

NCAHF
THE BULLETIN BOARD

JULY / AUGUST, 1993

The Bulletin Board is sent to NCAHF members only. It is intended to stimulate and aid in activism against health fraud, misinformation and quackery at the local, state & national levels.

EDUCATIONAL FORUM / DIRECTORS MEETING

The lack of availability of the Seapoint Hotel in September has made it necessary to reschedule the September NCAHF Board of Directors meeting to Sunday, October 31 (at the Seapoint). The San Diego Chapter is planning an educational forum on health misinformation, fraud and quackery for Saturday, October 30 (late morning through early afternoon) to be held on the campus of the University of California, San Diego. Speakers will include Victor Herbert, MD, JD, John Renner, MD, Jim Lowell, PhD, and Charles DuVall, DC. For more information contact: Mitsuo Tomito, MD, 619-528-5098; fax: 619-589-3455 or 619-528-7721. Board Chairman, Wallace Sampson, MD, will be unable to preside over the autumn board meeting. He is convalescing from a serious illness with severe complications. Former Chairman Harold Loeffler, PhD, is assuming the Chairman's responsibilities for the meeting.

FDA RAIDS 11 COMPANIES

On May 12, the FDA participated in a federal-state crackdown on 11 companies alleged to be involved in mail fraud, money laundering, smuggling, drug misbranding, and introducing unapproved and misbranded drugs into interstate commerce (NCAHF was told that these were all Donsbach operations). Products listed in the 35 search warrants executed by state and federal officials included supplements such as Hoxsey Herbal Therapy Liquid, shark cartilage, and Hepamare tablets. Curiously, the National Nutritional Foods Association stated on May 18 that "from the information we have at this time, the majority of the products seized by various agencies on May 12 are materials whose distribution and sale this association cannot condone. We are eager to assure the public that the activities revealed by public and regulatory agency actions on May 12 are not at all typical of this industry and in most cases were not performed by members of this association." (*Food Chemical News*, 5/24/93, p.16). This may be part of NNFA's strategy of positioning itself as part of the mainstream food industry disclosed in the Jan-Feb, 1993 *NCAHF Newsletter*.

LAWRENCE BURTON DEAD

NCAHF has received word that Lawrence Burton, PhD, the zoologist who invented so-called "Immuno-Augmentative Therapy" (IAT) and operated a clinic at Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, passed away sometime in March. Sources say that Burton once declared that he would take his inside secret behind IAT with him to the grave. Whether or not he held to his oath is unknown, in any case, the clinic is said to be continuing its business under the direction of a clinic physician. (We have no published reports on these items of information).

POSITION PAPER ON CANCER

NCAHF's UK affiliate, HealthWatch, has issued a position paper on cancer that makes some important points in a brief, concise format. Members who talk to people about cancer will likely find this position paper helpful.

STATUS OF APPLIED KINESIOLOGY

The most recent status statement by the International College of Applied Kinesiology (ICAK), dated June 16, 1992, was published in the June, 1993, *Townsend Letter for Doctors*. A-K watchers will want to read this. The nux of the statement is that A-K is an invalid method of diagnosis by itself and must be confirmed by other standard tests. Further, not all types of "muscle-testing" procedures equate with A-K as defined by the ICAK.

LEGAL STATUS OF COLONICS

A concerned citizen has shared with NCAHF a mail survey she conducted of 50 U.S. boards of medical examiners and boards of osteopathic medicine conducted in October, 1991. 30 medical and 6 osteopathic boards responded. 11 boards considered colonic irrigation to be the practice of medicine: AZ, CA, CT, GA, IA, KS, MI, MI (Osteo), MO, NJ, WI. 6 boards answered with ill-defined comments: (IL, ME, NV, OK, (Osteo), WA, WV (Osteo). 21 boards had no position. 10 boards had no position but commented. The survey was prompted by a 1985 statement by the Infectious Disease Branch of the California State Department of Health Services that "the practice of colonic irrigation by chiropractors, physical therapists, or physicians *should cease*. Colonic irrigation can do no good, only harm." (*Calif. Morbidity*, 9/27/85). This provides a sample of the void which often exists between the science and regulation of medicine, and points out the scientific aspects need strengthening.

COMPENDIUM OF QUACKERY

Dr. Robert Atkins has made a contribution to quackbusting by naming leading types of quackery in his monograph, 6 *Alternative Treatments Your Doctor Won't Tell You About*, (18 pages) which profiles his views on pseudomedicine. As a leader of medical mavericks, Atkins' views may help determine educational priorities for consumer education. These are: (1) chelation therapy for heart disease; (2) hyperthermia for prostate cancer; (3) clinical ecology; (4) candidiasis; (5) oxygen therapies (ozone administration, hydrogen peroxide, chlorine dioxide, electrolyzed saline); (6) alternative cancer treatments for which he says he promotes: anti-oxidants (beta carotene, vitamin C, selenium, vitamin E, glutathione, and cysteine), pancreatic enzymes, carnivora (Venus flytrap extract), 714-X (Gaston Naessens), and Essiac (covered in May-June, *NCAHF Newsletter*).

