



### >>Colon Cancer: Widening Black-White Gap

*We are seeing much greater declines among whites than among African Americans. And we think the primary reason for that is different access to and utilization of colorectal cancer screening tests.*

—Elizabeth Ward, one of the authors of an American Cancer Society report that found that despite a decline in the overall number of colon cancer diagnoses and deaths, blacks were roughly 45% more likely to die from the disease than whites in the five-year period ending in 2005. The gap was about 40% for the five-year period ending in 2001. (*American Medical News* Web site, December 15, 2008)

### >>No Room at the Table

*We have no capacity now. There's no way we have room for any more people to come to the table.*

—Angela F. Gardner, MD, president-elect of the American College of Emergency Physicians, in a *New York Times* article on the increasing numbers of the unemployed and uninsured turning to the nation's emergency departments as a last resort for medical treatment.

### >>Coca-Cola Challenged

*I thought I was doing myself a favor health-wise. I was attracted by the prospect of getting extra vitamins. But I had no idea that I was actually getting almost a Coke's worth of sugar and calories. There's no way I would have spent money on that, had I known.*

—James Koh, of San Francisco, a plaintiff in a class action lawsuit filed against the Coca-Cola Company by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) over “deceptive and unsubstantiated claims” on its VitaminWater line of beverages. The company promotes the drinks as a healthful alternative to soda by labeling its several flavors with such words as “defense,” “rescue,” “energy,” and “endurance.” According to CSPI nutritionists, the 33 grams of sugar in each bottle do more to promote obesity, diabetes, and other health problems than the vitamins in the drinks do to provide the advertised benefits. (CSPI Web site, January 15, 2009)



### >>Sarcasm Goes Undetected

*That's great, you know how much I like your mother. That will really make it a great weekend.*

—Example of the kind of line an actor would deliver—first sarcastically, then in a neutral tone—to patients with frontotemporal dementia, the second most common form of dementia after Alzheimer's disease, in a study conducted at the University of New South Wales, Australia, which found that patients under age 65 with this form of dementia cannot detect when someone is being sarcastic. The researchers believe this helps explain why these patients appear to be unable to pick up on their caregivers' moods. (*Yahoo Health* Web site, December 12, 2008)



### >>Demeaning and Offensive

*Joking about children being shaken is not only demeaning to the admirable purpose of the organization but is horribly offensive to parents and others who know first-hand the disastrous and life-long effects of shaking a baby.*

—Patrick B. Donohue, founder of the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation, named after his daughter, who suffered severe injuries after being shaken at the age of five days, in response to a *New York Post* article on the organization which carried the headline, “Kids Get a Fair Shake.” (E-mail from the foundation to health care journalists)