

Off The Fringe

They Clean Up Real Nice

You have to hand it to Hubbard, Ore.-based Turf-Seed — the company put its best face forward at its annual field day in June despite being the victim of an eco-terrorist attack 10 days before that caused between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in damage.



The "GE" stands for "genetically engineered" — and vandalism.

As journalists and distributors from around the country descended on the company's Pure Seed Testing research farm — where the Anarchist Golfing Association struck — to sneak a peek at new grass varieties and party the night away at Turf-Seed's barbecue, there was little evidence that there had ever been an attack.

"We didn't want them to have the satisfaction of ruining our chance to show off the work we're doing," says Crystal Rose-Fricker, president of the company. "We cleaned up as fast as we could and got down to the business of rebuilding."

The grass fields looked lush, and although there were a few spots that had obviously once been inhabited by the plants destroyed in the attack, the presentation went off without a hitch. Well, other than the giant "GE" (standing for "genetically engineered") that the AGA spray painted across the company's sign that marks the entrance to the company's fields. The AGA targeted Turf-Seed because it claims the company is growing genetically engineered grass in its fields — a claim Turf-Seed vehemently denies.

Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews **language translation sites**

People called me insane when I took French instead of Spanish in high school. Was I? Mais oui! But it turns out I didn't need to learn Spanish because there are Web sites that will now translate anything I need. If you have workers who speak different languages, here are some sites that might help you communicate better with them (all sites start with <http://> unless otherwise noted):

(**** – Bookmark it and return frequently; * – Look at only if absolutely necessary)

******translator.go.com** – The site gives you the opportunity to translate English into Spanish, French, German, Italian or Portuguese and vice versa. Its almost instantaneous conversion makes it an easy-to-use site, and it doesn't stumble over phrases such as "sprinkler heads" and "3/16 of an inch." It offers visitors the opportunity to buy a complete software package for their computers (geared to PCs) and offers the option of translating entire Web sites by typing in the URL. You can add the link to your Web site as well.



******babelfish.altavista.digital.com/translate.dyn** – This translator speedily takes your English phrases and translates them into Spanish, French, German, Italian or Portuguese. It has an easy user interface and leaves your English words up on the screen so you can remember what you wrote. It warns that the translations are approximations and should not be taken as literal trans-

lations — a point proven when you take the translated text and put it back into English. Still, it's far better to have an approximate translation than none at all.

INCOMPLETE **www.freetranslation.com** – Since I'd heard good things about this site from superintendents, I was psyched to try it. Unfortunately, the program didn't adapt itself to my computer system (a MacIntosh G3 with Internet Explorer 5.0). I'd hate to pan a site just because my computer wouldn't let me access it, so I suggest you try the site yourself and see how it works for you. Just be prepared that you might be frustrated by the results.

*Scanning the Web is compiled by Frank H. Andorka Jr., *Golfdom's* associate editor, whose multilingual skills also include Pig Latin. You can reach him at andorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions.*

Read This Book

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the man!); ask your opponent if he has heard the rumors about poor quality control at the factory that manufactures the brand he's playing; and, one of my favorites, tell your opponent, "Well, sir, all you have to do is clear the pond (bunker, waste area, quarry, bar-

ranca) and you've got it made."

A fiendish pleasure to read, "*How to Win at Golf Without Actually Playing Well*" won't help improve your hitch-laden swing, but when properly executed it will drive your better-skilled opponent absolutely bonkers — thus ensuring your victory.

Let the games begin.