Home Work

Consumers at home shows talk about appliance problems



I've done radio shows recently at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit and Novi Home Improvement Show. Soon I will be broadgasting at the casting at the Home and Garden Show

JOE GAGNON at the Ponti-dome Feb. 22-25, GMC Builders Home and Flower Show at the Cobe Center in Detroit March 22-25, and a home show in Jack-

Now, this is not a complaint, in fact it is just the opposite. I love talking with consumers and taking my time answering questions, emphasizing what are right and wrong approaches to fixing appliances. I want to

If only I could make appliance maintenance as important as changing the oll in a car.

thank all of you for talking with me and explaining your particu-lar problems.

Many of you teach me ideas that I broadcast onto the air-waves or write in this newspa-per, and in so doing, can help others who wonder just what is

At the recent home show in Novi, a woman said she could use her oven only during the evening hours.

evening hours.

After several service calls, she discovered that when anyone used the cell phones or portable phone in the house, an electronic component was rendered useless inside the stove modular control.

The service technician

explained that this technicality occurred with many ranges from the same company.

This doctor is on the case in finding out which brands don't function and why.

A fire and tragedy

A fire and tragedy
Another woman stopped by to
ask me if I could identify a
microwave oven which had been
in a house fire. I asked her to
explain the circumstances which
brought tears to my eyes. There
was a house fire which may have
been caused by the microwave.
Her attorney kept the
microwave, but he was unable to
identify the product. I asked her
to get the microwave from her
attorney and I would try to help
her. Then I asked her if anyone
was hurt in the fire
She told me her daughter died

She told me her daughter died as a result of the fire. Let me tell you that after looking into that mother's eyes for just a few min-utes, I will feel her grief for a

At these shows when I meet thousands of homeowners, there are many compliments and I truly appreciate them. Every once in a while I receive con-structive criticism which makes me a smarter person.

More service needed

More service needed

A woman told me about all the service calls she made to fix her washing machine. Each time the service technician told her that there is nothing wrong with the washer. Each time he told her that she is using it incorrectly. The lady was just plain mad at me because she had purchased this brand solely on my recommendation. I just simply hung my head and bir will have sometimes I de sound like a know-it-all.

Refrigerator ice-makers are

know-it-all.

Refrigerator ice-makers are still the biggest subject of conversations at these shows with dryer vent lines questions a close second. More and more homeowners are becoming aware of

hases which supply water to their washing machines and checking and replacing them. I wish I could promote and encourage the maintenance of these products se consumers would pay attention before rather than after, the damage occurs. If only I could make it as important as changing the oil in a car.

American-made appliances are

a car.

American-made appliances are becoming another big factor in why so many more products are sold with a very big price tag. Ranges built today that get so hot on the outside get national media attention because children burn themselves and spend a lengthy amount of time in a hospital.

No wonder why so much of our noney goes overseas.

Readers write

Michael Slayter bought a house which included a refriger-ator. The refrigerator emits an

INTERIOR DESIGN

odor, which is stronger when the motor is running. He writes: "I, cleaned the drip pan and placed baking soda in the freezer and, refrigerator, but it was no help."

reirigerator, but it was no help."

A: Wash out the refrigerator; using tomato juice. When you're done, leave a dish full of tomato juice on the refrigerator shelf for three days.

three days.

Joe Gagnon can be heard an Newstalk 750, WJR-AM, every Saturday and Sunday mornings. He is a past president of The Society of Consumer Professionals. His second book, "The Words and Wisdom of The Appliance Doctor" is available in book stores. His phone number is (313) 873-9789. stores, His 873-9789.

ars-urus.

Do you have a question for the Appliance Doctor? Contact him care of Ken Abramezyk, Ai Home. Editor, Observer Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcroft, Livonia, MI 48150 or -mail kabramezyk Goe, homecomm. net

Read the Taste section in Sunday's Farmington Observer

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'Treasure twins' to visit DIA, Somerset next week

A Cadwalader easy chair used in a country day school sold for a record-setting \$2.75 million. A table bought at a yard sale for \$25 sold for more than half a million dollars at auction.

million dollars at auction.

These are just two of the extraordinary discoveries that twins Leigh and Lealie Keno, stars of public television's popular Antiques Roadshows have made throughout acclaimed careers as furniture experts and antique dealers.

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The Detroit Institute of Arts' Associates of the American Wing will welcome the "treasure twins" Wednesday, Feb. 21, for a special lecture and book signing honoring their new book, Hidden Treasures Searching for Masterpieces of American Furniture.

At the event, the Kenes will trace numerous finds throughout their careers as antique dealers, and share tips and anecdotes from their experiences with Detroit antique enthusiasts.

The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the DIA, 5200 Woodward in the University Cultural Center. Tickets for the event are \$10 and are available by calling (313) 833-4005. Valet parking will be available for a minimal charge at the Woodward

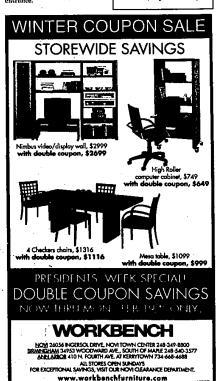
The Keno brothers will also appear for a book signing only noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at the DIA Museum Shop at Somerset Collection South, Big Beaver and Coolidge roads in Troy.

Years of experience and success in the antique market have translated into many amazing stories and discoveries. With their special appearance at the DIA, the Kenos will offer an intimate look at the fascinating experience of uncovering hidden treasures. treasures.

The program is presented through the generosity of Scott Shuptrine Studios of Interior Design.

- Clinics offered

The Home Depot presents free "how-to" clinics for do-it-yourselfers, Scheduled in February are "How to Buy Carpet," 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays; "How to Install Pergs Flooring," 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays; "How to Install Ceramic Tile," 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Faux Painting Techniques, 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; and "How to Measure for Blinds," 7 p.m. Tuesdays.



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