

Restaurant, and the Maintenance Shop. They came from members, staff, and delivery drivers. Everybody had a piece of advice, or an observation, or a general assessment of how great the spring was and how it was going to affect our operation both good and bad. With that much material, how could I comprise the best of them and share with others?

Then it dawned on me- the Top Ten List. When I was in high school David Letterman had just started up his Late Night Show on NBC following the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. (Some of you reading this probably do not even know who Johnny Carson was which shows my age and kind of depresses me, but I will move on.)

The Late Night Show, which turned into the Late Show currently airing on CBS was a quirky, edgier show than its watered-down mainstream self is now. I used to stay up late whenever I could when I was in high school without getting caught by my parents concerned about my lack of sleep. They had reason to worry. By the time I got to college it was almost a religion with the guys I hung out with to stay up and catch Dave- at least until the Top Ten list came on. The Top Ten list was the highlight of the show, and I guess still is today.

My friends and I would occasionally come up with silly subjects just like on the real show and try to compile a top ten list on our own, usually on top of a few beers. Sometimes we would come up with some pretty funny stuff, until the next morning when we realized we really did not have a clue. I have a lot of respect for the writers of those shows, who have to produce material on a daily basis.

So here it goes- my first real attempt at a Top Ten List after about a 25 year layoff. I tried to pick the best lines both real and imagined for:

“Top ten abnormal things upper mid-west superintendents will hear this year”

10- “What’s the big dog doing lapping fairways with a rough mower? Don’t you have people for that?”

9- “Didn’t that Tee on number 14 used to have grass on it?”

8- “I can’t help but notice you have spent your budget on chemicals and fertilizer. It’s June. Care to elaborate?”

7- “I know it’s April 3rd, but why are these greens so slow?” (Maybe not so abnormal)

6- (From a member on March 14th) “Think I should get my crabgrass preventer on my lawn by the end of the week?” For the record: he did.

5- “What are your thoughts on a hybrid Bermuda for the range tee?”

4- “The greens are great but the edges are starting to look like the top of your head.”

3- “Boy you guys are going to have it easy this year!”

2- (March 20th) “Wow look at that tan. Did you just get back from Mexico or something?” (Unfortunately, no.)

...and the number one abnormal thing an upper mid-west superintendent will hear:

1- “Boss, I think the new IPM program is really working. It looks like the mole crickets are eating the goosegrass.”

Despite the various concerns listed above, I do think this will be solid season for most golf courses. Here is hoping that all of you enjoy the ride, take it all as it comes, be prepared for anything and above all take time to smell the flowers along the way.