

National Mall

rior wall was screwed into place to hold it. That went on until the house was framed. After framing, the photographer took a picture of our group with the state flag. Next our crew removed the few screws and the walls came down in sections, no longer than eight feet, and the walls being coded on the top plate were carried and packed upright in semitrailers for delivery to the Gulf Coast where the home would be completed.

Our crew went back to the deck and laid out the plates, studs, windows, doors, etc. for the house that would be built the following morning. Ours was the 28th house to be built and we set the record of two

hours, 12 minutes. The next-closest to that time for framing was two hours, 20 minutes.

Freddie Mac, the mortgage lender, sponsored the blitz build and they brought in hundreds of volunteers from their offices all across the country. This was very well-organized and meticulously planned; it had to be to build 51 houses in a week. I imagine it took a few days to dismantle the decks and workbenches and perform some type of clean-up. It was quite an experience for me and gave me some ideas that I can bring back to our group when we next do a blitz build for a house.

The next morning, Montana Senator Max Baucus invited me to have breakfast with him; we had a very good chat on Habitat and discussed some concerns related to the environment in Montana and nationally. He was easy to talk to and asked questions of my concerns. He then arranged for two of his aides to give me, and the representative from Billings and his wife, a tour of the Capitol Building—quite impressive! I then had some time to visit the new Native American Museum and the Botanic Garden before I caught my flight home.



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Dear ABC's "Extreme Makeover/Home Edition,"
Greetings, my name is Keith Krause and I am writing to request an "Extreme Makeover." As I write this, tears run down my cute, youthful, freckled face. Mine is a very sad story and I'd like to share it with you so that maybe you and the design team could come give me a makeover and some eternal love.

My story is different than the others because I'm not requesting you to make over my house but make over my office and my life. I don't have any diseases (that I know of), mental or physical impairments, and my family and friends are quite healthy. But there is one thing that I live with everyday and it's affected my life in a horrible way. Hey, that rhymes! Anyway, back to being sad. I have a huge problem. I am an assistant golf course superintendent. I know, it's horrible, but that's only the first part of my problem. Not only am I an assistant golf course superintendent, but my office is way too small and I have to share it with my boss (the head golf course superintendent), who is a horrible, horrible man. He hates me! Every day, when I walk into our prison cell-sized office, my boss greets me with a swift kick in the bottom, and then the name-calling begins. He calls me an idiot, then spits in my face and tells me to get to work or he'll make me sit on his walkie-talkie. I then begin to cry and his anger grows even further.

After my morning abuse I sit down at my desk, which is made from milk crates and cardboard that I stole from the clubhouse, and draw pictures of rainbows and unicorns to put myself in a happy place. I love drawing rainbows and unicorns. Our office is only 120 square feet and I sit only five feet from the boss. It's difficult because at any second he might crack. This has affected my life. I feel I have lost all my integrity and I feel less of a man. My wife tells me she's going to leave me because I'm a "wussy." My dog doesn't give me the time of day anymore. I even wrote Dr. Phil. He told me as he was laughing, "I can't do anything for you because you're a complete loser." I just don't know what to do and this is why I come to you, my friends at ABC.

I want my own office where I can be happy and not be abused. I need a place that is high-tech where I can get work done efficiently. I believe I deserve the best of the best because I have been beaten down for so many years, and I spend most of my boring life here. I need really cool stuff to boost my confidence so I can be a professional assistant golf course superintendent again. It will be tough, though, because the things I need you can't get from your sponsor, Sears.

I need this office to be my central homeroom to the future. Not only do I need the latest in irrigation-computing technology; I need the best computer programming for management, media and Internet needs. Wireless, wireless, wireless!!! Pump controls, weather station/on-demand forecasting, all must be wireless. GPS! GPS everything I own. Everything else should be furnished by Sharper Image. I like those office chairs that vibrate. I also love those Succesories pictures. They are great confidence-boosters and will give my office a nice corporate feel.

You will actually want to build a pseudo or fake "new" office behind the shop where my boss can't tell if I'm there or not. For business' sake, we can use Sears to furnish this office with a cheap desk, cheap chair and one of those cardboard-cutout display computers for effect. Maybe I can put a picture of my wife in there to give it a homey feeling. When he (my horrible boss) goes into my "new" office, he'll just think I'm out on the course. With that in mind, my walkie-talkie should be wired to my new Blackberry integrated with the latest Bluetooth technology (which you'll give me), so I can communicate with him while I'm NOT at the course. Where will I be, you ask. I will be at home in my real new office, surfing the 'Net, podcasting and setting the course's nightly watering schedule. The goal is that I will never actually have to go to work and see that bad, bad man. I can work from home without him (the boss) knowing the difference. Pretty good idea, huh? I know!

