FROM THE PUBLIS here's an old saying, 'It's lonely at the top.'Most of you know that feeling only too well. You don't have to be chairman of the heard of a major cornoration you know that reging only too well. You don't nave to be chairman of the board of a major corporation to be chairman of the board of a major corporation to feel the pressure. Grounds managers and golf course superintendente feel the preceive of the time, but encoded to teel the pressure. Grounds managers and goir course superintendents feel the pressure all the time, but especially when your facility is having a major television event supermemorents leer the pressure an the time, out especially when your facility is having a major television event. It is your responsibility to have the fields, greens and fair-ways in too condition. If it's not right, the fault is yours. Sure It is your responsibility to have the fields, greens and fair-ways in top condition. If it's not right, the fault is yours. Sure

ways in top condition. If it's not right, the fault is yours, sure you instructed your crew to do it, but if someone screwed you instructed your crew to do it, but it someone screwed up, as the head of the department, you have to shoulder e burden. In most corporations, if there is a screw-up, at least it is entwithin the walls of the corporation's offices, but in your In most corporations, If there is a screw-up, at least it is kept within the walls of the corporation's offices, but in your situation, not only does your management know about it

situation, not only does your management know about it, situation, it seems the whole world does as well the burden. but with the advent of television, it seems the whole world does as well. Pressure? Every time a big name comes up or a major tournament is

It with the advent of television, it seems the whole world does as well. Pressure? Every time a big game comes up or a major tournament is played at your ub you feel the pressure as much as a top pro does when he has to hit that home run Pressure? Every time a big game comes up or a major tournament is played at your club you feel the pressure as much as a top pro does when he has to hit that home run or toss that football to score that winning run or touchdown. When a pro golfer has to club you feel the pressure as much as a top pro does when he has to hit that home run or toss that football to score that winning run or touchdown. When a pro golfer has to sink his putt to win the match, and a gallery of thousands are watching, the pressure or toss that football to score that winning run or touchdown. When a pro golfer has to sink his putt to win the match, and a gallery of thousands are watching, the pressure really builds. At least when they win, one of the rewards is hundreds of thousands of thousands sink his putt to win the match, and a gallery of thousands are watching, the pressure really builds. At least when they win, one of the rewards is hundreds of thousands of dol-lars in cash prizes. rs in cash prizes. It's a funny world. An athlete can be good for 30 percent of his effort and he is consi-ered a superstar, vet the rest of us are expected to be good 98 percent of the time. It's a funny world. An athlete can be good for 30 percent of his effort and he is consi-dered a superstar, yet the rest of us are expected to be good 98 percent of the time. If a baseball player bats .300, he is a superstar, if a quarterback completes 60 percent ered a superstar, yet the rest of us are expected to be good 98 percent of the time. If a baseball player bats .300, he is a superstar, if a quarterback completes 60 percent if his passes he is creat. if a colf pro wins a few major tournaments he is considered If a baseball player bats .300, he is a superstar, if a quarterback completes 60 percent of his passes he is great, if a golf pro wins a few major tournaments he is considered at the top of his game. Yet if your course or playing field does not look good for just of his passes he is great, if a golf pro wins a few major tournaments he is considered at the top of his game. Yet if your course or playing field does not look good for just one major event, you're considered a bum. at the top of his game. Yet if your course or playing field does not look good for just one major event, you're considered a burn. Just think, if you could have the field look good 30 percent of the time, and like the baseball player that bats .300. be considered a spectacular professional, how much less lars in cash prizes. Just think, if you could have the field look good 30 percent of the time, and like the baseball player that bats .300, be considered a spectacular professional, how much less pressure you would have to live with. You could have the luxury of your crew making some mistakes and not be on the carbet for it. some mistakes and not be on the carpet for it. With the Super Bowl now a memory, my mind wanders back to the preparations that were made for that event. It was no different for the World Series or the Masters, etc. Knowing that the world would be viewing your facility, the pressures had to be unbearable. were made for that event. It was no different for the World Series or the Masters, etc. Knowing that the world would be viewing your facility, the pressures had to be unbearable. I went to San Diego to observe first hand what it takes to get a field in shape. There is no question in my mind that in soite of all the pressure. any any professional ground some mistakes and not be on the carpet for it.

I went to San Diego to observe first hand what it takes to get a field in shape. There is no question in my mind that in spite of all the pressure, any any professional grounds manager would love to have the opportunity to prepare a field for such an event. For moment at least, it is his moment in the spotlicht. oment at least, it is his moment in the spotlight. I'm sure many professional turf managers are very capable but the National Footbal eague appointed George Toma to handle the job. Call it luck or perhaps it was his forty I'm sure many professional turf managers are very capable but the National Footbal League appointed George Toma to handle the job. Call it luck or perhaps it was his forty vears on-the-iob training, or just being in the right place at the right time, but the fact League appointed George Toma to handle the job. Call it luck or perhaps it was his forty years on-the-job training, or just being in the right place at the right time, but the fact that Toma continues to be in charge of these post-season events is evidence that he has done his job well. moment at least, it is his moment in the spotlight. one his job well. George will be the first to admit that he could not do it by himself. He will also tell you hat you're a sitting duck, being out there by yourself, with everybody taking potshots

done his job well.

George will be the first to admit that he could not do it by himself. He will also tell you that you're a sitting duck, being out there by yourself, with everybody taking potshots at you. 'I've been through the battles,' he will tell you. 'My back is full of holes where people took shots at me. I have the scars to prove it.' e took shots at me. I have the scars to prove it.' Without his crew George couldn't get the job done. And what a crew he has. I met with cott Martin, Doug Schallenberg, Brian O'Neill, David Jones, Andre Bruce, Jason Coop Without his crew George couldn't get the job done. And what a crew he has. I met with Scott Martin, Doug Schallenberg, Brian O'Neill, David Jones, Andre Bruce, Jason Coop er, Rick Toma, Wilford Bruce, Rich Edmonson and Chip Toma — solid professionals who have a job to do with so little time to do it in. Yet without constant overseeing by George al you. I've been mough the battles, he will tell you. ple took shots at me. I have the scars to prove it. er, Rick Toma, Wilford Bruce, Rich Edmonson and Chip Toma – solid professionals who have a job to do with so little time to do it in. Yet without constant overseeing by George they were hard at work, day in and day out for 22 solid days without a break.

have a job to do with so little time to do it in. Yet without constant overseeing by G they were hard at work, day in and day out for 22 solid days without a break. I have often wondered who will replace us when we are ready to hand it un ey were hard at work, day in and day out for 22 solid days without a break. I have often wondered who will replace us when we are ready to hang it up. Where ill we get those experienced people? I was able to come away from San Diego feeling I have often wondered who will replace us when we are ready to hang it up. Where will we get those experienced people? I was able to come away from San Diego feeling a little more comfortable that the future lies with these young people. Like George says, a few of these kids are ready now to take over head iobs in the maior little more comfortable that the future lies with these young people. Like George says, a few of these kids are ready now to take over head jobs in the major aques. In speaking with a few of them, most of them felt that they still had a lot more to learn. Like George says, a few of these kids are ready now to take over head jobs in the major leagues. In speaking with a few of them, most of them felt that they still had a lot more to learn. With guys like George's crew and others around the leagues that are committed and agues. In speaking with a few of them, most of them felt that they still had a lot more to learn. With guys like George's crew and others around the leagues that are committed and edicated to their work. I know we are in good hands. The future will be glowing. With guys like George's crew and others around the leagues that are committed a dedicated to their work, I know we are in good hands. The future will be glowing.