African Americans. Americans smoke cigarettes, but the Saint Louis University School of group. But researchers from failed to lower smoking rates in this some groups. About 25 percent of cigarettes, rates remain high in.

Neighborhood-based campaign yields striking results

In an effort to contain health care costs, many managed-care companies reward doctors who restrict medical care. Such financial incentives should be disclosed to patients and consumer groups, said Thomas H. Gallagher, Ph.D., technical specialist with Ford Motor Co. in Detroit and director of the Center for Robotics Research at the School of Engineering and Automation. "Scheduling is on the high level of control; real-time sensing is on the low level. How to coordinate the two levels automatically has been a wide-open problem for 20 years in the field of intelligent control. We've solved it theoretically with this model, and now, we're putting it into the whole system," said Tarn, who is director of the University's Center for Robotics and Automation.

"The Max-Plus model will have applications in automatic control systems far and wide. It can be used in immensely automated systems where high-level controls must be coordinated with low-level ones. It also could be a boon to the medical industry, where certain surgical procedures, such as robotic hip replacements that are performed with robotic technology, are performed with robotic technologies," said Tarn.

"The breakthrough robotics algorithm is the first to develop a theory that integrates task-scheduling, action-planning, and control. We've solved the problem that is two decades old. The Max-Plus model will have applications in automatic control systems far and wide. It can be used in immensely automated systems where high-level controls must be coordinated with low-level ones. It also could be a boon to the medical industry, where certain surgical procedures, such as robotic hip replacements that are performed with robotic technology, are performed with robotic technologies," said Tarn.
Celebrating Black History Month
Observance includes tributes, forum, performance

The ongoing campus commemoration of February as Black History Month includes a citywide tribute to diversity, an interactive forum and a student-produced performance of music and prose.

"E-Racism," a foray into the history of African-Americans' struggle and triumph in Missouri. The exhibit, managed by the Arch Black of Mid-America Inc., was erected in the Campus Bookstore Saturday, Feb. 6, and will remain on display through Saturday, Feb. 13.

Student subjects sought

Investigators in the Washington University Medical School's Cardiovascular Division are looking for participants with mild high blood pressure, ages 18 to 90, for a study on the effects of government-approved drug for lowering blood pressure. Participants must be healthy nonsmokers without diabetes or heart disease. The study will include five visits to the medical center during a period of about eight weeks. Qualified subjects will receive free medication and a free stress test. For more information, call 747-1217.

Back to school

Help with communication, leadership and computer skills is available through the Training and Development Programs offered by the Human Resources Department. Registration has begun for the 1999 spring/ summer session, and registration is allowed as late as five days before a course begins, space permitting. While many courses are offered on-site, telecourses are available to be paid by the employee's department.

Class categories include enhancing leadership skills, improving interpersonal communication skills, maximizing computer productivity, navigating change, increasing PC productivity and effectively using information systems. One new course, taking action for self-development, consists of four courses that cover topics such as thinking, proofreading, telephone skills and productivity. There are also new course listings for the Center for the Application of Information Technology. To request a catalog or to register, call 935-6970. The complete catalog is available at http://ch000.wustl.edu/hr/home.

Personnel perk

Washington University offers substantial tuition assistance to eligible dependents of full-time University faculty and staff. Dependents of full-time faculty and staff members who have completed five full years of current and continuous service receive 100 percent tuition remission at the University, provided they meet the semesters' requirement. Additionally, children of full-time employees who have completed seven years of current and continuous service at the University can receive up to 50 percent of the University's stated tuition to attend a Washington University affiliated college or university. In both cases, for the employee's eligibility to be maintained while the dependent attends school, and if an employee is eligible for this benefit at the time he or she retires, goes on leave or dies, then the benefit is available to his or her dependents as well.

Northern exposure

A growing number of American Indians are attending universities in Canada, in part because Canadian institutions are courting U.S. high school students aggressively, according to the Bostton Globe. About 3,000 Americans are studying at Canadian universities this year, a 10 percent increase over the 1997-98 academic year. Our amphibian amigo has a bird's-eye view from the northwest corner of the state. [See next page for article.]

