Who said the RTC had no sense of humor?

I know it's a dangerous pre-cendent, but I was just thinking...

• Don't miss the Land-mark auction in Dallas this month; the biggest piece is the RTC itself.
• The government is always the last to know.

As many as four weeks ago, my sources told me that GCSAA and Connex were holding discussions regarding a two-show, one-reef extravaganza in Singapore next year. Consider-
ing the "damn the torpedoes" attitude displayed by our friends in Lawrence, this came as some-thing of a shock (see story page 33).

One more thing: If you've ever wondered whether the Resolution Trust Corp. had a sense of humor, the jury is in. Who else would stage the break-up of golf's destination resort royalty and then try to pass the buck to their competitors who are.

But seriously folks, every mover and shaker in the business will be there. If they're not bidding, you can be sure they're keeping a close eye on their competitors who are.

Word has it that foreign interests will play a major role in the ownership of more than one property.

Then there's the Ross Perot factor (see page 33).

Too often, golf courses are fiscal targets

When the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal was completed in January, the repayment of the federal funds for the 40-year project was supposed to begin. It appears the government believes golf course managers and the like — but never, ever farmers — are the ones to tap. Or is that Zap? This illustrates a prevalent attitude in America — "TheFarmers are fat cats. They've got the dough. Let's suck the money we need out of their pockets."

It's open season on golfers all year round. At least deer, elk, ducks and their cousins get a reprieve from hunters most of the year.

Scott Nair, superintendent at The Boulders in Carefree, Ariz., puts it bluntly. "It's frustrating when I pay a fortune for my golf course and they [farmers] get to set the region.

To the editor:

Thank you for setting the record straight regarding the Paul Harvey commentary.

I was upset to learn that I had been quoted out of context by a local paper regarding this important environmental symposium in Wilmington, North Carolina. The entire golf industry has worked hard to implement proper design, construction and maintenance procedures to reduce the nega-
tive perceptions.

The excellent research and the hard work by golf course superin-
tendents across America did not deserve this attack from under-
informed or those seeking to en-
gurate this emotional issue.

Thank you for the explanation in the May issue of Golf Course News regarding how I was mis-
quoted. We work hard every day to protect the precious environ-
ments across the United States. The American Society of Golf Course Architects will continue to produce innovative solutions to environmentally sensitive design situations. Your support of the profession through Golf Course News is greatly appreciated.

Mark Leslie, managing editor

whither scholarships

To the editor:

Some 30 years ago, when some of us older superintendents started in the greenkeeping busi-
ness, there were very few trained and educated. This has changed drastically for the better.

We now have a GCSAA Board of Directors that, to my knowledge, are all college

gruates. This of course is quite impressive.

So what is my point? We have been giving out scholarships for a number of years encouraging young people to get into the pro-
fession. My fear is that we need to take a good look at what we are trying to accomplish. Some years ago there was a desire to educate more people in our profession. We have done an outstanding job of doing just that.

It is my opinion that scholar-

ships are great to a point. The question is: Are we encouraging too many young people to get into a field that already has a number of college graduates that may have little on-the-job train-
ing. This is where the monster comes to the surface.

Let me give you a little back-

ground information. When my assistant applied for a position at a club in Wisconsin, there were over 80 applications. In fact they stopped opening letters at 80. And of those applying there was a GC*SAA registration. Another interesting point: Those superin-
tendents in the Chicago area look-

ing for assistants this past winter had 30 or 40 applications. From some of these people did little advertis-

ing other than word of mouth.

If we are encouraging people to get into the business, we need to be sure that they understand we need to spend some years in training before they might secure a management position, even if they have a college degree.

So do we really need to give out more scholarships? How many other professional groups give out scholarships in their own profession? Who is going to be the first superintendent that has already happened) that is let go because of one of the monsters we have created.

There are those of you saying, "Mike, just keep up with the times and you will not have to worry."

You are correct for now. But maybe it is money that starts talking. We need to look at the future of the profession. Should we also look at what we are giving to our own people and clubs today, and maybe tomorrow.

What is in the future for you?

Think hard as to what we are do-

ing with scholarship money. There are still some jobs available in the profession. Is this going to be true in the near future? The compensa-
tion is quite good for those com-
ing out of college. Do we need to pay for their schooling too? Are we taking more foreign aid for Japan? You know what I mean. We need quality, but not quantity. Give the subject some thought.

Mike Bavier, superintendent

Inverness GC

Palatine, Ill.

