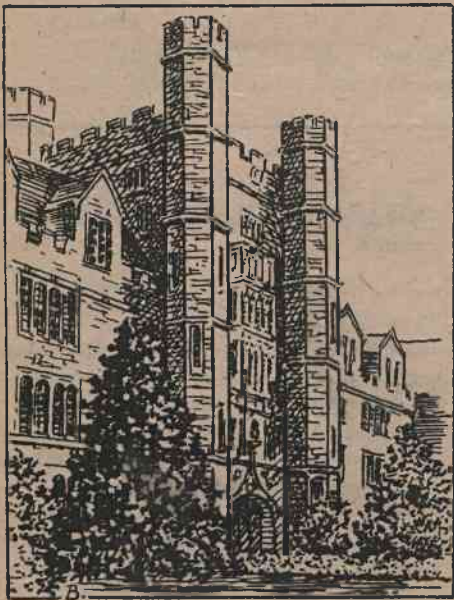




VOLUNTEERING FOR TV—When Newsweek Broadcasting needed a volunteer for a diet program feature they were shooting here a couple of weeks ago, David Hansen, the director of Environmental Services, agreed to help. The TV feature centers on a diet kit (*Intercom*, April 16, 1976) developed by Dr. Susan Schiffman, assistant professor of medical psychology (standing). Seated across from Hansen is the TV reporter, Norma Davidoff. Newsweek Broadcasting, which syndicates features to 65 stations across the country, also did stories on the Duke Rice Diet; on Carolyn Cohen, biomedical engineering student who has developed a respiratory pacemaker (*Intercom*, Dec. 2, 1977); and on Edith O'Neal, a deaf laboratory technician (see photo on page 3). The story on the rice diet program will be used by WFMY (Channel 2) in Greensboro, but has not yet been scheduled. The other stories have not been released to local stations. (Photo by Parker Herring)



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Scientists urged to find out why men die before women

By David Williamson

The gap between the number of elderly women and elderly men in the United States continues to grow, and scientists should spend more time to find out why, a leading gerontologist said in New Orleans last week.

In an interview, Dr. Ewald W. Busse said that if present trends continue, by the year 2000 there will be almost two women for every man over age 75, and the imbalance will have an increasingly significant impact on society.



DR. BUSSE

Busse, dean of medical and allied health education here, was in New Orleans to discuss research on aging at the annual meeting of the American College of Psychiatrists.

"Whenever you have a serious distortion in population, you are faced with a potentially enormous social upheaval," he said. "The predominance of females over males has an impact upon all our social values, our economic system and medical services."

Heart disease leading factor

The psychiatrist, a principal founder of Duke's Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, said that 40 per cent of the excess male mortality has been attributed to heart disease. Roughly another 35 per cent results from males having higher rates of suicide, fatal automobile and other accidents, cirrhosis of the liver, lung cancer and emphysema.

The remaining 25 per cent, he said, is due to a complex interaction between genetic and environmental factors that

are not yet understood.

As recently as 1900, there were slightly more older men than older women, he pointed out, and even today, there is a ratio of 106 newborn boys to a 100 newborn girls.

Still, the average life expectancy for men is 68 years, while for women, it is 74 years.

More emphasis on why males die

"I believe we should place a great deal more emphasis on why males die earlier from infancy onward and try to do more about the illnesses and behavior patterns that affect them in particular," he said.

The differences in life expectancies underscore the need for women to be included in the productive work force as proponents of the women's movement have urged, Busse added.

The previously accepted social patterns of having almost all women be housewives is no longer valid, he explained, because there will be far too

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many who cannot be housewives, but who still require a source of financial security.

"Most older men are married while most older women are widowed, divorced or have never married," he said. "There are almost four times as many widows as widowers, and the sex imbalance is enhanced by the practice of men to marry younger females."

Science should benefit society

Busse said he believes all scientists should strive to make their work result in beneficial applications for society by

improving the link between basic and applied research.

"Although the United States remains the most affluent of the developed nations in the world, it is becoming increasingly evident that our resources are limited," he said. "In contrast, the wants and needs of humans are inexhaustible."

"Therefore we cannot afford investments whether they be in research, production or services that will not at some reasonable point in time contribute to satisfying human needs."

Family, friends rally for young leukemia victim

A 15-year-old leukemia patient has flown to Seattle this week for treatment, and the trip was made possible by a number of financial gifts from friends and neighbors in North Carolina.

The treatment and its "good chance" of success are being made possible by a significant gift from the youth's twin brother.

The gift is a transplant of some of the patient's brother's bone marrow.

Referred to Duke immediately

Mitchell Royal of Vander, a small community near Fayetteville, was found to have leukemia in December. He was brought to Duke that same day.

His physician here, Dr. Joseph O.

Moore, an associate in the Division of Hematology-Oncology, said the teenager has a type of leukemia, acute lymphocytic leukemia, which is highly treatable.

Having a transplant from an identical twin "provides him with the greatest chance of cure for his disease. There are good chances that this operation may cure his leukemia," Moore said.

Doctors here decided to send Mitchell to the University of Washington Medical Center, which has the most experience in bone marrow transplants.

Major obstacle overcome

A major obstacle was the family's lack of money to pay their expenses to Seattle, but a fund-raising effort initiated by Beverly Rosen, Comprehensive Cancer Center social worker, had raised more than \$9,000 before Tuesday when Mitchell, brother Michael and their mother Nadine Lockey left for the west coast.

Rosen said that McDonald's restaurant in Fayetteville contributed \$3,000 and its

(Continued on page 3)

