

# A lifesaver

## Computer helps Hills physician extend lifelines

By Louise Okrutsky  
staff writer

Science fiction meets medical technology at St. Mary's Hospital.

In the Livonia hospital's intensive care unit, Dr. B. Babu Paidipaty uses a computer to monitor patients. In his Farmington Hills study, there's another Hewlett Packard computer ready for Paidipaty when he must begin ordering treatment for patients before he leaves his house.

But he regards it as an emergency tool, not a substitute for personal care. "I may not be able to diagnose all the problems. This is not something that's done in lieu of coming into the hospital and seeing patients," he said.

In the intensive care unit where timing is a matter of life and death, he is convinced the 3-year-old computer setup has saved lives. If a patient requires a pacemaker, Paidipaty can diagnose the condition from home. Within the 15 minutes it takes him to drive to the hospital, the staff prepares for the procedure to begin upon his arrival.

"I believe what we've done, and what Dr. Babu has given us, is a quality of care, especially in the

intensive care unit," said St. Mary's president, Sister Mary Modesta. "Before we had Dr. Babu, it was very difficult when a doctor was unable to come to the hospital. He doesn't substitute for ordinary care but adds to the care."

IN EFFECT, the computer augments the intensive care staff. "It makes the nurses very comfortable. They're a telephone call away from the doctor. They can reach a physician and seek advice," Sister Mary said.

In addition to computers in Paidipaty's office and at home, there is one for the intensive care unit's nursing staff. Since time is precious, the system is as easy to operate as a standard calculator. For instance, each patient is represented by a picture of a bed within a square. By merely touching a square on the screen, staff members can view a specific patient's chart.

The computer allows the doctor to monitor a patient's heart beat, lungs and blood pressure without leaving his office or home.

Not only does the program consolidate data, it allows users to follow trends in the patient's condi-

### people

tion. "It saves time. You don't have to flip through the chart to find the report. You can find the trend right away," Paidipaty said.

It can also calculate an exact dosage of medication for that patient.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS are an-

other example of modern technology commonly associated with business and entertainment adapted for medical service. Telecommunications, Paidipaty said, allow doctors in Michigan to view X-rays in Florida in minutes instead of days.

Time and a relaxed attitude are

enemies in an intensive care unit. It is the unit's volatile atmosphere that attracted him to specializing in intensive care. He was hooked from his first day in an intensive care unit in a hospital in England. He left his native India in 1974, eventually coming to the United States via England in 1976.

"You had to be on the spot and right on the dot. You don't know what you're getting into next. You can walk in here and it'll be quiet and in the next few minutes, you might have two patients dying," Paidipaty said.

By its nature, an intensive care unit deals with many dying patients but it also cares for patients who can be saved. "It's challenging," he said.

Until recently, he was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But he doesn't consider this a sacrifice of other aspects of living. His wife, Dr. Kamala Paidipaty, is a doctor of internal medicine also affiliated with St. Mary's Hospital. They have three children.

"No matter what you do in life, there are conflicts. I enjoy what I do," he said.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Dr. B. Babu Paidipaty, critical care medicine and respiratory therapy director, uses a St. Mary's Hospital computer used to monitor vital signs of critically ill patients. It is identical to one

in his Farmington Hills home. The computer is operated by touching a finger to the screen to call up information about a specific patient.

*'It makes the nurses very comfortable. They're a telephone call away from the doctor. They can reach a physician and seek advice.'*

— Sister Mary Modesta  
St. Mary's president

## Reform Jewish school planned for fall of '89

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

The first-ever Reform Jewish day school in the metropolitan Detroit area is scheduled to open in West Bloomfield in September 1989.

The Yavach Academy will rent space in the Jewish Community Center at Maple and Drake, according to Margaret Eichner, headmistress of the new school. September 1989 classes will be offered to kindergartners, first and second graders. Each year a grade will be added.

"The effort came together in 1985," Eichner said. "Reform lay leaders and rabbis from the area feel that by offering a quality secular program integrated with a strong Reform Jewish curriculum, the school will provide an intellectual environment for a new generation of students who treasure their heritage, culture and tradition."

Eichner said the school expects to draw from the Reform congregations of Temple Israel and Temple Beth El in West Bloomfield, Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township, Temple Beth Jacob in Pontiac, Temple Emanu-El in Oak Park and Troy Congregation. A new Reform congregation, Temple Shur Shalom, is also being formed in West Bloomfield.

A SURVEY SENT to families of Reform congregations in February got a positive response. "At least 100 people are very interested," she said. As the school develops, potential student numbers could be as high as 450-600.

