

science

# New kidney dialysis system frees failure victims from large machine

United Press International  
NEW YORK — "I feel free as a bird," Earl Newcomb, 49, of Austin, Texas, said. "And I feel terrific."

That's saying something. A little over a year ago Newcomb received a medical death sentence. Both kidneys of the aircraft maintenance man stopped working.

His body couldn't eliminate poisonous wastes and excess fluids. He was throwing up.

How Newcomb got from that point to feeling "free as a bird" and "terrific" is one of science's marvelous feats.

You might guess that Newcomb was saved by joining nearly 50,000 others in America who survive kidney failure by having their blood cleaned four hours a day, every other day — while they are attached to an artificial kidney machine.

Wrong.

It so happens that Dr. Jack Moncrief, Newcomb's physician, is co-inventor of another way to help patients whose kidneys have shut down. It is called — are you ready? — continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis. CAPD, for short.

Moncrief gave Newcomb a choice: standard hemodialysis via a stationary artificial kidney or a chance to be one of the first three patients using CAPD — a revolutionary, portable, self-care treatment system for kidney failure.

Newcomb said he didn't need to be talked into CAPD. It sounded that good. Besides, he had confidence in Moncrief, a nephrologist — kidney specialist — who also is co-director of the Hemodialysis and Transplant Unit at Austin Diagnostic Clinic.

First the doctor implanted a flexible tube in Newcomb's abdominal cavity.

A flexible plastic bag of dialysis solution is attached to the catheter sticking out of his abdomen. The bag with about two quarts of the special solution is raised to shoulder level and by gravity the stuff drains into his abdomen.

"It takes about 10 minutes," Newcomb said.

The empty bag, without being detached from the catheter, is rolled up and tucked under his shirt or trousers — or trunks, when he's swimming.

About six hours later, Newcomb unrolls the plastic bag, lowers it to the floor, sits down and, once more, gravity makes the solution drain out.

Now, it's full of toxins washed out of his blood.

He detaches the bag from the catheter and flushes the contents down the john.

Then, he attaches another bag of

anything — as Newcomb claimed. Doctors implant the catheter off-center, by the way, so it won't interfere with sexual activity.

Authorities estimate from 10 to 30 percent of the nearly 50,000 patients using artificial kidney machines — on line since 1956 — will be able to use the CAPD system.

More than freedom is involved. There's a dollar savings. Kidney machine patient expenses come to around \$24,500 a year. The CAPD system costs runs about \$14,000 — including supplies and fees for service from doctors and others.

Newcomb had to make some adjustments in clothing to allow for the slightly distended abdomen — with its nearly two quarts of extra fluid, the magic stuff that's saving his life as it washes his blood.

"I used to be a 30 inch waist," he said. "Now I wear a size 33 so things aren't crowded."

There are now about 600 patients on CAPD and they are doing most

# Workers demand voice in decisions

United Press International  
NEW YORK — The solution to America's falling productivity lies in adapting to people's changing attitudes, not in technology or government regulation, says headhunter-consultant Bill Zinke.

A basic element in what Zinke calls the "new work ethic" is that no matter on what level he or she works, Americans demand some voice in the decision process and if they don't get it they will not be productive.

Zinke runs a firm called Human Resources, Inc. which with 20 major corporations sponsored a survey by Opinion Research Corp. on human resources management in U.S. industry.

The survey's conclusions are somewhat startling. The ideas and attitudes of American workers from bench hands to middle executives have changed a lot and business management is only now coming to grips with the new workaday world.

"People's commitment nowadays is to themselves and to a full and rounded personal life," Zinke said. "Their commitment to a job or to a career definitely takes a subordinate role, and managements will have to adjust to this change if they want to attract and retain qualified people."

Indeed another study by the American Management Association concluded that the 1980s in all probability "will become the decade of the employee."

The AMA study calls this "employee alienation" a reflection of broader dissatisfaction with the quality of social and economic life in general and with the performance and leadership of most institutions in particular.

The AMA study says while it is no longer true that a company is the lengthened shadow of a single individual, top management does establish the tone and style. Top management will have to lead "in a climate of openness, trust and participation in which the self-motivation of every single member of the organization is encouraged."

Zinke said communication with workers is the most important task facing management.

It helps to make work more varied. "General Motors accomplished a miracle at a plant at Troytown, N.Y., just by making assembly line work more varied and meaningful," he said. "Worker productivity shot up."

# Smoke detectors not hazardous

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A government-sponsored study has concluded that smoke detectors containing a tiny amount of radioactive material do not pose a health hazard when compared to the thousands of lives they can save.

The report also says a recently introduced type of smoke detector may be the best bet for the consumer. It combines an ionization device and a photoelectric cell at a price of about \$30.

Smoke detectors come in two basic types. Photoelectric units use a beam of light. Ionization chamber models — by far the most widely sold — use a speck of radioactive Americium 241 to "read" smoke particles in the air.

Tests have proven photoelectric units are quicker to read smoldering or slow-burning fires, while ionization devices sound the alarm quicker in fast-burning fires.

