

Newslinks for the week of May 26<sup>th</sup>:



## **Health Buzz: Plastic Surgery and Other Health News**

Posted May 27, 2008

### **Donda West's Death Leads to Increased Scrutiny of Plastic Surgery**

California doctors and lawmakers are pushing for increased oversight of plastic surgery procedures performed at outpatient surgical centers following the November death of Donda West—the mother of popular rapper Kanye West, according to the [Los Angeles Times](#). Plastic surgery procedures are often performed in outpatient centers, but some experts argue that doctors who operate at such clinics avoid undergoing as thorough a review as they would need in order to earn privileges to treat patients at a hospital. Newly proposed legislation calls for outpatient clinics to be inspected at least once every three years, requires patients to get a physical exam before cosmetic surgery, and bans photos or advertisements that create unrealistic expectations.

*U.S. News* reported on the risks of plastic surgery and [answered common questions](#) after West's death. And recently, Matthew Shulman explained the [pitfalls of getting plastic surgery abroad](#).



## **This Summer Home Comes With a Nose Job**

**A Hamptons Rental Includes a Chef, Driver and Unlimited Plastic Surgery**

By **SCOTT MAYEROWITZ**

**ABC NEWS Business Unit**

May 28, 2008

Looking for a nip and tuck, and maybe some time at the beach?

Well, look no further. You can rent a mansion in the Hamptons, the summer home of New York's rich, that comes with unlimited plastic surgery.

The cost: just a cool half-million dollars.

Dr. Stephen Greenberg, a New York plastic surgeon who already offers prewedding and postpregnancy packages, unveiled his Hamptons summer getaway package last week.

Besides the house and the surgeries -- maybe a nose job, face-lift, breast implants or perhaps all three -- Greenberg is throwing in a nurse, chauffeur, chef and VIP access to various clubs and parties.

"I have a lot of access to a lot of different events, and the patient would as well," Greenberg said.

The package even includes some new clothing to help you flaunt that new body.

Patients have a half-dozen homes to choose from. Greenberg is working with various real estate brokers to fill the mansions for the summer.

"The market in the Hamptons isn't as strong as it was in recent years," he said.

"There are several homes still empty."

Greenberg said that there are limits to his unlimited cosmetic surgery plan.

"It has to be medically reasonable," he said. "The patients have to be in good condition to have the procedure. I am not going to do something that is outside the box. The patients have to be both physically and psychologically good candidates for each and every procedure done in the safest possible fashion.

But for Dr. Darrick Antell, an attending plastic surgeon at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York and a spokesman for the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons](#), that isn't enough.

"You may cloud your medical judgment if there is money of this size involved," Antell said, suggesting that such a plastic surgery package could violate the ethical standards of the society.

"What would you do if somebody purchased this package and then gave you a menu of plastic surgery options? You would then feel obligated to do the surgery," Antell said. "It brings down the doctor-patient relationship. It

Antell said that doctors cannot, for instance, raffle off a face-lift for a charity event. He said this package is clearly "a publicity-generating concept."

"I think that this is pushing the boundaries," Antell said. "While I'm not on the ethics committee, it wouldn't surprise me at all if they would look very closely at this.

"There are issues on many different levels," Antell said. "You don't want it to cloud the doctor's judgment when things get complicated like this."

Greenberg said that he does a lot of surgery packages in which patients are taken to a high-end hotel to recover.

"This is kind of an extension of that," he said. "My normal luxury recovery package, we put patients in a hotel and typically send them home with nurses. Patients are saying, 'I want more.'"

Greenberg's "postpregnancy tuneup," for instance, includes a tummy tuck, liposuction and breast implants or a breast lift.

"There is no question that children are wonderful, but also no question that they can take a lot out of you, in more ways than one," Greenberg advertises on his Web site.

So has anybody shelled out the \$500,000 for the Hamptons package?

"Not yet," Greenberg said Tuesday, "but very close."



## **The Scoop From a Cosmetic Surgery Consultant**

By [Liz Wolgemuth](#)

Posted May 29, 2008

Denise Thomas, a New York cosmetic surgery consultant, has matched clients with surgeons for 27 years. And while many of her clients are looking to lure the opposite sex or feel better about themselves, many seek to gain—or regain—the competitive edge in their careers. "On [my website](#), it states: 'Youth and beauty are power tools.' People equate youth with power and money," Thomas says.

While Thomas has definite opinions on specific cosmetic procedures, her strongest recommendations are in regard to quality—she steers clients to board-certified facial plastic surgeons who use twilight anesthesia, during which the patient is sedated but remains conscious.

