

# Guest Editorial

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## *New book documents the fallacy of the political myth of agricultural chemicals as cancer causing agents*

Rachel Carson was a dedicated scientist. There was room for little else in her life. During most of her career, she enjoyed an impeccable reputation among her peers.

Toward the end, she “cracked”. Turning from fact to doomsday theory, she published *Silent Spring* in the early 1960s. As a result, she died lonely, discredited and forgotten by her colleagues.

But she spawned a “new school” of negativism that continues to gain momentum as it affects the lives of every resident of Planet Earth. Under the umbrella of “environmentalism”, such words as contamination, carcinogen and pollution have become everyday expressions in our vocabulary.

New national and state governmental bodies like the Environmental Protection Agency and Occupational Safety and Health Administration drain our tax “contributions”. Organizations like the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health provide jobs for persons rejected by the scientific community. Groups like the Audubon Society and Sierra Club have “conned” journalists and gained a platform for “issues” far beyond their ken and “far out” from the worthy purposes for which they were established.

The net result has been an ill-informed and disillusioned public.

Finally, after 20 years of chaos, an all-encompassing synopsis has emerged to help swing the pendulum back to the middle and bring these issues into rational focus.

With the publication this Summer of *The Apocalyptics*, Edith Efron points out the following:

- Most causes of cancer occur naturally. Man-made chemicals and other products contribute very little to this health threat.
- Projections linking cancer in laboratory animals to humans are not scientifically valid. The only way to properly evaluate this is to study man himself.
- By “laying the blame” on pesticides and other chemicals, science has been corrupted, and the public deceived by unqualified politicians who want to regulate business.