University registers record year in private giving

By Larry Hynker

Despite a wave of gloomy economic news, private giving to Virginia Tech was higher last year than ever before. For fiscal year 2001-02, individuals, corporations, and foundations gave $72.6 million to the university, surpassing last year’s total by $6.2 million. Even with a $12-million gift of intangible property included in last year’s figure, private giving increased 9.3 percent. By contrast, charitable giving to education in state funding,” said Elizabeth Flanagan, vice president for Development and University Relations. “The university is striving to advance a bold research agenda. Meeting our strategic objectives will not be possible without private support. Our donors have shown truly exceptional generosity and commitment.”

University priorities and academic programs garnered close to $59 million this year, including multi-million gifts to several areas. The Heth family, represented by the late Henry Heth and his daughter, Anne Heth Connor, donated more than 300 acres of their family farm to Virginia Tech. The property, valued at $7.7 million, represents the last large tract of land adjacent to the central university campus.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded $2.5 million to support The Orchestra Forum, an initiative facilitated by the Institute for Cultural Policy and Practice in the College of Arts and Sciences. And the Smith Mountain lake 4-H Educational Conference Center, which receives strong program and staff support from Virginia Cooperative Extension, received an anonymous challenge gift of $1.5 million. Once met, this dollar-for-dollar challenge will provide $3 million to fund scholarships, building projects, and renovations.

Intercollegiate Athletics attracted $13.7 million in private contributions, reflecting the overall impact of Tech’s athletic programs. This amount is 32 percent higher than last year and marks the eighth consecutive increase for athletics.

Virginia Tech alumni gave $29.1 million, or 40 percent of the fiscal year’s total. Friends of the university gave the next highest sum, with $15.1 million, corporations provided $13.4 million, and foundation support increased from $7.4 million to $9.9 million. The university’s donor base also has grown by six percent between this year and last.

As in the past, donors directed a majority of their support to current operations, though the amount increased significantly from $27.7 million last year to $47.4 million. Private contributions raised the university’s endowment by $12.9 million, and donors gave $7.5 million and $4.7 million to capital facilities and sponsored programs, respectively.

*The Chronicle of Philanthropy, June 27, 2002 issue

Mellon’s $2.5 million funds forum

By Jean Elliott

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded $2.5 million to the university’s Institute for Cultural Policy and Practice (ICPP) to fund the on-going work of The Orchestra Forum. The Orchestra Forum, established in 1999, supports the organizational change efforts of 15 of the nation’s most artistically vital and forward-thinking symphony orchestras and advanced musicians-training institutions.

ICPP facilitates the convening of musicians, trustees, and executives of these organizations in creatively addressing four primary themes: strengthening the work of artistic leadership, developing the artistic and institutional roles of musicians, building collaborative cultures within orchestra organizations, and expanding the relationships of orchestras to their communities.

“This is quite visionary work that the Mellon Foundation is supporting. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead,” said John M. McCann, co-director of ICPP. “The arts and culture field-at-large has reached a critical point in its evolution and we are beginning to see the benefits of collaborative relationships among inspired foundations like Mellon, committed arts professionals, and ICPP.”

In its first three years, The Orchestra Forum, which was underwritten by a $592,000 grant to ICPP, improved communication among its constituents through exposure to a diverse array of teachers, consultants, and professionals from the arts and other fields, on issues of leadership and organizational development. As the participants (musicians, trustees and staff members from the 15 organizations)

(See MELLON on 4)

FINISHING TOUCHES

With major structural work on the south end-zone stadium expansion completed, workmen continue to apply finishing touches to the project at Lane Stadium. The new section is expected to be ready for the home opener against Arkansas State on August 23. (W. Griffith)

Graduate Student Orientation activities to include Information Fair, dean’s welcome

By Julie Kane

This fall’s graduate-student orientation promises to be a grand kick-off as new graduate students receive information, are welcomed by the university’s provost and the new Graduate School dean, and enjoy a round of entertainment.

