



## First Impressions

By Lori Ward Bocher

Before accepting the position as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), Roger Wyse had experienced very little exposure to the University of Wisconsin-Madison or the state itself.

"I'd been on campus once for a professional meeting. I'd had some professional contacts with the faculty as a result of my research programs," he recalled. But those contacts didn't form his first impression of the university.

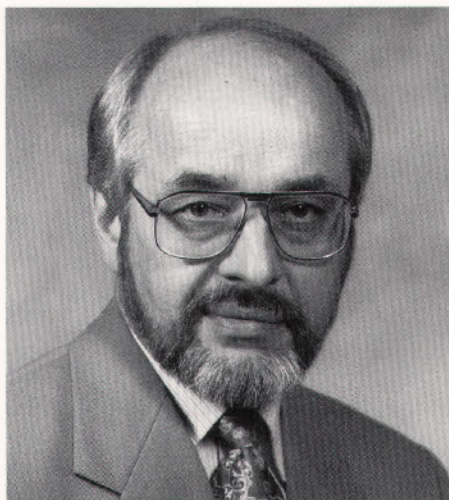
"My first impression, I guess, came when I was a student from an advisor who had gotten his degree here," Wyse continued. "He was always talking about the strengths and virtues of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It has a long and proud history of excellence that is well known around the country. That really formed my first opinion."

Now that he's been Dean for one and one-half years, Wyse has had time to form some of his own impressions of the university, CALs, the state and the turfgrass industry.

"My first impressions from the outside were confirmed when I arrived," he said. "Wisconsin has the finest faculty of any public university in the country, particularly in the area of research. And I was pleased to note that the same research-oriented faculty is also very much interested in quality undergraduate education."

"One also has to be struck by the culture of individual faculty entrepreneurship and the fostering of that through the resources of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation," he continued, adding that WARF is fairly unique to Wisconsin.

Wyse also was impressed by the "Wisconsin Idea," or the philosophy that the university is in service to the state. "Because of tight budgets, the university, in general, probably is not as responsive as it maybe had been in the past," he said. "But that is not based on lack of desire by the faculty, but simply by not having the flexible resources to put against those kinds of activities."



Dr. Roger Wyse

Wyse referred back to individual faculty entrepreneurship. "Faculty members are off getting their resources from various grants and contracts," he said. "That dictates the agenda of how they spend their time."

Wisconsin is in the top two or three among public universities in terms of research funded by outside grants. Wyse believes there needs to be a balance on how research is funded. "Here at Wisconsin, maybe the balance is skewed too much toward grants and contracts," he stated. "What we need is more flexibility in our state-funded research so that we can be more responsive to issues in the state."

That requires more money from the state. "Maybe not from the legislature alone, but from consortia or new sources of money," Wyse said. "You need to have flexibility so you can address those compelling issues and attract the best and brightest faculty to those areas."

The state's turfgrass industry is a good example of how this can be done. "I've been quite pleased to see that the industry has supported us with the Noer Center and with (faculty support)," Wyse said. "I think we're off to a great start and the future looks very bright."

"This kind of partnership is the kind of model I would like to see implemented throughout the College," he added. "Putting partnerships together between the faculty, the donors, the commodity groups so that we can adequately fund some of the important activities for which we don't have sufficient state resources."

Wyse appreciates the turfgrass industry for another reason. "I always enjoy working with the turf people because they're businessmen and they understand the need to make good, tough business decisions," he said. "They understand the importance of supporting research and outreach activities as an investment."

After attending two turf field days at the Noer Center, Wyse was impressed with the attendance. "And I saw a lot of enthusiasm for what was being done," he said. "I'm hoping that I'll have a chance this winter to meet with the representatives of the turf industry and talk about how we can strengthen the partnership that we have now."

Wyse came to Wisconsin from Rutgers University in New Jersey where the turf alumni were very strong supporters of the university. "The two industries are quite different," Wyse said, comparing New Jersey and Wisconsin. "There, turf and nursery is the Number 1 crop in the state. They have a very strong turf industry."

"And the turf program at Rutgers is a bit different in that they have one of the premier turfgrass breeders," he continued. "As a result of that, the university receives a royalty from the sale of seed. So that gives them a significant amount of resources to fund the turf program."

Surprisingly, Wyse found some similarities between the agricultural issues in New Jersey and Wisconsin. "The thing that struck me was that many of the same issues that we had to address in a highly urbanized state like New Jersey are exactly the same set of issues that we're concerned about in Wisconsin," he pointed out. "Environmental quality, urbanization, the impact of development on agriculture," he enumerated. "All of those are issues that you might think are limited to urban areas. But they're present throughout Wisconsin. Land use planning is going to be a key issue here."

