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**THRU THE GREEN**

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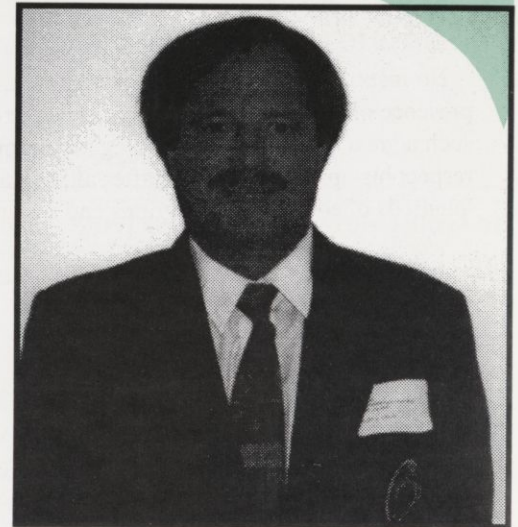
## From The President

The Holidays offer the opportunity for us to treasure the time we have to spend with family and friends. I take this time to wish all a pleasant Holiday. It's a time of gifts and giving and a time to be thankful for what we have.

Of the gifts that our Association has, the ones that I am most thankful for are your elected Board Members. They are a group made up of different personalities with the common goal of allowing our Association to better serve it's members and our industry. Monthly Board Meetings that recently have lasted too long with many items to discuss have been well attended with contributions made by all.

A portion of the January General Meeting will deal with Association management practices, budget items and our goals of service to the membership. Open discussion to be the theme, individual participation a must. I encourage all to attend this open forum. The sharing of ideas has always been one of the strengths of our Association.

Having recently attended a state board meeting, I can state (no pun intended) that CGCSA is developing a strong mission statement to provide definition of its existence. A good thing to know since we are all members of the CGCSA, the result of \$5.00 per member of our annual dues being paid to the State



**Blake Swint, President**

Association.

If you haven't decided to attend the Christmas tournament and party, I urge you to do so. This year's event will feature Poppy Hills, a PGA Tour quality course followed by an enjoyable evening at the festive Monterey Beach Hotel.

Happy Holidays,

Blake

## Office Notes

By: *Barbara Mikel*

Well, it is hard to believe it is December again! Our Holiday party is well underway, thanks to the watchful supervision of Forrest Arthur. A new committee consisting of Mike Nunemacher, Dave Davies, and Forrest Arthur is developing and implementing a standardized meeting procedure which will smooth the future process for meeting sites. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, contact a member of the board of directors and let him know. The Oakhurst meeting was the first successful endeavor and Poppy Hills the second for this new committee. Hope you have all made your plans for this year.

1998 membership renewals are coming quickly. Please make sure you send your membership questionnaire with your check. We need those questionnaires to renew your membership. If I receive only your check., you will be delaying receiving your new card. Cards will be mailed once a week beginning December 5, so look for yours in the near future.

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter you will

find a listing of GCSANC Board of Directors and Officers with the various committee position and functions they perform. These are your representatives for the various jobs undertaken by the Association. All the support and help you can give would be greatly appreciated, suggestions, questions, etc. We need more members working as hard as these guys. In addition to serving on our Board of Directors, most of them have served or are serving on GCSAA Committees.

I keep hearing positive comments regarding the 1997 Superintendents Institute at Santa Rosa. I would like to thank Bob Costa, CGCS, Gary Carls, CGCS, Cliff Wagoner, CGCS, Myrtle Wagoner, and Alan Heath for undertaking the registration and administrative duties for me at this event You can't imagine how much office work I got done!

### Quick Quote

Hard work never killed anybody,  
but why take the chance

— *Edgar Bergen* —



**Institute (Cont'd)**

No Institute would be complete without the sage advice and presence of Dr. Ali Harivandi, moderator extraordinaire. "Ali is such a great resource and sounding block for ideas. You have to respect his opinion and ideas, after all, he has been a part of hundreds of educational programs and seminars."

