

consumer mailbag

Mailbag gets questions about clean air act

Many question have come into the Concern, Inc. office during the last several weeks concerning the clean air act reauthorization. We have chosen those that are most representative and, with the help of John G. Sobelzer, executive director of East Michigan Environmental Action Council, will attempt to clarify some of the issues.

I support the National Clean Air Coalition which is trying to protect the Clean Air Act. Is the Michigan Clean Air Coalition a part of the national group?

No. Michigan Clean Air Coalition is made up of industries supporting a bill, HR 5252, dubbed the "dirty air" bill which will significantly weaken the Clean Air Act. If you want to join "the guy in white hat", contact the Michigan Clean Air Campaign (MCAC), MCAC supports HR5555, the Waxman Bill, which assures that issues such as acid rain, toxic problems and other pollutants are regulated while at the same time, fine tuning the act to reduce much of the red tape.

Is acid rain a threat to human health? Acid rain, the environmental issue of the 80s, can and does cause significant health problems. Airborne acids, notably sulfates are associated with increased prevalence of respiratory disease and premature deaths.

Youth choir needs tenors

Are you a tenor with an urge to travel to Europe?

The Southern Michigan Youth Chorale is searching for new members for its 1982 tour of seven continental countries.

The SMYC, in its 14th year of touring, is for high school and junior college-aged singers in southeastern Michigan. Members will visit Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France between June 22 and July 10, performing in churches,

cathedrals and concert halls in such cities as The Hague, Rothenburg, Salzburg, Venice, Florence and Geneva.

This year's chorale is short on tenors.

The group rehearses monthly in Royal Oak. Members pay their own expenses for the tour, but some scholarships may be available. Interested singers can contact Irish at 691-0830 after 4 p.m. for details and a brochure describing the tour.

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Epidemiological studies show an association between disease and sulfate concentrations typically experienced in Michigan's urban areas: decreased lung function in children, aggravation of asthma, and increased prevalence of chronic bronchitis. Human consumption of fish contaminated by mercury and other toxic metals leached from the soil by acid rain causes other human health problems. Another problem is caused by consumption of drinking water containing toxics such as lead and arsenic that the acid water dissolves from soils or plumbing.

Is the Detroit Sewage Plant the worst polluter of the Great Lakes?

It all depends on what water pollutants you're looking at. It is traditional pollutants like phosphorous or BOD (organic matter), then the Detroit Sewage Plant is the worst polluter.

If it's the toxic chemicals PCB, pesticides, mercury, lead and industrial organics, then the air is the polluter. "What goes up must come down," and 50-70 percent of the PCBs in the Great Lakes are carried back to earth by gravity in the form of polluted rain and snow.

Driving behind diesel engines in cars, buses and trucks makes me sick. What is being done about this pollution? How about cleaning them up before

adding more stuff to my car to cut pollution?

There is little regulation of diesel and truck emissions and you're right, they can make you sick. A typical diesel car engine emits 30-70 times more pollution in the form of small particulates than today's gasoline engine. These particulates cause lung problems and reduce visibility in urban areas.

More than 10,000 chemicals have been identified in diesel exhaust. Most U.S. cars need no new "stuff" in the way of pollution control devices. Diesels do however, and the Clean Air Act is just beginning to regulate diesel and truck emissions. This is not the time to tamper with the Clean Air Act.

Readers interested in more information on the Clean Air Act locally can contact the Michigan Clean Air Campaign (MCAC) c/o EMEAC, 5600 Crooks, Troy 48068, 876-6040. The National Clean Air Coalition has a toll-free hot line, 1-800-292-5979.

ECO-TIP: Clean air is an important consumer and environmental issue. If ever there was a reason for citizens to voice their opinions and convictions to their representatives in government, this is it. Write a letter today.

Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to Concern Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy, 48068.

Career change addressed

Marygrove College Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Continuing Education Division of the college, is presenting a one-day workshop, "Shifting Career Gears," designed for the individual who is anticipating a change in career direction.

The workshop will be offered from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays in the Madame Cadillac Building on Marygrove's campus on West McNichols at Wyoming.

The seminar will feature a series of sessions of skills assessment, interviewing techniques, resume writing and attitude development. The work-

shop will be geared to giving the participants techniques that can help them prepare for a career change. A luncheon panel will consist of three personnel specialists who will discuss the particular qualities and skills they look for when they interview prospective employees.

The cost of the one-day seminar is \$30 and includes lunch and resource materials. Checks should be made to Marygrove College. Phone reservations can be charged to Visa or MasterCard.

For more information, contact the Marygrove Alumni Office at 862-8014.

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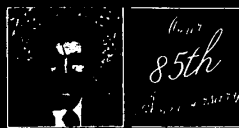
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