

Sadly...the past few winters have brought some bad times upon some of our senior members who have either contracted some type of terminal illness or passed away suddenly. It is tough to understand how vibrant, active, friendly 70 year old men can suddenly be overwhelmed by something fatal and be taken from their wives or golfing buddies...

Turning to other pertinent matters, February is also the month in which review of all matters of the NGCOA(National Golf Course Owners Association) and their recently completed 'Solutions Summit' take center stage for us managerial types.

This golf course, you see, is owned by a couple who are very enthusiastic members of NGCOA. They attend the national conference every year in Orlando...and send us the audiotapes/proceedings...which I am listening to as I compose this essay. These audiotapes contain lots of wonderful ideas on such things as customer service, pricing, profitability...and on being a golf course that provides a great 'golfing experience'... which leads to better leeway on pricing and profitability...instead of being simply a public course that offers 'OK' customer service...which leads to being viewed as a golf commodity in which price/greens fee is all important.

Cultivate 'more of a tropical atmosphere'...and your golf course will do better financially...which gives the rock steady superintendent more \$\$\$ to work with out on the golf course!!

One of the ideas threading its way throughout these tapes is that of challenging yourself, your ownership, your management and staff to reevaluate everything that you do...including your operations of and improvements to your golf course. If you buy into that concept, keep an open mind, and implement these ideas...you'll then give your golf course 'more of a tropical atmosphere'.

Hope springs eternal as spring approaches...so my sincere hope is that this little corner of Illinois can generate 'more of a tropical atmosphere' in 2004. Our golf course will be beautiful...I can guarantee that. Your golf course will be beautiful...you can guarantee that.

Our mission here for 2004 is to foster a feeling that our members and patrons have not had in abundance recently. We are going to make them feel welcome and appreciated each and every time they golf with us! We are not going to rely on golf discounting nearly as much...as we have seen what a dead end road that can be...We are going to cultivate relationships with our customers that will hopefully make them feel very happy and satisfied in deciding to patronize us.

Customer service and satisfaction is the mission, primarily, of our inside staff. This year...in particular...our golf staff is going to have a chance to really respond and show our clientele what Nettle Creek is

all about...all under the direction of a PGA golf professional who really understands customer service. Young KC Hall understands customer service...and will bring that attitude to our uninitiated staff and patrons alike.

In fact, whenever fellow superintendents question the need for a highly qualified golf professional...two thoughts immediately come to mind. The first thought is that some superintendents...really don't get it...and really don't understand...that a beautifully conditioned golf course of and by itself will not guarantee success. You need somebody that is going to make sure that the golf calendar is filled and that people are happy. It is a tough job and not easily accomplished. Any golf veteran will freely admit that it takes both inside and outside forces to make a golf facility click so sweetly that success is all but guaranteed....

The second thought is that any superintendent that questions or belittles the value of the golf professional is guilty of precisely the same sort of short-sighted thinking, lack of self confidence, and stupidity that used to be heaped upon superintendents...do we forget those days so easily?

I can barely tolerate either a golf professional, a superintendent, or for that matter...an athlete...or any other supposed professional that exhibits such boorish behavior...professionalism means showing respect for what others do for a living...period.

So, do whatever you can to contribute...realign your thinking if necessary...as I did many years ago. Have the self-confidence to admit that others are just as important to collective success as you are...

Make sure that your golf course generates some heat and some sweetness. Make sure that the rest of your facility is just as beautiful as your course...that it generates some heat... and develops itself to where you all want it to be...a tropical place with more of a tropical atmosphere. ♣



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The Importance of Pest Biology

By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Understanding the BIOLOGY of a pest organism is cornerstone to achieving effective control! Regardless of the target pest (insect, disease, weed, etc), by having comprehensive knowledge of the life cycle, behavior (habits), ecology (habitat), preferred host(s), vulnerable life stage(s), etc. enables one to select and implement the appropriate intervention/management strategies or tactics to attain maximum control. Equipping oneself with as much information as possible about a particular pest allows one to more effectively solve pest problems from a long-term perspective rather than simply for short-term control. Subsequently, primary reliance or

dependence on conventional chemical control strategies are substantially reduced, and greater opportunity for alternative control options such as biological and cultural control options are attainable.

