

Campaign Launched To Promote Ambulatory Surgery

Durham - Citing a possible savings of millions of dollars a year in health care costs for North Carolinians, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has launched a statewide campaign to encourage greater use of ambulatory surgery in the state's general hospitals.

At forum entitled, "Ambulatory Surgery in the 80's: North Carolina and National Perspectives," approximately 200 representatives from 45 hospitals across the state met recently to hear speakers discuss the potential for increasing the use of ambulatory surgery. This is a program whereby a person may enter the outpatient department of a hospital in the morning, have surgery, and be released later the same day to recuperate in his own home at a considerable saving over the cost of regular hospital care.

"Formal programs of ambulatory surgery are increasing, and can save our nation billions of dollars," said Thomas R. O'Donovan, Ph. D., administrator of Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit, Mich. He went on to say, however, that "over 50 percent of our nation's 7,000 hospitals have no formal programs."

The forum served as a starting point for what will be a two-year program to promote ambulatory

surgery. Blue Cross will meet with hospitals in nine regions across the state on a one-on-one basis during that time to urge them to initiate ambulatory surgery programs or to upgrade their current programs.

"We hope to convince the hospitals of the merits of this type of health care delivery," said Thomas A. Rose, president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. We want to show them that this is a program from which everyone can benefit and persuade them to make this type of surgery a habit in their practice of medicine."

According to a recent study by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, hospital cost savings of anywhere from 49 to 77 percent may be realized on seven frequently performed surgical procedures by the elimination of a one to two-day hospital stay. That study, based on Blue Cross and Blue Shield subscribers under the age of 65, revealed that savings of more than \$4 million a year could be realized by that group alone.

Currently, there are approximately 300 procedures which can be performed safely and efficiently through ambulatory surgery, such as tonsillectomies, adenoidectomies, some hernia repairs, tubal ligations

and vasectomies. According to Dr. Davis, the benefits of ambulatory surgery are "well proven."

"Twenty to forty percent of the

surgery done in the United States could be done through ambulatory surgery," he said. "Every subspecialty of medicine contains procedures that can be done in this

manner. "It is safe, it does not lower the quality of care and does not expose the patient to added jeopardy," he concluded.

For Minority Women

YWCA Job Network Will Open Doors

"Minority women suffer from a double earnings gap - those of both race and sex," according to Sara-Alyce P. Wright, Executive Director of the YWCA of the U.S.A. Mrs. Wright spoke at a one-day conference at the Department of Labor on Nov. 14, at which a new YWCA Jobs Network was presented. The program, funded by a \$125,000 grant from the Department of Labor, is designed to increase opportunities in the skilled trades for women, especially minorities.

The YWCA Jobs Network will help industry to meet Labor Department guidelines, which require that 3.1 percent of the crews of federally funded construction projects be women. Currently only from one to three percent of the higher paying skilled trade jobs are held by women.

Speakers at the conference, which was attended by representatives from 35 local YWCAs and 25 Comprehensive Employment Training Administration (CETA) prime sponsors from across the country, included Alexis Herman, Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, and Ernest G. Green, Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

Designed by the National Board of the YWCA and supported by the Associated General Contractors of America, the YWCA Jobs Network is a prototype plan of action for local YWCAs. The plan calls for the community YWCA to act as a liaison between the local CETA

government sponsor, employers, other community agencies, and women interested in construction and other skilled trades. Depend-

ing on the needs in that particular community, the local YWCA will select among a wide range of services presented in the model plan and will coordinate their operation. Possible services include some that can be offered by the YWCAs themselves, such as job

counseling and referral. Others, like legal counseling and on-site exposure to skilled trade jobs, will be offered by other community organizations or employers. A total of 38 communities throughout the country will participate during the first year.

The Young Women's Christian Association of the U.S.A., with a membership of two-and-a-half million girls and women of all ages, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, addresses the needs of women and their communities.

Local Student

Receives Bennett

Academic Honors

Greensboro - Bernadette Hortensia Hamilton, a student at Bennett College, Greensboro, was recently recognized for outstanding academic achievement. She was honored during the Fall Honors Convocation.

Honors Convocation, held in the Fall and Spring, gives recognition to those young women who have maintained high academic averages over one or more semesters depending on class. Sophomores must maintain a cumulative average of 3.20 or above; juniors, 3.30 or above; and seniors, 3.40 or above. These averages are based on a four-point scale.

Bernadette, majoring in Communications, is the daughter of Mrs. Sarah Hamilton, who resides at 2701 Kendall Street in Charlotte.

"Philadelphia, Here

I Come" Is Little

Theatre Feature

"Philadelphia, Here I Come" the Dublin hit that enchanted Broadway audiences with its rib-tickling humor and compassionate human understanding, opens at the Little Theatre of Charlotte on Nov. 14 and runs thru Nov. 25.

This imaginative play by Irishman Brian Friel, concerns the emotions stirred up by a young man on the eve of leaving his native village in Ireland for greater opportunities in America.

An interesting twist to this poignant comedy is that the hero, Gar O'Donnell, will be played by two actors. Thom Dodd is Gar in public - the real, young Irishman, Dale Mitchell is Gar in private - his mocking, secret self. Between the two personalities the youth's past is brought in focus, his present is examined, and his future faced fearfully as he tries to find a reason for not going to America.

Carroll McCaughey will play the youth's stodgy father and Elizabeth Berger will portray Madge, the loving but relentlessly scolding housekeeper.

Eugene Kusterer, as Artistic Director, adds his own tender touch to this most human comedy. As Technical Director, James Eric has provided the setting of the drab living quarters behind a village shop.

Reservations may be made at the Box Office of The Little Theatre at 501 Queens Road or by calling 334-9128. Performances are Wed. thru Sun. at 8:15 with a matinee on Sun. Nov 25 at 2:30. Tickets are \$5 with Student and Sr. Citizens discount on Wed. Thur. and Sun. Box

Office opens Mon., Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and remains open thru the run of the show.

"Puff The Magic

Dragon" Is WBTV

Saturday Movie

A little girl caught in the confused net of her own imagination learns the difference between fantasy and damaging lies, in "Puff the Magic Dragon in the Land of the Living Lies," a new half-hour animated special to be presented on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 8 on WBTV, Channel 3.

Written by Romeo Muller, with music by Peter Yarrow, and with Burgess Meredith once more lending his voice to Puff, the musical special tells the story of Sandy, who uses her fanciful imagination to escape from the problems of her troubled home until she can no longer tell the difference between fact and fantasy.

Sandy has gotten into trouble more than once because of her lies and she can't seem to understand why or how, as she sinks deeper into her fantasy world and the problems it causes her. But Puff rescues her and takes her on a journey to the Land of the Living Lies where she meets such famous liars as the Boy Who Cried Wolf, Baron Munchausen and Pinocchio.

Along the way, Sandy is arrested for a crime she didn't commit - normal procedure for those who live in the Land of the Living Lies.



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