



THE ADVISOR

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A BI-WEEKLY INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

PENNHURST STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL

OPEN HOUSE PARTICIPATION

Last Wednesday evening many of the school children presented a musical program based on excerpts from "The Sound of Music." These residents, with the devoted guidance of Mrs. Boone, worked diligently for many hours in preparation for this performance. As a result, the children's presentation was nothing short of marvelous.

Yet, upon looking into the audience, one would have seen approximately fifty visitors. Where were those self-denying and totally committed friends of the mentally retarded child who spend their day scurrying through A Building? What about the many social workers, unit directors, psychologists, counselors, aides and others from the Pennhurst staff? One must also be dismayed at the lack of interest displayed by the members of the community who will embrace the rhetoric of a desperate politician in degrading the institution, yet fail to take an hour out of their evening to witness the effects of positive effort. Are not such activities the culmination of all our combined efforts? How was anyone with an interest in these children able to pass up an opportunity to witness them putting their entire heart and soul into such a successful presentation?

Concerned Employee

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Miss Anita H. Slominski, Coordinator, Cerebral Palsy Clinic, Indiana University Medical Centre, will speak to all interested Aide personnel on "The Stimulation and Development of the Individual Resident to His greatest Potential" from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., November 17, 1970, in the Penn Hall Conference Room. Those who have heard and seen Miss Slominski in other programs recommend her presentation as an unforgettable experience.

Lloyd Skole
Training Specialist

IN DEFENCE OF UNIFORMS

I am concerned about the clothing the Aides are wearing to work. It is a disgrace. I think a nurse or aide should be dressed in a white uniform in order to be recognized by the residents as a respected aide or nurse, and to gain the confidence of the residents' parents as competent employees. I was visiting different Institutions and noticed nurses and aides in full uniform and the respect they were given.

A Concerned Aide

A CLARIFICATION CLARIFIED

In reference to the indignant item by the four ladies who feel that we are not making progress with "these residents" who no longer give them the respect they deserve, I must ask why they feel so slighted by Mrs. Horn's news item. If it is true that these ladies are still "thinking up" parties, dances, and other activities for their people and if their residents still groom themselves, make beds, set tables, and many other things, there must be lots of merriment and few chores to be done on their wards.

However, as a member of Unit V who has never had a "clean, little office" nor any other facilities I didn't have to provide and clean myself, I must say that the same cannot be said for our wards. Our children are too small and generally function on too low a level to provide the help these ladies receive from their residents. The help that was hired has been placed, as you suggest, on the wards where it is needed.

Mrs. Horn's article did not exclude the aides as an instrument of progress; rather it implied that teamwork of all concerned was resulting in progress with a low functioning group that "really needs training." Perhaps with additional staff, more of our children, too, will be able to groom themselves some day.

It is petty to envy people for doing their best to give pleasure to children. I don't know why these ladies aren't getting credit for the many things they feel they personally have accomplished. I can't imagine why they aren't getting the respect they feel they deserve from their residents. All I can say is, if one's criticisms are not constructive, they are better left unsaid.

Bobbie Wayne
Music Therapist, Unit V

MATERIAL TO DONATE?

Did you think you'd do an antiquing job and never get it done? Or did you have some left over when you did do the job? If so, some enterprising folks who are repainting D-5 would like to have the antiquing material to redo some chests of drawers. If you would be willing to donate some of this material, please bring it to K Basement.

Joyce Glade
Volunteer Resources

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

The Defensive Driving Course will be given at Penn Hall Conference Room on Tuesday, December 1, 1970, and Wednesday, December 2, 1970. This is an 8-hour course held 4 hours each day starting at 10:00 a.m.

Please notify Mr. Penrose at ext. 295, by November 25, 1970, of the number of people who will attend from each department. This course is mandatory for anyone who drives a State car or who gets full reimbursement for driving his own.

A. W. Penrose
Safety and Communications

FOR SALE

Hoover portable washer, excellent condition. Cost \$180.00 new, will accept best offer. Will deliver. Call me at ext. 476 for more information.

Mary McCurdy
Unit V

A VALID COMMENT

When I was hired to work here at Pennhurst, I was told that as an Aide, it was my job to take care of the residents. If they were hurt or if there were any changes in their behavior, I was to tell the doctor or nurse or supervisor, since I would be the one who would know. Well, this is very true.

The Aide is the only one who really knows the resident. But when I do tell one of these people, do they listen? No. I don't know if they think we are stupid or just not worth listening to. If I tell them that I think a resident is being oversedated or regressing, they send a doctor to look at the resident. Now, he has only seen the resident once or twice a month. Therefore, he does not know how the resident acts normally. He will just tell you that there is nothing wrong. Just how does he come to this conclusion? There is too much of an I-don't-care attitude in this place and I, for one, would like to see an end to it. The day this job becomes a job and nothing more to the people who work here, that is the day for them to resign. These residents are people, not animals, and should be treated with the same dignity that normal, healthy people are.

A Disillusioned Aide

A PARTING NOTE

In parting from Pennhurst, we have mixed emotions of both happiness and sadness. Since we feel that Pennhurst has its share of condemnations, bad publicity and other negative feedback, we would like to share only our positive thoughts of the institution which we were actively a part of for a little over two years. The thoughts we share are concerned with people, human beings: those individuals who helped us grow and learn, both about ourselves and others.

The first group which we respect, admire, and have enjoyed working with are the dedicated, loyal, sincere and non-status oriented staff who give to Pennhurst more than should be expected of them. They are the people who get the job done. There are many of them at Pennhurst. Some we do not even know, but we can only share a few names of those who never receive credit and are too modest to say what they do. We feel people like Nick Rotondo, Bob Roebuck, Marion Bunford, Claire Lake, Pat Miller, Winnie Weaver, Grace Neiman, Erna Hunter, Kitty Waller, Mert King, and Marge Hunsberger are the kind of people who deserve some recognition. Our only regret is that we cannot list more of them.

The last and most important group we want to recognize and thank are the sometimes forgotten residents who despite whatever happens or whatever staff decisions are made usually manage to adapt to whatever they are confronted with. Our real sadness in leaving Pennhurst is in having to say "Good-bye" to all the residents we have known and especially those who have taught us so much about life.

In saying "Farewell", we wish that Pennhurst is capable of achieving all that the residents deserve.

Linda S. Karnath
Joseph W. Karnath, Jr.