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Senior spotlight

Special section has run-down on stories for the elderly set.



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Oliver's town

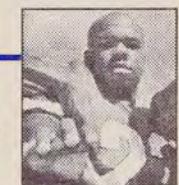
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Floppy shoes, a plus. Sparkles the clown, a.k.a. Cheri Anderson, entertains Jay Slaughter, 10, during a carnival on September 30 at Hiawatha School in south Minneapolis. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Gordon, Harris square off in Ward 3 council contest

Candidates speak out on city spending, privatization, other issues facing St. Paul

by Chris Smith

Despite having some similar views, Mitch Gordon and Pat Harris have delineated somewhat different approaches to local government in their Ward 3 race for the St. Paul City Council.

Both candidates believe property taxes are too high for the level of city services received, but they disagree on the way to achieve a better balance. Both are opposed to increasing the city's sales tax to help pay for a baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins, but for different reasons.

Harris and Gordon advanced to the November 2 general election by receiving 33 and 29 percent of the primary vote, respectively, in a crowded field of eight. The winner next month will succeed Harris'

older brother, Mike, who is not seeking re-election.

Gordon, 27, the DFL-endorsed candidate, is an attorney in private practice. He holds a law degree and master's degree in public affairs from the University of Minnesota, has served on the board of the Highland District Council, and lives in Highland Park with his wife.

Harris, 33, an independent candidate, is employed by a Minneapolis investment firm. He worked as an aide for Ramsey County commissioners Dick Wedell and Susan Haigh before assuming his new job this summer. He holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota, was president of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, is

Ward 3/see page 5

Advocates mark 25 years of sheltering women from abuse

by Leslie Walters

They came together 25 years ago, a small group of activists influenced by the women's movement and obsessed with the possible. They set up a telephone information and referral service for women, offering legal advice on discrimination, welfare rights and divorce. Their goal was to provide a safe place for women to gather for an evening or a weekend to discuss their concerns.

"Battered women wasn't really a concept at the time," said Lisbet Wolf, founding member and executive director of Women's Advocates, the nation's first refuge for women seeking safety from domestic violence. "We weren't

sure where the need was, but there was absolutely nothing we couldn't do—for anyone."

As news of their telephone service spread, Wolf and her colleagues began receiving more and more calls from women who were being threatened by the men in their lives and needed to get out of their homes. Through a letter-writing campaign, Women's Advocates raised \$19,000 and opened a shelter in a three-story Victorian home on Grand Avenue. On its first evening, Friday, October 12, 1974, the shelter was full, and it has been ever since.

Women's Advocates operated as a collective in the early years, housing 44 residents and six

staff members in that single home. "We had a core group who worked and stayed with the women for various lengths of time," Wolf said. "I had my hands on everything. We all did."

Women's Advocates remained a collective until 1984, when a board of managers was established, headed by Wolf.

In 25 years Women's Advocates has housed more than 25,000 women and children, according to Wolf. Its annual budget has grown to \$1.7 million, largely funded through the state departments of Public Safety and Human Services and the United Way.

The organization now operates three homes in the Grand area staffed by 46 employees and housing up to 56 women and

children. An office in the Blair Arcade at Selby and Western avenues directs the organization's community education, training and development programs.

"People often ask me, 'How can you work there so many years? Isn't it depressing?'" Wolf said. "It's never depressing. What's happening to the women is depressing, but the women are never depressing. Survivors are incredibly strong, remarkable women."

Women's Advocates marked its 25th anniversary with an invitation-only celebration and benefit on October 1. Six hundred people were invited to the celebration, including the

Women's Advocates/see page 4

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WITH HER DREAM of playing pro football finally realized, Suzette Schommer is fit to be tackled 40

City grants permit parking district near CDH

Area likely to expand as neighbors petition to get students off streets

by Jane McClure

A resident-only permit parking district will go into effect immediately east of Cretin-Derham Hall later this month. The City Council voted 6-1 on September 22 to approve the district, which will restrict parking on Juno, Niles and Watson avenues between Hamline Avenue and Syndicate Street, as well as on Hamline Avenue between Hartford and Juno avenues.

City Council president Dan Bostrom

cast the lone dissenting vote, calling it "overkill" to take more than 200 on-street parking spaces away from students. "These are public streets, people," he said.

Residents in the area said they are fed up with speeding vehicles and clogged streets in front of their homes. Of the 87 homeowners on the affected nine block faces, 66 signed a petition in favor of the permit parking district. The city requires that at least 60 percent of property owners on eight contiguous block

faces sign a petition before permit parking can be instituted.

As a result of the council's action, only vehicles with permits will be allowed to park on the designated blocks between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. Only residents of those blocks will be able to purchase the permits from the city at \$10 per vehicle per year. The permit-parking district is the 25th one to be established in St. Paul.

Cretin-Derham/see page 4

Panel discussion set Oct. 12 on Lexington traffic issues

Ways to calm traffic on Lexington Parkway will be discussed during a neighborhood meeting at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, October 12, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The meeting was organized by Ward 2 City Council member Chris Coleman in response to concerns about high traffic volume and motor vehicle speed on Lexington.

The meeting will focus on the section of Lexington between St. Clair and Grand avenues. A panel consisting of Coleman, Mike Klassen and Al Shetka of the St. Paul Department of Public Works, and West District Police Commander Dan Carlson and Sergeant John Denoua will lead the discussion.

Much of Lexington Parkway has been rebuilt over the past decade. The reconstruction included design features intended to slow traffic, including the addition of a landscaped median north of Summit Avenue. However, area residents say the median has not slowed traffic and in some cases has impeded access to and from neighborhood streets.

Architect seeks variances to build on Lawton staircase

One of St. Paul's most obscure streets could have a new resident in the next few months. St. Paul architect Paul Ormseth wants to build a new home at 70 Lawton St., on the same site where a dwelling was torn down in the 1980s.

The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee has recommended approval of two variances being sought for the new house. The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will hear the request on October 12.

If Ormseth wins BZA approval, his house will be the only one in the city with a staircase instead of a street for its address. Lawton Street is a short roadway with its southern end at Grand Avenue. It was platted and named in the early 1870s. Although it appears on some old maps as a street, part of Lawton is actually a staircase. The Lawton steps, which are more than 100 years old, were rebuilt by the city in 1991.

The city requires houses to have at least one off-street parking spot. Because his lot has no street access, Ormseth is asking that the parking requirement be waived. He also is seeking a 15-foot variance from the required 25-foot front-yard setback.

Ormseth is working with a civil engineer on his architectural plans because the site is steeply sloped. The property lies outside the

Historic Hill District, so it will not be required to follow historic design guidelines.

County's wish list for state funds includes soccer fields

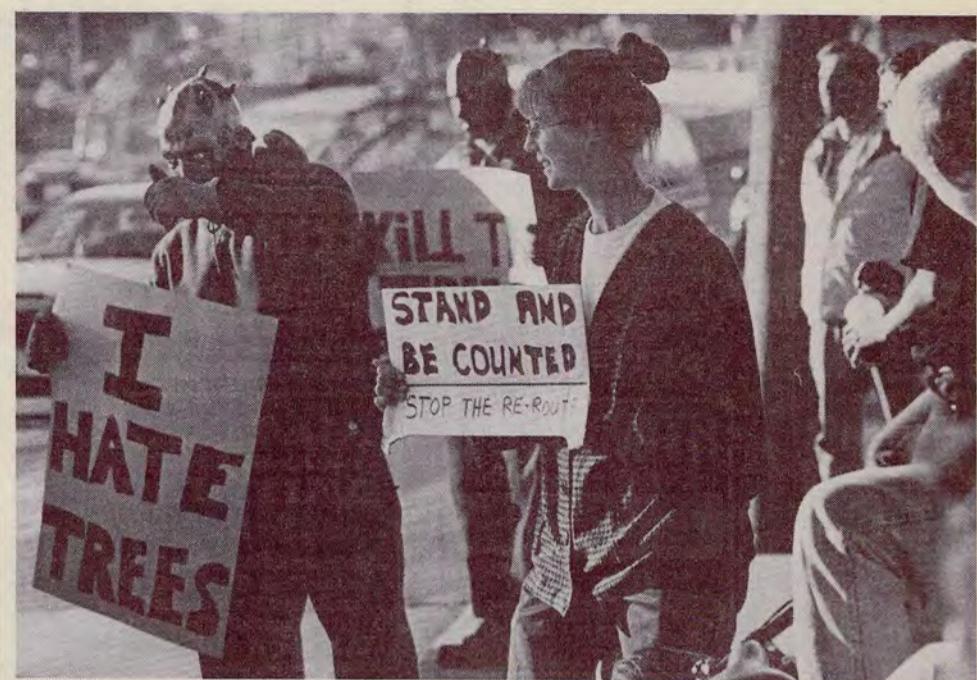
Although the 2000 Minnesota legislative session is still months from convening, Ramsey County is already getting its funding requests together for capital projects.

