

## Business briefs

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Science. The move, set for mid-2005, is intended to increase efficiencies within the company overall by bringing together all three of its business groups, BioScience, Crop Protection, and now Environmental Science, in one location. Bayer Environmental Science employs about 90 people collectively in Montvale and Birmingham.

### **Harrell's Turf Specialty formed**

Harrell's Turf Specialty (HTS) LLC is a new company created from Harrell's Fertilizer and former Simplot Partners Turf employees. HTS will serve the turf industry in the Northeast. The company's principals are Jack Harrell Jr., chairman; David Schermerhorn, president; and Don Hollinger, senior vice president.

### **Quality Golf, Schmidt-Curley align**

Quality Golf and Schmidt-Curley Design have formed a strategic alliance to offer golf course design, turn-key construction and construction management services to investors both in Thailand and throughout Asia.

### **Simplot appoints group**

The J.R. Simplot Company announced the appointment of Doug Brede, Chris Claypool and Glenn Jacklin to coordinate the marketing, research and production operations of Jacklin Seed. The group combines more than 47 years of turfgrass industry experience.

## N.M. Course 'Hails' Charitable Members

**VOLUNTEERS GET ON HANDS AND KNEES**

**TO FIX STORM-INDUCED DIVOTS**

**By Thomas Skernivitz, Managing Editor**

**F**ork in hand, members of the New Mexico Tech Golf Course got on their knees Oct. 9 to erase the effects of a freak hailstorm four days earlier.

Forty-two volunteers, most of whom were members of the Socorro, N.M.-based course, repaired four of the property's 20 greens. The remaining 16 greens, including a putting green and chipping green, were still in need of attention, which is understandable. Course officials estimated that 30 minutes of baseball-sized hail did as much damage to the greens as a year's worth of golfers.

"One of our statisticians figured there are about six divots per square foot," said Tiger Montano, the course's assistant golf pro. "The average green here is 2,500 square feet, so there's about 15,000 divots per green and 270,000 divots on the whole course."

Under the guidance of superintendent Mike Jones, the volunteers were split into groups of 10, with each spending about four hours on a green. After popping out the holes with ordinary dinner forks, they were treated to a tournament afterward. The remaining greens were playable, although players were being asked to repair 10 divots per green.



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## Make No Mistake — Dangerfield Got Respect

We miss Rodney Dangerfield, who died recently at 81. And we will continue to miss the extraordinary comedian, especially when we see him in *Caddyshack*, which we watch often.

We assume that you can relate to our sentiments. Dangerfield, who starred as Al Czervik in *Caddyshack*, almost stole the show from Bill Murray (Carl Spackler) in the film. (One of our favorite Czervik recitals from the movie is: "Tell the cook this is low-grade dog food. I've had better food at the ballgame, you know? This steak still has marks from where the jockey was hitting it.")

Larry Mintz, the University of Maryland's director of the Art Gliner Humor Center, remembers Dangerfield as a "hugely entertaining" comic whose humor in movies and stand-up comedy harkened back to the days of the "little man" who always had a ready quip or one-liner for any situation.

"The 'little man' goes back to the 20s and the literary personae of Thurber, Benchely, Perelman and White, among others," Mintz said in a press release from *Newswise*. "It is also expressed in comic strips in the persons of Charlie Brown and Dagwood Bumstead among

others, and elsewhere in the popular culture. Audiences laugh at the 'poor soul' as exaggerated images of their own vulnerability, anti hero status and necessary humility. But the 'little man' also has a tricky, sneaky, sly, side of his personality. He strikes back, rarely directly but through ironic victories achieved in spite of the odds against him. He survives."

Mintz said Dangerfield "got no respect," but in reality he was highly respected because he just made people laugh.

Rest in peace, Rodney.