Costa was particularly pleased with the speakers contributions. "This is one of the few seminars I have attended where I felt each speaker was outstanding. I would be hard pressed to pick a favorite," Costa lamented. "Each speaker was so well prepared they seemed to build on each others presentation. I was particularly impressed with the presentation by Ray Festa," said Costa. "Ray had the difficult task of closing the program, which is always a challenge. Not only was his presentation informative, it was also presented in an interesting fashion. I jokingly told Ray after the program that he should consider taking his talk on the road, I was so impressed," Costa Said.

"Our goal as a committee is to provide quality education, presented in a practical, hands on format. That's what you hope for but until the presentations are made you never really know," said Costa. "I thought each speaker presented their information in a real comprehensible and usable fashion."

The morning program, which focused on the master plan process, benefitted from two outstanding presentations from Damian Pascuzzo and John Harbottle. Harbottle spoke on the master plan process while Pascuzzo offered his insight on avoiding the pitfalls of course renovation. Lake Merced Country Club member, Bo Links, offered a spirited talk on selling the membership, complimented by a hole by hole photo summary. Links credited course superintendent, Lou Tonelli and his staff not only for contributing to the project, but also for satisfying the members with outstanding temporary greens.

The talented Mike Oliphant discussed a key component of the renovation process when he spoke on the superintendent and

*Continued on Page 7*

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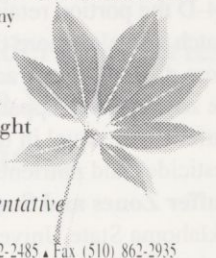
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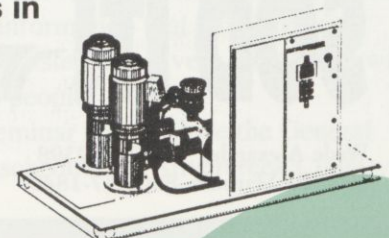
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# THRU THE GREEN USGA

## American Society of Agronomy Update

By Mike Huck - USGA Green Section

I recently attended a few of the talks at the American Society of Agronomy meetings in Anaheim this last month and want to share some of the information presented:

**2,4-D Leaching** - Movement of 2,4-D through thatch and soil columns was studied at the University of Maryland on both zoysiagrass and bentgrass. There was a distinct difference between the two turf species regarding the amounts of herbicide retained and/or passing through the thatch and into the soil. The bentgrass thatch samples retained significantly more of the 2,4-D the portion retained by the bentgrass thatch was also more tightly bound and more difficult to extract when compared to the zoysiagrass. Apparently, not all grass varieties are equal in their ability to filter pesticides and nutrients.

**Buffer Zones and Surface Runoff** - Oklahoma State University evaluated various buffer zones lengths (distance from the treated edge of a fairway to the protected water source) and different mowing heights effect upon reducing surface runoff of pesticides. The difference in the length of the buffer zone had little effect on surface movement in a significant rainfall event because once the buffer becomes saturated and reaches field capacity infiltration is reduced and surface runoff begins. It was found that a higher cutting height (3" rough vs. fairway cut) was slightly more effective at initially reducing runoff because the taller grass slowed the lateral movement of the surface water. The real take home message here

was do not make chemical or fertilizer applications when soils are already saturated.

**Removal of Perennial Ryegrass from Overseeded Bermudagrass** - North Carolina State University evaluated cultural practices to remove perennial rye from bermudagrass. (Chemical methods are to be evaluated this coming season.) They looked at various treatments of scalping, vertical mowing, and aeration side by side with an untreated control plot. Those of you who overseed probably won't find these results very surprising. Early in the trial, ranking of the different treatments showed scalping provided the highest component of bermudagrass, then followed by light vertical mowing, aeration, and the untreated check. In the end, however, the point in time when the last of the ryegrass was gone was identical. (Even in the untreated check plot!) Bottom line, the weather ultimately controls when the last of the ryegrass is going to leave the stand. Reading between the lines did give me the impression that a slightly smoother and less noticeable transition may result from scalping or lightly vertical mowing than doing nothing.

**Foliar Growth Response of Tifway Bermudagrass to Primo** - North Carolina State also looked at different rates and frequency of application of *Primo* on *Tifway* fairways. Bottom line results were three applications of two-thirds the recommended label rate on 4-week intervals resulted in a similar reduction of total clippings over a 12-week period when compared to full rate applications. No matter which rate was

initially used, a slight discoloration was apparent following the first treatment but not noticed with subsequent applications.

