



**national association
to advance
fat acceptance**

NAAFA Newsletter

Official Publication of
the National
Association to
Advance Fat
Acceptance
October 2010

Dear William,

This month's issue focuses on fat fashion (fatshion to some), its history at NAAFA, what's happening with designers today, and personal stories of self acceptance through fashion. Enjoy!

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NAAFA's First Fashion Show

by Eileen Lefebure, Co-Founder of NAAFA

As a teen I would attend fashion show luncheons which were fundraisers for a school or church, etc. with my mother. I always loved them.

In NAAFA's early days, money was a constant need in the growing organization, and finding fundraising ideas was essential. A couple of years after the first gathering, I brought up the idea of a Fashion Show as part of the "Convention Day". The idea was not well received by the board, then composed mostly of men. They thought the idea was frivolous and would not bring in any more money. I refused to give up. I was the Board Secretary and I made sure the proposal was on the Board's agenda each month, but it was repeatedly rejected until finally it passed in 1974/75.

There was a Roaman's store near my job in NYC and one day while there I met a French woman named Marietta Schumacher. She worked for Roaman's. I told her about NAAFA and its goals and that I wanted to use large size models in our first show. Marietta wanted to help! Roaman's wanted to be part of this landmark show and part of NAAFA's success.

I knew that NAAFA women would jump at the chance to model beautiful clothing and I was right. I felt it important to use large size models because women had been cheated and frustrated for too many years in their efforts to find well-made, good quality clothing in their size. Clothing was simply unavailable for work, every day wear, evening wear and bathing suits. The items that were available were often horrible polyester garments with no style or pizzazz. Shopping was awful.

The request for large size models went out in the Newsletter and there were many women who responded enthusiastically. We had many more models than

IGIGI Fashion Show

[October Video of the Month](#)

At the 2010 NAAFA Not-so-Silent Auction, IGIGI donated a beautiful teal satin gown that those of you who were present are sure to remember. Keep your eyes open for that gown in the feature video this month. Many thanks to IGIGI for their continued support of NAAFA.

IGIGI Runway Pre-Fall 2010 at Full Figure Fashion Week:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1QmWpv9hYE>

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we needed but I managed to use every one in that first show. It was a huge hit with the attendees and the media. Never before had anyone seen beautiful large size models showing large size clothing. No one had dared do that but I thought it was appropriate since we were promoting fat acceptance and trying to change misconceptions.

The Convention that year (the first one day event) was in a small hotel on the upper west side of NYC and everyone was aflutter about the Fashion Show. As a result of press releases, there were a number of media representatives there. The event was picked up by *Parade Magazine* who put six models on the cover, including me. Their story featured NAAFA and our large size models, resulting in more publicity. NAAFA was prominently featured on local New York television news shows, on radio and in newspapers. There were requests for information from all over the US as well as other countries. This daring show caught the attention of the worldwide media because of the plus size models.

Roaman's continued to provide clothing for shows for three or four more years until the entrepreneurs got their businesses up and running. Lane Bryant was approached but flatly refused. They had no interest in NAAFA or in large size models.

Soon after that first Fashion Show, some of our members decided to produce clothing lines for women who were unable to buy good quality, beautiful clothing in their size in stores. These lines were made available at the popular Trunk Sales and continue to this day. These new designers and their clothing became the main focus of the Fashion Show each year.

It amazes me how my original idea has spawned the many Fashion Shows since those early years. Now it is unimaginable to have a convention without a Fashion Show/Trunk Sale.

I believe that the fact that there's more beautiful clothing in larger sizes today is a testament to and a direct result of all those fashion shows. NAAFA showed the designers and manufacturers that there was a need they were not filling. One by one they came on board and the garments changed drastically. The designers were not interested in larger women because they believed there was no money in plus size fashions. They were as wrong as they could be.

I am famous for writing letters to businesses who refuse to carry large sizes. Usually I don't receive a reply but it gives me the satisfaction of telling them how I feel. And I don't give up. We should all be writing letters or making calls, otherwise they won't know we care!

I am proud of my involvement and work in NAAFA and of the part I played in the Fashion Show concept. I produced the show for many years and I loved every minute of my involvement.

Passion is a wonderful motivator. Perhaps you can become an activist and let the world know we are here to stay. Find something that would benefit NAAFA and yourself and put your passion into it. You will be rewarded many times over.