I would love it if Ty Pennington built my desk and credenza himself. I would trust him to get creative to meet my needs. He is such a talented man and a hunk-of-a-carpenter. Every time I watch "Extreme Makeover," I can't stop watching him because he's so good. So good!!!

I love bright colors—reds, greens, purples and browns. I like plaid, and shag carpeting. Window blinds are not for me, though I enjoy drapes made from lace. I like golf, singing and Broadway musicals. I think Paul DiMeo and I would get along great together because we have a lot in common; we both cry a lot. He would do a great job keeping my emotions under control while you are here renovating my office and reinventing my life. Paul and I can just hang out together and cry. Maybe Michael Moloney could design my rainbow-and-unicorn drawing station because I know he loves rainbows too.

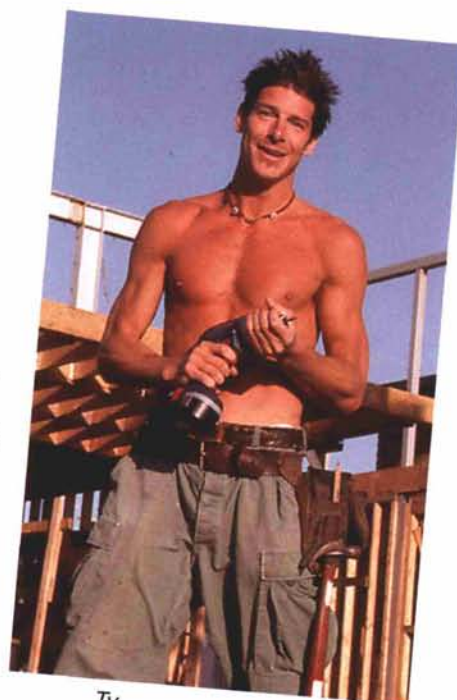
And bring that new foreign guy. I like him because he talks funny.

I hope this letter tugged at your heartstrings and has made you realize that I am in need of serious help. I also want you to know how much I love your show and that I think my problem could help your TV ratings. "Extreme Makeover/Home Edition" was such a genius idea. I love watching troubled families having their lives saved by good-looking, overacting, mediocre carpenters and designers. It's truly something America has been yearning for, for quite some time. Thank you, ABC, and move that bus!

Sincerely,
Keith Krause
Assistant Golf Course
Superintendent
Sticks and Twigs C.C.



Happy me!



Ty Pennington.



Paul DiMeo.



Michael Moloney.




New foreign guy.

So Long, Farewell

Has anyone out there NOT seen "The Sound of Music?" I introduced it to my older two children over the holidays and marveled at how this 30-year-old movie musical held their rapt attention. Near the end of the movie, the von Trapp family sings "So Long, Farewell" at the Salzburg Music Festival. It's the finale to their performance, a poignant moment and one I can relate to as I relinquish my role as editor of On Course.

This magazine has been part of my daily life for seven years. Serving as editor of *On Course* has been an honor, a pleasure and a huge source of professional pride. During my tenure, I worked with and for many dedicated, talented, compassionate people: directors on the MAGCS Board, superintendent and assistant superintendent members, commercial members, retired members. The *On Course* staff—graphic artist Mark Karczewski and contributing editor John Gurke—are highly creative individuals who made our 83-issue collaboration fun AND rewarding, as the magazine has won first-place honors in GCSAA's chapter publications contest for two consecutive years. These gentlemen, along with "Midwest Breezes" coordinator Brad Anderson and the Editorial Committee, will be working with your executive director Luke Cella to ensure the magazine's continued success.

This issue is MY finale, and I'd like to thank the Association for entrusting me with stewardship of its flagship publication. I'd like to thank my predecessor, Fred Opperman, for his vote of confidence in my ability to carry the torch for *On Course*. I'd like to thank those I worked with month-in, month-out—Mark, John and Kurt Paulson, our production person at Darwill Press—for their commitment to excellence and outstanding results. Last but not least, I'd like to thank my family for their support and the sacrifices they made during seven years adhering to the demands of a tight monthly production cycle.

So long, farewell, I wish you all the best. Please keep in touch. 



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