

# We've Got Mail

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

## Multicultural Buzzword Bingo Leaves a Smile

I just got around to reading Geoff Shackelford's August article (page 20) and I really enjoyed it. I am up to my neck in MBAisms all day, and it gave me a good chuckle to know someone else thought all this was getting out of hand.

I am currently building four courses with a development team consisting of two Britains, three Indians, two Americans, one Australian, one Pakistani, one Canadian, one Iraqi and a partridge in a pear tree. All of us together weave the most tangled web of professional gibberish ever spoken.

Thanks for the smile. I need all I can get.

**Matthew N. Dobson, Golf Course Manager**  
Jumeirah Golf Estates  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## A Pessimist's Fairy Tale

I couldn't believe Joel Jackson's December column, "Budget Woes Force Clubs to Prioritize"

(page 18). If I want an imaginary tale, then I'll go to a bookstore to buy a novel. What club could you possibly be speaking about?

The three clubs I've managed in my 20-year career all were operated by a board of directors that would spend money on the golf course before all else. The predominant attitude is more likely expressed by: "Why spend money to replace the thread-bare carpet in the men's grill? The guys don't care, and we can always replace it next year. McDuffy needs some new equipment to make the greens faster and roll truer."

The next year, the carpet still needs to be replaced and now McDuffy has sold the board on the need to purchase the latest and greatest piece of equipment that will surely get the course listed in the top 100, and the carpet must last yet another year.

The needs of the golf course always come first. The main reason most people join a golf club is because of the golf course, not the clubhouse. People who run golf clubs rarely forget that. Can

you name a club that has weed-filled turf and the Taj Mahal as a clubhouse? Successful clubs usually have a group of managers that work as a team, and if budget cuts need to be made, then everyone feels the pain equally.

This was not an article I expected to be penned by an executive director of the Florida GCSA, and I highly doubt the scenario you wrote about is what occurs at your club.

I must assume you are a successful superintendent. Therefore, wouldn't it be more useful to your readers to write about working with the club board from your perspective?

I always thought it better to teach each soldier how to fight if you wanted to win the war. Your article implies that superintendents might as well raise the white flag. I think you could use your knowledge, experience and stature in the industry for much better use.

**James C. Petersen, General Manager**  
Sunset Ridge Country Club  
Northfield, Ill.

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