

The culinary hell of a Potluck Wednesday

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The hearty restaurateur should avoid three places no matter what: McDonalds, gas station convenience stores, and local elementary schools.

Nowhere is this more evident than at Clara Barton Elementary School, possibly the worst of them all.

Having dined at several educational establishments, I should have known better. But when Mrs. Fisher's 2nd grade class invited me to their weekly potluck lunch, I agreed to sample their wares.

Bad decision.

The food left my palate screaming for Amnesty International's intervention.

For "Potluck Wednesday," Mrs. Fisher's class brought a succession of baked goods that would make Martha

Stewart have an aneurysm in her jail cell.

The horror began with seven year-old Colin Harper's offensive rendition of the chocolate chip cookie. Harper appeared to have substituted the classroom chalk for flour, and the chocolate chips were so hard, they impaled my tongue.

The class continued its assault on my taste buds with eight year-old Krissy Connolly's peanut butter brownies. Despite the fact that she was born without a left arm, there is



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On the menu today: Pain. Horrible, unbridled pain

and left my taste buds convulsing in pain.

Next came eight-year-old Colleen Thompson's contribution. Her repulsive chicken fajitas were concocted out of some animal which tasted more like undercooked squid than poultry. And her toppings of tomatoes, lettuce, and baked beans brought a new and

simply no excuse for the blasphemous cookies Connolly brought to the class. Her cookies were baked in what seemed to be a four-alarm fire

terrifying meaning to the phrase, "beans, beans the magical fruit ..."

Then I tasted the work of seven year-old Bobby Garnish, who unfortunately lacked any kind of garnish in his nauseating macaroni and cheese. This plain presentation of such a mediocre dish would make Julia Child's head spin in circles and fire shoot out of her eyes.

My inferno of heartburn aside, the problem with these culinary catastrophes is that the teachers and parents are leading the children to believe that they actually have talent.

If their cookies are this bad now, what will the beef burgundy be like in thirty years? They might as well serve from the right!

In the meantime, if you find yourself at Clara Barton Elementary School, it would be in your best interest to fake a seizure and take your food in IV form.

Until then, Bon Appetit!

Medical miracles from around the world

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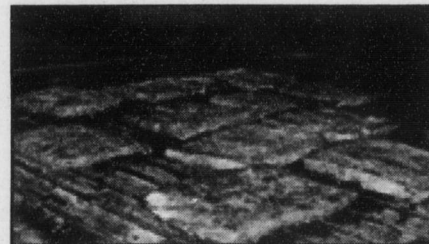
Good news, everyone!

Smoking has been found to be the leading cause of cancer remission in a recent study by the R.J. Reynolds Department of Smoking Analysis. The chemicals in cigarette smoke apparently deny oxygen to the cells of cancerous tissue, starving them and causing tumors to decompose. This recent finding has led to increased amounts of cigarette smoke in metropolitan areas, increasing the amount of smog.



Smog does increase the temperature of an area, research by the National Institute of Things Getting Hot has shown that this increase in heat is actually beneficial to the environment.

The heat stimulates the growth of plants and may lead to a longer crop year. Farmers have flocked to the suburbs, buying large tracts of parking lot and breaking through the asphalt to the fresh soil underneath.



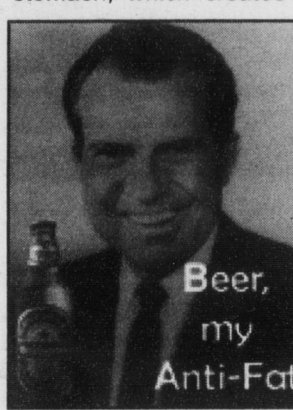
Tofu Unfortunately for vegetarians, tofu has also been the subject of recent attention. The enzymes in processed soybeans closely mimic some of the digestive enzymes created by the body.

The surplus of these enzymes creates effects very similar to the effects of leprosy: the body begins to destroy

itself. More about the results from this study will be released as scientists determine how quickly tofu causes the body to break down.

"I was digging into a plate of tofu, when I noticed this weird, meaty taste," said a sophomore vegan student, who wished to remain anonymous. "I looked down, and my finger had fallen off onto my fork."

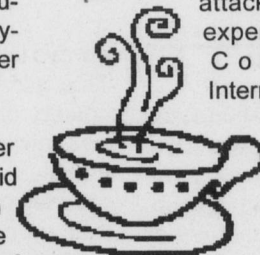
Good news for dieters: lager beer has been found to be an effective aid in weight loss. The carbonation in beer leads to build-up of gases in the stomach, which creates a feeling of



fullness and stops test subjects from eating. Binge drinking has been found to be even more effective than consuming

beer casually; 18 to 20 bottles in the period of 60-90 minutes is recommended for maximum results.

Coffee has been found to, among other things, reduce the risk of heart attack. In an ongoing experiment by Coffeestudies International, a nonprofit group of bean growers, a new type of coffee bean has come onto the mar-



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The study, sponsored by the Society of Unlicensed Neurosurgeons, shows that coffee has a positive effect on digestion, prevents the formation of gallstones, and cleanses the colon. In addition, coffee is shown to be only mildly harmful in large doses - one pot of coffee is 6.3% less damaging to the body than three packs of cigarettes smoked in rapid succession.

I'm Scoop Chang, Beijing Bugle, with your weekly medical miracles update.