



## Defying Gravity celebrates the Wright brothers' bicentennial

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News Editor

The North Carolina Museum of Art is featuring *Defying Gravity: Contemporary Art and Flight*, an exhibition to commemorate the centennial of the first powered flight by the Wright Brothers in 1903. The museum has spent five years accumulating 91 works that showcase different perspectives of flight through a variety of media including sculpture, painting, installations, photography, video and film. Some of the pieces on display such as Ralph Helmick and Stuart Schechter's *Rabble*, are part of the museum's permanent collection.

*Rabble* was commissioned by the art museum

for the flight motif. It is composed of approximately 1400 Mylar butterflies. They are suspended from the ceiling in the shape of a modern fighter plane. There are small electrical currents passing into each butterfly to facilitate small



*Flying Lesson*, by Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison  
Photo courtesy of N.C. Museum of Art

movement, giving the effect that a draft is responsible. Another unique feature of this piece is some butterflies have the faces of influential figures in the history of flight. Figures include but are not limited to: Osama bin Laden, Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart and Orville and Wilbur Wright. A particular security guard will point each out with his

flashlight if he happens to be around.

Another piece of particular interest is Michael Richards's *Tar Baby vs. St. Sebastian*. The piece is a cast of his body in a flight suit with small planes flying into him. Richards had a studio space on the ninety-second floor of the World Trade Center and unfortunately was working on September 11, 2001 when the planes hit. This piece is eerily prophetic.

A seemingly less conventional approach to the portrayal of flight, are the works of Panamarenko. He has four gadgets in the exhibition. *Encarsia-Formosa* is a coin-operated machine that is supposed to beat its wings when a coin is dropped in.

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## Study shows national health insurance could save \$286 billion on health care paperwork

Physicians for a National Health Program  
Press Release

**Authors Say Medicare Drug Bill will increase bureaucratic costs, reward insurers and the AARP.**

A study by researchers at Harvard Medical School and Public Citizen to be published in Wednesday's *International Journal of Health Services* finds that health care bureaucracy last year cost the United States \$399.4 billion. The study

estimates that national health insurance (NHI) could save at least \$286 billion annually on paperwork, enough to cover all of the uninsured and to provide full prescription drug coverage for everyone in the United States.

The study was based on the most comprehensive analysis to date of health administration spending, including data on the administrative costs of health insurers, employers' health benefit programs, hospitals, nursing homes,

home care agencies, physicians and other practitioners in the United States and Canada. The authors found that bureaucracy accounts for at least 31 percent of total U.S. health spending compared to 16.7 percent in Canada. They also found that administration has grown far faster in the United States than in Canada.

The potential administrative savings of \$286 billion annually under national health insurance could:

1- Offset the cost of cover-

- ing the uninsured (estimated at \$80 billion)
- 2- Cover all out-of-pocket prescription drugs costs for seniors as well as those under 65 (estimated at \$53 billion in 2003)
- 3- Fund retraining and job placement programs for insurance workers and others who would lose their jobs under NHI (estimated at \$20 billion)
- 4- Make substantial improvements in coverage and quality of care for U.S. consumers who already have insurance

Looked at another way, the potential administrative savings are equivalent to \$6,940 for each of the 41.2 million people uninsured in 2001 (the most recent figure available for the uninsured at the time study was carried out), more than enough to pay for health coverage. The study found wide variation among states in the potential administrative savings available per uninsured resident.

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