

CAO COMMUNIQUÉ

The CAO Communiqué is a bulletin of information developed by the CAO office in Ottawa and circulated, approximately once every two months, to current members of all ten provincial optometric Association Councils, as well as to both Schools of Optometry in Canada and CAO's past national Presidents.

Written and assembled under the direction of the national Association's Executive Director by CAO's Director of Communications, Communiqué has, in the two years since its inception, served as an extremely useful vehicle by which a mountain of CAO administrative information is sifted and disseminated to the provincial Associations. The goal in its development was to provide each Association with material which could be prioritized and circulated to their individual members through their own Association bulletins or newsletters. Regular sections in Communiqué include News in Brief from the Office of the Executive Director; The Federal Scene, a distillation of the current political information coming out of Ottawa; News from the Provinces, containing bulletin information carried by respective provincial newsletters, but perhaps not being received by Councillors in every other province; The Peripheral View: Notes from in and around the Profession, which is a blend of health care information received from groups as diverse as the American Optometric Association and the Helmholtz Institute of Eye Surgery in Moscow. In addition, it contains information from and about health care groups other than those involved directly in eye care: nursing, pharmacy, medicine and even acupuncturists. The Peripheral View's

borders are limitless and international stories have appeared in every issue of Communiqué. Clippings is self-explanatory. CAO receives hundreds of items clipped from papers and magazines all across Canada and this section offers a chance to circulate some of the more interesting and controversial from among them.

But in addition to its wide range of information, Communiqué is not without humour and its pages are frequently broken up with tidbits and cartoons related to eye care, health care or even bureaucracy.

The CAO Communiqué, we are happy to report, has been playing to very good reviews from the national and provincial Councillors who receive it. So much so that CAO Council has requested the culling of Communiqué material by the CJO's Managing Editor to enable its circulation to the full slate of Association members through the Canadian Journal of Optometry.

This section of the CJO, then, will serve to introduce you to some of the items which appear in recent issues of the CAO Communiqué. Rarely will they appear here exactly as they appear in the Communiqué. That would defeat the purpose of both publications. But this Section of the CJO will keep the grass roots membership informed regarding the information being distributed to their designated Councillors. And if your interest is piqued beyond what this distillation provides, ask your Councillor if you can borrow his/her copy of the CAO Communiqué. In the meantime, the Editors are delighted to welcome this Section to the CJO and hope that you will enjoy it.

No Need for Public Alarm over AIDS from Contact Lenses

In early October, every optometrist in Canada received a copy of a special bulletin issued by CAO. Based on information received from Health and Welfare Canada (who, in turn, had received it from the US Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia), the AIDS bulletin directly addressed the question of virus transmission via unsterilized contact lenses.

"Although trial fitting lenses are re-used, they are sterilized after each use according to approved and proven techniques, and are not sold to the public," is an essential part of a subsequent news release sent out as a joint bulletin issued by H and W's Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, the Canadian Association of Optometrists, the Canadian Ophthalmological Society and the Board of Ophthalmic Dispensers of Ontario.

In addition to the news release, the information carried in *Communiqué* was supported by the statement issued by CAO to its members and the original background material provided by H and W Canada and the US Centres for Disease Control.

Optometry in the Canadian Encyclopedia

"... the profession of examining eyes for faults of refraction and motility and of the treatment of abnormal conditions with correctional lenses and orthoptics."

So begins a full column entry under "Optometry", written by Dr. ME Woodruff, and included in the newly published 3-volume set, *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, issued by Hurtig Publishers.

The complete entry goes on to highlight the training of the optometrist, the academic programs at Montreal and Waterloo, the profession's regulatory structure, notes on the wide range of practice areas that are encompassed by the term "Optometry" and concludes with a brief paragraph on occupational vision.

Similarly, "Ophthalmology" is also covered as a separate entry in the Encyclopedia as "the medical specialty concerned with the eyes and their relationship to the body."

The entry includes a history of ophthalmology in Canada and explores briefly some of the modern surgical techniques and equipment available to the medical eye care practitioner.

Waterloo to Host International Low Vision Symposium

The Centre for Sight Enhancement at the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo will be the site of a major international Symposium on Low Vision June 25-27, 1986.

The event is sponsored, in part, through a grant from the Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund (COETF).

Information about the event can be obtained from either Professor George Woo, Chairman, or Dr. Rodger Pace, Secretary General, International Symposium on Low Vision, School of Optometry, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1. Telephone (519) 885-1211.

Health and Welfare Awards a Series of Grants to Volunteer Groups

Grants totalling over \$3,000,000.00 have recently been announced by Health and Welfare Canada to 51 separate groups whose interests include concerns as diverse as Alzheimer's Disease, Arthritis, Addiction, Narcolepsy, Diabetes, Smoking and Health, Child Health, Huntington's Disease, Spina Bifida, Planned Parenthood and Traffic Injury Research to name just a few.

