

Spotlight On Justice



ACADEMIC STUDY: PRODUCT LIABILITY LEADS TO SAFER PRODUCTS



"Liability considerations were a sufficient condition or a contributing factor to at least fourteen important auto safety improvements, including inadvertent vehicle movement, fuel tank design, occupant restraints, and all-terrain vehicle restrictions. The chemical industry is reported to have made significant safety improvements as a result of liability exposure.... Pharmaceutical company attorneys credit liability pressure for safety improvements."

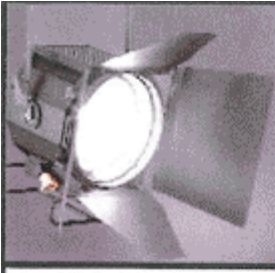
Source:

Eisenberg, Theodore, The Empirical Effects of Tort Reform (April 1, 2012). Research Handbook on the Economics of Torts, Forthcoming; Cornell Legal Studies Research Paper No. 12-26. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2032740>

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FDA DRUG APPROVAL - BARELY A MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARD

According to the Institute of Medicine, the FDA isn't protecting the public from safety problems once a drug is on the market.



IOM finds, "the FDA's current approach to drug oversight in the postmarket setting is not sufficiently systematic and does not ensure that it assesses the benefits and risks of drugs consistently over the drug's life cycle."

Source:
"Ethical and Scientific Issues in Studying the Safety of Approved Drugs," Institute of Medicine, May 1, 2012

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DRUG COMPANIES ARE HIDING SIDE EFFECTS

"The main system for keeping track of the dangerous side effects of prescription drugs is deeply flawed, primarily because drug makers are submitting incomplete information about the problems to the Food and Drug Administration, according to a new study by a nonprofit group that tracks drug safety issues. The study, by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, found that only about half of reports of serious side effects submitted by manufacturers met basic standards for completeness, containing a patient's age, sex and the date the event took place. Reports collected by the F.D.A. itself, by contrast, were found to meet those basic standards in 85 percent of cases."

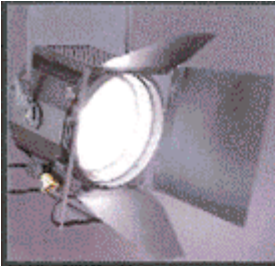
Source:

www.nytimes.com/2015/02/03/business/drug-makers-data-on-side-effects-is-called-lacking-in-a-report.html

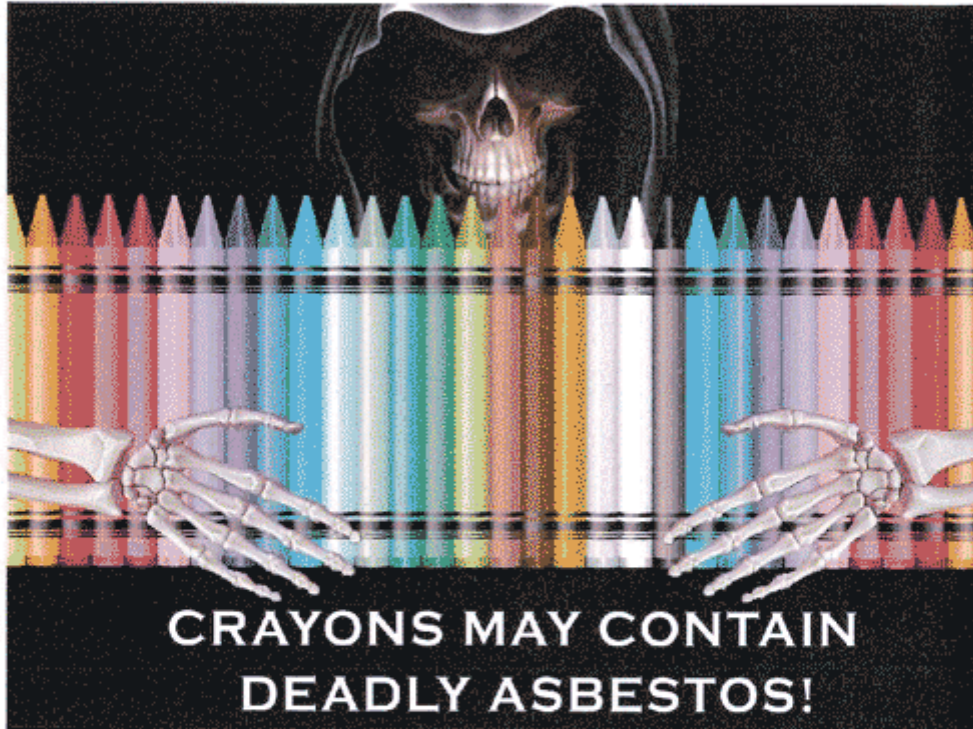
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CRAYONS MAY CONTAIN DEADLY ASBESTOS!

