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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

Just as the pundits do not know which rock and roll records will become hits so editors of medical journals have difficulty predicting which papers will attract media attention. But the two papers we are publishing today suggesting that the transfer of patients with diabetes from animal to human insulin is associated with hypoglycaemia (p 617 and p 622) are likely to receive much publicity—not least because lawyers are in on the act, and 700 patients are making claims against manufacturers (p 601). Much publicity has already been given to the report from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on unwanted pregnancies (p 598 and p 604) and its main recommendation: more and better sex education. James Owen Drife observes in his Soundings column that one

in three British women will have therapeutic abortions and asks if this scandalously high rate will continue as “a side effect of the British tradition that sex is for seaside postcards and Sunday papers but not for rational discussion” (p 653). In her column on the same page Julie Welch describes the sex education she received in the 60s from a biology mistress “dyslexic with embarrassment.” Among doctors, hypertension seems to attract almost as much attention as sex, and the suggestion that some patients might have their antihypertensive drugs stopped is provoking strong debate in the correspondence columns (p 643). Finally, Minerva has come up with the delicious sounding word “larviverous” in her mention of a new method of reducing malaria in India (p 658).