

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Time to stop dumping pesticides into our bay

There's frightening news on page one of the Press this week. A pesticide endorsed by the state to kill mosquito larvae could also be killing the lobsters in Narragansett Bay.

The pesticide, called Altosid, is dumped into the storm drains in communities around the bay. By killing the mosquitoes, the state hopes to reduce our risk of contracting deadly diseases possibly carried by the mosquitoes.

But the pesticide travels downstream to Narragansett Bay. The end result appears to be that the lobster population is threatened by shell disease and declining birth rates. We may also be poisoning ourselves.

One expert quoted in this week's story likened the situation to that of Rachael Carson's "Silent Spring" which was first published in 1962. Her book detailed the use of the pesticide DDT and its terrible impact on our fragile ecosystem. Our national emblem, the Bald Eagle, faced extinction.

In addition to threatening birds and animals worldwide, the DDT had entered our food supply. The pesticide was blamed for developmental problems in children.

"Silent Spring" helped create public awareness and DDT was ultimately banned. Only in recent years have some of the endangered species rebounded.

We know little about this latest pesticide threat and its impact on our local fisheries. We know even less about its effect on humans who consume shellfish and fish.

The state should seek alternative methods of controlling mosquitoes and immediately suspend the use of Altosid. The risk to our environment and to ourselves is too great.

— Jeff McDonough

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GOOD COYOTE



BAD COYOTE

Fuzzy's fondly remembered

Every Thursday I look forward to hopping online to read the Press. More and more I see sad news. Those of us who have grown up on the rock are getting older, and as such the death of loved ones and friends becomes more common. Let's just say last Thursday was not a good day. I want to share a memory that many of us have.

Some you only have heard of Fuzzy's. To some, it has always been the Oyster Bar. But to those of us who got to know Fuzzy and his establishment, will always think of the many ice creams, pizza after ball games, and his warm smile.

I remember one time four of us kids went to the win-

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dow to get ice cream. When Fuzzy got to the fourth kid, the boy said, "That's ok, I don't have any money." The boy sure was happy when four cones came out the window.

Every winter break as a kid there was a basketball tournament at the 8-foot baskets at the Rec Center for the younger kids. The older kids picked teams and coached. Others kept score. Every kid got a shirt, a ribbon, a trophy and at the end of the tournament, a pizza party. Fuzzy, we all looked forward to the Pizza Classic.

If the impact of Fuzzy isn't enough, just ask the countless teenagers (who

are now old) whose first job was making pizza, maybe start with the guy who just sent pizzas to the library who taught him.

I want to thank you Fuzzy for the memories and happiness you gave to many people of the island, I only wish I could re-open Ken's and toast you properly, maybe a duck hook into the stone wall on the first tee will do it.

I think today I will buy a kid an ice cream. Godspeed, Fuzzy.

Chris Smyth
Louisville, Ky.

Rabies clinic a success

The Town Clerk's Office

would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to everyone who helped and volunteered their time at the Rabies Clinic on Saturday, April 5.

The Town Clerk's Office registered 51 dogs in just one hour. The Rabies Clinic would never run as smoothly as it does without the help from the following people and/or organizations: Cathy Gregory, Animal Control Officer; Kathy Barrie, RI Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Randall Wirth, Jamestown Animal Clinic; Humane Society of Jamestown; Barbara Szepatowski, Jamestown Animal Shelter; and the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department.

I would like to take this time to remind all dog owners

See "Letters" on next page

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 10, 1908

The local farmers are putting in more than the usual acreage of potatoes this spring. The pleasant weather of the past few days has caused the planting to progress rapidly.

The annual report of the librarian to the state board of education has been made out. The report shows that 122 volumes have been added to the library during the past year, making a total of 5,365 volumes. ... The number of different persons drawing books during the year was 447, of which 208 were new patrons during the past year.

A juvenile baseball team from Newport, styling themselves the "Island Juniors," defeated the local grammar school team this morning by a score of 10 to 7.

From the Newport Daily News, April 14, 1908

Flatfish are running quite plentifully, and a number are being caught from the wharves by hand lines.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 10, 1933

Adoption of a budget of \$97,354.61, which is \$13,000 less than last year, by the taxpayers at the Jamestown annual financial town meeting Saturday, indicated that the tax rate of \$20 will probably be maintained this year. ... Lasting more than nine hours, from 10 in the morning until 7:45 in the evening, the meeting was one of the longest annual financial sessions ever held in Jamestown. Recess of an hour was taken for lunch.

From the Newport Daily News, April 14, 1933

Owing to heavy rain Wednesday evening, many cellars in town were flooded and several oil burning furnaces and electric lights were put out of commission.



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of April 10

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 10, 1958

Two real estate experts testified yesterday (in U.S. District Court in Providence) that property values in Jamestown would diminish if the proposed Commerce Oil refining Corp. plant were constructed on that island.

The Jamestown Recreation Board last night sponsored a windup basketball banquet in Holy Ghost Hall. Awards were presented to the individual and team winners of both the Boys League and the Girls League.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 11, 1983

Some 150 Conanicut Islanders braved Sunday's rainstorm to parade from Beavertail to Fort Wetherill in protest of proposed sale of federal lands at those locations to private interests. The Democratic Town Committee's "Truck on Down" procession attracted nearly 60 vehicles and marchers, each decorated in some way with the message, "Don't Sell Our Land" (DSOL).

From the Newport Daily News, April 12, 1983

The town is seeking a \$110,000 grant to finish the Beavertail waterline extension project. ... The receipt of additional funds will allow the town to continue the installation of the water line from Beavertail Road at Battery Lane to Clarke's Village

The School Committee Tuesday night endorsed the police department's effort to fingerprint the island's children.

The town is following a format similar to the one used in Middletown. Parents can voluntarily bring their children to the police station, and a set of prints will be made. All fingerprint cards will be given to the parents.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, April 8, 1993

The town could make an extra \$73,000 annually to help pay off its debts by taking over operations of the municipal golf course, a report by a Town Council advisory committee says. The town now leases its golf course on Conanicus Avenue to Joseph Mistowski of New England Golf Management, for \$35,000 a year.

The Fort Wetherill Boat Owners Association will conduct its annual fishing seminar for island youth on Friday, April 16, at the fire station. Activities will start at 6:45 p.m. with a pasta dinner. Three New England fishing celebrities will be featured.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, April 9, 1998

Schools Supt. France Gallo is seeking to lengthen the school year by seven days to reduce the amount of time that teachers have to be away from the classroom for professional development pursuits.

Seven Jamestown School Odyssey of the Mind teams competed at the Rhode Island state championship Saturday, April 4, and one of the Jamestown teams earned a third place, one took second place, and two teams captured first place awards. The two first place teams will travel to Disney World May 28 through 31 to participate in the World Finals, where 33 countries and 49 states will be represented.

The Town Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing next Monday, April 13, on an ordinance that would increase the cost of all construction permits. ... Based on the existing cubic-foot fee structure, a building permit for an average house with 2,000 square feet of floor space would cost about \$150.