

Friends! Family! Colleagues! Nutty Neighbors!

Yay! I just can't thank you enough for being here tonight. Seriously, I'm not even going to try. Please know that I am more grateful & excited than I can express, so I'll just let this kooky show do the talking for me...

OK, I lied-- of course I have more to say! ...Tonight is the culmination of a dream over a decade in the devising. I wrote the original 1-act version of Beverly (what's now "Episode 1") over the course of a long weekend at Middlebury in the fall of '98 (drinking two 6-packs of Yoo-hoo in the process). Yet to tell the truth, it all began much further back than that. In an even further bygone era of my life, I spent more late-night hours than I care to admit watching classic sit-coms. SuperStation TBS fed my craving to some extent, but mostly it was the phenomenal retrospective programming known as Nick-at-Nite that really nourished me. Back then, Nick-at-Nite showed programs of genuine cultural significance...sort of; I mean, a lot of it was ridiculous. The very premises of Gilligan & Patty Duke were too ludicrous to be believed (still, I believed them; and I remain delighted by the possibility of idiosyncratic castaways & identical cousins!). But as cheezy as the shows of yesteryear could be (and although this play could be seen as a criticism of the misogyny within the consumer capitalist zeitgeist), they remain touchstones of lost innocence, hope, and in some cases, comedic genius. Lucy & Ethel hiding the chocolates! Rob & Laura dancing in their sunken living room! Countless such old-school sit-com images are indelibly marked in my brain as the sort of good clean hilarity that I think most of us would like to celebrate & cherish. Working on this new incarnation of the show has allowed me to welcome all those old beloved icons back in to my life. I'd also be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the 4 actors who starred in the original '99 VT production (Jennie Luening, Tim Brownell, Colby DiSarro, Tasha Eurich) & the 4 actors who starred in the subsequent Austin production which won Best of Fest at Frontera Short Fringe '03 (Eryn Gettys, Carly Miller, & Jamey + Mitch Baker). These 8 fantastic performers were pivotal in giving the show a voice which inspired me to extend it into 2 more episodes. And, WOW, what an INCREDIBLE journey it has been to work with the DA! team on this new full-length story of Beverly and her buddies. DA!'s unique collaborative process has made this play more hilarious, surprising, & moving to me than it ever, ever could have been otherwise. I really wish I had room here to sing specific praises for each one of the actors, designers, & crew who made this possible. (Ask me after the show, and I'll wax rhapsodic!) I have NEVER been prouder of an artistic experience and I have NEVER laughed more than I have with this group; I hope some small piece of the fun reaches you tonight!

...And y'all come back now, hear?

~ Kirk German

DA!
THEATRE COLLECTIVE

DA! THEATRE COLLECTIVE presents...

Leave it to Beverly

Written & Directed by **KIRK GERMAN**

ACT I

Episode One: *Leave it to Beverly*

Episode Two: *Trixie Knows Best*

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Episode Three: *Make Room for Lorraine*

THE CAST

in order of appearance:

MILKMAN MOE & OTHERS Jude Hickey

BEVERLY Heather Huggins

HUSBAND Chris Gibson

MINERVA Stephanie Denson

LORRAINE PEACHTREE Michelle Brandt

TRIXIE Lisa del Rosario

COMMANDER Jacob Trussell

MRS. KRABBITCH Rhonda F. Kulhanek

SVEN & OTHERS Scott Roskilly

DA! is proud to be a not-for-profit Collective under the umbrella of **Hyde Park Theatre**.

