

Going Postal

WE'VE GOT MAIL

Mixed Reviews

The time has come for Pat Jones, GCSAA's former director of communications, to bury the hatchet and get over the fact that he is no longer a member of the GCSAA management team. His continued harassment of the organization and its management is both immature and boorish (Flagstick, August).

There is no doubt that GCSAA, like any organization, is open to criticism and justifiably so. But Jones's remarks go beyond the professional and become attacks which embarrass the organization and its leadership.

The latest attempt to embarrass GCSAA came in the form of a comment from a supposed "longtime industry executive" about the funding of the 75th anniversary celebration.

[The remark] only trivializes what should be meaningful commentary on various aspects of the golf turf industry.

The members of GCSAA do not need Jones to be the conscience of their professional association. They are perfectly capable of both demonstrating and communicating their likes, dislikes, compliments or criticisms in a manner far more sophisticated than what is published in the Flagstick forum.

Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS
GCSAA Past President '91
Cape Cod National GC
Brewster, Mass.

Your viewpoints about GCSAA are beneficial for the industry and GCSAA. If constructive criticism is handled in a positive manner, GCSAA will become a much better organization.

A Dale Carnegie instructor

recently suggested I move around less during my presentations because it distracts the audience. After thanking her for the constructive criticism, I tried it and soon noticed the audience was more attentive. Handling constructive criticism in a positive manner will improve anyone's performance, including an association's.

Douglas Linde
Assistant Professor of Agronomy
Delaware Valley College
Doylestown, Pa.

Focus on Family

I had the opportunity to read your article "Career and Family: The Balancing Act" (July). I thought it was brilliant and faxed it to all of the wives around the New England area.

My husband is an associate superintendent at Pine Brook CC in Weston, Mass. Therefore, I could more than identify with the subject matter. I have spoken to many wives in the past few months, some of whom have been married for years while others are just newlyweds. It certainly is a challenge juggling a husband's long work hours with family time.

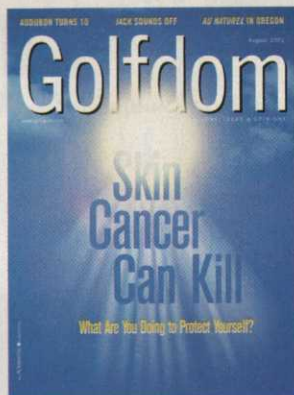
I believe you must savor every moment and enjoy not the amount of time your family has together, but the quality of the time spent instead.

I'm sure all the families and wives appreciated this topic. I know I did, and I hope that in the future there are more articles like this.

Stephanie Carter
Weston, Mass.

Skin Cancer Alert

I wanted to let you know how much of an impact your August cover story ("Serious About Skin Cancer") has made. There have



been numerous comments on the GCSAA Web site about the seriousness of skin cancer [since the article appeared].

Many supers feel this [article] may be the best eye-opener to our industry in some time. It was also well-written. I've made a doctor's visit to get a spot on my ear examined and a physical for an overall examination.

Charlie Fultz
CC of Culpeper
Culpeper, Va.

Cowardly ELFs

I was baffled when I saw that the Earth Liberation Front had burnt down the University of Washington's Center of Urban Horticulture (Pin High, September).

As a superintendent, I'm not sure what possessed me to attend a seminar at the school to obtain pesticide applicator points. I warily eyed the other participants as I ate my sprout sandwich and drank my juice. We spent the morning discussing the evils of pesticides and what we could do to reduce them. The day was filled with organic fertilizer alternatives, corn gluten for weed suppression, various torch models for weed burning and hot water as an excellent weed killer.

I have used some of these methods to help in our golf course maintenance practices, and I made a good contact for organic fertilizers at the seminar. The people who run the Center of Urban Horticul-

ture should have been the last people targeted for an act of arson. If the ELF truly cared about the environment, it would not have attacked the Center of Urban Horticulture. The ELF is just a group of petty vandals and terrorists who will eventually become murderers through their reckless actions.

NAME WITHHELD

Editor's Note: Golfdom withheld this writer's name and location to protect him from becoming a target of ELF.

Heat on Heacock

I read Mike Heacock's article ("CGCS Implies Something That Doesn't Always Deliver," August) with great interest, but felt that I needed to comment on a few of the items that he brought forward.

The title CGCS means many things to different people. To a person with that title, it means that he or she has spent the time, money and effort to study for a test and make a commitment to a career path. I agree that CGCS does not always mean that a person is a competent superintendent. I don't think that was the intention of it.

When you study to become a CGCS, no one tells you which seminars you must take. You decide in which competencies you are deficient and make the decision yourself. If that means that you have to travel to attend the seminars, the decision to do so is a choice you and your employer have to make. If your employer sees merit in what you are doing, maybe it's mutually beneficial to both parties to have a CGCS onboard.

I'm sure there are many superintendents who use the CGCS label as a steppingstone. Like everything else in life, you must look beyond the label to see

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