scheduled for Jan. 15-18, 1995, at the Inn at Spanish Bay. CRM Director Terry Minger will facilitate the meetings, designed to create an open forum at which golf industry members and environmentalists will communicate their concerns and desires, face to face. We at Golf Course News support the upcoming summit and the ideals that prompted it. However, the golf course industry needn't attend this conference on the environmental defensive, something Golf Digest assumes it will.

In the magazine's September edition, Executive Editor Roger Schiffman writes on why the conference is necessary, offering several examples of alleged on-course agronomic and developmental abuse. For instance, he notes that three courses in the Tampa, Fla. area consume 50,000 to 70,000 gallons of water per day, enough to "meet the daily water needs of more than 5,000 Tampans residents." I doubt very much that Tampa residents would want 25 percent of those 560,000 gallons because they're re- claimed and non-potable. And for the sake of perspective, something with which Schiffman wasn't overly concerned, Florida golf courses use 600 million gallons of water per day — most of which is returned to the water table and reused. Commercial users in Florida use 30 billion (yes, with a "B") gallons of water per day, only a small portion of which is re-used. Non-profit institutions in Florida — government agencies, schools, etc. — use an additional 25 billion gallons per day.

In the words of Bob Yount, executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association, water use on golf courses in Florida is "a pipe dream on the backside." Schiffman also quotes a Cornell University study that says, "A newly established site with limited turf cover appears to have the greatest potential for pesticide leaching." Of course, dirt does provide an ideal atmosphere for leaching, whereas turfgreen is one of nature's optimum filters. Funny that we should be worrying about pesticide use in situations where it's not relevant.

In his attempt to be even-handed, Schiffman goes on...