Sister Xavier: Providence's Buckeye boss



'It's an intangible spirit, but a caring one, of sharing God's love with those we serve.'

Sister Xavier



Sharon Wallace (right), head nurse in the emergency room at Providence Hospital, discusses procedures with Sister Xavier.

Walking the miles of labyrinth-like hospital corridors with Sister Xavier Ballance is much like walking through your neighborhood.

Some 2,200 persons work at Providence Hospital. And although they greet her as "Sister," she summons an amazing number of names and greets them in turn.

In her four years plus at the Southfield hospital, Sister Xavier has made it bome. But it didn't begin that way. Smilling, she tells of her first days as hospital administrator.

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"I arrived during football season and what do I see as I approached what would be my office? — A sign that read:

"A Buckeye is a useless nut:

"Those are fighting words for diminutive Sister Xavier, 46, who was born in Columbus, Ohio, raised in Toledo, dotes on football and is a Buckeye fan herself.

A dedicated member of the Daughters of Charity, Sister Xavier serves as administrator over a \$59 million business. With the growth at the bospital since her arrival, she agrees it's almost like being the mayor of a mid-sized city.

"We've built the Seion Center, our new glass office building, and the Birthing Center," she says.

Along with the hospital's growth have come more responsibilities. She is president of the Michigan Catholic Health Association and president of the Northwest Detroit Hospitals Corp.

"I like mid-management and nursing supervision. In my

order, you go where you are sent and it's been a real chal-lenge."

SISTER XAVIER was born Mary Francis Ballance.
About her childhood and growing up years, she simply says: "Normal."

She went to football games with her father, Leonard.

and became a cheerleader when she got to high school in

and became a cheerleader when she got to high school in Toledo, where her parents still Inc.
Are they proud of her?
"I'm proud of them," Sister says. "They're both 83 years old, active, independent and do a lot for the senior citizens in their area.
"I'm an only child and they consider the 10 sisters I live with as part of the family."
Nursing, rather than becoming a nun, was her first ca-

vursing, rather than becoming a hin, was her hirst career choice.

But at St. Louis University, she was introduced to the Daughters of Charity... so friendly and personable and yet so spiritual, I was drawn to them, 'she says.

Her entrather than the says. Her name "Xavier" was chosen out of logality to the Jesuits with whom she sport at of it time in her college years.

"Being in the order causes you to rethink your values. Life has been very foll,' she says.

After earning degrees in nursing and nursing administration, she served in several hospitals.

HER COMMUNITY now is the home she makes with

HER COMMUNITY now is the home she makes with other sisters at the Providence House in Farmington Hills.

Together they rise at 5:30 a.m. each morning.
She meditates alone and then says morning prayers with the other sisters. By 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. at the latest, she is at her desk at the hospital.
"Then we have Mass around 11:30 or noon and at 5:30 we say our prayers and eat together."
On Sister Xavier and the church she says: "We've come a long way since Vatican II.
"I have to describe myself as a middle of the roader who must look at historical perspectives. I think it will be a long while before we see women priests, but in time it will come.

"I wouldn't be pushing it or out waving a flag for it, but the church needs to move."

THE HOSPITAL is a bustling place, construction usually underway, new community programs undertaken regularly and more than 90 percent of beds filled at any one

larly and more than 90 percent ot bees nuce at any untime.

"We've grown so fast," she says. "We have two satellites and don't want to lose the personality of the institution.

"An institution is only as successful as the people you work with. And we have great administrators and the people who do the laying on hands of the patients have a special-spirit.

"It's people caring for people."

Sister Xavier doesn't like a desk with drawers because things tend to get lost in them. And she doesn't like to administer from an ivory town.

"I make rounds just to keep in touch. My favorite place

to visit is the Emergency Room. I'm an old Emergency

Room nurse."
But most of all, she cares about Providence Hospital and
the kind of institution it must be.
"This is a Catholic hospital. And it has to have that flavor of Catholicism and Christianity.
"It's an intangible spirit, but a caring one, of sharing
God's love with those we serve."

ON MARCH 25 when the Southfield Chamber of Commerce presents its first Human Rights Award Recognition Dinner at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Armenian Church, Sister Xavier will be the keynote speaker.

"With the women's movement, I think it is simply the style to get a woman speaker," be says modestly.

But she admits, she has been thinking deeply about what los as.

But she admits, she has been thinking deeply about what to say.

"Human rights is so very broad as a topic," she says. "But the peaple and institutions of a city like this affect the quality of life. Southfield has progressed.

"We have industry here, organizations here, institutions here, and all made up of people. It's gearing up those people to be concerned with human needs that's vital.

"There's a tendency to be materialistic and mechanized and to forget the human."

Stater Xavier plans to encourage the award winners who have distinguished themselves in human rights efforts and to commend them for it.

d them for it

"The world moves so fast. The government is into every life. There's such a danger of loss of spirit."

THE INSIDE *>

THE FARMINGTON Area Jayeese are usely subsy, busy, busy, these days. They're sponsoring a drive to collect old eyeglasses for use by the underprivileged at home and abroad. The drive, which lasts until March 24, has three drop-off points: from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Farmington Vision Clinic, Classie Eyewear, one-quarter block west of Orchard Lake Road on Ten Mile; from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday at Sanderson Real Estate Network, one-half mile west of Orchard Lake Road on Grand River; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays at T&L Printing in the World Wide T-V. Center, west of Farmington Road on Grand River.

