

**Kaiser  
Konsumer's  
Korner**

By Inez Kaiser



Now that school is out and summer is finally upon us one important concern of all consumers should be the safety of our little ones.

Children are constantly exploring, testing, learning and growing and these experiences need to be happy ones not marred by pain and tragedy. However, they cannot be held responsible for their inquisitive and carefree natures.

It is the responsibility of all adults who come into contact with children to help minimize and prevent some of the accidents, possible fatalities and hazardous conditions that can become part of a child's daily existence.

Those of you that are parents, expectant parents, teachers, day care workers, baby-sitters or are in any way responsible for the care and safety of young people need to become more aware of and familiar with means of protecting children against potential hazards during their play.

Toy stores and department stores are exceptionally busy during the summer months. Many parents are in search of games and toys to occupy the hands and minds of their children. The selection of toys should be given as much forethought and contemplation as one would give in selecting a major appliance or luxury.

You must not take for granted that because a particular toy is on the market means that the safety of that toy is insured. A toy that looks safe on the shelf may indeed be a potential hazard in the home. You must consider that your inquisitive youngster will taste, pull, tear, throw, stick fingers in and poke with any parts that can be manipulated in that manner.

Taking this into consideration, you must ask yourself certain questions about the toy. Is the toy free of small parts that can be swallowed? If it is a fabric product is it labeled flame resistant? Is the toy strongly constructed, free of sharp points and edges that can easily be swallowed, and is it electrically safe.

Edges of toys should be rolled or turned in and corners rounded. Items such as wheels or wooden toys and pull cords should be fastened with staples - not carpet or thumb tacks. The material of the toy should be such that if broken, sharp edges will not be produced.

Since all toys are not suited for all children, you need to become a careful label reader. Age recommendations placed on toys are not solely for determining the child's age at mastering a skill, but more importantly for the child's safety. If your child has reached the age where sophisticated toys such as chemistry and archery sets, air rifles, tool kits and knives appeal to him then you take on the added responsibility of taking time to supervise his use of them.

Once the toys are in the home, make your child a more responsible person. Provide a safe place for storage of toys and enforce their using of this space. Tell them to inform you of their toys that become broken. They should either be disposed of or repaired.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is concerned with your child's safety. They have stopped the sale of a number of toys that present thermal, electrical or mechanical hazards. Do your part in working with them toward minimizing accidents during play. Remember toy safety is not child's play, it is an adult responsibility you owe to yourself and to your child.

**NEW DAY BEGUN**

by

**Benjamin L. Hooks**



Americans deeply concerned about the extensive and continuing onslaught on recent civil rights gains have been correctly troubled by the Supreme Court's decision ordering the admission of Allan P. Bakke to the University of California, Davis Medical School.

The court ironically ruled that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which had been enacted during the height of the civil rights turmoil in 1964 to help blacks overcome the history of racial discrimination, prohibited the exclusion of Bakke, a white 33-year-old engineer, from admission among the 16 places that had been reserved for disadvantaged minorities.

By this decision, Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall eloquently lamented, the Court had "come full circle." The court's only black member traced the American history of racial discrimination and the repeated attempts to remedy these injustices.

He applauded the Court's decision that a university may consider race in admissions. But he maintained that "it is more than a little ironic that, after several hundred years of class-based discrimination against Negroes, the Court is unwilling to hold that a class-based remedy for that discrimination is permissible."

Bakke's admission, also joined the other four dissenters in upholding the constitutionality of affirmative action programs for ending the effects of past discrimination.

It would therefore be disastrous for blacks to conclude now that the court's ruling signalled a defeat for affirmative action. This defeat can only be possible if we ignore the full significance of the Court's ruling in Bakke and subsequently in the case involving the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Five days after delivering its Bakke decision, the Court indicated its strong support for affirmative action programs to end job discrimination. It left standing a lower court decision upholding a 1973 consent decree requiring AT&T to hire more blacks and women.

Recognizing the need to halt the negative psychological effects of the decision ordering Bakke's admission to the University of California, the NAACP will hold a conference in Detroit on July 22 and 23 to study the full implications of the future affirmative action thrust.

Such a conference would have been one of Thurgood Marshall's first moves when he led the NAACP legal struggle against school segregation. Indeed, it was the genius of Mr. Marshall himself and the NAACP that whole strategies were built on such half-victories. Through little openings in the law (and even defeats), Mr. Marshall led the drive that brought the landmark decision in BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION. This was a painstaking process that took about 20 years.

So let us declare now that the civil rights movement is not dead. If anyone thinks that we are going to stand by and let the institutions of higher learning again become citadels of privilege for the whites and the wealthy, they had better reassess their intellectual powers.

We are now and forever steadfastly committed to integrating every institution in America. We are deliberately pursuing a course that will break down patterns of exclusion of blacks from jobs, from housing, from the benefits and opportunities that have been made available to others without regard for skin color.

We are challenged, not stopped, by the Supreme Court's Bakke decision.

*Happiness*

*Through*

by

Otto McClarrin

*Health*

POISON IVY (*Rhus radicans*) is the cause of the most common skin disease in the United States. Therefore, during these summer months when much time is spent out-of-doors, you should make a special effort to avoid contact with ALL GREEN PLANTS WITH THREE LEAVES.

The family of plants to which poison ivy belongs includes oakleaf, found in the southeastern part of the country; poison oak, found in California, Oregon and Washington; poison sumac, which is distributed from the eastern seaboard into Louisiana and Minnesota; and poison ivy, which can be found in every state except California and Nevada.

The plants usually grow in the form of vines or ground shrubs (poison sumac does not appear as a vine) and may occasionally reach the height of a small tree. The chemical compounds (catechols) produced by these plants have erroneously been called poisons when in actual fact they are allergens (substances capable of producing allergic reactions).

NO REACTION TO FIRST EXPOSURE

The very first exposure to poison ivy will not produce a reaction. However, if a person has become allergic, the second exposure will result in a dermatitis within seven to ten days. Subsequent exposures may reduce the time of the onset of symptoms from a few hours up to two days.

No one should assume complete immunity to poison ivy, since repeated exposure may produce the disease. Only the area of the body which had been in contact with the plant is affected; the severity of the eruption is dependent on the amount of allergen deposited on the skin and the allergic sensitivity of the individual.

SOAP WILL DESTROY THE ALLERGEN

Washing the skin immediately after contact will reduce the chances of developing symptoms. Therefore, it is important to rinse the affected skin area thoroughly to be sure that all traces of the allergen has been removed. The disease cannot spread by releasing the blister fluid through scratching.

The effect of spreading is achieved by the response of areas of the allergen because of the varying amounts deposited and the period of exposure. Thus, a person may notice blisters appearing on his fingers and later his arms simply because he had far more of the allergen on his fingers.

CALAMINE LOTION HELPFUL

After washing off the allergen to reduce the effect of the disease, the use of cold water compresses to reduce itching and inflammation is advised. Calamine lotion, when used early, will help to dry up the small blisters. Oral antihistamines may also help to reduce itching. In severe cases your physician may use a local or systematic cortisone treatment.

Scratching of the blisters can occasionally result in the development of secondary infections. The use of various patent medicines is generally not advised since some may contain ingredients which produce equally uncomfortable allergic reactions.

To prevent poison ivy learn to recognize the various plants in this family and then keep as far away from it as possible. If such plants are growing in or near your property you may wish to explore the use of herbicides with your agricultural extension agent (or some similar knowledgeable person - depending on where you live) to rid your area of this major nuisance.

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