


HOME PAGE	MY TIMES	TODAY'S PAPER	VIDEO	MOST POPULAR	TIMES TOPICS	My Account Welcome, jimgotts Log Out Help					
-----------	----------	---------------	-------	--------------	--------------	---	--	--	--	--	--




Business

☒ Business
 ☐ All NYT



WORLD	U.S.	N.Y. / REGION	BUSINESS	TECHNOLOGY	SCIENCE	HEALTH	SPORTS	OPINION	ARTS	STYLE	TRAVEL	JOBS	REAL ESTATE	AUTOS
MEDIA & ADVERTISING			WORLD BUSINESS	SMALL BUSINESS	YOUR MONEY	DEALBOOK	MARKETS	RESEARCH	MUTUAL FUNDS	MY PORTFOLIO	ALERTS			

A.G. Edwards is now Wachovia Securities

WHO ARE YOU with? [LEARN MORE >](#)

WACHOVIA SECURITIES, LLC. MEMBER SIPC

One Drug, Two Faces

[Next Article in Business \(6 of 23\) »](#)



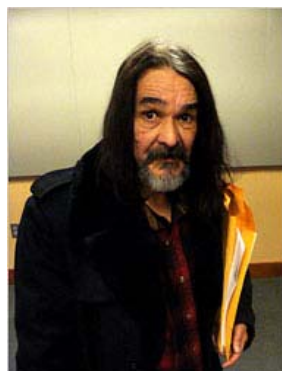
Joshua Borough for The New York Times

John F. Brenner, left, Nina M. Gussack and George A. Lehner of the law firm Pepper Hamilton, represent Eli Lilly in the Zyprexa trial in Alaska.

By [ALEX BERENSON](#)
Published: March 25, 2008

ANCHORAGE — Two courtrooms, two floors of the Nesbett Courthouse, two views of Zyprexa.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Alex Berenson/The New York Times
William Bigley has taken Zyprexa and similar medicines, called antipsychotics.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Darron Cummings/Associated Press

In Courtroom 403, lawyers read corporate memorandums to a jury that must decide a lawsuit brought by the state of Alaska, which claims that the drug maker [Eli Lilly](#) hid the dangers of Zyprexa, Lilly's best-selling [schizophrenia](#) medicine.

At the same time, in Courtroom 301, William Bigley had his own opinions on Zyprexa, and all the other drugs he has taken since 1980 to battle demons that only he can see. On this day, March 14, a state court judge would decide whether Mr. Bigley should be held for 30 days in a psychiatric hospital.

Mr. Bigley, 55, told the judge that the drugs were "poison" and that he did not need them. "I'm fine," he said. His words were sadly undercut by his regular pronouncements that he knows President Bush, owns a private jet and has seen flying saucers. Of all the facts at issue in the two courtrooms, one is beyond debate. Mr. Bigley is not fine.

Even so, Mr. Bigley's hearing — which had an unexpected

E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

SAVE

SHARE

ARTICLE TOOLS

SPONSORED BY

UNDER THE SAME MOON

Great Getaways - Travel Deals by E-Mail



Sign up for travel offers from NYTimes.com's premier advertisers. [See Sample](#)

jg@touchngo.com [Sign Up](#)

[Change E-mail Address](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

MOST POPULAR - BUSINESS

E-MAILED

BLOGGED

1. [Even at Megastores, Hagglers Find No Price Is Set in Stone](#)
2. [What Created This Monster?](#)
3. [Advertising: Do-It-Yourself Logos for Proud Scion Owners](#)
4. [Sirius Buyout of Rival XM Approved](#)
5. [With Economy Tied to Wall St., New York Braces for Job Cuts](#)
6. [E-Commerce Report: A New Tool From Google Alarms Sites](#)
7. [Your Money: Resist the Impulse to Panic Over Finances](#)
8. [Justice Dept. Approves XM Merger With Sirius](#)
9. [Dealbook: Behind the Deal, the Hand of the Fed](#)
10. [Umbrella Coverage for Preventing Your Ruin](#)

[Go to Complete List »](#)

The New York Times

TECH

nytimes.com/tech

A bottle of Zyprexa.

outcome — offered a textbook illustration of the agonizing choices faced by mentally ill patients as they consider taking Zyprexa and similar medicines, called antipsychotics.

By calming the [hallucinations](#) and delusions that plague people with schizophrenia, drugs like Zyprexa allow many patients to live outside psychiatric institutions.

But the documents being discussed in Room 403 offered plenty of evidence that Mr. Bigley, whatever his delusions, has good reason to dislike the medicines.

