

THE HEADLINER



Network Cable Systems, Omaha Works

February 24, 1993



ON TOUR OF THE SHOP...Participants in the Systimax (R) structured cabling systems seminar stopped to ask questions of Milton Swillie, who operates one of the insulating lines in the electronic wire and cable shop.

Photo by Linda Ryan

Canadians attend seminar

Outside it was a snowy, blustery day with the windchill factor hovering at the zero mark. The kind of day that might have made 23 visiting customers from Canada feel right at home.

But fortunately, their business was inside for this trip, to attend the Systimax (R) structured cabling systems seminar sponsored by the AT&T Canada private network systems account team.

Organized by AT&T Canada account rep Vicki Jessop, the two-day seminar included presentations in the Omaha Works Product Display Center, demonstrations in the Omaha

Room, a discussion of business strategies and tour of the shops.

The visiting customers represented 15 VARs (value-added resellers) from all across Canada, according to Frank Markesi of the display center.

The VARs, to name a few, include Les Installations de Cables Frimor, National Telephone, Saltech Computer Cabling, Houle Electric and Accord Communications.

As value-added resellers, they purchase our products and "customize" them for the private network, meeting the specific needs of their own customers (the end users).

Our Canadian guests use various

Works-manufactured cabling and apparatus products in their work, said Markesi, so the seminar served as "an opportunity to stress to them the features and benefits of the Systimax structured cabling system."

It was the first trip to the Omaha Works for all of the VAR representatives, he added. "They were especially impressed by the friendliness of the employees here, along with the cleanliness of such a large facility."

Making product presentations during the seminar were Wade Phillips and Vern Larson, who provide product consulting and regional field support. ■

Airlift brings new HVAC unit

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a...helicopter!

If you were anywhere near the Works premises on the morning of Sunday, Feb. 7, you may have noticed a helicopter hovering over Building 30.

The helicopter services were contracted to airlift a new heating/ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) penthouse unit to the rooftop of the building for installation.

The unit will affect the peripheral east side of Building 30 where plating operations are located, said mechanical plant engineer Bill Johnson.

The installation is being done in conjunction with a redesign of plating operations, which includes replacing equipment no longer being used with new equipment.

The new unit makes it possible to consolidate previous HVAC operations, resulting in a system that "will function more efficiently and will be easier to maintain," Johnson said.

"This new unit will afford us complete environmental control of

heating, ventilating and air conditioning," he said, adding that employees should be "more comfortable in their work environment."

Actual airlift time amounted to just about 15 minutes to make four lifts, with about one hour's time for preparation.

The unit should be in operation by the end of the first quarter of 1993, Johnson said.

Employees join retiree ranks

The retirements of a number of Omaha Works employees are effective during February. In addition to the employees who are pictured here, also retiring are the following:

Chere Hunt--28 years
Curtis McGee--31 years



Arnold Fiala
35 years



Janet Beccard
30 years



Mary Ann Rutten
23 years



Frank Hoepfer
28 years



Bob Blacketer
23 years



Paul Peitzmeier
30 years

Sportsmen Club meets Mar. 3

Doug Sorenson will be the featured speaker at the March 3 meeting of the Sportsmen Club. He will give a presentation on furs and using them to make wearing apparel.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Papio Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154th St.

Also on the agenda is judging the winners in the club's annual "largest deer rack" contest and the "longest pheasant tail" contest.

Questions about the meeting should be directed to Bill Peters on Ext. 3806.

Walkers needed for M.S. event

An AT&T team is being formed to participate in the Super Cities Walk, a fund raiser sponsored by the Midlands Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The 15K (9.6 miles) walk will start at 9 a.m. at the Center shopping mall at 42nd and Center streets on March 28, 1993. Walkers raise money for the M.S. Society by collecting pledges.

Anyone interested in joining the AT&T team of walkers should call Annette Eggert on Ext. 4904.

AT&T represented at inauguration

Martha Ross, a Works safety department inspector, has special reason to remember last month's presidential inauguration festivities. She and two of her sisters, Shirley McKellar and LaJoyce Durham, participated in the inaugural parade and celebration parties afterward.

Ross and her sisters carried a large AT&T flag in the parade and witnessed the oath-taking by President Bill Clinton and Vice-president Al Gore.

