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Daily News, Friday, July 12, 1985



DENNIS CARUSO DAILY NEWS

Tears and parting

It was a year to remember for foreign students who attended C.W. Post College under the International Cultural Exchange Program. But this week was the time for fond farewells, first, one last hug shared by

Lawyer says, 'Bug off' on pesticide proposal

By FRANK MOONEY

Proposed use of the pesticide Abate to put the bite on mosquitoes when regular insecticides fail to eliminate them in Suffolk was criticized sharply yesterday by Victor Yannacone Jr., a Patchogue attorney.

Yannacone, who in 1966 launched a fight in Suffolk that ultimately led to the nationwide ban on DDT, said, "When we got rid of DDT in Suffolk, we also got rid of Abate, which is an organo-phosphate pesticide extremely toxic to fish and wildlife."

The use of Abate as a supplement to regular insecticides was announced this week by Assemblyman I. William Bianchi (D-Bellport), who said that agreement had been reached between the state Department of Environmental Conservation and Suffolk officials covering such supplementary use.

ACCORDING to Bianchi, Suffolk Vector Control, the county's mosquito fighters, will be allowed to use Abate when another insecticide fails to control the winged pests. The county agency would have to present "reasonable and proper justification" to the Conservation Department's Long Island

office before Abate can be used in place of an insecticide known as BTI, according to Bianchi. This would allow the Conservation Department to carefully monitor the application of Abate, he added.

Suffolk used Abate in the mosquito battle for 10 years, until state procedures effectively blocked its use in the spring on the grounds that when used near state wetlands, it was harmful to certain types of marine life.

YANNAACONE said, "Abate is known to be more toxic than Aldicarb, the chemical that recently cost California its watermelon crop. Furthermore, Abate is known to become much more toxic in the presence of common insecticides, such as Malathion, which is used on Long Island."

"It still appears," Yannacone said, "that all of the safety information on pesticides, such as Abate, comes from the chemical industry, which has spent a great deal of money to withhold information from the government and the people. The California watermelon crop was condemned because of the presence of the chemical Aldicarb, which is more commonly known on Long Island as Temik, whose sale is no longer allowed in Suffolk."

TOWN CAB CONTROL