

Old-timers are golf's mainstay

One of my aging friends, a golfer of sorts, has gone out of his way several times lately to caution me against my thoughtless tendency of spontaneously using terminology that others of our elderly golfing coterie might consider offensive.

Does he have naughty four-letter words in mind? Oh, my no! He knows that as a coeducational group, we adhere in our jolly conversations at the 19th hole to a choice of language that is above reproach.

His new attention to a restrictive links lexicon gathered steam during the winter after I had remarked to the widow at final rites for another golfing buddy, "He finally found an unplayable lie even the rules committee can't change."

I didn't make matters any better by adding, "I hope the ashes aren't blown out of bounds."

SUCH FRANKNESS would have brought a chuckle from the departed under livelier circumstances. But now, what with our Silver Duffers ready to begin their 1987 season Monday, I am ready to take seriously the contention that certain phrasing is to be avoided.

It isn't that these folks were charter members when the first permanent golf club in the United States, the Foxburg Country Club in Pennsylvania, was established just 100 years ago in 1887, but it wouldn't surprise me if their daddies were.

The United States Golf Association and other leading entities of the international golfing industry — still guided by the principles set by the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews, Scotland — make a big thing of saying this is a game for all ages.

They have no trouble recruiting the kids. But the mainstays of the sport are "ancients" like us, addicts of swinging a slender stick at a small ball and then chasing the darned thing for miles on end to do it over and over again. Nuts that we are, we've been doing it for a lifetime.

MANY OF us learned the game while toting a heavy bag of those slender sticks as caddies during our boyhoods. In looking back, many may wish we played as well now as we did then. But the wisdom that allegedly comes with age also fosters added caution, as evi-



through
bifocals
**Fred
DeLano**

denced by the advice that got me started on this discourse in the first place.

Sometimes in embarrassed self-defense, my friends and I often have laughed when we've come to a steep climb that is nicknamed "Cardiac Hill" at our favorite course. Yet at the peak, the huffing and puffing by guys and gals alike does get a little scary.

Not only does my usual partner consider the sign that reads "Cardiac Hill" frighteningly suggestive, he's becoming almost paranoid about certain other terms.

For instance, he wants to eliminate any reference to strokes. He counts all his swings and putts honestly, as any golfer alive, but "stroke" is too medical to amuse him. Similarly, determining the winner of a match by a playoff cannot be called "sudden-death" without upsetting the poor guy.

ONE DAY when I suggested that I keep the scorecard, he reacted violently with a retort that ghostwriters were not welcome. I accused him of losing his grip, and he told me to stop talking about his loose dentures.

He skies a lot of balls. In other words, he hits them unusually high, even off the tee, and it seems like an eternity (oops!) until they land. We talked about this one day over a relaxing beer and, in stealing a phrase from football, I told him he was getting too much "hang time."

Doggone if he didn't start doodling and drew the outline of a gallows.

In ways like that, he wants to change the slangy nomenclature of this great pastime, or at least he professes he does. Despite such idiosyncrasies, he is still a delightful companion on an off the course, and there are times when I wonder whether he's just trying to con the opposition.

When he hides behind an escape clause such as "Well, it takes all kinds in this world," I have one favorite rebuttal: "If it didn't, some of you wouldn't be here."

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Your assistance was appreciated

To the editor:

I am writing to thank you for your cooperation in running HAVEN's public service announcements. We greatly appreciate both your time and consideration.

Families that we serve both in the community as well as clients in the shelter for victims of physical and sexual abuse, would also like to extend their thanks. If we can ever be of service to you, please don't hesitate to call.

Again, thanks for all of your efforts.
Delta Bryant,
HAVEN
Pontiac

Chaperoning is memorable

To the editor:

Having just returned from our chaperoning duties in Toronto, we feel compelled to comment on the trip there by the North Farmington High School symphony band and the Farmington High School symphony band during the first weekend of April.

This was certainly an educational experience as well as great fun, but also served to promote school spirit and friendship among all the students, chaperones and faculty.

The primary focus of the trip was a music clinic at York University, where the NFHS band superbly played several selections and then spent an hour being critiqued by Dr. Eugene Corporon, MSU band director. He can be described as having a wonderful spirit and exuberance with the students.

His critique was positive throughout and enhanced, as well as gave credence to, all that Carl Gippert, NFHS instrumental music director, had shared with the band during the previous two and a half months.

He particularly emphasized his delight that this symphony band had the

courage and willingness to be risk-taking in their selection and handling of the music performed. He was referring to a contemporary piece of music called "Epitaph," which provided distinct diversity of music in the NFHS band's program.

To their credit, the band students were professional in their performance and positive in their attitude during the session.

Further, Gippert was truly respected by his students during the entire trip. It can be said that he was not only risk-taking in music selection, but also in forging ahead with such a trip after having only been here since January. The trip's itinerary included stops at the Ontario Science Center and the CN Tower on Friday, the Eaton Centre Saturday morning and on Sunday, a side trip to Niagara Falls.

The efforts of both Gippert and Grant Hoemke, FHS instrumental music director, were appreciated by everyone. The result of their time and commitment was a beneficial trip, which ran very smoothly and was flexible when necessary.

NFHS can be proud of their representatives. We, NFHS chaperones, support the band and Gippert in their efforts and all future endeavors.

Christine Guill
Carolyn Lowe
Joan Herlitz
Sharon Gallup
John Web

Thanks much for coverage

To the editor:

On behalf of Farmington Families In Action, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your news coverage of our recent "Are You Concerned" series. The series had greater community impact through your newspaper articles.

Many families who were unable to attend the series still were able to benefit from the information. Thank you again for the excellent coverage.

Mary Glenn,
Farmington Families
In Action

Help to keep center alive

To the editor:

When the Goodenough family bequeathed to us their lovely mansion to use as a social and activities center, they had faith in our abilities to keep it alive, and over the past 18 years, the Farmington Community Center has given tremendous pleasure to many thousands of people.

It can continue to do so with greater financial support from area residents.

Let us hope that your articles on the center's present financial condition will awaken your many readers to how important it is for them to contribute to the future stability of the center, so that it can continue offering all of us the same pleasures and opportunities it has since 1969.

Phyllis Welch,
Farmington Hills

Cases involve families, kids

To the editor:

Tim Richard's March 19 column criticizing full state funding for courts overlooked a crucial fact — half of all civil cases pending in our courts involve families and children. These cases are not purely economic.

The fact that Wayne and Kalkaska counties have different economies does not mean that family law cases in less populated counties are less important. The families and children involved in these cases are entitled to a quality judiciary which is compensated fairly.

But full state funding is only part of the answer. Family cases will not be adequately handled until we have specialized court consisting of judges who have experience and expertise in family law.

State funding is a necessary prerequisite for the development of a statewide family court with comprehensive jurisdiction over all family matters.

Scott Bassett,
Livonia

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