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The doctors counterattack

By Kenneth Eskey

Medical doctors who've been fair game for sometimes frivolous malpractice suits in recent years now seem to be turning the tables on their tormentors

Last year a radiologist in Skokie Ill was awarded $8,000 in a countersuit against a woman who sued him (unsuccessfully) for $250 000 after claiming he failed to properly diagnose a tennis injury to her little finger

Since that time doctors in Montana and Missouri have won even larger awards for malicious prosecution An orthopedic surgeon in Vero Beach Fla was awarded $175,000 just the other day in a countersuit against a former patient and his lawyer

The patient had sued the surgeon Dr John Sullivan for implanting in his broken arm a steel rod that he said was one inch too long The patient dropped the suit when the doctor refused to settle out of court The doctor then filed a suit of his own

What this seems to show is that doctors who resist flimsy malpractice suits can fend off such suits and perhaps even collect damages from their accusers

If more doctors (and their insurance companies) were willing to challenge unwarranted charges the number of malpractice suits would decline and the cost of insurance — which is passed along to the patient — might be substantially reduced

Legislatures in Indiana and other states have done their part in passing new laws protecting doctors against frivolous suits and limiting the fees a lawyer may collect

Whatever the reason the number of suits the size of awards and the cost of malpractice insurance appear to have leveled off in some parts of the country

That's good news for doctors — and equally good news for patients who end up paying the bill

AS TIME GOES BY

River crest

FORTY YEARS AGO
-1937-

A gradual decline in the river crest was expected after the Missouri River neared its flood crest of 16 44 feet in Nebraska City Nebraska City grain dealers were offering $1 a bushel for hard wheat for July delivery as the wheat harvest began in Otoe county Missouri Pacific officials reported that an attempt had been made to blow up one of the line's passenger trains a mile south of Auburn and said 26 sticks with detonating caps were found on the tracks Miss Ruth Jones holder of the Miss Nebraska and Shenandoah, Iowa flower festival queen titles, was the guest of honor at a testimonial dinner given by the Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Grand

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO
1952—

Shirley Marts was installed as Honored Queen of Job's Daughters Robert Farris was named freshman coach at the University of Nebraska The national CIO committee on regional development and conservation toured the western part of Otoe County to inspect the Soil Conservation Service's work in flood control John Christensen was the winning pitcher in Midget ball as Thygeson's trimmed E & S Bootery 14-4 George Hansen reported the addition of one new member to the Dairy Association — Gilmer French of Douglas

TEN YEARS AGO
—1967—

Mr and Mrs Allan Dose made plans to observe their 25th wedding anniversary Stan Gregg and Wes Olsen, Nebraska City were named delegates at large at the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary state convention in Fremont American Legion Fourth of July Chairman Stan Gregg reported the William Thomas Shows carnival would be operating at Steinhart Park for the Fourth of July .David and Tom Schneider worked together on a 73 paper route which took them in the area around St Mary's Hospital Theresa Kime of Nehawka was a delegate to the 4-H Club Week held in Lincoln.

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, June 26, the 177th day of 1977 There are 188 days left in the year

Today's highlight in history

On this date in 1945, delegates from 50 nations, meeting in San Francisco, signed the United Nations Charter

In 1524, according to legend, the Pied Piper of Hamelin, Germany, lured 130 children from the town Their fate never was determined

In 1541, the Spanish conqueror, Francisco Pizarro, was slain in Lima, Peru

In 1549, the 17 provinces of the Netherlands were declared independent of the Holy Roman Empire

In 1844, President John Tyler married Julia Gardiner in a secret wedding in New York

In 1974, the 10-year marriage of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton was dissolved in a divorce action in Switzerland

Ten years ago Pope Paul VI elevated 27 Roman Catholic prelates, including four Americans, to the rank of cardinal

Five years ago Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro made his first visit to Moscow and appealed for large-scale Soviet economic aid

Today's birthday Engineer William Lear is 75 Former Democratic Senator W Stuart Symington of Missouri is 76.

Thought for today "The United Nations was set up not to get us to heaven, but only save us from hell" — Sir Winston Churchill, 174-1965.

