

Features

Pollution robs world, inhabitants of potential

By CHARLIE MUSTACHIA
Battalion Reporter
Pollution robs us of potential, making the world less than it could be.

Cases harm our lungs, noise harms our ears, litter harms our streets, radiation harms our bodies. All of these pollutants also effect us psychologically, causing us, and the world, to fall short of our potential.

Dr. Alfred Zamm, a dermatologist and allergist who is also a pioneer in the field of clinical ecology, told People Weekly magazine the air in the average Amer-

ican home is more polluted than the air outside.

Zamm said the environment has an effect on our physical well-being. He said common household items such as furniture, floor polish, gas stoves, wallpaper and laundry detergents contain noxious vapors that can cause anxiety, depression, dizziness, headaches, rashes and fatigue.

Zamm said the major household offender is the gas stove. Women who spend a good part of their day cooking at gas ranges or cleaning with chemical based products such as ammonia, alcohol or turpentine can become moody, he said.

A malfunctioning furnace that

"How can one think creatively and logically when the air is filled with jingles and blasts of sound?"

leaks toxic fumes can result in poor school performance by exposed children, Zamm said.

Because indoor pollution can lessen the potential of its victims, Zamm advised avoiding it. For general home cleaning use natural products such as olive oil instead of furniture polish, he said. "If we limit our exposure at home we increase our chances outside in an uncontrollable setting," he explained.

Radiation is a pollutant and is a suspected cause of cancer. So it, too, is a potential-robber.

The children of producer Dick Powell, actor John Wayne and actress Susan Hayward fear fallout radiation was the cause of their parents' deaths. Each of the three celebrities died of cancer and each of them were present during the shooting of the film "The Conqueror." The film was shot during the summer of 1954 near St. George, Utah, 137 miles from the atomic testing range at Yucca Flat, Nev.

Of "The Conqueror's" 220 cast and crew members, 91 have con-

tracted cancer. Forty-six of them, including Wayne, Hayward and Powell, have died of the disease.

Noise is a pollutant that robs the world of its potential for peace and quiet. Poet Naomi Rachel said she is a refugee from sound that interrupts and finally cancels thought and privacy.

In Macleans magazine Rachel asked, "How can one think creatively and logically when the air is filled with jingles and blasts of sound?"

She said unwanted noise eliminates spontaneity. The "constant drone" dulls the world into a sameness that keeps us immune to surprise or action, she added.

A study of women who live in generally noisy areas where the noise fluctuates between 69 and 78 decibels (as opposed to 51 and 63 decibels in quiet areas) revealed that these women had more emotional and problems than the women blessed with quiet. The study was reported by Dr. H.W. Evertsen in the medical journal Acta Otolaryngol.

Evertsen said there are con-

nections from the central hearing pathways to the autonomic nerve system which prepare us at the slightest sign of danger.

Blood pressure, pulse rate, small blood vessel constriction and respiration are all affected by the body's response to noise, he said.

John Lattimore, Brazos county health department registered sanitarian, said there is a big awareness of pollution and environmental health among Brazos county residents. At least two people in Brazos county disagree.

Dr. J.C. Miller, president of the Beautify Brazos County Association recently organized an intensified campaign to rid Bryan-College Station of large, unwanted items such as old mattresses, tires, furniture, car parts or refrigerators. Mrs. Miller said these items sit near streets or in the yards of low-income Brazos County homes. But large trash items are also a problem in medium and high-income areas, she said, where they are kept in garages or backyards.

Besides their being a health and fire hazard, these items affect us psychologically, Mrs. Miller said.

"They keep us living in a condition which is not attractive," she said. "If the stuff keeps piling up and it becomes more than you can take care of, then all your life takes on this attitude."

The Texas A&M University Safety and Health Office regulates

pollutants that affect health by inspecting camps and making sure national standards and guidelines are followed. R.H. Stiteler, Jr., University and health officer.

But pollution isn't just trash, radiation, vapors and noise. Some streets and freeways robbed of tranquil and beauty by portable signs.