Profile of a Plus-Size Designer

by Natarsha D. Shearin, Fashion Designer

Editor's Note: During the planning of the NAAFA's 40th Anniversary Convention in 2009, the NAAFA Board of Directors went in search of new and upcoming plus-size designers to be showcased in the 2009 NAAFA Fashion Show. Our search resulted in discovering Natarsha Shearin of T~TymeLady Couture. We are happy to have Natarsha give us a profile of her journey and what has happened since her debut at the 2009 NAAFA Fashion Show.

Reared in the heart of North Carolina, I knew at a very early age that I would be exactly where I am right now!

In the late Spring of 2009, the first of many milestones of my career was presented to me. At that time, I was asked to travel to Washington D.C. to participate in NAAFA's 40th anniversary Convention. Once I arrived, I immediately felt a sense of warmth, acceptance and love. That alone gave me a level of comfort that was indescribable. After presenting a few pieces of my line, I received a great response. That experience contributed a great deal to the events that soon followed.

In October of 2009, I opened up my first online boutique, which showcased my clothing line, T~TymeLady Couture. This boutique made my line accessible to everyone with just a click of a mouse. Five months later I took my vision to a



higher level by becoming the owner and CEO of T-Tyme Industries. T-Tyme Industries is a company that houses T~TymeLady Couture designer label, Grandma's Stuff, and as of March 12, 2010 NDS Boutique. NDS Boutique has created a platform for designers to showcase their one-of-a-kind garments, while also catering to multiple markets. NDS Boutique.com has grown to become an internationally recognized online boutique in just a matter of months.

While staying true to my dream and working extremely hard, I am now

closer than ever to becoming the plus sized fashion design mogul that I was destined to become.

Natarsha Shearin is the Owner and Lead Designer for T~TymeLady Couture, based in Atlanta, Georgia. Natarsha has a BFA in Fashion Design and Marketing from American InterContinental University and is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts also in Fashion Design at the Academy of Art University. T~TymeLady Couture offers fashion forward apparel catering to women whose dress sizes fall in between the Misses and Women sizes.

From Caterpillar to Butterfly



by Kathleen Ohtola

Hey! Who is that gorgeous goddess shaped woman in the bold print sleeveless dress? Who is that great big hunk of a man in a Tommy Bahama Hawaiian print shirt? Oh my, they are both breaking the fashion rules for fat people!

Yeah, you know the rules:

Black and navy are slimming.
No horizontal stripes.
Go with the classic styles

instead of the current trends.
Blah, blah, blah . . .

For years fat women and men have dressed to bring as little attention to themselves as possible. Our fashion style was "whatever fits." If you looked into my closet a long time ago you saw black or navy pants and jackets with white tops. The occasional garment was burgundy. Woo hoo!

To make matters worse, I carried myself like I was ashamed of my body. I knew that there had to be something vastly wrong with me, and that I had some horrible character flaw that made me fat. I spent endless hours of therapy talking about weight, eating, shame, guilt, body hatred, and self-acceptance.

The transformation was gradual. While attending a NAAFA fashion show one summer, my fashion rules were shattered. I was in awe of the women and men who were proudly and bravely strutting their stuff in colors and prints and sheer fabrics, Oh my! They were radiant!

So it began for me. I started out with monochromatic bright colors. I bought a pair of tomato red pants with a matching top from Peggy Lutz. Next I bought a

beautiful turquoise gauze top and culottes from Making It Big. I was getting bold now. Then I modeled in a NAAFA fashion show or two, attended NAAFA dances and pool parties, and all hell broke loose. "Dogs and cats living together -- mass hysteria!"*

I bought bold colorful prints, lingerie, horizontal stripes, leggings, and bathing suits. I was dressing myself to express and please myself instead of to please other people. I wasn't always wearing the most current trend, but I did have my own sense of style. After all, as Heidi Klum says about fashion on Project Runway, "One day you're in and the next day you're out." So who sets the fashion trends and rules for YOU?

With fashion rules out the window and the ever growing number of manufacturers of super-sized clothing, there are so many choices! There is Making It Big, Ulla Popken, Silhouettes, Big Girl Gear, Plus Woman, and Junonia to name a few. When I go to vendor fairs at the NAAFA conventions, I almost lose my mind with joy. There are so many beautiful clothes. Believe me, there's no room for fat fashion rules there!

