation
 Szakasits, Mamie - Health Services
 Tan, Dr. Wilson - Health Services
 Timberman, James - Social Services
 Thomas, Ruby Lee - A Wing/Health Services
 Trautenberg, Edward - Pharmacy
 Turner, Ceffie - Jones
 Tulli, Domenico - Housekeeping
 Voorakkara, Seeta - Wolverton
 Webb, Leola - Donahue
 Whaley, Teresa - West
 Whittington, Gladys - Brown
 Wilson, Dorothy - Bassett
 Wilson, Lizzie - Food Service
 Wilson, Lois - OPD/Health Services
 Yancy, Theresa - Speech Therapy
 Youst, Barbara - Giles
 Zee, Jean - OPD/Health Services
 Zolkov, Robert - Police
 Zozofsky, Denise - Kimble



A "SPECIAL BIRTHDAY"

By V. Bianchi, SPRS/Section I- C-AR

Happy Birthday to Miss Elizabeth Redding who was ninety-nine years young on January 2, 1984. Miss Redding enjoyed a special catered dinner in Fisher Cottage with her friends to celebrate the occasion. When asked how it felt to be ninety-nine, she replied "Just fine, can I have my cake?"

Miss Redding has lived at the Vineland Developmental Center since 1917 and has spent the last two years in an ICF/MR Cottage. She is a petite lady who enjoys quietly watching TV in the living room of her cottage. Her many friends wish her a Happy Birthday and are looking forward to her celebrating her centennial.



VINELAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS PARTY

On Tuesday, February 14th, the Vineland Rotary Club sponsored a Valentine's Day Party for 15 clients in Reeves Cottage. Each Rotarian and his wife "adopted" an individual client for the evening and the couples brought small Valentine's Day presents for their "adoptees". The party itself had the ingredients necessary for success: ice cream, cake, candy and soda.

The Vineland Club's involvement with the VDC/H is due in part to special emphasis given by District 764, District Governor Don Yeager. Yeager, who is the Governor for the majority of Clubs in New Jersey, contacted Governor Thomas Kean and Commissioner George Albanese who supported his "Adopt-A-Rotarian Program" for the current Rotary year.



*Rotarian Edward Bernhardt and Jean Fox/
HCTS-Reeves Cottage*



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RESIDENT ACTIVITIES- Cont. from page 5

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEWS

SFEA clients recently participated in the Special Olympics Area 8 Basketball Competition and were awarded medals as follows:

1st Place
Melanie Gustavsen
Taunya Thigpen

2nd Place
Cynthia Litchfield

4th Place
Diane Laws

5th Place
Jeanette Burroughs



Residents of the P.A.F.A. Park Avenue Group Home participated in the Special Olympics Winter Games at McAfee, New Jersey

Gail Sagnis, Maureen Connell, Cindy SanFilippo and Nancy Golden participated in Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing and won several ribbons and medals.

The weather was sensational and everyone had a great time.

CHAPLAIN ASSIGNED TO THE VDC/H

Father Bob Weber has recently been assigned as Chaplain to the VDC/H. He is available to staff and residents for religious and ethical concerns. He can be contacted at the Administration Annex, 1st floor during these hours:

Monday	4:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	12:30 to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

In addition, phone inquiries can be made by calling his Institutional Extension 6033 or by leaving a message at 691-0420.

DIETITIANS TRANSFER TO HEALTH SERVICES

By Bette Gerula, R.D.

As of January 9, 1984, the Clinical Dietitians (formerly the ICF Dietitians) at Vineland Developmental Center transferred from the Food Service Department to Health Services. The transfer included the Clinical Dietitian formerly assigned to food service, thereby increasing the staff to four plus a supervising dietitian. This additional staff member has made it possible to expand nutritional services to include a portion of the Non-ICF clients, a long time goal of the nutritionists.

Dr. Peralta, Chief of Health Services, met with the nutritionists Jean Barbarotto, RD, Hospital Dietitian; Dianne Albanese, Marie Guldin, Sara Mulford, Lydia Vasiliev,

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NEWS FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 6 - Dietary Services

Sr. Dietitians and Bette Gerula, RD, Supervising dietitian on January 24 to clarify organizational procedures and to begin plans for Quality Assurance.