Later, although they did not get to

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THE HEADLINER

The Headliner is an internal publication of the Omaha Works, produced twice monthly by the public relations department. It is printed by the Works print shop.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome and should be directed to:

Linda Ryan, Editor
Ext. 3795.

The next issue will be published on Mar. 10, 1993. All news items should be in to the PR office by no later than 9 a.m. Monday, Mar. 1, 1993.

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page) meet personally with the new President, they did meet a number of other well-known personalities such as Gen. Colin Powell.

In fact, the trio has added to their photo albums snapshots taken of them with the likes of Dr. Ruth, Jack Nicholson and Penny Marshall.

Plant tour aids in career planning

Thirteen students from the Nebraska School for the Deaf and six of the school's staff members were guests of the Omaha Works earlier this month.

They took a tour of the Product Display Center and shops in conjunction with the school's career goals planning program.

Hosting their visit were Works employees Alice Gilbert, Ellen Haubensak, Janice Rentschler, Lawrence Schultz, Deanna Traugh and Tillman Whitt, several of whom are former students of the school. Jim Grabenbauer and Chuck Mann assisted with the tour of the shops.

In a thank-you letter from the school, the Works was praised for giving the students the opportunity to meet with hearing-impaired employees.

"They provided our students with excellent real-life examples of hearing-impaired adults constructively employed in a predominantly "hearing" workplace," the letter stated. "The enthusiasm and excitement shown by these employees was contagious!"

Craft fair slated at UNO

All you University of Nebraska at Omaha alumni, pay attention. Even if you aren't alumni, mark your calendars for a craft fair to be held at the university's Milo Bail Student Center, 60th and Dodge streets, on March 27 from 9 to 5 p.m.

The fair is sponsored by the UNO Alumni Association. ■



Photo by Linda Ryan

FIRSTHAND LOOK...Ellen Haubensak, who works in the data center, explains her job to several students from the Nebraska School for the Deaf.

Teamworks offers contest, announces travel awards

The Omaha Teamworks Idea Process program is offering a contest that will run during March. In addition, some changes have been made to the program that affect the selection of awards.

First, the contest: At the end of March, the idea team that has turned in the greatest number of ideas for the month wins Omaha Teamworks duffel bags for each of the team's members.

All Idea Process rules apply for the contest period of March 1 through 31. Ideas must be screened and signed by the team coach before being submitted.

Also, any new team that registers as part of the Idea Process program during March 1-31 and that turns in at least one qualified idea during that time will receive a Teamworks picnic blanket for each

team member. (Note: You can belong to only one team at one time.)

Now, the changes: The contract with Service Merchandise as the provider of awards has been extended.

However, in answer to numerous requests by idea teams, travel awards have been added to the award selection. A choice of domestic and international travel awards in 15 price plateaus are now available.

Meanwhile, efforts continue to broaden the selection of furniture and tools as awards, so watch for an announcement.

If you have questions about the March contest or want more details about travel awards, call Sally Swoboda on Ext. 3375 or Shelley Anderson on Ext. 4672.

High bay: Air flow, floor repairs on 'to do' list

(The following are questions and answers from Jay Carter's meeting with second-shift employees on Jan. 29, 1993. They were compiled for the Headliner with the assistance of Sharon Reimers.)

Q. Now that our financial position is better, I know you won't air-condition high bay, but can you alleviate the problem during summer months? Exhaust fans would help.

A. We're considering improvements to high bay, but it's relative to the money we have to spend, and you have to consider that the return on our investment is less. One idea is to convert high bay into a finished goods distribution area. Alleviating the problem you mention is on our list, although it is not a high priority. Right now our plant and factory group is reviewing the situation to see if we can improve air circulation with existing fans.

Q. The fans at our machines blow over the operators' heads. It's not a matter of having exhaust fans but of (directing air flow) so that it does some good. Last summer the problem was looked at but nothing further happened.

A. This is one problem I don't mind—one that we should be able to resolve with little expenditure of money.

Q. There's a problem with concreting the floor in high bay when machinery has been moved around. Now places in the floor that were fixed with concrete break up. Trucks tilt and operators twist their ankles in the holes. It's a continual problem.

A. (Clarion Zoucha) We plan to replace and repair these areas before summer.

(Jay Carter) A good fix is coming. Until then we're looking at what can be done in the interim to repair these areas. Floor repairs will be made in high bay on selected weekends during February and March.

