

Monday,
Dec. 3, 2007



TODAY'S
Sport Fest Windsor
FORECAST
Sunny High 25C



Serving Windsor
& Essex County



ENTERTAINMENT

Oscar Robertson donates
kidney to his daughter

ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS EVENT

Soup'er Bowl Volleyball Tournament
Sandcastle Sunday Jan. 27/08

SPORT FEST WINDSOR NEWS

40-year mark for transplants

Barnard made history in secret

BY CHARLOTTE PLANTIVE AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Johannesburg, S.A

Forty years ago, in the middle of the night at a Cape town hospital, South African surgeon Christiaan Barnard rewrote medical history when he carried out the first-ever heart transplant.

The operation captivated the imagination of the world, catapulting Barnard onto the world stage and leading to hundreds of similar operations around the globe.

Dene Friedman, who assisted with the running of the heart-lung machine, remembers the surgery "as if it were yesterday."

Nobody took a photograph, nobody did anything... We think of the publicity side of it," she told AFP.

Barnard had not even told the hospital that he would be attempting the operation, giving little thought to reaction his techniques would generate.

"Professor Barnard told them in the early hours of the next morning. He just gave a phone call," remembers Friedman.

"We just thought that we were doing something worthwhile for the patient," she said of Louis Washkansky, a 53-year old diabetic with incurable heart disease who had suffered three heart attacks.



**Christiaan
Barnard**

On the night of Dec. 2, 1967, a 25-year old woman was fatally injured in a car accident.

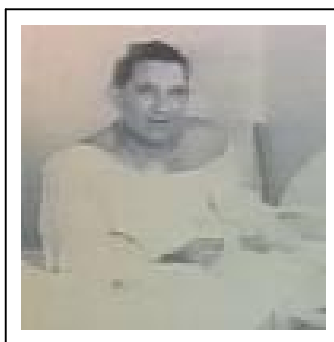
Her blood type matched that of Washkansky's and her father agreed that her

heart could be donated for the surgery.

"We entered the (operating) theatre in the middle of the night and left at 8a.m. the following morning," said Friedman.

"It was very impressive, exciting and scary. As it had never been done before, we weren't sure about the effects in a human patient."

The 30-strong medical team looked on in rapture as the transplanted heart gave its first few beats, making medical history.



**Louis Washkansky
with new heart**

Washkansky died 18 days later after developing double pneumonia as a result of the immuno-suppressive drugs he was taking.

Criticism didn't stop him

"It was terrible. When Washkansky died, I was totally disappointed," said Friedman, who has since gone into private practice.

Barnard subsequently became the target of much criticism for rushing into the operation when so little was known about immunosuppression.

The naysayers did not prevent the operation from making history. Some 100 heart transplant attempts followed in the next 12 months.

"On Saturday, I was a surgeon in South Africa, very little known. On Monday, was world renowned," Barnard recalled later.

His bright smile, good looks and charm also contributed to Barnard's fame. The son of a poor Afrikaner preacher was often seen at the side of actresses like Gina Lollobrigida and Sophia Loren. He married and divorced three times.

Barnard retired in 1983 due to rheumatoid arthritis. He continued transplanting hearts, and pioneering other techniques. He also became the first to carry out heart- lung transplant.

Not one to conform, Barnard admitted he had often practiced passive euthanasia and regularly clashed with South Africa's government over apartheid issues. He died in 2001 while on holiday in Cyprus, at the age of 78 from an asthma attack

**Sport Fest
WINDSOR**

Q: Is there an age limit to be a donor?

A: There is no age limit for organ donation. The Donor Network has successfully procured organs from donors as a few days to adults in their 90's. A patient's medical history is more important than the age of the donor. Sign an organ donor card from www.giftoflife.on.ca and let your family know of your wishes.

www.sport-fest.ca