

THE NCAHF BULLETIN BOARD

MAY / JUNE, 1995

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

NEW TASK FORCE COORDINATORS

Dietary Supplement Abuse.	Nutrition Diploma Mills
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800 NUMBER OUT-OF-SERVICE

The 800 number to the NCAHF Resource Center has been taken out of service due to the high cost of the service. Some months saw the billings run over \$1,000. Dr. Renner has personally borne this cost over the years, and no longer feels able to do so. Besides, he has discovered that enough people make use of his regular number to keep him busy. The fact that callers are not charged a fee for the information they receive by telephone off-sets the need to provide free access to some degree.

1995-96 NCAHF BOARD AND OFFICERS.

The election of officers and board members for 1995-96 closed on May 15 with all confirmed. One board candidate, Mr. Robert (Bob) Steiner, asked that his name be withdrawn for the term after the ballots had been mailed. Bob Steiner, a professional magician who used his talent to expose health fraud and quackery, has served on the board since 1989. We also want to acknowledge the past service of former board members Wayne Bidlack, PhD, John Bolton, MD, Alison Eldridge, PhD, Richard Oksas, PharmD, Donna Stewart, MD, Helene Swenerton, PhD, and Nancy Tullis, RD. Space does not permit us to itemize the tremendous contributions that each has made. NCAHF thanks them for their service on the board, and for their continuing contributions to the struggle against health fraud, misinformation, and quackery.

HEALTH QUACKERY WORKSHOP

Bob Vanni, professor of health sciences at Western Illinois University, will be conducting a health quackery workshop June 12-22 at WIU. Two semester hours of credit are given, and the course is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. For more information contact Mr. Vanni at Health Sciences Dept., Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455; 309-298-1736 or 1076.

WHAT CHIROPRACTORS CAN LEGALLY DO.

Readers who track the chiropractic guild will find interesting "Chiropractic scope of practice: what the law allows--update 1993" (*J Manipulative Physiologic Therapeutics* 1995;18:16-20). The report differentiates between *diagnostic* and *treatment* procedures, and presents data from all U.S. state, and Canadian provincial, licensing boards.

QUACKBUSTERS TARGETED

John Hammell, Political Coordinator of the Life Extension Foundation (LEF), reported on a "summit meeting" of the American College of Advancement in Medicine (ACAM), a chelation therapy advocacy group. Hammell announced the formation of the Coalition for Options to Achieve Comprehensive Health (COACH), a top priority for which will be "to identify our opponents as specifically as possible," and to "utilize investigative reporters/attorneys in order to investigate the structure of our adversaries." Hammell listed the AMA, dieticians, NCAHF, the American Council on Science and Health, and the National Organization of Medical Boards as adversaries. "Quackbusters" named in the report included "Viktor" Herbert, MD, Stephen Barrett, MD, and William Jarvis, PhD of NCAHF. Herbert's surname was twice misspelled with a *k* instead of a *c*. This substitution is commonly found in neo-nazi and other extremist publications. The Life Extension Foundation operates the "FDA Holocaust Museum" in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, as an adjunct to its dietary supplement business. The museum claims that the FDA is responsible for more deaths than the Nazi concentration camps because of its "suppression of new medicines" that could prevent major diseases. LEF accuses the FDA of gestapo-like seizures of property, and crimes against humanity. One thing LEF is not noted for is reasonable speech! They will find that the FDA is an easier target for their strident rhetoric than are the quackbusters.

CONSUMER'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT CRITIQUE

Tom Holt, Capital Research Center (CRC) visiting fellow and author*, says that the consumer rights movement is unrealistically seeking to bring about a risk-free society. He disparages a common thread running through consumerist rhetoric as "a general hostility to technological advance and the comforts of modern life." He says that consumerists use disinformation campaigns and regulatory bullying tactics as a "one-two punch." Holt includes the National Resources Defense Council's carefully designed and successful disinformation campaign against alar, the consumer movement's tenacious defense of the outmoded Delaney Amendment, and the current attacks on bovine somatotropin as examples. He specifically criticizes Nader groups and Consumer's Union's Edward Groth. Holt discusses the tactic of scapegoating industry used by strident consumerists, and over-regulation by the environmental bureaucracy. Holt's criticisms are much like NCAHF's. NCAHF believes that attacks on conventional industries enables bogus industries to exploit overly anxious consumers, and that political backlash from excessive regulation may lead to weakening of consumer protection in the health marketplace. No case has been made for reducing health-related regulation. Nevertheless, this was done by Hatch's dietary supplements act, Daschle's "any willing provider" legislation, and Harkin's establishment of the NIHOAM. It is clear that something besides the public's well being is driving the system. *CRC book on the consumer advocacy movement published 1/95.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING:

ARE THERE ANY CONNECTIONS TO QUACKERY?

