

# Adults warned of accidental poisonings

Children are not the only ones who can poison themselves accidentally, warns Dr. Regine Aronow, director of the Poison Control Center of Children's Hospital of Michigan.

As part of Poison Prevention Week, March 21-27, she urges adults to become more aware of the problem which she calls "fooling one's own nest."

Most calls to the Poison Control Center, Aronow says, involve contaminants at home. Half of the calls pertain to the accidental ingestion by young children of medications and cleaning compounds. However, during the winter, a greater number of calls involve other kinds of exposures in the home with

carbon monoxide predominant. Carbon monoxide poisoning in its subtle form can cause headaches and feelings of nausea. Exposure over a long period can dull mental processes and speed up hardening of the arteries. Severe exposure can produce acute illness, coma and sometimes death.

TO SAVE money in tight economic times, people often fail to have their furnaces and chimneys checked, and cleaned and repaired if necessary, Aronow says. Improper maintenance may result in a buildup of carbon monoxide in the home.

Wood stoves and space heaters can also cause problems, she notes. When

ever wood or fossil fuels (kerosene and coal) are burned, proper venting is essential as these fuels use up room oxygen and put out carbon monoxide. Several situations have come to the Poison Control Center's attention where entire families have suffered from such exposures.

Another unrecognized source of the carbon monoxide hazard comes from using paint stripper without adequate ventilation. One of the principal ingredients of such strippers, if inhaled, is broken down into carbon monoxide several hours later.

Labels suggest adequate ventilation when using these products, but few people realize this means free exchange of fresh air. Some aerosol sprays can also be hazardous, causing severe respiratory symptoms. One woman was treating her boots with a spray to protect them from winter's slush; her pet bird died from the fumes.

SPRING WILL bring new hazards and new products into the home environment, Aronow warns. People will be spraying their dogs and cats for fleas and ticks, their lawns to protect them from moths, and their homes to

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rid them of insect pests. When winter ends, it will be time to spray fruit trees, lawns and shrubs.

All of the products used for these problems can be dangerous, not only to children and pets, but also to adults if they are not used properly, Aronow says.

She urges a close look at everyday environment and careful reading of directions on chemical products used at home.

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The workshop will run from 7:30-10:30 p.m. for five consecutive Thursdays beginning April 22.

It will be taught by staff member Jeff Dalley. Each group will be small and aided by a center-trained peer counselor.

The workshop will be held in the center building, on the college's Rochester campus.

The fee is \$50 and pre-registration is required by calling OU at 377-3033.

## JCPenney 80th Anniversary Sale Circular Correction Notice!

• **Page 3 of 12**—Description of Jacket dress indicates that it is a blend of polyester and rayon. Description should state: Dress 100% cotton, with polyester rayon blend jacket.

• **Page 4 of 12**—Girls' Junior High blouse as shown is not in stock. We do have a very similar style on sale at the same price.

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