

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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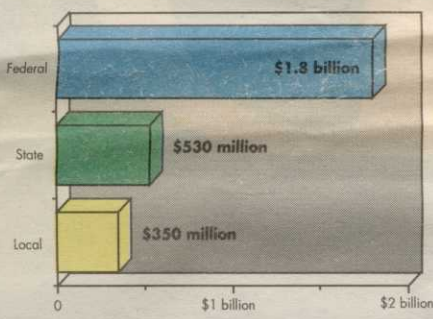
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## Critics assail anti-growth advocate

Experts question Klein's methods, motives and results

By MARK LESLIE

Golf course developers and builders bristle when his name is mentioned. Architects flinch. Scientists snicker. Anti-growth advocates smile.

One thing about Richard Klein, president of Community & Environmental Defense Associates: When asked about him, people do not teeter on the fence.

"He is not fondly mentioned around here,"

said David Locke, vice president of Daft McCune Walker, Inc., a landscape architecture and land planning firm in Maryland.

Milt McCarthy of McCarthy and Associates in Upper Marlboro, Md., said: "In projects we've worked on Klein has professed himself as a geotechnical or ground water hydrology expert. He was involved

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Richard Klein

## Legislative progress steadily on the RISE

By HAL PHILLIPS

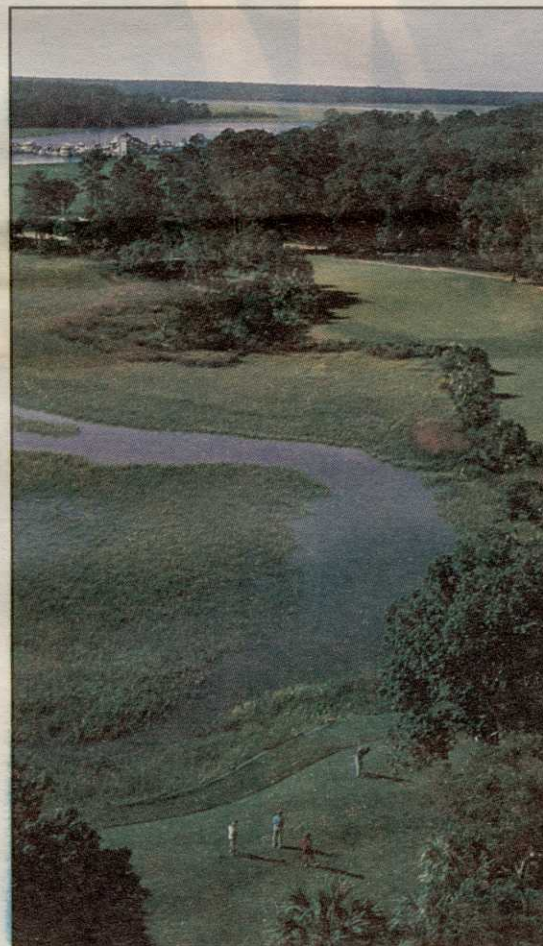
When members of the chemical industry meet this month at the RISE Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., RISE Executive Director Allen James will deliver his share of good news and bad.

The key issue for RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) has been federal and state preemption of pesticide laws. Currently, local communities in half the 50 states can ban any chemical they choose, even if state and federal environmental agencies have signed off.

However, when RISE members meet Sept. 12-14, James will report that 25 states have adopted varying degrees of local preemption statutes, establishing state and federal regulations as the legitimate authorities on issues of chemical safety.

Meanwhile, the effort to amend the Federal Insecti-

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#### DEVELOPMENTAL SUCCESS STORIES

Willard Byrd's Plantation Course at the Landings community in Georgia is a good example of real-estate-based golf projects that work. For more examples, see page 18.

## Drought continues to plague Northwest

By PETER BLAIS

Drought in parts of the Northwest, Rocky Mountains and Midwest has increased maintenance costs and, in the most severe cases, decreased play at golf courses.

Reno, Nev., is one of the hardest hit areas. City-owned Northgate Golf Club depends on runoff passing through a nearby ditch for its irrigation water. But with little rain and virtually no snowpack last winter, the ditch has run dry much of the summer of '92. The club went 27 days without watering its fairways at one point, according to head pro Don Boyle.

