Education Opportunities Explained

Open House for Employees

An open house to explain educational and training opportunities offered 40 employees will be held from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, through Friday, Feb. 20, in 247 Day Hall.

Each year several hundred Cornell employees take advantage of educational opportunities offered by the University through the Office of Personnel Services' Training and Development Section, according to Gerald Thomas, director of the section.

Employees are invited to learn about the numerous short-related training and development courses offered continuously, as well as about academic programs such as the High School Equivalency Program, summer session and extramural programs, the Cornell Employee Degree Candidate Program and the Empire State College Degree Program, according to Penny Greenwood, a graduate assistant in counseling and adult education.

Personnel training and development courses focus on management, communication and technical skills, Greenwood said. Annual enrollments in these courses exceed 800.

Approximately 800 enrollments are made by employees taking regular Cornell courses, at reduced or no tuition, for academic credit or as course auditors through the summer session and extramural program, said Greenwood. Currently, an additional 40 employees are working toward undergraduate or graduate academic degrees through the part-time employee degree program.

Cornell also offers an off-campus Tuition Aid Program for employees in pursuit of job-related course work at accredited institutions other than Cornell. These courses need not be at the college level.

Employees seeking a college degree may want to take advantage of their experiences outside a formal classroom setting by enrolling in the Empire College Degree Program of the State University of New York, which offers college credit for such experiences.

Both Thomas and Greenwood will be present to answer questions about these educational opportunities and to counsel employees considering furthering their training or education.

First-Week Pregnancy Test Developed: CUMC

Clinical experience with 2,000 women who have taken the Saxena blood test for pregnancy indicates that there is an immediate and accurate answer to the question, "Am I pregnant?"

Dr. Brij B. Saxena, professor of Endocrinology and Biochemistry in Obstetrics and Gynecology and in Medicine at Cornell University Medical College, has developed the test which detects pregnancy as early as six to eight days after conception. Furthermore, if the results show pregnancy, the test may define the quality of the pregnancy, signaling immediately spontaneous abortion, ectopic pregnancy and other abnormalities.

If the answer is "No," needless abortion procedures may be ruled out. For rape victims, an early "Yes" allows for early, safe abortion with the pregnancy intact; if desired, can be performed in five minutes in a doctor's office; an early "No" relieves at least one of the anxieties associated with rape.

The test, called the radioimmunoassay, measures levels of hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin), the specific hormone appearing early in pregnancy. The assay is a basic research method, Dr. Saxena in the isolation, chemistry and function of human pituitary hormones.

Since the first public announcement of the assay in May 1974, its sensitivity, accuracy and usefulness have been confirmed not only at Cornell, but also at Harvard, the University of Southern California, and the University of Louisville. It is expected that the first kit will be available this spring and will be used in the range of that for presently available pregnancy tests.

Right to Die Symposium

Yes, the budget has been cut at Cornell, but not nearly as much as the lead headline on page one of last week's Chronicle would indicate. That should have read that the budget for 1976-77 exceeds a quarter billion dollars, not a "quarter million" as written.

Vice Provost Paul Keegan has pointed out that the last time a quarter-million-dollar Cornell budget was approved was at the January Board of Trustees meeting in 1967. Actually the 1887-1888 budget was for $251,426.