Mr. Ray Gerber, Editor "The Bull Sheet" 865 Hillside Avenue Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 Dear Ray:

Just a few lines to let you know that Chicago does not have the market cornered on rain. With the wet spring, many of the Superintendents in the Chicago area probably feel they are in the monsoon season. Unfortunately, the rains and cool weather have been with me in Indiana, Missouri, Central Illinois, Iowa and just about any other place you choose to mention in the Midwest. Consequently, many golf courses are slow greening up this spring; this includes the trees as well as the turf. To some people winter and spring may never seem to end, but when the hot, humid months of July and August arrive combined with an outbreak of Pythium, it would be nice to have a couple of spring-type days to break the weather cycle.

With the wet spring, many clubs wonder if they should have installed a drainage system last year instead of an irrigation system. We probably should put our trust in John Coleman of Channel 7; he said, "Summer has not been cancelled for a lack of interest, it's just a little slow getting here, folks!" With many courses throughout the Mid-Continent

With many courses throughout the Mid-Continent area considerably wetter than usual, golf carts have seen limited use this year. Although I have seen ducks swimming in sand traps and fairways, I still am waiting to see the first golfer in a canoe playing with a ball that floats. However, I have seen a fella in a rowboat with his greensmower enroute to a green that turned out to be an island after a heavy rainfall! The fenceline to fenceline coverage that Mother Nature's irrigation system provides is all well and good, but it sure would be nice to find the stop button now, only to reactivate it this summer when the drought period comes along.

Here is hoping that by the time you finish reading this note, your feet are starting to dry.

Sincerely,

Agronomist, Carl Schwartzkope United States Golf Association, Green Section



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