

editorial opinion

Corinne Abatt writes

Lou Gordon should be careful

A good many of the sparks which flew at the Public Service Commission hearing on the Michigan Bell rate hike came from a power generator—television's Lou Gordon.

As promised on his Sunday evening television show, he was at the hearing on the Orchard Ridge campus to challenge the company and its executives.

As the current run of jokes go, there was some good news and some bad news. The good news is that Gordon's interest packed the house—an unusual occurrence at such hearings. The bad news is that Gordon, no mean performer, does not walk the high power line with consistent good judgment. He leans over to play to the crowd—sometimes obviously, sometimes subtly—although he can hardly be termed a subtle personality.

The concern is not his aim. But he had more than one motive—to question wrongdoing and to further himself.

HE INTRODUCED his wife and young sons—a ploy of political overkill. The only thing missing was the family dog.

Only one way to spread VD

Question: What is a "magic mushroom?" Answer: You are probably referring to the drug psilocybin which is derived from the "magic" mushrooms of Mexico and may be either extracted or synthesized. Psilocybin is a psychodelic drug which has initial stimulating effects, but is primarily a mind-active agent.

The chief effects of the drug in its pure form include mood alteration and changes in sensory perception. Real psilocybin, however, is rarely available. Most frequently the psilocybin on the street is a combination of PCP and LSD.

Question: Must there be intimate sexual contact to spread venereal disease?

Answer: Yes. The organisms causing these diseases cannot live very long when exposed to

light and air away from warm, moist areas of the human body. Thus, there is little danger of becoming infected with syphilis or gonorrhea from public toilets, door knobs, drinking cups or eating utensils.

Question: How long does it take before a blood test can accurately detect syphilis?

Answer: The blood test for syphilis is called the VDRL. Although it is a good test, it has its limitations. It cannot give accurate results before the disease has been present for at least four to six weeks.

Even then 24 per cent of the persons with primary syphilis have "false negative" results. The VDRL is 100 per cent accurate in cases which have reached the secondary stage of syphilis.

HE WOULD be wise to clean up his act and drop lines like, "Democrats are generally, not always, more interested in people than profits."

He is certainly familiar with the old truism, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Take note, Mr. Gordon—walk carefully and reverently under that high wire which carries the power.

Fragrances influence emotions

Almost everyone knows that colors affect us psychologically. Some colors have a cooling, calming effect; others are warm and stimulating.

Interior decorators use this knowledge to make certain rooms conducive to study, others more stimulating and better suited for lively conversation and entertaining, and still others more restful for sleep and relaxation.

But what many people have not yet learned is that fragrances may also be used this way. There is nothing wrong with using a certain incense in your home simply because you like it, just as there is nothing wrong with choosing a certain color scheme because it is pleasing to your eye. However, if you are also aware of the influence certain fragrances have on the emotions, you can employ them to your advantage in many situations.

HERE ARE SOME of the more common fragrances available in incense and their uses if properly employed.

Flax—increases ambition and energy; is often used in money spells. Job's Mixture—burned for patience. High John and Lavender—burned to stimulate love and affection.

Wisteria—burned for peace, tranquility, and relaxation.

Rose—a stimulating incense, burned for fast luck.

Sandlewood—for romance.

Oriental Mixture—for passion.

Jasmine—inspires dreams.

Cinnamon—promotes domesticity; puts a man in the mood to propose.

Bergamot—counteracts evil or bad vibes.

Frankincense—burned to aid in meditation and spiritual enlightenment.

Frankincense blended with Bergamot—for intellectual growth and concentration; helps one study well.

Most people are familiar with pressed incense sold in little blocks or cones, or on sticks, but incense is also available in other interesting forms with which you might like to experiment.

Liquid incense is fun to use, inexpensive, and can be very decorative as well as fragrant. I like to burn it in unusual containers such as champagne glasses, brandy snifters, rose bowls, etc.

This is done by filling the container at least three-quarters full with plain water to which you have added a few



drops of liquid food coloring of a color that will contrast and complement the color of the incense. Then pour in the incense, and it will float on top of the water.

Place a stiff candle wick with a weight on the bottom in the center of the container, and light it for a beautiful, fragrant decoration. Candle wick may be purchased in hobby shops or wherever candle wax is sold. Or, you can make it yourself by coating cotton cord with melted paraffin.

POWDERED INCENSE, which comes in many different strengths and qualities, is used by sprinkling it over burning charcoal. If you use this

method, be sure you have a raised incense burner that does not rest flat on the table, shelf, or floor, because it can get very hot.

I like to place the charcoal (I use the one-inch, self-starting kind) in the soil in one of my large plant containers. This is much safer, and there is no mess to clean up because the ashes blend nicely with the soil.

Take care to keep the hot coal far enough from the stems and leaves of the plant so that the heat causes it no damage, and you'll have no trouble. I've used this method for years, and my plants are still flourishing.

The most expensive incense is that in crystal form. It may be burned by itself, or in a special container, or sprinkled over the charcoal like the powdered form.

SCENTED CANDLES are very popular, but their fragrance is seldom as strong as that of incense.

In Europe, scented oils are placed in special ring-like containers that circle electric light bulbs, and the heat from the bulb releases their fragrance. These rings can not be obtained in the United States, but the same effect can be had by rubbing a tiny bit of essential oil on a cold bulb so that it heats slowly when the light is turned on.

Whatever method you use, fragrance should be subtle rather than overpowering. When using the stronger forms of incense, such as pressed, powdered, or crystallized, burn it when you are not using the room. The fragrance will hang in the air and cling to the drapes and furnishings, giving the desired effect, often without people being consciously aware of it.

When the fragrance is too strong, it can defeat the purpose by making people uncomfortable.

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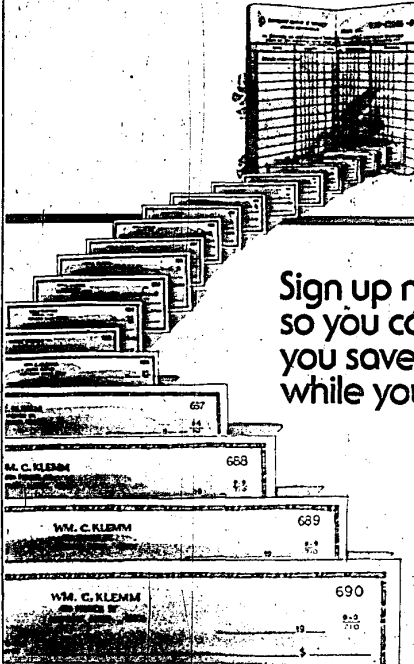
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