

# Report Says North Carolina Has Critical Shortage Of Podiatrists

by Tom Ricketts  
Special To The Post

CHAPEL HILL -- North Carolinians face a critical shortage of podiatrists according to an article appearing in the current issue of ACTION, the quarterly newsletter of the North Carolina Health Manpower Development Program.

Podiatrists are health professionals who provide specialized care and treatment including surgery, for the human leg and foot. Although up to 70 percent of the state's population -- over 3 1/2 million people -- suffer from some form of foot problem, ACTION reported, there are only 66 podiatrists in

North Carolina or one for every 88,000 people, four times worse than the national average.

Dr. J. Barry Johnson, president of the N.C. Podiatry Society, commented in ACTION on the shortage of podiatrists in general and especially minority podiatrists in North Carolina. "There is tremendous need for podiatrist in this state," he said. "The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has determined that every county in North Carolina, with the exception of Forsyth is an area of need for a podiatrist."

"We presently have no black or indian podiatrists in North Carolina although 22 percent of the population are minorities," he said.

"The need for black podiatrist is well-documented in that the incidence of serous foot problems in the black population is higher than that for the nonblack population."

"As a result," he continued, "the black communities of our larger North Carolina cities have a dire need for podiatric services."

The current issue of ACTION is highlighting the practice of podiatry and opportunities among minorities for a career in podiatric medicine. The newsletter is distributed to college and high school counselors, health sciences instructors, premedical advisers and health professionals as part of the North Carolina Health Manpower Development Program's (NCHMDP) effort to increase the number of minorities in the health professions.

The newsletter urges counselors and instructors to include podiatry among the choices presented to students interested in medical careers, said Lavonia Allison, director of NCHMDP. "Podiatry is often misunderstood and thought of as something less than a full-fledged medical profession," she said. "This, of course

is not the case."

To enter a school of podiatric medicine a student must first complete two or three years of undergraduate science preparation. Most students entering podiatry school have completed undergraduate school or hold advanced degrees.

Four years of training await the prospective doctor of podiatric medicine, two years in preclinical preparation and two years of clinical work. Third- and fourth-year podiatry students often receive their clinical training in general hospitals along with medical students.

The podiatry school's curricula are very similar to the programs offered at medical schools, with one major exception -- the structure, function and nature of the foot and leg are investigated very extensively.

Doctors of podiatric medicine make up an integral part of America's total health care effort, (Mrs.) Allison said. Podiatrists screen their patients to general practitioners when they uncover evidence of systemic diseases and disorders like diabetes, arthritis and peripheral vascular disease.

The five colleges of podiatric medicine in the United States in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland and San Francisco have expanded in an attempt to meet the demand for podiatrists. They are also committed, Allison said, to increasing their minority enrollments; three of the schools have begun active recruitment programs directed toward blacks, Indians, Orientals and people of Spanish heritage.

The N.C. Health Manpower Development Program can provide students interested in a career in podiatric medicine complete information concerning the podiatry schools and the profession in general.



### WEDDING PLANS

A May 8 wedding is planned by Miss Peggy Ann Hemphill and Alfred J. Finch, Jr.

Their engagement has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie C. Hemphill of 427 South Ramsey St.

The bride-elect, a graduate of York Road High School, Bennett College and Virginia Commonwealth University, is coordinator of Adolescent and

Social Worker Programs at the Developmental Services Center in Washington, D.C.

Her fiance, son of Mrs. A.J. Finch and the late Mr. Finch, is a detective for the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington. He attended American University, where he majored in Criminal Justice.

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# WHAT SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS ABOUT ANOTHER GOOD SENATOR....

*"Long before civil rights was a winning issue, Henry M. Jackson was standing in the front ranks of those who were fighting for even the most limited victories:*

- To abolish the poll tax;
- To abolish segregated hospitals built with Federal funds;
- To create a civil rights division in the Department of Justice;
- To establish a Federal Civil Rights Commission."

*"Scoop" Jackson was there when the major victories of the mid-60's finally were achieved:*

- Equal access to public accommodations;
- Equal opportunity in jobs and housing;
- Meaningful guarantees, enforced by the Federal Government, on the right to vote;
- And all the other landmark victories that ended legalized discrimination in American life."

*Remarks by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey introducing Sen. Henry M. Jackson, May 13, 1975.*

*Sen. Humphrey spoke of the headline victories. He knows Sen. Jackson's record in the civil rights is widely known and respected. These respected North Carolinians know Sen. Jackson's record, too, and they stand with the Senator in the North Carolina Presidential Primary:*

- State Senator Fred Alexander of Charlotte;
- Mrs. H. M. "Mickey" Michaux of Durham;
- City Councilman William Knight of Raleigh;
- Dr. Roy Moore of Greensboro;
- The Rev. James McIlwaine of Salisbury;
- Lee R. Morgan of New Bern, former Mayor Pro-Tem.



## Vote For Sen. Henry Jackson

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