

Spray-gun saves sloppy slip-ups



The Aerosol Spray-Gun snaps easily onto any aerosol spray can.

A new product designed to fight the inconveniences of using aerosol containers has been devised by a Toronto-area company.

The Aerosol Spray-Gun is a hand-held, portable tool that snaps easily onto any aerosol spray can, turning it into a professional spray gun. A gentle squeeze on the trigger is all that is needed to direct a continuous even spray over any surface. There are no lengthy preparations and no messy clean-ups.

The Spray-Gun is available for \$2.50 (plus \$1 postage) from Howard Ross Group Inc., 2108 Lakeshore Rd., Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7R 1A3.

Video game nominated for awards

A caveman on a stone wheel is paving the road to success for the games and graphics division of Vancouver's Sydney Development Corp. in British Columbia.

B.C.'s Quest for Tires, a video game produced by Sydney and based on Johnny Hart's internationally syndicated *B.C.* comic strip, has received two nominations for the "academy awards" of the US video game industry.

The Computer Software-Video Game Awards are sponsored by *Billboard* magazine. Nominees in four of the nine award categories were chosen by computer software retailers.

Quest for Tires has been nominated for best use of graphics and sound for a video game, and best packaging and in-store promotion on a video game title.

Quest for Tires chronicles the adventures of *B.C.* character Thor the caveman, whose trademark is his stone unicycle. Players have to make Thor dodge rocks, leap lava pits and cross serpent-filled rivers to rescue his ladylove from a hungry dinosaur.

Quest for Tires took eight months and \$250 000 to develop at Sydney's games division, located in Ottawa. It hit US stores last October, and versions are available for ColecoVision, Atari, Apple, IBM-PC and Commodore 64.

Sydney has North American cartridge and disc rights to *B.C.* and *The Wizard of Id*, another Johnny Hart strip.

Colour coded smoke poison

Thanks to a new colour-coding system being developed by researchers at a laboratory in Kitchener, Ontario, smokers will be able to tell how much tar and nicotine they have drawn from a cigarette every time they butt one out.

Matching a used cigarette filter with the appropriate hue on a coded chart would indicate at a glance how much of the harmful materials have passed through the filter and into the smoker's lungs.

The charts would differ to account for the strengths of various brands, said Bill Rickert, a biochemist and president of Labstat Inc.

He said the charts would also be a more accurate indicator of tar and nicotine actually absorbed than the readings given on cigarette packages, which do not take account of how strongly the smoke is inhaled.

The code colours generally change with the amount of tar and nicotine in tobacco, how strongly the smoke is inhaled and how much smoke goes through the filter, said project coordinator Liz Lawless.

Someone who smokes a cigarette right to the butt would produce a darker filter than the person who leaves the cigarette in the ashtray most of the time.

Both may smoke a pack a day of the same brand but their tar and nicotine intake would be drastically different, said Liz Lawless. Reading the numbers on the side of the package is not going to give them any indication of how their own smoking style affects the intake of harmful substances.

Using filters from ten brands of cigarette, laboratory volunteers have narrowed the colour coding from about 100 possibilities to 19. The laboratory hopes to narrow it further to 11 colours that would be tested under various smoking conditions.

Although a final chart may be several years away, Bill Rickert would like to see a health agency or the government distribute copies to smokers. They could be included on the inside of matchbooks or given to people in quit-smoking programs.

"The very existence of the chart will emphasize the fact that the values (tar and nicotine) depend on how you smoke."

Other research at Labstat has shown that people who switch from high-tar brands of cigarettes to a low-tar brand may smoke with an increased intensity, so they get the same amount of nicotine.

Stamp marks Montreal Symphony Orchestra anniversary

The Montreal Symphony Orchestra, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, is the subject of a new 32-cent stamp to be issued March 23.

The occasion will be marked by a special ceremony to be held March 24 at Mirabel international airport immediately prior to the orchestra's departure on its sixth international concert tour to Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Britain.

First known as the Société des Concerts symphoniques de Montréal, the orchestra, founded in 1934 in the east end of Montreal, ushered in its first years under the artistic direction of Wilfrid Pelletier. Over the years the orchestra won international acclaim under directors Désiré Defauw, Otto Klemperer, Igor Markevitch, Zubin Mehta, Franz-Paul Decker, Rafael Frübeck de Burgos and Charles Dutoit, its current director.

Since its founding, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra has won an impressive array of top musical awards including the Palme d'or at the XVIth International Festival of Prague. The design on the stamp is built on the idea of a musical score. Created by Pierre Kohler and Jacques Delisle of Montreal, it shows orchestra members in concert, interspersed like notes amongst the five-line staff used for musical notation.

