

# vital signs



FALL 89

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF SOUTHEASTERN HOSPITAL SUPPLY CORPORATION

Sometimes people do dumb things, but in general. . .

## People are okay.

It is very important to help others realize the best of their abilities by using a little encouragement.

This story concerns Dr. Norman Peale when he was about nine years old. His father was a minister in southern Ohio, near Cincinnati. One day, Dr. Peale's mother answered what was then the newly installed home telephone. To her complete astonishment, the caller turned out to be the madam of the local house of ill repute.

Mrs. Peale heard the caller ask whether Norman's father, the Reverend Peale, might be willing to make a pastoral visit to her particular establishment. It seems one of the girls was very sick. She feared she was dying and wanted to talk with a minister.

Needless to say, Norman's mother was reluctant to pass this message along to Reverend Peale. When she did, she was even more surprised to learn that he was willing to make the visit. Her surprise was heightened when Reverend Peale turned to young Norman and said, "Get your coat. You're going with me."

Mrs. Peale tried to intervene. "I can't believe you're taking our son to a place like that," she said. "I am indeed," replied the Reverend. "I'm taking Norman for two reasons. First of all, I think it is about time he found out some of the realities of life. Also, if I take him with me, I certainly can't get into trouble." His wife accepted both reasons.



When the Peales arrived at the establishment they were ushered into the sick girl's room. She looked very sick and pale. The other women who worked at the place were huddled together. Each wore a look of concern.

Reverend Peale took the young girl's hand and said, "Honey, you're not a bad girl. You're a good girl who has just been doing some bad things."

Dr. Peale said he's never forgotten that incident. He said the peace he saw in that girl's eyes was a

driving motivation for him to enter the ministry. The whole philosophy of the power of positive thinking is built on the belief that God did not create junk. People are fine; it's just that they sometimes need to improve their behavior.

I think employees and employers would do well to reflect on this story when they run up against someone with whom they are having a problem. Remember, people, in and of themselves, are okay. It's just the way they act that sometimes drives us nuts.

People may need a little help developing. Not everyone is born a winner. Some need special attention and encouragement in order to become a winner. With a little help, everyone has the potential to grow and develop into a person who does 110 percent at work as well as in their personal life.

The above excerpts were written by Dr. Ken Blanchard in *The Blanchard Management Report* in *Health Industry Today*, June 1988.



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## The Employee's Corner

Purchasing would like to welcome Wayne Bryson into their department as inventory control supervisor.

Congratulations to Theresa Council on her soon to be arrival. Theresa was honored at a baby shower on September 14th in Southeastern's breakroom. Congratulations are also in order for Mary Lynn Hays on the upcoming addition to her family. A baby shower was given in her honor on October 19th. The best of luck to the both of you.

To Rick Henry from Data Processing: Congratulations and good luck! Rick, who resigned in September from his position as programmer analyst, has been employed by Southeastern for over four years. His biggest achievements include the creation of the Target system and the order entry system. Best wishes!

## Together as One

On Friday, September 22, many North and South Carolina towns and cities were damaged by Hurricane Hugo. Two of the hardest hit cities were Charleston, South Carolina and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Many of these area towns and cities were in desperate need of supplies such as: canned food, blankets, clothing, baby food, and water.

Thanks to all contributions received from many local businesses, residents, and friends, the need for supplies was lessened. Glen Carter, Fayetteville's warehouse supervisor, sent one of Southeastern's trucks to Monks Corner, South Carolina to distribute the contributions to residents who needed them.

Thanks to the generosity of several Fayetteville area residents and Southeastern Hospital Supply's employees, we all made a difference by making a tragedy seem a little less than tragic.

written by Donna McLaurin

## HELP WITH FUTURE ISSUES OF VITAL SIGNS RIGHT NOW!

Please use this postcard to submit any ideas you might have for future issues of our newsletter. Circle any of the below if you would be interested in reading them. What other types of columns or articles would you be interested in reading? Please submit to the Data Processing Department or to Allison Severance-Henry in the Richmond branch office. Thank you.

- Business oriented articles
- Generic articles
- Origins of holidays
- Holiday articles
- Employment anniversaries
- Employee birthdays
- Employee profiles
- Question and answer columns (what kind?)
- Departmental profiles

Others \_\_\_\_\_

Your name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## Holiday Closings

In honor of the Thanksgiving holiday, Southeastern will close on Thursday, November 23.

