

# FROM THE PUBLISHER



As we get this issue ready for press, the whole country is concerned with the happenings in the Middle East. I don't believe the crisis in the gulf is the cause of our economic slowdown; however, there is no question in my mind that it is affecting our economy now. It seems the whole country is on hold, hoping against hope that the gulf crisis can be resolved peacefully.

In the business arena, most businesses are plodding along or barely making it. In the sports business, we seem to be maintaining the pace we had over the past years.

Golf, football, baseball, soccer, etc., it seems there is hardly a sport that isn't growing in popularity. Not only are more people turning out to watch, but also many more people are participating in all the various sports.

That makes good growth for our industry. The demand for more golf courses keeps our architects and contractors busy. As new courses are built, the demand for superintendents increases. Because of the demand for superintendents to fill these jobs, younger college-trained people are getting a shot at a top slot at a much earlier age.

The same thing is happening in other sports facilities. Major league baseball will expand by two new teams. The minor leagues will also expand. In addition, there will be tremendous pressure at the high school level to generate sports facilities to serve the new baby boomers. New sports fields at the city, municipal and county levels will also increase the demand for experienced personnel.

The continued growth in all aspects of sports offers unlimited opportunities to those already in the field and those who are coming in. I am convinced that professional managers of turf will achieve an even higher level of recognition in the future. This should increase their value and their salary level.

There are many golf course superintendents that do consulting outside their own golf club. Some have even crossed over to working on other athletic fields. This type of cross pollination can only benefit all of us.

We all have a stake in this growth; more importantly, we can have an opportunity to get some input to ensure that properly constructed and well maintained sports facilities are safe and durable.

What a great time to be in this industry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.