

handguns themselves are not the cause of damage they do. The responsibility in that area lies with our criminal justice system which has completely failed in addressing the root cause, which is crime in which a tool, eg, a handgun, is used.

Although I find the rest of the content of the *Journal* interesting for the most part, I regret to see such a prominent journal in effect openly advocating total disregard for the second amendment to the United States Constitution.

C.T. STONE, JR., MDE
Galveston, Tex

REFERENCES

1. Clough JD. An ounce of prevention... *Cleve Clin J Med* 1996; 63:136.

SHARK CARTILAGE AND CANCER

■ *To the Editor:* I enjoyed reading Markman's review of the shark cartilage craze (May/June 1996).¹

As he states, the fascination with shark cartilage stems partly from the notion that sharks do not get cancer.

Markman and your readers will be interested, but not surprised, to know that sharks do indeed get cancer. Stoskopf gives a detailed list of reported cancers in sharks in Chapter 101 of his book *Fish Medicine*.²

HOWARD HOMLER, MD
Carmichael, Calif

REFERENCES

1. Markman M. Shark cartilage: the Laetrile of the 1990s. *Cleve Clin J Med* 1996; 63:179-180.
2. Stoskopf MK. Neoplasia in sharks. In: Stoskopf MK, editor. *Fish medicine*. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1993:808-809.

THE INTERNET
AND MEDICAL JOURNALS

■ *To the Editor:* I found your editorial (July/August 1996)¹ very interesting. I have been "curling up in bed with a laptop computer...tethered to a phone" for years. You may ask my wife to verify this! It has been easy to sell electronic media and notebook computers short, especially before today's powerful, colorful and relatively small notebook computers. I do prefer a magazine or journal, but I am limited to only a handful at any one time. Not so with a World Wide Web/Internet link. There, I can move about as the subject requires or as my own curiosity demands. For this advantage the notebook computer is only a minor inconvenience compared to the printed page. And it is indeed very portable.

In my case, I came to medicine with an undergraduate degree in engineering, so my experience reflects that natural to an early adopter of this technology. However, I see nothing that prevents its widespread adoption. Indeed the newness and gadgetry is attractive to many, although it is seen as an encumbrance to others.

Though the fundamental computer technology was here yesterday, it is now finally reaching a critical mass of adoption. You are to be congratulated in moving forward with this leading wave.

JOHN SMALL, MD
Hill Regional Hospital
Hillsboro, Tex

REFERENCES

1. Clough JD. Further education of those who serve @ ccf.org. *Cleve Clin J Med* 1996; 63:197.