Learning Magnifies Noise

ANN ARBOR-The more education you have the more you may be bothered by noise from household appli-ances.

Researchers at the Acous-tics and Seismics Laboratory of The University of Michi-gan's Institute of Science and Technology have probed the reactions of 192 persons to appliance noise.

to appliance noise.

The laboratory reports that "there appears to be a strong frend toward bother-domeses increasing with educational levels. There can be little doubt that college -sducated individuals are more bothered with the sound stimuli presented than the remainder of the population."

Ranuts of the tests in the

Results of the tests in the iving room of a normally jurnished Ann Arbor home also indicated that comple-tion of high school might not be a factor.

"Those who completed high school, in fact, seemed slightly less bothered than those who attended high achool, but received no di-ploma," according to the re-

In the carefully controlled experiment, the researchers also found that those who were most bothered by the noise, although they were college graduates, did not rice-essarily have high incomes.

Many respondents were low-incomes. Many respondents were low-income graduate stitutes at the low-income graduate stitutes at the low-income graduate stitutes at the low-income with the present case it is possible to state with a rare degree of confidence that it is education and not income which is contributing importantly to the relationship" hereon noise and bother.

The researchers also discovered that persons with many appliances in their kitchen are less bothered when the sounds are at low levels. "At higher elevels, however, there is a tendency for this same group of people to be more bothered."

The research was conducted by a team of U-M faculty members including Norman E. Barnett, research physicist; Bruce E. Erickson, associate professor of architecture; and Robert Hefner, associate professor of psychology.



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