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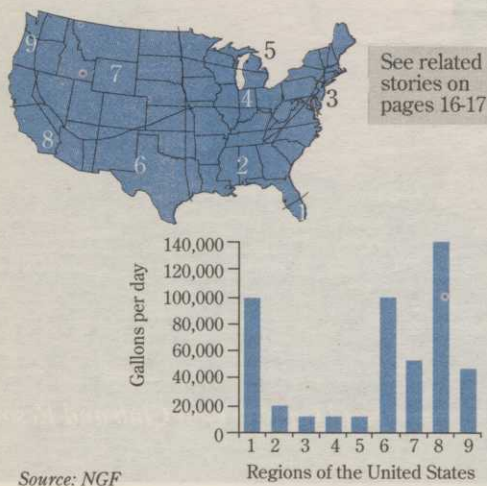
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Reaction to Gulf mixed...

BY MARK LESLIE

As the Persian Gulf crisis turned 1 month old, investors, builders and architects in the U.S. golf industry reacted with varying degrees of caution and optimism.

The length of the crisis is crucial to deciding its impact, everyone agrees.

Michael Hurdzan, an architect based in Columbus, Ohio, predicted an "incredible impact" from the crisis and harkened back to the Arab oil embargo of 1974 when the golf construction "virtually dried up."

"I think this situation is so unsettling that developers in the U.S. who have

not already committed (to a project) are going to wait and see. I think that some of those who are committed and who are on the fine edge are going to say, 'Hey, I'm going to cut my losses and stop right now.'"

Perry Dye, president of Dye Designs in Denver, Colo., and of the Golf Course Builders of America, said: "We're in the recreational, extra-dollar industry. We're the first to go and the last to come back. But until it happens we won't feel it."

Dye said developers whose projects have been in the permitting process

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... as Supers, others fear domino effect

BY MARK LESLIE

The domino effect of an oil shortage would be felt in construction and a range of operations on a golf course, superintendents and others agree, but how much is up for debate.

"I'm dead budget-wise," lamented Dan Jones, superintendent at Banyan Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Fla.

He said his first delivery of oil after Iraq invaded Kuwait cost 16 cents a

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Crumpin-Fox Club in Bernardston Mass., is "my personal favorite," says Roger Rulewich of Robert Trent Jones Inc. This view shows the 14th hole from the tee. Crumpin-Fox is being touted by

some as a candidate for best public course of the year. For information on this and other courses around the United States, see page 11. Photo courtesy of Crumpin-Fox

Club directors face tests

BY PETER BLAIS

The biggest threat facing the private club industry is that its members are perceived as elitists, according to a National Club Association lawyer.

The typical private club member appreciates traditions, is trying to conserve something of worth, likes to relax and enjoys some financial success, said Thomas Ondeck at the recent NCA Annual Club Director Conference in Pinehurst, N.C.

But private club opponents often view that same person as "reactionary, Republican, elitist and rich," said Ondeck, who has represented the club industry in more than 20 lawsuits, including three selective admissions cases before the U.S. Supreme

Court.

Because of this inaccurate perception, private clubs are sometimes portrayed as bastions of racial and sexual discrimination, said Ondeck. That has led to local and national legislation — like Congressman Charles Rangel's proposed national tax code amendment denying tax-exempt status, deductibility of dues and charitable contributions — that threaten the private club industry, he added.

Legislative volleys and media assaults have mounted over the past 25 years, coming to a head this summer at Shoal Creek in Birmingham, Ala., said Ondeck.

Things looked pretty good for private clubs in 1964 when Congress exempted

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Fla. summit will draw all parties

BY PETER BLAIS

Item: A Florida water district considers instituting a \$1 per 1,000-gallon surcharge on golf courses for water pumped out of courses' own wells. The move could add \$10 to the average round and \$800 to the typical private club membership fee.

Item: The governor and cabinet shoot down a golf course development on an environmentally sensitive stretch of Panhandle shoreline, even

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