

Points of Interest

Glass in a can could keep bugs at bay

Virtually any surface can now be protected against bacteria and dirt by a non-toxic spray invisible to the human eye. The spray forms an ultra-thin coating between 15 and 30 molecules thick – about 500 times thinner than human hair. Potential uses include coating medical implants with non-stick, antibacterial surfaces.

Steve Conner
The Independent,
February 1, 2010
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/sprayon-miracle-could-revolutionise-manufacturing-1885158.htm>



Dentist's drill bit left in head for nearly a year

A Tampa woman has filed suit against her oral surgeon after an inch long piece of steel was found in her sinus eleven months after her surgery. The 35-year-old claims she was turned away from the surgeon's office after complaining she wasn't healing properly. It took a trip to the emergency room to find the drill bit after she experienced numbness in half her face.

Marlene Sokol
St. Petersburg Times, January 27, 2010
<http://www.tampabay.com/news/health/medicine/dentists-drill-bit-left-in-head-for-11-months-lawsuit-says/106829>

Drinking beer strengthens your bones

Researchers at the University of California have concluded that drinking beer can reduce the chances of developing diseases like osteoporosis. The sudsy drink is a rich source of dietary silicon, a nutrient that fortifies bone structure. The National Osteoporosis Society confirms the findings but recommends against increasing your alcohol consumption.

Press Association
The Guardian, February 8 2010
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2010/feb/08/drinking-beer-prevent-weak-bones>



Modern produce has lost its edge

Recent USDA findings point to fruits and vegetables losing their nutritional value. Tomatoes have lost 57% of their calcium since the 1950s and a modern carrot has 40% less iron. Causes may include poor soil conditions and crops bred for size and colour instead of vitamin content.

Mother Jones
<http://motherjones.com/photoessays/2009/08/veggie-slideshow>

Doctors at risk for addiction

A year old clinic in London has been confidentially treating health professionals for drug addiction. Habits of everything from taking ketamine and heroin to methadone and amphetamines have been treated. Easy access to drugs and avoiding their local GP or hospital because of worries that colleagues could learn of their health problems has been a starting point for many doctor's addictions.

Kate Devlin
The Daily Telegraph, January 29, 2010
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/7102415/Doctors-are-addicted-to-every-drug-under-the-sun.htm>