Golf Course News expands editorial staff

This column will be the last for awhile so that Editor Hal Phillips can have an opportunity to offer his thoughts on the industry to you each month.

Hal joined our editorial department recently. You have become familiar with Managing Editor Mark Leslie and Associate Editor Peter Blais, and they will continue to inform you with news of the industry.

The continued growth of Golf Course News has required our adding to the editorial staff. A good advertising client responded to this news with, "You can't add to your Golf Course News."

"Believe it or not, one is often more than enough"—Edward Everett Hale

By Bob Spiwak

There are several billion humans on Earth and people tend to look at the numbers in their country, their state, or even their town and feel that whatever they do is without effect—Useless. A waste of time and effort. Forget even trying!

Don't be deceived. It just isn't so. There are countless instances where one vote made an extraordinary difference— even turned the tide of history.

In 1645 one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England. In 1669 one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.

In 1776 one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1866 one vote elected Marcus Morton, governor of Massachusetts. In 1845 one vote brought Texas into the Union. In 1868 one vote saved President Johnson from impeachment. In 1876 one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency. In 1923 one vote gave President Harding the presidency.

The list could go on and on, but the point is, one vote does matter. We can make a difference, for good and for evil. Each and every one of us is capable of influencing the course of history.

Ours is a history of ones. And we are in a small enough industry that apathy could absolutely kill it.

Add one more acronym to list—for the gophers

By Bob Spiwak

Amidst the alphabet soup of golf organizations, societies, tours, writers and governing bodies, there is one of whose existence you are probably unaware. It's the American society of golf course gophers. a.s.g.g.

If you are wondering about the lower case, the gophers feel it distinguishes them from humans and their arrogance.

We recently had the opportunity to conduct an exclusive interview with Media Rep Greg Gopher at the society's headquarters in a deep hole under a box elder tree at the Gold Sore Country Club in Cuts Bank, Montana. (Headquarters were once at Fair Hills, N.J., but the Garden State atmosphere drove the society to deaner's). Mr. Gopher allowed us to break the story because at our own golf course we live in peaceful co-existence with the furry creatures; our philosophy being that anyone stupid enough to pay good money to aggravate or herself playing golf deserves an occasional mauling or hole on the putting surface.

According to gopher, gophers were once, as were the greenskeepers, rather independent agents, each keeping to his own turf and out of touch with his counterparts elsewhere. With the advent of GCSSA, the gophers decided that they also, needed to share information. What kind of information? Gopher ticked off a list on his paws: seminars on better review of the gopher ecosystem, awareness of gopher infestation, and cooperation during the dormant season.

Asked how the creatures were so adept at springing traps, he acknowledged that the infirmaries were usually at the same site on every golf course, he would not divulge the location.

One of the most impressive accomplishments of the gophers is their mass purchasing practices. Since the gophers have organized, he continued, they were able to effect mass purchasing practices and get the poa at wholesale in large quantities. Asked how the creatures were so adept at springing traps, he acknowledged that the infirmaries were usually at the same site on every golf course, he would not divulge the location.