

# Hospital Patients Print Newspaper

You won't find it on any news stand and it's not likely to win any prizes for journalistic excellence, but few publications today can match the heart-warming impact of the Cresson News.

The Cresson News, you see, is written and edited by the mentally retarded children of the Cresson State School and Hospital.

And in its own small way, this monthly "newspaper," mimeographed on tablet-size paper and held together by staples, represents the basic philosophy of the school itself, to help the mentally retarded help themselves to useful lives in society despite the handicaps which they may face.

Jokes, cartoons, sketches, articles, everything that goes into the Cresson News is done by the youngsters. Only the technical end of the work is handled by the staff.

"Anyone of the boys or girls who wants to write something for the paper is encouraged to do so," says Thomas F. Stich, school principal, and instructor in Special Education from the University which is responsible for the educational aspects of the institution's program.

"We don't ask for stylistic or prize-winning writing. What we are concerned with is bringing these kids out of their shell, making them forget their fears, and expressing themselves, no matter what they say."

"Our little newspaper serves as an inspiration to the children here," Stich continued. "It helps teach them to read, write, and even speak, because they go from classroom to classroom gathering material. It's all part of our program to develop the total child and encompasses almost every imaginable aspect of learning."

The youngsters write about everything around them, subjects such as the boy who wore the "Batman's" costume to class; a new classmate from Altoona; new words learned in school; a little girl on her way to the dentist; the student who fell from a tree, and "hurt her arm."

Here for example is a sports report written last summer about a softball game:

"Cresson State School and Hospital played Cresson Plastics at the Munster ballfield. Cresson

Plastics won the game 16-12 with the game going nine innings. The team lost several balls because it got dark in the last inning . . ."

A child's conception of right and wrong also finds its way into News' "editorials" as indicated by this brief article on interruptions:

"We interrupted our janitor when he was scrubbing the hall. We stopped him from doing his work. He was angry with us. He said to us, 'Quit walking on the wet floor.' We said, 'Pardon us, Sir.'"

"We are attempting through every available means to show that the mentally retarded are no longer something to be hidden away in a dark room and forgotten," explains Stich. "Many of these children at Cresson can and are being trained so that they can take their place in society. All they need is a little care and encouragement."

Originally a tuberculosis sanatorium, the Cresson School and Hospital assumed its present role in 1964 as a prototype demonstration and experimentation school jointly operated by the University and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

It represents a coordinated effort with providing the educational services and the institution itself the ancillary and hospital services.

The educational program has two major functions, according to Stich. It must serve as a training ground for faculty and students from all disciplines interested in working with the retarded, and it must provide optimal educational services for the children in residence there.

At present, some 350 youngsters, ranging in age from one to 19, are living at Cresson. Almost a third of the children are considered educable or trainable and have been enrolled in training programs. This is where the University comes in.

Under the direction of William Carriker, head of the department of special education, the classroom program at Cresson has grown from 64 resident children in four classes to 112 residents in eight classes.

The scope of the program already has been broadened to serve the needs of the emotionally disturbed as well as the educable and trainable re-

tardee. Within a few years, officials at Penn State hope to expand it even further to cover all areas of exceptionalities related to mental retardation.

As Stich explained, the primary objective of the University program at Cresson is to return a maximum number of the mentally retarded to useful roles in society.

The Cresson News is just one of many activities sponsored by the school toward that end.

The youngsters also put on a carnival, gymnastics show and arts festival each year, giving them the opportunity to display their skills and talents to the public.

"You should see that carnival," smiles Stich. "The kids play the parts of the barkers, the acrobats, the clowns, the concessionaires and even the strong men."

The arts festival also shows off the artistic abilities of the youngsters, covering every imaginable art form, from finger painting, to sculpture, crafts, clay and wood work. One boy built a miniature house and wired it himself.

And while the children are learning, graduate students from Penn State are learning too, serving as "interns" with on-the-job training for their future roles in teaching exceptional children.

