

Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

Defending Defibrillators

This morning I picked up a copy of *Golfdom* while waiting for a meeting at city hall. As a local Fire Rescue Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Chief, I was disturbed by some of the information and comments found in the article "Defibrillator Demand?" (June). First, all local laws do not dictate that a medical director be in place at a golf course for AED placement. In most cases, it only takes a prescription from a physician (though each jurisdiction may be slightly different and should be consulted prior to getting an AED unit). In addition, we only charge \$20 per student for AED instruction, not the \$50 to \$70 per student indicated in the article. I was most concerned, however, by Don Mahaffey's com-



Defibrillators spark debate

ments regarding AEDs on his course. He is quoted as saying his local fire department would rather his course not have AEDs, but instead hopes the course will concentrate on getting help as quickly as possible.

Getting help is an important component of the survival chain, but early defibrillation is equally important. I have never heard the views of Mahaffey's fire department from any other fire/rescue agency. As the article correctly reported, a golf course is the perfect location for these devices. In our city (which includes the PGA of America headquarters and resort), we maintain an average response time of five minutes. This is not always the case, however, when responding to a cardiac arrest call on a golf

course. In those situations, our response includes making our way slowly to the patient with our ambulance on the course or loading equipment to a golf car for transport. This all takes valuable time. A cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival decreases 7 percent to 10 percent for each minute he or she goes without defibrillation.

To give them the best possible chance of survival, AEDs should be part of every golf course's minimum equipment. I commend those courses that have had the forethought to get these life-saving devices in place.

**Chris R. Brown, EMS Commander
Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.**

Ill-conceived Comparisons

I'm writing in response to the article "Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself" (Flagstick, July). I loathe the attitude about our profession that the article espouses — that being a superintendent is more difficult and stressful than any other job.

You compare an accountant who makes a minor math error to an herbicide contamination. If putting herbicide where it shouldn't be is a minor error, what is a major one? I think a fairer comparison would be if the accountant made a mistake so bad that the IRS was investigating his client.

Everyone has budgets to meet, difficult bosses, office politics and occasionally unfair performance judgements. People in all professions have to justify their salaries against what they are worth to their organizations. Those stresses aren't limited to superintendents.

You make an excellent point about taking care of your life and remembering what really matters, but please get off the high horse

and realize that everyone has stress.

**Tony Campanella, Superintendent
Hampshire CC
Mamaroneck, N.Y.**

Lighten Up!

Editor's Note: In the July issue, John Baute of the CC of New Orleans, wrote a letter that criticized Golfdom for running what he considered a photo of Southern Hills CC superintendent John Szklinski using unsafe practices on his golf course. Szklinski responds:

It has been quite an educational experience as the host superintendent of the 101st U.S. Open. You can't completely comprehend how wonderful it is until you experience it. I have been extremely fortunate in my budding career to experience all that life has to offer.

I've also learned that there are individuals who always choose to look at the negative, and it would appear, that John Baute (Letters, July) is such a person.

He assumed the material being dispensed from the Multipro was fertilizer, but it was only sand. We at Southern Hills don't require our staff to wear protective gear when working with wet sand, nor do we require our membership to wear protective gear while playing recovery shots from our bunkers. Additionally, Baute assumed the vehicle was in motion, but it wasn't.

It's a shame that Baute has a tendency to search for the negative. Life is awesome, so enjoy it.

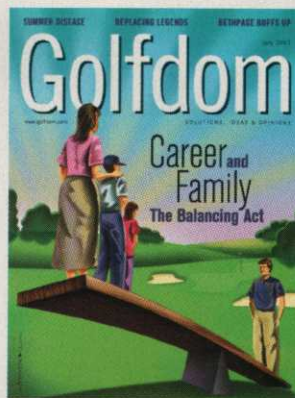
**John Szklinski, Superintendent
Southern Hills CC
Tulsa, Okla.**

On the Mark

I have been the wife of a superintendent for almost four years now. Every now and again, I like to read some of the articles in my husband's golf publications. "Career and Family The Balancing Act"

(July) caught my eye, and I read it to see what people in the industry had to say about balancing this stressful career and having a family.

When I met my husband, he was about to attend turf school at the University of Massachusetts. He explained to me what taking care of



a golf course entailed. It was not until the following year, when he attended the turf program at Rutgers University, that I really understood what superintendents do, however.

When he would visit me or I would visit him, I would help him study the different varieties of grass, trees, plants and diseases. I was amazed and impressed by the amount of knowledge it took to do his job and do it well.

Although I do miss him during the summer and jokingly call myself a "golf widow," I understand why Brian keeps the hours he does. I also know that in November we'll have more time together and will take a much-needed vacation.

**Kim Luccini
West Kingston, R. I.**

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Frank Andorka at fandorka@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.