

Artwork Brightens Duke Patients' Visits

Art by N.C. artists in patient rooms, a Touchable Art Gallery and poetry groups heal Duke Hospital patients.

By ERIN WYNIA
Arts & Diversions Editor

"Patch Adams," Universal Pictures' Christmas Day release, tells the story of a doctor who believes patients heal better when those caring for them offer them personal attention. Like Patch Adams, the Cultural Services Department at Durham's Duke University Medical Center seeks to enrich the lives of patients through the personal attention and healing power of the arts.

"We think that if art enhances our lives in general, surely it would enhance the stay of a person in a patient room," said Samuel Morrison, the department's visual arts coordinator.

Morrison said that in his job, he concentrated on integrating artwork into patients' lives. He said the main way the department provided access to the arts came through the hospital's collection of more than 2,000 works of art, most of them hung in patients' rooms.

"We try to have a piece of artwork by an N.C. artist in every room," he said.

Instead of buying prints, Morrison said, the department emphasized purchasing original works of art by North Carolina's homegrown artists. The department runs its artwork program with the help of grants from arts agencies like the Durham Arts Council and through the cooperation of N.C. artists.

Morrison said the artwork hung in the hallways served as landmarks for patient's navigating the hospital's confusing corridors. He also said the three hallway art exhibits brought the artists closer to the hospital community.

"This gives exposure to the artists ... (they have) contact with people in the hallway," he said.

Cam Busch, public relations director of the American Art Therapy Association, said programs like Duke's, which began in 1979, incorporated the entire hospital community of nurses, doctors, administrators and patients. She said these programs have spurred a national movement of using the arts to create a less sterile environment in which to heal patients.

"The art is being incorporated into health care," she said.

With more than 37,000 inpatients visiting the hospital each year, Duke University Medical Center serves more people than any other hospital in North Carolina. With more than 13,000 staff and students, the hospital also employs

more people than any other business in Durham County.

The hospital's arts programs reach not only the patients receiving treatment at Duke but also the faculty and staff at the hospital.

Morrison said that in the past, Duke has displayed work by both patients, faculty and staff members. Now, he said, the department brought a quilt exhibit called "The Healing Gardens" to the hospital.

Some of the quilts, which contain pictures of plants used to treat cancer, were created by cancer patients, Morrison said. The exhibit comes as part of a tour sponsored by the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of hospital patients through the arts. Past presidents of the association have included Janice Palmer, director of Duke's Cultural Services Department.

But Duke does not limit its services to patients with the ability to see. For patients with limited vision, the department operates a Touchable Art Gallery in the Duke University Eye Center. Betty Haskin, the gallery's coordina-

tor, said that while the gallery served people of all visual capabilities, it contained objects accessible specifically by the visually impaired.

Sculptures of African origin, masks, pottery and paintings with raised surfaces line the gallery's walls and shelves. In the gallery, run completely by volunteers, visitors may pick up any object and run their fingers over its shapes.

Haskin said the department received positive feedback from many of the gallery's visitors.

"I just had a woman this morning tell me how wonderful it (the gallery) was," she said. "That's the thing we do best. It's a pleasant diversion, it doesn't take energy, it doesn't build stress. It's just a neutral place."

Haskin said she always looked for other ways to bring art into patients' lives. She said she was now applying for a grant to bring a Japanese ceramic artist to work with Duke patients who attend school at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh.

In the past, Duke has also reached out to patients through other artistic mediums besides art. Carolyn Leith, program

assistant for the Cultural Services Department, said the hospital ran a singing program called Room Service from 1992-1994. The program brought local musicians to perform in patients' rooms.

Leith said that while grant money ran out for that program, the department was trying to gather enough volunteers from the hospital staff to run the program again.

Patients at Duke may also participate in poetry groups. Leith said her department brought poets to discuss their work with patients and staff as well as to help them create poetry of their own.

Poetry therapy, a form of creative arts therapy, incorporates analysis of literature and comparison of the work's themes to real-life situations, according to the National Coalition of Arts Therapies Associations. When the poets lead round-table discussions, they help staff and patients apply the poetry to their own thoughts and feelings.

Morrison said he hoped his department's arts services would give patients a pleasant experience to bolster the effects of their treatment.

"We do hope the art provides an environment which would augment healing," he said.

The Arts Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Dean Devotes Time, Energy To Students

Dean of Students Melissa Exum says she cares about students' likes and dislikes concerning life at UNC.

By PATRICIA D. WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Since arriving on campus nearly four months ago, Dean of Students Melissa Exum said she set out to improve the University as a whole and to interact with students on a professional and personal level.

Exum, who served as the associate vice president of student affairs at Ohio University, said she wanted to find out what was going on around campus by attending meetings by student organizations such as the Black Student Movement and the Women's Issues Network. "I want to know what students are interested in, what they like about Carolina and even what they don't like about Carolina," she said.