Happy Thanksgiving!



## LORDY! LORDY!

Steve Broughton  
is

**FORTY!**

Happy Belated Birthday Steve!

## Southeastern "in style" with the arrival of printed scrub apparel

*Southeastern is very proud to finally have the opportunity to offer their customers the latest in scrub apparel fashion. No longer does Southeastern only have solid color scrubs, but now they have scrub jackets and tops which are printed with patterns or designs. Here is a letter Data Processing received from Doug Sasser, Southeastern's textiles specialist:*

"As most of you know, Southeastern now has new printed scrub tops and warm-up jackets to match our solid color pants. I would be remiss if I did not thank Allison Severance-Henry for her work in designing the new prints.

These innovative prints are the result of Allison being given guide

lines and using her creativity and ideas to design attractive and sellable products.

Allison, while doing her regular desktop publishing job, has also used her skill, artistic talent, and creativity to make a valuable contribution to the Sunbelt Textile scrub line.

The new prints are not the only thing Allison has done for the Sunbelt Textile line. She has teamed with Anna Clark to provide Southeastern with professional sales brochures and price lists. These advertising products have become our most valuable and important sales tool.

Thanks again, Allison, for the time, skill and effort you have added to this portion of your work. Your contribution to Southeastern's marketing efforts have been significant."



# How To Figure Your Social Security Future

Regardless of your age, you might be interested to learn how much you can expect to get from Social Security when you retire, and how much you should save on your own. Except for people 65 or older, or those already receiving Social Security benefits, the government has taken an unusual step in making it easier to find out this information. All you have to do is call a toll-free number: 1-800-937-2000 to get form SSA-7004 (which actually is an application) sent to you.

When you receive the form, you will be asked to fill in your most recent earnings, estimated future earnings, and the age at which you plan to retire. Mail back the form. In a few weeks you should receive a computerized statement estimating in today's dollars your monthly retirement, survivors' and disability

These benefits are calculated under three projected scenarios: The 80% benefit if you should retire at

age 62; the full benefit at age 65-67; and the 33% larger benefit if you work until age 70. Also, the report estimates the amount your children and surviving spouse can expect to collect each month if you were disabled. In addition, the report lists your yearly wages and Social Security taxes, which you can check for accuracy.

Being able to secure this information now is very beneficial, especially to people who have many years of working ahead of them. Previously, future benefits were calculated only on past earnings, and a response from the Social Security Administration could take several months.

Armed with the profile of their

retirement future, people have a valuable financial planning tool. This means they can plan their futures in the spirit in which Social Security originally was created and still is intended today: to complement retirement income, not to comprise the total income of a person once he or she retires. Financial planners advise getting updated reports of Social Security benefits every two or three years. This gives people a better idea of what they will need from their retirement benefits on other investment fronts, in order to sustain their current standard of living after retirement.

Text from the 1990 Almanac, published by *Organic Gardening*.

## New Employees

Welcome to Southeastern!

Kevin Atkinson  
Stacey Bowen  
Dot Brinkley  
James Britt  
Ann Campbell  
Harvey Campbell  
Heidi Collins  
Diahann Fields  
Amy Gonzales  
James Gray  
Cindy Handley  
Deborah Harris  
John Johnson  
Charles Maynor  
Jackie Morgan  
Tracy McGee  
Fran Pritchert  
Clark Russ  
Martha Shankle  
Theresa Stedman  
Heidi Strong



## What Do Federal Express Delivery People Do After 10:30 A.M.?

Federal Express is justly famous for its pledge to deliver Priority One packages before 10:30 A.M. the next day. What, then, do delivery people do after the last priority package is delivered? Take a siesta? Smoke cigars? Play poker with U.S. Post Office employees who have not delivered their first class mail yet?

Actually, Federal Express keeps its employees busy all day long. In some cities, packages are delivered as early as 7:30 A.M. (The pickup and delivery cycles of packages tend to be earlier in the west, because all packages are routed through Federal Express headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee prior to shipment to their eventual destinations.) Before any packages can be delivered, they must be sorted by routes; in smaller stations, the courier often does the sorting.

After all Priority One packages are delivered, the courier tries to

drop off all second day deliveries before noon. If he or she succeeds, the courier will likely take a lunch break around midday.

After lunch, the pickup cycle begins. By the time the courier has gathered all the incoming packages, he or she has worked a full day. If there is any spare time at all, paper work has a way of filling it.

