



Uninvited hitchhiker

Gill Miller, an area resident, returned home after a trip up north and found this uninvited possum nestled on his car motor. The Millers had not used their car while up north and the bold possum decided the motor

area near the heater was a good place to live. It rode back comfortably and unharmed. You guess who was more surprised when Miller lifted the hood—the possum or Miller? (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Ice rinks can emit foul gas

On your next trip to an indoor rink, better bring along a portable monitor—to check the carbon monoxide levels.

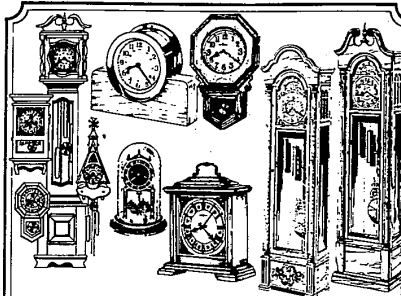
A recent study of seven indoor skating rinks in Boston showed that the legal limit for carbon monoxide—set for the outside air—was exceeded 82 per cent of the time. Researchers at Harvard and Tufts universities found that many indoor skating rinks regularly exceed the standards by as much as 300 per cent.

Rink managers were found to be unaware of the problem of exhaust from the ice-surfacing equipment, the chief source of carbon monoxide. Ventilation systems, which could correct the problem, usually were not operated.

In winter, ventilation makes the indoor temperatures too cold for spectators. In summer, ventilating with outside air is too warm and causes fog over the ice surface.

As a result of the study's findings, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state's Department of Environmental Engineering Quality have sought legal rulings to insure that local municipal health authorities insist that skating rinks be ventilated adequately.

As a general guide, the researchers suggested one complete air exchange for each ice resurfacing would alleviate the problem. They also recommended redesigning rink maintenance machinery, shifting to electric motors, and upgrading pollution control equipment in rinks.



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