Q. What's the decision regarding the 710 (connector) job? One day they say assembly is going out, the next day they don't know. Supposedly Fremont can (make the 710s at less cost than we can), but then I understand Fremont never gave us a bid. How can you determine that a job is going out (because product can be made at less cost, when a bid was never submitted?)

A. That's a good question. I'll have to go back and find out because I had been assured that the manual operation

was moving out.

I was backing this move because it is incredibly competitive with PSI. They undercut us and if it continues, we'll be out of (the 710) business.

We've been very aggressive with our pricings for Bell Atlantic and Bell South. We won those bids and they are very significant customers. We have to be sure we have the business, then we'll worry about making money. If we do it the other way around, we'll be out of business.

(Editor's note: The move of the manual 710 connector job to Fremont is proceeding according to the original schedule, and will be completed by the end of March.

Sheet metal shop in Bldg. 50 makes way for EW&C equipment

Q. Can you update us on the progress being made to bring the sheet metal shop to the Building 30 cabinet shop?

A. (Clarion Zoucha) We are looking at moving some of the equipment south of the aisle because the EW&C business unit would like that area. Some EW&C equipment is going in. The work is all on this side and we won't be moving anything for some time.

Q. Is there a timetable for when this will be completed?

A. (Clarion Zoucha) South of the aisle, no. As for total consolidation, we're trying to pull it up but right now it's targeted for the end of 1994.

(Jay Carter) I want them to speed it up, but it's a complicated project. A paint line, new equipment installation and training is involved. We're bottle-necked in Building 50 for cable capacity. Machines have been ordered, so we have to vacate that area.

Q. How long will it take to get the new machines installed in high bay? They've just been sitting since before the holidays.

A. (Clarion Zoucha) Most of the installation is now

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MEET WITH JAY

(Continued from previous page)

Q. When will this training start?

A. The training is under way. I'm not sure about the scheduling for second shift people, but it will be done to accommodate second shift needs as best as possible.

Q. Can engineering work a split shift, say noon to 8 p.m.? We have questions on second shift but can't get answers.

A. This is a puzzling situation. I get conflicting reports on whether or not engineers are needed on a later shift,

and I've seen reports that show engineers aren't called on a later shift when they are available.

(Editor's note: Questioner indicated a particular need in 80-type cabinets. Ray Swartz and his cabinet IBU are looking into the request.)

Q. Does diversity training have a budget?

A. Money has been allocated and we plan to use it. Out-of-pocket expenses are small. The training is all done in-house by our own trainers.

The question of cost really applies to production time. We all could produce more, so we will have to work around the training to maintain our schedules. ■

READERS' FORUM

'Computer illiterate'

Nearly five years ago the ETOP Computer Center opened its doors to represented employees. Initially offering classes in computer basics, it has continually upgraded the curriculum to remain current.

About that same time, Symphony classes were made available to non-represented employees. However, by today's standards, Symphony is archaic.

Since that time virtually nothing

has been available to non-represented employees unless it has been to groups for specific applications in graphics, CAD, etc.

Personal computing is here to stay! Some of us remain "computer illiterates." All could benefit by having the opportunity to gain computer literacy and keep abreast of this ever-changing environment.

Bill Fleming
Dept. 023E

Thanks from Wahoo

Just want to pass on to you the gratitude expressed in a letter I received from Mr. Stuart Krejci, president of the Wahoo Community Chest, for contributions made by AT&T employees.

The Wahoo Community Chest raised a total of more than \$28,000 for 1993, which will be shared by 18 organizations in Wahoo and Saunders County. He said that out of those 18:

"We are the sole provider, or majority provider, of funding for five organizations in our area including Saunders County Special Ministries, Saunders County Child Abuse Network, DARE, Saunders County Amusement and Saunders County Mental Health Association."

The community chest funds "99 percent of all contributions to its

recipients. Printing and advertising are about the only costs we have," with volunteers (this drive had 100) providing time and labor.

"I hope all of our contributors feel as good about donating (to the campaign) as I do about working on the community chest. This is the best way I know to truly help your neighbor and better the world we live in."

Linda Young
Dept. 204

You were great

I want to thank AT&T's great people on second shift for the send-off they gave me. The \$180 you gave me will go to good use. Thank you so much. I miss you already.