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION MANAGER Heather Huggins

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS Jude Hickey & Heather Huggins

CHOREOGRAPHY Lisa del Rosario

STAGE MANAGER Taylor Kulhanek

HOUSE MANAGER Sharon Sparlin

PRODUCTION CONSULTANT Robin Grace Thompson

DESIGNERS

COSTUME DESIGN Monica Pasut Gibson

LIGHT DESIGN Kat Rodgers

SET DESIGN Connor Hopkins

SOUND DESIGN Bryan Schneider

SPECIAL MUSIC Travis Cooper

DA! THEATRE COLLECTIVE is a Collective of storytellers who are artists, designers, explorers, settlers, dreamers, realists, innovators, traditionalists, philanthropists, public servants, parents, children, citizens, rebels, students, teachers, activists, loyalists, travelers & homebodies.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Michelle Brandt
Stephanie Denson
Kirk German
Jude Hickey
Heather Huggins
Lisa del Rosario
Scott Roskilly
Robin Grace Thompson

BOARD MEMBERS

Andrea Burghart
Rachel Hewlitt
Jude Hickey
Aaron Hix
Annelies Lottmann
Ken Webster

ADVISORS

Michele Clark
Paul Davis
Lindsay McCay
Christina J. Moore

DA! Theatre Collective

511 W 43rd St

Austin TX 78751

512 479-7530 x 5

<http://www.datheatrecollective.org>

MICHELLE BRANDT is a junior at St. Ed's where you can see her as Mrs. X in *The Stronger* in the upcoming 10-minute play festival! She will also be choreographing the upcoming mainstage production of *Peer Gynt*. She finds inspiration in Bart Simpson's "I am so great" mantra, she salutes the invention of the grating exercise belt for ladies (where'd those go?) and thinks Queso always "makes the party!" As for the status quo: "That's terrible!"

STEPH DENSON's honest and irreverent one-woman show *57 Boyfriends* was produced by DA! for Frontera Fest Short Fringe 2009 at HPT, where it was selected for Best of Fest; she also got her groove on with the company in *Relative Space* and traveled far & wide with Trunquilla in *Direct Object*. Her favorite inventions from the 50s and 60s are the Etch-a-Sketch and the Tangle Toy; her favorite Nick-at-Nite memories include *My Three Sons* & *Bewitched*.

CHRIS GIBSON recently came off a long and successful touring run of RoHo Theatre's *La Putain Avec Les Fleurs*. His favorite comfort food is meatloaf (for those who love meat) (and loaves). His favorite classic TV episode is from *The Dick Van Dyke Show*: "It May Look Like a Walnut" -- Mary Tyler Moore cascading out of the closet on a wave of walnuts is forever embedded in his memory... and not just because of her capri pants!

JUDE HICKEY can be seen in two upcoming productions: *Dionysus in '69* with the Rude Mechs and *The Pink House Project*. His favorite 60s dance move is the Mashed Potato (partly because he loves to eat them!) and he "loves the loving and raw family interaction" found on the classic TV show *Good Times*, in which Florida is his favorite classic TV character because it looks like "her hugs felt good" and "she didn't put up with anybody's crap!"

HEATHER HUGGINS is happy to be back amid the Austin community after receiving her MFA from the Vakhtangov School in Moscow last June. She is appreciative that the 50s brought colored streamers for bicycle handlebars; they made her pink Huffy a highlight of childhood. She firmly believes that the *A-Team* is a classic TV show and hopes to find a way to perform with Mr. T. (She also dreams of making this DA!-Artistic Director thing a full-time gig.)

RHONDA F. KULHANEK's favorite TV-icon is Mr. Whipple, the supermarket manager ("Don't squeeze the Charmin!") and her favorite classic TV character is Lucy: "What's not to love? -- she's beautiful, hilarious, and she's made the world a happier & funnier place!" (Just like you, Mrs. K!) Be sure to check out the revival of her one-woman show, *The Mommy Confessions*, where she plays 13 crazy characters -- January 2010; FronteraFest Long Fringe!!

LISA DEL ROSARIO's recent projects include *Relative Space*, her site-specific movement installation produced by DA! at HPT, and *Direct Object*, where she frolicked with a soccer ball and gave new meaning to her backpack. She enjoyed watching re-runs of *Bewitched* growing up because she wanted to be Samantha. Other vintage favorites are Polka Dots & the Lindy Hop. See more of her choreography at *Mi Casa Es Su Teatro* (curated this year by DA!)