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The Prayer For Today From The Upper Room

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3 6 RSV)

PRAYER Lord, thank You for the light I have to walk by and for the faith to help me keep walking when it is too dark to see. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Martha Angle and Robert Walters

IN WASHINGTON

Bureaucratic common cause

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — A small group of high level federal officials has taken the first tentative step toward developing an unofficial coalition of issue-oriented policymakers which transcends traditional bureaucratic lines

Although the White House is aware of its existence, the recently formed network has no formal standing within the Carter administration Indeed, its only action to date has been a campaign to reverse a policy position taken by the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

The participants in the new coalition were drawn together by a shared personal philosophy and a common background in consumer and community organizing They are social activists with strong convictions, not traditional politicians or pragmatic bureaucrats

Members of the communications network have purposely avoided publicity, but we have learned that the group is composed of these people

F Ray Marshall, Secretary of Labor, Sam W. Brown, Jr., Direction of ACTION, Esther Peterson, President Carter's Consumer Advisor, Carol Tucker Foreman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer Affairs, and Msgr Geno Baroni, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Consumer Affairs

Their first cause was a little noticed piece of legislation designed to establish a National Consumer Cooperative Bank, which could have broad implications for the future success of the thousands of self-help cooperatives throughout the nation

The unique aspect of their involvement lies in the fact that the bill would establish a new federal financial institution, and thus falls exclusively within the purview of the Treasury Department and OMB, The White House agency which must clear all public policy positions taken by government departments and agencies

Treasury and OMB officials have been notably unenthusiastic about establishing an agency to make loans to the consumer cooperatives which buy or sell food, health care, housing, handicrafts, optical care and a host of other goods and services on behalf of their members.

In an effort to convince the White House to support the bill, members of the coalition met privately with two of Carter's key policy advisors — Stuart E Eizenstat, assistant to the President for domestic affairs and policy, and W Bowman Cutter, OMB's executive associate director for budget

When a subcommittee of the House Banking Committee held hearings on the legislation, Baroni showed up as a witness representing not HUD but himself "I am here in a personal way," he said in explaining his extraordinary appearance "My statement is not an official statement of the administration"

On the question of OMB's exclusive authority to establish a single administration position, Baroni offered some unusually blunt testimony "I don't know if we vote on this with OMB, I don't even know where OMB is All the people there are anonymous And the only thing is they say no"

The dispute over the cooperative bank remains unresolved, as is the future of the communications network. Several of its members say privately they hope for increased activity in the future, probably with a "floating" membership of middle- and high-level government officials who would become involved or disengaged depending upon their interest in the issue at hand.

Another informal coalition — comprised principally of female policy-makers from such disparate agencies as the Departments of State, Labor, Commerce, Justice and Defense — emerged recently to support Peterson in a dispute with the Chamber of Commerce

If that trend continues, look for a far more yeasty public debate over policy decisions than Carter probably envisioned when he committed himself to an open government — and the possibility of a future confrontation between the President and his own appointees



Don Oakley

COMMENTARY

Case against bilingualism

Spanish-speaking kids learn "substantially less" in school than their English-speaking white counterparts, though on the average they do learn more than blacks

This is the finding of the first national appraisal of the educational performance of American students with a Spanish or "Hispanic" heritage, recently released by the federally financed Education Commission of the States

While Hispanic students make up only about five per cent of the national student population, the study could have far-reaching impact It was partly on the basis of similar findings regarding the disadvantages suffered by black children that the U.S. Supreme Court promulgated its landmark decision outlawing segregated schools

Just as that decision led to things nobody dreamed of in 1954, such as forced busing, the intervention of the courts on behalf of Spanish-speaking students — intervention that is more than likely, given the social activism of our judges — could also have unforeseen consequences

A straw in the wind is the commentary on the Education Commission study filed by Jose Martinez, a California state bilingual education specialist "The data strongly suggests that Hispanic students do not receive equal benefits from the education system of the country The mere availability of public education is simply not enough"

Now it would be one thing to require the schools to make special efforts to assist students for whom English is a foreign language No one should argue with that, anymore than any decent person argues with the rightness of the Supreme Court desegregation decision

The great danger, however, is that it would not stop there but would be one more step in a process leading to the eventual establishment of Spanish as an official language of the United States Already, some Hispanic organizations are agitating for just that

Writing in Harper's magazine, John R Silber, president of Boston University, points out that until recently the United States was unique in the world as a very large nation covering a great land mass that maintained a single national language. The fact that a nation of such ethnic diversity has not been torn apart by intercommunal violence is almost certainly related to its having a single language, he says.

"Unlike Canada, Belgium and other nations with explosive language problems, the United States has been able to sustain its diverse culture within the context of one official language Recent attempts to require bilingual ballots erode the position of the national language by assuming that it is possible to be a citizen even if one is literate only in the language of one's ethnic group."

