

## Common Courtesy

by Ed Braunsky

Do you every wonder why there's not a lot of common courtesy anymore?

I know this may sound like Andy Rooney of **60 Minutes** fame, but it bugs me that people are not courteous. We, as golf course superintendents, are trained to "kill people with kindness" — a phrase I picked up from my father. I am fortunate to be superintendent for a club where the members display a lot of C.C.!



In contrast, when you are out and about and allow a car to pass or turn or allow someone to cross in front of you near a shopping area, you rarely get any kind of acknowledgement. People just are not courteous. Hold a door open for someone and they look at you like you are a mass murderer. All it takes is two simple words to make your day! Now I'm sounding like Dirty Harry, but my two year old daughter and six year old son exhibit more courtesy than a lot of people I know. Maybe we should run over people or slam doors in their faces to get a response out of them. Try and pass a group of teenagers these days without catching a hard stare or smart remark. People need to learn and use common courtesy.

A news story on the radio the other day told of a group of people, sharing an apartment, who set up their refrigerator with certain foods belonging to certain people. A new fellow, not knowing the system, came along, took two eggs belonging to a roommate, was shot seven times, and died. If he'd had the common courtesy to ask about the eggs, he might still be around today. Of course, the roommate wasn't very courteous either. I know this is an extreme example, but it just goes to show you!

Here's an example everyone can relate to. You are going through an unbelievable day where everything from Pythium to smelly ballwashers are driving you nuts and some peddler shows up out of the blue wanting to sell you a product that's guaranteed to loosen up everything from a rusted bolt to your frigid love life. This guy had no common courtesy and, therefore, did not make the sale. For the most part, people who call on MAGCS members do call first and I do say "for the most part" because we still need to work on a few.

It's a shame that the common courtesy we try to teach people on the golf course cannot be carried over into everyday life. Letting someone play through or waving a group to play away on a crowded par three is no different than holding open a door or allowing someone to cut through your lane of traffic.

Start off this golf season by "killing people with kindness". We, as golf course superintendents, are always looking for more respect so show your members or golfing public common courtesy ... and stress the same to your staff! A little bit will go a long way in a short period of time.

As always, here's wishing your 1994 golf season is right down the middle of the fairway and not in the rough. Thanks for taking time to read this. I hope the common courtesy bug bites you right where it hurts.

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