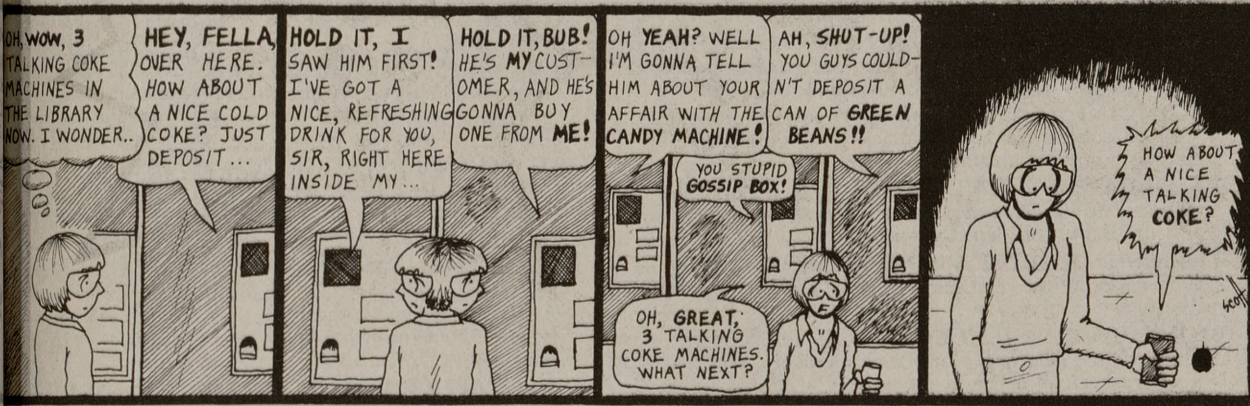


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Adolescent victims studied

Cancer amputees adjust

United Press International BUFFALO, N.Y. — For an amputee, life is an everyday struggle. But some amputees, especially adolescents who have lost a limb in a battle with cancer, must adjust to the plight with less difficulty. Researchers at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo's well-known cancer hospital, focused on the problems faced by an adolescent who has lost a limb to cancer. Dr. Cameron Tebbi, director of the institute's adolescent unit, headed the study. Researchers concluded that adolescent cancer patients who have undergone limb amputations have a better overall adjustment to their disability than those who had amputations as the result of traumatic injuries. Although much attention has been focused on the problems of geriatric and military

amputees, little is known about the problems of the adolescent who has lost a limb to cancer," Tebbi said. To assess the patient's adjustment after losing a limb, researchers used questionnaires aimed at educational, occupational and social achievements of adolescent amputees. Tebbi said the majority of the patients questioned were in school at the time of their surgery and had a problem-free return to the classroom following amputation. The most difficulties, Tebbi said, centered around mobility. Despite this, "all considered themselves independent," he said. "Although estimation of adjustment is difficult," Tebbi said, "ability to function successfully, socially and vocationally and, for teenagers, educationally, are important criteria in determining adjustment."

Only three of the 22 cancer amputees over age 18 did not finish high school. Eighteen attended college. Only one of those whose amputation was caused by an injury after an accident went on to college. Tebbi said at the time of the study only one of the amputees was unemployed, while 19 said they were employed either full time or part time. The major complaint concerned discrimination in job hiring or promotion. "One man," Tebbi said, "reported that the factory he worked at before his surgery would not rehire him until he remained cancer-free for five years." The cancer amputees did fairly well socially, with strong support from family and close friends. "Although several felt self-conscious or worried about peer acceptance," Tebbi said, "the

majority found their friends helpful and supportive, and had not changed their pattern of friendship after surgery." Those surveyed, Tebbi said, were satisfied with prosthetic devices worn after their surgery, with half of the amputees questioning finding that the devices "allowed them to do what they wanted." Tebbi said the researchers finally questioned the amputees on whether things turned out better, worse or as expected following amputation. He said 77 percent felt things turned out better, 18 percent said as expected and 5 percent felt worse than anticipated. Tebbi believes the findings of the study can help other cancer amputees adjust to their new disability. "The knowledge that cancer and amputation does not preclude an active, independent life," Tebbi said, "can be of great benefit to the newly diagnosed or traumatized patient."

Tips, shortcuts speed sewing

United Press International People who sew are usually looking for short cuts to save time and effort without sacrificing quality. One publisher's response to this problem is "Speed Sewing" by Janice S. Saunders, consumer education director for a national fabric store chain and former national school manager for a major American sewing machine manufacturer. In her 103 projects, Saunders demonstrates how today's fabrics and new machines make it possible to do mechanically what used to be handwork. Another excellent new book is a third edition of "Vogue Sewing" which comes with a free guide pattern of the buyer's choice. Beginners who have not learned to choose good styles for their figures just by looking at pictures or photographs in pattern books will find a chart of styles along with full explanations and illustrations for altering patterns for individual figure problems. Other useful features include a three-page guide to linings and

underlinings by brand name and fiber content, weight, color and use, directions for testing knits' stretchability and a fabric width conversion chart. Other publications include a spiral-bound paperback, "Sew Wonderful Silk," by Cheryl Arrants with Jan Asbjornsen and "Sew Wonderful Gourmet Garments," by Arrants, with illustrations and technical art by her husband, Dennis. The silk book discusses selecting fabric stores, evaluating fabrics before buying, preparing fabrics for cutting and sewing, pretreating washable silks and avoiding tears and other damage to fragile fabrics. The garment book contains easy-to-follow directions for 10 women's wear designs — including dresses, pants, a tunic, a coat and a jacket — to be made without paper patterns. "The Complete Book of Sewing Short Cuts," by Claire B. Shaeffer contains a lot of sound basic information but doesn't measure up to the Vogue, Saunders or Arrants-Asbjornsen books.

Peppers without caffeine?

United Press International HOUSTON — Dr Pepper announced Wednesday it will introduce a decaffeinated, sugar-free soft drink known as Pepper Free in selected markets in the United States in January. W.W. Clements, chairman of Dr Pepper, said markets selected for the debut of Pepper Free will be in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, California, Arizona and Nevada, covering approximately 10 percent of the population of the United States.

The decaffeinated product will taste similar to Dr Pepper, Robert Hannegan, president of Dr Pepper USA, said. He said Pepper Free "answers a need, according to our research, by health-conscious consumers who wanted a sugarless, decaffeinated Dr. Pepper." The product was announced to the company's bottlers attending a special meeting. Hannegan said, "We opted for a Pepper Free without sugar or caffeine for a very good marketing reason. People who prefer a caffeine-free beverage tend to fit the sugarfree consumer profile, namely women, aged 25-49 and those who are health and weight conscious."

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