

'Legislators' outlaw all ozone destroyers

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Steve Schott has a nightmare that he hopes will never come true.

In it, the McQuaid High School senior envisions a balmy sunny day in the year 2010, when he decides to take his children out for a walk. Despite 80-degree temperatures, he encourages them to wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. The children protest, but they know it's for the best — the TV news reported more depletion in the earth's ozone layer, which screens out harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Exposure to such radiation can cause skin cancer, so the Schotts don't want to take any chances.

As they step outside their house in suburban Rochester, the Schotts breathe in the warm air, which has long since been polluted by the burning of such fossil fuels as petroleum. Through their protective sun goggles, family members exchange loving looks as Steve sighs.

"If only my kids could remember how it was," he thinks to himself, as the stench of a nearby garbage dump wafts through the air. "Those were the days — when you could run around in your cut-offs and your T-shirt and not think twice about it."

Schott believes now is the time to think twice about the destruction of the earth's environment. "It's no longer any excuse to say, 'What difference do I make? I'm only one.'" Schott says. "That's the attitude that got us in this mess."

In particular, the depletion of the ozone layer by the use of chlorofluorocarbons worries Schott, who was among 20 McQuaid students who attended the Youth and Government Conference in Albany

from March 9-12.

The conference, sponsored by the YMCA, drew about 400 high school students from throughout New York state to simulate the creation and enactment of law in the state legislature. Schott played at being a senator for four days, but the game aroused in him some serious concerns about the environment.

"Chlorofluorocarbon release is something that the previous generation is leaving behind as a mistake," Schott remarks. "And it is great thing when you can see that the future leaders of this country are willing to make whatever sacrifices necessary to eliminate their usage."

Those sacrifices include the elimination of businesses and products which produce CFCs by 1992, which was one of the provisions of a "bill" passed by Schott and his peers at the conference. CFCs are found in such products as refrigerators. Schott's classmate, James Sobieraj, proposed the legislation.

The bill also called for a sales tax on petroleum-based fuels to discourage consumption, and for two recycling plants to be established in the state. The plants would have plenty of business since the bill also mandated that citizens separate their garbage into separate containers for recyclable and non-recyclable products, which would be collected in each municipality.

The bill's sweeping proposals did meet some opposition from some of the students. Sobieraj overrode objections to the outlawing of CFC-producing businesses by pointing out that while the short-term losses of unemployment would be painful, the long-term effects of the sun's harmful radiation on people would be far more difficult



to bear.

To soften the blow to businesses, especially those whose profits would be hurt by a petroleum tax, Sobieraj included a tax break for companies that plant trees in the state. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a by-product of fossil fuel burning. Scientists have stated that the increase of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere is responsible for a "greenhouse" effect, whereby heat from sunlight is retained at the earth's surface because the carbon dioxide absorbs the long-wave radiation emitted by the earth.

This absorption could create a global warming trend, melting the polar ice caps and raising the oceans' sea level, which would flood low-lying areas of the planet.

The students passed the bill by a margin of about 65-1, Schott said, noting that the wide margin is a good harbinger for changing the prospect of a bleak future. "There are a lot of people concerned about the environment and are willing to do anything they can about it," he said.

Sobieraj, who spends much of his free

time researching the continuing destruction of the environment, saw the conference as a way of reaching some of the better minds among young people in the state — young people who may grow into adult leaders.

But Sobieraj is not waiting until he gets elected to the state legislature to fight pollution. Currently, he is working with McQuaid's administration to phase out the use of such disposable styrofoam products as trays and dishes in the school cafeteria. Styrofoam is not biodegradable, and its use is contributing to the piling up of garbage at landfill sites throughout the United States which are already nearing capacity, he said.

The McQuaid senior also plans to submit a proposal to the school's budget committee to buy a dishwasher and permanent dishes for use by next fall, and he predicts a positive response.

Sobieraj's actions are heartening to Schott, who has this advice for everybody who calls the earth their home: "Start taking care of this planet like your every movement affects it, because it does."

COMING OF AGE

By Christopher Carstens
NC News

Maybe you'd like to save up for a car or want to buy some designer jeans and shirts. But whatever the reason, you've decided your allowance is not going far enough, and asking your folks for more money does not seem like a good plan. It's time to get a job.

Getting that first job requires real effort on your part. You have to go out job hunt-

First job depends on first impressions

ing and be persistent, because landing your first job may take several months. These guidelines will increase your chances.

- Start humble. Lots of teens want their first job to pay \$6 an hour and they do not want to fry burgers. There aren't many high paying jobs for teens, and those few almost always go to kids with work experience.

- Do not hang all your hopes on one job. Weeks can pass between putting in an application at the Puppy Palace and finding out if you'll get the job. Apply for several

jobs, and keep submitting new applications until somebody hires you.

- Remember the importance of first impressions. Employers who hire teens depend upon finding employees who are neat, who show up on time, work hard and are easy to get along with. If you do not have job experience, the employer cannot know if you meet these standards.

- Even before meeting you, the employer meets your application form. If it doesn't make a good first impression, you won't get an interview. Fill it out neatly and completely. Always use an erasable ball-point pen and print if your handwriting is poor. Check your spelling carefully.

- Dress correctly for the interview. Your clothing starts talking before you get to say a word. A good rule of thumb is to

wear the same kind of clothes you would wear to church. You do not have to be fancy, just neat and appropriate.

- Be on time for the interview. The main complaint employers have about teen employees is that they are not punctual. Whatever you do, don't keep a prospective employer waiting even one minute — that's about the worst sort of first impression you can make.

Getting your first job can be tough, but if you follow these steps and focus on making a good first impression, it won't be long until you are cashing a paycheck.

Dr. Carstens is a clinical psychologist in San Diego, Calif.

Today's Camp Fire for TODAY'S KIDS

Today's Camp Fire is for today's kids. Today's Camp Fire is Camp Fire Boys and Girls.

Today's Camp Fire teaches boys and girls self-reliance and good citizenship. Through contemporary programs and by speaking out on issues that affect young people and their families, today's Camp Fire is helping kids cope with their changing world.

In today's Camp Fire, the choices and opportunities are wide open for boys and girls. They develop confidence and acquire skills needed to become tomorrow's leaders.

During the month of March, Camp Fire is celebrating its 79th birthday in our community. To find out more about today's Camp Fire, contact your local Camp Fire council.



Rochester - Monroe County Council

(716) 271-0570



Space donated to the Ad Council as a public service of The Catholic Courier.

HOUSE OF GUITARS

Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98
CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each

We received 7 correct entries identifying Stevie Wonder as the blind musician that wrote "Until you Come Back to Me."

The winner was Nicole Novack of Seneca Falls.

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

What European city contains the "Penny Lane" of which the Beatles sang?

A: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

School: _____

Rules:

Each week, the Catholic Courier, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Catholic Courier. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Catholic Courier
Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624