

HEALTH & WELLNESS

ISSUES CONCERNING THE WELL-BEING OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Healthbeat

Pre-race event held to promote the Komen N.C. Triad Race for the Cure on May 5

To raise awareness of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and to promote participation for the second annual Komen N.C. Triad Race for the Cure on May 5, Triad area motorcycle enthusiasts, volunteers and sponsors presented an exciting pre-race event. On April 29 at 1 p.m. motorcyclists departed from Thruway Shopping Center in Winston-Salem on the first leg of the N.C. Triad Bikers' Tour for the Cure. Riders joined the tour at stops at Greensboro Harley Davidson and High Point Harley Davidson. Celebrities included Cindy Farmer and Rich Brenner of FOX8 TV and Big Paul of WTQR Radio.

The Komen N.C. Triad Race for the Cure will be held on May 5 beginning at Salem Square in Old Salem, Winston-Salem. Seventy-five percent of the net proceeds will be awarded as local grants for education, screening and treatment of underserved women in the N.C. Triad area, with the balance going to support the Komen Foundation's national grant program.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died of breast cancer at the age of 36. From its inception through the end of fiscal year 2000, the foundation has raised more than \$300 million for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment programs across the country. The foundation is an international organization with a network of more than 35,000 volunteers working through 111 affiliates fighting to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease.

For more information on the local affiliate or the 2001 Komen Race for the Cure, call (336) 721-0037 or visit online at www.triadrace.com.

Dirty footbaths blamed for outbreak of boils

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - At least 109 women who got pedicures at a California nail salon developed boils from bacteria in the shop's footbaths, health officials say.

The type of bacteria is common, but the outbreak last year in Watsonville is the first documented case at a nail salon in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

The boils were caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium fortuitum*, which was found in the whirlpool footbaths used at Fancy Nails to relax customers and soften their skin, the CDC reported last Thursday.

Customers began developing the boils last April. They were given antibiotics, and in some cases, the infections took as long as six months to treat. Some of the women were permanently scarred.

Investigators found that women who had shaved their legs before soaking in the baths had a higher risk of contracting the bacteria.

Tuan Ngo, owner of the salon, closed the shop in October and the state suspended his license for 90 days for keeping dirty footbaths. He was also billed nearly \$19,000 for the cost of the investigation.

Because of the outbreak, the state Bureau of Barbering and Cosmetology is drawing up regulations for cleaning and disinfecting footbaths.

House approves prescription drug proposal

RALEIGH (AP) - A proposal to use some of North Carolina's share of a national tobacco settlement to help seniors pay for prescription drugs was unanimously approved by the state House on Thursday.

The plan would require the Health and Wellness Trust Fund board, overseeing 25 percent of the \$4.6 billion the state will receive from cigarette makers, to provide money to programs to help seniors buy prescription drugs.

The legislation, sponsored by Democratic leaders in the House, comes on the heels of similar proposals by Gov. Mike Easley and House Republicans.

The bill originally would have only encouraged the trust fund board to help provide money for prescription drug proposals. House Republicans, though, pushed through a change that would require the board to use some of that money for that purpose.

Rep. David Redwine, D-Brunswick, said he believed the original bill would have made lawmakers' intent clear. The appointments to the board are split among the governor, House speaker and Senate leader.

"If this body sends this to them without the requirement, I think they pretty much get the message that this is what we want them to do," Redwine said.

But Rep. Debbie Clary, R-Cleveland, said the trust fund board would still have plenty of flexibility because the House proposal doesn't specify an amount to spend.

Unlike the House plan, Easley's proposal calls for developing a specific program to help seniors with prescription drugs. Some of the trust fund money would be funneled into the program.

Easley has estimated the cost of a such a program would run anywhere from \$15 million to \$30 million a year depending on its specifics and how much Congress decides to supplement prescription drug costs.

Health system receives \$1.2 million in honor of physician who practiced at Wesley Long Hospital

GREENSBORO - A former surgeon who practiced at Wesley Long Community Hospital and his wife have been memorialized with a \$1.2 million gift to Moses Cone Health System. The donation was given by the estate and in memory of Dr. William and Katherine W. Norment.

Most of the gift will be used in the development of an outpatient surgical center at Wesley Long Community Hospital.

"That's a most appropriate use of this generous donation," said Dennis Barry, chief executive officer, Moses Cone Health System. "Dr. Norment was a general surgeon and inventor who would, no doubt, be quite pleased to help this surgery center become a reality on the campus of a hospital he loved."

