# Families of liver patients ask for insurance payment

United Press International
MINNEAPOLIS — The ilies of children who have ad liver transplants or need ne surgery are seeking better ays to match potential onors with recipients and for ealth insurance companies pay for the operation.

The appeal came Monday the University of Minnesota ospitals in conjunction with medical conference in ethesda, Md., that is considng whether liver trans-ants should be declared eraputic, non-experimental perations instead of exrimental surgery.

The medical experts at the ational Institutes of Health aference say a distinction is tical because many health surance companies will not over experimental proce-ures. Liver transplants cost out \$250,000 at the Univerof Minnesota facility. John Bohrer, a Wichita,

, hospital administrator

whose two daughters suffer from the same terminal liver disease, said Monday an effective national system is desperately needed to match liver

donors and recipients.

Bohrer and his daughter, Julie, 7 months, need to find a donor within the next two weeks or she will die. Julie's older sister, Amee, 2, needs a transplant within the year.

The girls suffer from Alpha 1 Antitrypsim Deficiency, which prevents bile from reaching the intestines where it normally aids in di-

Boher was joined by Greg and Annette Gossett of Austin, and their daugther Ashley, 10 months, who needs a liver transplant within the month. Also on hand was Jeremy During, 7, of Spring Lake Park, Minn., who received a new liver Feb. 5 at the university hospital and his mother Judy; and Robin Hardin of Cahokia, Ill., mother of Amy Lynn Hardin, 1, who received a new liver May 11.

Most of the people who found donor organs say they were successful because national media attention made doctors and organ donors aware of their need, Buaeer said. However, he said most people who need liver transplants do not find donors in

Bohrer said few families whose members die suddenly are not usually prepared to make the decision to allow doctors to take the organs at the time of death. He said the decision would be easier if people accept the idea of

organ donation. The families said a nation-wide system comparable to the one used to match kidney donors and recipients would go a long way toward impro-ving the availablity of donor

The families agreed with growing sentiment within the medical profession to designate liver transplants as ex-

perimental operations.

"They've got to change it from experimental to theraputic because Amy is doing great," Hardin said. Amy suf-fers from a potentially dan-gerous viral infection affecting some transplant patients, but the disease is under con-

trol, Hardin said. If the NIH conference agrees with the families, it could pave the way for government agencies, military health insurance and private insurance companies to cover the expensive operations. The conference was to issue recommendations Thursday.

A liver transplant for a child costs about \$250,000 at the University of Minnesota, including living expenses for parents before and after the operation.

## UT astronomer believes Pioneer won't find life

United Press International AUSTIN — While generally agreeing that humans are not alone in the universe, University of Texas astronomers say that Pioneer 10's chances of encountering other life forms is like a "needle in a haystack problem."

The robot spacecraft that sped out of the solar system last week was not designed for con-tact with other life forms, despite its accompanying plaque-depicting nude humans and Earth's location.

It was entirely correct to put a calling card on it," said Harlan Smith, director of the UT McDonald Observatory in west Texas. "But Pioneer 10 is very small, emits no special signals and the distances involved are

The flight path was influenced mainly by the gravitational field of Jupiter, the planet in-spected by Pioneer 10 in 1974 and the exhaustion of the spacecraft's fuel supply prevented any change in course.

"I absolutely agree that we're

not alone in the universe," said you have to imagine a galactic Bash. "But Pioneer's recovery is civilization roaming the stars a needle in a haystack problem. and, to me, the chances of that The chances are very, very

visited many times by intelligent beings who have learned to control their tendencies to mayhem.

You can imagine that any place they encounter where life is established, they'd let it be," he said. "Like we set aside parks and preserves."

If that is the case, Smith says Pioneer 10's existence would already be known and the spacecraft would be considered too primitive to be worth re-

Neal Evans II, who teaches a course at UT called "Extraterrestrial Life," said there are areas of the universe where stars are relatively close together but Pioneer 10 will not reach them entific experiments for at least for millions of years because our the next 10 years." solar system is so far out in the

seem remote," said Evans.

Smith believes Earth has been sited many times by intelligent rings who have learned to condit their tendencies to mayhem.

The spacecraft, designed and owned by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is nuclear powered and able to measure magnetic fields and charged particles in outer space. When it left the solar system it was 2.8 billion miles from the sun and was traveling at a speed of 30,558 mph.

> "Pioneer's passage is a miles-tone in human history," said Laurence Trafton, a UT research astronomer who assisted in interpreting signals received by Pioneer when it sped past

"Due to the absence of rust and corrosion in space, Pioneer may well outlive any manmade invention built so far," he said. "Pioneer will be valuable in sci-

NASA officials have said ondocks. Pioneer's power supply should last for at least the next 21 years.

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#### Study says safety ruling premature

United Press International WASHINGTON — The federal government should not have determined an area around the Love Canal toxic dump in Niagara Falls, N.Y., as safe enough to live in, a congressional report said Tuesday.

The Congressional Office of Technology Assessment con-cluded in its study it could not support a decision made last July by the Department of Health and Human Services that an area around the Love Canal could be inhabited.

"There remains a need to demonstrate more unequivocally the EDA (emergency declaration area) is safe immediately and over the long term for human habitation," said the report from the agency, an indepen-dent investigative arm of Congress. "If that cannot be done, it may be necessary to accept the original presumption the area is not habitable.

Since December, the office has examined how the Environmental Protection Agency moni-

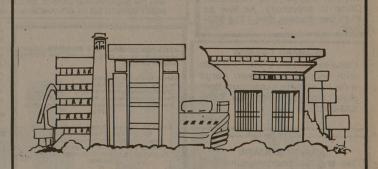
results from a two-year EPA study were the basis for the July determination the area was fit for people.

The discovery of buried chemical wastes under the Love Canal neighborhood sparked a national controversy over toxic chemical dumps in the late 1970s. Congress eventually created the Superfund program aimed at cleaning up the nation's worst hazardous waste

In July, EPA officials conceded problems remained at Love Canal, but said they believe there is no more risk living there than in any other city.'

But the congressional group said, "With available information, it is not possible to conclude either that unsafe levels of toxic contamination exist or do not exist" in the area.

The area in question is an outer ring around the dump site. It does not include the area nearest the site, once occupied by 237 now-demolished homes.



## Around town

Madrigal Committee needs workers

The MSC Madrigal Dinner Committee is beginning preproduction work for the Third Annual Madrigal Dinners Program. The organization is currently accepting applications for cast positions.

The Madrigal Dinner program is based on a style of music brought to England from Italy in the 16th century. Madrigal singing was at first informal, private entertainment performed by lords and ladies in castles and country homes of landed gentry. These performances were naturally suited to such occasions as Christmas.

Today, the MSC Madrigal Dinners are Renaissance celebrations of Christmas time complete with tradition menus, courtly entertainment, and the Madrigal concert. It is an evening of warmth, good humor and love.

Singers, musicians, jugglers, magicians and mimes are encouraged to become involved in the cast of a rapidly growing program. Anyone interested should contact Patty Fleitas at 845-5974 or drop by Room 003 MSC or contact Jim Hurd at 845-1515.

#### A&M adviser appointed chairman

David T. Mucci, Senior Program Adviser here, has been re-appointed Chairman of the Issues and Ideas Committee of the National Association for Campus Activities.

Mucci has served as Chairman of the Issues and Ideas Committee since 1982. Prior to assuming his present position here, he was program assistant at the University of Kentucky. He holds a B.A. in English and an M.B.A. from the University of Kentucky.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald or call 845-2611.