

Do you know the difference between going to a football game and going to a hospital? At a game, you can relax and enjoy yourself because you were able to buy an Official Program that tells you what's going to happen... and exactly who's going to do it. Unfortunately, as a new arrival at a hospital, you don't have a publication to help you become oriented to unfamiliar faces and surroundings. So all you can do is lie there and tremble in fear of the unknown. MAD feels that it's downright inhuman to give sports fans more information about what the future holds for them than is given to the ailing and infirm. Hospital Administrators should follow the lead of Stadium Owners and provide new patients with breezy, colorful, fact-filled Programs like...

WELCOME NEW PATIENTS

DOC KIMBERLY IS No. 1

ANGEL OF MISERY HOSPITAL

ORIENTATION GUIDEBOOK & OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAM

INCLUDING VITAL "NEW PATIENT" FEATURES LIKE:

- PICKING A SURGEON WHO'S ON A WINNING STREAK**
- 10 Tips For Making The Nursing Staff Tolerate You
- IS LEAVING YOUR BODY TO MEDICAL SCIENCE TAX DEDUCTIBLE?**
- Proper Etiquette For Throwing Up During Visiting Hours
- HOW TO LOCATE THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT WITHOUT A NURSE'S HELP**
- Cut Your Hospital Bill To \$3000 A Week With Our "No Frills" Plan

PRICE: \$7.50
Which You Will Hardly Even Notice When It's Added To All Of The Other Shockingly Expensive Items On Your Bill

ED KIMBERLY

ARTIST: JACK RICKARD WRITER: TOM KOCH

FORGOT IT? FORGET IT!

"After 23 years of running a hospital gift shop, I know exactly what new patients are most likely to forget to pack," oozes Mrs. Birdie Pharrlapp, proprietress of the *Angel of Misery Gift Shoppe*. "That's why I make it a point to stock fuzzy stuffed pandas at only \$39.50 each, glass paperweights with tiny statues of elves inside, dried flowers artistically glued to pieces of driftwood, and simulated gold charm bracelets with souvenir miniature replicas of your stay: such as bed pans, thermometers, hypodermics, I.V. Bottles, etc.



Gift Shoppe's own Birdie Pharrlapp demonstrates new line of bean bag furniture which can be found along Shoppe's east wall between weed killer and kites.

YOUR VISIT ISN'T COMPLETE
UNTIL YOU HAVE VISITED

**ANGEL of MISERY
HOSPITAL GIFT SHOPPE**

A Word of Gratitude from Our Chief Administrator THANKS FOR SUPPORTING ANGEL OF MISERY

As you leaf through this orientation booklet, you should feel a surge of pride to realize that you have chosen our small, privately supported hospital as the place to enjoy your present illness. The nation's understaffed and poorly equipped Class "B" institutions, such as *Angel of Misery*, have long served as a farm system for the more glamorous big city health centers. Without people like yourself who are willing to take their chances at a minor league hospital, a great medical tradition would come to an end.

By spending your hard earned dollars at *Angel of Misery*, you are helping to support a grateful staff of doctors who may never have the opportunity to practice at a first rate hospital, simply because they lack the talent. God bless you!

Ellsworth D. Teztlafl, B.A.
Director of Administration

PATIENT'S GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED MEDICAL TERMS

During your confinement at *Angel of Misery*, you will often hear staff members using unfamiliar medical terms that may create worry and confusion in your mind. Usually, this is the intended effect. However, there are some phrases that doctors and nurses are willing to have defined for the benefit of the curious layman, like these which are listed below for your better understanding...

DOWN AND OUT PATTERN—In hospital parlance, this refers to the fourth floor corridor, the back stairs and the side door of the building. It is through this exit pattern that our unluckier patients are carried down to the garage and out to the coroner's office.

MAMA'S BOY—A derogatory term used by staff members to describe an adult male patient who whimpers when subjected to extreme pain. Female patients who display a similar lack of character as most often labeled "spoiled brats" or "cry-babies."

OFFSIDE—The side of the abdomen where the appendix is not located. You will be comforted to learn that almost 60 percent of our doctors and nurses know which side is your "offside," and will not cut there needlessly, in case they decide to diagnose your illness as appendicitis.

CORRECTIVE SURGERY—From your standpoint as a layman, "corrective surgery" does not differ greatly from any other kind, so you need not concern yourself with the term. However, you may overhear it used in conversations between doctors. They often refer to any operation performed solely because a surgeon's bank account is out of balance as being "corrective surgery."

CRISS-CROSS PATTERN—The type of stitching generally preferred by surgeons for sewing up your incision. This method, while uglier in appearance, is considered superior to others because of the discomfort caused by the stitches being removed later on.

