



**WE KNEW IT WAS THERE SOMEWHERE**—The sun broke through the gray heavens on Wednesday, ending, at least temporarily, the late winter installment of the region's monsoons. The sudden appearance of Apollo brought smiles to rain-clouded faces and songs to water-weary hearts. Hopefully, this time old

Momma Nature will give us a break long enough to get the pole beans and okra started without drowning. The forecast? Your guess is as good as ours. (Photo by William Erwin)

## Tick Typhus Rise Warned

By David Williamson

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is on the rise across America, and the potentially lethal disease is more likely to strike in North Carolina and Virginia than in any other states.

With spring and the tick season coming on, those are the grim tidings of Dr. William D. Bradford, an associate professor of pathology.

Bradford said the United States Public Health Service figures show a 21 per cent jump in reported cases in 1974 over the figures available for 1973. More than half of the 774 cases last year were recorded in the South Atlantic states with North Carolina and Virginia being particularly hard hit.

The Piedmont regions of these states, characterized by a large population density, well-vegetated rolling hills and pine forests, suffered the most.

~in the South Atlantic states, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is transferred by the common dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*. Bradford said that infection occurs primarily in the late spring and summer months and corresponds to the prevalence of the ticks. It is caused by an intracellular parasite occupying a biological position between bacteria and filtrable viruses.

While the microorganism doesn't harm the tick, in humans it brings on muscle pain, chills, vomiting, headache, light sensitivity, prostration and eventual cardiovascular and respiratory collapse, the Duke pathologist explained.

Women and children are the usual victims. Bradford said it's not clear to him why, but "it's statistically true. Children, of course, are outside a lot anyway, and they also get the ticks from their pets. As for the women," he said, "maybe they're out doing yard work more than men."

Also known as "tick typhus," Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever was called "black measles" by white settlers in the Bitter Root Valley of Montana where it earned its present name in 1906, Bradford said. Earlier, Shoshone Indians who inhabited the region recognized that an illness caused by evil spirits increased in the spring and summer, but didn't realize it was spread by ticks.

Howard Taylor Ricketts, the pathologist who first studied the transmission of the disease, later died of typhus while carrying on further studies in Mexico.

What can one do to guard against this (Continued on page 4)



# Intercom

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## Two-Day Agenda Covers Broad Spectrum

# Board of Visitors Meeting Here

The medical center's top advisory body, the Board of Visitors, is assembling here today and tomorrow for its annual meeting.

A wide range of subjects — from Duke community outreach programs to a report on women in medicine — fills the two-day agenda.

The board meets in a final executive session tomorrow morning. A progress report by Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, on the board's 1974 recommendations was the subject of an executive session at the opening of today's meeting.

Other topics on this morning's session include:

- \* "Nursing Education" by Dean Ruby Wilson.

- \* "The Bragtown/Rougemont/Bahama Project — A Total Interaction With a Rural Community" by Dr. Harvey Estes and Dr. Eva Salber.

- \* "Women in Medicine" by Dr. Shirley Osterhout and Dr. Mary Ann Forciea.

- \* "Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)" by Dr. Thomas Frothingham and Stanley Morse.

- \* "Scholarships and Loans, Medical and Allied Health" by Nell Marshall.

- \* "Report of the Director of Medical and Allied Health Education and Report on President's Biomedical Research Panel" by Dr. Ewald W. Busse.

During the afternoon session, subjects will be:

- \* "Progress Report on Duke Hospital North" by Jane Elchlepp.

- \* "Financial and Personnel Management" by Dr. Stuart Sessoms, John Shytle, Richard Peck, Peyton Fuller and Wilma Minniear and Henry E. Rauch.

The chairman of the Board of Visitors is Dr. Kenneth R. Crispell, vice president for health sciences at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

Other members are:

- Karl D. Bays of Evanston, Ill., president of American Hospital Supply Corp.

- Edward H. Benenson of Benenson Funding Corp., New York City.

- Dr. Earl W. Brian of the Department of Community Medicine and Public Health at UCLA.

- Shirley S. Chater, assistant vice chancellor, academic affairs, and professor of nursing at the University of California in San Francisco.

- Dr. John A.D. Cooper, president of

- the Association of American Medical Colleges, Washington.

- Dr. Harry Eagle of Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

- James R. Felts Jr., executive director of the Hospital and Child Care Sections of the Duke Endowment.

- Dr. Loretta Ford, dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Rochester.

- Dr. C. Henry Kempe, director of the National Center for the Prevention and

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## Bays To Open Spring Nursing Program With Carter Lecture

A university trustee who is also chairman of the board of the American Hospital Supply Corporation will deliver the annual Harriet Cook Carter Lecture to kick-off the Spring Nursing Program scheduled for April 3-6 on the Duke campus.

Karl D. Bays will speak on "The Impact of the Economic-Energy Crisis on the Delivery of Health Care Services" at 4 p.m., April 3, in the Hospital Amphitheater.

Dr. Ruby Wilson, dean of the School of Nursing, will preside at the lecture, which is open to the public at no charge, and Wilma A. Minniear, director of nursing at the hospital, will introduce the speaker.

The Carter Lectureship was established in 1969 "to honor and hold in constant memory" Harriet Cook Carter, a "compassionate and unusually creative lady who endeared herself to Duke University and the Durham community through her widespread activities."

Mrs. Carter, who died in 1968, was a nurse, an honorary member of the Alumnae Association of the School of



KARL D. BAYS