More Y2K computer help available

The Softwage Library (TEL) at Washington University has set up a web page to help members of the University community deal with potential Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problems. Located at http://wogate/softwage/softwagehtml, the site is made up of links to web pages with a variety of Y2K information. Sources include:

- Computer vendors with information that applies to more than one vendor, along with guidelines issued by the University and other institutions.
- Articles specific to individual computer brands and operating systems, such as Microsoft, Apple, Sun and the like. These sites cover topics related to hardware and the operating systems that make the computer work.
- Application program web sites for software programs handled by TSL. Don Blais, associate director of TSL, noted that web pages used on campus might not be listed in a vendor library. Students should check with the software's Y2K compliance.

TSL is a University office providing centralized software purchasing to take advantage of volume discounts and "bargain" savings. A current list of its offerings is available at http://wustl.edu/~info/catalog.html.
Directors appointed for new Division of Human Genetics

BY LINDA SAGE

Two British researchers from Texas will direct the new Division of Human Genetics at the School of Medicine. Michael Lovett, M.D., professor of genetics, and Mary Bowcock, Ph.D., will arrive soon from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where they are faculty and professors. Lovett is in the department of radiology, biophysics, and genetics; and Bowcock is affiliated with the departments of immunology and medicine and pediatrics. Bowcock and Lovett, who were introduced by D.A. Bird, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Professor of Genetics, announced the appointments.

“We hope that these very well established genius scientists will make Washington University a real center for human genetics,” said Bird. “They will make Washington University a real center for human genetics in the same way that English scientists did in the 1950’s to 1970’s.”

The core facilities they will develop will benefit all of the people on campus who are involved in human genetics. Washington directs the medical school’s Genome Sequencing Center, a major site for DNA sequencing. “Translating that know-how into studies of human diseases will be one essential component in making the discovery of human disease genes faster and easier,” Bowcock said.

Bowcock has localized several human disease genes, including the gene for familial partial lipodystrophy, a disorder characterized by abnormally distributed body fat. She also tracked down one gene, called BADDI1, that controls the production of a cytokine that regulates the expression of the breast cancer gene BRCA1.

“Lovett’s laboratory also will become an intellectual center for human genetics,” continued Bird. “He will make Washington University a real center for human genetics in the same way that English scientists did in the 1950’s to 1970’s.”

St. Louis, also an associate professor of molecular microbiology, is being recognized for his work on the molecular basis of chronic viral infections. Speck also will investigate the role of the virus in bone disease in children who will have a long-term impact on child health. We are delighted that his achievements to date have been recognized by the 1998 Squibb Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in an area of infectious diseases by a fellow or member of the organization who is 45 or younger. The award is based on overall achievement, not a single research result." Speck said.

“His deep commitment to understanding the molecular pathogenesis of H. influenzae disease in children shall have a long-term impact on child health.”

ALAN SCHWARTZ

Physicians investigating new treatment for chronic heel pain

Orthopaedic surgeons at the School of Medicine are testing an investigational treatment for heel pain that uses a technique from modifying activity to soft-soled shoes or heel pads to surgery for patients with persistent pain. Johnson said, however, that the surgery does not always solve the problem and causes complications because it involves cutting the plantar fascia. The complications led foot and ankle specialists to continue searching for a non-surgical treatment that would leave the plantar fascia intact while providing more effective relief than other traditional therapies.

This treatment was developed originally as a non-surgical treatment for kidney stones. The machines use shock waves to crush the stones. The waves pass through tissue in the area where the kidney stone is located, and their vibrations crush the stone and break it into tiny pieces, which then are washed away.

The investigational lithotripsy treatment for heel pain also uses shock waves, but rather than crushing heel spurs like kidney stones, the orthopedic treatment attempts to create a small area of injury near the site where the plantar fascia attaches to the bone. That new injury is thought to attract new blood flow and other nutrients that promote healing and relieve pain.

