

Network developed for families of children with heart disease

By HUNTER LAMBETH
Staff Writer

North Carolina Memorial Hospital has a new program that offers emotional support to families of children with heart-related diseases. The NCMH cardiothoracic and pediatric cardiology departments established this program, called the North Carolina Parent Network.

The statewide network matches parents of pre-operative, pediatric heart patients with families that have had similar experiences.

The network was founded by Dr. William Henry, chief of pediatric cardiology, Dr. Benson R. Wilcox, chairman of cardiosurgery, Maggie

Morris, the program's coordinator and Barbara Looby, social worker for the cardiothoracic unit.

"The program has been in existence informally for the past two years," Looby said. "In the past, people would make special requests, and we would try to answer them. Only recently has the program been formalized. It has really been formalized within the last couple of months."

Morris said doctors observed this program begin informally in waiting rooms where parents were comforted by other parents in similar situations.

Looby said she has been working over the past two years to develop

the program, but there is not any formal documentation to prove that the program has helped participating parents.

"The program is so new that results have not yet been determined," she said.

"We have sent letters to over 300 doctors in the state, and 86 parents have agreed to be part of the network," Morris said.

She said she sent information to parents with children who have heart-related diseases. She has also filed the information into a computer for any families that the network might benefit.

The program attempts to match

families that live close together or in the same county, with a total of eight clinics statewide. The sites are in Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Fayetteville, Raleigh, Clinton, Rutherfordton, Laurinburg and Wilmington. The distribution of the sites prevents families from having to travel to NCMH from far corners of the state.

Both Looby and Morris said families are matched according to several different criteria. Families having similar understandings of the situation, similar communication skills and similar anxieties are matched.

But the families rarely have a

chance to actually meet. They are encouraged to call each other as much as possible, Looby said, because communication is important in the network. Emphasis is placed more on mental support than the physical state of the parents needing help, she said.

The network matches parents of children with similar heart problems to ease discussion of the medical procedure for parents, because parents should not speculate about the surgery on their own, she said.

"The parents are encouraged to seek medical advice as much as possible," Looby said.

Morris said a child's surgery is especially hard on the parents because they have many other responsibilities, such as getting time off from work, while worrying about bringing in an income when the child is in surgery or treatment.

Single parents have an even tougher time with a child's heart disease because they do not have a spouse to share the responsibility. Only 30 percent of the parents involved in the network are single, but they are strongly encouraged to participate, Morris said.

She added that parents are usually well-informed before surgery, but they are shocked when the time for surgery arrives, and especially

afterward. "Parents are obviously shocked to see tubes protruding from their child's body," Morris said.

Parents most often ask questions such as, "Is it going to hurt my child?" and "What is my child going to look like afterwards?" Morris said.

Looby said parents also ask, "How will I explain the situation to my other children and my friends?"

"They (the parents) are filled with anger and frustration. It only shows that they are human. It's perfectly normal," Morris said.

She said parents often feel guilty because they think they might have neglected their child, causing or contributing to the heart disease.

Morris said the success rate of surgery is very good among the children, but she wished there was no need for the hospital to have the program.

"I would like to think we wouldn't have to have the program, but there will always be children born with heart disease," she said.

Looby and Morris said they would encourage families seeking help with children's heart-related surgery to call the North Carolina Parent Network.

"We would like to encourage families from all counties to contact us," Looby said.

Local bars have many ways to identify fake IDs

By SUSAN ODENKIRCHEN
Staff Writer

Managers and owners of Chapel Hill bars are tightening up their carding policies because they have noticed an Alcohol Law Enforcement crackdown since the passage of the six-month mark of the drinking age hike from 19 to 21.

"They (ALE) rotate this area pretty well," said Johnny Treece, co-owner and manager of Theodore's.

People under 21 are allowed into Theodore's, but employees are strict about carding at the door as well as at the bar, he said.

"You can usually tell a fake license. If the corners are roughed, or no restriction code (is) on the back, or the picture does not accurately resemble the person or there are signs of re-lamination, we know

it's fake," Treece said. If an underage customer is caught drinking or using an expired license, both the bar and the bartenders are liable, he said.

Treece said Theodore's employees had noticed an increase in people trying to pass off fake IDs, and they turned away many people.

