

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson
New Richmond Golf Club



"Buckle up for safety, buckle up!" Get used to wearing hard hats and fastening up your seat belt on your Cushman. The initial reaction to the new OSHA regulations and the now enforced existing rules may be one of rage. "What, more government when we thought there was going to be less?" "Nobody has been hit on top of the head with a golf ball at my course!" But remember, these laws are an attempt to make the workplace safer for employees, period. Mr. Strot is not on a mission to get golf courses. Being a golfer himself, he is doing what he thinks is best for safety in our industry. We as professionals who want to be proactive in so many safety issues need to accept and implement these regulations immediately. A month into wearing a hard hat or buckling-up will become a habit.

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Eye to Eye, the CBS show with Connie Chung, aired a story, January 12th, about the insecticide Dursban. Of all the stories the media has done about pesticides, this probably was the fairest of them all (mirror-mirror on the wall). Basically we found out that some people are ultra-sensitive to some substances whether it is perfume or "bug spray" (sic). If there is more concern about this particular insecticide, then more testing should be done by the EPA. But not based on a man having to live isolated in a tent because he claimed Dursban made him sensitive to every odor on the planet. Some facts snuck into the story such as Dursban not causing cancer and that people can be sensitive to some chemicals, pesticides being just one of many substances.

And golf courses were not even mentioned.

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Coon Rapids and the Burnet Senior Classic have extended their contract through 1997, keeping the Senior PGA Tour event at Bunker Hills. After 1997, two one-year options go into effect, meaning the tournament could stay at

the city-owned course through 1999. The fact that Jim Nicol has had the golf course in excellent condition has a bearing on that decision.

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On Misinformation "It's not that people know too much but they know so much that ain't so." *Mark Twain*

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Public Relations can be good or bad depending on how you respond to a problem. Intel Corporation recently found out how not to handle a public relations issue when it was announced that there was a technical glitch in the Pentium processor. Their response was to try and explain the problem by giving the consumer too much technical detail and jargon. People like a choice and Intel didn't give them one. Intel decided who was going to get a replacement chip and who wasn't. Keep this in mind when you, as a superintendent, deal with golfers and the public when talking about such issues as pesticides or course maintenance practices. Treat their concerns with respect, and don't get too technical!

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Golf Digest reports that Bill Gates, the billionaire Microsoft magnate, prefers to buy used golf balls. Somehow the trite statement, "That's why he's got money", just doesn't seem to fit. Although have you priced a dozen golf balls lately?

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Landscape Management featured an article on **Kevin Clunis** and Stillwater C.C. in the December issue, an article on **Jim Nicol** and Bunker Hills Golf Club in the January issue, and Jan./Feb. issue of *Golf Journal* did a real nice story about another local superintendent, **Patty Knaggs**, from Hazeltine National. Both stories were well done and well deserving.

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No more equipment at monthly meetings. At the Industrial Relations meeting during the annual conference they voted unanimously to end the monthly tradition. It was felt that the time and expense could be put to much better use during demo's at a particular course and the annual conference. This was long overdue.

OSHA Update

Don Strot, Senior Safety Investigator, will be speaking at the March Mini-Seminar on New Regulations.

At this time, I can tell you that Hard Hats and R.O.P.S. will be required on golf courses. R.O.P.S. will be required on all off-road vehicles and mowers 20 h.p. and above. If you need more info before March 13 call Don Strot at (612) 297-4470.

— Joe Moris

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