



GOOD DAYS — BAD DAYS — SPECIAL DAYS



By Rod Johnson

The months of June, July and August find most of us running from here to there, and as many golfers might think, not knowing quite where. The nature of our profession mandates there will be Good Days, Bad Days and Special Days.

Good Days occur when the course looks great. A little rain, a little luck, and a lot of help can make us look brilliant.

Bad Days happen when the weather doesn't cooperate, when equipment well past its prime refuses to function, and when an overworked, undercompensated crew needs a break.

Special Days are those days when WGCSA and other turf-related events are scheduled. A quick glance at the calendar shows many Special Days ahead.

On Monday, July 23rd, many WGCSA members will be participating in Wisconsin's first **John Deere Scramble**. This event will be a cooperative effort among J.W. Turf Equipment, the Wisconsin PGA and ourselves. The event will be held at Monroe Country Club, home of Superintendent Tom Schwab, WGCSA Director, and Golf Professional Mike Muranyi,

Wisconsin PGA Director. Teams composed of Superintendent, Professional, Manager, and President will compete in a scramble format. The winning team will advance to national competition in Palm Springs.

Please be aware that our **August 13th Meeting** has been moved to **Camelot Country Club in Lomira**. Owner/Operator Red Roscoff and Superintendent Dave Brandenburg have come to the rescue again.

I look forward to our **September Tournament Meeting** with great anticipation, since we will have the privilege of playing the new **Cedar Creek Country Club**. Pat Norton is the Superintendent at this Bob Lohmann designed beauty. The course is located in Onalaska, just north of La Crosse.

The **1990 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Fundraiser Golf Outing** is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9th, at **Westmoor Country Club** in Brookfield. Jerry Kershasky, who lays claim to being the only person other than yours truly to have attended every WTA Golf Outing, will host this event. We have all drooled over Westmoor at 65 MPH and the opportunity to tee it up behind the chain link comes seldom. Plan now to attend.

Two very special days will be ours on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 30th and 31st, when the **25th Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium** is held at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. The topic, yet untitled, will deal with the idiosyncrasies of bentgrass. The early list of speakers is impressive, headlined by Dr. Joe Duich and Tom Mascaro. Other speakers scheduled include fellow Superintendents Joel Jackson and Kevin Dushane. The 25th running of the golf-turf-only event, which is dedicated to the memory of O.J. Noer, promises to be exceptional.

So, take the Good Days with the Bad Days, and plan now for the Special Days.



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MOLE HUNTING

By Monroe S. Miller

Aldo Leopold would have enjoyed this morning on our golf course. It would have delighted any naturalist, amateur or otherwise.

Within a short period of time, I watched the hawk who calls this course "home" hunting for gophers, heard (and subsequently found) a red-headed woodpecker in an old shag-bark hickory tree in the northwest woods, and chuckled while a squirrel and a blackbird argued high in an ancient red oak.

The wildlife living on this 100 acres right in the middle of the city give testimony to the great value of golf courses, value that goes way beyond the game and the players.

Seldom does a week go by that we don't see raccoons and woodchucks on the golf course. Muskrat live on the Lake Mendota shore near our pump station and have moved into the pond fronting the fifth green.

Graduate students from the university have come to our golf course to watch flocks of crows. All of us have respected the privacy of nesting mallards in the spring.

There have been many times I've watched golf players on our course stop traffic on Lake Mendota Drive so that a mother mallard could cross with her ducklings on the way to the lake and a swimming lesson.

From purple martin birds to praying mantis insects, from chipmunk families to wasp nests bigger than a basketball, a golf course provides habitat to wild-

life whose presence makes my daily life richer, fuller and more fun. Even the deer that occasion the course once or twice a year are welcome, despite the hoofprints that can result.

I'd be less than honest if I didn't admit, however, that one of God's creatures is not welcome here. My guess is I'd get agreement from every golf course superintendent in Wisconsin.

Moles and golf courses aren't compatible and I'd be thrilled if I never saw another molehill or tunnel. Or another mole for that matter.

Homeowners don't get along with moles very well, either. To be perfectly frank, I receive more calls for help from members about mole problems than lawn problems. They seem to think I'm a mole expert. I wish I was.

We have more than our fair share of moles, probably because of the wooded surrounds. But the problem I have now is nothing like the one that existed at the Nakoma Golf Club when I worked there as a college student.

