

FIGHTING FAT WITH FUN

New exhibit at the Children's Museum promotes healthy living

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem joined the battle against childhood obesity last Saturday with the debut of its new exhibit, "Healthier Ever After."

The exhibit uses a fairy tale forest and castle to teach kids about healthy living while encouraging physical activity. It will be located on the museum's top floor through January.

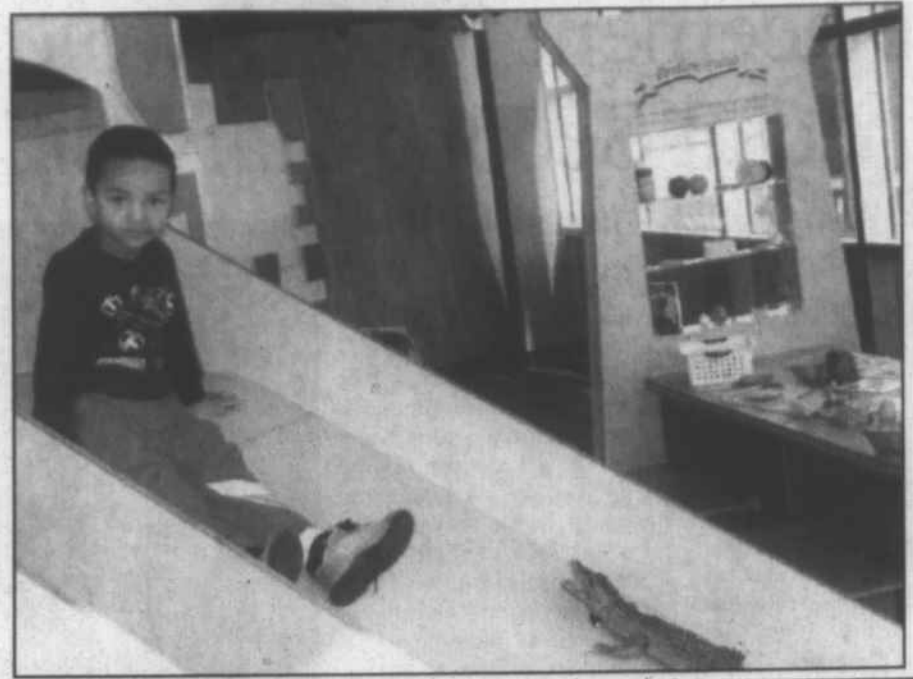
Eric Kerchner, the museum's executive director, said

"Pond" has a boat kids can pedal and a magnetic fishing rod that lets them hook toy fish. The "Portion Patio" lets kids follow instructions to create their own healthy meals using toy food. A computer game allows kids run and stomp on a mat to control an conveyor belt featuring items from the different food groups.

At Saturday's opening, kids darted about, gleefully trying each new activity. Scott Pharr brought his daughter, Emma. Even after a morning of playing at Tanglewood Park

ing to the very young.

"Healthier Ever After" will be at the Children's Museum, located at 390 South Liberty St., until January 4, 2009. The event is free with the purchase of admission to the museum. For information visit www.childrensmuseumofws.org.



Photos by Todd Luck
Aaron Lawrence was among the little ones who enjoyed Saturday's opening.



Eric Kerchner is excited about the new exhibit.

that it's very important to promote youth fitness since one in four children are obese in North Carolina. He said that "Healthier" being the museum's first ever large scale traveling exhibit also helps breathe new life into the place.

"Parents told me that they wanted more physical activity in the building and they wanted something new," said Kerchner. "And so this is what we've done."

Kerchner described the exhibit as a "leap of faith" for the museum, which was designed to host exhibits that promote fun and leisure rather than serious subjects like obesity. To accommodate the "Healthier" exhibit, which came from a children's museum in Cleveland, the museum removed its giant animal-themed alphabet letters, which had been a fixture there. The exhibit is sponsored by Novant Medical Group, the Forsyth Medical Center Sara Lee Center for Women's Health, BlueCross BlueShield, Piedmont Natural Gas and Targacept.

