

Coating invented to protect walls

Driver tries to wipe out graffiti

United Press International
NEW YORK — The search for a weapon to foil graffiti vandals has produced a new knight to tilt lances with the army of spray can varlets.

Graffiti Control System Inc., of Tempe, Ariz., has acquired a formula for an anti-graffiti coat-

ing invented by a crusading ex-bus driver from Boston, Victor Rancourt.

"The product is a special clear polyester resin that resists penetration by spray paints or any other paint or stain," Dick Doane of the Tempe firm said. "You brush, spray or roll on

over a painted surface, preferably a latex paint. Then any graffiti, even that written with a so-called 'permanent' felt marker pen, can be wiped off quickly with a rag and solvent."

Doane said there are acrylic or epoxy resins on the market. They can remove any graffiti that can be dissolved by detergent and high water pressure without damaging the underlying surfaces. But all are sold with warnings recommending repainting after using a strong solvent to remove the graffiti.

He said that's nearly as expensive as sandblasting the surface and repainting.

On the other hand, Doane said, the resin formulated by Rancourt is completely resistant to a strong solvent he developed that will remove virtually all graffiti quickly.

Rancourt was a sort of knight. Graffiti offended him, Doane said, and he went about the country in his spare time for seven years giving free demonstrations of his discovery and making no serious attempt to

market it.

"Then he had a massive heart attack and decided he would have to capitalize on his discovery," Doane said. "We bought it and began marketing it in March 1981."

Doane's firm has licensed 15 distributors for the product. Most of them are on the West Coast, and some are in the Midwest, including UniSource Industries Inc. of Chicago. He said, however, the big market probably is in the eastern cities and they haven't even started to tap that area yet.

Stuart Packer of UniSource said lab tests indicate the coating will last indefinitely indoors and probably up to 15 years outdoors. The tests show the coating protects the paint underneath and provides a relatively easy way to get rid of graffiti.

The coating is not cheap, though. The original application will cost more than a coat of paint and, of course, should be applied over new or good paint. It can be applied only at temperatures above 50 degrees but once on will withstand virtually any temperature.

Packer said UniSource, which engages in general building maintenance, had sold about 185 kits to businesses and schools in the Chicago area and found the coating worked about as well on brick or porous surfaces as on hard surfaces.

The monetary losses graffiti vandals can cause on business premises costs millions of dollars. On public premises such as schools and New York City's subways, the losses would be even greater if the writings had to be removed quickly.

In New York the subway authorities fight an expensive and losing battle with the graffiti vandals. Doane said his company has talked with the New York Transit Authority but it hasn't sold any of the product to them yet.

Neither Doane nor Packer could offer any explanations for graffiti vandals. "As far as I can tell," Packer said, "they're just people that can't stand seeing anything that looks nice."

Doane was inclined to accept the theory that most graffiti vandalism is the work of young adult gangs, and the inscriptions are a kind of code understandable only to the vandals themselves.

What's Up at Texas A&M

Thursday

OUTDOOR EDUCATION INSTITUTE: A class on emergency medical care for outdoorsmen will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in 119B G. Rollie White.

UNIVERSITY QUIZ FILE: A drive to collect quizzes for the university quiz file will be today and tomorrow. Collection boxes will be located in Zachry, 101 A&A, MSC and the library.

TAMU MICROCOMPUTER CLUB: Dr. Norman Heston will speak on "Possible Applications of Computers in Veterinary Public Health" at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Zachry.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Special meeting featuring Melanie Alquist, regional traveling representative of Campus Crusade for Christ, will be at 7:30 p.m. in 108 Rudder.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Women's Bible study at 7 p.m. at 1002 Pershing Street.

AGGIE SCOUTS: Girl Scout cookie booth sales today and tomorrow in the MSC.

SURF CLUB: New movie "Thunder Down Under and Pacific Dreams" footage of Mexico, Hawaii, Calif. and Australia will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Heldenfels.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN AND DRAWING: A representative from Koh-i-noor will speak at 7 p.m. in 304 Old Engineering Building.

LAMBDA SIGMA SERVICE HONOR SOCIETY: Information session for interested freshmen at 6:30 p.m. in 228 MSC.

STUDENT "Y" SPRING PROJECT: Planning and discussion spring project will be at 6 p.m. in 401 Rudder.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL: Leave for Shero's Nursing Home to visit and sing at 6:30 p.m. in the University Lutheran Chapel, 315 B. College Main.

TAMU SCUBA CLUB: Final organization of weekend river dive trip at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC.

TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS: Meeting at 7 p.m. in 266 G. Rollie White.

TAMU EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

CIRCLE K: March plans and projects to be discussed at 7 p.m. in 520 Rudder.

Friday

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: There will be a retreat in Mexia Friday through Sunday. For information contact Greg Zouzalak (260-6660).

UNIVERSITY QUIZ FILE: Today is the last day for the drive to collect quizzes for the university quiz file. Collection boxes are located in Zachry, 101 A&A, MSC and the library.

AGGIE SCOUTS: Today is the last day to buy cookies in the MSC from the Girl Scouts.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Friday night bible study will be at 6:15 p.m. Check MSC video for the room number.

MSC AGGIE CINEMA: "Only When I Laugh" will be shown at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theatre. Cheech and Chong's "Nice Dream" will be shown at midnight.

MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Discussion of book review at 7:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: J. Brickner will discuss "The Christian Work Ethic" at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

TOYOTA OWNERS ASSOCIATION: Parts order and tuneup clinic at 7:30 p.m. in 321 Physics.

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Banquet 7 p.m. in MSC

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CAD System Engineer

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Associate Computer Peripheral Engineer

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Quebec cabinet officer quits in wake of shoplifting arrest

United Press International
QUEBEC — One of the longest-serving members of Quebec Premier Rene Levesque's Cabinet announced his resignation after being arrested last weekend for shoplifting.

Claude Charron, a 12-year veteran of the Quebec Legislature and a member of the separatist government, looked tense and drawn but spoke without

emotion as he told reporters about the incident.

In his letter of resignation, Charron, 35, told Levesque "I have no longer the quality to sit at your side."

Charron, according to court officials, was scheduled to appear Wednesday in Municipal Court after being arrested for stealing a jacket from Eaton department store in Montreal on

Saturday. It was not known whether he would be charged against him.

"I chose two jackets," Charron said. "I had one on, and paid for the other without admitting I was wearing first."

"I found it very easy to leave the store, and they caught me. Then I realized the stupidity of what I'd just done."



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