

# 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.

•••

• 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.

### 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.

More letters, next page

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# Trees: Tough to live with, yet you can't live without

By DR. R. JAY STIPES

Can anyone imagine a golf course devoid of trees? Just turfgrass, perhaps with a sprinkling of woody and herbaceous ornamentals? Despite the agonizing they sometimes cause golf course superintendents, I think not!

Trees figure prominently in the names of approximately 275 country clubs in Virginia alone. There are Lonesome Pine, Cherry Hills, Burning Tree, Cedars, Cedar Crest, Longwood, Chestnut Creek, Cypress Cove, Dogwood Hills, Evergreen, Glen Oaks, Great Oaks, Tall Oaks, Holly Hill, Oakwood, Pinecrest, Poplar Forest, Roundwood, Stumpy Lake, Willow Brook, Woodlawn and others.

Trees are focal points, bold statements, spectacular benchmarks, historic markers for generations of golfers. Trees just happen to be the only living links to the historic past.

And golfers enjoy, remember and often savor the beauty and "permanence" of handsome specimens that they remember



Dr. R. Jay Stipes

over a lifetime of golfing.

For many, trees become "old friends" that they "know" and pass on their golfing rounds.

Family generations frequenting the same golf courses see the same trees standing as silent sentinels. Great grandparents, grandparents, parents, sons and daughters and grandchildren have known the same tree on some old golf courses.

A very large, old and venerable elm at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y., recently succumbed to Dutch elm disease [see story, page 1]. This tree was well known by President Eisenhower and other famous persons of the past and present.

Its necessary removal has left a gaping hole there.

In addition to historic landmarks, trees do more for us than we would ever realize. The bumper sticker that exclaims "Trees Can Save the Earth" may be more profound than just an advertisement for the forestry folks.

Trees exchange clean air for foul in vacuuming up carbon dioxide and other

gaseous wastes and give essential oxygen in return. They also "excrete" pure water through the transpiration process.

They serve as screens for ugly sites and irritating noises. Erosion control is difficult, if not impossible, on certain sites where precipitation is excessive on some types of soil.

They certainly enhance real-estate values! Try selling a house with a treeless landscape compared to one with nice, mature, beautiful specimens, especially in warm climates. Much real estate can only be sold when forested.

Most of us love birds, and trees provide shelter and food for many of them, not to mention other wildlife. Trees are aesthetically unique and essential in providing varied interests in different shapes, sizes, colors and dimensions. They also provide a sense of health and permanence, a part of that subliminal or subconscious linkage to the good earth from which we came. They impart a sense of belonging, therapy and health, and tend to lessen our fear of mortality as we mingle with strong, sturdy, old specimens.

Trees are nature's best air conditioners. Some houses or other buildings are only

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## Royce Richardson, 67

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Royce R. Richardson, 67, a native Arizonan and resident of Paradise Valley, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital here on March 7. Since 1985, Mr. Richardson served as president and chief executive officer of Farmers Marketing Corp., a wholesale seed business based here.

Mr. Richardson's career in agriculture and seed production spanned 40 years. Born on April 27, 1925, in Miami, Ariz., he served in the Navy during World War II before attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he earned his bachelor's degree in range management.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Richardson established a marketing cooperative with Bermudagrass seed growers in the Wellton-Mohawk Valley that helped unite and stabilize the Bermudagrass industry, enabling it to become a crop of significant importance and contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy. He was vice president of Valley Seed



Mr. Royce Richardson

Corp. of Phoenix; president of Pacific Seedsmen's Association; board member of American Seed Trade Association; board member of Western Seedsmen's Association; and president of the Arizona Crop Improvement Association, where he served on the Pure Seed Advisory Committee at the time of his death.

Mr. Richardson leaves his wife of 45 years, Tink; two sons, Royce Rene Richardson and Sheldon E. Richardson; and two grandchildren, all of Paradise Valley. The family has requested that donations in Mr. Richardson's memory be made to either the American Cancer Society or the Royce R. Richardson Memorial Fund, which will be used to endow a scholarship at the University of Arizona. Donations should be mailed to Farmers Marketing Corp., c/o Elaine Jordan, 3501 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, Ariz., 85040.

## Letters

### BAVIER MADE A DIFFERENCE

To the editor:

North American golf superintendents typically recognize their colleagues from the Chicago area as trend-setters in our profession. Some of the finest golf courses are located in the greater Chicago District, and there is keen competition among superintendents to provide the best possible playing conditions for the golfers. As a result, there are so many excellent courses in and around Chicago that the entire PGA Tour could be played there over the duration of the summer season. Courses in this area are in excellent condition, and would require little preparation by superintendents for any PGA event.

Recently, a Chicago area superintendent became a distinguished and significant contributor to the industry. Michael Bavier, from Inverness Golf Club, wrote a letter that later was published by *Golf Course News*. He expressed a concise and skillfully worded criticism of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's proposed bylaw changes. The letter was widely acclaimed, and coagulated support on the part of superintendents to defeat proposed changes.

Bavier's letter in *Golf Course News* was the impetus necessary to galvanize support for the defeat of these proposed bylaw changes. The proposed changes would have altered the direction of the associa-

tion. These include the ability for the Board of Directors to regulate dues, change voting procedures (from chapter voting to individual balloting by mail), establishing regional liaisons, and numerous other changes.

GCSAA has elected Randy Nichols, superintendent at a top-notch 36-hole golf course near Atlanta, as its new president. Two incumbent directors, who had supported the proposed bylaws, were not re-elected. Apparently, the GCSAA is returning to its roots and is concentrating on assisting superintendent members.

Gordon Witteveen  
Board of Trade Country Club  
Toronto, Canada

# The Golf Course News Development Letter

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