

observing life



MRS. SYLVIA BROWN (left), of the Children's Leukemia Foundation, and Mrs. Vera Spooner and Mrs. Ruth Brown of Beta Sigma Phi sorority show some of the stuffed animals

Beta Sigma Phi members have made for young leukemia patients. (Observer photo by Maurie Walker)

Soft hearts, soft toys for leukemia patients

Young leukemia patients in Children's Hospital will get some charming new "friends" because of the efforts of women in the Xi Beta Phi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

Women in the chapter, residents of the Observer area, have been working recently on an assortment of stuffed animals for use by the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

They will be presented to Mrs. Sylvia Brown of Farmington, director of the foundation, when she tells the chapter about work with the children at the Beta Sigma Phi meeting Feb. 12 in the home of Mrs. Marvel Steiger of Farmington.

Mrs. Brown also will receive from the women a check to cover the cost of a wheelchair.

"We use them to loan out without cost to families where there is a leukemia patient," she said.

"The stuffed animals are given to the children. At the hospital we have a closet full of toys, and when a child has to take a bone marrow test—it's quite a painful process—he gets to go to the closet to pick what he wants."

"Some of the larger stuffed animals I hold back to give to the children who are hospitalized with the disease. They use them as pillows and security blankets and really love them."

Mrs. Ruth Barr of Livonia, president of the local chapter that includes 18 members, and Mrs. Vera Spooner, service chairman, said the group had chosen the Leukemia Foundation for its philanthropy this year after some of the members met Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Barr said Beta Sigma Phi members from other localities would be welcome to attend the meeting and hear about the work of the foundation.

Mrs. Brown has been working for years with the foundation, which aids both child and adult leukemia patients and their families.

"Counseling is a big part of our work," she said, "and so is visiting children in the hospital. That's not easy—our children are all such beautiful youngsters and so intelligent."

She said that while people in the foundation never talk of "cures" for leukemia, there have been many remissions that have lasted a number of years.

"A remission is a case in which all signs of the disease disappear," she said. "Since it's only in the last couple of decades that the combinations of drugs used can effect such a change, we really have no way of knowing if it is permanent and thus we don't say cure."

"In counseling we try to give hope without giving too much hope."

Mrs. Brown said she and her husband have been active in the foundation since its inception a number of years ago.

"We are the only original members still active," she said, "but many others have joined since then. I just can't let go until a cure has been found."

The foundation, now a United Fund service, has headquarters at 17801 W. Seven Mile, Detroit.

Mrs. Brown said more help always is needed. More groups like the Beta Sigma Phi chapter, for instance, might like to make dolls and stuffed animals or contribute other toys, she suggested, because "people are very generous at Christmas but our needs go on all year."

She also said organizations and individuals might like to help start a new chapter, donate blood, buy Christmas cards or give memorial tributes to advance research.

One-way bottles called big waste of energy

BY MARGARET MILLER

Banning the no-return beverage bottle in Michigan would be a major method of saving energy, contends a Redford Township environmentalist.

Robert Magnuson, Wayne State University graduate and a member of the Detroit Area Coalition for the Environment (DACE), is urging support for Michigan House Bill 6592.

"Recycling is not the answer when it comes to bottles and cans," Magnuson declared. "It takes more energy to recycle than to throw away a throwaway, and a great deal more than to use a returnable bottle."

Magnuson said the bill has been opposed strenuously by bottling industry spokesmen and unionists as a measure that would hurt business and cause unemployment.

"But unemployment has not been a tremendous problem in Oregon, where such a bill has been in force more than a year," he said, "and now in the energy crisis we must consider that aspect as opposed to the convenience of no-return bottles and cans."

Magnuson quoted figures

which were compiled by Bruce Hanson of the University of Illinois after a detailed study of use of various drink containers in his state. The Hanson figures also were used by David Patti of the DACE in recent testimony on the "bottle bill" before the House committee on consumers and agriculture.