Guess what else happened as I adorned myself with colors, prints, fun, sexy, and joyful clothing. With each garment that I chose to express who I really am inside I grew more confident. People are attracted to people who look like they are comfortable in their own skin. There is nothing like the radiant glow of self-acceptance to make someone attractive.

Go ahead. You know that you want to. Shake off those caterpillar fat fashion rules and let your inner butterfly emerge. Let your wardrobe express all the parts of you. Don't be afraid of styles, colors, prints, or slinky fabrics. I'll see you and the other butterflies out in the colorful garden where the beauty grows just like nature intended it to.

* A line from the movie *Ghostbusters* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3ZOKDmorj0>

Health Is a Fashion Statement



October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. NAAFA encourages people of all sizes to get their check ups and mammograms. The best defense against breast cancer is early detection

and education. If it is time for your mammogram, make your appointment today and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Fat and Fashion: A Personal Odyssey

by Jessica Gagnon

Growing up as a fat kid forced me to face all kinds of bullying and harassment. However, I remember distinctly that the first place where I felt humiliated and ashamed to be in my body was when I had to shop in the women's section instead of the junior's section like my friends. At that point in my life, I hadn't felt the sting of teasing and rejection from my peers because we were young enough that we hadn't yet realized that we were supposed to judge each other.

It was clothing that first made me realize that thin bodies were more valued than fat bodies. As a little girl forced to wear boring, matronly, shapeless shifts and stretch pants while my smaller friends were adorned in fun, bright colors and trendy garments, I started to believe that there was something wrong with me. I formed a love/hate relationship with fashion from then on.

As I grew up, I continued to struggle with a negative body image, which was reinforced by the limited clothing choices available. As a strongly logical person, even when I was a bright-eyed, precocious child, I knew this fabric-based discrimination was wrong if just from a purely economic perspective. Why on earth would a clothing company want to exclude themselves from a considerable segment of the market?

As a teenager, I asked that question out loud while shopping in a department store with one of my younger cousins, who is also fat. We were coveting the cuter clothing in the section reserved for thinner women. I received an unsolicited answer to my question from a stranger, a middle-aged woman shopping near us. She said, "They don't make trendy clothing in your size



because that would just encourage you to stay fat."

Are clothing companies really uninterested in the money they could make from fat consumers because they feel a "moral" obligation not to "encourage" us to stay fat? An adult stranger was so entrenched in the belief that fat bodies are unacceptable that she felt the need to tell my cousin and me, two young and impressionable teenagers, that we didn't deserve to wear fashionable clothing until we alter our apparently unsightly bodies. This is the same bullshit propaganda promoted every day by the glossy, heavily photoshopped covers of fashion magazines that encourage readers to swallow the latest useless, expensive, and likely dangerous diet pills.

Around age 21, after some of the darkest moments in my personal history of body hatred, I

finally had the epiphany that my worth as a human being is not determined by the width of my waist. I deserve the same respect, the same opportunities, and the same fashion choices as any thin woman, damn it! It felt glorious to finally be free of the shackles of shame!

Since it was clothing that first set me down the path towards self loathing, it seems fitting that it was an item of clothing that would help me escape from that prison. With my newfound courage to love myself, I bought a skimpy bikini and wore it proudly on a public beach.

Fast forward a few years to my first NAAFA convention in Chicago 2007. I had been too shy to be a model in the fashion show, but I was in awe of the beautiful women proudly strutting down the catwalk. By L.A. 2008, I was ready to work it and I donned multiple outfits that ranged from an evening gown to work out wear. I even tried to make a rain poncho look sexy on the runway.

This year I had the honor of wearing the NAAFA scholarship winner's design in the fashion show. Sarah Rosandick is a designer with a lot of talent and passion for her art. She created a complicated outfit with the seemingly skilled hand of a master far beyond what I would expect from the young student that she is. A few weeks before show time, I sent her my measurements. She had never designed for the larger body before, and yet she created a perfect pair of pants. Designers who vie for a chance to win fashion-based reality television shows will often forgo creating pants since they are an unforgiving garment on which mistakes are magnified. Before the show, I tried on the outfit Sarah created. She was ready with her sewing machine to make adjustments, but there was no need. The pants, the shirt, and the jacket fit perfectly! The jacket was truly a work of art. Sarah said she spent five hours on one sleeve alone. The intricate details of the sections of reversible cuffs were unique and innovative.

