

THE PIVOT REVIEW

Joseph B. Strauss, D.C., F.C.S.C., Editor Volume 19 ♦ Number 3 ♦ April 2004

piv'ot (piv'ut) n. 1. a point, fixed pin, or short axis on the end of which something turns. 3. That upon or around which something turns or depends; the central, cardinal, or crucial factor, member, part, person, etc.

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Freedom and Security

Sometimes we need to look beyond our own immediate needs and instead look toward the good of society, which ultimately benefits all of society including us as chiropractors. It is ironic that our philosophy is directed towards benefiting the body in the long run rather than quick, temporary symptomatic relief that ultimately leaves us worse off. Yet, we seem to be focused on our profession or ourselves as individuals for the short haul (I'll get mine and retire) rather than what is best for society in general and our country in particular, in the long run. Our country was founded upon the idea of small, limited government. As much as possible, the framers of the Constitution wanted authority vested first in the individual, second in the local government, third in the state, and lastly, as infrequently as possible, in the federal government. It worked well for 150 years but about the middle of the last century during a time of crisis we allowed the federal government to grow, to assume greater power and like a snowball rolling down a hill, it has continually gathered momentum and size. The fear that the Founding Fa-

thers had was that more growth and power would ultimately lead to totalitarianism, creating an all-powerful central government causing individuals to lose their freedom and become enslaved. The irony is that the only way that can happen is for the people to turn that power over to the central government and the only way that happens is for the government to promise them more security or a better life in exchange for their freedom. It worked with the Russian Revolution in 1917. It worked with the National Socialist Party of Hitler in Germany in the 1930's and it is happening in the United States today.

You are probably saying, "Well thanks for the civics and history lesson but what does this have to do with chiropractic?" Well, it has to do with us being free as a profession or ultimately enslaved by the medical/governmental establishment.

Let's look at some of the ways our greed as a profession and our desire for security are enslaving us:

1. Years ago there were no student loans. Chiropractic education was reasonably priced. You could graduate from chiropractic college without being

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\$100,000 or more in debt. But our schools wanted student loans, wanted the government to lend money to students, and students wanted that “gift.” The schools wanted it so we could have bigger, better, more expensive chiropractic facilities so we could be as respected as the medical profession. So we got student loans, which necessitated the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE), a quasi-governmental organization to oversee the process, and make sure the tax dollars were being lent to legitimate schools. Now our school, and our students are enslaved by it. Of course, the CCE’s goal is to eventually control the profession by controlling education.

2. We wanted to take the licensing out of the hands of the state (where it belongs) so we all decided to have a national board. That gave us the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) with their overly priced Parts I through however many they can think up (7 to date, that’s right--7). Their profit goes toward politically totalitarian organizations like the CCE and the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Board (FCLB) that will further enslave us. A few organizations are finally waking up to the problem, because just like a political totalitarian government, professional ones will eventually hurt everyone (ask the Russian or Chinese). State and national organizations are finding that these centralized power-grabbing organizations only live for one thing: to get more power and money. So now they want to control the continuing education process to rake in millions and have more and more control over the profession even to the point of ultimately retesting field chiropractors for competence. Of course, the retesting will be in materia/medica.

3. Recently, the chiropractic profession agreed to be under the referral of physicians for the right to participate in care for veterans. I cannot even begin to try to understand what the rationale for that action is. Fortunately, a few leaders of organizations real-

ized that the temperature is getting hot in the pot and tried to leap out. But with the power that the medical community and the medi-practic community have, a program not in the best interest of chiropractic will probably be instituted.

4. We should not be too surprised at the above situations. Chiropractors have been giving up their freedom for a little financial security for the past 30 years or more. Ever since we started accepting insurance reimbursement and government funds for Medicare. Medicare was a terrible program. But the so-called leaders of the profession at the time said it was a “foot in the door.” Well, they got that foot in and after all these years we still have no more than the foot in the door and the government has a secure grasp on that foot.

5. There are numerous other examples. Almost every insurance program, HMO, and PPO were supposed to be a boon to chiropractors. For some they have, in the short run, but they have enslaved us as a profession and they have made us dependent upon the medical-political establishment that cares nothing about chiropractic or the unique service it offers mankind. At best they see that service in the medical model.

