## Dental from page 1C

for the student because the pro-gram's funded by a state grant.

Dental assisting as a career took a kick in the teeth in recent years with several changes in the market, including the AIDS scare, Frederick said.

But now, "people have been ed-ucated that with proper precau-tions the danger isn't as much as it was first perceived to be," Fred-

erick said.

Many schools of dental assisting have closed in recent years because of expense and dwindling
interest, Frederick said.

Add to that the fact that after

completing the training many dental assistants go on to other areas of dentistry — they may train to be dental hydrenists or even dentiats. (Dental hydrenists are licensed specialists who clean teeth. Dental assistants assist the dentiat during procedures.)

And, because of the pay scale, many assistants move on within a couple years, Frederick said. Den-tal assistants usually make \$3 or \$9 an hour, compared to \$18-320 an hour for bygienists.

The result: Finding qualified dental assistants was like pulling teeth. "Now dentists have had to

suffer," Frederick said.

With the help of a state grant, a "virtual school" has been set up. A consortium forms the school: Peak Performers, with offices in luvonia, recruits students; instructors from Dental Training Systems of Michigan use curriculum materials provided by the University of Kentucky School of Dentistry and donated classroom and laboratory space at the OCC-Orchard Ridge campus to teach students. Dentist-sponsors help the students gain work experience.

Kristie Gretka of Farmington Hills recently completed the pro-

gram. She found the instruction hard but rewarding. "There was a lot of studying involved — every night," she said. She had been working as an op-tician when she saw an ad in the paper for the dental program. At-ter going through a rigrorous inter-view process, Gretka entered the

program.

Now she's working for Dr. Laurie Toomajanian in Northville.

Gretka's case is an example of how to change careers in a short

time.

But not everyone is accepted.

"We have to preserve our reputation," said Phillip.Stark, presi-

dent and chief executive officer of Peak Performers. That's why po-tential students must go through a phone interview, submit a writ-ing sample and then come in for a personal interview before being accepted into the program.

"We want our people to know what to do," Stark said. "On the-job training is expensive. Many programs don't have their stu-dents go out into a dental office."

But this program does. Since beginning in January, the pro-gram has even brushed up on the number of required training hours, increasing them from 200

to 300 hours, based on dentists

And, to put more polish on its graduates, Peak Performers re-quires students to come to school dressed in uniform and to com-plete training in cardiopulmonary

plete training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The extra requirements are to give graduates an edga. "Most dental offices are very meticulous," Stark said.

Frederick and Stark aim to keep dentites smiling and filling the dental gap with trained assistants by applying for renewal of the state grant for another year. Call 477-5777 for information.

## Study reviews possible impotence link to prostate disease, treatment

Does prostate disease and its treatment cause impotence? Is there a link? Boxsford General Hospital's support group, Help for Impotent Men (HIM), is offer-ing a free educational seminar for ing a free educational seminar for men and their partners to help

answer questions and address concerns of those affected by the disease. An estimated 14 million men suffer from impotence. Impotence most often has physical reasons such as medications, diabetes,

chronic illness, heart disease, traums and surgery. But, there are answers and there is help for those suffering from impotence. The HIM lecture, "Is there a link between prostate disease and impotence?" will be 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14, at Botsford General Hospital, East Pavilion 2B, 28050 Grand River in Farm-ington Hills.

"We are pleased to offer this educational program to men and

their partners," said nurse Donna Rice, Health Development Net-work, community health educa-tor, "Each month, as part of our HIM educational support group, we feature professional speakers and educational materials to ad-

dress all aspects of sexuality and to provide help and support for those who are concerned about

For more information on the HIM program and the May lecture, call 477-6100.

## **CAMPUS PIPELINE**

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of nigher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, 21898 Famington Road, Farm-

ington 48336.

RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP
Mary Kutschke of Farmington
was awarded the Jewel Ache Memorial Scholarship at the Fort
Wayne campus of Taylor University in Fort Wayne, Ind.

E NEW GRADUATES

The following Farmington area students graduated from Indiana University. They are: Joseph Wil-liam Sturtz, Randall Marc Weishaus, Heather Branning Leggett, Jennifer C. Rick and Jen-

nifer Lynn Stumpo.
The following Farmington area students graduated from Eastern Michigan University. They are: Susan Cahill, Patricia Dean, Barbara Runyon, Marilyn Welicko, Bridget Deloge, Linda Doyle and

Tina Winnick-Szybisty. Also, Kristin Blake, Darren Buatti, De-lores Deornellas, Deborah Ford, Scott Frush, John Kennuedy, Tracey Krsus, Chad Mika, Nancy Pennington, Anthony Peruchietti, David Rich, Rebecca Whitaker,

Kathryn Wik, Chang-Im Yu, Jody Borock, Paul Cohen, Jodie Fuller, Karen Haberstroh, Jennifer Isen-berg, Michele Miller, Meaghan O'Brien, Michelle Rott, Susan Sundberg, Christine Taubs and Kristine Walker.

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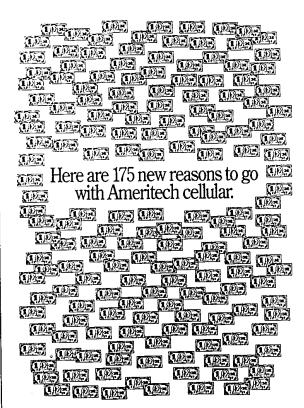
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