SCOTT ROSKILLY's recent projects include Willi Dorner's *Bodies in Urban Spaces*, and DA!'s *Relative Space* & *Direct Object*. His favorite classic TV show is *Scooby Doo* as "the precursor to *The Simpsons* and one of the first cartoons with guest artists!" He enjoys swing dancing, his comfort food of choice is the cheeseburger, and his favorite classic product is Wheaties-- the breakfast of champions (hmmmm, maybe that's his secret!).

JACOB TRUSSELL is a senior theatre major at St. Edward's U., where you can see him as *Peer Gynt* in January! His recent projects include his DA-but with his scarf in *Direct Object*, SSA's *Sweeny Todd* (as the Demon Barber), and *The Fantasticks* with AustinPlayhouse. He is a huge fan of *The Dick Van Dyke Show* ("Three words: Mary Tyler Moore") & his favorite classic TV character is Maynard G. Krebs because "he made facial hair & free thinking hip."

TRAVIS COOPER added some grooving musical-marketing touches to this production as only he can! His recent projects include designing the foley sounds for *Direct Object*, and composing and performing the original scores for both *Heron & Crane* and *Relative Space*. His favorite TV character is Mr.Ed because, well, "he spoke to me."

KIRK GERMAN was born in the late 70s but clearly came along a little too late. He is a third-generation Austinite who has been involved in the performing arts in Central Texas (and Central Vermont) for two-thirds of his life. Kirky G. has always had an affinity for the nutty neighbors of television comedy, especially Millie (*The Dick Van Dyke Show*), Flanders (*The Simpsons*), Rhoda (*Mary Tyler Moore*), everybody on *Green Acres*, & all of the Rubbles (particularly Bamm-Bamm!).

MONICA PASUT GIBSON continues to Sham-WOW DA! and the rest of Austin with her trademark use of color and line! She made us look just delicious in *Relative Space*, found all the perfect touches for *Direct Object*, & now has us all gussied-up for the party of the season! Her favorite classic TV show is *The Golden Girls* (not just because of her Florida ties!) ...Among other things vintage and comforting, she loves the watusi, Twiggy, lasagne, and Lawrence Welk!

CONNOR HOPKINS's company Trouble Puppet Theater recently completed a developmental production of *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. The project received a Jim Henson Foundation grant and an "Emerging Artist" workshop at the National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. See photos and reviews at troublepuppet.com. Despite having been born in the Dust Bowl at the height of the Depression (height of Depression?), Connor has no memory of the 50's, 60's, or 70's, except for an afternoon in 1967. His favorite comfort food is kale.

TAYLOR KULHANEK has returned to her hometown to take Austin by storm as a Stage Manager Extraordinaire, and DA! is thrilled to have her as the lynchpin of sanity among this crazy team. She recently stage managed *The Collection* for Hyde Park Theatre. Her favorite classic TV show: *I Love Lucy!* Her favorite TV character: Mr. Bubble! Her favorite 1950s activity: Drive-In Movies! Her favorite comfort food/party dish: stuffing... and not just at Thanksgiving!

KAT RODGERS has been working in cat-walks across Austin for nearly three years, bringing skills, savvy, and her trademark mo-hawk to many successful lighting teams, most recently including the Synaesthesiix Lighting crew (mainly working downtown at the Parish) and DA!'s *Direct Object*. Kat likes Jell-o, Bob Dylan, swing dance, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, and Wednesday Addams (because Wednesday's child is full of woe, after all).

BRYAN SCHNEIDER's sound design expertise runs the gamut from creating soundscapes for last year's *Still Fountains* & *Time Steps* to calibrating Jude's & Michelle's mics in *Heron & Crane* (no easy task) to his pop culture podcast with Joe Hartman, *The Glamoyance Express*. His favorite shows are *The Carol Burnett Show* & *I Love Lucy*: "watching them is like a master class in comedy"; he also enjoys the Frug, Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant, and his Mom's mac & cheese.

SHARON SPARLIN wrote, directed, and produced *The E Word: A Playground Adaptation* last May which was nominated for Best Theatrical Event by ACOT. She's currently writing a play about coffee (yes, there will be tasters) for FronteraFest 2010. Her favorite vintage discovery is the now-iconic DNA double helix invented by Crick, Watson and, yes, Rosalind Franklin. Her favorite "product" of the 1960's was "herself" and she firmly believes she lost her virginity to Spock.

