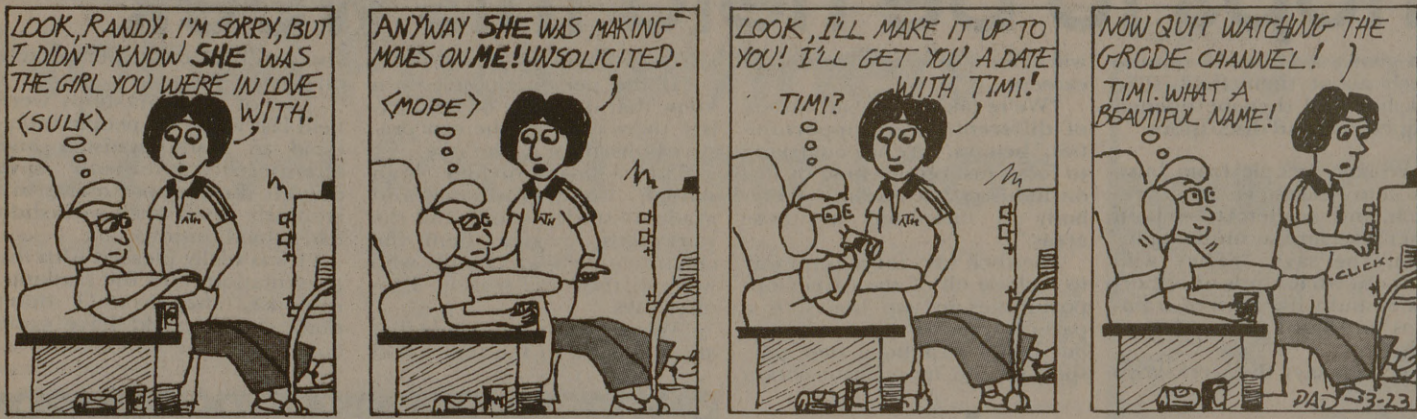


R.I.

by Paul Dirmeyer



# Nun shares pain and joys of St. Joseph patients

By MARK E. LISH  
Reporter

9:07 a.m. — A young boy is rushed to the emergency room after being hit by a car. He was on his way to school when he was struck in a crosswalk.

The boy's mother is hysterical. Calm and console her. Walk with her.

11:04 a.m. — Mr. Freidman in Room 214 is being prepared for open heart surgery. Talking with him, he seems apprehensive. Share his fears, give him assurance. Walk with him.

12:56 p.m. — The little boy is out of danger. Doctors say he'll be back in school in a few weeks. Pray with his mother. Share her thanks. Walk with her.

2:27 p.m. — Freidman's surgery is not going well. Complications have arisen. Doctors are not hopeful. At 2:49, he dies. Comfort his wife. Say nothing. Share her tears. Walk with her.

4:28 p.m. — Nurses are obviously upset by Freidman's death. Closeness between patients and nurses is not uncommon. Walk with them.

6:21 p.m. — Nurses get together and go to dinner. Pizza and beer. The beer is cold and tastes smooth. The nurses begin to relax and try to forget. One tells a joke and the others try to laugh. Walk with them.

Her name is Sister Patricia Mary Zielinski. She is the Coordinator of Pastoral Care at St. Joseph Hospital. She is known as "Sister Pat."

"I try to walk with the patients every step of the way," Sister Pat said. "I try to put myself in their place and feel what they feel. I try to feel their fear and pain."

Sister Pat says the ups and downs of her job cause a great deal of emotional strain. Without her strength from God, she says she wouldn't make it.

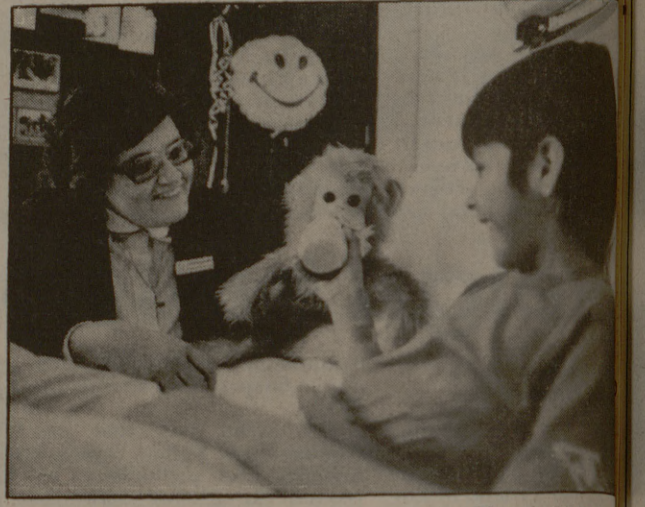


Photo by DEAN SAUNDERS

Sister Patricia Mary Zielinski, at left, and 'Mickey The Monkey' entertain J. C. Ramirez, age 6 from Hearne, at St. Joseph Hospital

She prays to God. She comforts people. She thinks of things beyond. She is a nun, a Sister in Christ.

Yet, dressed in a brown blazer and skirt, her calling is hidden from obvious view. The habit worn for so long is now gone. A silver crucifix swings from her broad neck as it hangs beneath her white bow tie.

A Jewish patient once refused to believe Sister Pat was a nun because she told the woman she had gone to eat pizza and drink beer the night before. The woman didn't believe Sister Pat was a nun because of her casual dress.

