

APPLIANCE DOCTOR

Appliance Doctor has a busy month



JOE GAGNON

For the last month or so, I have been running back and forth to Lansing working on the Appliance Repair Act, doing television interviews on consumer affairs and speaking to groups in between. It is all very exhilarating and make me

happy doing what I do.

A few weeks ago I was invited to attend the WXYT expo at the Southfield Civic Center. At this yearly event which I have appeared at since it started, I answer questions about appliances and autograph my book. It is my publisher, Master Handyman Press, which rents a booth and space and provides me this opportunity to help consumers in person. Many people are confused when they see me at this function which is sponsored in total by a competitor of WJR Radio which employs the Appliance Doctor.

WJR has been very good to me and also very concerned about the need for consumer education. They realize that I have been doing all sorts of seminars and home shows with Glenn Haage for

the past 10 years and don't want to put a hold on these shows even knowing that a competitor may receive some benefit from my appearance.

Most important is the fact that they want consumers to get to know the Appliance Doctor and gain from the information he distributes as these shows. It goes to show the cliché of competition being good for everyone concerned is true even in the radio business.

This very newspaper you are reading today is another example of a cooperative effort by people who find it important that consumer education comes before their own self interests. There aren't too many newspapers in this country who allow a radio talk show host to write about his radio career in his or her columns.

Just this past weekend I was the keynote speaker to a group of senior citizens in the city of Livonia. I shouldn't say a group, but instead say a few thousand of seniors who attended the Western Wayne County Senior Citizens Celebration Day and what a day it was for me. Can you imagine yourself being surrounded by hundreds of people who all want an autograph or who all want to ask a question at the same time.

Some of these seniors were getting angry with each other because one was cutting in front of the other etc. All in all, I would like to thank all of them for being there, and for being so nice to me. I can't describe the feeling in my heart when I give that dear old white-haired woman an answer to a question which makes her an even more intelligent consumer. I continue to see the faces of my mother and father anytime I look into the eyes of a senior citizen.

This event was co-sponsored by our government which many of us are quick to criticize for whatever reason. In this case they should be praised for their efforts to help consumers in regards to everyday spending. There were all sorts of booths which were staffed by people

in business who were there to lend assistance to any senior in attendance. Responsibility for this event falls on the shoulders of state Reps. Bankes, Law, Ryan and Whyman and I trust they will continue to be involved with more issues of consumerism in the future.

Meanwhile, I will look forward to meeting many of the readers of this column at the upcoming home and garden shows around Detroit. Thanks to all of you for putting me on a pedestal, but remember, I am just an appliance repairman representing others who are the good guys in my industry.

Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, will answer your questions about maintaining and repairing large appliances.

Compost workshop set for tonight

"Feed the Earth - Compost!", a workshop presented by the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority master composters, will take place 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham.

The free program, sponsored by SOCRRA and The Community House,

includes how to get started in your own back yard, materials for composting, practical tips and using compost to build healthy soils.

A question-and-answer period will follow each presentation. Table displays will be featured.

For more information and to register, call (810) 288-5150.

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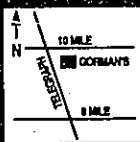
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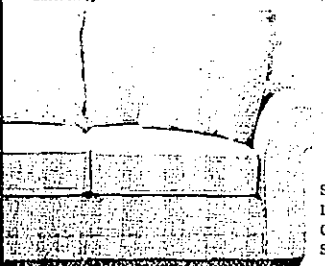
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