

Don't Be Surprised When Pollster Comes To Your Door In Future

DURHAM — If you live in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Vance or Warren counties and a stranger with a badge comes to your door asking questions about your health, don't think it's a prank.

Forty-five interviewers began questioning residents in that area June 12 for a study conducted by Duke University Medical Center.

The questionnaires are part of a \$2 million Duke study of physical and mental illnesses people in the Piedmont area get and where they go for treat-

ment. Duke and four other institutions are interviewing a total of 17,500 persons nationwide for the study, funded by the U. S. Public Health Service.

"The interviewers will question over 4,000 people in those Piedmont counties," said Dr. Dan Blazer, one of the principle investigators for Duke. Blazer, associate professor of psychiatry and assistant professor of community and family medicine, is directing the year-long survey. Linda George, associate professor of psychiatry and adjunct associate professor of sociology, is the co-

principal investigator.

Blazer stressed that answering questions is voluntary and said all information will be confidential. He said the names and addresses of persons interviewed are separated from the answer forms when they are submitted for study.

"It takes from an hour to an hour and a half to answer all of the questions," Blazer said. "Each interviewer will have a letter for respondents which explains the Piedmont Health Survey."

Blazer said the interviewers, who will be wearing a green Research Triangle Institute (RTI) badge with a photograph and a thumbprint, will go to the selected households in their sample area and ask if any adult over 18 would like to answer the questions. RTI is supervising the day-to-day activity of the survey, Blazer said.


"The households we're surveying were pre-selected at random," Blazer said. "Although there are no direct benefits for people who participate, the survey will be used to plan health care services for Piedmont communities, he said.

Some of the questions on the survey include: Do you often have trouble falling asleep? What kind of medications do you take? Have you ever noticed any side effects? (Interviewers will have a color chart of medicines in case respondents can't remember medical names) What was your last major illness? Has someone in your family died recently?

"I think we really know very little about what types of problems people suffer because individuals often don't seek help," Blazer said. "We need to know where people go to get help, and what some of the barriers to health care are."

Each person interviewed will be asked to take part in a follow-up telephone survey six months after the interview, Blazer said. The Duke researchers hope to have all of their interviews completed by November or December and the results ready for inclusion in the nationwide survey by December 1983.

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- Private Practice Of Law, 1973-1975

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- J.D. Degree, University Of N C School Of Law, 1973
- Graduate of The Justice Executives Program Conducted By The Institute Of Government And The UNC School Of Business Administration, 1981

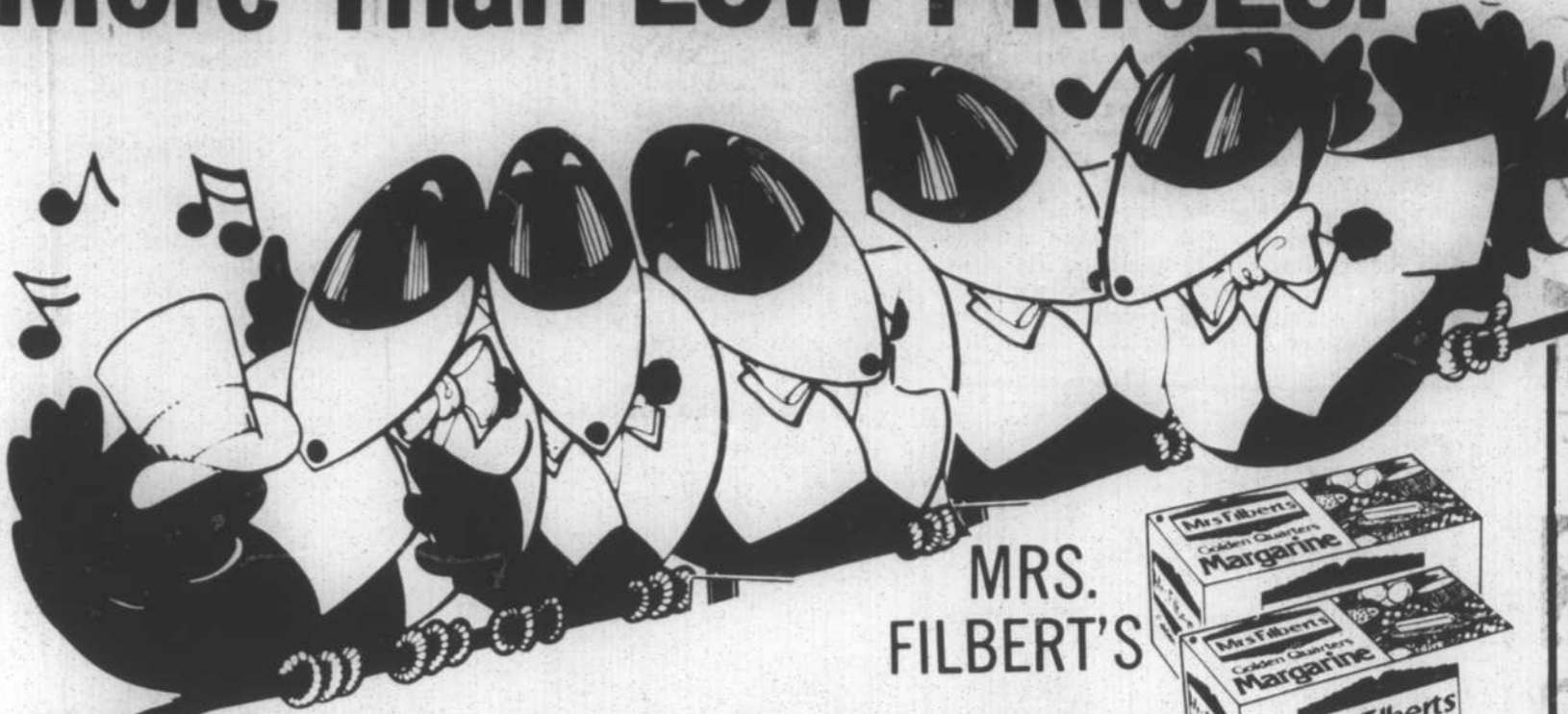
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