

Should aerosol boycott continue?

Q:As an interested consumer I stopped buying aerosol sprays several months ago because I was concerned about my environment. Should I continue my boycott?

A:Evidence concerning the impact of aerosol sprays on the earth's protective layer of ozone has gone back and forth several times in the past year. Now it appears to be settling on the side of those who favor a ban on all further production.

In recent years there has been growing concern over man-made threats to the ozone layer. Ozone, a colorless gas,



acres man and other forms of life from overexposure to lethal ultra-violet rays from the sun. One of these threats may be fluorocarbons, commonly known as freons, especially when used as propellants in the majority of aerosol sprays.

Fluorocarbons are also manufactured for use as refrigerants, cleaning agents and solvents, but losses into the atmosphere from these uses occur less frequently. It has been estimated by the federal government that 90 per cent of the annual production of propellant gases is released into the atmosphere.

Depletion of the ozone layer has serious consequences. The increase of ultra-violet rays resulting from ozone reduction could cause an increase of skin cancer throughout the world, stimulate change in plant growth, disrupt the aquatic food chain, and bring about changes in climate, to mention just a few.

This country uses half of all the fluorocarbons produced. Since ozone knows no boundaries, what we do in the United States will affect the rest of the world.

The possible damage to our environment is great. The consequences and the importance of aerosol cans is relatively small. Therefore, Concern urges you to use substitutes for aerosols whenever possible. Many are now available; write manufacturers to stimulate an increasing number of choices.

Write for Eco-Tip No. 9, "Ozone: The Earth's Protective Shield." Send a business size, stamped, self-addressed envelope and 25 cents to: Concern, Inc., 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy, Mich. 48068. GRACE R. GLUSKIN

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At area classes

Foster parenting taught

More than 700 persons in several Michigan counties have received training on how to be a better foster parent in Eastern Michigan University's foster parent training project.

This year, the third year of the project, foster parents in 20 counties will have the opportunity to take such courses as Home for the Holidays, Problems of Separation, The Emotional Development of the Foster Child, Fostering the Teenager and Training of Foster Parents of Children with Retardation.

Classes in this area include a 16-week introductory course. The first eight week session begins Oct. 6 and the second session begins Jan. 12. Classes are 7:30 p.m. Mondays in Waterford Mont. High School, Room E, Lincoln Wing, 1151 Scott Lake Rd., Pontiac; and 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Berkley High School, Room 253, Catalpa at Coolidge, Berkley.

Other classes are "The Three Families of the Foster Child and Their Place in His Emotional Development," 7:30 p.m. Mondays in Waterford Mont. High School, and "Guiding the Sexual Development of the Foster Child," 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Berkley High School.

Classes begin next week. According to project director Patricia Ryan, formal training of foster parents has become necessary partly because most foster children are not easy to care for.

"We have fewer and fewer foster children who are healthy, well-adjusted pre-school-age children," she says. "We now have more traumatized children, older children who may be emotionally disturbed."

Another reason the training has become necessary, she adds, is that there is now an emphasis on the society of placing fewer and fewer children in institutions.

Children who were previously cared for in institutions are now cared for in the community in a family setting. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR of the project is Bruce Warren, while newly appointed Jean McFadden is serving as associate program manager. Both Drs. Ryan and Warren are also associate professors of sociology at Eastern.

Funding for the four-year project is provided by the U.S. Department of HEW's Center for the Study of Metropolitan Problems, which is administered through the Institute for Mental Health. The project also operates with Title I funds which are provided through the Michigan Department of Education through the Higher Education Act.

Children under foster care, Dr. Ryan says, are children whom the "community has accepted direct responsibility for because, for some reason, their families cannot provide that care."

A large aspect of the project is liaison work with various segments of the community. We work closely with foster parents themselves and also work closely with foster parents' associations.

Dr. Ryan first became aware of the need for training by communicating with many foster parents' associations she worked with.

They expressed two major problem areas. One centered around the child and his needs, which make him difficult to parent in many cases. The other concerned the role of the foster family as a temporary family without real legal custody. The foster child often goes back to his natural family after a period of living under foster care.

Dr. Warren says that a common pattern is "for a kid to come into foster care, be in foster care for six months to a year, and then be returned to the natural parents where he stays for a few more months."

"The child is abused or neglected again and comes back into foster care. He goes back and forth from his natural parents to

a foster family—often a different foster family—and he frequently has to keep adjusting to a different set of parents. In many children, this slows down the growth and development considerably."

Compounding the problem, Dr. Ryan adds, is that most foster families have other children. If the foster child's behavior becomes too disruptive, families often find themselves in the position of having to ask that the child be removed from their home.

Courses offered through the project are designed to head off the problems faced by foster parents, she says. The courses are offered high schools and community colleges.

One basic course deals with separation trauma that plagues the child, the foster child, the foster parents and natural parents. More advanced courses deal with subjects like the foster parents' role, communicating with professionals, assessing and planning, child development and fostering the child with special needs.

A long-range objective of the foster parent training project is to make the classes available to all of Michigan's 18,000 foster parents who care for 10,000 foster children. The project staff is currently seeking prospective foster parents for the training program who would be willing to care for children who are outside of their natural parents' care.

"What we hope to accomplish," explains Dr. Ryan, "is to upgrade service the foster parent is able to provide to dependent children and, hopefully, we can minimize the number of moves the foster child has to make."

Patients, families may join cancer discussions

The Michigan Cancer Foundation (MCF) patient and family care service will offer several group discussion meeting programs beginning the week of Oct. 4, in the

Meyer L. Prentiss Center, 110 E. Warren, Detroit.

Group discussion sessions will be available for persons who have had a mastectomy, oophorectomy, or cancer-related cervical, uterine surgery. Coordinated by the MCF social work and nursing staff, these sessions will explore many of the problems encountered during recovery from and adjustment to surgery and a cancer experience.

Group sessions will also be offered for young adult cancer patients and for the survivors (widows and widowers) of cancer patients.

"This is the first time we have sponsored group discussions for the young adults and survivors of cancer patients," said Sharon Klein, chief of the patient and family care service. "They are part of our ever-expanding effort to better serve the cancer patients in our community."

"We would also welcome further suggestions concerning the development of other discussion groups to meet the needs of cancer patients and their families," she added.

For more information, or to register for any of the discussion groups, call the Michigan Cancer Foundation patient and family care service at 833-8718, ext. 361. The hour of the sessions will be set after some registration have been received.

The Michigan Cancer Foundation is a Torch Drive-United Way agency serving Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Monroe counties with programs in cancer research, education and services.

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Challenge can close age gap

The best way to bridge the generation gap is for adults and teens to challenge each other to resolve their common problems.

That is the idea behind the human effectiveness training course which the teen department of the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) will offer at the CYO Girls Camp near Port Sanilac on the weekend of Oct. 23-24.

The course is open to any adult or teen who works with youth programs. The fee of \$15 for the weekend includes all training sessions, materials, food and lodging. For complete details, contact Mary Saperstein, teen program consultant, at the CYO office, 260 Michigan Ave., telephone 920-7172, ext. 12.

This will be the fifth human effectiveness course which the CYO has offered. The course, created by Dayton Gnu of the Growth Center in Allen Park, is designed to show teens and adults how to work in concert in operating youth programs.

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