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Health in Society

East Team
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Reading List

Cannabis Smoke beats Tobacco for toxic chemicals p. 9 (1/2)
Menopause sets us apart from Chimps p. 13 (1/2)
How Asian Flu went Global p.11 (1/2)
Free Radicals in Tobacco Smoke p. 11 (1/2)
Dead Fat p. 18 (1)
Sshhh… Quiet Please p. 25 (1/2)
A Right to Life p. 26 (1)
The Greening of Health Care p. 32 (1)
Some like it Hot p. 46 (2)
Death by Chocolate p. 40 (2)

January 5, 2008- January 11, 2008
Teenage Smokers Face Badly Wired Brains p. 10 (1/2)
Fresh Hope for Emergency Blood Substitutes p. 11 (1/2)
Mysterious death reignites vCJD fears p 11 (1/2)
Traffic Still Stunting Children’s Brains p. 13 (1/2)
Flu deaths are a family matter p 13 (1/2)
Medicine for a sickly world p 14 (1)
Wireheads p 36 (4)

January 19-January 25, 2008
Children Starved of Life p. 6 (1/2)
No Wonder Drug p. 6 (1/2)
Gender Bias p. 7 (1/2)
Well Informed Bugs Stay ahead of the Pack p. 10 (1/2)
Should Europe ease up on BSE tests? p.12 (1/2)
Columbus brought syphilis to Europe p. 15 (1/2)
Coming Soon, the Yogurt Diet p. 15 (1/2)
Longer Legs Stand out from the Crown p. 16 (1/2)
The Great Diet Delusion p. 17 (1)
Playing Nintendo Wii Trains Surgeons p. 24 (1/2)
Introduction to the Discussion

There is one thing every person has in common: his or her body. People can choose to ignore the Big Bang Theory, or Quantum Physics; however, health is one area of science that is important to everyone. Modern science has become focused on improving health around the world. Some of the biggest concerns being addressed are obesity, epidemics, and body image.

The human race is becoming overweight. Our government has proposed a tax on unhealthy food. Is this ethical? Should the government be allowed to increase prices on the food that is sometimes all a person can afford? Is overeating the root cause of obesity after all? The article “The Great Diet Delusion” (1/19 p. 17) suggests otherwise. Hormonal malfunctioning due to the consumption of certain types of foods, such as carbohydrates, may be to blame. Scientists have been conducting research to stop the obesity epidemic, including the addition of bacteria to yogurt reduce fat absorption (1/19 p.15).

Contrasting obesity, yet just as big of a concern is malnutrition. Science has helped to overcome this problem with the creation of foods that could provide nutrients for malnourished children (1/19 p.6). 250 million dollars have been spent on malnutrition research, compared to the 3 billion spent on AIDS/HIV research. What are the factors that contribute to the amount of money given to specific causes? Malnutrition kills more people than AIDS, and yet much more dollars are going to AIDS research. Is this fair? Both kill a great amount of people. How does one decide what to study?

Society influences the choices people make about their health. Recently, science has shed a light on the consequences of bad habits such as smoking cigarettes, marijuana,
alcohol, noise levels, as well as overeating. Studies have been done proving how toxic chemicals in Cannabis smoke are, and how teenagers’ brains are affected negatively. Which scientific studies do the media relay to the public? What affect does the media have on our knowledge of these studies? Do people pay attention? One study proved that traffic have stunted children’s brains, yet more and more people move to populated areas, only increasing the problem.

Science is also concerned with the next great epidemic. Does the media heighten our fears that the next flu vaccine won’t work? Even though the BSE epidemic in Europe has subsided, should the government decrease their strict testing?

Science and society are connected in many ways, especially through health, because that is a concern of everyone.

**Connections to other aspect of LBS 133**

Health is a very prominent issue in the media. People are bombarded with commercials about the next diet fad. Becoming even more popular are anti-drinking, smoking, and drug ads. This relates to Alex Huxley’s *The Art of Selling*.

In the Day of the Triffids, the satellites were made to benefit humanity, but they inevitably (according to Bill's theory) were the cause of the blindness. Paralleling this, some people think that research and new technology in today's world are causing more harm than good.

**Hot Jobs**

**January 5-11, 2008**

- Post Doctoral Position. Research Associate in Inflammation Research – Loyola University Medical Center
- Principle Product development Scientist – Kellog Company
- Research Scientist, Oncology research – Johnson and Johnson
Potential Quiz Questions

- It seems a lot of research is being done in many ways that apply to regular people (such as ourselves). Why don't we hear much about them? Does the media effect our knowledge of modern science?
- What measures are being taken by society to decrease unhealthy choices such as drug and alcohol use?
- What role should the government play in obesity and diets?