Ramsey County's wish list, which was adopted on September 14 by the county board, includes \$5 million in matching funds to build 24 soccer fields by 2004. It is estimated that more than 17,000 youngsters and 12,000 adults play soccer in the county.

The county also is seeking state support of the Mighty Kids Program, which would make \$6 million in grants available to local governmental units to build soccer facilities throughout Minnesota.

Other county requests include \$15 million for a new law enforcement center and jail, \$5 million for an east metro public safety training center, \$1.5 million for a Gibbs Farm Museum visitors center and \$15 million for expansion of Gillette Children's Hospital. The

NEWS BRIEFLY



Mauled by counterprotest. While Highway 55 reroute opponent "Squash" (left) kept a vigil last week high above the madding crowd, his compatriot Vivian Bergsted (above) of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood rubbed shoulders on the sidewalk with two counterprotesters in Darth Maul masks. Photos by Brad Stauffer.

county is also supporting a \$17.5 million request for a Metropolitan State University library and \$5 million for regional parks.

Companies sue city over legality of billboard ballot

A ballot question that would ban billboards in St. Paul is facing a legal challenge from the outdoor advertising industry. However, as this issue of the *Villager* went to press, city officials were still planning to leave the question on the November 2 ballot.

The lawsuit was filed on September 16 in U.S. District Court in St. Paul by Eller Media, DeLite Outdoor Advertising and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Minnesota. Eller owns about 500 of the 600 billboards in St. Paul. DeLite owns 58.

The plaintiffs have asked the court to declare the ballot question unconstitutional and have it removed. No date has been set for a hearing on the ballot question.

The lawsuit names the St. Paul City Council and Mayor Norm Coleman as defendants. Although the anti-billboard group Scenic St. Paul Coalition was not named as a defendant,

members of that group said they will join in the city's defense against the lawsuit.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs allege that the ballot question, if approved, would violate their constitutional right to free speech. They also claim it violates state statutes governing zoning as well as lease agreements that private property owners have with billboard companies.

If the ballot question is found to be legal and passes, billboards in St. Paul neighborhoods would be declared public nuisances and would have to be removed.

The City Council voted on September 1 to put the billboard question on the ballot after Scenic St. Paul brought in a petition with the signatures of more than 5,000 registered voters. The City Attorney's Office has ruled that the ballot question process is legal under the City Charter, which allows citizens to present ballot questions through a petition process.

The timing of the lawsuit is crucial, since the ballots were set to go to press during the last week of September. Absentee ballots had to be ready for distribution by October 2.

News briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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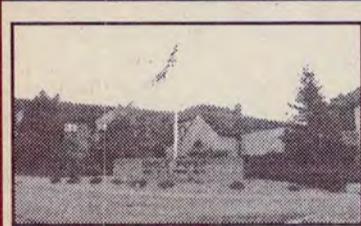
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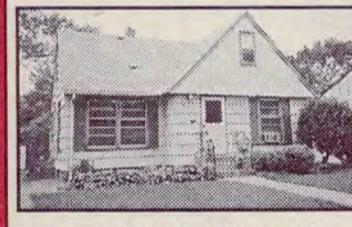
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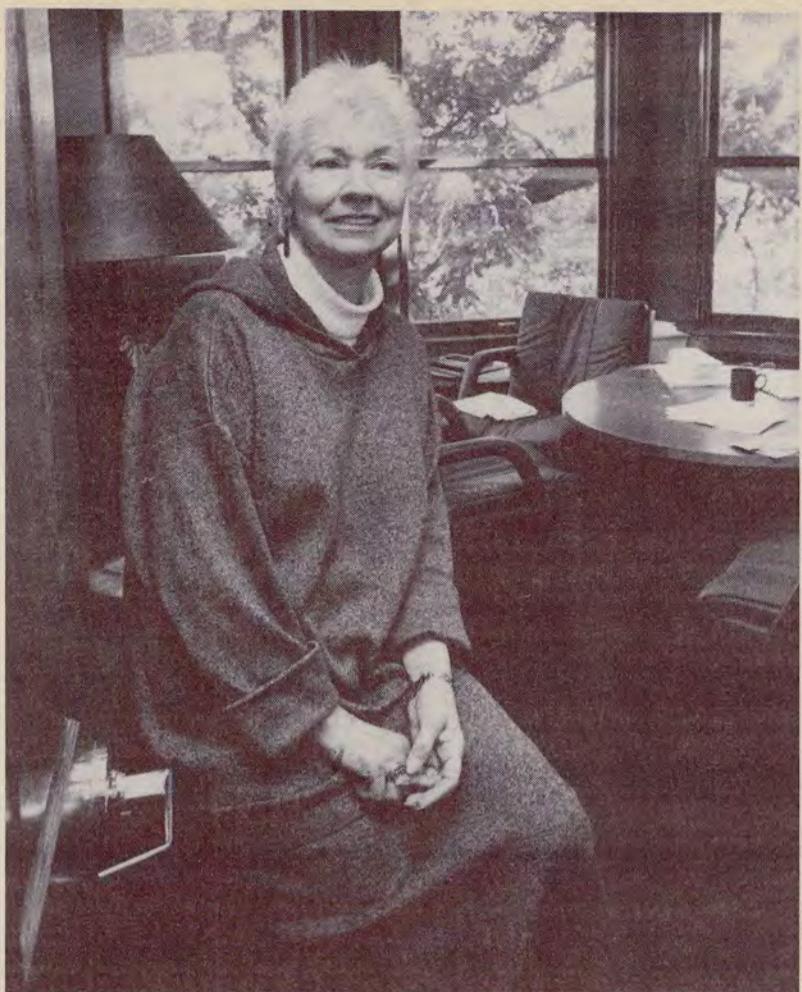
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Executive director and founding member Lisbet Wolf in the Grand Avenue office of Women's Advocates. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Women's Advocates marks 25 years from page 1

shelter's founding members. U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone emceed.

"I refer to Women's Advocates as a center dedicated to eliminating and preventing domestic violence," Wolf said. "But there will always be a need for shelter. There has to be a place for the women to go."

The average stay at Women's Advocates is 15 days, but one woman with nine children recently completed a four-month stay at the shelter. "We weren't about to put her in a homeless shelter or on the streets," Wolf said. "The housing situation is very difficult now. Women have to stay longer because there's just no housing out there."

During their stay, the women are required to take advantage of various programs, including a support group on domestic violence and a class on parenting. A staff member meets with each woman every morning and evening to address her daily needs, such as transportation or training.

The Career Clinic is one of Women's Advocates' most successful programs, according to Wolf. "Many of the women who come here have no job skills," she said.

"We provide role modeling, take them to the Welfare Department to use the computers, help them dress for an interview and help them

"Children are our future," Wolf said.

"They're very important to me. We're not going to change the system as it is now. The children will change it. Reaching them and talking to them about themselves and their feelings is our primary mission."

with child care and with maintaining a job."

Wolf is proud of the image that the organization has cultivated in the neighborhood over the years. "It's easy to have a difficult time in a community, and I work hard at making sure that doesn't happen," she said. "The neighbors will call if

something happens, but I think we're a place where they don't find continuous problems."

Wolf is also proud of the shelter's support services for children, the support groups for high school students who are experiencing domestic violence and the youth advocacy programs now operating out of Central, Highland Park and Arlington high schools. A staff member from Women's Advocates splits her time among the three schools, meeting individually with students who seek her out or are referred to her by a school counselor. Last year, 77 children called the shelter's crisis line after school presentations on domestic violence, according to Wolf.

"Can you imagine a child picking up the phone and calling us to talk about their situation?" she asked. "Incredible!"

"Children are our future," Wolf said. "They're very important to me. We're not going to change the system as it is now. The children will change it. Reaching them and talking to them about themselves and their feelings is our primary mission."

Cretin-Derham hopes to find solution before district is extended from page 1

The council's approval of the neighborhood's request has not ended the debate over student parking in the area, however. Residents of Hartford Avenue between Hamline and Syndicate needed just 48 hours to collect the signatures of 20 out of 26 homeowners on a petition to add their two block faces to the parking district.

"The permit parking district (as originally proposed) would be at the end of my block," said Hartford Avenue resident Theodore Daigle. "The same problems they've been having, we'll be having, too."