It was inspiring to strut down the catwalk in a Sarah Rosandick original because I see in Sarah the promise of a new generation of designers who create their art with passion that is free of judgment and discrimination. And when Sarah and her fashion-designing peers roll out their children's collections, I see a future in

which a young fat girl finds that she and her thin friends can all shop together for the latest trendy threads.

I recognize that I have been fortunate enough to grow up during a time when there are finally more and more stores specializing in larger sizes. I also certainly understand that there are levels of power and privilege unduly afforded a smaller fat person, like me, that are not afforded a larger fat person. One of the places where that inequity is exceedingly evidenced is in plus sized clothing stores where the largest size is usually only a size 28. However, I have hope for a future in which all bodies can be clothed in the latest hot fashions. Will clothing equality help feed the Hungry, house the homeless, or bring about world peace? Perhaps not. But it is a lot easier for me to work towards changing the world when I feel like my body is welcome to be a part of it.

Plus Size Wars: The Article

by Peggy Howell

With every NAAFA newsletter, we get to enjoy the work of Terri and Bill Weitze, who gather and review articles of interest for our Media and Research Roundup. I'm sure you all enjoy and appreciate their efforts as much as I do.

This month I'd like to bring your attention to an article entitled "Plus Size Wars" which is very relevant to our focus on plus-size fashion. This article appears to have been well researched and I found it quite informative.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/01/magazine/01plussize-t.html>

Although I have no doubt that the figures they have quoted are what have been provided by the fashion industry, I'm sure they do not include all the wonderful independent designers with small businesses who focus more on the "supersize" fashions above a size 26/28, the same designers who vend at our NAAFA conventions year after year. This article makes me appreciate them more than ever before.

NAAFA has links to dozens of these clothing designers on our website. We encourage you to support those clothing manufacturers who have been supporting our community for so many years and those who are new, up and coming designers for our community! Check them out on our links page at:

<http://www.naafaonline.com/dev2/education/links.html>

Media and Research Roundup

by Bill and Terri Weitze

[Editor's Note: Go to the NAAFA News RSS Feed at <http://naafa.org> for the latest news.]

September 17, 2009: We all know how difficult (if not impossible) it is for fat folks to get health insurance. Well, a study done in 2009 shows that 45,000 deaths a year can be attributed to lack of health insurance, even after taking into account other factors such as smoking, drinking and fatness.

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/09/new-study-finds-45000-deaths-annually-linked-to-lack-of-health-coverage>

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/99/12/2289>

February 11, 2010: A study presented at the AWP (Association for Women in Psychology) Annual Conference finds that a HAES-type exercise program, focusing on enjoyment rather than weight loss, and tailored for larger women, results in a reduction of eating disorder pathology and depression.

[http://convention3.allacademic.com/one/awp/awp10/index.php?](http://convention3.allacademic.com/one/awp/awp10/index.php?click_key=4&cmd=Multi+Search+Search+Load+Publication)

[click_key=4&cmd=Multi+Search+Search+Load+Publication&publication_id=399504&PHPSESSID=63506d5323370c67bc5662bb2580eb5b](http://convention3.allacademic.com/one/awp/awp10/index.php?click_key=4&cmd=Multi+Search+Search+Load+Publication&publication_id=399504&PHPSESSID=63506d5323370c67bc5662bb2580eb5b)

September 1, 2010: Metformin, widely used to treat diabetes, has been found to be effective in battling lung and colorectal cancer in various international studies. While the evidence is not strong enough for doctors to routinely prescribe the drug for cancer prevention, the National Cancer Institute is organizing a clinical trial.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/sep/01/science/la-sci-metformin-cancer-20100902>

September 1, 2010: However, diet drug sibutramine raises the risk of heart attacks and strokes and should be taken off the market according to the editor

of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Europe has already pulled the drug, while the FDA plans to hold hearings.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/sep/01/science/la-sci-sibutramine-20100902>

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1003114>

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe1007993>

September 1, 2010: A little girl in Britain is refusing to eat because her parents got a letter saying she is "overweight" because of her BMI. The article quotes *The New York Times* on why BMI is not a good tool, especially for the young and the elderly.

