

You get the point. If a reasonably articulate curmudgeon like myself cannot obtain emergency contraception, what chance does a worried, upset teenage girl have? Her choice would be to openly disclose intensely personal information, or to leave empty handed and humiliated.

The next day I went to the second of three pharmacies. I made my request and, on cue, the pharmacist was called

over. Same routine, but with a twist; the pharmacist had not received the mandatory training. The pharmacy association, he said, insists that pharmacists receive special training on how to counsel women who ask for Plan B. The pharmacist had meant to sign up for the training but gosh, darn it all, he just hadn't got round to it.

I never made it to the Wal-Mart

pharmacy. It was too far away, and I had no car.

**Barbara W.**  
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Although this story recounts actual events, it does not purport to represent pharmacists or pharmacy assistants in general.

## One thousand words



Caroline Eberdt

**Midday snack at the nutritional centre, Rhini, Eastern Cape South Africa.** This is the last of 3 photographs selected for publication in *CMAJ* from 6 finalists in a medical student photo contest and charity auction sponsored by McMaster University in 2005. This photograph, taken by Caroline Eberdt during an 8-week clinical elective, shows how preventive care can be delivered in many forms and reminds us that even the simplest interventions can be effective. The setting is South Africa, but it could be many places; anyone can identify with the effort of these children to deal with those bright oranges — awkward to eat, but tangy and delicious. One child is aware of the camera; the viewer is curious to know what holds the divided attention of the others. The photographer writes: “Rhini is a black township on the edges of Grahamstown, South Africa. Speaking in his home state, the Eastern Cape, Nelson Mandela called Rhini in 1996 ‘the most economically impoverished city in South Africa.’ During this elective I was based at the public Settler’s Hospital, working in obstetrics and primary care. Concurrently I conducted a small-scale research project examining the benefits and drawbacks to local organizational responses to gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. Amid the tragedy that the AIDS epidemic has inflicted on the community, this nutritional centre, run by several community members, was a refreshing site of laughter and smiles.” For the previous photos see *CMAJ* 2005;173(12):1514 and *CMAJ* 2006;174(1):71.