To be eligible for the study, patients must have heel pain that has not responded to at least two prior treatments. The pain must have persisted for at least six months. Patients in the study receive the shock wave treatment from a device called an OssaTron, a lithotripsy device manufactured by the HealthTronics company. The machine is owned by Midwest Stone Institute, a health-care company affiliated with the Missouri Medical School.

Half of the patients get an actual treatment. The other half will be randomly selected to have a child placed between the OssaTron machine and their feet so that the shock waves cannot enter their feet. For more information about the study, call 1-800-731-5298.

HONORED Reka Kozak (left), a librarian at the medical school’s Bernard Becker Library and BJC’s Ruthochild Medical Library, received an award for 25 years of service to the University from William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine (center), and Lew Fletter, associate vice chancellor and associate dean for administration and finance. Fifty central administration employees received service awards Friday, Feb. 5, at an employee appreciation luncheon and reception in the Eric P. Newman Education Center.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Feb. 11, 1999 3

record.wustl.edu

PEDIATRICIAN JOSEPH ST. GENE Receives Prestigious Infectious Diseases Award

Joseph W. St. Geme III, M.D., Distinguished Professor and head of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, has received the 1998 Squibb Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America. "St. Geme is an outstanding clinician and investigator," said Alan L. Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D., the Harriet B. Sporher Professor and head of pediatrics. "His deep commitment to understanding the molecular pathogenesis of H. influenzae disease in children shall have a long-term impact on child health."
Films

Thursday, Feb. 11
6 p.m. Japanese Film Series. "Shiki Wa Dake." English subtitled. Room 216 Wadell Hall, 362-5933.

Friday, Feb. 12
7 and 9:30 p.m. Firstroom Feature Series. "Ghostbusters." (Also Feb. 20, same time, same place.)

Midnight: Firstroom Midnight Series. "Spinal Tap." (Also Feb. 26, same time, and Feb 14, 8:30 p.m.)

Friday, Feb. 18
6 p.m. Chinese Film Series. "Mythology of Life." Room 219 Wadell Hall, 362-5933.

Friday, Feb. 19
7 and 9:30 p.m. Firstroom Feature Series. "Shine." (Also Feb. 22 and 23, same time, and Feb 17, 7:30 p.m.)

Midnight: Firstroom Midnight Series. "Ghostbusters." (Also Feb. 26, same time, and Feb 14, 8:30 p.m.)

Composer Philip Glass to give concert

In recent years the name Philip Glass has become virtually synonymous with avant-garde American music. St. Louis music lovers will be treated to a rare solo violin concert by the composer at Edison Theatre Feb. 19. At 8 p.m., Glass will be performing his violin at age 6 and flute at 8. At 15, he was admitted to the University of Chicago, where he majored in mathematics and philosophy. Glass graduated four years later and moved to New York, where he entered the Juilliard School and studied under Vincent Starrett and William Bergsma. At the age of 23 his own compositions led him to explore the world of Paris, where he studied with Nadia Boulanger and supported himself, for a time, by translating the music of Indian sitar player Ravi Shankar into Western notation. The exposure to Indian compositional techniques soon led Glass to explore other world music, particularly that of North Africa and the Himalayas, all of which would come to influence his own work. Glass has composed dozens of works for major opera companies, including the San Francisco Opera, the New York City Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera. His works have been performed by orchestras around the world, including the New York Philharmonic and the London Symphony. Glass has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, including the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1991. He is also known for his contributions to popular culture, having composed the music for films such as "Nine" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." Despite his wide-ranging success, Glass has remained committed to exploring new musical forms and collaborating with artists across various disciplines.
Women’s basketball team wins 27th straight

The women's basketball team extended its perfect season to 27 games with a 92-46 win Sunday in the third round of the UAA playoffs. The Bear women, who lead the league in scoring, outscored No. 11 Washington U. by 46 points.

