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Going Postal

WE'VE GOT MAIL

Ego-Free Design

I appreciate Geoff Shackelford's candid thoughts on golf course designers who put their egos ahead of good design (Designs on Golf, February). I would suggest there are too many so-called architects, owners and green chairmen who forget about the golf course and are only interested in fueling their own careers and egos at the expense of what is right.

I can name 10 historic golf courses off the top of my head that have been severely damaged since 1960 by bad design work and sloppy decision-making. People forget about due diligence and research, and use their overinflated egos as their guide.

Who was around in the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s to protect these golf courses? It seems as if there was a whole generation of architects asleep at the wheel during these years.

David Savic Old Course Design Dublin, Ohio

Nixing Nike

Your column about Nike's attitude toward golf may be the best story I've ever read (Pin High, April). I wish this story could be printed in every newspaper and magazine.

I've been in the golf industry for 38 years, and your article was absolutely correct. If we keep doing the same things we've done in the past, we won't let the average man or woman even think about playing this wonderful game. In addition, we're shutting out young people as well with the expensive courses we keep building.

Bud Welch Golf Professional Rock Hill, S.C.

Mind the "Maverick"

Don't you think the guys from the chemical companies might not

want us to stop rotating our chemical applications for fear of losing sales? Michigan State University professor Joe Vargas is at least honest enough to buck the system and stand up to the big companies ("A Maverick's Theory," April).

As for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University professor Houston Couch and the other professors who have issues with Vargas' theory, I respect their opinions as well. In the end, though, shouldn't all of us, including the researchers, at least give Joe's theory some thought? I know I will. Sean P. Magginis General Manager/Superintendent

Blues Creek GC Marysville, Ohio

Age-Old Questions

Ive decided to answer to Pat Jones' question, "Which is better, bald or gray?" (Flagstick, April). Without a doubt, bald is better. Charlie Tadge Superintendent Vineyard GC Cincinnati

If you're older and wiser, my 60 years on this earth should make me very wise (if not any smarter) by now, but I still don't know how the Easter bunny can find us at Grandma's house. Bill Byrnes President

Floratine Products Collierville, Tenn.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Frank Andorka at <u>fandorka@advanstar.com</u>, 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.