

Plucking issues from the golf industry cupboard

• It's that time of year — time to bash the ubiquitous **Resolution Trust Corp.** and its high-handed, bureaucratic approach to free-market issues.

The RTC will stage a mid-June auction in order to unload the former Landmark properties, which include some of America's premier golf destination resorts. At this point (and nothing is ever set in stone with America's leading salvage wholesaler), the New Orleans auction will be winner-take-all. You bid on the whole package or nothing at all.

If there is local interest in Carmel Valley Ranch, for example, the potential buyer can't bid on it individually. The members at PGA West — who've shown interest in

purchasing their high-profile, four-course complex — would be foiled by this all-or-nothing format. After the Landmark legal debacle, local/member ownership should be encouraged. Instead, it's precluded.

And isn't the RTC's role to solicit the best possible price for these properties? Early estimates indicate the RTC would be fortunate to draw 60 cents on the dollar for this \$1.3 billion package. Such a deal...

• Pessimism reigned supreme in golf industry circles the morning of Nov. 4, as folks braced for the coming of a



Hal Phillips,
editor

Democratic administration. The wailing increased in volume and urgency when veep Al Gore hand-picked **Carol Browner** to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

Before you unload the Golden Bear stock and move to Hudson Bay, step back for a moment. Let's wait and see, shall we? All accounts indicate Browner, the former head of Florida's Department of Environmental Regulation, is a politician at heart — not a tree-hugger. And while she may come across as unyielding in her development stance, Browning displayed a capacity for compromise during her

tenure in the Sunshine State.

Critics point to her deal with Disney, where hundreds of acres were set aside for protection in exchange for development rights. Well, trading open space for governmental approval is nothing new (just ask the would-be Homestead developers in Michigan). If that's the worst precedent Browner sets, the golf course industry should survive her.

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• First the facts on Sen. Dennis DeConcini's bill that seeks to open up **military golf courses** to public play and private management. Bill S.234 has been sent to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. John Glenn

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Getting right with the PC kingdom — er-r, queendom

Are you Politically Correct? Are you socially "with it"? Are you caffeine-free, yogurt-loving and driving a recyclable utility vehicle?

If you wonder, just check the pages of your daily newspaper, paying particular attention to stories on city, state and federal governments and to letters and commentaries. Maybe then you'll know whether you are... Politically Correct.

This ain't no joke. There's a grave movement in this country. Brought to us by the elite of the Politically Correct. It's sometimes hard to tell from outward appearances who these PC types are. They could be

in pinstripe suits in New York, or L.L. Bean jackets in the Great North, or sockless in Florida.

Like Darryl Zanuck directing those great old movies with casts of millions, they are directing a cast of **tens** of millions. "Americans, pick up your standards and follow us Politically Correctites into the Age of Aquarius — the Dawn of Euphoria!" they call. Let's have a casting call, now.

In your best uptown accent say "tree butcher" but not "lumberjack." Or "counterfactual proposition" but not "lie." Or "botani-



Mark Leslie,
managing editor

cal companion" but not "flower."

Politically Correct. It's a creature of our time. We carry "processed tree carcasses," not paper bags. A person who engages in an act of "ecotage" (PC talk for "sabotage") in an

attempt to save the environment (such as using tree spikes) is called an "ecowarrior" but certainly **not** an "ecoterrorist."

The sorry part is that Politically Correct is too often **Factually Wrong**. It's sometimes synonymous with **Morally Deranged**.

PC talk, instead of deleting segregation from society, in fact multiplies it. It fragments, it tears, it builds walls.

It's like quotas. What's a quota if not discriminatory?

Martin Luther King's dream was that society **disregard** color, not give any group special treatment.

PC separates, concentrating on our differences.

My solution? Let's all start another movement. Call it **Socially Moral. Or Legitimately Truthful. Or Unabridgedly Right**. (Someone out there is bound to have a brilliant

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Letters

HOMESTEAD ADDENDUM

To the editor:

A story by Peter Blais [February issue of *Golf Course News*, page 3] contains inaccurate or misleading statements that you and your readers should be made aware of.

The citizens group referred to by Mr. Reddicliffe is a small group of (6) people with financial interests in the Homestead Resort. This committee has invited the Glen Lake Association, Friends of the Crystal River, National Dunes Advisory Committee and the citizens council of the Sleeping Bean Dunes area to sit in on its meetings but none has endorsed the land exchange.

In conversation with many people of these organizations, the reasons given is that they do not want to participate in the ongoing political debate and those who are long-term locals know of many parcels of private acreage most suitable for 18 holes golf that are available nearby that could have ended the hostilities as many as five years ago.

This long-standing golf course debate could have ended long ago had not the owner and investors of the Homestead Resort insisted on violating our state and national wetland laws, and this has done

much damage to the image of the golf course industry.

I am writing you of my concerns because of my employment in the golf course management industry.

Fred Anderson
Traverse City, Mich.

REMEMBER NEBRASKA!

To the editor:

I certainly enjoy receiving my copy of *Golf Course News*. There is always new information in it. I do, however, have one selfish complaint.

