

# We've Got Mail

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

## Illegal Immigrants

*Editor's note: Larry Aylward's June Pin High column, "Walking With Illegal Immigrants," provoked much response. Here are some of the letters we received.*

I empathize with the fact that illegal immigrants are trying to establish a better life for themselves and their families and that many are genuinely good people with a good work ethic. This does not take away from the fact that in many instances they are costing our citizens taxpayer dollars in an already stressed system. As for the "meager \$8 an hour," that is the starting wage in this area and actually went up after Hurricane Ivan.

An immigrant making \$10 per hour without taxes, 40 hours per week, makes \$20,800 per year. Many work more hours per week, which puts them in the range of some of our teachers, who have to pay FICA, Medicare and taxes. There are laws in place to allow immigrants to get a green card and to attain citizenship. I understand that the process is rigorous and trying, but it would help them to achieve the goal of a better life. If we allow these immigrants to become part of our system, we are only going to accelerate the failure of our system. I have paid into the Social Security system since I was 16 years old. I recognize that it will not provide for me later in life, but I surely don't want part of it going to someone who hasn't paid into it.

Our medical system is not in a good state. Insurance costs are rising and becoming one of the primary thoughts of citizens when they are seeking employment. Yet our emergency rooms are not allowed to turn away an illegal immigrant for treatment. These costs will not go away, and the legal citi-

zens will have to pay it with increases in the cost of their visits or insurance. If a child is born from an illegal on our soil, he or she automatically becomes a citizen, which makes it easier for the parent to become a citizen. Ultimately, both sides of this conflict will have long-lasting effects, but we should support the laws that are already in place, not waste tax dollars writing new ones.

**William Herring, Superintendent, Perdido Bay Golf Club, Perdido, Fla.**

Thank you for touching on such a hot topic as it pertains to our industry. I could not have said it any better. I would like to think there are millions of American citizens that feel this way.

**Cory Flotta, Superintendent, Corte Bella Country Club, Sun City West, Ariz.**

I'm sorry, but these people have broken U.S. law. Can we allow the whole world to come here without going through proper channels?

Why will Americans not do this work? Because we are a welfare nation and they don't need to work. How long before the illegals who become legal jump on this "bandwagon?" Write your congressman about this; I have.

Finally, when all of these people become the majority, where will you and your family be in society? I hope you don't need a hint. I support the laws of our land. Without them we are doomed.

**Charles H. Drawdy Sr., Honorary Executive Board Member, South Carolina Golf Association, Hampton, S.C.**

Our government needs to get a handle on the illegal immigrants;



they are illegal and every one should be sent back to their appropriate country and then come into the United States

the correct and legal way. I would be a criminal in their country if I tried to live and work there. I don't think we should let them legalize while they are here. Our country and government have enough financial struggles with its own citizens and programs.

Do you agree that illegal immigrants should get a U.S. driver's license and get Social Security benefits for the years they have worked here illegally as well? I have plenty of people who want to work for \$8 an hour and show up on time at 5:30 a.m. I turn people away for jobs every week.

**Steve Hammon, Superintendent, Traverse City (Mich.) Golf & Country Club**

## Water Management

The column "Time to Water Down This Label" (Pin High, May) caused me to put into words my frustration with the golf industry. Hoover Pumping Systems is the largest supplier of irrigation pumping stations in Florida. We manufacture, install and service stations that are designed for the Florida climate and have the lowest cost of operation compared with our competition.

For the past three years we have sold a remote water management system that has helped numerous irrigation contractors, developers and end users track and control their water usage. Our first customer was having his water turned off daily by the water purveyor until, with the help of our system, he was able to realign his zone sizes and make better use of

the water he is allotted. I believe the water crisis in the golf industry is made worse by the belief that water management systems have to be expensive and complicated to operate.

Hoover Pumping Systems is not a big player in the golf market. We install two to three systems each year, mainly on old courses looking for replacement stations. We would like to become a bigger factor in the new golf course market in Florida, and have contacted the small fraternity of golf course irrigation designers to acquaint them with our company and its products and services. We have told them about our advantages, including lower energy and service costs, as well as describing the remote water management system detailed above. The response has been disappointing. The same designers that have no problem specifying our products for large residential projects will not use the same system for a golf course.

They give no technical reason, only that since we are not one of the big national companies, we cannot be a player. I believe that the golf industry is highly conservative with the risks of changing and failing being perceived to be extremely high. I will close by quoting the response of one golf course irrigation designer who is very familiar with the merits of our company, "George, I'm too old to learn new tricks."

**George Newman, Vice President of Sales, Hoover Pumping Systems**

**We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Larry Aylward at [laylward@questex.com](mailto:laylward@questex.com), or fax to 216-706-3712. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.**