

This column isn't about turfgrass issues. It's about trying to live in the 21st century.

OK! Now I have seen it all. Spray-on Mud for SUV owners who want to look like off-roaders but never get past the city limits or off the Interstate or, as the Orlando Sentinel newspaper article said, "...send out rugged vibes even though you go no farther than the corner market."

It is a mixture of water and real dirt strained to remove stones and debris with a "secret" adhesive that helps it stick to the vehicle's body. It will be available in the U.S. and Canada within a few months. The British

inventor says he can't keep up with the Internet orders.

A spokesman for the Sport Utility Vehicle Owners of America says he wouldn't be surprised if the product sold well in America. He also said, "There are some who would buy this product to show how macho they are." But he also added that he feared it could fuel more SUV-bashing as evidence that people don't really need these gas guzzlers to go off road.

In another departure from reality, a new cottage industry is springing up that is made up of people who have real life skills like sewing, knitting and cooking. They are being hired by members of the younger generations of parents who, for whatever reason, never learned the basic skills of home economics.

These people who can operate computers and camera cell phones just can't boil water, fry an egg or bake a cake. So they are hiring people to show their kids how to accomplish the staples of life. I guess on balance that is a good thing. My thirty-something daughter is one of a few of her age group who actually cooks meals and bakes things. Admittedly she isn't much of a seamstress, but I am proud to say she is pretty practical and self-sufficient overall.

Let's all agree that Hurricane Katrina was a terrible disaster and that there's plenty of blame to go around for the mounting loss of life and sheer lack of preparedness for a known dangerous storm. But you've got to be kidding when there was the guy on CNN who reportedly flew to New Orleans from California expressly to experience the hurricane. They gratuitously showed the video he shot from his waterfront hotel showing the storm surge, all the while admonishing the audience not to take such a risk for 15 seconds of fame.

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conditions while being buffeted by winds and rain and then tell people not to go outside. Duh! One of these days a piece of wind-blown debris... oh well, the ratings will soar. Do these reporters have to sign a waiver or can their families sue the network or station for placing them in jeopardy?

Here are a few more things that make no sense these days. We have ripped and frayed blue jeans fresh off the rack and faded fabrics that make a shirt look like it's ready for Good Will. There are bullet-hole decals finding their way onto cars and trucks as if road rage violence wasn't already an issue. There are virtual pets you take care of with a hand-held device and radio controlled robot doggies, although those are yesterday's toys for people who have forgotten real life.

And this just in from David Robinson, associate director of grounds operations for Marriott Golf: "In the Thursday Sept. 1, 2005 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, Personal Journal section there was a special advertising section for the Deutsche Bank Championship. Within this section was a part titled "Getting The Course Ready." In my rudimentary thinking process, I actually thought this would be an interview with the golf course superintendent. Wrong. It was with the general manager. He did manage to mention the superintendent. He also mentioned the "ergonomic" experts from the PGA Tour who would help troubleshoot the course. That's right, "ergonomic." At least the operators will be comfortable with little fatigue. I thought you might find this funny as well as disturbing."

"Thanks for sharing, Dave. I'll bet there are a lot of us looking for an ergonomic flymow. Oh well, we've endured pet rocks, cans of souvenir air from wherever and pregnant pig gestation crates in our own state constitution. Now back to spray on mud. I mean, are we nuts or what? The next thing you know, they will be inventing green paint for turfgrass.

Oops, I'd better go now."

# You've Got to be Kidding!

## GREEN SIDE UP



Joel Jackson, CGCS