That beautiful golf course is nearly surrounded by the University of Wisconsin arboretum; it's a tremendous asset. But when it comes to moles, it is (or was) a tremendous burden.

In the three years I spent at Nakoma, every single one of the scores of mole tunnels I saw originated in the arboretum. Sometimes it made us want to move.

The mole problem was kept well in check, however, by one of the best mole hunters you'd ever want to meet.

Erv Graf, Sr. was an expert.

I learned a lot of things from Erv while I was at Nakoma; things I use everyday in my job today. But the chance to learn mole hunting was a wasted opportunity. Despite many, many attempts, I just don't have it.

That's too bad, given the mole problem I have at my own course on occasion. Erv's method was sure fire, no miss. All the recommended procedures that I use, from removing the food source to outright trapping, usually don't work. I always hope the mole will just go away. Sometimes it does; sometimes it doesn't.

Most often, Erv did his mole hunting early in the morning when it was cool. Generally, it was quiet. When he'd spot fresh mole activity, usually in a moist, shaded area, he went into action.

First order of business was a sharpening of his primary weapon — a half-moon shaped sod knife.

He then returned to the site of the invasion. He quietly approached the tunnel; from a distance it looked like he was stalking game. In a way, I guess, he was.

Once he reached the crime scene he straddled the tunnel, about six feet back from the end of it. The battle had now begun.

It was a war of nerves. Who would be the first to move — the hunter or the hunted? Erv was absolutely motionless. You weren't easily able to tell if he was even breathing.

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He waited, sod knife poised about 30 inches above the tunnel, watching for the slightest sign of activity.

One thing you didn't do was disturb him. No talking, no walking, no machinery. We watched Erv as he watched the tunnel.

Suddenly, it happened. The sod knife fell in an instant, the metal of the sharpened edge flashing. If you were watching, invariably you jumped. There was no warning. It was not unlike seeing a guillotine in action.

Erv would open his pocket knife, cut the tunnel from the sod knife forward about a foot and peel it open. Almost always, there was the culprit.

How did he know when to drop the blade, effectively closing the gate on the tunnel? As soon as he saw the first sign of activity at the tunnel's end. Assuming it was safe, the mole resumed his burrowing and that's when Erv made his move. It was one less golf

course vandal to deal with.

Moles are small creatures, usually about six inches long. They have a pointed snout and seemingly no eyes or ears. Their most distinguishing feature, apart from their soft fur, is a pair of powerful digging paws.

Their paws can move 10 pounds of soil in less than half an hour. That's why they cause so much conflict on a golf course.

Their diet would make you consider more tolerance — they eat slugs, cutworms, grubs, insects and young mice. But they also eat earthworms. And earthworms are one of a golf course's greatest assets. I don't want any animal that could eat 30 or more pounds of earthworms in a year on the property.

At the turn of the century the hide of a mole was valuable in high fashion. Moleskins were used as trim for collars and cuffs. They were sold to make

pocket linings. If that market had been available in Erv's time, he'd have been a rich man.

Maybe we should consider ourselves lucky, lucky that usually there are less than half a dozen moles in an acre. And they hate each other, refusing to share the same ground. There's only so much damage a solitary mole can do.

One of our members recently, in all seriousness, suggested putting Juicy Fruit chewing gum in a small opening in a new tunnel. The theory of this method of mole control is that the mole will eat the gum, become constipated and die.

I think I'd better practice Erv's method of mole hunting. I have to believe that hunting is more humane than constipation!

And probably more effective.

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(Continued from front page)

each element independently would be a chore because they are very interrelated. Such a rigid structure of definition does not allow fair evaluation among professions. Further, the evaluation of professional performance is so subjective that a yes or no determination would be impossible.

There is no universally accepted definition of Professionalism. Nor can any one profession claim to be the most professional. In my mind, the most appropriate definition utilizes a simple High to Low scale of professionalism. To use this definition we examine each element of professionalism and answer, in our own minds, the extent that we possess each element. The following section examines each of the ten elements in detail.

1. Appearance

Do not underestimate the importance of your appearance during work. It is a key tool to regulate perception. Professionals provide services for clients. Because clients pay for that service, they rightfully formulate perceptions and make judgments based upon their perceptions. You are judged because the client wants to access the quality of service. This is especially true in a first impression situation. Of course your appearance is only one of the many attributes that you can be judged on.