From August 19 through 23, Welcome Week will be held in Sandy Hall. On Wednesday, Aug. 23, graduate students will convene at the orientation tent behind Sandy Hall to be welcomed by Provost Mark McNamee. “Our graduate students are very important to this university, helping us to realize our mission ‘Ut Prosim’ and to achieve the goal of becoming a top-30 research institution by 2010,” McNamee said.

The new Graduate School dean, Karen DePauw, will also address the audience. “This orientation will always be special to me because becoming graduate dean at Virginia Tech is a new beginning for me as well. I can share new graduate students’ sense of expectation, and we will make every effort to assure their experience at Virginia Tech is a success.”

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the dean later in the program to become acquainted and ask questions.

Part of orientation will be an information fair conducted by the Graduate Students’ Services Office staff. On hand will be representatives from 16 organizations that interact with graduate students.

Graduate students will be able to participate in raffles, eat, and be entertained by the bands Juxtaposition and the Wild Turkeys.

More than 40 graduate students have volunteered to help with orientation and Welcome Week to provide information and advice from a student’s perspective.

New technology allows study of biomolecules

By Susan Trudove

Every living thing needs iron. The strategies some organisms use to accumulate iron can affect the quality of our environment and could be adapted for our use.

Imagine a falconer releasing his falcon to nab pigeons for his dinner. That is somewhat how the bacteria, Azotobacter vinelandii, acquire iron. They release a siderophore molecule, called azotobactin, which nabs iron out of minerals.

“The molecule extracts the iron from the mineral and is expected to eventually return with the iron to the bacterial cell,” said Treavor Kendall, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geological Sciences.

Azotobacter vinelandii have two things going for them. They release millions of siderophores and these molecules have “a huge affinity for iron—some of the highest affinities observed in nature,” Kendall said.

Kendall studies how bacteria acquire iron. There have been a lot of studies on siderophores in the aequous phase. “We do know how siderophores behave with iron in water,” Kendall said. “But we don’t know how they interact with iron that is locked up in a mineral structure. This is important because minerals are a primary source of iron in the environment.”

Kendall’s aim is to look specifically at the affinity of forces between azotobactin and the mineral goethite—an important iron oxide in soils world-wide.

He has been invited to present his research at the 12th Annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference, an international geochemistry conference, August 18 through 23, in Davos, Switzerland. His paper will be part of the symposium on “Biogenic
**Activities**

**Events**

**Friday, 16**
Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

**Monday, 19**
GTA Fall Workshop (Through 8-21).

**Thursday, 22**
International Student (all) Orientation, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall.

**Friday, 23**
New Faculty Orientation, 7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., German Club.

For more information, contact Jane Todd at 1-2014, e-mail janetodd@vt.edu or visit web site http://www.conted.vt.edu/mced/.

SCC’s Moores to address incoming students
Judge Hullihen Williams Moore of Virginia’s State Corporation Commission will address incoming engineering students on the issues of sustainability, energy, and the environment, Thursday, Aug. 29, from 7 to 8 p.m. in Burruss auditorium.

The Green Engineering Program of the College of Engineering is sponsoring the event. Members of the campus community are invited to attend.

**Saturday, 24**
“Welcome to Tech” picnic, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Pritchard and Ambler Johnston field.

Opening Convocation, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum.

**Sunday, 25**
Football, 2:30 p.m., Lane Stadium: Arkansas State.

Board of Visitors Meets.

**Monday, 26**
Board of Visitors Meets.

**Wednesday, 28**
Faculty Senate, 5-45 p.m., Hillcrest Dining Hall.

**Monday, 26**
Fall Semester begins.

**Friday, 30**
Last Day to Add.
Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

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**Multicultural education conference set**

A Multicultural Education Conference is being planned for September 27-28 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. Belle S. Wheelan, Virginia secretary of education, will be the keynote speaker. The theme of the conference is “Investing in Our Common Wealth: Teaching, Learning, and Supporting Multiculturalism in Our Communities.”

