

Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

Minorities and golf

I read the "Winds of Change" story (August) with great interest. Minority and youth advancement in golf is a particular interest of ours. We have been promoting minority golf in our own small way for almost a decade. We are in the midst of constructing three urban golf practice centers exclusively for Chicago youth. Mayor Daley, an occasional golfer, has provided great leadership.

The three practice centers, designed by Kemper Sports, will enable urban youth to practice their entire games — driving, pitching, chipping, sand play, putting — with instruction at no charge throughout the golf season. The capital cost of the three facilities will be around \$3 million.

We also have a scholarship program in Chicago where we offer courses over about 10 weeks conducted by Kemper Sports professionals in shop operations, agronomy and play, and the best students receive \$1,000 educational scholarships and first rights to future job openings in our company. It's an effort to bring more minorities into the business.

**Steve Lesnik, CEO
KemperSports Management
Northbrook, Ill.**

About that column

Your September Flagstick column, "Just Say No To Al, Carol and Joe," was particularly disturbing to me. Words such as "shove it," "sleazy stuff," "wacky" and referencing the IQ of a presidential candidate serve little purpose other than to drag the writer and reader down to a level of political dialogue that is simplified and amateurish.

Additionally, some terms and phrases, taken in or out of context, could be used in exactly the opposite manner in which they were intended. A perfect example

is where you offer a motto for a Newt Gingrich-led EPA, in which is included, "... Hello DDT." DDT is not a term that should be used, jokingly or not, when referring to modern golf course maintenance. It only provides another tool for those who really would restrict a golf course or agricultural industry's use of chemicals.

The environmental perspective that you provided was ill-timed, old-fashioned and not in keeping with modern golf course maintenance practices. The phrase, "... those who rely on pesticides to do their jobs," in referencing those in the industry could easily be used as fodder for ill-informed critics who would like to restrict chemical and pesticide use.

The holistic view that the GCSAA has worked hard to promote in working with environmental concerns would much better serve the argument. An integrated pest management program, utilizing a mix of cultural and environmental practices with a limited but cautious pesticide program, serves the purpose much better.

I welcome the opinion of those in the industry such as an editorial director/publisher of such a fine periodical. I only argue that an opinion can be offered while at the same time challenging readers to become involved in a thought process to weigh the issues and form their own opinions.

**Stephen Pastoor, General Manager
Egypt Valley CC
Ada, Mich.**

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at pjones@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.

Golfdom

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