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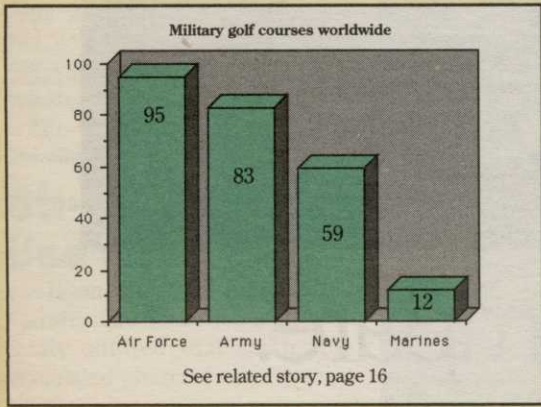
# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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## Rains deluge courses

BY PETER BLAIS

First Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina, then the San Francisco earthquake, then record-low temperatures in December throughout much of the United States, then, most recently, spring flooding in the south central Midwest.

It's been a tough past few months for the nation's golf courses.

Record April and May rainfalls swelled rivers and left entire courses under water in Arkansas and Texas. Some weren't expected to re-open until mid-June.

In Little Rock, Ark., Rebsamen Park and Burns Park municipal golf courses were completely flooded during the first week of May, according to Arkansas State Golf Association President Charles Wade. The back nine at Maumelle Golf and Country Club was

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A tractor bulls through flood waters at Rebsamen Park Municipal Golf Course in Little Rock, Ark. Photo by Tanga Dreher

## Jobs galore for grads

BY PETER BLAIS

At Michigan State University, Assistant Professor John "Trey" Rogers has a list of 77 assistant superintendent job openings for this year's 44 graduates of the school's two- and four-year turf management programs.

At Pennsylvania State University, 20 of this year's 36 turf management graduates had already accepted jobs as of mid-April, according to Professor Joseph Duich. Another six were nego-

tiating with employers and Duich had little doubt the rest would find employment.

At Texas A&M University, instructor Wallace Menn estimates the school has received three times as many job offers as it has graduating students (45) of the four-year agronomy with turf management option program.

At California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, Professor Kent Kurtz

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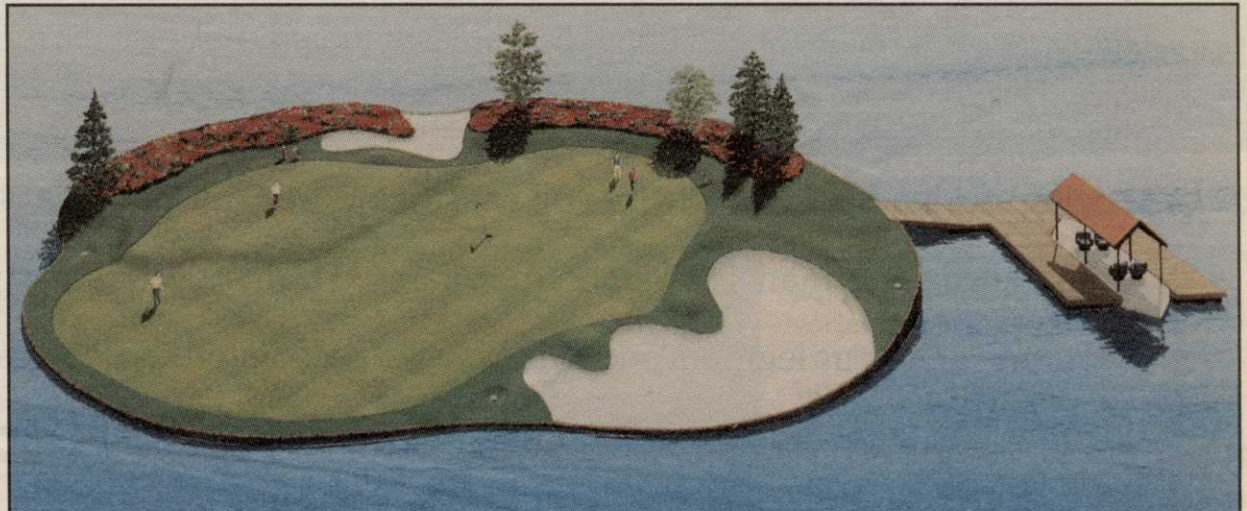
## Vegas debates effluent use

BY PETER BLAIS

The Colorado River Commission is considering stopping the use of effluent to water Southern Nevada golf courses, a move that could threaten development in one of the fastest-growing areas of the country.

The amount of drinking water southern Nevada is allocated from the Colorado River is determined, to an ex-

*Continued on page 15*



The floating 4th green at Coeur d'Alene is a monument to engineering and innovation. Courtesy of Scott Miller Design

## Miller tests waters with floating green

BY BOB SPIWAK

When the golf course opens next summer at Idaho's Coeur d'Alene resort, it's going to make a big splash. Golfers, playing the 14th hole, will make a lot of smaller splashes. The course will feature the world's first

floating island green.

Coeur d'Alene is in the panhandle of northern Idaho, tucked between Washington and Oregon. Surrounded by mountains, and on the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, the town was once a timber community. It has evolved into

a recreational area and when land became available at the site of an old mill, local developer Duane Hagadone saw it as an ideal place for a golf course to accompany his hotel resort on the lake. Hagadone was certain of one thing:

*Continued on page 26*

# Graduates

Continued from page 1  
 reported eight to nine job offers for each of his 15 turf management graduates.

