

PSU heart-assist pump gets national recognition

By PAM STEIN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A heart assist pump developed by a 20-member research team of the University received national attention Thursday when Dr. William S. Pierce announced at the 1977 Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association that it has been used successfully.

Pierce, a heart surgeon at Hershey Medical Center, Dr. Winfred M. Phillips and Dr. John A. Brighton of University Park were primarily responsible for the research and development of the device.

The pump first proved successful in July when it was used to sustain the life of a 39-year-old central Pennsylvania woman when her own heart was unable to pump blood after open-heart surgery.

The heart pump, described by Science Information Officer Naomi Novak as a "U-shaped bottle with balls on top," may eventually help save the lives of approximately 800 open-heart surgery patients in the United States each year.

"In the U.S.," said Dr. Pierce, "an estimated 800 heart surgery patients die each year because their hearts are not strong enough to pump blood when they are weaned from a heart-lung machine following surgery."

This device, according to a press release issued Thursday, is actually a left ventricular assist pump designed to take over the work of the left ventricle after heart surgery or a heart attack accompanied by shock. The left ventricle, responsible for pumping blood to the entire body with the exception of the lungs, is the most important part of the heart.

According to the researchers, the device may be used for up to two weeks without major blood damage. This allows the patient's heart enough time to recuperate and regain the strength necessary to operate on its own. The pump, Pierce said, can take over when the heart-lung machine can no longer be used.

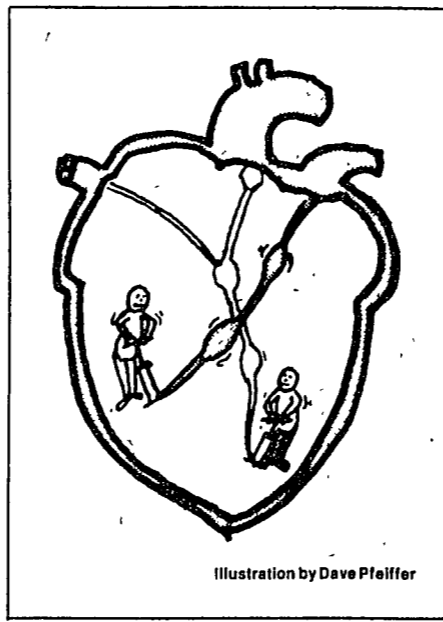


Illustration by Dave Pfeiffer

Phillips, an associate professor of aerospace engineering and director of engineering studies for the project, said he believes that the newly-devised pump is more simple than two other heart-assist pumps now being researched at the Texas Heart Institute and Boston Children's Hospital.

He said the University-developed pump has a high potential for alleviating blood clotting and blood damage, which are chief complications in heart surgery.

The pump, Phillips said, is the least complex heart assist pump yet developed.

Other mechanisms now being implemented such as the heart-lung or cardio-pulmonary by-pass machine, perform both breathing and heart functions during surgery, thereby causing red blood cell damage. These devices may not be used for more than a few hours.

The heart assist pump, which is a

device slightly larger than a man's fist, lies alongside the patient and is connected to his heart by two tubes surgically inserted through the chest wall. One tube is attached to the bottom of the left ventricle, the other to the aorta. The tubes may be removed with the patient under a local anesthesia.

Phillips said the device is capable of handling a larger amount of blood per minute than is normally pumped by a body at rest.

According to Phillips, a major advantage of the pump is its prevention of thrombosis, which was achieved by using an extremely smooth blood contacting surface of segmented polyurethane and by the use of anti-clotting drugs.

James Donachy, a technician at Hershey Medical Center, was primarily responsible for physical construction of the heart assist pump, Noval said.

The heart assist pump is the second important bio-engineering device, manufactured by the University. The first development, a long-life, rechargeable pacemaker, is now manufactured and widely used.

The possibility of commercial manufacturing of the pump, with a University patent, is under consideration.

Pierce, chief investigator for the project, obtained grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Pennsylvania Science and Engineering Foundation and private sources which totaled less than \$1 million.

He said that this experience, researched for seven years, will serve as a basis for further research relevant to permanently implantable heart-assist pumps.

Phillips stated that 3 pumps have already been manufactured at Hershey Medical Center at the relatively low cost of \$1,000 each.

