

Under the influence...

His mind exploded! Caught foolishly urinating in a customer's bushes, lawn applicator David Garabedian rushed the screaming Eileen Muldoon, strangled her, and threw three 20-pound rocks at her.

Seems unbelievable, but it happened last year and the jury made its decision this winter.



Garabedian said the insecticide he was spraying lawns with that day made him involuntarily intoxicated, and therefore temporarily insane.

A Middlesex County, Massachusetts, jury did not except his defense, convicted Garabedian of first-degree murder and he is now in a maximum security prison in Walpole.

Garabedian has been described as a big (six feet four inches) but gentle young man (23-years-old). A witness told the jury Garabedian quit high school football to avoid hitting people.

Garabedian recalls reaching out and grabbing the woman's throat, feeling her go limp, and throwing rocks at her. "He was confused, something snapped, something blew up in his head," said the defense attorney.

Legal minds at work

The manufacturer of the insecticide and the owner of Old Fox Lawn Service convinced the jury such implication of guilt was unrealistic. But, who can easily forget it happened?

The *Boston Herald* spread the details of the bizarre occurrence across the East Coast, the legal center of the U.S. and location of the big name law schools. The seed has been planted in the minds of many reputation-seeking young lawyers anxious to get their names in the *Journal of the American Bar Association*.

A message to the Green Industries

The case sends a message to the Green Industries as well. Lawn care has made the entire industry more visible. Chemicals are not fully understood or adequately respected by many users. It is imperative that every precaution is taken to protect applicators from toxic chemicals, AND to show public observers the Green Industries are careful.

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