"Rounds and revenues are down 50 percent," he said. "We've reduced our fees about 25 percent. But if you don't have the product people are accustomed to,

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## Industry analysts mull Landmark decision

By HAL PHILLIPS

While federal authorities ponder the fate of once-mighty Landmark Golf Course Design and Construction, industry analysts go about their business — namely, trying to figure out how the finance world will view golf course projects in light of the latest Landmark decision.

"As an appraiser, I don't see how this would negatively impact value in the long term, but in the short term it definitely hurts," said Larry Hirsh, president of Golf Property Analysts, Inc.

and president of the Society of Golf Appraisers.

"I think the situation has scared away financiers, which we didn't need to begin with," Hirsh continued. "And by eliminating the availability of financing, you've reduced the size of the market, which in turn further reduces the supply of financing."

"Anytime you get negative publicity, it will scare lenders away," added Don Rhodes of Textron Financial. "We're

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## Klein: Golf courses are his targets

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in a housing development project in Annapolis (Wood Landings II) where he became a heavy metals expert.

"Pretty soon it's going to be lunar rocks."

Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. in Wheaton, Ill., said Klein's report, Protecting the Aquatic Environment from the Effects of Golf Courses, "is below nominal scientific standards. It would never pass peer review."

Cohen said Klein "twisted a lot of things around. He offered for example a comparison between pesticide and fertilizer use on corn-soybeans with greens, tees and fairways. It was mixing apples and oranges... Once we realized how his report took so many facts out of context, we felt we couldn't trust any conclusion without going back to the original source and checking it ourselves."

Architect Michael Hurdzan of Columbus, Ohio, said Klein "takes information out of context, or misinterprets it... You have to remove this golf development issue from an emotional dimension and put it on a factual dimension. That's what he has not done. He has kept this on an emotional dimension and has used highly charged words to imply rather than draw conclusions."

Friend and Diamond Ridge Golf Course superintendent George Murphy said: "Don't forget, Richard is basically a tree-hugger. We all should be tree-huggers. That's what people who hire him want to hear."

And Klein defended himself, saying: "My goal is to help folks get the benefits of golf courses without the environmental effects. If I had a pointed tail and horns, I'd take your (Golf Course News') list of proposed golf courses and run around the country and contact the people who live next to those sites and say, 'Oh, my God, there's a terrible golf course coming down the road. You'd better protect yourself.' But I don't go in for that —."

Klein added that he wants to help both "the people who live next door to a proposed course and the architect and owner to try to find a way to resolve their differences that allows a course to go forward... I'm convinced that it's entirely possible — particularly in regards to the great things that have happened in the last five to 10 years with turfgrass management — for the vast majority of courses to easily become a net benefit to the aquatic environment."

But, asked if he had ever supported a golf project, Klein admitted: "We strictly work with citizens and citizen groups. That's the market I tried to carve out for myself when I first started this business."

Klein said he has "worked with golf course architects and owners on a volunteer basis to try to help them improve the design of their course."

The one case he could cite was

Baltimore County, which he said asked him to work with Daft McCune Walker to find sites suitable for public courses.

But Locke and Bob Staab, Baltimore County's director of parks and recreation at the time, said Klein has attended only one one-hour meeting.

Klein said his typical fee is \$2,000 to \$3,000.

For his fee a client gets Klein to do studies on the site of proposed construction, right?

Not usually. "I usually can't get access to the site," Klein said. Instead, he uses information from government-required environmen-

tal impact statements.

Traffic and land-use impacts are also studied, he said, "and we can tap existing data ... such as USGS geological surveys and records."

### FACING OFF

Then Klein will speak for his client at public board hearings.

That is when developers, architects and scientists get to face him.

"In our specific situation he took things way out of context," developer Lex Birney said, referring to his Queenstown (Md.) Golf Links. "It was the kindergarten approach to soil-type classification, taking terms such as 'loamy,' 'sandy' and

'clay-ee' and using them in senses that they are not intended to be used in in terms of gradations of permeability of soil types and things like that.

"Then he used the Cape Cod Study... He took it out of context, twisted it all around and applied it to an area that had no geographic similarity to that in the first place."

