

Take Two Aspirin And Go To Bed Early

by Professor McKinley Burt

That, depending on circumstances, is the sort of advice we may have gotten from our doctor at some time—especially over the phone.

But, now, you are constrained to ask, "Which Aspirin! The ones for headaches, the one designed for knees or elbows, or the specials, designed for excruciating agony of the you-know-what?"

Now we have, "Aspirin without aspirin" (We knew it was only a matter of time). On page 2 you will find my "Perspectives" article for this week, "Oregon's Health Plan: Are You Still With Us". While this is a general overview of the immediate health care situation, the full impact of the current crisis cannot be adequately described in any one account. There is all type of movement

and planning within the 'industry' and for a newspaper column, one has to select out that information which can have a meaningful content within the constraints of space.

For instance, in looking at a past issue of my copy of "Oregon Health Forum"—which describes itself as follows, "Our independent newsletter is read by over 4,000 insurance executive, physicians, benefits manager, business leaders, union reps, legislators..."—the following matters of interest are noted: "...The Sisters of Providence (Good Health Plan) intends to launch a 'group' model HMO. recently, its corporate board established... doctors are saving money, thanks to a purchasing agreement between Brim Co and the Multnomah County Medical Society..., Oregon Primary Care As-

sociation says HMOs run by insurers pay insurers first. Those run by hospitals pay hospitals first. Maybe some other HMOs want to take the homeless and those who don't speak En-

glish. Maybe they want them all. Maybe they could open up Holladay Parks emergency room again. There are a lot of homeless people in that area."

“ a number of the so called "Middle Class" are discovering just how they really are classed

“ However, it becomes evident that reams of clarifying information, defini-

As revealed in a federal lawsuit filed Friday, not all Oregon health providers are ecstatic over new developments. The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) has filed suit stating that the new state Medicaid rules for reimbursing health clinics are reducing the availability of health care to low-income Oregonians. Asking for an injunction the group projects a loss of \$1.8 million from July 1 to Dec. 31 for 38 community health centers. For 18,000 low-income people turned away the second half of this year. This is the same "Oregon Primary Care Association" we quoted several paragraphs earlier, when they spoke on the homeless and the migrants.

We note too that amid all this turmoil over health care—or the lack of it—once again, a number of the so

called "Middle Class" are discovering just how they really are classed. Even the often illiberal Oregonian newspaper has discovered that among the one in every six Oregonians who have no health insurance, one third earn between \$15,000 and \$45,000 a year. And, shockingly, this 'endangered species' is growing in numbers by leaps and bounds, with the greatest increase among the middle aged (and women). Also, corporate employment trends do not bode well.

Is there anyone around who remembers when I wrote here years ago about the "Middle Class Seam", a new demographic designed for the unwary by Madison Avenue and advertising agencies, racists and other cultural con artists. I'm going to have to run that again. Too many have forgotten.

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Estes Named President Of Visitors Association

Tim Estes, general manager of the Greenwood Inn, was named Washington County Visitors Association president for the 1993-94 year at the association's annual dinner meeting. Joining Estes as officers are Joan Smith, president-elect, executive director of the Washington County Historical Society; Dick Brimmer, secretary, inform graphics; and Cal Wade, treasurer, executive director of The Washington County Fairplex.

New WCVA Board members are Jim Rapp, City of Sherwood; and Ken

Hicks, Montinore Vineyards.

Marcus Simantel, Simantels Farm and Nursery, received the president's award for the outstanding job he has done concerning land use issues, and Steve Clark, editor of the Community Newspapers, accepted the first annual Jack Rosenberg Community Service Award.

Outgoing president Bob Herb, executive director of the Hillsboro chamber of commerce, was thanked by Estes for his dedication to the association during the past year.

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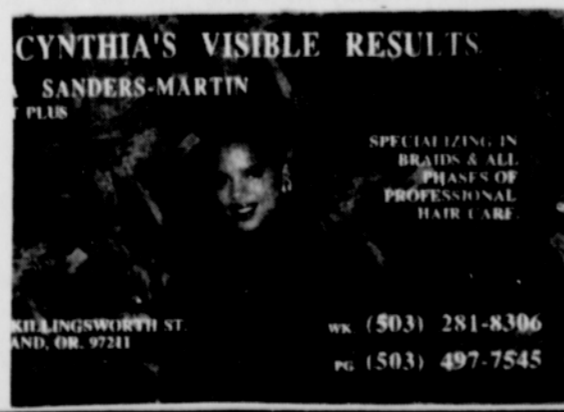
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Delores Dillard

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