The petition to extend the permit parking district is expected to be acted on by the City Council on November 3, said Duane Jagiello of the St. Paul Department of Public Works. A petition to add Juno Avenue between Syndicate and Griggs to the parking district also is making the rounds in the neighborhood.

Ward 3 council member Mike Harris has sent a letter to neighborhood residents and the school asking them to work together on

parking issues before the permit district grows any larger. The board of the Highland District Council, which recommended approval of the district in September, also has asked its Transportation Committee to work with neighbors and the school.

CDH principal-president Richard Engler said the school has been trying to find solutions to the parking crunch ever since it learned of the original permit parking petition. "But we haven't come up with anything yet," he said.

Engler said the school would have liked more time to seek solutions before the parking district was approved. He is hoping the city will postpone adding other blocks to the district until an answer can be found.

According to Engler, school officials are trying to supervise students in the neighborhood. The school has stepped up its patrols of the vicinity before and after school and is sending school personnel and an off-duty police officer into the neighborhood to address

any potential problems.

If more parking spaces are to be found, Engler said they will have to be off-campus. "We're landlocked," he said. "We have absolutely no space for more parking."

Engler said the school has considered off-site parking and a shuttle service to get students to school, but he said he is not sure where a large enough site could be found. Engler said the school does not have its own school bus service because its 1,300 students in grades 9-12 come from such far-flung areas of the Twin Cities. "I'm not sure how we'd do it," he said.

More than two dozen CDH neighbors attended the September 22 City Council hearing. They testified about noise, parking congestion, careless driving, litter and disruptive behavior before and after school.

"They (Cretin-Derham Hall) haven't taken responsibility for their students," said John Volpe, who has lived near the school for two decades. He said he and other neighbors have

called the school many times about disruptive student behavior. "But we're told not to worry about it because the sap is flowing," he said.

Volpe said he and his neighbors are frustrated because they have seen significant building and field improvements at CDH in recent years. But they've never addressed parking," he said.

Neighbor Thomas Godfrey said the parking congestion and student misbehavior have grown noticeably worse in recent years. "We call the cops and they say, 'That's Cretin's problem,'" he said. "We call Cretin and they say, 'That's the cops' problem.'"

Harris, an alumnus of the school, said CDH needs to do more to control student behavior in the surrounding neighborhood before and after school.

Ward 2 council member Chris Coleman, who was a classmate of Harris' at Cretin, agreed. "I'm disappointed in Cretin," he said. "I don't understand why they didn't respond to the problems sooner."



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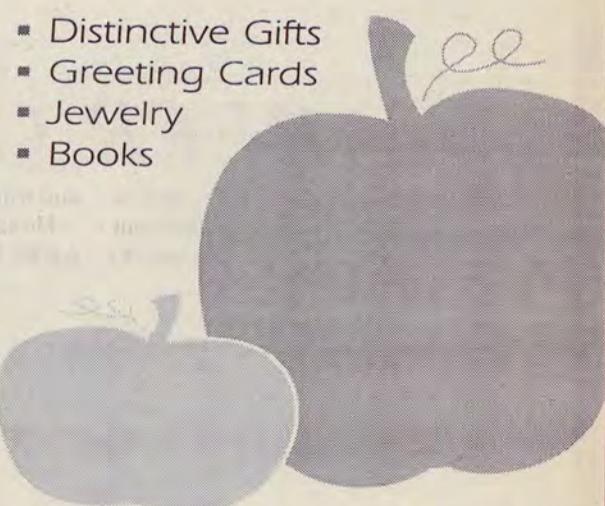
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Pat Harris



Mitch Gordon

Ward 3 City Council race

/from page 1

single and lives in Macalester-Groveland.

Though he once sought the DFL endorsement for a state legislative race and worked for DFL commissioners, Harris said he is staunchly independent. He said he learned from his brother how important it is to have no political ties in addressing city issues.

Harris sees two keys to better city services for less tax money: finding operating efficiencies while spreading out costs, and working for legislative changes to the property tax system. He points to the consolidation of the city and county health departments as one way to achieve greater efficiencies.

Harris said the current proposal to cut St. Paul library hours could be avoided by staggering staff hours and creatively using volunteers. "You have to take a hard look at things," he said. "Are there too many managers here? Is there a better way to use staff there?"

He said the bitter debate over Compete St. Paul—Mayor Norm Coleman's push to privatize some city services—could be resolved simply. "Pick an area, try it and see who's right," he said.

Gordon said he also wants to see lower taxes and higher levels of city services. "It'll be my absolute top priority," he said.

Gordon advocates what he calls "entrepreneurial government" to reach that goal. He said city departments currently are penalized if they try to save money and cutting the following year's budget. He said departments should be allowed to carry over their savings as an incentive to operate more efficiently.

Gordon said he would like to see some version of Indianapolis' privatization efforts in St. Paul. In that city, public employees devised ways to improve city services and ended up winning many of the contracts when some city services were put up for bid.

"Indianapolis did an effective job of lowering taxes and improving services," he said. "City workers know how to be efficient and effective. The problem is not city workers; it's the system in which they're caught."

Gordon said that "reactive" budget management leads to problems like the city's current shortage of police officers and the threatened cuts in library hours.

"You can't just come in and cut a certain percentage," he said. "You need to think about where we want to be. The more you can do that, the better off the city is."

Gordon is staunchly opposed to raising the city's sales tax to help finance construction of a ballpark for the Twins. "The bottom line is that I'm a fiscal conservative," Gordon said. "To propose increasing the city's sales tax and relying on two-thirds tax money is a bad deal."

Gordon said he was the first candidate to speak out on the stadium issue, initially taking the mayor to task for the amount of city resources he was devoting to the idea and then expressing immediate opposition to the funding scheme. He accused some of his primary opponents of coming out against the stadium financing plan only after opinion

polls showed strong voter opposition. "There was some me-too-ism there," he said.

Harris said he also is opposed to the stadium tax and fears St. Paul could be left with a large and risky debt load. "I'm personally opposed to it," he said. "I was opposed to it as soon as the sales tax became part of the proposal. But the bottom line is that I'm in favor of allowing the voters to decide."

Gordon and Harris are in agreement on how to improve pedestrian safety and traffic congestion: beef up police resources to better enforce existing laws while implementing inexpensive "traffic calming" methods, such as restriping roadways.

Both agree that Ward 3 should not be a "pass-through point for people from Eagan," as Harris put it. Harris would like to try ways to discourage or reroute that traffic, which could include opening up northbound and southbound connections between Ayd Mill Road and I-35E.

Gordon said making the city a more desirable place to live will halt the flow of residents who move to the suburbs but continue to work in the city.

Both Harris and Gordon agree that a council member must be able to work with other levels of government and to speak up on metrowide issues from airport noise to education.

"Government is a team activity now," Gordon said. "One of the reasons I got into this race is to do a better job communicating with legislators and others on problems that the city can't solve on its own. It's my job to represent taxpayers. I won't be missing in action."

He said the fact that many local DFL politicians endorse him is proof that he will be able to work with those on other levels of government. "I think every elected official who has represented this area over the last 10 years or so has endorsed me, except my opponent's older brother," he said.

According to Harris, the key to being an effective City Council member is to ascertain "the right thing to do and communicate effectively. There's a domino effect when others know you're honest, have a positive attitude and will do the right thing."

He said his experience working with the county board gives him the ability to work effectively with various levels of government.

Harris said he is running for office partly because he wants to ensure that an independent voice remains on the council. "There's been a lot of improvement (on the council)," he said, "but it can change awfully fast. Government should not go in the direction of the loudest small group. You won't come out with what's right."

Gordon said he is running, in part, to raise the expectations of St. Paul citizens. "The higher you aim, the higher your achievements will be," he said. "I don't think it's enough to say the status quo is all right. I want to take St. Paul to a place where it's one of the most livable cities in America."

