

Hershey survey to pinpoint needs of cancer patients

By ROBERT P. KING
Collegian Staff Writer

The needs of cancer patients in Pennsylvania will be the subject of a statewide survey conducted by the University's Hershey Medical Center, the head of the survey team said Wednesday.

Peter S. Houts, associate professor of behavioral science, said the one-year, \$82,000 study will question cancer patients, family members, physicians, nurses and social workers involved in their care.

The survey will determine "what their needs are, what resources they are using,

and what needs are not being filled," Houts said.

Houts said the study will cover a full range of issues including the availability of transportation, medical and insurance coverage, treatment, information and family support.

The state will use this information to plan programs to meet these needs, he said.

The medical center is conducting the study under a contract from the state Department of Health, said Katherine Marconi, chief of the state Cancer Control Program that oversees the survey.

Marconi said this type of study has never been done before in the state and is one of

the first of its kind nationally.

Possible problems include a lack of adequate training among non-cancer personnel, a need for transportation for patients to and from treatment, a need for family support, and difficulty in getting insurance coverage for cancer patients, she said.

Also, physicians have complained of insufficient coverage of medical bills, she said.

Marconi said the state can solve these problems by providing training programs for non-cancer personnel and working with the American Cancer Society to set up family support groups throughout the state.

Also, the state can help by getting more

information out to patients, telling them, for example, what questions to ask when they are diagnosed, she said.

"What happens will really depend on where the respondents tell us the problem lies. The programs will be tailored to meet these," Houts said.

Houts said the 600 individuals to participate in the initial stage of the survey will be selected from the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry, a health department listing of cancer patients in the Commonwealth.

Because the registry only recently came into effect in the western part of the state, the survey will focus on patients in central and eastern Pennsylvania, Houts said.

Houts said the survey will also question the patients' "significant other" — usually a spouse or close family member — and physicians, nurses and social workers connected with their care.

He said 2,100 interviews will be conducted between now and next February.

Hershey's contract with the state began March 1, Houts said. Since then the survey team has been making up the questionnaires and preparing the sample. Houts said he hopes to begin the field work in mid-May.

The interviewing will be conducted by Survey Research Associates, an epidemiological firm associated with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Houts said.

Cigarette smokers are changing their habits

By MEGAN O'MATZ
Collegian Staff Writer

The American Cancer Society recently reported that the number of American adult smokers has declined, but State College tobacco dealers said they have experienced

little or no decrease in cigarette sales.

Shirley Wood, of the American Cancer Society, 1001 University Drive, said more adults have quit smoking because of the increased knowledge that smoking is harmful.

"When I was younger, we didn't

realize how harmful smoking was," Yood said. "It took 20 years or more for the effects to really be known."

According to a June 1983 tobacco report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cigarette consumption fell 3 percent from 1982 to 1983.

The American Cancer Society esti-

mates more than 33 million ex-cigarette smokers are in the U.S. today.

Also, statistics provided to the Cancer Society from a government study indicate that smoking has declined 25 percent among teenagers between 1974 and 1979.

Despite these findings, cigarette

consumption in State College appears to be stable.

"Our cigarette sales are about the same," Joseph Utzler, manager of Tobacco Tavern in the Nittany Mall, said. "People have just gone from smoking regular cigarettes to ultra lights."

Yood agreed with Utzler that more people are smoking low tar cigarettes but added there is no such thing as a safe cigarette.

She said the American Cancer Society suspects that the federal excise tax on cigarettes may have contributed to the reduction in smoking.

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**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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Lincoln U. juniors given taste of PSU

By GAIL JOHNSON
Collegian Staff Writer

As part of a continued effort to increase the number of minority students at the University, the graduate school staff last week hosted a group of Lincoln University undergraduates, the assistant to the dean of the graduate school for minority affairs said yesterday.

Roosevelt Green said the delegation of Lincoln juniors who have attained at least 3.0 academic averages was chosen by Lincoln faculty to visit Penn State and observe graduate school opportunities here.

