

The World's Great Golf Courses

By Matthew Smith

•Editor's Note: This is the second of a four-part installment of articles about great golf courses Mr. Smith has played.

OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB

The world fame accorded Oakmont is legendary. It has hosted four U.S. Opens, five PGA's, and numerous other national golfing championships. Its greens are the fastest in the world, bar none. Cary Middlecoff once four-putted the eighth green and slugged his golf ball down the Pennsylvania Turnpike. In the 1973 U.S. Open, Charlie Sifforo six-putted the 17th green and buried his clubs in the big mouth sandtrap in front of the green. Oakmont is perhaps the second-hardest course in the world. Only Pine Valley has been judged to be harder.

Oakmont was designed by Henry C. Fownes, who was also the first president of the Club. On September 15, 1903, a force of 100-150 men began work on the course, under the direction of Fownes. It is a remarkable fact that only one hole has been completely changed from the original plans. In six weeks, the course was cleared to the twelfth fairway, when winter intervened. The work was stopped until the following spring, when the course was completed. Play began in the fall of 1904.

I knew I was in for a rough round when I stepped onto the practice green

and turned to say hello to a member I knew just as I bent over and dropped three balls from calf-high. When I turned back, I discovered that the balls had rolled 20 feet!

Hole Number Two is a good place to start sweating. Henry Fownes used to go out to Number Two green and drop a ball. It would roll and roll down the slope and off into the fairway. Henry would smile. However, if the ball did not roll into the fairway he would not smile—he would wonder why the greens were so slow!

Oakmont is also famous for its bunkers, boasting 189. The most famous of these are the church pews, long sand traps with strips of grass running through them, thus making them resemble church pews. They are found on the third and fourth holes.

Number Eight is an unusual hole. I tried to think of where I'd seen a dog leg par-three, but I couldn't. It's a 255-yard par-three with a monstrous sandtrap running down the left side of the fairway.

The toughest hole on the course is the par-four 15th. It is 453 yards long, and heavily trapped with an uphill green.

The 17th is another challenging hole. It plays 322 yards all uphill with a slight dog leg left. It is the heaviest-trapped hole on the course with a green you would give to your most-hated relative.

So how did the author score? I scored another round in the 90's, thus proving that Oakmont lives up to its nickname as the "Hades of Hell."

The Senator

Greetings and felicitations to my loyal readers and constituents. A second issue has been brought to my attention. This issue concerns a powerful political juggernaut called the Finance Committee, or more simply, "Cure-ack & Crew." I will address this issue as an indirect observer. In other words, I have never come into direct contact of this caucus, but their decisions affect me just the same as they do you, as students. In my analysis I shall be critical when needed and complimentary when deserved. I will be fair with my opinion, nonetheless.

The first questionable antics of the Committee are those concerning the budget allocation process. I have to really feel sorry for those clubs and organizations that have to go to the "budget hearings" to justify a budget that took weeks to plan and prepare in the first place. One can always discern an officer of a club or organization on his/her way to a "budget hearing" by the way that he babbles on and on about absolutely nothing while talking to his shadow. This mental stress is uncalled for. I tend to focus the majority of the blame on the Finance Committee for allowing the budget hearings to be synonymous with an IRS tax audit. This shows a gap or breakdown in cohesiveness between the Finance Committee and the student body. It should soon be rectified for the good of student morale. Some constructive changes that might work would be to improve communications between the Committee and

student bodies. But this would all be for naught if the Committee continued to project the image of our beloved President, Ron "The Ripper" Reagan. Of what use is the pre-planning of future events and activities for the upcoming year if these proposals for funds can be mutilated into meaningless memorandums by a few "select" individuals who obscure themselves behind the title of Finance Committee?

Granted, these are activities and events in budgets that should not see materialization. But when you cancel or cut an item out of a budget, the group is left with a void in its calendar. Why must the Committee consistently make it harder for these groups to change or improve on that item later? The request for additional funds seems to be a good idea, but a little misdirected. By that, I mean wrong utilization of a concept. An illustration of this would be if something were snipped out of a certain budget, the planning itself would take a week's time. The item then comes up in front of the same board that deleted it previously. This is a little ironic or ambiguous to say the least—not to mention comical in its logic. I mean, one does not get the tar kicked out of one's self and then get up and call the bull a sissy. (This is the same type of deductive logic that keeps students going back to your friendly neighborhood bookstore—isn't that a "Joke"?) So the second time that the item is brought before the Committee it is usually tabled for lack of knowledge concerning the topic. Another week goes

Merry-Go-Round

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that that money has to last all of the way through Summer Term. Second, growing dissention amongst members of the Student Government could cause it to break down completely—with the cost to the student body.

