Golf needs a lobbyist of its own

The golf industry needs a simple but nevertheless enormous lobbyist problem in our nation's capital. Image and perception are everything in Washington, and golf is sorely lacking on both counts: visibility and understanding. The legislation introduced in May and it will be difficult for Congress to stand in opposition.

• The national media increasingly depicts golf courses as flash points in the environmental debate. The "Wall Street Journal" article, "Golf Courses Are Devastated as Farms, Hazards," ran May 2, is only one of the most recent examples (see my editor-to-editor response at right). As for Paul Harvey... well, don't get me started.

• And despite the monumental growth of public-access golf — and the fact that two-thirds of the nation's courses are open to anyone — the sport is still not seen as a pastime for rich, white males who discriminate against women and minorities while erecting their new play grounds atop environmentally sensitive lands or ancient woodlands.

It's the golf course industry pools efforts and resources, and the first step should be a golfsolutely lobbyist in Washington, D.C.

Now, before I go any further, a word should be said about RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), the specialty chemical association, RISE, and its executive director, Allen James, have done a creditable job representing golf's interest. But the job is too big and RISE has to occupy itself outside the golf realm.

Further, sending a lobbyist to Washington is just what the golf industry needs to pull people and organizations together.

For a while there, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (CGAA) seemed determined to go it alone. But the superintendents have changed their ways, as exhibited by their recent cooperation with the United States Golf Association (USGA) and

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Letters

BORDER COLLIES NEEDN'T BE PUREBRED

To the editor:

In response to your "On The Green" article in the March edition of Golf Course News, I have owned a border collie since 1985. His name is Divits. Unfortunately, I had to put him to sleep, because of leukemia, which his mother had also died from. Since his death, I have been able to find another border collie, named Divits. Border collies were raised to herd sheep, and for the most part they do it instinctively, so doing the same with geese. By the third month, Divits started to train himself. I have yet to figure out how to keep mine from chasing animals. By the third month, Divits started chasing geese. By the third month, Divits started chasing geese.

-- Thomas F. Dale, CGCS

Villanova, Pa.

CAPTURING THE FLAVOR OF THE WADSWORTH WAY

To the editor:

I would really like to thank you for writing such a wonderful article about Wadsworth, its legacy and the people who have had the opportunity to be associated with this outstanding firm. Not only was your article accurate, but was extremely well written and I think that it encompassed the flavor of the Wadsworth Way.

I am particularly grateful that you mentioned Mr. Wadsworth and the Wadsworth's teaming up on a special level. Because you know when all is said and done the most important things are relationships, not money or power or status or recognition and I truly think the most successful people in the world are the ones that have the most humility.

Mr. Wadsworth has been able to demonstrate that when you place the clients' needs above yours and also above all else, you will succeed.

Your article portrays this very nicely. All in all, it was a wonderful article.

Craig Schreiner

ASGCA, ASLA

Kansas City, Mo.