

OH! THOSE BURDENS OF COMMITMENT!

Responsibilities are defined as burdens of responsibility or commitment. We all have responsibilities in our life and many of them involve our work and in particular our profession. From time to time it is necessary to re-examine these responsibilities to remind us of their existence.

This became obvious to me at the last MAGCS board meeting when I was reminded by our president, who was enthusiastically supported by the editor of this publication, that I had not written an article for the **Bull Sheet** this year. I knew that I had not written my article as all Directors of the MAGCS have the responsibility to do. I tried to be as inconspicuous as possible at the board meeting by placing the Director next to me directly in line with our President's omni-present and constantly scanning vision. Being completely blocked from his view, I felt safe. As the board meeting progressed, the subject of the **Bull Sheet** was discussed and disaster struck. President Berarducci asked our vigilant Editor Gerber which members of the Board of Directors had not submitted an article to the **Bull Sheet**. For a brief moment, I thought I had snowed them as President Berarducci mistakenly thought that I had fulfilled my responsibility and produced an article this year. However, I knew I was done for when Editor Gerber slowly pulled from his pocket a little white piece of paper with, you guessed it, the list of Directors who had written an article this year. As the list dwindled down, it was apparent that Editor Gerber had not made the same mistake as President Berarducci. It was apparent that I would be suffering the jeers and stares of my fellow Directors and I began to panic. I immediately feigned a loose shoe lace and threw my head under the table with sweat pouring from my brow. Miraculously, I heard my name mentioned as they finished reading the list and thought I had been saved by a heretofore unheard of error on the part of Editor Gerber. I slowly peeked over the edge of the table and peered down it's length. There they all were, fourteen eyeballs burning holes in my forehead. Dead Silence. I had been duped!

Well anyway, after the appropriate reprimand, I agreed to furnish Ray Gerber with an article for the next **Bull Sheet** and this is the result. In reality, we all need a reminder about our responsibilities at times and I guess it was about time that I had mine.

It also brings to mind that the MAGCS Board of Directors carries out it's responsibilities as a group pretty darn well. It is the President's and the Editor's responsibility to see to it that all Directors submit an article to the **Bull Sheet**. They carried out that responsibility well. Why do all Directors submit articles? We hope that by doing this many of the MAGCS members will follow suit. The **Bull Sheet** is in many ways the life blood of our association. It needs the support of each and every member to be successful. Why not submit an article once or twice a year beginning with the next issue. Deadlines are the tenth of the month.

It is a good time of year for all of us to assess our responsibilities concerning our profession, personal actions, families and our peers. Look back over the past year and think about the responsibilities you carried out successfully and those you let get away from you. Make commitments to yourself to be better organized in the future so the weight of those burdens of obligation will be just that much easier to carry. Make one of those commitments to your profession and contribute to the **Bull Sheet**. It really is painless.

Yes, John and Ray, that's what I'm doing also!

**Roger Stewart, Supt.
Riverside C.C.**

IN YOUR GARDEN EVERGREEN NEEDLE LOSS HEAVY

Unusually heavy needle loss is being seen on narrow-leaf evergreens throughout the Midwest.

Evergreens are so named because of their habit of keeping leaves (needles) through the winter. However, according to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, evergreens shed their needles on a regular schedule, sloughing off old ones as new ones sprout. Under normal conditions, the needles are produced in the spring and live two or three years. When sufficient new growth has taken place on the tips of the branches, these older needles in the center drop off, having served their purpose of photosynthesizing carbohydrates for the tree.

Arborvitae and white pine, for example, drop needles when the needles are two years old. They have a "needle life" of two years. Other trees have longer needle lives. That of the bristlecone pine is eight or fifteen years.

Normal needle drop occurs during late spring and summer and is usually not noticed because of the density of new growth hiding it.

During the last few weeks, University of Illinois Extension offices throughout northern Illinois have received a tremendous number of calls from distressed plant owners reporting browning and dropping of needles from all types of evergreens. Inspection of these plants reveals no diseases or insects but early senescence of one and two year old needles. In some cases even current years' growth is affected.

Fizzell says the plants have been exposed to tremendous stress since these needles were formed.

The summers of 1980 and 1981 were very wet causing plant roots to suffer. The winter of '81-'82 was one of the most severe on record damaging exposed foliage.

Spring of '82 was hot and dry at the time plants were making new growth. Early summer was variously wet or dry depending on locale and rather cool; August and September were dry.

It is no wonder the plants are unhappy, says Fizzell.

Where the new needles are unaffected there is no cause for alarm. The buds at shoot tips will grow next spring improving the looks of the somewhat sparse trees.

Where shoot tips have turned brown and lost needles, the buds are most likely dead too but don't prune out these limbs until next spring when you know for sure whether they will grow. If branches next to the dead limbs are healthy, they will grow into the voids left by pruning.

Dear Ray,

Everyone is busy winterizing their Course, for the big sleep.

"SLUMBER TIME"

With the Ghosts and Goblins of Halloween,

Away goes the Golf Season.

Thanksgiving plays a graceful Host,

Affording us a reason.

A reason to be happy,

For the pleasures we have found,

In being a part of a wonderful Sport,

In Golf's Garden of Eden, the Course Ground.

So while it rests and slumbers,

In Winter's wind and snow,

It will soon awaken,

Singing, come on you all, let's go.

Superintendently,

**Kenneth R. Zanzig
Green Garden C.C.**