# GOLF COURSE NEW S

PREMIERE ISSUE

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# Nation's eyes on board ruling

BY VERN PUTNEY

The Vermont Environmental Board is sitting on a decision that could affect golf course development nationwide.

Scientists and turfgrass professors feel the Environmental Board has slighted their expertise by rejecting the initial request for a golf course in Huntington, Vt., on the grounds pesticides used on the course would threaten groundwater used for drinking as well as a nearby stream.

As the board ponders the developer's

latest appeal in the case, more upset and worry are being aired in the golf course industry and science community.

"Does Vermont know something we don't?" asks Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Massachusetts' Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. His comment is echoed by other scientists.

At the heart of the debate is the 4-year-old effort of Paul Truax and Vermont partners to build an 18-hole golf course as the forerunner of a planned \$22 million resort

that would embrace luxury condominiums, hotel, conference center, theater, sports center and chapel in Huntington.

The board, which Nov. 9 again rejected Truax' application to develop the course adjacent to the Sherman Hollow Inc., ski resort, met Jan. Il at Williston to consider an appeal. Because of probable lengthy review, a decision isn't due until Feb. 7.

That ruling isn't expected to be the last word

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Dr. Michael Hurdzan, right, and Trivial Pursuit inventor Chris Haney look over land that Hurdzan is designing into an 18-hole course, called Devil's Pulpit, in Caledon Village, Ontario, Canada. See story on Hurdzan and his look at building affordable golf courses on pages 20 and 21.

# Insurance spreading nationwide

BY MARK LESLIE

A veteran employee self-assuredly working with heavy equipment after so many years on the job, gets lackadaisical and a mower blade slashes off his index finger.

An inexperienced lady golfer hops onto a golf cart and promptly puts the vehicle into reverse instead of forward, pinning the caddy master behind her against a wall and breaking his leg.

A spectator at a golf tournament is hit in the head by a ball and returns the favor by suing both the club and the volunteer who was running the tournament.

In mishaps like these two parties can get badly hurt – the individual physically and the golf course in the wallet.

Physical danger seems to be inherent any time you combine machinery and people. The combination personifies Murphy's Law: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

But by the end of this year golf courses throughout the country will be able to pro-Continued on Page 33

# Hyundai eyes cart market

#### Giant hopes to make splash

BY MARK LESLIE

Giant Korean manufacturer Hyundai Corp. U.S.A. expects to be selling golf carts in the United States by the second quarter of this year, according to a company official.

S.S. Cho, senior manager for development at Hyundai's Ft. Lee, N.J., headquarters, said only the legal procedure for permission to import the carts to the United States is holding up production.

Cho, who is in charge of the golf cart project, said the "internal procedure is going Continued on Page 26



Green Section's Bill Bengyfield

# **Builders cite USGA section**

The Golf Course Builders of America will honor the USGA Green Section Saturday, Feb. 11, for its "pioneering work in turfgrass research and management."

The GCBA will present the Green Section with its annual award at its banquet at 8 p.m. at the Anaheim (Calif.) Marriott Hotel, during the 60th annual International Golf Course Conference and Show.

Marion Farmer of Los Angeles, former chairman of the USGA Executive Committee's Green Section, will accept the award on behalf of the USGA. But Farmer passed on accolades to Green Section National

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### Hyundai

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on as scheduled" and Hyundai officials in Seoul, Korea, and the United States are working on the legal steps.

Cho said the carts will be manufactured in Korea.

He said the Hyundai cart will be three-wheeled and gas-powered.

He said it was "difficult to say" the price of the carts but they "will be not much different than other golf carts."

Asked his firm's distribution

plans for the new product, Cho said Hyundai "would like to set up dealerships."

Hyundai is not a newcomer to golf cart production, having made carts for other firms in Europe and Asia.

It will be the third foreign firm manufacturing golf carts for sale in the United States. Yamaha Motor Corp. U.S.A. is Japanese and Melex is Polish.

E-Z-GO, Club Car and Columbia

Golf Car are the other manufacturers, and it is difficult to project the reaction of these companies to another competitor in a market where an estimated 110,000 units are sold in the United States each year.

"I really don't know what will happen. I've never dealt against Koreans in this particular marketplace," said John English, director of marketing for Columbia in Madison, Wis. "There's always a lot of rumors in the golf cart industry. We've heard about different players getting into the industry, but there's not a whole lot you can do about what your competition does."

Still, competitors must wait and see how Hyundai will market its cart and what styles and options it will produce.

Retail sales, the fleet business, utility vehicles—they're all part of the selective marketplace.

### Green Section plans sessions

Superintendents in the USGA Green Section's Mid-Continent area plan regional conferences March 9 at Cherry Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Mo., and March 21 at Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, Sioux Falls S. D.

Information will be offered on a wide range of turfgrass and golf management topics.

The conferences are open to superintendents, golf professionals, club managers, owners and operators of daily fee facilities and golf-related groups.

## Nat'l experts set to speak

Experts from coast to coast will speak at the Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show on March 27-28 at Holiday Inn Downtown in Portland, sponsored by the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Ron Hall, golf course construction contractor in Seattle, Wash., will addressing the first-day session. Nick Christians, professor of turfgrass science at Iowa State University, will speak at both morning and afternoon sessions the opening day.

William Roberts, chairman of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Government Relations Committee and, superintendent at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., will speak the second day.

Sherwood Moore of Amherst, Mass., and, Professor Richard Skogley of the University of Rhode Island, who will both be honored by the GCSAA in February, Anaheim, will also speak, along with Houston B. Couch, professor of turfgrass pathology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.; architect Steven Kay of Purchase, N.Y.; Rich Minter of Storrs, Conn.; Ed Correia of Greenland, N.H., and metorologist Lou McNally of South Portland.

Henry Jennings of the Maine Board of Environmental Control in Augusta, Jim Connolly of the United States Golf Association in Far Hills, N.J., Couch and Roberts complete the conference's speakers the second day.

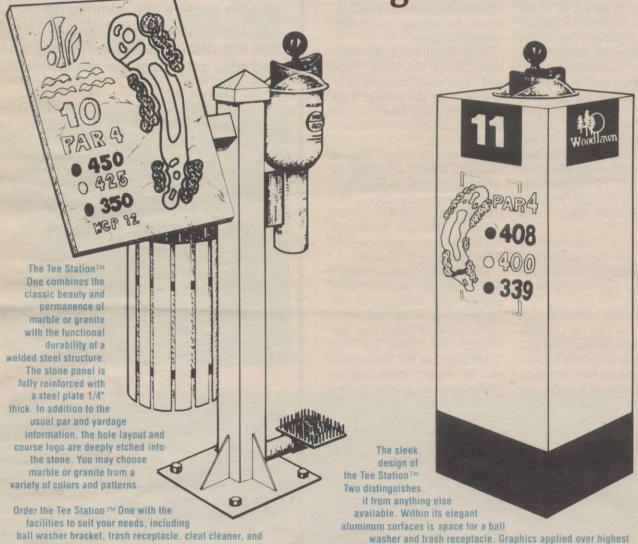
# Three can hit in golf cage

A three-man Golf Cage, called the "Big Hitter, has been designed to give three golfers adequate space to safely hit woods and irons.

Gold Medal Recreational Products, Blue Mountain Industries, of Blue Mountain, Ala., is making the weatherproof knotless nylon setting cages so that their panels are individually replaceable without dismantling the cage.

The double baffle receiving net eliminates rebound. Support posts can't be hit with a driven ball and the cage has a spectator protective net as well as wing nets on forward support cables.





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