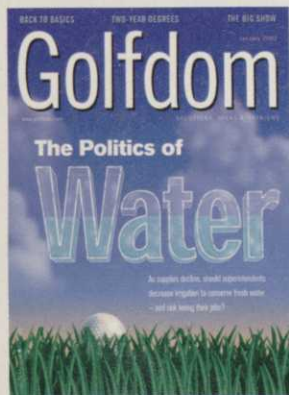


Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

Disagreeing with Duncan

I was pleased to see January's theme ("The Politics of Water").



The issue will continue to be an important one, if not the most important issue our industry will face going forward.

I was disturbed, however, to see Ronny Duncan's comments about desalinization in the article, "Dealing with Water Woes." I disagree strongly with Duncan's opinion that desalinization, or reverse osmosis, is too costly. I made a presentation last year at the GCSAA show on reverse osmosis, showing how cost-effective it can be. In fact, for a golf course now buying potable water, it can often pay for itself in as little as four years. I respect Duncan for his expertise in the field of seashore paspalum research, but I feel he's not qualified to offer advice about reverse osmosis.

**Rob Kloska, Superintendent
The Jupiter Island Club
Hobe Sound, Fla.**

Heacock's Full of Hot Air

I'm finally responding to Mike Heacock's August 2001 article, "Been There, Seen That," about whether a CGCS promises something it doesn't deliver.

Apparently, Heacock believes that continued education is a waste of time, energy and money.

As Heacock knows, certification is a voluntary program designed to offer superintendents the opportunity to increase their knowledge. It wasn't a guarantee that all who enter the program would be exceptional superintendents. I would note, however, that since the inception of the certification program, surveys reveal that certified superintendents have moved out ahead of their non-certified colleagues on salaries and prestigious jobs.

The program wasn't designed to promote certified superintendents over non-certified ones.

There are many highly qualified superintendents who are not certified. Ironically, there are more non-certified superintendents attending the educational seminars than certified ones, so apparently they must believe it's not a waste of time as you do. Anyone who believes there is nothing to gain by continued education has his head in the sand.

I'm not sure how you arrived at the conclusion the CGCS implies something it doesn't deliver since

A Pat on the Back

Congratulations to *Golfdom's* staff for reviving a great magazine and pushing it to such high status that it won a Folio award for editorial excellence.

Most of us old-timers are well aware of *Golfdom's* history. Before I changed jobs, I must have had hundreds of copies of the original magazine. Herb and Joe Graffis [founders of the original *Golfdom*] were superintendent-friendly, and I commend you guys for carrying on a great tradition.

**Robert V. Mitchell
Turf Consultant
Lewisburg, W. Va.**

the program's main focus is to provide the tools necessary for superintendents to improve themselves. As with any profession, there are no guarantees, no matter what letters someone has after their name.

**Clifford A. Wagoner
Certified Superintendent
Past President, GCSAA
Modesto, Calif.**

Editor's Note: Heacock issued a clarification of his remarks in the December 2001 issue at the end of his column.

Quit Gripping About Golfers

The article written by Joel Jackson, "Golfers are Like Sausage Eaters (February)," once again confirms for me that a good portion of the people working in golf course maintenance have an "Us vs. Those Dumb Golfers" attitude. This attitude serves absolutely no professional purpose, but it's no surprise to me. I've seen it in various forms my whole career.

On the other hand, I have worked with superintendents who realize that the "sausage eaters" are paying the bills. It's not their job to know everything that goes into having a golf course in good shape. After all, that's how I look at my job. If I don't meet the needs of my golfers, they'll go somewhere else to play.

Too many superintendents, however, carry an underlying contempt for golfers. This contempt is corrosive, such that it keeps superintendents focused on what they're upset about instead of doing something about it.

If Jackson is director of communications for the Florida GCSA, I would advise him to start communicating what he thinks Florida golfers need to

know about superintendents and quit writing insulting articles about the people his business is supposed to be serving.

**John Fiander, PGA Professional
Sleepy Hollow GC
Brecksville, Ohio**

American, And Proud of It

Maybe your magazine should think twice about printing further articles by Mark Leslie. His article about golf course labor is a big slap in the face to all Americans ("Looking for Golf Course Labor in All the Right Places," February).

This is the typical kind of reasoning that is hurting our work force in general. The practice Leslie describes is in line with the likes of big business moving their factories to Mexico and importing all kinds of cheap junk manufactured in the Far East. Going outside of the United States for labor is ludicrous.

How are our kids supposed to pay for ever-increasing tuitions? All superintendents should hire Americans. They should buy American products whenever possible. If they cost a little more, so be it. Your grandkids will thank you.

**Jerry Lange,
Second Assistant Superintendent
Bunker Hill GC
Dubuque, Iowa**

Editor's Note: Don't shoot the messenger. Leslie is just reporting the news.

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.