



# Loud Teen Music Can Damage Ear

Stone deaf from rock-'n'-roll?

Listening to loud rock-'n'-roll music may impair or permanently damage a teen-ager's hearing, according to a study by two University of Michigan researchers.

Dr. Ralph R. Rupp, head of the audiology division of the U-M Speech Clinic, and Larry J. Koch, senior clinician, report in the current edition of Michigan Hearing that young people who either play or listen to rock-'n'-roll music at high intensity levels may pay an "enormous" price in terms of eventual reduction of hearing.

They note that most teenagers are not able to listen to their special brand of high intensity music for long periods of time at home because "their parents, as the less adaptable members of the family, cannot stand the sound."

THUS "GENERALLY, IT is not until the son or daughter begins to attend the teen-age club or local discotheque for three- or four-hour periods that the noise exposure risk becomes greater. Similarly, and possibly with a cause for greater concern, are the effects on the member of the rock band who may play live music for several hours a week in both practice and concert."

In measuring the sound level produced by a rock-'n'-roll combo, Rupp and Koch found that the sound pressure level generated in the rehearsal room during the loudest time period ranged from 120 to 130 decibels. In comparison, the noise level of a blaring music radio measured from the press site is also 120 decibels and the level in a very noisy factory is 100 decibels.

Research reports show that noise levels above 100 decibels may do permanent damage to the ears after long exposure, and noise levels over 130 decibels may do permanent damage after a relatively short exposure.

After the rehearsal, all members of the combo reported a "ringing" or "sensation of fullness" in their ears, lasting from eight hours to several days.

In order to safeguard the hearing of both musicians and listeners, Rupp and Koch suggested two measures:

—A customized ear protector for musicians, which would reduce the noise level by 20 to 30 decibels.

—The establishment of safe maximum allowable sound pressure levels, by local or regional governmental units, for electronic amplifiers in teen-age clubs and discotheques.

They also urged audiometric reviews for musicians every year or two.

## U-M Dentist Gets Grant

ANN ARBOR — Dr. James K. Avery of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry has received a three-year grant from the National Institute of Dental Research to study the way cleft palates are formed.

In a series of experiments on mice, he will compare normal palates with those having clefts.

Although scientists cannot explain exactly how a normal palate is formed, they do know that the palatal shelves turn from a vertical to a horizontal position, contact each other and fuse. Connective tissue grows through the zone of fusion.

DR. AVERY, aided by Dr. J.S. Kim, will examine the chemical and structural changes of the normal fusion process and compare them with clefted embryos.

To create a cleft palate, the U-M researchers will give the mouse embryo a tiny dose of hormonal substance. For some reason not yet fully known, the drug blocks the fusion of the palatal shelves.

FACULTY CHOICE—May 23 was Awards Day at Redford Union High School, to recognize students for their outstanding performance in citizenship, scholarship and all-around school activities. Tops for his overall performance is Bill Fahey, who was awarded the RUHS Citizenship citation by unanimous election of the faculty. He is congratulated by High School Principal Fleming.

## British To Use Burroughs' Brain

The General Post Office of Great Britain has selected a Burroughs B5500 on-line computer system to assist nearly 5,000 scientists and engineers working on diverse projects in four London locations. The system is valued at \$1.25 million.

The system is being installed this summer in GPO's Telecommunications headquarters in Gresham Street, London. It will be linked to four research centers in that metropolis.

GPO reported that there are growing demands for computer time from the engineers and scientists who may be working on calculating satellite orbits, for trans-Atlantic communications, working on properties of a new micro-circuit, or designing mathematical models to simulate and optimize telephone networks.

The multi-programming B-5500 system also will provide computer time for researchers working on the latest techniques of postal mechanization, including automatic reading of addresses.

The system's automatic logging and internal accounting will enable Telecommunications headquarters to see that computer time is being shared effectively by the scientists and engineers using it.

C.A. May, head of the computer engineering branch of GPO's Telecommunications headquarters said, "This will be our first in-house multi-access computer. It was selected on its merits as an advanced and well proven system for coping economically

with a wide variety of complex evaluations with which we are increasingly faced. As much as 95 per cent of our workload is in the science-oriented high-level language ALGOL, for which the Burroughs software is particularly attractive."

The appointment of Melvin W. Haselbun as resident comptroller for the Fisher Body plant in Livonia, was announced today by Tyler R. Barrett, divisional comptroller.

Haselbun succeeds Herbert W. Horne who has been named resident comptroller at the Fisher Body Flintwood plant in Detroit. Both appointments were effective June 1.

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DENTAL ADVANCES

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