

Library

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won't be on until after January, because of incompatibility," said Susan Yeager, Systems Administrator and Assistant to the Director at Misericordia's library.

Yeager, who is also responsible for helping to maintain the library's home page along with Jenn Luksa, says of the NPLN catalogue, "If you're familiar with the Internet at all, it's pretty user-friendly." The website for NPLN is www.npln.org, and when you go there and click on "Search Online Catalog" at the bottom of the home page, you will be presented with options of searching through the individual libraries, searching by category (public or academic libraries, Luzerne or Lackawanna County), or tailoring a search according to your own criteria — for instance, choosing only the libraries that are geographically closest to you.

One of the main resources in Misericordia's library is its collection of professional journals. Periodicals such as journals are most useful for keeping abreast of updates in a particular field, since they are published at regular intervals, while textbooks may grow outdated soon after publication. Some are available in the periodicals department, but now they are primarily available through an online subscription agency, EBSCOhost. Misericordia purchases subscriptions to the journals that most suit its needs through EBSCO; while public libraries may have access to other periodicals (such as the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature) through subscription agencies, they might not subscribe to the types of scholarly publications that a college or university library would. With a Misericordia library card, Back Mountain residents can access these periodicals both on campus and off.

The new Mary Kintz Bevevino Library is located in the middle of Misericordia's campus. "That was something we celebrated when we had our groundbreaking," said Sister Sharon Gallagher, Director of Library Services. Previously the college library had been located on the second floor of the Administration building, where space was at a premium, but by the summer of 1999, the library's new building was completed. "We waited 35 years — and finally got it," Sr. Gallagher said.

Mary Kintz Bevevino went to Misericordia when her children were grown in order to earn a degree in English. She graduated magna cum laude in 1987, and became a member of the college's



POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH SKRAPITS

Susan Yeager, left, Systems Administrator and Assistant to the Director, and Sister Sharon Gallagher, Director of Library Services at Misericordia.

Board of Trustees a few years later. She was always active in community service and in Misericordia activities, and when she died in 1993, her family made a bequest to Misericordia for the library that bears her name.

Misericordia's library has always been open to Back Mountain residents, but "we never advertised it before due to lack of space," Sr. Gallagher said. Now that it has its own brightly-lit and spacious building, the public is invited to come and use it: "It's part of our outreach program for the community," she said.

There are three floors; the first contains the main service desk, faculty reserves, the educational videotape collection, and the books on education and Health Sciences, which are the most widely-used at the college. The third houses the rest of Misericordia's collection. On the second floor, which is the busiest, you can do what Sr. Gallagher calls "one-stop shopping" — the reference department,

periodicals, microform, computers, and photocopiers are all located there. There are 10 active computer stations and two photocopiers, and according to Sr. Gallagher, there's always someone there to provide assistance at the reference desk, even on weekends.

Many non-students, particularly health-science professionals, come in to keep up-to-date on developments in their fields, or just to relax and browse through the latest publications. There are plenty of study tables and individual desks, called carrels, many situated by the huge windows that overlook Misericordia's campus. "No matter where you go, you can find a quiet spot," Sr. Gallagher said.

Anyone can come in to use the library, but borrowing privileges are only for Back Mountain residents who are over 18; high-school students may have their parents check books out for them, or can do their research in the library

itself. To apply for a card, ask at the front desk for a form and show your driver's licence as identification. With a card you may access Misericordia's online journals and other reference databases, as well as check out any of the circulating materials, provided they are returned on time. "As an academic institution, we need to be sure our materials are here when the students need them," said Sr. Gallagher. She also warned that anyone looking in Misericordia's library for works of fiction or books on tape will be disappointed, because they don't stock any. "We go to the public libraries ourselves for those," she said with a laugh.

While materials from Misericordia's collection can be checked out by non-students with a Misericordia card, interlibrary loans — borrowing books from other libraries — must be done through the local public library. Elaine Phoenix is the librarian in charge of interlibrary loans at the Back Mountain Library. In mid-December of 1999, the Back Mountain Library went online itself, and since then, according to Phoenix, interlibrary loans have at least doubled. Prior to that forms were sent to the Osterhout for processing; the new online catalogue system "speeds up the search immensely," Phoenix said. The Back Mountain Library's holdings are now listed along with those of the other members of the Luzerne County Library System in its online database, which is conveniently accessible at home via the Osterhout's web site [see sidebar].