OFFENSIVE FORMATION—Anything growing on your body that a surgeon may not like the looks of, and that he may, therefore, decide to cut off while he has you under an anesthetic anyway.

SHOWBOAT—Used interchangeably with "hotdog," this term refers to any surgeon who performs operations in a flamboyant manner. For example, a doctor who regularly makes incisions while holding the scalpel behind his back or between his toes might come to be known as a "showboat."

BUSH LEAGUER—A term that you may hear our staff doctors using when they speak of your own family physician. Do not be overly alarmed, as this may not mean that your doctor is incompetent. He could merely be engaging in some naive, "bush league" act, such as failing to charge his full house call fee when he looks in on you at the hospital.

OFFICIAL NURSES' SIGNALS MADE EASY

Occasional brushes with a registered nurse may constitute your only real contact with *trained* medical personnel during your hospital stay. Therefore, an understanding of the official *hand signals* employed by our nursing staff in communicating with doctors and patients may enhance your pleasure and knowledge of the whole sickness experience on which you have just embarked.



This is the most encouraging signal from nurse to doctor that a patient can hope to see during his hospital stay. It indicates that your bank balance and insurance coverage have been found satisfactory, and that you will, therefore, receive whatever medical care hospital staff presumes is necessary to save your life.



Holding her wrist watch up to her ear to see if it's still running may constitute a nurse's first official indication that your pulse rate has become wildly erratic. Look for this preliminary signal to be followed by either (A) a painful injection, (B) emergency surgery or (C) last rites of the church of your choice.



This signal covers a wide variety of patient rule violations, any one of which may shatter the tender sensibilities of the nursing staff. Undoubtedly, you will be aware of what you've done to merit this gesture, and will be prepared to suffer the consequences.



This signal, sometimes delivered silently and sometimes with accompanying verbal abuse, is given only to adult male patients. It advises you to keep your cotton pickin' hands to yourself, and warns that even one passionate lunge will result in serious injury that could make you forget about passionate lunges for years.



Most often observed in the operating room, this gesture quickly informs all surgeons present that the patient's life signs are weakening, and that this case will have to be chalked up as a loser. Since you are a non-member of the staff, this signal does not really concern you, unless, of course, it happens to be you they're losing.



This official nursing gesture will give complete assurance that your case is being discussed with some higher ranking staff members and that your illness is a lot more serious than you had once feared.



You will soon discover that nurses have a number of ways of signaling their displeasure with patients who fail to eat all of their mooshed up vegetables, or barf all over the bedclothes, or, worst of all, ring for nursing service. This gesture is one of the milder ones employed by nurses to express their exasperation.



Often mistaken as another signal expressing a nurse's displeasure with patients' behavior, this gesture actually has less serious implications. It merely means that the hospital has officially given up all hopes for your recovery, and the floor nurse is about to walk out on your case.

ANGEL OF MISERY'S ALL-STAR ROSTER



DR. LEPLEY GLIMMERT

Chief Night Urologist
5'-6" 230 pounds

Once processed 183 specimens in 24 hours, mislabeling only 35 of them. Named Urologist of the Year by his fellow country club members, 1967.



DR. GIDEON WAXFARB

Chief Day Urologist
6'-9" 155 pounds

Graduate of Kansas U., where he was voted Tallest Urologist on Campus, 1949. Author of best selling medical monograph, "Whither Bed Wetting" in Amer. Journal of Urology.



DR. LIEBLING STRIBLING

Offensive Psychiatrist
6'-2" 220 pounds

Former psychiatrist U.S. Army where, he proudly states, "Nobody put nothing over on me!" Browbeat 422 troubled patients into a state of complete psychosis, from 1955-1973.



DR. SANFORD NINNY

Defensive Psychiatrist
5'-3" 115 pounds

Prefers not to talk about his early life, especially the part about his mother dressing him up like a girl because she had secretly wished for a beautiful baby daughter, 1936-53.



EDDIE KLUMMITT

Roving Ambulance Driver
6'-1" 205 pounds

Taught himself to play "Yankee Doodle" on the soprano ambulance siren, 1969. Holds hospital record for the Most Accidents Caused While Rushing to the Scene of an Accident, 1973.



Even those who have been patients at Angel of Misery before, and who merely are returning to have some of our earlier mistakes corrected, will notice many new faces on the staff. This is because Angel of Misery is always on the look-out for talented newcomers who appear ready to turn pro. This year, Management believes it has put together a staff that is stronger at every position. Hence, we take great pride in presenting our new line-up of capable first stringers...

LUCRETIA BLOTCHNEY

Loudmouth Night Nurse

5'-10" 190 pounds

Champion hog caller, Yell County, Arkansas, 1956. Took correspondence course in nursing, 1962, but still waiting for three lessons to arrive that somehow got lost in the mail.



