

People

CLOSE-UP

Hairston: Living with lupus

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Chronicle Intern

Imagine for a moment, if you will, that you are holding a newborn baby in the palm of your hands and suddenly you lose sensations in your hands and control over the infant. The situation would not only prove frightening but almost fatal to the infant as well.

This was the case for Vickie Hairston, 12 years ago when she experienced her first stage of lupus erythematosus. Because her husband was nearby at the time, their infant child was saved.

"Just because you have a chronic disease doesn't mean that you have to be all teary-eyes and angry because life is just too short."

-- Vickie Hairston --

At 38 years old, Mrs. Hairston suffers from Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, a severe form of Lupus Erythematosus.

Lupus Erythematosus, or lupus as it is commonly known, is a chronic inflammatory disease affecting connective tissues.

There are two major forms of lupus -- systemic lupus and discoid lupus.

The discoid affects only the skin. It may cause raised, scaly skin areas. It is a relatively mild form of the disease. This skin form may also cause irregular bald spots on the scalp.

The second type usually more severe, is Systemic Lupus which involves the internal organs and systems of the body. If it is not controlled it can result in damage to vital organs such as kidneys, brain, heart and lungs and, occasionally, may result in death.

This form of lupus is usually present for a lifetime. But patients tend to have periods during which the disease seems to disappear and during this period the disease is called "in remission."

Remissions may last from weeks to years.

Mrs. Hairston says that when her first stage of lupus occurred in 1975, she did not think about it because the summer passed without her having further complications.

Two months later, however, she experienced difficulties with her hands again.

An accounts receivable and accounts payable clerk at Piedmont Airlines at the time, Mrs. Hairston says she flew to Duke Hospital in September, 1977 and was advised then that she would have to stay for two weeks.

"My hands were very tough and hard like alligator skin," said Mrs. Hairston.

She said the doctors diagnosed that she had scleroderma, which is a gradual swelling or tightening of the skin on the fingers but she later learned that the diagnosis was not correct.

Mrs. Hairston said that after she was released from Duke she had to still make trips to the hospital for about six visits.

"Each time I went I would feel so sicker," Mrs. Hairston says. "At the time they didn't know I had lupus and a lot of moving was flaring it up."

Prior to the beginning of her visit to Duke, Mrs. Hairston was taking 120 kilograms daily. However, her doctor took her off of the steroids and she became ill.

"Having taken a 120 kilograms for six months and getting off them suddenly throws the body off," she says. "I just felt like somebody had drained all the blood and energy out of my body."

Mrs. Hairston was admitted into Baptist Hospital for two weeks where it was then diagnosed that she had systemic lupus.

"When they told me that I had it I didn't take it too serious because I didn't know much about it," she says. "I just kept hush-hush about it and just tried to explain to people that I had arthritis."

Mrs. Hairston was then directed by her physician



Vickie Hairston and her daughter: I told them if the Lord takes me on, they must live a Christian life so that one day I can see them in heaven (photo by Mike Cunningham).

to take a leave from her Piedmont Airlines job for six weeks to rest.

Mrs. Hairston said she went back to work for about a month but got sick again with a fever. Her lupus had gone through remission.

"Sometimes you just feel great and all of a sudden something just flares it up," says Mrs. Hairston, who was out of work for about 12 weeks. "This went on for about a month. I would work a couple of months and be out again."

When she went back to her Piedmont job her supervisor told her that he wanted to put her back on the spit shift that she had worked before getting a promotion. The spit shift hours were from 5:30-9:30 a.m. and in the afternoon from 5:30-8 p.m.

"I told my supervisor that I could handle a full time job but he told me to either take that or quit," she

said. Mrs. Hairston said she decided to quit the job and that was the last job she ever had.

"It's kind of frightening to know that you have something and no one understands what you have," she said. "I knew that I was a company risk but I just never told my supervisor that I had lupus because I was scared that he would fire me."

Since she contracted the disease, Mrs. Hairston says that employment has been difficult to find.

"I have been turned down from so many jobs because I have lupus," she says. "My doctor told me not to say that I had Lupus on job applications but rather say that I have an 'arthritic problem.'"

Mrs. Hairston said that she became excited in

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Area Boy Scout troops gear up for special Carowinds trip and other activities

Cub Scouts, Webelos, boy scouts and explorers from throughout the southeast are invited to the 12th annual boy scout days and encampment at Carowinds 77-acre theme park on Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 3-4.

In its 12th year, this unique scouting event offers you den, pack, troop or post a day or week end of fun and excitement that they will always remember.

Carowinds boy scout encampment weekend is set for Sept. 25-27.

During this special weekend,

scouts are invited to experience a one-of-a-kind camping adventure in a primitive campground setting. Special activities planned for the encampment weekend include a bonfire, leaders' reception and a movie under the stars!

During the day on Saturday and Sunday, scouts of all ages and leaders will enjoy all the rides, shows, shops, games and fun at the Carolinas' best entertainment attraction - Carowinds, for a special low price!