*(Continued on page 33)*

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(Continued from page 31)

Wyse sees the agricultural economy in Wisconsin as strong, but challenged. "One of the things we need to do is to get a more positive attitude about the future of agriculture in the state, particularly in the dairy industry," he said.

CALS also has its strengths and challenges. Wyse sees strength in the diversity of having the basic biological sciences and environmental sciences in the same college as the agricultural sciences. "That diversity makes it a very strong unit, able to put teams together and look at issues from a broad perspective," Wyse said.

The challenge is found in two disappointments Wyse encountered when he came to CALS. "One was the budget deficit that the College faces," he explained. "The other is that the College has a tremendous backlog in renovation and deferred maintenance. We have a serious challenge in front of us with research laboratories, teaching laboratories and up-to-date classrooms.

"But CALS continues to be the flagship college of its type in the country," he added. "The research productivity continues to be outstanding."

Maybe, just maybe, the winning UW football team will make Wyse's job a little easier. "It builds enthusiasm among the alums," he said while explaining the trickle-down effect of the football team on CALS.

"We had an opportunity to bring in our alums for a couple of different occasions this fall," he pointed out. "One was the Football Fire-Up. We normally have 800 to 900 people attend. This year we had over 1,200.

"And we have a Dean's Breakfast for friends of the college," he continued, adding that the breakfast precedes a football game. "That normally brings in about 100 to 125 people. This year we had over 200."

Wyse was appointed Dean before Chancellor Donna Shalala was tapped for President Clinton's cabinet. "In part, my decision to come here was that I was quite impressed with Shalala and her ability to get things done," he said. "What I've just described indicates that CALS needs to get some things done.

"But I think that David Ward (current chancellor) has the same interest in the College and understands its needs," he continued. "I feel quite comfortable that his leadership will continue with Donna's commitment."

With his busy schedule, Dean Wyse doesn't have much time to enjoy the beauty of the Madison campus. "But if I have some free time in the summer I like to go up and sit on Observatory Drive and look out across the lake," he pointed out. "It's a very pleasant, quiet thing to do."

He's also appreciated the beauty in many parts of the state. "I've seen just about all of it," he said. "The past two summers I took a tour around the state, so I've been to almost all sections of the state. I've enjoyed a number of places and many different things. Everything from Lake Geneva up to Door County. Certainly the northern tier, in the wooded areas, is beautiful. And my wife and I enjoyed the Mississippi and the southwestern hills."

His wife, Jaleh Daie, is a professor with an active research program in the Department of Botany. She also is senior science advisor to the vice president of academic affairs for the University of Wisconsin System.

Wyse is a native of Wauseon, Ohio, a small town west of Toledo. He grew up on a farm and then attended Ohio State University where he received a B.S. in agronomy in 1966. He moved to Michigan State University for his graduate work and received an M.S. in crop science and a Ph.D. in plant physiology in 1969.

After college, Wyse's first job was with the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Re-

search Service in Logan, Utah where he was part of a research unit that was studying sugar beets. Later he moved to U.S.D.A. headquarters in Beltsville, Md., to take charge of the molecular biology laboratory there.

In 1986 he accepted his first academic post as a professor of soils and crops and senior associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University. When he left Rutgers to come to Wisconsin, he was dean of research at Cook College (the college of agriculture and natural resources at Rutgers) and director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dean Wyse's busy schedule hasn't allowed much time for outside activities—especially since taking on the new challenge as Dean of CALS. "I used to play golf and was hoping to get back into it this summer, but I was so busy that I just never got around to getting my clubs out and practicing," he said.

He also is an avid downhill skier who hasn't tried any of the ski hills in Wisconsin. "I'm pretty addicted to powder skiing in Utah," he explained.

