A government big enough to give you all you want...

D id you hear about the man in Tampa, Fla., who in May wrote out his alimony check on a cotton dress shirt? He sent it with the note: "You wanted the shirt off my back. Here’s the shirt."

People in Jacksonville, Fla., are feeling that way today about their own state Department of Environmental Protection (see story on page 1). Developers in Japan are feeling that way about their prefecture officials who force them to the mountain tops. And developers in Boulder, Colo., feel that way about their city government. A friend there said: "It’s so tough to get anything built in Boulder, a lemonade stand takes six months."

The Jacksonville tale serves as a true window to our times — times that support the notion that the greatest unexplored territory on earth is under the hat of an overboard-environmentalist bureaucrat...times that bear out the inimitable Barry Goldwater’s comment that "A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away..." times that illustrate that government in the strong hands can easily cross the bounds from being a necessary evil to being an intolerable evil.

Was it Socrates who said the perfect government would be a dictatorship run by a benevolent dictator? Well, that won’t happen until the Millennium, so until then we have to deal with the has-been and the never-was. Is there anywhere in this country where — at the most local level — this is still a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? Instead of truth-seekers people oriented toward fairness, where problems are being made by folks who personally term the nonsense on stilts.

Bobby Weed, the PGA Tour’s course designer, mentioned a new study in Florida which found five times more wading birds per acre on golf courses than in the Everglades. A thrilled response: No, this lady jumped up, grabbed screaming at me, and said, “Yes, the Everglades are dying!” Weed recalled.

Is there some hidden malice in these environmental activists that we don’t know about? Something like physicians taking the Hippocratic Oath. The Hypocritical Oath, perhaps.

Letters

The following report — filed by Golf Course News European Correspondent, Trevor Ledger — details two important British lawsuits having to do with construction specifications. Mr. Ledger took a few editorial liberties. That’s why it appears here on the opinion page, not a news page — Ed.

To the editor:

Great Britain, a country with a long and proud tradition of "Grin and bear it," one whose inhabitants look more often than not with incuriosity and only rarely with envy at the litigious exploits of the U.S. nation in the throes of litigation fever.

Well, fever perhaps is too strong a word, but for two damagings and back in 1979 against British golf course architects to be running at the same time, that almost is feverish. It’s unheard of, it’s the talk of the industry...and there’s big money at stake.

In one case, the owners of Brett Vale Golf Club, a course in Suffolk County and a member of that architects Howard Swan Limited failed to build their course according to the plans drawn, plans which had been approved by local authority planners. The claim for damages of approximately US$3.1 million centers on their belief that the course will have to be closed for rebuilding, also for other breaches of agreement concerning course design, a £500,000 (£556,000) payment having been specified, a 5,164-yard par-67 course having been delivered.

Further allegations concern the sowing of an unspecified variety of seed on one fairway, some green and tee surrounds that are incomplete, and an irrigation system which they claim is incomplete, improperly constructed and lacking adequate pipework. The case has yet to go to court.

East Dorset Golf Club Ltd. is the plaintiff in the second case, a US$4.5 million lawsuit against architects Hawtree, alleging that company principal Martin Hawtree was in breach of contract in that “he was responsible for the choice and specification of the root zone and for ensuring the specified root zone was suitable and fit for its purpose and the root zone was in fact unsuitable and unfit for its purpose.” As result of this alleged defec-

