

## Father's role in child rearing important, survey finds

Continued from 9A

ences to kids. More than 90 percent of the children his agency helps get better grades, he said.

He recalled a 10-year-old boy whose single mom asked for

help, saying her son didn't like police or authority figures. The "Big Brother" casually introduced the boy to friends who were police, Smith said.

The boy went on to become a Saginaw police officer and now is

a Secret Service agent. During the Reagan administration, he traveled with the first family, Smith said.

But "no matter where he was, he always calls his Big Brother once a month," Smith added.

"We find that just to have a role model with a moral background, who sets expectations, who has decent values, helps raise their standards," said Bob Poole, director of the Boy Scouts of America's Wolverine Council in Ann Arbor.

## Funky 60s symbol of peace, love makes comeback

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH, Calif. — That funky '60s symbol of peace, love and mechanical breakdowns — the Volkswagen van — endures and even thrives among hard-core owners.

Bleating-horn liberals (and even some conservatives) gathered Saturday at Veterans Stadium in Long Beach for the 14th annual Society of Transporter Owners meeting.

The group, which boasts about 1,600 members worldwide, meets each year to celebrate the joys of owning, driving and maintaining the Volkswagen van, which most owners call a "bus."

"These buses are a part of American life," said Paul Combs, 70, who planned to will his 1967 vehicle, "Mama," to his grandson, Devon.

Combs and his wife, Jane, recalled lugging four grandchildren home from the hospital in the van, logging innumerable cross-country trips and fixing countless minor breakdowns.

"There was a period when



these buses represented a lifestyle on the road," he said, "but that's gone now."

The vans, sometimes dubbed "Gutless Wonders" for their scrawny engines, were a roomy and economical staple of transport in the days before the plush minivan won favor.

Painted in outrageous colors and boasting beads or mattresses, they lugged a generation of hippies back and forth across America, virtually becoming a symbol of the tie-dyed, long-haired Love Generation.

But other folk relied on them, too.

"I was raised in Volkswagen

buses," said 25-year-old Bryan Booy of Brea, Calif. "It's the only thing my dad would own. He said there was nothing that could beat their economy, simplicity and quality engineering."

Booy now owns his own reconditioned bus, bought last year for \$3,000. It was once owned by a man who drove it across Europe before selling it to two surfers from England.

"This bus," he boasted, "comes equipped with its own free spirit."

Volkswagen produced its first bus in 1949, making only minor design changes until 1967 when manufacturers did

away with the split windshield. Later, the air-cooled engine was replaced with a water-cooled model.

In the 1980s, the company began making the Vanagon, which evolved into the current Eurovan.

VW bus owners say those more conservative cousins are welcome in their club. But the star is always the boxy Woodstock-on-wheels.

Sure, the vans shimmy and shake at any speed over 60 mph, and require tune-ups nearly as frequently as fill-ups.

But speed isn't everything. "That's exactly the reason you drive 'em — to take the slow road and be glad you did," said Pat Kelly, a gray-bearded Phoenix resident who has driven Volkswagen buses for more than 20 years.

"Everyone drives like hell to get where? It's nice to just go and get there in your pokey old Volkswagen bus."

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## Around Charlotte

Continued from 9A

• Young Adult Reading Clubs for seventh, eighth and ninth graders begin at all local library branches. Call your neighborhood branch for more information.

Tuesday

• Youth storytelling workshop, 11 a.m. Main Library, 310 North Tryon St.

Wednesday

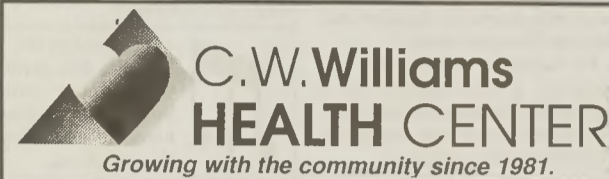
• Hanging up on fraud, 10:30 a.m. Workshop on handling

fraudulent telephone calls with Babs Merrill. Beatties Ford Branch library, 2412 Beatties Ford Road.

Upcoming events

• June 21 — Juneteenth Holiday and Cultural Festival, 10 a.m. Marshall Park, Third and McDowell streets.

• Bone marrow drive in memory of Josh Lowry, 10 a.m. Bethlehem Center, 2705 Baltimore Ave.



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## HEALTHY BODY/HEALTHY MIND

### Men's health target of survey

By Jeri Young  
The Charlotte Post

African American men are less trusting of their doctors than white men and tend to be more concerned about most male related health issues, a new study says.

The study of 551 men aged 18 and older was conducted by Men's Health magazine and CNN. Surveyors also found despite their increased risk for health problems such as heart disease and prostate cancer, African American men are less likely to believe these health problems will affect them in their lifetimes.

According to the survey, 46 percent of black men believe they will develop heart disease. This despite the fact the death rate for coronary disease is 3 percent higher for black men than white. Fifty-six percent of white men surveyed believed they would develop heart disease.

Similarly, while African American men have the highest incidence for prostate cancer in the world, only 50 percent believe they are at risk for developing prostate cancer compared to 49 percent of white men who stated such. Overall, 80 percent of men believe prostate cancer is an important health issue, an increase of 6 percent points from two years ago.

The recent number of high profile celebrities such as Arnold Palmer who have openly dis-



cussed their battle with prostate cancer has certainly made this disease more important in the minds of American men," says Mike LaFovore, executive editor for Men's Health. "Yet, it is clear from this study that this message needs to be expanded on a greater level into the African American community."

In general, African American men rate their health positively, with 53 percent rating their health as excellent or very good.

Yet despite their overall positive health, black men are less likely to see their doctor for annual

health checks. Among those surveyed, 33 percent had not been to the doctor in the past 12 months.

Most cite cost as a key factor for keeping them away. Twenty-three percent said trust was a key factor in keeping them away from doctors.

"The barriers keeping African American men from building a relationship with their physicians need to be broken," LaFovore says. "This is especially important given the higher incidence of health problems that strike this segment of our society."

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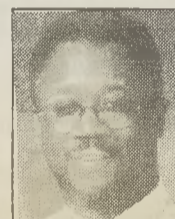
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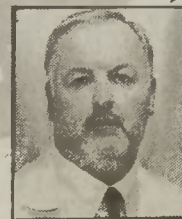
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