Phoenix says there are three kinds of interlibrary loans that can be done: loans from other libraries in the Luzerne County Library System; loans from other libraries in the state through Access Pennsylvania; and national interlibrary loan — from libraries across the USA — which the Back Mountain Library does through the Osterhout. To request a book from another location, simply go to the library and fill out a form. The Back Mountain Library has Internet-connected computers with catalogue access, including NPLN, available to its patrons, but if you can't find the location of the book you want, provide the author and the title and the library will do the rest. Phoenix noted that there is no cost to the patron for doing a search. "Unlike many libraries, we perform the service for free. Some libraries charge 25 or 50 cents, but we don't."

Phoenix estimates that 90 percent of the time the requested book can be found. "We're always willing to try to find a book for a patron," she said.

NASA

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so — it was the same strategy their scientists had come up with and are in fact using. The Dallas and Nanticoke students were commended by NASA scientists for coming up with the most workable plan out of the 10 schools competing. Assistant Superintendent Michael Speziale said he had spoken with NASA officials who declared they were "very impressed with the students from Dallas."

The NASA Endeavor Project was started last year at Dallas Middle School. It was conceived by David Reese at Intermediate Unit 19 and Dennis Christopher, Educational Specialist to NASA from Pennsylvania. The idea was to have a three-year project with the middle school — through grades 7, 8 and 9 — in which the same teacher would work with the group for those three years. The purpose of the project is to teach children real science and the experimental process.

Five students are participating in the NASA Endeavor Project: Chris Baiamonte, Lenore Kaplan, Jake Kovalchik, Adam Snider and Megan Vodzak. Three of them gave a presentation to the Dallas School Board on Monday night. They talked about their work on the SOHO problem and the latest project — to develop an experiment to be carried out on board a space shuttle. The students intend to submit a plan in which a control group of plants will be grown in the middle school courtyard here on Earth, while an experimental group is taken on the space shuttle, after which their growth and development will be compared and contrasted.

Other students were present to address the board. Two members of the DMS Student Council announced this year the Dallas Middle School Student Council raised \$10,549 for the American Diabetes Association (ADA) in the Walk For Diabetes at Harveys Lake on October 8. About 150 kids took part, and the middle school came in first in Luzerne County. The ADA Walk was only one of many charity fund-raising events undertaken by the DMS Student Council. They also hold a Mother's

NASA officials were "very impressed with the students from Dallas."

Day rose sale to benefit the ADA, and will soon sponsor a food drive and an SPCA fundraiser.

Chuck Suppon, John Simonitis, Blake Saba, Matt Eyt and Jason Race showed up on behalf of the Dallas High football team to thank the board for their new fieldhouse and facilities.

In other business, Paul DiGillio of Foreman Burkavage gave a presentation on the elevations, preliminary design, and materials selected for the new middle school. "We wanted to pass it by the board to see if there's anything they don't like," he said. So far there wasn't, but the plans are only in their earliest stages.

DiGillio also explained how the geothermal heating/air conditioning system the board has opted for works. Hot or cold water, depending on the season, is circulated through tubes by means of pumps. DiGillio said electricity was only used to run the pumps rather than provide the heat itself; this will be more efficient and less expensive than an electric or even gas heating system. "The only similarity is when we pay the bill — we'll think we're still using gas," board member John Litz said.

Light-hearted commentary on the current election situation was a recurring theme of the evening. During a vote on a resolution to pay Foreman Burkavage for the middle school preliminary design and development, board member Karen Kyle called out, "Absentee ballot!" When the resolution passed unanimously, Maureen Banks humorously demanded a recount.

Later, when Kyle reported on the mock election at Wycallis Elementary (George Bush won by a landslide — 270 to 143 — which drew a chuckle from the assembled) Anthony Barbose said, "They were punch ballots, by the way." On that note, the meeting was adjourned.

Library links in cyberspace

Gone are the days of leafing through little drawers full of well-thumbed cards and hoping the book you want is on the shelf. With an Internet connection, you can browse through a library's collection, access library catalogues, and check materials availability without leaving your own home.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Library Network: www.npln.org Through this user-friendly site you can search the catalogues of all the member libraries, or else click on links to go directly to their web sites.