The conference provides an opportunity for those involved in education from pre-K through higher education to come together to learn and share ways to support multiculturalism inside and outside of the classroom.

Some session topics will include integrating appreciation of cultural diversity into teaching, using various theatre techniques to address issues of diversity, technology and diversity, and building a community of respect.

This conference is sponsored by the Southwest Virginia Multicultural Coalition, Virginia Association for Multicultural Education and Virginia Tech.

The registration fee of $75 includes a dinner on Friday evening, lunch and break service on Saturday and all conference materials.

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

One of the veterinary profession’s leading practice-management consultants will headline the program for the annual meeting of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association at Virginia Tech September 27-28.

Fritz Wood, a leading expert on practice management and the economic climate of modern veterinary medicine, will present two seminars throughout the day. “Life After Debt: Wealth Building Fundamentals for Veterinary Professionals” will focus on core personal and professional finance issues and “Outstanding Business Opportunities in Veterinary Medicine Today” will illuminate strategies for achieving high-performance results from companion-animal practices.

Wood is a certified public accountant and a certified financial planner who frequently consults with veterinarians and the veterinary industry. He has conducted research into the business side of veterinary medicine, and he serves as the personal finance editor and is on the Editorial Advisory Board of Veterinary Economics, the monthly business authority for practicing veterinarians. He has judged the annual Veterinary Economics “Practice of Excellence” competition, published many articles and presented at major veterinary conferences throughout the world. Wood’s experience includes 10 years with one of the Big Five consulting firms in Kansas City, where he managed the Business Consulting Group.

Wood is also treasurer and serves on the Board of Directors of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. He also serves on the Pricing Subcommittee of the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI).

He holds B.S. degrees in accounting and business administration from the University of Kansas. His professional affiliations include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (KSCPA).

Participants in the VVMA/MVMA/VMRCVM Mentor Program also will convene for the annual Mentor/Mentee breakfast during the Fall Meeting. Begun two years ago, the mentor program seeks to match practitioners with veterinary students and foster a relationship that helps the students learn more about the “real world” of veterinary medicine and gain an appreciation for the important role that organized veterinary medicine plays in the nation’s veterinary healthcare system.

The Veterinary Memorial Fund, a non-profit organization that develops and funds clinical research through a mechanism that provides expressions of condolence to bereaved pet owners from the dean of the VMRCVM, also will be featured during the program.

The VMRCVM’s memorial-fund program is one of the oldest such programs in the country.

**State veterinary-medical association to meet on campus**

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

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**Parking advisory issued for student arrival**

From August 21-24 nearly 9,000 students and their families will arrive on campus to check into the residence halls. This will cause a significant change in parking and traffic patterns on campus.

During the four days of check-in, streets and parking lots closest to the residence halls will be designated as “30-minute loading” and reserved for resident-student move-in. These areas include parking lots of Shultz, Owens, Dietrich, Coliseum, half of Ag Quad, and Engel lot; and the following streets: Turner, Kent, and Washington Streets and the south side of the Drillfield (War Memorial Hall side) from Sandy Hall up to the Library. Do not park in these areas.

All vehicles parked in these areas, other than for the purpose of unloading, will have to be ticketed to provide space for the move-in process.

Additionally, Washington Street will become a one-way street. Traffic will be allowed to move from west to east (from the Coliseum toward Kent Street and downtown Blacksburg). Very slow-moving traffic is expected along this corridor.

Faculty and staff members should park in areas not designated for “30-minute loading,” such as the C/G section of the Litton-Reaves lot (located behind Litton Reaves Hall off Washington Street) and/or Perry Street Lot/Prices Fork Lot (formerly called B-lot, located off Prices Fork Rd).