Moreover, he says, the bilingual movement "patronizes the Hispanic culture by implying that it cannot survive coexistence with the English language And it has racist overtones, suggesting that Spanish-speaking American citizens cannot be expected to acquire the same level of competence that was acquired by immigrants from Germany, Italy, Russia, Poland, Greece and many other countries"

Silber emphasizes that such "ill-advised notions" are not to be confused with thoughtfully established programs of bilingual education designed to induct children into the use of the national language These programs are, in fact, a burden that ought to be assumed by our society as a logical consequence of having a national language in the first place

But no doubt Silber and others who warn of the perils of the movement toward bilingualism or multilingualism will be accused of linguistic or cultural chauvinism, just as those who honorably oppose school busing or racial quotas as unwise extensions of the desegregation decision are labelled as racists



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

From here to maternity

Didya hear the one about.....

....the teacher being interviewed by Supt. Jim Withee?

"How long do you expect to teach school," Mr Withee asked the young teacher as he looked over her application

She replied with a shy smile: "From here to maternity"

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50 years in town —

Mr and Mrs Troy Cushing remember June 27, 1927. They moved to Nebraska City on that date, just 50 years ago from Lincoln, Arkansas

Mr Cushing worked for Porter Orchards and Otoe Food Products company before opening Kearney Hill Market They closed out their store after 28 years in the market business

"Now...we're retired," Mrs Cushing said

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Today's mail —

We've been spending some time looking through mail that doesn't often get much attention. Most people call it "junk" mail, we like to piddle in junk

There's one here about a fellow who has joined a Texas corporation as sales manager. We dunno anything about his company .mebbe it's one of Mrs Florence Barta's "kids."

The next one was on blue (yuk) paper and was labeled a Press Release

Its title: "A comprehensive study of the ethical, legal, and social implications of advances in biomedical and behavioral research and technology"

That's the heading. The story took a little more time to digest.

This one is for Clyde Hatten "Come, relax and unwind with us at our hot springs beautiful, elegant resort spa"

We just turned on the air conditioner in this room, so for now we'll put that letter in file No 13

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The federal government offers a news item that tells about the wonder of buying government surplus. "The fact remains you might find just what you're looking for at less than you'd planned to pay elsewhere."

I didn't realize the government was competing in the "junk" business. Gee whiz...see, that's how much more you learn by reading ALL the mail.

Here's one that always catches my attention — "vast supplies of natural gas remain to be found."

Wished they'd hurry up before winter arrives.

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National Geographic says that motorhomes are nothing new and sends a news release about a "recreational vehicle" of the 1920s called the bungalow car It was fitted with electric lights, indoor plumbing, a combination bed and sitting room and that even the driver's seat could be converted into an upper berth

The whole thing started with mass production of the Model T

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Did I ever tell you about the time we took our family on an overnight camping trip?

We borrowed Bus Wymore's flip-out tent camper and went to Burchard lake. We had a great time...s' funny though...the kids never asked to go on another camping trip.

+++

Nowadays it seems the family is too busy. It's even difficult to get everyone at the dinner table at the same time.

No 1 son works the night shift at J&P Truck Stop and spends most of the day in his room and the youngest of the clan, No 3 daughter, leaves shortly after 6 in the morning to detassel on the Iowa bottoms.

I'm getting anxious for school that's when I am called upon those special early morning decisions...like . "what's the weather like today?...what'll I wear to school today...(don't they ever wear dresses any more?).. I've got football practice after school; won't be home until 6·30. where are my tube socks .Mom did you wash my jock?

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Oh, well, at least the rat race is centered on home living

News in Brief

ATLANTA (AP) — The two-month drought that has hit much of the South is threatening farmers with crop losses in the millions of dollars. Cotton losses in Georgia were estimated at $8 million and tobacco losses more than $8.5 million. Georgia's corn crop has suffered an estimated $94 million in damages Pastures in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee are dry and cattlemen are being forced to send cattle to market early Soybean crops in Alabama, Georgia and Virginia were all below normal.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A coalition of 10 million elderly Americans, adopting "Count Us In" as a slogan, is launching an attack on mandatory retirement Harriet Miller, executive director for both the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association, said in a keynote address to the groups' combined conference that forced retirement is "wasteful, degrading, discriminatory, morally wrong and fundamentally un-American"

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency, citing the possible health effects of noise pollution, is planning to require manufacturers of certain products to carry noise warnings Although the EPA shied away from listing specific products to come under the new regulation on Wednesday, there were indications that vacuum cleaners, air conditioners, shop tools, dishwashers and powered lawn mowers would be affected