An excellent example is that of the Japanese beetle, *Popillia japonica* Newman. The Japanese beetle is an univoltine insect, it has only **one** generation per year. Unlike most insect pests that have only one life stage that causes damage to plant material, this particular insect has **two** life stages that cause damage. Both the adults and larvae (grubs) of the Japanese beetle cause serious damage to respective plant parts. Japanese beetle adults are gregarious, sun-loving animals that are

mainly active during the day in full sun, typically from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Because they prefer direct sunlight, they can be regularly found in the upper canopy of preferred hosts, especially on the southern and western exposure. Adult Japanese beetles do not defoliate leaves, they merely skeletonize the leaves by feeding on the chlorophyll tissue within the margins of leaf veins. As adults, they are polyphagous insects and feed on a plethora of host plants (> 300). However, some plant species such as oaks (*Quercus* spp.) are un-preferred host, thus they are typically damaged.

As for the larvae (grubs), they too



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are a damaging life stage, especially to turfgrass roots. Unlike the adults, Japanese beetle grubs don't really discriminate food sources; they will simply feed on most any succulent root tissues, as well as on organic matter when root tissues are limited. However, Japanese beetle grubs do have some minimal requirements such as adequate soil moisture to ensure proper physiological development and survival. The grubs grow and develop by a process called molting; this process is regulated by biochemicals specific to insects. These chemicals are called insect hormones.

Likely the most important requirement of an insect is to regulate water; without water insects are basically doomed. For this reason, entomologists have developed synthetic insect hormones that disrupt the natural molting process and exploit a vulnerable stage in an insect's developmental process. As a result, larvae (grubs) lose valuable water necessary for survival; subsequently, death often results.

There are three larval (grub) stages associated with the Japanese beetle and these stages are commonly referred to as instars. Upon hatching from eggs, the 1st instar grub stage is measurably smaller than the fully-grown 3rd instar stage. In addition, as may be predicted, smaller grubs consume substantially less biomass of roots than do larger 2nd and 3rd instar grubs. The younger, smaller grubs are generally more highly susceptible to respective control agents including predators, pathogens, biorational insecticides, as well as conventional insecticides.

As mentioned, the Japanese beetle has only one generation per year. Adult beetles typically begin emerging from the soil (turf and mulch beds) in mid-to-late June, with peak adult emergence occurring around July 4th. Immediately after adult emergence, the adults begin feeding on various susceptible plant material, mate, and begin

laying eggs commonly in turf that has a relatively short cutting height (< 1 1/2 inches) and that has adequate soil moisture, especially in loamy soils. After an incubation period of 1-3 weeks, small, young 1st instar grubs immediately begin feeding on the roots of respective turfgrass or ornamentals. The grubs will continue to feed and develop until the first measurable frost, whereby they will innately make their way below the frost-line, maintaining a 1-3 inch margin below the frost line where they will overwinter. In the subsequent spring they will resume feeding for approximately 3-6 weeks depending on the growing conditions prior to pupating (transforming into an

adult). The pupation process typically requires 3-4 weeks, after which adult Japanese beetles begin emerging from the soil to complete the one-year life cycle.

By gaining an in depth understanding of a target pest's biology, more possible management options as well as a greater likelihood of effective control of a respective pest may be achieved. Begin by taking a closer look at pest biology and make a concerted effort to fully understand pest biology. Not only will it increase your level of control, but it may also reduce your primary reliance on the use of conventional pesticides, saving you valuable resources such as time and money. ♣

2004 WGCSA Events		
Date	Location	Speaker/Event
April 26, Monday	Hawks View Golf Club Lake Geneva, WI Jeff Townley - GC Supt	
June 2, Wednesday	Edgewood GC Big Bend, WI Jeff Millies, CGCS - Supt.	Super/Pro
June 21, Monday	Oconomowoc Golf Club Oconomowoc, WI Dustin Riley - GC Supt	
July 12, Monday	Rolling Meadows Golf Course Fond Du Lac, WI David Brandenburg - GC Supt	
July 27, Tuesday	O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility Verona, WI Tom Schwab	UW-Madison Field Days
September 27, Monday	The Legend at Brandybrook Wales, WI Jake Renner - GC Supt	Supt/Tournament
October 12, Tuesday	North Hills CC Menomonee Falls, WI Randy DuPont - GC Supt	Superintendent/Guest
October	Lake Arrowhead Golf Club Nekoosa, WI Eric Jasin - GC Supt	Dinner/Dance
November 16-17	American Club Kohler, WI	Turf Symposium
2005 WGCSA Events		
January 10-12	Marriott Madison- West Madison, WI	WTA Winter Conf.

