

THE NCAHF BULLETIN BOARD

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2001

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

TERRORISM IN HEALTH FRAUD

While not on the same order of magnitude as the terrorism behind the catastrophes of September 11th, terrorism has raised its ugly head in the activities of health fraud defenders. It's important to discuss this terrorism and what we can do about it.

NCAHF members support rational discussion of healthcare. We point out the need for evidence to support claims of safety and effectiveness of products and practices. We describe problems associated with the promotion of healthcare methods lacking plausible biological rationales. Our approach has been a civilized one of discourse. Our methods are to argue and support our arguments with logic and data. We expose frauds and provide information to consumers and authorities.

Several parties have attempted to terrorize outspoken NCAHF members and other opponents of health fraud into silence. They have tried to demean us. They have spread untruths about us, filed untrue police reports, and accused some of us of perjury. They have regularly disseminated false information about particular consumer advocates. Some of us have been assaulted in courthouse corridors, where we were acting as experts in prosecutions of practitioners who were found to be violating the law.

One party spread a scurrilous libel about me to virtually every dental licensing board in an attempt to discourage the boards from using me as a consultant or expert witness. I have only worked with a handful of boards over the past fifteen years. I have testified directly before a dental board only twice regarding license revocation cases. Yet, the person who initiated the libel seems to think that I earn my living "testifying for them."

Deliberate acts to spread disinformation, to discredit, and to deceive must not be excused as expressions of disagreement, "free speech," or even "opinion" as some defamatory posts have been labeled. These acts are foisted by cowards who hide behind anonymous e-mails and maildrops. Several attempts at bringing them to justice are progressing through the appropriate legal channels, albeit slowly. True to form, some of these cowards have denied they were given papers of service, when in fact they had been. Then, they bragged about it.

Others have celebrated when a judge applied a ruling that suggested they could continue spreading libel written by someone else and sent to them over the Internet. I have serious doubts an appeals court will uphold that ruling. One should not have to spend weeks picking apart lies spread about one's background or credentials. Regardless of what the legal decision was, there is little question in my mind that these lies were written and spread with malicious intent. Those who spread them are as blameworthy as those who wrote them, no matter what a judge rules about whether they are legally culpable.

NCAHF does not have a large war chest. After all we don't sell zipper devices and supplements. But our reach is wide, and our resolve is firm. We won't stoop to the tactics of terrorists, but we must stand up to them. They must be stopped. They must face justice.

I call on NCAHF members to use every resource they have to stop terrorism against opponents of health fraud. If you would like

to help, there are some practical things you can do to bring justice, especially if you live in southern California. For more information, please write to me at imcsi@rcn.com or the new NCAHF headquarters in Peabody, MA.

Robert S. Baratz, MD, PhD, DDS
NCAHF President

LETTER TO REPORTER LEADS TO APOLOGY ON CLAIMS FOR PRAYER

Months ago in a *Courier-Journal* (Louisville, KY) article, Bryant Stamford wrote an article suggesting that more than 100 double-blind studies indicate that praying for people makes them heal better and faster. Professor Thomas J. Wheeler sent Stamford a documented critique indicating that only five double-blind studies of prayer had been published in the medical literature, only two of the studies indicated a benefit, the apparent benefits were weak, and the studies were methodologically flawed. In an article published on October 21st, Stamford published part of Professor Wheeler's critique and apologized for letting his "opinions and intuition overshadow the scientific facts." Stamford stopped short of making a full retraction, but he did allow Professor Wheeler to set the record straight for *Courier-Journal* readers.

NCAHF 2000 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Contributions	\$15,980.46
Membership dues	18,935.00
Newsletter subscriptions	2,562.00
Literature sales	428.50
Royalties	2,202.88
Interest	2,552.48
Other income	14.67
Realized gains	16.72
Total income	\$42,692.71

EXPENSES

Office space (rental)	\$12,000.00
Telephone	457.81
Professional fees	14,962.60

[Accounting	1,200]	
[Computing	1,800]	
[Fund raising	250]	
[Secretarial	11,012.60]	
[Web site	700.00]	
Printing	4,111.70	
Postage and shipping	1,773.89	
Advertising	1,390.22	
Directors' expenses	2,630.84	
Fundraising	728.56	
Office supplies	309.72	
Subscriptions	159.69	
Tax expense	20.00	
Miscellaneous expense	1,765.01	
Total expenses	\$40,310.04	
2000 gain/(loss)	\$ 2,382.67	
Equity 12/31/00	\$51,011.25	

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 Alternative Medicine Reading List:
http://www.louisville.edu/medschool/biochemistry/grad/alternative_med/Syllabus.htm

Museum Questionable Medical Devices
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 Minneapolis, MN 55414
 763-545-1113
quack@mtn.org; www.mtn.org/quack

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SELECTED ANTI-QUACKERY WEBSITES

Quackwatch Web Sites:
 Main site home page: <http://www.quackwatch.com>

Canada: www.healthwatcher.net;
www.chirowatch.com; www.diefraud.com
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