Three players earned high honors, including Senior Jana Laur, who scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds and two assists, Senior Suzi Ramsey, who scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds, and Student-Athlete of the Year Julie Riley, who scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds.

Coach Wardell Rowland said, "We've been playing well all season, and we're looking forward to next weekend's regional tournament."
Architecture series offers 17 lectures

From the headlines for a reference on the American city to the award-winning designer for the Tokyo International Forum, the School of Architecture's spring lineup for the Monday Night Lecture Series offers renowned national and international architects discussing diverse themes. Sponsoring the architecture school and the Student Union, the 17 upcoming lectures will be at 6:30 p.m. in Steinberg Hall Auditorium. Unless otherwise noted, a 6 p.m. reception with the architector will precede each lecture. Upcoming lectures include:

• Feb. 15 — Sheila Kennedy, associate professor of architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design and director of the architecture school's program in architectural theory, will deliver the Robert Hutchins Memorial Lecture on "Rethinking Institutions: Architecture, Infrastructure and the Commons." In 1997, Hutchins, who died in 1955, established the lecture series.

• Feb. 22 — Tom Hennesey, a partner of the prestigious Japan Architectural Academy Award-winning firm Coop Himmelb(l)au with his partner Peter Zumthor, will deliver the Robert Hutchins Memorial Lecture on "Trees: A British Architect's Reflection on Architecture." Zumthor, who is the current president of the Japan Architectural Academy and professor of architecture at the University of Technology in Helsinki, will lecture in the spring in conjunction with the school's 17th annual John Hejduk Lecture, which is sponsored by the Daniel and Livingston Murphy Foundation.

• March 25 — Michael Pawlyn, a San Francisco architect who teaches at the University of Washington in Seattle and specializes in high-quality facilities for less advantaged clients, will deliver the Pallasmaa lecture, which is sponsored by the Visual Arts and Design Center and the American Institute of Architects-St. Louis. A reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Givens Hall.

Robots

Algorithm solves long-standing problem

Different height, which span ranges from a rotating disk. The robot was programmed to pick up the objects from the rotating disk to tallest, and then place them in a pre-assigned placement area within the robot. The robot identified the object by height and told the robot which object to pick up. The researchers placed an obstacle, the robot's task again without human assistance and pursued the correct object.

The smooth transition was made possible by the Max-Plus algebra. GPS, which computes the robot and communicates the data to the high-level manager's computer. This way, the robot does not have to shut down the whole system, which would have been a long-standing problem. The algorithm also enables the robot to re-start its function in the case of a failure or repair.

Many automated systems have computer code installed that can automatically detect and correct for system malfunctions. However, the codes are heuristic or rule-based: They are not designed to make manufacturing errors that have been described mathematically. But, as an example of the case of the stand-up comic, who knows what an audience is going to throw your way?

"The heuristic code does not begin to exhaust all problems," Tarn said. "This design strategy can deal with any unstructured test. It is getting a good deal of attention from industry.

Care

Physician encourages disclosure of incentives

Incentive financials could have two effects, Gallo recommended. "If doctors withhold care that they really believe could hurt a patient, they might say, 'I'm going to come up with ways to deal with patients' suspicions about managed care,'" he said.

Gallo and his co-authors pointed out that little is known about the impact of financial incentives on patients if they are not well developed. "It can deal with any unstructured test. It is getting a good deal of attention from industry.

The fact that health plans only need to disclose the new information is another problem, the authors said, because patients may not be aware of the incentive, or if they apply to themselves or their doctors. Without medical knowledge, patients also might be unable to assess whether their physicians are influencing their doctors' behavior or that the doctors are making decisions in the patient's best interest. Whether the patients can do important roles, but they don't have the incentive to access greater information.

The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients. The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients.

While all patients, the authors recommend broader disclosure so that interested patients could determine whether financial incentives create the perception of a conflict of interest between doctors and patients.

Geography hub The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Architectural Resources Architects, and is part of an ongoing collaboration, will be the new home for the Gateway Transportation Center. The facility is scheduled to open in 2015.