Can we extricate ourselves from this servitude? If we do not, we will be part of the problems with this country rather than part of the solution to them. Some may argue, “as long as I can adjust, I am not going to get involved in the capitalism/socialism argument. I don’t care whether the government, Big Brother, or the practice member pays me as long as someone does and I can deliver my service to the public.” That kind of thinking may serve you a few more years but eventually the strangling grasp of the power grabbers that have an outside-in viewpoint of life will get you. We must begin to take back our profession. Take it back from those who would control us for their own ego, those who are part of

the Big Brother government and those within the medical and medical-thinking community who would control us in order to eventually destroy us.

It has been suggested that articles like this sound paranoid. That there is some great conspiracy by a few to control the profession and take it in a direction they would like to go. Well, that is exactly the way it is! Just because a person is paranoid doesn’t mean that someone is really not out to get them! Remember the great Mel Gibson character in the movie, “Conspiracy Theory?” Some in our profession, those who had the most to lose, the straights with their strong philosophical base, realized this conspiracy years ago. The conspiracy is merely a group of chiropractors who have a desire to control the profession in order to see it go in a direction (medical) they think is best for it. They realize that the strong remnants of the Palmer philosophy would not allow them to change the profession in a democratic manner so they began a way to politically circumvent the wishes of the profession and control the educational and licensing processors. They know that the profession is not organized, 80% do not belong to any organization. Control education and licensing--it does not matter what the profession wants. They are under your control. How do you do that? Remove the educational institution’s autonomy (CCE) and the state’s autonomy (FCLB). It’s really very simple.

So how do you combat this process of increased enslavement, especially among a profession which is about as apathetic as any group of people can get? Well, I guess we can take a lesson from the efforts of the straight movement 30 years ago. The only reason their efforts failed was that not enough people supported their efforts to resist the takeover. Perhaps there are enough people now that realize the gravity of the situation

and are willing to do something. I hope so.

Enslavement for us needs to be fought on two fronts, against those within our profession that would control us and against government control. Critical mass is reached when more people are benefited by big government than are benefited by the product of their own labors. At that point a society is doomed. Our society is precariously close to that point. Many, perhaps most, of those people including many in Congress contribute nothing to the productivity of society. They just create reasons for their perpetuation usually at the expense of the public's freedom. More older people in the country depend upon the government than the fruits of a lifetime of their own labor. Partly

because the government has taken inordinate amounts of money from them to "buy" the support of the previous generation and partly because they

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were led to believe that the government would be there for them in their retiring years, a function the social security system was not intended nor capable of fulfilling. Who today does not benefit financially in some way by the government. If we are going to preserve our way of life and our free-

dom, we must divest ourselves from the trough of government dependency as individuals and as a profession. Our profession can only succeed if it remains free from the bureaucratic constructs and financial dependence of government. A cash practice is not just a good idea because it saves you paperwork and creates less headaches. It is important to the function of a free society.

Any advances in the science or practice of chiropractic will not come from centralized power brokers whether in the profession or in the government. It will only come from chiropractors free to practice any way they choose as long as it does no harm and is intended to serve mankind. ▼

Gatekeepers of Health?

A recent article by a well-known practice management consultant extolled the benefits of being leaders in the alternative health care community. His argument was that since we are "a frequent first 'point of contact'" for patients we should be a "valuable resource." His suggestion is that we should "refer to, support and integrate the services of *other* holistic health care providers in (y)our area into the active care plan recommendations you are making for your own patients." (Emphasis mine) This article is written by an individual who identifies himself with the straight chiropractic community. Doing other procedures in your office was at one time considered mixing but apparently now it is perfectly acceptable to chiropractors to "assist their patients in finding the care they need, whether it be from one resource or from a combination of care options, including acupuncture, massage, homeopathy, biofeedback or traditional medicine." He maintains that we are no longer competing with each other as health care providers,

"today the goal is to unify and integrate services in order to achieve optimum health for our patients." I'm sorry but this is not my idea of the function of chiropractic. I see very little difference between doing the above procedures in your office, having someone else in your office do them or ascertaining the need for these procedures among your practice members and then referring the person out to someone with whom you are "networking." It is not straight chiropractic.

