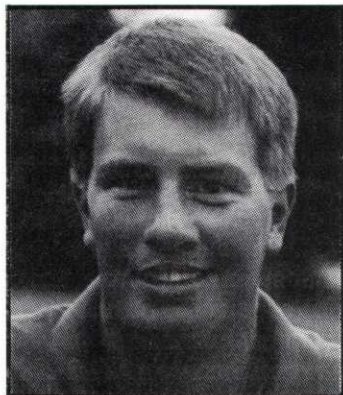


What Did You Think of the KARE-11 News Piece About Golf Courses and Pesticides?



PAUL DIEGNAU
River Falls G.C.

"I welcomed the opportunity to comment on the KARE 11 television segments entitled "Up To Par?" I was appalled by the first segment that attempted to correlate golf course pesticide usage and breast cancer in women. The piece was filled with unsubstantiated claims

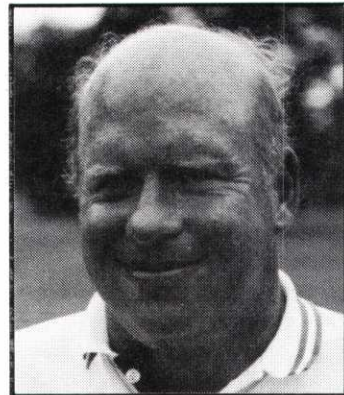
and was essentially void of fact. The second segment did accurately state that when properly used, pesticides pose little hazard to humans. Somehow this important revelation seemed lost in the golfer paranoia interviews conducted by reporter Susan Weise. To add insult to injury, golf course superintendents and the MGCSA received less than two minutes air time for both segments combined. It is this type of sensationalistic journalism that spawns the "chemophobics" and "toxic terrorists" that we, as golf course superintendents, must deal with now and in the future.

We, as professional turf managers, must band together to educate the public that turfgrass is a necessary and vital component of our environment and careful use of chemicals is O.K."

"The pesticide news story by Susan Weise was an attempt by the television station to show its viewers that it KARE's.

It brought forward an important issue to all golfers and golf course workers — is it safe to be on our golf courses and, if not, how can we make it safer? Because this is such an emotional issue with very little available knowledge, this report was — by necessity — incomplete and disjointed. However, it did magnify our own inability to respond to the issue. We could add very little additional information to this issue as research simply has not fully addressed the pesticide safety issue.

Hopefully new proposed research projects by GCSAA will fill this void. This whole issue reminds us that we have to show the public that we CARE, too!"



GREG HUBBARD
Manitou Ridge G.C.



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