



# Intercom

duke university medical center



**EXTRA HOUR**—Don't forget to set your clocks back before you go to bed Saturday night. The nation is reverting to standard time.

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## Man Among Women:

By Margaret Howell

"I'm never referred to as a nurse. It's either 'orderly' or 'doctor.' It got to me for a while, but I laugh about it now."

That's the way Gilmer "Bernie" Stewart describes his entry into nursing. And, being the first full-time male RN EVER to work in the medical center's emergency room hasn't made things any less confusing.

Stewart has worked at Duke for the last year and a half since his graduation from Rockingham Community College with an RN degree. He points out incredulously that "there's even one school in Virginia that won't accept men for their nursing curriculum."

Duke was receptive to his working here, according to Stewart. "They made me feel at home and they're doing a lot to get more male nurses here."

"Since the Vietnam war, there have been a lot of men coming back trained for medical care," he said. "So they're going to be stuck with us and they might as well use us. I think it's a good thing . . . I think we need both sexes in the profession."

"I think there are a lot of challenges in nursing. One of them is being accepted and proving we can function in a woman's profession," he added.

After four years' experience as a dental technician in the Navy ("the government training was good"), Stewart says his sister talked him into going to nursing school. "She had just graduated from nursing school when I got out of the Navy. So, while I was on inactive duty for the next three and a half years, I went to nursing school."

His work at the medical center started on Long Ward, a 31-bed section for men. Stewart worked there for a year receiving what he calls "good experience." He added, "There was one male LPN there before me, so the way had already been paved."

"You wouldn't think men would be modest, but a lot of them are. The patients seemed to open up more to me since I'm a man."

Suggesting that "ward work is more like women's work," Stewart said that he had received emergency training in the service and "I think it's more exciting and there is more responsibility. That's one reason I transferred to ER."

The reactions he's noticed in his six months in ER have been a little different from those on Long Ward. In many instances, he has had to stand up for his rights as a nurse with patients, doctors and even his fellow nurses. He quotes patient reaction at "90 per cent good."

"There's no written rule about it or anything," he said, "but the only thing I can't assist in is a pelvic examination."

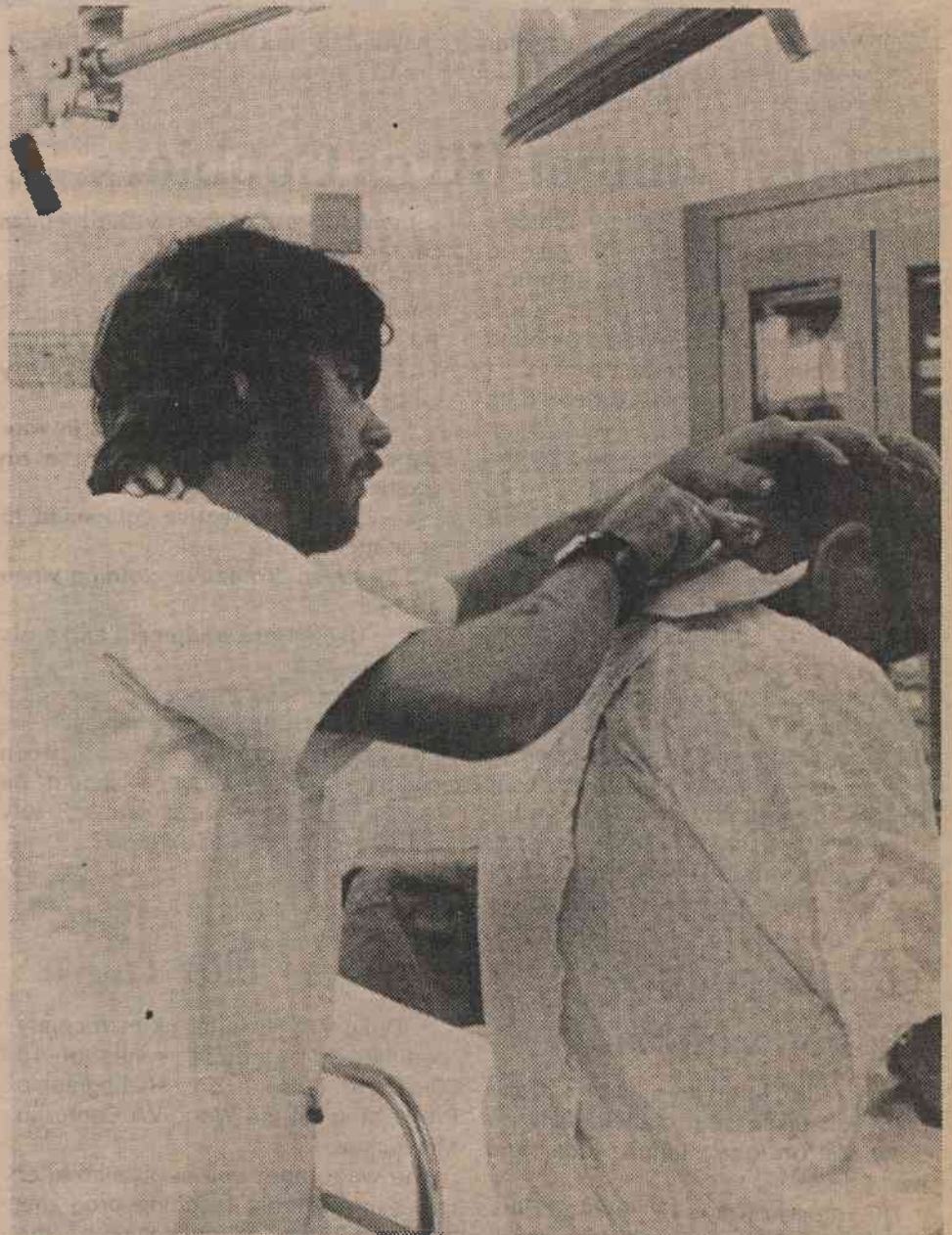
"Of course," he continued, "some women don't like to have me around period. One woman came into the emergency room and, when I walked in, said she wanted a nurse. I said, 'I am a nurse.' So she said, 'a female nurse.' With that I just said, 'Alright, I'll get you one.'"