**Controlling Annual Bluegrass and Rough Bluegrass on Creeping Bentgrass Fairways** - Ohio State University evaluated several herbicides, growth regulators and fertilizers in their effectiveness of reducing *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis* in established bentgrass fairways. *Primo* was found to reduce rough bluegrass as was regular foliar applications of a combination of ferrous sulfate and magnesium sulfate. Regular applications of ferrous sulfate and magnesium sulfate either alone or in combination were most effective in reducing annual bluegrass populations. These treatments were reported as more effective than herbicides, such as *Poagress*!

**Penncross and Crenshaw Bentgrass Response to High Temperature and Low Aeration Stress** - The bottom line was *Crenshaw* showed better tolerance to high temperature stress but if either variety is under both a low oxygen condition and high temperature stress, you can expect roots and canopies to deteriorate! /

### Oops!

In the November issue of Thru The Green, in an article entitled, "Research Update" a reference was made to a business - The Sod Farm. The business name should have read - Grass Farm. Our apologies.

Life is short.

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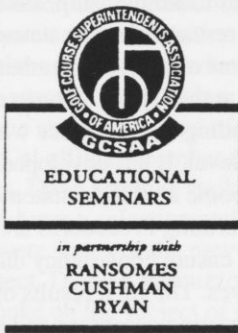
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## Seminar Registration Begins

Seminar Registration forms have been mailed for the GCSAA Regional Seminar entitled, "Personal Stress Management." Scheduled for January 7th at the Pleasanton Hilton, Personal Stress Management is presented by one of GCSAA's most dynamic speakers, Bree Hayes. This seminar is likely to sell out so procrastination is not advised. For more details, contact the GCSAA Education Department at 1/800-472-7878.

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## Seminar Change Announced

A change in the GCSAA/Etonic Seminar to be held on January 15th has been announced. Unfortunately, Gerry Sweda, who was scheduled to present, "Bringing Out The Best In The People You Manage," had to cancel. Arrangements were quickly made, however, to present a new business seminar entitled, "Grow Your People Skills."

The four hour seminar, instructed by C. Mike Jousan, will focus on improving the way you relate to people you work with. You will learn how to make a good first impression, to give information that will produce positive responses, to listen effectively and to deal with angry and defensive people.

The 12:00 noon seminar will precede the General meeting and dinner scheduled at Silvercreek Country Club.

## Letter To The Editor . . . .

Dear Bob:

I would like to congratulate you on a job well done at this year's Golf Course Superintendents Institute in Santa Rosa. I have been attending this program for many years and personally felt that it was the best Institute that the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California has ever held. Please express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all that were involved in putting this program together.

On a more disappointing note however, was the lack of professionalism displayed by many of our members during the afternoon session of the Institute. I was really surprised at how many attendees literally "bailed" and did not even attend the afternoon session. To me, maybe not others I don't know, but I feel this is a total lack of respect to the speakers that travel such a long way to talk to us. I do not know what can be done about this problems as it is certainly not unique to your chapter alone. In my opinion those that skipped out missed some of the best presentations that had to be offered that afternoon. Ray Festa was very inspirational . . . too bad nobody was there to hear him.

Thank you for letting me express my thoughts .

Cordially,  
Jim Husting, CGCS

## State Retreat Sets Course For Future

By: Dave Davies, CGCS

**D**uring the last 30 years there have been efforts to unify the golf course superintendents in the State of California. The reasons varied but have always included improving our political voice and providing some element of social and professional interaction. During the last 5-7 years there has been another concentrated effort to unite. The purpose included all of the previous goals and a focused effort by a few to become more politically aware.

The current configuration of the California GCSA has six members. These members are the six affiliated GCSAA chapters in the state, Southern California, Northern California, Sierra Nevada, Central California, San Diego and Hi Ho Desert. Each chapter currently pays \$5 dues per paying member to belong to the State Association. On November 14, 15 representatives from each chapter along with our Association Manager met with a facilitator to work on a number of problems currently existing within the state organization. The experience was both challenging and rewarding. The representatives in attendance voiced common support for the process and the initial outcomes of the session. We were able to open new levels of communication between the chapters by breaking down some of the existing misconceptions and have pledged unified support to the improvement of communication with the state.