Gateway hub The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Architectural Resources Architects, and is part of an ongoing collaboration, will be the new home for the Gateway Transportation Center. The facility is scheduled to open in 2015.

Career

Physician encourages disclosure of incentives

Incentive financials could have two effects, Gallo recommended. "If doctors withhold care that they really believe could hurt a patient, they might say, 'I'm going to come up with ways to deal with patients' suspicions about managed care,'" he said.

Gallo and his co-authors pointed out that little is known about the impact of financial incentives on patients if they are not well developed. "It can deal with any unstructured test. It is getting a good deal of attention from industry.

The fact that health plans only need to disclose the new information is another problem, the authors said, because patients may not be aware of the incentive, or if they apply to themselves or their doctors. Without medical knowledge, patients also might be unable to assess whether their physicians are influencing their doctors' behavior or that the doctors are making decisions in the patient's best interest. Whether the patients can do important roles, but they don't have the incentive to access greater information.

The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients. The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients.

While all patients, the authors recommend broader disclosure so that interested patients could determine whether financial incentives create the perception of a conflict of interest between doctors and patients.

Geography hub The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Architectural Resources Architects, and is part of an ongoing collaboration, will be the new home for the Gateway Transportation Center. The facility is scheduled to open in 2015.

Gateway hub The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Architectural Resources Architects, and is part of an ongoing collaboration, will be the new home for the Gateway Transportation Center. The facility is scheduled to open in 2015.

Career

Physician encourages disclosure of incentives

Incentive financials could have two effects, Gallo recommended. "If doctors withhold care that they really believe could hurt a patient, they might say, 'I'm going to come up with ways to deal with patients' suspicions about managed care,'" he said.

Gallo and his co-authors pointed out that little is known about the impact of financial incentives on patients if they are not well developed. "It can deal with any unstructured test. It is getting a good deal of attention from industry.

The fact that health plans only need to disclose the new information is another problem, the authors said, because patients may not be aware of the incentive, or if they apply to themselves or their doctors. Without medical knowledge, patients also might be unable to assess whether their physicians are influencing their doctors' behavior or that the doctors are making decisions in the patient's best interest. Whether the patients can do important roles, but they don't have the incentive to access greater information.

The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients. The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients.

While all patients, the authors recommend broader disclosure so that interested patients could determine whether financial incentives create the perception of a conflict of interest between doctors and patients.

Geography hub The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Architectural Resources Architects, and is part of an ongoing collaboration, will be the new home for the Gateway Transportation Center. The facility is scheduled to open in 2015.

Gateway hub The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Architectural Resources Architects, and is part of an ongoing collaboration, will be the new home for the Gateway Transportation Center. The facility is scheduled to open in 2015.

Career

Physician encourages disclosure of incentives

Incentive financials could have two effects, Gallo recommended. "If doctors withhold care that they really believe could hurt a patient, they might say, 'I'm going to come up with ways to deal with patients' suspicions about managed care,'" he said.

Gallo and his co-authors pointed out that little is known about the impact of financial incentives on patients if they are not well developed. "It can deal with any unstructured test. It is getting a good deal of attention from industry.

The fact that health plans only need to disclose the new information is another problem, the authors said, because patients may not be aware of the incentive, or if they apply to themselves or their doctors. Without medical knowledge, patients also might be unable to assess whether their physicians are influencing their doctors' behavior or that the doctors are making decisions in the patient's best interest. Whether the patients can do important roles, but they don't have the incentive to access greater information.

The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients. The authors recommend that HIPAA use of the physician may promote the development of better outcome measures. It also could improve less information or patients.

While all patients, the authors recommend broader disclosure so that interested patients could determine whether financial incentives create the perception of a conflict of interest between doctors and patients.

