

**W**hat in the world is going on out there? What impels people to do certain things — zany, bizarre and dumb things? Since January,

I've kept a file folder in my desk called "Wild and Wacky News for 2003." I've collected some doozies. Check 'em out.

## A desperate man

Word was Tighue Shields, a former greenskeeper at Weston Hills Country Club in Florida, could keep a mean green. But he couldn't keep track of his own green, as in his finances.

So Shields donned his fly-fishing cap (his *fly-fishing* cap?) and knocked off a few banks last June. Police busted him shortly after he finished his third heist. While Shields worked in Florida, he robbed the banks in Arizona. Apparently, he flew from Florida to Phoenix on Mondays when the course was slow to do his dirty work.

The robberies sound like they were more the work of a desperate man than a seasoned criminal. Creditors were chasing Shields at the time of the robberies. Shields also tried to rob the same bank twice, which cops said was foolish.

## A dumb thing to say

The greens at Weston Hills were in bad shape until Shields arrived at the course last March. Shields had the greens looking fine in a matter of months, and golfers hailed him as some kind of turf swami.

But at least one golfer was *way* too caught up in the emotions that came with the enhanced conditioning of the course. He had the audacity to tell a reporter from the *Miami Herald*, "For a good putting surface, we're willing to overlook a few bank jobs."

And you wonder why so many nongolfers view golfers as snobs.

## Who does he think he is?

Ted McAnlis, a golf course architect from Florida, was sentenced to 10 years in the slammer after being convicted on eight counts of tax evasion. McAnlis evaded more than \$1.3 million in federal taxes, penalties and interest by concealing his income and assets from the IRS. He hadn't filed a tax return since 1977 because he

# Wild and Wacky News from 2003

BY LARRY AYLWARD



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believed he was a "sovereign citizen" who didn't have to pay taxes. Did McAnlis really think he could get away with this?

## Imaginary superintendent

Superintendents who abhor the way their profession was portrayed in *Caddyshack* will get a good guffaw out of this one. Gregory Jones was fired from his job as sports editor at the *Roswell (N.M.) Daily Record* after making up quotes in a story, which were actually script lines from *Caddyshack*, and attributing them to a made-up superintendent named Carl Spangler. (Yes, Jones, a so-called *Caddyshack* fan, botched the last name of Bill Murray's character, which was Spackler.)

Jones said he thought everyone was a *Caddyshack* fan and would appreciate his humor. Memo to Jones: Let *Caddyshack* — or any funny flick, for that matter — do the entertaining.

## You've got to be kidding

After missing a crucial putt during a qualifying competition for the New Zealand Open, a golfer moaned and groaned that duck droppings caused him to miff the putt.

David Hartshorne said the duck droppings were in the line of his putt. He requested relief but was refused. After he missed the putt and fell out of contention for the tournament, Hartshorne ripped the New Zealand PGA for its ruling. He whined that he should have been able to brush the droppings aside. But the referee ruled — and this has to be a first — that the droppings had stuck to the green, were baked by the sun and could not have impeded his putt.

Not lost in the tiff was the fact that Hartshorne had the nerve to complain — even though the putt he missed was from 35 feet.

Can you say, "Sore loser?"

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