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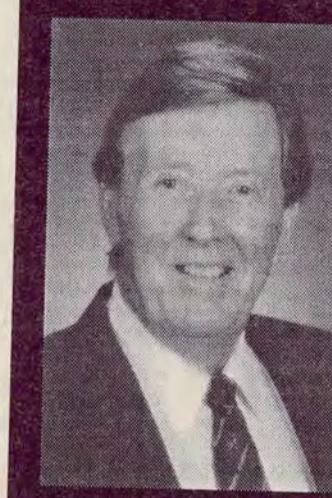
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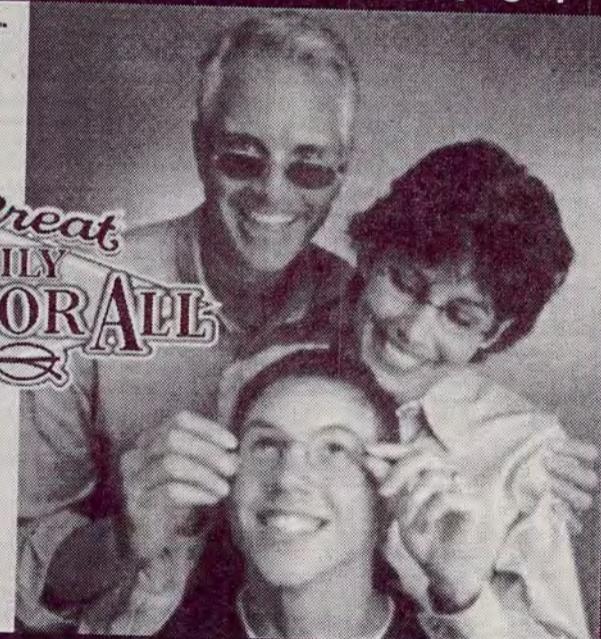
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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

Traffic calming: the final solution

I've got it. And frankly, I don't know why I didn't come up with it earlier. With the litany of laments you hear these days about increasing traffic volume, speed, noise and pollution—especially those caused by motor vehicles that are merely passing through the neighborhood on their way to and from somewhere else—the obvious and final traffic-calming solution would be to ban the use of all city streets by all motorists except those who live on those streets.

Yes, it's time that we instituted residential permit driving, a natural extension of residential permit parking. You're familiar with residential permit parking, of course. That oft-used tool of local government allows residents of a neighborhood to petition the city to create a designated district in which no one but the residents of that district are permitted to park on the public right-of-way for specified periods of time. The policy requires people to purchase permits from the city if they want to park on those blocks during those hours, and only residents of the blocks within that district are entitled to purchase permits—a maximum of four permits plus two visitor permits per household at a cost of \$10 per permit per year, plus an unlimited number of special-event permits at a cost of \$1.00 per permit per day. The penalty for parking on those streets during those hours without the requisite permit is \$20 per violation.

What? you say. How in the world can a private citizen be granted the sole privilege of parking on a public street for which all of us share in the cost of ongoing maintenance? Where in the United States Constitution did the Founding Fathers state that one has the unalienable and exclusive right to park in front of one's home?

Ah, but now you're just quibbling. Suffice it to say that it's being done—and in spades. In fact, with the St. Paul City Council's blessing on September 22, the city's 25th resident-only permit parking district is expected to begin to be enforced later this month in that area of Highland Park just east of Cretin-Derham Hall. Residents of that neighborhood are up in arms because high school students have been using the residential streets as a spillover student parking lot.

Since the adoption of the permit parking district near Cretin-Derham Hall, residents of adjacent streets have seen the future and have predictably reacted in kind. They have petitioned the City Council to extend the district to their blocks before the displaced student drivers get it in their heads to move to adjoining streets. Yet another petition to extend permit parking even further is now making the rounds in the neighborhood.

It makes you wonder why the City Council doesn't forgo the piecemeal approach to parking and just declare the entire city of St. Paul to be one big resident-only parking district, doesn't it?

But I digress. I leave it to the roadway technologists to figure out how residential permit driving could be physically instituted, but there must be a practical way to limit the legal use of city streets to drivers who actually live in the neighborhood. Perhaps optically enhanced barricades permanently embedded in the street could be electronically triggered to recede into the pavement by a device mounted on the hood of one's car. Those devices, of course, would only be issued to residents of those streets who had paid a fee to the city. All other motorists would be banned from driving on those streets.

Just think of what residential permit driving would mean for those beleaguered residents of Lexington Parkway who find themselves living not on the tree-lined residential street they once presumed it to be, but on a veritable four-lane freeway carrying tens of thousands of commuters a day between I-35E and I-94. Residential permit driving on Lexington would dramatically reduce motor vehicle volume, speed, noise and pollution; would greatly limit the need for and cost of ongoing road maintenance; and would immeasurably increase the quality of life and, thus, the residential property values in the neighborhood.

Getting around town in your car might become a bit more of a problem, of course, but then, isn't that exactly the point of traffic calming?



Don't blame the school board, blame us

by Roger Barr

It's the school board's job to see that our children get the education they need to be successful adults. When indicators such as standardized test scores suggest that student achievement is not what we want it to be, it's easy to blame the school board. But knocking the school board for the failures of our public education system is nothing new. Back in 1897, Mark Twain observed, "In the first place God made idiots. This was for practice. Then He made school boards."

But before citizens place all the responsibility for the performance of school districts on the shoulders of school board members, let's remember who put them there. It's the voters' job to elect the school board. If the school district is not achieving the desired results, we also must bear some responsibility.

It's time to raise the standards for school board members. It goes without saying that we want capable leaders who will make policy that will move the school district forward in its efforts to prepare our children for the future. The question is, how do we develop that type of leadership?

One way is to stop measuring school board candidates only in terms of their positions on issues and start thinking about them in terms of their abilities. Both the candidates and the voters have roles in this process.

Let's start with the candidates. Candidates run for school board for many different reasons: some as advocates for a particular issue, some to represent the interests of a particular group, some with an eye toward addressing spending, some to bring the school district "back to the basics" and some who believe "something is wrong" or "we're not doing enough."

An agenda does not automatically make a school board member an effective policymaker. For starters, school board members do not have the luxury of working only on issues of concern to them. They are required by law to perform certain duties at specific times during the year. In running the school district, school board members encounter a plethora of complex, interrelated issues that include taxes, budgets, curricula, government regulations, technology and physical

plants, to name just a few.

To raise the standards for themselves, candidates should look beyond the issues that motivated them to run. They should understand the powers and duties bestowed upon school board members by law. They should develop their knowledge of the issues. They should develop their leadership skills.

Voters should do their part by demanding more from the candidates as well as more from themselves. It's time for voters to stop looking primarily at individual issues in deciding who they will vote for in school board races. They must make an effort to understand the bigger picture and give greater consideration to the candidates' overall abilities.

It's time for voters to stop looking primarily at individual issues in deciding who they will vote for in school board races. They must make an effort to understand the bigger picture and give greater consideration to the candidates' overall abilities.

positions with facts and examples.

Leadership skills. Knowledge and vision without leadership is like railroad cars without an engine. Try to gauge the leadership skills of the candidate. Can he or she frame issues articulately? Can the candidate influence others? Does the candidate listen to constituents? Can he or she alternately lead the way and work as part of a team? Does the candidate have the courage to make a difficult decision and stand by it?

Improving a school district is a never-ending process. We can all take a step toward higher student achievement if school board candidates work hard to become visionary, knowledgeable leaders—and if voters demand nothing less.

The writer is co-founder of Support Our Schools, an organization that supports public education in St. Paul and works toward its improvement.

Diversity is the key to the river bluff's ecological health

by Cindy Schwie

The Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County has received a grant from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources to restore ecological health to the Mississippi River bluff in St. Paul. The project area stretches from Emerald Street on the north to Highway 5 on the south. Over the next two years, the Friends, the city of St. Paul and Great River Greening will work on a cooperative effort to take inventory of plant species, remove exotic plants and replant native species along the river bluff. Great River Greening began the project this fall by taking inventory of plants near Emerald Street.

As project manager for the grant, a large part of my job is to communicate with local residents about the activities taking place on the bluff and to provide information about the removal and replacement of exotic species.

A friend of mine recently asked me why I would ask

people to remove a plant that grows well, furnishes birds with food and provides privacy. I asked her to imagine visiting the State Fair only to find that pronto pups were the only food now being served. No french fries. No corn on the cob. No caramel apples.

"That would be ridiculous," she said. "The State Fair wouldn't be the same without the variety of food."

I explained that the same is true of nature. Diversity is the key to ecological health.

Unfortunately, diversity is lacking along Mississippi River Boulevard. Even the casual observer will note that a biological monoculture is emerging there. Buckthorn is one of the culprits and is targeted for removal because it is an aggressive species that is not native to Minnesota. It is crowding out native plants and in the process, we are losing wildflowers, trees and shrubs because they cannot compete with buckthorn. In some areas, an impenetrable wall of buckthorn hides the river.

Is there any good news? Yes. Common buckthorn has

made the noxious weed list in Minnesota and will no longer be sold in stores. As of December 31, 2000, thornless glossy buckthorn will disappear from the Minnesota marketplace as well.

What can you do? If you have buckthorn on your property, get rid of it. Call the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at 651-296-6157 and request a buckthorn fact sheet. If you need ideas for a good replacement hedge or if you would like to volunteer for the buckthorn replacement project, call me at 651-645-6766.