All antipsychotics have side effects, and Zyprexa's are among the worst, according to the American Diabetes Association and independent scientists. In many patients, Zyprexa causes severe weight gain that can lead to [diabetes](#), as well as sharply higher [cholesterol](#) and triglyceride levels in the blood. Those are all risk factors for heart disease, the leading killer in the United States.

Further, the documents introduced in Courtroom 403 show that for much of the last decade, Lilly executives played down those risks. Among themselves, in internal e-mail messages and memorandums, they shared worries that Zyprexa's sales would fall if the drug was linked to weight gain or diabetes.

In 2002, for example, the Japanese government ordered Lilly to warn Japanese doctors against giving Zyprexa to people at high risk for diabetes. But Lilly did not add a similar warning to Zyprexa's label in the United States. Internally, Lilly executives acknowledged that the warning had hurt Zyprexa sales in Japan.

"The impact of the label change in Japan has been very profound," two senior Lilly executives wrote in a memorandum on July 1, 2002. "There has been a 75% drop in new patients who are being put on the drug."

Indeed, as American doctors have learned on their own about the connection between Zyprexa and diabetes, [prescriptions](#) for Zyprexa have plunged. Since 2003, they have slid 50 percent.

Yet Zyprexa, which sometimes works better than other antipsychotics on severely ill patients, remains widely used. In the United States, it is still prescribed almost four million times a year. It had sales worldwide of \$4.8 billion in 2007, half in the United States.

Mr. Bigley's case illustrates why [psychiatrists](#) and patients feel they have no choice but to use Zyprexa, whatever its side effects. Mr. Bigley, a thin man with greasy black hair, cloudy eyes and a salt-and-pepper beard, has been hospitalized more than 70 times since his first breakdown in 1980.

Psychiatrists say he has [paranoid schizophrenia](#) with symptoms of mania. Over the years, he has been medicated with Zyprexa, Risperdal, Haldol, Thorazine and many other psychiatric drugs, despite his objections.

Exactly how many times Mr. Bigley has been put on Zyprexa over the years is unclear. But medical records from his hospitalization in December 2006 refer to his complaints that Zyprexa was making him hungry — a common side effect. Psychiatrists took him off Zyprexa and gave him Seroquel, another antipsychotic, in its place.

In 1999, a judge found him incompetent to care for himself and appointed a guardian to oversee his affairs.

The records also show that neither Zyprexa nor any other drug has given Mr. Bigley any lasting relief, and that he always stops taking his medicines after being released from the hospital. Unmedicated, Mr. Bigley is jittery and quick to anger. In conversations with a reporter, he was nearly incomprehensible, spewing complaints and curses about the way he is treated.



So you want to be a blogging star?

Also in Tech:

[Why old technologies are still kicking](#)
[The Ivy League takes its rivalry online](#)
[David Poque on the Flip camera](#)

ADVERTISEMENTS

All the news that's fit to personalize.

In a world of second opinions, get the facts first.

Which movies made the 1,000 Best list?



☐

Baby to Bee
Do you know a parent-to-be or new parent that wants to win free stuff for their new baby?

☐

Stonecliffe College Online
Earn your Associate's degree online in some of today's most sought-after fields. Sign up for more info.

☐

Certified Diabetic Services
FREE Glucose Meter, FREE Diabetes Video & FREE Home Delivery!

☐

MyPoints
Earn FREE gift cards for clothes, meals, DVDs and more—Join MyPoints!

Browse Local Business Services

Find businesses near you on The New York Times Business Services Directory.

Business & Financial Services »	Computer & Telecom Services »
Food & Beverage »	Franchises, Partnerships & Manufacturing »
Health & Beauty »	Miscellaneous »
Professional Services »	Retail & Specialty Businesses »
Travel & Real Estate »	In partnership with DirectoryM

But Mr. Bigley has never been known to be violent or [suicidal](#). Despite his [psychosis](#), he has survived Alaska's harsh winters. He bounces among apartments, group homes and the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the state-run mental hospital in Anchorage, mumbling about the Secret Service and other favorite topics to anyone who will listen.

But he makes one point with absolute clarity: He does not want to be medicated or hospitalized.

On March 14, he repeated that request to state court Judge Jack W. Smith, who was hearing the psychiatric institute's request to confine him.

There was little reason to believe that Judge Smith would side with Mr. Bigley. Hearings like his usually last only a few minutes. Psychiatrists and advocates for the mentally ill say that judges prefer not to second-guess doctors and typically rubber-stamp the requests of [hospitals](#) to confine and medicate patients.

As he sat before Judge Smith, Mr. Bigley — who had asked that his hearing be open to the public — hardly seemed like a good candidate for release. He fidgeted and interrupted the proceedings as his lawyers shushed him. He had been brought to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute on Feb. 23, after squabbling with housemates at his group home, where a resident called the police.