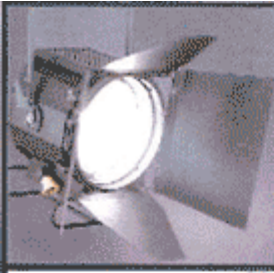
A new study commissioned by EWG Action Fund found, of the 28 boxes of crayons and 21 crime scene finger print kits sampled, four of the crayon brands and two of the fingerprint kits revealed traces of deadly asbestos fibers.... All of contaminated products were manufactured in China and many were licensed with popular kids' characters, such as Mickey Mouse, The Power Rangers, and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Source:
<http://www.ewg.org/environblog/2015/07/esbestos-your-children-s-toys>

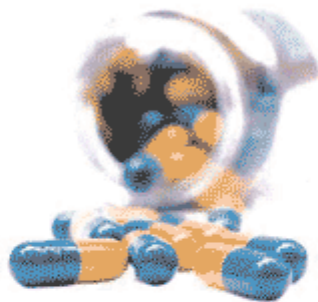
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GENERIC ADHD DRUGS MAY NOT WORK

When the FDA found out that generic medicines for ADHD were not the bioequivalent, they gave companies six months to prove the effectiveness or stop selling the drugs. Seven months later, as the deadline passed, "major pharmacies like CVS and Rite Aid continue to stock them, and together the drugs have managed to hold on to about 30 percent of the market."

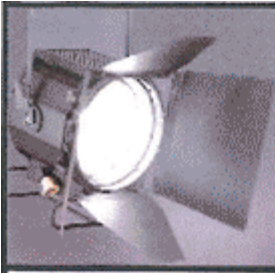
Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/17/business/generic-ritalin-drug-not-equivalent-to-the-brand-is-in-use-anyway.html>

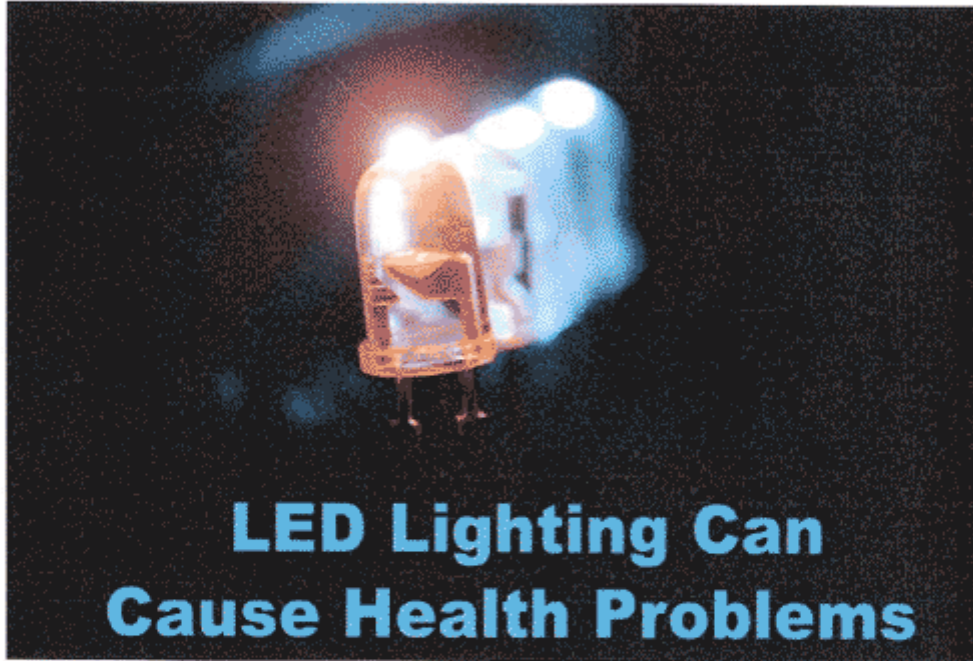
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LED Lighting Can Cause Health Problems

