

OPINION

OP's grip

ts into Social Security never with the public, and, as a result, it came up for a vote in the House

h budget proposals struggled the year and finally were ap- in an overtime session. But this was striking because it tested cal credibility on what had been t front — national security.

ated comment on the proposed House Speaker Dennis Hastert (n Congress) will continue to use how to protect the American peo- mplication that Bush was not nec-

nderstandably gleeful at the spec- ns fighting among themselves — urports to be a national security ats such as Sen. Charles Schumer his party's Senate campaign com- ports issue quickly — hardly ex- blicans would be grabbing for wgon.

ts are broadening the argument, ai deal is another example of the aware of, or incapable of antici- ns — whether they involve the in- e levees in New Orleans.

ocrats get too gleeful, they ough sentiment that was also fueling Some portion of the antagonism t the fact that this is an Arab-based

spirit poisons the current debate talking to public officials recently nesota and Illinois, I heard blunt ative public reaction to the chang- rural and suburban communities ny new immigrants.

ner ought to reflect that they are n they help stoke this fever.

rs Group

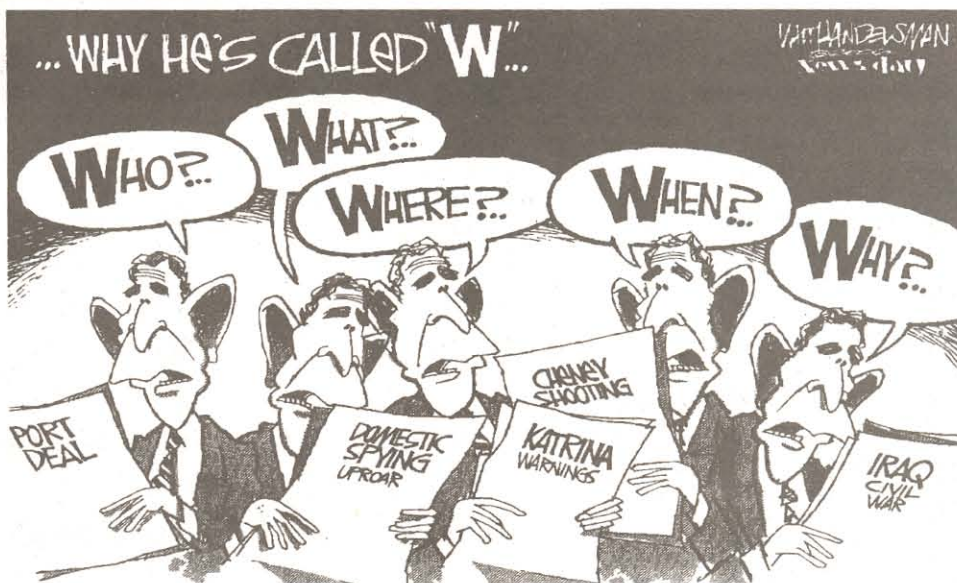
star

the spring of 1999, the year after rding to Fainaru-Wada and Wil- ne obsessively jealous of the adula- led Mark McGwire as he hit 70

onds reported to spring training in ropped because he was suddenly d this very intelligent player was ntly huge. For many years, baseball d strength training with weights fears that players would become und," losing their flexibility. Jon Giants broadcaster, remembers or the first time in his career, had a inside pitch. His manager, Dusty ries to Bonds.

st inning of the Giants' first spring posing player hit a shallow fly ball bbed his binoculars to confirm that

Bill Schorr / *New York Daily News*



EVERYBODY'S COLUMN

Cognitive loss is indeed associated with statins

I am deeply saddened that Dr. Edward Stehlik (March 6 Another Voice) is so unaware of his own medical literature. Peoples Pharmacy deserves an apology from him, for it is providing a valuable service to readers everywhere. His statement that statins are unassociated with cognitive loss is false and a disservice to patients everywhere.

Our statin research has documented more than 500 cases of statin associated transient global amnesia (TGA) as the tip of the iceberg of thousands of cases of forgetfulness, confusion and disorientation also being reported to our National Institutes of Health-funded statin study. Many of these are now in the medical literature.

Dr. Matthew Muldoon's two landmark studies in the American Journal of Medicine reported an astounding 100 percent cognitive loss in Mevacor and Zocor users if sufficiently sensitive testing is done. Leslie Wags-taff and others gleaned "60 cases of statin associated TGA" from their review of FDA's Medwatch files in Pharmacotherapy 2003.

But the most impressive documentation I have thus far is from Pfizer's own reports on its clinical evaluation phase of Lipitor. Pfizer cited 11 cases of serious cognitive loss in its 2,503 original study patients. This is a ratio of five per thousand. Translating Pfizer's own data to the 30 million Lipitor users to-day tells us to expect 150,000 cases of TGA from just this one statin.

DUANE GRAVELINE, M.D.
Merritt Island, Fla.

Blitz highlights difficulty of parking legally in city

Region needs to eliminate inequalities in health care

Current discussions on hospital closings should engage us all to rethink how we can eliminate the glaring inequalities in health care that minorities receive.

Buffalo is underserved by health care providers and facilities. Predominantly minority neighborhoods on the East and West Sides rely on hospital emergency departments as sources of primary care. They provide acute care, not ongoing preventative care, and are expensive. Some illnesses, such as asthma, are made worse by poor housing conditions. Thus, the public winds up paying for sub-standard housing, repeated emergency room visits and hospitalizations. This increases Medicaid costs.

We currently have two separate and unequal systems for outpatient health care. One serves predominantly white patients who receive care in private practitioners' offices; the other serves predominantly minority patients in hospital- or community-based clinics. The latter system provides less continuity of care and is more expensive.

Research has shown that having a regular physician for health care is associated with greater satisfaction, fewer emergency room visits and a more preventative approach to care. Preventive care will lower health costs, result in a productive work force and reduce racial disparities.

JAMSON S. LWEBUGA-MUKASA, M.D.
UB Associate Professor of Medicine
Getzville

Some theatergoers recall when Buffalo was a launching point

Kudos to Studio Arena Theatre and "The