

Boys Choir Of Harlem To Act At UNC Campus

CHAPEL HILL—Thirty-five lively youngsters will fill the stage and their soaring voices will fill the hall when the Boys Choir of Harlem performs at 8 p.m. Feb. 9 in Memorial Hall on the UNC campus.

The natural exuberance of the boys has been contained, though not squelched, by the choir's director, Walter J. Turnbull, who has seen the choir grow from a small church choir to a performing arts institution of international reputation. Turnbull has channeled the boys' energies into enthusiastic, but professional presentations of a wide range of music.

Drawing full houses, the choir has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe, performed at the White House on several occasions, at the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly, and at the Official Commemorative Ceremonies for the State of Liberty.

A 1985 trip to the Orient was highlighted by a concert at the prestigious Budokan Concert Hall. During the summer of 1989, the choir was invited to Japan for a three-week concert tour and in October, they returned to Yokohama for a special friendship concert in honor of President and Mrs. Reagan.

The choir has appeared on all three major television networks and was included in the PBS series "Great Performances: Ellington and His Music." The ensemble was featured on the soundtrack of the movie "Glory," and may be heard on Kathleen Battle's recording of Christmas music for Angel/EMI and Florence Quivar's album of spirituals, "Ride On, King Jesus," also on Angel/EMI. The choir also has two of its own albums out, Handel's "Ode for St. Cecilia's Day," and "Fetes Traditionnelles Americaines."

The repertoire of the choir ranges from classical to contemporary songs, gospel and spirituals. Special emphasis is given to the work of black musicians, which is encouraged by commissions to young black composers. In addition, the heritage of spirituals and early American music play a vital and necessary part in the choir members' educational growth.

Founded by Turnbull as the Ephesus Church Choir of Central Harlem in 1968, the Boys Choir of Harlem has provided a creative outlet for hundreds of inner-city youth. The choir stresses not only the teaching of music, but also the preparation of its members for productive lives. Tutoring, in subjects ranging from English to mathematics to music theory, is provided to choir members six days a week and a B average in school must be maintained.

In 1979, the choir began a program for girls, which now consists of more than 200 young people between the ages of eight and 18. The members are arranged into three choirs: training, performing and the girls choir.

Tickets for the performance by the Boys Choir of Harlem are \$14 for the general public, \$8 for UNC students, and are available at the Carolina Union Box Office. Call (919) 962-1449 weekdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. VISA and MasterCard accepted.

Better Foods Can Help Fight Most Diseases

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Better nutrition can help fight the diseases that cause most of the deaths of the nation's older African-Americans, according to the American Association of Retired Persons and the American Heart Association.

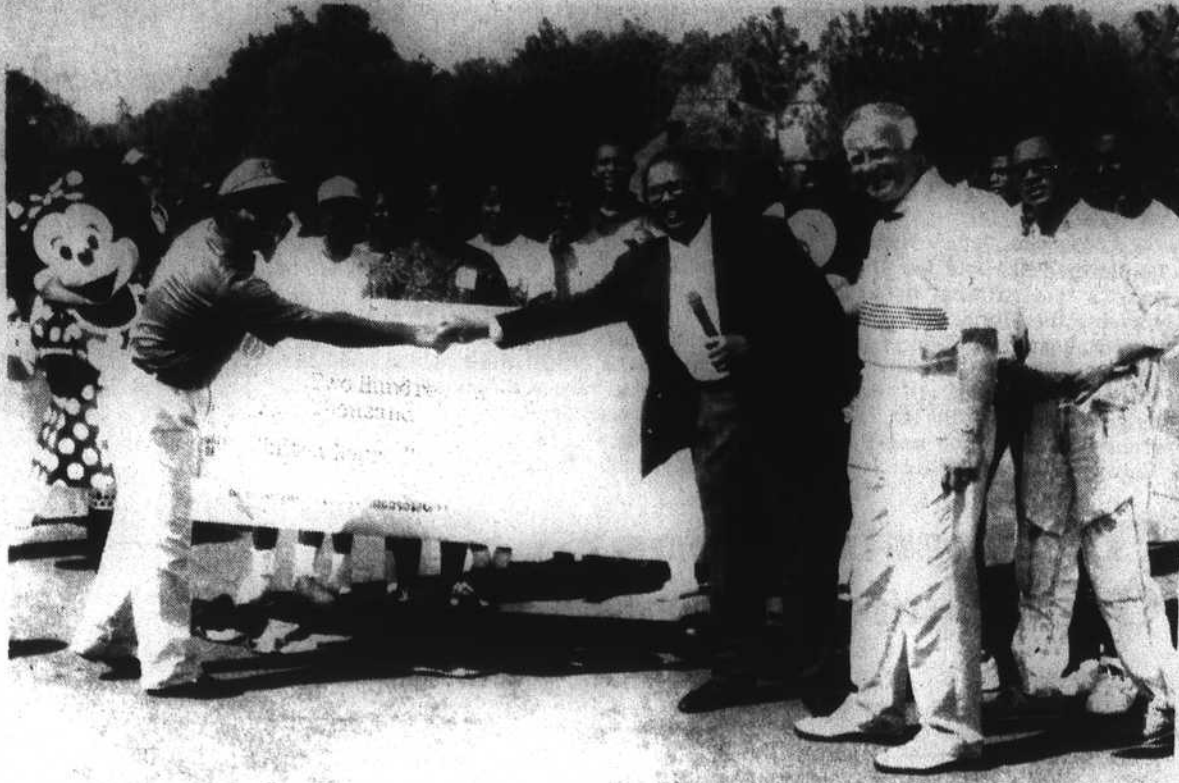
AARP and AHA have developed a national nutrition education pilot program for older African-Americans.

