

Outlook on Lifestyle

DR. GOTT



Peter Gott, M.D.

Wackiness is a waste

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

Doctors deny their own wackiness. To us, the medical profession is normal — the rest of you need help. This isn't a new conceit. History is replete with groups of people who have considered themselves special and extraordinary for one reason or another. However, doctors have been viewing themselves as a unique breed for centuries; few other professional in-groups can claim this dubious distinction.

Anyway, if we're so unique, then it follows that we are rational beings who always think clearly. What elite tribe has the courage to admit that, on occasion, its members are a little nuts?

I maintain that most doctors, myself included, are sometimes a trifle off-the-wall. I was recently reminded of this conviction while sitting in a staff meeting at our community hospital.

One of the doctors took the floor and proposed a resolution to the effect that the hospital ought to discourage cigarette smoking on the premises.

This made perfect sense. Smoking is hazardous to health. It is associated with lung and breast cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments, stroke and a truckload of other unpleasant medical illnesses. Passive smoking, so-called sidestream pollution, is —

at best — an irritating nuisance to non-smokers; at worst, it causes disease in the unwary.

Almost all physicians concur that cigarettes are unhealthy. The world would be a better place if the darned things had never been invented. Therefore, the doctor at the staff meeting was being supremely rational by suggesting that the hospital — which, after all, is supposed to be an institution concerned about promoting good health — should prohibit smoking in all work areas, save for a few isolated rooms set aside for this purpose. Because of administrative reasons, it seemed appropriate for the medical staff to initiate and support such a proposal. You'd think that physicians, being knowledgeable about this sort of thing, would be in the position of appreciating — far more than the public — the disastrous consequences of cigarettes.

What reaction would you expect? Do you believe that the doctors enthusiastically endorsed the resolution? Guess again.

I was witness to a barrage of arguments and counterclaims from my esteemed colleagues, some of whom were themselves non-smokers. It sounded as though we had been asked to turn the hospital administration over to the communists. Statements such as, "You can't legislate social issues" and "Sure, I'm hooked on nicotine but it's my right to smoke" hung in the air like stifling blue clouds of burning tobacco. One surgeon went so far as to suggest that because so many nurses and technicians smoke and all hospitals are having difficulty

finding adequate help, we would be short-staffed if we endorsed the non-smoking resolution. "The nurses would simply go elsewhere," he said.

The discussion raged, the healers raged. It was pure entertainment, real theater, method acting by churlish hams who temporarily shed their gentility and "ventilated" about how they were entitled to have what they wanted when they wanted it. This was very similar to the drunk's reaction when his bottle is taken away or to the scene made by children when they are told they can no longer suck their thumbs.

In the end, when the entertainment level dropped to zero and everyone got bored, the resolution passed by a hand vote, 21 to 9.

Here we were, a bunch of disgruntled docs, unable to agree on the simplest health measure of public concern. I reflected on all the really important issues facing us — loss of control over our practices, diminishing esteem, the unwanted incursion by bottomline bureaucrats, the shambles of Medicare, the threat of giant HMO corporations, abortion, euthanasia, AIDS — you name it. In that staff room, I saw a microcosm of medicine. Too often, we've been reduced from an honorable service profession to a sad collection of frightened, bickering, sniveling, self-pitying dweezils, tilting at windmills. I wondered if we don't deserve what we get — and whether, in fact, we have been instrumental in bringing it upon ourselves.

SHOP OUR YELLOW PAGE FIRST!!!

APPLIANCE SERVICE

J.G.'s
Appliance Service
877-8448

Home Service Calls to all major appliances most makes and models. 24 Hour Answering Service

AUTO BODY

If You
"Meet by Accident"
CALL US, WE'LL GET
THE JOB DONE RIGHT
UPTOWN COLLISION
872-1807
63 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. NORTH GEORGETOWN

This Space Can
Be Yours If You
Call Now!
877-8822

AUTO GLASS

George Town AUTO-GLASS
877-7433
Windshield Replacement
Insurance Claims Welcome
Sun roofs Vinyl Tops
Auto Upholstery
315 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ontario

CARPENTRY

THOSE 2 GUYS
CARPENTRY AND RENOVATIONS
Complete Basement
Renovations,
Additions & Sunrooms
Kevin Mike
853-4452 Acton

CARPENTRY

Framing
Drywall and Taping
Pine Cabinets
Kitchen, Bathrooms & Bars
Finished Carpentry
Trim Work
Van Alphen Construction
877-3940

CLEANERS

HALTON HILLS STEAMATIC
Carpet & Furniture Cleaning
— Free Estimates —
Residential/Commercial
853-4451
HALTON HILLS
126 Main St. N., Acton

THE LIFE OF YOUR DRIVEWAY
IS IN OUR HANDS.

