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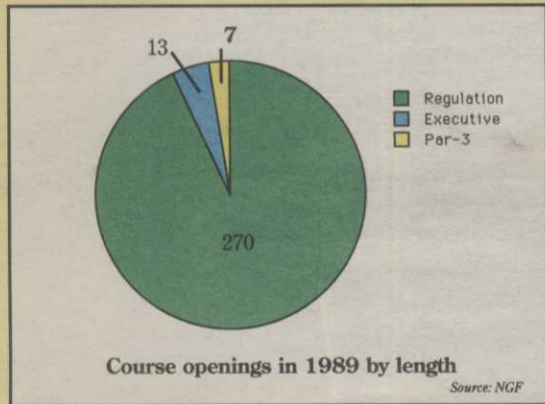
# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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## Hawaiians just say no

### Committee turns down potential \$291-million profit

BY PETER BLAIS

The Honolulu City Council Human Services Committee has voted against the city's proposed sale of West Loch

Golf Course to a Japanese company, likely killing a deal that would have netted the city \$291 million. Mayor Frank Fasi hoped to use for recreational facilities and three new public courses.

Jurigi Co. bid \$111 million this spring for the new municipal course, which cost the city \$20 million to build, and offered \$200 million in impact fees if

the city eventually approved two other golf course construction applications.

The committee voted 4-1 against Jurigi's offer. Committee Chairman Neal Abercrombie said his committee had two primary objections.

First, Abercrombie explained, the land was originally condemned for a municipal course and should be used  
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## Corps major holdup

BY MARK LESLIE

The Army Corps of Engineers has caused more delays in golf projects than any other organization, according to a survey of golf course architects.

Thirty-nine of 40 member firms answering an American Society of Golf Course Architects survey said they experienced difficulties in obtaining permits for courses because of environmental concerns by local, state or national agencies.

Fifty-six percent of the firms cited the primary obstacle as wetlands, which the Corps of Engineers over-  
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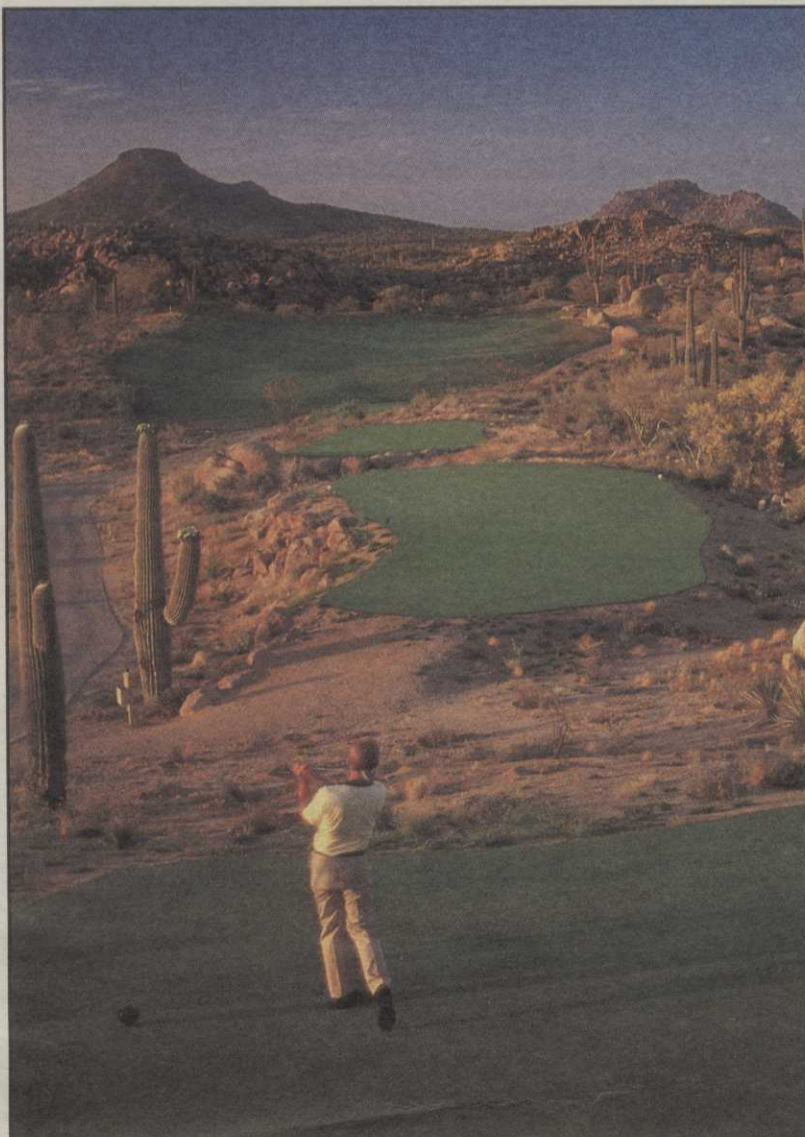


Photo by Tony Roberts

A golfer tees off at Troon North, the latest creation of Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf in Scottsdale, Ariz. Developed by Pinnacle Peak Land Co. of Scottsdale and built by Wadsworth Construction Co., Troon North is an 18-hole championship, daily fee course. It is carved out of the desert, featuring saguaro cactus (at left), lots of rocks, and holes that are totally isolated from one another. Its bermudagrass greens read 9 on the stimpmeter. Pinnacle plans a four-season hotel and home development on the site.

