

# HEALTH

## TV Anchor's Illness Helps Others



"Good Morning America" hosts, from left, George Stephanopoulos, Robin Roberts, Lara Spencer and ABC News President Ben Sherwood at a bone marrow registry drive last week at ABC News headquarters in New York.

### Bone marrow registry grows as Robin Roberts awaits transplant

(AP) — As Robin Roberts waits for a bone marrow transplant this fall, news of the morning show anchor's illness is helping others who need treatment.

The national bone marrow donation registry Be The Match reported last week that the rate of new registrants has more than doubled since the "Good Morning America" anchor announced on June 11 that she has MDS, a blood and bone marrow disease. Roberts helped supervise a bone marrow registry drive at ABC News headquarters in New York.

George Stephanopoulos and Lara Spencer of "GMA" and ABC News President Ben Sherwood showed up by a caf-

eteria, swabbing material from their mouths.

Roberts, who will receive a bone marrow transplant from her sister, said her mother told her to "turn a mess into a message."

"When I received this latest disappointment I did not know what the message would be," she said, "and now I do."

Jeffrey Chell, chief executive officer of Be The Match, said some 15,000 people had registered since Roberts announced her diagnosis. That's 11,200 more than the registry would normally receive in that period.

Of those new people, some 60 to 70 will be judged a good match and have some of their marrow used in a transplant.

## Weight Loss Drug Approved

(AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has approved Arena Pharmaceutical's anti-obesity pill Belviq, the first new prescription drug for long-term weight loss to enter the U.S. market in over a decade.

Despite only achieving modest weight loss in clinical studies, the drug appeared safe enough to win the FDA's endorsement, amid calls from doctors for new weight-loss treatments.

The agency cleared the pill for adults who are obese or are overweight with at least one medical complication, such as diabetes or high cholesterol.

The FDA denied approval for Arena's drug in 2010 after scientists raised concerns about tumors that developed in animals studied with the drug. The company resubmitted the drug with additional data earlier this year, and the FDA said there was little risk of tumors in humans.

With U.S. obesity rates nearing 35 percent of the adult population, many doctors have called on the FDA to approve new weight loss treatments.

But a long line of prescription weight loss offerings have been associated with safety problems, most notably the fen-phen combination, which was linked to heart valve damage in 1997.



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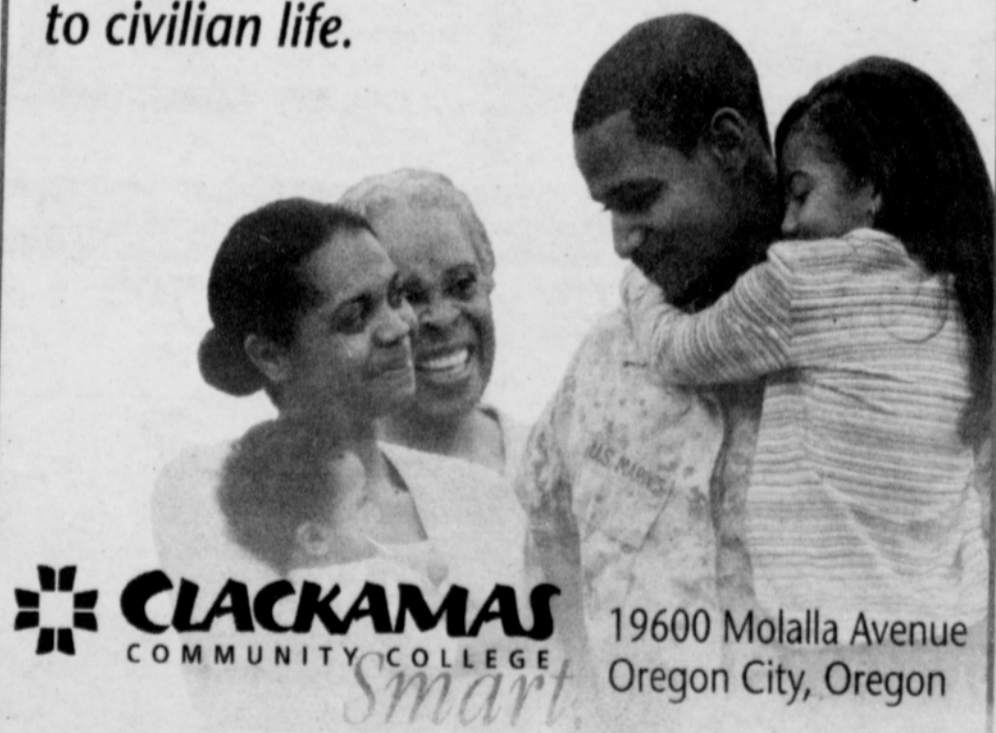
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