ROBIN GRACE THOMPSON's recent projects include DA!'s *Direct Object* & the current production of *The Cherry Orchard* with Breaking String Productions (see it now at the Blue Theater!). Her favorite classic TV character is "Carol Burnett doing Vivien Leigh doing Scarlett O'Hara - priceless!" Her choice comfort food is fried green Spanish olives (sounds yummy!). Catch her at SVT in February in C. Denby Swanson's *A Brief Narrative of an Extraordinary Birth of Rabbits!*

DA! would like to wish a heartfelt congratulations to our 09-10 interns from Huntington-Surrey High School!

LIBERTY CARLIN is a senior who plans to major in Graphic Design in a far-away metropolis next year. In preparation for that, she's been helping DA! with designing marketing materials for *Leave it to Beverly*, including snapping some great images during our awesome vintage photo shoot with Heather, Chel, and Steph! Thanks, Liberty! Some of Liberty's 50s and 60s favorites are vintage cameras, Andy Warhol, and the magical Etch-a-Sketch!

CRYSTAL BELLE COBB is a senior with dreams of studying international relations or linguistics. In the meantime, she's collaborated with Lisa as assistant choreographer for *Beverly*, bringing her lifetime of dance experience (especially the cha-cha) to the floor. She's also working hard as part of DA!'s stage crew! Crystal loves *I Love Lucy* more than anyone we know: she can recite the entire Vitameatavegamin speech!

CAROLINE NALLE is a senior who hopes to study Dramaturgy in college. Her work on *Beverly* has been extensive, from dramaturgical research and props consultation to making curtains & stool-tops & designing hair & make-up for our classic ladies. For her creativity seminar at school, she's creating a gown for the Victorian character *Gwendolyn Fairfax*. She also thinks that Kartoffelklosse is "pretty much the best dumpling you've ever had."

CASSIDY THORP is a junior who's been serving *Beverly* both by understudying the character of Minerva & by helping with Front-of-House business. She loves *The Twist*, the 1967 fastback Ford Mustang, and *Star Trek* ("The Original Series pretty much predicted the future -- the PDA, mobile devices, mobile phones, and even the MRI! It was the first show to have a multi-cultural cast & it broke down a lot of gender and racial barriers.")!

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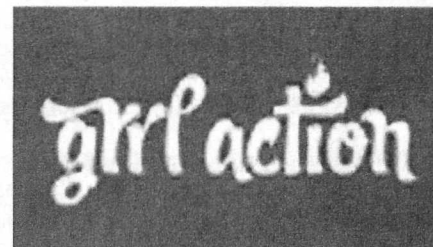
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DA! is committed to community outreach.

One way DA! supports local non-profit organizations is by creating partnerships that will increase community involvement & awareness about local issues.

DA! is producing a benefit production of *Leave it to Beverly* for GRRL Action to demonstrate our shared desire to support young women in our community.



GRRL Action began in 2000 as an autobiographical writing and performance program designed to empower girls between the ages of 13 and 16 to find their public voices while building confidence, interacting with girls from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, and creating community. Girls who participate in GRRL Action are given space, materials, skills, and guidance as they work individually and as a group to generate performances, poems, stories, songs, and dances about their life experiences. In 2007, based on the success of the summer workshop and with multi-year support from Impact Austin, GRRL Action expanded into a year-round mentorship program. This year-round model invites girls to develop long-term artistic projects in the genre of their choosing, from photography to choreography, inspired by their individual interests and passions with the help of professional women artists who provide one-on-one attention and guidance.

For more information, go to
<http://www.grrlaction.org/>
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NOVEMBER 15, 2009
5 PM



THEATRE COLLECTIVE

DA means "yes" in Russian.
Yet DA! is more than a word and more than a company;
it is a way of life.

Rooted in contemporary Russian acting and movement theory,
DA! is a desire to explore our outer limits and our inner core.
DA! is more than one person or one idea; it is a Collective.

Believing in the power of that Collective,
DA! seeks to carve out spaces and times where artists of
all kinds can train, play, discover, create, and produce together.

