Kansas State University, State University of New York-Delhi. Who is next in the sweepstakes to become the "ultimate, deluxe, hybrid" educator of future golf course superintendents/general managers? Penn State, Michigan State, Rutgers, Texas A&M, Guelph... The list of excellent turfgrass management schools goes on and on in North America. We are truly blessed in that way. And now, Natural progress for supers in the quest to teach all people would need as a handful of superintendents are "admitted to running an entire golf course."

"Box," said Dominic Morales, SUNY-Delhi's turfgrass professor and department chairman, explaining the school will teach the entire "team" for golf courses: superintendent, general manager and head pro.

K-State's enrollment tripled when it announced its new curriculum in 1998. Sounds like journalism schools in the wake of Watergate. We often forget investigative journalism. Excitement reigns today as students foresee possibilities of a more comprehensive and promising future for superintendents.

It seems like a natural progression—if a person is so inclined. Many of the thousands of superintendents working today went into the profession because they loved the earth, working outdoors, growing living things, etc. They had no proclivity toward general manager-type jobs, and they still have none.

But, for those who believe they may want to take that step some day, the horizons have opened up to them. And for golf course owners and developers, think about it: Superintendents already operate the bulk of a course's budget, the majority of its property, and perhaps the largest staff. Though they may not have been trained in finances and administration, they have gained the toughest training: the on-the-job type. Superintendents are also in charge of the most important asset, the thing that keeps golfers coming back — the course itself.

At many facilities, why look any further to find a new general manager? In Gourlay's case, Colbert Hills is the third facility at which he has been general manager as well as superintendent. We tip our hats to K-State and SUNY-Delhi, and we wonder: Can others be far behind?...
Leslie comment

Continued from page 10

to switch feet. Yet he is the candidate environmental activists are claiming as their man for the presidency. Knowing that golf course superintendents are environmental activists in the true sense of the word, I will continue to share such quotes as this from our vice president:

"It ought to be possible to establish a coordinated global program to accomplish the strategic goal of completely eliminating the internal combustion engine over, say, a 25-year period."

pp. 274, Earth in the Balance

Blais comment

Continued from page 10

Abbey, when the RCGA owned it, contributed $1 million annually in income. So, the Bell Canadian Open and Glen Abbey basically financed the bulk of RCGA's programs.

Now the association no longer owns Glen Abbey. That leaves the organization with a $1-million deficit, Yamada said. The organization’s bylaws forbid it from investing the $40 million in high-risk financial instruments. "We are an extremely conservative association and our bylaws are extremely conservative. That means we can only do conservative investments. We have to preserve and somehow figure out how to make that $40 million grow," Yamada said.

So, how do these golf centers get built if the $40 million is already spoken for?

The original idea was to use the $40 million as seed capital to help build and operate facilities that could generate income, like Glen Abbey did for many years. But other opportunities have recently presented themselves. And in this 'If there is a will there is a way' world of ours, they certainly deserve a serious look.

A second party — Yamada declined to reveal names while negotiations were taking place — has proposed building the golf centers while providing the RCGA a place to run its programs. If a satisfactory partnership can be developed, the partner would build, own and operate the regional golf centers. Different development scenarios are likely to be proposed in the Montreal, Toronto and Calgary markets, meaning the RCGA will have to analyze each one separately.

Another bitter pill for some to swallow would be if someone else builds the golf centers, RCGA would likely relinquish some control regarding accessibility, tee times and environmental sensitivity issues.

But, in the big picture, these seem like minor inconveniences. Golf in the United States has benefited greatly from the type of private/public partnership being discussed here.

Many a municipal course would never have made it off the drawing board were it not for the cooperative efforts of private developers and government agencies.

The First Tee program would still be a gleam in the golf industry’s eye were it not for the willingness of U.S. golf associations and private firms to work together.

Here’s hoping the RCGA keeps its nest egg intact to finance its many worthwhile projects and lets the private sector take part in developing Canada into the world golf power it can, and will, eventually become.

325-326 Earth in the Balance.

To achieve his goals, Gore knows all too well that the best way to achieve an agenda oftentimes is a continuum of minor changes — a bit here, a chunk there.

"Minor shifts in policy, marginal adjustments in ongoing programs, moderate improvements in laws and regulations, rhetoric offered in lieu of genuine change — these are all forms of appeasement, designed to satisfy the public’s desire to believe that sacrifice, struggle, and a wrenching transformation of society will not be necessary."

pp. 274, Earth in the Balance

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