

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

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15 products containing the broadleaf herbicide clopyralid for use on lawns in California, the state's golf course industry is not expecting an impact from the ruling.

Clopyralid accumulates in lawn clippings often used in compost. Accumulation of clopyralid in compost can damage some vegetables, according to the DPR.

But Steve McVey, president of the Southern California GCSA and superintendent of Virginia CC in Long Beach, said it's not a big issue for superintendents in California because most of them don't pick up clippings in roughs and fairways where clopyralid would be used. "This is more of a home owners' issue," McVey said.

Lesco's Foley resigns; DiMino becomes CEO

Lesco's board of directors accepted William A. Foley's resignation as chairman and CEO. The board promoted Michael P. DiMino, previously president and chief operating officer, to president and CEO. J. Martin Erbaugh was elected chairman. DiMino joined the company last December.

Bayer close to acquisition

At press time, Bayer AG submitted its proposal to acquire Aventis CropScience for \$6.4 billion and expected a decision by April 22. The head of Bayer's Crop Protection unit, Jochen Wulff, told Reuters he expects U.S. regulators to grant approval around the same time.

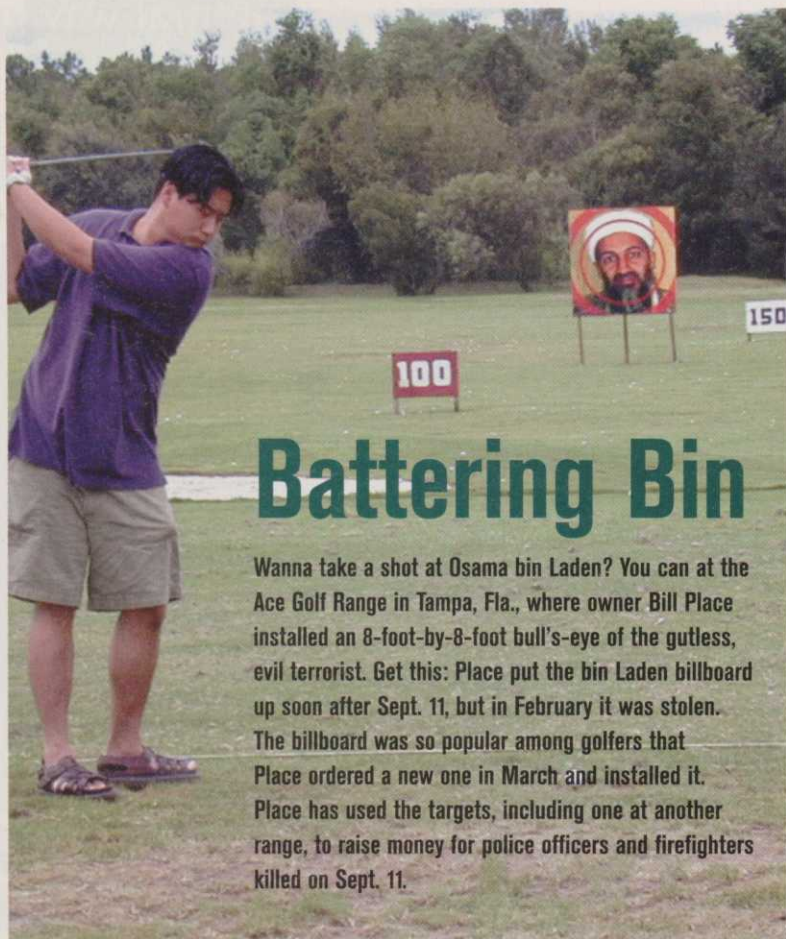
The acquisition will move Bayer from No. 7 to No. 2 in the \$30 billion-a-year agrochemicals market behind Swiss-based Syngenta AG.

Deere closes Illinois plant

Moline, Ill.-based Deere & Co. will close its Phoenix International facility in Springfield, Ill., later this year.

The company will consolidate some of its operations with its plant in Fargo, N.D. Deere cited economic conditions and a need to decrease the overall cost of doing business.

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Battering Bin

Wanna take a shot at Osama bin Laden? You can at the Ace Golf Range in Tampa, Fla., where owner Bill Place installed an 8-foot-by-8-foot bull's-eye of the gutless, evil terrorist. Get this: Place put the bin Laden billboard up soon after Sept. 11, but in February it was stolen. The billboard was so popular among golfers that Place ordered a new one in March and installed it. Place has used the targets, including one at another range, to raise money for police officers and firefighters killed on Sept. 11.

PHOTO BY BILL PLACE

We Asked Superintendents:

What words of advice would you give a young person considering a career as a superintendent?

"Be committed to education and be patient during your climb from staff member to superintendent. Work on your communication skills to all age groups, especially older adults who we normally have as customers, members and supervisors."
— Kyle D. Sweet, Superintendent
The Sanctuary GC,
Sanibel Island, Fla.

"Work hard and good things will happen. But when you have reached what you think is the pinnacle of your career [at a club], start looking for another opportunity. You peak at your club when things are going great. Then you

can only go one way and that is down. Sounds cynical, but I've seen it happen."
— Bob DiRico,
Certified Superintendent
Brae Burn CC,
West Newton, Mass.

"The question is: What do you want out of life? For me, I figure I'll work until I'm at least 65. In this business, I can wake up and look forward to going to work every day. But it's not for everyone."
— W. Craig Weyandt,
Superintendent
The Moorings Club,
Vero Beach, Fla.