Klein "knows the buzzwords," McCarthy said. "He knows what gets regulators' attention. And, to some degree, he knows how to play the game from a protectionist's standpoint fairly well, because he knows what will be high-visibility issues, and he knows how to ad-

equately bring them up at least enough to create enough doubt to get the project delayed until the question is finally resolved."

A Germantown, Md., developer was forced to perform \$400,000 worth of "unnecessary" ground water studies because of Klein's intervention, McCarthy said.

"What bothers me about him is the concept of being a hired gun," said Jim Irre, a wetlands ecologist with McCarthy & Associates. "People might call me a hired gun, too, working for the developer. The difference is that I am playing by a set of rules set up by the federal,

Continued on next page



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# Experts say science played little part in Klein's research work

By MARK LESLIE

Richard Klein's springboard to national acceptance and recognition as an expert in protecting the aquatic environment was a speech to the United States Golf Association. His invitation to speak came as a result of a paper he authored: Protecting the Aquatic Environment from the Effects of Golf Courses. Yet scientists say that paper is fraught with guesswork, laden with unscientific generalizations—and is, one said, "garbage."

Golf course architect Dr. Michael

Hurdzan, who holds a Ph.D in environmental plant physiology, said the paper is "an unscholarly work written by a layperson who selectively chose phrases and passages to make points and reach conclusions which were invalid."

Referring to the basis of Klein's study—11 golf courses he tests in Maryland—Daft McCune Walker Vice President David Locke said Klein tested a stream at Baltimore Country Club that is the conduit for city water.

"He tested a portion of a stream

that uses chlorinated water from the city to supplement their irrigation ponds, so I'm not surprised he didn't get good counts.

"Also, he only tested at the courses. He didn't test upstream. Plus, the courses he tested tend to be in the lowlands downstream of farming communities ... most of which are fed by hundreds and hundreds of acres of drainage areas draining agricultural fields."

Locke said his firm therefore discounted a lot of what Klein reported.

Stuart Cohen, president of Envi-

ronmental & Turf Services, Inc., in Wheaton, Md., said when Klein quoted a runoff study done by Drs. Harrison and Watschke at Penn State, he failed to indicate that the runoff was generated by six inches of simulated rainfall in one hour, an event expected to occur once in every several centuries.

One colleague at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources who worked with Klein thinks highly of him.

"He is extremely bright and pretty much self-taught," said Howard

King, program chief for recreational and commercial fisheries at the DNR.

However, King said that in determining the effects of a golf course on a waterway he would "certainly want to know" its condition upstream from a golf course as well as downstream. Klein did not get upstream readings.

He admitted to "a lot of uncertainties expressed in that publication," but added: "I tried to be as honest as I could in interpreting the data and interpreting the feedback that I got from people who knew much more about the specific part of the golf course than I do..."

Klein said he thought he did "a pretty good job in the publication making it clear that there are a lot of uncertainties associated with pesticides coming from a golf course."

## Klein on the attack

Continued from previous page

state and sometimes the county government. I don't know what set of rules he's playing by."

Birney said: "Rather than having to prove a point ... all a guy like Klein has to do is confuse the issues and keep [the project] dragging along until the developer says, 'Forget it.'"

The problem, said Cohen, is that laymen on planning and zoning boards know no better than to believe Klein.

"To a layperson they think he [Klein] knows what he's talking about. To a scientist, he's often wrong," he said.

### A SOFTENING?

Diamond Ridge's Murphy, who has worked with Klein in Save Our Streams for eight years, said, "In the beginning it was Richard's natural presumption that superintendents were bad actors. Over the years he asked questions on how you did this and that and techniques of eliminating pesticides, things like that.

"He's come a long way."

Murphy said Klein and a member of the Audubon Society recently studied a stream on his course and "it is the first documented case" of a golf course use accelerating water improvement.

"He's [Klein] making a living on one side of the equation. But I think he was pleasantly surprised when he did this study," Murphy said.

For his part, perhaps Klein is coming around.

"I'm impressed with all the great work the USGA (United States Golf Association) is doing, and the GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America) ...," Klein said. "Frankly, I believe pesticides are a relatively minor concern. Unfortunately, there is a big emotional reaction to them on the part of people who come to me as clients."

Does he tell his prospective clients that? He did not return repeated phone calls made to ask him that and other questions.



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