Offices for this staff remain in Rooms 212 and 213 of the ADM building, and the staff continues to serve ICF cottages on both campuses, but as of February 1, 1984, all diabetic clients, all school age clients, and all clients in Ireland, Main, Lee, North, and West will receive full nutritional assessments with dietary goals set at their IHP meetings.

Since Food and Nutrition are so closely aligned, the reassignment will in no way change the close cooperation between Medical, Food Service, and the dietitians who continue to place as their first priority the best possible service to our clients.

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QUALITY ASSURANCE - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

By Shirley Halacki, QA Coordinator

Quality Assurance is not a new program at VDC/H. In the mid 70's we established a QA Program in Health Services. Dr. Cruz recruited Dr. Alexander Rodi as a Consultant to help us design the program. Dr. Rodi has extensive experience in QA. We successfully implemented a program that met both JCAH and Department of Health Hospital licensing standards. At that time I was the QA Coordinator.

The QA function was that of review and evaluation of the quality and appropriateness of care. This was done by "auditing". Every department/service in Health Services was required to participate in a specific number of audits each year. There were many many audits which took many many hours. QA people at that time attended seminars which taught a very detailed method of auditing called the Performance Evaluation Procedure, or "PEP Methodology". This was an excellent tool for identifying problems but the focus on solving the problem was somewhat weak.

As the years passed, we watched the focus of responsibility become more directed toward department/service and self-evaluation. The persons providing the service were more directly charged with identifying problems, using measurable, realistic criteria to assess the problems, establishing priorities, implementing correction and then monitoring it. In 1981, when Betty Henderson took over my role as Health Services QA Coordinator, her role became more of a facilitator, a catalyst. She was charged with promoting the fact that individuals, departments and services have to accept responsibility for the things they do. Presently in Health Services, Lacy Haynicz is coordinating QA. We have not yet tied Health Services QA Program in with the over-all VDC QA Program, but that is a long-range goal.

In 1983, Dr. Cruz decided to implement a QA Program facility-wide. The reason for developing the program was NOT because Dr. Cruz thought quality care and service WASN'T being provided. It was because Dr. Cruz had firsthand experience in Health Services in seeing that a formal QA Program gives structure and a unified means of achieving and documenting progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the facility. The new program was established in December. We were once again able to recruit Dr. Rodi as a Consultant, and he is directing the program. I am coordinating the program and I act for Dr. Rodi in his absence. The goal is to improve care and service through evaluation by objective assessment and the correction of identified or potential problems, always with attention to cost effective utilization of resources. All of us deal with problems. Dr. Kaplan, from the J.C.A.H., lectured

Cont. on page 8

NEWS FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 7 - QA Coordinator

here in December. He offered a very important comment in reference to problem identification. "If you've got a department that says, 'no, we have no problems, over and over again,' you've got a problem!"

Our QA Program applies to all departments/services whose activities within the Developmental Center have direct or indirect influence on the quality of care and service. That means everyone! Dr. Cruz and Dr. Rodi share a very strong philosophy. "If you see a problem, or are acquainted with a problem, you have a responsibility to correct or report the problem. If you don't, YOU are part of the problem!" That applies to all of us!

The structure of our QA Program provides a mechanism for you to report your concerns to the subcommittee that represents your department/service. Your subcommittee reports to the VDC QA Committee which is chaired by Dr. Rodi, and reports to Dr. Cruz.

The Office of Quality Assurance also does many other quality related services. For example, Marie Chinnici is chairing a UIR Committee which is responsible for scientific analysis of all major or unusual incidents. Our long range goal is to tie this in with a Risk Management Program. Barbara Ciancarelli is coordinating the review and revision of all VDC Procedures. Ensuring the effective implementation of procedures is definitely a QA responsibility. Barbara is responsible for conducting "process" or on-site audits of procedures. We recently developed a liaison with the Office of Staff and Community Development which will provide for inservice of procedures for staff who are responsible for their implementation. Sharon Harris is the Secretary in the QA Office. She is also responsible for coordinating the update of Individual Data Bases for C-LA, and will be responsible for data entry updates of the computerized client profile for both campuses. The Central Client Record Department, directed by Lacy Haynicz, is also organizationally under the Office of Quality Assurance, and this is most appropriate since the records are our main source for documenting quality care.