A current priority for the State Association is the continued financial support of a professional lobbying firm that will maintain a

watchful eye on the state government, notifying us of legislation that concerns our industry. The state hosts an annual meeting, educational program and golf tournament that promotes interaction within the profession. We are currently under contract with Adams Publishing for a statewide publication called California Fairways. Under the terms of the contract the State Association receives royalties from advertising revenues generated by the magazine. These royalties, along with our membership dues, pay for the services of our Association Manager and provide for membership in the BCSSA sponsored Platinum Tee Club. This membership allows us to participate in GCSAA's matching funds for research program. Additionally, participation in the State Association offers, strength in voting and a national influence not afforded to individual smaller chapters, sponsorship at the State Amateur Championship, annual donations to the chapter scholarship and research fund, a statewide job hotline, and finally, through the support of affiliate member donations a state hosted hospitality suite at the GCSAA conference.

The State Board is committed to expanding our influence within the industry on both a state and national level. It has developed an initial vision statement from which will come a mission statement to outline our future direction. Standard Operating Procedures are being drafted for standing committees to ensure consistency during the annual transition of new representatives. The final results of the session were a renewed enthusiasm for existing successes and a commitment to the enhancement of our professional standing in the future.

## Golf Course Superintendents Create Real Fields of Dreams

**W**hether you live in a well-developed urban setting, a sprawling suburban tract or a small rural community, it's likely that many of the people you interact with are golf enthusiasts.

Those who enjoy the sport are aware of the key person at the golf course when it comes to providing a maximum enjoyment of the game. A recent survey by Golf Digest revealed that nearly 50 percent of its readers indicated the golf course superintendent as the most important individual at their facility. That figure surpassed combined selections of the golf professional, course champion, club house manager and beverage facility personnel.

The golf course superintendent is the professional entrusted with the management and maintenance of the course. It's a responsibility that has grown in importance during the past three decades as golfers have come to demand optimal conditions for playing the game.

Those heightened expectations have been largely fueled by expanding television coverage of professional golf events that highlight the nation's top courses. Also, budget limitations, unpredictable weather patterns, governmental regulations and increased participation all have an impact on the superintendents' operations.

"You won't find one member of the profession who doesn't say their career is a challenge," says Paul McGinnis, certified golf course superintendent and president of the GCSAA.

There was a time when a person could climb the career ladder from a maintenance crew member to staff assistant to superintendent through on-the-job training.

But the level of knowledge necessary to manage and maintain healthy turfgrass, administer large budgets and comply with environmental, safety and employee regulations has made education paramount. The vast majority of superintendents have two- or four-year degrees in either turfgrass science, agronomy or biology. This professional background is often supplemented with continuing education courses provided by organizations such as the GCSAA.

"I think most people get into this profession for two reasons," McGinnis says, "No. 1, many of us grew up on a golf course either as a worker or playing the game. And No. 2, superintendents have a love for the outdoors and environmental stewardship. We understand what it takes to manage a facility so that it is a benefit to the community."

Golf courses also are becoming outdoor classrooms for schools, civic groups and junior golf programs. It's not unusual for people to take to the course, not in search of birdies, but of animals, aquatic life, various plant species, composting projects and nature trails.

"The facilities not only offer recreation, but provide an environmental sanctuary to numerous plant and animal species," McGinnis says.

Reprinted from *The Good Earth, News USA*



## Institute (Cont'd)

contractor relationship. Many agreed that Mike hit home when he emphasized the importance of open and regular communication, and mutual respect between the contractor and superintendent. Not to be denied, Jim Janosik, of the Alisal Guest Ranch shared his experiences from a superintendent's perspective, summarizing the entire renovation process. When asked his thoughts on Janosik's presentation, Costa had this to say. "I thought what made Jim's presentation so effective was that he was so candid and honest in his remarks. He made no bones about discussing areas where the project failed. Not many people would be willing to make those statements. With an objective to provide useful, hands on information, I'd say he deserves an A."

The afternoon program, although still linked to renovation, took on an environmental twist. Golf course owner, George Kelley of Stevenson Ranch kicked off the second half with an informative presentation on the Audubon Program, highlighting his courses signature status. Mr. Kelley, openly campaigned for course conditions that were conducive to shot making and playability and unlike many in his position, encourages his superintendent to maintain certain portions of the course in a stressed condition.

