



appliance doctor

# Freon smuggling is rivaling drugs

I remember a few years ago I wrote an article on the Ozone hole and how Freon would become a subject of conversation. There are not too many people today who don't realize how much the cost of Freon has skyrocketed in

price. The cost of equipment and training for service companies to follow government mandates on recycling has been passed on to the consumer. If your older car air conditioning should happen to fail, you'll understand what I

mean. I recently read an article which stated that the supply of old styled Freon is as an all-time high in this country even though Dupont no longer manufactures it. Predicted by the Great Carnack, I stated that Freon would fall into the category of drugs or something like that. Guess what, it has.

The owner of a refrigeration company in Florida pleaded guilty to a charge of illegally importing some 168 tons of CFC-12 into the U.S.A. from overseas sources. He was facing a long prison sentence and a fine of \$30 million when he decided to enter his plea agreement. Under the agreement reached the gentleman must turn over to the government \$4.5 million in offshore banks, plus \$3.4 million in property and his \$6.7 million current inventory of Freon. This is not the first case of someone getting caught with illegal shipping and it won't be the last.

You can expect to see a new brand name on products such as Amana, Speed Queen and Caloric in the next short while. These products have been sold by Raytheon to Goodman Holding

Co. George Forester founded the Amana Company way back when and was always so proud of the quality built into his product. I worked for George through the '70s and I owe a lot to Amana for teaching me my trade. I hope the quality continues in the future.



JOE GAGNON

Of local news, the Appliance Doctor of WJR and The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is being courted by the Home and Garden Television Network. He is expected to soon travel to Knoxville, Tenn., to tape several segments with a major production company. At home, the Comcast Cable Network has expressed interest in taping his radio show to be shown across the country. It wouldn't surprise me if he turned his Carnack operation over to

Please see Gagnon, page 9

*Knightsbridge*  
**ANTIQUE MALL**  
Your Complete Antique Resource  
**S.E. Michigan's Largest**  
*Largest Selection of the Finest Antique Furniture You Will Find Anywhere*  
• Primitives • Glassware • Advertising • Toys • Art Deco • Nautical Items  
• Prints & Paintings • Howard's Products • Stained Glass Windows  
• Pottery • Jewelry • Books • Military Items • Sporting Items  
Open 7 Days 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wed. 'til 8 p.m.  
**(810) 344-7200**  
42305 West Seven Mile Rd. • Northville  
2 Miles West of I-275, Exit #169

**OVER 200 DEALERS!**

26,000 SQ. FT.

Bertch Cabinet Mfg., Inc. Bertch Cabinet Mfg., Inc. Bertch Cabinet Mfg., Inc.

**Bertch Cabinet Mfg., Inc.**

PLAN YOUR NEW BATHROOM WITH BERTCH QUALITY CABINETS

all in matching shades

**50% off**

**All Bertch Oak Cabinets**

Offer Good Through Sept. 6, 1997

**MATHISON'S**  
Kitchen, Bath and Plumbing Showrooms

6130 Canton Center Canton • 455-9440 31535 Ford Rd. Garden City • 422-3888 28243 Plymouth Livonia • 522-5633

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9-7; Sat. 9-4; Sun. 11-3

Bertch Cabinet Mfg., Inc. Bertch Cabinet Mfg., Inc. Bertch Cabinet Mfg., Inc.

**NO POLES - IT ROLLS!**

ALL ON DISPLAY - Visit our Show Room

**\$500 OFF**  
ANY RETRACTABLE PATIO AWNING  
**IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION**  
(IN STOCK ITEMS ONLY)

**AWNINGS OF ALL KINDS**  
• Retractable • Stationary • Aluminum  
SPECIALIZING IN COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

**MARYGROVE**  
THE AWNING STORE & MORE

**FREE IN-HOME (313) 422-7110 OR ESTIMATES 1-800-44 AWNING**

VISIT OUR BEAUTIFUL SHOWROOM MON.-FRI. 9-5pm, SAT., SUN. 10-3  
12700 MERRIMAN RD. LIVONIA 1/4 MILE S. OF I-96  
(NEXT TO RR TRACKS)