"And I'm a potter," he added. "I've found a place now where I can get set up and I hope to get back into pottery. It's a chance to be creative, try new things, new techniques. Also, at the end of the day you can see what you've accomplished." ♣

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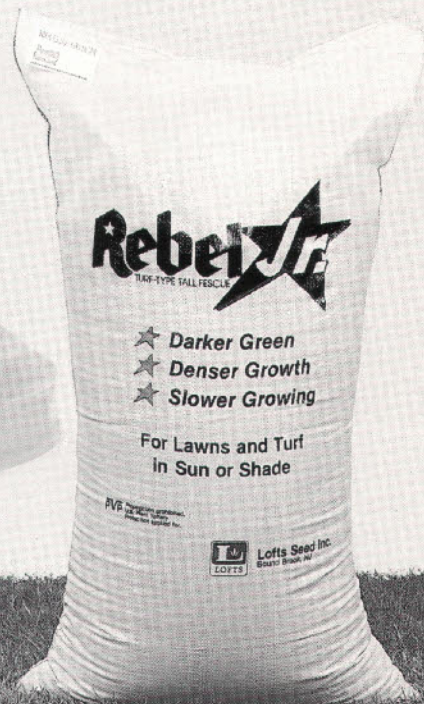
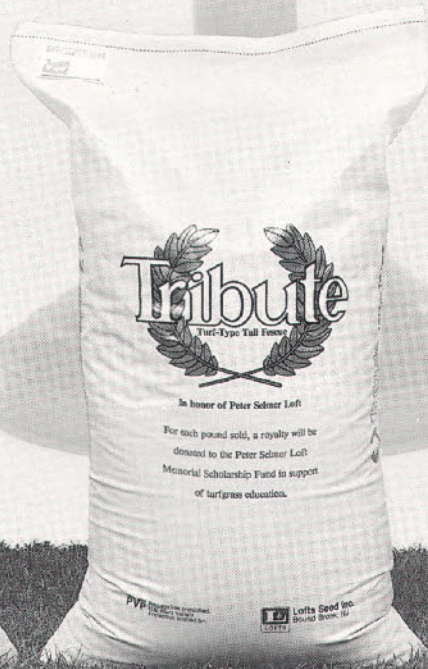


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# Mind Readings

By Pat Norton

Wouldn't it be great to be able to read minds? To be able to pass by people on the highway, in church, at the mall, and know exactly what's on their minds? Or to be able to walk past a gorgeous woman and know her innermost thoughts? In passing by me, I'm sure she'd say... "Nice height, too thin, no muscles, severely receding hairline, a former hunk, but fading fast..."

"What a great backhanded compliment," I mentally reply, "I'm touched by your sincerity. Just wait a few years, sweetheart, your time is coming..."

Or how about people on the golf course? What a great place to practice this new-found talent of reading minds! Assuming that only the superintendent has this unique ability, a mind reading of golfers' thoughts goes something like this...

"Gee, I'm really tight today...can't seem to loosen up...this practice swinging is for the birds...it always takes me a couple of holes to loosen up no matter what...triple bogies here I come...swinging this club for the first time in weeks, it seems...feels like I'm swinging a blasted garden rake...Hey! ...who's that guy in the jeans and work boots...I think he's laughing at me, not with me...that jerk!

After the initial warm-up, more of the golfers notice the superintendent sitting there watching them...with a half-smile on his face. Let's listen in on a few of his thoughts as he surveys the scene...

"Who the hell do these guys think they are, for heavens sake, Freddy Couples? You'd think that with all of their practicing and playing that the worst of them could at least break 85! Look at that golf swing...what a joke...LOOK AT THAT RANGE TEE...What's the object here, to slice out as big a divot as possible? And Lord God, if they're gonna chunk out these huge divots, can't they at least get the ball out there farther than the divot?"

I guess that's what happens when you're chronically unemployed—you

begin to play golf at least four times a week! Do these guys actually work for a living? Not that I can see..."

Now the superintendent decides to get back to work. "Let's see, I've gotta get back to the shop...choosing the least hazardous escape route as I work my way through the course...almost there now only one fairway left to cross...quit waving your arms and yelling at me, boys...you clowns can't hit it this far anyway..."

"And by the way, didn't you fine gents know that I am the golf course superintendent here at 'Choking Silt Creek Country Club'??...this is the 1990's, and the GCSAA says that you're all to have great respect for me...damn, now those buttheads are taking deliberate potshots at me...and my trusty CarryAll II...worthless dogs, I'll get even!"

As I enter the shopyard, I'm somewhat rattled and make the obvious mistake of lunging with the maintenance crew...the forum at which thoughts are always verbalized.

"That unfriendly creep never says 'Hi'...all I did was begin mowing that green as he attempted that four foot putt...sucker missed it by a mile," says Todd.

Young Brian says innocently, "How come those guys are always hitting balls right at me...don't they know when to wait before hitting their shots?"

Smooth talking Tim finishes off an enlightening lunch hour by remarking that perhaps he did hit that maple tree with the gang mower... "Taking off just that little bit of bark can't really hurt the tree, can it?"