Patrick Engler

(Editor's note: Engler recently left his ARA vending services job to take a new job with ConAgra.)

If you have comments to share with other Headliner readers, put your thoughts in writing. You must sign your name and give your department/IBU and daytime phone number. The right is reserved to edit all submissions for space and clarity. Address comments to:

READERS' FORUM,
Public Relations, Dept. 206.

**What's
on
your
mind?**



Share your views on a new topic. Comment on someone else's views. **JUST DO IT!** Include your name, dept. & daytime ph. no. Send to:

READERS' FORUM
Public Relations, Dept. 206

MEET WITH JAY

(Continued from previous page)

taking place. As we complete floor repairs, we install machinery. It should be sometime between April through June when we will be fully operational.

Q. What is the future on the building entrance protector job? Will some of the job be automated? People are concerned.

A. Right now everything points to a lot of business for the factory as a whole. How it will break down for a given IBU or product, I'm not sure. We did have a really good year with the BEPs and we're now working with Bell Atlantic on some modifications and enhancements.

My point is, there will be jobs internally within the factory. Some people may have to move to different jobs, but there definitely will be jobs.

Q. Concerning the Idea Process Program...is there going to be any new stores such as the Nebraska Furniture Mart that will be included in the awards selection process?

A. I don't know. I have visited other companies and have seen some innovative approaches, but no one pays for suggestions the way we do. One reason why is that when you pay for a suggestion you spend an inordinate amount of time researching and evaluating the suggestion. You have to be very sure this is going to return money to the company.

What a lot of companies do is to make money available to the idea team to implement a suggestion. No matter what the suggestion, it frequently requires some money to implement it. The team is given a set amount to spend as it sees fit.

I've asked those involved in our idea program to look at it. I think modifications are in order. Maybe we should change direction completely and try another approach. I need your input on this.

Q. When can we expect these changes?

A. This is not foremost on our priority list. We have periodic meetings and we're trying to get everyone's opinions. Maybe a summer time frame.

Q. The sheet metal shop is scheduled to be connected to (distributive) numerical control. Is the tool room in line for a connection, too?

A. (Clarion Zoucha) The project has not addressed the tool room at this time. The distributive numerical control (hookup) will be to the MCO shop and high bay.

Q. We are "on line" in design. How about dropping us a line?

A. (Clarion Zoucha) We'll discuss that and see if it's a possibility. So far, we have not discussed it.

Q. How are Phoenix and Atlanta doing? What percentage of the money made for Network Systems is made in Omaha?

A. We tend to compare ourselves to Phoenix and Atlanta. To me what is most important is how we did compared to our competitors. And we did great!

Atlanta had an excellent year. Their products were in great demand and they made a lot of money. Phoenix improved significantly and they made money, too.

Our plant contributed approximately 10 percent toward the Network Systems total.

Q. If this were 1991 and we were in the same financial situation as we were then, would we still be doing diversity training?

A. I don't know. I'm convinced that the time has come when we absolutely have to have this training. If you look at the scheme of everything else, we still are watching every dollar. We're trying to minimize the discretionary funds that we spend.

But diversity training is essential for us. I believe that the way we're going to be successful is by working together as a team. What inhibits teamwork is the inability to work with people different from ourselves. We need to become sensitized to these differences, so I fully support this training and it will be done.

Diversity classes held on 1st shift provide a better cross section of participants

Q. Why does the second shift have to come in on day shift to take this training?

A. (Gene Saab) What makes diversity training of value is having a good cross section of people in the classes. We need a good mix of men, women, hispanics, African Americans, engineers, department chiefs, etc.

We can't achieve that cross section on second shift. We don't have salary graded and professional employees on second shift. So it's beneficial for second-shift employees to come on days for the two days of training. They do still receive their night work bonus.

(Continued on next page)

CLASSIFIED ADS

The next deadline for classified ads is at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1993. Submit Headliner ads in the Employee Activities Mall.

FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE

HOUSE: super location 4937 So. 50th St., 3 bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths, fireplace, finished basement, garage under house plus 2 1/2 car detached heated garage, raised deck, fenced rear yard, large tool shed, new air, furnace & water heater, neutral decor & just painted. \$74,950. Call 733-6627 for appointment.