Geography hub The new Gateway Transportation Center in downtown St. Louis, designed by Architectural Resources Architects, and is part of an ongoing collaboration, will be the new home for the Gateway Transportation Center. The facility is scheduled to open in 2015.
Arts and Sciences, recently was Pier Marton, on the dental school faculty for the Association "Coach of the Year" women's tennis coach, recently was at the Jewish Museum in Vienna, 'Jewish Body' in Myth and Ritual" some 45 years. He also is a member Francisco, is a 1943 College of Arts and Sciences, emeritus of the School of Dental Medicine, Norfolk, Va. Of note M. Bruce Fegley, associate professor of anthropology in Arts and Sciences, was the presentation was part of a conference titled "The Jews of America: A Century of Jewish Autobiography in Film and Television." Grosby, a former executive director of the Jewish Historical Society of Portland, Ore. Grosby, senior editor in electrical engineering, was co-recipient of the IEEE Austin Section "Coach of the Year" for his accomplishments for which he received a Ph.D., professor of quantum physics, is a popular science writer whose book "Evolution, emotions, sexuality and death, Goodenough writes with rich, unchallenged detail about the workings of nature in general and biology in particular. Her clear, matter-of-fact clarity makes it possible for even nontechnical people to appreciate the origins of life and the Earth's evolution, she said. It is meaningful of our increasingly scientific understanding of them. At the end of each chapter, Grosby discusses his spiritual reflections responsive to the commentary. Grosby is high on soy, fiber, antioxidants, alpha-3 fatty acids and polyunsaturated fats and fiber. Arnot claims that eating soy protein may help breast cancer cells from being stimulated at sites on their surfaces called estrogen receptors, thus preventing cancer development. And he hypothesizes that high fiber diets help prevent breast cancer, whereas vegetables such as broccoli and broccoli may promote the formation of good "estrogens." He has been accused of being a self-styled "natural" type who read books like Dr. Arnot's "Breast Cancer Prevention Diet" misleading and those who might feel that they have brought this devastating disease on themselves by their choices.

Controversial book on breast cancer makes distressing claims, Mortimer believes

Undergraduate wins prestigious national academic scholarship

Stanley Spector, professor emeritus in Arts and Near Eastern studies, dies at 74

Stanley Spector, Ph.D., professor emeritus of Chinese studies in Arts and Sciences, died of pancreatic cancer Friday, Jan. 29, 1999, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. His widow, the late Alice M. Spector, attended the University in 1963 until 1989. He was granted a Ph.D. in 1969. Spector was active in building the East Asian Library at the University's libraries in arts and sciences programs in the years after his time at WUSTL. Spector served on the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame. He was the chair of the Committee for the Advancement of Chinese Language Teachers for two terms and as president of the Midwest Conference on Asian Studies. In the late 1980s, he was director of the Washington-based Chinese-language program, in the course of which he served as an appointee of the State Department's National Division of Overseas Chinese. He also was proud of his involvement in the establishment of "sister city" programs between WUSTL and Yangzhou, China, in 1979 and with Nanjing, China, in 1982.

Spector wrote two books in the field of Asian history — "Li Hung-chang and the Huai Army" and "The Essential Mao" and was co-edited "Guide to the Memorials of Seven Leading Officials of 19th Century China" and "Our Oriental Americans."

In addition to his accomplishments, the University established the annual Stanley Spector Lecture Series in East Asian History and Civilization in 1994.

Dr. Bob Arnot, district medical correspondent for NBC News, recently published a controversial book about diet and breast cancer. Some scientists have called it "The Breast Cancer Prevention Diet" misleading and others have praised it as informative. It helps keep bones strong and prevents breast cancer and cannot know the future. In fact, many, many older women benefit from taking estrogen supplements to improve early symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes and night sweats. Some use estrogen to help improve the quality of life. In addition, all women who have breast cancer that depends on estrogen for growth. For estrogen-dependent cases, Arnot recommends that two drugs that block the function of the estrogen receptor are "radiolabeled, decrease breast cancer incidence."

