



Dr. Robert L. Albright
.....Guest speaker

**MCAP To Hear
Dr Albright
February 2**

The Mecklenburg Council on Adolescent Pregnancy will hold its third Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 2, at noon, at the United Way Auditorium. The address is 301 S. Brevard Street. The guest speaker will be Dr. Robert L. Albright, President of Johnson C. Smith University.

The 1984 Board of Directors is as follows: Natalie Cohen—President, Richard Kenny, M.D.—Vice President, Eve Whipple—Treasurer, Verna Nelson—Secretary, Annie Byrd, Beverly Clark, MaryBeth Collins, Rev. Robert Dahms, Susan Davis, Michelle Dorsey, Patricia Heard, Barbara Huberman, Rev. Clifford Jones, Harriet "Sis" Kaplan, Neil Leach, Phyllis Lynch, Joanne McLeod, M.D., Vivian Nivens, Virginia Scheer, Kenneth Sipes, Carl Springs, John Stinner, Dorothy "Dolly" Tate, Lester Wallace, M.D., and Carrie Winter.

For reservations, please send a check for \$5 to the Mecklenburg Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, P. O. Box 36009, Charlotte, N.C. 28235, or call the Council office at 373-0200. Reservations deadline is January 27.

**CBL To
Host Monthly
Luncheon**

The Charlotte Business League will host its monthly luncheon, January 19 at McDonald's Cafeteria, Howell Hook, regional vice president of Wachovia Bank, and president of the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce will be the speaker.

His topic will be "The Charlotte Payroll Tax Proposal and Minority Economic Development." All interested Charlotteans are asked to attend the luncheon which begins at noon.

**Crawford To
Head Diabetes
Services**

Diabetes Services, a division of Community Health Services funded by United Way, proudly announces that John T. Crawford has been elected as president of the organization.

Mr. Crawford is Director of Youth Services with the Charlotte Housing Authority and has been an active member of the Diabetes Services Board for over seven years.

Mr. Crawford succeeds James W. Plong, M.D., as President.

Researchers Look For Clues To Treat Sickle Cell Anemia

By Bill Erwin
Duke Medical Center
Special To The Post
Genetic research in progress at Duke University Medical Center may help pave the way to a cure for sickle cell disease.

Dr. Russell Kaufman, assistant professor of medicine at DUMC, and his colleagues are developing

ways of compensating for the flawed genes inherited by sickle cell patients by inserting new genes into red cells.

The work was cited by Dr. Thomas Kinney, assistant professor of pediatrics and director of Duke's pediatric Sickle Cell Clinic. Kinney explains that sickle cell patients inherit

genes causing their red blood cells to collapse after giving up their oxygen to the tissues. For a time, the collapsed cells rebound, growing round again as they take on a load of oxygen, then collapsing into a sickle shape every time they release oxygen. Finally, some cells can no longer rebound. They

remain sickle shaped. They can then clog blood vessels, reducing nourishment to the part of the body served by those vessels.

When this happens, the patient suffers sickle cell crisis - pain, redness and swelling, Kinney said. Worse, the blockage can lead to stroke, lung damage, spleen destruction

and hip joint destruction.

Once a red cell becomes permanently sickled, scavenger cells remove it. This means the patient has fewer red cells than normal and becomes anemic.

Of several approaches to curing sickle cell disease, genetic manipulation seems the most promising, Kinney said.

"This is a very fast-moving field. It is probably where the ultimate cure will come from."

Kinney said Kaufman and his colleagues can now clone the genes that make normal hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen in red cells and that gives the cells their color.

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