Here is the important link: the clients' perception and judgment are derived from their own opinion of what is appropriate. If your attire does not coincide with their belief of what is appropriate, you will be marked lower, in their mind, on the scale of professionalism. Is this fair? Of course not! One's appearance is not a reliable indicator of professional ability. However, it is realistic to say that this type of judgment

occurs frequently.

There is a large degree of misconception that to be considered professional you must wear a suit and tie to work. Obviously this is because a suit and tie are appropriate for many well recognized professions. For other professionals, researchers and engineers for instance, that attire is not always appropriate. Look to the client to determine what is appropriate. If the membership of a private country club does not consider blue jeans appropriate for themselves, neither should the management. Success is when you modify your appearance to prevent a misconception about yourself and your profession.

2. Association

The professional's association protects and enhances the interest of its members. The association protects the profession from the laity by maintaining the integrity of its membership, also referred to as gatekeeping. The most common practice is to set minimum performance levels on certification exams. The CPA exam requires a score of 75% or better on each of the four sections to pass the exam. The association can further gatekeep by choosing the content of certification exams, and the number of credits for continuing education.

It's also the association's responsibility to enforce its code of ethics. Fair and proper enforcement have suffered due to high legal costs. It's a shame to see the conduct of a few people erode the professional credibility of many. Other association functions include development of political lobbies, fund raising for scholarships or research and maintaining relations with fellow associations. All these functions serve the same purpose: to look after the long term needs of the membership.

Members receive a long list of benefits from their association. Foremost is education. Timely information is a commodity. How often do you use it? The primary source of information is the professional journal. If you find it difficult to read it cover to cover, make sure to at least read the table of contents. This way you will know what information you are missing. Seminars, conferences and symposiums are extra special because they facilitate discussion with speakers and colleagues. Public relations, another benefit, is accomplished through direct advertising and sponsorship.

Informing the public about the significance of your profession and association is beneficial.

A successful public relations program does not use symbolism to create an illusion of professionalism, nor does it automatically make its members professionals. Professionalism within the profession is only accomplished by each member's performance and conduct.

3. Autonomy

Autonomy is perhaps the highest valued element of professionalism. It's the degree of freedom of choice in one's work. This is the element that allows us to choose how much creativity and responsibility we desire in our work. How much freedom do you have to make decisions with respect to: choice of clients, project initiation and direction, techniques, material selection and appropriation of money needed. The most pure form of autonomy allows the professional to have total control of the client's service.

Self-regulation is also a component of Autonomy. How many hours a day do you work with a senior (boss)? Are you given specific guidelines on how

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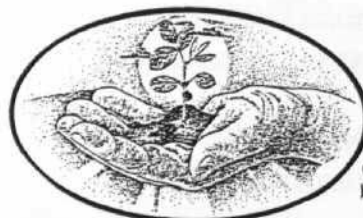
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to perform your work? Are instructions rigid or open-ended with many possible outcomes? Do you need permission to work outside guidelines or organizational structure? What happens when you deviate from these guidelines? Is your individual judgment encouraged and valued? The answers to these questions provide an indication of your scale of Autonomy.

Professionals high on the scale of Autonomy look to their peers rather than their superiors for work performance evaluation. They consider the performance of their peers to be the most reliable source of comparison to determine self worth and evaluation. From this, they maintain their own standards of excellence and success.

4. Continuing Education

The premise of continuing education is "at what rate does the assumed knowledge of a profession change?" A profession must be rapidly changing. This demands that the professional keep pace with all aspects of change. They might include product development, new techniques or methods, regulations, political issues and concerns specific to a profession. The professional needs to pursue the education needed to fully understand the changes as they occur.

The continuing education element is one of the most important. It distinguishes pseudo-professionals from true professionals. The success of the latter is contingent upon each individual's ability to place himself at the leading edge of change. The university professor (researcher) is a classic example of a professional whose success is contingent upon changing knowledge. The pseudo-professional, however, does not risk success in the face of change. It's likely that the continuing education element will continue to be important in the future.

5. Education

It's clear in my mind that today's standards demand a minimum of a four-year bachelor degree to be recognized on the education scale of professionalism. The associate degree offers excellent opportunities. Graduates obtain well respected jobs and salaries. However, it does not provide even footing with a bachelor degree.

