

# HEALTH Through Chiropractic



WITH  
**Dr. Richard B. Vance**

## SCOLIOSIS. IS IT CATCHING?

The dictionary tells us that scoliosis is a lateral curvature of the back. Normally, the backbone, the spine, curves in and out. In scoliosis, the spine also bends from side to side. Scoliosis is a disorder that usually starts in childhood, although too often it isn't discovered until before, or during, the beginning of the teenage years.

As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you bring your youngster in for an examination. We believe that all youngsters should be checked for scoliosis regularly.

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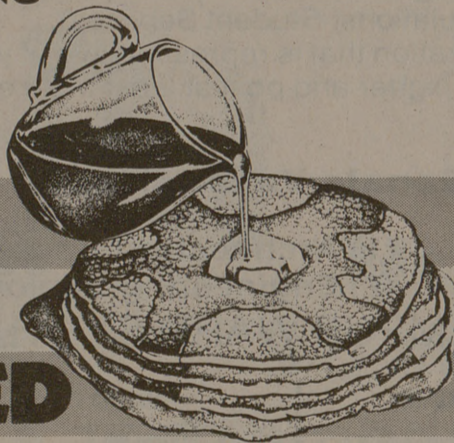
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# World and Nation

Chief reluctantly retains security

## Swedish leader keeps guard

**Associated Press**  
STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The acting prime minister said Monday he will tolerate bodyguards until Olof Palme's murder is solved, but called the ability of leaders to go unguarded an essential element of Sweden's "open, democratic society."

Prime Minister Palme, 59, and his wife Lisbet were strolling without guards in downtown Stockholm when a man shot him Friday night. Palme had dismissed his security men earlier in the day.

Police were reported to be making little progress in solving the murder. The Foreign Ministry confirmed that a claim was made that the Red Army Faction, a West German ter-

rorist group, was responsible, but West German officials discounted it.

Ingvar Carlsson, who had been deputy premier and now is acting prime minister, was chosen unanimously as new leader of Palme's party, the Social Democrats. Palme had held the post since 1969.

He pledged to continue his predecessor's policies and keep neutral Sweden active in international affairs.

"It has been the Swedish attitude that it is not only up to the superpowers to influence (international events)," Carlsson told reporters. "Olof Palme's work will not disap-

pear with Olof Palme. We cannot go back to the isolated way of life we once led."

Carlsson said he would accept being surrounded by bodyguards, but reluctantly, "until this murder is cleared up." He said he preferred privacy, as Palme had.

Palme and his wife had gone to a movie premiere and were walking home when he was shot. Mrs. Palme, 55, was grazed by a bullet but not seriously hurt.

The national news agency TT said Police Inspector Jan Winner reported little progress in the case, and quoted him as saying: "We stand

about where we were at the beginning."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Loennback said a person who telephoned the Swedish Embassy in Bonn, West Germany, a few hours after the shooting claimed responsibility on behalf of the Red Army Faction.

Loennback said the ministry and Stockholm police were informed of the call later Saturday.

West Germany's chief government spokesman, Friedhelm G. said security officials in Bonn had indication of involvement by West German terrorists, but were willing to help with the investigation asked.

## Analysis reports drugs help treat mild blood pressure

**Associated Press**  
BOSTON — The controversial practice of using drugs to treat mild and moderate high blood pressure saves lives and is especially effective for preventing strokes, a new analysis concludes.

An estimated 58 million Americans have high blood pressure. The condition is a major underlying cause of heart disease, strokes and kidney failure. However, doctors disagree over how high blood pressure must be before it should be lowered with drugs.

The new report suggests that treating even relatively mild high blood pressure of between 90 and 114 diastolic, which is the second of a pair of numbers given for blood pressure readings, significantly reduces the risk of death. The diastolic

pressure is measured between the heart's contractions.

The results were compiled by Dr. Charles H. Hennekens and colleagues at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and Oxford University and were submitted for presentation Monday at a meeting in San Francisco sponsored by the American Heart Association.

