

HAPPINESS THROUGH HEALTH

By Otto McClarin

RECTUM, COLON CANCER TESTS COULD PREVENT THOUSANDS OF DEATHS:

The American Cancer Society has begun a pilot testing program that could prevent many thousands of deaths a year in the USA. The test, designed to detect blood in solid body wastes—an early sign of cancers of the rectum and colon, is being made available free in the Washington, D.C. area to all persons over 21. The testing processes can be conducted entirely by mail, cancer society spokesmen said.

The disease kills half its victims, or about 50,000 persons a year nationally. However, seven out of 10 of these deaths could be prevented by early detection of the disease, Dr. La Salle D. Leffall, national chairman of the effort, said.

Residents of Washington, D.C.—the site of the pilot testing program—can use a letter-sized testing kit with sealed paper "slides" to mail in samples of excretion for examination. The kits are available to local hospitals and clinics or may be requested by mail. If the pilot project in Washington is successful, it will be repeated in other cities.

Traces of blood too small to be visible in human waste can indicate illnesses other than cancer, but they indicate that cancer may be present and further testing is needed, Dr. Leffall said.

Cancer of the rectum and colon (large intestine) is "the single most common internal cancer (of both sexes) in the country," Dr. Leffall stated. Only breast cancer is more common among women and lung cancer among men, he continued.

The U.S. Postal Service has approved the mailing of waste samples. The test was described by Dr. Leffall as "simple, inexpensive, esthetically acceptable" and can be used by anyone. It also produces few "false positives" (erroneous results), he said.

NO TREATMENT BEST TREATMENT FOR SOME IMPACTED TEETH:

The best treatment for some impact wisdom teeth may be no treatment, a dental surgeon reported recently to the American Dental Association. But benefits and disadvantages must be weighed in each case, Dr. John Lytle of the University of Southern California School of Dentistry told his colleagues.

Lytle, a dentist and physician, said patients benefiting from removal of impacted third molars are seen everyday in dental offices. Their retained embedded teeth must be removed to restore oral health.

"Frequently these teeth have been present for many years and physiologic changes have occurred which greatly complicate the required surgery," he said. Old time dentists were taught that embedded teeth should be left alone until they cause trouble.

Dr. Lytle said impacted teeth should not be removed: — when the surgical extraction will damage adjoining teeth or soft tissue and underlying bony structures. — When a patient's general physical condition makes it difficult or impossible to withstand the stress of surgical procedures. — When the tooth appears completely fused to the bone in an elderly person with no history of symptoms related to the unerupted tooth.

FINGERPRINTS MAY PROVIDE CLUE TO HEART CONDITION:

Fingerprints may provide a new clue to a common heart condition that can cause chest pain and irregular heart beats, a New York cardiologist reported recently. Dr. Mark Wartz, of the Mt. Sinai Hospital, said the finding may help doctors spot persons with the problem, called Mitral Valve Prolapse, in which a heart valve fails to close properly. This allows blood to flow in the wrong direction.

COME AND JOIN US!

Frontier Girl Scout Council will be registering all girls who are interested in becoming Girl Scouts, January 22, 1977 at 1:00 p.m. at the Westside Library. A movie will be shown and refreshments will be served. Please bring a parent.

Dr. Swartz said he and his associates found that some persons with the valve defect had abnormally high numbers of arching patterns in their fingerprints. The heart is formed during the third and eighth week of pregnancy and fingerprint patterns are initiated during the sixth week. Other diseases have been linked to fingerprints.

JOHN LEWIS' RESIGNATION ACCEPTED BY VEP

Atlanta, Georgia— The Voter Education Project (VEP) has officially accepted the resignation of John Lewis, its executive director of seven years, according to the VEP president Harry Huge.

"John Lewis indicated in a formal resignation letter of December 21, 1976 that he intended to run for the Fifth District of Georgia Congressional seat soon to be vacated by the appointment of Andrew Young as Ambassador to the United Nations," Huge explained. "The loss to VEP and its work in the 11 southern states is great, but the board of directors had to respect his wishes."

Lewis, whose resignation becomes effective as of Saturday, January 15, 1977, had written to the VEP board of directors:

"My past seven years with the Voter Education Project have been rewarding ones. There can be no doubt that we have moved closer to the goal of building an interracial democracy in the South. It is my feeling that VEP can continue to make a significant contribution to the region. The viability of VEP enabled me to make this difficult decision to continue my life's work in a new arena."

The Voter Education Project will continue its efforts to advance minority political participation in the South because that battle is still far from being won, says the VEP president.

"While the black voter in 1976 was the largest and most decisive exercise of minority political power in this century, there are still three million unregistered blacks in the 11 southern states," Huge pointed out. "Of approximately seven million southern blacks of voting age, only about two and one-half million actually turned out to vote in the last national election."

"By another measure, the percentage of blacks in the southern population is over 20 percent, but the number of public offices held by blacks is only about 2.5 percent," concluded Huge. "In fifteen years, VEP has made a contribution which has only begun to transform the politics of the South, but the foundation has been well laid. With continued work and determined efforts, continuing progress seems inevitable."

Except for John Lewis' departure, the VEP staff will remain intact and continue the programs of nonpartisan voter registration, citizenship education, and leadership training. The staff will be working with a special administrative committee appointed by the board until a permanent executive director is named.

Huge indicated that a search committee for a successor to John Lewis will be announced in the near future. That committee, he said, will officially receive all applications for the vacant post.

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PRE-BUSINESS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

If you are planning on going into business for yourself or even if you are starting a little business on the side, a one-day workshop set-up by the small business administration is for you.

The workshop for prospective or new small business owners will be held and co-sponsored by the University of Nevada, College of Business and Economics at the Student Union Building room 201, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., February 3, 1977.

Workshop sessions will be presented by businessmen of Las Vegas, the University and small business administration. The registration fee is \$10.00.

The purpose of the program is to point out three major factors to prospective small businessmen and women, a knowledge of the fundamental principals of running a business, and a list of the sources of information and assistance available to them in starting and operating their own business.

For information and registration on the one-day workshop, contact, the University of Nevada, Office of Business and Continuing Education, 4505 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109. Telephone No. 739-3394 or the Small Business Administration, Telephone No. 385-6611.

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