Revved Up and Ready to Go!

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

How many ways are there that foretell Spring's arrival? A short walk in early March on the Wisconsin golf course you like best gives all sorts of signs.

Most obvious is the snow melt, although in many parts of Wisconsin there wasn't much snow this winter. So, that's no absolute guarantee that winter is over, but it is a sign. Ice fishing shanties disappear from the lakes, and so do the ice skaters. Once the snow melts, ice on our lakes starts to change. It starts out bright white, goes to a medium gray, then to black and shortly after that the water appears.

The birds struggle in - robins and red-winged black-birds are early and the rest follow. Geese fly north.

The sap in trees rises and the maple syrup gang is out with pails and taps and tygon tubing. The buds are thickening and fattening on trees and shrubs. When you look up through the trees, you'll see the sun much higher in the sky.

And in years like this one, when it appears the turf over-wintered well, the tint of green on the landscape carpet comes quickly, despite the still chilly nighttime temperatures.

I feel sorry for those who live in the south. They miss the rebirth of so much of nature as each spring season swings by, although I am not as sympathetic in the deep winter.

Spring IS here, and golf soon will be. The bible says that for all things there is a season, and ours is about to commence. Let us hope 2004 is the best year ever for golf and golf courses in Wisconsin.

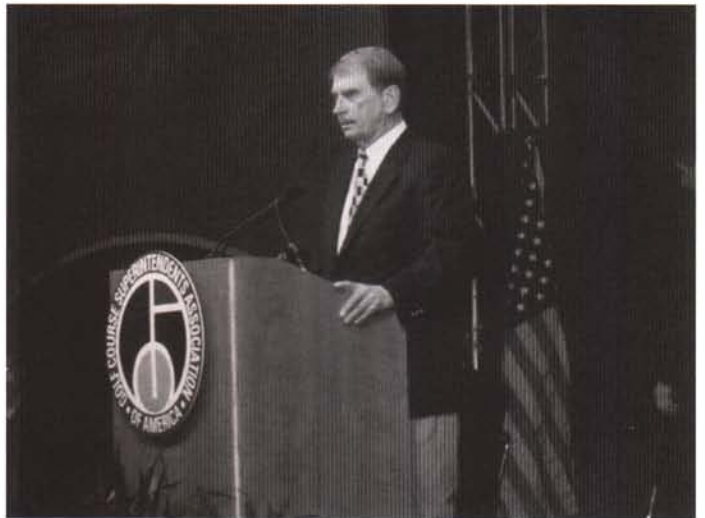
It is an awkward and uncomfortable circumstance I find myself in right now. I have vowed in the past to never allow the editor's mug on the cover or consent to a *Personality Profile* interview. And had it not been for some persuasive arm twisting by a couple of guys I have a lot of respect for - Dave Brandenburg and Marc Davison - I would have held to that vow.

Both Dave and Marc appealed to my job as WGCSA chapter historian and suggested that selection for the USGA Green Section Award was some history for Wisconsin that needed to be recorded in our chapter journal. Danny Quast has appeared in *Personality Profile* and now appears on the cover in recognition of his selection for the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award.

So there you have it. Rest assured, it won't happen again.

Three cheers for Danny Quast! Who from Wisconsin wasn't proud to sit in the audience at the GCSAA conference when he was presented the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award? And that pride was heightened with his excellent and heartfelt acceptance comments, especially those about his mother.

The last person from Wisconsin to receive this award was Dr. James R. Love, and the late O.J. Noer was so honored three times. Dan joins some very select and special company. Congratulations.



