

# We've Got Mail

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

## Rebel Yale

I was both interested and upset by Anthony Pioppi's analysis, "Yale Returns to Yesterday," in the March 2005 issue of *Golfdom*.

Wherever your peripatetic editor Anthony Pioppi turns up, it is apparent he really likes the Yale Golf Course. But like the best of friends who dare to point out your faults, this is what he attempts to do in this latest article.

and a lot of research was done using construction photos and aerials taken throughout the ensuing years.

The characteristics of Raynor's design, with steep grass banks, flat sand and sometimes rectilinear configurations, were retained. The depths and steep banks of the existing bunkers were always left intact and undisturbed. We kept these features when we reinstituted those that had been lost.

The principal's nose was a bunkering feature often used by C.B. Macdonald and Raynor in their designs. Only the "nose" of this feature on the 17th hole, without the three small bunkers, remained as a landmark, even in the '50s. This has been left intact, and the older aerials showed us the location, size and shape of the bunkers we looked to put back. To say it was "decimated" is a gross

exaggeration! It was the simplest reconstruction of any of the original bunkers, removing turf only where the bunkers themselves were located. If one of them looks like a "litter box," he better complain to the original architect.

Maybe I should consider Pioppi one of those good friends who is unafraid to point out my faults.

Maybe not!

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We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Thomas Skernivitz at [tskernivitz@advanstar.com](mailto:tskernivitz@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.

# Golfdom

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Writing for another publication in 2001 he lambasted both the condition of the Yale course and the bunker renovation that was then in progress under my direction. Now he sees maintenance greatly improved under a new superintendent with strong university support. He still denigrates the bunker program by calling it "abysmal" and "ill-advised." Since I "failed to capture the Raynor style," he suggests Yale can reverse the work with the services of a "knowledgeable architect." Thanks a lot!

The bunker restoration was a repair job to existing bunkers as well as putting back those lost over the years. If Pioppi knows more of their original character than my own experience dating back to my student days in the 1950s and that of many others who offered their input, he would have been of great help to the project. No original plans of Raynor's exist