(See PARKING on 4)

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**Hokie Spirit Picnic**

to welcome students

Residential and Dining Programs will welcome students to campus with its annual Hokie Spirit Picnic and Pep Rally on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the Dietrick Plaza.

Students, faculty and staff members, and the general public are invited to gather with fellow Hokies to enjoy great food and music to kick-off the new school year. In addition, the Virginia Tech athletic teams, the Marching Virginians, cheerleaders and the Hokie Bird will be on hand to energize the crowd.

The picnic will feature barbecue chicken, grilled hamburgers, garden burgers, hotdogs, drinks. Also, customers will be able to purchase Cinnabon Classic Cinnabons™, Carmel Pecanbons™, and Cinnabon Stixs™, as well as a variety of cold beverages and specialty coffee drinks. Also, customers will be able to purchase Cinnabon and Minibon Express Packs™ to go from Hokie Grill & Co.

(See PICNIC on 3)

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**Ending domestic violence conference being planned**

The Ending Domestic Violence Across the Life Span Conference is being planned for October 4 at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. The theme of the conference is “Finding Resilience in Self and Community.”

The conference highlights how individuals, families, and communities can identify and successfully use personal resiliences and resources to prevent domestic violence as it occurs across the life span. Interdisciplinary approaches link current
Raines heads riparian restoration project

By Lynn Davis

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia under the Federal Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program has awarded Dana Raines, natural resources youth advisor coordinator in the College of Natural Resources, funding for a riparian-restoration project titled "GLOBE/Watershed Education Teacher Institute." Students from ecology classes at Nelson County High School, as well as students from Giles, Floyd, and Montgomery County schools participated in a tree-planting research project recently as part of the GLOBE program.

The riparian grant was furnished by American Forests, the Chesapeake Bay Relief, and Nelson County High School. Resources provided by the grant included a daily stipend to teachers, a GLOBE kit for each participating school including a GPS unit, GLOBE Teacher's Guide, computer software, LandStat maps, and other resources as well as training on how to conduct environmental field studies and use appropriate technology, in-classroom support from Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and the Virginia Museum of Natural History, an resources material relating to local watersheds.

A riparian watershed area is a critical area between the edge of water and land, which generally impacts waterways, river life, water quality, flood control, and non-point source pollution for bays and oceans.

The high-school students began their training by monitoring the watershed development. They were asked to research the values of plant and animal species that best survive in riparian areas. They collected and analyzed soil samples, tree specimens, and macro-invertebrates. Next, the ecology students produced a tree-planting design, created publicity letters, and developed a web site for their project. "The riparian project was organized to train students in phenology (the study of how things change with seasons), watershed management, and how to collect data using protocols relating to the atmosphere," Raines said.

Raines' riparian project was designed to establish a stand of biologically diverse, native trees to decrease stream-bank erosion, improve water quality, increase fish and macro-invertebrate population, increase food and shelter, and enhance native biodiversity.

The GLOBE program is an international research program balanced between science and education. Its primary concern is to develop protocols that are appropriate for primary and secondary students to ensure accurate and reliable measurements for use by the international environmental-science community.

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures/position-closing dates may be found on Personnel Services web site http://www.personnel.vt.edu. Positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5000. Some positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with "W" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

**FULL TIME**

Six full-time food-service positions available.

Accounting/Payroll Manager, 001673J, PB 3, UUSA.

Assistant Computer Systems Administrator, 007858S, PB 4, CEE.

Binding Assistant, 000214G, PB 2, ULTS.

Business Manager, 007865S, PB 4, IDDL.

Business Practices Specialist, 007952F, PB 5, CONTROLLER'S Office.

Capital Budget Analyst, 007959F, PB 4, BFP.

C-print Captionist for Deaf/Hard of Hearing, 007472J, PB 3, DEAN OF STUDENTS, Database Administrator, 007989K, PB 5, VBI.

Division Head, Construction Services, 007593G, PB 6, CDC.

