

(GCSAA Letter continued)

5. As the author correctly noted, the study our association commissioned to gather information on causes of death among GCSAA members over the past 25 years cannot and should not be used to imply that a cause-and-effect relationship exists between occupational chemical exposure and human health. We asked the University of Iowa to conduct the study simply to establish a baseline for a long-term, in-depth study of all health and safety questions facing our current members. We are piloting that study this year. As far as the lead investigator's statement that it's a "prudent strategy" to reduce opportunities for pesticide exposure among golf course workers, we agree wholeheartedly. That's just common sense.

6. Finally, I felt that the illustration that accompanied the article (a cartoon which depicted golfers in "moonsuits") was not reflective of the content. Return to the Alar scare for a minute. The most unfortunate part of that whole unsavory story was that people stopped a very healthy activity (eating apples) because of an extremely remote health risk. Your illustration flippantly creates a perception that golfers have something to fear. Nothing in our study or any other credible scientific research indicates that golfers are at risk.

In closing, I urge any golfer who has a question related to this article to contact his or her local golf course superintendent to find out the real story. Ask your superintendent about wildlife on the course, about the realities of chemical management practices, about the course's environmental philosophies. I think golfers will find the real story much more positive than the one presented recently in these pages. I also urge the **Journal** to revisit this subject in the future and to take a much more comprehensive approach.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS  
President, GCSAA

## On the Golf Course Superintendent

"The golf course superintendent is more of an artist than he realizes. I think he's tremendously important in providing the 'golf garden view' to the members as an escape from the concrete and steel that overpower us in today's world.

"He's got to do this with a budget that is often too small, with challenges that were never there before — like water shortages and environmentalists — and the guy who pulls it off has gotta be a genius.

"I think we owe him a lot more praise than he's used to getting and I know it's going to happen. I can think back to when my own profession didn't get the appreciation it deserved. The reporter was supposed to be rather devil-may-care underpaid guy and not generally given profound respect, if any at all. But times are changing. When you heap responsibilities on people you've got to give them respect, you've got to give them bucks and you've got to give them privileges.

"The television guys still haven't learned to point out the beauty of a golf course or the work that went into it, months and months. People accept the beautiful greens and fairways instinctively. I don't say the superintendent has to be interviewed at length but they can mention his name and let him share a split-billing with God!"

**Herb Graffis — Reprint from May 1984**

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