

They beat 729,000 to 1 odds

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The babies — all girls — and their birth weights are: Lolita (2 pounds, 6 ounces), Rebecca (3 pounds, 5 ounces), Diana (3 pounds, 7 ounces) and Carolina (3 pounds, 10 ounces).

Gall said that the chance of quadruplet births is one in 729,000.

Since birth they have been under the overall care of Dr. Lillian Blackmon, director of Duke nurseries and the neonatologist on service at the time.

On tour

Twenty-four ninth graders from Carrington Junior High School in Durham are touring the medical center today. The students are accompanied by Dot Honeycutt and their teacher, Ruth Haggard.



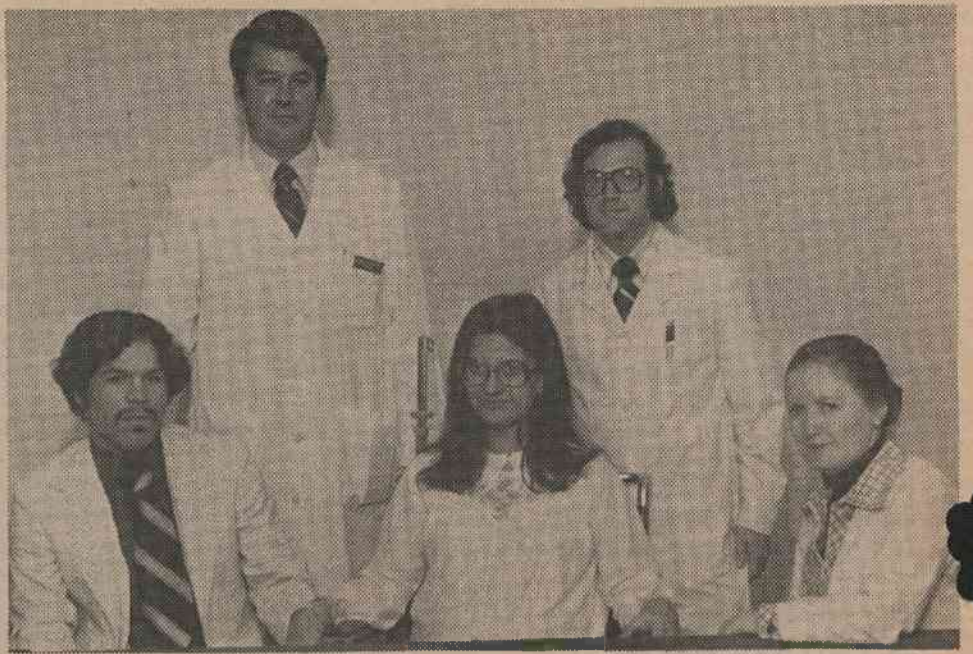
Because of their prematurity and the difficulty of their lungs to adjust immediately to an air environment, Blackmon said the babies are all experiencing hyaline membrane disease, or respiratory distress, and had remained on respirators through the early part of this week.

Improving steadily

They improved steadily and by midweek the three larger babies were off their respirators. Blackmon said the smallest, Lolita, probably would be off hers by the end of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Roura have been married seven years and have two other children, also girls — Angelita, 4, and Christina, 15 months. The father works for Ridgeway Opticians in Fayetteville and also works at night as bass player in a band.

Patiently responding to dozens of press inquiries and numerous interviews, the one word the Rouras have used to sum up their immediate reaction to this unexpected turn of events in their lives is "shock."



THE HISTORY-MAKING TEAM—Five of the central figures in the birth of Duke Hospital's first quadruplets reassembled this week for this formal portrait. Standing are Dr. Stanley Gall (left) associate professor of obstetrics-gynecology, and Dr. Arnold Grandis, chief resident on the service, who delivered the babies. Seated with the parents, Duilio and Rebecca Roura, is Dr. Lillian Blackmon, associate professor of pediatrics, who is overseeing the care of the quadruplets. The other primary participants in the event — Rebecca, Lolita, Diana and Carolina — were receiving some special care in the nursery and weren't able to attend. (Photo by Lewis Parrish)

Program for 'college students' over 60

Elderhostel, the program that offers people over 60 unique opportunities for weeklong experiences of campus life and academic achievement on campuses in 17 different states, will convene at Duke for three weeks in July.

According to Dr. Jean O'Barr, director of continuing education, Elderhostel '78 will offer nine courses each week, July 2-8, 9-15 and 16-22. Duke is one of 10 North Carolina schools in the program.

Regular Duke faculty will teach most of the non-credit, college level courses which cover a broad spectrum of interests. Three 90-minute class periods are involved daily, so that an Elderhosteler who registers for all three weeks may attend every course throughout the session.