"[A] lightbulb manufacturer is adding a health warning to its LED packaging. The new label, which will begin appearing on all Lighting Science LEDs in August, reads 'Exposure to certain electric lights may cause biological effects, some potentially disruptive.'"

Source:
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2015/06/do-lightbulbs-need-a-health-warning-label/index.htm>

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HOMEOPATHIC PRODUCTS CAN BE DANGEROUS

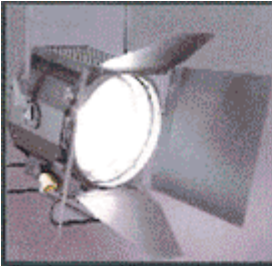
The FDA "has issued 40 warning letters to homeopathic product makers since 2009 amid increasing U.S. sales. In perhaps the most serious case, in 2009 the FDA ordered the maker of Zicam to stop marketing three products that contained zinc gluconate. The agency linked those products to 130 reports from consumers who said they lost their sense of smell."

Source:
<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/21/us/politicstep-us-unproven-remedies-fda.html>

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OUR FOOD CONTAINS THOUSANDS OF UNINSPECTED INGREDIENTS

“Companies have added thousands of ingredients to foods with little to no government oversight. That’s thanks to a loophole in a decades-old law that allows them to deem an additive to be “generally recognized as safe” — or GRAS — without the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s blessing, or even its knowledge.”

Source:

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2015/04/14/399591292/why-the-fda-is-clueless-about-some-of-the-additives-in-our-food>

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FIVE FACTS ABOUT TAKATA AIRBAGS



- Takata's exploding, shrapnel-spraying airbags are the subject of the biggest U.S. consumer product recall in history.
- Takata's U.S. recall covers 33.8 million vehicles, including at least 15 vehicle brands and 60 models; worldwide, over 50 million vehicles have defective airbags.
- Takata is currently making only 500,000 replacement airbags per month⁴; U.S. repairs could take at least 5 years.
- It is estimated that 25 to 30 percent of U.S. cars with defective airbags – or about 10 million cars - will never be repaired.
- To date, at least 6 deaths and 64 injuries have been linked to exploding Takata airbags.