Education standards for all occupations increase through time. Indeed the standards have accelerated in the past 50 years. This is evidenced by the fact that many young professionals have a higher level of education than their se-

niors. This trend is not new. In 1924, Richard J. Walsh, editor of *Collier's Weekly* remarked,

"The self-made manager in business is nearing the end of his road. Despite his own blind faith in the 'practical'. He is already hiring professionally trained engineers, chemists, accountants and hygienists. . . He must himself turn to professional education or surrender control to those who do."

The point is not to undermine the value of experience. Practical and formal education are not substitutes for each other. The best approach is to treat them as complements of each other.

6. Ethics

"An ethic is a system of standards for moral judgment."¹ The last word "judgment" suggests that standards of ethics are personal and very diverse. All of us are responsible for our own actions or inactions. For this reason, each person needs to refer to his personal code of ethics to define ethical behavior. Professional standards of ethics insist that any source of persuasiveness or power that results from professional employment be used within the individual's personal code of ethics and the professional association's code of ethics. Every member needs to uphold professional standards of ethics. The extent to which this is accomplished will ultimately determine the reputation, integrity and character of the professional association and its members.

7. Expertise

This is the bread and butter element. It requires the basic assumption that the professional is able to profess knowledge to the client. What attributes distinguish the expert from the amateur? The expert offers a full time commitment to a single occupation. They receive in-depth intellectual training; using that knowledge as a foundation, they readily accept new knowledge to enhance their expertise. The professional is rich with work-related experience and constantly evaluates it to improve future work performance. He understands how to use two types of knowledge, theory and practice, to make intelligent and responsible decisions. Some professions are required to blend art and science to achieve goals. With all of this in mind, the professional applies these attributes to de-

liver first rate service to his clients.

8. Responsibility

This is probably the simplest element among the 10 elements of professionalism. Yet only a few professions can make a convincing case for it. You can think of it this way: how important is your work to the client? In other words, what are the consequences if you make a mistake? Is it possible to remedy the mistake or are the consequences irreversible? The medical profession and legal profession have a major claim on this element. Their responsibility to perform goes well beyond client satisfaction in order to maintain their job security. Their abilities or lack of abilities often have a permanent effect on their clients. Rightfully so, this element is the major reason for the high prestige of these two professions.

9. Salary

Why is salaried compensation an element of professionalism? There are two reasons. The first is overtime. Salaried professionals receive less compensation for their overtime hours than scheduled hours. This separates the wage earner from the salaried professional. They willingly provide extra service because it's a source of intrinsic satisfaction and part of their professional self-concept. The second reason relates to the professional person's strong service orientation. To provide competitive service requires a flexible schedule. Compensation here becomes tedious and sometimes very costly to the client. Perhaps the best reason for salaried compensation is the implied trust it fosters between the professional and organization to look after each others interests.

10. Social Behavior

Work related social events are a key component of professionalism. Since they are work related, professional conduct is appropriate. Disseminating harmful information about colleagues or the organizations they work for is sub-standard in all professions. Doing so always degrades the perpetrator's reputation more than the subject it was intended for.

The Values of Professional Work

So far the focus of this article is on what is required of professionals to do their work. This section asks the reverse question: what do professionals require from their work? Although the professional's goal and values toward work are individualistic, it's relatively safe to make some generalizations. A

¹ Dunham, R.B. *Organizational Behavior*. Richard D. Irwin, Inc., 1984. 490-6

generalization can be made about the professional's work orientation. One writer, Dubin, describes the work-oriented professional as:

"A person who finds major satisfactions and rewards, as well as his deepest disappointments and frustrations, in his work. He is job-centered and values highly what happens at the workplace. He invests much physical and psychological energy in his work, and he expects much in return. The most loyal employees and the most bitter critics of the organization are to be found among work-oriented people."

The primary goals or values that professionals seek in their work can be summarized as: *individual satisfaction and career development, autonomy, economic security and enhancement, and occupational integrity and identification.*

It becomes clear that many professionals depend a great deal on their organizations to maintain their professional self-concept. Conflict develops when the professional cannot rely on the organization to support professional goals. It becomes a battle of service to the organization — versus service to the profession. The result is a person committed to work, but not necessarily to the employing organization. This situation is too often true with the young professional just out of college. A great deal of frustration (i.e. wasted energy) is realized as their newly adopted values and ideas from school are twisted and hammered to fit a real life working system of standards.