A memorial honoring Dr. and Mrs. Norment will be part of the center. The Greensboro Historical Medical Library will receive \$50,000 of the gift.

Norment was one of 12 doctors who purchased Wesley Long Community Hospital from Dr. John Wesley Long in 1931. Norment served the hospital as chief of surgery from 1961-67. He also served on the medical board until his retirement in 1976. Norment received numerous honors for his invention of the hysteroscope, an instrument used to detect tumors in the uterus. One of his hysteroscopes is part of the collection of the Greensboro Historical Medical Library.

Survey reveals U.S. apathy toward international AIDS crisis

Minorities especially unconcerned about issues

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

SEATTLE - Despite widespread awareness of the international AIDS crisis, more than half of Americans are not likely to donate to AIDS education and prevention programs or to assist children orphaned by the pandemic overseas, according to a national survey released last week.

Roughly three out of four Americans are aware that many countries have a large population of AIDS victims; nearly a third are very familiar with the AIDS epidemic overseas, the Barna Research poll found. In addition, 61 percent of Americans are unlikely to help overseas AIDS prevention and education programs and 54 percent are unlikely to help AIDS orphans.

Barna's random telephone survey of 1,003 U.S. adults was commissioned by World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization. "We wanted to measure Americans' attitudes about and awareness of the international AIDS crisis," said Richard Stearns, president. "Needless to say, the results are deeply troubling, given that 73 percent of Americans - among the most charitable people in the world - say they are aware or very familiar with the issue, but are still not likely to help the international AIDS crisis."

"Regrettably, this fits into the general landscape of a nation with decreasing support for problems outside its borders. What seems new is the fact that knowledge of the issue has minimal impact on people's concern, or their willingness to give their time or funds to the cause," Stearns said.

Local community outreach programs among six in nation to get federal funds

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Two community outreach programs affiliated with Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center have been selected for a National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) project to prevent and control heart disease and promote heart-healthy behavior.

The NHLBI has announced a partnership with six programs nationwide to ensure that the latest information on heart disease and stroke prevention reaches people in low-income and minority communities. The selected communities have coronary heart disease and stroke death rates that exceed national averages.

"Despite the scientific and technological advances in cardiovascular medicine during the past 50 years, many Americans are not enjoying the improvements in health that application of existing information has the potential to offer," said Dr. Claude Lenfant, NHLBI director. "The NHLBI is taking aggressive steps to enhance dissemination and outreach activities to address this disturbing problem."

The Medical Center-affiliated programs are HEARTQUEST in Columbus and Robeson counties and the DR CHIP program in the Dan River region of Virginia. The NHLBI says these are among the first of a network of community-based organizations that will implement culturally sensitive heart health education strategies.

HEARTQUEST (Heart Attack and Stroke Education, Awareness, Rapid Response, Treatment Adherence, Quality Enhancement through Science Translation) is designed to improve health-care services in the rural and ethnically diverse counties of Columbus and Robeson. The area has one of the highest rates of cardiovascular disease mortality in the nation.

Ronny Bell, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health sciences at WFUBMC, will work with local organizations to implement a variety of health-care activities. The program will include physician training, health fairs, training for lay educators and an effort to educate the community about responding quickly to heart attack symptoms.

"We are excited about this opportunity to partner with the NHLBI in this very worthwhile endeavor," said Bell. "The data clearly show that Robeson and Columbus counties have a tremendous need to address cardiovascular health."

DR CHIP (Dan River Region Cardiovascular Health Initiative Program) has been providing car-

The Barna Research Group, which has conducted national polls since 1984, drew several other conclusions from the latest survey:

- Lack of money, concern about domestic issues and commitment to other charitable causes are the top reasons Americans stated they would not be interested in donating to overseas AIDS-related causes.

- African Americans are the most likely of any demographic group to say that they would definitely support either AIDS education and prevention programs (19 percent) or AIDS orphans (20 percent).

- Hispanics also showed above-average support, as did unmarried adults and adults under age 36.

- Among the least likely group to support AIDS-related causes were seniors and married adults.

"The overall poll results are alarming, especially considering the AIDS epidemic is literally ripping the fabric of society in many African nations," said Stearns.

Since the AIDS epidemic began, more than 18 million lives have been claimed by AIDS - almost 15 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa. There are more than 13 million AIDS orphans. The AIDS toll can be expected to double over the next decade.

