

Francis L. Howington, M.D., Editor

APRIL 15 MEETING

TOPIC:

"MEET THE ARTISTS"

SPOUSES INVITED
COST OF MEAL - \$18.60

Our April General Meeting will be a fun and informative social evening with our spouses. Over 14 local artists who will be "showing" at our May 2nd Charity Ball at the Ritz Carlton will bring some of their artwork to the Royal Palm Yacht Club for us to preview.

Along with the artists, Mark Loren Designs, Inc. will be there to explain how each of his one-of-a-kind jewelry creations are conceived.

Greg Biolchini, a well known Ft. Myers artist, will speak on the cost difference of purchasing "prints versus original art" and touch on other artistic topics of interest.

During the cocktail and dinner hour we'll get to mingle with the artists. The artwork will be displayed again at the Charity Ball, so if you've fallen in love with a piece, you'll have had a chance to think about it.

Cost for this special evening for spouses is \$18.60. Please send check made out to the Lee County Medical Society, P.O. Box 06041, Ft. Myers, FL 33906.

A percentage of the artists' proceeds are generously being donated by the artists to L.A.M.P., our Charity Ball Beneficiary. ■

MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Royal Palm
Yacht Club

Cocktails 6:30
Dinner 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 15, 1991

SPEAKER:

Greg Biolchini
Well known
Ft. Myers Artist

TOPIC:

"Prints vs Original Art"

"DINNER BY
RESERVATIONS ONLY"

PLEASE!!!

L.C.M.S. Members: All reservations must be made by Friday noon before the Meeting on Monday. Cancellations should be no later than noon on Monday. The Society must pay for all reservations made.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



WILLIAM P. EVANS, M.D.

The Way It Was

Well it's that time of year again - April. Time when snowbirds go home, time for taxes, and the legislative season.

Medicare has decided your MACC's are too low - they're going up this year. (AF)

Lawton Chiles' \$500 assessment fee for indigent care is just a practical joke, don't worry about it. (AF)

Drivers from Ohio will all stay on the right side of the double yellow lines. (AF)

You just forgot. Amendment 10 really passed last year. (AF)

The Florida Legislature feels NICA is an unjust tax on physicians, they are going to repeal it. (AF)

Rep. Pete Stark is running for President in 1991. (AF)

The Medicare checks are in the mail. (AF)

Don't worry - tort reform is just around the corner. (AF)

Just bend over - this won't hurt a bit. (AF)

PPO stands for... Physicians Pissed Off. (AF)

Don't you understand that the malpractice crisis is a result of doctors not policing themselves. Lawyers and insurance companies have nothing to do with it. (AF)

The Tampa Bucs are overwhelming favorites to win the Super Bowl in 1992. (AF)

The Tampa Bucs are favored to beat Fort Myers High School this year. (AF)

Drivers from Ohio can all see over the dashboard when they are driving. (AF)

DRG's really means... Damned Regulations of Government. (AF)

April 15 is just another day. (AF)

You just won the Florida Lottery, \$55 million. (AF)

Ain't retirement wonderful. (AF)

Even I had to smile when I rejected

"DR. JOHN"

Answers Your Questions

Dear Dr. John: I am a senior citizen, and I have trouble keeping my medicine straight. My druggist suggested a pill box with compartments for each day. Will that help? **Addie**

Dear Addie: They like to make it more complicated than necessary. Here's what you can do: put all your pills in a wide-mouth jar; take blue pills when you feel sad, red pills for fever and white pills for pain. Throw out all the rest but vitamin E--they help promote good posture.

Dear Dr. John: I have so many headaches, and my doctor can't help me. It feels like something is pushing out the top of my head. I'd like to just rip it out. What can I do? **Hortense**

Dear Hortense: Send for my free book, "Neurosurgery in Your Home for Fun and Profit." You won't find it in any bookstore. The bookstores have some nifty calendars, though.

Dear Dr. John: I understand that milk clogs your arteries. I would hate to give up milk, but I'm worried. **Clarence**

Dear Clarence: You don't need to give up milk. That's a story promoted by the oat bran cartel. You should understand that milk, under a microscope, looks much like a bunch of tiny ball bearings. In your arteries, these little guys help the blood swoosh along, just like when you flush the toilet. Arteries are clogged by rye bread, actually-- it's those little seeds. One of them goes to the wrong place and pop! you're history. Stick to French bread, and enjoy the milk.

Dear Dr. John: I hear a lot about proper nutrition, but I don't understand much of it. What should I eat? **Clarissa**

Dear Clarissa: You should include at least three of the basic food groups in every meal, and you won't be deficient in anything. These are: cheeseburgers, strawberries, Hagen-Dasz, Fruit-Loops, french fries, peanut butter (extra crunchy) and potato chips. If you can't remember them just remember the acronym: CSHFFPP. No problem, eh?