RECREATIONAL

NORDICA DOWNHILL SKI BOOTS: men's size 10 1/2, women's size 7 1/2, \$25/pair, good condition. If interested call Plattsmouth 1-402-298-8549 after 5 p.m. Can deliver to workplace.

APPLIANCES

DROP-IN STOVE: electric, 30" top, Frigidaire, older, looks good, cooks good, almond color, \$40 or best offer. 333-0170.

HOME FURNISHINGS

WATERBED W/BOOKCASE HEADBOARD & HEATER: queen size, \$150. 593-6616 after 4 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

BASEBOARD HEATER: 1500W (110 volt) Iner-Therm, seldom used, liquid filled, \$45. 895-5222.

CONCRETE BLOCKS: 1 dozen, good shape, \$.50 each. 556-1320.

NINTENDO GAME SYSTEM: \$40, and also Nintendo games, \$15 each. 334-5963.

ROLLS BRAND QUALITY WHEELCHAIR: by Invacare company, manually operate with feet supports, high grade maroon seat fabric, like new, excellent condition, \$400. 551-3341.

TENT: 10 x 12, \$75, PIONEER PULL-OUT AM/FM CASSETTE STEREO: w/CD changeover, \$175 one year old, FIBERGLASS CHIMNEY BRUSH: with rods, new \$15. 733-6627.

WOOD STOVE: Wonder Wood, bricklined with blower and "G" elbow and exhaust pipe (black), \$175 or best offer, free pickup load of wood or better. 558-3263 after 4 p.m.

PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

TIRE CHAINS: fits most medium size tires, used two times, \$30 or best offer. 333-0170.

VEHICLES

1990 FIFTH WHEEL CAMPER: with all the toys, slide out, air, stereo. 322-3748.

1990 FORD F-159 XLT LARIAT: 2-wd, 4.9 liter 5-speed, air, black, 18,000 miles, \$10,000 or best offer. 333-0170.

1978 FORD LTD: 2-door, white with brown interior, 68,000 miles, fully rust proofed, 351W-C400 motor, P/S, P/B, A/C, tilt, cruise, P/D, rear window defogger, rear speakers (2), AM/FM radio, very good condition. 330-5075 between 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

1977 FORD PICKUP: runs good 40,000 on motor and transmission, new tires, body rough, Call after 6 p.m. and leave message on machine \$1,000 will deal 896-4656 ask for John.

1984 BRONCO II: 4-WD, AC, PB, PS, very clean, best offer. 733-8915.

The
zoo's
growing
by leaps
and bounds...



Be part of the action and join
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

Membership drive starts Feb. 24, 1993, and runs through March 31. Payroll deduction available. Family membership for just \$40 allows unlimited admission during 1993 for two adults and their children or grandchildren under age 21.

SEE THE ZOO REP IN YOUR AREA NOW
before prices go up April 1!
Or, call Linda Young on Ext. 3152

Alcoholism: Someone at work has a problem

(If your name appears somewhere in this article, call Ext. 3583 or Ext. 3415 to claim a \$40 gift certificate to one of six popular local restaurants.)

There are an estimated 650,000 working people who have a serious drinking problem. You may be working with one of them. You can make work safer for everyone if you help the alcoholic to get help.

Alcoholism is an illness with serious effects. A 1986 study shows that alcohol was involved in nearly 23,000 deaths on U.S. highways, 3,000 drownings and 10,000 suicides.

For alcoholics, drinking is addictive. They depend on it physically and emotionally. They can't "just say no."

All alcohol is poisonous, even wine and beer. Over time it damages the digestive and immune systems, and all of the organs, especially the liver. Eventually, too much drinking leads to death.

Alcoholics may start drinking to avoid feelings like fear or insecurity. But their drinking creates these and other emotions: anger, guilt, shame, anxiety. The problems include their families, friends and co-workers.

Problems at work

Alcoholics are less productive and less able to make good decisions than non-alcoholics. They have high accident rates.

Alcoholics are often late or absent. Their behavior forces others to work harder to fix their mistakes or finish their work for them.

