National 'Crafted With Pride' Week Has Local Textile Ties

"We Put the Pride in Crafted With Pride" is the theme of National textile Week that began Monday and continues through Sunday. The annual promotion focuses attention on the country's 2.3 million textile and apparel workers for their contributions oon and off their jobs.

North Carolina has 310,000 textile and apparel employees, and 3,000 of these jobs are provided in Mooresville. The community's major textile employers are Burlington Industries, Carisbrook Yarns, Draymore-Superba, Magla and Nortex.

Pryor Millner is manager of the local BI plant that, with a workforce of more than 900, is the area's largest employer.

"Most people here in North Carolina are aware of the importance of our industry to the economy, both in terms of revenues and jobs," said Millner this week, "but we often forget about the contributions textile workers make, not just to their industry, but to their local communities."

On the job, America's textile employees are among the most productive and quality conscious workers in the world. Off the job they serve as community volunteers, help support our schools, contribute to our charities and patronize our local businesses, Millner said.

In recognition of this community spirit, Millner said the industry will present a special national "Textile Citizen of the Year" award to an employee who has contributed significantly both to the industry and to the community. The winner will be announced during Textile Week. In addition, major textile producing states are selecting their own "citizens of the year."

In North Carolina, the state's top textile citizen will be announced at ceremonies in Raleigh. That person will be a finalist in the national competition, which includes other outstanding candidates from South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

"The textile and apparel industry employs more than two million people nationally," Millner said. "A large number play an active role in their communities. This year, Textile Week provides an excellent opportunity to recognize those employees."

UNC Gets Grant For Drug, Alcohol Study

The National Institute of Drug Abuse has awarded $750,000 to a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researcher who is trying to learn how various combinations of alcohol and illicit drugs affect humans.

Dr. Mario Perez-Reyes, professor of psychiatry at the UNC School of Medicine, recieved the five-year grant to conduct a series of experiments in which volunteers will take drugs under careful medical supervision and then will be tested for changes in coordination and alertness.

Besides alcohol, drugs will include marijuana, cocaine and amphetamines.

"Cocaine and amphetamines act to stimulate the central nervous system and so, in theory, they should counteract the effects of alcohol," Perez-Reyes said. "But what happens if people take those drugs first and then drink? We don't really know."

Another question, he said, is whether alcohol and marijuana taken at about the same time influence people more than they would if they were taken separately, but their effects were added. Earlier experiments at UNC and elsewhere suggest that using the two drugs together multiplies their negative effect on alertness.

Still another question is how long the impairment lasts.

"We hope this information will be helpful not only to the scientific community, but also will show the public what these drugs do," Perez-Reyes said. "This is important because some 22 million Americans use marijuana, millions more drink alcohol and cocaine use has escalated tremendously in recent years."

In the experiments, paid volunteers will take tses that are similar to video games while under the influence of the combinations of drugs. The scientists also will monitor each subject's heart rate and blood pressure and measure the concentration of drugs in the subject's blood plasma.

"These are very difficult tests in which we present 160 different signals in two minutes, and 70 of the signals require soem response," Perez-Reyes said. "Many people just can't do it well, even when sober, and we can't use them."

Fortunately, he said, there are enough people in the Chapel Hill area who have developed manual dexerity by playing video games that finding subjects should not be difficult. Volunteers will be paid $25 for each of six experiments plus $50 for completing the entire series.

To counteract the problem of subjects not trying hard or losing interest after becoming intoxicated, the researchers plan to pay them a $2 bonus each time they come close to the score they made while sober.

The scientists said a total of 72 volunteers will be tested during the five years.

Drugs used in the experiments come from the National Institute of Drug ~Abuse and from pharmaceutical companies. The governments maintains fields in Mississippi where it grows pure marijuana fro research.

Contrary to what some people might think, getting drunk or stoned is not much fun for the volunteers in the laboratory.

"We use a very hefty dose of vodka in orange juice for the alcohol," he said. "Imagine drinking that at 8 o'clock in the morning. I almost get sick just thinking about it."

Perez-Reyes is also deputy director of the UNC for Alcohol Studies.

UNCC's Dance Faculty Performs

The dance faculty of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte will perform at 12:45 p.m. Oct. 29 and at 8 p.m. Oct. 30 and 31 in the University's Rowe Theater.

The program features lecturer Delia Neil and her partner Niles Elber in the "Bluebird Pas de Deux" from Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty" and the "Flower Festival Pas de Deux," set to music by Helsted. These pieces offer glimpses of Russian and Danish classical ballet styles respectively. Associate professor Gerda Zimmerman, celebrating her 60th birthday and 40th performance year, performs her solo piece, "Ode," set ot music by Beethoven.

The concerts are free and open to the public.

Food Lion Sales Show Increase

For the year to date, Food Lion's sales have totaled $2,220,617,975, an increase of 24.8 percent over the sales — $1,779,172,472 — for the same period of time last year.

