Grads facing uncertain future

By Peter Blais

Turf school graduates are having more trouble finding entry-level jobs as assistant superintendents than they did a year ago, according to college officials.

"We usually graduate 45 to 50 students," said Professor Richard Cooper, coordinator of the University of Massachusetts two-year turf management program.

"Last year was the first time they weren't all able to get jobs. This year it's been even worse. It's taking a lot more work to find positions."

Cooper blames a weak economy, particularly in the Northeast, for the bleak job Continued on page 8

Cat strike leaves mark on industry

By Hal Phillips

PELLA, Iowa — Wadsworth Construction Co. held a unique perspective on the year's most visible labor dispute, in terms of industry and geography.

Located in Plainfield, Ill., Wadsworth observed the five-month strike at nearby Caterpillar Inc. from close range.

"We've got Cat plants on both sides of us, in Aurora and Joliet," said Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth. "Before the April 15 settlement, Eldredge indicated he felt Caterpillar was in good position to win out in its discontented work..."

Continued on page 45

Japanese course basher sets sights on Hawaii

By Peter Blais

His goal is nothing short of stopping all golf course development, period. And Hawaii is his latest target.

"It's not possible to build a good golf course," said Gen Morita of the The Global Network for Anti-Golf Course Action.

"You can't put something like that on 150 acres and expect it to not hurt the environment, unless you stick it in the middle of the desert. But if you build it in the usual way, it's just not possible."

Before developers dismiss the 44-year-old Japanese activist as just another fly in the ointment, they ought to consider his record.

Morita claims to have had a hand in stopping construction of 280 Japanese courses through his work with the Japan National Network Against Resort and Golf Course Development. Since 1988, the group has helped obtain moratoriums against new development in 10 of Japan's 46 prefectures.

With Japanese corporations financing many of Hawaii's new courses, Morita turned his attention to the 50th state last..."

Continued on page 24

Maintenance costs continue upward spiral

From Staff Reports

Higher payroll expenses caused country club maintenance costs to jump almost 10 percent last year, despite efforts to cut back on repairs and other costs.

Average payroll climbed 10 percent (to $15,888 per hole) while payroll taxes and benefits rose 16.8 percent (to $3,610 per hole) at 250 private U.S. country clubs surveyed by the accounting firm of Pannell Kerr Forster in its 1992 Clubs in Town & Country report..."

Continued on page 39
**Casper promotes twosome**

VIENNA, Va. — Billy Casper Golf Management, Inc. has promoted F. Thomas Marty to senior vice president of operations and Jim R. Watkins as vice president of golf course operations.

Marty, who joined BCGM in 1989 as vice president of operations, has more than 25 years experience in the field of golf management, consultation and promotion. He was a partner in Creative Golf Consultants, a firm that specializes in membership solicitation, promotions and golf operations, and served as membership consultant to golf clubs in Kansas, Texas and Louisiana.

Marty has also owned and operated several golf courses, including Campbell Country Club in Baton Rouge, and Oak Knoll Country Club in Hammond, La. He has assisted in the coordination of PGA Business Schools I and II, taught numerous PGA management and leasing seminars, and served on several PGA committees and boards. President of the Louisiana PGA, he has served as secretary and treasurer of the Gulf States PGA.

Watkins has been a Class A member of the PGA of America for 14 years, a PGA member for 14 years, and has served on the PGA committee for the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Ga.

**Private country club maintenance costs rise 10 percent**

### Golf course maintenance costs by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Nat'l avg</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>$15,880</td>
<td>14,959</td>
<td>15,291</td>
<td>12,302</td>
<td>18,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes &amp; benefits</td>
<td>3,610</td>
<td>3,123</td>
<td>2,919</td>
<td>2,544</td>
<td>5,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; cont.</td>
<td>5,904</td>
<td>5,761</td>
<td>6,097</td>
<td>5,423</td>
<td>6,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs</td>
<td>2,697</td>
<td>2,351</td>
<td>2,877</td>
<td>1,742</td>
<td>3,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>2,773</td>
<td>1,797</td>
<td>3,142</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>4,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$30,870</strong></td>
<td>27,991</td>
<td>30,321</td>
<td>23,529</td>
<td>37,945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Panel of Ker Forster

**Continued on page 41**

**Alfonso elected to head NGCOA**

Illinois course owner heads slate of new officers for golf course owners association

The National Golf Course Owner's Association has elected Vince Alfonso Jr. as president. Jim Scott of Michigan was elected vice president; Garry N. Black of Texas treasurer; and Charles H. Berrell of Ohio secretary.