Source: <http://centerjd.org/content/spotlight-five-facts-about-takata-airbags>

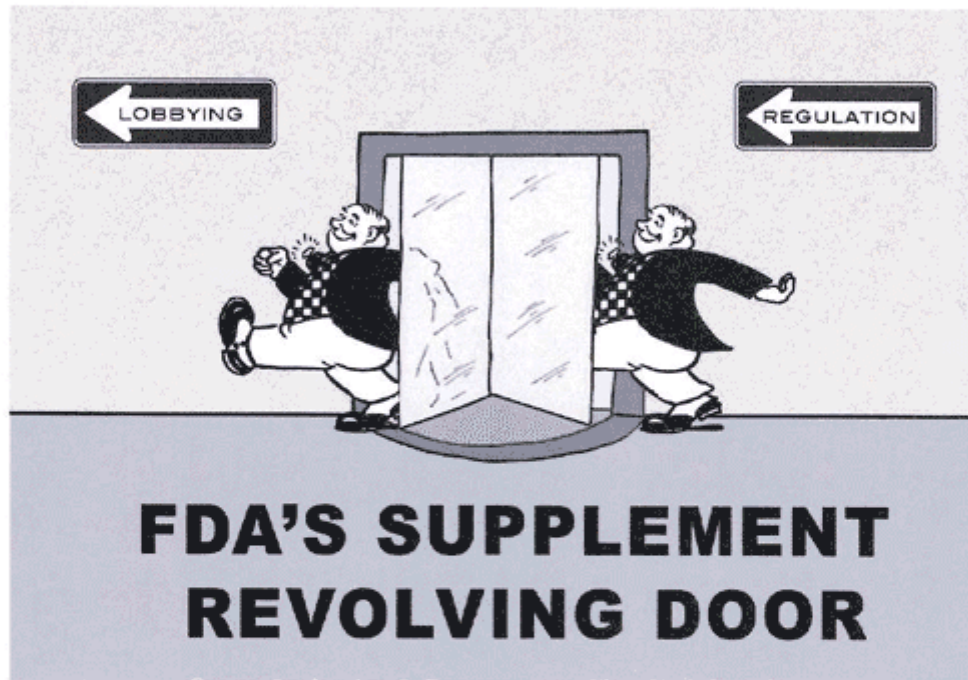
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"The [FDA] is not effectively policing the \$33 billion-a-year supplements industry in part because top agency regulators themselves come from the industry and have conflicts of interest, [advocates] say. In recent years, two of the agency's top officials overseeing supplements — including one currently on the job — were former leaders of the largest supplement industry trade and lobbying group."

Source:

http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/07/study-warns-of-diet-supplement-dangers-kept-quiet-by-f-d-a/?_r=1

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2014 BROKE AUTO RECALL RECORDS

"The auto industry recalled almost 64 million vehicles for safety problems last year, a record, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The number of recalled vehicles exceeded the total for the previous three years combined."

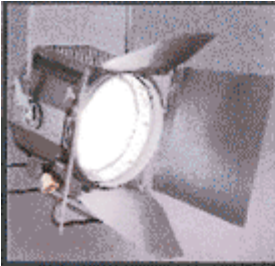
Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/13/business/auto-safety-recalls-set-record-of-nearly-64-million-vehicles-in-2014.html>

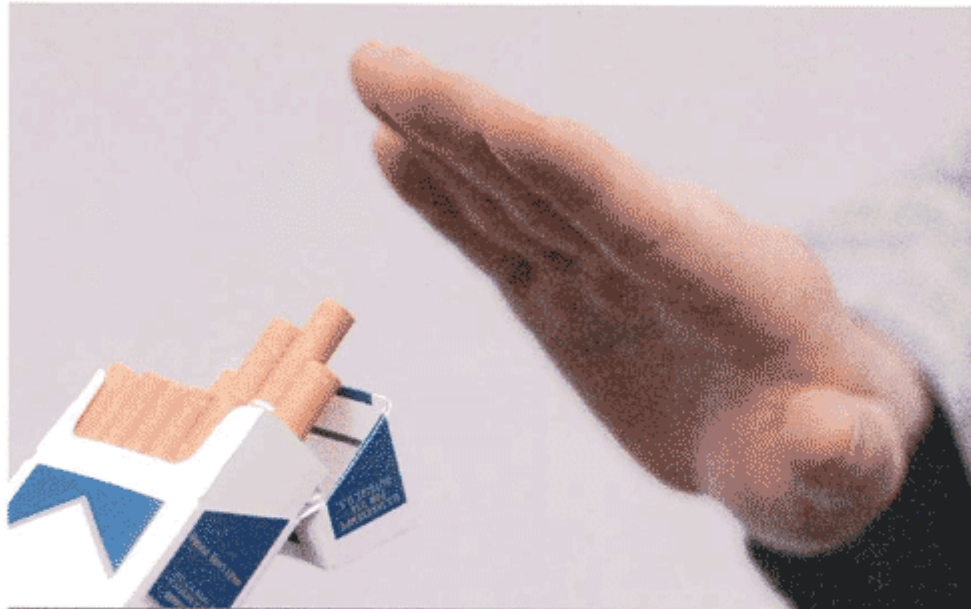
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SMOKING IS EVEN WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

"A new study adds at least five diseases and 60,000 deaths a year to the toll taken by tobacco in the United States. ... In addition to the well-known hazards of lung cancer, artery disease, heart attacks, chronic lung disease and stroke, the researchers found that smoking was linked to significantly increased risks of infection, kidney disease, intestinal disease caused by inadequate blood flow, and heart and lung ailments not previously attributed to tobacco."

