

### Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey, N.D. and Adam Ladd, N.D.

The statistics can be misleading, is one of the least informative statements that I can write, yet we all too often forget this obvious fact. When Will Rogers said "When the Okies left Oklahoma and moved to California, they raised the average intelligence in both states," he came close to the type of statement which says that we are winning in the fight against lung cancer. The June 20, New England Journal of Medicine features an article entitled "The Will Rogers Phenomenon: State Migration and New Diagnostic Techniques as a Source of Misleading Statistics for Survival in Cancer." This article goes into analysis of a recent medical study at Yale, New Haven Hospital and the West Haven Veterans Administration Medical Center covering patients treated for lung cancer between 1977 and 1982.

The study that was re-evaluated by doctors Fienstein, Sosin and Wells M.P.H. had given the American Cancer Society and others fuel to claim that survivability of lung cancer has improved over the past 30 years. Re-evaluation of the data has indicated that statistical manipulation accounted for the total improvement cited previously. Similar to the Will Rogers statement about the improved intelligence, this early study shifted non-symptomatic metastasis into a late stage population thereby letting these less severe cases shift survivability to an improved level with no real change in individual survivability. As these more advanced cases were

removed from the early stage population, this group also showed an improvement. In other words, as early diagnosis allowed detection of metastasis (that provided no symptoms and were thus undetected in early studies) these people, who lived slightly longer than their more advanced counterparts, were inserted into the more advanced staged population, and provided the improvement noted over the past 30 years of treatment in the U.S.

Doctors Feinstein and associates had hoped that with the early detection of these silent metastasis, new drugs and increased ancillary care for these patients, an overall improvement in survivability would still be found. Their conclusions were completely opposite. They cound no increase in survival and found that the side effects of the new drugs more than offset any advances they might have brought. So where does this new information lead us, and why did I cite lung cancer treatment as potentially one of the greatest cases of quackery in U.S. history (June 26, 1985 Ob-

A friend of mine, Robert Mendleson, M.D. recently wrote on the quackery of cancer treatment in his national newsletter, the People's Doctor. He recounted how he had sat through lectures by Morris Fishbein, M.D. (then president of the American Medical Association) on the subject of medical quackery. Fishbeins' definition of quackery remains today as the accepted definition of health fraud. This defini-

tion includes the "use of unproven treatments" and "expensive costs" for same. How can those who treat lung cancer defend their track record against this definition of quackery? With the recent interpretation of real survival rates in N.E.J.M. and the realization that the slight increase in national survival since 1900 primarily represents the inclusion of a growing percentage of women (who have slightly better survival) into the statistical base, it appears that not only have the standard treatment programs been unproven in the past, but they now appear to be proven as virtually worthless experimentations on the effects of drugs and irradiation on humans.

The reason that I bother to write a provocative exposee on quackery is that the Multnomah County Medical Society has sponsored a conference on "Understanding & Combating Health Fraud & Quackery." This conference which is endorsed by nearly every private hospital in the area as well as the Oregon Medical Association, Oregon Nurses Association and the Oregon State Health Division appears to single out (with the exception of one hour on psychic surgery) Naturopathic approaches to health care as the single most important threat to public safety ("Nutrition Quacks," "Quacks Who Specialize in Arthritis and Heart Cures," "Hair Analysis," "Orthomolecular Psychiatry," "DMSO", etc.) While the agenda does not specifically mention any profession it does include

bi-lateral nasal specific treatments as a "medical absurdity" (this adjustment is limited almost exclusively to the chiropractic and naturopathic practices and historically in the '50's with osteopathic practice). While the agenda calls the BNS "Balloons up the Nose" which inaccurately describes one of the instruments of this technique (actually we use medical quality latex cots) the numerous opponents of this treatment fail to mention that M.D.'s have in their treatment programs, an internal cranial adjustment which uses metal forceps to widen the nasal passages. One past patient claimed that while he paid nearly \$600.00 for this "septoplasty" he did not get nearly the benefit received from one BNS treatment given by an associated (cost \$25.00).

While I should feel flattered that alternative approaches have become so popular as to cause conferences and lobbying efforts by traditional groups to rebuff and interfere with their growth, my response is more of outrage that such propaganda can be disseminated to the general public in the name of public safety. I hope that some of the individuals in the Oregon State Health Association as well as the other co-sponsoring organizations will approach this conference with an attitude other than "don't confuse me with facts, my mind's already made up," and instead open their eyes and ears to the vast volume of studies which

# 1985 Jefferson High School Graduate takes World of Fashions

Dania Charrisse Danner took first place in the Mary Walker Academy Annual Inter-High Model Search in Portland.

After viewing the Ebony Fashion Fair as a teenager Dania concluded she had found her future.

"Fashion," encouraged by her loving mother and her many friends, Dania spent long hours in her modest home in North Portland practicing what she had observed by the beautiful models in the Ebony Fashion Fair.

In May of 1985, Dania's gruelling practice schedule paid off. She was selected number (1) of 30 models in the Annual Inter High Model Search, an affair produced by the Mary Walker Academy.

Dania will receive a \$100.00 scholarship for making the finals of the contest and a full advanced modeling scholarship of \$2,600.00 with Model Talent Management.

Dania will take advantage of her scholarship immediately. She will be visiting the "Worlds Fashion Center," in New York City this summer to discuss modeling fashions by the newly discovered designer Scott Rankins, former Portlander, now living in New York.

Dania was featured in the Shop Talk Magazine in May 1983. She is a protege of Cora Smith, Portland's own "Ms. Fashion," and the daughter of Lana Danner, Urban League Human Resource Specialist.

Dania is currently modeling for Meier & Frank doing local fashion shows as well as charity fund raisers.

### New Lottery's (Continued from page 1)

"Like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, a lot of people have received a happy change in their lifestyle with Game One paying more than \$4.7 million in major cash prizes. In addition, more than \$7.5 million in the small \$2 and \$5 prizes have been paid to winners by Lottery Retails," he added. "With the launch of our second 'instant win' ticket game, truly," Smith concluded, "The Sky's the Limit."

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