

# THE FRONT OFFICE

## OPINION PAGE



**T**he recent elections taught all of us a few things about the power of participation at the polls. A few angry political analysts excited enough voters to bring about major change. The elections in many ways were more about who didn't vote than who did. Apathy eroded the support for many incumbents who had counted on traditional voting records.

Those who failed to vote became the new silent majority. They now must live with decisions made by a loud minority. Everyone, whether they voted or not, must take responsibility for the outcome.

For years, the sportsturf industry has also been guided by a loud minority. The majority of the industry has been overlooked because of its silence. Now is the time for the vociferous stadium groundskeepers to open the floor to the grass roots of sports turf; high school, and college groundskeepers and park superintendents.

These three segments form the backbone of the industry. We all like to read and hear about pro stadiums. But, local park and school fields carry the vast majority of play. They are the true front line and the closest to everyone's home.

There has been great improvement in our neighborhood sports turf during the past 10 years. Standards and support have increased noticeably. The quality of professional sports facilities has rubbed off.

Still, we need more participation by managers of park and school turf. They need to jump into the spotlight and take the leadership. Speak out . . . write constructive articles . . . enter industry contests . . . be active in local associations. That is how to "vote" in the Green Industry.

Being a majority only counts when the majority votes.

*Bruce F. Shank*

# EVENTS

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

**6-8** Twenty-fifth Annual Georgia Turfgrass Conference and Show. Georgia International Convention Center, College Park, GA. Contact: Douglas Moody, (404) 975-4123. Fax: (404) 975-4044.

**6-9** 1994 Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Show. Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. Contact: (614) 261-6750.

**7-9** New Jersey Turfgrass Expo. Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: (908) 932-9271.

**13-15** Missouri Lawn and Turf Conference. Columbia, MO. Contact: (314) 882-4087.

### JANUARY 1995

**9-20** Tenth Annual Cornell Turfgrass Short Course, Ithaca, NY. Contact: (607) 255-1789.

**10-12** Introduction to Golf Course Turfgrass Management. Coolidge College, Rutgers University. Contact: (908) 932-9271.

**10-12** Eastern Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Scott Guiser, (215) 345-3283, or P.T.C., (814) 863-3475.

**16-18** California Weed Science Society Meetings, Santa Barbara, CA. Up to 18 CEUs are available. Registration \$55 until Dec. 31, 1994; Add \$20 late fee after Dec. 31. Contact: Wanda Graves, (510) 790-1252.

**11-12** Northern California Turfgrass Conference. Santa Clara, CA. Contact: (510) 490-6282.

**16-19** Midwest Turf Expo. Indianapolis, IN. Contact: (317) 494-8039.

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to: Editor, **sportsTURF magazine**, 68-860 Perez Road, Suite J, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Fax (619) 770-8019.