

At-home device aids kidney patients

Four Oregon children on dialysis formerly for adults only

United Press International
PORTLAND, Ore. — "This is Molly," 5-year-old Phoebe Ward says, pointing to her 19-month-old sister. "Her kidneys don't work. This Molly's bag. It works for her kidneys until she can get another one." Phoebe's matter-of-fact explanation of her little sister's illness and continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, known as CAPD, which keeps her alive sometimes finishes strangers.

The girls' mother, Susan Ward, of Eugene, Ore., is getting used to it. Molly, a "really happy baby," hardly seems to notice the plastic bag tied to her waist which is her constant companion.

Molly is the youngest of four Oregon children with kidney failure who are living at home with CAPD instead of spending long periods in a hospital attached to a machine undergoing hemodialysis.

One of the other children is 2½, and the others are 5½ and 6½.

While about 600 adults around the country are using the system, only a handful of children are known to be undergoing the treatment. Dr. Steven R. Alexander, nephrologist — kidney specialist — who heads the program at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, said, "We've had a few inquiries from around the country but we know of no other program using this method for children."

For children the system has special advantages over the traditional in-hospital dialysis for victims of kidney failure.

"If there is an important factor it is the opportunity to live at home with their own families in a psychic and social environment as near normal as anyone can have," Alexander said.

A major problem for children suffering from kidney disease has been severe effects on mental and emotional development resulting from the long periods of hospitalization and separation from their families, he said.

"Most are chronically depressed," Alexander said. "They can't stay in school regularly and they are isolated."

Prolonged hospitalization also places tremendous emotional strains on the entire family.

Molly's mother, for example, finds that Molly, whose development was nearly halted by the onset of kidney failure when she was 9½ months old, is crawling "all over the place" and "loves to play" with her sister and other children.

Molly was smaller than average when she was born but was healthy and normal until she was nine months old. Mrs. Ward believes her problem began with a strep infection.

Molly's kidneys ceased to function and she quit urinating. She underwent surgery for implantation of the tube in her abdomen which carries the dialysis fluid from the bag on her back into her system and carries the waste material from her peritoneal cavity back into the bag. She remained in the hospital while her mother learned to change the bags.

Then Molly went home. Despite some problems with an ear infection, her appetite is good and her development has resumed.

"We are learning a lot about how to deliver the kind of nutrition they need. With CAPD the kids feel better, their appetites are better and we are finding they can take a lot more nourishment than we thought."

He said some of the children are growing "as fast as others their age." He added, however, they are not catching up the growth they failed to make during their illness.

Alexander expects the growth of the children to improve as the doctors learn more about the nutrition the youngsters can absorb. "We have found these children can have an almost unlimited protein intake," he said, and they are on special supplements to provide it.

For all the children, CAPD is only a stop-gap until they can obtain kidney transplants. The two older children on CAPD both have had transplants and rejected them.

The main problem which has surfaced with CAPD for the children, as well as for adults, Alexander said, is peritonitis. Alexander said, however, it has taken a mild form and has cleared up within 24 hours after the patients were treated with antibiotics.

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Female trains polar bears

United Press International
NEW YORK — Where does a 12-foot-tall, 1,600-pound polar bear sit? Wherever he darn well pleases? No. Exactly where Ursula Bottcher told him to. Forever. For the rest of his life in the big cage at the circus.

"You know every animal, every bear or tiger or lion in the big cage, has a place on the side where he sits," said the 5-foot-tall trainer from East Germany. "The first thing to teach a bear cub is 'stay on your rear.'"

Being proud and being happy has its price. She has scars to show, this tiny gladiator, standing up to six male giants and four females, any one of which may attack. One scar on her right arm is about 8 inches long. It took 12 stitches.

During her first performance in New York in 1976, a female, Oslo, inflicted the gash on her arm. "She scratched me without any reason. She did it intentionally. She wanted to do it."

Did Ursula finish the show? "Ja, of course, I finish the show and then I go to the emergency hospital and they fix it."

As if the bears usual unpredictability isn't enough, this is the season, even as the show goes on (through June 1), when six macho maulers' thoughts turn to — you know — love.

The females are in heat. Just before coming to New York, the males got into a fight before the performance in Richmond, Va., and entered the ring feeling frustrated, in a killing mood. Muffel took it out on Ursula. Trying to sink his teeth into her thigh, he tore her tights from knee to hip. But Ursula jumped back in time so she escaped with only her skin scraped.

"I had expected something like this," she said.

