

No rest for Cincinnati golf division

CINCINNATI — The investigation of alleged improprieties here in the city's golf division will continue into 1997.

A Hamilton County Common Pleas judge has extended the term of the grand jury that is hearing evidence in the case.

Had the judge not acted, the term would have expired in late December 1996, forcing prosecu-

tors to give the case to a new jury which had not heard the testimony regarding the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's golf operations.

Along with the investigation, the city of Cincinnati's golf division is also facing a city audit. Its budgets have shown shortfalls of more than \$1 million over the past two years.

Albany team taps The Golf Group for Saratoga project

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Two Albany-area businessmen have expressed the desire to build a multi-million-dollar golf course development here on 400 acres of land known as Meadowbrook Farms on Route 9P.

Robert Howard and Thomas Newkirk have hired The Golf Group of Bernardston, Mass., to design the 18-hole layout, which would be bordered by Route 9P, Lake Lonely, land owned by

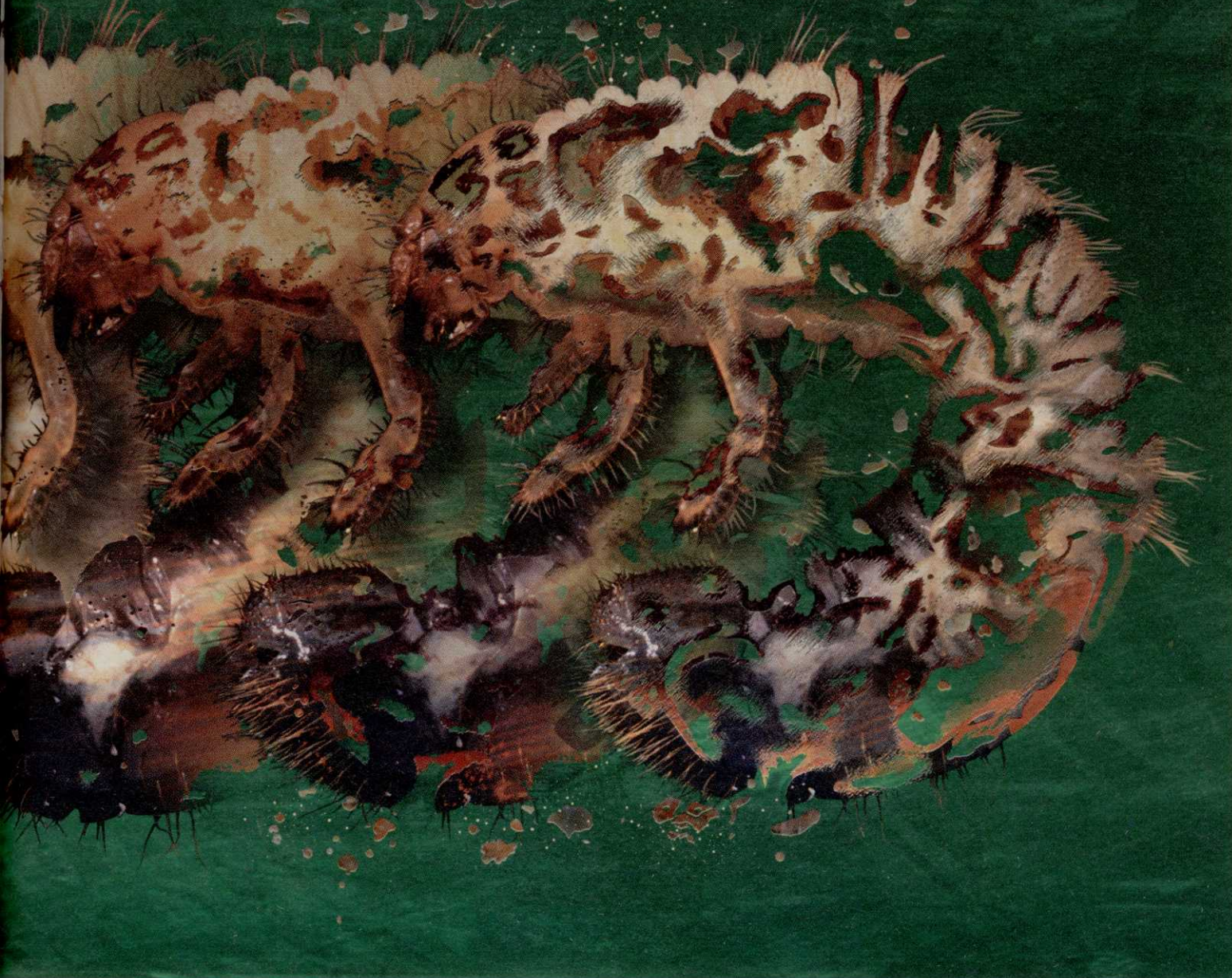
the Yaddo artists retreat and private land.

Howard and Newkirk reportedly were interested in developing a golf course at Saratoga Spa State Park in response to requests for proposals there. However, they decided against it because of lease conditions.

Howard and Newkirk would like to have the golf course open for play in 1998. The proposal faces several levels of review.

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Florida practice center opens; more to come

ORLANDO, Fla. — The first phase of a \$50 million golf course complex and training center here in west Orange County opened last month to the public.

A 42-acre practice site is the first piece of the Orange County National Golf Center, developed by Phil Ritson, a well-known golf instructor in central Florida who once coached the South African national golf team.

When completed in early 1998, the complex will include two 18-hole golf courses, a nine-hole short course, a training facility, clubhouse, restaurant, pro shop and other amenities. The 871-acre site off State Road 545 northwest of Walt Disney World is jointly-owned by the city of Orlando and Orange County, but the project is being privately developed and managed.

Ritson's company, Team Classic Golf Services Inc., will run the training portion of the facility as a for-profit operation.

Ancient Vermont track to add nine

DORSET, Vt. — The Dorset Field Club, which claims to be the oldest golf group in the nation to have played continuously at its original site, is planning to add nine new holes to its existing 9-hole layout.

The 9-hole expansion would cost about \$1.2 million. The additional holes would be constructed on 41 acres the club still needs to purchase.

Founded in 1866, the Dorset Field Club's private course is a 9-hole layout characterized by tight fairways, small greens and scenic views of the southern stretch of Vermont's Green Mountains.

The proposed 9-hole addition was designed by Steve Durkee of Sherburne, Vt., whose design credits include nine new holes at the Neshobee course in Brandon, Vt. The Dorset project calls for a 42,000-square-foot wetland area to be filled in and replaced with a 40,000-square-foot wetland area built by the club.