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Monday, February 2, 2004

CARING WITH A SMILE

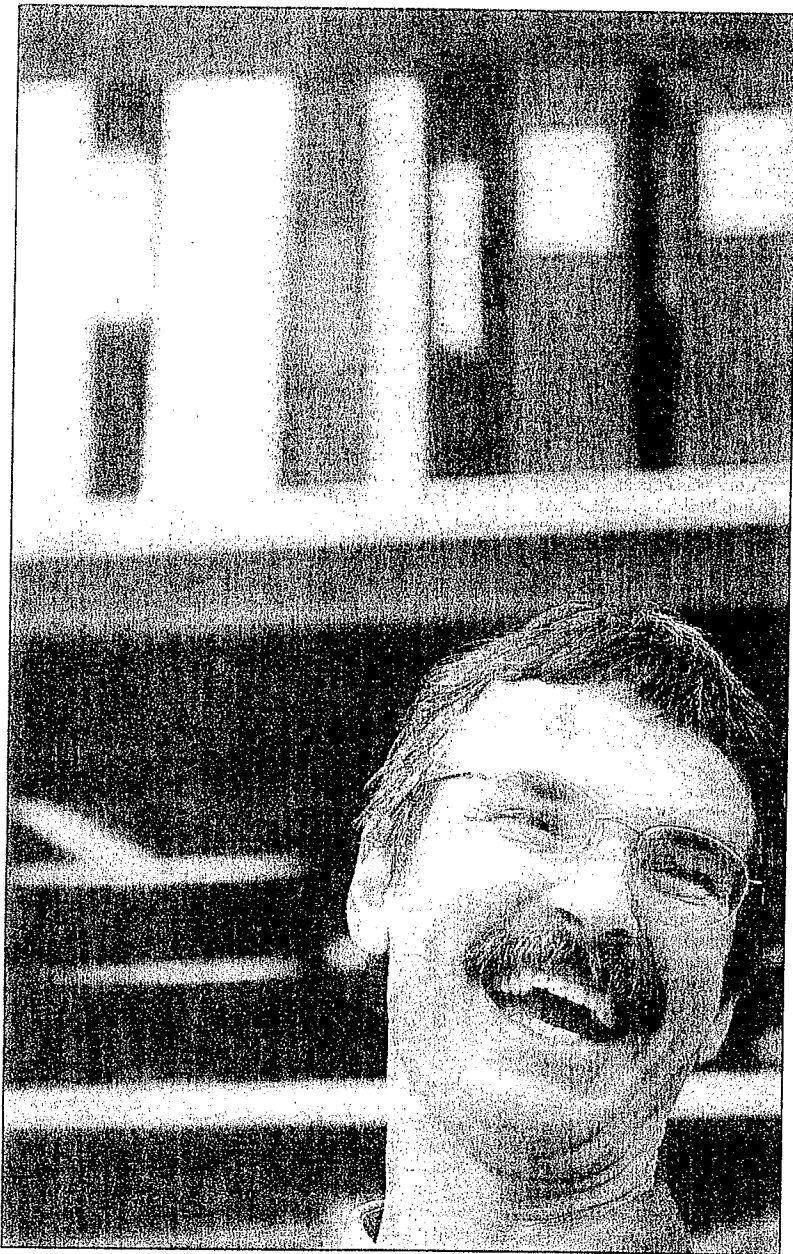
MONDAY PICTORIAL

Sun-Star

photos by

Jack Bland

David Simenson has spent two decades of his life treating the ill and injured as a family practice physician in Merced. He not only practices but tutors other residents at Golden Valley Health Center.



Dr. David Simenson, a family practice physician, has cared for people in Merced for 20 years. Dr. Simenson is one of Golden Valley Health Center's veterans, working for the community clinic since he has been in the area. Day to day he is a very busy man who remains dedicated to the people he serves while maintaining a positive outlook.



Early in the day Dr. Simenson gives one of his younger patients a book during a standard checkup. The book was from Reach Out and Read, a national program that supplies books to doctors who have young patients, in order to promote early literacy.



Dr. Simenson checks the neck of Keshana Cockrell during a midday appointment at the office.



At the end of a long day Dr. Simenson speaks with Helene Nguyen, a residency physician, to help diagnose a problem one of her patients is having. Simenson has worked as a preceptor, or residency physician tutor, for 15 years.



During his lunch hour, Dr. Simenson sees one of his youngest patients who has been admitted into Mercy Medical Center Merced.