Those who are unsure if they have buckthorn on their property also may join us at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 27, or Saturday, October 30. We will have a short walk on those two days to identify buckthorn and view the invasiveness of this shrub. We will meet at the monument on Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue.

Working together, we can restore the Mississippi River bluffs to an ecologically healthy state for us and for future generations.

Perplexed over permit parking

To the editor:

I am writing to express my disappointment over the recent approval of a permit parking district in the neighborhood immediately east of Cretin-Derham Hall. The decision raises several questions:

1. Did the architects of the permit parking district consider the impact it will have on the surrounding neighborhood? The new parking restrictions will simply shift the problem to other blocks, leaving those residents no choice but to implement permit parking districts as well.

2. Where was the Highland District Council when we needed it? With the exception of the people within the permit parking district, the neighborhood was not notified that this issue was even on the radar screen. In addition, the district council did nothing to foster a neighborhood dialogue with the high school in an effort to get the school to act on the parking issue. Isn't the purpose of a district council to help keep residents informed and to foster productive discussions aimed at preventing and resolving neighborhood problems?

3. Why did Cretin-Derham Hall let this problem persist? According to the St. Paul Department of Public Works, the problem has worsened over the past two years. It is incumbent upon such educational institutions to be good neighbors. Allowing the parking problem and its accompanying trash-dumping and dangerous driving to escalate does not meet the criteria of a good neighbor.

A permit parking district is not a solution to the parking problem in our neighborhood. While I agree that the school needs to be held accountable, forcing other neighborhood residents to deal with the nuisance is no way to resolve the issue. Short of creating a larger permit parking area, other potential solutions need to be explored.

Even though it's late in the game, it's my hope that the neighborhood takes this opportunity to engage in a productive discussion with the school and the city in an

VILLAGE POST

effort to alleviate the parking problem.

Michelle McCafferty
Highland Park

Recyclables stolen

Dear editor:

Approximately five years ago, a man was arrested and convicted of stealing aluminum objects—ladders, cans, etc.—in the Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. Apparently he is back, because the aluminum cans we put out for recycling on Sunday night were gone on Monday morning before the recycling truck came. People should be on the lookout for this individual.

Lenny Leier
Macalester-Groveland

Ventura should hit the highway

To the editor:

After Governor Ventura's latest effort to keep himself in the public eye by suggesting that the Packers move to Duluth, it's become clear that we can take the buffoon out of the ring, but we can't take the buffoon out of the man. Jesse seemed to have such promise compared to the standard-issue politicians he ran against. However, since the election his platform has consisted only of awkward attempts to keep himself in the news.

Sadly, it's become clear that Jesse has precious little of

substance to offer. The truth is, he has spread his bromides far and wide, telling Minnesotans exactly what they want to hear. To me, that's not a leader. That's a follower.

Jesse has made some good appointments. Let's let them run Minnesota's ship of state. They don't need his help sinking it.

Jesse burst on the scene as a gruff but adorable action figure. He should resign the same way. No hard feelings.

Paul Peter Paulos
Macalester-Groveland

Vote for Mogler in District 197

To the editor:

Kent Mogler is a candidate for the School Board in District 197. I have had the pleasure of working with Kent for the past five years and I enthusiastically endorse him.

Kent is the volunteer chairman of the board of General Mills Federal Credit Union. He was elected to the board based on his impressive financial background and his reputation as a strategic thinker. He is effective in his role as chair because he studies the broad issues, understands them thoroughly and challenges management to execute and excel. He is passionate about delivering quality services while at the same time being a resolute supporter of the management and staff. His dedication and thoroughness will be great assets for District 197.

With the challenges facing school boards, a financial management professional who understands efficiency, technology and people is a great asset. You can't go wrong with a vote for Kent Mogler.

Shannon Riley
Crocus Hill

Riley is president of the General Mills Federal Credit Union.

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As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled *"The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."*

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The bottom line

Higher home market values continue to spur rise in St. Paul's property taxes

by Jane McClure

Despite efforts by local governments to hold the line on spending, rising real estate values are expected to increase property taxes for most St. Paul homeowners next year.

The Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee, which is composed of officials from the city of St. Paul, Ramsey County and St. Paul Public Schools, set its maximum joint levy on September 27 for the year 2000. The proposed levy, after fiscal disparities are factored in, represents a 2.4 percent increase over this year's amount, for a total of \$186.4 million.

The state of Minnesota's "truth-in-taxation" law requires the combined levy to be set by October 1. The city and county set their maximum levies by September 15, and the School Board set its on September 28.

St. Paul is proposing no increase in its property tax levy for the sixth straight year. Ramsey County adopted a 0.2 percent increase. The school district anticipates a 4.7 percent increase. The individual levies can be cut but not increased before the end of the year.

Rising property values, changes in the state property tax classification system and fiscal disparities all affect the amount of property taxes paid on a specific property. Softening the tax blow somewhat this year is action by the Minnesota Legislature to cap taxable property value increases at 8.5 percent. The previous cap was 10 percent.

The cap was changed after property owners were mailed their market value notices last spring, said Chris Samuel of Ramsey County's Property Records and Revenue office. That means many taxpayers will see a reduction in their taxable market values.

Had the cap not been lowered, many homeowners would be seeing greater tax increases. More than half of St. Paul's single-family homes increased in value by more than the 8.5 percent cap.

Nearly all of St. Paul's single-family homes have increased in value in the past year. Twenty-nine percent increased by 5 percent or less, while 70 percent increased by 5 to 10 percent. One percent stayed the same. Ramsey County assessors use home sale prices to determine the change in values for homes in

specific neighborhoods.

The Merriam Park neighborhood has seen among the highest estimated property value increases in St. Paul. Homeowners there are looking at an average 8.5 percent increase in taxable value and an estimated tax increase of 3.8 percent. Homeowners in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood can expect to see an average 8.5 percent increase in taxable property values and an estimated 3.7 percent tax hike next year.

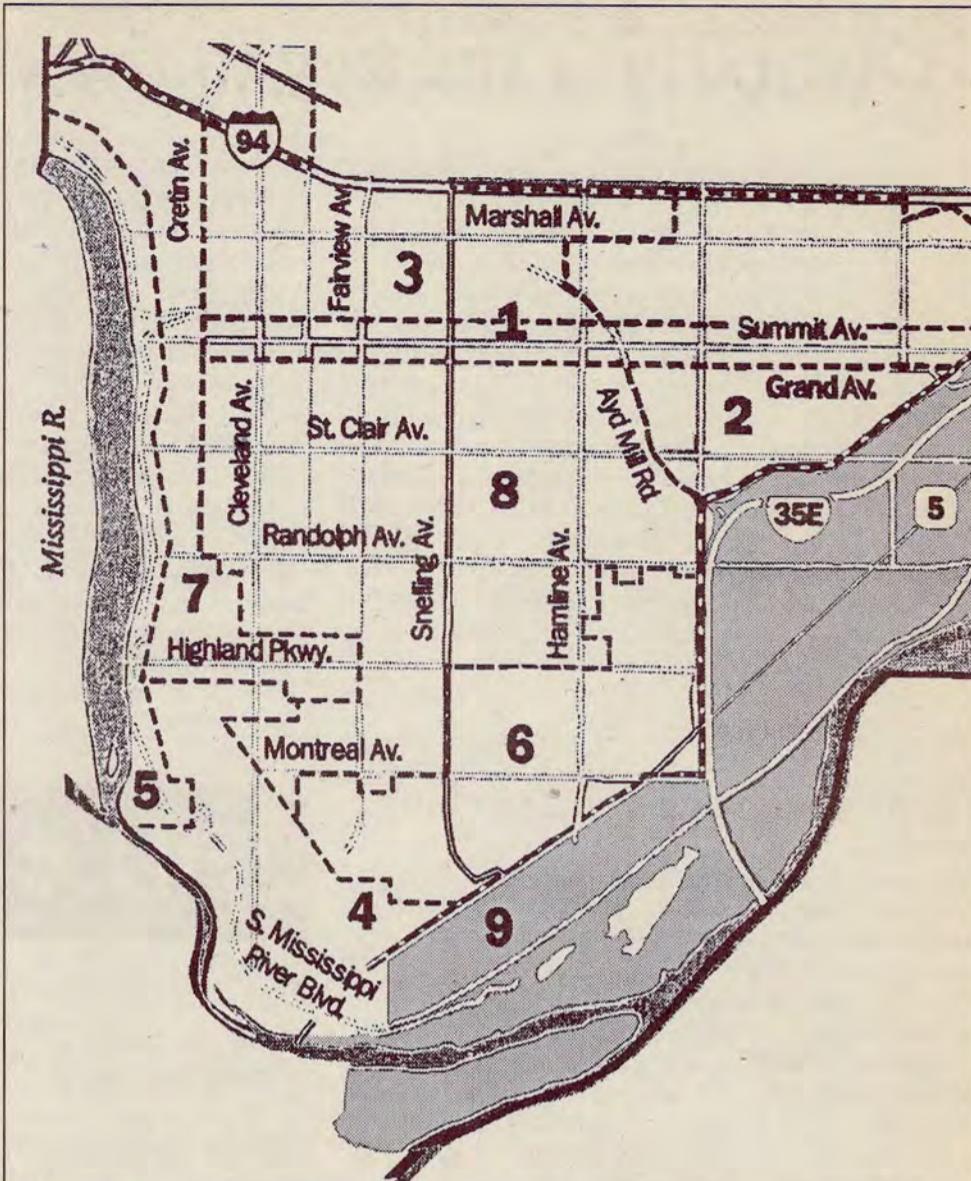
Residents of the West Merriam/Macalester neighborhood will see the biggest drop in property taxes—a 3.4 percent decrease. Average taxable market values in that area have increased by 3.3 percent, according to county assessors. Just three other St. Paul neighborhoods—the Phalen, Battle Creek/Conway and South St. Anthony Park areas—saw average property value increases of less than 8.5 percent.