Darrell Beauchaine, one of four Spanky's managers, said, "If people are going to go out and break the law, they will be caught. You'll be carded again if you look underage."

"It's more to protect ourselves than to hassle our customers," Beauchaine said.

Spanky's will take only North Carolina identification cards, any valid picture license, passports or military IDs, he said.

"Any other identification card is

invalid," Beauchaine said. "We'll be even more strict from now on. We always have a checker at the door after 10 p.m. every night, and we're putting up a lamp so IDs can be more thoroughly checked."

Gene Martin, assistant manager and bartender of Henderson Street Bar, said employees turn away between 15 to 20 people on a busy night for having unacceptable IDs.

"When the age first went up, we had to turn more people away," Martin said.

Henderson Street only accepts out-of-state licenses that match examples in an ID book.

"That (the book) helps us spot the fakes," Martin said. "We've always been strict at the door. We haven't changed our carding procedure since the law changed."

Troll's Bar, described as a relaxed place by head bartender Frank Nocab, is now tightening up its carding policy.

"You now have to have a letter from your mother to drink here," said Tom Burleson, consultant for Troll's. "Now it's a lot harder to distinguish a 19-year-old from a 21-year-old. Back when the age was 18, it was child's play to pick out the offenders."

Troll's usually has a doorman working nightly, but if business is slow, the bartenders card customers as they order.

"I see so many IDs each day, I'm sure some fakes slip by," Nocab said.

Because more people are trying to use fake IDs than ever before, Nocab calls the book of each state's license a "bar's Bible."

White Animals to bring Beatles-style music to Cradle

By SCOTT COWEN
Staff Writer

Tonight The White Animals will rock Cat's Cradle with music they call "Dread Beat." The band, which has been strongly influenced by the Beatles, combines elements from '60s music to reggae to form a unique style. The Beatles' influence has stemmed from the White Animals' love and admiration for the group; sometimes the White Animals even compare themselves to the Beatles.

"We aim high," said singer/songwriter and guitarist Kevin Gray. He also said that U2 and the Police have come close to the Beatles in terms of greatness but, "They (the Beatles) are the best group ever. The legacy of songs that they left is still giant."

The White Animals, based in Nashville, was formed in 1979 when Gray joined with bassist Stephen Boyd. Gray said that the group took on the name because of the animal-like quality that rock gave white

teenagers in the '50s. "It comes from suburban middle-class white kids trying to be soulful and outrageous in the '50s," said Gray. "We are the result of growing up with rock 'n' roll." Through the years and after countless fraternity functions and small-time bar gigs, the band has built a reputation for playing great live music.

Tonight's appearance is coming just days before the release of the White Animals' latest album, "In the Last Days." This is the first LP since the live album, which was recorded at Hilton Head this past Labor Day, and the band is pretty happy with it. The White Animals will treat tonight's audience with several tracks from the new album, and the band hopes that this will be a "nice surprise" for the crowd.

According to Gray, "In the Last Days" gets its name from "the karma of the country we stole from the Indians coming to get us."

"Are we going to die because of

the greenhouse effect, acid rain or other problems confronting people in America today?" he asked.

Gray gave up being a doctor for music. "I wanted to be a doctor since I was young," he said. "When I'm too old to rock 'n' roll, I'd like to go back to medicine in some capacity."

He said he was very enthusiastic about playing in Chapel Hill again and that the band was usually very well received here. Commenting on the town itself, Gray said, "You can talk about Knoxville, Tuscaloosa and Athens. . . (but) Franklin Street may be the ultimate strip in all the college towns in the country."

After the stop here, the White

Animals plan to "hit the road hard until June, then rest for a while," he said. The band is also hoping that a big-name group will pick up songs like "This Girl Is Mine" and "Big Shot."

"(Having songs picked up) could be very lucrative, like Bruce Hornsby with Huey Lewis," Gray said. As for now, the band seems happy with just playing good music.