SEALADAR
Asphalt Sealing - Hot Patch Repairs
ENHANCES, PROTECTS, INCREASES
THE LIFE OF YOUR PAVEMENT
Call: (416) 453-0818 Anytime

ELECTRICAL

HALTON HILLS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING LTD.
23% HRS. SERVICE
• Industrial • Residential
• Commercial • Rural
PROP. LYLE PRUETER
853-2572

ELECTRICAL

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR GLEN ERIN ELECTRIC SERVICE
Repairs and Installation
CALL 873-2511
Free Estimates

GLASS

APPLE AUTO GLASS
WINDSHIELD REPAIRS
WE HANDLE ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS
• AUTO UPHOLSTERY • SUNROOFS
• VINYL TOPS
NO EXTRA CHARGE MOBILE SERVICE
873-1655
300 QUELPH ST., UNIT 7, GEORGETOWN

GLASS & MIRROR

BRAMTOR Glass & Mirror
459-8300
FREE ESTIMATES
• REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • THERMAL INSUL. UNITS
• GLASS & SCREEN REPAIRS • PATIO DOORS
• STORM DOORS & WINDOWS • CALLIERS
• BURNING WALLS & DOORS • ALUMINUM SHUTTERS
INSURANCE CLAIMS WELCOME

MASONRY

HENDERSON MASONRY
Brick, Block & Stone
Fireplaces, chimneys
and repairs
Call Brian
853-1223

RENTALS

CALL
GEORGETOWN RENT-ALL
55 Sinclair Ave.
877-0157

ROOFING

"25 YEARS ROOFING EXPERIENCE"
★ Free Estimates ★ Guarantees
Lic. Building Renovator
CUSTOM BUILT REPLACEMENT
WINDOWS & PATIO DOORS
MEL TAYLOR ALUMINUM LTD.
877-6772
AUTHORIZED DEALER

SEPTIC SERVICE

McISAAC
SEPTIC TANK PUMPING SERVICE
— Emergency Service —
MAC McISAAC
519-853-2790
"Don't Delay Pump Today"

TV REPAIRS

REPAIRS TO ALL MODEL TV's
In your home
TVs, Stereos, V.C.R.s, Microwaves!
"Free Service Call
With Items
Repaired By Us"
J.J. ELECTRONICS
873-1820

TV REPAIRS

SALES & SERVICE
• TV • VCR • STEREO REPAIRS
All Work Guaranteed for 90 DAYS
WE SERVICE EVERYTHING WE SELL!
HITACHI BRAMPTON COLOUR & SOUND
453-4455

NRS NATIONAL REAL ESTATE SERVICE

NRS Brand Realty Inc., Realtor



Home Post Scripts



By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep.

873-0300

With only about three weeks to go until spring, the mere thought should brighten dampened spirits, and turn your hearts to thinking of flowers, green grass and warmth. For those of you who have pools it certainly means that the end of that horrible, dark, winter pool cover, is soon in sight. (Some manufacturer, with a little foresight, will make a lot of money someday, by designing an attractive cover for pools).

If you are planning on doing any landscaping, pool repairs, deck building or summer additions, you should consider contacting some contractors now. As soon as the snow melts, just when you are ready to think about getting some estimates for work to be done, you will find that most contractors are booked for months, and won't even be able to attend to your needs, until half the summer is over. A lot of good it will do then - because, most people want work done within days of calling. Such procrastination can be a very costly mistake.

Firstly, getting estimates done at the last minute, when contractors are busy, will probably result in a higher estimate, and secondly, if you are forced to take someone who is inexperienced at his work, you can not be guaranteed of a first rate job. If you are going to spend the money to do your outside improvements, why not have it done by the best, within your budget. A poor job will only result in someone, (probably you) tearing it out or trying to repair it, and costing you more money in the long run. I'm all for keeping up with improvements, but overpaying for work, is hard to recoup down the road.

Spring is a wonderful time of year and the most active market to sell in, so take advantage of the season and keep everything attractive as soon as the snow melts. Home really is where the heart is.

Homes Sold Creatively THIS WEEK'S MORTGAGE RATES

AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 1988

	1 YEAR	2 YEAR	3 YEAR	4 YEAR	5 YEAR	6 YEAR	7 YEAR	10 YEAR
Bank of Nova Scotia	9%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Bank of Montreal	9%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Canada Trust	9%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%
C.I.B.C.	9%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Halton Comm. Cr. Union	9%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%
T.D. Bank	9%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Royal Bank	9%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%

*New mortgage up to Feb. 27/88 - 9%