‘SIT DOWN GIRLIE’

Girlie goes medical

Abortion reasons
The first Victorian study into why women seek abortions has been published in the Medical Journal of Australia (19 January 2009). The research audited 12 months of telephone calls to the Women’s Hospital Pregnancy Advisory Service which received 5,400 calls between October 2006 and September 2007. While it is no surprise to women’s health providers and services, the Herald Sun (19 January 2009) featured the story under the headline ‘Abortion shock’ apparently because hundreds of the women surveyed had experienced violence at the hands of their partners and about eight per cent had been raped. The Age ran the same story on the same day under the more subdued headline ‘Report reveals abortion reasons’. About 3,200 callers wanted abortions and 752 had previously had at least one abortion. The most frequent reason was ‘Do not want children now’. Dr Heather Rowe, lead author of the study, wants pregnancy-advice services reviewed and said younger, poorer women who live outside Melbourne sought advice or counselling later in their pregnancies than other women. Over half the women were between 18 and 29, more than 260 were 17 or younger and one caller was 13.

The truth!
While so many Australians reeled from the shock of the devastating bushfires in Victoria which wreaked havoc and promoted enormous bravery and good will, one religious leader has uncovered the real truth. According to Catch the Fires Christian leader Pastor Danny Nalliah ‘incendiary’ abortion law reforms last year made Victoria ‘the baby killing state’ and are responsible for the bushfires. Apparently the Pastor had a dream when the laws were passed that forewarned of the disaster (Diamond Valley Leader 10 February 2009 and The Age). So who needs fire plans and Royal Commissions of Inquiry? Several politicians including Peter Costello and Danielle Green have said they are appalled by Nalliah’s comments.

Them who don’t know, don’t know they don’t know.
Australian Doctor (23 January 2009) reports on the unsettling story of a most unenlightened judge in Canada. Justice Jon-Jo Douglas of Ontario ordered an HIV witness to be masked while giving evidence. He was reported as ordering rubber gloves for court staff and for the trial to be moved to a bigger courtroom so there would be more space between His Honour and the witness. The judge boasted of having worked as a hospital orderly before becoming a judge and said he knew a little bit about infection control. The judge has since been obliged to spend a day in an HIV hospice to get a better understanding of HIV. (See the Torstar News website).

Abortion and human rights
Two articles on abortion appeared in the Canadian Medical Association Journal on 3 February 2009, one on the subject of the incidence of clandestine, potentially-unsafe induced abortion in Peru and the other a commentary on this study. Citing the 2005 United Nations Human Rights prosecution of Peru for failing to provide a 17-year-old woman with an abortion to which she was legally entitled, the author observes:

‘Faced with their favourite foods, women are less able than men to suppress their hunger according to research that may help explain the higher obesity rates for women’. (The Age, 21 January 2009) Gene-Jack Wang of the Brookhaven National Laboratory and his colleagues were surprised to find significant differences in brain responses to controlling food intake between men and women. The researchers had set out to determine why some people overeat and gain weight but others do not. The experiment involved brain scans on 13 women and ten men who had fasted. With such a small sample this is one Girlie who won’t be considering weight reduction psychosurgery just yet.

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