

Clinic cuts the high cost of emergency care

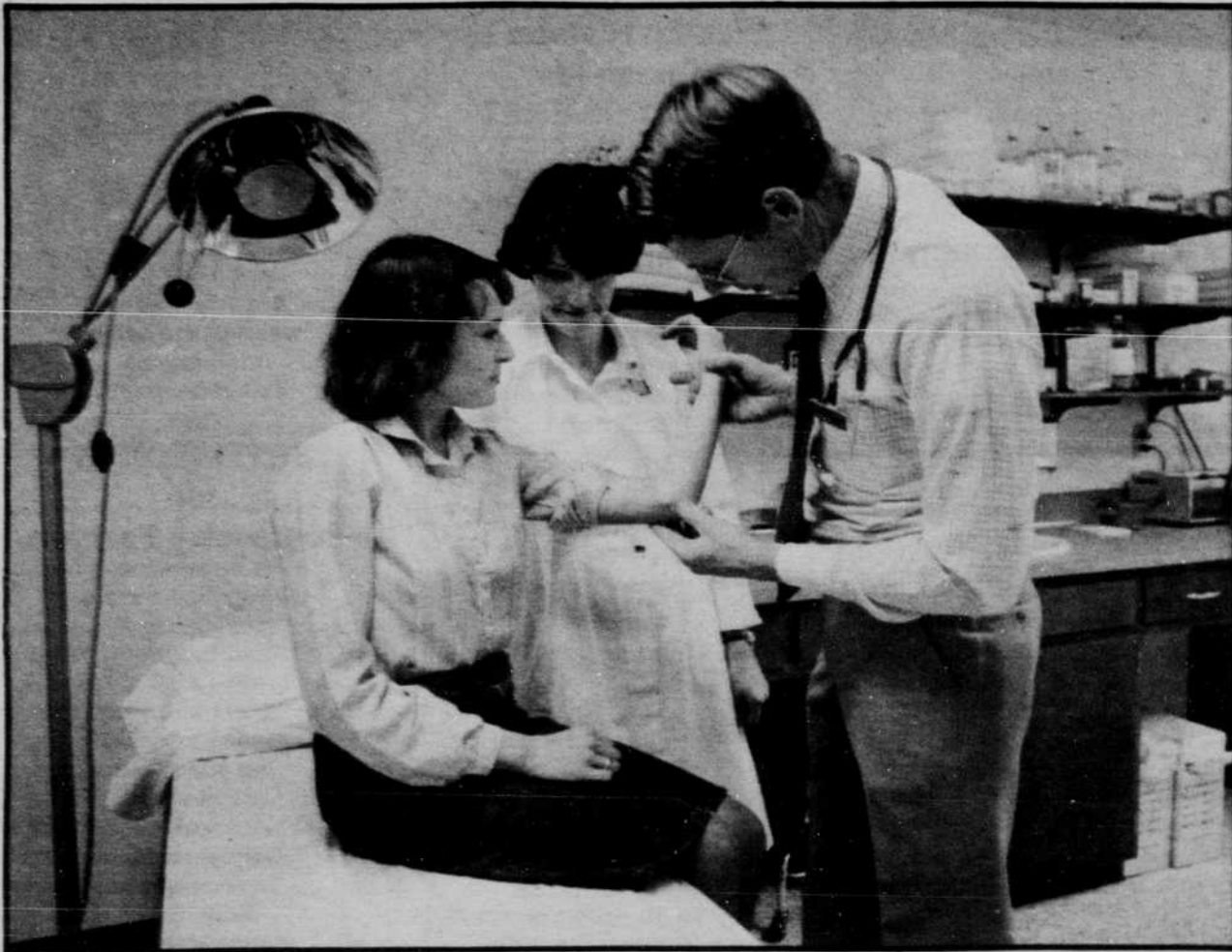


Photo by Steve Dykes

Minor lacerations and breaks, sprains, and allergies are examples of common "minor emergencies" that Med-i-clinic can treat.

By **DAWN GARCIA**
Of the Emerald

People often pay more for minor emergency health care, because expensive hospital emergency rooms are their only option, says Dr. Robert Lewis.

Lewis recently opened Med-i-clinic at 362 E. 12th Ave., Eugene's first alternative emergency room. The clinic treats minor emergencies and walk-in problems in less time than a hospital emergency room and at one-third to one-half the cost, Lewis said.

"We fit in between a doctor's office and an emergency department," Lewis says. "We're designed to treat minor emergencies that don't need a specialist or the emergency care a hospital provides."

The rise of "convenience medicine" — 24-hour clinics open seven days a week — has people using expensive emergency care for non-severe medical problems, Lewis says. Minor lacerations and breaks, sprains, and allergies are examples of common "minor emergencies" that Med-i-clinic can treat.

Patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis in this new walk-in clinic, and although true emergencies always will be handled first, "we try to keep the waits down," Lewis says.

