

Health Department Investigates Measles Outbreak

Three outbreaks of rubella (German Measles) have been investigated by the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health during the past month. These three outbreaks occurred at the University of Washington, at a private group home for developmentally disabled persons, and at a state institution for the mentally retarded.

These outbreaks are an important reminder of the need to quickly stop rubella outbreaks from spreading, and to investigate their origin so others can be prevented.

Rubella itself is usually a mild illness and only moderately uncomfortable to the patient. But the real danger lies in its potential for harming the unborn fetus of a preg-

nant woman who catches the disease. Women who catch rubella early in pregnancy could bear a child with one or more birth defects, including cataracts, deafness, heart disease, and mental retardation.

That's why rubella vaccination is very important, and any woman planning a pregnancy should get a rubella vaccination if she is not already immune. Women of child-bearing ages can now safely get a rubella vaccination, although this was often not recommended in the past.

A myth is that all rubella patients get a rash on the skin. In fact, almost one-third of rubella cases do not have a rash, but can nevertheless be contagious to other people.

Any pregnant woman who comes in contact with someone who may have rubella, or any pregnant woman who develops a rash, should consult her doctor. Rubella cases should also be promptly reported to the Communicable Disease Office of the Health Department at 625-2131. Among the rubella outbreak cases mentioned above, two women were pregnant at the time they caught the illness and chose to terminate those pregnancies.

At the University of Washington, twelve rubella cases occurred, and more than half were among students enrolled in one class. The private group home was the site of eight more cases of rubella. At about the same time, another outbreak of 12 cases occurred among staff and residents at the state institution.

Because of the possibility that these latter two outbreaks were related through common contact at a work site for the handicapped, the Health Department, with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA, and the Washington State Immunization Program began an intensive epidemiologic investigation.

Actions from the investigation included: 1) All residents and staff at the group home were screened for rubella immunity. Those without record of immunity were immunized. 2) A mass immunization clinic was held at the worksite for the handicapped for those unimmunized against rubella. 3) It was recommended that employees and residents at the state institution be screened for rubella, and vaccinated if there is no record.

Historic Columbia City Days Celebration

Columbia City is having its annual street festival on July 10 and 11 this year. Columbia City is a unique, historical area located in the heart of Southeast Seattle along Rainier Avenue South between South Alaska and South Hudson Streets.

The festival will feature walking tours of historical sites, pancake breakfast on both mornings, a noontime parade, children's puppet shows and movies, merchants sidewalk sales, free musical entertainment and dancing. For information contact 722-3213.

COPING

Understanding The Psychology Of Racism: (Part II)

by DR. CHARLES W. FAULKNER

This series of columns could have been titled, "Why they don't like you and why you don't like them either."

Interviews with many white people indicated that they had almost as much of a problem as Black people in answering the question, "Why do whites dislike Blacks?" Jim, who is a young, white government administrator provided the following answer to the above question: "Oh, I don't know exactly why I dislike Blacks except that it sort of makes me feel good to be 'better' than they."

Jim, whose comments are typical, continues, "I have never really thought seriously about it. It isn't something that you can put into words, it is more of a feeling or an emotional thing rather than a consciously predetermined plot. It is more of a reflex. I do not consider myself to be prejudiced. And, I couldn't give you a logical explanation for my behavior or, even, support any kind of white superiority. My behavior towards Blacks is, now, kind of a habit; a pleasant habit. Frankly, I can't ever remember having a different behavior toward Blacks. It is just a conditioned reaction. I never seriously think about it although I would miss it if the opportunity did not exist to release my stress. If Blacks weren't around, I would probably abuse a lower class white. It's a matter of maintaining my sanity."

"It is probably like the feeling that you get after you have an argument with your wife or have been pushed around by your boss. Pushing a Black around, restores my self-esteem. Everybody needs a psychological lift after a depressing day. Even Blacks need it. The big difference is that I can take my frustrations out on Blacks because I can be 'better' than they. But, they cannot take their frustrations out on me because they feel in-

ferior to me. I really don't know how they get rid of their frustrations."

