

Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

Reader Reacts to 9/11

Was there a silver lining to 9/11? If there was one, it was the coming together of our nation in the name of the more than 2,000 people who died and the thousands of people whose lives were affected by the tragedy. Maybe we've learned to care more.

The other silver lining is that 9/11 probably led to the discovery of all the financial tomfoolery that has been going on for decades. Maybe people are beginning to see the connection between people, money and repression. Is there a difference between the people with the biggest bank accounts running the world vs. the people with the biggest muscles running the world? The answer is, no, in my opinion.

So what about golf? Ten to 20 years of golf's greatest growth just occurred. More money was poured into the game during that time than at any other time in history. And what did the greenkeepers end up with? I'm sure studies would show greenkeepers lost ground financially.

It's my hope that [as a result of the current economic situation], the people who sacrifice their bodies to maintain and improve golf courses will move closer to the spotlight and receive some sort of recognition and the proper compensation that every individual should receive to live properly. I know I will do all I can to see that happen and keep encouraging the GCSAA to help greenkeepers.

**Bob Taeger, CGCS
Village CC
Lompoc, Calif.**

Thoughts on "The Other Half"

I would like to respond to the article entitled, "The Other Half" (July).

I've had many different jobs in the golf industry while trying to provide for my family. I can sympathize with all superintendents and their workloads. I was a superintendent in the transition zone through the dreadful summer of 1995, and I worked countless hours to keep the course in shape and/or alive.

Having completed the task that summer, I ended up in the hospital with a stress-related illness, while my wife tended to our newborn child. Financial difficulties for the course began the following year, and I was out of a job. Was [my hard work] worth it? No.

Please try to keep your priorities straight. Family and religion must come before our jobs. Missing your children grow up and forgetting the obligations of Sunday (so the golfing public can enjoy the Augusta experience) have helped put our profession where it is today.

**David Schingel
Project Manager/Agronomist
Lohmann Golf Designs
Chicago**

I hope that players at clubs read this so they know that the folks that keep their courses in such great shape also have families.

A big thank you to those people would go a long way.

**Bud Welch
Golf Professional
Rock Hill, S.C.**

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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