OVERHEARD

The "Nuclear Medicine" series on CNBC finished airing all seven shows, and the ratings are in. The number of viewers ranged from 20,000 for the reports on bone scanning and breast cancer imaging to 97,000 for the cerebrovascular disease imaging report. The bulk of the viewers were radiologists, hospital administrators, primary care physicians and consumers.

—Orbis Broadcast Group

Researchers have found a way to use hard x-rays to get clear images of the breast with much less radiation exposure. They were able to enhance the normally poor contrast of hard x-rays by bouncing the rays off a perfect silicon crystal.

—Nature

Last month, the House passed the risk-assessment bill (H.R. 1022). The bill requires government agencies to prove that the health benefits of any new rule outweigh the costs to industry. This could stall new rules for years—or scrap them altogether.

—The Washington Post

After nearly a decade of intense searching, two rival groups of physicists announced that they had found—without a doubt—the elusive "top" quark using the particle accelerator, Fermilab. Although one of the teams reported it had found the quark last April, it had lacked enough statistical evidence to claim discovery.

—The New York Times

More than 70 communities near nuclear generating plants will become repositories for spent nuclear fuel, without any public hearings on the matter. Utilities have no choice but to build permanent repositories since the U.S. is still at least 15 years away from building a centralized nuclear waste site to store the 30,000 tons that have already accumulated.

—The New York Times

Capintec, Inc., a medical instrument company, has formed a joint venture company in China. The new company, called Xian Liya Electronic Instrument Co. Ltd, will distribute radiation measurement instrumentation and accessories.

—Capintec, Inc.