

Architects Society does have standards, but not as rigorous as others

To the editor

In the May issue of *Golf Course News*, I am quoted as saying ... "professional standards are neither required by the industry nor offered by some individuals and companies."

This statement does not properly reflect what I said to Frances Trimble, the author, but I can easily see how my comments might have been taken out of context in an honest effort to shorten the article.

It is my understanding (and I don't know the facts, since I resigned many years ago) that the American Society of Golf Course Architects **does** require a prospective member to attend three annual meetings, take some sort of test (which might or might not be graded), and work under a member of the

society for a certain number of years before being admitted.

I'm not sure that "being admitted" is the same thing as "being qualified to practice." But there are some sort of standards for the industry. So I do not want to appear to do the industry a disservice.

My comments during the interview were that the industry does not require the same rigorous educational standards required of engineers (and I happen to be one), architects, doctors or lawyers before the individual can claim he is a professional in the field.

Some individuals represent themselves as professionals without even the ASGCA requirements, and some do not offer the client

sufficient plans and specifications to obtain reasonable bids. In my opinion, the industry — from a professional and ethical standpoint — is lamentable and needs to be put on a sounder, more acceptable basis.

Those calling themselves "golf course architects" should have at least three years of college engineering or three years of landscape architecture, plus a year of civil engineering, plus at least one year of agronomy specializing in grasses and turf. It helps to be able to shoot in the 70s, but it is not critical if one doesn't.

I hope this clarifies my position.

Sincerely,
Joseph S. Finger, P. E.
Kerrville, Texas

Comment

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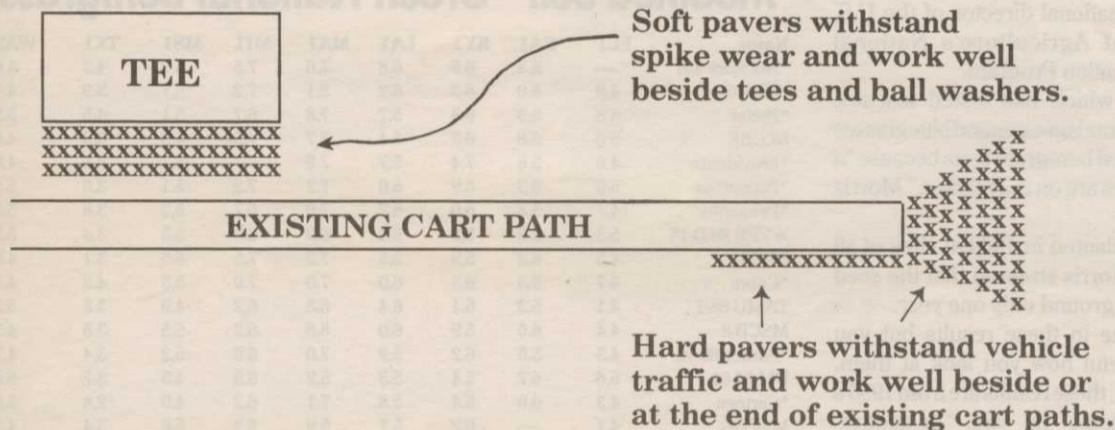
greenkeeping. Then Course C came along with even better grounds. Course A and Course B members took note and...

So here we are in this state of scientific research. Swiss author Max Frisch once said: "Technology. The knack of so arranging the world that we don't have to experience it." Architect Pete Dye alludes to our golf courses as being maintained like billiard tables. Are we experiencing the world on these courses?

Whatever does happen and whichever researchers find grand solutions to turf problems, pray this, will you? That academician Alan Valentine is not proven right. He said, "Whenever science makes a discovery, the devil grabs it while the angels are debating the best way to use it."

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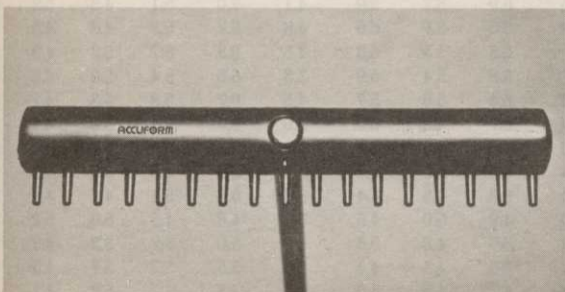
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