Brrr—Winter's bluster returns as baseball ends

You can feel winter gaining on you in the crisp morning air these past few weeks, and in thousands of people that wakes up an annual malaise.

One of the unmistakeable symptoms is the end of

baseball.

By liself, the end of the season isn't all that bad—after 150 or more games, baseball fans are like small children taken to soda fountains by a favorite uncle. Unbelievably, there comes a point where enough is finally enough.

Besides, your hunger for baseball grows all through the winter, an appetite whetted by the normal human lust for things you can't have.

Other factors further sharpen the taste for the game. Trades help, but not as much as Billy Martin's current inghtcub statistics or Wille Horton's Venezuelan League managing career.

SOUTH AMERICAN baseball is particularly fur to follow, mainly because even the most devoted of fans can't find out what's going on down there Sketchy results are available in tiny, 6-point agate



type buried deep among the lacrosse results in The

To fill in the missing details takes imogination. Personally, I picture iguanas sunning themselves in the bleachers, revolutions raging outside the ballpark, and Willie Horton bellowing "Anybody here speak English?"

All of this is more than ruined, though, by what replaces baseball — football.

Football, like hockey and psoriasis, is basically boring and unfit for civilized conversation. But football has an added problem peculiar to itself—nobody understands it. Except maybe Hank Stram.

football nas an audeu process.

The process of the

out for yourself? I mean, it took Stram that long.

WORSE THAN any of these things is the fans' attitude. Baseball fans are widely regarded in these modern times as somewhat eccentric, but harmless. They're tolerated.

Football fans are more agressive. Tell a diehard Lions' fan you don't care for the game and see what happens. I usually end up feeling like a Jew in Spain being asked to convert to Catholicism during the Inquisition. It's tough to say no.

And worst of all, football will eventually start to look good.

The politics of health

You fight more than disease organisms

Get political.

That was the advice given in John Glenn High
School some time ago by Mel Ravitz when he
spoke to a group working in behalf of retarded
citzens. As a former president of the Detroit
Common Council and chairman of the Southeast
Michigan Council of Governments, Ravitz knows
a lot about power and how to get things done in
this country. this country

this country.

It was a good suggestion. But it can be applied far beyond the retarded scene. It should also be taken to heart by those making efforts to stamp

TAKE BIRTII defects and cancer. The March of Dimes and American Cancer Society can't go it alone. The light is beginning to move beyond the labs and into the arena of political and citizen action. If some birth defects are caused by pesti-cides, herbicides, household chemicals, radiation, pharmaceuticals, narcotics and chemicals like mercury, as March of Dimes literature suggests, then part of the antidote to birth defects will be

then part of the antidote to birth defects will be found in the environment and work place. The March of Dimes would have to get into a lot of messy fights with industry and government to control the use of these chemicals. Take note, for example, of an announcement of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration of a campaign to reduce the exposure of citizens, especially children, to lead in the seams of certain cans. Evaporated milk and infant formula are in some of the cans involved.

It points out that too much lead can cause kidney and brain damage — and mental retardation. While this is not strictly a birth defect situation, it is close enough for a political arm of the birth defects fight to start yelling. Simple education is not enough. Someone should be grabbed by the throat.

But rather than have the March of Dimes lose

the throat.

But rather than have the March of Dimes lose popular support for the useful work it does, I would rather see this struggle carried out by a political arm and an aggressive grassroots movement.

movement.

CANCER CAN BE CAUSED by such substances as lead, chromium, vinyl chloride, benzene-PCB, chloroform, arsenic, uranium and cadmium, according to the National Institute of Job Safety. Birth defects fighters will be interested to know these materials are also credited

THE **BOARDROOM**

For the most interesting ways to keep up appearances.

iomerset Mall • Fairlane Towne Center (Inside Hughes & Hatcher)

AFFORDABLE DENTURE SERVICE

New Full and Partial Dentures REPAIRS • RELINES • TOOTH REPLACEMENT 1 HOUR - 1 DAY SERVICE Full Range of Dental Services

Dentist with 35 Years Experience Morrey A. Barak, D.D.S., 21701 W. Eleven Mile Road CALL SOUTHFIELD OFFICE

353-3710 All Insura







with causing mutations. Clearly someone is going to have to intervene in the work place on this problem. In addition people must take action against radiation dangers, and lay it on the line to Congressmen and Senators about environments.

tal hazards.

The American Cancer Society enjoys support of 85 percent of the American people. It would be too bad to jeopardize this with gut fighting, boycotting products or putting a picketline around a corporate headquarters.

coung products or porting a pro-corporate headquarters.

But there is a growing feeling that the cancer struggle must move in new directions. The federally funded National Cancer Institute has come under fire recently for what its own presi-dent admitted was its "simplistic" approach in fabilities conser in the laborator valone. fighting cancer in the laboratory alone

DONALD KENNEDY as head of the FDA has referred to the government's part in the war on cancer as a "medical Vietnam." Vast amounts of money were poured in, but there have been few

money were poured in, but there have been few signs of victory.

The fact that researchers can only tell us that anywhere from 60-90 percent of cancer is environmental reflects the lack of hard research on the subject. In Parade magazine recently Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the Ralph Nader offshoot, the Health Research Group said: "The government estimates that at least 20 percent of cancer is occupational...That's 70,000 to 80,000 cancer deaths each year.

Here are a few news items on cancer and birth defects that indicate the need for citizens action.

Gickeu-Freeman

CLOTHES ARE EXCLUSIVE WITH US IN DETROIT

הא מיבא מיבאים האיני איני באיני בא מיבאי

When industries using lead began removing pregnant women from exposure to this substance because of the possibility of fetal damage, the American Cyanamid Co. studied medical literature to unearth all the substances that might affect fetal development. They implicated 30 substances used as lead, mercury and vinyl chloride. Scientists have also begun to consider that fetal difficulty could come from a damaged sperm as well as a damaged egg.

The Canal American Coffice heared that

well as a damaged egg.

- The General Accounting Office has said that the \$9-billion-a-year cosmetics industry has been found to be using 125 ingredients suspected of causing cancer. About 25 are suspected of causing birth defects.

The National Cancer Institute says that 17 percent of all environmentally-caused cancers are induced by asbestos.

- Dr. Robert Harris of the Environmental Defects Field that list of 115 obscission used to

fense Fund has a list of 15 chemicals used as fabric finishers, many of which are involved in the permapress process in clothing. He says that they contain either mutagenic or carcinogenic

the permapress process in clothing. He says that they contain either mutagenic or carcinogenic properties.

A White House task force this year called for reducing the exposure of Americans to manader radiation, particularly x-rays. It said half the public's exposure to radiation is from natural causes. But nearly 90 percent of the rest is from medical and dental x-rays and radioactive material used for treatment and diagnosis.

A Public Citizen Health Group study found that x-ray machines used in 28 National Cancer Institute mammography clinics showed a wide range of radiations doses emitted. Could this be true of the rest of the nation's x-rays?

Surely it is time to start getting tough. Products must be banned, toxic wastes must be monitored and not abandoned indiscriminately, unions and companies must join to produce a safer workplace. X-ray machines must be better regulated. Trucks, trains and ships carrying toxic substances must be routed away from heavily populated areas.

It won't be easy to make such basic changes in American life. First we need citizen awareness. Next grass roots political muscle.







721-5514