Engineering Coordinator, 007133A, PB 5, VBS.

Executive Secretary, External Affairs, 000802G, PB 3, Athletics.

Facilities Manager, 001187J, PB 3, USA.

Faculty Data/Procedures Technician, 006286D, PB 3, Personnel Services.

Housekeeping Leader Senior, 000574H, PB 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Leader Senior, 000552H, PB 1, RDP.

Houselkeeper Worker, 002243H, PB 1, RDP.

Houselkeeper Worker, W02490H, PB 1, RDP.

Human Resources Specialist, 008004Y, PB 4, VBI.

HVAC Technician, 008001L, PB 3, RDP.

III Assistant, 006693G, PB 2, University Libraries.

Library Administration Specialist, 007810M, PB 3, PWPS.

Marketing/Public Relations Manager, 008000J, PB 5, VTI.

Microbial Technologist, 008000K, PB 5, VBI.

Office Specialist, 000242H, PB 2, RDP.

Office Specialist, 007894H, PB 2, RDP.

Powerline Worker, 000030F, PB 3, FACILITIES.

Quality Specialist, 007996M, PB 3, CSES.

Web Support/Receptionist, 003132B, PB 3, Biology.

Activity Director, W022916J, PB 3, Adult Day Services.

Animal Care Technician Large Animal, W02066V, PB 2, VTH.

Computer Operations Technician, W023462H, PB 3, RDP.

Distance Learning Technician, W023276A, PB 3, VBI.

Fiscal Assistant, W023460J, PB 2, Athletics.

ICU Veterinary Technician, W022182G, PB 2, VTH.

Lab Assistant, W023459M, PB 1, ENTOMOLOGY.

Nursing Assistant, W022182J, PB 2, VTH.

Pmm Support Technician, W022979M, PB 2, VTH.

Program Director, W023461Y, PB 4, EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES.

Receptionist/Office Assistant, W023432K, PB 2, VBI.

4-H Scnep Program Assistant, 005819J, PB 2, VCE—Wise County.

4-H Scnep Program Assistant, 007366J, PB 2, Albemarle County.

Administrative Program Support, 007411B, PB 3, Engineering/NVC.

Biologist, 007995J, PB 4, CMI.

Distance Learning Support Technician, 001467A, PB 4, VBS.

Efnep Adult Program Assistant, 008001M, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax County.

Efnep Adult Program Assistant, 007642M, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax County.

Efnep Program Assistant, 007496M, PB 2, VCE—Patrick County.

Environmental Engineer, 007994J, PB 5, CMI.

Nursing Supervisor, 006726M, PB 3, CVM.

Scnep Adult Program Assistant, 006800M, PB 2, Albemarle County.

ScnepProgram Assistant, 006806J, PB 2, HNF.

Senior Program Administrator, 006436Y, PB 4, Continuing Education.

Unit Administrative Assistant, 005134M, PB 3, VCE—Stafford County.

Newly patented ballast device allows dimming, saves electrical energy

By Susan Trulove

Lighting makes up 20 percent of electricity use in the United States. Greater use of florescent lighting would reduce energy use. Now a newly patented device from the Center for Power Electronic Systems (CPES) has the potential to make florescent lighting even more efficient and desirable for many applications.

"Although florescent lights are about four times more energy efficient and last longer than conventional incandescent lighting, they are actually still wasteful," CPES director Fred Lee said.

Every florescent light requires a ballast to provide starting voltage and limit current. With standard magnetic ballasts presently in use, only 60 percent of every watt results in light. Now Lee has received a patent for an electronic ballast that solves the problem of the traditional magnetic ballast and allows florescent lights to be dimmed. "Electronic ballasts reduce energy consumption by as much as 30 percent," Lee said.

The patent for the "Self-oscillating Electronic Discharge Lamp Ballast with Dimming Control" was awarded June 20 to graduate student Fengfeng Tao and Lee, a university distinguished professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Electronic ballasts are not new, but "the cost of manufacturing electronic ballasts has been too high," Lee said. The new ballast is less complicated and less costly to manufacture.

