



## Editorial

### YE GODS, WHAT HAVE WE DONE

Survival of the human race, what is it worth? In the March editorial I suggested that there are several topics which are worthy of discussion. Survival would seem to be a good place to start.

At conferences in the past few years it has been considered timely to give projections of what our field will be like in the future, say 15 years from now. The predictions are very optimistic; better machines, new—more potent chemicals, fancy watering systems, etc. Some might go so far as to predict "Computer Controlled Turf"! But, before we go off the deep end, perhaps we had better get our heads out of the sand about what is going on in this world of ours.

"If things continue as they have," is the basis for most of the wild predictions we have heard. LET'S MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR that things cannot go on as in the past. We live in a finite world (the mathematical approach) and eventually we will run out. Of what? Natural resources! We also live in a world that is being devastated by our dual-god, growth and technology. Progress means to have it wrapped in a package.

One does not have to go far to find statistics on the pollution problem these days. A good sign! People pollution—overpopulation is being talked about more and more. It of course, is the most deadly.

Put aside survival for a moment. What is going to be the effect on our field in the future. The following are some of my predictions. Pessimistic? Yes! Drastic? Yes! Unfounded? No!

Fairway watering will be a thing of the past because of a lack of water. Green watering might be **tolerated**, however, because it is necessary to the game. We will see a sharp cutback in fertilization as we know it since it will be needed for food producing. Most of our pesticides will be outlawed due to ecological effects. The use of internal combustion engines will be severely limited. And finally, I differ with most in that I think labor will be abundant and cheap, this includes superintendents.

All of the above paints a grim picture but as I stated, it is not unfounded. Listed below are several publications which I suggest you read.

It is important to view the entire picture of human survival and then place yourself and your interests in the proper perspective. When this is done, it is easy to see that turf management is not exactly on the top of the list. When survival is at issue, most personal interests become trivial. However, to be more

optimistic, I think that we (as people working with nature) are more suited than most for the future due to our common sense, manual dexterity, and "green thumb" abilities.

Any Thoughts?

Borgstrom, G., "Too Many, A Study of Earth's Biological Limitations." — New York: Macmillan, 1969. \$7.95.

Ehrlich, P., "The Population Bomb". — New York: Ballantine, 1968. 95¢.

"The Environmental Handbook". Edited by Garrett De Bell, 95¢.

This book has a fine bibliography.

#### Footnote:

Since this editorial was written, the Daily News ran a front page story on the impending "water war" in the Chicago suburbs. It was in the Saturday, April 4 edition. Since then, more articles have followed.

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