Plucking issues from the golf industry cupboard

• It's that time of year — time to bash the ubiquitous Resolution Trust Corp. and its highhanded, bureaucratic approach to free-market issues.

The RTC will stage a mid-June auction in order to unload the former Landmark properties, which include some of America's premier golf destination resorts. At this point (and nothing is ever set in stone with America's leading salvage wholesaler), the New Orleans auction will be winner-take-all. You bid on the whole package or nothing at all.

If there is local interest in Carmel Valley Ranch, for example, the potential buyer can't bid on it individually. The members at PGA West who've shown interest in

purchasing their highprofile, four-course complex - would be foiled by this all-ornothing format. After the Landmark legal debacle, local/ member ownership should be encouraged. Instead, it's precluded.

And isn't the RTC's role to solicit the best possible price for these properties? Early estimates indicate the RTC would be fortunate to draw 60 cents on the dollar for this \$1.3 billion package. Such a deal ...

· Pessimism reigned supreme in golf industry circles the morning of Nov. 4, as folks braced for the coming of a



Democratic administration. The wailing increased in volume and urgency when veep Al Gore handpicked Carol Browner to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

Before you unload the Golden Bear stock and move to Hudson Bay, step back for a moment. Let's wait and see, shall we? All accounts indicate Browner, the former head of Florida's Department of Environmental Regulation, is a politician at heart - not a treehugger. And while she may come across as unyielding in her development stance, Browning displayed a capacity for compromise during her

tenure in the Sunshine State. Critics point to her deal with Disney, where hundreds of acres were set aside for protection in exchange for development rights. Well, trading open space for governmental approval is nothing new (just ask the would-be Homestead developers in Michigan). If that's the worst precedent Browner sets, the golf course industry should survive her.

· First the facts on Sen. Dennis DeConcini's bill that seeks to open up military golf courses to public play and private management. Bill S.234 has been sent to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. John Glenn Continued on page 12

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Getting right with the PC kingdom - er-r, queendom

Are you Politically Correct? Are you socially "with it"? Are you caffeine-free, vogurt-loving and driving a recyclable utility vehicle?

If you wonder, just check the pages of your daily newspaper, paying particular attention to stories on city, state and federal governments and to letters and commentaries. Maybe then you'll know whether you are ... Politically Correct.

This ain't no joke. There's a grave movement in this country. Brought to us by the elite of the Politically Correct. It's sometimes hard to tell from outward appearances who these PC types are. They could be

HOMESTEAD ADDENDUM

To the editor:

A story by Peter Blais [February issue of Golf Course News, page 3]contains inaccurate or misleading statements that you and your readers should be made aware of.

The citizens group referred to by Mr. Reddicliffe is a small group of (6) people with financial interests in the Homestead Resort. This committee has invited the Glen Lake Association, Friends of the Crystal River, National Dunes Advisory Committee and the citizens council of the Sleeping Bean Dunes area to sit in on its meetings but none has endorsed the land exchange.

In conversation with many people of these organizations, the reasons given is that they do not want to participate in the ongoing political debate and those who are long-term locals know of many parcels of private acreage most suitable for 18 holes golf that are available nearby that could have ended the hostilities as many as five years ago.

This long-standing golf course debate could have ended long ago had not the owner and investors of the Homestead Resort insisted on violating our state and national wetland laws, and this has done

in pinstripe suits in New York, or L.L. Bean jackets in the Great North, or sockless in Florida.

.....

Like Darryl Zanuck directing those great old movies with casts of millions, they are directing a cast of tens of millions. "Americans, pick up your

standards and follow us Politically Correctites into the Age of Aquarius -the Dawn of Euphoria!" they call.

Let's have a casting call, now. In your best uptown accent say "tree butcher" but not "lumberjack." Or "counterfactual proposition" but not "lie." Or "botani-

much damage to the image of the

cerns because of my employment

in the golf course management

The ice caps are melting!

Fred Anderson

AN ODE TO THE EPA ...

Whatever we do requires its permission.

Whose method of work is creation of panic.

The air will be toxic and smother our breath,

We're destroying the ozone with aerosol cans.

Through a gullible press they create alarm,

Pesticides are a threat more fearful indeed,

They doubt all research, but believe every rumor,

When it comes to decisions, they do as they please,

B.E. Day, plant physiologist

Berkeley, Calif.

They worry we'll eat astronomical doses,

Traverse City, Mich.

EPA regulates our external conditions.

Its staff is composed of lawyers organic,

The oceans will flood!

Which everyone knows is a horrible death!

Which greatly distresses deodorant fans.

Monoxide is increasing and ruining our blood!

Over chemical hazards from factory and farm.

Than nematode, fungus, insect, and weed.

All inscrutably written in governmentese.

If you eat fifty tons! It will give you cirrhosis!

Apprehensive do-gooders with no sense of humor.

I am writing you of my con-

golf course industry.

industry.

To the editor:

one selfish complaint.

The sorry part is that Politically Wrong. It's sometimes synony-

PC talk, instead of deleting segregation from society, in fact multiplies it. It fragments, it tears, it builds walls. It's like quotas. What's a quota

if not discriminatory? Martin Luther King's dream

was that society disregard color, not give any group special treatment.

PC separates, concentrating on

other movement. Call it Socially Moral. Or Legitimately Truthful. Or Unabridgedly Right. (Someone out there is bound to have a brilliant

velopment, the state of Nebraska is almost always omitted. I assume this is because you have no correspondent in that state. But, we'd like the world to know it's not because we aren't progressive in golf course development.

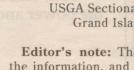
I have been doing golf course rating for the last 17 years and have a fair idea of the development of courses in Nebraska. Accordingly, I'm enclosing a chart of our work done here in the last three to four years.

You may also like to know Nebraska is the fastest growing golf state in some of the National Golf Foundation rating categories.

Keep up your fine newspaper.

Del Ryder **USGA** Sectional Affairs Grand Island, Neb.

Editor's note: Thanks for the information, and we'll try to keep a closer eye on golf course development in Cornhusker country.



More letters, next page



managing editor

called an "ecowarrior" but certainly not an "ecoterrorist." Correct is too often Factually

mous with Morally Deranged.

attempt to save the environment (such as using tree spikes) is

REMEMBER NEBRASKA!

I certainly enjoy receiving

my copy of Golf Course News.

There is always new informa-

tion in it. I do, however, have

courses and their stage of de-

When I read about new golf

of "ecotage" (PC talk for "sabotage") in an

Mark Leslie.

time. We carry "processed tree carcasses," not paper bags. A person who engages in an act

our differences. My solution? Let's all start an-

Continued on page 12 Lefters ------

Golf Course News

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J.G. Taliaferro, Jr.