on page 42 deals with calcined clay product use in turf. The article only briefly alludes to what lead to the downfall of calcined clays as a rootzone amendment. The products that were available 25 years ago varied widely in clay composition, the temperature achieved in the calcining process and had fairly large particle sizes. All of these factors influence the physical stability of the calcined clays. Some were reasonably stable while others disintegrated rather quickly into small clay aggregates and even individual clay particles that worked beautifully at clogging up rootzone pores. All it took was a few horror stories about waterlogged, quagmire putting greens to effectively stifle interest in calcined clays as rootzone amendments.

Depending on the outcome of research now being conducted at the University of Illinois, calcined clay may come back into the picture as a rootzone amendment. The particle size range wherein calcined clays have good physical stability has already been determined. What remains is to determine the best or acceptable types of clays that can be used to produce stable calcined clay and appropriate sand-calcined clay ratios for rootzone mixes.

**I see the College of Ag and Life Sciences has a new dean—a man from Rutgers. Will he have any impact on the service we receive from the College in research, instruction or extension? Best guess, please.** *(Calumet County)*

I don't foresee any major changes in services being provided to the turfgrass industry. I would not say this if it were not for the fact that replacements for Bob Newman and Gayle Worf have already been hired. I suspect that open faculty positions will be subjected to intense scrutiny with an eye to changing program directions with new hires. Within colleges and universities this is one of the commonly used tools to effect change and changes will undoubtedly be forthcoming. Last year all of the colleges of ag and natural resources in the state underwent a mandated "self-study". We carefully documented our resources and instruction, research and extension programs and identified what we see as our strengths and weaknesses and needs. An outside team of consultants evaluated this mass of information and submitted their assessment of each college and department and made numerous recommendations for change. These recommendations are currently under review and will eventually be shared with the Board of Regents. Our new dean will have to address these recommendations after they have filtered back down from the UW Central Administration and the Board of Regents.

In these economically stressed times change is inevitable. For reasons already cited, the turfgrass industry, as a clientele group, need not fear reductions in the services it receives from the college. In fact, with our turf group getting back up to full strength there will undoubtedly be a surge in turfgrass research and quite possibly in extension and instruction as well. However, in the long run it behooves the members of the industry to seek out and respond to every opportunity to let the college administration know about its scope, economic importance in the state and what is needed to ensure its growth and well-being. The old adage about the squeaky wheel getting the grease should never be forgotten!

**Have you met Dr. Frank Rossi yet? How do you feel he's going to work out in the turfgrass program in Wisconsin?** *(Langlade County)*

Yes, I've met Dr. Rossi as well as Dr. Julie Meyer, Gayle Worf's replacement. I participated in the interview process for both of them. Both are topnotch individuals that will bring a great deal to our turfgrass program. They have excellent training and experience for their respective positions. Unlike Dr. Rossi, Dr. Meyer does not have a turfgrass background, but already we've been communicating on some potential research areas.

I expect Dr. Rossi to come bouncing into my office any day now. He's in the relocation process and officially reports for duty on August 10, I said bouncing into my office because everyone is going to find Dr. Rossi a man with endless enthusiasm and energy. My only concern is that old timers like myself and Chuck Koval will have a hard time keeping up with Frank.

**Other than the unusually dry season we've had, most golf courses have been in pretty good shape this year. What has been the most frequent problem for courses? What are you questioned about most frequently?** *(Dane County)*

The most common problem—winter kill of *Poa annua*—has solved itself. Because the season started out very cool as well as dry, germination of *Poa* was delayed. Winter killed areas were much slower than usual to fill back in and this caused a lot of concern. Return of warmer weather in late May and early June halted the telephone calls about winter kill.

Since then, calls have primarily related to putting green construction. If I send you some sand and or peat, can you tell me if they're any good? Can I replace the peat with a synthetic polymer? Normally I don't get these types of questions until much later in the season. It seems the season is progressing very well and people have the time to start or at least think about construction projects earlier than usual.