We are very optimistic about the implementation of our QA Program. We invite your questions, suggestions or comments, and we are here to assist you with your quality assurance activities in every way we can. Please feel free to contact us.

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"RECREATION FOR EVERYONE"

By Michael J. Smith, Supervisor of Recreation

The end of February will show that every client on the C-LA campus has a recreation program. The programs deal on all therapeutic and leisure levels and are short and long term depending on the client's needs. Every effort is being made by all staff to plan individual and group activities pleasing and appropriate for all clients.

Each cottage has regularly scheduled programming peculiar to the clients needs. On top of these weekly programs are vehicle trips, canteen visits, auditorium entertainment, physical education, parties and small number activities in the Multi-Purpose Building and time on the Video Arcade machines. The summer brings out more trip opportunities mixed in with camping experiences and dips in the pool. But this isn't all, now the Recreation Department "in tune" with the Employees' Association will and

NEWS FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 8 - Recreation

has been involved with Employee activities on a monthly basis. The very successful Christmas party was held in the beautifully decorated Multi-Purpose Building. The decorations alone were almost enough but coupled with refreshments and gifts for the "Kiddies" everyone had a great visit. Because of employee encouragement the department will organize such events as a Bowling Tournament, Day Picnics, 2nd Annual Dance Marathon, Employee Olympics, Flea Market, Campus to Campus 10K run, a Talent Show and others. Both campuses will benefit and it will be a total recreation effort.

So you can truly see in the months to come, "Recreation has something for everyone." Anyone with ideas or activity designs, please address them to Michael J. Smith, Supervisor of Recreation, Campus at Landis, Multi-Purpose Building.

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BIBLIOPHILE ALERT!

By Barbara Ciancarelli, QA Assistant

Books! Books! Books! The Vineland Developmental Center Central Library needs books and we are requesting your help.

A central library for both resource and lending purposes is being established in the Administration Building of the Campus at Landis Avenue, adjacent to the lobby. While we don't intend to compete with the Library of Congress, we plan to be a Speciality Library. Our main purpose will be to serve as a resource for information relating to such fields as Mental Retardation, Management Training, Training for the Handicapped, or any subject area which would be beneficial to our employees. We also intend to provide assistance by serving as a liaison with other area libraries.

So, we need books! You may wish to contribute and participate in this project which will be beneficial to all employees. Professional journals and magazines which fit into our speciality library status would also be helpful.

Bibliophiles of the Vineland Developmental Center, we ask you to consider letting us adopt any recently published books, magazines, or journals which you wish to contribute.

Suggestions, as well as book contributions to help bring this project to realization can be made to B. Ciancarelli, Administration Building, Extension 6735.

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VDC/H IMPLEMENT CRIME SOLVERS PROGRAM

By Edward Gesty, Personnel Officer I

One of the problems that communities, businesses, and even institutions must deal with is crime. Even though we rely heavily on established Police forces to deal with crime it has been shown that passive individual involvement assists the Police in carrying out their mission. In the community we see evidence of this kind of action in Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs. Other examples are community Crime Stopper Programs where business organizations provide money to pay for tips which lead to the arrest and convictions of people who commit crimes.

Unfortunately, in an institutional setting where large amounts of valuable items such as equipment, food, and clothing exist theft does sometimes become a problem. Of greater concern is the infrequent occurrence of client abuse.

NEWS FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 9 - Crime

In an effort to support our Police Department in dealing with these issues the Vineland Developmental Center Parents and Friends Association has joined the administration and provided funds to establish a Crime Solver Program for our facility.

You can earn a cash reward for information leading to the signing of a complaint by our Police Department or the arrest and indictment of persons connected to unsolved crimes, while remaining completely anonymous. Callers with information about crime are not required to give their name. If you have knowledge about a crime call 696-6004 and ask for a code number for identification purposes. Then tell what you know. If the information supplied leads to the signing of a complaint by our Police Department or the arrest and indictment of someone guilty of the crime, call the 696-6004 number again and state your code number. Arrangements will be made for a reward to be dropped off at the place known only to you and the patrol officer.

