

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by: UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

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1. Father and Son Sentenced for Smuggling Freon

U.S. district judge Daniel Hurley recently sentenced Aurelio Vigna, 68, to two years in prison and ordered him to pay \$500,000 in taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Vigna and his son Joseph, 38, who received 18 months in prison and a fine of \$250,000 to the IRS, pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act by distributing Freon without federal approval.

The two also pleaded guilty to filing false tax returns with the IRS. Prosecutors said that the Vignas didn't pay \$7 million in excise taxes on their illegal earnings from 1992 to 1994.

Freon and other chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) have been cited as contributing to the depletion of the Earth's protective ozone layer. The Vignas were arrested in Panama last November and charged with conspiracy to violate the Clean Air Act and conspiracy to evade federal excise taxes.

Source: EIN Publishing, Ozone Depletion Today, 01 June 2001, http://www.eintoday.com/

2. 4,000-Year-Old Technology Inspires Eco-Friendly Pest Control

Farmers whose stored grain is lost to insects could benefit from eco-friendly pest control technology originally used in China 4,000 years ago...

... "Farmers in Africa are concerned about the health implications of mixing conventional pesticides with their stored grain," says NRI researcher, Tanya Stathers. "The cost is also prohibitive for many farmers and the pesticides are not easy to obtain. Diatomaceous earth (DE) could offer a locally available, cheaper, healthier and more environmentally friendly alternative. It is already being used in large-scale grain treatment in Australia."

...Tanya Stathers was recently recognised as one of Britain's top young scientists, engineers and technologists at a House of Commons reception. She was chosen as winner of a De Montfort Prize for her efforts to improve the lives of poor African farmers using DE technology...

Full Text @: http://www.gre.ac.uk/general/pr/pressreleases/554.htm Source: The University of Greenwich, Press Releases, 29 May 2001

3. "Earth and Sky" Radio Show Discusses Ozone Depletion

It's an award-winning daily science radio series heard by millions of listeners on over 950 commercial stations and radios and their translators throughout the United States. It can also be heard in Canada, the South Pacific and on a variety of international networks, including Armed Forces Radio, World Radio Network and Voice of America. Each day, Deborah Byrd and Joel Block discuss popular science subjects that affect our everyday lives. **Global Warming and Ozone Layer** were the subject on 25 May 2001

Full Text @: http://www.earthsky.com/2001/es010525.html

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