

What's up

Wednesday

TAMU THEATER ARTS: The Premier Players present *The Orphans* by James Prudeaux at 8 p.m. today through Saturday in Rudder Forum. Tickets are \$1.50 for students and \$2.50 for the general public.

TAMU SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB: There will be a skydiving demonstration at 7:30 p.m. on the polo field. An orientation meeting for interested students will be at 8 p.m. in 401 Rudder.

Nursing home workers join strike

United Press International

NEW YORK — About 16,000 nursing home workers joined 30,000 hospital employees in a strike for better pay Monday, upsetting thousands of patients and forcing doctors and administrators to work as orderlies, cooks and laundries.

The walkout seriously strained the city's health care network and forced several nursing homes to ask families to take their parents home for the duration of the strike.

Strike-bound hospitals cut admissions, clinic visits and elective surgery, and unaffected hospitals set aside 2,000 beds in case emergency transfers were necessary.

About 4,600 elderly people in 17 nursing homes and 14,000 patients in 28 hospitals were affected. Nurses at five hospitals also walked off the job in sympathy with the strikers.

District 1199 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union began the strike Friday at 28 hospitals and seven nursing homes following a breakdown in contract talks. Workers at 10 more nursing homes walked off the job Monday.

No new talks were scheduled. "I see no reason to be optimistic of a quick resolution at this time," federal mediator Paul Yager said.

The workers — orderlies, therapists, cooks, and other support staffs — demanded 10 percent wage hikes and alternate weekends off. The

hospitals offered a 4 percent increase.

Doctors, administrators and other employees were on 12-hour shifts, six days a week at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. Spokeswoman Judy Murphy said 1977 Nobel Prize winner Dr. Rosalyn Yanow was stationed in the cafeteria assembly line, while doctors were pushing patient trays and administrators were answering phones and hauling garbage.

Administrators said they tried to calm elderly patients, fearing patient agitation would spread "like wildfire."

"It's an extremely dangerous situation," said Steven Bernstein, executive director of the Daughters of Jacob Geriatric Center in the Bronx.

"It's the anxieties they face. For weeks, they've been crying, 'Where will I go if there's a strike?'" Bernstein said. "The emotional impact is far worse on nursing home patients than hospital patients."

Hospitals said their strike plans were "running smoothly," but the administrator of at least one nursing home, the 265-bed Sephardic Home for Aged in Brooklyn, complained strikers were blocking volunteers from entering the facility to help out.

"They're not letting us bring in people as volunteers in any way," said Herbert Freeman. "We're having a great deal of difficulty," he said.

Course 'computes' anxiety

United Press International

WASHINGTON — If the thought of working on a computer turns you into a pool of sweat, you may be experiencing one of the newest social ills called computer anxiety, according to a Catholic University of America study.

The symptoms are similar to those of any test anxiety: tension, nervousness, sweaty palms, racing pulse, fear of failure and confusion.

But Dr. Carol Glass, a clinical psychologist at Catholic University, and Robert Heinssen, a doctoral student there, say computer anxiety is a unique and treatable illness.

"It's not the kind of fear that someone would have climbing a ladder to the 32nd floor of a building," Glass said. "But people are saying, 'Yes, I'm uncomfortable. I'm nervous and uneasy when sitting down to a computer.'"

Glass and Heinssen surveyed more than 150 students and professionals — some of whom were enrolled in an introductory computer course — to determine the nature of the anxiety.

Asked if they were "afraid of computers," 50 percent of the students and 78 percent of adults said "yes."

They were asked to describe their thoughts when sitting at a computer terminal. Some said they were made anxious by the impersonality of tech-

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nology. Others said they felt helpless, out of control and that they would "never be able to figure it out."

Glass said more women than men acknowledged they were anxious around computers. But, she said, "It may be that men are just as anxious without telling you."

Men are more likely to have had more exposure to technology and "things you plug in the wall," Glass added.

