

Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

Seeking Normal

In response to your editorial, "Seeking a New Sense of Normal" (Flagstick, November), I would like to share the following story:

One day shortly after Sept. 11, I was on the phone with my sister and used the word "normal" to describe our lives. It was met with silence on her end. So I added, "Well, the new normal." I believe her response went something like, "Whatever the hell that is."

For my sister, Jeanine, the "new normal" will mean redefining every expectation she has ever had, from recent hopes of decorating the new home she and her husband were to move into on Sept. 15 to starting their own family. Her husband, Jim, died in the World Trade Center attack. For Jeanine and thousands of other moms, dads, husbands, wives and children, the new normal will take years to define.

In the rocky and unstable time ahead, they and all Americans will depend on things that stay the same, like golf. Superintendents will help people heal and move through this tragedy by providing places of beauty where people can gather to relax and learn how to enjoy life again.

My husband, Joe Liebsch, superintendent at Kennett Square Golf & CC in Kennett Square, Pa., put it succinctly in a recent article in his club's newsletter. He wrote: "It is through this great game that some of my pain has been eased — remembering all the times we played and the joy that the game gave us. Although difficult, continuing to play the game without our 'fourth' has been therapeutic for our family."

Kristen Liebsch
Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor
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It's Heacock's Fault

I just finished reading Mike Heacock's column, "Inherited Assistants and Lessons Learned" (Been There, Seen That, December). I'm distressed at his generalizations about inherited assistants.

Perhaps Paul did have an attitude problem, but was your job to change his attitude or change Paul. In addition, you were apparently aware of the problems associated with this green and were proactive in your maintenance. However, you were not proactive in Paul's training. As his superintendent, you should have made him aware of potential symptoms of distress and instructed him to call you if these symptoms were present.

I know that during stressful summer weather, I would never go through the weekend (or any other two-day period) without talking to the superintendent. These conversations usually occur about most of the greens on the course.

Finally, I think you dropped the ball in this situation, not Paul. You left him unsupervised in a situation he was not capable of handling. Apparently, you are still blaming Paul for the problem instead of looking in the mirror to see the real person at fault.

Vince DeFusco
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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.

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