The new exhibit features no shortage of fun things for kids to do. They can climb, crawl and slide. The "Pedal

and riding her tricycle, Emma, still had plenty of energy for the "Healthier" exhibit. Pharr and Emma gave the exhibit high marks.

"She loves it - anything you can climb on or crawl through or pull up on," said Pharr. "She's very physical."

Jennifer Bridges watched her two children give the exhibit a rigorous workout. She said she liked the idea of an exhibit centering on physical activity and health.

"I think it'll be good for the kids. I've seen plenty of obese children," said Bridges.

Bridge's seven-year-old son, Hayden, and her five-year-old daughter, Alaila Krevier enjoyed playing in the castle and fishing in the imaginary pond together.

"It's fun and you can use your imagination," said Hayden.

Opening day had several special events, including a Teddy Bear Clinic, where Novant medical professionals gave mock medical examination to the stuffed animals. The clinic's purpose was to get children comfortable with a doctor's office environment, which can often be intimidat-

WFU professor will lead worldwide probe of democracy

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

An international research group based at the Institute of Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will be co-led by a Wake Forest professor.

Luis Roniger, professor of political science and Reynolds Professor of Latin American Studies at Wake, will begin co-directing the effort in the spring of 2009.

The group will use the Latin American political experience as a springboard to research the ways democracy is acquiring new meanings around the world, Roniger says. The group will convene to work on competing models of citizenship and on new debates concerning alternative forms of democracy and state power in Latin America.

Roniger organized the international research group with longtime colleague Mario Sznajder, associate professor of political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The research group is composed of scholars of Latin American politics and society from the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, Mexico and Singapore.

"One line of analysis will follow the issue of citizens' autonomy from the state as opposed to autonomy within the state," says Roniger. Other areas of study will include how state and institutional capabilities affect the character of citi-



Luis Roniger

zenship, the limits of dissent, issues around representation and individual versus collective rights, among other topics.

Roniger joined the Wake Forest faculty in 2004 and has published extensively in the areas of democracy and human rights. In addition to 10 books and numerous articles, he has two books forthcoming: "The Politics of Exile in Latin America" and "Transnationalism in Central America."

HANES brands

OUTLET

Thruway Shopping Center, Lower Level

\$4 per pair
Silk Reflections
Control Top or Non-Control Top; Sandalfoot or Reinforced Toe
8 pair **\$32**
(two 4-pair pks)
(reg. price \$19.99 per pack)

\$2.67 per pair
Sheer Energy
Control Top or Non-Control Top; Sheer Toe or Reinforced Toe
12 pair **\$32**
(two 6-pair pks)
(reg. price \$18.79 per pack)

HOSIERY SALE!

BALI Playtex
barely there
Bras
\$13.99 each
when you buy 3

Hanes
Hanes® Comfortwear
Buy 1 Get 1
50% off
(equal or lesser value)

Champion
Champion® Apparel
Buy 1 Get 1
50% off
(equal or lesser value)

Hanes
All Kids Underwear
Buy 1 Get 1
50% off
(equal or lesser value)

Hanes
All Kids' Fleece **\$5.00**
All Toddler Fleece **\$3.99**

New Arrivals Weekly!
Clearance Center
Take an Extra
50% off
Ticketed Price

Hurry, sales end 10/19/08!
Sales are also effective at Hanes Mill Outlet at Marketplace Mall; selection is limited.

Hanes BALI Playtex Hanes Leggs
Champion wonderbra barely there®

Thruway Store is open Mon. - Sat. 9 to 9; Sun. 12 to 6

Start Today!!
get **\$25** off your Initial Treatment!!
1-800-930-wasp (9277)
Triad Pest Control, Inc. "We're Going Green, Come With Us!"