"OK, smart aleck," I say, "after lunch we'll go outside. You stick your leg out, pretending to be a tree trunk. I'll just nudge off a little bit of skin and bone with the gang mower...just so you know how much it doesn't really hurt..."

Ever sit at your desk and overhear employee conversations not meant for your ears? In that situation there's no

mind reading effort needed—people just lay out their thoughts verbally for all to hear...

"Dammit, guys, those female employees are getting preferential treatment again...I raked traps every day last summer before Pat ever let me mow a single green. Those gals are doing it after only a month..." was the common complaint.

My answer to that is that the females are pretty talented, and it's really fun to watch the guys squirm as I hand out job assignments.

The situation in reverse went something like this...an actual conversation with one of our first year female employees... "Sue and I didn't want to say much this year because we're new and all...but wait until next year...we're gonna be more outspoken...the guys got all of the good jobs...and we got all of the crappy ones..."

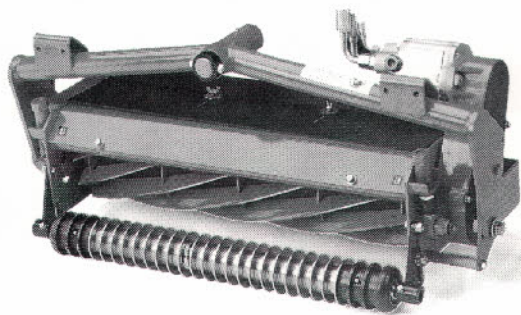
I think that one of my top expenditure priorities for '94 will be a hand-carved totem pole displayed prominently just outside the shop door. Then, when a first-year employee complains about their status, I'll simply tell them to go check the totem pole and see how high up their name is inscribed on it! A great WGCSA sponsored project...Rod Johnson in charge...custom totem poles made by that wood shop near Sheboygan...all courses purchase one for about \$500...a great WGCSA fundraiser...what a great thought!

Upon closing out the day, the thoughtful superintendent remembers to set the night's irrigation programs... as he's pulling into the driveway at 6 p.m. He goes back after supper to find EXACTLY THE SAME PEOPLE on the course as were there at 9 a.m.!

His final thoughts for the day are these...

"Now it's get even time...normally we don't start any watering until 9 p.m. If I blast that ultra-slow jerk on the 6th green with a little bit of multi-manual moisture, He'll never know what hit him! If I'm caught, I can blame it on the satellite or the computer...my chance of the summer to get even...READY, SET, FIRE!"

Didn't really happen, but isn't it just amazing what goes through people's minds as they're out there enjoying themselves on the golf course? 🦋



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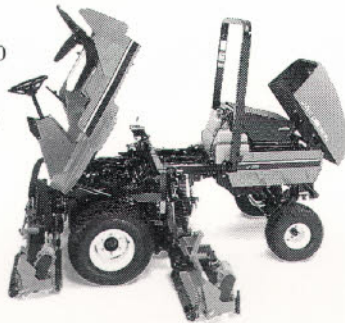
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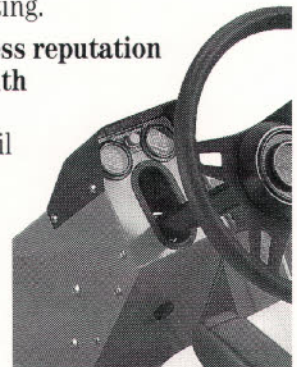


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# WISCONSIN CHAPTER GCSAA DELEGATE NOTES

By Mark Kienert

As chapter delegate to the GCSAA, it is my duty to keep Wisconsin GCSA members of the GCSAA apprised and up to date on all activities of the national organization as they relate to our state chapter.

On January 24, 1994, some interested members of the GCSAA met in Fond du Lac at the South Hills Country Club to discuss pending by-law changes and other related proposals. All changes to the by-laws will be voted on during the annual meeting of the GCSAA in Dallas during the Jan. 31 through Feb. 7, 1994 period.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 15 proposed changes to the by-laws and articles of incorporation, and to hear any membership endorsements on candidates currently seeking office. Time at the end of the program was set aside to discuss the current state of affairs of the GCSAA. This segment served to generate valuable questions to pose to present and potential board members.

