

# editorial opinion

Jackie Klein writes

## Think you've got problems? Listen to this week of woe...

What did you do for aggravation last week?

I bet I can top your list without really trying.

I read a bumper sticker that said, "Insanity is inherited. We get it from our children."

I didn't take it seriously until our daughter came home hysterical, refused to eat, do the dishes or do her physics homework.

"I think I flunked my Michigan Law Test in driver's training," she sobbed. What good is it to get an A in physics and trigonometry if I'll never be able to drive a car? How will I face the world still riding my 10-speed when I'm 45?"

THAT WAS the same night I had a ground breaking and rededication ceremony for my kitchen, which was closed for the summer. Guess who, besides my hysterical daughter, didn't come to dinner?

If you guessed it was my husband, you win the can of tuna fish he

wouldn't let me serve because he said it's not a meal, it's an investment.

Then I discovered the federal government is investigating faulty jars lids and home canners are rebelling.

"How do you expect me to save money if I can't even can?" I gloated. "What about those 137 herring jars lids you ground up in the garbage disposal," my husband rebutted. "May I suggest you learn how to use your appliances before you go into the canning business."

The next day, my husband took me to a football game for punishment. Who do you think he was talking about when he said 76,999 spectators put of 77,000 didn't ask who was up to bat?

That was only the weekend. In less than two days, at the beginning of the week, I interviewed Hugo, the operating restaurateur; Garnetta Haeger, a retiring city hall secretary; and Dr. Jones, who performed a hysterectomy on a dog.

WHEN I sat down to write, I couldn't remember if Dr. Jones sang

"La Traviata" (or was it the dog?). Garnetta had a hysterectomy or Hugo was going to retire.

On my day off, I took my grandson out for lunch and nobody fainted when I explained I wasn't his mother. I ordered a Burger King with onions and the waitress never sang, "Have it your way." The lunch was a flop and I'm still 'tasting the onions.

It was the kind of a week that if I finally got an obscene phone call, it would have been the wrong number. I cut out an article from a woman's magazine entitled, "Is Housework Obsolete?" The dog chewed it up before I could pin it to my husband's unironed underwear.

It was the kind of a week I wouldn't be surprised to get an anonymous note saying, "Love is never having to eat your cooking." Someone cut out an article on the back of my favorite crossword puzzle. I went through an identity crisis and couldn't even find myself in the yellow pages.

I dare you to tell me what you did for aggravation.

Carl Stoddard writes

## Man-made substance hangs at upper edge of atmosphere

In about 10 years our world may undergo a drastic and deadly change. The benevolent sun may suddenly scorch and kill us. And we'll have only ourselves and those little aerosol cans to blame.

That all sounds like good stuff for a science fiction story. But this story may just come true, in only 10 years. This is the story, as I understand it.

A NUMBER of scientists started looking at the propellant used almost universally in aerosol spray cans. This propellant is known as Freon and it has some interesting properties. You see, Freon is a great substance. It doesn't break down chemically after it is created in the laboratory. (Freon is not found naturally, it is man made).

So when the Freon, along with the hairspray or spray paint, is ejected from the can it simply hangs around. Millions of tons of Freon from aerosol cans are being poured into the atmosphere and almost nothing can break it down and return it to its natural elements.

One thing, however, can break down the chemical composition of Freon-ozone.

Ozone is similar to oxygen, except its molecules are rearranged differently and it is a little lighter than oxygen. Because it's lighter, it floats on the top layer of the atmosphere, maybe 10 or 15 miles above us. And it isn't good for very much, except blocking out the sun's ultra-violet rays.

IF THE RAYS aren't blocked out, the rays would probably do away with all plant life on this planet. Also, scientists say that ultra-violet rays tend to mess up our DNA molecules. DNA is responsible for our individual heredity make-up. With the DNA rearranged we might find ourselves with mutants or sterile humans.

Ultra-violet rays also can cause severe sun burns and skin cancer.

What worries scientists is that in about 10 years the Freon will erode the ozone layer to the point where it can no longer block out the sun's harmful rays.

Ten years is not a long time. Already, a number of scientists are getting together to discuss ways of preventing or circumventing the situation.

The possibility also exists, they say, that their predictions could be wrong.

But right now, the money seems to be on the side of those betting that the scientists are right.

According to a recent television program about all we common folk can do is put away those aerosol cans and wait a few months to see what the scientists can figure out. If they decide that the problem isn't as they suspect, go ahead and use the cans. If, however, it is as they have expected there will probably be a massive recall campaign.

WHATEVER you do, don't throw the cans away in the belief that you are preventing the Freon from going into the atmosphere. When the can gets discarded it may be crushed, broken open and the Freon allowed to escape.

Also, if you throw away your old refrigerator, be careful because the freezing system in it may also contain Freon.

And, if nothing else, you can take comfort in the fact that despite the number of shortages in this world we have at least one thing with continues to increase-Freon. In fact, it may well be around after we're all gone.

Pssssssssssss.

## From our readers

### League opposes 'C'

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes Proposal C, which will appear on the November ballot. One very important standard under the League's tax position is: "The legislature should have broad and fundamental taxing power, free of constitutional restrictions."

The constitution says the legislature shall impose taxes sufficient with other resources to pay the expenses of state government. By eroding the power of the legislature to tax, the benefits of a sound tax program are jeopardized. As regressive as a sales tax on necessities is, we believe it should not be banned constitutionally. It should be dealt with by law.

INNOVATIVE TAX MEASURES are important and necessary in a changing economy. For example, the now-popular "circuit-breaker" taxes

are hailed by all authorities as an excellent method of giving relief to taxpayers whose property taxes are an excessive burden. This past summer, our state legislature passed legislation giving sales tax on food and drugs relief to low income people. The LWV supported this act, and believe this to be an excellent step toward removing the regressive nature of the sales tax on food.

In supporting a moderately progressive tax system, the League displays its belief in the concept of a system based on the ability to pay. The sales tax on food fundamentally does not recognize or differentiate between ability to pay. It imposes the same tax on the same food regardless of what percentage of a person's income it costs. This proves to be an excessive burden on low income people, and the League believes this is unreasonable and unjust. However, by introducing the rebate concept, progressivity is introduced, and we believe

this is a sound procedure.

Many instances can be cited in the Michigan taxation system where progressivity has been introduced in an otherwise regressive or proportional tax. Exemptions, rebates, or credits are methods we have traditionally sought to alleviate conditions where ability to pay has been disregarded. We continue to support these methods of achieving what we and many tax authorities believe to be a good tax structure.

Constitutional bans and restrictions are a very serious detriment to a good tax system. The league will continue to oppose all efforts to increase such inflexibility, and will continue to support efforts to remove present constitutional bans and restrictions.

JoAnn Hubbard  
President, League of Women  
Voters of Troy  
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