DR. MEDENICA'S CREDENTIALS QUESTIONED

Controversial Hilton Head, SC, physician, Rajko Medenica has been sued for failing to properly monitor a cancer patient he treated. Reviews of treatment records call Medenica's medical competence into question. Unrelated to the lawsuit is a Hilton Head Hospital review of Medenica's curriculum vitae leading to serious questions about his background. Medenica was convicted in absentia by a Swiss court of health insurance fraud against his native Yugoslavia in 1983 (he was sentenced to four years in prison for stealing \$580,000). His ability to ingratiate himself to the governor of South Carolina, Muhammad Ali, and the former ambassador of South Korea, John Walker, has enabled Medenica to find asylum in Hilton Head. Investigations of Medenica's CV reveal that his claims to having collaborated and consulted with NCI, the Mayo Clinic, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center are bogus. His claims to special oncology skill are falling apart like a house of cards as inquiries are made into Medenica's true past. The story is given extensive coverage in *The Cancer Letter*, 4/30/93.

BOOK LIBELS NCAHF

Racketeering in Medicine: The Suppression of Alternatives by James P. Carter, MD, DrPH (Hampton Roads Publ., 1992) repeats the false statements published by P.J. Lisa in *The Medical Monopoly Wars* (the focus of the *Herbert v AQA* lawsuit scheduled to go to trial in late June, 1993, in Ft. Dodge, Iowa). Carter falsely states that NCAHF is the successor of something called the Coordinating Conference on Health Information (CCHI) (no one at NCAHF had ever heard of CCHI before Lisa wrote of it). CCHI is alleged to be the tool of a great AMA conspiracy to do in its competition. NCAHF is alleged to not represent consumers, but physicians in the private practice of medicine and pharmaceutical companies. This is pure nonsense which defames NCAHF. The health food magazine, *Vegetarian Times*, already settled a libel suit brought by NCAHF and its leaders for repeating Lisa's lies in an article by Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin in 1991. Carter's publisher was warned about these libelous statements but released the book anyhow. There are many other falsehoods related to NCAHF and its affiliates. It is clear that the only way quackery can attack NCAHF is through lies. NCAHF's General Counsel, Mr. Michael Botts has written a detailed description of Carter's false statements which can be obtained from the main office. Carter has been associated with the promotion of dubious health products such as bee pollen and Dick Gregory's *Bahamian Diet* through the Cernitin America, Inc's multilevel marketing program. Carter is head of Nutrition Section at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. The book is being promoted in the world of fringe medicine (a review which does not mention NCAHF appeared in the *Townsend Letter for Doctors*, in January, 1993) and continues the Big Lie strategy of discrediting NCAHF initiated by P.J. Lisa who was hired by Kurt Donsbach for the job of character assassination of Victor Herbert, NCAHF and others.

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COUNTERING BEEF-RAISING MISINFORMATION

"Beyond the beef about beef," (*Priorities*, Spring, 1993) takes on Jeremy Rifkin's recent book *Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture* (a rehash of the arguments presented in John Robbins' *Diet For A New America* a critique of which was in the Sept-Oct, 1991 *NCAHF Newsletter*). The article points out both correct and incorrect assertions made by Rifkin. Interestingly, the hypothesis advanced by Rifkin that significant environmental improvements would be realized if beef consumption were to be cut by 50% is disputed by the lack of any such documented improvements associated with the 30% decrease which occurred between 1976 and 1991. The reality is that a coalition of ideological groups promoting vegetarianism, animal rights, rain forest preservation, protection of wildlife, small-scale farming or other issues are behind *Beyond Beef*. None of these groups seems to give priority to accurate information, the author says.

DEBATE ON THE ALLEGED "GREENHOUSE EFFECT"

Realities concerning the current state of the world are pivotal in policy-making. One of the major environmental issues is whether or not the earth is getting warmer due to a so-called "greenhouse effect" caused by increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide. The *Rocky Mountain Skeptic* (Jan-Feb, 1993) reprinted a pro-con debate between two Australians on the question "Greenhouse Effect: Fact or Myth?" [Some readers may find it surprising that there is a debate on the greenhouse effect. Both public and trade broadcasting commentators speak of it as if it is a certainty.]

SPIRULINA, CHLORELLA, & BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Promotion has been aggressive and sound information scarce on the food (and health) value of algae (eg, spirulina, chlorella and others). "Microalgae as food and supplement," (*Critical Reviews in Food Science & Nutrition*, 1991;30:555-73) carried an article by Robert Kay, vice-president of Cell Tech at Klamath Falls, Oregon. Cell Tech is the company that harvests the pond scum of Klamath Lake and sells it as a food supplement. It was shut down by the FDA in 1986, but reopened recently. The credibility of Cell Tech is lower than a snake's navel, so why do we include an article by its V-P? Number one, the article was reviewed by Larry L. Barton, who is in the Dept of Biology at the University of New Mexico. Our reading suggests that some of the pro-algae hype was moderated by him (claims that the stuff cures cancer, AIDs, heart disease, and more, were toned down to "may be beneficial" (note: we think we hear the sound of ducks on Klamath Lake!). Second, the article contains quantitative information on the food value and production requirements of algae products. For the first time comparisons are available on the different types of algae being promoted (with references). We warn readers to be skeptical, but feel that this is at least a starting point for information on algae products.

Please send items of possible interest to NCAHF members for *The Bulletin Board*, or for readers of the *NCAHF Newsletter* to NCAHF, P.O. Box 1276, Loma Linda, CA 92354; fax 909-824-4838. Provide clear (not fax) copies suitable for photocopying, and complete references for citation purposes.