

# Frank Reynolds dead at age 59

WASHINGTON—Frank Reynolds, an ABC News anchorman and reporter who covered the world's major stories for nearly two decades, died early Wednesday, the network said.

Reynolds, 59, had been severely ill with viral hepatitis since mid-April and had not appeared in his anchor slot on ABC's "World News Tonight" since then, said Ilise Adde, a network spokeswoman.

He died at 2:40 a.m. at Sibley Memorial Hospital, said Linda Blythe, an intensive care unit nurse. She declined to give the exact cause of Reynolds' death.

Reynolds had been chief anchorman of "World News Tonight" since 1978, and won broadcasting's George Foster Peabody Award in 1979.

Prior to his anchor assignment with Max Robinson and Peter Jennings, he had covered all major political conventions and campaigns since 1965, the Watergate scandal and the U.S. manned spaceflight program. He also did commentary and analysis of presidential speeches and press conferences.

Reynolds was seen nightly during the Iranian hostage crisis. In June, David Burke, an ABC News vice president, said

Reynolds, prolonged absence had lowered the ratings for "World News Tonight."

The absence "has hurt us badly," said Burke.

The network had brought in David Brinkley to take over for him.

Since Reynolds' illness, "World News Tonight" had dropped from second to third in the audience ratings behind the "NBC Nightly News" and the "CBS Evening News."

Reynolds once described his job on news specials as a "traffic cop," but correspondents who worked with him gave him more credit.

"He's very passionate about stories," said Brit Hume. "He wants to be good. He gets everybody else up."

Reynolds would occasionally show his emotions while anchoring.

When President Reagan was wounded in an assassination attempt in 1982, all three networks had the report that presidential press secretary James Brady, who was severely wounded, had died.

Reynolds, who was anchoring coverage for ABC, was visibly angered on the air, said ABC News President Roone Arledge.

# AIDS: Disease is near mystery

By EDITH WOOTEN  
Tar Heel Staff Writer

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, an incurable, transferable disease that affects the immune system and leaves its victims helpless against infection from certain viruses.

Because the disease can be carried without detection for up to three years, there has been a lot of public attention given to it.

Dr. J.N. MacCormack, of the N.C. Division of Health Services, said AIDS may be added to the list of reportable diseases in North Carolina.

"This is part of a national attempt to establish a surveillance system," MacCormack said.

He said that of the 1,700 cases that have turned up nationally, only four types of victims have emerged—male homosexuals, heroin addicts, Haitians and hemophiliacs.

"There is no reason to fear giving blood," MacCormack said.

Cindy Harrell, from the Charlotte chapter of the Red Cross, said the concern people have shown of contracting the disease by donating blood was needless.

"There is no danger to blood donors," she said.

Harrell said that the Red Cross uses specially pre-packaged, disposable needles so that there is no chance of infection to donors.

Dr. Charles Vanderhorst, a post-doctoral fellow at the infectious disease center of N.C. Memorial Hospital, said that AIDS was not very communicable.

He said that most cases of AIDS (75 percent nationally) are contracted through sexual intercourse between male homosexuals, and that the disease is extremely difficult to trace because of the unknown agent in the blood that carries it.

"Chapel Hill has a rather large homosexual population," Vanderhorst said. "And of the patients I see, the average will have 13 sexual contacts a year."

AIDS can be spread unknowingly to many victims because of its long incubation periods, he said.

Dr. MacCormack said that of the nine cases of AIDS reported in N.C., only four were contracted inside this state. Six of these patients have died.

The problem of treating AIDS patients is that they have no resistance to certain types of infections. Once the doctor stops treating the patient with drugs, he will contract it again, Vanderhorst said.

"That makes it harder to treat and impossible to cure," he said.



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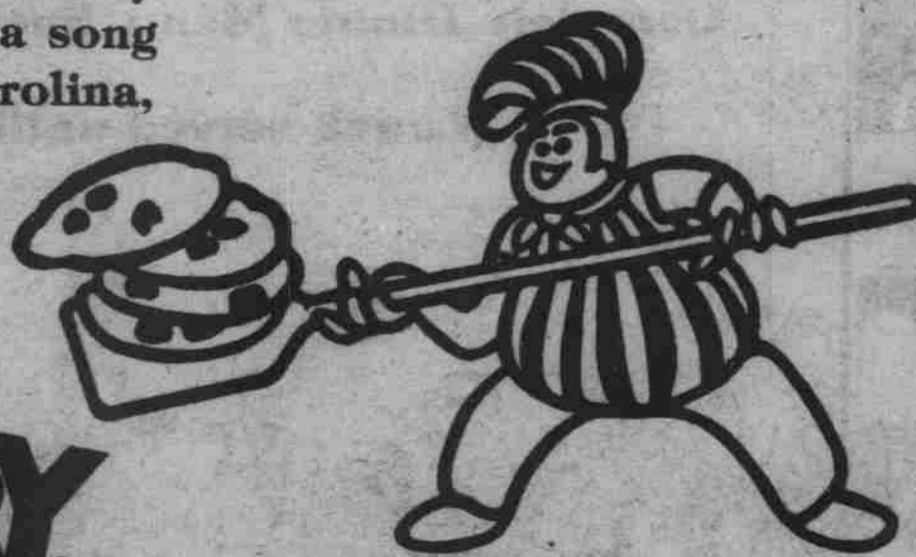
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