A synopsis of the 15 proposed by-laws was discussed with time being spent on those issues that generated the most debate. Changes to the various membership classifications and the potential creation of additional non-voting classifications within the organization was a cause for concern for most in attendance. Concern here was over the dilution additional non-superintendent members would have on the organization comprised of superintendents. The debate wasn't so much over GCSAA's desire to train golf course staff employees (which was encouraged if this investment in education could be made cost effective, as it was seen as a benefit to the member superintendent) but over the question of the association's intent to inflate membership numbers and dues income as it comes time to negotiate future conference show sites or bargaining powers that affect the turf-grass industry on Capitol Hill.

Of great concern was the GCSAA's ability to adopt standing rules as they affect the proposed membership categories. The question of what and how those rules would read and how often those rules could be bent or changed concerned many. The desire was to

see what and how those standing rules would read, before any vote for their inclusion into the appropriate section of the by-laws was made. For now, until the wording of the proposed standing rules is made public, those questions will be voted in the negative by this chapter. Clarification as to the nature and intent of the board's position on standing rules will be sought.

The by-laws change that would give the voting delegate the right to cast his chapter's votes on the question concerning the dues increases for all Class AA, A, B and C members was defeated in caucus. The opinion here was that gave too much influence once again to the perennial large chapters. It was the consensus of opinion that the present voice vote as conducted by the membership present on the floor during the annual meeting was adequate for now and should be used until a more formal voting procedure is enacted.

The caucus reaffirmed the Wisconsin GCSA position that the votes of individual chapters be published in "Newslines" as a means of keeping delegates honest and voting records out in the open. The issue of two-thirds majority vote requirement of the board was viewed as no big change—a meager increase of one vote. However, it would lend a measure of security.

By making the secretary's position an elected position, the members of GCSAA will have a hand in setting the association's destiny by electing its future president. Currently, the president appoints the secretary and, in a way, his successor two years hence.

Candidate resumes were reviewed and their qualifications were discussed. Voting for the various candidates was left in the hands of the chapter delegate. It was the opinion of the caucus that no decision should be made until candidates had a chance to express their course of action. The Wisconsin chapter delegate was instructed to cast the association vote in the best interest of the WGCSA.

As a chapter delegate, I would like to thank those who helped make this event a success—Schaller for the meeting site, Johnson and Witt for their insight on specific items. I appre-

ciated the opinions expressed by Carl Grassl, Dave Murgatroyd, Jeff Bottensek, Kris Pinkerton, Dave Brandenburg, Bruce Worzella, Steve Schmidt and William Knight.

Once the meeting in Dallas is completed, I'll let you know how it all turned out. 🍷

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# Dr. Kross asks Harvey for "Accurate" Report

By Monroe S. Miller

Dr. Burton C. Kross, principal investigator in the GCSAA Mortality Study, has written radio broadcaster Paul Harvey a letter in which he asks Harvey for some truth in broadcasting. It was written in response to Harvey's February 9, 1994 morning broadcast in which he inaccurately reports results from Dr. Burton's work. The text of Harvey's report follows Dr. Burton's letter.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

February 10, 1994

Mr. Paul Harvey  
333 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Harvey,

Last evening I received a telephone call from my brother-in-law, a farmer in western Iowa. He heard your radio report this week describing our mortality study of golf course superintendents. He asked me how did our study determine that pesticides were killing birds and humans on golf courses. I knew something was wrong, so I obtained a transcript of your commentary.

Your commentary is inaccurate and misleading with respect to our study. Our study did not collect any data

about pesticides and birds. Moreover, as clearly stated in our press release (copy enclosed), our statistical mortality study was not capable of supporting or refuting a cause and effect relationship between pesticides and cancer. Indeed, my recommendations about smoking cessation and minimizing pesticide exposures are prudent public health strategies for golf course superintendents and the general public.

Mr. Harvey, I am very concerned about your misrepresentation of our study. The public does need to be informed about important environmental and occupational health issues. The media are important partners in disseminating accurate results of research studies. I request that you broadcast a corrected version of your commentary about our study. Thank you.