The Grass Roots was the winning entry in the GCSAA 2003 chapter Publications contest. WGCSA president Marc Davison picked up the award during the chapter publications seminar in Dan Diego.

We participate in Category 2 of the contest, which is unpaid editors. It's also unpaid business manager — Dave Brandenburg — and unpaid authors. That's what I like about it best. The Grass Roots is published for the right reasons.

But we have bills to pay, and for that we thank our advertisers.

I love Jen Samerdyke's covers; they are, literally, artwork and invite readers to see what is inside. Steve Scoville adds appeal with his offbeat cartoons. Bev Bergemann of Kramer Printing puts her heart in each issue. And Lori Bocher gets right to the heart of the personalities in our business in her column.

Our golf course authors give so many different perspectives that the result is a journal that reflects the breadth of golf course management. Faculty — Kussow, Stier, Williamson, and Jung — and superintendents, students and owners all bring different view. Our back page records family and career changes, an important part of our history.

We are all part of The Grass Roots, so enjoy the award. You earned it!

Gypsy moth spraying is going to increase again this year in Wisconsin. The DNR plans to spray more than seven times the area sprayed with Btk last year. Southeast Wisconsin produced a record number of complaints last year due to the widespread infestation, and this prompted the increase in treatments for this year.

Complaints weren't the only catalyst for the increased Btk treatments; counts of egg masses on trees and buildings also skyrocketed and helped the DNR target the applications.

There are some urban foresters who think the gypsy moths have reached their peak in SE Wisconsin and expect the outbreak to last a year or two. After that, the lack of preferred food and the presence of diseases (caused by Btk, e.g.) will reduce the population, or so the thinking goes. This is the insect's natural cycle.

After moth larvae hatch in April and May, low flying crop spraying aircraft spray the Btk bacterium. It settles onto tree leaves and the hungry larvae ingest the Btk. The population is knocked down.

As the name indicates, the European gypsy moths were brought into the US in 1869 from Europe. Since then they have become the most destructive leaf-eating insect in our eastern states. Each year for the past decade or so, thousands of more acres of Wisconsin are infested.

Count me among those who like the Old Farmer's Almanac. It was reassuring, for one who needs reassurance, that our region's serious need for moisture may be coming in March and April. The old farmer says March rainfall should be above normal and April should see "heavy rains." I hope so.

We will need a wet spring in some places in Wisconsin. The US Small Business Administration has announced that federal disaster loans will be available for non-farm agriculture-dependent businesses that suffered in last summer's drought.

Small business owners in Florence, Forest, Iron, Marinette and Vilas counties could qualify for loans up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 2.95%.

The drought started last July and continued through

the rest of the year in some places in the state. Our town ended up at about "normal" but there were months during the season when it was really dry. The five and more inches of precipitation we were behind was made up late in the year. It is an old story - the distribution over the year is what matters a lot to us.

It was a sad winter for Tom Schwab and his family and for friends of his wife Dianne. Dianne passed away from cancer in February.

She was a bright lady who had a PhD in Education. Her big smile was exceeded only by her big heart. She loved the outdoors, enjoying everything from sports and hiking to gardening. And she surely appreciated Tom's career at Wisconsin's turfgrass research farm.

Sympathy to Tom and his girls from all of us.

So another years begins. We've spent the winter getting ready for this. Let's go! 🌱



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Effect of First Application Timing on the Control of Anthracnose



By Geunhwa Jung, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Recently, anthracnose basal rot and foliar blight, caused by *Colletotrichum graminicola*, has become an important disease in Wisconsin and other parts of the US. During the past two summers, my research program carried out field experiments to understand why some fungicides have reduced efficacy for anthracnose control and ultimately to find the most effective fungicides which will aid in control recommendations. This past summer's field experiments were run to test fungicide efficacy for controlling anthracnose at the Blackhawk Country Club (BCC) in Madison and the Plum Lake Golf Course (PLGC) in Sayner, WI. This project was funded by WTA and NGLGCSA. Primary objectives resulting from two separate experiments at both sites were 1) to reaffirm research results of what we found in 2002's experiment, 2) to determine if timing of initial fungicide applications has an effect on disease control, and 3) to evaluate interactions between fungicides, plant growth regulators, and fertilizers for the disease control. In this article, objectives #1 and 2 will be discussed from the results of the first experiment. In the next Grass Roots article, objective #3 will be discussed from data obtained in the second experiment.

