

Ah, summertime. As I write this, I'm lounging on a beach chair at my weekend getaway place in the Hamptons and catching some rays. My beloved Indians are in first place as the All-Star break approaches and the patriotic fun of the Fourth of July is only weeks away. I even broke par again the other day! How I love the month of June.

(Editor's Note: Unfortunately, Mr. Jones is lying. He actually wrote this column in late April while chained to his desk in wet, chilly Cleveland. He has no weekend place and couldn't find the Hamptons with a GPS locator. The Tribe had lost five straight at the time and, as for tanning, Mr. Jones skin pallor was somewhere between Dracula and Casper the Friendly Ghost. The only way he could break par is by quitting after 12 holes.)

And with June comes our "Cheers and Jeers" salute to the best and worst of the summer of 2002.

(Editor's Note: Again, this man is a hopeless fibber. It's April 25 . . . how could he have a clue about what's happened in May and June?)

As I look back on the past few months . . .

(Editor's Note: Liar, liar, pants on fire.)

Hey, cool it! People expect me to be timely and relevant, so I'm indulging in a bit of literary license here. Just shut your big trap!

(Editor's Note: Make me!)

You asked for it, pal.

(Sounds of scuffling and a punch connecting. Jones gives the Editor's Note a fat lip.)

Had enough?

(Editor's Note: Yesthhh. I promith to be quiet.)

So, without further interruption, here are our Cheers & Jeers of summer:

Cheers to that dynamic duo of a mild-mannered Mother Nature and a surprisingly spunky economy. Rounds played were up 6.2 percent early in the first quarter and suppliers report brisk sales in plant protection and equipment. Recession? What recession?

(Editor's Note: Pleasth don't hit me again, but I feel compelled to say that the economy could have tanked by June and nobody can really predict the weather. Perhaps you should try another angle.)

Not Necessarily Cheers & Jeers

BY PAT JONES



CHEERS TO THAT
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Um . . . good point. How about this?

Cheers to the great team at Bethpage Black for presenting a fabulous course for the U.S. Open. With this event, the USGA propels public golf to a whole new level.

(Editor's Note: Sorry, but I mushht remind you that bad things sometimes happen to good courses and the Open might not go off perfectly.)

All right. Let's try it this way.

Cheers to GCSAA for its courageous last-minute decision to switch the 2003 Conference & Show site from Atlanta to good old New Orleans. See you on Bourbon Street!

(Editor's Note: Oh, for Pete's sake! Now you're just making things up. You're also going to get nasty letters from the nice people in Atlanta.)

Hey, don't get me wrong. Atlanta is a great city. It's just not my favorite place for a convention. OK, smart guy, try to pick this apart.

Cheers to the sense of cautious optimism about the economic health of the golf industry that was present, at least in my mind, on April 25.

Jeers to the continuing feeling of uncertainty that (as of April 25) seems to prevent us from completely accepting and enjoying the cautious optimism. Is that OK?

(Editor's Note: Yesthhh, I think so. You seem to be saying that things are going pretty well, but we still have to take life one day at a time.)

That's right.

(Editor's Note: OK, I'll buy that. Hey, we make a good team. How about we do this every month?)

How about you quit bleeding on my computer and go bother Shackelford instead?

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