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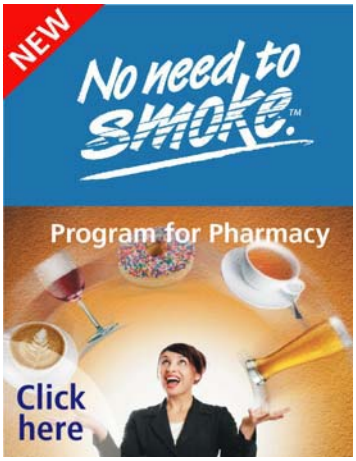
Digestive book

SANDRA Ramacher's new book for people with digestive problems (*PD* 16 Nov 07) has become a best seller.

Healing Foods - Cooking for Celiacs, Colitis, Crohn's and IBS was inspired by a life-changing diet that allowed her to come off her medication for severe ulcerative colitis.

The book has more than 200 recipes that follow the Specific Carbohydrate Diet, said to relieve symptoms for 90% of sufferers.



Coles decision reserved

THE Pharmacy Guild is hoping for a judgement in the next few months, in its ongoing case against a subsidiary of Coles which was heard in the NSW Supreme Court on Fri (*PD* 20 Feb).

NSW Guild President Si Banks confirmed that Chief Justice Peter Young had reserved his decision following the hearing.

The case involves Coles offshoot Now.com.au Pty Ltd, with the Guild understood to be claiming that non-pharmacist ownership of shares in this company breaches the relevant legislation.

Court records show the Guild is seeking an injunction which would require Now.com.au to transfer the shares to a pharmacist or pharmacist-owned corporation.

Banks told *PD* this morning that although the Guild is hopeful "any time you go before a judge the decision could go either way."

Now.com.au owns the shares of a grandfathered Sydney firm called Sydney Drug Stores Pty Ltd which trades as Pharmacy Direct.

Homeless couple rob pharmacies

A HOMELESS woman is due to appear in court today after being charged with breaking into two pharmacies in Brisbane on Tue.

The 45-year-old woman and a 37-year-old man have been charged over the robbery of the pharmacies, including theft of cold and flu medication.

They allegedly broke into Terry White Chemist at Windsor at about 1.40am and then 35 min later they moved onto Chemmart Pharmacy at Everton Park.

Police caught the pair as they drove away, with the man appearing in the Brisbane Magistrates Court on Tuesday and remanded in custody to reappear on March 18.

Qld allergy service

QUEENSLAND'S first public specialist paediatric allergy and immunology service will open next week.

AMA Queensland President Dr Ross Cartmill said he was pleased to see the service up and running.

"We are optimistic the establishment of this public service, that does have the capacity to provide training and professional development, will secure the long-term sustainability of paediatric allergy and immunology services in this State," he said.

However, Dr Cartmill said while the announcement was good news, it would only partially contribute to managing the 'allergy epidemic'.

"The AMA has called for all Australian governments to adopt a standardised anaphylaxis protocol specifically focused on school and childcare settings.

"Part of this is the mandatory training of all caregivers and teachers on how to deal with anaphylactic reactions, including the administration of Epipens."

DISPENSARY CORNER

CLEARLY exercise isn't always good for you.

A Polish man suffered an extremely bad reaction to cycling this week when his trousers burst into flames.

Scientists are baffled by the case of 55-year-old Mieczyslaw Jasinski, who told doctors he smelt burning and looked down to see his pants were on fire.

He jumped off his bike and rolled on the ground trying to put out the flames, but ended up with second degree burns.

"Witnesses said he was like a flaming human torch cycling along the road," said a police spokesman.

"We do not know how it happened but we have heard that it could have been caused by a reaction between friction as he cycled, sweat and the material of his trousers."

RESEARCHERS have found that robotic animals are just as good as the real thing at easing the loneliness of nursing home residents.

A study undertaken at Saint Louis University in Missouri, US, compared a 16kg dog named Sparky with AIBO, a robot dog manufactured by Sony.

Therapeutic benefits of both "pets" were found to be similar, with the ease of looking after the robotic companion said to be a key advantage.

Sit, AIBO!!

HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* new travel feature. Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

Easter is only a few weeks away, but you can still get some great travel deals, such as **The Outrigger Twin Towns** on the beautiful Coolangatta Tweed Heads Coast, where you can stay from just $74pp until the end of March. For bookings call 1800 19 20 20.

Special packages are also available over the April school holidays at the following resorts as recommended by *Holidays with Kids* magazine

Sea World Resort on the Gold Coast - $159 per adult per night including free entry to Sea World, kids 4-12 staying and eating free.

Hyatt Regency Coolum on the Sunshine coast - $445 per room per night for a 2 bedroom villa for a family of four, includes breakfast and group golf or tennis class.

Happy Hallidays Holiday Park on the beach near Forster, NSW mid north coast - $700 for 5 nights for a family of upto five in a 2 bedroom villa.

Bali Dynasty Resort in Bali- $146 per room per night in a family suite with kids eating free.For bookings or more information visit www.holidayswithkids.com.au

pharmacy expo 2008
Fri 20 - Sun 22 June
Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW

The largest pharmacy profession event returns to Darling Harbour in 2008. Click here for information on exhibiting or visiting the show (www.pharmacyexpo.com.au) or contact Carlene Clarke on 02 9467 7127

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