

“Dear Sirs, I am SICK” Document

October 5th, 1986

In 1988, reporter Hillary Johnson noticed the “Dear Sirs, I am sick,” letter on a bulletin board at the Centers for Disease Control. It was posted in the corridor of the division with jurisdiction over the malady the agency was soon to rename “chronic fatigue syndrome.” After staff witnessed Johnson copying the letter into her notebook, the division chief reluctantly removed the satirical letter. Later, Johnson received a copy (below) from an anonymous sender.

October 5, 1986

Center of Diseased Comptrollers
Bldg 6, Rm 127
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Sirs:

I am SICK. I saw your ad in the L.A. Times, and need your help. I am so tired it took me 6 days to dictate this letter to my secretary. Please send all available information, and I mean ALL, about CEBV, CMV, HSV, VZV, HPV, HTLV III/LAV/HIV, RSV, HAV, HBV, SV40, G-BS, RSV, RSVP, DRG's, OMB, FDA, NIH, INH, NIMH, SPBSQSA, ABC's, D&C's, T&A's, S&M, ASPCA, UCLA, HMO's, AIDS, Ayds, USAID's, IUD's, BCP's, HBP, CHF, ESRD, USAA, and Japanese Bee Encephalitis, PDQ. Also please send a complete list of all physicians in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia (including the Indian and Southeast Asian subcontinents), Greenland, Antarctica, and the Marianas Islands who work with the above agents, along with their addresses, telephone #'s, height, weight, hair and eye color, social security #, number of living relatives, favorite colors, and how much they charge (the more expensive, the better).

I would also like a list of recommended treatments for the above conditions, in descending order of trendiness, including acyclovir, gamma globulin, WXYZ-2, 3DPC, Vitamins A, B-1 thru 12, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q, Zinc, Cadmium, Cobalt, Neodymium, Ytterbium, lecithin, morithin, lessismorithin, sensory deprivation, walking on hot coals, alternating sensory deprivation and walking on hot coals, purified fruit-bat guano injections, and bedrest. I have already tried Valium, Lithium, Haldol, and thorazine, but they only work when I take them.

Please, also inform me about how to get social security and workmen's compensation benefits for the above diseases. I have had them for over 40 years now, and I am only 29 years old.

Thanks for all your help.



I.M. Zappode
2431 Western Blot
Wornout, CA, 98765