



“DREAM ON”

By Pat Norton

My life is ruined!! Ruined, I say!! I am just not sure that I can go on anymore...Dream On, the very funny HBO hit comedy, is ending its lengthy cable TV run. This comedy is so good, so amusing that I actually try to remember when it's on so that I can catch the next episode. I will lament its loss. I will grieve its passing...as I grieved when Cheers passed into prime time history...for about ten minutes. These shows are really very good and very amusing, but I must remind myself that it is only television.

Dream On makes me laugh because they splice scenes from older movies into the script at key points to add to the laughs. The main character is a lovable loser named Martin Tupper, who gets dumped on by his secretary, his ex-wife, his adolescent son, and the women in his love life. Tupper dreams of a better day when he'll find true love and business success, but somehow these twin goals always elude him.

Certainly we have all heard of 'dream on', or 'dreamer', or 'dream on, baby'...very common expressions used in everyday speech. Except for the last one of these...'dream on, baby' is not such a good saying to be using, especially when talking to female co-workers or female bosses!

Everybody dreams, don't they? Everybody also daydreams, I'd venture to say. Were you a daydreamer in your other life as a child? Or, like me, you are still a daydreamer as you ponder the perfect golf course and how you are going to transform your golf course into that mythically perfect layout!

Or maybe you're a totally serious person with no capacity for daydreaming. We all know a few of these types. ...they do not dream, they do not hope for the future, and usually they do not have any sort of a sense of humor. Boring, boring, boring!!!

The optimistic among us know that dreams for the future are very possible based on our ancestors' experiences

in this country. My ancestors started out in this country trying to scratch their way onto the bottom rung of the ladder, as did millions of other immigrants. Through their efforts and those of succeeding generations, life has been very good for all of us.

If you doubt the truth or sincerity of these words, daydream a bit and imagine yourself growing up and living in eastern Europe, the former USSR, or a host of other places in this world. Not much demand for highly paid golf turf-grass specialists in those countries, I'll bet.

As I dream/daydream about the future, it all seems to come back to golf and golf courses. I certainly am not sitting here dreaming about the highways I'm going to build or the computers that I'm going to operate! I'm looking out over the seventh hole and daydreaming about all of the cool improvements that we will be making to this course, the increased play and income that we will be enjoying, and the overall success that I know we will be attaining with each passing year.

Everybody dreams about the future, as we've already established. So why don't we 'dream on' together about our futures in the golf/turf worlds and see what's ahead...

—I see the day coming, friends, when a Republican is again elected to the White House... in about the year 2008. By then, Dole will be dead,

"Newtie" will be totally disgraced, and former heroes of the right wing—Rush and G. Gordon Liddy—will be in exile in South America. In November 1996, Clinton will certainly be re-elected, Hillary will emerge triumphant, and Al Gore will write another fact-filled book about the environment ...

The Republicans, you see, have not fielded a candidate capable of beating Clinton. Senator Dole will not defeat "Big Bill" because of the constant scowl on his face. That tells people that he is not an optimist, not a dreamer, and has no clear vision for America's future! He will go to his grave a bitter, defeated man.

—Dream for the day, gentlemen, when you are the top dog, the king of the hill, the Big Kahuna!!! The governing board at your facility has truly seen the light and realizes that the golf course—its daily condition and playability—is the most important reason why golfers return and members belong, and compensates the golf course agronomist in the manner that he/she has long deserved!

—Along these lines, dream on for the day when all golfers understand that the 'rise of the educated superintendent' is one of the primary reasons why golf is such a great sport and enjoying such immense popularity. Think about it guys! Does anybody even think for a nanosecond that the

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golf explosion is due to the 'rise of the club professional' or the 'rise of the clubhouse manager'? Our star is rising and will continue to do so, while theirs is on a steady, negative decline.

—Dream large, fellas, for the day when your golf course is really finished...your wish list is complete...everything is in place...capital improvements, course landscaping, staffing, equipment ...all addressed and completed to everybody's satisfaction!

—Dream for the day, superintendents, when you'll know so much about a new product that you will confidently tell the sales rep that you know for a fact that his wetting agent, 'bio' product, or fertilizer has no merit...in fact, you kick him right off the property with instruction to never return. Actually, I'd never do that sort of thing. It's pretty rude behavior.

—Turn the dream around, suppliers, and ponder the day when you'll have exclusive rights to the hottest product on the golf turfgrass market! In fact, you have all rights to the product because you have just invented the product, developed a complete product line that is critical to the success of tur-

grass managers everywhere, and cannot begin to fill all of the orders that keep coming into your suite of offices! Is this a great country, or what??

—Now we're shifting into hyper-drive...in order to finish off this piece of fantasy with a bang...David Smith buys Abbey Springs, is wildly successful, and goes on to develop a golf kingdom in Lake Geneva with his longtime partner, Mr. Andrew Kronwall ...while over in western Wisconsin, the Bahrs and the Drugans continue their bitter fight for control of all the golf courses in that region. Drugan, needing more capital, reluctantly agrees with financially wise Mary that they must sell out all of their golf interests to the Bahrs in order to put a stranglehold on all highway and barge traffic in the West...until all travelers and shippers agree to pay the proper greens fee...while in the capital Miller finishes developing the next generation of a Rogaine-type product...this miracle product can be used on either the human scalp or golf fairways to encourage a happy, thick luxurious crop of hair...or bentgrass...Erdahl, and to a lesser extent Norton, Schaller and Johnson become successful part-

time distributors and big-time users!! Semler, meanwhile, becomes governor of Wisconsin (because he loves Madison so much) and appoints Harrison, Magnin, Frazier and Smith as "The Untouchables" with the mission to clean out state waste and bureaucracy...in troublesome cases, "the Untouchables" call in Johnson, who knows just how to handle these sensitive government types...and lastly, up in the Bay of Green, Randy Witt and Brian Kindle buy up majority stock in the Packers, decide to retain present management, and subsequently enjoy the fruits of their labor...four consecutive Super Bowl titles!!! Finally, Norton and family realize that wife Susan has been proven correct after all these years...Northern Illinois really has been good to us...we've made about \$20 million or so from these courses we own...maybe now we can retire back to Wisconsin...and tell our grandchildren about all of the adventures we've experienced...

So you see, ladies and gentlemen, daydreaming is a good thing! I can now go on about my business this day with a laugh in my heart...writing for THE GRASS ROOTS really is fun! ♣

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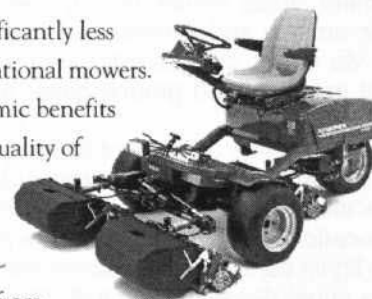
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