Alfonso is partner with Leonard and Lovene Sapp in The Rail Golf Club, Inc., in Springfield, Ill. In addition to serving as the chief operating officer of The Rail Golf Club, Alfonso is the head professional and general manager. He has been a Class A member of the PGA of America for 12 years.

After serving his apprenticeship working under his father, PGA life member Vince Alfonso Sr., Vince Jr. spent five years as head professional and general manager of Holiday Golf Club in Olive Branch, Miss., prior to arriving at The Rail in 1983.

He has been a member of the NGCOA since 1983 and has served the organization as a member of its board of directors for the past eight years.

Scott has been a golf professional for 20 years, a PGA member for 14 years, a charter member of the NGCOA, and involved in the golf business for 30 years. He is a co-owner and director of golf of Gulf Lake

**Continued on page 41**

**Georgia firm buys Champion Hills**

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — The Branigar Organization, a real-estate development company based in Sewickley, Pa., plans to buy Champion Hills, an exclusive 525-acre mountain community and private golf club here.

Branigar is a subsidiary of Union Camp Corp., and the sale is not disclosed.

"Based on our learning from national market research and an extensive two-year new project search, we feel that Champion Hills will have tremendous appeal," said Cecil Abarr, president of The Branigar Organization.

Champion Hills community will be limited to approximately 400 total estate homesites and 350 golf club memberships. Fifty-eight homesites have been purchased by individuals thus far. The centrepiece of the community is a 6,719-yard, par-71 golf course designed by Hendersonville resident John S. Fry, an 18-year veteran and former commissioner of site planning. He also continues to help clubs set up and prepare for tournament conditions.

He has been a member of the NGCOA Since 1983 and has served as a member of its board of directors for eight years.

Scott has been a golf professional for 20 years, a PGA member for 14 years, a charter member of the NGCOA, and involved in the golf business for 30 years. He is a co-owner and director of golf of Gulf Lake.

**Alfonso elected to head NGCOA**

Illinois course owner heads slate of new officers for golf course owners association

The National Golf Course Owner's Association has elected Vince Alfonso Jr. as president. Jim Scott of Michigan was elected vice president; Garry N. Black of Texas treasurer; and Charles H. Berrell of Ohio secretary.

Alfonso is partner with Leonard and Lovene Sapp in The Rail Golf Club, Inc., in Springfield, Ill. In addition to serving as the chief operating officer of The Rail Golf Club, Alfonso is the head professional and general manager. He has been a Class A member of the PGA of America for 12 years.

After serving his apprenticeship working under his father, PGA life member Vince Alfonso Sr., Vince Jr. spent five years as head professional and general manager of Holiday Golf Club in Olive Branch, Miss., prior to arriving at The Rail in 1983.

He has been a member of the NGCOA since 1983 and has served the organization as a member of its board of directors for the past eight years.

Scott has been a golf professional for 20 years, a PGA member for 14 years, a charter member of the NGCOA, and involved in the golf business for 30 years. He is a co-owner and director of golf of Gulf Lake.

**Continued on page 41**

**Georgia firm buys Champion Hills**

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — The Branigar Organization, a real-estate development company based in Sewickley, Pa., plans to buy Champion Hills, an exclusive 525-acre mountain community and private golf club here.

Branigar is a subsidiary of Union Camp Corp., and the sale is not disclosed.

"Based on our learning from national market research and an extensive two-year new project search, we feel that Champion Hills will have tremendous appeal," said Cecil Abarr, president of The Branigar Organization.

Champion Hills community will be limited to approximately 400 total estate homesites and 350 golf club memberships. Fifty-eight homesites have been purchased by individuals thus far. The centrepiece of the community is a 6,719-yard, par-71 golf course designed by Hendersonville resident John S. Fry, an 18-year veteran and former commissioner of site planning. He also continues to help clubs set up and prepare for tournament conditions.

He has been a member of the NGCOA Since 1983 and has served as a member of its board of directors for eight years.

Scott has been a golf professional for 20 years, a PGA member for 14 years, a charter member of the NGCOA, and involved in the golf business for 30 years. He is a co-owner and director of golf of Gulf Lake.