

Minibikes prove to be toys of destruction

The motorization madness sweeping the country today deserves our consideration. That is why we are reprinting this editorial by Dr. Lawrence R. Berger of the University of Washington, which originally appeared in the December 1978 issue of Pediatrics. (Vol. 62, No. 6).

As early as 4 years of age, children may drive their first minibike. For kids, the minibike is plenty maxi, reaching speeds up to 80 kph (50 mph) with engines of 1 to 4 hp. With a wheel diameter less than 25 cm (10 in) and a seat height under 64 cm (25 in). The minibikes are marketed as children's "toy's" despite their adult-sized hazards. The minibikes are usually the first of several other motor achievements. Trail bikes are popular with the elementary school set. Astride a trailbike, 10-year-olds roar down hills in clouds of dust, turn wheelies on graveled pavement, and leap deep gullies in a single bound. Motorboats provide a last frontier of laissez-faire: Anyone old enough to hold a wheel is free to cavort in America's waterways without traffic cops, stop signs, or any other burdensome government regulation. Should our driven and driving children be faced with inclement weather, snow mobiles provide a perfect escape from the dreariness of self-propulsion. The pinnacle of motor development? Their own car, or better yet, motorcycle, made available to them two to five years before legal drinking age through the good graces of driver education.

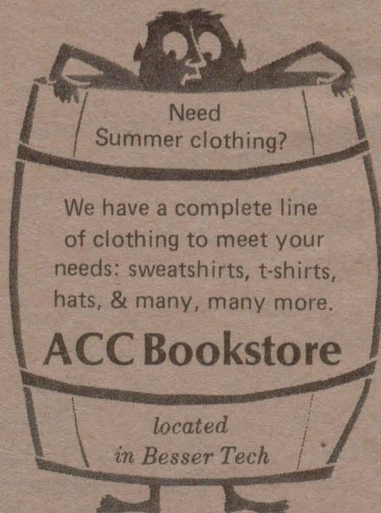
What of the values that our motor-hungry children are imbibing? Speed and power, not esthetics or self-achievement, are the important goals. Independence and autonomy, not sharing and cooperation, are stressed. Terrorizing other people is more fun than interacting constructively with them. High-priced activities, like steering a motorboat or bouncing on a snowmobile, are exciting; inexpensive pursuits, like hiking or swimming, are dull. Environments are prized according to the availability of roads to haul minibikeladen trailers and fuel stations to feed gasoline tanks. Tranquility, and natural beauty become quaint irrelevancies. Rather than drawing closer to the earth, appreciating its smells and sights and sounds through

nonconsumptive and nondestructive pursuits, the object is to get across territory in the fastest, loudest, and scariest way possible.

Finally, how much can a family share when all its members are driving off in different directions on their own vehicles? If parents bought their kids skis instead of snowmobiles, bicycles instead of trailbikes the money saved could pay for more life-enhancing motor activities—dance classes or piano lessons, for instance. Better yet, parents might save enough money to be able to spend a few extra nights or weekends with their children, skiing, walking, or just talking with each other. Kids might discover that their parents are more interesting people than they suspected, and parents might find that their children have much to teach them.

If I had my way, child-sized motor vehicles simply wouldn't be manufactured. Just as many states have outlawed the sale of dangerous fireworks, so, to, could federal or state legislation forbid the sale of these vehicles. Even without additional legislation, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has the power to recall and ban hazardous products. Perhaps if they received enough letters from physicians treating children with motor-vehicle related injuries, they'd be prompted to act. Finally, no person should be allowed to pilot any motor-driven vehicle—on or off public roads or across waterways or in the air—without a license.

"Modern Motor Milestones," an editorial by Dr. Lawrence R. Berger reprinted from the Dec. 1978 issue of Pediatrics, with permission of the author and publisher.



Windjammer performs at Arts Festival

Northern Michigan handicappers and the Alpena Community have joined forces to present one of the state's eight 1980 Very Special Arts Festivals. The festival will be held at the Alpena Community College East Campus from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Thursday. A highlight of the festival will be the Windjammers concert from 5 to 6 p.m.

Sponsored locally by the Alpena Montmorency Alcona Intermediate School District, the event has drawn participation by the Alpena Public Schools, Alpena Community College, Gaylord Alpine Regional Center, Northland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, NEMROC, the Michigan Commission for the Blind, and area nursing homes, senior citizen groups and associations for handicappers.

The festival will center around arts and crafts demonstrations with participation activities and an arts exhibit. Purpose of the festival is to create an awareness of arts and crafts by handicappers, public awareness of handicappers' arts and crafts capabilities and talents and to give area artists an opportunity to work with handicappers.

Chairman of the festival is Gib Hoffman, Pied Piper director. Committee members and participation artists are: Ada Dickinson, Mary Findley, Sam Machulis, Joel Cooper, Marion Cook, Sue Williams, Ron Hamilton, Gene Reimann, Gill LaLonde, Marcia Jenneman, Shirley Weaver, Roger Philips, Pat Bunce, Jan Melville, Cookie Spangler.

The public is invited to attend the festival and participate with handicappers.

Campus holds Cow Day

"Cow Day" was held on the Oregon State U. campus recently. Farm animals were corralled on the campus green and students participated in such events as hay pitching, hog calling and milk chugging.

earth publishes special anniversary edition

This year, 1980, marks a decade of continuous excellence for ACC's earth magazine. In celebration of its tenth anniversary issue, earth will publish a special edition with its first fullcolor cover and an anthology of past issues.

Earth has occupied an important niche in the ACC community. It has served as an outlet for talented writers, artists, photographers and printers. It has also served as a thread of continuity here at ACC. earth adviser, Terry Hall, expressed that, "It is one of the few traditions at ACC."

earth began as an alternative to the unpopular ACC yearbook. Adviser Hall comments that the Debris "was so bad that no one would even steal them." The name earth symbolizes that which is basic simple and fruitful. Originally represented by the black earth of the ground, earth has evolved to mean green, growing things.

Following this idea, is this year's cover: a close-up of a quivering green leaf. On the inside, the magazine is unified by the lifestyles theme. Special features include the photography of Dave Miller, winners of the earth shortstory and essay contest, and artwork by Kevin Edwards.

Copies of earth will be on sale for \$1 in May. Credit goes to co-editors, Rex Eccleston and Deb Beroset, assistant editor Kim Schaudt, Business Manager Mike McCormack, Advisor Terry Hall, and, a small but dedicated staff.

Frats party with principle

Stanford, CA (Ch)- Stanford fraternity members had a chance at free beer, a live band, prizes, and gorgeous women...and turned it all down.

The problem for the Stanford Interfraternity Council was that all these goodies were to be provided by Penthouse Magazine, in return for campus publicity, at a charity carwash. The Women's Center on campus opposed the Penthouse offer, saying the "images of women such as those in Penthouse perpetuate violence, rape, battery and child molestation."

IFC President John Kinney agreed with the women and by a one-vote margin, fraternity members went along.



CAMPUS UPDATE

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