

Expressions of Commitment



NO
SMOKING



"We try to make it as easy as possible for the doctors to get the laboratory test data they've requested. Almost everything we do is clinically related to patients. I enjoy knowing I'm doing something to help them."

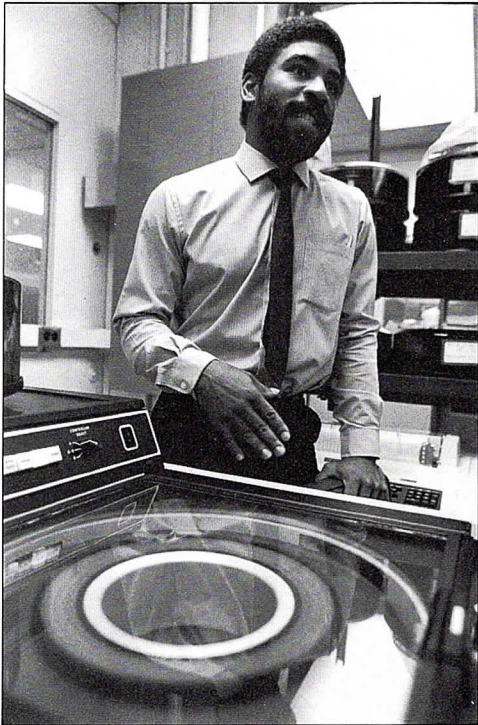
Rusty Ghee is a self-taught computer programmer. The only time a patient is likely to come in contact with Rusty is when he's on his way to the cafeteria at lunchtime. But every patient who has had a blood or urine sample taken at Hopkins has benefitted from Rusty's work. Working with five computers, he organizes the results of more than 5,000 medical laboratory tests that are run on

enriching his skill by taking advantage of Hopkins' Tuition Reimbursement Program. During the evening, Rusty attends the University of Baltimore, working to complete a B.S. degree in Business Administration with a concentration in data processing. "I like to solve problems," Rusty says. "I believe I can do anything if I try."

The computers in Rusty's department

these laboratory tests, so they need quick access to the test results. Rusty and the 17 other members of the Laboratory Medicine computer crew assure that the computers report the results accurately and that the data are made available to physicians on every floor in the Hospital.

Some of the laboratories have to hand type the test results into the



patients each day.

The 29-year-old native Baltimorean is a hard-working and confident programmer. He joined the Laboratory Medicine Department ten years ago as a key puncher/computer operator. Through on-the-job training and part-time schooling, Rusty gained several promotions to his current position—Systems Development Analyst. Now, he is

collect information from the Department of Laboratory Medicine 24 hours a day. In the course of a year, the system compiles more than 500,000 reports.

Every day approximately 1,500 patients have tests run in the Department's five major laboratories—blood bank, chemistry, hematology, diagnostic immunology, and microbiology. Doctors make critical decisions based on

computer. Others, like the chemistry laboratory which tests blood serum, have a system that hooks the sample and testing apparatus with the computer, so that the test result is entered into the machine as soon as the test is complete.

Collectively, Laboratory Medicine's computer system prints 40 types of reports daily. "Among the other reports

are printouts on all the lab tests that have ever been done on a single patient, a floor of patients, or a single doctor's patients," Rusty explains. "If a new type of report is to be produced, I write the program by telling the computer what to do, using its own language."

The Laboratory Medicine computer system is only one of more than 100

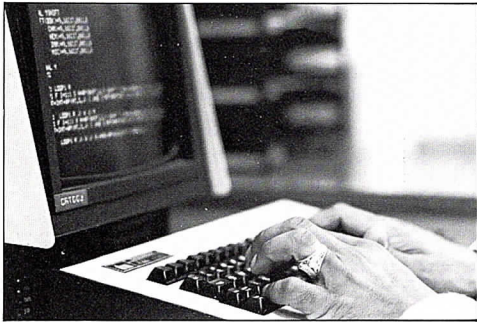
hospital-wide system.

Ready access to information is an important factor in the quality of patient care and in the length of time a patient spends in a hospital.

With the installation of the Hopkins Patient Systems (HOPS), expected to be completed by 1982, doctors and nurses will have easy access to all patient care resources or information in the Hospi-

Rusty has a full and busy life outside the Hospital. He draws, paints, wrestles, bowls, plays guitar and piano, and sings. He is the ninth of twelve children, all of whom sing in their mother's gospel group, The Dorothy Ghee Gospel Singers. "Of all these extra activities, I guess I like singing the best," Rusty says. "It's natural and easy to do."

Rusty beams whenever he talks about



computer systems that gather, organize, store, and print information at the Hospital. The largest system, used by multiple departments, employs more than 80 people and includes a laser printer that can "type" two pages a second. Smaller computers, like those compiling data on patient X-rays, pediatrics, pathology, and cancer treatments, can also use the capabilities of the large

tal. They will be able to channel orders for equipment directly to supply areas on a computer terminal; or get a listing of a patient's diet; or order drugs from the pharmacy, all by the touch of a few buttons. The net result will be improved patient care. Integrating Laboratory Medicine's data with the HOPS system will be one of Rusty's future responsibilities.

his computer work or his music. Throughout his ten years at Hopkins, the liveliness of his enthusiastic grin has never dwindled, his friends say.

Patients may not be aware of Rusty, and few physicians and nurses will ever meet him, *but* they all depend on him—and on his strong commitment to supply reliable information as fast as possible.