"The goal of this pilot program is to increase awareness of the importance of nutrition," said AARP Executive Director Horace Deets. "Improved eating habits can help prevent heart attacks, strokes and other life-threatening diseases."

Life expectancy for African-Americans is 69.7 years compared to 75.9 years for non-minorities. Nutrition has been linked with heart disease, stroke, cancer diabetes, high blood pressure, and cirrhosis of the liver, which are the major causes of death for older African-Americans.

"Nutrition education should be a priority for all groups that are interested in the health of older minorities," said AHA President Dr. Francois Abboud, director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

The "Eating for Healthy Tomorrows" pilot program consists of a four-hour session offered through churches and other community groups. The program, taught by AARP and AHA volunteers, includes an overview of nutrition, exercise, group discussions on cholesterol and sodium, educational games, and a cooking demonstration of a healthy recipe.



LENDING A HELPING HAND—NBC-TV "Today" anchor Bryant Gumbel (left) gives a handshake and a check for \$225,000 to Virgil Ecton (2nd from right), senior executive of the United Negro College Fund, while Walt Disney Attractions President Dick Nunis and students from Bethune-Cookman College look on. The donation was raised at the second Bryant Gumbel/Walt Disney World Pro-Am Golf Tournament with the help of several celebrities such as NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, tennis superstar Arthur Ashe, baseball legend Joe DiMaggio and basketball greats Bob Lanier and Julius Erving.

Blacks Are Diagnosed For Cancer Later On

(AP)—Blacks in North Carolina were diagnosed with cancer at later stages than white patients, according to the first report by the state's Central Cancer Registry.

"Blacks are suffering more from cancer than they should be, and in some cases dying, because they didn't receive care for their cancers as early as whites," said Timothy Aldrich, director of the Cancer Surveillance Section for the state. "We don't know exactly why, but we're trying to find out."

Among non-whites found to have cancer in 1987, the year of the study, 34 percent were diagnosed at an early stage, compared to 43 percent of whites, the report said. Some 31 percent of non-whites were diagnosed with advanced cancer, as opposed to 24 percent of whites. The great majority of non-whites in North Carolina are black.

Early detection is the key to survival with many kinds of cancer. When it is diagnosed early, cancer can often be treated. But once it has spread to other parts of the body, the success of treatment declines dramatically.

The cancer incidence report is the culmination of three years of data collection and analysis. As the first document released by the cancer registry, it will provide a baseline for health officials to monitor cancer cases in the state and spot trends.

The report is based on data from 14 of the state's 145 hospitals reporting 10,815 newly diagnosed cases.

Because the 14 are among the largest hospitals, the information represents more than 50 percent of the cancer cases diagnosed in 1987.

Reports for 1988 and 1989, which are expected to be released this year, will include data from more hospitals. The 1990 report, expected to be published in early 1992, will be the first one to document virtually all cancer cases diagnosed in the state.

The General Assembly established the cancer registry in 1986 to collect data on every newly diagnosed cancer case in the state. Until then, the only data North Carolina had on cancer patients came from death certificates.

North Carolina's health director says he's disturbed, but not surprised, by the report.