## Tainted fungicide damages courses

BY MARK LESLIE

A fungicide contaminated with a foreign chemical killed turf on about 10 golf courses in five states, according to its manufacturer, O.M. Scott & Sons.

Atrazine, the active ingredient in Scott's Bonus S herbicide, mistakenly got mixed into a batch of FF-II, a fertil-

izer-based fungicide used primarily to control snow mold, said Jim Fetter, Scott's vice president of marketing.

The mixing was done last fall but it wasn't until weather warmed up this spring that it was discovered at several courses in Michigan, two in Minnesota, and one each in Pennsylvania,

Ohio and Kentucky.

It is not likely the problem will show up at any other courses, Fetter said. "We feel we know exactly what happened, what (production) run the contamination occurred in, and where it went."  
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# Florida

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ern and western areas have been the driest.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District recorded just 10.5 inches of rain through the first five months of the year, 69 percent of the 15.1-inch average. Last year's five-month figure was even lower, 9.3 inches.

Not surprisingly, the May 21 ground water index, which measures the depth of 51 test wells throughout the district on a scale of 0 to 100, reached record lows of 9 in the northern part of the district and 15 in the south, according to district spokesman Granville Kinsman.

On April 13, seven counties — Hillsborough, Pasco, Manatee, Hardee, Pinellas, DeSoto and Sarasota — were placed on Modified Phase III restrictions. For golf courses that meant watering fairways, roughs and non-playing areas once a week, tees three times a week, and greens only at night.

"The fairways went from green to paper bag brown between early April and late May," said Chip Lewison, superintendent at Dunedin Country Club, just north of Clearwater. "We just haven't got much rain along the coast. You can see a system building. But then you wait and wait and wait, and it never falls."

Pesticide applications requiring water have often been delayed because they require special variances. That has allowed nematodes and mole crickets to do more than their usual damage, Lewison said.

But Lewison prepared early for the tougher restrictions, cutting back watering greens to three days a week in February, in anticipation of a dry spring.

"We got a thunderstorm that dropped one-half inch to 2-1/2 inches last week (late May)," said Lewison. "We got green grass for about three days. But it's started to wilt again. It looks green from a distance. But up close it's sparse."

While ground and surface water are restricted, effluent is not. Dunedin is building an effluent plant that will come on line in two years. "But that's still two more years of restrictions," said Lewison.

The benefits of having effluent available are obvious at Hunters Ridge Country Club near Naples. The Bear course, which uses effluent, has come through the drought in much better shape than The Bobcat, which depends on a restricted 250-foot well, according to superintendent Steve Cardullo.

Hunters Ridge is laboring under a Modified Phase II restriction, allowing greens and tees to be watered every night, fairways and roughs twice weekly.

"Things were starting to look pretty sad around here," Cardullo said. "The greens and tees were in good shape. But the fairways were pretty cooked."

"I spent a lot of time putting out political fires, assuring members that fairways wouldn't die. Green grass is more for aesthetics. Bermudagrass doesn't need as much water as people think."

Fortunately for Cardullo, it rained every day from May 21 through June 4, dropping eight inches on the Bobcat and Bear courses. But district officials aren't about to lift or tone down restrictions.

Only two of the last seven years have seen higher-than-average (53.1-inches) rainfalls. That trend has resulted in lowered water tables. It will take four to six straight months of above-average rainfall before the district would consider easing restrictions, said Kinsman.

"We don't want to take them off and then just have to put them back on again," said Kinsman.

The water shortage is not confined to southwest Florida, according to Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association President Joel Jackson. The last normal, annual rainfall at Jackson's Isleworth Golf & Country Club near Orlando was 52 inches in 1987. It dropped to 43 inches in 1988 and 26 inches in 1989. This year's nine inches through the end of May is about the same as last year.

Isleworth falls within the South Florida Water Management District and hasn't been restricted.

"But we were starting to experience some problems. We were having a problem doing what we needed to do with our monthly allotment," said Jackson, who was grateful for the 1-1/2 inches of rain his course received June 2.

Most rain this time of year falls during

brief but heavy thunderstorms, with much of the water escaping as runoff rather than being absorbed into the ground, Jackson said.

"It's very localized. One course can be doing fine and another one a few miles away is hurting. Overall, central Florida is in reasonably good shape," he added.

The water situation on the east coast has generally been better than on the western shore. But eastern courses are still feeling the effects of the drought.

"We got three inches this week (last week of May)," said Chuck Calhoun, superintendent of the North and South courses at John's Island Club in Vero Beach. "That's about as much as we had gotten all year. We've gotten 8.4 inches total so far this year. Normally we'd have between 12 and 16

inches by now."

Calhoun said his courses are on voluntary restriction. The St. John's Water Management District has requested courses water fairways just three times a week, greens and tees only at night. Still, the South course was down to a one-day supply of water prior to the late May rain.

"The fairways aren't as good as we could have them. But the tees and greens are in good shape. Wetting agents have helped," said Calhoun.

Ironically, John's Island used to have its own effluent plant. But the city disassembled it and moved it to the mainland several years ago, said Calhoun. So, instead of the non-restricted source of water it had before, John's Island now depends on a mainland well that can be restricted.

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