

Things I'll Never Understand



If I Live to a Hundred

As I See It

By Jim Walker

Why do so many guys tee it up from the black and blue tees and not get it past the ladies' tees? Dude! Hello! You're not going to do that for 17 more holes are you?

The practice facility at the Palmetto Golf Course, where my wife Susi works, does a quarter of a million dollars a year in range balls. Eighty percent of the patrons bring two clubs with them to hit: their driver and wedges. I realize Hogan said the three most important clubs in a golfer's bag were the driver, wedge and the putter. But he was talking about people who could actually hit the ball, not the pork chops who hit from the blues and not get it past the reds.

You know you're in for a long day when the lady in the pro-shop line in front of you has the tee time just before yours and asks for a "pair" of golf gloves.

Why did it take so cotton-picking long to develop this high-tech golf equipment? Yeah, sure, now we got it... now that I'm so old I can't hit it out of my shadow.

Someone asked if we had a "Pace of Play" policy? I said, "Yes! Our policy is your place on the golf course is directly behind the group ahead of you, and not directly in front of the group behind you!"

We have too many golf courses in the U.S. and we're driving ourselves nuts trying to cultivate new business and keep the folks we already have. In England you must have a proficiency card from a golf pro or an R&A or USGA handicap card to play most of the courses on the other side of the pond.

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Changing the subject. Could someone please tell me why cigarettes, scotch, ice cream, French fries, cheeseburgers, cookies, cake – and a zillion other things that taste so good – are so damn bad for you? The inventors of all these good/bad things should be shot.

How can some people buy a car and drive it until the wheels fall off? I get sick and tired of really once nice cars in less than two years. My poor wife – we looked at a Cadillac in 2003 and she got it in 2006. I would have died from

hives waiting four years for a car I really wanted. My poor, poor wife – two people and three cars. There probably would be more if we lived in a house instead of a condo.

Why did it take so long to get high-definition television into people's homes? I had a hi-def TV almost a year before my cable company delivered their first hi-def programming.

Why did it take so cotton-picking long to develop this high-tech golf equipment? Yeah, sure, now we got it... now that I'm so old I can't hit it out of my shadow.

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Why did the Dodgers and the Giants have to move to California? Why do the professional sports franchises need a new stadium or arena every 20 years? I hope the people in Boston and Chicago never let Fenway Park or Wrigley Field meet the same grim reaper all our other cathedrals of the game have succumbed to.

When will we see the first 8,000 yard golf course?

Why do so many people pick their noses while they are driving? They must think they are invisible in their cars. Got a hot news flash for you homey – that hot chick you were flirting with a second ago is now getting grossed out.

Did you think that rap "music" would still be around 20 years after Sir Mix-a-Lot said, "Baby got back" and "Put 'em on the glass?"

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tem? That's right baby. A mobile fidelity sound lab, half speed master virgin vinyl album playing on a Thorens turntable. Blows those strident CD's right out of the water.

Why do wonderful people like Marie Roberts and Joel Jackson have to retire? I don't like to think of the day when I can't call them with state or local chapter business.

Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing?

These are just a few of the things I'll never understand even if I live to be a hundred.

Inconvenient Truths



**GREEN
SIDE
UP**

**By
JOEL JACKSON**

Former Vice President Al Gore spent much of 2006 touting his movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," across the country. The truth, according to Mr. Gore and other "experts," is that the planet earth is in the death grip of a global warming trend, and only if mankind will rein in its burning of fossil fuels can we hope to stem the predicted catastrophic consequences.

I might be able to be convinced that the planet is recording warmer temperatures, but then I've also been told by "experts" that 120,000 years ago the sea level was 20 feet higher than it is today. There weren't any factories or automobiles back then, and something sure melted those ice age glaciers way back then and it wasn't mankind. And then there were those "experts" who predicted another ice age back in the 1970s. Where are they now, predicting global warming?

Inconvenient truths! Mr. Gore, can you stand a few of my inconvenient truths gleaned from reports and observations during my short time on earth? Mine will cover the global warming issue and the current buzz on protecting water quality in Florida.

The earth's forests, fields, green belts (golf courses, parks, lawns, etc) and oceans (66 percent of the planet's surface) are huge carbon sinks that absorb a whole lot of carbon dioxide.

Along with factories and vehicles, humans expel carbon dioxide when they breathe. Will we be required to hold our breath to prevent global warming?

Given the absolutely abysmal accuracy of the 2006 hurricane season due to unforeseen global changes in climate phenomena (El Nino and the Bermuda High), why should we subscribe to the predicted global warming and wreck our economy?

Which is more likely to affect global (planetary) temperature change. Smoke stacks and exhaust pipes or a slight change in earth orbit or solar flares and sun spot activity that happens in periodic galactic cycles?

Regarding water quality and the fixation on fertilizer applications by local officials and activists as the primary cause of nutrient loading in Florida's waterways.

Nutrient loading: All fertilizers may be nutrients but not all nutrients are fertilizers.

Outdated and faulty municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants dump more nutrients in our waterways than fertilizer applications on turfgrass.

It is winter and the geese, ducks and other waterfowl are heading south and filling our bays, lakes and ponds. And here comes the phosphorus and urea with them. How do you stop millions of birds from pooping in the water?

Studies by O. M. Scotts Co. show that approximately 50 percent of homeowners never, ever fertilize their yards, and another 35 percent apply only once or twice.

Only 15 percent of homeowners pursue high-maintenance lawns, applying fertilizers three or four times per year.

A healthy stand of turfgrass prevents

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erosion, filters runoff, uses less water and makes more oxygen than a tree, and it doesn't fall on power line or houses in a windstorm. Maybe they should reduce the number of trees by 50 percent instead of turfgrass in lawns.

It is one thing to be concerned about people living and working in coastal zones and the consequences of rising water levels. Caveat emptor – Let the buyer beware. People have lived and built in flood and danger zones ever since time began. It is another thing to say the "truth" of the matter is that man is causing this global temperature shift.

Asteroids striking the planet and mammoth volcanic eruptions can cause global weather changes along with wobbles and changes in the earth's orbit around the sun. Locally people can foul their nests for sure and there is nothing wrong with cleaning up the air in any smog-affected area.

I marvel at the computer model that recently computed that lawnmower and leaf blower engines contributed 7 percent of the air pollution in California, and now the EPA has granted a waiver to require catalytic converters on small gas engines. Want to compare that to the jet airliner's pollution contribution flying Gore around the U.S. plugging his movie? Give me a break.

The inconvenient truth is each person will believe what he wants to believe in the face of conflicting reports and cherry-picked facts that will support any argument you want to make.

It comes down to motives and character and a willingness to admit that man can't control nature.