# Financial aid could help a little girl hear

Eye Bill Casper ataff writer

For the first time in eight years, there is a ray of hope and an aura of excitement surrounding a young Red-ford Township girl who has been deaf shoe birth.

Family and friends of 8-year-old Kristen Armstrong hope that a relatively new, medically approved surgical procedure, called a cochiear implant, will free her from a glient world. However, in order to make this mean come true, her parents, David and Judy, both 31 and graduates of Thurston High School, are faced with a buge astpense they cannot meet alone. The total cost to have the operation done is about \$11,000. Judy sald. The hopital cost of \$7,000 will be covered by our insurance company and then there's the air fare to Los Angeles where the surgery will be done.

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However, were still facing about the surgeon's fee. The way to take Kristen to Los Angeles where the surgery will be done.

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quired four weeks later for rehabilitation.

At that time we will find out when we will have to make a third or fourth trip for a check on Kristen's progress.

"We may have to make about two or three trips a year to Lee Angeles," abe said. The most inexpensive round-trip rate for three of us is \$784, not including transportation and food in Lee Angeles. Our hotel accommodations will be provided by the Westin Botel firm.

"My hunband has been a carpenter for the Detroit Westin for the past two years and part of his employment benefits provide for free accommodations at hotels in the chain and there is noe, the Bonaventure, in Lee Angeles.

"But WE don't have a lot of money and the everyday cost of living is making it difficult for, us to meet these additional expenses for Kristen." Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 for 12 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 for 12 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 for 12 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 for 12 months before he began work at the Kristen," Judy said. "My hunband was laid off for 13 for 12 months he for the form of the fo

Tve written 10 letters in an effort to

Kristen has been profoundly deaf, the worst form of deafness, because of an inoperable occlaies alone blirth, Judy said. Dr. House will perform a cochlear implant and he is the only doctor in the country who does such an operation on children, she said.

"She would come out of the world of total silence, a dream come true for her and all those who love her so. Life is a little frustrating for her now be-cause I know she has so much stored up inside that she wants to express, but

THE SURGICAL procedure involves implanting a device behind Kristen's ear, Judy said, it will enable her to respond to many environmental sounds and some level of speech, bet said.

"Currently, Kristen does not respond to any sound even with the use of the best hearing aids available," Judy said. With this implant, our daughter will lead a more normal life. Even if every word is not understood, above will at least be able to respond to danger signals.

### Alcohol leading cause of traffic fatalities

Drunk driving has become so preva-lent that police forces around the cour-try have launched strict crackdown programs, and the courts have started foling out stronger punishments to those found guilty.

Half of auto fatalities involve alco-hol, which is the reason for the tougher programs, the Automotive Information Council (AIC) of Southfield said.

That means that a person who weighs 140 pounds could be declared legally under-the-influence in most states after consuming six ounces of liquor or the equivalent in beer or wine during a four-hour cocktail party. The

The theory that strong coffee can speed up soberness is debunked by authorities, giving rise to the saying that the practice only results 'in a wide-awake drunk.'

A driver doesn't have to be legally

effect varies up and down by body weight.

The body burns off only about three-fourths of a drink in an hour, so only time can return the drinker to sobriety.

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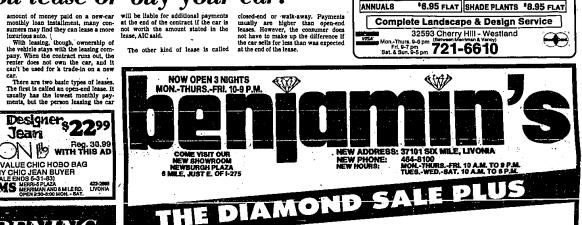
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