Perhaps we need to go back to some philosophical basics here. It's called checking our slipping. We maintain that chiropractic is separate and distinct from everything else. It is not "holistic health care." We are not involved in a "new climate of cooperation or CAM (Complementary Alternative Medicine)." We are not complementary, we are not an alternative and we are not medicine. Everyone needs chiropractic care, so it is complementary to nothing (in the sense that it makes that procedure

complete). Whether you need or do not need acupuncture or traditional medicine, you need chiropractic.

Further, we are not the person to decide whether you need other procedures. Our philosophy teaches that we cannot determine what is normal or needed for an individual. The issue that precipitated the furor in the profession that gave birth to the modern-day straight movement was the contention by many in the chiropractic profession that as "portal of entry" doctors (Gatekeeper is the latest buzzword for "portal of entry") we need to know when a person needs medical care, therefore we have to be able to diagnose medical conditions. The CCE was responsible for perpetuating and forcing this idea on the colleges. (We have not come very far in 30 years!). If we maintain that we do not know and can not know when a person needs medical care, how can we claim that we know when and if they need acupuncture, biofeedback or another "alternative," unless we have concluded that like

chiropractic, everyone should be under regular “alternative medicine care.” What we have done in aligning these alternatives with chiropractic, or chiropractic with these alternatives, is to begin to look at them in the same way we look at chiropractic. Acupuncture, biofeedback, massage, and homeopathy are not in the same class as chiropractic. They are alternatives to medicine which means they are therapeutic for the treatment of some disease or condition. Chiropractic is not an alternative for the treatment of anything. People needing medical care also need chiropractic care. People with no symptoms need to have their spine checked regularly for the obvious reason that subluxations are asymptomatic. Saying we should involve other procedures in our care is equating these procedures with chiro-

practic, whether we personally do them or not. Equating chiropractic to the medical alternative is either bringing chiropractic down to the level of a therapy or raising acupuncture, massage, etc. above the level of a therapy. Either way it is not good for chiropractic or its future.

We all know why this practice management consultant is advertising that we network with “nutritionists, herbalist, exercise outlets, spas, or homeopaths.” It is so chiropractors can build larger practices. I am all for that. But rather than aligning ourselves with medical alternatives, let’s spend the effort educating our present practice members and the community at large as to the uniqueness of chiropractic care and do it in a way that does not compromise our philosophy.

Chiropractic will never reach its full potential of good to humanity as long as it is viewed in its present model, as a treatment for back pain. Chiropractic will reach greater potential but not its full potential of good for humanity as long as it is viewed as health care in the present model of health care.

Chiropractic and Health Care

Which is easier...changing the public’s perception of health care so they understand chiropractic in its true light or getting chiropractic out of health care? It is my opinion that leaving the health care community is the easier, more effective and most philosophically sound choice. The pros and cons of that idea have been discussed recently on the internet as well as through other media. Most of those expressing their view disagree with me, including those who I consider leaders in chiropractic. I can respect their position and I am willing to concede to the majority (of straights) viewpoint. As I stated in my paper, I am not sure that the straight community could present chiropractic as something other than health care in the face of the majority of the profession’s desire to make chiropractic either medical or a medical alternative. I would be willing to try, but without the cooperation and the enthusiasm of the rest of the straight

chiropractic community I cannot do it alone. Of that I am sure.

Okay, so now that we have concluded that chiropractic is, should be and will be part of health care for the foreseeable future, how do we go about changing people’s perception of health care so that it fits chiropractic? In the straight community, we do not want to change chiropractic to fit the present (outside-in) model of health care. So we must begin to change how people view health care. We know that for most people health care means doing nothing until you are sick. Even those who exercise regularly and eat healthy do not ordinarily view those activities as “health care.” Health care is usually something done to you rather than something you do for yourself. Further, health care to most people means addressing the symptoms of their condition or the cause of their condition. Most chiropractors address the former, and with the exception of straight chiropractors

with a non-therapeutic objective, the rest address the latter. Even the so-called alternatives to medicine, of which we are considered a part, address the drugless alleviation of medical conditions.

We have the medical profession, who once viewed us as quacks, saying that we are now part of the health care team specializing in back pain. Worst of all, most of our profession thinks that is a good thing! So that’s where we are, a part of the health care system which is really not health care at all.

