Golf Course Marketplace

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Roberts on Gore

or bad, desirable or undesirable. The senator states uses well all the evidence at his disposal to emphasize the serious nature of environmental deterioration both locally and globally. He believes public support for his position can be developed, media influence can be positive, and technological influences in data availability can be convincing.

We must scrutinize the issues and evidence to determine the level of our support for environmental causes. To do this effectively, Gore initiated a fundamentally sound approach. "I began to separate the parts of the environmental issue that were fundamentally local in nature, like hazardous waste sites, from those that represented threats to the entire globe."

Only in this way can we grasp the true significance of what is happening around us, and determine appropriate courses of action.

Gore writes, "The more deeply I search for the roots of the global environmental crisis, the more I am convinced that it is an outer manifestation of an inner crisis that is, for lack of a better word, spiritual. As a politician, I know full well the special hazards of using *spiritual* to describe a problem like this one. For many, it is like one of those signs that warns a motorist 'steep slope — truckers use brakes.' But, what other word describes the collection of values and assumptions that determine our basic understanding of how we fit into the universe?"

We need to know who we are and why we are here. Is it to destroy the earth? Are we here to rid the earth of this civilization? Is it really materialism that we worship? Does the concept of dysfunctional family life extend to civilization in general? These are spiritual questions that involve values.Many leading educators in recent years have lectured on the real issues of our time being spiritual and not technological. And yet, our attempted solutions so often emphasize technology.

The senator details the needs to change attitudes regarding earth sciences, economics, sociology, learning from history, psychology, philosophy, religion and implications of development.

Without these changes, there may be reasonable doubt whether civilization can survive. Gore suggests a "Marshall Plan" approach, based on assumptions that democracy and modified free markets are preferred worldwide; and a global civilization is preferred over one with diverse objectives. Five strategic goals must receive attention to realize true implementation of this plan.

• World population must be stabilized.

• Appropriate technologies must be developed and shared in agriculture, forestry, energy, building technology and waste reduction and recycling.

• A new global economic plan must be set in place.

• A new generation of treaties and agreements must be enacted.

• A new global environmental consensus must be implemented.

Gore believes it is crucial that this plan be worked out now before population increases make a global environmental consensus even more difficult. Gore describes changes needed in global

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Golf Course Marketplace

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Golf Course Marketplace



Fream on Europe

Continued from page 9

big maintenance cost courses are in operation. Attracting players to a big name course may only work for the first visit. Return players, or players willing to spend large sums on the greens fee, may become a decreasing occurrence, unfortunately for the developer or operator of the project. By this time the "name" or signature architect has been paid, but who is going to cover the mortgage payment or the on-going maintenance costs?

The golf architect and project master planners can help the developer or promoter realize financial and market targeting actions during conception of the project. Excesses in design, construction and maintenance of a golf course all deduct from the net profit. A golf architect who is aware of the financial realities of the project and incorporates financial realism into the planning, design, and construction and into their impact on long-term maintenance is helping to assure the long-term financial success of the project.

Regardless of present economic trauma, a growing standard of living will continue to fuel the need, or market, for golfing facilities throughout Europe and Scandinavia. While the economic reorganization going on in Eastern Europe will be a slow and tedious process, the former Eastern Bloc nations will recognize tourist trade as an excellent potential source of outside income and emerge as attractive locations for golf facilities. Russia and other of the former Soviet states will also evolve as potential locations for golf projects, once the industrial privatization and land ownership issues have been more completely clarified. The Mediterranean coast has considerable potential for expansion of golf facilities, so long as intelligent land use planning, environmental protection and pollution control become stronger factors in coastal development thought processes.

Long-term growth would appear to indicate "daily fee", open-to-the-public courses and resort destination projects as those with the most favorable prospects.

The success of existing and future golf courses in Europe will revolve around knowledgeable planning, creative and thoughtful design, quality construction and proper levels of turfgrass maintenance. The course may be called public daily-fee, country club, or resort, but the basic fundamentals for financial success remain the same.

Roberts on Gore

Continued from previous page

economics that will place a higher value on environmental quality. He identifies hidden costs that we overlook when calculating the true value of products and services. In a way, for generations, we have subsidized production to the detriment of natural resource sustainability and without adequate concern for the health and safety of society at many levels.

Gore and other authors who have written on earth science and civilization have given us much to think about.