Hanson, Magnuson said, figured the cost of producing a returnable bottle and cleaning and reusing it eight times as opposed to a throwaway bottle manufactured, returned to a recycling center and used in producing new glass. He also figured a can going the same route.

The figures, Magnuson

"We must consider the energy it takes to have convenient throw aways."
--Robert Magnuson



pointed out, show that while a returnable bottle costs nine cents to produce as opposed to four cents for a no-return bottle and five cents for a can, the cost in energy is much greater.

Measured in British Thermal Units (BTUs), Magnuson

Continued on Page 38

m. m. memos

I have to admit to a great deal of interest in the drive for returnable bottles in our throwaway society.

It's because I've concluded on more than one occasion that our house has room for either the empty bottles or me.

As one who rarely slips a carbonated beverage—I just don't happen to like any of them—I find I expend a great deal of private energy dealing with the supply and the containers of the same.

We used to make regular trips to a recycling center, but I recently figured out, without the aid of a university expert, that the trip isn't worth the gasoline. I did appreciate having my diagnosis confirmed in the above news story, though.

So now, even though we let our church have our metal

cans for recycling, the trash volume in front of our house on collection day is increased considerably.

We also have been patronizing the independent company that has a local outlet for selling a wide variety of drinks in returnable bottles.

I really appreciate this firm and try to ignore the occasional grumbles at home that its product isn't "the real thing."

And I keep my dream of a real solution, offering it absolutely free to some clever inventor who would like to clean up—for himself as well as the environment.

How about producing all the popular varieties of soft drinks in a tablet to dissolve? Then I might even find room for me at home.

--Margaret Miller

Scandinavian debutante ball to introduce 3 girls

A debutante ball, complete with grand march and plenty of dancing, is in the immediate future for three young women in Observerland.

Denise Berry of Farmington Hills, Leslie Gasaway of Plymouth and Jane Kempainen of Redford Township will be among the guests of honor for the second Scandinavian Debutante Ball, scheduled Saturday, Feb. 9, at the grand ballroom of the Cobo Hall in Detroit.

A dozen debas from all over the metropolitan area will be introduced at the ball sponsored by the Detroit chapter of the American

Scandinavian Foundation.

Two other Observer area residents: active in preparations for the ball are Harri M. Virjo of Redford Township, consul of Finland for the Detroit area and chapter president, and Mrs. Rigmor Cuolahen, of Livonia, who represents those of Norwegian descent on the ball committee.

"We think our Scandinavian girls are very pretty," was the reason Mrs. Cuolahen gave for beginning the tradition on the Saturday before Valentine's Day last year.

"Last year we had 500 people attending and we hope

to have even more for the 1974 ball. When I saw the girls in their white dresses during the grand march last year, I just wished I had a daughter."

"It sounds like fun," said Miss Gasaway, one of the prospective debas. "These days you just don't get many chances to dress up."

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gasaway, she is of Norwegian and Swedish descent and a Schoolcraft College student. She graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia.

Miss Berry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Tawney and her nationality

background is Norwegian. She is a graduate of Franklin High in Livonia and is studying at Mercy College of Detroit.

Miss Kempainen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Kempainen, graduated from Thurston High School and works for the Ford Motor Co. while studying part-time at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus.

Consul Virjo said last year's ball made enough profit so that the foundation was able to award a local college scholarship to add to the assortment of grants offered by the American Scandinavian Foundation across the country.

Television newsman Carl Cederberg will introduce the debutantes and their escorts before the dinner, and when dancing begins each deb will have the first dance with her father. The evening will begin with cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

During the grand march, debutantes will receive silver bracelets with the foundation emblem, a Viking ship.

Several prizes donated by foundation members will be awarded.

These include a sculpture by Marshall M. Fredericks, local Scandinavian sculptor who has won world renown, a painting by artist John Miller and a hand-knit Norwegian sweater from Mrs. Cuolahen.



SCANDINAVIAN DEBUTANTES Leslie Gasaway (left) and Denise Berry look over plans for the deb ball planned Feb. 9 with Finnish Consul Harri M. Virjo. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

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