The ultimate fate of America's golfing public was relegated to secondary importance when Dr. Burdette Kay WWJ reported the results of his GCSAA-commissioned Mortality Study last month in Dallas. Kay, an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Iowa, reported that, historically, golf course superintendents have been innocent of contracting certain types of cancer than the general public. And while he stressed there is no proven causal relationship between superintendents' exposure to pesticides, he stated rather definitively that golfers — or course "patrons" — are in no way at risk. This came as no surprise to industry members in the Dallas audience, but it struck golf courses, what ironic because pesticide policy — as issued by the federal EPA and various state agencies — is almost completely driven by the perceived effects of chemical exposure on the public at large, not superintendents. In a culture where golf balls seem to carry more popular weight than the preponderance of scientific data, it was refreshing to hear Kay dispel an all-too-familiar mantra: namely, that pesticide use poses a threat to the general welfare. The general, he said, is not the target of pesticide policy — as posed to a threat to superintendents is not clear, which is why the GCSAA, chemists or manufacturers and the golf course industry all support further study.

Most everyone acknowledges that chemical handling practices were woefully insufficient during the 1940s, '50s and '60s, when subjects of the Mortality Study — those GCSAA members who died between 1970 and 1992 — tended to pursue courses. Further, most everyone agrees that manufacturers have complied above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to applicator training, specific labeling and regulatory laboratory testing. The 10 years of research which any product must undergo before EPA approval, speaks for itself. The new GCSAA leadership did the right thing by addressing the study pro-actively.

Quickly releasing the story to news media organizations, dispensing the input of other industry

Continued on page 13

Take note: Quotes worth remembering from Dallas '94

A titudes and foundations. These are what the International Golf Course Conference and Show provides each April. And so it was in 1994 — from the educational sessions on agronomy, to superintendent Peter Leuzinger's reflection on golf course management, to U.S. Golf Association Green Section agronomist Bob Browner's analogy between the foundations of greenkeeping and faith.

Leuzinger's quote of an unknown author about attitude was a member of the golf course industry, which we know to be true. So it was, to U.S. Golf Association Green Section agronomist Bob Browner's analogy between the foundations of greenkeeping and faith.

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Mark Leslie, managing editor

HURDZAN ANSWERS EPA CHIEF

Michael J. Hurdzan, who heads Hurdzan Golf Course Design, Inc., in Columbus, Ohio, sent Golf Course News this copy of his letter to EPA Administrator Carol N. Browner.

Dear Ms. Browner: I just finished reading your guest editorial in Golf Course News (January 1994 issue) and either you or I are very badly informed.

You specifically indicated that golf courses use four or seven times more pesticides than farmers. But how about compared to a home lawn, vegetable garden or even the White Rose House Rose Gardens and grounds?

You also indicated the increased sensitivity of children who walk golf courses, and pesticide runoff that can severely threaten drinking water supplies. Is the basis of highlighting those issues to inform or inflame? I don't know, but if you are an aggressive environmental advocate with a strong earth science background (Ph.D. in plant and soil sciences) who stays in tune with all golf course-related issues and incidents. Yet I have no knowledge of any incidents you allude to, at least during the past five years. Therefore, I would appreciate it if a member of your staff could specifically cite proven examples such as you mention.

If your staff finds no such incident, then I think it would be appropriate for you to so state in another guest editorial. Frankly, the action plan of your letter reads like something from the mid-1980s, for golf courses and turf managers have been doing what you suggest for years.

We in the golf course industry pride ourselves on being the leaders, and not followers, in this current green revolution. I can provide your staff copies of recent research findings, including those from the EPA's Cape Cod study, that support my point and vindicate our past efforts.

I would expect a person of your leadership position to be rather open-minded and deliberate about an issue that so many people have come to垢 the position of administrator of the EPA. I would further expect you to be more like the blind scales of justice, weighing proven evidence and data with the goal of implementing long-term protection of earth, rather than simply distributing outdated, unsubstantiated advocacy rhetoric. For the sake of science and future generations who depend upon us, let us deal in fact and not scare propaganda.

I look forward to your answer, for if the communication folks of the turf industry are covering up severe or significant environmental degradation or incidents, they need to be taken to task.

As a passenger and parent on this spaceship, I want to know if I or my children will ever make mis- takes or are acting in an irresponsible manner. These issues are far too serious to generalize about or to cover up. Likewise, if we are doing our best, we deserve some recognition and praise.

I am concerned clearly, not just about the perception of golf courses in the environmental continuum, but also the reality of our role. I know of a multitude of positive impacts, and I want to work on reducing those we recognize to negative ones, but we must be specific.

Please contact me if I can further assist you.

