

Harvey comments draw ire

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first hand the 800 to 1,000 geese that reside at Bey Lea all fall, winter and early spring, not to mention the number of various species of ducks, song birds, deer, rabbits, squirrels, groundhogs, fox, fish, etc.

"As an environmentally conscious golf course superintendent, I felt hurt and betrayed when I heard this report from an individual I admired even as a child."

Harvey, who did not attend the Wilmington conference, chose not to return phone calls from Golf Course News. According to his secretary, Harvey learned of the conference via a story on the Associated Press wire.

Comments from those who did attend, combined with examination of the local news stories, help explain some of Harvey's baseless conclusions.

The conference in question, "Is Golfing Green? The impact of golf courses on the coastal environment," was held March 24. It was sponsored by the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF), the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service in an attempt to "define our goals," according to NCCF Executive Director Todd Miller.

"It's important to put Mr. Harvey's statement in context," Miller continued. "We viewed the meeting as a beginning point, a constructive way to define our goals as a federation."

"The nice thing about this conference was the overriding cooperative effort. The spirit of it was

very good. My impression, based on the presentations made, was there are issues to be concerned about. What was refreshing was the willingness of superintendents and architects to suggest adjustments."

Gene Maples, president of the North Carolina Turfgrass Council, was also in attendance and has fielded many angry calls regarding the Harvey commentary.

"This piece of his was the result of a local newspaper story that was picked up on the A.P. wire," Maples

explained. "There were several unfortunate, non-factual statements made by some of the speakers, which is their prerogative. But the conference — which was largely round-table discussions — was much, much more constructive than the news media would have you believe."

"It's clear to me that the reporters at this conference simply weren't paying attention."

Miller and Maples agreed that one of the conference's most weighty conclusions centered on North Carolina's lack of pesticide regulation.

"We don't have good nutrient

standards," Miller said. "There isn't any state guidance on this issue. That's one of the issues this conference was meant to address."

Commenting on the competitive nature of golf development and management in North Carolina, conference attendee Tom Marzolf — an architect with Fazio Golf Course Designers — told the Wilmington Morning Star that courses can't afford to adjust their maintenance practices unless their competitors do.

"It won't be done unless it's a law," Marzolf was quoted in the Star on March 25. "People won't spend money unless they have to. It all

gets down to dollar bills."

Harvey's reference to a lack of bird song is a mystery to those who attended the conference. In their stories of March 25, neither the Star nor the Raleigh News & Observer made any reference to pesticides' alleged negative effect on bird life. [The Environmental Protection Agency is still compiling and analyzing its findings from a comprehensive avian pesticide study.]

Incidentally, the New York State Audubon Society has garnered recent praise for its innovative program, funded by the USGA, which creates bird sanctuaries on golf courses.

Maine supers honor trio

PORTLAND, Maine — Long-time superintendent Jim Diorio of Purpoodock Club was presented the Maine GCSA's Distinguished Service Award while Golf Course News contributing editor Vern Putney and sportswriter Dick Doyle were given Honorary Service Awards at the annual Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show here.

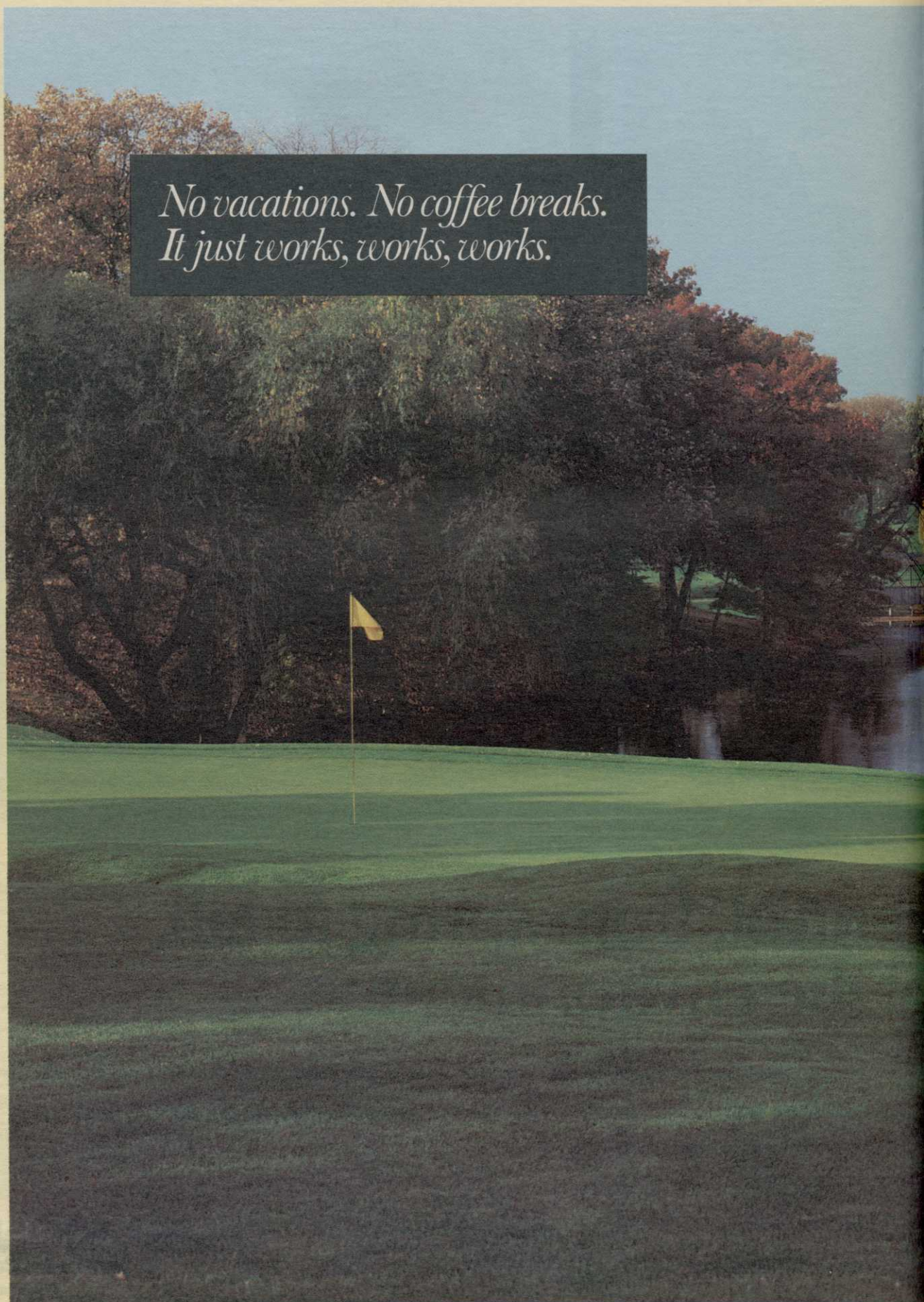
Diorio is in his 30th year as a superintendent in three New England states and has been a club manager at two facilities including Purpoodock.

Diorio is past president of the Maine GCSA and chaired various chapter committees.

Citing Diorio's work at Augusta and Manchester (N.H.) country clubs, colleague Bob Browne said: "He's a fine role model for any superintendent or staffer. He plays the course and plays it well, so as to keep in closer touch with the course and the membership. He's a problem-solver, not a problem-maker."

Putney was cited for devotion and service to the golf industry in general, dating from his caddie days nearly a half-century ago at Portland Country Club.

Doyle's writing career has spanned close to 50 years as well.



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