

One Million Teen-Agers Become Pregnant Each Year

By Susan Ellsworth
Post-Staff Writer

One million teen-age girls become pregnant each year.

Many of their babies are birth defect victims who will suffer physical and mental handicaps while others will not live to celebrate their first birthday.

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

will hold its 30th annual Mother's March to request contributions and dispense an opinion survey on the issue of teen-age pregnancy.

Results will be used to plan national and health education programs for the prevention of birth defects and community programs reflecting health and educational needs.

Fifteen million Americans have birth defects and another 250,000 more babies become victims every year.

They suffer from mental retardation, blindness, deafness, missing limbs, defective blood cells, or body chemistry disorders.

Funds from the March of Dimes Mother's March are used for research, and edu-

cation drives for mass immunization against rubella and risk of alcohol and tobacco consumption during pregnancy.

A campaign to improve maternal nutrition and genetic counseling to alert parents to the danger of birth defects are also provided.

Teen-age women give birth to the highest per-

centage of babies having birth defects.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Health Department reports a 19.9 percent infant mortality rate in 1978 (includes low birth weight babies transferred in from other counties for intensive care).

In 1978, 30 percent of live births were to teens, ages 15 to 19. This represents 5,426 live births.

For 19 year olds and younger there are as many abortions as live births, according to James Bost, director of the Greater Piedmont Chapter of the March of Dimes.

"Half of all teen mothers aren't getting any prenatal care during the first three months," Bost said.

Low birth weight strong-

ly influences infant mortality. The incidence of low birth weight babies to North Carolina mothers under 15 is twice that for women in their late 20s.

The death rates for babies born to mothers under 18 are twice the rates for infants born to 20-29 year olds, according to research conducted by the March of Dimes.

Bost emphasized that the March of Dimes does not condone teenage pregnancies but works to help those women who are already pregnant to have healthy babies.

The Mother's March will be held Sunday, Jan. 27, he said, to raise \$50,000.

Volunteers number 4,500 in Mecklenburg County, 1,300 in Gaston, 300 in Union, and 200 in Anson County.

Cramton Predicts Housing Shortage

By Susan Ellsworth
Post-Staff Writer

How will the City of Charlotte prepare for growth during the 1980s?

"We have adopted a comprehensive plan," says Martin Cramton, director of the Planning Commission. "We're in the process in the first half of 1980 to determine if its valid and how to put the plan into effect."

Five study groups are meeting Jan. 21-March 10 to research and discuss issues in preparation for the Urban Symposium to be held April 14-15.

"The focus," Cramton said, "is concentrating on major issues instead of lesser issues of importance."

During 1980, Cramton

predicts a severe shortage of middle income housing. Providing for higher density is being examined as a possible solution.

City travel of the future poses the question should the city plan for a future with reliance on the automobile, or should Charlotte encourage mass transit?

Planners are attempting to use existing streets more efficiently while increasing support for a mass transit system.

Uptown development will concentrate on introducing more compact residential areas, meeting the demand for 2,600 middle income families, and have the potential for doubling jobs, Cramton said.

To encourage citizen involvement, according to

Cramton, Charlotte needs "stimulation of neighborhoods to discuss issues."

Some citizens want to become involved where the problem is defined rather than just discussing solutions at the hearings, he said.

The planning capability of the government "to effectively plan for growth and implement plans," will

be examined by the study groups.

As coordinator of the Urban Symposium, Cramton explained, "We're looking at the larger issues that touch everybody."

He said many citizens have come to expect city planners to take action in determining growth policies for the city.



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...From Bob Curry

Financial Planning Service Opens Here

The service to look for when it comes to financial planning is Curry's Insurance Advisory Clinic, also known as the Four Disciplines. It is located at 2202 Beatties Ford Rd.

Not only will an Insurance Advisor and underwriter, Bob Curry assist you, but an accountant, Andrew Gray; a Business Consultant and underwriter Wyndell Walden; a Banker, Steven Brown; a Trust Officer, Floyd Woodward; and a number of attorneys will be available to insure your financial independence.

"To my knowledge this is the first time in North Carolina that all of these professions have merged for the purpose of helping clients grow financially," Bob Curry, the president of the advisory clinic, said.

Only are involved with professionals, but we also work with down to earth, hard working people. Their problems are sometimes greater. We work with all segments of the community."

There is a broad range

NABA Offers Free Tax Help

Greensboro - The National Association of Black Accountants in Charlotte will offer free assistance in preparing income tax returns beginning January 26.

NABA members are in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service. The volunteers will prepare 1040A and 1040 forms, according to Ms. Avis Toppin and George Ledbetter, VITA Coordinators. They ask that taxpayers interested in free assistance bring their tax packages to the assistance sites along with their W-2 forms and other pertinent tax documents.

Baton Classes

Baton classes will be taught by Gloria Blackwell at West Charlotte Recreation Center beginning Friday, January 25, and will continue through March. These classes are taught each Friday from 6-7 p.m. The registration fee is \$1 per week.

Junior League Thrift Shop

Plans Bag Day Saturday, February 2, is once again BAG DAY at the Junior League's thrift shop THE WEARHOUSE. Between the hours of 9 and 4 smart shoppers may fill a bag full of top quality used clothing for only \$3. It's an ideal time to save on winter clothing for the entire family!

THE WEARHOUSE, 127 E. Fifth St. (across from Belk's uptown) is non-profit and benefits the Charlotte community.

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STARTING ON 27, Jan, 11:30 PM, WBTV TUNE IN THE SHOW THAT TUNES YOU IN.

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