



## Life in These Parts

Affable **Fred Holschuh**, past HMA president and a 20-year veteran of Hilo Medical Center's ER, feels that the drug abuse rate on the Big Island is the State's worst. "Sometimes ambulances in Hilo are too busy with overdose drug abusers and drunks to pick up sick people and accident victims. A 1995 survey by the State Department of Health shows that the Big Island has a greater percentage of drug and alcohol abuses than elsewhere in the State. The Big Island has an abuse rate of 7.2% compared to Kauai's 3.47%, Oahu's 3.55% and Maui's 2.65%."

Aetna Medicare which administers Medicare Part A and Part B will close its Hawaii office on September 30, 1997. Nationwide, Aetna Medicare processed \$60 million claims last year and the Hawaii office processed \$1.6 million claims. Aetna merged with U.S. Health Care (a HMO with operations in 13 states) on July 19 and plans to work with Medicare managed care.

We greeted old friend (retired real estate appraiser) **Walter Loo** with "How's Virginia?" (Walter's wife had retired from her Tripler job). With his typical scowl, he replied gravely, "You know, plastic surgery saved our marriage." We were surprised that Virginia needed surgery. "Was it something major?" Walter grinned happily, "I cut up her credit cards."

## Proverbs

- Medicine can only cure curable diseases and then not always (*Chinese*)
- An imaginary ailment is worse than a disease (*Yiddish*)
- Show him death and he'll be content with fever (*Persian*)
- People who take cold baths never have rheumatism, but they have cold baths (*American*)
- An ailing woman lives forever (*Spanish*)
- Only a fool will make a doctor his heir (*Russian*)
- The best surgeon is he that hath been hacked himself (*English*)
- Every invalid is a physician (*Irish*)

*From Stitches Magazine*

## Breast Cancer Rates for Asians in the U.S. Rise

Incidence of breast cancer in racial groups per 100,000 population:

Caucasians	112
Hawaiians	100
Afro-Americans	95
Japanese-Americans	82
Filipino-Americans	73
Chinese-Americans	55

**Lawrence Kolonel**, deputy director of the Cancer Research Center says, "While Asian nations have the world's lowest incidence of breast cancer, even in the first decade of immigration, the incidence rises dramatically. The rate increase is 25% for the first generation Asian-Americans, 50% for the second generation and 80% for the third. Larry hesitates to say, but he suspects, the increased fat in the American diet may be the cause."

## Medicare Quirk

Medicare beneficiaries are ordinarily responsible for 20% of the cost of services under Part B, but they are paying 37% of the total payments for hospital outpatient services. For some services they may pay up to 49% for outpatient surgery, radiology and diagnostic services. This may even rise to 68% by the year 2000. The federal advisory board, the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission has urged Congress to correct the problem, but neither Congress nor the Clinton administration is pushing for a quick solution because of the complexity of the problem and disagreement over who would pay the bill.

## Elected, Honored, and Appointed

**Alan Taniguchi**, 49, was appointed to replace **Kim Thorburn** (who resigned in protest after 9 years) as state prison system physician. Alan has a variegated career, neurology private practice 1984-86; epidemiologist with the Department of Health for 10 years; and more recently, as a medical resident at the UH Med School.

Family physician **Fred Lam**, 73, was named the Waikiki Rotary Club's Employer of the Year. His two employees, office manager **Momoye Kurahashi**, 70, and nurse **Jean Kawafuchi**, 69, have been with Fred for five decades. Fred says, "I'm thinking of retiring, but with so many patients, it's hard."

## Physician Moves

In July, Straub announced that retired endocrinologist **Ralph Beddow** was returning to join the Joslin Diabetes Center at Straub.

In September, internist **Stuart Nakamoto** joined the Kalihi Medical Center Inc. at 2055 N. King Street; anesthesiologists **Mark Robinson** and **Mark Nishijo** joined the Physicians' Anesthesia Service, Inc. at Kuakini Medical Plaza, Suite 306; family practitioner **Al Jimenez** joined the Family Practice Center—Ewa Beach 91-775 D Papipi Road, Ewa Beach. ("Dr Al" specializes in pediatrics, adult medicine, Gyn & Geriatrics).

Straub Kapolei opened on September 16 in the Campbell Square's Kapolei Building (next to the post office, across from Bank of Hawaii and next to Kapolei Theater's) Industrial medicine specialist **Charles Kelly** will work with **Ramon Pajavillo** to provide service for employees in the Campbell industrial and business parks.