Michael J. Hurdzan, president Hurdzan Design Group Columbus, Ohio

BROWNER'S EPA FACTOIDS

To the editor: The January issue of Golf Course News contained a puzzling juxtaposition of factoids, enviro-politi- cal trends and scientific research, of course, finishes in such a line-up. Factoids, as the late Dixie Lee Ray said, are false, exaggerated or misleading beliefs which gain acceptance by frequent repetition. Golfer must learn to recognize factoids, and one must be cautious of factoids as they are often false and inaccurate. Therefore, the following is a guide to a right understanding of what factoids are and the importance of combating them.

I) EPA factoids: The use of pesticides in the United States is ex- cessive and harmful. (Ms. Browner's factoid is not accurate.) It has been shown that the use of pesticides in the United States is not excessive and harmful. The use of pesticides is necessary in order to control pests and diseases that can cause significant damage to crops and vegetation. The use of pesticides is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which ensures that the use of pesticides is conducted in a safe and effective manner.

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**Leslie Comment**

Continued from page 10 him. “We’re still going to build a lot of golf courses. We have 33 on the list for next year,” he said.

So who’s counting? The “19th hole” has a different meaning for Rulewich. When designing a golf facility with 27 holes, or 36 or 54, he thinks of 18 holes. “The 19th hole” is the 36th, etc. What a memory, huh? Ask Roger to describe the 43rd hole at Opelika, Ala., then sit back and listen to him expound on the 7th hole of the short course.

Alice on thriftiness: “Our first golf course was the nine-hole El Dorado Country Club in Indianapolis. It was really supposed to be 18 holes but we spent all our money on the first nine.” — Alice Dye on her and her husband Pete’s beginnings

Dyed in the wool: Perry O. Dye on his mother, Alice’s straightforwardness: “Her constructive criticism has made my dad’s work as fantastic as it is. There’s no fluff around our house when we talk about our work. If it’s bad, we know it, and we have somebody to tell us right away.” — Perry chuckles as he adds) sometimes before we’re ready to hear it.”

Roger and I: A “perfect” pass-catch combination in football is a quarterback and receiver who never misconnect. Thanks for the perfect pass, Roger Staubach. And thanks, K Power, for the opportunity to catch a pass from a Hall-of-Famer.

We were touched: Leuzinger showed slides of the bounteous flowers at his St. Charles (Ill) Country Club. Then, with a photo of his wife with him in the woods, he said: “This is my flower.”

**Best new product name: Slime. Did they pick this stuff up off the floor of the movie set at Ghostbusters? What does it do? You empty your tires, pump Slime into them, refill them and you won’t get a flat tire for the next seven years—guaranteed. Sounds great, but how about Flatbuster!**

**Most soul-searching comment: “Sometimes it’s wise for the architects to swallow their worldwide, well-known pride. Sometimes the superintendent does, too.” — ASGCA President Jerry Matthews on potential clashes between the two pros at new courses.**

Just call him Mister: Joe Baily took on his job of Herculean proportions (the presidency of the GCSCA) after completing a Russian challenge (renovating the bunkers at his golf course). Hercules and Ross: A good duo to emulate, Joe.

Honest, he’s innocent: The USGA Green Section’s Larry Gilbury of Oregon, director of the Western Region, said: “I’ve been asked hundreds of times if I was involved in the Nancy Kerrigan assault. The answer is No. Jeff Gilbury misspells his name G-H-I-H-A-Y-L-Y.”

**SUPPLIER BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF**

HCC ACQUIRES DIG-IT MENDOTA, Ill. — HCC, Inc., a manufacturer of agricultural equipment and utility products for North American and European markets, has acquired Dig-It, a Waukesha, Wis.-based manufacturer of compact portable backhoes and tractor-loader-backhoes. The Dig-It product line includes 3 models of heavy-duty compact portable backhoes popular in the Utility, Rental and Construction markets, and a compact tractor-loader-backhoe. Mendota-based HCC completed the transfer of the production operations in January of this year.

HUEBER TO HEAD ACCUFORM MISSISSAUGA, Ontario, Canada — David Hueber, former head of Ben Hogan Golf, has been appointed president and CEO of Accuform Golf Corp, and will be one of four principals of this privately held Canadian golf accessory/equipment company. While it is probably better known for its patented sand trap rake, the company introduced Accuform II a perimeter weighted golf club in 1995.

TANAKA OFFERS WARRANTY BOTHELL, Wash. — Tanaka will now provide a one-year commercial use warranty on many of its professional grounds maintenance products, including the most popular models of trimmers, brushcutters, hedgetrimmers, edgers and blowers. For more information, contact the nearest Tanaka power equipment dealer or call 206-481-2000.

FARMER TO DIRECT SALES AT WOODS EQUIPMENT OREGON, Ill. — Woods Equipment Co., the manufacturer and marketer of tractor-powered accessories, has named Steve Farmer director of sales, with responsibility for the company’s sales force and network of approximately 3,800 independent farm equipment dealers. Farmer was most recently regional manager for sales in the Southern Region. He will be replaced by Ron Tiller.