The Ministry also announced the awarding of a grant of \$150,000.00 to a group called AIDS Vancouver, for a project developed specifically to assist victims of Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Part of the planned allocation of this grant will be for the organizing and running of six forums aimed at the general public to ensure the greatest possible awareness of the virus, how it is spread, and the care of AIDS patients.

Reader's Digest Large-Type Edition

Reader's Digest (US) is now available in a special large-type edition geared to visually impaired readers. The text is printed in blacker ink on a whiter page and letters are approximately 6/30 (20/100) in size.

A check with the *Digest's* Canadian offices in Montreal has confirmed that, for the present, the publication is available only in the US edition. Canadians interested in subscribing (at \$10.95 US per year) may write to *Reader's Digest Large-Type Edition*, PO Box 241, Mount Morris, Illinois, 61054, USA.

Soviet Technique Combats Squinting

A Soviet optician claims to have developed a method for curing eye squints in children.

According to a press report issued by the USSR Embassy in Canada, a doctor at Moscow's Helmholtz Institute of Eye Disease employs a prism which, when placed in front of the eye, produces a double image that causes the weak eye to blink rapidly as it tries to adjust.

By having the eye forced into doing extra work, says Dr. Edouard Avetisov, the child strengthens the eye muscles and eliminates the need for the healthy eye to compensate by squinting. Dr. Avetisov says that about 15 sessions are usually enough to "wake up" the weak eye.

Is the "Crown" in Canada Really Immune?

A new book issued recently by the Law Reform Commission sets out to review the existing status of the Canadian federal administration's legal position.

Several section titles point out the complexities of the task: "Absence of a Modern and Coherent Status"; "Fragmentation of the Federal Administration"; "Continuing Misconceptions"; "Terminological Confusion"; "Uncertainty as to the True Identity of the Crown"; "Obfuscating Contemporary Reality".

Central to the conclusions contained in the report, however, is a considerably more optimistic recommendation for an overhaul of the system. "The legal status of the federal administration," says the Commission, "must reflect a better balance in relations between the administration and individuals. The concept of equality adopted by the Charter of Rights appears to be one of the most important components of a critical re-examination of the present status of the administration."

International Rehabilitation Week 1986

April 6-9, 1986 is International Rehabilitation Week (IRW) and, in conjunction with the event, a New York based Management

Group is sponsoring an Exhibition and Conference at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Centre in New York City.

IRW is designed for the purpose of enhancing the lives of disabled and handicapped people the world over and the Conference will bring together for the first time major Associations, manufacturing and service companies, scientists, physicians, researchers, engineers, professionals in the rehabilitation field and leading public and private sector figures for an exchange of technology, services and information among groups and individuals concerned with disability.

Honorary Co-chairpersons for the event are former US Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, and NY Governor Mario Cuomo.

Further information is available from: EJJ Management Inc., 225 W. 34th Street, New York, NY, 10122, USA. Telephone (212) 563-4867.

You Know You're Getting Older When . . ."


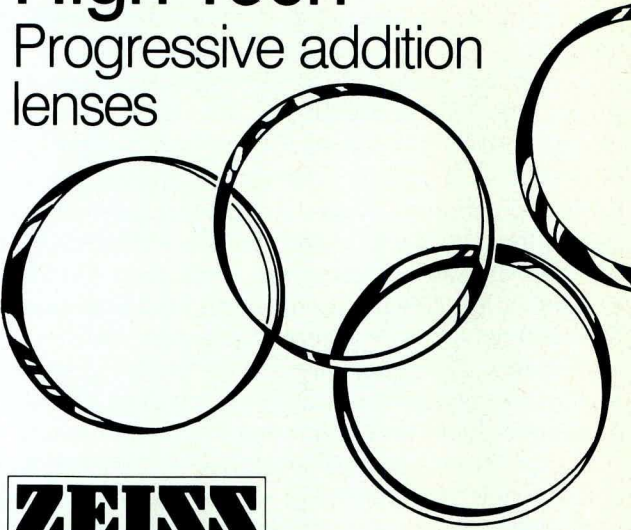
(compliments of the *Journal of the American Optometric Association*)

- Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
- The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
- You feel like the morning after the night before and you haven't been anywhere.
- Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- You get winded playing chess.
- Your mind makes contracts your body can't honour.
- You know all the answers, but no one is asking you the questions anymore.
- Your favourite part of the newspaper is *25 Years Ago Today*.
- You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- Dialing long distance wears you out.
- Your back goes out more often than you do.
- You dim the lights for economic, rather than romantic reasons.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

Gradal HS

High-Tech

Progressive addition lenses



West Germany

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