

# Cancer Inc.

WATERLOO (CUP)—The cancer mortality rate is on the rise and we must accept that there is no safe level of exposure to chemical carcinogens, says Dr. Samuel Epstein, author of the Politics of Cancer and a professor at the University of Illinois.

Speaking at the University of Waterloo, Epstein said the mortality rate will increase as the level of production of synthetic organic chemicals increases. The most affected people, he said, are those who work in the chemical industry and those who live in the immediate vicinity, although no one is exempt from the risks.

This fact should be of particular concern to residents of Alberta, said Epstein, since the province is on the verge of becoming the greatest petrochemical center in the world.

If Alberta is to prevent itself from becoming another Louisiana, the chief petrochemical area in the US where the mortality rate has risen dramatically in the past few years, the government must act quickly. Epstein said Alberta must ensure that effective safety measures are in-

troduced into the designs of planned industrial complexes.

Epstein criticized the chemical industry for downplaying the health risks posed by carcinogens in the environment and said it has also been reluctant to accept its share of the blame for the growth of cancer.

He stated that Monsanto, a producer of plastic bottles for Coca-Cola, had a bottle on the market before carcinogenicity tests were completed. The bottles were subsequently found to be highly carcinogenic, releasing 15 to 20 parts per billion of vinyl nitrite into the soft drinks.

The chemical industry also often suppresses information which proves the cancer causing effects of industrial carcinogens, said Epstein.

Obviously they're not going to present data which will undermine the marketability of their product."

Epstein accused the industry of conspiracy, distortion and manipulation of information. "There are a substantial number of executives in industry who should be accused of manslaughter."

Cost estimates for cleaning up the workplace have been so distorted that it seems to be fiscal suicide, said Epstein. However, he said, these estimates ignore the costs incurred if the clean up is not done (\$35 billion a year is spent on cancer treatment in the US). Industrial efficiency and stimulation of new industry are two economic advantages also ignored by the chemical industry, according to Epstein.

The fastest growing industry in the US today is involved with developing pollution clean up hardware, he said.

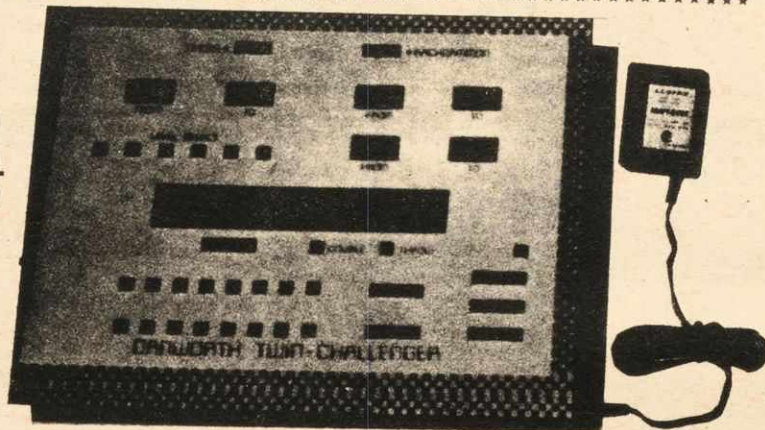
Epstein also said the role of smoking in the development of lung cancer has been "massively exaggerated by industry to divert attention."

Twenty thousand people who have never smoked die each year in the US from lung cancer. The mortality rate for non-smokers, said Epstein, has doubled since 1959.

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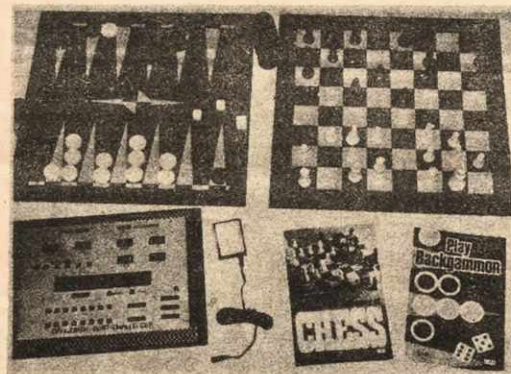
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# Backgammon fraudman convicted

by Sandy MacDonald  
(with file from Canadian  
University Press)

A Montreal man who defrauded over 8000 Canadians, including some local residents, through advertisements in commercial and student newspapers, has been sentenced to 33 months in prison.

Michael Jarmark, alias Brian Gould, was found guilty of advertising a non-existent electronic backgammon game for \$59.95 and billing mail order customers an additional \$22.50 for the carrying case for the game. In what had been described as a "near perfect crime" by Montreal police, Jarmark made off with an estimated half million dollars. Before leaving Canada

almost one year ago, he converted the swindled cash to almost \$50,000 in gold coins. Much of this was recovered and many of the victims will get all or some of their money back.

The advertisements for the Danworth six-level backgammon and chess computer appeared in many campus newspapers, including the Gateway at the University of Alberta and the Dalhousie Gazette in the first two weeks of November, 1979.

The Dal-Ads office, the advertising department for Dal Student Union, received a letter dated October 25, 1979 from a Brian S. Gould indicating his firm, Danworth Electronics, was very inter-

ested in running two full page color advertisements in the Dalhousie Gazette. Gould briefly explained the product and the terms of the insertion order, and then went on to stress the importance of the ads appearing on the dates of November 8 and 15. As the accompanying purchase order included an impressive list of credit references, the Gazette made only a cursory check into the advertiser's background and then opted to run the ads.

As of this date, no payment has arrived for the advertisements in any publication that ran the Danworth ads.

Police have not revealed how they caught Jarmark, who was arrested in Montreal last January.

## Dal Student Union

is now accepting applications for

**two Student Union reps  
on Dalhousie Senate.**

Forms may be picked up in  
Student Council offices, Rm 222  
Applications must be submitted  
Wednesday, November 26.