The administration and the Parents and Friends Association welcome your sincere support of this new program.

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THE BLUES MOOD

By Dr. Lewis S. Alban, Chief Psychologist

You've probably heard songs called the "Blues" (Deep River Blues, St. Louis Blues, Memphis Blues, Dallas Blues, Hesitating Blues, etc.) This type of song is usually about a loss of some kind, unfulfilled love, hardships, personal mistakes, or some other unhappy event. In the jargon of Psychology, the "Blues" is one kind of emotional depression called reactive depression.

Among the people you know, there are probably several who have experienced the "Blues". People with the "Blues" find it hard to cope with the ordinary stresses of life, and feel down in the dumps, disappointed by something or someone, listless and low. The "Blues" is a normal reaction to loss, failure, bad luck, or other depressive events. (Sometimes people feel "Blue" about promotions and successes, but that's another story.)

Unfortunately, some people experience a prolonged and very intense form of depression called endogenous depression. This kind of depression occurs suddenly or gradually in the absence of a depressing event. This form of depression is not considered normal, and is not the same as the "Blues."

There are similarities between the "Blues" and endogenous depression, even though they are not the same. I'll describe a very depressed person, and you, the reader, should be able to pick out characteristics that are common to the "Blues" and endogenous depression:

At the first sight of a very depressed person, one gets the impression that something ails that person. Facial expressions are often unsmiling, drawn, and punctuated or relieved by weeping. Pessimism and despair pervades thoughts about the past, present and future. Attitudes of self-contempt, self-blame, remorse and regret accompany preoccupation with former actions. Everyday events of the present are of no interest. S/he feels unenthusiastic, bored and disinterested by all activities. Consideration of the future brings on greater despair. His/her life, as it is envisioned in thought, seems to be empty, an abyss of nothingness, no joy, no color, only despondency and blackness. Whatever may be experienced is psychologically painful. Typically,

NEWS FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 10 - "Blues"

initiative drops to zero, posture is slumped, and work remains undone. If agitation accompanies depression, restless pacing, hand wringing and apprehensiveness will be seen. Somatic difficulties (loss of appetite, weight loss, constipation, heaviness of limbs, pressure in head and chest, energy depletion, etc.), and insomnia (sleeplessness, or sleeping for short periods without being able to fall asleep again) are not uncommon.

The very depressed person is aware of an inability to feel, to love or to experience pleasure. This change is interpreted by the very depressed person as a change in personality. But the person feeling the "Blues" feels the loss and does not usually interpret the change as a personality change.

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RESPIRATORY THERAPY AND ITS FUNCTION

By Yvonne Cook, Supervisor, Respiratory Therapy

The Vineland Developmental Center is unique in the respect that we are the only state institution in the Department of Human Services, to have a Respiratory Therapy Department. Respiratory Therapy is the treatment and care of people who have problems associated with lungs and breathing. Respiratory Therapy includes:

Diagnostic Evaluation - to find the causes of the problem and how to care for it.

Testing and Research - to learn more about breathing difficulties and to find new uses for respiratory therapy.

Education - to teach patients to use breathing apparatus and to train specialists to work in this growing field.

Respiratory Therapists and technicians work with a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists for their patients recovery. They also strive to discover infection and disease before they do damage. They treat infections of the lungs and other parts of the body by using many different types of machines. They work to restore defective heart-lung systems to better working condition. Therapists also work in the homes of respiratory patients to help them to live normal, active lives.

It's important to know that after 3-5 minutes without oxygen a person's irreplaceable brain tissue will begin to die. After just 9 minutes without oxygen the heart will stop beating. These two facts may help to illustrate why the field of Respiratory Therapy is so important.

There is a vital need for the services of Respiratory Therapy for victims of asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, heart failure, pneumonia, hemorrhage, stroke, drowning, shock, smoke inhalation, etc. There is an overwhelming need for prophylactic respiratory care for our large population of non-ambulatory residents here at the Vineland Developmental Center.

Respiratory Therapists and Technicians must be highly qualified. They often work with acutely ill patients and are responsible for monitoring complicated equipment in intensive care units. They also need to be humanitarian, sensitive, versatile and prompt. The time factor is of utmost importance to their jobs.

