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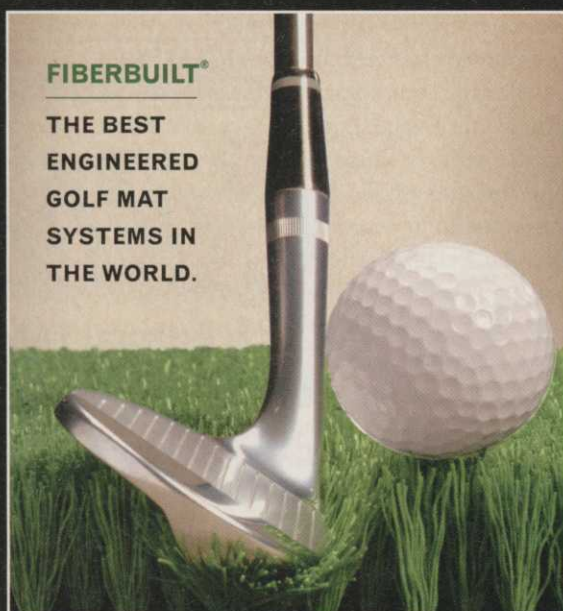
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## Golfdom Sales Staff

### Pat Roberts

Publisher, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130  
Phone: 440-891-2609, Fax: 440-891-2675  
E-mail: [proberts@questex.com](mailto:proberts@questex.com)



### Kevin Stoltman

Associate Publisher, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130  
Phone: 440-891-2772, Fax: 440-891-2675  
E-mail: [kstoltman@questex.com](mailto:kstoltman@questex.com)



### George Casey

National Account Manager, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130  
Phone: 440-891-3146, Fax: 440-891-2675  
E-mail: [gcasey@questex.com](mailto:gcasey@questex.com)



### Michael Harris

Regional Manager, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130  
Phone: 440-891-3118, Fax: 440-826-2865  
E-mail: [mharris@questex.com](mailto:mharris@questex.com)



### Leslie Montgomery

Account Executive, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130  
Phone: 440-891-3199, Fax: 440-826-2865  
E-mail: [lmontgomery@questex.com](mailto:lmontgomery@questex.com)



### Brian Olesinski

Classified, Account Executive, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130  
Phone: 800-225-4569 x2694, Fax: 440-826-2865  
E-mail: [bolesinski@questex.com](mailto:bolesinski@questex.com)



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# The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

## Spanish labels

**PBI/Gordon Corp.** has published two new Spanish labels on its corporate Web site: Trimec Southern Broadleaf Herbicide and Trimec Plus Selective Grass and Weed Herbicide. Material safety data for the products is also available online in Spanish. For more information, visit [www.pbigordon.com](http://www.pbigordon.com) or contact 800-821-7925.

## GIS system

**StrataPoint** offers its Geo-referenced Information System (GIS) for golf courses in the Point DataMap networked version. All modules of Point DataMap, including irrigation, trees, turf, crown profiler and personnel, now operate from any work station on the course. For more information, contact 651-322-4000.

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For more information, contact 800-845-7249 or visit [www.tycrop.com](http://www.tycrop.com).

## Ball washer

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For further information, contact 888-893-2433 or [www.paraide.com](http://www.paraide.com).



## Microorganism treatment

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ing solids, such as grass clippings and petroleum products, lessening the need to pump solids from the holding tanks and consequently benefiting the environment. As an odor-reducer, Pit Boss makes warm-day work more tolerable for employees.

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Two guys were playing a game of golf and were all square on the 18th. The first guy sliced his shot way off to the left, and the ball came to rest on the cart path. His opponent smashed it straight down the middle. "Oh well," said the first player, "I should get a drop off there."  
"Heck no," said his playing partner, "we play the ball as it lies."  
"OK," said the first guy, as he dropped his opponent off in the middle of the fairway. The second guy found the green, and could not resist smiling as he saw sparks coming off the cart path for the practice swings. Finally the guy hitting off the cart path addressed his ball and swung it well, leaving a miraculous shot three feet from the pin. Upon returning, the guy in the middle of the fairway commented, "That was a great shot... what club did you use?"  
"Your 6 iron," was the reply.

