

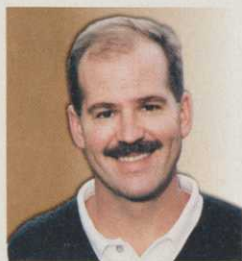
**I** turned 40 last month. I still feel — and usually act — like I'm a college sophomore, but chronologically I'm now in my fifth decade. Just to rub it in, when asked how old his daddy is, my 6-year-old will happily chime, "As old as dirt!"

I always thought that, as you grew older, you would have all the answers. But curiously, now that I'm officially as old as dirt, I seem to have more questions than answers. Here are a few that have been puzzling me lately...

- Which is better: bald or gray?
- Why do they call it "syringing" a green? I've yet to see anyone perform this task with a hypodermic needle.
- Why do golfers — particularly Tour players — increasingly expect perfect lies in bunkers? As our good friend Tim Moraghan replies when the pros complain about bunkers in USGA events, "It's a hazard. You're not supposed to be in there."
- Did it ever occur to you that some of the chemical companies' names that would work well in Dr. Seuss stories? ("Little Erasmus Mac-Dentis played a tune on his Syngenta-Aventis.")
- If these high-powered new balls and titanium clubs are so great, why do I still stink?
- Why isn't there a rule that makes it legal for a superintendent to smack anyone with a five iron? who asks, "So what do you do all winter?" At the very least, all superintendents should be supplied with a list of snappy comebacks to this question, such as "I pack up the van and follow the Grateful Dead around" or "I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you."
- Why not hold a Texas death-match between Dr. Joe Vargas and Dr. Houston Couch to decide, once and for all, which one is right about disease management? Imagine the sponsorship possibilities...
- How many attendees will be mugged during the 2003 GCSAA show in lovely downtown At-

## Older, But Not Necessarily Wiser

BY PAT JONES



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lanta? (I was there recently and wanted to stroll over to see the Olympic Centennial Park one evening. As I was leaving the hotel, the doorman said, "You're not actually going to walk around out there, are you?")

- Why doesn't Charles Barkley keep his big mouth shut about golf? Lengthening Augusta National is a racist conspiracy to keep Tiger Woods down? Yeah, right. The Round Mound of Sound needs to go to a junior event and watch these kids banging 'em past the 300-yard marker on the range. Then he'd know why Hootie and the gang at ANGC are sweating.
- What planet is Jesper Parnevik actually from?
- Will John Rocker receive a nomination in the category of Best Performance by a Redneck Jock in a Low-Budget Slasher Film for his upcoming role as a demented assistant superintendent in *The Greenskeeper*?
- Are there still people standing in line to pick up their badges at registration for the Orlando conference and show?
- Wouldn't it be cool if, before they were appointed, all green chairmen were required to ride around the course for a day disguised as crew members?
- How does the Easter Bunny find us if we're spending the holiday at grandma's house? (My kid asked me this, and I was stumped.)
- How soon will I be eligible to join AARP?

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