Later, the woman invited the nun home for dinner so that her Jewish friends could meet "this nun that drinks beer."

She said that for some reason people have an image of nuns as being better than the norm of society.

"Nuns are people just like everyone else," Sister Pat said. "I like beer, especially with pizza."

"I'm no closer to God than you are. I don't judge others. I respect their beliefs the same way they respect mine."

Sister Pat admits that as a human, she has been subject to the emotion of romantic love.

"I once thought I was in love," she said, "but I'm not sure what it was. I just know I had never felt anything like it before."

Sister Pat said she evaluated her priorities and knew that her life was in Christ.

"I don't think it was a sin...Can an emotion be a sin?...They're all from God," she said.

Though she will marry, Sister Pat wears a band on her left ring finger, the ring is a crucifix center between outstretched arms which she says are the arms of Jesus and St. Francis.

"I guess, in a sense of a word, I am married to God and His church," she said.

Though she'll never be a child of her own say "Mommy love you," she says she feels she is getting it worth the sacrifice.

Though she won't have children of her own, Sister Pat's mother and friend to scared young children come to the hospital.

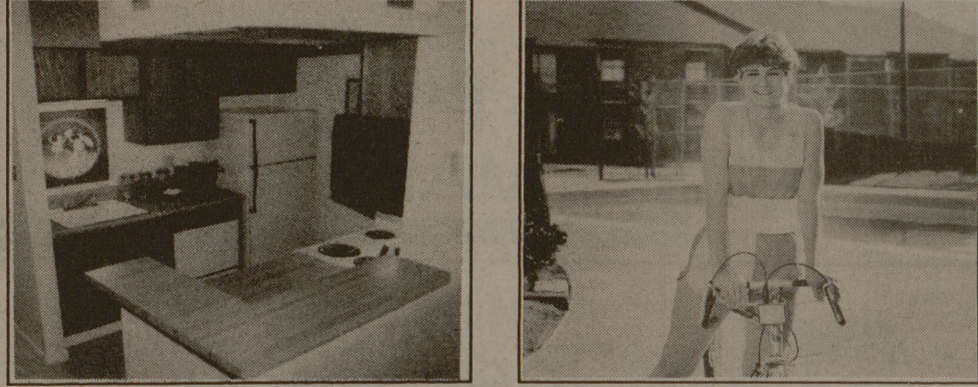
"Mickey the Monkey," a bear puppet, she makes her name and brightens the days of children and adults alike. Convent workers smile as she chatters with her monkey. Children's faces stretch into wide grins when the monkey peeks in their rooms.

Sister Pat said that Mickey was once able to talk to a boy when no one else could. Two young brothers were admitted after taking their parents' medication.

One boy was in serious condition but the others' condition was less severe. She said he seemed to blame himself for his brother's condition, and as a result refused to speak to anyone several days.

When the monkey swung head through the door, the boy got so excited he jumped out of bed and ran to him, she said. She said he began talking with the monkey and his head through his barrier of silence.

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## President of Rice to retire

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Rice University's president of 14 years, Dr. Norman Hackerman, Friday advised the board of governors he will retire in 1985.

Board Chairman Charles W. Duncan Jr. said the governors "regret his decision but will respect this wish," and that a committee led by trustee Ralph O'Connor will begin immediately to select a successor.

Hackerman, 72, informed the board he will serve through the 1984-85 school year.

Prior to coming to Rice, Hackerman worked his way during 25 years at the University of Texas from chemistry professor to president of the school in 1967.

He served as president of the Austin school for three years before accepting a similar position at Rice.

The Baltimore, Md., native earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Johns Hopkins University. From 1968 to 1980, he served on the National Science Board, the final six years as chairman.

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## COLLEGE REPUBLICANS presents

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Candidate for United States Congress  
GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday March 27, 7:00pm,  
510 Rudder

Max has a proven record of success.

**In Government** - As Congressional Liaison for the Secretary of Defense, Max learned to work effectively with Congress and in government to produce results.

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Join College Republicans in welcoming Max Hoyt to Texas A&M. Also to be discussed at the meeting are the May Texas primaries and the formation of an Aggies for Reagan Committee.



**In Service To His Country** - As a Lt. Colonel in the United States Army, Max was awarded 28 Air Medals and 2 Bronze Stars as a test pilot, and in research and development.

**In Working With People** - Whether working with neighbors, or studying agriculture problems, Max Hoyt has a proven record of solving the kind of problems we have in the Sixth Congressional District.

## Choice of jurors continues for Lucas

United Press International  
SAN ANGELO — Georgetown attorneys are scheduled today to continue a lengthy jury selection process in the capital murder trial of Henry Lee Lucas concerning a change of venue case.

Three men and eight women were picked during 10 days of jury selection. Defense witnesses had been told to appear in court Monday, but officials late Friday said witnesses would be advised otherwise.

About 60 people have been

questioned individually by attorneys in their task of selecting a 12-member panel and two alternates. Lucas is charged with strangulation of an unidentified woman whose body was found along Interstate 35 near Georgetown on Halloween night 1979.

The 47-year-old drifter, a former Michigan mental patient is charged with kidnapping, robbing, kidnapping and sexually assaulting the woman. Convicted, he faces a sentence of life in prison or the death penalty.

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