World Vision, one of the largest privately funded Christian humanitarian organizations in the world, started its first AIDS programs a decade ago. The organization's first work included assistance for AIDS orphans and their foster families in Uganda, care for HIV-infected babies and children in Romania, and sup-



New study says that minorities in this country are not concerned about the AIDS crisis in places like Africa.

port for teens and young women escaping prostitution in Thailand. Today, World Vision is helping combat AIDS throughout Africa, Asia and other parts of the world.

'Stop Childhood Poisoning'

Are your kids protected from poisons in your home?

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

In the next 30 seconds, a child will be poisoned somewhere in America. In 30 minutes, almost anyone can learn how to prevent that from happening, according to a news release about a statewide program to teach North Carolinians how to poison-proof their homes that was launched recently in Raleigh.

Built on the theme "Stop Childhood Poisoning...because you can," the N.C. Pediatric Poison Prevention Project, a public-private partnership, will teach families and other caregivers how they can prevent accidental childhood poisonings by learning to identify, handle and safely store potential hazards around the house.

Wake Forest University School of Medicine is coordinating the project and conducting a yearlong research study that will evaluate its effectiveness and suitability as a national model.

Shari Barkin, M.D., pediatrician in the Department of Pediatrics, and Darrell Sumner, Ph.D., a toxicologist in the department of physiology and pharmacology - both at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center - are working on the N.C. Pediatric Poison Prevention Project. Other agencies involved are the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, The Carolinas Poison Center, N.C. State University, the Consumer Specialty Products Association and concerned children's advocates statewide. Carolinas Poison Center, a division of Carolinas Medical Center, is the designated Statewide Poison Center of North Carolina and certified as a Regional Poison Control Center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

In an interview last Thursday, Sumner discussed potential poisons in and around the home and how to make the home safer.

Sumner said, "It is we adults, people who care for children, who can stop the poisoning." He said young kids don't know the difference between, say, a green drink product and anti-freeze or a blue drink product and windshield washer fluid.

"The program focuses on children. I tend to ... focus on toddlers. They are the ones in greatest risk," Sumner said.

Items on Sumner's poison or danger list include:

- "Keep in mind toddlers can't read; keep all these things that can be harmful out of reach of



Medicines and many household products should be kept out of reach of children, officials say.

children," Sumner said.)

- "Mouthwash contains a high level of alcohol," Sumner said. "A child can drink a dangerous amount of alcohol by drinking mouthwash, depending on the weight of the child and the amount of alcohol."

- In the kitchen, remove cleaning products, dishwashing products and drain cleaners, especially drain cleaners. Toddlers move very quickly. They can get under the sink and can get into anything there. Move these items out of reach of children and, if possible, out of sight.

- Do not place medicines on counters or in open areas. Keep all medications out of reach of children and out of sight.

- Many hardware stores sell child safety latches. Use them on doors where sharp objects and toxins are stored.

- Never store a toxic product near food, and never store a toxic product in a food container. A lot of poisonings have occurred, say, when a toxin such as ammonia for cleansing was put in a soft drink bottle. "Children mimic what we (adults) do. We drink from soft-drink bottles," Sumner said.

- In the bathroom - medications, cosmetics, hair-care products, mouthwash, bathroom cleansers. Keep them out of reach and preferably out of sight.

- Clean out the medicine storage area regularly. "The usual thing we say is to flush the old

medicine down the toilet," Sumner said.

- "Keep all medicines in the original child-resistant containers. Child-proof caps are not childproof; they just slow down the access so we can catch them before children get in any harm. They are not truly childproof. They are child resistant and they slow the access," Sumner said.

- In the bedroom - Medicines tend to show up in the bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. Other potential poisons include colognes, after shave, cosmetics and powders. Do not keep any of these items on the night stand, dresser or in a drawer that is easily accessible.

- In the laundry room - laundry bleaches, soaps, detergents, fabric softeners and sprays, such as anti-cling sprays or cleaning sprays for particularly soiled areas. A child can turn that spray toward his or her face and push the button down.

- In the garage or basement - insect sprays, rat and roach killers, lawn-care products, gasoline, paint, paint thinner, home-care products and car-care products. "We have a lot of toxic things we use in our cars," Sumner said.

- "Keep everything in the original containers," he said. "Be extremely careful with these around toddlers."

- General household - It's wise to have storage areas for medicines and other dangerous items, areas that are either locked