A full-time educational staff is on duty at the institution, consisting of Stich as principal, three demonstration teachers certified to teach the mentally retarded, a teacher's aide and a graduate intern. Dr. Thomas D. Marro, assistant professor of special education at Penn State, serves as liaison officer between the two institutions. And the summer extension of the program is entirely staffed by graduate interns.

Nothing sums up the success of the Penn State program and its student teachers more than this simple tribute written by the children themselves in the Cresson News last spring:

"The end of the school year is near, and once again a fine group of teachers is going to leave us. We have been very lucky to have teachers like Mrs. Brown, Mr. McCompt, and Mr. Markiewicz. They have been very good to us. They have taught us many things. We want to thank them."



TRICK OR TREAT—These two youngsters at the Cresson State School and Hospital are all set for Halloween. They made the masks themselves as part of the educational program at Cresson. Adjusting the little girl's mask is Patricia Rice, one of the special instructors assigned to the school by the University.

# PSU Research On Solar Eclipse

When the sun slips behind the moon, blackening the Brazilian sky in mid-November, the red glare of American rockets will light the landscape. University engineers will be trying to discover how solar radiation affects the ionosphere or upper atmosphere.

University studies will be part of a vast array of projects swinging into action during the total eclipse of the sun over parts of South America and the southern oceans on November 12. More than 300 scientists and engineers will be in Brazil as part of America's effort.

Six large jet aircraft will wing across the sky in the shadow of the moon. Two ships, including the Oceanographer, will be in southern waters, manned by U.S. scientists. Some 20 rockets will be flown from Rio Grande, Brazil, by a number of teams.

The four rockets carrying ionosphere experiments will be launched during the solar eclipse by the U.S. Army's Ballistics Research Laboratory as part of an over-all effort to understand the lower ionosphere, that portion of the atmosphere roughly between 25 and 70 miles.

The eclipse experiments are especially important because radiation from the sun is the primary cause of ionization of the upper atmosphere.

Chief experimenters are Drs. Leslie C. Hale, Associate Professor, and Thomas A. Seliga, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering in the Penn State Ionosphere Research Laboratory. They will take two of their graduate students to Brazil to help

with the tests. The experiments, two on board each of the four rockets, will be lifted more than 50 miles into space by Nike-Javelin rockets. The dual-purpose packages were assembled in the Ionosphere Research Laboratory with the help of BRL.

Seliga's experiment uses radio propagation techniques to measure the electron density of the D region of the ionosphere. Measurements will be made with a rocket-borne receiver which will pick up signals transmitted from the ground during ascent. Signal strength data is then used to determine the electron density profile at the time of the rocket flight. The interpretation of the data is performed with the aid of full wave computer solutions of the equations governing radio wave propagation in the ionosphere.

Engineers are concerned with electron density of the ionosphere because of the ionosphere's effect on long-range radio communications. Measurements made during a solar eclipse are especially helpful in solving problems associated with the physical processes in the upper atmosphere. The state of the electrons in the ionosphere during the eclipse will be compared with "normal" times and with the results of other experiments to be

conducted by other American teams in Brazil at that time.

The second experiment is a "subsonic blunt probe" designed by Hale to collect charged particles in the ionosphere during a slow parachute descent of the package. The theory of operation of these probes is largely the work of Dr. David P. Houli, Associate Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

Probes traveling at supersonic velocities in the region of 25 to 50 miles above the Earth have an ionizing effect of their own, the engineers explained. The rocket can drastically alter the composition of the gas surrounding it, opening direct measurements to question, Hale said. By use of a parachute, many of these unwanted effects can be overcome.

Over a period of two years, working under U.S. Army grants, IRL engineers have developed new methods for studying the electrification of the atmosphere or ionosphere, Hale said. A standard payload has been developed and 14 meteorological-type rockets have been launched to date with parachute-borne blunt probes to measure charged particle parameters at these altitudes.

The two most recent shots were at White Sands on Aug. 29, and at Ft. Greeley, Alaska, on Sept. 6.

## On Display In Pattee Centennial Links PSU And Kansas



A centennial linking the University and the University of Kansas through the career of John Fraser, Penn State's third president, is the theme of an exhibit now on display in the lobby of Pattee Library.