http://www.consumerfreedom.com/news_detail.cfm/h/4250-bmi-is-a-fatheaded-obe

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/31/health/31brod.html>

September 4, 2010: Despite efforts by City Hall, there has been no change in the rate of "obesity" in New York school children. Not surprisingly, they found the fattest children were from the poorest neighborhoods. And although strength, endurance, and flexibility were measured along with BMI, news stories (of course) focus only on weight.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/05/nyregion/05obese.html>

http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2010/09/05/2010-09-05_citys_kids_are_just_too_fat_40_need_to_shed_pounds_sez_big_report.html

September 6, 2010: A new study claims that children from ages 0 to 5 who get 10 hours of sleep every night (naps don't count) are less likely to become fat. There is no explanation why this might be, although some hypotheses are offered; however they claim it is a modifiable risk factor. Really? Outside of drugs, how do doctors think parents can force infants and very young children to sleep more than they want to each night?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/07/health/research/07risks.html>

<http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/164/9/840>

September 7, 2010: A new study has identified one of the dangers of weight loss: the release of POPs (persistent organic pollutants) into the bloodstream. POPs are stored in fat tissue and when you lose weight they may be released into the blood and enter vital organs. (Other studies have linked POPs to diabetes, cancer, dementia, and heart disease.)

<http://www.webmd.com/diet/news/20100907/the-downside-of-weight-loss>

<http://www.nature.com/ijo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ijo2010188a.html>

September 8, 2010: Women's Therapy Centre Institute announces the LOVED BODIES, BIG IDEAS Contest, asking people to, using 500 words or less, submit ideas for the one bold action that could make the world truly value the diversity of women's and girls' bodies.

<http://www.endangeredspecieswomen.org>

September 8, 2010: The Congressional Budget Office is good at crunching numbers, but not always as good at drawing accurate conclusions from those numbers. Reporting on the effect of fat people on health costs, the CBO believes weight the driving determinant of higher health costs, while ignoring the socioeconomic status of many fat people and admitting that long term weight loss is extremely difficult to achieve. Check out Maggie Mahar's blog for a great rebuttal.

http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/118xx/doc11810/09-08-Obesity_brief.pdf

<http://www.healthbeatblog.com/2010/09/no-obesity-is-not-driving-health-care-inflation-part-1.html>

September 10, 2010: Thought flying couldn't get anymore uncomfortable? Ha! USA Today reports on "vertical" seating, where the passenger is perched on a saddle, with only 23" of clearance between you and the seat in front of you. So now fat people won't even be able to get to their seat, much less fit in it.

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-09-10-airlinestanding10_ST_N.htm

September 13, 2010: *Colorlines* calls out *Elle* magazine for its cover photograph of Gabby Sidibe. Not only is the picture cropped in an unusual manner (for *Elle*) in an effort to reduce the effect of her size, but Ms. Sidibe's skin tone is noticeably lightened. A follow-up *Colorlines* article gives ten photos from other magazine shoots that show Ms. Sidibe in all her beauty.

http://colorlines.com/archives/2010/09/gabourey_sidibe_on_the_cover_of_elle.html

http://colorlines.com/archives/2010/09/9_other_looks_elle_couldve_gone_with_gabourey_sidibe.html

[9_other_looks_elle_couldve_gone_with_gabourey_sidibe.html](http://colorlines.com/archives/2010/09/9_other_looks_elle_couldve_gone_with_gabourey_sidibe.html)

September 15, 2010: Although not part of the "official" fashion week, US retailer OneStopPlus presents a plus-size only fashion show for customers who want to see women of diverse sizes respected, celebrated, and embraced -- and we assume fashionably clothed!

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-31749_162-20016763-10391698.html

September 15, 2010: Just like the US, Canada's focus on children is alarm over weight instead of health. Why is it never enough to help children lead healthy lives without a clamor about the horror of fat?

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hp-ps/hl-mvs/framework-cadre/intro-eng.php>

September 16, 2010: The FDA's panel reviewing diet drugs advises that lorcaserin not be approved because of low efficacy, as well as concern over long term risk. (For example, after two years on lorcaserin, rats have a disturbing risk of developing malignant mammary tumors.) However, the panel split on whether to rescind its approval for Meridia (which has already been banned in Europe) due to increased risk for stroke and heart attacks. [At the FDA's request, the maker of Meridia withdrew the drug from the US market on October 8.]

