Health Care Cost Increases at WU Held Below National Rate in FY’77

During fiscal year 1977, the WU Medical Center Hospitals held health care cost increases well below the 15 per cent increase reported as the national average, according to Dr. Samuel B. Guze, WU vice chancellor for medical affairs and president of the center.

Guze addressed problems relating to the containment of health care costs, as well as the progress made in the Medical Center’s building program and redevelopment area, in his recently issued 1978 WU Medical Center President’s Report.

“During the past year continued attention has been focused on escalating costs for health care,” Guze said. “This has led to the proposal of a number of cost containment measures by the federal government that would present serious problems to our hospitals. Caught in a squeeze of rising costs, advancing technology, and increasingly complex regulations, our hospitals have responded well. By instituting many cost-saving measures, each hospital has held cost increases well below the 15 per cent reported as the national average.”

A comparison of 1977 with 1976 inpatient care statistics reveals indirect but significant cost savings by Medical Center hospitals, Guze said. During 1977, 65,323 patients were discharged after receiving 626,995 days of care—300 patients more than in 1976, but 20,257 fewer days of care. “If $200 represents an average per day cost,” Guze said, “Over $4 million was saved by our community.”

During 1977 the hospitals also provided $7,592,513 in free medical care. Over 271,000 visits were made to the hospitals’ emergency rooms and clinics. Twenty-two per cent of all those who received treatment at the hospitals, or 14,514 persons, were from outside the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The center spent over $10 million this past year as part of its five- to eight-year $100 million capital improvements program, begun in 1976. Nearing completion at Barnes Hospital is the structural skeleton for the West Pavilion and four additional floors on the East Pavilion. “These additions will provide more than 450,000 feet of new space,” Guze said. Occupying the space will be 31 new operating rooms, 250-patient care beds, a 110-seat amphitheatre, as well as doctors’ offices and the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology.

Continuing are major... (continued on page 2)
Weeds or Wildflowers—Eisendrath, At 68, Codifies Them in Her First Book

Professor Erna Eisendrath (center) and graduate student David Lorence (second from left) before setting out on a field trip with Eisendrath’s “Medicare group”—naturalists Edgar Denison (left) and Arthur Christ (second from right) and bus driver Jack Miller (right).

For most people, a weed is a weed. For botanist Erna Eisendrath, who is the author of the recently published book Missouri Wildflowers of the St. Louis Area, a weed is a wildflower that presents as great a challenge for study as any other plant.

Eisendrath, WU associate professor of biology, is something of a wildflower herself. Without all the formal tilling—she holds an MA in botany from WU, not the more common PhD—she has blossomed late in life as a teacher and author. It was at age 50 that she earned her MA from WU—30 years after receiving her BA in history from Bryn Mawr—and it was at age 68 last spring that she published Missouri Wildflowers, her first book.

And, as she approaches septuagenarian status this year, there is no evidence that she is slowing down—“If I am, I wouldn’t dare admit it,” she says. This semester she will participate in the teaching of three courses—Spring Flora and Plant Systematics, the latter with Professor of Biology Walter Lewis, and Flora/Fauna: Research Projects at Tyson Research Center, with Richard Coles, director of the center. She will also continue as a research associate at the Missouri Botanical Garden and will serve on the boards of the Missouri Nature Conservancy and the St. Louis Regional Open Space Council Foundation. Not content to take it easy during the coming summer break, she plans on teaching a local flora course in the Colorado Rockies at Aspen, Colo., for the second time, at the invitation of the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies.

Despite all this activity, there’s also no evidence that Eisendrath’s youthful and somewhat Tom Sawyerish sense of fun and adventure is in any way diminishing. For instance, she continues to make one of her Fall Flora class’s field trips to Illinois’s Calhoun County so that “the students can pick apples and have a Mark Twain experience crossing the Missouri River on the Golden Eagle Ferry.”

Eisendrath’s career as a botanist, which followed a number of years of housewifery, began, she says, not so much with plants as with dust. As a volunteer some 25 years ago at the Missouri Botanical Garden, when, she notes, she could not distinguish a stamen from a pistil, she persuaded the much beloved and respected botanist Edgar Anderson, who was associated with WU and the Garden for almost 45 years until his death in 1969, to allow her to dust books in the Garden’s library. It was while doing this chore that she glimpsed the books’ contents and “became hooked on botany and botanical literature.”

In 1960, when she received her MA, Anderson retired from teaching at WU and recommended that she teach his course. “No one ever fell so easily or so luckily into anything,” she says. Although she officially retired from WU in 1968, Eisendrath has been teaching part time since 1972, when the Biology Department requested she return to give Fall Flora, which she has continued to teach annually, in addition to several other courses.

Her repeated experience in teaching Fall and Spring Flora convinced her of the need for a field manual to the wildflowers of the St. Louis area. “One would need,” says Eisendrath, “a pack horse to carry around the only complete guide, Julian Steyermark’s 1300-page Flora of Missouri.”

It took three years of “mining Steyermark,” listing plants she found on field trips and checking them with two St. Louis naturalists, Arthur Christ and Edgar Denison, who also helped her teach the flora courses, before Missouri Wildflowers was completed and published last year.

