

THE PEOPLES JOURNAL

Home Births Threaten Obstetricians

They earn highest salaries

Threatened with losing a bit of their income that averages \$64,000 a year, obstetricians are complaining about the growing trend among fairly affluent women to have their babies delivered at home. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)--who earn the highest salaries of all primary care physicians--are especially angry about the increasing use of midwives.

ACOG executive director Dr. Warren Pearse claims that home delivery causes "material trauma and child abuse." But Judith Rooks of the American College of Nurse Mid-Wives recently retorted, "I wish Pearse would address himself to the significant number of poor women living in rural areas who are high risk maternity cases and can't afford a physician or go to a hospital to deliver."

A Modest Proposal

The National Peach Council has made a modest proposal worthy of Jonathan Swift. It was suggested that older workers who didn't intend to have children should be recruited to handle DBCP, a pesticide that has been implicated in causing sterility.

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This modest proposal was advanced as an alternative to banning the pesticide or updating agronomy practices to include the precepts of eco-agriculture.

The suggestion was offered by Robert K. Phillips, executive secretary of the Peach Council, in a letter to Eula Bingham, an administrator at OSHA. In a telephone interview cited by the Hemet News of Hemet, California, Phillips said the suggestion definitely was not tongue-in-cheek.

In addition to sterility, DBCP has been implicated as a cancer cause.

DBCP is made by Dow Chemical, Shell, and Occidental Chemical Company. (ACRES USA)

Do You Want to know How Expensive a Car Is?

By Mick Ranney

According to a 1976 Changing Times article, a new standard size car driven 10,000 miles per year for ten years would cost an average of \$17,878. This includes incidentals, but does not take into consideration inflation or the cost of pollution caused by the car and the resultant poor health. Similarly, a good quality bike can be purchased for \$150, with an annual maintenance cost of about \$30.00. If used for 10 years, the cost is \$450.00. Six miles, round trip daily by bicycle costs less than 2¢ per mile, as compared with 18¢ per mile for the automobile.

Poisoning the Pot

A two-year old campaign to eradicate marijuana with paraquat and 2,4-D is probably poisoning the pot that some young people like to smoke. Young people do not often listen to older people, and therein lies a sad tale.

Never mind whether pot is good for you or not. That's all besides the point. Fact is herbicides have been used to destroy opium poppies, but they do not always kill off the marijuana. The phenoxy herbicides leave a sickly yellow overcoat on the plant. When Mexican troops fail to torch the 2,4-D drenched fields, pot plants are harvested and the stuff is shipped north and into unsuspecting hands. Some 13 to 20 million people who listen to nothing about the problems of pot eat and smoke the contaminated material.

The phenoxy herbicide 2,4-D is bad enough. Cancer, deformed births, mental retardation, diseases of the nervous system--all are the legacy of 2,4-D.

Paraquat, if eaten, can mimic the symptoms of Legionnaires disease, according to EPA.

If chemicals are floated in on populations with reckless abandon in the United States, then for Mexico and Venezuela, it is

ladies and gentlemen hush! Recently the Venezuelan government under pressure from the U.S., started bombing marijuana in fields along a 75 mile corridor near the Colombian frontier. Used was Tordon 101 and Agent Orange (a combination of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, the defoliation goodie concocted for Vietnam).

The story is out that while Agent Orange reeferers have yet to hit the street, Mexican pot doused with herbicides has already glutted many city and suburban high schools.

"It is no longer just a matter of enforcement," one official has been quoted as saying. "Giving countries lethal herbicides to destroy pot is like giving a loaded gun to a three year old." (ACRES USA)



WINTER DIES!

HAPPY VERNAL EQUINOX!!!

Sorry if we seem gleeful, or even early in our prediction, but to commemorate the occasion PUBLIC NOTICE brings you well deserved peaks of sights you will be seeing in Kansas this Spring. Photo credits in People's Journal Pages: Jane Nichols 1; Jolene Babyak 2,6; Larry Schwarm 3,4,5.

