

**TO THE EDITOR:**

**Most American children with cancer now survive for more than five years. But these "cured" children still suffer from a variety of physical and developmental problems and have a shorter life span.**

**Other than treatment, prevention is crucial in child cancer. Since the 1970s, the rate of new cancers in U.S. children has risen 44 percent. In many cases, the cause is unknown. Lifestyle factors like smoking, obesity, inadequate exercise, poor diet and alcohol have little effect on children's cancer rates.**

**The American Cancer Society reports that radiation exposure and other environmental factors have been linked with child cancers. Studies show high rates of child cancer near nuclear reactors, and drastic declines after reactors shut down.**

**Greater emphasis on reducing child exposures to radiation and other environmental toxins will mean that fewer children will be diagnosed with cancer. A cleaner environment will mean a healthier future for our children.**

**CHRISTIE BRINKLEY  
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*The writer, the model and actress, is vice president of the Radiation and Public Health Project.*