HEALTH

Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

Rare disease symptoms

By Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

DEAR DR LAMB — I am a 54-year-old female of medium weight. A few months ago I was diagnosed as having Sjorgen's syndrome Presently I am suffering from very dry and burning lips and nose, and a severe burning of the external genital organ My eyes are dry, for which they give me eye drops Every night I have to put hormone cream into the vagina

If I have any cold or sore throat I have to take extra medicine Drinking water by the gallons wouldn't soothe the burning inside my stomach and cheeks One thing that helps to soothe this burning is taking buttermilk, at least two quarts every 24 hours. The doctors inform me that this is a rare and incurable disease

So far I can swallow freely without food sticking to my throat

What is your advice for my situation? I desperately need some encouragement. Is this disease restricted to females or do males have it too?

DEAR READER — Your doctors are doing about all that can be done for your problem We know that the disease is associated with an infiltration of the tear glands of the eyes and salivary glands by white blood cells (lymphocytes) This may make the salivary glands enlarge around the jaw bone.

Less than 10 per cent of patients with this disease are males It often occurs in women who have rheumatoid arthritis In addition to the absence of tears and the dry mouth that can lead to difficulties in swallowing, it may cause dryness of the entire respiratory tract, skin and vagina

Artificial tears, as your doctors are giving you, help the eye problem some A similar solution can be used as a mouth wash There is some new work on the use of immune suppressing drugs similar to those used to prevent rejection of transplanted organs, but this needs further study

I know how discouraged you must be I think it is important for you to realize that the methods of treatment available are limited and that your doctors are doing all that anyone could do Stay with your doctors and hope that some new means of treatment will be found soon

DEAR DR LAMB — I was working at an air base and a jet went over and made a loud noise Now I have ringing in the ears all the time

I have been to several doctors and they tell me there is nothing that can be done. Do you know of anything that could be done or something I might do to control it?

DEAR READER — Your story is that of noise damage to your ears This type of damage affects the nerve mechanism that transmits hearing You can have ringing of the ears from many other causes — some of which can be treated

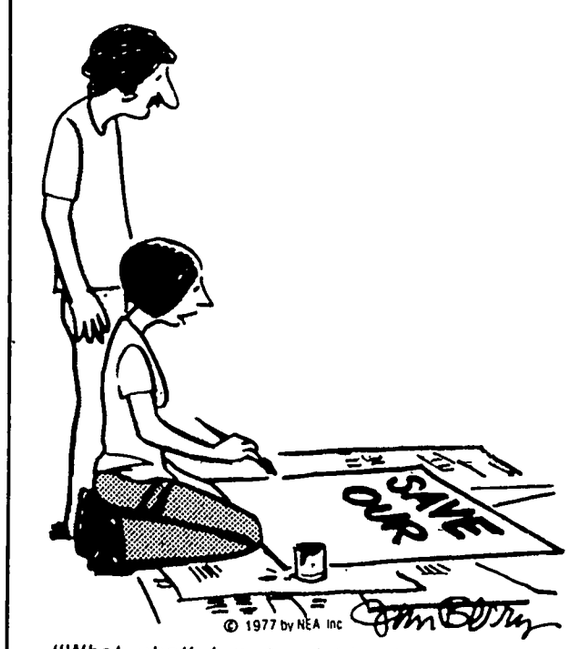
The treatment of your type of problem, involving the hearing nerve, is not very satisfactory Often time alone permits some recovery so perhaps by the time you receive my letter you will have improved I hope so

The episode is a severe warning to you to protect your ears when you are around any form of noise Individuals exposed to noise are usually required to wear protection devices against noise

For information on "Aspirin and Related Medicines readers can send 50 cents for The Health Letter number 8-8 Send a long, stamped self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr Lamb in care of this newspaper, P O Box 1551, Radio City Station New York, NY 10019

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN

Berry's World



"What shall I put, 'children', 'redwoods', 'saccharin', 'porpoises' — what?"

It's Possible!

Build on dreams

By Robert Schuller

Yesterday I talked to a young man who is a wonderful fellow and a good friend Last year his marriage ended in divorce and the changes are hurting him and his family very deeply

"I hope this year will be the happiest year of your life," I said to him Tears came to his eyes as I continued, "Build on your dreams, don't build on your hurts!"

Too many people are building their future on hurts They make rash decisions in the midst of turmoil — decisions they will probably regret when the dust settles You don't construct a building unless you first lay a solid foundation And you don't build a prosperous life unless your crucial decisions are made from strength Don't build your future on your hurts build on your hopes and dreams'