

It's that time again: Open season on grouching

It's June again, which means it's time to endure the comments from touring professionals who can't fathom the course conditions insisted upon by United States Golf Association officials.

The U.S. Open stops at Baltusrol June 17-20, after which superintendent Joe Flaherty Jr., who's presiding over his fourth major championship, can breathe a well deserved sigh of relief (see story page 12).

I guess Flaherty and superintendents everywhere can be thankful that Open contestants grouse to the USGA about course severity. All too often it's the super who takes the heat on

such matters.

Anyway, in the spirit of Open grouching, I'd like pass along some words of wisdom on tournament preparation from Ted Horton, the director of golf operations at Pebble Beach and the former head superintendent and director of golf at Westchester Country Club, site of a regular PGA Tour stop.

Horton believes the sequoia-like rough at U.S. Open sites isn't necessarily unfair but far too easy, in a way. He believes good/smart players who play into the rough simply take the stroke and chop a sand wedge



Hal Phillips, editor

back into the fairway.

The trick, he explains, is to grow the rough just long enough to encourage foolish players to attempt a full shot, which ideally results in a meager advancement and another shot

from the rough. Pretty sneaky, eh?

This may be common knowledge to many of you, but it struck me as making cunningly good sense.

...

If I were to comment on the military course bill currently mired in the bowels of Congress, it's almost certain to take

up more space than the news update which appears on page 31 this month. Suffice to say, don't hold your breath waiting for movement on this bill, which would privatize the nation's 240-plus military golf facilities.

Sen. Dennis Deconcini (D-Ariz.) introduced the bill last summer and resubmitted it in January. But don't be surprised if he and his colleagues don't address Senate bill S.234 until the summer of 1994, when DeConcini runs for re-election.

Funny how these things work out...

...

Our condolences and respect mean diddly to an Oregon seed

Continued on page 45

ASGCA, TGIF, NGF, ASTA, RISE, GCBAA, USGA, CMAA...

Acronymphobia. Society's got it in general — the golf industry included. And the government's suffering from a case, big-time.

Indeed, a demented filmmaker-type could make a mind-boggling, yet intriguing, documentary:

"The Acronym Creators: A society held hostage"

What are the signs of acronymphobia? Overlapping duties, duplication to the quadruplicate, tongue-twisting departmentese... just a general confusion, diffusion, evasion, paperwork profusion. We won't even guestimate the cost to Mr. Taxpayer America.

My latest run-in with acronymphobia came just this month. With my shoes just cooling from a trip to cover the GCSAA conference and GCBAA banquet, I headed out for the ASGCA meeting wondering if a representative would be there from the EPA, or perhaps the state DEP. I just knew that on the plane, the pilot was concerned about the FAA. An NBC film crew for *Dateline* was on board, probably contemplating actions by the FCC.

Once there, we all got together with officials of the IA, and on a pleasant Sunday in May met with the USGA. Now, it's off to a seed company field day, prepared to hear a NJDA rep talk, knowing the NJLA would conduct a class on pesticide applications,



Mark Leslie, managing editor

and fully expecting to see friends from the ASTA and ASPA.

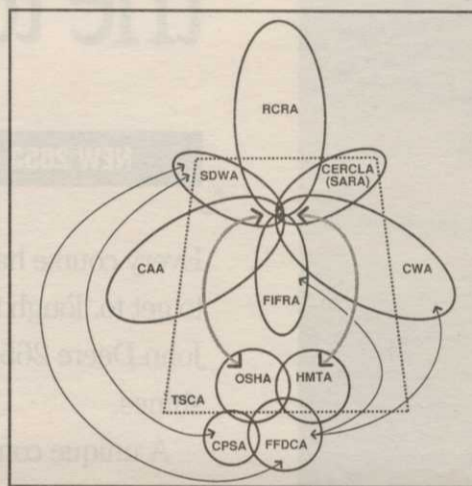
I'm USTed, FIFRAed, OSHAed, AIDSed and Oprah-Winfried to the point of — agh-h-h!

How can a sane society keep up with an insane maze of government, social and business acronyms that even those involved in the acronyms probably have a

hard time identifying?

Take a look at the chart accompanying the story. It shows just one microcosm of one tiny segment of society which affects golf course superintendents, builders and architects. It regards the interrelationships and overlapping of federal environmental, health and safety laws. Do you know these: CAA/Clean Air Act; CWA/Clean Water Act; CERCLA/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (Superfund); FIFRA/Federal Insecticide, Fungicide & Rodenticide Act; RCRA/Resource Conservation & Recovery Act; SDWA/Safe Drinking Water Act; TSCA/Toxic Substances Control Act; CPRS/Consumer Product Safety Act; FFDCA/Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetics Act; HMTA/Hazardous Material Transportation Act; OSHA/Occupational Safety & Health Act.

I have a suggestion (and I wonder how much of our federal deficit we



could cut by implementing it): Combine and condense all the departments, bureaus, agencies, administrations and whoever and whatever else into either Air, Water and Land. OK, if you insist, add Materials or Workplace.

Think of all the paper-creators, paper-writers, paper-checkers — and paper-shredders — we could relieve from their tax-paid duties to foist their wisdom on the real world.

Right! They could all come on over to Golf Nation and help us out at the GCSAA, ASGCA, TGIF, PGA, NGF, ASTA, RISE, GCBAA, USGA, PLCAA, NGCOA, PGMA, IA, CMAA, NCA ...

Letters

HARVEY ADDENDUM

Dear Mr. Harvey,

I am a great admirer of yours and, as such, am reluctant to write this letter, but feel compelled to comment on your March 25, noon report concerning pesticide use by golf course superintendents. As Executive Director of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), the national association representing manufacturers, formulators and distributors of pesticide products used on golf courses and other urban uses, this issue is very important to me and my members.

The Wilmington, North Caro-

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lina Conference Coordinator has informed me that there are no studies which indicate that bird populations are reduced by golf course development. In fact, a number of golf courses have programs with conservation societies to improve bird and wildlife habitats. For example, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, administered by the Audubon Society of New York State and sponsored by the United States Golf Association, involves nearly 500 golf courses in 48 states. These courses are involved in nesting box projects, native grass restoration projects, aquatic environment enhancement projects and many other activities.

In addition, there are no studies which show that golf courses are polluting coastal fishing waters. In fact, did you know that the pesticides used by golf course superintendents are among the most carefully tested and regulated products in the world? Each product undergoes as many as 120 different tests required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assure there is no unreasonable risk associated with the product, including test for human, wildlife and fish health effects and environmental fate before the product can be registered for use. Then, each product is subject to state-by-state review before sales within a state can occur.

Finally, virtually every golf course superintendent in the United States is certified and undergoes training and retraining in the responsible use of pesticides. I urge you to contact the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to better understand the association's extensive education program.

In addition, if you plan to include comments in a future program about pesticide use in any non-row crop situation, such as golf course or other urban use, please consider RISE a resource for your research.

Thank you.

Allen James
RISE executive director
Washington, D.C.

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