

## Sun International to purchase Vegas' Desert Inn GC

LAS VEGAS — Sun International Hotels Ltd., which operates casinos in the Bahamas, Atlantic City, and on the Mauritius and Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean, is expanding to Las Vegas. The company has reached agreement to buy the Desert Inn Resort on the Las Vegas Strip for \$275 million cash from Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Nevada gaming officials estimate it will take 12 to 16 months to process Sun International gambling licenses. In the meantime, the 715-room Desert Inn will continue to be operated by Starwood. The purchase includes the hotel-casino's 140-acre, 18-hole, championship Desert Inn golf course on the Strip as well as an adjoining 32 acres of prime un-

developed Strip land.

The *Las Vegas Review Journal* and *Las Vegas Sun* report that Sol Kerzner, sometimes referred to as a visionary and fearless developer similar to Steve Wynn, is talking with Starwood about joint development of 350 time-share units behind the Desert Inn Golf Course along Paradise Road, one block east of the Strip.

Starwood gradually is pulling out of the casino business. The company recently reached agreement to sell Caesars World, Inc., including Caesars Palace Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip, for \$3 billion cash to Park Place Entertainment Corp. Starwood acquired the Desert Inn Resort and Caesars Palace in Las Vegas when it purchased ITT Corp. for \$13 billion in 1998.

## H.R. 1592 aims to end unfair pesticide assessments

WASHINGTON — In an effort to ensure the full and fair implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), H.R. 1592, "The Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999," has been introduced in Congress.

The proposed bill maintains the fundamental goals of FQPA but requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use reliable information and sound scientific data to assess the usage of pesticides under FQPA.

The 1996 FQPA law dramatically changed the way pesticides are evaluated for risk, allowing the EPA to use unscientific assumptions and models in safety assessments. Under H.R. 1592 superintendents will continue to have access to effective, reliable pesticides as long as they meet rigorous scientific safety standards after full and fair review by the EPA.

As a result of the 1996 FQPA law, two classes of chemicals important to superintendents, organophosphates and carbamates, are under scrutiny at EPA.

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## GCN changes

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tional correspondent shortly after graduating from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., in 1997. He spent close to two years in Southeast Asia researching the economic impact of golf course development and reported for *GCNI* on the state of the industry.

Since his return stateside Overbeck has been contributing to *GCN* and working for two of United Publication's other newspapers since last November.

As associate editor, Overbeck will continue to cover international golf course development as well as the supplier business and the new product beats.

Levens spent three years as a reporter at *The Pittsburgh Press* before joining the staff at United Publications, the parent company of *Golf Course News*. Prior to his tenure as editor of *Golf Course News*, Levens was responsible the editorial launch of *HME News*, a business newspaper in the medical equipment industry, the company's most successful start-up.