Exum, who started her job Sept. 28, said she planned to create programs to address student issues. "I want to do an outreach as it relates to things such as sexual harassment and binge drinking."

She said these programs would be created by committees formed within the chancellor's task force.

"I am part of the Chancellor's Diversity Task Force, the Substance Abuse Task Force, the Rape Awareness Committee and the Sexual Harassment Advisory Council," she said.

Exum said she wanted to meet with students who were on these committees and get their input on the programs.

While concentrating on student issues, Exum said she wanted to shift the focus from the judicial aspect of student affairs. "Student Affairs brings up the idea of what I call the 'uh-oh' syndrome - 'Uh-oh, we have to go see the dean.'"

Events such as a video conference on racial legacies to be held Jan. 27 would help broaden the duties of Student Affairs, Exum said. "With events like this Student Affairs can be a proactive unit, not one that carries out rules."

Exum said she often interacted with students on campus. "If they are sitting in the Pit, or just hanging on the wall, I will just go up to them and start talking."

Exum's effort to interact with students is perceived in a positive way, said Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Sue Kitchen. Exum brings sensitivity to the students, Kitchen said. "She has a caring way and connects with them."

Exum also has the support of student organizations. Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Bryan Kennedy said Exum was in touch with students. "Dr. Exum cares about what we need and want."

Exum said she had enjoyed her time at UNC so much that she had made meals, cakes and pies for students. "This is my way to give to students what they give to me."

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Panel: U.S. 'Failed' Embassies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - An official panel investigating the bombings at two U.S. embassies in Africa has concluded that there was a "collective failure" by several administrations and congresses to invest sufficient resources to protect U.S. diplomatic missions, a senior official said Thursday night.

The Accountability Review Board was convened after the near simultaneous bombings at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last August. Twelve Americans were among the 224 people killed in the bombings.

The panel was directed by retired

Navy Admiral William Crowe, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

According to the senior official, the report accused the State Department and other agencies of giving low priority to security concerns at U.S. missions abroad. It found no evidence that any employee of the government, including the armed services, did not fulfill duty.

"However, we believe there was a collective failure by several administrations and congresses over the past decades to invest adequate efforts and resources to reduce vulnerability of diplomatic missions around the world to terrorist attack," said the official, quoting from a summary of the report.

Israeli Actions Prompt Protest

Demonstrators marched through Hebron in reaction to the three-day closure of the city by Israeli soldiers.

Associated Press

HEBRON, West Bank - Israeli soldiers scuffled with hundreds of Palestinians protesting the army's three-day siege of the divided city of Hebron on Thursday.

The protest came a day after Israeli soldiers shot and killed a mentally retarded Palestinian.

The victim had brandished what later turned out to be a toy gun near an Israeli army post.

Thursday, about 300 protesters led by Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natche marched through the chaotic city to an Israeli checkpoint at the outskirts of town manned by eight soldiers.

Demonstrators hung Palestinian flags on Israeli army jeeps, removed road barriers and stole a stop sign.

They also shouted "God is Great" at

the soldiers.

There was some rough pushing and shoving as the soldiers tried to keep the crowd from advancing beyond the checkpoint.

Hebron, a city of 130,000 Palestinians and 450 Jewish settlers, is one of the tensest areas in the West Bank.

On Monday, assailants believed to be Palestinian militants opened fire on a van in the center of town, injuring two Jewish settlers.

In response, the army imposed a curfew on the downtown area it controls, barring Palestinian residents from leaving their homes.

Troops also sealed Hebron, meaning Palestinians cannot enter or leave the city.

In the past year, Hebron has been under curfew and siege repeatedly, and Palestinian resentment against Israel has grown.

"We demand the closure and curfew be lifted because they are inhumane," Natche said in Thursday's march.

Soldiers at other points in the city shot a few rubber-coated bullets at Palestinian stone throwers. There were

"We demand the closure and curfew be lifted because they are inhumane."

MUSTAFA NATCHE
Mayor of Hebron

no reports of injuries.

In the West Bank city of Ramallah, scores of Palestinian women chanting "We want justice!" rallied Thursday outside the Palestinian legislature, demanding the release of about 200 Palestinians held without charges by Yasser Arafat's security forces.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been jailed by Israel during nearly 30 years of military occupation, touching just about every single Palestinian family.


Another about 200 are currently in Palestinian custody without charges or trial, arrested when Arafat took the helm of the Palestinian Authority in 1994 and cracked down on members of Islamic militant groups, often in response to attacks on Israelis.

Most are members of Hamas and the smaller group Islamic Jihad.

Also Thursday, Israelis and Palestinians signed six agreements for joint projects in science, medicine and culture in a ceremony at Israel's Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Sponsored by UNESCO, the projects - with a total cost of \$250,000 - cover areas such as rabies eradication and seminars for tour guides.

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