"My training was no different from the training the women receive. When I was in school studying obstetrics," he recalled, "I stayed with a woman having a natural childbirth from 7:30 one morning to 4:30 the next morning. It was one of the most rewarding parts of nursing I've seen yet."

"I guess," he continued, "one of the main differences is that I have more physical work than the female nurses. Whenever a patient care assistant is not available, they call me. All in all, it's pretty equal down here. The female

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## A Male RN Looks At His Profession



**A MAN AMONG WOMEN**—Though his job may confuse many others, "Bernie" Stewart has found "a lot of challenges in nursing," including "proving we can function in a woman's profession." (Photo by Margaret Howell)

## United Fund Gifts Lag

"We need help."

That's what William Haas, director and material support at Duke and chairman of the university's 1974 United Fund Drive, said after reviewing contribution totals to date.

With only two weeks remaining in the annual giving campaign, the medical center is still 35.2 per cent below its projected goal, Haas said, and unless people start returning their pledge cards soon, the UF campaign at Duke is going to fall short of the \$89,050 total for this year.

So far, the medical center staff has contributed \$27,218 of its \$42,000 goal. The university-wide campaign now stands at \$67,777.

There are still 75 per cent of the payroll points still unreported, and in Haas' words, "That gives us some cause for concern."

The Business and Finance division on the campus is leading the university on a percentage basis. It has already exceeded its goal by 17 per cent. It has contributed \$9,128, and its goal was \$7,800. Totals for medical center faculty stand at \$23,874, and biweekly employees have given \$3,344 as of Oct. 21.

Haas repeated his request of last week that all pacesetters please return their pledge cards as soon as possible, and he again reminds payroll clerks that the donations they have collected can be taken to Paul Vick's office at 03 Allen Bldg. or to his own office at the Central Warehouse, 117 South Buchanan Blvd.

## In Parking Garage, Lots

# "Don't Get Ripped Off"

The Department of Public Safety is warning employees and others who use the Parking Garage or the parking lots against leaving valuables in their cars.

Lt. Tim Wheatley, head of the medical center detachment of Public Safety, said that between \$5,000 and \$6,000 in valuables were reported stolen within one week recently in the Parking Garage alone.

Two arrests have been made, Wheatley said, and officers are increasing their security measures in the parking areas.

But the lieutenant emphasized that the first step in defense against thefts must come from the vehicle owner.

Wheatley made these points:

—When you park and leave your car, make sure your windows are rolled up completely and the doors are locked.

—Do not leave valuables lying out in

the car. Even if a car is locked, thieves can break into it.

—If you have valuables or equipment that cannot be taken with you, lock them in your trunk.

—If you see anyone around the Parking Garage or the lots who appears to be loitering or in any other way looks suspicious, immediately contact the Public Safety officer in front of the hospital or call the Public Safety Office in the medical center at Ext. 5263, or on the main campus at Ext. 2444.

—Hospital and clinic personnel should pass these suggestions along to patients as well.

"People should never hesitate to call Public Safety as quickly as possible," Wheatley said. "The security of the medical center is our service, and we must rely on the eyes and the ears of observant medical center personnel to help us perform that service best."