The report done for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission by Science Applications Inc., La Jolla, Calif., follows several years of debate on the advisability of exposing consumers to in-home radioactivity with ionization chamber detectors.

The study found 14 million such

detectors — enough to protect the homes of 21 million persons — would create a risk of only .1 fatal cancer.

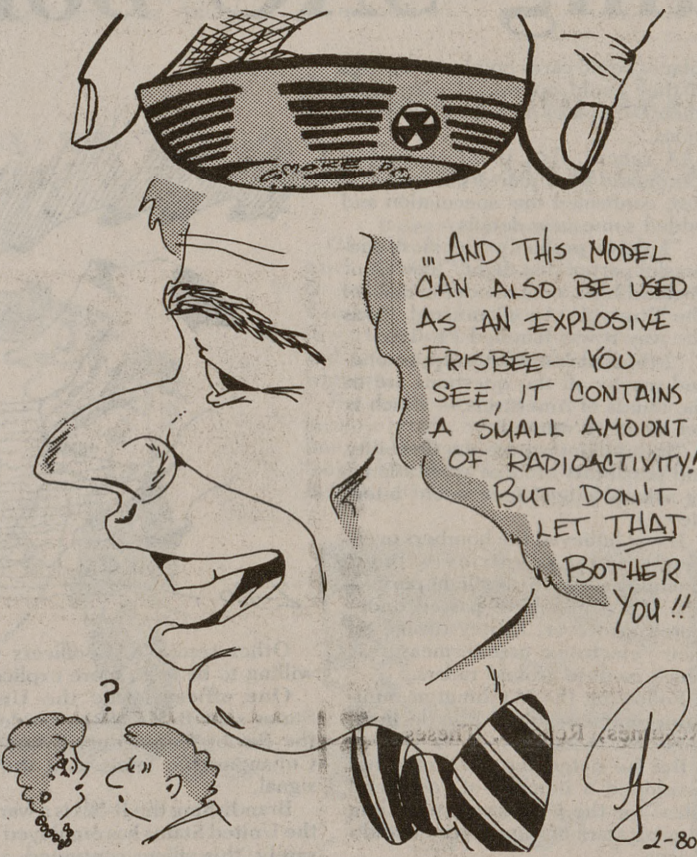
"The normally occurring cancer mortality rate for the total population of the United States is about 370,000 per year or about 35,000 per year for a group of 21 million people," the study said. It added that a comparison of the figures shows there is a "relatively small risk" involved in ionization chamber devices.

The report also says consumers can now find bargains in smoke detectors. The average cost of units was about \$125 each in 1972. Thanks to competition and technology, the average price today for an ionization detector is \$12, the report said, and some units are less than \$7.

The study found the average price of a photoelectric detector to be \$20 and a combination unit \$30.

The study said the combination or "photo-ion" unit "definitely offers the greatest protection from fires to a consumer because it utilizes the sensitivities of both types of detectors."

The report also found that advancing technology will bring changes in what consumers can buy.



# Foot book for joggers

United Press International  
NEW YORK — For joggers, a new booklet entitled "How to Keep Your Jogging Feet in Sportshape Condition" defines a variety of foot ailments such as blisters, corns, calluses, bunions, arch trouble, Morton's foot, heel bruises, heel spurs, Achilles tendonitis, shin splints and toe problems. The booklet, which costs 50 cents, is written in cooperation with Dr. Louis Shure, member of the American and Canadian Academies of Podiatric Sports Medicine, and suggests treatment and prevention of the various conditions.

(Available from Burlington Socks, Dept. J., 1345 Ave. of Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019).

## Dance AUDITIONS

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# Strep vaccine questioned

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Three University of Tennessee researchers report progress in the effort to develop a vaccine against the streptococcal bacteria that cause rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.

The question now, they say, is whether such a vaccine is needed in these days of effective strep-killing antibiotics, and if so, where?

Rheumatic fever is almost always the result of a streptococcal infection of the throat although the Tennessee researchers say most people who get strep throat would not develop rheumatic fever even without treatment. But many who get rheumatic fever develop rheumatic heart disease.

The most common result of rheumatic fever is damage to the heart valves; in some cases the heart muscle itself may be weakened.

As late as the 1940s, rheumatic heart disease was the leading cause of death among school age children. During World War II, tens of thousands of young men crowded together in training camps and troopships developed strep throat

and many died or were permanently injured by resulting heart disease.

Then came penicillin. The streptococcal bacteria happened to particularly vulnerable to the new "miracle drug."

Thanks to penicillin and other antibiotics, rheumatic fever is now a rare disease in the United States although it continues to crop up in areas of poverty.

Unfortunately, said Drs. Edwin Beachey, Gene Stollerman and Alan Bisno, the situation is different in many underdeveloped countries "whose society can best be described as pockets of affluence amid general poverty."

And they said it cannot be assumed that rheumatic fever will continue to be a minor problem in the United States because the strep organisms that cause the disease might someday become resistant to antibiotics.

They said the main obstacle that now stands in the way of development of a practicable human vaccine is identification of the strains of streptococcal organisms that cause rheumatic fever.

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