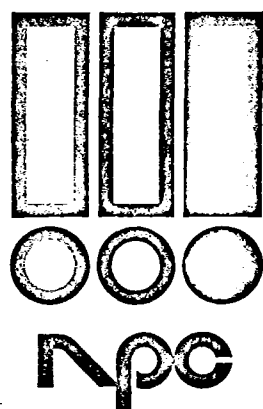


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11 December, 1972

Miss Joan LeBlanc, Publisher
MIDNIGHT
Globe Newspapers, Inc.
1440 St. Catherine Street, N.W.
Suite 625
Montreal, P.Q., Canada

Dear Miss LeBlanc:

Regarding a recent article appearing in MIDNIGHT (November 27, 1972), entitled "Newest Poison in Paint," we must take exception to the many erroneous statements presented.

For over three decades, the paint industry, acting in a responsible way, has voluntarily limited the use of soluble lead compounds in manufacturing. Since World War II, only minute amounts of lead have been used. In 1955, this industry cooperated with the American National Standards Institute in developing a standard of 1% lead in paint. The U.S. Congress has recently limited the amount of lead in modern paints of 0.5% after December 31 of this year, an action the paint industry wholeheartedly supported. Although lead poisoning is a serious problem in many urban areas, its cause is directly attributable to poor home maintenance and lack of parental supervision as well as from highly leaded paints made 30 years ago.

The false claim that paint now contains PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) is absolutely ridiculous. It shows that your publication does not care to check its assumptions before calling them facts. PCB's were at one time used as ingredients in plasticizers. However, the limited use of these chemicals in paints has completely halted since February of 1971. In fact, the Federal Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of PCB's except in closed-loop systems such as heat transfer units and electrical conductors.

Instead of public outrage against a historically civic-minded industry, as you call for, the public should indeed be outraged by this callous, deliberate disregard for journalistic standards. To paraphrase the article again, for too long the general public has been duped by unprofessional journalism such as yours.

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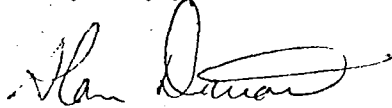
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Miss Joan LeBlanc
11 December, 1972
Page 2

A clarification of this article IN WRITING is not only appropriate, but I should think necessary on your part. I look forward to receiving a clip of the retraction

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Darrow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ALAN DARROW, Assistant Director
Communications Division

AD/pln

Enc.

DSW 282319

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