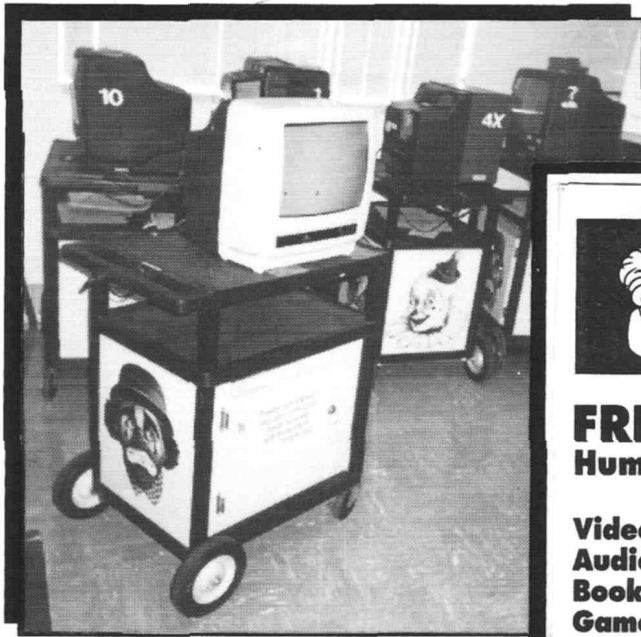


The Comedy Connection - Making the Connection

(Continued from Page 1)



The
**COMEDY
CONNECTION**

FREE Humor Therapy

**Videotapes,
Audiotapes,
Books,
Games
& Live Clowns**

*Laughter is really good
ever notice how relaxed
feel after laughing at a
television program or b*

*There is scient
bodies respon
heartly laug*



Call: 462-
12:30 p.m.
Monda

One of the most popular forms of bedside humor comes from upbeat videotapes, such as comedies or musicals. Morton Plant Hospital now has 15 video carts (shown above) and an extensive video collection. Many have been donated by the health care staff and Clearwater community. The card, shown to the right, announces the program to all patients who enter the hospital. They can order games, audio tapes, or videos through a nurse. A volunteer or a clown, if one is on duty, will deliver the cart. It takes a lot of organization to keep track of all the carts, tapes and games. Write the Comedy Connection and they will share their experience.

Publicizing the humor cart is another point Leslie stresses. One way they do this is with a meal tray place mate. This is a great idea. It's really a regular letter size piece of colored paper printed on both sides with puzzles, riddles, quotes, amusing stories, jokes and trivia. Things the patient can use to pass time with a bit of humor. Actually it would be a fun thing for any hospital clown to provide and would work to get your name and work out there in the public and community eye.

The Comedy Connection also does a "Patient Survey" which is returned with the video. This serves to validate the program, and again it is getting the program visible. Staff and community awareness is very important when building these programs and the results are obvious.

Because of the mutual involvement of hospital staff, volunteer and clowns, the Comedy Connection has the support of the hospital administration. They have several dedicated rooms: one to store the carts; one as an office/ video library; and, one as a true Clown Alley -- an alley being the place in the circus where clowns put on their makeup.

Leslie and the Comedy Connection invite you to write for information and/or come down for a tour. You can contact them at Morton Plant Hospital (Address on page 1).

HOW TO MAKE THE COMEDY CONNECTION

While you are a patient here at Morton Plant Mease Health Care, we would like to help you feel better using the principle that humor can be a positive influence. "The Patient's Catalog" is available upon request which lists the humorous videotapes, audiotapes, books and games available from the Comedy Connection to help you laugh away some hours during your hospital stay.

To order your selection from the catalog, call ext. 7841 between 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. An answering machine will record your order, and a volunteer will deliver the requested material to your room.

Our FREE humor therapy includes any of the following:

- ___ Videotapes - (With VHS Recorder & Monitor)
- ___ Audiotapes - (Recorder & Headsets Available)
- ___ Books - (Novels, Short Stories, Comics or Joke Books)
- ___ Games - (Cards, Checkers, Word Search, Puzzles & More)
- ___ Live Clowns - (Full of magic tricks, stickers, and smiles)

The orders are filled as received. The VCR's are limited to 24 hours with 2 tapes per day. (A clown request may need one day prior notice.) We hope you ENJOY your Comedy Connection!

Date Requested: _____ Room Number: _____

Patient's Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Greeting or Message: _____

*Please drop in the Comedy Connection Box in the Main Hospital Lobby or Call ext. 7841 to leave a message.