ERWIN HACKENBUSCH, M.D.

Safety Valve Anesthesiologist

5'-11" 180 pounds

"Shaky" joined the staff in 1975 and hasn't stopped drinking to his own success ever since. He's responsible for giving people enough anesthetic to put them out, but never enough to actually kill them.

DR. RATSO FREEP

Leering Gynecologist

5'-8" 160 pounds

Our only first string doctor who never attended medical school, but prides himself on being self-taught. Hobbies: Catching lightning bugs and providing free treatment for those patients he happens to like.



JOY WESSEL

Inept Gray Lady

5'-6" 118 pounds

Dean of hospital's Volunteer Worker Corps, Joy makes her Wednesday afternoon rounds fluffing the pillows for the bedridden, including those with severe neck or head injuries.

DR. JUNUS PULSIFER

Smart Aleck Brain Surgeon

5'-9" 170 pounds

Performed Angel of Misery's first unsuccessful head transplant, 1972. Author of popular recipe for making fermented Bavarian sauerkraut, 1974.



BRUNO "NEWSY" STITZVIK

IRATE VENDOR

5'-1" 236 pounds

Began supplying newspapers to A. of M. patients in 1969 for one dollar a copy, advising those who thought the price high to "Run down and get it for cheaper on the street, sicko!"

DR. EINO KIKKIKIN

Pig-Skinned Dermatologist

6'-0" 185 pounds

Only doctor born in Finland ever to be expelled from the Alabama Medical Association. Only Angel of Misery staff member still attending the 1973 Christmas Party in 1977.



JULIO MUERTA

"Runs-giving" Staff Cook

5'-2" 120 pounds

Joined A. of M. Kitchen Crew 1966, after 2-year stint with Guatemalan Guerilla Army of Liberation where he learned to do great things with anteater meat and boiled bananas.

LOMA JEAN FURNDITTY

Giggly Nurses' Aide

5'-1" 92 pounds

Famed for insisting that patients who just died be billed for books returned late to the Library Cart. Hobby: Catching every disease in the Isolation and Contagious Wards.



AGATHA TARBUSH

Tight-Fisted Finance Administrator

5'-9" 103 pounds

"Miss Aggie" is stern and efficient despite her cold and prissy appearance. Hobby: Cleverly inserting a few extra charges on patient's bill and watching them meekly pay it rather than confront her with "error."

A LOOK AT THE RECORD

WITH PIERPONT U. FISCAL
CHIEF ANGEL OF MISERY STATISTICIAN

In seeking treatment of illness, as well as in any other business or recreational activity, it's great to know that you've put your money on a winner. And at *Angel of Misery* the record has been one of glorious achievement over the years.

Check out the following "box score," and then feel a surge of pride to know that you are doing your part, however small, to perpetuate the traditions of this fabled institution.

SAMPLE YEAR	PATIENTS ADMITTED	PATIENTS SURVIVED	PCT.	AVERAGE DAILY ROOM RATE	INEDIBLE MEALS PER WEEK
1950	6,192	3,917	.632	\$48.20	12.37
1955	9,044	6,821	.754	\$63.10	13.09
1960	11,720 ¹	5,502 ¹	.469	\$74.50	13.41
1965	13,987	9,330	.667	\$98.35	14.52
1970	21,556	14,010	.649	\$132.25	15.03
1975	29,749	18,991	.638	\$144.50	16.22
1980					
(Projected)	38,700	23,200	.599	\$206.00	18.35

FOOTNOTE:

1.—1960 figure includes 2,066 patients treated by a "Doctor Snavely," who was later found to be a deranged aluminum siding salesman with a forged medical license. This little joke on us lowered the patient survival average for the year by almost 100 percentage points.

BEST OF LUCK, NEW PATIENTS, From Eddie's Medical Center Bar



Where Angel of Misery's Staff Doctors Gather to Relax.
Come Join Us for the Happy Hour if You Ever Recover.

SUPPOSE YOUR CONDITION IS MORE SERIOUS THAN YOU THINK!



If you're like most newly admitted hospital patients, you've probably tried to convince yourself that you'll be completely well and back on your feet in no time. But is this comforting pipe dream really fair to the loved ones who will have to arrange for your funeral after you turn out to be mistaken? Of course not! Deep inside, you know you're being neglectful and selfish.

Luckily, it's still not too late for you to do "the right thing." One quick phone call is all it takes to bring one of our representatives to your hospital room with a legally binding Death Bed Contract. Merely sign it in the brief time you have left, and rest assured that you will receive the deluxe funeral of your choice within a few short days after you check out of the hospital.

Wee Embalmers O' The Heather

Mortuary—Mausoleum—Valet Parking

FOR QUICK SERVICE
CALL 555-0719