

DR. KROSS RESPONDS TO HARVEY

Dear Mr. Harvey:

Last evening I received a telephone call from my brother-in-law, a farmer in western Iowa. He heard your radio report this week describing our mortality study of golf course superintendents. He asked me how did our study determine that pesticides were killing birds and humans on golf courses. I knew something was wrong, so I obtained a transcript of your commentary (see GCN, Feb. '94, page 13).

Your commentary is inaccurate and misleading with respect to our study. Our study did not collect any data about pesticides and birds. Moreover, as clearly stated in our press release (copy enclosed), our statistical mortality study was not capable of supporting or refuting a cause-and-effect relationship between pesticides and cancer. Indeed, my recommendations about smoking cessation and minimizing pesticide exposures are prudent public

health strategies for golf course superintendents and the general public.

Mr. Harvey, I am very concerned about your misrepresentation of our study. The public does need to be informed about important environmental and occupational health issues. The media are important partners in discriminating accurate results of research studies. I request that you broadcast a corrected version of your commentary about our study. Thank you.

Burton C. Kross, PhD, PE
Principal Investigator

Golf Course Superintendents Association of
America Mortality Study
Associate Professor, University of Iowa

Ed. The above letter was reprinted with the author's permission. Dr. Kross reports receiving no response from Harvey, who has never returned a call to Golf Course News, either.

Old friend Paul Harvey continues to take pot shots at the turf industry, then hide away in his Chicago-land bunker. Following his Feb. 8 attack, the master of oversimplification has not responded — by phone or post — to *Golf Course News*, RISE, mortality study author Dr. Burton Kross, or the myriad superintendents who've objected to his war of disinformation. Two letters — as yet unanswered — appear on either side, proving that intelligent dialogues can be very one-sided.

RISE CHIEF JAMES TAKES HARVEY TO TASK ... AGAIN

Dear Mr. Harvey:

There you go again!

In your Feb. 8 broadcast you again make quantum-leap assumptions regarding health and pest control on the nation's golf courses.

Shame for using your popular program to raise unwarranted fears with erroneous and unsupported comments. Specifically, in this instance:

1. "... a study commissioned by [Golf Course Superintendents Association of America] is reporting that not only are golf course pesticides killing the birds, but they're killing golf course superintendents, also." Paul Harvey News, Feb. 8, 1994.

- The GCSAA-commissioned study by a University of Iowa Medical Center research team, headed by Dr. Burton Kross, had nothing to do with deaths of birds — nor did it find that pesticides are "killing golf course superintendents". Those are your words and your conclusions, not the researchers.

- The study, as noted both by Dr. Kross and GCSAA, did not draw any cause-and-effect relationships.

- As described by both, the study was a preliminary statistical summary of 618 golf superintendent death certificates across the entire nation over a 22-year period, and (quoting Dr. Kross) "cannot be interpreted to mean that golfers are at risk."

- The statistical summary showed higher-than-normal deaths due to lung and brain cancers, both related to extended years of cigarette and cigar smoking. Other cancers — pancreatic, large intestine, prostate, non-Hodgkins lymphoma — also were noted as higher than that of the average population. A number of specialists, such as Dr. Anthony B. Miller, preventive medicine, University of Toronto, note that many other cancers, such as stomach, kidney, bladder and pancreas, have been directly linked to smoking, as well. Additionally, two recent reports in *The Journal of the National Cancer Institute* list smoking as an important factor in colon cancer.

- As noted in our enclosed statement, the specialty pesticide industry welcomes further research into any human health concerns. What we can't welcome — are efforts to elevate highly preliminary, unproven research into speculative assumptions that raise unwarranted fears among golfers — or any segment of our population.

Allen James
Executive Director
RISE (Responsible Industry
for a Sound Environment)

Ed. The above letter was reprinted with the author's permission. James has yet to hear back from Harvey.

ACCLAIM[®]

1EC HERBICIDE

Regardless of the crabgrass preemergence herbicide you use, you'll probably still have to deal with escapes just a few weeks later — and throughout the season.

Starting with the first escape, apply regular low rate treatments of Acclaim and get season-long crabgrass control that no pre alone can match. It controls growth from the 1-leaf stage up to multi-tillered crabgrass.

Acclaim can be spot sprayed to control crabgrass on

tees, along cart paths and in other "HOT SPOTS". And, it lets you reseed fescue and ryegrass immediately after the spray dries*. It can be safely used on bluegrass, ryegrass, zoysiagrass, fine fescue, tall fescue, even bentgrass fairways and tees. Be ready with Acclaim at the first sight of crabgrass...because no pre is perfect.

*Wait 3 weeks for bluegrass, zoysiagrass, bentgrass fairways and tees.

Hoechst
Roussel

Follow label directions carefully. ACCLAIM and the name and logo HOECHST are registered trademarks of Hoechst AG. The name and logo ROUSSEL are registered trademarks of Roussel Uclaf S.A. Marketed by Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Company, Somerville, NJ 08876-1258. © 1994

BECAUSE NO PRE IS PERFECT.

