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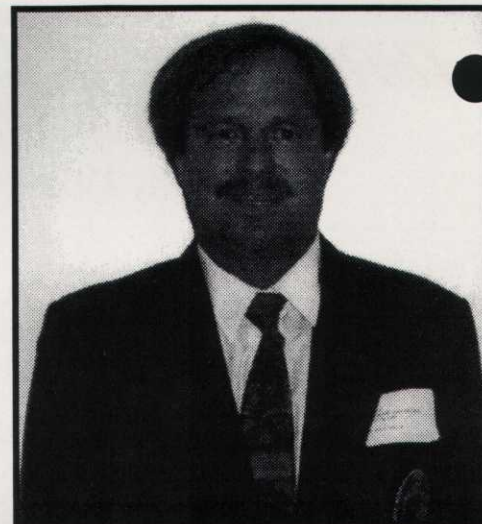
JAMES W. KARRIK, JR.  
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## From The President

The date of this writing is February 16th. The golf courses at Castlewood have been closed for more than two weeks. The heavy rains that arrived after my last writing as well as those that continue are painting a dismal picture for the spring. Above normal precipitation is the forecast for the next 20 days. Rainfall totals for 1997-1998 will most likely be the greatest of this century. I'm sure many of you are facing the same challenges as I. I have a concern for employees in other departments that the lack of business effects. I'm concerned about my operating budget. Will there be enough money available to care for the courses when the rain stops and the players will again have forgotten about the wet year that set us back?

Though it may be difficult, it's time to be patient. This may be the time to develop new computer skills and go on-line. Several months ago one of our seasoned and slightly well traveled superintendents told me that "any superintendent that is not on-line and computer literate in the next 5 years is going to be run out of the business," to which I agreed. This is a time to be safe and provide safe conditions for your patrons and employees.

Above all this may be the opportunity for



**Blake Swint, President**

some of us to spend more time with our families. The family of a golf course superintendent is often robbed of our time due to the nature of the profession. I am in awe of the great job may of you already do with your family life. Some of us could do better.

I enjoyed seeing so many of our members at last month's GCSAA conference in Anaheim. Again, talking turf and sharing ideas with other superintendents was the best part of my trip.

It will stop,  
Blake

## Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

This year's Annual Meeting Notice will include lots of material so please take the time to go through it before you get ready to make your meeting reservation. I will shortly be getting ready to prepare the 1998 Membership Directory. I would like to put email addresses in this year. Last year we attempted to include email but the response was very low (two). I think maybe we have more members "linked" now. I do understand your reluctance to give this out because it become another source for "junk mail." You can send you email addresses to me at [barb@inforum.net](mailto:barb@inforum.net).

There are some exciting moves underway with the California Golf Course Superintendents Association. The Web page for CGCSA should be up shortly according to Bob Tillema, CGCS. Bob also tells me this will be a "No Charge" item for the local chapters. GCSANC's budget recommenda-

tions this year included proposal for a Web page for GCSANC. Bob Tillema, CGCS has indicated space will be available to local chapters at no charge. This might be the way we will go. I would like to post meeting notices, calendars, and applications for members on these sites. More and more the communication will be moving this way and I believe our Association should make efforts to stay available to the membership. I don't know how many of you were able to use the GCSAA reservation on the internet this year but mine really worked great. I had all information available to me and was able to do all this at 12 midnight! I know not all of you work so late, but you can get it at 12 noon too!

Affiliate members should watch the mail for new advertising rates and information. These should be mailed with the Annual Meeting notices if not before. Also look for a letter from John Holmquist regarding the opportunity to become the next Affiliate representative to the Board of Directors.