

# 73,000 Blacks Will Have Cancer?

In 1979, about 73,000 black Americans will be diagnosed as having cancer; about 44,000 will die of the disease. Recent studies have shown that blacks are getting some forms of cancer more than ever before and that a black person with cancer is more likely to die from it than a white person with the same kind of cancer.

In the past 25 years, the overall cancer incidence rate for blacks went up eight percent while for whites it dropped three percent. During this period, cancer mortality for blacks increased 26 percent; for whites it rose five percent.

Most of the differences in black and white cancer rates have been attributed to environmental and social factors rather than to inherent biological characteristics. For example, blacks generally have a greater risk of exposure to industrial carcinogens and are more likely to live in cities where the rates of all forms of cancer in all races are higher than in rural areas. But the most important factor

is the use of good medical care. In general blacks have had less access to regular medical care and have not taken full advantage of medical facilities that are available. More blacks could be saved if they were to: 1) learn about available tests for cancer and the importance of early detection; 2) have regular check-ups; 3) contact a doctor as soon as a warning signal is noticed; and 4) know that many forms of cancer can be treated successfully.

The American Cancer Society has committed itself to developing a method of combating the problem of rising cancer incidence and death rates for blacks. National ACS President LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D. of Howard University has requested that each unit throughout the nation participate in an effort to reach the black members of its community. "Our Mecklenburg Unit is organizing a Task Force chaired by Tolly Kennon, D.D.S., to design and imple-

ment a comprehensive program to educate the local black population about the dangers of cancer and ways to protect themselves from it," Dr. Leffall stated.

He concluded, "We will be contacting you soon about this

vital committee and hope that you will be as enthusiastic about its potential as we are. It is only through the joint participation and cooperation of various sectors within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community that the success of this program can be realized."

## Common Use Of Vaccinations

Immunizations against the childhood diseases have been one of the most important medical discoveries of the twentieth century. The common use of vaccinations against diseases such as polio, measles, whooping cough, etc., has freed almost everyone from the crippling if not fatal complications of these diseases.

With the memory of the effects of these diseases growing dimmer with the passing years many forget that unless children are adequately immunized the possibility of these diseases recurring becomes more probable. Sadly enough, every case will have been avoidable.

While infants receive "passive immunity" against infections from their mothers, this protection does not last. This is why it is so important that children receive immunization against the childhood diseases. There is no reason to expose them to diseases that are entirely preventable.

When a person is immunized a mild form of the particular disease is produced and the body reacts against it without becoming sick. Immunity acquired in this way, or by having the disease itself, is known as active immunity. It is also long-lasting since the body cells have learned how to resist later invasions of the same disease-producing germs.



Tara Sinclair, age 11 of 3025 Stancel Place, gets her Harvey Gantt for Mayor "balloon" from "balloon man" Jerry Springs (L) during last week's voter registration drive in the Cherry Community. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

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Wedding Announcement

Gloria Kendrick and Roger Clifton Brown exchanged wedding vows Saturday at her home on 1814 Haines Street. Rev. Raymond Worsley, pastor of First United Presbyterian Church, performed the ceremony.

The bride, who wore a misty grey gown, was given in marriage by her son, James Donald Kendrick. The groom's best man was the late John Maxwell.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Lucy Maxwell of 1814 Haines Street and the late John Maxwell. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Brown of Philadelphia, Pa.

The bride is a driver for Carolina Freight.

## ADA Proposes New Standards

### for Food Stamp Offices

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed new minimum standards for hours of operation of food stamp offices, according to assistant secretary Carol Tucker.

"In cities and counties we are able to comply with minimal changes in their curricula," Ms. Forman said.

Mecklenburg County officials are reviewing the new requirements of the new standards, said Ms. Linda Cook, director of the Mecklenburg County food stamp program.

New regulations would require food stamp offices to be open at least six hours a week.

Under the proposal, this requirement could be met by mailing stamps to participants.

Although Mecklenburg County does not mail food stamps, 16 offices distribute stamps to recipients and authorized representatives.

In June, 33,000 individuals from 11,025 households received food stamps, according to Ms. Cook.

"This represents an increase since January of an average of 250 more applications per month," she said. "But not all applicants are eligible for food stamps," she pointed out.

"No plans exist to open new offices for distribution of stamps or certification," Ms. Cook said, "although more workers are needed to meet the demand of certifying applicants."

Keep your out-of-town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of the Charlotte Post each week.

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