And so it goes.  
 With the recent golf boom, it's a buyer's job market for graduates of the country's better-known turf management programs. Students are frequently leaving their schools with a handful of assistant superintendent and, in some cases, head superintendent job offers.

"From everything we've heard, the job market is very good for turf management students," said Colleen Pederson, director of education for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

"We could use more students," said Kurtz, a member of Cal Poly's Horticultural De-

partment which fell from 400 students in the mid-1970s to 160 this year. "High schools don't give students very good direction. They don't know about openings in a field like golf course superintendent."

With so many jobs to choose from, what sways a recent graduate to choose one course over another?

Money? Most assistants start in the \$18,000 to \$28,000 range agree educators. Duich has seen offers of more than \$38,000. But money, at least for those first entering the field, "isn't as important as you might think," said Rogers.

Benefits? Many courses are offering improved insurance, retirement, vacation, clothing allowance and continuing education programs. Such perks are increasingly important, but rarely the deal maker when recruiting an assistant superintendent, said Menn.

## Coeur d'Alene

Continued from page 26  
 nance building. Outside, a state-of-the-art computer-controlled weather station will monitor and deliver irrigation throughout the course's 120 acres.

"Fence to fence," Miller beams, "it's going to be like a park."

Native vegetation has been retained wherever possible, supplemented by plantings of ground cover junipers on the hillsides and deciduous azaleas.

With lake views from most of the tees, even visual pollution has not been overlooked. Rest rooms are located in underground bunkers.

Some of the fairways are wide open. Some are level, some up and down hills. There are woodland holes and "maritime" holes.

This mix makes the course a delight, both to play and to walk upon and soak up the views.

Miller and Hagadone's Coeur d'Alene makes a statement that a course can be designed for golfers of every handicap. The floating green, unique in all the world, will be its exclamation point.

*Bob Spiwak is a freelance writer based in Winthrop, Wash.*

Location? While most hope to return to their native areas, recent grads realize "assistant superintendent" is generally a transient position. They are often willing to spend two or three years as an assistant in a strange area if it helps them eventually land a head job near their home.

The course? Experience at an Oakmont, Augusta, Pine Valley or the like looks impressive on a resume. But it's rarely the deciding factor.

So just what lures a recruit from campus to fairway?

"What really attracts a student," explained Rogers, "is the superintendent he'll be working for. His reputation. He (recent graduate) wants this first job to be a spring board to a head superintendent's job in two or three years."

"A good superintendent will say 'I want you here now. But I want you out of here in two years.' The best superintendents I work with are calling me every couple of years looking for a new assistant."

"The person they'll work for is very, very important," agreed Duich. "A good superintendent will give his assistant supervisory experience and get him involved in the decision-making process."

Many turf management students will already have some practical golf course experience, probably as a laborer. In fact, it's required for admission into the Penn State and Michigan State programs.

"As a rule, we require at least three years of experience," said Duich of Penn State's associates program. "Some students have five or 10 years. So we have a lot of older students. We rarely get an 18-year-old."

"We also have many returning students. We've had people with chemistry, math, psychology and many other degrees. At some time they worked on a golf course and decided to get back into it rather than spend their lives doing what they'd originally studied to do."

Two-year programs tend to be the most popular at schools offering two- and four-year options. At Michigan, the associates program has about 70 applicants for 40 slots, said Rogers. Getting back into the job market quickly is important for those who al-

**Many courses are offering improved insurance, retirement, vacation, clothing allowance and continuing education programs. But such perks are rarely the deal maker when recruiting an assistant superintendent**

ready have degrees and possibly families.

"The older, returning student is often married and has a lot of desire. And success, I've found, is about 90 percent desire," said Rogers.

"We haven't found much of a difference in the quality of two- and four-year students. Once you're out there, you're judged on how you do your job, not the degree you have."

Texas A&M has a bachelor's program, leaving two-year degrees to the state's technical, junior and community colleges, said Menn.

"There are a lot of good two-year programs in the state. And we get some of the graduates of the two-year programs who want the broader base of a four-year degree," he said.

Texas A & M graduates tend to remain in Texas, with most eventually ending up at large-city courses. "But a lot look for assistant jobs in north Texas to get some bentgrass experience," Menn said.

Duich said Penn State has the hardest time filling job requests from courses in the northern New Jersey and Long Island areas. The cost of living and the lifestyle are a tough sell since most Penn State turf management students come from smaller towns, he said.

Rogers said the hardest requests for Michigan State to fill come from large cities like Chicago and Kansas City.

"Most of our students aren't from big cities. And let's face it, \$20,000 will go a lot farther in Grand Rapids than it will in Chicago," he said.

### More Varieties Available

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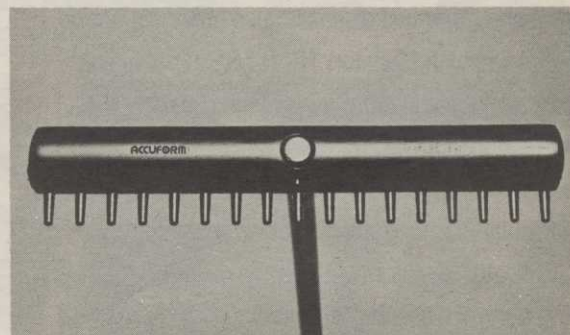
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