Prostate problems can be detected early

By Dr. Timothy ismond special writer with the special writer writer

UAW seeking college influence

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"OLD TYME CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY"
FOLK ART SHOW & SALE — SEPT. 23, 24, 25, 1988 HISTORICAL, Educational, Informative & Fun

(AP) — United Auto Workers or-ganizers are trying to become big men on campus as they attempt to spread the union's influence at uni-versities and colleges. The UAW represents about 10,000 clerical, admistrative and service personnel at 21 colleges, universities and public school districts nation-wide.

clerical, administrative and service personnel at 21 colleges, universities and public school districts nation-wide.

Barbara Rahke, organizing coordinator for the UAW Technical, office and Professional Department, said the union is now trying to organize 500 clerical workers at Ohio University in Atthens, Ohio.

The union also has petitioned to

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represent a group of about 3,000 graduate students and teaching assistants at the University of California's Berkeley campus, she said. Rahke said they would be the first teaching personnel represented by the union. teachi the un

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enough.

Average age of diagnosis is 65.

About 25 percent of these men will require surgery by the time they reach 80 years of age. The prostate is also the source of 19 percent of male cancers.

THE ONLY KNOWN risk factor for prostate cancer is being a member of the black race.

Prostate cancer occurs in 8.7 percent of white males and 9.4 percent of black males.

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Life-style patterns such as smoking, alcohol, Industrial carcinogens, disease history, obesity and circumcision do not affect risk for developing prostate cancer.

Interestingly, benign prostate enlargement is also not clearly corre-

iated with an increased risk. This means prostate caneer may be present without the common symptoms of urinary difficulties. Unfortunately, the tumor is often diagnosed after it has already spread to the bones, liver or lungs.

THE RECTAL examination is the most accurate and cost-effective test for detecting carcinoma of the prostate.

restate receiving carenoma or the partial executing carenoma or the physician carefully feels for areas of the prostate that are hard or nodular. Usually the prostate is smooth and has a rubbery texture. Pilly percent of nodules felt in the prostate are cancerous and may be present in more than one area of the prostate. Once a nodule is identified, physicians may differ on what to do next. Most obtain a battery of tests to exclude other co-existing conditions and to identify the extent of involvement. Some will perform imaging

making a devision blopsy.

Ultimately, the prostate nodule must be biopside before a diagnosis of cancer can be made. This is usually performed through the rectum or through the penls.

THE PROSTATE specific antigen is a new blood test. It is better than any blood test to date at identifying the presence and extent of prostate cancer.

cancer.

Some studies suggest this test is quite sensitive in its ability to identify cancer; however, we have not had many years of experience with this last.

Benign prostatic hypertrophy can also sometimes cause elevated lev-els, thus further confusing the issue. As in most cancers, the outcome for each individual patient depends on how advanced it is at the time of

diagnosis and the cell type of the tumor. It is a great challenge to identify a malignancy at a stage that is
early enough to be curable. Because
of this difficulty, a variety of new
ways of visualizing the prostate are
being explored.
Magnetic resonance imaging and
prostate ultrasound may prove to be
effective in making an early diagnosis and providing accurate staging.
If a nodule can be identified early
and biopsied, treatment can be started in an earlier phase of the disease.
However, there are no studies yetcompleted that clearly show the beneffit to cost advantages of widespread screening programs using
these expensive new tests.

Dr. Ismond is medical director of the Meadow Brook Health En-hancement Institute at Oakland University, which produced the article as a public service.

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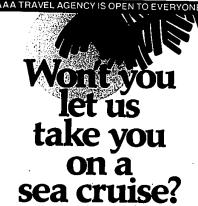
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