

Firstly, we'd like to wish all of our friends a very safe, happy and peaceful new year.

Secondly, and, to some extent, traditionally it wouldn't be the New Year without some input from the newspapers...

*From The Tory Dailygraph, 11.12.01. 'WARD SMOKER SETS BEARD ALIGHT'*

*'Firemen moved 19 elderly bed-bound patients to safety from a smoke-filled ward after a man set fire to his beard while having a furtive cigarette.*

*He escaped with a red nose, blackened glasses and badly singed facial hair.*

*The patient, who is in his seventies, removed his oxygen mask to light a hand-rolled cigarette in the middle of the night at St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth. But he accidentally set fire to his beard and while trying to put out the flames set fire to a bag under his bed.'*

**This is not the first incident caused by smoking and oxygen therapy colliding together and, sadly, I fear it won't be the last.**

**Also.** *From The Mirror, 01.01.02. 'NURSES IN GAS PARTY'*

*'Six midwives were suspended for holding laughing gas and pill popping parties while babies were being born in the next room.*

*A junior nurse told bosses that midwives and four senior nurses took drugs and were joined by a doctor to inhale nitrous oxide - laughing gas.*

*One party at Woolongong hospital south of Sydney, Australia, was held while two women were in labour with premature babies [sic. 'in premature labour?']*

*Chief executive Dr Tony Sherbon said yesterday: "Most are experienced and senior people who should know better."*

**Well, what can you say? At least they had qualified medical supervision but we'd like to see the risk assessment for that workplace activity.**

## **WHAT'S NEW?**

- q Lecture bottle safety guidance note. As a direct consequence of being [almost] terminally sad, I took it upon myself to revise our guidance notes on lecture bottle safety - the perfect counter to the excesses of Christmas (not my wife's words). This guide should be handy for all those involved in the use, handling and storage of lecture bottle gases. Copies of this document are available on request for a nominal sum - to cover the cost of printing and postage. Any proceeds will be donated to our chosen [charitable] recipients 'The Worksop Institute for Trainers and Specialists' - we've been TWITS for years, now it's official!
  
- q In terms of gas safety related products we've extended the range available to include:
  1. MANIFOLD SPARES - including anti-whip, high pressure flexible hoses.
  2. P.P.E. FOR LIQUID NITROGEN DECANTING - polycarbonate face shields and anti-splash, full-length (54") aprons.
  3. CYLINDER TROLLEYS - 'tricycle' type for [large] single cylinders, oxy-acetylene type, etc.
  4. MANIFOLD [PRESSURE SYSTEMS SAFETY] TESTING - annual tests and WSE preparation. This service is provided in association with our colleagues in the pipeline installation business.

**As usual, further details on all our products are available on request.**

- q The range of products has now become quite extensive; so much so that a catalogue is in the pipeline. The catalogue should (according to Mr Barclay "will") be ready before March. If you'd like to receive a copy of this then please let me know.

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