The guide lists and illustrates 620 species of wildflowers in St. Louis and eight neighboring counties—all within an easy one-day field trip from the city. Plants are indexed according to month of bloom and color; then type of leaf and flower—with these types illustrated on the front and back inside covers of the book. Even the most amateur naturalist, with a little study, can find out what that plant growing along some Missouri highway is whether, for instance, it’s the innocuous Daucus carota (Queen Anne’s lace) or the deadly Conium maculata (poison hemlock). All proceeds from sales of the book are being donated by Eisendrath to the Missouri Botanical Garden, its publisher.

Now that this major project is complete, does Eisendrath plan any new branching out in the future? “No,” she says, “I plan to continue teaching as long as I can, because I love it, and also plan to keep letting people know two things: that plants are fundamental to life on this earth—that without them nothing else would be here; and that someone in her late 40’s can start a new career and have an absolute ball.”

Health (continued from page 1)

renovations at Jewish Hospital and litigation by Children’s Hospital with the City of St. Louis and others opposing its proposal to construct a new patient tower over Kingshighway.

The “1978 Missouri Planning Award,” presented to the WU Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation by the Missouri Chapter of the American Institute of Planners, is, said Guze, “testimony to the success of our redevelopment effort involving the 36-block area surrounding the Medical Center.”

Among projects recently completed or nearing completion in the redevelopment area are the Monsanto Environmental Health Laboratory at Clayton and Newstead Avenues, which has the largest solar energy collection system in St. Louis, and $400,000 worth of public improvements along Euclid Avenue from Forest Park Blvd. to West Pine Blvd. The Ettreck, a four-story building at Forest Park Park and Euclid, is currently undergoing total rehabilitation in order to house apartments and businesses. Construction will soon begin on 14 townhouses in the 4500 block of West Pine. During the past year, approximately $100,000 in rehabilitation was completed in the residential area south of Highway 40, with another $300,000 worth of work planned for 1979.

The number of students enrolled in formal educational programs at Medical Center institutions increased by 100 students over the last year—principally in nursing students. Total enrollment was 2327 for 1976-77. Of that number 550 were medical students (including 52 students in the MD/PhD Medical Scientist Training Program) and 164 were graduate students in biomedical sciences.

The center’s operating costs for last year totalled $223.7 million, including $32.96 million spent for research. The center received for research $29.15 million from the federal government and $3.81 million from private organizations.
Deli (continued from page 1)

ber of distributors, some of whose wares are usually not available west of New Jersey, were selected in tasting sessions by students and staff members. Some seven different kinds of breads and rolls and a wide assortment of bagels were chosen to complement a full range of cheeses and deli and kosher meats, including such items as Hebrew national salami. The deli menu will also include lox and cream cheese, "real New York cheese cake," salads, slaws and other vegetable side dishes and herring. Heading the beverage list will be Hoffmann's and Dr. Brown's sodas, including chocolate cream and celery sodas.

Deli items will be available by the sandwich and in the bulk. Burris expects that the deli will do a substantial amount of carry-out business.

Ice cream, chocolate and fruit toppings, whipped cream and nuts, all luscious and fattening ingredients capable of inciting a conscious weight watcher to a Caryl Nation-like furor, will be on hand in the ice cream parlor. Among its sumptuous concoctions, most of which are named for constellations and celestial bodies, are Nova, made of vanilla ice cream, chocolate and marshmallow and whipped like a milk shake, Generous Gemini, which has a strawberry and coconut theme, and, for the more easily pleased sweet tooth, cones in 16 different flavors. A sure favorite of patrons will be the Mount Evans, a nut-laden ice cream drumstick named for Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Joe Evans. The ice cream parlor will also serve a Belgian waffle stuffed with fruit or ice cream and crepes wrapped around apples or blueberries. Root beer, cider and an orange malted drink called the Campus Sunrise will also be on the menu.

The ice cream parlor will be operated by Sarah Wallace and Jean Hobler, who together make up the enterprise Ursa Limited.

The ice cream parlor and deli share an attractively renovated space decorated with the natural colors and textures of oak butcherblock furniture and rough-hewn wood panelling. Greenery fills corners and surrounds posts; art work will soon decorate the walls. The area has a 100-seat capacity, which, in good weather, will increase to 148 with the addition of chairs and umbrella-topped tables on the adjacent patio. Initial hours for the two facilities are 11 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, the ice cream parlor will be open from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the deli from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

JOSEPH SCHRAIBMAN, professor of romance languages at WU, has been appointed to the 17-member College Board Council on Academic Affairs. He will serve until 1980. The College Board, located in New York City, is a nonprofit membership association of over 2500 schools, colleges, universities, and scholarship agencies.

Survey of Building Leaks Initiated

Architectural detail combined with ice and snow account for a rash of leaks and seepage in a number of older buildings on campus, said Lawrence F. O'Neill, WU administrator of physical facilities, last week.

