Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 7, 2002

Some General Electric dishwasher models are dangerous

on can hear the callers on the air every weekend with their questions and the answers that are given in hopes of saving people money.

money.
On a recent show a gentleman asked about his
General Electric dishwasher,
model number 540, that was
leaking at the bottom of the
door. He informed me that it

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running.
That little bit of conversation That little bit of conversation was enough to raise my antenna and I asked him if this dishwasher had a little switch on the right hand side of the console, which was an energy

Sure enough, it had

one.

I asked him if he had heard about the serious recall on this dishwasher because this switch could cause a fire in the dish-

washer. He hadn't heard a thing

He hadn't heara a trung about it.

I told him to forget about the leaking and I wouldn't even talk about it until he called General Electric at (800) 626-2000.

I explained that GE had built 3.1 million dishwasher.

between 1983 and 1989 that also have the name Hotpoint on them, and these products were sold and installed in America's homes.

se certain models with the little toggle switch on the

Appliance Doctor Gagnon

console are very prone to catch fire, and this should be repaired immediately. This column in this newspaper was the first to condent off for having a recall that wasn't a true recall, but instead a trade-in of old dishwashers in which GE would send the consumer a rebate. It wasn't a recall, and GE admitted that after lawsuits were filed against it in New York and California.

SETTLEMENT

Most recently the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a \$1 million settlement with General Electric for what the agency said was the company's failure to report defects involving more than

3 million dishwashers made in the 1980s. GE knew about the dish-washers catching fire only three years after it cassed pro-duction of these models.

This means that it waited from 1992 until 1998 before it reported this defect to the CPSC.

Hal Stratton, the chairman of the CPSC, said the agency was trying to hold companies accountable for not reporting potentially hazardous products

potentially hazarous prosecu-quickly.

"When companies voluntari-ly cooperate with us to do that in an honest and forth-right way, they II find us to be very cooperative; if they violate the act by failing to cooperate with us, they will find us as their adversaries, Stratton-said

If you have a GE or Hotpoint washer made between 1983 and 1989 I suggest you call General Electric at (800) 626-2000 immediately. The model numbers were GSD500D, GSD500G, GSD540, HDA467, HDA477

and HDA478.

To date only 628,000 of these dishwashers have been repaired by GE, which means there could be close to 2 million still sitting in American

little to hand be consumers and our company.

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WAKING UP

CLASSICS

FROM PAGE CI

A few years ago I wrote that the 21st century would see a waking up of consumers to

more of an updated American country look."

The collection will be exclusive to Art Van in Michigan, which has stores in Livonia, Novi, Royal Oak, Southfield, Waterford and Westland among its locations.

Like Stanley Furniture's Cottage Revival pieces, Lance's Country Living collection features pine and offers finishes in a variety of colors, including black, white, red and mustard.

Vibrant color was another dominant trend at High Point, both Wolf and DeCorte aron quickly said DeCorte. Colored accent pieces are particularly easy to add to existing furnishings and allow homeowners to transform living spaces dramatically without nowesters.

form living spaces dramatica without making large invest-

es dramatically

many things that are wrong in the business world.

We are seeing it, aren't we? Many of the things that make headline news today have been going on for years, and this story has happened before.

When you read my opinion toward the appliance industry you may judge it as rather harsh sometimes, and I can't blame you because it is.

it is. When a manufacturer can

When a manufacturer can build and sell a product that catches fire and burns a house to the ground and possibly kills a person, someone should be held liable.

The next time you have a service technician come to your home to fix an appliance, ask him or her what they think of appliance manufacturers today. Don't be surprised by the answer.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WXYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Alfairs Professionals. His phone number is (248) 455-7281.

Besides being versatile, color

Besides being versatile, color affords greater creativity to homeowners in decorating their homes and retailers in showcasing their homes and retailers in showcasing their offerings. For instance, a pine table might be paired with a black chair, a red bench and a Parson's chair in a print fabric, said DeCorte.

Today's homeowners seem to have embraced the 'mix-and-match' concept and uppear ready to experiment and tap their creativity.

'I'm seeing a lot more of the mixing in terms of colors and fabrics,' said Dianc Creasy, who attended High Point and owns fortue, a Keep Harbor retailer that specializes in furniture and accents inspired by Old World European styles.

'I think people are becoming braver about that. The consumer is more sophisticated now. They see more, they know more and are more courageous about selecting pieces and mixing."

about selecting pieces and

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