With a 2:30 performance coming up, we asked if she would keep Nixe (who jumps through a fire hoop) and Spitzbergen, in the show. The cage

"I was dancing with Nixe and she knocked me down." As Ursula lay on the ground, Nixe tried to bite her neck, and all the other bears came off their places and moved to join in the attack.

carrying the two females had gone off its carriage after the early show on the steep slope leading to the basement where the bears are kept. Both females had been pretty badly shaken up when the cage tipped over. Last seen, they were pacing agitatedly back and forth.

"Even if they are nervous they have to go on. If I took them out for one time they would never do it (the act) again."

The Soft Touch regrets using the Lily of France picture in its April 9 & 10 ads.

Nixe is Alaska's sister. Ursula got them both when they were 4 months old. Alaska, Ursula's favorite, is 11½ feet tall, topped by another male, Neptune, by ½ inch. Alaska takes a sugar cube out of Ursula's mouth during the performance.

Visiting him in his cage after the morning show, Alaska nuzzled Ursula through the bars of his cage. His sister, however, once almost finished off the blonde trainer in the most frightening experience of her career.

"I was dancing with Nixe and she knocked me down." As Ursula lay on the ground, Nixe tried to bite her neck, and all the other bears came off their places and moved to join in the attack.

"Manfred had to bring all the bears back to their places (with a 4-foot-long steel rod) before he could help me," she said. "Maybe I am on the ground just seconds but it

seemed like hours. I moved around — she tried to bite my neck — oh, it was terrible."

She wound up with 35 bites on her neck and shoulder before Manfred could save her.

"But I had to do the trick again. I stood up. I had to dance with her right away. If I didn't do this, then she knows she is the strongest."

Bomb tests blamed for ill health

United Press International
WASHINGTON — At the Citizens Hearings for Radiation Victims Saturday, many people told of death and suffering they believe was caused by lowlevel radiation from nuclear bomb testing, nuclear power plants and other sources of radioactivity.

Marine Thomas Saffer said he died in a trench 2,500 yards from ground zero during an atom bomb test in the Nevada desert.

The bomb blast bounced Saffer back and forth in the trench, almost rying him in dirt and rubble. He said he could hardly breathe from fear.

Saffer said he was right to be afraid, for it is fallout from that bomb four times more powerful than the one at Hiroshima — he believes used the unexplained deterioration of his health beginning 10 years after the test.

After seeing 22 doctors and spending \$32,000, Saffer said, he still does not have a diagnosis that radiation used his illness.

Preston Truman, born in Enterprise, Utah, in 1951, said he lived his life under the threat of atom tests, often seeing clouds from tests drift over his home.

When he was 6, he and playmates found a boy their age was dying of leukemia. "We didn't know little children could die," he said.

Truman, too, suffered from cancer, but is in remission after medical treatment he estimates cost more than \$100,000.

He blames Nevada test fallout for his cancer and his playmate's death, and blames the government for negligence of the people of southern Utah. "We bury the dead," he said. "They don't."

Elizabeth Catalan who as a teenager in St. George, Utah, watched radioactive clouds pass over her home, blames clouds for the cancer deaths of her father and sister.

A dozen religious, environmental and labor organizations are sponsoring the hearings by the Citizens' Commission on Radiation Policies.

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MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1980
Brown Bag Lunch
Room 137, MSC, 12 Noon
400 Overseas Job Opportunities Available
Paul Marcotte, Peace Corps Representative, will discuss the various work opportunities available overseas. Several former Peace Corps participants will be present for questions and answers.
HOPE & HARVEST
A film depicting Peace Corps experiences will be shown at 12 noon, Room 137, of MSC.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDY
A representative from AIFS will be on campus to give an overview of the Institute. He will be available throughout the day (table, First Floor of MSC) to meet individually with interested students.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1980
Brown Bag Lunch
Room 137, MSC, 12 Noon
WANT TO STUDY OR TRAVEL OVERSEAS?
The Study Abroad Office will sponsor a brown bag lunch. Topics discussed will include: study abroad opportunities, student tours, International Student Cards, work permits, train passes, passports and youth hostels, and cheap travel within Europe.
EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING
Mr. Wayne Stark, Director of MSC, will talk about the Experiment and the different programs available. Also several students who have been part of the Experiment will be available to talk about their experiences.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1980
Brown Bag Lunch
Room 137, MSC, 12 Noon
THIS SUMMER IN LATIN AMERICA
You can volunteer to inoculate, do dental hygiene and visual screening, well digging, community sanitation or animal husbandry. One month programs available in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. Representatives from AMIGOS De Las AMERICAS will be conducting a brown bag lunch to discuss the above mentioned opportunities.

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