



Charles Cusick, 4, of Clairton, was so intrigued by Dr. Arnold's size that he asked her as she left the room if she wanted to stay and play. Charles' there was being treated by the doctor.

grows into and stabilizes the prosthetic joint. Then she can begin physical therapy.

That time-consuming possibility is horrifying to the energetic Arnold, who said, "If I wake up and hear that news, I'm not going to be happy."

Her bosses at the hospital are keeping a place for her even if her recovery time is longer than she anticipates.

"We're very supportive," Hofkosh said. "If we need to adjust her schedule to accommodate some difficulties, we can certainly do that."

*Copyright Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, all rights reserved.
Reprinted with permission.*

Purni Patel

Northeast Chapter 51

It is time again to start preparing to host another regional. This year we have decided to hold the fall regional in Gainesville at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center at the University of Florida. The hotel is strategically located across from the campus, the Harn Museum, The Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and the South West Recreational Center. These museums allow admittance free of charge to the public. In addition to the activities located in walking distance from the hotel, there are also lakes and picnic areas nearby on campus and the surrounding areas. There is also a very good public transportation system that takes you anywhere from downtown, to the center of campus, to the Oaks Mall.

The date for the regional has been tentatively set for the weekend of September 5th. We are trying to host some of the doctors from Shands Hospital and from Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Hopefully the doctors will be able to attend and help with any questions that you may have. We look forward to seeing everyone at our first regional in Gainesville.



Kaley Nguyen Veronica Harris, Jessica Markbreiter

in those rare emergencies that demand quickly covering a lot of ground.

"Getting to a place in a split second is something that's going to be difficult for her," Hofkosh said. "She gets more physically tired with the walking and the step climbing that has to be done. And she obviously can't get to places quite as quickly as others do."

Arnold's height translates into a shorter stride. But more significant, her medical condition has affected her hip, knee and ankle joints. Her hips have been getting more sore during the past several years.

"I'm tired of the pain now," she said. "My hips are already pretty much breaking down. It's just a matter of how long I want to deal with it."

Arnold has had more than 20 orthopedic surgeries, which she calls "tune-ups," to prevent her bones from bending and deforming as she grew and gained weight. When she was 14, rods were implanted on each side of her spinal column to keep her back straight.

Her right hip called it a day July 8. She could not get out of her car without pain shooting through her groin. After a fitful sleep that night, she could barely move.

So this morning, the joint is being replaced at St. Joseph's Medical Center near Baltimore.

Arnold graduated from Johns Hopkins University's medical school and has been treated at Baltimore hospitals since childhood.

She was staying at her parents' home in Celebration, Fla., near Orlando, before the operation and will be there afterward to recuperate. She plans to resume her medical training here in October.

Arnold's surgeon said that if all goes well, she will be able to start physical therapy days after the surgery.

But if the surrounding tissues are too lax, she must wear a girdle-like brace and rest in bed for six weeks while bone