The joint tax levy would result in a \$33.78 tax increase next year on a median-priced \$82,600 home in St. Paul. Taxes would decrease by \$4.46 on a \$62,100 home, increase by \$55.63 on a \$113,000 home and increase by \$103.04 on a \$182,200 home.

Samuel noted that property tax bills are determined by three forces: the Minnesota Legislature, local governments and their levy needs, and the real estate market. Because home sale prices differ among neighborhoods, not all homeowners feel the same impacts when property taxes come due.

Fiscal disparities also have an effect. The fiscal disparities program covers the entire metropolitan area. Local governments either put dollars into the fiscal disparities pool or take dollars out, depending on the property taxes levied and collected in each jurisdiction. Next year, Ramsey County will see its share of the pool cut by \$301,202, while the city of St. Paul will receive a \$123,966 increase and the St. Paul Public Schools will receive a \$700,428 increase.

Truth-in-taxation statements will be mailed out in mid-November. Citizens will get their chance to comment on the city, county and school district's proposed levies and budgets at a joint hearing on December 14 at Arlington High School.



St. Paul has been broken into 28 different neighborhoods in an effort to show the average taxable market values of single-family homes. Though the boundaries have changed somewhat this year, especially in the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland areas, the above map roughly shows the nine selected neighborhoods in the Villager area. The average market value for taxes payable in 2000, the change in taxable value and the estimated change in taxes are listed in the chart below.

Neighborhood	Average taxable market value	Change in taxable value	Estimated % change in tax
1. Summit Avenue	333,400	8.5%	2.8%
2. Crocus Hill/Linwood	201,500	8.5%	3.1%
3. Merriam Park area	114,700	8.5%	3.8%
4. Highland/Edgcumbe	102,500	8.5%	1.2%
5. Mississippi River Blvd.	341,100	8.5%	2.8%
6. Highland/Edgcumbe	239,800	8.5%	3.0%
7. West Merriam/Macalester	167,000	3.3%	(-3.4%)
8. Macalester-Groveland area	129,400	8.5%	3.7%
9. West 7th area	64,400	8.5%	(-0.8%)

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Highland Park neighbors oppose St. Mary's plan for senior housing

by Jane McClure

More than 30 neighbors jammed a meeting room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center on September 30 to voice their concerns about a 101-unit assisted-living facility for seniors that has been proposed by St. Mary's Home, 1925 Norfolk Ave.

The neighbors claim that St. Mary's Home is already a source of traffic and parking congestion in the neighborhood. With redevelopment looming in the nearby Shepard-Davern neighborhood, they are feeling especially squeezed.

"When does it stop?" asked Gary Meath. "When does our nice residential neighborhood next to Mississippi River Boulevard stop being a residential neighborhood?"

St. Mary's is seeking five variances to the city's zoning code in order to build two four-story additions to its four-story nursing home. The housing would be designed for people age 62 and older who do not need nursing home care but would benefit from services that the nursing home provides, such as health care and food service. The tenant mix would be similar to the 54-unit senior housing complex that St. Mary's built two years ago at 1834 Mississippi River Blvd.

A public hearing on St. Mary's request will be held before the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 12, at City Hall. A BZA decision is final unless it is appealed to the City Council.

St. Mary's is seeking:

1. A front-yard setback variance of 15 feet along Graham Avenue. Twenty-five feet are required and 10 feet are proposed.

2. A side-yard setback variance of 9 feet for the east property line, adjacent to the St. Therese Church parking lot. A 24-foot setback is required and a 15-foot setback is proposed.

3. A 20-foot variance to the city's 30-foot distance requirement between buildings. A distance of 10 feet is proposed.

4. A variance to the city's maximum lot coverage of 30 percent. With the additions, the St. Mary's complex would cover 47 percent of its lot.

5. A variance to the city's maximum of 215 rooms for a lot of St. Mary's size. A total of 239 rooms is proposed.

Co-Op Plating's expansion denied

by Jane McClure

Co-Operative Plating's request to expand its Merriam Park plant by vacating an undeveloped section of Iglehart Avenue was denied September 22 on a 4-3 vote by the St. Paul City Council.

A minimum of five votes is needed to approve a street vacation. Co-Operative Plating's request received four votes in favor on September 8, but council members Jerry Blakey and Dan Bostrom later changed their votes to deny the request. Also voting for denial were Kathy Lantry and Jay Benanav. Benanav represents the area surrounding Co-Operative Plating.

"We're not sure what our next steps will be," said John Daubney, the attorney for Co-Operative Plating, which had planned to use the vacated street for parking and access to the plant. Daubney said his client is concerned that Benanav and the Merriam Park Community Council are trying to force Co-Operative Plating out of the neighborhood or put the company out of business.

Benanav said he voted to deny the street vacation because he believes an electroplating plant is not compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood. He said it is not his intent to shut down Co-Operative Plating, but he would like to see it moved to

Fred Kueppers, an attorney representing neighbor Robert Reiling, argued that a facility of the size St. Mary's has proposed does not meet the findings city staff and the BZA must make before granting variances. The addition would encroach on the neighbors' supply of light and air, Kueppers said, and is incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood. The property could be put to a reasonable use without the variances, and granting them is not in keeping with the spirit or intent of the zoning code, he said.

City staff has disagreed and has recommended approving the variances for the following reasons:

- St. Mary's has operated in the neighborhood for over 60 years. Its mission is to provide housing and health care to seniors, and there is a growing demand for senior housing in the area.

- The site of the proposed development and the adjacent senior housing complex on Mississippi River Boulevard are the only properties zoned for multiple-family residential use within a half-mile. Granting the variances would have less of an impact on the neighborhood than allowing St. Mary's to expand onto property zoned for single-family residential.

- The proposed development would provide more off-street parking than is required, helping to alleviate any existing parking problems.

- The new building would be over 30 feet from the nearest residential property to the east and over 100 feet from the nearest residential property in any other direction.

The Highland District Council's combined Community Development and Executive committees voted 4-2 to recommend denying the variances.

"Not a single person in the area opposes senior housing," said Highland District Council president Shawn Bartsh. "Their concern is the scale of this project."

According to Joe Stanislav, chief executive officer of the Franciscan Health Community, which operates St. Mary's Home, financial assistance would be needed if a smaller facility were built.

Highland District Council members said they would ask the city to work with St. Mary's to make a smaller facility feasible.

an industrial area elsewhere in the city. He said he was also concerned that allowing the street vacation would open the door to future plant expansion.

Co-Operative Plating has been located on industrially zoned property at 1605 Iglehart Ave. for more than 30 years. In the past few years its residential neighbors have grown increasingly concerned about air, groundwater and soil pollution linked to the plant. That concern peaked last spring when chemical fumes emitted through a rooftop vent at the plant caused the evacuation of a six-block area of the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline neighborhoods.

The Merriam Park Community Council opposed the street vacation and asked that the request be postponed for one year while the city continues to explore the possibility of moving the plant.

Kathy Carlson, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff member who for the past six months has been coordinating ongoing health-risk studies in the neighborhood around Co-Operative Plating, was unaware of the street vacation request until contacted by a reporter. According to her, the MPCA would be concerned if soil was disturbed by the plant's expansion in the event the soil was contaminated.


