

Gwen Harris Says: Women More Likely To Have Diabetes Than Men

The facts that women are 50 percent more likely to have diabetes than men, and non-whites are 20 percent more likely to have it than whites, were not the main reasons Gwen Harris decided to devote her time to finding a cure for Juvenile Diabetes.

"I am interested in being a part of something that affects everyone," Mrs. Harris began. "Diabetes affects every race. I want to be involved in finding the cure by fund raising efforts to obtain money for research and studies." Diabetes is now the third leading cause of death by disease.

As the only black on the 30-member Board of the Juvenile Diabetes in Charlotte, Mrs. Harris would like to see more blacks involved in fund raising events. For instance, in late September the local Juvenile Diabetes Board will present its first annual Walk-A-Thon. Gordon's Jewelers is the sponsor. An annual activity includes a roast of a celebrity (this year Doug Mayes received the honor). There are also attic sales and other activities sponsored by the foundation.

"We need volunteers in all of our activities," Mrs. Harris pointed out. As co-chairperson of the September Walk-A-Thon, Mrs. Harris also seeks increased membership in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International. Locally there are over 300 members. Yearly dues are \$15 per family. Sandy Tubor is also co-chairperson for the Walk-A-Thon.

The Board is also directly involved in educating the public about diabetes, awareness of the disease and family support. There are approximately 11,000 diabetics in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and 200-300 new cases in the area annually. The Charlotte foundation contributed over \$30,000 to diabetes research projects during '83 and '84. Internationally, the foundation has contributed over \$3 million. There are now 172 chapters in 43 states and 12 counties.

Mrs. Harris is interested in educating the public about diabetes. Many may not realize that there are two forms of diabetes: Juvenile (insulin-dependent or Type I) and Maturity-onset (Type II).



Gwen Harris
.....Chairs Walk-A-Thon

Aside from devoting much of her time to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International, Mrs. Harris is employed by the Housing Authority as Human Services Coordinator. She received her undergraduate degree from Clark College and is now working on her master's in human development at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Her parents are Thomas and Grace Wyche and she is married to Randy Harris, who is employed by Duke Power Company.

She attends First United Presbyterian Church, where she is a deacon and is also a member of the Friends of the Y and is a member of the N.C. Association of Counseling and Development. Her hobbies are traveling, cooking, horticulture, and working with the elderly.

Local president of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International is Lori Wojnowich. If you would like to volunteer your time and energy toward finding a cure for diabetes or simply for more information, call 553-CURE.

National Juneteenth Afro-American Cultural Society Will Celebrate Here

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

The National Juneteenth Afro-American Cultural Society will sponsor its annual Juneteenth Celebration in Charlotte from June 14 through June 22. The theme this year is "We Wear The Crown - An African American Cultural Explosion."

Juneteenth (June 19) celebrates the end of slavery in the United States and for years was widely celebrated in black communities as Black Independence Day. In recent years, and in Charlotte for the past eight years, Juneteenth has made a come-back as a day of celebration for blacks. In Texas, it is a state holiday. A statewide call is out for black Texans who may be living in North Carolina to join the celebration. Texas was where the Union Army finally freed the last slaves on June 19, 1865.

According to Carrie Graves and Marcia Dean, members of the Juneteenth committee, activities are scheduled for each day of the local eight-day celebration. Char-

lotte's Juneteenth will be receiving national coverage through filming of both the celebration and interviews on the history of blacks in Charlotte and their contributions to the Queen City.

Planned activities include the following:

-June 14: "We Are The World" Festival. Focus on youth. Black youth in the community will pay tribute to the youth of Ethiopia and South Africa.

-June 15: Walk-a-thon to raise funds for the peoples of Ethiopia and South Africa. Walk-a-thon route is from the Afro-American Cultural Center (Old Little Rock Church) to Morgan Park in Cherry, with line-up at 8:30 a.m. People are needed to sponsor walkers. Also on the 15th: Teach-in on gospel music by the Dixie Hummingbirds at Undercover Book Store and Afro-American Cultural Center; and other activities at Morgan Park at noon.

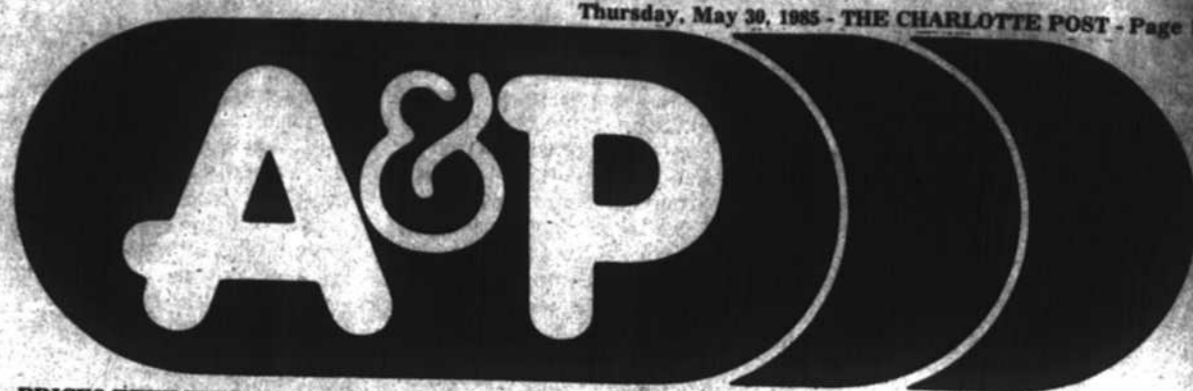
-June 16: A tribute to fathers, with the Dixie Hummingbirds in concert at West Charlotte High School auditorium at 3 p.m.

-June 17, 18, 20: Teach-ins and film festivals in various locations. Subjects include economics, militarism as it affects blacks, apartheid, music and other art forms.

-June 19: Banquet (location to be announced), with a memorial to the late Senator Fred D. Alexander and crowning of Juneteenth King, Queen and Mother Queen. There will also be a special radio interview with Stevie Wonder in support of the Juneteenth celebration.

-June 21: Gary Byrd will conduct teach-ins with youth on such subjects as drugs and drunk driving.

-June 22: Road Race and Parade of Flags. Line-up for the 10K race will be at 8 a.m., West Charlotte High School. The parade of African and Caribbean flags will begin at Johnson C. Smith at 9 a.m. There will also be activities throughout the day at Revolution Park, including rapping and teach-ins by Gary Byrd, the Harambee Singers, the Spirit of Life Ensemble, and others. A family concert is scheduled. See Juneteenth On Page 18A




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