If this isn't open space, what is?

Couldn't help but titter a bit when I read J. Barry Mothes' story on the long-delayed demise of Liberty State Park's proposed golf development (page 3). While this story has dragged on for 18 years and a definitive decision had to be reached at some point, it's ironic that Gov. Christie Todd Whitman — that pro-business, GOP wunderkind rumored to be for 18 years and a definitive decision had

Think you've got a golf course on the left? Think again...

S

o, the Sierra Club is a bunch of wimps who've sold out to The Establishment. Factories don't burn down by themselves; they need your help. And President Clinton is environmentally "spineless."

Welcome to the world of Earth First! ... And pray they don't visit your golf course. The mere existence of Earth First! and its 100 chapters nationwide should make us all thank God for the other environmental groups — you, the ones that are at least partially cohesive and rational in their thinking.

I just read through Earth First Journal and got an education — an education I'd like to pass along to you. Of special interest to the golf industry in this edition's installment of "Greenbelts..."

Part of the story is the discussion of "creative means of effective defense against the forces of industrial totalitarianism." With a disclaimer that neither the EF! movement nor the EF! Journal "necessarily encourage anyone to do anything of the things discussed," the column details how to destroy a golf course's irrigation system — trusty lammer and flattened screwdriver is hand.

"Forget all that you have heard about pouring gasoline or Roundup on the greens," the column advises. "Don't even bother carving up the tee's (sic) or stealing golf carts. Just cut off that IV from the aquifer."

Now, think of your club's protocol as you read this caution to the Deep Ned Ludd reader: "A quick note on security. There is virtually no security. I worked as a night waterman and security guard at a municipal golf course for four months. I was specifically told not to mess with anyone that (sic) trespassed. I was instructed to call 911 and let the herbies deal with any vaults."

The last graph serves as a call to arms: "So now you know. Go get busy. And if you get really serious about drying out a golf course, get hired on. You'll make some extra dough while conserving precious water."

In another attack leveled at golf, an EF! reporter called Cedar says Freepport McMoRan's Barton Creek Properties in Austin, Texas, "is polluting Barton Creek and Barton Springs with sewage effluent used to fertilize two existing golf courses."

First time I've ever heard of golf courses desiring effluent — and to fertilize to be sure. Boy, there's so much scientific knowledge in this group.)

DOAK WARNS AGAINST OVER-RENOVATION

To the editor:

I read with interest your column about course "face-lifts" in the April issue.

I agree with the architects you quoted that, often, club committees are too "gunsho to make changes to their courses. But many young architects have just as much trouble restraining themselves in suggesting "improvements," when there is a committee full of eager members willing to tear up as much as the architect recommends. For those struggling to find work on their own, the temptation is even greater to fix things that aren't really broken.

A lot of these vintage courses don't really need face-lifts at all — or at least nothing more than advice on how to re-edge their bunkers and return greens to their original size. They're only considering more because the club across the street just rebuilt all its greens, or because they read about it in Golf Course News.

What some of them need is reassurance that the courses have stood the test of time quite admirably. But how many architects are willing to throw away a consulting fee to tell them that?

Not many — and that's why the renovation market is really booming. Every club should get a second opinion before opting for major surgery.

Tom Doak, president Renaissance Golf Design, Inc.

TRaverse City, Mich.
Earth First! & last
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Let's take a further glimpse inside EEF's house organ in this, its Earth First! edition (the April-May edition being named for Earth First! and the Saxon Goddess of Spring who "takes the form of a white rabbit. She brings the dawn. The sun rises at equinox, directly out of the east..."

• Where else could Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt be called "Babbling Bruce" and cite a story involving with the public nor politicians, developers, polluters and compromising eco-yuppies?! This is the same Bruce Babbitt who, as chairman of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), proclaimed in his introduction to the LCV's 1991 Environmental Scorecard of Congressional votes: "We must identify our enemies and drive them into oblivion."

• Where else could an "indigenous person" (that's Native American Indian for the neo-politically correct) excuse arson that destroyed 32 years of research at Michigan State University with the statement: "Sometimes we are forced to do things we do not like when we are warriors."

• Where else can you order the book: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching, whose cover is duplicated as the cover of this Earth First! edition: a silhouette of two wrench-wielding people in the darkness of night walking toward a piece of machinery. Guess their intent?

• Among the T-shirts it promotes: "My Heroes Have Always Killed Cowboys" (emblazoned with a picture of four gun-toting indigenous persons) and "Factories don't burn down by themselves... They need help from you" (sporting a picture of a charred building).

• Among the bumperstickers it offers: "Resist Much, Obey Little" and "We must identify our enemies and drive them into oblivion."

Speaking out of one side of their mouths, EEF'ers say they want to be a real - and respected - player in the field of ideologies. Yet, out of the other side of their mouths they espouse careless destruction of property.

You might think environmental organizations care for the Earth! "No way!" say EEF'ers. Speaking at the Land Air Water Conference in Eugene, Ore., EEF's spokesman Jeffrey St. Clair said, "We've got some national environmental groups like The Sierra Club and that are doing a damn fine job of destroying the environmental movement."

Calling the environmental movement neutered, without vision and void of common sense, St. Clair said groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund and The Wilderness Society have been bought by corporate foundations who advocate "extremely conservative social agendas." E-gads! St. Clair said they even give across the spectrum - from "right-wing causes like the Billy Graham crusade, the Christian anti-communist crusade" [anyone ever heard of such a group?] to the Western Ancient Forest Campaign.

Shame!

As Seed Research of Oregon technical agronomist Skip Lynch said: "In the afterglow of the golf summit in Monterrey just a few months in the past, I was saddened to read such hatred."

Professor urges triazole research
Continued from page 15

in we have problems with density of turf.

"People are trying to prevent algae growth on bentgrass to actually increase algae. But it seems to be temperature-related. In the spring and fall these triazoles don't give a growth regulator effect."

Burpee's tests, using triazoles to control brown patch on creeping bentgrass, have been performed in June, July and August. Brown patch control requires one of the highest label rates as well. He said he did not have evidence of growth regulator effects from all the triazoles, "but at least some. And it is very possible that not all the triazoles react equally severely. Some may give more potent PGR effect than others."

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