

Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

Business briefs

Arnold, Clint, others buy Pebble

Arnold Palmer, Clint Eastwood, Peter Ueberroth and Richard Ferris head a group of investors who purchased the Pebble Beach Co. from Taiheiyo Club Inc. for a reported \$820 million. The acquisition was to be completed by July 31, and Bank of America will provide financing to the investor group.

Taiheiyo Club, a Japanese golf resort company, acquired Pebble Beach in March 1992. Taiheiyo Club will maintain a close relationship with Pebble Beach Co. and its new ownership, according to Pebble Beach.

Pebble Beach Co. is comprised of four golf courses: The Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill GC, The Links at Spanish Bay and Del Monte GC. It also includes two hotels, the famed 17-Mile Drive, and the soon-to-be completed 24-room Casa Palmero Inn and The Spa at Pebble Beach.

DuPont will cut 800 jobs

Wilmington, Del.-based DuPont will restructure its \$2 billion Crop Protection business "to address intensely competitive market conditions and position the business for future growth." About 800 jobs will be lost.

Deere income down

Moline, Ill.-based Deere & Co. reported net income of \$150.1 million for the second quarter — down about 56 percent from \$365.2 million in 1998's second quarter. Net income for the first six months of 1999 was \$199.8 million compared with \$568.5 million last

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Pesticide Purge?

ANTI-PESTICIDE GROUPS TARGET
MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES,
WORK TO BUILD CLOUT

On April 21, the day before Earth Day, more than 100 environmentalists, cancer activists, politicians and organic landscapers gathered at the Timber Point CC in Great River, Long Island, N.Y., with an "Organic Golf" luncheon and golf outing.

The group was celebrating because Suffolk County officials in New York had agreed on a policy to dramatically cut pesticides by implementing an organic program at Timber Point's golf course. Future plans call for similar approaches at three other public courses and five yet-to-be-built

county courses on the drawing board. Reaction from superintendents has been mixed.

"I am happy to see the county experiment with low or no pesticide programs," says Mike Rewinski, superintendent at Westhampton CC in Westhampton Beach, N.Y. "Let the municipal courses be the guinea pigs."

Suffolk County is not alone. Since Huntington, N.Y., became the first municipality in the country to completely ban chemicals on its two public golf courses in 1997, pressure by environmental activists on city and county officials to slash pesticide use on public property has increased nationwide. The result is no pesticide or reduced pesticide programs from Canada to California.

On June 7, Toronto announced a pesticide reduction program in which chemical

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Butt Ugly

We've seen some horrendous golf apparel but . . . oh, the humanity!

Jim Smith's trousers were so bad that they were good enough to win the top prize at the third annual Bad Pants Open at the Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Ill., on May 31. Smith, of Ottawa, Ill., won the honor for his circa 1970s bell-bottom slacks that featured an outlandish and nightmarish psychedelic and geometric pattern of gold, orange and black colors. Other golfers said Smith's pants "hurt their eyes to look at."

More than 140 golfers from Illinois, Indiana and Missouri rummaged through the bowels of their closets and searched thrift shops to find an appalling pair of pants to wear in the tourney.



ILLUSTRATION: DAN BEEDY