A Salisbury-based grocery chain, Food Lion's Mooresville store is located the Northwood Village Shopping Center.

As of Oct. 10, Food Lion was operating 445 supermarkets in seven southeastern states.

Southern Christmas Show Dates Announced

For the 20th year the Southern Christmas Show will herald the official arrival of the Christmas season in the Carolinas. This year's show is scheduled for Nov. 12-22 at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart.

What makes this huge show so popular? Why do people travel hundreds of miles to enjoy its attractions? According to shoe director David Zimmerman, it's "the festive atmosphere we create, combined with unique artisans and merchants. Plus," he continued, "the show comes early enough to get great ideas for things you want to make yourselves.

"Something else that keeps fans coming back," added Zimmerman, "is that they've come to realize we change the show each year — so they always enter a brand new world of Christmas magic!"

In store for this year's visitors is a redesigned Olde Towne that includes a Master Austrian Toymaker — he'll be her just for the show, demonstrating and selling exquisite wooden toys. A new bakery has been added. The Gingerbread House has relocated by the tantalizing aroma will lead you right to the front door. WSOC-TV's Celebrity Corners were so popular last year they've expanded and will have tiny room areas decorated to give you ideas for your Christmas table, mantel, den, door and even your child's bedroom.

Radio station WBT-AM will be displaying their history — a history many area folks have grown up with.

Long-time show favorite Tom Wolfe will be back as author and carver. He's just published a book showing would-be carvers how to get started in the craft.

The food area is bigger too. Standbys like Helmut's Strudel and Moravian Sugar Crisp, plum pudding and fudge are joined by Bess' Beans, fresh fruits, specialty cakes and other tempting holiday treats.

"We have 46 brand new craft-speople this year as well," said Zimmerman, "and because the show has such a long waiting list we could be selective in adding crafts we've been asked for over the years — like specialty ornament makers, original glass blowers, weavings and handspun items and hand-painted baskets."

For the first time the show will have an official poster and limited edition print designed by North Carolina artist Allen Montague. The painting depicts an old-fashioned toy shop, and out through the window a frosty winter scene.

Cooking clinics and demonstrations by the show's many artists will keep the Holiday Magic Theater busy. As usual, there will be plenty of free recipes, as well as The Charlotte Observer's Holiday Recipe Book handed out free of charge.

"I don't want to give all the show secrets away," Zimmerman smiled. "It's like Christmas — we've got to save a few surprises."

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Admission is $4.50 for adults, $2.50 for students 6 through 18, and children under 6, excluding groups, are free.

Wednesday evening, Nov. 11, 5:30-9:30 p.m., will be a Preview to benefit the Empty Stocking Fund. Sponsored by The Charlotte Observer, tickets this evening are $8 in advance an $10 at the door.

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Volunteers Needed To Help Agency Continue Child-Help Services

"HELP!"

That is the plea of Pamela Ashmore, coordinator for the Guardian Ad Litem Program for the 22nd Judicial District, which includes Iredell, Davidson, Davie, and Alexander counties. The answer to the plea is volunteers — volunteers to become advocates for children who have been petitioned into court as being abused and/or neglected.

Ashmore is seeking volunteers who are interested in children and who are willing to give of their time on behalf of the children. The Guardian Ad Litem Program's major goal is to make sure that every need and desire of the children is listened to and respected in cases where they have been victims of abuse and neglect.

A Guardian Ad Litem is a person appointed by the Juvenile Court to represent the best interests a child in the court proceedings. "Ad Litem" means "this litigation or for this case." The GAL volunteer does not serve as the child's legal guardian nor does he/she have any control over the child's person or property. The volunteer also does not have custody of the child. Rather, and primarily, the volunteer serves as an advocate for the child.

"The program was established because the Department of Social Services had attorneys, the parents had attorneys and the child was overlooked by legal means in the allegations of abuse and neglect," said Ashmore.

Prior to 1983, when the N.C. Legislature approved the implementation of the Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program, attorneys were used to do the initial investigation and provide legal representation in juvenile court. To make the same services more efficient and cost effective, now the volunteer makes a thorough investigation out of court and the attorney offers legal representation for the child in court. Both the volunteer and the attorney share in the responsibility of representing and promoting the best interest of the child.

Volunteers must meet certain requirements to be considered for the program. They have to fill out an application, have an interview, be at least 21 years old and be able to pass a background check.

A volunteer must really be concerned for the well-being of the children, be able to commit to no less than one year to the program and be able to take an oath of confidentiality and stand by that oath. "Confidentiality is very important in Ashmore stressed. "In the best interest of the child, all information must be kept in strict confidence."

Being a GAL Volunteer is an investment of time and energy, but the reward and satisfaction that comes from a job well done and helping a child is outstanding, Ashmore said. "It takes special people who are dedicated to become our GAL volunteers."

There is a 15-hour training course a new volunteer must complete before being assigned a case.