"It makes me feel good about myself again. You know what I mean? It is similar to the feeling that bully gets when he beats up the weakest kid on the block. You can't really describe the feeling but I know that it makes me feel good. Treating them like non-people or handicapped people is like a narcotic. I get so used to doing it that I need it. I look for an opportunity to get the psychological high. If the opportunity does not exist, normally, I sometimes create it. Sometimes, I want to get together with my buddies and find a couple of Blacks to abuse. I have never beaten one up and don't know if I could. If Blacks didn't exist, I don't know what I would do. I mean, who else is there to abuse and restore your manhood? I'm used to abusing Blacks and it will probably always be that way."

"Sometimes it becomes a little game; a challenge, like checkers. Sometimes I don't speak to them when they speak to me. Sometimes I act as if I see them and, then, bump into them without excusing myself. Sometimes, I throw their money at them in a store. Sometimes, I act as if I don't want to touch them. It's the little things like this I enjoy doing. They get uptight but can't do anything about it. I must admit, I do feel sorry for them sometimes but my sorrow doesn't last long because I have too many other more important things to worry about. And, even when I feel sorry for abusing them, I feel better."

The above interview is one of many that I have conducted in the recent weeks in to get an in-depth understanding of racial sentiments. My next column will be a continuance of the analysis of the Psychology of Racism.

Junior Drill Team "B" Wins First Place

The Renaissance Junior Drill Team "B" was organized in 1963, and is noted for its quick time steps and military marching techniques.

They have participated in countless parades throughout the Northwest and Canada, winning numerous honors including 15 first place trophies. The team is composed of girls between the ages of 8 and 13.

The Renaissance Drill Team became a member of the Seattle Drill Team Association in 1965. Every year this association holds an All-City Competition which every drill team that is a member of the association, performs for a maximum of eleven

minutes. Every team is judged on their performance, repertoire, coordination and showmanship.

With a score of 73.2, the Renaissance Junior Drill Team "B" was awarded FIRST place in the Junior Division. The teams' drillmaster and drillmistress, David and Darlene Bowman, were very proud of the girls' performance and the outcome of the awards.

The team's captain, Sharon McMillon, did an excellent job in the competition and has inspired good team spirit.

The team members' goal is to work together and become the best drill team, one of which Seattle can be proud of.

Legislative Workshop Great Success; Next Is In Sept.



Representative Peggy Maxie

Thanks to the good will of many dedicated people, Legislative Workshop I was a great success! Over 100 people attended and participated in this workshop, which was held on May 23 at Seattle University's Champion Tower.

Legislative Workshop II is scheduled for September 26, at the University of Washington's Kane Hall, between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The purpose of these workshops is to en-

courage greater citizen knowledge and participation in the legislative process. If you are interested in attending Legislative Workshop II on Saturday, September 26, 1981, please request an application form and an agenda from the:

Office of Representative Peggy Maxie
1441 Madrona Drive
Seattle, Washington 98122

An exciting and informative program has been developed for you! Make your reservation early.

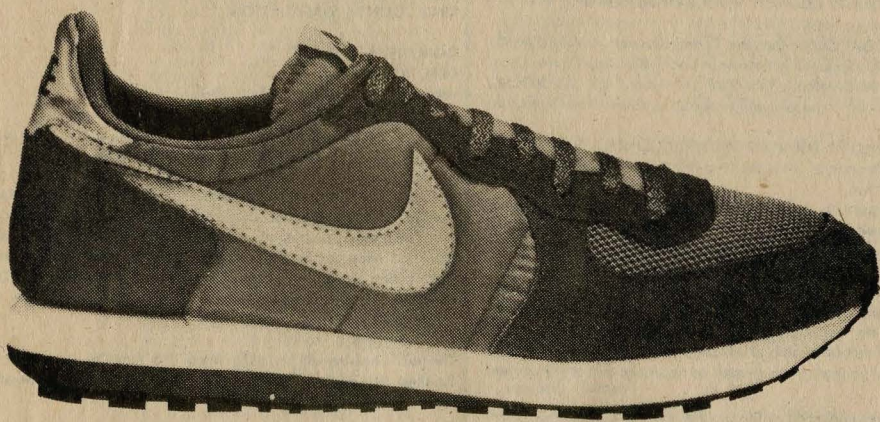
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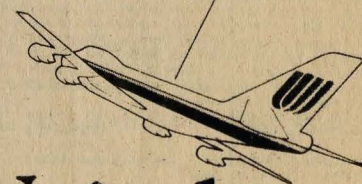
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