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Residents remain at odds over plans for Summit Hill site

by Jane McClure

After more than a year of debate and several changes in plans, neighbors still are not putting out the welcome mat for Mendota Homes to develop a steeply sloped vacant lot below 5 Crocus Hill.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) postponed Mendota Homes' request for a front-yard setback variance on September 27 after neighbors continued to raise questions over property rights. Mendota Homes president John Mathern said he planned to meet with the attorneys for the neighbors before the variance is reconsidered on October 12.

Mendota Homes is seeking a 15-foot front-yard setback variance in order to construct a three-story, 12-unit condominium. A 25-foot setback is required and a 10-foot setback is proposed.

"We have a steep slope and property defined by four boundaries," Mathern said. "We're trying to construct a building within that space."

Mathern said the setback would line the

building up with a nearby apartment building that faces Grand Avenue. The condominium units would be 1,500 to 2,000 square feet in size and would sell for \$250,000 to \$300,000. The building would have underground parking with access from Grand.

The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee recommended on September 23 that the BZA deny the variance. Committee members said Mendota Homes could build a smaller building that would not require a variance. They also raised concerns about the loss of trees, alterations to the slope and the developer's legal right to build on a portion of the site.

Mendota Homes initially planned to build 10 townhouses on the 30,000-square-foot lot, which is zoned for multi-family housing. However, neighbors refused to allow construction on utility easements that they hold on the property. They also raised concerns about the loss of green space, the size of the project, the potential for spillover parking in the neighborhood, and the hazards that a driveway would pose on Grand where the avenue curves.

Mathern said the current building plan does not encroach on any utility easements. However, attorneys for the Robert Bisanz and James D'Aquila families disagree.

Attorneys Theodore Meyer and Richard Bisanz, who represent the Bisanzes, claim that a contract for deed prohibits construction within 25 feet of the easement on their clients' property. They said a proposed retaining wall for the condominium would violate that condition. They also asked for assurances that the proposed construction would not adversely affect the bluff below the Bisanz home.

"We're concerned that the slope is too steep to accommodate your proposed development and that the Bisanzes' home, patio, yard, trees and utilities could be placed in jeopardy," they wrote in a letter to Mendota Homes.

Richard Bisanz said Mendota Homes would have to excavate part of his clients' land to build the retaining wall. He added that it was premature for the city to consider a variance until the legal issues are settled.

Attorney Robert Hensley, who represents the D'Aquilas, said the retaining wall would

also cross his clients' easement and would make any future utility work impossible. He also raised several other objections to the project, including the fact that the bluff would have to be altered to build the condominiums. "The bluff will be clear-cut according to this plan," he said.

Mendota Homes has had a contract to purchase the lot from Richard Parranto, the former owner of Bisanzes' home at 5 Crocus Hill, since June 1998. Parranto said he has turned down many larger building proposals over the years, including one to construct a 42-unit apartment building on the site.

"Numerous people have wanted to buy this land," Parranto said. "I've had calls from several people thanking me for this project."

Last December, the BZA approved a variance and lot split on the property. The City Council denied the neighbors' appeal of that decision in January. Also that month, the St. Paul Planning Commission denied the neighbors' request for a site plan review. The neighbors argued that, rather than approving them in stages, all of the variances for the project should have been reviewed as a package.

STAR board takes a shine to four projects in Villager area

by Jane McClure

Local projects got mixed reviews from the St. Paul Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) board on September 27 when the committee made its recommendations to allocate almost \$7.3 million from the city's half-percent sales tax. The recommendations have been forwarded to Mayor Norm Coleman and the City Council for action this fall.

A total of 28 projects have been recommended for funding. The largest slice of the pie, \$3.2 million, is directed toward improving and increasing the city's housing stock, according to Bob Hammer of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff. Another \$2.4 million is being recommended for economic development efforts and \$598,000 is earmarked for parks, playgrounds and youth projects.

The largest single allocation, a \$1 million

loan, is being recommended for the Business Immersion charter school's renovation of the former Science Museum of Minnesota.

The 54 applications that were submitted for funding this year were the largest number ever received by the city. Grant requests totaled \$9.6 million and loan requests came in at \$8.3 million.

Seven of the 54 applications were submitted for projects in the Villager area. The local projects that were recommended for funding include:

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's request for a \$60,000 grant to assist neighborhood homeowners in replacing the lead water service connections between their homes and the street. That project tied for the eighth-highest ranking. The council received a \$100,000 grant in 1998 for the same purpose. More than 4,000 of the 8,000 households in Macalester-Groveland have lead

water service connections, which can be a source of lead poisoning.

The Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline community councils' request for \$150,000 to continue their Pride in Neighborhood Housing program. That project ranked ninth. The program provides loans and grants for residents to make exterior home improvements.

St. Clair Broiler owner Jimmy Theros' request for a \$45,000 grant and \$45,000 loan to improve the energy efficiency of his building at 1580 St. Clair Ave. That project, which tied for 12th in the ranking, is being recommended for approval as a \$67,500 loan. The two-story building was erected in 1927 and still has its original uninsulated windows. The windows would be replaced, doorways would be rebuilt and new exterior signs and awnings would be added.

Buchmeier Insurance Agency president

Greg Hudalla's request for a \$63,425 grant to assist with the costs of installing underground utilities for a new building at 1567 W. 7th St. That project was ranked 21st. The firm has been on West 7th Street since 1902. The new building would be just down the street from its present location at 1246 W. 7th St.

All of the grants and loans require a one-to-one match of money, materials, in-kind services or volunteer labor.

Local projects that were not recommended for funding include a \$100,000 grant for the St. Anthony School of Dance and Grand Avenue Ace Hardware to renovate their building at 1680 Grand Ave.; a \$150,000 grant for athletic field lighting, improved seating and reconstruction of the track at Highland Park High School; and a \$220,000 grant for the Highland Business Association to install automatic sprinklers in the sidewalk planters in Highland Village.

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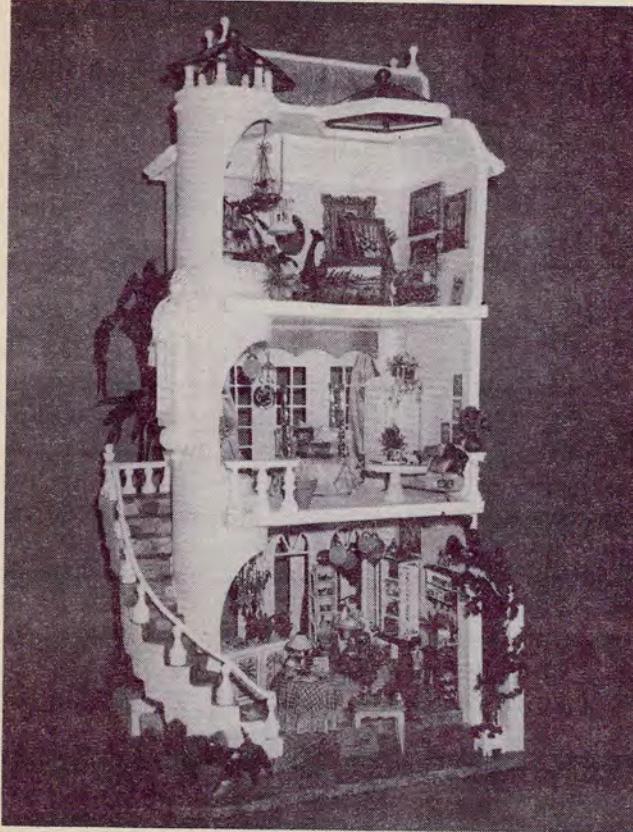
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Diane Schultz's fantasy doll house stands 32 inches high and features a glass-domed sunroom on the third floor.

Schultz to raffle off her fifth fantasy doll house

Diane Schultz of Summit Hill has once again tapped her imagination to create her fifth fantasy doll house to benefit Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

Begun as a way to thank those who have supported her Schultz is in Stitches Boutique for the past 22 years, the doll house is now a much-anticipated addition to the works of the approximately 150 artists who display their crafts at the annual fall show and sale.

The 32-inch-high doll house features a main floor patterned after the Devonshire English Garden Shop in Naples, Florida. A spiral staircase leads to a bedroom

suite, and the glass-domed sunroom on the top floor features miniature, hand-painted masterpieces.

The doll house will be displayed at various locations throughout the Twin Cities during October. It can also be seen November 1-7 at the Schultz is in Stitches Boutique at the Como Lakeside Pavilion.