Dear Dr. John: I wonder if you are that suave, charming, dashing boulevardier I see at the hospital? **Philomena**

Dear Philomena: It's so close to Washington's Birthday I just can't tell a lie. You describe me to a T. Don't tell anyone, please--I value my privacy.

There is no charge for answering your questions, but you are encouraged to contribute to the Dr. John Foundation (no checks, please). Tax exempt status of the Foundation is pending further negotiations between the IRS and our lawyer, "Fast Eddie" Liebowitz. ■

John R. Agnew, M.D.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

EXTRA! EXTRA! - NEWS BREAK

The Florida Legislature has had a change of heart and recognized their previous actions to control the cost of medicine have been inappropriate and have therefore mandated a new direction for support of the medical community in the State of Florida.

SB510 proposes that the State will give all physicians \$1,000 a year as a token of appreciation for their exemplary care of the indigent population. The bill further proposes to pay all hospitals, all cost for indigent care.

More good news!

The original HB415 entitled Medicare Assignment, has now been changed to make it mandatory for all Medicare patients to pay the difference between the hospital and physician charges and Medicare payments. Patient will be fined \$1,000 if not paid within 30 days.

HB395 requires the federal government to pay Florida physicians full payment of the usual and customary fees and further requires that payment be made within 30 days.

The legislative coalition of trial attorneys have submitted SB100 requesting relief of all liability for physicians. Their spokesman states that this bill originated in Ft. Myers, Florida by a noted liability attorney. This attorney stated, "this is our way of showing our appreciation for the past 20 golden years and hope that it will alleviate any hard feelings."

HB960 proposes that any and all health care facilities should have joint ownership with all physicians practicing within those facilities. It further requires that all profits from such facilities will be tax exempt.

SB733 would allow any woman, who has seen a vaginal delivery, had a vaginal delivery and coached a vaginal delivery, to deliver babies at home. This is an attempt to relieve overburdened physicians and overcrowded hospitals. This bill also originated in Ft. Myers, Florida by a noted liability attorney who stated, "it is apparent that pregnancy as well as labor and delivery are natural acts of God and physicians and hospitals should be relieved of any presumed liability."

HB413 and companion SB630 requires that AIDS testing be mandatory for all hospital patients and marriage licenses. It also requires that AIDS be treated as sexually transmitted disease with mandatory reporting of all positive cases.

These are just a few of the new and exciting changes occurring in our State Legislative arena. I will keep in touch with you regarding further development.

Tallahassee Legislative Reporter
Francis L. Howington, M.D.

LEE COUNTY
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The Editor welcomes contributions from the members. Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Society.

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W A R ! !

Dateline: by Robert Cronkite Arnall

In an unprecedented show of unity, the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Hospital Association (AHA), Florida Medical Association (FMA), and Florida Hospital Association (FHA) have formed a coalition to battle the armies of Inspector General Saddam Kusserow, HCFA Deputy Faron Boone and PRO Executive Secretary, Sahasoon Snyder.

Commander-in-Chief of the local group, Lee County Medical Society General Dr. Bill Evans, stated that physicians and hospitals have for too long been held hostage by the Federal forces under the guise of protecting Medicare recipients. He cited these atrocities:

- * Scud missiles have been lobbed into physicians' offices and hospitals loaded with quality offenses when no threat existed.
- * Unfair charges have been made at the U.N. concerning physician billings and these are often downgraded unmercifully.
- * Charges of inappropriate care are made in sneak attacks from the rear and a public slap in the face is rendered prior to adequate investigation.
- * The head of the enemy forces goes on national television making untrue statements to gain sympathy for his cause.
- * The following rules of war established by the Geneva OBRA Convention have been violated.
 1. Absence of peer review.
 2. Failure to release name of accuser.
 3. Failure to identify peer reviewer.
 4. Lack of ability for a face-to-face confrontation with accuser or reviewer.
 5. Inappropriate notification of patients that a suspected wrong was committed prior to a formal declaration of guilt.

These and many other illegal acts have been committed by the terrorists during the invasion of medicine. In an attempt to strengthen the coalition forces, new leadership has been recruited. Following the precedent of the Florida Legislature to license out of state residents without credentialing, the FMA has granted a license to practice medicine to Generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell who will lead the coalition attack. General James Dozier will act as consultant to the Lee County Medical Society.

