

Editor's note: You know those family-update letters people send out around the holidays? This is one of them. But remember — it's a parody, even if it is close to the truth.

Dec. 5 Holiday Update 2003

Many of you have written to compliment me on my holiday newsletters while kindly warning Ted Sr. and I about how much we'll miss the kids when they are off to college.

"Just wait Tish," you wrote in your glowing e-mails praising my annual choice of USGA-designed Christmas cards. "You'll miss the scrapes with the law, the car wrecks and the missed curfews."

Well, you were right. But don't worry, Ted Sr. and I will now get to spend most of our time running the St. Louis National Golf and Country Club green committee.

But more on that in a moment. First, some news about the little pumpkins.

Ted Jr. (27) is getting ready to enroll in medical school. We're so excited, because Ted Sr. and I are finally going to have an excuse to go play Pete Dye's Casa De Campo courses. That's right, Ted Jr. is headed for a school of medicine in the Dominican Republic next spring. He's very excited about studying to be a podiatrist after those boring stints in law school, graduate school and that dreary MBA program. More importantly, Ted Sr. and I hear the "Teeth of the Dog" course at Casa De Campo is the Pebble Beach of the Third World!

Tammie (19) has successfully completed her hazing and is now a Delta Gamma at University of Texas in Austin. During DG's Parent Weekend this fall, Ted Sr. and I had the privilege of playing the Barton Creek courses. We think Barton Creek has the best conference center golf courses in the country, though Ted Sr. felt the Crenshaw course needed some waterfalls. Oh, about Tammie. Recently she walked out of her sociology class and saw that Bush daughter who goes to UT. This life-changing brush with royalty inspired Tammie to join the campus chapter of the Young Republicans.

Time for a 2003 Family Update

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



TED MANAGED TO
OUST ONE LONG-
TIME COMMITTEE
MEMBER SO HE
COULD HAVE A
BETTER-QUALIFIED
REPLACEMENT
(ME!).

(See Ted, I told you it was just a phase).

Tim (17) is a senior at Our Lady of Perpetual Suffering High. He has a great chance of cracking the starting five on the golf team this year. Tim couldn't have done it without the help of a sports psychiatrist who diagnosed him as having Severe-First Tee-Tremble-Syndrome. Tim was also diagnosed as having Acute Distance Disorder. However, he's started using Tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), which has worked so well for our U.S. track and field athletes. This should get our Timmy that extra 10 yards he needs to crack the starting lineup.

Ted Sr. continued to do his course rating work for *Golf Digest* and tells me that if I get my handicap under 20, he believes the editors will give me a panel position for my 50th birthday. Ted Sr. is a nationally recognized expert on golf course design, which is why the club members at St. Louis National rejoiced when he became green chairman this year. Ted managed to oust one longtime committee member so he could have a better-qualified replacement (me!). We're very excited about a pompous-grass revegetation program that we've started for the roughs. In 2004 we hope to oust our longtime superintendent and replace him with a young, willing assistant who will do what we want. It should be a fun and exciting year.

Wow, so much said and I didn't even get to tell you about my letter-writing campaign on behalf of Martha Stewart. Oh well. ...

Happy holidays from St. Louis National's favorite family,

Tish, Ted Sr., Ted Jr., Tammie and Tim

You may e-mail Geoff Shackelford at geoffshackelford@aol.com as long as you are not sending a year-end family update.