Mortality study raises questions, eyebrows

By HAL PHILLIPS

DALLAS — Golf course superintendents were 79 percent more likely to contract large-intestinal cancer and 36 percent more likely to contract lung cancer than the public at large, according to phase-one findings of a University of Iowa mortality study commissioned by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Deaths of 618 former GCSAA members — who died between 1970 and 1992 — were gathered as part of the research, conducted by Dr. Burton Kross, UI associate professor of preventive medicine and mental health, Of the 618 deaths, 179 were cancer related.

"Because this is a statistical study, you can't establish any cause-and-effect relationship from the data," said Kross, who presented the study's findings at February's GCSAA conference in Dallas. "Results of the mortality study provide GCSAA with a scientific basis to encourage stop-smoking programs and improved pesticide-handling practices among its members.

Golf Cars: Who has the purchasing authority?

By PETER B LAIS

& HAL PHILLIPS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Wine, lockers, E-Z-GO, dinnerware, clubhouse architects, Club Car, chocolate mints, table linen, Yamaha, accounts software, tennis court contractors, Melax.

And so it goes, as one golf course superintendent and negotiation, sweeps the aisles and gazes into the booths at the Club Managers Association of America annual exposition here.

This is the third national trade show that golf car and utility vehicle manufacturers regularly attend. Those companies are also a major presence at the annual superintendents' and golf professionals' shows. They are easily the most visible segment of the golf industry to attend all three.

Just who is responsible for ultimately deciding what brand of golf cars to buy?

"This is something we've struggled to define since 1985," said one chief executive officer.

Continued on page 54

Rohm & Haas wins Dimension sweeps the Greensweepstakes

By HAL PHILLIPS

ST. LOUIS — We have a winner.

After months of speculation and negotiation, Monsanto has signed a letter of intent to sell Dimension turf herbicide and other products in its worldwide pyridine family of chemistry to Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Co.

The sale is expected to be completed by mid-year, according to James Budzynski, Monsanto's product director for diisopropyl; the active ingredient in Dimension. No

Continued on page 62