The challenge that lies before us, if we are to remain in the health care system, is how do we change the public’s perception of health care and chiropractic? As I see it, we have two choices. We can either change peoples’ perception of health care and show that chiropractic is the only “true health care” (to quote one young straight), or we can explain chiropractic to people and hope that they

will realize the difference between what we do and what everyone else does, that we are not a condition-oriented, disease-treating therapy and those things really have little to do with health. The first choice is a formidable task. It necessitates teaching people a whole new concept before we even teach them about chiropractic. It means changing their whole world and life viewpoint, at least with regard to health care. In other words, teaching them an above-down viewpoint of life so that chiropractic, once explained, will make perfect sense. I say it is a formidable task because we as a profession have not even succeeded in explaining chiropractic well, let alone going beyond that to explain the ADIO philosophy of life which is far more involved. The second choice is to just keep doing what we have been doing all along, explain the uniqueness of chiropractic as we perceive it. Of course, the old saying applies here: "If you keep doing what

you have been doing, you will get the same results that you have been getting." Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, as straight chiropractors, we are not exactly turning the world upside down. Perhaps that is okay with some. We can continue to make a good living and maybe even influence another chiropractor here or there to practice like us, although, it appears

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that more are abandoning the straight chiropractic community than are joining it. If you consider the straight students as part of the straight community, too many, perhaps most, do not follow through with the straight philosophy after graduation.

It seems to me that as a movement, we want more for chiropractic than just personal gain, just the present chiropractors building successful practices. We want more, many more straight chiropractors joining us from the student ranks and from the presently practicing chiropractors. That is why we support chiropractic colleges, why we belong to state and national organizations, why we have a support organization like FACE, why we write newsletters and go to meetings to promote straight chiropractic. If that is the case then we cannot just go about educating our practice members. We need to impact the rest of the profession and the public to change their viewpoint with regard to health. How we go about doing that relative to this whole issue of health is the challenge that lies before us. If anyone has any new, innovative ideas, I would sure like to hear them.

Chiropractic and Poached Eggs

With the coalition of different chiropractic organizations, practice management consultants trying to appeal to different approaches to chiropractic, and the desire for tolerance, we are reaching an era where everyone is allowed to define chiropractic for themselves and we are expected to accept everyone's model of chiropractic as being not only legitimate but equally valid. In observing this trend I am reminded of the statement of C.S. Lewis, one of my favorite writers. Lewis apparently had discussions with many people about the Person of Jesus Christ and had received comments to the effect that from Biblical accounts, people concluded that Jesus was a great teacher, a role model, a good man, or a religious leader. Even B.J. describes Jesus in some of those terms in the

Green Books. Lewis rejects those ideas. He says in *Mere Christianity* that even a cursory reading of Jesus' own words indicates that He is either the Son of God as He claimed or He is a liar or a lunatic on the scale of a man who claims to be a poached egg. Lewis says the other options are not open to us. In case someone would argue that Jesus' words have been misconstrued over the centuries, the historical facts according to Josephus, a Roman historian, bear out Jesus' statements in the Bible. Being a great teacher or a good man was not a capital offense. Claiming to be God was blasphemy and what got Jesus crucified. Jesus was either the Son of God, or a liar, a lunatic, or something worse.

As I think about the different "kinds" of chiropractic, I come to a

similar conclusion. Different options are not open to us. We are not free to choose chiropractic as a cure-all, as a means to get sick people well, as a treatment for musculoskeletal conditions, as a complement to medicine, as an alternative or substitute to medicine, or as a therapy. Even a cursory examination of the philosophy excludes those options. The only claim that chiropractic can accurately and truthfully make is that it corrects vertebral subluxations which are interferences to the transmission of messages from the innate intelligence of the body to the tissue of the body. Claiming chiropractic to be anything else is either lunacy, a lie or both. Either it is outrageous and lunacy (the correction of the cause of all disease), or it is the practice of medicine in which case we are lying by calling it

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something other than medicine). We have chiropractors using physical therapy and calling it chiropractic who then get angry when the physical therapists adjust the spine and call it physical therapy. Embracing a model of chiropractic other than that which begins and ends with The Chiropractic Claim does not make it chiropractic anymore than thinking Jesus was a good man and a good teacher makes you a Christian. Chiropractic is one thing only. Other options are not open to us.

The Chiropractic Claim

The only claim that chiropractic can accurately and truthfully make is that it corrects vertebral subluxations which are an interference to the transmission of messages from the innate intelligence of the body to the tissue of the body.