

Headlee is pleased with his new heart

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 underwent transplant surgery Oct. 8 at Latter-Day Saints Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, after a stressful five-week wait for a suitable heart.
 After his discharge Oct. 26, he felt so great that he went overboard three days later.

At a football game between Brigham Young and Air Force Oct. 31 in Provo, Headlee, staying with his wife, Mary, in a Salt Lake City condominium a few blocks from LDS during his recuperation, gulped down so much junk food and soft drinks that it knocked his blood sugar level off, forcing him into the hospital for a three-day stay.

"I VIEW it as a pump," said Headlee of the heart of an anonymous 20-year-old Alamogordo, N.M.,

man. "But it's a great pump. I love it. It's doing the job."
 Never the shy and retiring type, Headlee, father of nine children and a devout Mormon, peppers his conversation with whoops and yells and bursts of energy.
 Headlee learned this summer that he suffered from progressive cardiomyopathy, possibly the result of a childhood virus that weakened the muscle.

Initially diagnosed as asthma, he found out in August, after weeks of suffering chest congestion, that he would have to undergo the operation. The Headlees were in Utah visiting two of their children, both college students in the area.

"I knew I had a problem," Headlee said. "The first doctor I saw said 'You'll have to start thinking in the

next five to 10 years of a heart transplant.'"

A cardiologist he saw later the same day told him, "We're not talking about a heart transplant in five or 10 years; we're talking about a heart transplant now. That blew me away. . . It was like I was standing in Hilo, Hawaii, and a tidal wave came over me."

THANKS TO anti-rejection drugs, the survival rate for heart transplant recipients of the UTAH-Cardiac program, which includes LDS Hospital, where Headlee underwent the operation, is 95 percent after one year, 93 percent after two.

Headlee isn't exactly home free. Several days ago, a weekly heart biopsy disclosed partial rejection, a common result, that will require additional drugs. Infection is always a threat.

Headlee is prevented from communicating directly with the donor's family. The transplant team discourages releasing any information to protect the family's privacy.

However, recipients can relay messages to them through the transplant team.
 "My only interest, aside from expressing thanks, would be in knowing

if the man was a young father and there were hardships that I was in a position to alleviate," he said. "I would not want to interfere with the family's privacy."

At the time of his discharge from LDS, Headlee was expected to stay in Salt Lake City for twice-weekly out-patient visits to LDS another two to three months.

EDC eyes computer for forecasting

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 views with the city's elected and appointed officials as well as city consultants. A review of the master land use plan also will be conducted.

Plante & Moran will study the costs of solid waste disposal — a growing concern in Oakland County communities — as well as residents' personal income and the amount of available land remaining in the city. "That's fast diminishing," McConnell said.

"This is fantastic, obviously," councilman Terry Sever said. McConnell confirmed Sever's assumption that the city is striving to level the non-residential tax base at 30 percent.

"WE DO feel that 30 percent is the ideal mix based on the master plan," McConnell said.

Based on an EDC study 3-4 years ago, 30 percent was estimated at a good industrial/commercial tax base level. That level, however, dipped as low as 24-25 percent in the early 1980s when the housing boom began in Farmington Hills.

The city currently has an almost 40-percent commercial/industrial tax base, which McConnell said is good for homeowners because an increasing share of the tax burden is borne by business.

Councilwoman Jean Fox commented that sometimes forecasts

don't work as originally planned. McConnell agreed, adding that the first EDC economic forecasting study was based more on guesses and opinions.

This second study, he said, will be based on more precise information because city officials will be able to continually update the study with current economic information.

The EDC is continuing its right-of-way study on western 12 Mile, a prerequisite for any improvements, particularly widening, along that office corridor. An EDC landscaping plan for the median of Northwestern Highway also is continuing.

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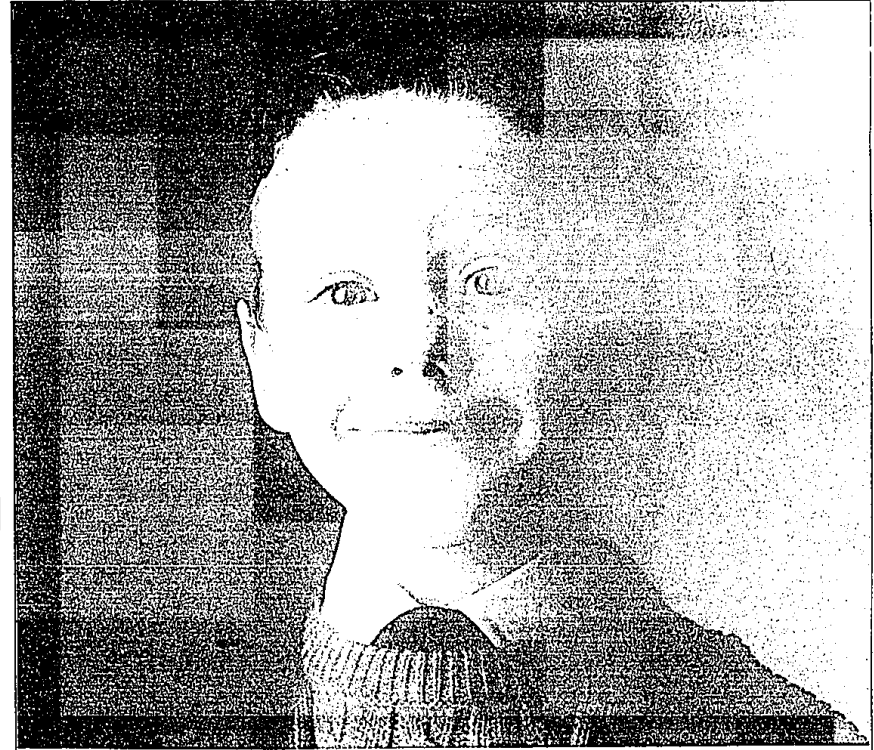
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