Women doctors well-received at Health Center

Student reactions indicate that women doctors at the University Health Center (UHC) are favorably, received and accepted, according to Dr. Ken Hubbel, acting UHC director.

Hubbel said Carol Welcott, who joined the staff a year ago, was the first woman doctor to work there.

Both male and female students liked a young doctor with fresh and invigorating ideas toward her work, said Hubbel.

Dr. Ann Lott, a native Nebraskan, joined the staff at the beginning of the 1974 fall semester.

Wolcott said although there is an element of surprise many times when a student finds the appointment is with a female physician, it is usually easily accepted. The majority of patients Wolcott sees are women. She said women often prefer to see a woman doctor because they think she will be more understanding to their problems.

Minneapolis native

A native of Minneapolis, Wolcott was graduated from Monmouth College, Monmouth, Ill., with a major in biology and was graduated from medical school at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

She interned at the University of Utah at Salt Lake City, and received pediatric special training there to become a specialist in adolescent medicine. At the University of Wisconsin in Madison, she received post graduate training by working part time in the pediatric clinic and by teaching part time.

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In May of 1973, Wolcott received certification by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Wolcott works part time at UNL, teaching Public Health 101 and seeing patients in the health center.

UNL graduate Lott was graduated from UNL with a major in zoology and the University of Nebraska Medical Center at Omaha. She fulfilled her internship requirements at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

Lott, a general practitioner who studied pediatrics and internal medicine during her residency, is especially interested in derma-tology. She is on a waiting list for a dermatology residency.

Both doctors said they have encountered prejudice against women doctors to varying degrees. Lott said she never experienced any major prejudice though.

Lott and Wolcott said 10 per cent of their admitting classes to medical school were female. Wolcott said although the admission policies at medical school were liberal, after she was accepted she encountered prejudice directed toward female students from both faculty and student body members.

She said she was personally not exposed to a great deal of prejudice but noticed that some male students resented the women as potential threats to employment possibilities.

New programs

Several new programs have been instituted at the health center during the past year which both doctors consider improvements, and both foresee more improvements in the future.

The new systems of appointment scheduling was cited by Wolcott and Lott to be the biggest improvement at the health center this

year. The medical clinic, established mainly for outpatient care, now runs strictly on an appointment schedule.

Specific doctors handle appointment patients, while walk in patients are seen by a different doctor. This means the appointments generally run on schedule and students with appointments usually don't have to wait in line, the doctors said.

Another improvement is a program running from now through April to provide German measles vaccinations to all female students of the University free of charge. A test can be run at the health center to see if the vaccine is necessary, and if so, it will be provided.

Health aide program

Lott said the health aide program in the UNL residence halls is helpful and useful. With colds being the most common problem treated at the health center, she recommended that students talk to their health aide. or see a doctor when they are coming down with one before it develops into something more serious.

Wolcott said the health center is adequately staffed now.

Hubbel said there are two full-time and three part-time doctors employed in the medical clinic at the health center.

Hesidents from the medical school at Omaha ease the situation, Hubbel said. The residents, who are doctors usually with several years experience, work at the health center during the weeknights from 6 to 10 p.m., and then stay there all night to handle emergency situations, he said.



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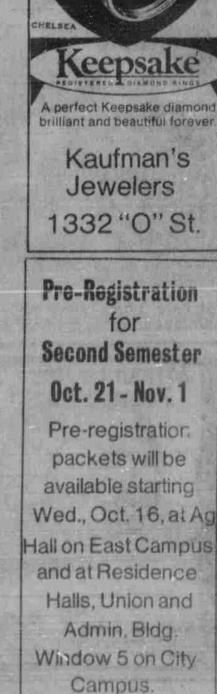
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