Says position lacks direction

USG's federal lobbyist resigns

By JON SARACENO
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Denny McEwen has resigned his position as federal lobbyist for the Undergraduate Student Government because he said the position lacks adequate resources, a satisfactory amount of work and a general direction.

"The position, as I perceived it, wasn't going anywhere and I didn't see where I was doing anything for USG or the students," McEwen said. He said that rather than maintain a position which he found unsatisfactory, he would resign to open up the position to someone who

wanted it.

He said a heavy academic work load and personal commitments also led to his decision.

McEwen, former assistant director of USG's Political Affairs Dept., was appointed chief federal liaison last spring by USG President Grant Ackerman.

"Things didn't work out the way I thought they would when I took the position," McEwen said.

Fritz Andrews, head of USG's Political Affairs Dept., said he was not aware of McEwen's decision, but was not surprised by it.

"I didn't think he was very happy with what he was doing... his position was pretty worthless," Andrews said. He added that there wasn't much McEwen could do in his position, outside of writing letters, because traveling to Washington was too impractical.

Andrews said that a lack of communication may have resulted from McEwen's direct responsibility to Ackerman, rather than direct responsibility to the Political Affairs Dept. Ackerman created the position held by McEwen.

McEwen admitted there had been a lack of commitment and communication between himself and USG, but did not elaborate.

"I just wanted out," he said. "I don't have an axe to grind, although I think things could have been done differently."

He said because the energies of USG were being directed toward solving the budget crisis, he wasn't as involved with USG as he wanted to be.

"I lost interest and I don't want to be involved on a day-to-day basis with USG," McEwen said.

Ackerman could not be reached for comment on McEwen's resignation.

Camera, cash taken from home

State College police said they are investigating a burglary at the home of Joseph Hurly, 214 W. Whitehall Rd., involving the loss of a 35 millimeter camera, valued at \$150, and \$70 in cash.

Police said the burglary occurred Wednesday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

University police are investigating the theft of a watch reported missing Thursday from a locker room in Rec Hall. The

watch, valued at \$150, is owned by Daniel Malone, 2013 N. Atherton St.

A tote bag and clothing, owned by Wayne Swanger of North Hampton, was stolen Tuesday from a room at the Holiday Inn, 1450 S. Atherton St. State College police set the loss at \$100.

— by Rich Ziemba

Universities don't plan future budget rallies, Ackerman says

By BRUCE BECKER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The state's universities are not planning to hold any more massive rallies in the near future aimed at pressuring the state's legislators into passing appropriations for the schools, according to Undergraduate Student Government president Grant Ackerman.

The Nov. 15 rally held in Harrisburg was attended by more than 3,000 people. Ackerman said smaller lobbying efforts will probably be pursued.

Students who attended the Nov. 15 rally heard speeches from Gov. Shapp, House Majority Leader Joseph Manderino and House Minority Leader Robert Butera. Leaders from four state-related universities also spoke.

Two days after the rally the Senate

passed its version of a tax plan which would fund the universities.

Of the four senators who changed their minds and voted for the tax plan after the rally, two said that the rally was successful.

Sen. J. Doyle Corman (R-34th state senatorial district) said that his mind had already been made up, but that the rally helped to reinforce his decision.

Sen. Thomas Nolan said that the group was one of the best that ever held such a rally in Harrisburg and that the rally was successful in influencing the state's legislators.

Senators Martin Murray and Quentin Orlando said they also changed their minds and voted for the tax plan after the rally.

According to USG senator Matt Hanna the students made their presence felt at the rally.

"I think we made it very apparent

to the legislators that students are concerned," Hanna said.

Hanna said that it will probably take a while for the House to pass a tax package but warned that time is running out since the legislature cannot pass a corporate tax increase after the end of the year.

Ackerman said that he will meet with leaders from other universities today to discuss future plans of action. He said that since large rallies are expensive and difficult to organize the universities may decide to concentrate more on lobbying with individual legislators.

Ackerman said he would like to see the state legislature set up a committee to audit the state's books and find waste within the state budget. That way waste could either be eliminated or tax increases could be justified, Ackerman said.

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If you think you have talent and time to give the Collegian, please attend one of our organizational meetings.

- Candidate school for reporters begins 7:30 Sunday night in 167 Willard.
- Candidate school for photographers begins 7:30 Sunday night in 126 Carnegie. Bring portfolio.
- Candidate school for cartoonists begins 7:30 Sunday night in 126 Carnegie.