Materials and Methods

Fungicides that are labeled for controlling anthracnose and were selected for this study are listed in Table 1. The experimental plot at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, WI was set up on an annual bluegrass/creeping bentgrass fairway where more than 60% of the turfgrass population was estimated to be *Poa annua*

species. The fairway stand at Plum Lake Golf Course in Sayner, WI was nearly 100% *P. annua*. Over the years, high disease pressure has been consistently observed at both locations. The experimental design was a split-plot with four application timings (initial application on June 5, June 16, June 30, and July 14 at the BCC and June 8, June 17, June 29, and July 15 at the PLGC) as sub-plot treatments in a randomized complete block design. The fungicides were applied to entire whole-plot (Table 1) and the individual plot size was 3 ft x 5 ft. Preventive chemical applications (14 day interval) from the initial application were continued on June 16, June 30, July 14, and July 28, and August 11 at the BCC and June 17, June 29, July 15, July 29, and August 14 at the PLGC, 2003. Liquid treatments were applied with a CO₂-powered boom sprayer using XR Teejet 8005 VS nozzles at 30 psi in water equivalent to 2 gal per M. Both sites are maintained at 0.5" mowing height, and the plots did not receive fertility or plant protection treatments during the studies.

Disease ratings (percentage of

plot area with symptoms) of the plots were visually recorded on September 2nd and 12th, 2003 at the BCC but not at the PLGC because no disease was noticed at PLGC. The first disease symptoms at the BCC were noticed around the first week of August which was almost one month later than the previous year. In addition, the total percentage of *P. annua* populations per plot was visually estimated on June 6, 2003. Since the anthracnose occurred only on *P. annua* species, the percentage of the diseased areas of *Poa* was recalculated by estimating the percentage of the entire plot that was diseased and then dividing that amount by the proportion of *P. annua* present in the plot. The final data analysis using the recalculated damage percentage was carried out and presented in Table.

Results

Daconil Ultrex[®] (contact fungicide) performed very well as observed in the previous year. In addition, Banner MAXX[®] and Endorse[®] controlled the anthracnose as well as Daconil Ultrex[®]. However, in a statistical point of view, these fungicides differ in effi-

Table. Systemic and contact fungicides evaluated for the control of anthracnose disease of *Poa annua* at the Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, WI.

Treatment	Rate (oz a.i./M sq ft)	Mean (%) of diseased area ^a
Bayleton (Triadimefon: 50WDG)	0.5	39.2 a
Cleary's 3336 (Thiophanate-methyl: 4F)	4 FL	32.8 ab
Compass (Trifloxystrobin: 50WG)	0.15	26.1 abc
Control		20.9 abc
Heritage (Azoxystrobin: 50WDG)	0.2	19.3 abc
Chipco Signature (Fosetyl-al: 80WG)	4	12.0 bc
Endorse (Polyoxin D: 2.5WP)	4	6.3 c
Banner Maxx (Propiconazole: 1.24MC)	1 FL	5.1 c
Daconil Ultrex (Chlorothalonil: 82.5WDG)	2.75	2.1 c

^aValues followed by the same letter do not significantly differ ($\alpha = 0.05$).

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cacy from Cleary's 3336® and Bayleton®, but not from the other fungicides despite a difference in the mean percentage of the diseased area (see Table). One of the reasons for the huge variation was probably due to the fact that this was an uninoculated field experiment. In addition, anthracnose severity is highly correlated with factors such as drought, traffic, and other stresses, so the unequal level of stresses may have also contributed to the variation. Another reason is that less disease pressure impacted by this year's less favorable environmental conditions might contribute the variation. However, the overall trend of fungicide efficacy for controlling the disease was observed this year as in the 2002 study.