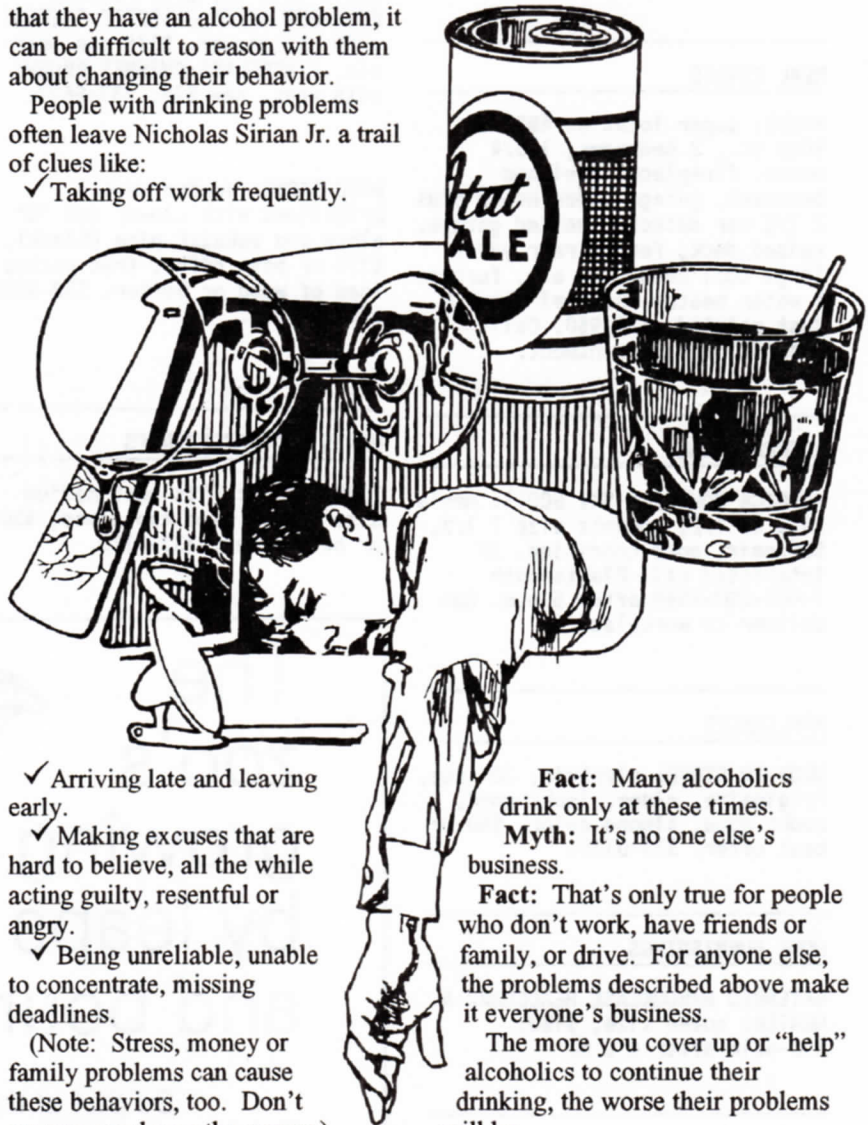
As their disease gets worse, alcoholics will do almost anything to protect their drinking. They may lie or steal. They may ask friends to cover up for them. Then, everyone at work may feel tense, angry and resentful.

Because alcoholics usually deny

that they have an alcohol problem, it can be difficult to reason with them about changing their behavior.

People with drinking problems often leave Nicholas Sirian Jr. a trail of clues like:

- ✓ Taking off work frequently.



- ✓ Arriving late and leaving early.
- ✓ Making excuses that are hard to believe, all the while acting guilty, resentful or angry.
- ✓ Being unreliable, unable to concentrate, missing deadlines.

(Note: Stress, money or family problems can cause these behaviors, too. Don't assume you know the causes.)

Myth vs. reality

Some of the myths vs. the realities about alcoholism may surprise you.

Myth: Alcoholics are skid row bums.

Fact: Many alcoholics have held responsible jobs for years.

Myth: If you drink only after work or on weekends, you can't be an alcoholic.

Fact: Many alcoholics drink only at these times.

Myth: It's no one else's business.

Fact: That's only true for people who don't work, have friends or family, or drive. For anyone else, the problems described above make it everyone's business.

The more you cover up or "help" alcoholics to continue their drinking, the worse their problems will be.

If you suspect that a co-worker has a drinking problem, speak to your supervisor or Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counselor Bill Ivins (691-3416). ■