Golfdom's  
**Joke**  
of the month

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# buying a house

**A**fter 35 years, I now rest my head in a bed in a house that we own — well, we have about 29 years and 11 months until we own it, but you know what I mean.

On June 13 we went to a non-descript office park in Leawood, Kan., signed and initialed an endless sheaf of official-looking documents, and then, miraculously they handed us the keys. Unfortunately, there are nearly as many different keys to the house as there were documents to ink. Obviously, there needs to be a talented locksmith in my future.

I also envision a chimney guy, a plumber, an electrician, a tile wizard, a new lawnmower for a sprawling yard and more trips to the hardware store than I will care to count. The costs add up, but now I feel as if I am putting all that money into an extremely long-term savings account that helps my family.

That's the thought that kept me going as I stripped two layers of wallpaper from my baby Quinn's room, the bottom layer apparently stuck up with crazy, super-duper adhesive when the house was built in the late 1950s. That's the thought that kept me going as I repeatedly drilled my hand with a hammer, trying to pry up tackboard from an ugly carpet that covered gorgeous hardwoods. And that's the thought that will make clean the gutters in the fall

IT'S ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT POSSESSIONS, SO SAYS THE WRITING ON THE AVOCADO-COLORED WALLPAPER

BY MARK LUCE

and keep the garage in order, sort of.

Of course, the ideas and plans — a Zen garden, an extra bedroom in the basement, shelving throughout the garage and a hideaway fortress of solitude/office way back in the utility room — will always outstrip the budget, but it's that idea of working toward something bigger than the day to day that brings such satisfaction to all the efforts.

If you have never bought a home before, my advice is simple. First, do your research on real-estate agents and neighborhoods and lenders. Look at as many houses as you can, which will quickly let you know what you don't want. Don't be afraid to be firm with any party that you deal with, for it's you who is paying the money and acquiring the property, not anyone else. And lastly, try to look past the decorating schemes of the current owner to see what you could make it.

Many had already been scared off by



wallpaper I called "Acid Grandma," our avocado kitchen and not knowing what the hardwoods looked like under that carpet. Luckily, Jennifer and I saw a well-built, very large home with a big yard in a nice neighborhood just two miles from my job (not 40, as before). Yes, the whole house needs work and updating from its Grandma décor, but now, dear friends, it is ours and when I feel the weight of opening a real front door, I can't help but smile.

Be prepared, though, for the flip side of "This is mine." On our first day in the house, the air conditioner shot craps at about 5 p.m. on a scorching day. It got fixed (a fuse), and strangely, there was a part of me that was nearly downright happy to pay Donny, the AC tech who came out on a Sunday. Our air conditioner now works and cools our house. Finally, we are home.

*Mark Luce now lives in Kansas City with his wife Jennifer and their two children, Miles and Quinn. His next project is to get the wallpaper out of the kids' bathroom. He will finish sometime in 2007.*

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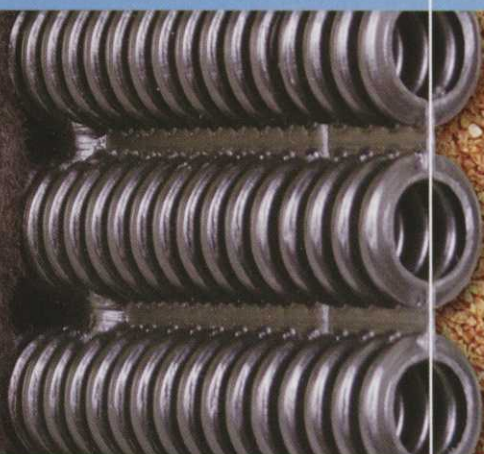
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