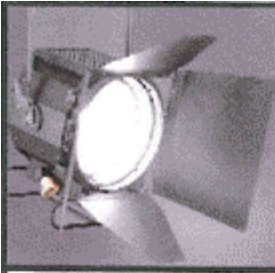
Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/12/health/smokings-health-toll-worse-than-previously-thought-study-says.html>

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NO SPECIAL 'TREATMENT' FOR GUN MAKERS

"[U]nlike the makers of chain saws, knives, automobiles, drugs, alcohol or even cigarettes — gun manufacturers and sellers have a lesser obligation to act with reasonable care for public safety." That's because of legislation enacted by Congress in 2005 that not only immunizes gun manufacturers from suit at the national level, but also prevents state officials from establishing any meaningful legal accountability for gun violence at the state or local level. At the time the law was enacted, lawsuits brought by more than 30 cities, counties or states were invalidated. Ever since, there have been regular efforts in Congress to repeal this law.

Sources:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/28/us/gun-makers-shun-responsibility-for-sales-suits-show.html>; <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/feb/05/opinion/la-oe-schiff-rra-liability-shield-20130205>

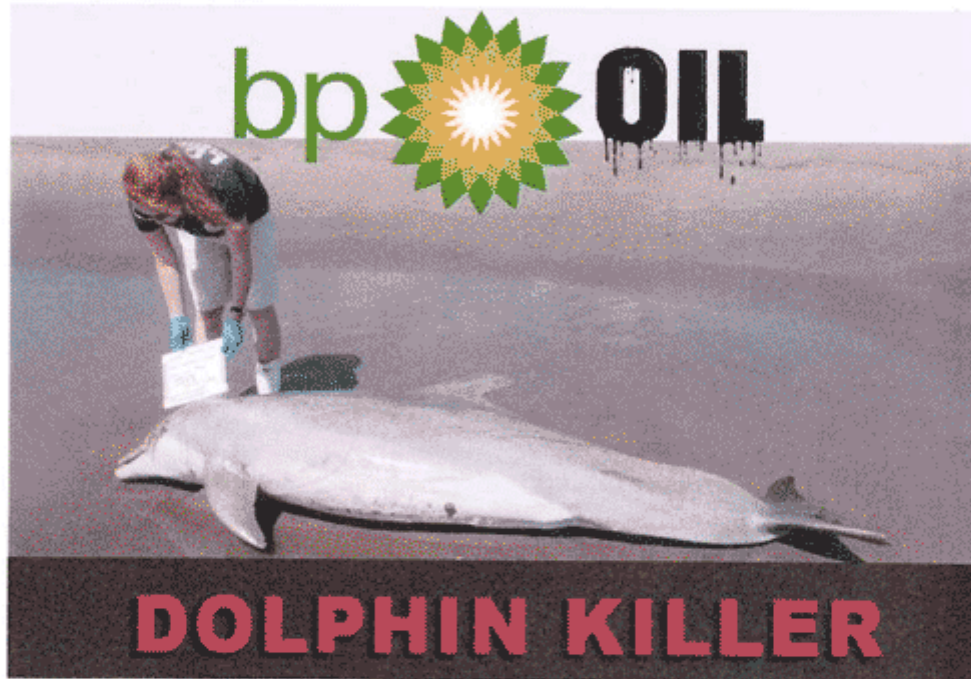
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"The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 [caused] mass dolphin deaths in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. ... 'These dolphins had some of the most severe lung lesions I have ever seen in wild dolphins throughout the United States,' Dr. [Kathleen Colegrove, a veterinary pathologist at the University of Illinois and an author of the study] said."

Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/21/science/dolphin-deaths-in-gulf-of-mexico-linked-to-deepwater-horizon-oil-spill.html?_r=0

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