She recently spoke with *U.S. News*. Excerpts:

**What procedures could benefit—or harm—a woman's career?**

For a woman of 50—a face-lift: I would say face-lifts and eyes are just fabulous. The detriment is getting huge boobs or a nose job that looks like Miss Piggy, right? That would be a turnoff to anybody. What would be harmful [for your career] is going to a doctor who would give you grapefruit-sized breasts while you're working in a bank. It's [not appropriate](#).

But I can guarantee you that the minute the woman has her face-lift, she becomes bouncier, happier—just happy with herself. She does it for herself; she's not doing it for anyone else.

**So there's an effect that's a result of an internal experience?**

It's very sexual. Have you ever noticed when somebody you know loses weight, and they feel and act differently?

**Do men typically come in for social reasons?**

They all say that it's to meet a woman. But they also say they feel that there are younger men who are like sharks in their offices now, and they feel very depressed because they can't really keep up with them. They want to look good again. Then after, they always call me—they're so happy, they say that I've just saved their life. They get a [second chance](#).

**What procedures do you recommend for men?**

Men are incredible. They usually get divorced when they're around 50. Then they call me. And they're very depressed—more than women—because we get to verbalize everything with our friends, and they don't.

They want to [get out there again](#), but they have the hooded eyes, and they have those jowls. You know how sexy a strong chin bone is on a man? As you get older, that slackens. Another thing—the love handles. So they come into me mostly for eyes, jowls, and the love handles.

**What procedures would be a mistake for men?**

In my opinion, a forehead lift. They can have that surprised look as if they're about to ask a question. And they look ridiculous the minute they walk in the room. And you ask yourself: How intelligent was this man? Did he check it out?

Who did he go to? Because they cut you from ear to ear, and you're going to lose about an inch into the scalp. You're going to see that at 50, you're balding, right? That's a huge mistake that men make. And then they do the comb-over—that's a big mistake.

### **Do women ever come to you specifically for career reasons?**

Mostly nowadays it's for sex, love, and [money](#). They feel they need a second chance. Women want face-lifts: face, eyes, and neck—it's all a package. They feel they need a second chance at [continuing in the workplace](#) because often [employers] will promote the prettier woman, the more attractive woman, the woman who's easier on the eye. And you know—that's true. Beauty is powerful.

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## ***Young At Heart Isn't Enough***

By PHILIP MORGAN

The Tampa Tribune

Published: May 30, 2008

In some ways, aging is kind. By the time you develop wrinkles that resemble a satellite view of the Mississippi River delta, your eyesight has faded so much you can't see them.

Sometimes, however, I get a jolt by looking at the mirror through the bottom half of my bifocals.

I'll likely need a job to help out in retirement and, frankly, I'm a little concerned about my competitive edge - facially, that is. Deep crevices descend from the corners of my mouth. My forehead is a rutted road. The skin under my eyebrows has fallen and threatens to spill over my eyelids. If it keeps on, I'll look like a Shar-Pei .

These days, many job applicants are trying to compete with the younger set by having work done. Since this decade began, surgeons have noticed a 27 percent increase in people getting plastic surgery, Botox, chemical face peels and other treatments. Most said they sought treatment in order to be more competitive in the workplace, according to a 2007 survey of members of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Of course, no prospective employer with any legal sense is going to level with me: "I'm afraid your eyes look a little too tired for this job, Mr. Morgan. We can't have any dozing off at the deep fryer."

The cost of facial work starts at about \$2,000 and goes up from there, but many of the women and men who seek the services of Tampa plastic surgeon Joshua Halpern see it as an investment in job security.

Plastic surgery around the eyes is the most popular procedure Halpern performs on men seeking to better compete in the workplace, he says. A facelift is the next most-common operation. Women get their foreheads, eyes and faces done, in that order.

Patients tell him, "I go to a business meeting and people think I look tired, even though I've had a good night's sleep."

A 44-year-old woman recently had endoscopic plastic surgery on her brows and cheeks, just to keep her job, Halpern says. "The people she's training for the same position she has, they're in their mid-20s."

Men also go for liposuction of the abdomen and chest to look more fit in business social settings. For women, it's a tummy tuck.

Halpern says the trend has been growing, especially in the last few years with the job market so tight.

"The U.S. is more of a youth-oriented driven job market because of advertising on Madison Avenue," he says.

It's a particularly tough time if you look like a Shar-Pei.