Believe it or not, one is often more than enough

A. Edward Everett Hale

I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

There are billions of 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 ineffective. There is 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 1649, 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 New Orleans into the Union. In 1888, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment. In 1875, one vote gave Rutherford Hayes the presidency.

In 1923, one vote gave Adolf Hitler control of the Nazi Party. In 1941, one vote saved the Selective Service System just 12 weeks before Pearl Harbor.

Believe those who are saying that one vote can make a difference. In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency. In 1868 one vote saved President Grant a MacArthur, an Eisenhower.

And what about the world of golf? Just look back to the very recent past. Pro golfers and amateurs have made a lasting difference.

After hearing that Elliot Roberts is retiring from The Lawn Institute, it occurred to me how important that one person can be. Roberts led major university agricultural programs in the country before taking over The Lawn Institute 10 years ago to pull together research and development that is being done worldwide. What if he had decided that was too big a chore?

Other examples? Check the recently retired Roberts. Roberts is joining. From universities there is Joseph Troll from the University of Massachusetts, Richard Skogley from the University of Rhode Island, Joe Duich and Don Waddington from Penn State, Randy Hendy from Rutgers, and a group from the University of Arizona, Roy Hang from Washington State University, Ken Payne from Michigan State University, Arden Bahrenerger and Glen Burton from New Mexico State.

Then, there is Jack Murray, who has helped in major advances in sod production and sports turf research during his former days at the University of Beltsville. Today, he continues his research. And in the business world, Jim Watson at Toro and Bob Miller of ChemLawn.

Sherwood Moore, Jim Brandt and other recently retired superintendents have had a profound impact on golf.

Where would the golf industry be without these people — individually or collectively?

So, I say to the younger generation: Do not count yourself short. Do not underestimate the contributions you can make to the industry, or society in general.

You are the only biological mother or father your children will ever have. You are a beacon of that church, a contributor to that charity, a member of the staff of that organization.

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. In 1941, one vote saved the Selective Service System just 12 weeks before Pearl Harbor.

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Add an acronym for gopher society

"THE FLAGS WERE THE ONLY CONCESSION WE HAD TO MAKE TO OBTAIN OUR FINANCING."

Media, Feldman should get the story straight on pesticide use, versus salt and aspirin

To the editor:

In response to the article by Peter Blais in the March issue of Golf Course News, which states that Jay Feldman feels golf courses use too much pesticide as compared to agricultural users.

Did Mr. Feldman compare the land used for agriculture to that used for golf courses? I believe more land is used for agriculture than for golf courses in this country.

Mr. Feldman said golf courses use 18 pounds per acre as compared to 2.3 pounds for soybean. What about corn, wheat, vegetable crops, and let us not forget the fruit industry that uses its share of pesticides.

But, of course, no one wants to say anything about John Doe who puts pesticides on his lawn without reading the label or having a license to do so.

Secondly, the sarcastic remark made by Mr. Stossel about "left to our own devices, superintendents would poison our customers and kill the town" is just another report of someone jumping on the bandwagon with sensationalistic reporting.

Mr. Stossel fails to report to the public some facts about Lt. Prior as stated in The Florida Green, 1987 issue, such as, "Lt. Prior's involvement in top-secret biological warfare and the possibilities of its contribution to his death."

(I have read that Lt. Prior died of a rare skin disease rather than chemical poisoning. However, I can not quote where I read that.)

Also, why did the Navy conduct a closed-door autopsy and investigation into his death? "No Daconil 2787 was found in any of Lt. Prior's tissue or body fluid — just on his shoes, clubs and golf balls."

Mr. Stossel and Mr. Feldman fail to recognize that golf course superintendents and crews spend two to three times as many hours on the golf course as do golfers.

We certainly do not want to poison ourselves or anyone else. Superintendents and their spray technicians are licensed with their respective states before they can dispense a pesticide.

A few more facts as stated in The Florida Green, spring 1987, pages 51-52:
• Daconil 2787, also called Bravo, is used on nearly all vegetables and fruits.
• Considerably more people suffer from allergies to seafood, milk, pollen and grass itself, than they do to Daconil 2787 on golf balls.

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CIRCLE #108
April 1992 11