Dr. Schwarzkopf has stated that a line has been drawn in the sand and the invading forces will progress no further. "We will use all of the high-tech equipment at our disposal," he said, "including lasers, ultrasound and magnetic imaging. Quality improvement will prevail." Without a doubt, providers can afford this brand of terror no longer. Dr. Powell has said that April 1st has been set as the date that the Federal forces must get out of medicine; otherwise, the coalition will invade Tampa, Atlanta and Washington and free American medicine. A return to the private practice of medicine is the goal. The gains of the past must not be lost.

Federal forces insist that they will prevail because "The Power" (Congress) is on their side.

May Aesculapious be with the coalition. ■

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS FLASH

By: Dr. J. Naponick

Governor Lawton Chiles reversed a prior decision as to how to finance indigent health care. He withdrew the current proposal that all doctors pay \$1,000 license fees every two years. Chiles introduced a new scheme in which lawyers would pay \$10,000 a month to finance indigent health care. The lawyers have an option and may decide not to pay the fee. They may choose to leave the State, which would improve the quality of life for all of Florida residents.

The Medical Society has applied to the County Commissioners to develop and pass a local ordinance that would regulate the disposal of biohazardous waste at the Health Unit. For years the Health Unit has led the count in hazardous waste production. Under the proposed ordinance the Health Unit would pay a fee to the Medical Society and in return be inspected by the Medical Society.

Cure found for chickens suffering from St. Louis Encephalitis.

Relief is in sight for Southwest Florida residents who were inconvenienced by the recent ban on night time activities during last summer's St. Louis Encephalitis outbreak. As this turns out, the Lee County Mosquito Control District, reporting in the Journal of Nonproductive Results, summarized its scientific research to announce that light from light standards at athletic events inactivates the virus in the sentinel chicken flocks. Although they do not have the necessary permits to do research on humans, the Mosquito Control District has approved the following recommendation: This year during the Encephalitis season, people are to congregate at empty outdoor sports complexes to look at the spotlights. One hour's treatment will render the subject Encephalitis protected and most likely brain dead.

Cure Discovered for AIDS

After years of searching, a cure for the AIDS virus has been discovered. Research has shown that nothing can survive six months in the buffet line at the Royal Palm Yacht Club during Medical Society meetings. The virus dies of monotony. While on the subject, there has been a disease epidemic in Cape Coral. More than a dozen people have died from boredom. Investigations underway. ■

ILLEGAL ALIEN IN LEE COUNTY!

Mary Blue, M.D., Pathologist

A patient recently treated at the Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center emergency room has medical experts puzzled. The patient was a thin blond woman in her early 40's who was taken to the ER after being struck by a car while attempting to cross Cleveland Avenue. She was comatose on arrival and carried no identification. Blood was drawn with some difficulty and sent to the lab. Chemistry tests were wildly abnormal with sodium at 420, potassium 612, and chloride 380. Hematology testing was also extremely unusual, with the automated tests uninterpretable. Microscopic examination showed no normal rbc, but many small platelet like fragments admixed with large amoeboid forms. The blood was noted to have a peculiar purple tint. A short time later, the patient disappeared from the ER.

The blood samples were referred to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Dr. George D. Ziege of the CDC commented, "The blood sample is similar to three others we have received from the southeast U.S. in the last 2 months. We have performed extensive testing for human and animal blood groups, as well as hemoglobin electrophoresis and multiple chemistries. This is definitely not human or mammalian blood as we understand it." Further studies are in progress. Lee County physicians are requested to contact the Center for Disease Control if they suspect they may have a similar patient. "At this time, we want to avoid alarming the public," Dr. D. Ziege concluded. ■



Spring Has Sprung — Happy April 1!

ALL IN HOW WE VIEW IT

John Snead, M.D., Little'ratureur

History is one of the best teachers. However, sometimes events must be viewed through the eyes of students to obtain the best perspective.

In Concord, New Hampshire, where I often stalked the illusive skeet bird with a physician friend of mine, lives a high school teacher, Mr. Lederer, who has recorded these lessons.

Mr. Lederer has assembled these tidbits into a small volume called **Anguished English**, available from Wyrick Press, P.O. Box 83, Charleston, SC. If, as Norman Cousins said, laughter is the best medicine, this is powerful stuff.

During the Renaissance America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe.

Later, the Pilgrims crossed the ocean, and this was called Pilgrim's Progress. The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. During the War, the Red Coats and Paul Revere was throwing balls over stone walls. The dogs were barking and the peacocks crowing. Finally, the colonists won the War and no longer had to pay for taxis.

Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin had gone to Boston carrying all his clothes in his pocket and a loaf of bread under each arm. He invented electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

George Washington married Martha Curtis and in due time became the Father of Our Country. His farewell address was Mount Vernon.

Soon the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. When Lincoln was president, he wore only a tall silk hat. He said, "In onion there is strength."

Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. He also freed the slaves by signing the Emancipation Proclamation.

On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltaire invented electricity and also wrote a book called **Candy**. Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between, he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present.

Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick reaper, which did the work of a hundred men. Samuel Morse invented a code of telepathy. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabies. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the **Organ of the Species**. Madman Curie discovered radio. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

The First World War, caused by the assignation of the Arch-Duck by an anahist, ushered in a new error in the anals of human history. ■



ODE TO BOB ARNALL, M.D.

There once was a pediatrician named Bob
Whom the kiddies all loved and went to see.
But he began to think, "What a difficult job"
I'm perfect for a "cushy" position at Lee.

There were far too many late, late nights
With kids screaming, crying and all.
He wished with all his medical might
To work with grown-ups over three-feet tall.

"Medical Directors have respect and clout,"
He proclaimed in '84,
But now Dr. Bob has some doubt
As reality becomes more sure.

LMH administrators ask him for advice
Then blame him when it's bad.
The kids were all sugar and spice
And didn't get as mad!

He often referees Medical Staff fights,
You'd think he was their Dad.
But, his charm always seems to make things right
And no one ends up sad.

Working harder than ever, those very late nights
Soon became early mornings, too.
Only through windows does Dr. Bob see daylight
though he rises with the dew.

The stress seems to agree with this Southern gentle man.
He looks younger everyday.
He works very hard at his exercise plan
And still finds time to play.

Want to snag yourself a "cushy" job
And become more fit and trim?
Just call our Dapper Doctor Bob
And check it out with him.

Submitted by his friends at Lee Memorial Hospital

ATTENTION SENIOR CARE
PARTICIPATING PHYSICIANS!

Due to the increase in the cost of living and the decrease in benefits to older Americans, the Lee County Medical Society has volunteered their physicians who are participating in the Senior Care Program to see their Senior Care patients at **no charge**. This means that you will not bill Medicare or the patient, you will see them absolutely free (it is also encouraged that you give them a small portion of your income). We believe that this will improve the physician's image with the elderly in our community. This will also put you in good stead with your government, especially Governor Chiles. ■

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MEDICAL SOCIETY TIDBITS**NON-DUES INCOME
FOR THE MEDICAL SOCIETY****REFERRALS**

Each referral by the Medical Society to your office will be billed to you at a rate of \$25 per referral. We will try to limit your referral each day to a minimum of 10.

LABELS

Due to cost of paper, labor and miscellaneous items connected with a set of labels, the cost will now be \$225.00 per set. We will need two (2) weeks notice to have these ready for you as we are inundated with requests.

COST OF DINNER MEETINGS

Due to poor attendance at the monthly General Membership Meetings, this will be the last meal served. If you wish to eat at the meetings in the future you need to bring a bag lunch. Please recycle paper bags, plates, cups and napkins.

BEVERAGES AND MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLES

Those items usually served at the Board and Committee Meetings will now be served to the homeless. We ask that the physicians attending these meetings make an effort to help the staff at the Society by passing out the food, and providing free medical advice. Contact Ann Wilke for more information.

GUARD DUTY

Due to recent computer thefts at other county medical societies, we ask that each physician volunteer to serve guard duty to keep our computer safe. There are two (2) shifts to choose from: 6 PM - 12 AM and 12 AM - 6 AM. We encourage each physician to do their part in protecting their society. Guns and uniforms will be provided. ■

HOW DID WE GET APRIL FOOL'S DAY?

Each year on April 1st my children always, without fail, played a joke on me. As is with most customs, I began to wonder how we got such a Day, and with this issue of the BULLETIN, I decided to find out.

In the BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE under "WONDER QUESTIONS" (isn't this wonderful, it is exactly where I would have looked), the following explanation is given:

April Fool's Day is the day for playing practical jokes and for fooling people. We do not know how this day first came about, but we do know that April Fool customs go way back in history. On March 31st, the last day of the Hindu Feast of Holi, a spring festival, the Hindus sent people on April Fool errands, just for the fun of teasing them (just like state and federal governments).

Some people believe that April Fool's Day began in 1564 in France, when a new calendar was adopted, making the new year begin on January 1st, instead of April 1st. The old new year's date was celebrated, not with gifts and New Year's messages, as it had been done before, but with jokes and pranks.

Watch that practical joker, you might be next!

Annie, Director of Fairy Tales



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**MEDICAL SOCIETY
MEETING**

Royal Palm
Yacht Club

Cocktails 6:30
Dinner 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 15, 1991

SPEAKER:
Greg Biolchini
Well known
Ft. Myers Artist

TOPIC:
"Prints vs Original Art"

**"DINNER BY
RESERVATIONS ONLY"**
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