In large stations, the process of sorting routes, delivering Priority One packages, delivering second day packages, picking up all packages, and filling out paper work can consume more than eight hours. For this reason, about 25 percent of all Federal express employees are part-timers, often used for sorting packages for delivery by couriers. When a Federal Express courier drops off the last Priority One package before the 10:30 A.M. deadline, the work day has just begun.

by Merle Pollis in *Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise* by David Feldman



# Seasonal Festivities

Children always want to know, "What are you going to be for Halloween this year?" These days, they're asking their parents as often as their friends.

Once a year for this capricious holiday, we allow our alter egos full rein. Zany costumes, eerie sounds, and scary masks are all the rage again. No longer just five-and-dime style, many adult costumes (and those for children, as well) are now "high fashion."

Looking for something a bit unusual to celebrate this ancient tradition whose roots have generally

been forgotten? Here are a few ideas for a funfilled, safe evening:

## Feast on Food

Who wants an ordinary candy bar when there are so many other interesting seasonal foods? Try a cup of witch's brew: hot, spiced apple cider. Bake pumpkin bread, muffins, pies, and young or old—who wouldn't enjoy decorating a Halloween pizza?

## Party Hearty

Instead of trick or treating, get together with a few parents, couples, or singles in your neighborhood and

throw a bash. Be creative, starting with the invitations and decorations. Children will be the important guests at this party, so be sure to ask for and use their ideas. Do something different than they will have done at school.

Have a pumpkin decorating contest (several, if the party includes different age groups). Each person brings a pumpkin. You supply the paste-ons. Artists are lurking inside many of us, so stock up on prizes for lots of categories.

If you're really ambitious, set up your own haunted house. Look for unusual sound effects, lighting tricks, pungent smells, and weird textures. Mystery is as important as fright.

See what kinds of costumes friends can design by using only two or three items, such as newspapers and tape.

## Try Terrific Treats

Look for balloons, stickers, bright pens, erasers and other inexpensive toys, such as those used for birthday party favors. Give away pennies or even nickels. You'll probably still spend less than you would on candy or gum, and parents will be most appreciative.

## Celebrate safely

At home, keep your sidewalk and porch well lighted for young visitors. Keep jack o'lanterns with candles in a safe place, away from curtains if indoors. Dress children in costumes that allow them to walk and see. Use face paint rather than masks. Incorporate reflective tape into costumes. Accompany younger children. Send flashlights with older children. Never go to the homes of strangers. Check all treats for anything suspicious. Don't be haunted for years to come by one careless ghost.



Rural Living, Oct. 89

## Birthday Celebrations

### September birthdays

Dennis Aldridge	9/15
Wayne Bryson	9/01
Kim Dager	9/17
Krys Furniss	9/15
Debbie Harmon	9/25
Bob Hartley	9/08
Bland Haywood	9/01
Virginia Hine	9/29
Joseph Kasarda	9/22
Pat Petty	9/26
Gerald Rodriguez	9/23
Garland Rouse	9/11
Doug Sasser	9/06
Eric Thomas	9/15
Carolyn Williams	9/18

### October birthdays

Mike Bobbitt	10/27
Steve Broughton	10/08
Jim Burks	10/13
Ray Burris	10/21
Keith Crenshaw	10/06
Regina Driver	10/02
Taylor Howard	10/11
Leahdawn Johnson	10/30
Kenan Kamisoglu	10/17
Ursula Mansfield	10/17
Jerry Parker	10/01
Bill Underwood	10/25

### November birthdays

Bruce Brown	11/07
Sarah Bryan	11/16
David Green	11/06
Welford Hart	11/18
Lynn Holzer	11/06
Stacey Johnson	11/03
Barry Lane	11/19
Scott McInville	11/26
Phyllis Page	11/18
Lorenzo Roberts	11/05
Betty Rouse	11/15
Mary Utley	11/19

### December birthdays

Edgar Allison	12/25
Sue Ammons	12/08
Dot Brinkley	12/07
Cliff Christianson	12/20
George Hicks	12/02
Gene Hollis	12/19
Wally Kinlaw	12/17
Donna McLaurin	12/10
Larry Page	12/24
Kathy Shanahan	12/20
Robert Shelton	12/10
Melissa Short	12/11
Ray Timbs	12/20
Carolyn Walls	12/05
Joy Winslow	12/27