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American
Dental
Association



Washington Office
Suite 1200
1111 14th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 898-2400
Fax (202) 898-2437

REF ✓

DATE: December 8, 1995

TO: Patricia Fleming, Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

FROM: Judith Rensberger
ADA Washington staff

SUBJECT: ADA News article on Presidential Advisory Council

You may be interested in reading the story on Dr. Stephen Abel and the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. The story begins on page 1 and jumps to pages 8-9.

American
Dental
Association

1111 14th Street, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 898-2400
Fax (202) 789-2258

Judith Rensberger, M.P.H.
Manager
Federal Affairs

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A dentist's nightmare: an alleged embezzler teaches painful lesson

BY DENNIS SPAETH

Dr. Lawrence Zager thought it was the American dream when his office manager and her husband built a new home. "Two people working hard together can do it," Dr. Zager said without emotion, as if the words themselves had betrayed him. He believed in that dream and in her, and it cost him \$125,000.

Still in the throes of a civil suit, Dr. Zager agreed to share his alleged brush with embezzlement. See NIGHTMARE, page 30.

BRIEFS

Reporter examines dental waterlines

As this issue of the ADA News went to press, the Association was informing state and local dental societies that a television news report scheduled for broadcast Nov. 27 and 28 was to focus on microbial contamination of dental unit waterlines.

A reporter from Channel 12 in Milwaukee (an ABC affiliate station) interviewed ADA expert spokesperson Chris Miller, Ph.D., on Nov. 17.

Explained Clay B. Mickel, ADA's associate executive director, communications, "From the nature of the questions directed to Dr. Miller and to the Association, it was apparent that the reporter was focusing her story on waterline contamination and on the possibility that such contamination could be a source for infection with the bacteria that can cause Legionnaire's disease."

During his interview, Dr. Miller stressed the Association's commitment to improving the quality of dental unit water and the profession's historic and ongoing emphasis on patient and dental team safety, Mr. Mickel said.

Dr. Miller, a microbiologist at Indiana University dental school, is one of several scientists from across the country the reporter interviewed.

"While we don't know what will be included in the final report, we will be included in the final report," Dr. Miller said. See WATERLINES, page 14.

INSIDE



Dr. Abel assumes national AIDS role

The White House appointed Dr. Stephen Abel to its 30-member Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Story, page eight

ADA News®

DECEMBER 4, 1995

VOLUME 26, NO. 22

FTC hears California appeal

CDA fights challenge to its professional advertising rules

BY CRAIG PALMER

Washington—The California Dental Association asked the Federal Trade Commission Nov. 15 to dismiss the commission's latest challenge to professional regulation of member advertising.

"At a minimum, reverse it and

■ '96 SESSION PREVIEW, PAGE 28

send it back for a whole new trial," CDA attorney Peter Sfikas urged the commission. Mr. Sfikas is also ADA general counsel. The CDA, like the ADA, prohibits advertising that is

false and misleading.

A speedy ruling was not expected and could be appealed further to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

"There's no time limit under which the commission is directed to reach a decision," said an FTC spokesman. "Sometimes it takes many, many

months."

An FTC administrative law judge this summer, following trial in San Francisco, upheld most of a 1993 commission complaint and said the CDA should revise its code of ethics and "cease and desist" blocking den-

See FTC, page 15

Dr. Huggins loses malpractice case

BY JAMES H. BERRY

Colorado Springs, Colo.—Diane Bailey says she had "no dental problems at all" when she entered the offices of Dr. Hal A. Huggins one day in 1991.

More than four years and 57 dental visits later, the 41-year-old mother of two says she now lives with pain, a persistent reminder of the treatments she received from Dr. Huggins and one of his associates at the Huggins Diagnostic Center in Colorado

Springs, Colo.

Last month, a jury in that western state's El Paso County awarded Ms. Bailey nearly \$159,000 in a malpractice civil suit against Dr. Huggins and his colleague, Dr. Gino Ortegón.

Lawyers representing the two dentists said they would appeal the judgment.

Testimony in the seven-day trial that ended Nov. 16 showed that Dr. Ortegón, a Huggins employee, had

See DR. HUGGINS, page 19

Membership confab addresses diversity

Minority organizations share goals

BY DANIEL MCCANN

ADA President William S. Ten Pas introduces the next session as "possibly the hardest part of our whole meeting."

It's titled the Diversity Forum. Seated behind a table on the auditorium stage are Drs. Augusto Elias, president of the Hispanic Dental Association; Mary Martin, immediate

past-president of the American Association of Women Dentists and Stephen Towns, president elect of the National Dental Association.

They've been invited to this third ADA Conference on Membership Recruitment and Retention (Nov. 3-4) to discuss their organizations' goals and their members' needs.

See DIVERSITY, page 12



Gobi Desert: Dr. Bell pauses with local children during his bicycle ride across China.

No physical challenge is too much for this Ohio dentist

BY DAVID WEISSMAN

Cleveland—If Dr. Ron Bell is slowing down these days, he's not letting it show.

Fresh from an 18-day, 1,000-mile bicycle trip through Mongolia and China, the Cleveland oral surgeon talks about his achievements with the energy of a man who, at 63, is just getting started.

"I enjoy sports, keeping active" he says. "I've found that when I'm in shape like this, I can go back to the dental office or the [operating room] and perform better surgery because my mind is sharper and I'm thinking more clearly."

For Dr. Bell, staying in shape "like this" means pedaling hundreds of miles a week, year-round on one of his six custom-made bicycles. And running dozens of miles on the track.

See DENTIST, page 24

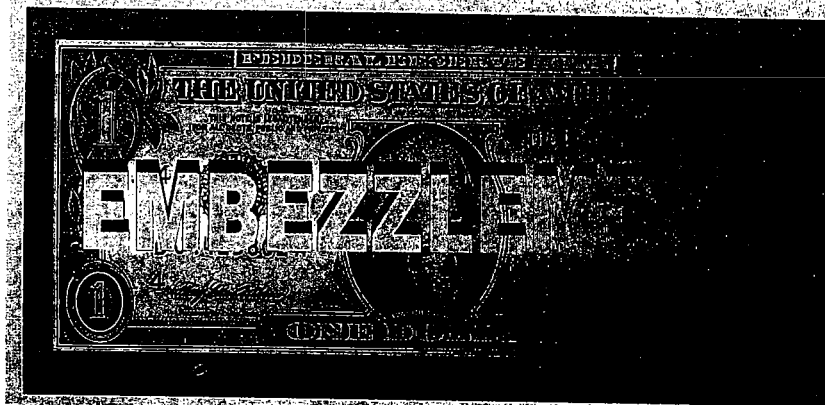
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