Fraser became president of the University, then known as the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, in 1866, the same year the University of Kansas opened at Lawrence. When he was offered the Kansas chancellorship a year later, Fraser left Penn State in 1868 during a time of crisis and reorganization to serve Kansas through an equally critical period until 1874. "Old Main" at the University of Kansas was built during his administration and named Fraser Hall in 1897 in his honor.

Known as a scholar and dedicated teacher, Fraser may have achieved both presidential positions partly through men who had been his students at Jefferson College in Canonsburg before it became part of Washington and Jefferson College at Washington, Pa. He taught

there from 1855 until 1862, when he enlisted in the Union Army and recruited a full company of students who served with him in the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

John Fraser was born in Scotland in 1827 and studied at the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, from which he was graduated in 1844 with high honors in mathematics. Before coming to the University he taught for six years in the Bermudas, served as principal of a private school in New York, taught mathematics and astronomy at Jefferson and became founder and head of a private academy in Connellsville.

During the Civil War, Colonel Fraser served with leadership and courage at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania and Petersburg, where he was taken prisoner in 1864. After his release he was brevetted Brigadier General and mustered out in May, 1865.

He was appointed to the University faculty the same year as professor of mathematics and as-

tronomy and lecturer in military tactics. He became a faculty leader in reorganizing the College to meet its responsibilities as Pennsylvania's land-grant institution and succeeded to the presidency upon the resignation of William H. Allen in November, 1866.

Following his chancellorship at the University of Kansas and a two-year term as State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Kansas, Fraser returned to Pennsylvania to serve on the faculty of Western University (now the University of Pittsburgh) until his death in 1878.

General Fraser's memorabilia were given to the University of Kansas by his widow, and much of the Fraser material now on exhibit in the Pattee Library is on loan from the Kansas Collection of the University Library at Lawrence.

The Fraser exhibit in Pattee Library is part of a general historical display arranged by the staff of the Library's Penn State Collection and will remain on view throughout fall term.

## Students 'Clean Up' Politics

It's up to today's colleges and universities to help dispel the notion that politics by nature is a dirty business, the new head of the department of political science said.

"Politics is no more dirty than the participants and environment will allow," declares Bernard C. Hennessy, former head of the National Center for Education in Politics in New York, N.Y.

"The unethical aspects of politics are no more prevalent than the unethical behavior in business or any other interhuman action."

And to help restore the image of politics to its rightful place in today's society, Hennessy said it is up to the colleges and universities to prepare their students better for leadership in the world of politics.

"By enriching the academic study of politics in our schools we can provide better training for political leaders of the future and in turn help enhance the image of politics itself," Hennessy said.

How is this being done at the University?

"Well," he replied, "we have a number of programs at all levels. For example, there are our internships under which the students get the opportunity to spend several

weeks or months, perhaps even a whole semester, as full-time regular staff members in a congressman's office, a mayor's office or a party chairman's office working very closely with him."

"We also have conferences and workshops in which politicians and student leaders and political science students are brought together to discuss some of the issues, campaigning and the other activities of political parties on the state and local level. Finally there is the course-related field research in which students are sent out to do interviewing or to gather data about political leaders or political activities in their areas."

A graduate of Syracuse University in 1948 and author of several books on political science Hennessy was affiliated with the National Center for Education in Politics for six years before coming to the University.

"It's objectives were designed to help colleges and universities better prepare their students for leadership in politics today," he explained. "We strongly urged students and faculty to become involved as political leaders at state and local levels where politics is most important and primarily on an avocational basis, not necessarily a professional one."

## La Vie Rated First Class

The 1966 La Vie, senior class annual at the University, has been given a First Class Honor Rating in the judging by the Associated Collegiate Press of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. Co-editors of the book were Richard A. Carothers, Allison Park, and Robert E. Risberger, of Webster, N.Y., while Jean E. Wright Newton

Square, served as art editor and did the general layouts as well as the cover design for the book.

Engraving and printing was done by Grit Publishing Co., Williamsport.

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