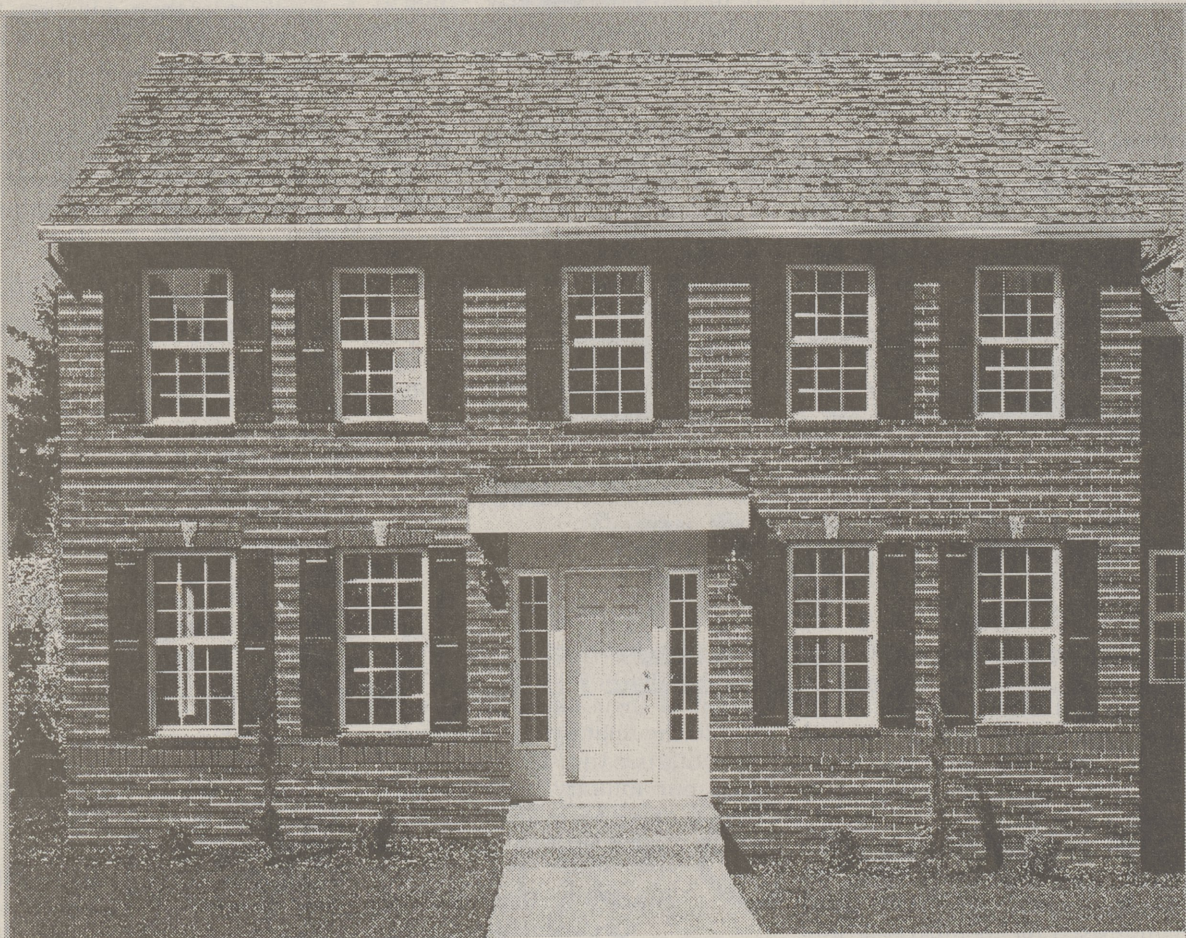
The Osterhout Library: www.osterhout.lib.pa.us If you click on "Online Catalog" you can access the holdings of the entire Luzerne County Library System — the screen will look familiar to anyone who's used the computers at one of the libraries in the system.

Misericordia's library: www.miseri.edu/administration/library As of this writing a link to NPLN has not yet been added to Misericordia's library homepage due to technical difficulties, but will be within the next few weeks. In the meantime you can browse through the library's own catalogue and links to other online reference materials.

LCCC engineering program information night

Luzerne County Community College will hold an information night for building trades and engineering programs on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the College's Advanced Technology Center and Building 2. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with faculty and tour the College's technology facilities. Information on enrollment procedures, tuition and financial aid will be available.

The information night is open to the public, free of charge. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 740-0343.



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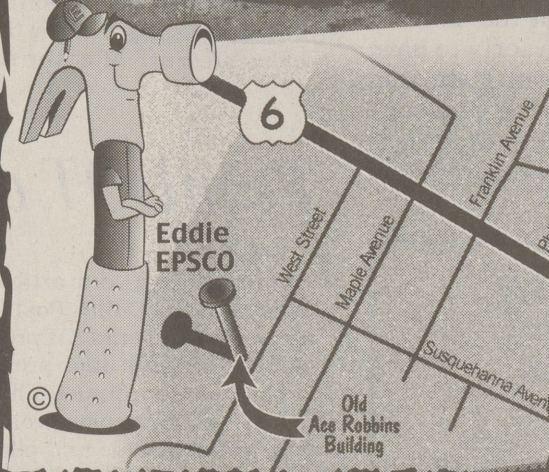
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