Another point of conflict occurs when the reward system, as controlled by the employer, does not agree with the professional's theoretical reward system which is based on peer judgment. Who is right? Conflict continues when the employer sets aside professional development in the interest of short-term increased productivity or savings. The same is true when the employer fails to specify who the client is. Is the professional, in the case of a golf course manager, expected to service the conflicting needs of the officers, board members, committee members or general membership? Professionals commonly complain that their organizations divert and underutilize their talent, making goal attainment difficult.

These are only a few of the needs that professionals ask of their organizations. If the structure of the organization, rather than the structure of the

profession, limits the opportunity for professional growth, low organizational loyalty and job satisfaction will occur.

Professionalization

As mentioned earlier, professionalization is the movement of an occupation, or members of an occupation, from non-professional status to professional status. Early in history there were only three, relatively unchallenged professions: medicine, law and ministry. In fact, the lines were drawn so clearly that even surgeons were considered non-professional because they worked with their hands.

The list of recognized professions today is considerably longer. Probably well over 150 occupations have gone forth to earn society's acceptance as a profession. What professions have been successful? That's a burning question for many where few are in agreement; it will not be addressed here. More importantly, one should ask, why the rapid influx of professions?

There are several reasons, all related to the push for progress. First, our society has long been in a trend of specialization of work. This is in response to demands for increased efficiency and new knowledge. Overlap of knowledge is not time efficient and wastes energy that is needed to further progress.

The second reason is the accelerated rate at which we are obtaining knowledge. A profession in computer science, for example, was unheard of 40 years ago. For both these reasons, individuals have been pushed to seek higher levels of education, continuing education, compensation, autonomy and other elements of professionalism to satisfy the demands placed on them.

Is the end in sight? Are we in the process of professionalizing the world? Two British writers, Lewis and Maude, have this view: "In the fullness of time, may John Smith, Chimney Sweep, become John Smith A.I.D.D. (Associate of the Institution of Domestic Decarbonizers)?"

It's worth identifying the stages involved to transform an occupation into a profession. The following were originally proposed by researchers Wilensky and Hughes. They are theoretical and not necessarily chronological.

1. Doing the work full-time.
2. Setting standards of work and education (certification).
3. Establish an association.
4. Delegate routine work to others (specialize).

5. Judge from within what is proper work.
6. Gain a monopoly of skills.
7. Establish a code of ethics.

Kleingartner suggests that occupations will encounter two types of resistance during professionalization: resistance from without and resistance from within. Outside resistance might be lack of government support for a certification program or competition from a related established profession. Doctors and hospitals have been a source of outside opposition for nurses. Registered nurses, on the other hand, oppose practical nurses from infringing on their turf, a source of resistance from within. Younger members in the profession often incur internal resistance from older members who have different views of the profession.

Summary and Conclusion

We apply the same type of thinking about the chemical elements as we do the professional elements. They are individual units identified with specific properties to help us understand the vast dynamics encountered when studied as a whole. The best definition of professionalism utilizes a simple high to low scale of each element. Evaluation of professional ability must consider that each element contains numerous situation dependent subelements. The 10 elements are appearance, association, autonomy, continuing education, education, ethics, expertise, responsibility, salary, and social behavior. Professionals tend to value a "live to work" attitude rather than a "work to live" attitude. They require professional work ideals for job satisfaction and are frustrated when their organizations conflict with them. Professionalization is how occupations become professions and is a result of a push for progress.

There once was a time when less than three or four professions could claim true professional status. This is just the point to be made; the determination of what is and what is not a profession can be only for one moment in time. This is because professional status changes with time. In 1990, there is more room than ever for society's acceptance of new professions. The demands and complexities for so many occupations have accelerated to the extent that many are equally interchangeable with the old standbys. One such occupation is golf course management, it exemplifies the elements of professionalism.



THANK GOD MAY IS OVER

By Rob Schultz

Let's see. June is Dairy Month. July is Fireworks Month. And April Showers bring . . . what?

Let's try stupidity. May was Stupid Month. Most stupid it was the rain. That's it. Rain caused a rash of dumbness in the state of Wisconsin that hasn't been seen in these parts in a long time.

Consider:

— Aaron Pryor, the one-eyed fighter. He was stupid enough to try to fight again, the state was stupid enough to let him fight and everybody was stupid enough to listen to that crazy promoter/agent/imbecile Diana Lewis.

— Jerry Quarry, the brain-dead fighter. He showed up for a press conference at Lake Geneva's Americana Club with a band-aid over his eye. He said he banged his head cleaning his condo. Right. We're not all brain-dead Jerry. Believe Quarry and you'll believe that I just shot a 65 at the nearby Briar Patch. More on the Briar Patch later.