James Jonas, past president of Temple Israel, is chairman of the day school committee. He said policies and decisions will be made by a board of directors composed of people involved in community and synagogue life who are committed to education.

"We are convinced that it is the most effective way to satisfy today's demands for educating our Jewish children so that they may continue as positively motivated and committed Jews," Jonas said in a press release. "With resources and generosity of the community, most significantly the Jewish Welfare Federation, we can realize tomorrow's dream for children today."

Fund raising efforts are under way and grants and other sources of income are being sought. The school has received \$10,000 in aid and loans from the Jewish Welfare Federation. Tuition is expected to be \$4,000 per child annually. Once the school is established, student aid will be offered.

A school will be constructed on the

second floor leased from the JCC. Initially the school will have four classrooms, a multipurpose room, conference room, storage and bathroom.

THE NEXT 14 MONTHS will be spent in developing a curriculum for the school. Skill areas will be mathematics, social studies, language arts, science, penmanship, fine arts, physical education, drama, music and Hebrew.

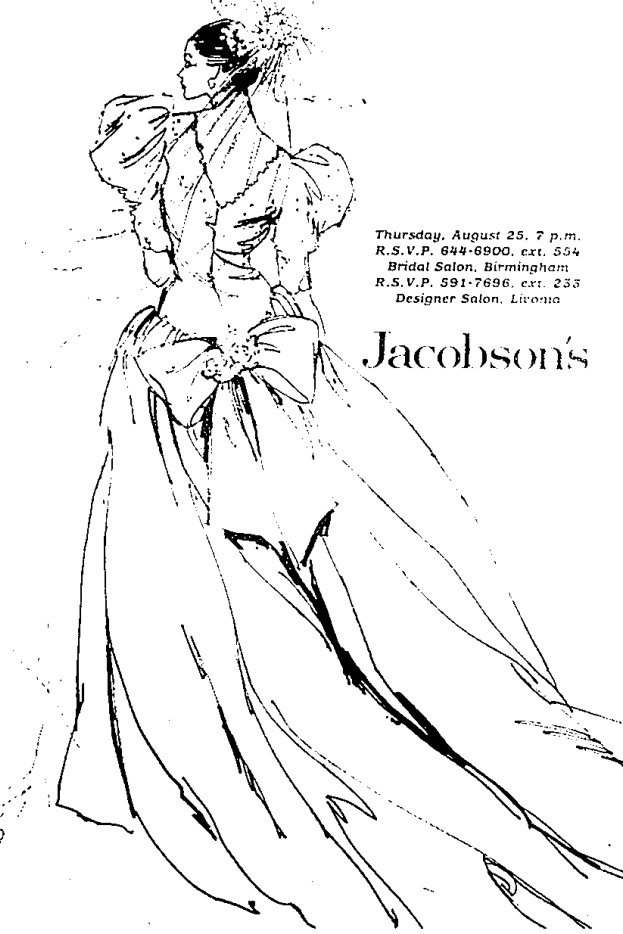
"We are striving to provide the best secular education we can," Eichner said. "This will be different from any day school in the Detroit area — Judaic components will be integrated in all classes." Hebrew will be taught formally as a separate subject and informally as it is integrated in prayer, snack times, etc.

Hillel Day School of Farmington Hills, affiliated with the Jewish Conservative movement for 30 years, has some Reform students. Headmaster Rabbi Robert Abramson said he was not sure if the new school would affect his own school's enrollment.

Eichner has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in secondary education and a doctorate in curriculum development from the University of Michigan.

## BRIDAL SHOW

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## Hills attorney in bar assembly



Farmington Hills attorney Michael Robbins was elected to a three-year term in the Michigan State Bar Representative Assembly on behalf of the attorneys of Oakland County.

Robbins is a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Victor, Robbins and Bassett. He graduated from the University of Michigan with high distinction and received a juris doctorate degree from Wayne State University in 1981.

His practice focuses primarily in the area of domestic relations. He is a council member of the State Bar of Michigan Family Law Section and chair of the "Family Court" committee for that section. He is also a member of the Southfield Bar Association board of directors.

His other professional affiliations include membership in the Oakland County Bar Association, American Bar Association and Equal Justice Bar Association. He is licensed to practice

law in the District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He is on the faculty at Oakland University, where he teaches family law, and is a frequent lecturer on the subject of domestic relations. He also serves as a divorce mediator in the tri-county area.

### Utility dislikes signs

Political posters — or any other signs — aren't welcome on electric utility poles.

"If the lineworkers' climbing gear strikes a nail or other piece of metal used to attach a sign, they can be misled into thinking their spike is firmly in the pole. That could cause a fall, with serious injury a possible result," said Kenneth C. Lincoln of Consumers Power.