

# Director's Column

by Mike Bavier



Surveys are probably a necessary tool for organizations. Do you wonder sometimes if they put down just the answers they want to hear? The thing that drives me nuts is when they say mark only one. Here is a sample question: Why did you attend the last conference — New Orleans or St. Charles? 1. Education, 2. Equipment show, 3. Visit the city, 4. See old friends, 5. Other. Now give me a break ... Most of us attend for a combination of reasons. Plus, there are those superintendents that go so they can attend the spouse program. Maybe next year that will be a choice on the survey. We should give the Association credit for including the spouse program. The program gives attendees an alternative from sitting through lectures where the mike is malfunctioning.

Some of the questions on the survey are easy to answer. Did you like Terry Bradshaw's opening address? How could anyone complain about someone who talks about football and tells you to call your mother? He was good, and if you missed him, oh well!!!!

Now, when you were asked, "how did you like the banquet?", that is a different question. Most of us would agree that the banquet was fine but if we are unable to get the recipient of the Tom Morris award to attend, why even give the award? Just maybe we need to be big enough to say the award is going to be suspended for a year or two. Many of you have suggested just that to me — but my survey left this question off this year.

**HOTELS** — How was yours? If you had a \$100.00/day to spend you were probably quite happy. However, a number of our friends spend their own money or are limited to the amount they can spend. So, maybe we need a question about — do we need low cost hotels? This might also make it easier for more assistants to attend. Also these low cost hotels will help those superintendents that are applying for the \$19,000/year job for the nine hole course the Association is advertising for in Indiana.

The last question asked many times is — are you going to attend next year? Do you really think it will make a difference? Sites have been selected years in advance and we are committed to having a meeting at these cities. It is nearly impossible to get out of the contract. The survey might ask, "What city might be a good choice for the conference in the future?"

You want my opinion? Who Cares! They should consider Washington D.C. What better place to be than where government is making all the laws against us. Plus we might just get some of the high ranking officials to our conference, and what a spouse program they could put together.

Do we really get a chance to make any suggestions? The comment sheet is there for your opinions — give the Association at least that credit. Now does anyone really care? Keep filling out those surveys. For What? Who Knows!!!

# About Tomorrow Today

The first in a series of environmental awareness articles,  
by Scott A. Witte, Asst. Supt. Barrington Hills C.C.

It is a general fact that too many people are not completely environmentally aware. For this reason many of the current environmental problems are not efficiently being solved. We are living in a "Throw Away Society," where plastics, metals, cardboard, paper, landscape wastes, and countless other resources are simply ... thrown away! In addition to this, an extremely low percentage of people actually know where this waste is going. I feel that we need to be aware of the real facts behind the consequences of our "wasteful" way of living.

Awareness starts with seeing that our current landfill situation is on the brink of a crisis. We are producing more trash than ever before and are rapidly running out of places to put it. The average American discards just over 4 pounds of waste per day. Combining everyone in the United States, that equates to 83,000 garbage trucks each day or a total of 140 million tons per year!

Studies show that the refuse generated by a city is composed of roughly:

Paper 41%	Wood 5%
Food Wastes 21%	Rubber/Leather 3%
Glass 12%	Textiles 2%
Ferrous Metals 10%	Aluminum 2%
Plastics 5%	Other Materials .3%

These proportions may vary greatly depending on residential or commercial communities, but for all practical purposes, they provide a sound average. One material not mentioned on the above list is landscape waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and branches etc. During certain seasons, these wastes may often equal all the other categories combined. It is for this reason that yard waste is no longer accepted by regular municipal waste management.

This landfill crisis is not simply an issue of "where will we put it?", but also, "where have we put it?" Municipal waste managers of the past had no understanding or interest in ecology, the water cycle, or what products would be generated by these decomposing wastes. Furthermore, they had no regulations to guide them. Therefore, any cheap, low lying depression, wetland or hole became a landfill. Dumping then commenced with no precautions taken. "A hole is to fill (period)", was the mentality.

The consequences of landfilling in this manner were many. The most serious problem by far is groundwater contamination. Recall that as water passes through any material, various chemicals may be dissolved and carried along which is known as leaching. The water containing the pollutants is then referred to as leachate. This leachate ultimately consists of residues of decomposing organic matter, combined with iron, mercury, lead, zinc, and other metals from rusting cans, discarded batteries and appliances. It is also generously spiced with discarded paints, pesticides, cleaning fluids, and other not-so-friendly chemicals. Further, the siting of landfills and the absence of precautionary measures noted above, funnel this "Motion Potion" directly into the groundwater aquifers.

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