Spending money wisely
I appreciate Jim McLoughlin’s column
about the Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America board perks
(“GCSAA board perks,” May, page 20).
His opinions are pretty much where
I was during my two years on
the board. While many of the perks are
reasonable, some were a bit excessive.
Obviously, not everyone at the GCSAA
believes that, or they would have been
changed. I know most GCSAA mem-
bers have no idea about how many
dollars are being spent to support the
board each year.

The perks are only part of the story.
The other issue is about some of the
locations where meetings are held and
some of the social functions related to
those meetings. While I agree some of
these meetings are a part of conducting
business, I don’t think we really get our
dollars worth when we send multiple
attendees to many events where we
don’t even have any significant meet-
ings planned or outcomes expected. I
know there are others who will disagree
about the value of us being at such
events, but all too often some of these
trips involve very little real business.
As I stated earlier, this is just my own
personal opinion, and I know others
disagree.

At our board budget meeting last fall,
I challenged my fellow board members
to think about where we held our meet-
ings and how we spent our members’
dollars. I don’t think anything has
changed since that time, but I hope the
new board members and future boards
recognize it as an important issue. It’s
the duty of the elected board members
to use the members’ money wisely.

I want to thank Jim for putting this
subject in the spotlight where hope-
fully more GCSAA members will give
it some thought. I want to thank him
for caring about our industry, staying
involved and providing quality educa-
tion to many of our members in his
local programs.

Gary K. Carls, CGCS
Sunnyvale (Calif.) Golf Course

Hal! Hal!
I read Pat Jones’ piece/commentary
(“The politics of golf,” March, page 62)
and got a good chuckle out of it, even
though there’s more than humor there.
Sometimes truth is stranger and funnier
than all the fiction we see on the boob
tube. Actually, as I was reading the com-
mentary, the columns written by David
Feherty came to mind. Feherty’s humor
and Jones’ run in the same vein. (That
was a good one about the sheep!)

Anyway, keep up the good stuff and
keep it in the short grass.

David Wheelieh
Golf course architect
Hazard/Fry
Columbus, Ohio

I read Pat Jones’ bobblehead piece
(“Bobbleheads,” http://www.golfcourse-
and thought I was listening to Andy
Rooney on 60 Minutes. Some sense of
humor. It’s somewhere between Louis
Grizzard, Dave Barry and Jack Nichol-
son in The Shining. He must be spend-
ing a little too much time with writers
Geoff Shackelford and Brad Klein.

Ed Walsh, CGCS
Shelter Harbor Golf Club
Charlestown, R.I.

Clarification
The marketing column in the May is-
 sue (“Electronic marketing,” page 16)
was co-authored by Phil Wiggins of
Wiggins Golf Consulting in Pinehurst,
N.C. GCN