Some cities regulate amount of signs on their streets. Jane Kee, College Station official, said College Station strict sign codes that are enforced. Only those signs, advertising sales or grand openings, be placed near streets, she said.

Bryan's sign code is enforced well, said Hubert Bryan director of planning traffic.

Nelson said the city does not play enough workers to Bryan's sign code. There is a strict enforcement in the city until Bryan residents demand he added.

Whether Bryan-College Station has strict or lax sign codes, whether it has one polluted street, one litter-ridden street, one malfunctioning furnace, 1,000; these pollutants are believed to have psychological physiological effects on us.

And when we suffer, the sufferer — making it less than it could be.

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Reagan says shooting 'seems unreal'

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Wednesday the attempt on his life "still seems unreal" but he feels fine and does not plan any security changes in his presidency.

Reagan commented in an interview with United Press International and The Associated Press — his first face-to-face session with reporters since he was wounded March 30, as he put it, "three weeks and two days ago."

"It still seems unreal," Reagan said of the assassination attempt outside the Washington Hilton Hotel.

"I knew they had to be shots, and my first inclination was to see what was going on behind me."

The president walked a bit stiffly, but smiling, into the antique-filled Map Room on the ground floor of the White House, where the interview was held. Reagan's cheeks were rosy. Only his glistening eyes indicated he had been ill.

He said he is still feeling discomfort in his chest, but the pain is lessening and he is beginning to do exercises at "a slower pace."

"I don't think I'm going to hurdle any tables for a little while," he said.

"My recovery is as astonishing to me as it is to my doctors," he added.

Describing the shooting, Reagan said he felt a "paralyzing pain" as he was being pushed into the curbside limousine, but he did not immediately realize he had been shot.

Reagan said he experienced a sense of "panic" when he sat up in the car, speeding away from the scene, because he

felt as though he was "strangling."

"I knew I had been hurt, but I thought I was hurt by the Secret Service agent landing on me in the car and I must say it was a paralyzing pain. I described it as if someone hit you with a hammer."

Asked how he would feel in the future, Reagan grinned and said, "I have a hunch I will be more alert in going out again."

"There's not going to be any change because of it," said Reagan who repeated that he still felt "the whole unreality of it."

Of his accused assailant, John W. Hinckley Jr., Reagan said: "I hope, indeed I pray, he can find an answer to his problem. He seems to be a very disturbed young man. His parents must be devastated."

"I hope he will get well, too," the president said. Reporters were asked to limit their questions to Reagan's health and his feelings about the shooting.

Reagan, who has been gradually increasing his workload as his wounded left lung mends, indicated he expects to stay in family quarters a while longer.

He said he can accomplish much the same work in a more comfortable fashion there. "Actually, I don't think I'd be doing anything different" in the Oval Office, he said.

"Congress is in recess," he explained, "and there isn't anything more I can do in pushing" for support for his economic program "on the Hill."

Reagan has been waging a telephone campaign to line up

support for his budget and tax cuts and said the package "going along all right."

Reagan said he remains opposed to gun control. "I know of any place in the country where it's not against the law to carry a concealed weapon," he said. "So I don't think adding another law is going to make a difference."

"In fact I'm a little disturbed that they are focusing on gun control. What needs to be done is to solve the problem," he said.

Reagan also said he believes the permissiveness of the past years and "the unwillingness to hold a person responsible" has contributed to increasing crime.

"Oh you bet," Reagan declared when asked if he would hold open White House press secretary James Brady for job. Brady was struck in the head by a bullet during the attack. "I'm so gratified by the optimism about his recovery," Reagan said.

Reagan, who looked a bit thinner, said his appetite returned and he feels "wonderful."

He said his doctors told him to expect discomfort in his lung for a long time.

"It doesn't go away," he said. "There's that pain and discomfort that you have day by day, and I think it's less and less."

Reagan said that he is now taking afternoon naps. "That was never a habit of mine" but "I have found that I go to sleep."

Has his life changed? "Only temporarily," the president said. "I can't get a horse yet."

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