Those ever busy gruss are also looking for new THE FARMINGTON Area Jayones are

Printing in the World Wide T.V. Center, west of Farmington Road on Grand River.
Those ever busy guys are also looking for new members. Prospective members should be between 18 and 36 years old and live in the city or the Hills. There will be a membership meeting at 7 p.m., March 25 in the American Legion Hall, one-quarter mile west of Orchard Lake on Grand River. For further information call Jim Mitchell, president of the group at 642-9690 days or evenings at 474-6885.

PERSONALLY, Angles sends a loud Angles sniff of total disapproval for the Jaycees obstinate insistence on recruiting only men for their group. (IA knows what the Supreme Court said about "separate but equal," guys.)

NATIONAL PTA is receiving theme entries through April 1 for the Reflections 1890-81 contest. Any student of a school with a Farent Teachers' Association (FTA) is ellighte to enter. The theme should no more than five words long. In recent years the themes have included "Love is..." and "Look Out Your Window." Top three finalists will receive \$100 seach in each awards. For an official entry form any interested student may contact their PTA president or the PTA Council Reflections Chairman, Ruth-Anne Gallinger at 477-7812.

THE FARMINCTON School District PTA Reflections contest judging has been completed. The projects included works dealing with the visual aris, literature and music. Annanad the winners are (the envelope, please): Visual arts: Illghmeadow Elementary School students, Al Hawner, Marc Tenenbaum, Jody Harrison, Longacre Elementary's Shiu Win Lee; Literature, Highmeadow's Michael Warren, Longacre's Parmeia Joy Goodhee, Marc Bommarito and Jennifer Frazer. In Music, Longacre's Katherine Liss Kretler, Daniel Hull and Caroline Smerjian were winners. These elementary school students will receive their awards from the Farmington PTA Council at the April 2 school board meeting. All other entires will receive their swill receive the board meeting. All other entires will receive ribboas from the PTA Council through their schools. Angles saluties these hard working students for being absolute $\diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond$

ARTSTART Preschool will have an open house for all interested parents from 1:30 to 3 p.m., March 25 in its classrooms at Mercy Center, 28600 West Eleven Mile in Farmington Hills. Parents are invited to visit and meet the staff. Artstart Preschool is licensed for children from 2 ½ to 6 years old and is primarily a cultural enrichment center focusing on the arts for the developing child. Registration for September class will be taken at this time. For further information call the preschool at 474-7175.

ROLLLLL UPPP those sleeves and help clean up the area during the statewide Keep Michigan Beautid Annual Clean-Up Month, April 19 to May 17. Individuals, communities, businesses or clubs interested in conducting or joining apring clean up drives can obtain further information by contacting KmB, Inc. at Box 644, Farmington, 48024 or call 477-6647.

AROLES GEARS up to salute the intrepid French students at North Farmington High School. French teacher Melissa Neal reports that the following students were awarded certificates of merit for their scores on the National French Tests and Linda York. The French Honor Society has inducted these 25 students into its ranks: Nina Alameddine, Robin Behrmann, John Bowler, Carolyn Broida, Kewin Carey, Robyn Dorst, John Gunderson, Shelley Hayward, Sarah Hooper, Carolyn Broida, Kewin Carey, Robyn Dorst, John Gunderson, Shelley Hayward, Sarah Hooper, Carolyn Horvath, Jean Jambas, Eristen Kinsmann, Eric Knapp, Kathy McMillan, Debbie Park, Dawn Plerson, Mike Sovel, Dan Steinert, Helen Tal, Marguerite Tom, Shiela Wall, Debbie Vee and Linda York.

Now, Angles salutes thees students by summoning up all the French it remembers from its days at Square Lake High, the prep school of geometric figures George Sand, Erik Salut, Jean-Paul Sartre, et Maurice Chevalier.

AND A CIVIL WAR salute to Jerry Maxwell, faculty member of North Farmington High. He teaches a class about the Civil War and is chairman of the eshool's social studies department. Maxwell is an officer in the Michigan Regimental Civil War Roundable. He published an article titled, "The Bizarre Case of Lewis Paine" in the Winter 1978 issue of Lincoln Herald, (It begins on page 223,) Angles salutes this readable piece of history with an appropriate Civil War vintage marching chant: (Ready Maxwell?) Hayfoot, strawfoot, strawfoot,

BECOME a compleat Angler by dropping a line to IA at 23552 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48024. And remember, take any geometric figure to lunch this week: it's tough being an angle in a round

Clinique To Go: A delicious little kit that's yours as a bonus

Got a taste for special values?...carry out Clinique To Go. It's yours with any Clinique purchase of 6.50 or more, and it contains the very beauty and treatment

products you've been

wanting to try. Like Facial Soap (mild), Pore Minimizer Makeup in True Beige shade, Very Emoilient Creme, Young Face Creamy Blusher in Cinnamon, and Glossy Brush-On Mascara in black. Each in special sizes that make them

special sizes that make them easy to take along. And, like all Clinique products, they're 100% fragrance free and allergy tested. Come to Hudson's Aisles of Beauty and left the Clinique computer determine which products are best suited to your needs. And while you're these plek And while you're there, pick up Clinique To Go. We're sure that once you try it, you'll agree-it's Clinique to stay!

Suggested purchases: Facial Soap, 6 oz., 8.50 Clarifying Lotion, 12 oz., 12.50 Dramatically Different Moistur-Izing Lotion, 2 oz., 8.50

*30.000 bonus kits available at Hudson's while quantities last.