"We use the best available materials to train our volunteers so they can effectively advocate for the children" Ashmore said. "Initial investigation of a new case requires several hours along with the court hearings. Afterwards, there is as much time as you have to invest in the case is what's needed."

Ashmore explained that volunteers can use their spare time to monitor their cases. The volunteer will never be asked to take more cases than he/she feels comfortable with.

If you would like to become involved or would like further information about becoming a volunteer, please call Pamela Ashmore at (704) 872-2401 or write her at this address: GAL Program, P.O. Box 9, Lexington, NC 27293.

You may also contact Steven G. Tate, The attorney advocate in Iredell County, at 872-2401. Please leave your name, address and telephone number and Ashmore will return your call.

To Your Health

While modern drugs have brought relief to many youngsters who have epilepsy, about 20 percent of these children do not respond well to anticonvulsants. For some, surgical removal of an area of the brain — usually the size of a child's fist — is the answer.

"Surgery has a proven track record for being a safe and effective treatment for adults with epilepsy," said Dr. Darrell V. Lewis, associate professor in the division of neurology in the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University Medical Center.

"In the last two decades, more physicians have recognized that early surgical treatment of children whose seizures are not stopped by medications will markedly improve the child's ultimate social and intellectual development."

Lewis is with Duke's Center for the Advanced Study of Epilepsy that is directed by Dr. James O. McNamara, professor of neurology. The center, which receives most of its referrals from the Southeast, evaluates 20 to 30 children as potential candidates for surgery per year. Only 10 to 15 of them prove to have a localized area of seizure onset that can be removed surgically.

Most types of epilepsy are genetically inherited or appear following head injury or stroke. The seizures, which can occur as infrequently as one or two per month or as often as hundreds per day, are caused by a temporary dysfunction of the brain due to excessive and abnormal discharges of its neurons.

Candidates for surgery must meet several criteria.

"Their condition must be medically intractable," Lewis said. "Their medical records must show that, even with the best anticonvulsants, they had no relief. For these children, the medications are just as much trouble as seizures."

The medications cause drowsiness, coordination problems, irritability and disturbance of sleep normalities caused by other tests.

Psychological tests to evaluate memory, IQ and personality are also given to help determine whether the right or left hemisphere is involved.

"These tests are also useful in predicting how well the child will do after surgery," he said. "Follow-up testing is also done after surgery. We often see small increases in IQ."

If the neurologist cannot determine the area of the brain where seizures begin, another test, depth electrodes recordings, may be necessary. Electrodes are implanted in the brain for as long as several weeks to record brain activity during seizures. However, this is a surgical procedure and is not without some risk of complications.

Once the area is defined, the physician must evaluate the risks of surgery.

"The affected area — most commonly it's the temporal lobe — is removed only if no neurological problem would result," Lewis said.

Surgery can yield dramatic results. After temporal lobe surgery, two out of three patients can be rendered seizure-free with most others experiencing a significant decrease in the number of seizures.

The most important function of the temporal lobes is memory, but the child experiences little loss of memory following surgery.

"In fact, because the child is no longer hindered by seizures and medications can be reduced, his school work improves, and he makes better social adjustments," he said.

The most subtle — and sometimes the only — side effect, an interference of learning and memory capacities, is not easily detected by physicians, Lewis said.

The seizures also must be the principal problem that prevents a child from leading a productive life. Some children my have overwhelming problems in addition to epilepsy, and surgery would be of no benefit, Lewis said.

There are several types of seizures, but those who suffer from partial seizures are the best candidates for surgery. Partial seizures, which commonly have their onset in childhood begin in one area of the brain and can spread to other areas.

"For example, a seizure beginning in the visual cortex may spread to the temporal lobe," Lewis said. "The child may first see flashing lights and then, lose consciousness as more areas of the brain become involved."

When areas of the brain controlling motor functions are involved, the child's body will become stiff. Partial seizures sometimes lead to grand mal convulsions.

Like other epileptic seizures, partial seizures often have no obvious lesion, such as a tumor, to cause their occurrence, Lewis said. But, with testing, physcians often can pinpoint the area of the brain where the seizure originates.

Using video/EEG monitoring equipment throughout a one to two-week hospital stat, physicians can monitor the child's brain activity as well as make audio-video recordings to determine the nature of the child's seizures.

"We have to make sure we see all the seizure types of each patient," Lewis said.

Different types of seizures may originate from different sections of the brain.

An addition evaluation tool used is magnetic resonance imaging, a sensitive brain-imaging technique that detects scar tissue, tumors, ab-

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Carol B. Neill

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The old-fashioned funeral arose from a deep emotional need, and aids in the healthy grieving process, says Rev. Edgar Jackson, author of "You and Your Grief". The grieving process enables the bereaved to adjust to loss and to accept an altered reality. Feelings of guilt, like those of anger, are normal accompaniments of grief and the bereaved must be helped to overcome them for his mental health.

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Correction

William Daniel Gibby's middle name was incorrect in his obituary in our Oct. 14 edition. We regret the error.

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