The White Animals will perform tonight at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

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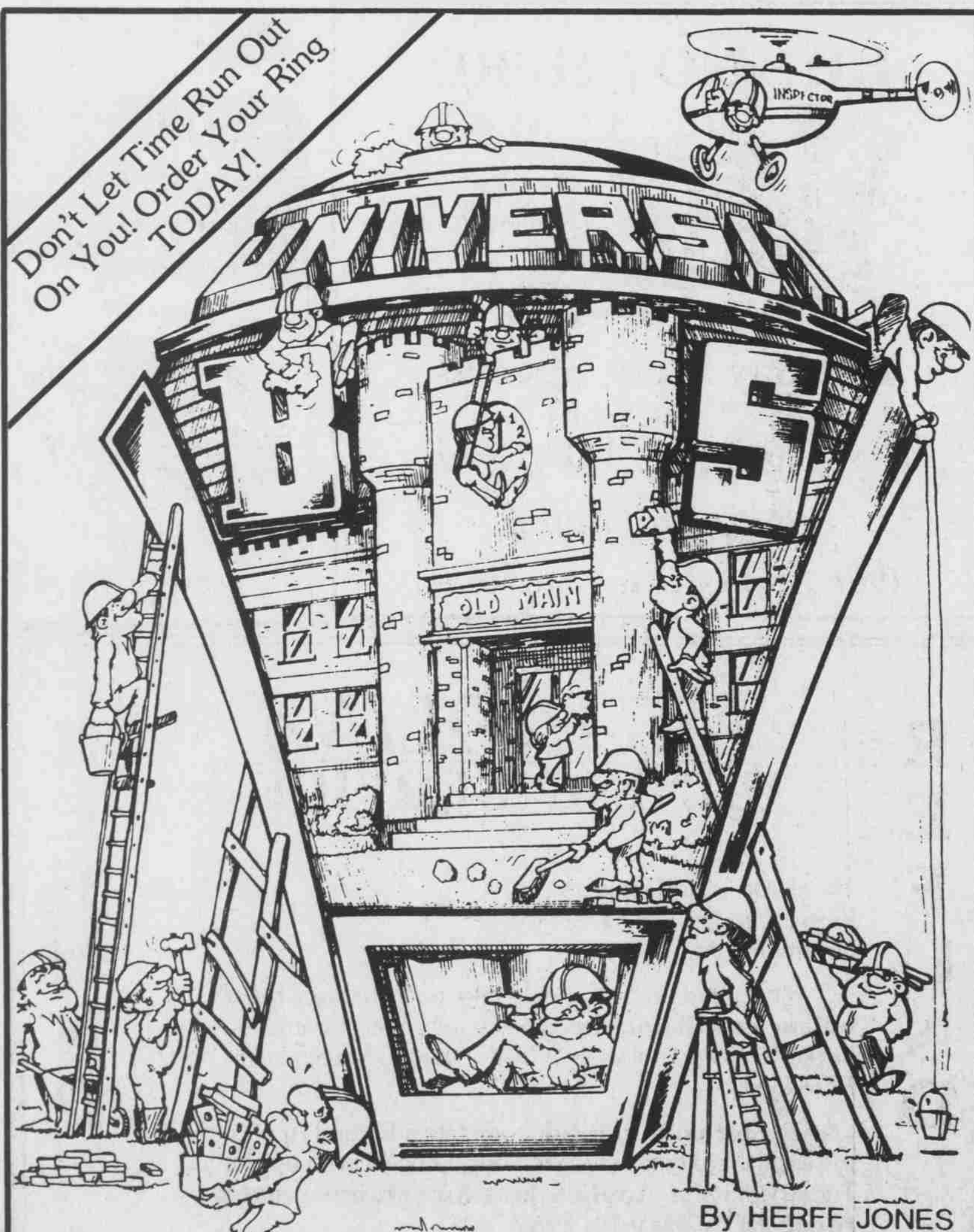
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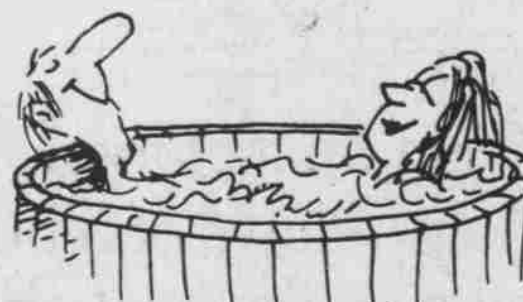
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