

cleanup crew

THIS AND THAT

It pays to be lightning fast

BY JASON STAHL



One afternoon, just before lunchtime, my crew members around me suddenly dropped their tools and raced wildly for the maintenance vehicles. Standing there

dumbfounded, I watched as some piled into the Cushman, others into the dump truck. The only vehicle that remained empty was an ugly ol' orange thing we called the "UV," short for utility vehicle.

Forty minutes later, when I finally arrived back at the shed for lunch, I realized why no one had wanted to drive the UV. It stood no chance in a race versus one of those kiddie cars at the carnival. It made crossing busy Lake Road like a game of Frogger, except this frog had two broken legs. Only one other time did I get stuck driving the UV that summer — I got hip-checked at the last minute by a kid twice my size. Soaking wet from a rain storm (the UV not only was slow but had no top), I arrived back at the shed only to see my fellow workers doubled over from laughter...*(Watch for my next installment coming soon)*

Do you have any horror stories about your job? If so, contact Jason Stahl at 440/891-2623 or e-mail at jstahl@advanstar.com



The remarkable Mr. Hinton

The labor shortage being what it is, it's a pleasure meeting somebody like James Hinton, center. Hinton worked for the grounds department of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for 31 years, retiring 12 years ago. But retirement wasn't his style, so Hinton returned to the grounds department last year. Sports turf manager Peter Ashe, left, and physical plant supervisor Chris Fay, right, say that Hinton, 77, is an excellent employee. On most days he operates a larger riding mower on campus.

WOOD WOULD BE GOOD

Sure, you know your plants but do you know which woods work best for various hard-scape projects? According to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, these woods work best:

Doors	Birch, oak
Siding	Western red cedar, cypress, redwood
Shingles	Cedar, cypress, redwood
Fence posts	Black locust, Osage orange, white oak, cedar, cypress, redwood, catalpa, chestnut
Gates & fences	Douglas fir, western larch, southern yellow pine, redwood, white oak
Decking, outdoor steps, porches	White oak, locust, redwood

Elvis was alive and well at a Las Vegas reception that was part of the recent ALCA Executive Forum. Landscape Management executive editor Sue Gibson (center) and Stano Landscaping's Mitch Rolsky (right) pose with two Las Vegas locals and their favorite Elvis impersonator/landscape contractor, otherwise known as Chris Kujawa of Kujawa Enterprises, Milwaukee (left center). Gibson noted Kujawa's Elvis was "surprisingly good, in a town full of Elvis wannabes."

