Rather Than Praising God, Try Praising Your Friends A Little More!

Pacific Business News runs an annual section on business women in Hawaii. One of our illustrious members, Tyrie Jenkins, M.D., was given a half page story on her many accomplishments. Hawaii eye surgeons know her for quality work on the cutting edge in refractive surgery, but also Dr. Jenkins has generously contributed her time and resources to the community. She sponsors the Molokai Hoe race across the Molokai Channel, contributes to National Public Radio, works with the Girl Scouts, and she supports the yearly women’s conference on Winning Opportunities for Women. Coming from a family with four prior generations in medicine, she is planning to extend her volunteer activities in missionary eye care. All this, plus she has four children with her youngest daughter in pre-med. Good work, Doc.

All Some People Learn From Experience Is That They Made Another Mistake.

Orthokeratology, the optometrist’s answer for myopia, has been around for 40 years despite the failures, there has been a recent resurgence due to television and other advertisements. The temporary corneal flattening of rigid contact lenses with daily wear of 10 hours, usually at night, produces improved acuity, but also makes the eye vulnerable to corneal ulceration, often with scarring and reduced vision. The March edition of Ophthalmology describes the injury and corneal infections with Pseudomonas aeruginosa of six children due to this technique. Parents must be made aware of the risk when orthokeratology is pushed for their children, and eye surgeons must maintain awareness and be ready to care for these patients.

The Human Race Will Eventually Die Of Civilization.

The “developing nations” (once called 3rd world) are becoming increasingly motorized. The result is that deaths on their roads and highways will soon outstrip HIV and tuberculosis according to a new World Health Organization report. By the WHO statistics, 1.2 million people die annually on roadways and 20 to 50 million more are injured or disabled. The annual cost of this slaughter is estimated at $518 billion. If this trend continues, in 15 years highway deaths will only be exceeded by heart disease. In developing nations whole families might ride on a single motor bike (no helmets), and cars and pedestrians share the same road. Cause of death varies, but in Europe 20% of total traffic fatalities are pedestrians. In the United States, traffic officials point to drunk driving and failure to use seat belts, but America is a relatively safe place to drive when one considers that 90% of worldwide traffic deaths occur in the developing nations with only 20% of the world’s cars.

Perhaps Some Day These Will Be Thought Of As The "Dark Ages."

For months, the Food and Drug Administration has effectively delayed approval of “Plan B,” the emergency contraception medication which should be available to women without a prescription. The FDA says they want more data. What baloney! Everyone knows that some moralizing conservative members of Congress and anti-abortion groups have pushed the administration and the FDA, claiming Plan B would lead to higher rates of STDs, and promiscuous behavior by teenagers. The medication is not an abortive, and is no more dangerous than aspirin, and now even the New England Journal of Medicine has editorially rosted the FDA. “A treatment for any other condition, from hangnail to headache to heart disease, with a similar record of safety and efficacy would be approved quickly.” The obvious benefit of Plan B is to prevent unwanted pregnancies and thereby reduce abortions, but it is hard to get logic into some of the cob-web laden brains of the far right in Congress.

Some People Are Determined To Bring Order To A Random Universe.

How far should police be allowed to go in obtaining evidence for DUI arrests? In Wisconsin, a man was driving erratically one afternoon, failed a road side sobriety test and was taken to a hospital. Five policemen held him down while a technician took a blood specimen. At 0.266 % he was three times over the legal limit. The problem is that drinking drivers have learned that the breath test can be refused, and most state laws may suspend the motor vehicle license for several months or a year, but there is no record of DUI arrest. A survey done in 40 states showed that 19% of drivers arrested for DUI refused the breath test. Beside Wisconsin, at least seven other states provide for taking a blood sample without the driver’s consent, and court rulings have authorized reasonable force. Additionally, all motorists under the “implied consent” laws introduced in 1950, and present in all 50 states, are considered to have given consent to search of “blood, breath or urine.” Four states, including Hawaii, have laws that require that test results be given to police, and 14 other states authorize, but do not require release. Dr. Phil Brewer, president of Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians and a fellow at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is opposed. He claims that taking blood from a patient who is refusing to have his blood drawn without compelling medical reasons, is committing assault and battery. Privacy under the HIPAA rules does not apply when the disclosure is for law enforcement reasons, according to an exception provided by DHHS.

Trendy Teenagers Go To Pierce Parties!

Some effort should be made to explain to young people that cartilage is different from soft tissue. The skin is very thin over the upper ear, circulation is limited, and cartilage does not regenerate like other tissue. In an effort to make a statement (e.g. “I am stupid.”), by placing a stud through the upper ear, one might experience an ugly infection and permanent disfigurement. According to one epidemiologic study, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, 18 cases of pseudomonas infection in youngsters ages 10 to 19, occurred from one jewelry kiosk. Four required surgery and several were left with cosmetic deformities much like the “chichero ear” of Yucatan caused by leishmaniasis. What price sex appeal?

Urologist’s Advice: “Shift Into Sexual Overdrive.”

A study reported in Journal of the American Medical Association involved 29,342 health professionals ages 46 to 81, who were asked to estimate frequency of ejaculations at ages 20, 40 and the previous year. Possibly because a high sex drive is associated with high levels of testosterone, which can also fuel the growth of cancer cells, the relationship of frequent sexual activity was considered as increasing the risk of prostate cancer. Overall, the average man reported four to seven ejaculations a month. No increased risk of prostate cancer was found for those who claimed more frequent events. Interestingly, those who reported the highest levels, 13 to 21+ ejaculations/month had a decreased prostate cancer risk, possibly due to flushing out cancer-causing chemicals and retarding development of calcifications which have been associated with prostate cancer. No mention was made of blindness nor palmar hirsutism. Grandmother was wrong.

And Doctors Used To Prescribe Cigarettes To Calm Your Nerves.

For those who fear the economy is headed for the dumper, peace of mind can be found in the beer industry. Anheuser-Busch, which claims to rule over ½ the domestic market, posted a net income for 2003 of $294 million, a 3.8% increase over the previous year. Most brewers were hit by the Atkins low-carb diet frenzy, but Bud, the “King of Beers,” (King?) went to a trendy low-carb product called Ultra, and tacked on an expensive price tag. While the quality of product can hardly be boasted about, the Bud people really understand marketing.

ADDEnDA

♦ Your computer keyboard is dirtier than a toilet.
♦ The biggest tomato on record weighed 7 ½ pounds.
♦ Don Ho can sign autographs 3.5 times faster than Arnold Schwartzenneger.
♦ When Charles Dickens ordered a martini, the bartender said, “Olive or twist?”

Aloha and keep the faith —rtsg