When I read about new golf courses and their stage of de-

velopment, the state of Nebraska is almost always omitted. I assume this is because you have no correspondent in that state. But, we'd like the world to know it's not because we aren't progressive in golf course development.

I have been doing golf course rating for the last 17 years and have a fair idea of the development of courses in Nebraska. Accordingly, I'm enclosing a chart of our work done here in the last three to four years.

You may also like to know Nebraska is the fastest growing golf state in some of the National Golf Foundation rating categories.

Keep up your fine newspaper.

Del Ryder
USGA Sectional Affairs
Grand Island, Neb.

Editor's note: Thanks for the information, and we'll try to keep a closer eye on golf course development in Cornhusker country.

More letters, next page

AN ODE TO THE EPA...

*EPA regulates our external conditions.
Whatever we do requires its permission.
Its staff is composed of lawyers organic,
Whose method of work is creation of panic.
The ice caps are melting!
The oceans will flood!
Monoxide is increasing and ruining our blood!
The air will be toxic and smother our breath,
Which everyone knows is a horrible death!
We're destroying the ozone with aerosol cans.
Which greatly distresses deodorant fans.
Through a gullible press they create alarm,
Over chemical hazards from factory and farm.
Pesticides are a threat more fearful indeed,
Than nematode, fungus, insect, and weed.
They worry we'll eat astronomical doses,
If you eat fifty tons! It will give you cirrhosis!
They doubt all research, but believe every rumor,
Apprehensive do-gooders with no sense of humor.
When it comes to decisions, they do as they please,
All inscrutably written in governmentese.*

B.E. Day, plant physiologist
Berkeley, Calif.

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Stripes on trees

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endurable because of the shade provided by trees. Think of energy savings. And, lastly, at life's end, they serve as valuable fireplace and woodstove fuel.

IT'S A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP

Now, the flip side of the tree story is the "hate relationship" as encountered by superintendents who have no "free lunches" in their care of the grounds which includes trees. Trees are continuously shedding creatures. They drop bark, branches, leaves, flowers and

fruits onto the manicured turfgrass.

Some need continuous pruning, feeding, and pest and disease management. Also, in heavy soils where trees are "seeking" moisture, oxygen and nutrients, roots often surface, causing a big problem.

Storm damage sometimes becomes a management pain.

Also, on many golf courses, the faulty choice of certain tree species results in tree care that could have been avoided had good counsel in tree selection been obtained. Soil compaction resulting from golfers' foot traffic and golf carts becomes problematic in some cases, and soil aeration becomes essential to

good tree health.

Are trees on golf courses worth it all?

I think even the cynic would have to agree that they are. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure in tree culture and maintenance on golf courses.

Knowledgeable consultants in tree care are extremely important resources for superintendents, since turfgrass and not tree management is often their mainline work and expertise.

Tree culture, technically known as "arboriculture," is a rapidly changing field, and new science and art are forthcoming daily.

Phillips: Military course of action

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(D-Ohio). DeConcini (D-Ariz.) originally submitted this legislation last summer, withdrew it, then reintroduced it in January 1993.

Now the opinions: This is a ridiculous bill, with all due respect to DeConcini. For the past five months, I've talked to 30-odd people involved in maintaining and managing these military layouts, which number 249

nationwide. The overwhelming consensus says security would be compromised, especially if the course were managed by a civilian entity. Most military superintendents indicated the courses could be more broadminded with their public play policies, but private management is out of the question.

Caveat: If the base is closed, all bets are off.

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CIRCLE #109

Leslie commentary

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name.)

Let's concentrate on our similarities, on those things that pull us together. Even if it hurts, let's tell the truth, not distort it with unbridled rhetoric. That way, even if we disagree on things, at least the facts will be laid out—not buried in shades of truths and untruths.

Two major problems I see: 1) the normal PC's belief in "biocentrism" and his/her/their stand against "foundationalism."

Biocentrism is the doctrine that every species has equal intrinsic value and that planet earth cannot be viewed solely as a resource for human beings. It is the central tenet of the so-called deep ecology movement, and is typified by the view of John Davis, editor of *Earth First! Journal*, that "eradicating smallpox was wrong. It played an important part in balancing the ecosystem."

Foundationalism is the doctrine that inquiry or thought can actually be grounded on pre-given principles that are true beyond mere belief or assumption. Postmodern analysis, PCs say, shows that no such principles or truths exist, and that any attempt to establish or prove they do is merely an exercise in self-constituted logic.

An example: The statement "We hold these truths to be self-evident" is blatantly—and pathetically—foundationalist, according to *The Official Politically Correct Dictionary and Handbook* by Henry Beard.

Some of the PC types are like the man who smelled the flowers and looked around the corner for the hearse. They are the environmental activists who play games with politicians. Which leads the politicians to play games with science. Which leads to scientists pulling out their hair because they are the ones with the facts. Yet no one wants to listen to the facts.

Example? Earth First's goal is, by the year 2000, to have made half the population feel guilty over the U.S. lifestyle. Has that group performed any scientific research lately? They want impartial data. But they don't want to take 10 years of tests.

The dilemma we are in is not that the information is unavailable. It is there. Since the PCs won't put themselves out to seek it out, who will? Maybe those from the Socially Moral segment of society.