

Students focus lens on trauma of leukemia

By SHIRLEE IDEN
Any person—at any age—can become a victim of leukemia. But few of us ever have to deal with that as a reality. And even fewer get a chance to do something about it.

Proving that it's the exception that makes the rule, a team of three graduate students in radio and television from the University of Michigan have spent nearly four months producing a documentary film on children and leukemia as their master's project.

The documentary focuses on the families of two children with leukemia. Some filming took place at the Southfield headquarters of the Children's Leukemia Foundation, and Children's Hospital in Detroit.

"We could have done an animation or a comedy, but we decided we had a

lot of work to do and we wanted someone to benefit," said Ted Simons of Southfield.

Marianne Scheer of Toledo and Karen Bayekian of Bloomfield Hills both concurred.

"I had a friend who died of Hodgkins Disease," Scheer said.

And Bayekian recalled that a young friend in junior high died of leukemia. "It was terrible," she said. "Our whole class went to the funeral."

Simons said his grandfather died of leukemia more than 40 years ago, and his older brother Dr. Steven Simons died leukemia research at William Beaumont Hospital with Dr. Julius Rutzky.

He added that the people they have filmed are "very happy to have their children for as long as they can and

there's been no sense of depression, just a good feeling."

The film has meant nearly four months of work, untold miles of driving from Ann Arbor and a big personal expense for the students.

CHILDREN'S LEUKEMIA Foundation Executive Director Sylvia Brown said Simons came to her with the idea of a documentary which she brought to the board of directors. The board voted to fund the project with \$300.

"It costs at least \$100 a minute to make a film like this," said Scheer, "and our movie will be between 10 and 15 minutes long when we finish. So far the difference in funds is coming out of our own pockets."

She said the group would be grateful to any persons or businesses that might want to help with the expenses which may reach \$1,500. Donations can be made to the Children's Leukemia Foundation and earmarked "Project Documentary." The foundation is located at 19022 Ten Mile in Southfield. Such donations will be tax deductible.

WHEN the project is completed, all three of the students will have a print of the color movie and so will the foundation.

"We have such a small budget for public relations, the film will be invaluable for us," said Mrs. Brown.

"It will give us the kind of exposure we need. I go to high schools and other places all the time to talk about blood diseases and this will help."

"There are so many who don't know about these tragic diseases. It's when we're touched personally by it that we get involved—and we need blood, money, toys, volunteers, just everything—but mostly we need exposure and the public will come through for us."

She explained that the Michigan chapter of CLF gives over \$200,000 each year for research. The funds and services rendered all stay in the state.

While producing their film, the students have all had a chance at interviewing, lighting, camera work and a whole gamut of techniques.

"You have to be able to do the cinematography, lighting and everything," said Bayekian. "Usually, you have a producer, a director and a camera person, but this is a cooperative effort and we all are sharing each function. We've worked together a great deal in the past three years and we do okay together."

All three have their sights on media careers and said their immediate aims after their April graduation will be in television news.

"WE'D ALL like to start on camera but are geared more to producing and directing," said Simons.

Working on the as yet untitled documentary has taken up about 16 hours a week for the students. They said it would have taken a professional group eight months to do what they will complete in four months.

The most satisfying part of the project so far has been their exposure to



Karen Bayekian uses her movie camera to tell others of the struggle against leukemia. She had a friend in junior high school who died of the disease. (Photo by Allen Schlossberg)

the two young leukemia victims.

One is Ann Buzemir, a five-year-old from Warren and the other is Joey Chotorsah, a six-year-old Detroit.

"They are so natural and so loving," said Scheer.

"And working with this kind of group makes you want to do more and more," said Simons. "The People in CLF have paid the highest dues. They

have or have lost a child to leukemia."

When the shooting on location is complete, the team will have some five hours of audio tape and 45 minutes of film. This will be edited to the final 15 minute film.

"Documentaries are the hardest films to make," said Scheer. "It's tough because there's no script. The sound will be the interviews with Mrs.

Brown and the two families and some other narration."

She added that documentaries are also the most satisfactory and challenging in the end. That end will come when the film is shown before professors and class in Ann Arbor, April 20.

And although the film's student producers will have learned a great deal, others will continue to learn from their work for a long time to come.



Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan

A Torch Drive Service

Marianne Scheer, Karen Bayekian and Ted Simons focus on the sign in front of the Southfield office of CLF.



The student filmmakers shot an interview of the Foundation's Sylvia Brown of Farmington Hills in her Southfield office. Behind the camera is Karen Bayekian. Marianne Scheer adjusts the light, as Ted Simons reads the light meter.

Health spa offers way to get a new shape

By SUSAN TAUBER KLEIN
Suburban Life Editor

"You can never be too rich or too thin," a Beautiful Person once said.

Not many of us can achieve the "too rich" part, but we can strive toward being thin.

After years of exercising to records, instructor's commands and to my own inner conscience, I decided to try a new way of discovering my cheek and hip bones.

I spent five days at La Costa, a health and vacation resort in Carlsbad, Calif. The plush spa caters to movie stars and anyone else who can afford the \$125-per-day spa fee for a single occupancy room, meals and use of the facilities.