Ophthalmologist **Vernon K.W. Wong** opened his office at the Kahaka Professional Center, 1481 S. King Street, Suite 42.

## Garth Morimoto's Retirement Bash

*(By our favorite neurologist-humorist Mike Okihira at Mid Pac CC July 18)*

It is fortunate that Garth became an orthopedist. With his loud booming voice, he could have been an evangelist, a revivalist or Baptist minister. His voice easily carries two or three fairways.

Actually it's all genetic. Garth comes from Kauai where his father was a labor union leader in the days of Jack Hall, Jack Kawano and the I.L.W.U. To be a union leader you needed a strong voice and carry a big stick.

There is no doubt that Garth was a favorite son. Many years ago, we frequently went to Kauai on our golfing trips. One night, Garth and some of his drinking buddies closed the bar at the old Kauai Surf. It was 3 a.m. and they had no car. No cabs run around Lihue at that time of night. So Garth had to call his dad.

"What's the matter, son? Something happen in Honolulu?"

"No, no, I'm here on Kauai. The boys kept me out late and we need a ride back to Kauai Resort."

Poor old dad, he didn't even know his son was on Kauai. When you hear such stories, you know that Garth was his Dad's favorite son. Of course, it helped that Garth was his only son.

And that is how Garth's familiar expletive "God dammit!" got started. When growing up on Kauai, it used to be "Garth dammit!" All the neighbors thought Mr Morimoto was using God's name in vain.

I've known Garth for thirty five years. He is a well trained board-certified orthoped. With his partner **Don Maruyama**, they've had a busy practice and it is sad to see the demise of the Hawaii Orthopedic Clinic, but time marches on.

A group of hospital personnel plan to throw a celebration party after Garth leaves. They are the hospital nurses, pharmacists and record room clerks. We know about doctors with poor penmanship. Well, these two partners at the Hawaii Orthopedic Clinic invented a script of their own. To say that Garth's writing is hard to decipher is about the nicest thing you can say about it. Actually it's impossible. Garth and Don have caused more turmoil in the Medical Records Department than the rest of the KMC staff combined. The continuous turnover of personnel in that department can be primarily traced to these two doctors. Garth even went to a handwriting expert, the kind who could tell him what his character and past life was like and his future was going to be. Garth was told, "Sorry, can only help if you write English."

I've been playing golf with Garth for umpteen years and I know his game inside-out. Garth went to undergraduate school at Ohio State and during Garth's time, they had the same coach, Bob Kepler, who taught such great golfers like Jack Nicholas, Tom Weiskopf and John Cook. If you watch Garth's practice swing, you can see he learned the swing well. He takes his club straight back, makes a full shoulder turn, points the club right at the target and then makes a strong, beautiful swing ie, a perfect arc with a great follow through. Perfecto!

Somehow, somewhere, in the great neural network that constantly intrigues neurologists, something happens when a little golf ball is placed in front of him. Now, I have to be a little clinical, so please bear with me. It may be cortical imagery that is distorted when the reflection of the ball hits the macula and the optic tract, bypassing the lateral geniculate bodies and sweeping in an arc to the occipital cortex: from the visual cortex to other cortical and subcortical areas or from the pretectal region to the Edinger-Wesphal nucleus via the posterior commissure, or from the superior colliculi to other cranial and spinal nu-

clei. It probably has to be the first of these options because association and reflex fibers pass from the occipital cortex to other cortical centers related to higher function as well as to the superior colliculi and, thus, through the tectobulbar and tectospinal tracts for voluntary and postural reflexes.

So, although we do not yet have an answer, there are a number of possibilities where Garth's perfect swing goes askew when a golf ball is placed in front of him. From the practical standpoint, my advice is simple: Next time you're on the golf course, address your club behind the ball, close your eyes and take your Tom Weiskopf swing. Guaranteed, your swing will look nice, even if you miss the Garth-dammit ball.

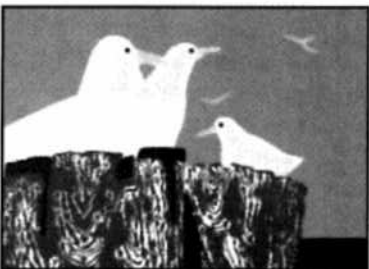
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