The nationwide Elderhostel program, supported in part by Title I Funds of the Higher Education Act, limits registration on any campus to 30 persons per week.

Duke courses will include an assessment of the New Deal from a contemporary viewpoint; an examination of Cuba's place in history, including U.S.-Cuban relations today as well as pre-Castro; a course on "What We Know and Don't Know about Nutrition;" one in modern poetry, and another on Medicine and Society — how our lives are shaped by questions of health.

There also will be a course on how history is documented and how "oral history" changes what we know; a how-to-do course on writing the nostalgic piece; and a course entitled "On Being

Human in the Contemporary World."

The latter course involves in-class discussions of human experience in areas of culture, nature, self, others and the sacred, O'Barr said.

Campus dormitory facilities are the "hostel" and meals may be taken in university dining halls, along with other summer students.

Fees of \$75 per week for in-state residents and \$105 per week for out-of-staters include room and board and tuition.

Local residents living at home may attend as day students for a \$15 a week fee.

Members of Duke's Institute for Learning in Retirement may attend as part of their regular summer program.

Registration forms and brochures covering Elderhostel programs in North Carolina this summer may be requested from Elderhostel, 204 Abernethy Hall 0002A, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. Day students must register through the Continuing Education Office at Duke in 107 Bivins Bldg., East Campus.

Particulars on the Duke program may be obtained by calling 684-6259.



March 31-April 7, 1978

The Medical Center Calendar lists lectures, symposia and other activities of interest to faculty, staff and students. Notices should be sent to Box 3354 no later than one week prior to publication. If last minute scheduling makes it impossible to send a written notice in time, please call 684-4148.

Friday, March 31

- 9 a.m. Spring Nursing Program. Ann M. Jacobansky Aud, School of Nursing. Continues through Sat. morning.
- 12:30 p.m. Joint seminar sponsored by Cellular and Molecular Biology Program and the Department of Biochemistry. Joan A. Steitz, Dept. of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale University, New Haven, Conn., "How Ribosomes Recognize Initiator Regions in mRNA," Rm 147, Nanaline H. Duke Bldg. Coffee at 12:15 in the lobby.
- 12:30 p.m. Microbiology and Immunology Seminar. Dr. Angus F. Graham, Dept. of Biochemistry, McGill University School of Medicine, Montreal, "Replication of Reovirus," Rm 143, Jones Bldg.
- 1 p.m. Network for Continuing Medical Education (NCME). Program on "Osteoporosis: A Disorder of Bone-Remodeling," View in Rm M405 at Duke and Rms D3008, C6002 and C7002 and Bldg 16 at the VA Hospital.

Monday, April 3

- 12 noon Pathology Research Conference. Dr. Hal Hawkins, assistant professor of pathology, "Lanthaum as a Tracer for Cell Membrane Injury," Rm M204.
- 4 p.m. Seminar sponsored by Pharmacological Sciences Training Grant. Dr. Richard Miller, Dept. of Physiological and Pharmacological Sciences, University of Chicago, "Distribution and Functions of the Enkephalins," Rm 408, Nanaline H. Duke Bldg. Coffee at 3:45.

Tuesday, April 4

- 12:30 p.m. Genetics Seminar. Dr. Charles Radding, Dept. of Medicine and Dept. of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale University, "Superhelical DNA and General Genetic Recombination," Rm 147, Nanaline H. Duke Bldg. Coffee at 12:15 in the lobby.
- 4 p.m. Seminar sponsored by Pharmacological Sciences Training Grant. Dr. Andre Dray, Dept. of Physiology, "Interactions of Barbiturates and other Central Depressants with Amino Acid Antagonists," Rm 408 Nanaline H. Duke Bldg. Coffee at 3:45.
- 4 p.m. Council on Aging and Human Development. Dr. Herschel Jick, Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program, Boston University Medical Center, "The Influence of Age on Drug Reactions," Rm 1504, Gerontology Bldg (blue zone).

Wednesday, April 5

- 8:15 p.m. Roundtable on Science and Public Affairs. Sir William Hawthorne, Master of Churchill College, Cambridge University, "Energy and Environment: Conflict or Compromise," Gross Chem Lab Aud.

Save in 1984

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) officials estimate that owners of 1984 model cars will save approximately \$1,000 on the cost of gasoline (computed at 65¢ a gallon) and \$200 in maintenance costs over the life of the car as compared to 1977 models.

Maintenance costs will be less because vehicle weight will decrease, permitting use of smaller and therefore less expensive tires, brakes, batteries, and other parts.



"Whatever happened to that physical fitness program you were all steamed up about?"