

HOT TOPICS

Letter-writers question LM's editorial approach

■ To the editor:

I strongly disagree with your article in the May issue entitled, "Can't We All Just Get Along? Hell, No!" which singled out several pro-environment senators and representatives as foes of the green industry.

Regulation of the green industry is designed to protect the health and safety of *everyone*, from golfers and athletes to homeowners and turf industry employees. The regulations are also designed to help protect those in our society who are not part of the economic/capitalist system. Since wildlife, open spaces, clean water and wetlands have no economic value, they must be protected by environmental regulations.

We are very poor stewards of the land if we misuse it in the pursuit of the almighty dollar. I do not consider the regulations on the green industry to be excessive; nor do I consider environmentalists to be foes of the green industry. "Green industry" is a misnomer if its economic success is bought at the price of environmental destruction.

*Janet Betlejeski
French's Hollow Fairways
Guilderland Center, N.Y.*

■ To the editor:

I just read the (May) cover story "A Capitol Idea" and would like to share some thoughts with you.

I have been in the parks landscape business for over 20 years on both the East and West Coasts. My job requires dealing with many government regulatory agencies, even though I work for a county government, I too have the same issues with regulations that any business does. Yes, I really believe there needs to be change in

many of our laws related to the landscape industry, and I'm pleased to see action on that front.

However, I am dismayed that you seem to be politicizing your publication, seem to be using emotionally loaded terms, and giving negative connotations to terms like "liberal" and "activist control." Couldn't some folks featured in the article also be considered activists for more sensible laws? Couldn't they be considered liberal in their view of industry's desires?

The clincher, however, was the section entitled "Can't We All Just Get Along? Hell, No!" Such promotion of people being hostile to each other gets us nowhere. I am saddened to think that you would choose to use this form in journalism.

There is enough anger and hostility in the U.S. today without encouraging it. The only way we will progress in getting safe, sane, and reasonable legislation is through open, honest discussion and consensus building. That is the process where a majority rules (a democracy), not head-bashing and name-calling.

Please try to be more objective and positive in your articles.

*David J. Pierce
Regional Park Planner
Santa Clara County, Calif.*

Industry magazines like LM must accurately portray the mood and view of the majority of its readers. Surveys show that most of you—especially small businessmen—have slightly antagonistic attitudes toward government regulation because of excesses in the past. The people interviewed in the articles were the top people in the industry who accurately, we believe, reflect the concerns of most LM readers.—Ed.

Greg Norman will market seed

TEQUESTA, Fla.—Professional golfer Greg Norman's new company will produce golf-quality warm-season turfgrasses.

Norman's new Greg Norman Turf Co. will develop grasses on a 140-acre production facility in Avon Park, Fla.

The first variety under production is GN-1 hybrid bermudagrass, which has a deep green color, better tolerance to low temperatures and parasitic nematodes, and thatches less than other hybrid bermudas, according to a press release.

"The new grass has proven to be superior in playing surface to the Tifway 419 used on the remaining holes" at the Medalist Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., where it was planted on the 17th and 18th fairways, the release contends.

Other speciality grasses planned for production at the company are FloraTex, a low-maintenance bermudagrass, and the newly-released FloraDwarf.



The Greg Norman Turf Co. will market warm-season grasses for golf courses.

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