Bryan hospital conducts children's tours

by Janet G. Joyce

Fifteen children, ages 2 far through 10, have mothers who tic. are expecting babies. To help prepare them for the arrival of their new brother or sister, they toured the labor, delivery and maternity sections of St. Joseph

Hospital in Bryan.

The children's tour is the brainchild of registered nurse Judy Skove, the obstetrical and gynecological coordinator for the hospital, who introduced the program in May as part of fami-Tours of this kind are conducted in other places, usually larger hospitals, but typically are not done in smaller hospitals because the demand is not as great,

'We had some mothers ask us about it (and that) is the main reason I decided that it really

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Originally, one tour a month was planned, with 12 to 15 children per tour, but additional tours have been conducted because of a large demand for the

Dr. Candida Lutes, an associate professor of psychology at the University, who has a research interest in infant and the hospital, who introduced the program in May as part of family-oriented maternity care. child development, said tours like the one offered at St. Joseph are an excellent way to show children where their mothers will be and what will happen

One way parents can prepare their children, Lutes said, is to talk to them about what is going

to happen to mom.
"If you don't tell them what's going on, they see things going on and they make their own in-

Wednesday

Night

was worthwhile for us to go ahead with it," Skove said. "So far, response has been fantas-Lutes also said young children often feel displaced by

their new brother or sister. "Because they're maturing very rapidly, they're picking up new skills and they seem to give an indication that 'Well mom, if you don't like somebody being mature and you really needed a new baby, why didn't you tell me? I can act babyish," Lutes said. "They're wondering if they fell down on the job of being the family baby.

But the birth of a child can be a positive experience for chil-

"There's often quite a bit of affection that will come out and this can be an exciting time, especially if the parents have prepared their other children for the birth of the new baby,"

During the tour, the children are shown a labor or delivery room if one is available. There, Skove explains that the doctors listen to the baby's heart. She demonstrates the fetal monitor, a super-sensitive stethoscope with a speaker, over the heart of one of the children.

The children are then shown a transport incubator into which a doll has been placed. They roll the incubator to the nursery on the second floor, just as a baby would be taken from the delivery room to the nursery.

The tours are conducted on the first Wednesday of each month and are limited to children of women who will have babies at the hospital. Each child must be accompanied by at least



Two-year-old Megan Homer of Bryan holds a plastic "baby" as nurse Judy Skove looks on.

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Women Die," Sen. Jesse Helms, and the Texas Abortion & the 't R-N.C., scarcely mentioned the abortion issue at a Republican eted. fundraising Monday.

Instead, he attacked the nation's press, criticized welfare cheaters, ridiculed homosexuals and called for a halt to communist intervention in Central America in a speech before about 500 people. The \$25-a-plate luncheon was in honor of Texas Senate President Pro Tem Wal-ter Mengden during Mengden's

Governor for a Day program. Helms said "wrong-wingers" are leading a Senate filibuster against a proposed constitutional amendment to ban abortions. The amendment is aimed at confess to it because I know, "putting the brakes on the the wrong-wingers are. You laughter of innocent unborn got one who is editor of the children," he said.

Helms also blasted the nation's big newspapers and television networks

"Much of the distress of this country can be laid at the steps of the major news media of this He added: "I don't really wor-

ry about what they say. I know they regard the truth as pre-cious. Otherwise, they wouldn't use it so sparingly."

To say that he is imposing his

religious beliefs on others through the abortion issue is "hogwash," Helms said. Outside the hotel, members

of the National Organization for Women, Students for Choice, the Women's Political Caucus Action League peacefully, of A

TARAL director Jan In vion said the subject of Helms'spe' ery th did not matter because h of no trying to "redefine the Coms ... Kirkl

"Whether he speaks endu abortion or school prayer, school talking about an erosion of Constitution," she said sure, don't need to hear what said and l

Helms has to say."
Friese predicted the abortion amendment will "I'm pretty confident the

going to lose that vote,"shes Helms said "I'm proudy" unreconstructed right-wings stin paper (the Austin Am ican-Statesman) if I readitn

this morning."
Sharing the podium Texas evangelists James R son and Lester Roloff, He said the idea that comm

Central America should appeased is "baloney." Helms said Central Ame could become another Vie for the United States, communists) preserve store freedom.

He predicted some 10 m Central Americans could grate to the U.S. if they are placed by communist force

"If we abandon them we'll pay for it," he added.

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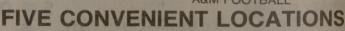
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