Heavy formations of ice have accumulated in valley-like drainage areas on slate roofs behind the distinctive parapet detail on many buildings and ice has formed underneath shingles. Ice-clogged exterior roof drainage pipes prevent melting snow from draining, causing huge buildups of ice on building exteriors.

While leaks cannot be corrected as long as buildings are snow-covered, O'Neill said that his office has been conducting a building-by-building inspection of affected structures to locate and record each leak. O'Neill said that the use of different materials and methods of installation in the critical valley and drainage areas can eliminate leakage.

O'Neill said that each case of leakage will be thoroughly investigated when the weather improves and that the problems will be corrected by next winter. However, he cautioned, leakage has been a problem in some buildings for several years and correcting it will be costly.

Geneticist Harry Harris To Speak

Professor Harry Harris of the Department of Human Genetics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, will deliver the 1979 Thomas S. Hall Lecture at 4 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 23, in Edison Theatre.

The lecture, entitled "In Search of Individuality," will deal with the biological basis of variation within the human species and the quality of individuality. Harris is a member of the National Academy of Science and a Fellow of the British Royal Society.

The Thomas S. Hall Lectureship is endowed through gifts from Hall's friends and colleagues. It provides for annual lectures by outstanding scientists on topics concerning the interaction of science and society.

Hall has been at WU for 33 years. From 1949 until 1961, he was dean of the College of Liberal Arts (the College of Arts and Sciences). Now University Professor Emeritus of Biology and the History of Science, Hall earned WU's William Greenleaf Eliot Society Award in 1970 for his years of service and his record of research and administration.
Calendar

January 19-25

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
9:30 a.m. George Warren Brown School of Social Work All-Day Workshop, “The Role of Women in their Country’s Development.” The workshop is open to anyone wishing to discuss the topic. A fee of $5.50 includes lunch. To reserve a seat at lunch, call Diane Hasty at Ext. 5991 or complete a registration form at Stix International House. Stix International House. Cosponsored by the International Office.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22
4 p.m. Department of Biology Seminar, “Central Cord Control of Locomotion in the Turtle.” Paul S. G. Stein, WU assoc. prof. of biology, 322 Reebstock. Beer and pretzels will be served in 309 Reebstock following the lecture.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23
4 p.m. Thomas S. Hall Lecture, “In Search of Individuality,” Harry Harris, prof. of genetics, U. of Pa. School of Medicine. Edison Theatre. The lecture is sponsored by the Department of Biology.


THURSDAY, JANUARY 25


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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24
11 a.m. Academic Committee and Inter Fraternity Council Lecture, with Harold Ramis, screenwriter of “Animal House” and WU alumnus, Graham Chapel.


SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
8 p.m. Office of Student Activities American Film Series, “Jezebel” and “Dark Victory,” both with Bette Davis. Reebstock Auditorium. Admission $1.50.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22
7:30 and 9:15 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, “Prisoner of Second Avenue.” Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.50. (Also Tues., Jan. 23, same times, Brown.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24
7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, “Jules and Jim.” Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.50. (Also Thurs., Jan. 25, same times, Brown.)

Films

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
7:30 and 9:45 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, “Turning Point.” Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.50. (Also Sat., Jan. 20, same times, Brown; and Sun., Jan. 21, 8 p.m., Wohl Center.)

8 p.m. Office of Student Activities American Film Series, “Bordertown” and “Marked Woman,” both with Bette Davis. Reebstock Auditorium. Admission $1.50.

“Drawings and Projects,” an exhibit of works by contemporary Italian architect Franco Purini. WU School of Architecture, Givens Hall, main level. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Through Feb. 11.

Performing Arts

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
8 p.m. Edison Theatre Drama Series, Broadway, a musical play by George Abbott and Philip Dunning, performed by The Acting Company, a New York repertory company.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
8 p.m. Edison Theatre Drama Series, Antigone, Anouilh’s modern interpretation of the Greek classic by Sophocles, performed by The Acting Company, Edison Theatre. Admission $4.80; $3.75 for WU faculty, staff and area students; $2 for WU students. Tickets available at Edison Theatre Box Office. (The Acting Company, in addition to the performance noted below, will present Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet Thurs., Jan. 18, 8 p.m., Edison. Subscription tickets for all three performances: $11.25.)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
8 p.m. Edison Theatre Drama Series, Antigone, Anouilh’s modern interpretation of the Greek classic by Sophocles, performed by The Acting Company, Edison Theatre. Admission $4.80; $3.75 for WU faculty, staff and area students; $2 for WU students. Tickets available at Edison Theatre Box Office.

WILLIAM H. GASS, professor of philosophy at WU, and Robert H. McDowell, professor and chairman of the WU Department of Mathematics, will be featured on two evenings this month in celebration of Alice in Wonderland’s 100th birthday. The first event, Wed., Jan. 24, will highlight Gass, who will spin some verbal enigmas. The second evening, Wed., Jan. 31, McDowell and his associates will present mathematical puzzles. (Because of scheduling difficulties, the original dates given for these events in the Continuing Education brochure were changed.) The lectures, from 8 to 10 p.m., will be held in the Alumni House on campus. The fee is $20. For more information, call Ext. 6710.