

by Brenda Kennedy BSN

A Black Perspective

You & Your Health



Brenda

Sudden Infant Death

There are probably many unanswered questions in all our minds about this week's topic, questions we are sometimes afraid to ask. The syndrome of sudden, unexplained death in infancy continues to puzzle those in the area of medicine throughout the world. Even though, there has been an increase in attention to this problem over the past decade, evidence clearly indicates an episode of sudden infant death excludes the possibility of accidental or intentional injury. It is estimated that 10,000 to 25,000 sudden unexplained infant deaths occur each year in the United States; the syndrome ranks as the greatest single cause of death between the ages of 1 week and 1 year.

Sudden infant death, also referred to as "Crib Death", really affects the black population each year. Within the U.S., the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome rate among black infants is twice that for white infants, but it is believed that the cause for this is more socioeconomic than genetic.

Research of the circumstances surrounding these deaths reveals certain common features. In most cases, death occurs silently in well-developed infants who are asleep. The affected infants generally are between 2 weeks and 6 months of age; incidence peaks between the ages of 1 and 3 months. Most cases

occur in clusters during the winter and early spring months. As many as 50 percent of the victims have a history of minor illness, usually of the upper respiratory tract (such as a cold), shortly prior to death, although the symptoms are not sufficiently severe to cause alarm. It has been discovered that the lungs of these infants did have some minor abnormalities. There is then no known way of preventing or treating sudden infant deaths.

If you know of a family or parents who have lost a child this way, it is very important to support them in any way possible. Church and other groups can play a very important part here, to help the parents or family through the grieving period. If you are the parents, remember that this was something that could not have been prevented. Ask questions that are on your mind concerning the infant's death. The questions that are asked of you are all legal type questions that must be answered. There is a National Foundation for Sudden Infant Death and they are willing to help if the need does arise. You may wish help in talking with and explaining this to the other children in the family. If you feel the need to discuss this, planning for other children, etc., feel free to contact your family physician, nurse or other health-related persons near your family.

Phyllis George To Host CBS

Tournament Of Roses Parade

Bob Barker and Phyllis George will host the "CBS Tournament of Roses Parade", a special live broadcast of the 90th annual New Year's Day event from Pasadena, California, Monday, January 1, at 11:30 on WBTV, Channel 3.

The theme of this edition of the Tournament of Roses Parade is "Our Wonderful World of Sports". Sixty-one flower-covered floats, as well as 22 bands with over 4,000

musicians and 250 equestrian riders in 34 marching units, will take part in the five-and-a-half mile parade through the streets of Pasadena.

The parade's grand marshal will be Lathrop K. "Lay" Leishman, a long-time member and former president (1939) of the Tournament of Roses Association. Appropos of the parade's sports theme, Leishman was instrumental in arranging the exclusive Rose Bowl pact between the Big Ten and Pacific-10 football

conferences.

This year's Rose Queen is 17-year-old Catherine Mary Gilmour, a senior at La Canada (California) High School. Miss Gilmour is the second consecutive Rose Queen from La Canada High School, succeeding Marie Lynn Caron.

Bob Barker stars on the Network on "The Price Is Right" and has hosted the Network coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade since 1969. He has also hosted the "Miss Universe Beauty Pageant", the "Miss USA Beauty Pageant" and "The Indianapolis 500 Parade".

Miss George starred this season on "People". The former Miss America (1971) has co-hosted "The Miss America Pageant" for the last seven years and the 1976 and 1978 "Tournament of Roses Parade" broadcasts.

Doug Mayes To Visit West Charlotte

"On The Square," a WBTV news feature hosted by Doug Mayes, will be filmed at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, N.C. on Tues., Jan. 2, at 12 noon. Mayes and a special WBTV news camera crew will be at the school campus to talk with the students about topics of current interest for the Channel 3 camera.

"On The Square" has become a well accepted vehicle for citizens to state personal opinions heard by a large audience. It's a chance for the

everyday viewer to express his feelings about the world in which we live.

Doug Mayes is easily one of the most recognizable personalities in the two Carolinas. For more than twenty years he has reported on every news event in the WBTV News region.

How About

Growing Your

Own Tree!

Distressed over the rising cost of Christmas trees? Then look to the future and grow your own!

This is the suggestion from the Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District Office, which is again sponsoring the Christmas Tree Seedling Sale as a service to the public.

One-year old loblolly pine seedlings are on sale at the district office, 1501 I-85 (old Carver College building on the service road to I-85, at Beatties Ford Road), for 10 cents a piece.

If you really want a bargain, buy 200 or more seedlings.

Get In On the Action!



Award-winning Reporter Art Norman, a Johnson C. Smith University graduate, gives you up-to-the-minute facts on the scene for Action News 36.

He's worth watching!

Action News 36
Weeknites 7 and 11pm

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