"We wanted to convince them to do their graduate work at Penn State," Green said.

While at the University, the group toured campus facilities, attended classes, and met with Howard Palmer, acting dean of the graduate school.

In addition, the students had an

opportunity to talk with the admissions and financial aid staffs of the graduate school.

Green said the idea to bring the students to the University was his, as part of the graduate school's recruitment program.

He added that he had in mind two objectives for the program:

- To get minority students acquainted with opportunities at Penn State.
- To break down some of the negative impressions minorities have of Penn State.

The group is the second of its kind to come to the University from Lincoln; the first were seniors who visited earlier this year. Although recruitment efforts have been increased, Green said the students still must gain admission through regular channels.

However, he said, after the students have been admitted, minority graduate financial aid is available to them in the form of research grants and fellowships.

Happy Valley has built-in acid rain buffer

By NANCY STEWART
Collegian Staff Writer

Although State College could be affected by problems related to acid rain, natural buffers in valley soils will minimize the effects, a University assistant professor of forest resources extension said this week.

William E. Sharpe said acid rain would have a greater effect on mountains surrounding State College because mountain soil, unlike area valleys, lacks the limestone bedrock that has a buffering capacity against the acid.

He said a reported loss of fish in areas of north central Pennsylvania indicates a possible acid rain problem in the state.

"We're looking at the beginnings of problems for

Pennsylvania," he said. "We'll be looking at a wider spread problem if the sulfate emissions continue at their present levels."

Sharpe participated in a study by the University's Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources of western Pennsylvania streams. The study revealed that acid rain has eliminated fish from 21 percent of the streams there. Low pH and high aluminum levels are responsible for the decrease in trout, he said.

Sharpe said research was conducted in the Laurel Hill area in western Pennsylvania. He said that area gets more acid rain than anywhere in the United States because of its elevation, its proximity to the Ohio River Valley and its lack of natural buffers in the soil.

Acid rain will most likely affect places similar to

Laurel Hill and the researchers are exploring solutions to the effects, Sharpe said.

The research is funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation in the hopes of restoring trout populations in areas affected by acid rain, Sharpe said.

"I'm not optimistic as to the success. It might be too costly to be practical," he said.

The researchers will try different methods of combating the effects of acid rain, one of which is to gradually acclimate the fish to a low pH, high aluminum concentration. Sharpe said by doing this, the tolerance of fish will increase.

David DeWalle, professor of forest hydrology at the institute, said limestone applications to forest soils are the best bet for alleviating the problem through soil.

WDFM to play the song of the Heart Association

WDFM, the campus radio station, is sponsoring a four-day fund raiser for the American Heart Association this weekend, the station manager said yesterday.

Joe Krushinsky (junior-journalism) said the event opened yesterday with broadcasts from the mall at College Avenue and South Allen Street. The broadcasts will continue all weekend from either College and Allen or the Nittany Mall, he added.

Health awareness information will

be available at these locations and various fund raisers will be underway, he said.

A talent show, featuring community members and WDFM personnel, was held last night in the recital hall of the Music Building. Krushinsky said. No admission was charged but a donation was asked, he said.

A film festival of five Three Stooges movies will be at 7 and 9 tonight and tomorrow night in 26 Mineral Sciences Building. Admission is \$1.50.

Krushinsky said.

On Saturday "Hoops for Hearts" will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the YMCA, 412 W. College Ave., said Joe Martellaro, organizer of the basketball shoot.

Martellaro (junior-speech communications) said participants will be charged \$1 to enter. Participants asked people to pledge money for every point they score, he said.

Participants have 90 seconds to shoot from various areas on the floor,

he added. Points are awarded depending on the area the baskets are made from.

"This is the first time we've ever undertaken a project for charity," Martellaro said.

"We did not set any goals since it is our first attempt," he added.

He said WDFM plans to use this year's collection as a guideline for future drives.

—By Kim Ajack

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