The spa offers separate facilities for men and women. It's inside these Spanish-style lined walls that the body-changing miracles occur.

The changes do happen, too, if you follow the advice of the professional staff. They'll help you mold a new body and cajole you into almost believing you don't like ice cream.

Shapely women conducted the exercise classes at the women's spa. But exercise is just one part of the spa routine.

A healthy, beautiful body isn't that much to look at if your skin is dry, your nails are ragged and your eyebrows are meeting your eyelashes.

TO TAKE CARE of every inch of you, the spa offers a range of facilities and services. Spa guests can use the mineral whirlpool baths, rock steam rooms, roman pools and solariums, and saunas. Both men and women get

daily facials and massages. Also included in the plan are a manicure, pedicure, private make up consultation, eyebrow arching, shampoo and set or blow dry, and a meeting with the staff dietitian.

I wanted to really "spa" it while at La Costa, so I went on a diet during my visit. I told resident doctor R. Philip Smith that I wanted to lose six pounds. After he examined me, he told me to go on the spa's 600-calorie-a-day diet.

What sounded like a tortuous task was a taste-budding experience.

I almost had a hard time remembering I was on a diet. Meals in the dining room were served a la "London Chop House." Awaiting me on each table was always an appetizer dish of celery, raw broccoli and two cherry tomatoes.

For dinner I dined on such culinary delights as lobster ambassador or broiled New York steak, shrimp supreme, salad, baked potato-skins with chives, and pineapple parfait.

I INDULGED on seafood salads and hot spiced peaches for lunch while sitting at one of the spa pools. I could have had bouillabaisse, braised chicken in red wine, beef stew and vegetables.

Breakfast came via room service. Wheatena with bagel thins tasted wonderful when served on a pink-clothed table and accompanied by copies of the Los Angeles Times and the San Diego Union.

The food was delicious. La Costa's diet trick, I learned, was not what they served but how much.

I ate my meals with a woman friend from New York City. The first time



Harvi T. Robinson from New York City usually walks with her walker about her 200 calorie lunch at La Costa.

she ordered steak for dinner, we both eyed the plate hungrily. We burst out laughing when, after the waitress removed the silver plate cover, we saw the size of her steak. It was so tiny.

Spa guests filled out menus for the next day's meals. It was fun to select 200 calories for each meal, if

by accident, you marked more than the calories you were allowed, the staff dietitian eliminated food from your meal.

Once I chose black cherries for dessert. I was only allowed a half portion. When the waitress served me a full bowl, I pointed out the mistake.

She counted each cherry she removed and didn't stop until she took an extra one away after I mentioned I had already eaten one.

THE REAL TEST for spa guests came in the exercise classes. Guests talked not only of food but of how many exercise classes they participated in.

While I worked out in four half-hour classes each morning and spent my afternoons elsewhere, some women were in the spa from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

I loved my mornings. After breakfasting in my room, I would wake up my body in the "Stretch and Flex" class. The instructor would put on soft music and in a soft voice, lead us through a series of slow, stretching exercises performed at a ballet bar, and on the floor.

After a 10-minute break, I battered my body in the fast-paced "Costa Curves" class, the most advance class offered. With sweat dripping down my face, I then would have a facial and massage, and work my muscles some more in the nonstop disco dance class.

The morning would end in the swimming pool, with "Aqua-Thin-Ics" class.

Other classes offered included yoga and introduction to fitness.

The clientele at the spa was an interesting mixture. There were women

here who attended the spa regularly. One woman from Montreal said she comes for 10 days every two months. Others saved for months to be able to afford the price of luxury.

But when we were all in the classes, or together naked in the sauna rooms, we were all the same.

EVERYONE was there to become more attractive and healthy.

Other activities were available if one didn't want to spend all day at the spa. Twenty-five tennis courts were available free with the spa plan. The resort has beautiful golf courses and offers

trips to surrounding areas such as San Diego, Mexico and Los Angeles.

I lost two pounds in my five-day visit to La Costa. I never cheated on the diet. The tightening of my muscles from the exercise classes added up to a 5½-inch loss.

What I "gained" from my vacation was an appreciation of how hard it is to lose weight, the realization that to stay in shape means making a commitment with yourself, and a fondness for daily massages, morning exercise classes and being served breakfast in my room.

OTHER MEMBERS with prints in the exhibition are Dr. Charles Eiford, of Huntington-Woods; Ross Lindsey of Rochester; Alan Lowy of Berkeley; and Dr. William Lussaline, James Holmes, and Joseph Comps, all of Livonia.

The exhibition will run through the month of April.

Photographique society exhibits spring show.

Michael O. Jones, of Farmington, is among the seven photographers whose prints have been selected for an April exhibition by the Creative Photographic Society of Michigan.

Called "A Medley for Spring," the exhibition consists of 30 color and monochrome photographs by society members. It is shown in the gallery section of the Eye Browse Book Store, 33088 Northwestern Highway, West Bloomfield.

Marc Winkelman and Donna Malamand, co-owners of the Eye Browse, said they have selected the exhibition for showing because of the variety it offers.

"The prints not only depict a wide range of subject," Winkelman said, "they also demonstrate the distinctive