DA! believes that encouraging the individual expression
of its members strengthens the evolution of the ensemble;

DA! believes that listening to our audiences
while simultaneously engaging & challenging them
will engender compelling performances and high-quality productions;

DA! believes in the power of intention and the value of hard work;

DA! believes that Austin, Texas in the 21st century
is the best place and time to be doing this hard work.

DA! cultivates the artistic exploration of our members
by providing resources for workshops and productions.

DA! facilitates the growth of our members, as well as the larger artistic community,
by offering ensemble training, master classes with guest artists, and public classes.

DA! further contributes to the community by:

- * producing art (both original and revisited) that is challenging and invigorating
- * serving as innovators and leaders in our field
- * raising the level of education in our artistic community
- * supporting those sectors of the community who are in need
by donating a portion of performances to local non-profit organizations
& economically less advantaged schools
- * paying local artists a decent wage for their work.

So say "Yes" to the magic of possibilities
Or say "yep," "yeah," "sure," "uh-huh," "you betcha," "affirmative,"
... however you translate it, just say "DA!"

DA! is proud to be a not-for-profit collective under the sponsorship of Hyde Park Theatre.

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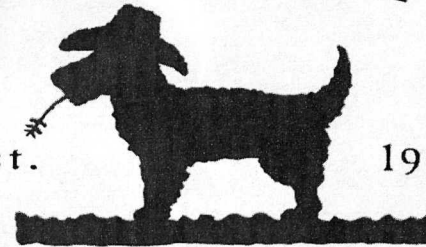
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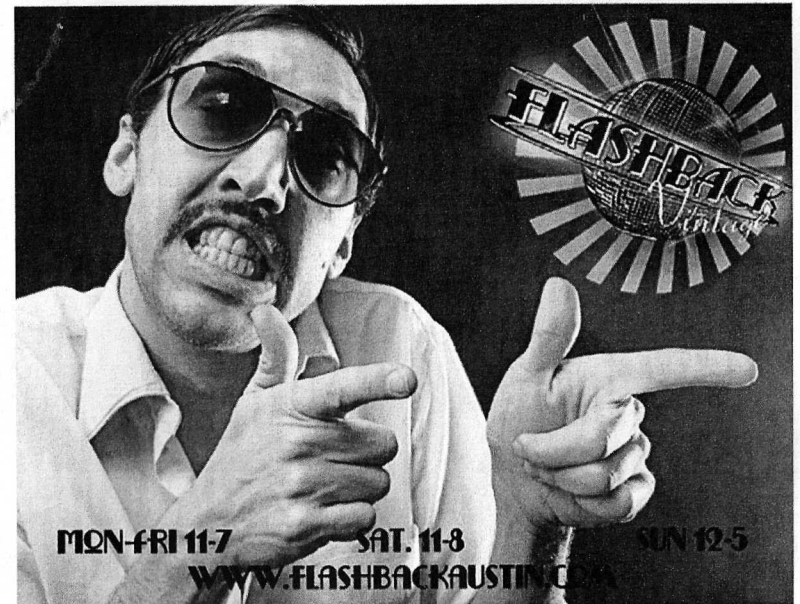


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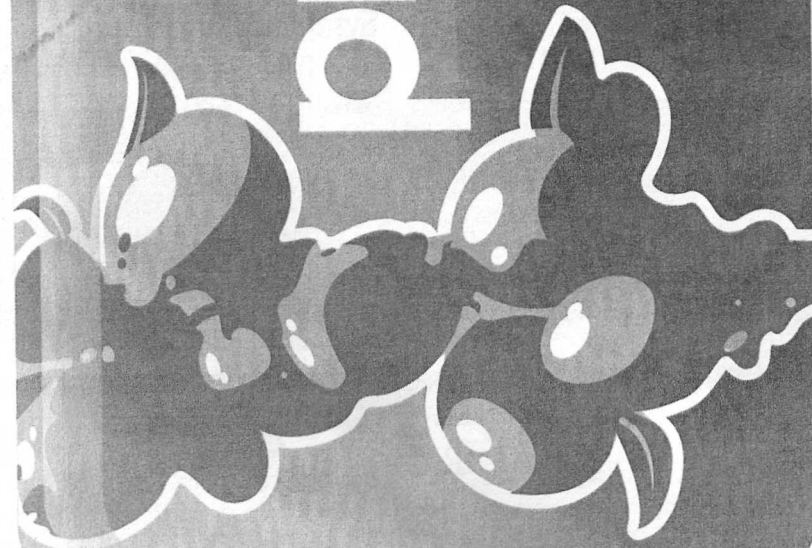