NorCal affiliate member and local authority on native plants and grasses, Dave Kaplow, spoke expertly on the topic of native grass establishment, selection and care. Highlighted in Dave presentations were slides of the new golf course at Half Moon Bay. Golf Architect, Damian Pascuzzo, returned for the afternoon session and spoke on the subject of designing for the environment. "My hats off to Damian," said Costa. "He was so well prepared, made two great presentations and volunteered what amounted to be a day of his time. He was an asset to the program." With Festa's Audubon talk as the closer, the two day event was in the books.

Before long the education committee will reassemble and the process will start all over. "I don't know about the others," Costa said, "but I'm ready for the break. Our goal this year was to develop the best institute ever and I'm satisfied that we accomplished our goal."

Although the golf tournament was officially cancelled due to rain on day one, 40 of the 52 players still managed to tee it up. Forrest Arthur was one of those and he had high praise for the course. "I'm sure course superintendent, Rick Hansen, was disappointed," said Arthur, "but those of us who played thought the course was in great shape. We had a great time."

The rain, a welcomed sight in many respects didn't dampen

*Continued on page 9*

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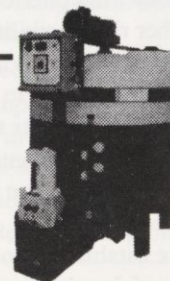
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## Review of Contract For Management and Office Services

As you may recall from reading the October "Boardroom Briefs" Barbara Mikel has brought to the attention of the Board of Directors the necessity of reviewing the contract for management and office services currently provided by her company, Easi Data Processing. The need for this is to review the current terms of the contract, evaluate areas that have expanded beyond those terms and look into long term solutions for any discrepancies. The basic options for those discrepancies is to eliminate workload issues that affect her or increase the scope of her responsibilities and add to the existing compensation. Within this evaluation it will be important to identify programs and commitments that remain priorities and look to eliminate or modify operations and programs that may have outlived their effectiveness.

"Office Hours" were established to coincide with the time of day that would work best for the superintendents. Association business is conducted between the hours of 12:00 and 5:00 p.m. The intention is to have someone available to answer the telephone during those hours. However the responsibilities of the Association require part of her time commitment to be devoted to travel. This means that there will be times that you must leave a message even when calling during the listed office hours. We must remember that Easi Data Processing has responsibilities to other business clients. To employ a firm to personally man a telephone exclusively for use by this Association would have a dramatic impact on our operating budget.

How can you make your telephone call

more efficient? Plan your call in advance. Be prepared to leave a message. Structure your question to allow a response to be prepared in advance. This will reduce the number of call backs required to get you the information or action you require. In many cases a question can be directed to a specific individual or a response can be mailed out directly. Leave a phone number and a best possible time to reach you for a return call. We have allowed ourselves to expect a certain level of professionalism from our Association Manager. We should all be expected to live up to that same level.

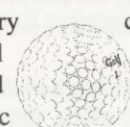
Monthly meeting planning takes a great deal of time and effort. We can greatly reduce the financial impact to the Association by following the guidelines that have been in place since 1991 for registrations. It is not part of the Associations Manager's responsibilities to make up for poor organization on the part of the membership. Take the time to properly fill in the registration forms, making sure to have all the information correct. Send the check with the registration form. If that is not a possibility, please fax a copy of the check to confirm your reservation and send it later. Make note of the **Deadline For Registration**. The Association is routinely charged for no shows and must commit to a total usually seven days prior to the event. To be able to handle on site registration efficiently we need to eliminate last minute potential problems such as "I have my check now" — "I brought a guest, is that all right?" — "I have cash, do you have change?" Proper advance registration will allow for accurate reservations for the host facility, faster

check-in, lower costs for the Association and less headaches for those doing the work for our Association. Notifications will be sent out to you if the meeting is full or your registration was late. Otherwise expect that all will be ready for your arrival.