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PrimaryCare/Obesity/22211>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/17/health/17drug.html>

<http://www.webmd.com/diet/news/20101008/fda-rejects-weight-loss-drug-meridia>

September 20, 2010: *Advertising Age* gives a fairly in depth look at the benefits and pitfalls of advertising targeting fat people (albeit with an annoying array of size puns), but is unable to explain why the fat community is ignored in most marketing strategies.

http://adage.com/article?article_id=145967

September 23, 2010: The OECD's (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) publication *Obesity and the Economics of Prevention: Fit Not Fat* appears to echo all of the obesity epidemic hysteria, including the notion that fat people shorten their lives by up to 30%. Of interest, the report concludes that improving the health of fat people is not likely to reduce health care costs because this will result in a longer life span and thus higher total lifetime costs.

<http://www.oecd.org/document/31/>

[0,3343,en_2649_33929_45999775_1_1_1_37407,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/31/0,3343,en_2649_33929_45999775_1_1_1_37407,00.html)

September 23, 2010: A study on Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School's Edible Schoolyard curriculum including gardening and cooking in Berkeley found that teaching children to grow and prepare their own food results in better eating habits. Interestingly, the researchers appear to have taken a weight-neutral approach.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/food/archive/2010/09/berkeleys-new-school-food-study-a-victory-for-alice-waters/63465>

<http://papers.ccpr.ucla.edu/papers/PWP-CCPR-2009-076/PWP-CCPR-2009-076.pdf>

September 24, 2010: Jane Shure was a fat kid. Those days are behind her but she still remembers how it felt, and as a psychotherapist who treats eating disorders, she believes that the current methods offered to deal with childhood "obesity" may cause more harm than good. Unfortunately, Ms. Shure seems most focused on weight instead of overall health; but she recognizes that shaming a child is rarely helpful. (And she gives ASDAH a positive mention.)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jane-shure/lessons-from-my-life-as-a_b_732616.html

September 27, 2010: Researchers at George Washington University report that the extra costs of being fat are greater for a woman than for a man. Much of the discrepancy is because fat women are paid much less on average than smaller women, but fat men do not suffer from as large a wage disparity. Also, most of the costs are due to weight discrimination, not weight itself.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/28/health/research/28disparities.html>

[click here for report](#)

September 27, 2010: The Women's Endowment Fund of the Akron Community Foundation will honor Deb Lemire with its Marie Covington Outrageous Acts for Social Justice Award on October 14, 2010. Deb was chosen for her commitment to advancing women's issues in the Akron area as artistic director of Queen Bee Productions. (Deb is also currently president of ASDAH.)

<https://www.akroncommunityfdn.org/cgi-bin/displayContent.pl?type=news&id=253>

September 28, 2010: A study by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh finds that people who undergo bariatric surgery are significantly more likely to commit suicide. Rather than suggesting more research to determine the causes (such as vitamin deficiency diseases, some of which are linked to high levels of chronic pain), or recommending against the widespread use of WLS, the study recommends better follow-up for patients.

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_103825.html

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20843498>

October 2010: The number crunchers are at it again, taking data and creating a presupposed outcome. The abstract tells us that fat employees are bad because they cause a loss of productivity by being absent, and by being at work more than they need to be. (!) That's what it says. Talk about damned if you do and damned if you don't.

<http://journals.lww.com/joem/Abstract/2010/10000/>

[The Costs of Obesity in the Workplace.4.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/joem/Abstract/2010/10000/The_Costs_of_Obesity_in_the_Workplace.4.aspx)

October 4, 2010: ABC Family cancels their show "Huge," which is about teenagers at fat camp. Many in the size acceptance community liked the show, which busted some of the myths and stereotypes about fat kids, and would like to see it continue. If you agree, you can sign the petition to save HUGE at:

<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/savehuge>

October 4, 2010: US Surgeon General Regina Benjamin delivers a video message in support of HAES on her office's home page. Unfortunately, she prefaces it with the usual hooahah about "obesity". Even so, it's a big step for someone in her position.

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov>

October 8, 2010: At first you might wonder why NAAFA denied Rick Wilking, a Reuters photographer, access to its members for his fat photo documentary; but after reading the blog, it appears Peggy Howell's instincts were right. Although he starts out working with a fat-positive woman and has produced some beautiful photos, he ends up covering WLS and talking about how seeing fat people everywhere makes him want to lose weight.

<http://blogs.reuters.com/photo/2010/10/08/my-big-fat-photo-documentary>



2010 NAAFA Fashion Show Models