Whenever there is a big story that includes an element of nuttiness, we always look for an angle that links to the world of quackery, and linkages do exist. According to *U.S. News & World Report* (5/8/95) James Nichols, the man who apparently used his Michigan farm as a bomb-testing site, is an "organic farmer" (p.37). This seems to say that he philosophically opposed using commercial fertilizer for raising crops, but not for bomb-making. Nichols also was a reader of *The Spotlight* (p.39), a long-time source of proquackery rhetoric. *The Spotlight* is published by Liberty Lobby, an extremist group founded by Willis Carto. Carto is described by King (in *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism*, Doubleday, 1989) as "an influential American anti-semitic of the 1970s who was an intellectual disciple of the late Francis Parker Yockey." In 1980 when LaRouche ran for president of the USA, he referred to *Spotlight's* readership as a quarter-million strong "Gideon's Army of American nationalism." *Newsweek* (5/15/95) reported that McVeigh advertised in *Spotlight* using his alias, "T. Tuttle." McVeigh may also have tried to alert *Spotlight's* editors of the bombing. They had received a postcard the day of the bombing depicting a black dust storm over Oklahoma postmarked Oklahoma City two earlier. *Spotlight's* editorial staff turned the card over to the FBI after its significance became known. *Spotlight* has a long history of attacking regulatory agencies, and promoting cancer quackery. It is rabidly prolaetrile, advocated a health freedom amendment to the Constitution, and ran stories on the "persecution" of Bruce Halstead when he was convicted of cancer fraud. Apparently embarrassed when its hero President Reagan chose standard therapy for his bout with cancer, *Spotlight* ran a story which speculated that Reagan was being secretly treated by Hans Nieper, a German doctor the FDA had taken action against. The conspiracy theory is intrinsic to the organized quackery movement who speak of conspiracies to withhold cancer and AIDS cures, spread AIDS through immunization programs, poison America with fluoridation, and so forth. However, before someone assumes that quackery is only linked to the ideology of the political right, we point out that Gov. Jerry Brown and Chief Justice Rose Bird championed quackery in California, and that leftist radical Jerry Rubin was selling Omnitrition International products when he passed recently. Quackery is supported by both the extreme right and left due to the distrust of "the establishment" of both--though the character of their alienation probably differs. The same can be said of terrorists. In the 1970s it was left-wing extremists such as the Weather Underground, Black Panthers, and Symbionese Liberation Army that took up arms against the government. For insight into the social history of paranoia see Richard Hofstadter's *The Paranoid Style in American Politics and Other Essays* (Knopf, 1966), a "sleeper" on NCAHF's Available Resource Materials list for years. The power of ideology in support of quackery was seen in Canada in 1983. A naturopath had caused the death of a 20-month-old child when an inflated balloon he had inserted into her nose as a "cure" for her mental retardation slipped off and lodged in her windpipe. Public outrage eventually led to the elimination of the naturopathic licensing board in the province, but the campaign to salvage the board from oblivion was financed by a wealthy anti-semitic who believed that medical doctors are "mostly Jews." He was also the grandfather of the victim! NCAHF also sees both of these political extremes in antifluoridation groups. (see Markle "Notes from the cancer underground; participation in the Laetrile movement, *Soc Sci & Med* 1978;12:31-7).

NIH DIRECTOR OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS OFFICE

The job-description of the Director of the Office of Dietary Supplements Research of NIH is included in an announcement placed in the May, 1995 issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. No mention is made of the troubling provision of the dietary supplements act that specified someone without a history of bias against supplement use. In fact, there is a standard nondiscrimination statement at the bottom of the announcement.

NIH QAM CONFERENCE REPORT AVAILABLE

The proceedings of the conference held at Chantilly, Va, in September, 1992 is now available. The report entitled *Alternative Medicine: Expanding Medical Horizons* has been called a landmark document that provides a complete description of the current status of "alternative" medicine. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954; telephone 202-512-1800 or fax 202-512-2250, VISA/Mastercharge accepted. Indicate stock number 017-040-00537-7; price: \$25 (\$31.25 foreign).

AMERICAN PREVENTIVE

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (APMA)

According to a solicitation letter dated December, 1994, "APMA was established specifically to be the advocacy organization for preventive and holistic health care practitioners and their patients." Precisely what APMA has in mind is clarified later on: "state medical boards and others in the health care system are making it increasingly difficult for practitioners and consumers of alternative therapies." APMA officers and its board of directors include some familiar names. Among notables are *president* Michael Janson, MD (practices CT & CE); V-P Jonathan Wright MD, (current president of the National Health Federation; former president of the American Quack Association; raided by FDA in 1992; practices CE,CT); *secretary* Jonathan Collin, MD, (publishes the *Townsend Letter for Doctors* a leading organ for maverick, fringe and sectarian practitioners; practices CT, ET); *past pres.* Julian Whitaker, MD, (source of the MD-hate publication *Health & Wellness Today*; crusader against the American Dietetics Association for censuring Shari Lieberman [also an APMA board member] practices CT, CE). Other APMA board members include: Berkley Bedell (politician who initiated the NIHOAM); Jeffrey Bland, PhD (health foods promoter, fined by FTC for fraudulent infomercials); Robert Rowen, MD whose political appointment to Alaska's board of medical examiners caused a furor (practices CT, CE, Hom, OT); Michael Schachter, MD, a psychiatrist who treated 10-year-old Hodgkin's patient Joey Hofbauer with laetrile and whose court testimony helped keep Joey from effective medical care (Joey died 1980), practices CT, CE; Murray Susser MD, who practices CT & CE; John Trowbridge, MD who practices CT & CE, and others.

Abbreviations: CT = chelation therapy; CE = clinical ecology, ET = Enzyme Therapy; Hom = homeopath; OT = oxygen therapy. Source: Goldberg. *Alternative Medicine Yellow Pages*, 1994.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

During July and August phone calls should be directed to Dr. John Renner at 816-228-4595. July 1-Aug 30, William Jarvis may be reached at 604-837-2593; fax 604-837-6830 (Pacific time zone)

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.