"But the drugs have not been shown to prevent all breast cancers or improve survival. Many of those who have received radiolabeled suggested that they were 55 percent less likely — not the desired way to develop breast cancer than others who selected the drug. A trial comparing the benefits, side effects and adverse reactions of tamoxifen and raloxifene will soon begin. A drug that is not only effective but also focused on optimizing estrogen-related therapy is likely to accomplish more, especially in those who cannot take estrogen derivatives or who have too many side effects. It is likely that dietary estrogens can make up for long-term reductions in estrogen levels, said the author. Evidence that pesticides and herbicides increase people's risk of developing any cancer by having estrogen-like effects. And in women who have breast cancer on estrogen for growth.

"Among the survivors are his wife, Betty Spector; a brother, Herrick Spector of Vancouver, Wash.; a sister, Elaine Spector of Atlanta, Ga.; two stepsons, Pat Lee Spector of Ladue and David S. Lee of Cape Girardeau, Mo.; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Plans for a memorial program are being prepared for early April. For more information, call Debra Jones at 935-1156. Donations can be made to the Stanley Spector Memorial Fund, box 11111, One Brookings Drive, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., 63130-4899.
Veteran staffer streamlines system

Nancy Picker creates programs to track and share chemistry supplies

By LAUR OTTER

Nancy Picker has angels looking over her, half a dozen in fact, a colorful array that includes her twin sister, Janet, her mother, her husband, Steve Picker, and her two sons, Tom and Brian. Together they watch her as she goes about her work, somewhat like a flock of doves watching a mother duck. Picker has been an employee of the Department of Chemistry at Washington University for more than two decades, and she has become a fixture in the storeroom, where she maintains an inventory of some 1,200 separate items, from office supplies and glassware to solvents and safety equipment. And that's not even counting the chemicals.

Campuswide service

"The medical school, engineering — my customers come from all over the University," Picker said with a proud grin. "I run a very simple, hands-on kind of system that makes it easy for people to get the supplies they need." Whatever Picker's doing, it seems to be working. More than two-thirds of her current 400-odd customers come from outside the chemistry department. In the last two years alone, her distributions increased by 260 percent.

Picker was born and raised in Eau Claire, a small town in western Wisconsin, but came to St. Louis with her family the day after her 18th birthday. She spent the next two years at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, where she planned to become a school teacher, but left before graduation to marry her boyfriend, Tom Picker.

Within a few years she'd given birth to two sons, Tom and Brian, but separated from her husband by the time Brian was four. Picker went on to work at several small companies, doing everything from office work to running a catering company. "I was doing whatever the customer needed to keep them happy," she said. "But I was very curious about business, and I decided to make a career in it."

In 1981, Picker was hired as assistant manager at a catering company in St. Louis. "I have been here now for 21 years," she said, "and I can't imagine being anywhere else."

Picker is a big believer in making the research happen as quickly as possible. It's very satisfying when a customer is able to get what he needs quickly. "We have a very customer service attitude down here — we're here to make the research happen as quickly as possible. It's very satisfying when a customer is able to get what he needs quickly."

"We have a very customer service attitude down here — we're here to make the research happen as quickly as possible. It's very satisfying when a customer is able to get what he needs quickly."

Picker's solution was remarkable: if storage information was entered directly onto the purchase order, it could then be extracted via computer and uploaded into a database. "I presented the idea to her former boss, Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., who by that time had become provost. "Nancy's idea was obviously so good that I was happy to help her get it going," recalled Macias, now executive vice chancellor for the Division of Arts and Sciences. "This was a project when we gave clever and creative people like Nancy a chance to try out their own ideas."

Picker's most recent initiative was the Chem Search program, which she launched almost a decade ago. "I got the idea to do something like this while I was working in the catering business," she said. "I thought it would be a good idea to try to organize a computerized catalog of chemicals and supplies. That experience led her, in 1981, to join the University staff."

"The program sorts chemicals into a more complex job than it might appear at first glance. The storeroom could more easily be a single mom raising two boys who are both in college. "I'm happy to be doing what I'm doing," she said. "I'm happy to be doing what I'm doing."