

# Citizens Join Clamor Against 'Hard' Pesticides

LANSING--In recent months, the Michigan Department of Conservation has voiced firm opposition to the continued use of certain persistent insecticides which have seriously polluted our state's environment. It took this stand only after exacting discussions, and in full expectation that there probably would be some misunderstandings and no small amount of

public backlash.

"Many persons in Michigan have apparently been more disturbed about the threat of these chemicals than we at first believed possible," notes Department Director Ralph A. MacMullan.

THIS CONCERN reared up last fall when the Environmental

Defense Fund, a group of public-spirited private citizens, invited 56 Michigan communities into court to stop them from further use of the persistent chemical DDT for Dutch elm disease control. So far, at least 33 Michigan towns and cities have agreed to stop using DDT in Dutch elm disease control in municipal tree-spraying and park

maintenance programs.

Much of the "pressure" for this very significant and progressive change came from concern expressed by residents of these communities. "We hope," says MacMullan, "that the remainder will soon join the widening public condemnation of such chemicals."

Of most encouragement to him, however, has been the concern shown by individual citizens and responsible organizations, both in Michigan and throughout the nation.

MOST WHO HAVE written to the department appear to be well aware of the problem. Sensed in their letters is an awakening awareness of the need to arrest the deterioration of man's environment.

"I would like to commend you on your courageous forward-looking program to prevent further contamination of our environment by the use of hard pesticides," wrote a former agriculture extension worker.

A housewife sent a five-page handwritten letter which starts: "I say hooray for the coho salmon if it means the end of DDT and other hard pesticides..." (DDT levels in Lake Michigan salmon have been shown to be dangerously high for reproduction of the coho.) Besides these and other supporting letters, MacMullan finds much encouragement in Gov. Romney's appointment of a highly qualified three-man

committee to come up with a statewide policy statement on the further use of pesticides.

Prior to this, the department had supported bills in the State Legislature which would set up a State Pesticide Control Board. Such a board would review all major pesticide uses in the state, and would recommend actions and methods which would control the uses of such chemicals in our environment.

MacMULLAN OBSERVES: "It may take some time to establish such a law, but it may safely be stated that some system of control along these lines is definitely going to be part of Michigan's future."

He stresses: "No one person, or group of people, or industry is responsible for the growing contamination of persistent pesticides—not the farmer, nor the suburban backyard mosquito fighter, nor the tree sprayer, nor the orchardist, nor the chemical companies, nor the forest products industry, nor any body of citizens. We are all involved and we are all guilty of past excesses."

Prefaced by an appeal for everyone to be "careful" and "responsible" with his thoughts and feelings on this subject, the conservation director makes these six points to clear up misunderstandings on who and what his agency opposes:

1. "We are not opposed to all pesticides, but only a few which are dangerous because they persist in the air, water, and soil for years and even decades after application with harmful effects on living organisms."

2. "We believe the use of these few chemicals—DDT, Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, and Lindane—should be strictly regulated and eventually eliminated as research develops effective substitutes for them. In addition, since publication earlier this year of the original list, we are now adding BHC and Toxaphene. These two chemicals are, like the others, persistent and harmful to our total environment."

3. "MOST SPECIFICALLY, we think DDT should be eliminated now, because there are good substitutes which meet the needs of agriculture, Dutch elm disease control, mosquito suppression, the home gardener, and the housewife."

Michigan State University stopped recommending DDT for Dutch elm disease control, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture recently canceled its use for mosquito control. "The finding that DDT is the most probable cause of coho salmon losses in our hatcheries is a clear and obvious signal that we have a serious problem in Lake Michigan. We just can't afford to use any more DDT in Michigan."

4. "Where effective substitutes that are safe for general public use aren't yet available, we agree that persistent insecticides may have to be used in isolated situations and where it can be assured they will not escape into the wider environment."

5. "When the use of persistent pesticides is proposed, the disadvantages or potentially harmful effects of this use should be carefully weighed against the expected benefits."

6. "We realize that the safer substitutes may cost more and may be less effective for the immediate purpose. These increased costs will be borne by the public—meaning all of us—just as the costs of water pollution control and other environmental protection programs must be the responsibility of society as a whole. A cleaner environment benefits everybody, and everybody will have to pay his share to achieve it."



THE ARTISTIC prize-winning poster designed by Norman Leich (second from right), a seventh grader at Lowell Junior High in Livonia, has the attention of Art Instructors Mrs. Donna Neff (center) and Miss Karen Schneider (right). The poster won third place honors in the Detroit Edison-sponsored safe kite-flying contest. The award was presented by George Anderson, manager of Edison's Westland Office. At left are John Harkness, member of Edison's public safety committee, and Julian Langlois (second from left), assistant principal at Lowell.

## Probe Into Secret Of Memory

NEW YORK--One of the most mysterious of human functions is one we use the most—memory.

Nobody knows exactly how it works and it is possible no one ever will. But the searchers are coming closer.

For several years now, brain scientists have been searching for memory traces, the chemical means by which experience is stored. From this search comes evidence that chemical action—synthesis of proteins—is probably required for memory storage; drugs which block protein synthesis also block the acquisition of learning.

But the fact that experience almost certainly alters the chemical structure of the brain does not mean that memory can be found there.

MEMORY IS NOT in the latest thinking, a fixed store of past experience. It is rather a dynamic changing process in which, theoretically, the brain's chemical substrate engages in constant computerlike activity and is subject to continuous alteration.

Scientists may never find the stuff of which memory is made because it is not composed of material only. It is hidden in the processes as well.

This view of memory was evident at an international conference on the Future of the Brain Sciences here. The conference, third in a series, was sponsored by the Manfred Sakel Institute, N.Y., and the Foundation for Research on the Nervous System, Boston.

"I AM SURE there is some structural change with memory," comments Sir John C. Eccles, Nobel laureate in

neurophysiology, now at the Institute of Biomedical Research in Chicago. "But memory will never be discovered through the microscope."

Countless millions of synapses, (nerve endings) are involved and the question is, how are their pathways different because of experience?

Searching for memory traces is like "looking for the difference between jazz and symphonic music by studying the

bumps on a record," adds Dr. Karl H. Pribram, neurosurgeon and psychologist at Stanford University.

A third participant believes scientists are reaching the limits of the kinds of questions that can be asked about memory storage. The important question once was, "Does anything happen chemically?" That question is now answered: it does. "Let's not start looking for specific traces," he says.



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BY JANE ASHLEY

Who Wants to Lick the Dauber?

If you have never shown your children how to make homemade ice cream, then beg, borrow or buy an old-fashioned ice cream freezer and join in the fun.

If you've never made it yourself, then beg, borrow or buy a freezer, and find out what fun it is to turn out a tub of incomparable homemade ice cream.

Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons corn starch  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3 cups milk  
1/2 cup light corn syrup  
2 eggs, slightly beaten  
1 cup light cream  
2 teaspoons vanilla

Combine sugar, corn starch and salt in double boiler top. Blend in milk, corn syrup and eggs. Cook over boiling water, stirring constantly, until slightly thickened, about 10 minutes. Chill. Stir in light cream and vanilla. Freeze in 2-quart ice cream freezer following manufacturer's directions. Makes about 2 quarts.

Chocolate Ice Cream: Follow recipe above, adding 1/2 cup cocoa with dry ingredients, substituting heavy cream for light cream, and decreasing vanilla to 1 teaspoon.

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