To the editor:

I was upset to learn that I had 30 or 40 applications. Some still are some jobs available in the profession. As many as four weeks ago, my sources told me that GCSAA and Connex were holding discussions regarding a two-show, one-reef extravaganza in Singapore next year. Consider-
ing the "damn the torpedoes" attitude displayed by our friends in Lawrence, this came as some-
thing of a shock (see story page 33). Indeed, most suppliers were caught off guard when the news broke around June 10.

But no one was more in the dark than our friends at the U.S. Department of Commerce, which certifies Conex and GCSAA shows for their American constituents. When I got the official news, I immediately called the department for a comment on this unique overseas development — but I was met with stunned silence on the other end. After patriotically divulging all the information I had, the government guy stole my standard, journalistic phone sign-off: "Hey, thanks for your help." Glad to be of service.

We're considering a commercial or industrial user. We produce a lot of money for the state of Arizona. Farmers do, too. But we're subsidi-
dized by the federal government."

Nair speaks for many superintendents who struggle daily to find and pay for water to keep their turf alive. Which keeps their courses

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Tipping our caps to Messrs. Cornish and Whitten

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"A lot of courses claimed to be Donald Ross designs that weren't. When that first edition came out, I got many calls from club presidents and members upset that we'd dare publish something saying Ross hadn't done their courses," Cornish said.

But it's hard to imagine anyone staying angry with the affable Cornish. And it's even harder to imagine anyone coming away a winner in an argument regarding architectural history once confronted with the knowledge he's gained in his 79 years.

We're all extremely grateful to those who assemble such valuable publications as the National Golf Foundation's Directory of Golf, the Farm Chemicals Handbook and GCSAA's Who's Who in Golf Course Management. Here's just an extra tip of the hat to Messrs. Cornish and Whitten.

The Architects of Golf costs $50. It is available in bookstores or by calling 800/323-3761.

Golf an unfair target of water pricing

Continued from page 10

Which earns money for hotels, restaurants, gas stations, what-have-you... Which generates taxes for, guess who? — all levels of government.

Since farmers haven't been using CAP water, repaying the billions of dollars for the canal system is extraordinarily difficult.

The search for other people to foot the bill seems to have ended at the front door of golf courses. (See story, page 1) You can almost hear the bureaucrats saying, "Golf courses can still afford the water. How much can they afford? How much can we get away with bleeding them? Ah-hah! Let's find out!"

It's time some definitive studies were made public showing the economic impact of golf courses on local economies. Then those studies should be publicized, plastered on bulletin boards and television screens, hammered home in golf publications and your hometown newspaper — whatever-and-whichever.

Then, it will be time to apply those figures to government decisions and create a level playing field — or should I say a level cornfield? There will be no excuses for unrighteous judgments and one-sided decisions that dog golf courses across the nation. There will be no more whipping-boy status for golf. There may even be a "thank you" from an official or two for the money pumped into local economies.

Then, perhaps, "No Hunting" signs can go up at the doorposts of those golf courses.

Phillips comment

Continued from page 10

first — i.e., before the hiring decisions have been made. Kudos for Peter, who also makes his debut on the editorial page this month. (Questions about the Letter can be directed to Peter at 1-207-846-0600.)

- Recently played a true hidden gem in the Portland, Ore. area — Oswego Lake Country Club, an old H. Chandler Egan design. The layout was the hilliest I've seen on the West Coast, and the greens — thanks to superintendent Richard Fluter — were quick and true.

- Each hole was a treat, but the majestic views of nearby Mt. Hood sealed the deal.

- Still nothing doing on the military course bill.

- During June, I was out in Oregon for the many seed company field days. Some colleagues and I learned a valuable lesson in Canby, Ore., where I stayed in the Willamette Valley. If you want to bowl a few strings on a weeknight, get there early. We showed up at Canby Bowl at 7:30 p.m. on a Thursday, only to find a two-hour wait! The place was absolutely packed and, no, it wasn't league night...

Quote of the Month

"Frankly, golfers care more about maintenance than they do about design. You give a guy a choice between playing a well-maintained but poorly designed golf course or a well-designed, poorly maintained one, and he's always going to take the good maintenance. So maintenance is more important than design. It's a fact of life."

"So when you construct a golf course, you construct it for good maintenance. And zoysia is a constructive tool. You know the old saying: 'As ye sow, so shall ye mow.'"

— DR. MICHAEL HURDZAN