Med-i-clinic stresses the "humanistic, open" approach, Lewis says, adding that he and his staff relate well to students.

"If you can have a good experience in a doctor's office, we think you can have it here."

Costs are kept to a minimum by maintaining a small staff — one physician, one nurse assistant and one receptionist. By asking patients to pay at the time of the visit, billing costs are almost eliminated.

Patients still can be reimbursed by their insurance companies from the information Med-i-clinic provides.

The clinic is part of a nationwide movement to cut emergency medical costs, Lewis says, noting that the first of such clinics sprung up four or five years ago. Although this is the first in Eugene, many similar clinics exist in Portland, and there is one in Salem.

Lewis is quick to note, however, that although Med-i-clinic is less costly than emergency hospital care, it is not a free clinic and receives no federal, state or local subsidies. True emergencies will be seen regardless of method of payment, but some arrangement must be made for the services given.

Since its opening Oct. 12, Med-i-clinic has seen the usual sprains, minor cuts and bruises and some viruses, but expects to see more people coming in with flu symptoms now that flu season is just around the corner, Lewis says. To deal with these and other medical problems, Med-i-clinic utilizes its compact, but competent facilities.

Depending on one's perspective, Med-i-clinic resembles either an expanded version of a doctor's office or a scaled-down hospital emergency room. Facilities include two examining rooms, a lab, a surgery room and an X-ray room.

Besides treating the serious bumps and bruises, Med-i-clinic can provide allergy and immunization shots, pap smears and physical examinations almost on a moment's notice, Lewis says.

Although he believes Med-i-clinic can fill in the gap between a family doctor and a hospital emergency room, Lewis says that this new clinic is not a substitute for either.

"You should continue seeing a family doctor and we're not competing with the hospitals, but when you do need us, we'll consider it a privilege to take care of you," Lewis says.

Med-i-clinic is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and is closed during all major holidays. For more information, call 484-5373.

Be anything you want to be...



A politician or a monster.
Yoda or Reagan.

The UO Bookstore has just about anything you will ever want to be.

Also choose from a collection of warts, cuts, gashes, noses and make-up paints.



Custom faces will be made
starting
Friday,
Oct. 23rd.

UO
BOOKSTORE

13th & Kincaid
Mon-Fri 8:15-5:30
Sat 10:00-5:30
Textbooks 686-3520
General Books 686-3510
Supplies 686-4331

Classifieds

... **STILL PATIENTLY AWAITING** the word from local democrats when to begin campaign for ERA. **MOT** 10-28

BUGSY: Meet me at 1 am for a giant hot meatball at Lenny's Nosh Bar in the Courtyard. **LUIGI** 033:tfn

SHERRIE
S.A.M.
M.Y.T.M.O
Each day we're apart
My love for you
grows stronger. **Russ**

SCOT: Meet me at The Trawler. Entertainment starts at 8:20 Thursday, Friday and Saturday. No cover. **NANCY** 395:10-28

HAVE A PARTY!
VIDA BARN
Call evenings 896-2913

MAKE MONEY!
Recycling Your Clothes!
RAGS TO RICHES buys, consigns, and trades secondhand clothing for men and women.
For appointment: 344-7039 360 E 11th 1881:UWF

WOMEN'S SUPPORT AND AWARENESS GROUPS now forming. For more information contact Women's Referral and Resource, room 226 EMU, 686-3227. 368:10-20

HEY DONNY! Happy 22nd birthday. **D.B.** 10-28

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT CREMATION? Support the arms race and find out! 10-28

KELLY GOUGH You're still the **best** big sis. Look out for some wild time this year!!! Love, you lil' sis. **TANIS** 10-28

R2D2 You are now ready to trespass all premises bearing the words "No minors allowed" Indulge!! **VOYAGER II** 10-28

TO THE NEWEST SIGMA NU MEMBERS Congratulations! I'm proud of you all! Love, **SHELBY** 10-28

GAMMA PHIS LESLIE AND CINDY You two are the greatest! Thanks for being my granny and big sis. Love, **"HANDS"** 10-28

TO JIM M: Who, despite hordes of females clustered around his body, never gets Personals! (Happy now?) Love, **AN ARDENT FAN** 10-28

SIGMA NU KILLER BEES You really know how to put up a fight. You don't play football bad either. Congratulations on making playoffs! Love, **LAURA AND GAY** 10-28

PIKES Get your lungs in shape and the visine at hand. High times ahead on Friday night. 10-28

TROJAN WOMEN love doing it Greek style. 10-28

ATO'S: Congratulations on winning your game with the Pikes! Way to go! **SHAREN** 10-28

Will Bobby succumb to Noah's "needs"?
Find out by watching
GENERAL HOSPITAL
at
DUFFY'S
on the big screen

399:10-28

Wednesday, October 28, 1981