Also inconsistent is the Meade Heights Board of Governors. While they say they won't sign any band contracts for Rites of Spring without having the money to back them up first, they signed a contract with the band that played during the Groundhog Day party weeks before. If they, quote, "in effect don't have any money," and "won't sign a contract without having the money first," then why did they change their policy? Either they had some money hidden away somewhere, or they have more faith in getting money later from the S.G.A. than they will admit. The money that they used to pay for the beer consumed at that party was not in their accounts first, which violates Penn State University policy. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board could bust them on this technicality for selling beer without a license, unless the MHBOG could persuade them that the beer was privately funded. And finally, what has MHBOG done to hurt its chances of getting more money later on in the year? Some S.G.A. members believe that the MHBOG told them that they already have all of the money that they need to fund Rites of Spring.

The Meade Heights Board of Governors has the most impressive track record this year. They put on the vast majority of popular on-campus programs, and do not charge enough to hardly hope to break even. Few other student organizations put out as much effort, are none are as widely known. Should the S.G.A. pick up the baton and run with them, because "they do the most, so they deserve it"? To do so could definitely benefit the student population, because MHBOG would make sure that the most and best entertainment money can buy would be around. But, by being one-sided, the S.G.A. can hurt the students just as much by ignoring the other organizations.

•Editor's Note: Copies of this story have been made available to members of both organizations before press time to allow them to make rebuttals in this issue.

Editor:

Meade Heights Board of Governors does not want to respond at this time. We wish to wait for students to express their opinions to the C.C. Reader before issuing a rebuttal.

Our efforts are directed at helping students to enjoy campus life, and their opinions will direct us on how to react.
The MHBOG

Speaks

by. The Committee then debates the item before it decides whether it deserves a favorable recommendation or not. After this, it goes to SGA for still another vote, regardless of the Finance Committee's recommendation. Thus, a group has to contend with the probability that a proposal will not get through the system in less than three weeks. Boy, I'd hate to be the Dutch boy who was waiting for action while he plugged up the dike with his finger. In my opinion, I think a change is called for in this process.

Now, on to the credentials of our illustrious dissectors. The treasurer has ample qualifications for her position, although I wasn't aware that a penny-pinching claw was a requirement of the job. The treasurer is assisted by her henchmen, whom some would say are as qualified for the job as a garbage collector is to bear the title of Engineer of Sanitation. Ironically, of the ones I know, three of the crew are genuine engineer candidates. I don't mean to put down engineers, but what kind of knowledge could they possess concerning budget analysis and fund allocation? I think that herein lies a major problem in the decision-making capability of the Committee. I know for a fact that some of the major events of last year were maliciously snipped out of certain budgets. Could a reason be that the treasurer and at least three of the engineers did not care enough about campus life so as to honor us with their scheduling? One such event that comes to mind very quickly is the Spring Formal, which was originally cut but is now, as I understand, under further scrutiny.

Some beneficial decisions that the Committee has made are the recent passage of the cafeteria sound system, the Winter Leadership Conference (not attended by the treasurer) and the borrowing of some funds by the Student Affairs staff to benefit all. These are all noteworthy projects that have come about by incessant determination on the part of several individuals who would not take no for an answer.

If you notice, "Finance Committee," it seems that you have been put into the bad guys' seat—and for just cause, too. When you assumed office the Constitution did not describe your elite group as "The Deity Finance Committee," and the position of treasurer was not defined as having the same connotation as God. We understand that you have a tough job, but when you get done with all your snipping and slicing, you will have a hell of a balance on hand at the end of the year. This is not responsible money management. To pose a rhetorical question, if and when you have a balance, what happens to next year's SGA allotment (FAA)? Does it remain the same, or does it decrease as is the case in government-subsidized programs with unused funds?

A constructive comment from myself to the Committee would be to have periodic reviews of the budget and comparative analyses of what the clubs and organizations have budgeted as compared to what they actually spent. In effect, a fund allocation statement from each group every term. Then, you review the progress that is actually being made to what was planned. As I understand it, this is included in the obligations or duties of the Committee, but is usually ignored or shelved.

I sincerely hope that you keep up an honest effort for the fulfillment of the duties of the offices for which you were elected or appointed.

One last thing, though, Karen. I understand you had an emotional outburst when an SGA precedent was recently set. You shouldn't take it personally, but in retrospect, you probably felt similar to an organization that had a legitimate event axed by your decision. I hope you've learned from your recent experience and have gained a little humility with your brief realization of how the general masses feel after an encounter with the "Loan Sharks."

Respectfully submitted,
Senator Hymie Quatanepartz