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Fred Stieg Takes Columnist To Task

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June 7, 1972

SIGNATURE

2201 Haskell Avenue
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
Gentlemen:

A magazine such as SIGNATURE should recognize its responsibility for avoiding statements unnecessarily harmful to any segment of industry, as well as to the public.

I refer to the item captioned **Lethal Lead** in Patrusky's column "Medicine on the Move" which appeared in your June 1972 issue.

You, and the "scientists" at Tulane are deliberately playing on the unreasonable fears that have been generated by self-seeking politicians over the dangers of poisoning from "lead-based" paints. Not enough of your readers will recognize that the adjective **empirical**, as used in your column, is defined as: relying on observation alone, often without due regard for system or theory.

In the first place, there have been no lead-based paints manufactured for interior home use for 50 years. And when they were manufactured, it was because the public demanded the type of paint then recognized as the standard of quality. Any other type of pigment used in paint was branded an "adulterant" by the legislation of several states.

The real cause of lead poisoning among children is the failure of landlords (and tenants) to maintain old apartment housing which was painted with these expensive paints in its better days. Rotting and crumbling walls are the true cause—not lead paint.

The "scientists" at Tulane have been making tests completely unrelated to the ingestion of chips of

lead-containing paint by children. Soluble lead compounds are being injected directly into the bloodstream of laboratory rats. The minute amounts of lead in modern paints are not soluble; the process of paint-making has encapsulated them in resinous envelopes which insulate them from any contact with the digestive process—much less the bloodstream!

Small chips of dried paint pass through the digestive system essentially intact, so it is absurd to make statements like "a small swallow of lead paint can prove fatal to an infant." Absurd—and harmful.

There has never been any scientific evidence that the normal amounts of lead compounds used in paint formulation are harmful to anyone when chips of dried paint film are ingested. Your magazine is doing a serious disservice to a large and respected industry by printing such irresponsible statements.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Fred B. Stieg, Manager
Product Planning and Promotion
Titanium Pigment Division
N L Industries

In order that American Paint Journal readers can better understand references made by Mr. Stieg in his letter to SIGNATURE magazine, the full text of Mr. Patrusky's comments on lead in his column follows:

LETHAL LEAD

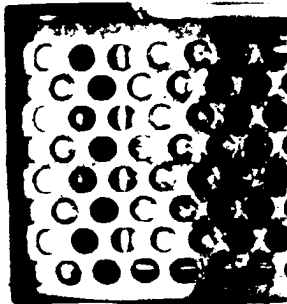
Scientists at Tulane University have come up with empirical evidence on a subject well-known to mothers, landlords and crib manufacturers—why a small swallow of lead paint can prove fatal to an infant. A recent series of animal experiments performed by this New Orleans research team shows that a very small quantity of lead can disrupt the body's resistance to disease. When an infant is involved, the breakdown of

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June 19, 1972

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Dr. Donald Wood Heads New Enjay Department



Dr. D. W. Wood

Houston, June 14 — Enjay Chemical Co. has announced plans to form a new Specialty Chemicals Department with a Specialties Division for oil field chemicals, industrial coatings and agricultural chemicals, and a Chemical Division for resins, cyclics, adhesive intermediates and hot melts. They will be headed, respectively, by J. F. Cheely and R. E. Dugat.

Donald W. Wood, who has been named vice president in charge of the department, brings to Enjay nearly 20 years of experience with affiliated companies. He joined Esso Research and Engineering Co. in 1952 after earning a doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois. He also holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While at Esso Research, Dr. Wood was an adjunct professor at Newark

College of Engineering and Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N.J.

In 1960, Dr. Wood moved to Standard Oil Co. (New Jersey) where he was involved in coordinating the company's worldwide chemical and refining operations. In 1963, he transferred to Esso Chemical S. A., Brussels, as manager of planning and marketing services. He moved to Hamburg in 1965 as manager of the Chemicals Department of Esso A. G. He returned to Brussels in 1966 as vice president for fibers and plastics and was later vice president for solvents.

Eclipse Systems Names Representatives

Fairfield, N.J., June 13—Eclipse Systems, Inc., has announced the appointment of G. & G. Associates, Birmingham, Ala., as sales representative for Eclipse products in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

G. & G. Associates will be responsible for sales and service to all users and distributors in the area.

Eclipse also appointed B. L. Radden & Sons, Inc., Lexington, Ky., as a distributor in the greater Lexington area and Paterson Paint Co., Paterson, N.J., as distributor in Northern New Jersey, Southern New York and Metropolitan areas.

Stieg replies (Cont. (Cont. from page 9)

this vital defense system may allow even a mild infection to become lethal.

Dr. Nicholas DiLuzio, spokesman for the Tulane group, explains that the lead interferes with the reticulo-endothelial system (RES), the body's first line of defense against disease. The RES is made up of sentry-like cells scattered throughout the body, which stand ready to nab and destroy harmful agents, including the poisonous endotoxins released by some species of bacteria—among them those responsible for diarrhea and other low-grade ailments to which the young are prone.

Without RES protection, DiLuzio says, the body becomes highly susceptible to endotoxin shock, a progressive and potentially fatal collapse of the circulation.

"When a small child has a very mild infection and ingests a very small quantity of lead," DiLuzio observes, "then we would anticipate dramatically increased severity of disease and cardiovascular consequences."

DiLuzio says the blood levels of lead necessary to produce endotoxin reaction in humans would be far below the level that produces lead poisoning. He cites one experiment in which as little as one milligram (.000035 ounces) of lead injected into a rat destroyed its RES and multiplied the lethal effect of endotoxin by 100,000. DiLuzio says this multiplication effect "could transform even a runny nose or diarrhea into a lethal disease" in the very young.