Respiratory Therapists and Technicians work in many different settings. They are

NEWS FOR YOU FROM: Cont. from p. 11 - Respiratory Therapy

in hospitals, medical clinics, physicians offices, schools and colleges. They also are here at the Vineland Developmental Center. At our center they work in the hospital and in the cottages. In the hospital setting they do routine, prophylactic, and acute care for patients. In our cottages the care mostly consists of preventative and rehabilitative therapy.

So in summary Respiratory Therapists and Technicians help you to keep your heart and lungs healthy. You, too, can help if you:

Breathe Better - give up smoking and get plenty of fresh air.

Exercise Regularly - keep active and practice breathing deeply.

Eat Right - eat sensible, well balanced meals. Don't overeat.

Have a medical check up yearly - problems can be discovered before they do damage.

You'll Feel Better and Live Longer!

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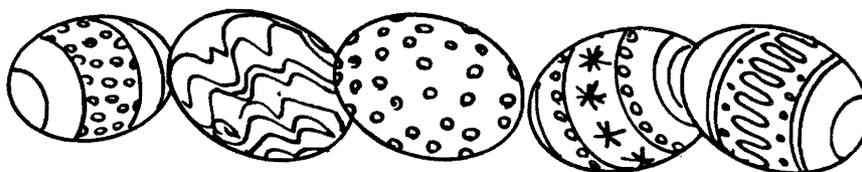
STAFF AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As you are aware, the VDC/H and Cumberland County College have, through a Federal Grant, offered free college courses at the institution. Since the Fall of 1983, over 200 employees have taken advantage of this opportunity.

The courses have been designed to assist employees on the job by providing a theoretical background. Some of the courses offered have been: Basic English, Nature and Needs of the Handicapped, Behavior Management Technique, Human Growth and Development, and Care of the Disabled Individual.

Additional courses have been scheduled for the Summer Session. Flyers explaining the new course offering will be distributed soon, SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT.

For further information, contact Joe Weatherbee, Extension 6888.



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NEWS FOR YOU FROM:

THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

NEWS BULLETIN

The Parents and Friends Association of the VDC/H are sponsoring a gala Dinner Dance at Bally's Park Place, Atlantic City on Saturday, July 28, 1984. The event is a fund raising venture by the Association and the proceeds will benefit the Client General Welfare Fund. Mr. Rudolph Gutman of the Association is Chairman.

For further information, contact Mr. Walter Doyle

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The next General Membership meeting for the Association is Sunday, May 20, 1984. Campus at Landis/Thorn Auditorium beginning at 1:30 p.m.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Clive Conover, President - VDC/H Parents and Friends Association

Currently, Federal Legislation-Bill S. 2053 entitled "Community and Family Living Amendments of 1983" has been presented to Congress. The Bill would amend Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act by adding Section 1918 and would shift the Medicaid dollars from Institutions to Community Services.

The Legislation would phase-out Federal Medicaid dollars from institutions over a ten (10) year period based on negotiations between the individual States and the Health Care Financing Administration. Following the phase-out, there would be continued Medicaid funding for temporary institutionalization up to two (2) years per person when necessary. In addition, Federal Medicaid match would be increased by 5% for each retarded person who is moved from an institution to a community setting for the first five (5) years following his/her return to the community.

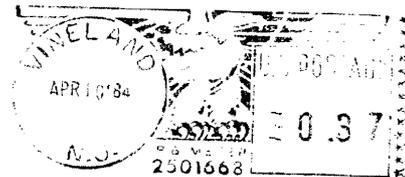
The proposal would also require that institutions no longer receiving Federal Medicaid dollars continue to meet the rigorous standards for Medicaid or ICF/MR programs or the State would face reduction in its Federal funding.

Those individuals needing highly structured care (twenty-four hour supervision) would be provided for in small homes/facilities located within their community.

The Parents and Friends Association oppose the Bill in its current form and instead support changes that will be compatible with our philosophy of quality institutional and community programs. In addition, the Association will not allow this to happen to the clients at the Vineland Developmental Center.

We urge you to write your Congressmen addressing your concern.

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