

JOURNAL'S FAILURE TO DISCLOSE

Indoor Environment Connections

The Web site of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology last month posted an "important correction to the February 2006 issue," in which it said information about conflicts of interests of two authors "was inadvertently omitted at the time of publication." The article in question was a position paper called "The Medical Effects of Mold Exposure," which reviewed scientific literature on the relationship and concluded, among other things, that "evidence does not support the contention that mycotoxin-mediated disease (mycotoxicosis) occurs through inhalation in nonoccupational settings."

Omitted from the position paper were the declarations by authors Dr. Andrew Saxon and Dr. Abba Terr that they had received compensation for serving as expert witnesses in mold litigation. According to the correction notice, Saxon and Terr provided the journal with the information about their conflicts of interest. Terr was included on an expert witness list for Allstate Insurance Company in a case in Sacramento, Calif. Another court document shows that Saxon received \$54,362.57 for his role in a lawsuit in which the defense prevailed over an Arizona woman, Kari Kil-

ian, who claimed her exposure to mold had caused a neurocognitive disorder and other symptoms. The journal's correction said this information "should have appeared" in print alongside declared conflicts of interest for two other authors and a statement that a fifth author had no conflict of interest.

The Integrity in Science Project, which is part of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, reported in a newsletter on April 24 that the journal would strengthen its requirements on the disclosure of conflicts of interest. Earlier in the month, Merrill Goozner, director for the Integrity in Science Project, had sent a letter to Dr. Donald Leung, journal editor, urging him to publish all conflicts of interest disclosed to the journal. The April 24 Integrity in Science newsletter quoted Leung as saying that under the journal's change in policy, "All published manuscripts will carry a conflict of interest statement regarding each author."

Lake house reality wasn't so picturesque for Bullock

Chris Garcia, AMERICAN-STATESMAN FILM WRITER

Sandra Bullock might enjoy the title dwelling in her movie "The Lake House," but the actor's real lake house on Lake Austin went up in a puff of demolition dust earlier this year.

Such a long, sad story. Several years ago, Bullock adopted Austin as a second home. She began construction on a \$6.5 million dream mansion near the water. It was to have towers and spires, a spa, a movie theater and tennis court. It was never finished. Construction stopped in 2000 after Bullock moved in.

She moved out two days later, "claiming that the house was a potential deathtrap with a leaking roof, toxic mold, unsafe fireplaces, faulty wiring and crumbling walls," wrote The Times of London when Bullock huffed, puffed and blew her house down in February.

Much legal wrangling followed, including Bullock suing homebuilder Benny Daneshjou for unsafe construction in 2004. A jury awarded Bullock about \$7 million that year.

Word is that she finds the title of her new movie quite amusing.



Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves star in The Lake House.

'Extreme Makeover' to visit Armada Township

BY CHRISTY ARBOSCELLO DETROIT FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

In the first months after David Gilliam and his family moved into an 1886-era farmhouse in Armada Township, he ripped out some cabinets, installed a new well and began other improvements.

But he never finished the work. He died suddenly on Christmas Eve 2005, just 41.

"He started to renovate it. That was his dream," said Armada Township Fire Chief Steve Jerzewski, who has fond memories of Gilliam and his work as a firefighter and paramedic in the community.

On Monday, ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" surprised his widow, Maryann Gilliam, 32, and her six children with a promise to fulfill David Gilliam's dream and tear down and rebuild the home over the next week.

The show's producers whisked away Maryann Gilliam and the children -- whose ages range from 8 months to 12 years -- from her sister's home in Mt. Clemens to an undisclosed vacation spot.

On Monday, they are expected to return to a newly built home on their 1-acre lot. The show's air date has yet to be determined, but it will appear in the upcoming season.

As is the case with most families featured on the show, the Gilliams have been through a stunning loss.

Their doctor theorized that dangerous levels of toxic spores in their home might have been responsible for David Gilliam's death. Fearing for their health, Maryann Gilliam and her children moved out of the 900-square-foot, mold-invested house.

Enter ABC. With the help of Macomb County-based American Heartland Homebuilder and Lombardo Homes, host Ty Pennington, the design team and about 3,000 workers, subcontractors and volunteers will tear down the old home and build a larger one.

Fifth Third Bank also is accepting donations for the family at all branches.

The tough part will be building the home in about 4 1/2 days -- something that typically takes 4 1/2 months, said Rick Merlini of American Heartland.

While having on-site inspectors and quick-dry cement will help, there's only one way to finish the job: "Just a lot of hard work," said Anthony Lombardo, president of Lombardo Homes.

Greg Csernai has a Mt. Clemens business near where the Gilliams were staying. "I think it's neat just to be in our city and in Michigan again," Csernai said.



Ty Pennington
Design team leader/carpenter