

The best of the year from Leslie's seat on the aisle

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Ontario, outside Toronto, it derived its name from the bountiful flowers by that name on the site. It came on line last year after Devil's Pulpit took the Canadian golfers by storm two years ago. You can breathe now up there, folks!

Best Adaptation: The Donald Ross Memorial Course in Boyne Highlands, Mich. You no longer have to travel the country over to squirm in excitement about playing holes designed by the master. A selection of his best are recreated here.

Best Supporting Actress: Alice Dye. Alice makes a cameo appearance on center stage now and then; but her presence truly frames the day-to-day life of husband Pete. Behind every great man is a great woman, the saying goes — right?

Best Supporting Actor: Keith Foster. Foster's name has been in small type while designing golf courses for boss Arthur Hills. But, creating his own company in Mesa, Ariz., last winter, he may be atop the marquee some day. He collaborated with Hills on Walking

Stick in Pueblo, Colo., Harbour Pointe in Seattle, Wash., Wing Pointe in Salt Lake City, Utah, Bay Oaks in Houston and Bighorn in Palm Desert, Calif., among other projects. Come and get your Birdie, Keith.

Humanitarianism Award: Mr. Chicago Golf Joe Jemsek. Did you catch Jack Palance doing the one-armed pushups on stage during the Oscars? Joe can do those with one thumb! He has plenty of awards filling his cabinet, but I'm sure Joe will feel this one is the icing on the

cake. He has always been a long driver. Now he can say he's a long liver, and he has a long list of birdies — yet no Birdie to match this one!

Best Actor: Even Mr. Talent, Mr. Niceguy, Mr. Elected Best Architect the Last Three Years Tom Fazio — even Tom — can't say he has won both the Best New Private Course and Best New Public Course awards the same year. But Arthur Hills can. The Toledo, Ohio, designer saw *Golf Digest* pick his public Harbour Pointe and private Golf Club of Georgia designs as

best in their categories. Come on down, Art, and get your Birdie!

Best Actress: Judy Bell, who was presented the leadership award from the Women's Sports Foundation last winter, gets a well-deserved nod for this award. She's a classy lady, has been wonderful for the game, and has grown up a family to boot.

Best Director: Andy Banfield. Who? I've heard him called the greatest golf course architect in the world. In fact, he's the behind-the-scenes guy for Tom Fazio and directs builders to carry out those famed Fazio designs. Fazio is known for hiring bright young designers — folks who can add special wrinkles to his topos that help make his courses among the best.

Best Movie: *Pebble Beach Links: The Movie* is the runaway winner of this highly prized Birdie. A compelling drama, *Pebble Beach* (a.k.a., *Hey, Give Us a Little Leeway, Huh, Man!* and *Who Owns This Land Anyway?*) proves the axiom: Truth is stranger than fiction. Consider the facts. A controversial Japanese billionaire. One of the world's most incredible stretches of ocean beauty. A struggle with environmentalists. A battle with government authorities at county and state levels. Protagonists. Antagonists. Haven't-You-Gone-Home-Yet-onists. Perhaps the first incident of Japan-bashing since the tasteless incarcerations of World War II. A \$300 million loss. That's three hundred million dollars!

But who gets the statuette? We'll keep it on hold at the Academy, folks, until the fine people who put this movie together can claim it.

Lifetime Achievement Award: A Birdie ceremony wouldn't be complete without an award to the One who made all these feats possible. All the winners owe Him for their talents, ingenuity and creativity. The all-time great golf course architects have credited Him with actually creating the best golf courses. "We only find them," one said. Yes, the most prestigious Birdie of them all goes to the Lord. Thanks, God!

I hope all you who did not win this year are not too disappointed. There is always next year. You needn't come in tails.

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AGC to offer day care service at Calif. course

American Golf Corp. is offering what it claims is the first children's day care center at a golf course.

Trained and licensed day care providers are available at Lake Forest Golf & Practice Center in connection with any of the operation's services — nine-hole course, practice range or lessons.

"We want to make a meaningful and unprecedented commitment to parents who desire to play golf," American Golf Vice President Joe Guerra said.