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GOLF SUMMIT ’94 SCHEDULE
FRIDAY, NOV. 18
8 a.m. to 12 noon — Registration. 12:10 to 1:30 p.m. — Lunch & Wel-
come.
• Opening Address...Ed Von Dyke, NGF chairman.
• State of the Game...Over-
view...Randy Albert, 2:30 to 3 p.m. — State of the Game and the Outlook for Growth.
• Introduction...Joseph Bedett, NGF president.
• New Insights on the Compe-
tition...Lecture Time...Peter Yesbowich, Robinson, Yesbowich & Peppino.
• Why Your Game is Available to the Game...Vern Churchill, presi-
dent, Market Facch, Inc.
• New Research on Golfer Seg-
ments...Robert Shulman, CEO, CPG, Golf Club of America.
• The Prospects for Growth...Joseph Bedett.
3:45 to 4:45 p.m. — Open Forum, GCA Session with Panels. 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. — Opening Reception
SATURDAY, NOV. 19
8 a.m. — Day Two Introduction
— Breakout Session on Se-
lected Golf Industry Issues...Rob-
et Johnstone, president, Club Cor-
poration of America.
• Special Guest...Phil Guaraccio, vice president of mar-
teting, General Motors.
9 to 10:30 a.m. — Ten Issues Affecting the Game and Business of Golf
• The Image of Golf...speakers TBD
• The Industry and the Environ-
ment...Dr. Michael Hundzon, golf course architect; and Dr. Michael Coffeon, author of “Shoals of the Earth.”
• Player Development...speak-
ers TBD
11 a.m. to 12 noon — Open Forum, GCA Session with Panels. 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. — Special Guest...Tim Minchin, com-
missioner, PGA Tour.
1:30 to 3 p.m. — Breakout Ses-
Sions (choose one of the follow-
ing)
• Golf Segmentation and Pos-
itioning Strategies for the ’90s...Robert Shulman and Peter Yesbowich.
• Responding to the Environ-
ment Challenge...Dr. Michael Hundzon.
• Special Guest...Phil Guaraccio, vice president of mar-
teting, General Motors.
• Special Guest...Reg Murphy, president, Hazeltine National GC.
• Creating Committed Golfers... speakers TBD
• Special Guest...Phil Guaraccio, vice president of mar-
teting, General Motors
• Special Guest...Phil Guaraccio, vice president of mar-
teting, General Motors
10 to 11:30 a.m. — Industry Feed-
back Sessions (choose one of the follow-
ing)
• Creating Committed Golfers... Panel Moderator Vincent Allarso, PGA pro & co-owner, The Rail.
• Stepping the Image of Golf... panel moderator TBD
7 to 10 p.m. — NGF Awards Banquet
SUNDAY, NOV. 20
8 a.m. — Day Three Introduction
— Breakout Session on Se-
lected Golf Industry Issues...Rob-
et Johnstone, president, Club Cor-
poration of America.
• Special Guest...Reg Murphy, president, United States Golf As-
cociation.
8:40 to 9:40 a.m. — Summarized Findings of Previous Afternoon’s Breakout Session
10:10 to 11:30 a.m. — Industry Feed-
back Sessions (choose one of the follow-
ing) facilitated by Randy Albert.
11:30 to 12 noon — Summit Wrap-
Up
12 noon — Adjourn/Lunch

Don’t forget to listen. For more information on Summit attendees, contact the NGF at 202-944-0606.

The letter that begins on this page is an update to something mentioned by Steve McWilliams in his letter last month (“At is...
**Phillips comment**

Continued from page 8

sue: USGA lab protocol and the liability for failed greens," page 11). McWilliams, the president and chief executive officer of Turf Diagnostics & Design in Olathe, Kan., is rightly concerned about the liability associated with root-zone specifications and, more important, the adherence thereto during greens construction. The Hawtree case could well be a ground-breaker and precedent-setter in the golf course industry. Anyone involved in golf course design, construction or maintenance should read this both letters.

In the July edition of Golf Course News, we ran a front-page story on the proliferation of golf courses on Indian reservations, where tribes are also developing gambling resorts. As you can see from the story on page 5 ("Wampanoag tribe uproots course with casino plans"), it doesn't always work that way.

While the golf/Indian/casino trend clearly remains a boon to course development, there are exceptions.

**Leslie comment**

Continued from page 8

A companion note: Audubon magazine Editor Michael W. Robbins, in his July editorial, wrote of the ability nowadays to doctor up photographs. Audubon was offered an image of an "eagle soaring before a penny mountain range," he said. "Trouble was, it was two transparencies that had been combined.

"So what?" Robbins continued. "So this. We spend time and effort checking the accuracy of what is on these pages — not only the text but the photos. We make mistakes but we work at being truthful and accurate. To deliberately falsify a situation, whether visually or deliberately, is unacceptable.

Later, Robbins wrote: "The veracity of what's on the page is a matter of trust."

Accurate to their own agenda, perhaps. But accurate? If you've read Audubon and have a complaint, they accept one-page letters, with name, address and a daytime phone number. Send them to Audubon, 700 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10003; FAX 212-477-9069. It's one way to go beyond "preaching to the choir."

Have you considered the effects of the base-ball strike on golf?

With no games to attend or watch on the tube, people of all ages have more spare time this year than normal, and golf courses should benefit from more rounds played.

An insight from Tom Doak on political pressures within clubs for course renovations: "If their course is short and not challenging for them, [scratch golfers] want to move the bunkers back. "I think those courses of the '20s are so interesting to people because they were built when good players hit the ball 220, 240 yards. Today, the average 10-handicapper hits the ball that far. He appreciates it because he is playing it the way it was designed. For the five guys who are one-handicappers, equipment improvements have made it easier for them than the architect meant it to be. But that's only five guys out of 300 of the members."

"Yet, those five guys are probably the greens committee."

**Unless you’re broadcasting award for fire ants, these words of wisdom could become the words you live by.**

While there's no denying that spot-treating a fire ant mound can temporarily remedy the problem, it doesn't guarantee you that it won't come back.

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