The controversy over treating mildly or moderately elevated blood pressure results, in part, from ambiguous and conflicting results obtained from a variety of studies.

In their analysis, Hennekens and his colleagues compiled the results of a dozen comparison studies that enrolled more than 34,000 people and were conducted over the last two decades. Half the studies had

suggested drug treatment is helpful in mild high blood pressure, while the rest found no effect.

But when the study results were combined, the researchers found drug treatment reduced total mortality by 13 percent and mortality from cardiovascular disease by 22 percent.

The biggest effect was on stroke. Those with mild high blood pressure who took drugs had 40 percent fewer fatal strokes and 38 percent fewer non-fatal strokes.

Improvements have been made in drug therapy for hypertension since some of the studies were conducted, and Hennekens said his analysis could not sort out the benefits of different kinds of medicines.

## Navy heart surgeon sentenced to 4 years

**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON — Heart surgeon Donal M. Billig, convicted of involuntary manslaughter and homicide in the deaths of three patients at Bethesda Naval Hospital, was sentenced Monday to four years in prison and ordered dismissed from the service.

The court-martial jury of nine naval officers also ordered Billig, a Navy commander who served as chief of heart surgery at Bethesda, to forfeit all future pay and allowances.

Billig showed no emotion as the sentence was read. The jury had deliberated 90 minutes and could have returned a sentence of up to 11½ years.

Defense attorneys said they would ask for a delay in imposing the

prison sentence, a request that will go to the naval command that convened the court-martial.

Billig, 55, was taken into custody by Naval Investigative Service personnel. Under military law, he would be eligible for parole after serving one-third of his sentence.

His conviction is subject to automatic review by the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Military Review, and may be appealed to the Court of Military Appeals and ultimately the U.S. Supreme Court.

Billig, nearly sightless in one eye, was found guilty last Thursday of causing the deaths through gross surgical errors during operations in 1983 and 1984.

Earlier Monday, Billig pleaded for his freedom Monday before the jury, saying the end of his career as a

heart surgeon is "punishment of a severity I don't ever think I can describe."

He was found guilty of two counts of involuntary manslaughter, one count of negligent homicide, and 18 counts of dereliction of duty stemming from operations in 1983 and 1984.

The prosecutor, Marine Col. Gerald Miller, urged the jury to sentence Billig to at least half the maximum sentence, saying that without a prison term Billig might try to practice again.

Defense attorney Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Baker urged no prison sentence, saying Billig is "already a broken man" with his career ruined and no hope of practicing medicine again.

## Spencer Tracy honored in Broadway tribute

**Associated Press**  
NEW YORK — Katharine Hepburn, Frank Sinatra and other stars and friends of the late actor Spencer Tracy reminisced at a Broadway tribute Monday about the man they knew as "Spence."

Miss Hepburn and Sinatra stood on stage at the packed, 1,655-seat Majestic Theater along with actors Sidney Poitier and Robert Wagner and director Stanley Kramer during the tribute, a benefit for the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Tracy's daughter, Susie, stood next to Miss Hepburn as she ac-

cepted a lifetime achievement award on her father's behalf from Wagner.

Hepburn introduced a documentary about Tracy she narrates. It will be shown on public television. She said it had been researched by Susie Tracy.

"She even came across her father's

diary, which is quite extraordinary," said Hepburn, who was the actor's longtime companion. She starred in nine films with Tracy, from "Woman of the Year" in 1942 to "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" in 1967.

Tracy died in 1967, shortly after

completing the Kramer film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" with Hepburn and Poitier.

Tracy won two Academy Awards for acting: "Captains Courageous" in 1937 and "Boys Town" in 1938.

Wagner, who served as master of ceremonies, referred to Tracy as "my old friend, my mentor and the man I thought of as a second father."

Kramer recalled that Tracy was a tough guy who "had a facade — he didn't want to get into the sticky side of any relationship or talk."

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