

DOCTOR'S
CORNER

by Dr. Richard Johnson
Dunbarton

Here is the quiz that we usually do in January. I will give you a brief medical case history, and you will try to figure out who the person is. As before, I acknowledge and give credit to the work of Thomas Meissner, MD from whose work these cases have been taken.

- CASE 1.** Let’s begin with a very well-known U.S. president. On the trip back to D.C after giving his famous 2-minute speech, he became feverish, faint, and exhausted. In three days, he developed a scarlet skin rash, followed by blistering skin. His 10-year-old son had previously spent several weeks in bed with a fever and skin rash. This is probably how the president got smallpox. The mortality of smallpox was, at that time, about 30%.
- CASE 2.** He was a very famous composer and musician who died in 1750. You frequently can hear his music played on WCRB (the classical radio channel). When his skeleton was recovered from a Leipzig church that had been destroyed in WWII, it was inspected by Dr. Wolfgang Rosenthal. The skeleton was found to have bone changes in the upper arms and forearms which were attributed to the musician’s vigorous playing of the organ, which at the time was hard work.
- CASE 3.** This philosopher died in 1900 at the age of 56. At the end of his life he was paralyzed, demented, and probably blind. Because his symptoms began early in life, and there were similar symptoms on his mother’s side, it is felt that he had MELS (mitochondrial encephalopathy, lactic acidosis, and stroke-like episodes). This disease which involves mutations of the mitochondrial (they make ATP; the fuel for the cell) DNA is passed on by the mother. His famous quote, “God is dead,” is from his book *The Gay Science*, published in 1882.
- CASE 4.** Another composer, born in 1770 (20 years after case 2 died), was completely deaf by the age of 36. It is felt that he had Paget disease (an excessive breakdown & regrowth of bone). He died at age 57. Für Elise is one of his most famous piano pieces.
- CASE 5.** This actor played the “tough guy.” He smoked constantly and drank too much alcohol. He developed esophageal cancer and underwent a 9-hour operation followed by chemotherapy. He recovered but relapsed 6 months later. When he died in 1957 at the age of 58, he weighed only 80 pounds.
- CASE 6.** This movie diva (1918-1987) had eccentric behavior that was felt to be due to her drinking. When she was in her 50’s she had difficulty remembering her lines and dance steps. Eventually, in 1979, the correct diagnosis was made: Alzheimer’s disease. Her case gave dementia research a huge boost.
- CASE 7.** He was a famous reggae musician (1945-1981). In 1977 he saw a physician for a soccer injury and was diagnosed with a malignant melanoma on his right first toe. He refused to have the toe amputated. Four years later he collapsed during a run in Central Park. He was found to have metastases in his liver, lungs, and brain. He went to Germany, where he was treated for 6 months by the controversial ‘faith healer’ Dr. Josef Issels. He never made it home.

1. Abraham Lincoln 2. Johann Sebastian Bach 3. Friedrich Nietzsche 4. Ludwig van Beethoven 5. Humphrey Bogart 6. Rita Hayworth 7. Bob Marley

KDD Painting

603-494-7581 • 603-451-1260

CELL OFFICE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PAINTING • POWER WASHING

KDD Painting is a reliable, experienced, paint contractor specializing in high quality interior and exterior painting & power washing services at affordable pricing.

A+ Better Business Bureau rating.

For a FREE quote call Craig or Keith D'Alessandro.

For information visit our website at www.kddpainting.com

DISCOVER THE TASTE OF SOMALIA!

TRADITIONAL CUISINE including Meat & Veggie Pies!

Available for pick-up, catering, and special events. Located in the Capitol Center for the Arts at 16 South Main Street, Concord.

Visit our website at batuloskitchen.com to see Batulo's Kitchen's specialty foods that will satisfy your cravings!

FOSTER'S
GOLF CAMP

Celebrating
31 Years!

2024

The Ultimate Junior Golf Experience!

Registrations are
in full swing
Register today!

Ages 7-16 Beginner to Advanced

April vacation week and all summer long!

603-622-1553

www.fostersgolfcamp.com

FREE SEMINAR

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

WHY it Happens and HOW to Prevent It

Dr. Herbert B. Allen M.D. will explain how an 80-year-old drug could cure or prevent Alzheimers

Herbert B. Allen, M.D.

Professor and Chair Emeritus
Drexel University Medical School Professor of
Geriatrics and Gerontology Rowan SOM

Friday, March 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Dunbarton Library –
Upstairs

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

1004 School Street
Dunbarton, NH

Who will benefit from this seminar?
Anyone who is concerned about themselves,
a loved one, or a friend that shows signs
of Alzheimer's Disease.

Seating is limited to 130

Please R.S.V.P. to LarsenMedia@gmail.com by March 19, 2024
or call (603) 774-3500