

FERMILAB NEWS

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OPERATIONS GROUP FERMILAB'S AROUND-THE-CLOCK SENTINELS

When "the machine" was off, they were around. And now that the machine is once again running, they are still around: problem solving.

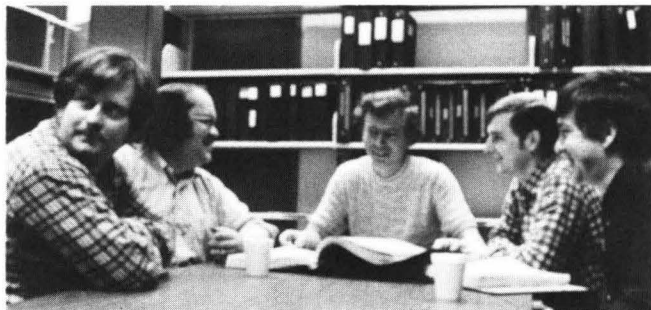
"All problems eventually get solved. It's just a matter of time."

That terse statement not only summarized the feelings of Jeff Gannon, leader of the Operations Group, but also described the key mission of one of Fermilab's most important teams of men and women. They are responsible for operating and monitoring the accelerator from the control room in the center of the Cross Gallery.

Seldom is there a day that a problem doesn't come up. But on the other hand, seldom is there a problem that doesn't get solved in reasonably prompt time by this talented group of people. Look at their track record: the machine keeps running, down time is kept at low levels, and even during the blizzard of '79, the accelerator ran the entire weekend snow was paralyzing this part of the country.

A further characteristic of the men and women of the Operations Group is their patience and diplomacy. For things do happen...

Like calls from experimenters complaining about the quality of the spill (how the beam comes out of the machine) or that there's too much or too little of the beam for their research. Like unsolicited phone calls from salespersons or sales machines working their way methodically through the list of Batavia phone numbers--one of which is an emergency line into the control room. What accelerator control room needs aluminum siding? And that call from the news reporter that came in just after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, with the writer asking for a description of Fermilab's safety precautions. Then there's that feeling of being



...In their new control room library, operation specialists confer with Jeff Gannon (center), operations leader. The others (L-R) are Bob Mau, Al Thomas, Bob Webber and Larry Allen...

in a glass-enclosed zoo, said Gannon. The control room clearly is one of the most popular stops for guided tours. Gannon and his people recognize this and accept it philosophically.

But still it can be trying. Like that time a group of Explorer Scouts came through on a tour at 2 a.m. Saturday morning. Quite a surprise for the people in the control room at that time.

The control room is one of the few facilities on site that is staffed 24 hours each day, every day of the year. It is truly a command center, but not for everything. It seems, explained Gannon, that a lot of people at the laboratory know someone always is in the control room. Consequently, the staff fields many calls during the off hours (non-8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. shifts) and weekends from people who don't know who else to call with questions about site services, security and others. It wouldn't be unreal to regard the control room as a telephone exchange at times.

And this leads to another point that Gannon is particularly proud of: the courtesy, calm and diplomacy that the operations people exhibit most of the time. During a shift, a crew chief and four or five operators run the control room.

"The crew chief is one of the most

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responsible persons on site during the off hours," said Gannon. "That person must be a leader and a diplomat, satisfy the requirements of a large number of different people and has to be technically sharp on accelerator systems."

The Operations Group has six crew chiefs: Barry Barnes, Duane Plant, Bill Merz, John Crawford, Don Rohde and Wally Kissel. Working with them are four crews of four or five persons each. They are:

Crew A--Jim Crisp, Ted Williams, Bruce Hanna, Gerry Royal and Debbie Baddorf; crew B--Jeff Elseth, Bob Angstadt, Ed Rosenwinkel and Eric Blum; crew C--Jim Smedinghoff, Fritz Macheel, Tim Moss and Jack Mealy; and crew D--Marv Olson, Jeanne Bauman, Jim Zimmerman and Ray Lichtenhan.

They make up a special group of talented people, said Gannon. "It takes a year to train an operator," he added.

For the crew chief and crew members, it's a roll-up-the-sleeves type of job to keep the accelerator running correctly,



...Enjoying a lively topic are crew chiefs (L-R) Barry Barnes, Bill Merz, Duane Plant, Wally Kissel and Don Rohde...

said Gannon. "It's not unusual for them to be called on to do anything," he also said. "Operators deal with a wide range of things that include securing the tunnel, vacuum systems, water systems and all different phases of electronics--from digital microprocessors to high energy power supplies. You may even find them in the tunnel squeegeeing water off the floor. They never know what a day's work will be like when they show up."

The group also has a few operations specialists--people who have worked their



...Crew members Ted Williams (L) and Gerry Royal at job in control room...

way up through the control room--to become super-knowledgeable about the different systems that make Fermilab work. These are the experts who understand the hardware in great depth, explained Gannon. Because of their superb knowledge, they serve as liaison persons between the various systems groups and the Operations Group, providing that critical link for the flow of information and the skill required to quickly analyze a problem.

