

Report contrary to statement--- 05-15-50

## EPA found YSU negligent

According to a Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report recently obtained by the *Jambar*, YSU was found negligent in the use of the pesticide Dasanit on campus two years ago contrary to a statement made by Henry Garono, superintendent of YSU's landscaping, in the past May 28th issue of the *Jambar*.

The report closed with a strongly worded warning directed to Garono citing the EPA'S belief that he had violated a section of the US Code 'by using a registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.'

Specifically, a summary report filed by Carl J. Erickson, Use Investigator for the Federal EPA, cited that Garono had purchased Dasanit to control a turf pest known as nematodes despite the fact that 'no one had recommended that it was necessary to treat for nematodes.'

Erickson reported that he contacted William Phillips, Mahoning County Extension Agent for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, who had previously assisted Garono in a soil-testing and fertilizer recommendation program, and

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# EPA

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determined that Phillips had never been requested to test for nematodes. Phillips also provided an Extension Service publication in which Dasanit was not recommended for controlling turfgrass pests, according to Erickson's report.

The investigation was prompted by the hospitalization of a YSU landscaper two years ago when he became ill after applying Dasanit to University grounds during a two-day period in April 1974.

The EPA letter further advised Garono that no other action was contemplated at that time but that the 'warning notice does not preclude the institution of any civil or criminal proceedings by the United States for any subsequent violations.' The letter was signed by Dale S. Bryson, acting director of the EPA enforcement division.

Questions concerning the Dasanit incident two years ago were part of more recent allegations raised by unnamed sources within the YSU

landscaping department in May 28th issue of *the Jambar*. The sources claimed that pesticides were being misused on campus and complained of a general lack of adequate safety measures, expressing concern over these matters.

The entire question of pesticide safety on campus is as yet unresolved as Garono, during *Jambar* interviews, flatly denied access to materials that would aid *the Jambar* in establishing whether or not the allegations were true.

In the June 4th issue of *the Jambar*, a follow-up story quoted University officials as saying that no investigations would be conducted into the complaints reported in the earlier story.

At one point, Garono himself suggested that *the Jambar's* questions could easily be resolved by reading the written report he had in front of him at the time. He said that this report included a letter from the Federal EPA which cleared the University of any misuse of pesticides as a result of the Dasanit investigation, but he refused to show them to the reporters.