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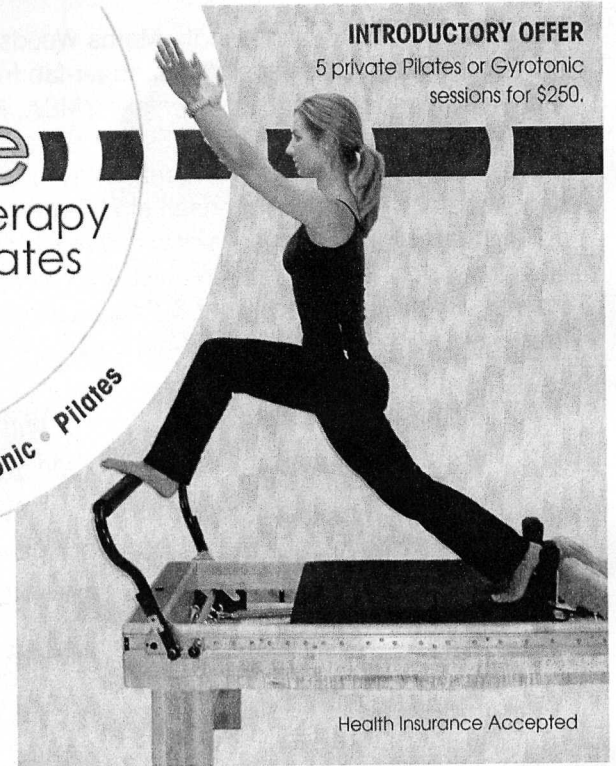
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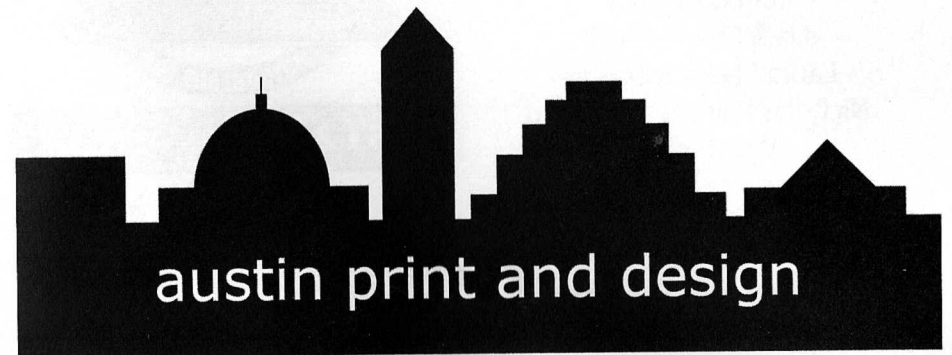
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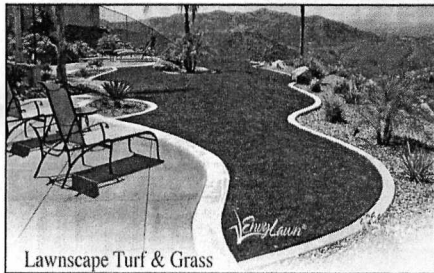
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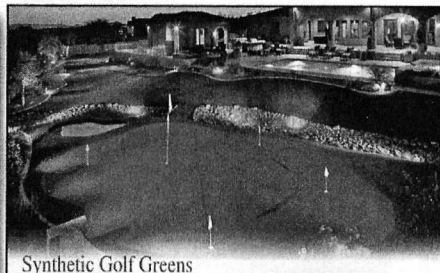
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