

# VITAL SIGNS

The Monthly  
Southeastern Newsletter

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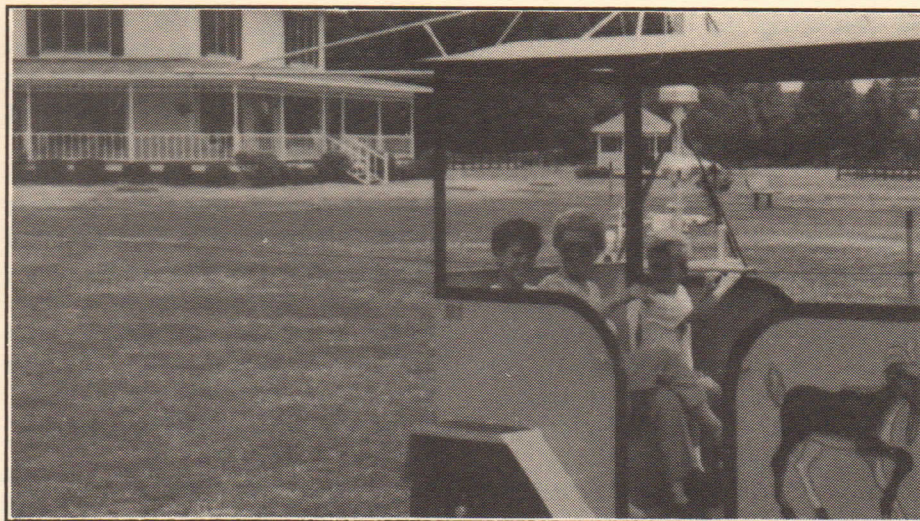
*"As an employee, every single move you make influences dozens, hundreds, perhaps thousands of people."*

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In July 1985, I was one of some sixty people who staged an illegal sit-in and takeover of offices at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside Washington. Our goal was to shut down the University of Pennsylvania's Head-Injury Clinic. This was a place where, thanks to tax-supported funding by NIH, various primates over a period of many years had been subjected to the most brutal treatment imaginable. The clinic sought to discover the effects of traumatic injury to the head such as might be sustained in a football game or an automobile accident. The method was to use various ingenious devices to inflict damage on the skulls of helpless captive primates. A baboon, for example, would be confined in a harness and have its head rammed by a jackhammer-like device. Then it would be examined to determine what effect the blows had had.

The story is long and involved. The happy ending is that the four day civil demonstration succeeded in a dramatic way. Health and Human Services Director Margaret Heckler, President Reagan's cabinet official who had jurisdiction over NIH, agreed over the vehement objections of NIH officials to suspend funding

## Southeastern's Annual Picnic



Southeastern held its annual picnic for employees and their families on Saturday, May 27. There was a very good turn out for the warm and breezy weather, food; and activities such as softball and volley ball. A new attraction this year was a train ride which encircled Paradise Acres. The train ride was enjoyed by both children and adults. Pictured above riding in the train's caboose are Mrs. Eleanore Manning and her grandsons Brian and Patrick.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Faircloth.

to the head-injury clinic, pending an investigation. Shortly after, funding was cut off completely and the clinic was out of business. Hundreds of defenseless animals from among the millions mutilated and savaged each year in laboratories around the world were saved from lives of extreme pain and helplessness.

I am not a born activist. I get nervous when a waiter looks at me with disdain. I'd like it if everyone would just "be nice". Yet much later in my life than I would like to admit, I've begun to learn about standing up for

things that matter. I've learned that I can make a difference.

As an employee, every single move you make influences dozens, hundreds, perhaps thousands of people. That's not a thought for the faint hearted. Your influence can be positive or negative, major or minor. If you go about your job in a caring way, with genuine concern for the people around you, your business goals will be successfully reached or exceeded, and everyone will enjoy the trip.

You *can* make a difference.

*From Managing Programming People  
by Philip W. Metzger*





## DATA PROCESSING NOTES

In the next couple of weeks there is going to be a change made to the automatic customer pricing program. The change will allow the user to set up specific discounts to list price for any vendor. Currently, discounts can only be set for the three suture vendors. Southeastern hopes that this will allow for more flexibility when setting up customer pricing, resulting in happier customers. The DP department will distribute a memo stating the exact date that this change will take place, and describing the change in more detail.

## ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE NOTES

Congratulations to Jill Spell on graduating from Fayetteville Technical Community College. Jill graduated on June 1 and received her degree in General Education. She plans to continue her education at Methodist College this fall and attain a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

At work, Jill has been promoted to Department Head of Accounts Receivables. Not only has Jill been given additional responsibilities, but so has Kathy Shanahan. Kathy will be responsible for more accounting since Pam Matthews resigned from Southeastern last month.

Congratulations are also in order for Dean and Joanne Blanton. They are expecting their second child the end of this year.

A special thanks to those who contributed to this issue — your publisher.

## New Faces

The following is a list of new employees hired during May. Welcome to Southeastern!

Christy Barber	Paul McGill
Kim Dager	William Morris
Alison Dinunzio	John Ward
John Edwards	Justin Weeks
Kim Hendrix	Lee Weeks
Stephanie Jessup	Frank White
George Markham	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to the following employees who are celebrating their birthdays this month:

Patti Albright	6/13	Daphne Manning	6/04
Lynn Aldrich	6/13	Darryl Marshall	6/27
Debbie Allee	6/12	Linda Phillips	6/25
Mark Bass	6/18	Debra Rudisill	6/30
Cyndy Ell	6/19	Mike Sposa	6/14
Wayne Ettare	6/11	Jim Royal	6/03
David Jackson	6/17	Patti Tolar	6/23
Bill Maness	6/03		



irthday customs have changed considerably since we began celebrating our dates of birth.

Children's birthdays were never observed, nor were those of women. And the decorated birthday cake, briefly a Greek tradition, went unbaked for centuries—though it reappeared topped with candles and greeted with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to You".

The beginning of the birthday celebration dates back to the Egyptians where dates of birth were recorded and celebrated for male children of royalty. Birthday festivals were unheard of for the lower classes, and for women of almost any rank other than queen; only a king, queen, or high-ranking nobleman even recognized the day he or she was born.

The first birthday celebrations in recorded history, around 3000 B.C., were those of the early pharaohs, kings of Egypt. Celebrations were elaborate household feasts in which servants, slaves, and freedmen took part; often prisoners were released from the royal jails.

The Greeks adopted the Egyptian idea of birthday celebrations, and from the Persians, renowned among ancient confectioners, they added the custom of a sweet birthday cake as hallmark

for the occasion.

However, with the rise of Christianity, the tradition of celebrating birthdays ceased altogether. The early followers of Christ believed there was no reason to celebrate one's birth.

Contrary to popular belief, it was the death days and not the birthdays of the saints that were celebrated and became their "feast days." The early Christian reference to "birthday" meant a passage or birth into the after-life.

There is another reason why early church fathers preached against birthday celebrations: they considered the festivities to be relics of pagan practices.

In the fourth century, however, the Church began to alter its attitude toward birthday celebration. The result marked the

beginning of the tradition of celebrating Christmas. It was with the celebration of Christ's nativity that the western world returned to the celebration of birthdays.

By the twelfth century, parish churches throughout Europe were recording the birth dates of women and children, and families were observing the dates with annual celebrations. Around this time, the birthday cake reappeared, now with candles on top.

*Text and illustration from: Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things by Charles Panati*