For those dens, packs, troops

and post unable to visit Carowinds during the encampment weekend (Sept. 25-27) they extended the special boy scout days discount



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District Executive



park admission ticket price an additional weekend to Oct. 3 and 4.

The primitive camping area will be in a specially designated area of the Carowinds campground.

Scouts may camp in the encampment area only on Friday and Saturday nights (Sept. 25 and 26). The primitive camping area



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will not be available on Oct. 3 and 4.

Encampment registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25. Only scout troops in tents may

camp in the encampment area free of charge. Wheeled vehicles will not be permitted.

Carowinds will provide portajons, drinking water, first aid services and 24-hour security.

Each den, pack, troop or post is responsible for bringing its own camping gear, stoves, grills and water jugs. Open wood fires will not be permitted. Don't delay! Make plans now for your scouts to join in the fun by picking up the ticket order from to Carowinds from the council office.

Scout Trivia questions will be included in this article weekly. The winner will receive a prize from the Scout office. Contact Carlton Crump at 723-5506, with your answer.

During breaks on a long hike, the best way for a Scout to rest is

- A. Flat on his back on the ground
- B. On the ground with his legs raised
- C. On the ground with his back raised
- D. Leaning on an object

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUG. 13

The Arts Council will hold Outta the Bag concerts from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Blues artist, The Jimmies, will perform, WSJS Solid Gold Lunch will perform selections from the 50s & 60s on Friday, Aug. 14, and Spatz will perform music from the 20s, 30s, & 40s. On Mon. Aug. 17, Split Decision will perform Nostalgia on Tues. Aug. 18 and Frynz will perform Jazz/Fusion on Wed. Aug. 19.

The community artists series will offer instructions in drawing, fibers, mixed media, painting and sculpture for the entire family. The event will be held at Southfork Recreation Center, Brown & Douglass Recreation Center on Aug. 18 and Rupert Bell Recreation Center on Aug. 20.

SATURDAY, AUG. 15

Soccer demonstrations and TRA demonstrations will be held during Super Saturday for Kids at the Winston-Salem Recreation Department. The event is co-sponsored by the Triad Songwriters and WXII 12.

SUNDAY, AUG. 16

Ebony & Ivory of Dallas will hold an audition for a fall fashion show at 3 p.m. at Club Alladin, 601 N. Liberty St.

MONDAY, AUG. 17

The Urban Arts Council presents "Evenings in the Neighborhood" concerts featuring bluegrass artist

Wes Golding Surefire and gospel artists, the Craft Brothers. Performances will begin at 7 p.m. at the Lewisville Library. Blues artist, The Jimmies will perform Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. at Southside Library. The concerts are free and open to the public.

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SOCIAL NOTES

Beta Alpha Chapter attends recent national convention

The Fifty-Eighth anniversary of the national convention of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. was held July 23-29 in Fresno, Calif. at the Piccadilly University Inn with Gamma Eta as host chapter.

Members from Beta Alpha Chapter attending were Alice Carter, Daisy Durrah, Tressie Ellis, Ericsteen Lash, Thelma Small, Mary Wheeler, Arrie Wright and Virginia Wright. Thelma Barnett of the Pelati Auxiliary and John Wright of the Lambds Auxiliary also attended.

The National Convention theme was "Women Committed to Excellence Through Action"

The convention was declared in session on Fri. July 24 with national president, Billie O'Glover presiding.

The week-long schedule of meetings, activities and events included eight business sessions, the Soror of the Year dinner, the chapter President's luncheon, the Business Woman and Woman luncheon and the Lambds and



Local residents attending the recent Iota Phi Lambda convention, from left, were Tressie Ellis, Ericsteen Lash, Arrie Wright, Virginia Wright, Thelma Small, Mary Wheeler and , seated, Alice Carter.

Pelati Auxiliaries Dinner.

A bus tour to Yosemite National Park was taken on Tues. July 28.

The culmination of the convention was an awards and

fellowship banquet. Beta Alpha chapter was the recipient of the highest number of awards. Its president, Alice Carter, received the Southern Region's award as the most outstanding president.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. was founded June 1, 1929 in Chicago, Ill by the late Lolaa Mercedes Parker for women in business and related fields.

Winston Lake YMCA honors grads, parents at appreciation program

A "Parent Appreciation Day" was held June 14 by the Preschool Child care Center at the Winston Lake Family YMCA.

The activity was held to celebrate the departure of

kindergarten of six children and to recognize the efforts of their parents. The program featured the children enrolled in the center. The younger children, taught by Trina Blackmon, sang song titles from

their storytimes.

The older children, taught by the lead teacher, Barbara Harriett, presented several titles. e

Graduating seniors were Kristen Dobbins, Jarrett Crompton,

Tommoris Ellis, Tiffany Dunlap, Learmond Hayes and Edward Brown, Jr.

Comments and words of praise were presented by Mrs. Harriet and Satia Orange.