

entertainment etc.

Book review

By Dana Murdock

Ellie: A Child's Fight Against Leukemia, by Jonathon Tucker. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 338 pages. \$15.95.

Although the lives of many are affected by cancer, few of us are truly informed about the disease and its treatment.

Ellie, by Jonathon Tucker, educates readers about leukemia and the methods used to treat the disease, while at the same time involving readers in a moving story.

Ellie Murphy is a fictional 4-year-old girl, whose character and story are compiled from three separate case histories of leukemia victims.

Ellie's recurrent bruises, rashes and sudden high fevers concerned her parents, yet they passed off her symptoms as mere childhood ailments.

It is not until Ellie's visiting aunt, a nurse, insists on calling a doctor that the family's long struggle begins.

The child is diagnosed as having Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, or ALL.

From chemotherapy to remission, to bone marrow transplant, *Ellie* illustrates the anguish of a family faced with a potentially fatal disease

and how each member copes.

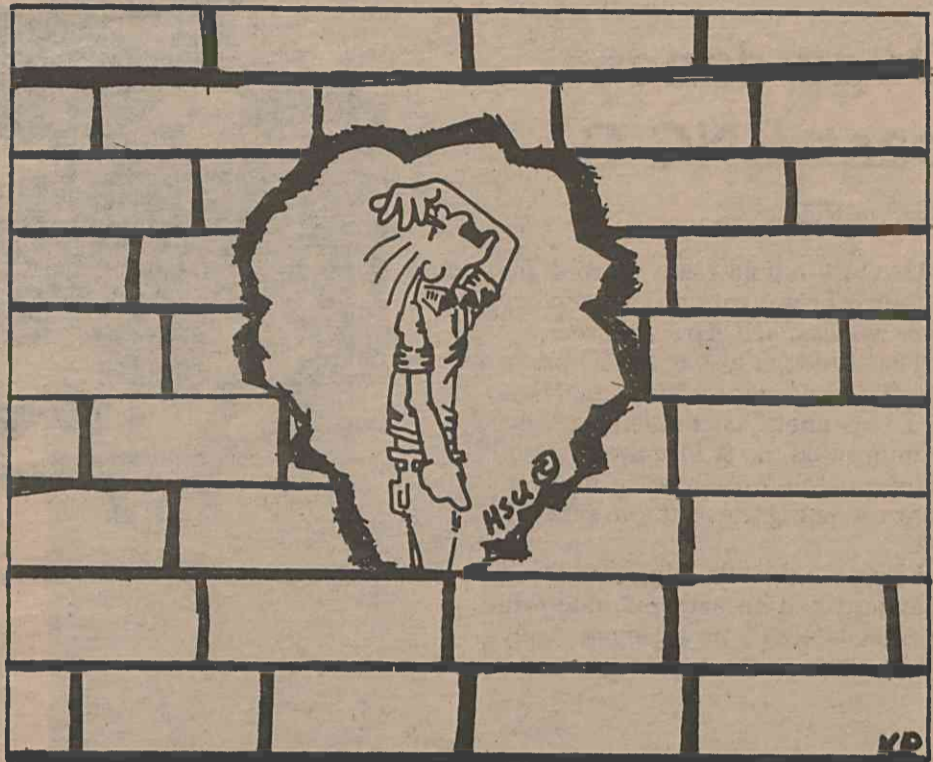
Coping varies from total absorption with the child on the mother's side, to sullen withdrawal from the child on the father's side.

Tucker combines sketches and descriptions of procedures, with the characters of the Murphy family to show the "life goes on" aspect of cancer [or any disease]. He provides a portrayal of human strength when faced with death. He also provides complete medical history, including all clinical procedures.

Ellie's story ended happily with her apparent cure, yet her family will never be the same after the months and years of Ellie's pain and treatment.

Both cancer victims and their families will be comforted in knowing what to expect from the disease. Tucker describes each procedure in clinical as well as layman's terms. He also shows possible side effects of all treatments.

Although every victim's story varies, and everyone may not survive this devastating disease, *Ellie* shows the vast improvements made in cancer treatment in the past decade.



Movie review

Pink Floyd The Wall

By Kari Howard

It went beyond my wildest nightmares. *PINK FLOYD THE WALL* reaches a height of horror unsurpassed and -I hope- unsurpassable. Like one's own worst nightmare, it cannot be forgotten; instead it grows, devouring the mind in its hideousness.

Needless to say, Pink Floyd fans expecting to see some meaningless footage showcased by the soundtrack of the monumental album of the same name will be disconcerted. That is not to say that those cuts are not included; indeed, they are the film. There is no dialogue to speak of, save a despairing scream that echoes dully in the bowels of the soul.

Stunned audiences view with increasing alarm a montage of scenes pieced together with amazing and graphic clarity. Dispassionate school children singing "we don't need no education" march through murky tunnels while a monstrous headmaster counts time; at each count they passively fall into an obscene meat grinder. Moments later they metamorphose into rebellion and burn the school and its dictator down.

Childlike qualities are conspicuously absent in both these pitiful children and the grotesque cartoons that flicker throughout. An imagination gone amuck animates evil. A cartoon dove is decimated and transformed into an ugly black death machine of World War II that rains destruction on London.

Fear stampedes the city, leaving idealism trampled in its wake. Here

is the story of one man's futile struggle to dismantle a wall of hurt that society has built around him.

It is a story that is devoid of all hope; Pink Floyd [played with horrific anguish by Bob Geldof of the Irish band, The Boomtown Rats] is a burned-out rock singer who cheerlessly sifts through the ashes of his life. Here he encounters the charred remains of his father, incinerated in a furious holocaust. He focuses briefly on a document sent from King George -stamped with his royal highness' personal rubber stamp- that praises the dead soldier for dying valiantly for his country.

Each brick is irrevocably cemented in. The final brick, an explicit flash of Mrs. Floyd's infidelity, leads to the ghastly last battle of self-destruction. He bleeds but feels no pain; his soul is numb. The ravaged Pink Floyd symbolically dies and is resurrected. In gruesome contrast to the Christian rebirth, he becomes an antichrist of sorts.

The wall stretches into infinity. Pink Floyd cannot escape. He no longer wants to. Garbed in a sinister black uniform, he orders euphoric masses to pay homage to hate. In a fervor his followers passionately obey the commands to persecute suspected undesirables: "He looks Jewish! Throw him against the wall." Pink Floyd is insane; his mind seethes as his soul is annihilated.

It is frightening to watch a man disintegrate. I cannot recommend it, but you cannot miss it.

CONCERTS

Oct.			
7	Jethro Tull Atlanta Omni	20	Crosby, Stills and Nash Atlanta Omni
8	Conway Twitty Asheville Civic Center	20	38 Special Reid Gymnasium Western Carolina University
9	Conway Twitty Charlotte Coliseum	22	Crosby, Stills and Nash Charlotte Coliseum
10	Conway Twitty Knoxville Coliseum	30	Floyd Cramer; Boots Randolph Chet Atkins Freedom Hall-Johnson City
13	Scorpions Charlotte Coliseum	Nov.	
16	Jimmy Buffett Littlejohn Coliseum Clemson University	3	Van Halen Atlanta Omni
19	Glen Frey Atlanta Fox	26	The WHO Atlanta Omni

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