



Director's Column

by Joel Purpur, CGCS
River Forest Golf Club

Hopefully everyone is ready for the 1991 season because we're in it for the duration. What kind of weather will we get this season? I hope easy enough that we don't get burned and challenging enough that our talents can be recognized.

So how do we get through the tough times without losing it? Other than sex, sports and hobbies are all a good release for stress, but for me golf on the home course can create stress. Getting away from your course once in awhile can be what the doctor ordered.

At our M.A.G.C.S. monthly meetings some might question the value of the meeting if little or no education is on the program, but the comradary and "shop talk" on and off the course can be just as valuable. It's great that people in our business seem to be open with their opinions and methods. Golf at someone else's course can be a breath of fresh air, as well as looking at maintenance from someone else's perspective. I hear a lot of other superintendents say that they don't enjoy golfing at their own clubs as much because they're constantly evaluating the course and seeing things that have not been done or should have been done, therefore they can't relax. That's one reason why I enjoy getting away for the M.A.G.C.S. Golf Events.

Planning and looking forward to off-season is an enjoyable form of stress diversion for me. Having these events to look forward to helps get me through the season.

You may have heard of a group that has gone White Water Rafting in September the past four of five years. This is a great end of season release and something to look forward to when it's 95 degrees and humid. Anticipation and memories from past trips on the river are fun to talk about and won't be soon forgotten. Like Don Spiers' exciting run down a good section of river ... outside the raft, or when Pete Leuzingers' tent mates turned his tent around to reposition the door. Watching Pete try to get in the wrong end after a few "pops" was something that should be on video. Even though Len Berg paddles with the strength of two men, and Steve Crow paddles backwards when he's not supposed to causing the boat to slam into a rock called "Postage Due", we've always managed to survive.

Another favorite off season get-away is to hit the ski slopes. I've had a lot of fun skiing with fellow superintendents and hope more will join us. Everyone goes at their own pace and when you ski with Don Cross you don't even need a trail map. Al Fierst keeps us up to date on the latest apparel but you have to look fast because Al skis for speed (at least he tells us he's



Dave Blomquist,
"Super Form"



Kevin DeRoo,
"I think I'll make it"

under control). Dave Blomquist will go down just about anything, it's getting him up the mountain that can be a challenge. Me, I really love skiing, but the older I get the more noises I make when I get up in the morning.

We've also played around on the Nastar Race Courses. Standing in the starting gates looking down the race course with your heart pounding makes you feel like you're on Wide World of Sports, although realization sets in at the finish line when our times are posted. Mike Sauls claimed a few stitches in his lip from kissing a gate while racing, but it hasn't affected his skiing ... or snoring. Mike says he never hears a thing and wonders why everyone else is not well rested.

When it's all over, after spending several days with a bunch of guys there's a lot to say for getting home to the women or families in our lives. A little time away seems to turn up the flame a bit and give the relationship a fresh start.

It is these short adventures that keep me going and give me something to look forward to. Work hard, play hard. Come along next time, the more the merrier.



"Who said we couldn't have fun at a convention and that Vegas is in the desert?" Left to right: Peter Leuzinger, Bob Padula, Rick Wilson, Ed Braunsky. Taking the picture was Don Ferreri and the Captain of the boat Art Benson. Picture taken on Lake Mead.