



# GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

Serving the Business of Golf Course Management

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## Calling the shots

Great column in the May issue ("Where the power should be," page 8). I believe I'm one of the fortunate ones in the industry. My position was made possible by Senior Tour star Jim Colbert. Nine years ago at the first board meeting of our club, which opened in 2000, a discussion broke out about establishing a green committee. Within seconds, Colbert interrupted the discussion and asked if anyone had a better background in turfgrass than me. It was an intense moment: I didn't know anyone in the meeting or what to expect, but that was it. It's never been brought up again, and I haven't had a green meeting in nine years. I'm trusted to call all the shots – that includes mowing, heights of cut, topdressing time table, aerification schedule, set up, etc. Colbert has a great respect for our profession. The funny thing is, because I call the shots, I work 10 times harder to provide superior conditions because the course is a reflection of me – not any committee.

**David W. Gourlay, CGCS, CCM**  
Chief operating officer  
Colbert Hills Golf Course  
Manhattan, Kan.

## Our Disneyland

I still enjoy reading Pat Jones. He's one of the true good guys of this crazy turf industry. And yes, I agree with him that Augusta is still our industry Disneyland ("The truth about Augusta," <http://www.golfcourseindustry.com/news/news.asp?ID=4097>). Of course, my friend Steve Flesch, who I watched grow up playing my courses, had his own version of the Matterhorn.

**Jerry Coldiron, CGCS**  
International sales representative  
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Boca Raton, Fla.

## Job restlessness

I enjoyed Pat Jones' column "Reinventing yourself" (on page 88 of the April issue). It sounds a lot like the WSTC's process mapping scheme I talk about in my presentations at various state conferences, but it holds true.

The column was even more intriguing because it hit me where I was about five months ago as a superintendent. I made that same list of good and bad about my former golf course, and I wasn't happy. My time with my kids was pathetic because I was always tired and worn down from my golf course management schedule. No

weekends off, no holidays off, just the whole rat race of being a superintendent. Sixteen years of it, and I realized as much as I loved being on a course, I hated being a superintendent at a place that didn't respect my contributions – hence my change in careers. It's amazing to see my kids in the mornings (which I never got to do before) and to be home most nights without going back to check irrigation or sprays. It's also amazing to work a "real" schedule with weekends off. So that's how the real world works outside of the turf world.

Thanks for reaffirming why I made my change. I hope others take your column to heart.  
**Charlie Fultz**  
Mid-Atlantic technical representative  
Grigg Bros.  
New Market, Va.

## Political banter

Regarding Mark Jarrell's letter to the editor in the May issue ("How will you vote," page 10) ... he claims he's an independent voter who's not pushing a Democratic agenda, but I doubt his independent status. Jarrell says how much better the checks-and-balances system would work if both parties had adequate representation. So, in his world, things would be fine if we did away with elections.

As for the many years of unchallenged Republican rule (2001 through 2006), the minority party is supposed to challenge the ruling party. The Democrats were so successful at it, they're back in power.

I wonder if Jarrell will be as concerned with the unchallenged control of government if the Democrats take the White House, while retaining control of the Senate and the House. I suspect this bogus concern will quickly become a nonissue with Democrats and Jarrell.

Jarrell wants us to look at the economy, housing and the cost of goods but not the Bush-lowered tax rates. Doing so, we should conclude the only salvation for our country is to put a government-loving Democrat in the White House. Gas costs more than \$4 a gallon, the housing market crashed, the cost of food is skyrocketing, and Democrats have managed to do all this in just two years of controlling the Senate and House.

I've thought long and hard about it and concluded it's not in my best interest to have a Democrat in the White House.

**Dennis E. Bishop**  
Ontario, Calif.