Glass said working with computers at an earlier age will curb this anxiety for future generations, but adults now need to learn how to deal with their fears — especially as new appliances bring the technology closer to home.

Heinssen will be conducting a series of workshops for adults at Cath-

olic University to learn how to relax with computers.

These workshops will be the first in the country that are not designed to teach computer skills, but to teach people not to be intimidated by computers.

The workshops will include "anxiety management programs that teach people to identify anxiety signs, monitor them and replace them with feelings of self control," Heinssen said.

"Some anxiety is appropriate and helps people learn," Heinssen said. "We want to teach people to control it to the point where it is motivating without being disabling."

The five weeks of 90-minute sessions will be offered free to all. The workshops will be run by specially trained therapists and limited to groups of 10.

They will be very structured," Heinssen said. "Not like an encounter group."

Some time will be spent with computers to practice relaxation techniques. But the mechanics behind the technology will be avoided.

"People can drive a car without knowing the engine," Glass observed.

Emerald Air suspends flights

United Press International

AUSTIN — Emerald Air has temporarily suspended service to Austin, its home base, and Houston Intercontinental Airport, but a company official insisted Monday the regional carrier is not in financial trouble.

"This was simply a reallocation of the present resources we have," said Ray LaCroix, customer relations supervisor for the 6-year-old airline.

LaCroix said the two-week suspension in Austin will end Aug. 1, but there is no fixed date for resumption of service to Houston Intercontinental.

The airline earlier permanently terminated service to San Antonio.

Emerald, which recently expanded into Wichita, Kan., and

Omaha, Neb., currently serves Houston Hobby Airport, Dallas-Fort Worth, McAllen and Corpus Christi in Texas with a fleet of nine DC-9s.

Although the carrier intends to resume service to Austin and Houston Intercontinental, it has asked about 25 workers in the two cities to relocate or be furloughed, said Emerald spokeswoman Debra Treffalls.

She said the employees were given the option of transferring to other cities now served by Emerald or to the corporate headquarters in Austin. The company has about 280 non-union employees, most of them stationed in Austin.

Company Vice President Jay Salter said when service resumes in Austin on Aug. 1, Emerald will initiate two new flights to Dallas-Fort Worth and McAllen.

Overall property value in Travis County was up 60 percent over 1983, he said.

Nuckles said while the owners of a small downtown tract occupied by a tamale stand recently got a record \$1.6 million in a highly publicized sale, appraisers considered average market values rather than the sales price of one tract.

Nuckles said even in the most re-

centric areas of Travis County was up at least \$1,000 an acre.

The largest taxpayer in the county, International Business Machines Corp., saw the appraised value of its land jump from \$8,000 an acre to \$87,120 an acre.

He attributed the jump, in part, to the high demand for property in an area where Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., an advanced computer research consortium, has located its headquarters.

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Downtown Austin property values soar

United Press International

AUSTIN — Reflecting Austin's economic boom, real estate values in the downtown area of the Texas capital city have soared by nearly 300 percent since 1982, the Travis County Appraisal District office said Monday.

Appraiser Jim Nuckles said some downtown tracts have seen a 1,000 percent increase in land value since the last reappraisal two years ago.

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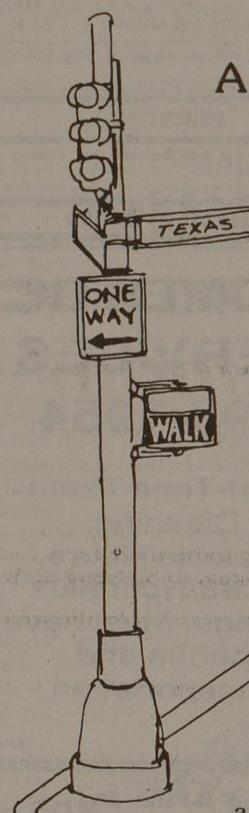
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