The operations specialists--on call 24 hours every day--and their areas of

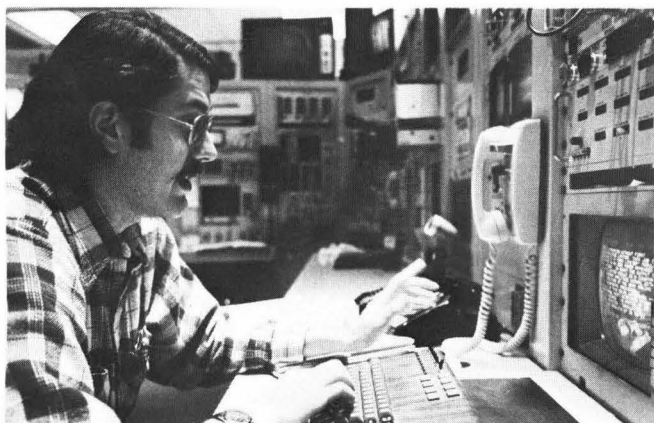


...Crew members (L R) are Marv Olson, Ray Lichtenhan, Debbie Baddorf, Jeff Elseth and Jim Zimmerman...

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responsibility are Larry Allen, Linac; Bob Webber, Booster; Bob Mau, Switchyard and Al Thomas, Controls. (Webber recently transferred to the Accelerator Instrumentation Group.)

The background of the people in the Operations Group is varied, said Gannon. For example, most operators have bachelor degrees in physics or associate degrees in electronic technology. One operator was an anthropology major, while another was a liberal arts major, and a few have received their technical training in the service.



...Crew member Bob Angstadt monitors readout...

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STUDENT LOANS AVAILABLE THROUGH CREDIT UNION

Student loans for college are available through the Argonne Credit Union, which is participating in the Illinois Guaranteed Loan Program.

Under the program, qualified students can borrow up to \$2,500 each academic year for tuition, room, board and other college expenses. They must be enrolled for full-time study. A student does not have to repay the loan until after he or she has been graduated from school and may take up to five years to pay it back.

Application forms are available at the Credit Union office and at most Illinois colleges.

Because of limited funds, the Credit Union urges students to apply before the end of July.

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Car pools are regarded by most experts as a major way to conserve gasoline.

Consequently, Fermilab is urging employees and visitors to form car pools. The Public Information Office (CL-1W) will act as a clearing house for car pool information.

Persons who are interested in participating in a car pool should fill out one of the forms and return it to the Public Information Office, CL-1W. Beverly Kaden, secretary, will sort the returned forms according to geographic area and keep them in a file box at her desk.

By examining the forms, an employee or visitor can determine if others who live nearby are also interested in participating in a car pool. For additional information, contact the Public Information Office, Ext. 3351.

According to the Department of Energy, about one-third of all private automobile mileage is for commuting. Yet, if two people ride together regularly, they use about half the gasoline required if each drove alone.

Pooling trips is as common sense as pooling rides to and from work, says the DOE. Combine trips carefully--to market, to the library, to school or to visit friends.

And a few other tips from the DOE: the most efficient speed usually is 35 to 45 miles per hour. Most automobiles get about 18% better mileage on the highway at 50 mph than at 65 mph, and 20% better mileage at 55 mph than at 70 mph (which is also illegal).

REMINDER: HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SURVEY FORM TO JOHN COLSON?

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HELP CONSERVE ENERGY

During the summer months, many opportunities exist for conserving energy, said John R. Paulk, head of Site Services.

Among the sure things: turn off unneeded lights and air conditioning units, particularly during the evenings and weekends. "Remember, conserving energy is everyone's business," he said.

PETER KOEHLER RECEIVES AWARD,
WILL SPEND A YEAR AT DESY

Peter Koehler, a physicist with the Tevatron Department of the Accelerator Division, has been selected by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to receive a "Senior U.S. Scientist Award."



These awards are presented to outstanding U.S. scientists in recognition of their past accomplishments in research and teaching.

...Koehler...

The Humboldt Award program was established in 1972 by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany in appreciation of the postwar Marshall Plan aid. The awards encourage scientific exchange and cooperation between research institutions in the two countries by enabling U. S. scientists to come to Germany for an extended stay and carry out research of their choice.

Koehler will leave in the middle of July for DESY in Hamburg, Germany. During his one-year stay he plans to participate in one of the first-round experiments on

PETRA, the recently completed electron-positron storage ring accelerator.

In preparation for this trip, his wife, Anne, and two sons, Michael, 8, and Richard, 6, are brushing up on their German. Koehler has no such problem because he grew up in Germany. He left in 1957 to study in this country right after graduating from high school in Hamburg.

Koehler will be on leave-of-absence from Fermilab.

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RECREATION DISCOUNTS AND SAVINGS AVAILABLE

Discounts and savings on a variety of recreation activities are available through the Fermilab Recreation department.

Some of the opportunities for individuals and families to save include Six Flags (near St. Louis, Mo.) Fun-Seekers Club, Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom Club, Old Chicago Capitol Club, Wisconsin Dells Vacation 20 Percent Savings Club, Marriott's Great America Club, The Passport Club and a 1979 golf two-for-one coupon book for the greater Chicago area.

All of these and more are available at the Recreation Office, CL-1W. For additional information, call Helen McCulloch, recreation coordinator, Ext. 3126.

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...Malcolm Browne (left), science writer with the New York Times, enjoys lunch with Fermilab director Leon Lederman.



Browne recently spent two days touring the site. He is preparing an article on the future of science...