There have been a number of additions to the workload since the contract was signed. The affiliation agreement with GCSAA, expansion of the Scholarship Program and its necessary mailings, Scholarship Tournament data bases for sponsorship information, funding for the California GCSA and a 25% increase in membership have all had an impact on the workload. We must all battle the issue of limited time for expanded responsibilities in our workplace. The GCSANC is no different. The Board of Directors is looking at ways to improve efficiencies, return to the contractual terms we have agreed to with Easi and continue to move the Association in a forward direction. We all have a part in the direction and the effort needed to make it work. /

## Did You Know?

Dimple depth and placement on a golf ball greatly impact the distance it travels? "Dimples," says Frank Thomas, Director of the US Golf Association, "are very important and very complex." A dimple-less golf ball in the hands of even a good golfer would travel an anemic 130 yards or so off the tee, he estimates. The same ball properly dimpled would travel twice that far. Spalding Sports Worldwide estimates it spends about two million dollars a year on it's two cimple designing facilities.



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## Boardroom Briefs

- ◆ Association Executive Secretary, Barbara Mikels reported that the 1997 salary survey will be included in the mailing with the membership renewal form. Barbara anticipates the mailing to occur in early November.
- ◆ The Proposed merchandise program with Southern Golf has been temporarily derailed. After a board vote, it was decided that the program would be place on hold until issues involving the merchandise catalog could be resolved.
- ◆ A budget committee has been formed to develop the Association's budget for the upcoming year. Board members Bob Costa, CGCS, Gary Carls, CGCS, Dave Davies, CGCS and Mike Nunemacher were chosen to work in conjunction with Barbara Mikel. The committee plans to make a formal presentation to the membership at the January General Meeting.
- ◆ Forrest Arthur and Wayne Lindelof have volunteered to respond to the GCSAA chapter survey. The information will be used to provide information to interested parties on GCSAA's web site.
- ◆ Bob Costa, CGCS and John Holmquist presented a draft outline of a SOP for sponsorship at Association events and functions. The proposal will continue to be refined over the next several months. Hopes are the program can be launched in the spring of 1998.
- ◆ Bob Costa, CGCS, reported that two GCSAA so-sponsored educational seminars are lined up for January 1998. Marketing efforts for both seminars will begin soon.
- ◆ State Representative, Dave Davies, CGCS, solicited input from the Board regarding the purpose and role of the State Association. Dave will be representing the GCSANC at the upcoming State Meeting in Lake Tahoe.
- ◆ The notion of hiring a media relations person to assist in Public Relations matters was proposed by Bob Costa, CGCS. The Board endorsed the idea in concept, asking for more information and a formal presentation by Greg Crawford who currently serves as the media relations person for the Oregon Golf Association and the Western Washington Golf Association.

### Naumann's Norcal News

John Jorgensen is the new Superintendent at Riverside Golf Course in Coyote. Presently Riverside GC is adding a new 18 hole course designed by Jack Nicklaus. Once that course is completed and opened, the existing 18 hole course will be rebuilt. John was the Superintendent at Ruby Hill CC in Pleasanton prior to his move . . . Larry Norman is the new Superintendent at the Institute GC in Morgan Hill. This is a new project being built on the side of an abandoned golf course. Larry was the director of golf maintenance at Sonoma Golf Club in Sonoma prior to his move. Juan de la Rosa remains as the Superintendent at Sonoma GC . . . Mike Nunnemacher is the Director of Grounds at Blackhawk Country Club. Mike was the Superintendent at Oakhurst CC in Clayton prior to his move. Mike Barber is remaining as the Superintendent at Blackhawk.

### Institute (Cont'd)

The rain, a welcomed sight in many respects didn't dampen anyone's spirits at the reception later that evening. A hosted bar, pasta, hors d'oeuvres and the 49er game in the background provided the backdrop for a relaxing evening. "The reception has really developed into a key element of the Institute," remarked Costa. "One of the things that makes the Institute so appealing is that, although it's grounded in education, it provides outlets too for relaxation and camaraderie. The two sites we have chosen are ideal for that purpose. The reception is just a comfortable way to segway into the seminar and it's good for the vendors as well."

With the 1997 Institute quickly becoming a memory, Costa had these final remarks. "Our success this year was really attributable to so many talented people, combined with a great facility. Certainly the committee members and speakers were instrumental and deserve a lot of credit. And then there's Barbara Mikel who is such a great resource. This year we even had an added bonus with the return of Cliff and Myrtle our good friends who faithfully volunteered their time. /

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