No significant treatment effect (4 application timings: June 5, June 16, June 30, and July 14) was detected in our experiment. In

other words, if we start to apply preventive fungicides much earlier than the actual time of first disease occurrence, it does not help for the disease control as compared to applications made right before disease development. The timing schedules were determined using last year's data as a model and where the disease starts to show up around first week of July. When I compared air and soil temperatures from May through October of 2002 and 2003, lower temperatures and a shorter window of delayed warm temperatures were observed this year when compared to last year. Therefore, my interpretation is that since we had started the first application treatments much earlier than the disease outbreak, the effect of the treatments with different timings was not experimentally compared. That is why the field experiment still provides curiosity and joy to hundreds of

researchers throughout the world.

Conclusion

It was very difficult to perform a field evaluation of fungicides for the control of anthracnose due to environmental variation and other factors such as the mixed growth of annual bluegrass and bentgrass species in the same area and a huge variation of disease expression due to natural inoculation or stresses. Another year of data is required before drawing any final conclusion. More biologically related research should be done because this disease is not simple as many researchers and superintendents may think. Many biological questions on this creature that we did not know about have created conflicts among turf pathologists. Hopefully, I will design a more in-depth experiment to understand the biology of the disease step by step this year.





Giving Back to the Industry

By Lori Ward Bocher

Seems like Danny Quast has a long history of giving back to the golf/turfgrass industry. So much so that the GCSAA honored him with its Distinguished Service Award at its annual conference in San Diego on February 12. And, fortunately, he's not planning to stop giving back now that he's won his award. He has more plans for the future.

Born and raised in Ohio, Danny's career path has twice brought him to Wisconsin. From 1973 to 1989 he was superintendent at the Milwaukee Country Club. He left Wisconsin from 1989 to 2001 to serve as superintendent of the three 18-hole courses at Medinah Country Club in Illinois, but Wisconsin still claimed him as one of its own. Then in 2001 Danny returned to Wisconsin to jump full-time into his business, DHD Tree Products.

Danny learned that he would receive the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award back in December when the president of the organization called him. "I could hardly believe it when I first heard it," he recalls. "It set me back. I just couldn't believe that I was the one who was chosen."

The GCSAA listed several reasons why Danny was chosen for the award, and he elaborated on some of those points in a recent interview.

1. Served as superintendent at two highly regarded golf courses - Milwaukee Country Club and Medinah Country Club. And at both courses, Danny left his mark by making vast improvements. "The highlight at Milwaukee was updating the course to today's golf game," he points out. "I enjoyed the opportunity to work with Robert Trent Jones over most of those 15 years. We made a few changes each year."

He also enjoyed the challenge of improving the courses at Medinah. "When I first went there to interview, we toured the courses and I could see that there was a great opportunity to make improvements," he recalls. "Two of the three courses had been neglected. And nobody seemed to know how to make them better. So that was one of my main goals when I went there, and I feel I left a nice mark there."

He also started a tree program while at Medinah by hiring an arborist, Randy Miller, and giving him the equipment and people that he needed to get the job done. "The trees were a mess when I started there," he points out. "Over the years, I felt that we created the best golf course tree program in the country."

Danny admits that he likes the challenge of improving courses. "I see it as an opportunity to make a noticeable difference," he says. "And I believe we did. I had some great people working for me. I couldn't have done it by myself."

The two courses were worlds apart, according to Danny. "The Milwaukee Country Club is the most exclusive, private golf course in Wisconsin. It has a small membership and the amount of people who play each day is limited," he says. "Medinah is a private course, too, but it relies a lot on guest fees. And there are 650 family memberships. That translates to a lot of traffic on the course."

The two courses are also managed differently, according to Danny, partly because Milwaukee has one 18-hole course and Medinah has three. "At Milwaukee, we never had a green committee meeting - we just met with the

green chairman," he says. "At Medinah, we had many, many committee meetings. When I went to Medinah I realized that I had to change the way I did things. It had to be a well-run organization to be successful because there was so much more to manage."

2. Has been a mentor to numerous individuals in the turfgrass industry. "The most gratifying part of my job at both Milwaukee and Medinah was being able to work with superintendents who interned under my management and now have their own courses to manage," Danny says. "I am very proud of their successes and I consider them my extended family - 18 fine gentlemen in all."

Danny is able to name all of them and tell where they went after working for him at either Milwaukee or Medinah. "I always hired students out of college and the first year would be for placement and training. Then they'd be promoted to superin-

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