Dr. John Raasoch, a doctor at the hospital who treated Mr. Bigley, said that Mr. Bigley had irritated the staff and other patients.

"He's yelling, swearing on the unit, he hit the door," Dr. Raasoch said. Antipsychotic medication would calm Mr. Bigley and make him more cooperative, the doctor said.

"There's no point to have a psychotic individual in the hospital and not be able to treat him," he said. "I think he's suffering severe distress."

But Judge Smith appeared worried about both the side effects of antipsychotic medicines and that Mr. Bigley's history suggested he would not benefit from them.

"We're getting a short-term fix that doesn't change Mr. Bigley's underlying condition," he said.

Under Alaskan law, a person cannot be forced to take medicine against his will simply because a psychiatrist says he is unhappy or delusional. Mr. Bigley could be confined and medicated only if Judge Smith found he was violent, suicidal or a grave danger to himself because of his mental incompetence.

Mr. Bigley was not violent or suicidal, Dr. Raasoch said. But the doctor said he was in grave danger because he might irritate other people, including police officers, to the point where he might end up being hurt.

"He's very inappropriate," Dr. Raasoch said. "He gets up in people's faces. I think the majority of people would just punch him."

Elizabeth Brennan, the public defender representing Mr. Bigley, agreed that Mr. Bigley can be difficult. But Mr. Bigley is not in grave danger simply because he is a nuisance, and confining and medicating him would not help him, she said.

"The hospital has not shown that treatment will improve him," she said.

After nearly an hour of testimony, mainly from Dr. Raasoch, Judge Smith appeared troubled by the thought of confining or medicating Mr. Bigley against his will.

"It sounds like aside from getting in and out of the hospital, he gets by," the judge said. "That's a choice that he should be allowed to make."

And so Judge Smith ordered the hospital to release Mr. Bigley, though he acknowledged that Mr. Bigley was likely to be picked up again in a few weeks, or months at most.

"I don't find by clear and convincing evidence he's gravely disabled," Judge Smith said.

Though the decision was unusual in such cases, Mr. Bigley did not seem overly surprised, or even pleased.

"There's nothing wrong with my head in the first place," he said to the judge, inserting a seven-letter epithet. Within a few seconds, he began to hector Steve Young, his state-appointed guardian, demanding that he be given a hotel suite. "He's going to give me a dirty place," Mr. Bigley complained.

With that thought, Mr. Bigley headed for the street, his brain in chaos but his body free from the side effects of the medicines he will not take. One floor up, lawyers for Lilly and the state argued on, debating whether Zyprexa's benefits outweighed its risks — a choice Mr. Bigley, sound mind or not, had already made.

[Next Article in Business \(6 of 23\) »](#)

[Need to know more? 50% off home delivery of The Times.](#)

Ads by Google

what's this?

[Schizophrenia explained](#)

Information, resources, tools All answers can be found here.
www.psychiatry24x7.com/schizo

[Childhood Schizophrenia](#)

Society for Childhood-Onset Schizophrenia, a Non-profit Org.
www.nascos.org

[Schizophrenia Medications](#)

Find The Answers to Your Questions News, Symptoms, Treatments, More
RevolutionHealth.com

Tips

To find reference information about the words used in this article, double-click on any word, phrase or name. A new window will open with a dictionary definition or encyclopedia entry.

Past Coverage

[Lilly Waited Too Long to Warn About Schizophrenia Drug, Doctor Testifies](#) (March 8, 2008)
[Doctor Who Leaked Documents Will Pay \\$100,000 to Lilly](#) (September 8, 2007)
[LINK BY LINK; Documents Borne by Winds of Free Speech](#) (January 15, 2007)
[Lilly Settles With 18,000 Over Zyprexa](#) (January 5, 2007)

Related Searches

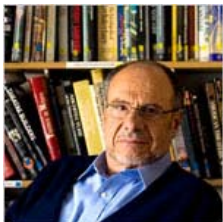
[Zyprexa \(Drug\)](#)
[Suits and Litigation](#)
[Lilly, Eli. & Co](#)
[Alaska](#)

[Add Alert](#)
[Add Alert](#)
[Add Alert](#)
[Add Alert](#)

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



MUSIC »



For Volpe, Met Is Not a Final Curtain

BOOKS »



'Goosebumps' Rises From the Literary Grave

OPINION »



Bloggingheads: Obama on the Couch

HEALTH »



From Forgotten Luggage, Stories of Mental Illness

OPINION »

Op-Ed: On Carbon, Tax and Don't Spend

Policymakers must be prevented from turning the tax into a cash cow.

SCIENCE »



Arthur C. Clarke, the Voice of Cosmic Wonder

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Automobiles](#) | [Back to Top](#)

[Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)