Sincerely,

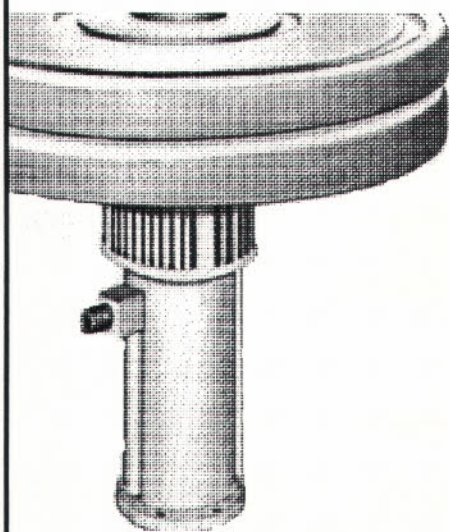
Burton C. Kross, PhD, PE

Principal Investigator and Associate Professor

## TEXT OF FEBRUARY 9, 1994 PAUL HARVEY NEWS REPORT

Reporter Paul Harvey: "Two years ago you and I talked about the pesticides which were poisoning so many birds that our golf courses faced a silent spring. I received some

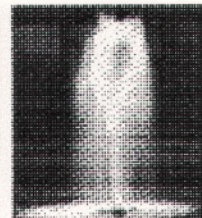
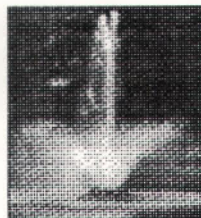
# Troubled waters



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indignant responses from greenskeepers and their association and from pesticide manufacturers. They were adamant in their insistence that the stuff they were spraying on fairways and greens was not toxic. It was and it still is. Today the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is holding its annual meeting in Dallas. And a study commissioned by that organization of superintendents is reporting that not only are golf course pesticides killing the birds, but they're killing golf course superintendents also. Golf course superintendents have a higher incidence of cancer. The association has to know that this is going to open the door to lawsuits by golf course workers against their employers for exposing themselves to cancer causing chemicals. A statistical mortality study found among golf course superintendents more lung cancer, more brain cancer, more cancers of the large intestine and the prostate, especially however, lung cancer. Doctor Burton Kross, University of Iowa, one of the researchers on this project, recommends further studies and recommends, meanwhile, that golf course workers minimize, however, possible, their exposure to pesticides. There's a moral here which demands to be underscored, "We and the beautiful wild things live in harmony together or we perish together."

### We Must Forge Ahead

Despite the inaccurate "news" reporting of Harvey and others that are sure to follow, the GCSAA must move forward with this study. It was right and prudent and responsible for GCSAA to initiate this study. Officers, directors and staff involved to this point must ignore the unfairness poured on by those biased media, like Paul Harvey obviously is, and press the case to the next level.

We all understood that Dr. Kross' work to this point was preliminary. We needed those kinds of statistics to direct future studies. Rather wring our hands, offer apologies or hang our heads in hope no one will notice, we need to get the next series of health research projects underway.

And stand tall with pride that we had the courage to tackle the unknown and get some answers the profession needs.

My applause go to those forward thinking leaders in our industry and on our GCSAA staff who have done so well with this delicate issue. I especially appreciate the fact that a competent investigator like Burt Kross is leading the research. His experience as associate director of the University of Iowa's Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health will be invaluable to us. ♣

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## Derek Van Damme Receives 1994 NOR-AM Scholarship

NOR-AM Chemical Company recently presented its annual turf scholarship to University of Wisconsin-Madison senior Derek Van Damme. The presentation was made at the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Green Industry EXPO 94 in held in Madison. Don Maske, District Manager for NOR-AM, awarded Derek a \$1,000 check for his academic achievement and leadership. Van Damme has financed his education through grants and summer internships at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. Dr. Wayne R. Kussow is his undergraduate advisor.

NOR-AM congratulates both Derek and the University of Wisconsin-Madison for continuing commitment within the turfgrass industry. ♣

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## THE GRASS ROOTS JUDGED "BEST" IN ITS CATEGORY

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*THE GRASS ROOTS* received the award for "best" in its category for 1993 at the Chapter Editors' Seminar in Dallas in February. The award is made even more significant by the fact that the award is made in a peer judging exercise during the seminar.

There are three categories in the competition, and our chapter journal falls into the "volunteer, unpaid, golf course superintendent editor" category. There are a lot of outstanding chapter publications produced around the country, and this makes the award especially meaningful to this editor.

Two elements are critical to a successful magazine—the contents and the presentation. The good reading found in each issue comes from our group of volunteer writers who share their thoughts and advice about the profession with such style. The attractive look of our journal is due to the care and professionalism of the staff at Kramer Printing, especially Sherri and Pam in the Art Department. And this year we must thank a young art major at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for her skillful artwork on the cover. Jennifer Eberhardt has made a real difference for us.

So to my colleagues in the world of chapter publications, I extend a great big "thank you" for the honor extended to Wisconsin. To everyone else, sentimental and heartfelt gratitude from an editor who knows how serious you take the task. ♣



Don Maske (L) presents UW student Derek Van Damme the NOR-AM scholarship.

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