"I don't think there's rank discrimination here," said Dr. Ron Levine. "I think it's inadvertent discrimination. The lack of access to resources is an indirect form of discrimination that needs to be addressed."

A booklet called "Foodthought" offers answers to many important questions you may have on food safety and the environment. For a free copy, write: National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Attn: Foodthought-1, 50 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

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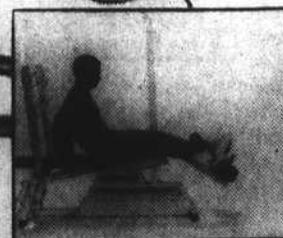
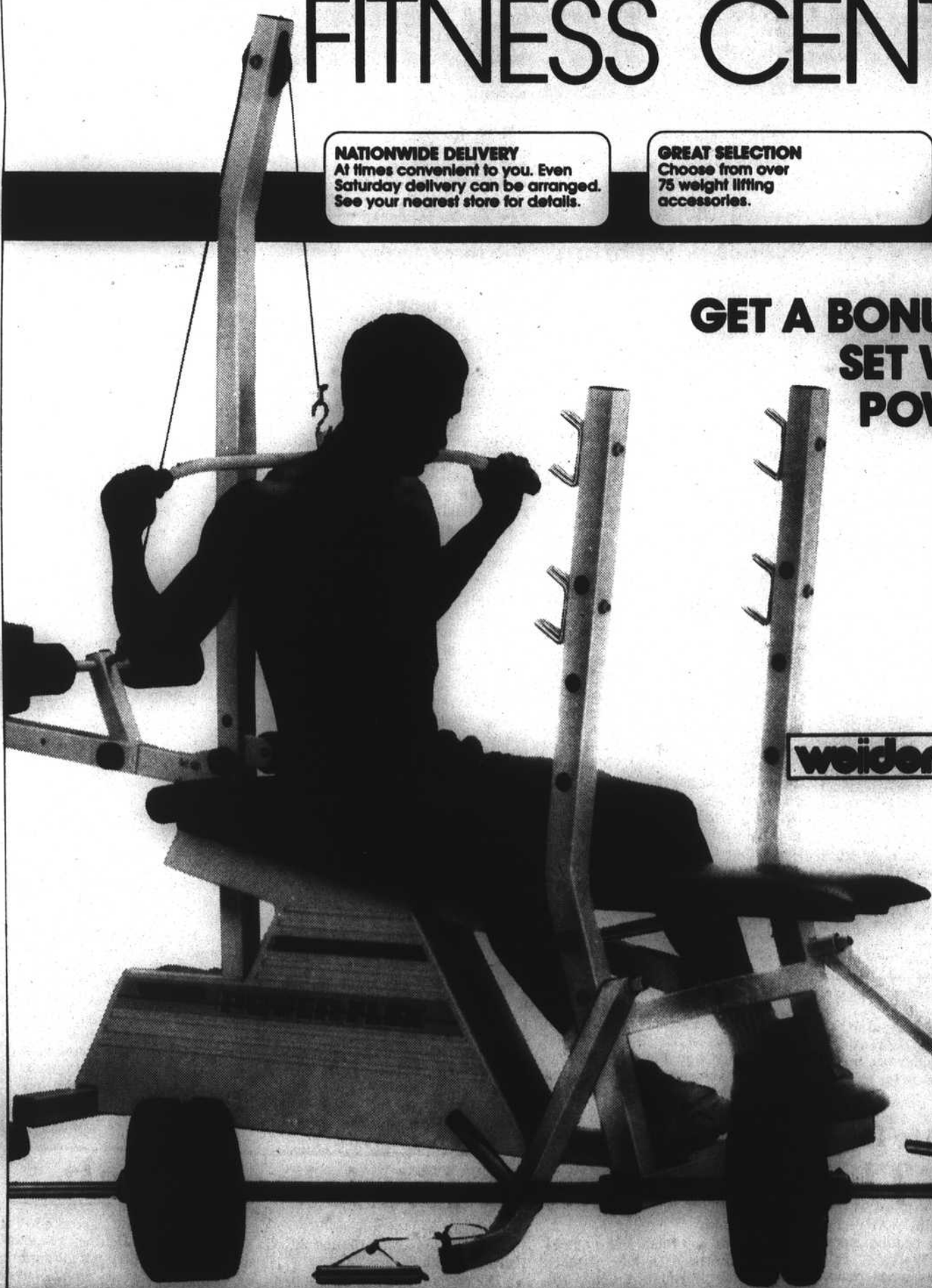
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