— The surplus of bad drivers in the state. And I'm not talking about drivers on a golf course. At last count, I missed getting killed by a careless driver about 34 times in May. At least 33 of those stupid drivers were tooling about in vans.

Most of the near-accidents were created when drivers decided to pull out right in front of me. What was strange was that each driver looked right at me, then pulled out.

Another favorite of bad drivers is something called the Green Bay turn. Anybody who has tried to stay alive on the roads in Green Bay knows what I'm talking about. Drivers there who make a right turn always put on their right signal, then pull into the left lane to make a wider turn. It seems the Green Bay epidemic is moving south because Madison drivers have suddenly gotten the hang of it. Maybe the cicadas will change things around.

Okay, what does that have to do with golf? Nothing. This is a stupid column. It fits with Stupid Month.

But that doesn't mean I didn't have any stupid encounters on a golf course in May. Much to the contrary.

I review golf courses for my newspaper much like others review restaurants. I golf at some of the state's best courses and some of the worst. I hit both 18-hole courses and 9-hole courses. And my travails one week in May took me to Dodge-Point Country Club near Mineral Point.

It's a cute, 9-hole layout. It also has one of the strangest local rules I've ever encountered.

It was late in the day when I played Dodge-Point and some golfers were walking off the course as I hit my tee shot at the par-5 8th hole. It's an interesting hole; a dogleg with a radical 90-degree turn to the right.

As I looked at the hole I noticed you could cut the corner, stay in bounds, and knock about 150 yards off the length of the hole. So I hit a perfect cut shot behind the trees, smugly tucked my driver back in my bag and looked right into the eyes of an angry club member, a George Archer look-alike, who wanted to kill me.

"THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES," he bellowed. "THAT BALL IS OUT OF BOUNDS AND YOU MUST HIT ANOTHER TEE SHOT. YOU CAN'T DO THAT OUT HERE YOU, YOU, YOU, YOU. . . INGRATE."

I told him to suck my Titleist and walked away. But he stalked down the fairway, through the trees and followed me as I walked around my ball. I smirked as I told him my ball was, indeed, in bounds. I looked at the green, a mere 170 yards away, pulled out my 6-iron and started dreaming of eagles.

As I began my routine to set up for the shot, my shadow began to bellow again.

"WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO IS AGAINST THE RULES," he shouted. "YOU CAN'T HIT YOUR BALL TO THE RIGHT OF THE FLAGPOLE. THOSE ARE THE RULES HERE."

He pulled out his 2-iron and was ready to whack me if I pulled my little stunt with my 6-iron.

I decided to back off as the three strangers who were part of my four-

some crumbled in the nearby fairway, unable to stand because they were doubled over in laughter.

"Okay buddy," I said, "let's check the scorecard to see if that rule is in print."

Lo and behold, it was. In bold print, the rule stated something like this: "Any golfer who hits a ball to the right of the flagpole on No. 8 will be killed. The guilty golfer can choose death by either lethal injection or by a 2-iron to the head by a nosy club member who looks like George Archer."

I looked to the left of the flagpole. Solid trees, about 900 feet tall. I pulled out my wedge and got ready to hit a little chip back onto the fairway. George Archer laughed. "Sucker," he said as he walked away.

I waited for him to leave, put the wedge away and hit the 6-iron to the right of the flagpole. It landed eight feet from the hole. Missed the putt.

"Sucker," I said as I walked away smugly.

That wouldn't be my last trip through golf course stupidity. The Twilight Zone of Stupidity is sitting in the middle of the Briar Patch. It's called a Porta Potty. Used by both sexes, it's the only alleged bathroom on the course, which is an out course that doesn't go anywhere near civilization for the entire 18 holes.

Guess what happened when I played the Briar Patch? I had to use the Porta Potty, which looked like it hadn't been cleaned in weeks and was minus an essential ingredient. The Briar Patch is supposed to be a wilderness course, but this is taking it a bit too far. Considering I spent \$60 to play the Briar Patch, you have to figure the Porta Potty would be stocked with leaves or catalogs.

I sure was one happy camper when May ended. Boxers were no longer the lead item in the sports sections, the roads seemed safer and I hadn't journeyed onto any crazy courses lately.

Thank God for June.

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