

Vaccine records required of N.C. freshmen

Students entering North Carolina's colleges and universities for the first time this fall will face a new requirement.

A law passed by the 1985 session of the N.C. General Assembly now requires these students to provide their college or university with a record of immunization against rubella, measles, tetanus and diphtheria before they can enter school, according to D.J.N. MacCormack, chief of the N.C. Division of Health Services' Epidemiology Section. The law becomes effective July 1.

"The General Assembly passed this law in response to outbreaks of measles on several college campuses nationwide, including North Carolina," MacCormack said. "These diseases are potentially more serious among teenagers and adults and have been fatal in a few instances."

He added that the vast majority of students graduating from high schools in North Carolina will have acceptable immunization records.

"Our immunization rate here in North Carolina is among the highest in the nation," MacCormack said. "Our immunization law requires that schoolchildren in kindergarten through 12th grade be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, rubella and polio. We're more concerned about out-of-state students who may not be as well-immunized in some instances as our own students."

He noted that there are about 20 states that still do not require rubella immunization and approximately eight states that do not require measles immunization for high school students.

The immunization programs of those states are aimed primarily at students entering kindergarten and the first grade rather than older students.

MacCormack pointed out that the state's immunization staff has already visited the 59 two- and four-year public, private and religious colleges and universities in North Carolina to help prepare the schools to handle the new students.

The only students exempted from the new law are those already in North Carolina schools, those attending technical colleges, those in only off-campus courses at either public or private institutions and those exempt for bona fide medical or religious reasons.

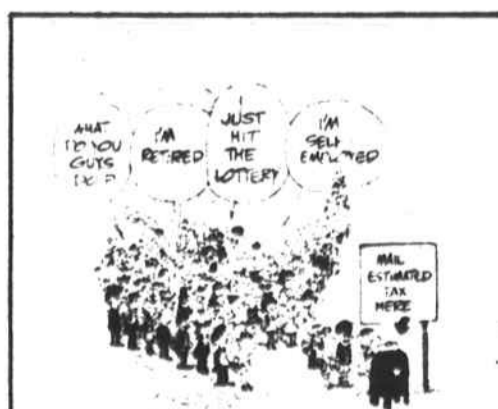
Dr. Thomas R. Dundon, director of the Forsyth County Health Department, said that any student who needed them could get the necessary immunizations at the department free of charge.

Teen Talk

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ty services where they can gain valuable experience and skills while making a contribution to others in Forsyth County.

Anyone interested in participating as a teen or an adult volunteer should contact Beth Brandes at 727-2890 at the Forsyth County Health Department.

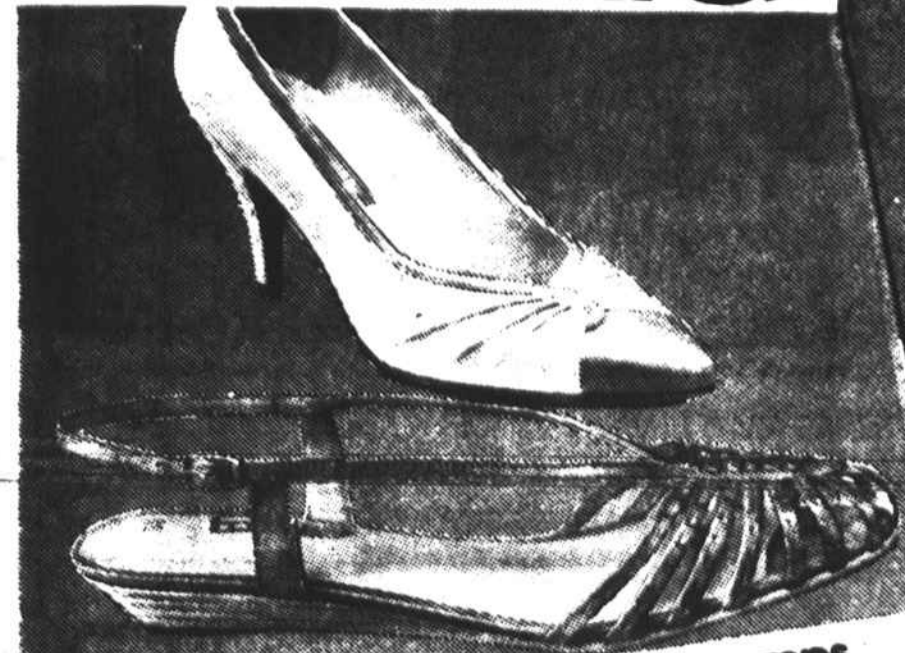


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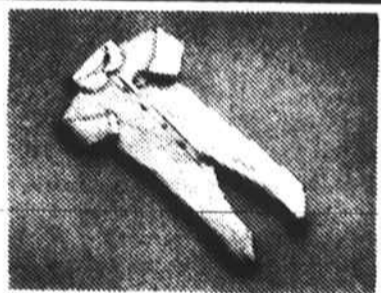
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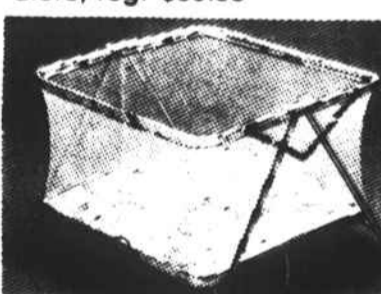
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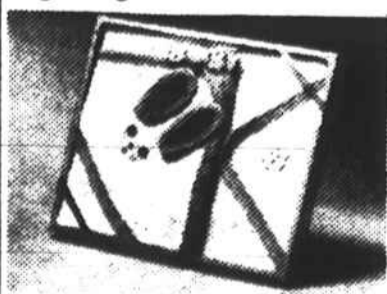
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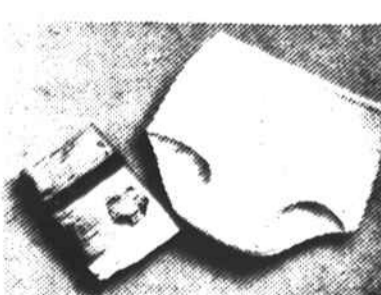
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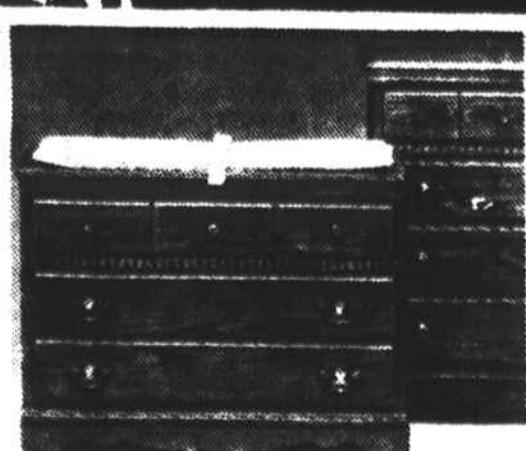
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