CPES is a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center, established in 1998 to bolster research to make power electronics more efficient and the United States a leader in power electronics. Virginia Tech is the lead institution of the CPES consortium of five universities and more than 80 industry partners.

Spectrum will resume weekly publication on Friday, Aug. 30.
High school teachers learn genomics, molecular biology

By Stewart MacInnis

Five high school teachers from across the state have participated in an in-depth workshop on campus to help them teach about genomics and molecular biology.

The intensive one-week workshop included not only hands-on laboratory training, but also discussions concerning ethical issues arising from advances in genetics, the emerging discipline of bioinformatics, and health-related research going on at the university.

“For my students, these are the most timely subjects we’ll cover during the year,” said Tharba Urben, a biology teacher at C.D. Hylton High School in Woodbridge. “They’re going to see the real value of it, and they’ll get excited about it.”

Also from C.D. Hylton is Brenda Noto, who sees benefits for her students who are college bound and those who are not.

“I want to do a better job of preparing students for college,” she said. “When they walk into a biology class in college they will have a basic understanding of these topics, so they won’t be lost. But even the kids who aren’t going on to college will need to know about DNA, genetics, and the rest. That’s the way the world is going. This workshop will help me get that across.”

Ed Smith, associate professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, said the depth of the program was designed to challenge the teachers. “This was an experiential program,” Smith said. “It was very intensive, which is why we limited the number of participants. Too many and it would have been too much for us.”

Smith was the lead instructor during the workshop and was assisted by Elizabeth Long, a research specialist in his lab, and Virginia Tech students Tom Ghare and Erin Sturgill.

Jake Tu, assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Erin Dolan, outreach coordinator at the university’s Fralin Biotechnology Center talked to the teachers about the importance of genome variation and the resources available to them from Virginia Tech.

The program was structured in such a way as to help the teachers cover the requirements in the state’s Standards of Learning while teaching the basics of genomics and molecular biology, Smith said.

Smith said a similar workshop is planned for next summer thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As the only member on the National Institutes of Health genome study section from a land-grant university, Smith has initiated discussions with NIH to pick up the program after USDA support ends in 2003. This invited application will help change the image many high school students currently have that animal science is the career path only to veterinary science and animal husbandry. They want to broaden the image of animal science as a path that also leads to basic and biomedical research.

In addition to its groundbreaking work in support of The Orchestra Forum, ICCP conducts research and identifies exemplary practices within the arts and culture field, and focuses on new approaches to training arts leaders and enhancing organizational performance. ICCP has facilitated leadership-training programs for the Maryland State Department of Education, the American Symphony Orchestra League, and the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies, and is currently facilitating the collaborative efforts of nine leading cultural institutions in Brooklyn, NY.

Through research (which includes data collection and interpretation, case studies, resource materials and secondary analysis) and convening (introducing thinkers and strategists in other fields for a wider perspective), ICCP’s goals are to achieve stronger leadership, greater organizational effectiveness, and enriched field-wide learning across the arts and culture sector nation-wide.

PARKING

Beginning Wednesday, Aug. 21 all parking permits will be sold at Squires Student Center in the Old Dominion Ballroom with the following hours of operations: Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, closed; and Monday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Permit sales will return to the Parking Services Office, located at 455 Tech Center Drive, on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

For more information, call Parking Services at 1-3200 or e-mail parking@vt.edu.

VMRCVM

Continued from 2

the nation. Recipients of this year’s Veterinary Memorial Fund Research Grants will be announced, information about the heritage and achievements of the fund will be highlighted, and plans for the future will be announced.

On Friday evening, a social/barbecue will be featured for veterinary students, faculty members and veterinary practitioners. Pre-registration is required for all who plan to attend the evening events.

For more information, call 1-4716.