Raffle tickets may be purchased by sending \$1.00 per ticket along with your name, address and phone number to: Schultz is in Stitches, 964 Lombard Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your ticket stubs returned.

Buckthorn removal planned along Minneapolis riverbank

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 16, volunteers will gather in the parking lot at West River Parkway and East 36th Street in Minneapolis to participate in the removal of buckthorn from a section of the riverbank that is being restored as an oak savanna. Included in the area is the only remnant of virgin prairie in Minneapolis.

Buckthorn has infested the river gorge over the last 30 years, devastating the natural oak woodland. Once restored, the 10-acre area will double the amount of oak savanna in the metro area.

Volunteers are being asked to dress in jeans, long-sleeved shirts and comfortable hiking boots or shoes. Nylon jackets are not recommended because of thorns. Leather gloves also are suggested.

A brochure describing the project is available from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: MPRB-River Gorge Savanna, 3800 S. Bryant Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55409.

The Park Board also is asking Minneapolis landowners to remove all buckthorn from their properties. Buckthorn shrubs are easily identified at this time of year, since they continue to retain green leaves, often into late December.

Last month, the state added common buckthorn to its noxious weed list because of the serious problems landowners and parks are experiencing with the plant. Buckthorn is spread by birds that eat the fruit and leave seeds in droppings at the next site they visit.

Those who have buckthorn on their property are being asked to either dig it out or cut it down and prevent it from resprouting.

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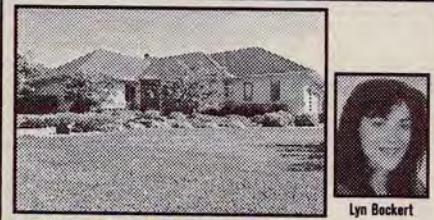
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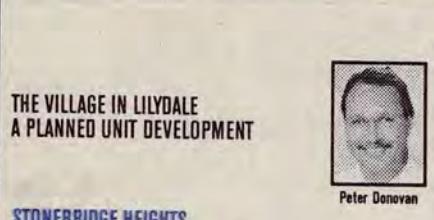
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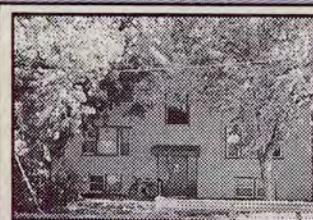
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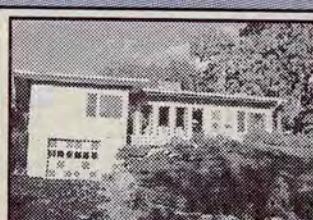
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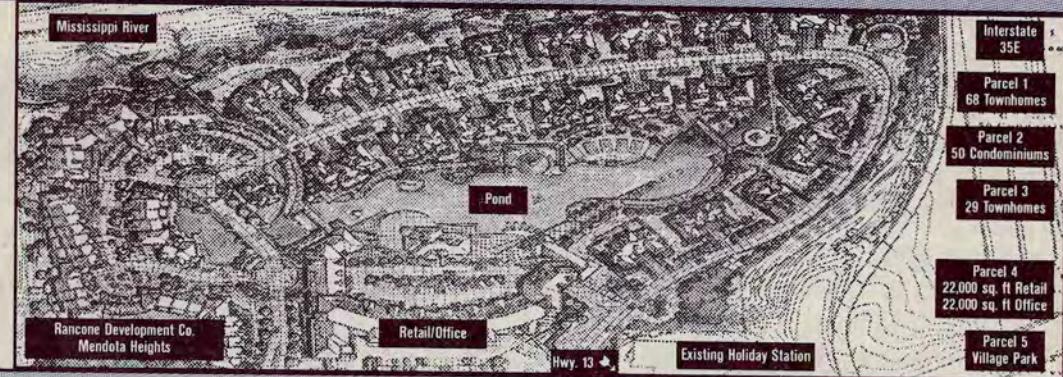
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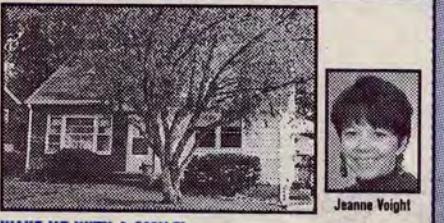
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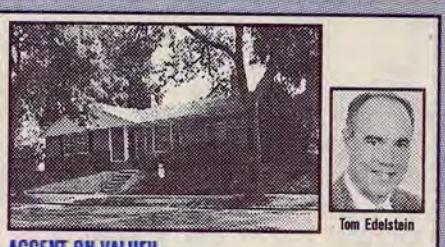


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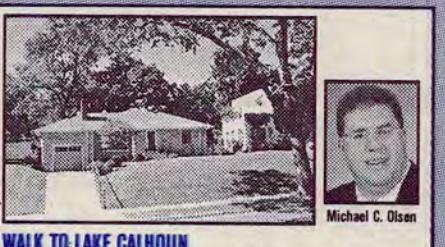
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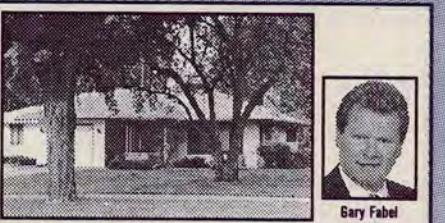
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Council adopts Shepard-Davern plan

Task force has yet to hammer out zoning, design guidelines

by Jane McClure

Though the St. Paul City Council adopted the Shepard-Davern Gateway Small Area Plan on September 22, how the plan will be implemented is still being debated. A meeting on design guidelines and a zoning overlay district for the area was held on September 28. A second meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 12, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Usually small area plans, zoning changes and design guidelines are adopted by the City Council simultaneously. However, in the case of Shepard-Davern, city staff, design consultants and the neighborhood task force decided to approve the plan while continuing to work on rezoning and design guidelines.

The zoning overlay district will be used to guide development in the area beyond what the current city zoning allows. It will address building heights and setbacks, off-street parking, landscaping and other exterior features such as entry placement, cornices, windows, trash receptacles, outdoor storage and fencing. The new regulations are being proposed as a way to enhance the West 7th area's historic character. Existing buildings would not be affected.

The Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan addresses that portion of Highland Park

between the Mississippi River and West 7th Street from the Highway 5 bridge to Homer Street. The plan calls for adding 1,000 new housing units in this area, strengthening the West 7th business district, redesigning West 7th Street as a more pedestrian-friendly gateway into St. Paul, extending Edgcumbe Parkway to Shepard Road, rebuilding Shepard Road as a parkway and improving access between the Mississippi River and the neighborhood.

The plan requires that a minimum of 20 percent of new housing units be affordable to households with incomes below 50 percent of the regional median

One of the key parts of the plan centers on the triangle of homes and businesses bounded by Norfolk Avenue and West 7th and Davern streets. Christensen Building Corporation of Minneapolis and former Thorpe Brothers Realty owner Sam Thorpe want to remove more than 40 homes and two businesses there and replace them with a \$50 million commercial development. They already have signed purchase

agreements for more than 50 percent of the homes there.

The Small Area Plan calls for adding housing mostly through the construction of condominiums, townhouses and apartments. At the insistence of advocates of affordable housing, the City Council also included in the plan its goals for new affordable housing.

The plan requires that a minimum of 20 percent of new housing units be affordable to households with incomes below 50 percent of the regional median and that a minimum of 10 percent of new housing units be affordable to households with incomes below 30 percent of the regional median.

Anita Dinerstein of Jewish Family Service said her agency works with many frail, homebound seniors who are struggling to find affordable housing. She said it is imperative that seniors be able to remain in the neighborhood where they already receive support services.

The plan also calls for the preservation of the 550-unit Sibley Manor apartment complex as affordable housing.

"Sibley Manor must be viewed as one of St. Paul's great treasures," said Stuart Goldberg of the Jewish Community Action Housing Working Group. "It provides housing to people who would otherwise not be able to live in this neighborhood."

Sesquicentennial party re-creates the sights, sounds, tastes of 1849

A 150th birthday party for St. Paul and Ramsey County will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 17, at Landmark Center. Former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer will preside over the festivities in the persona of the first territorial governor, Alexander Ramsey.

The event will include entertainment by the Minnesota Fife & Drum Corps, a fashion show featuring styles of the past 15 decades, SteppingStone Theatre's production of *Little Bird that Was Caught: The Jane Gibbs Story*, an 1800s parlor concert by the Schubert Club, a historical art scavenger hunt at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, plus historical exhibits, children's arts activities, drawings and giveaways.

The grand finale will feature the ceremonial cutting of a 150th birthday cake made by culinary arts students from the St. Paul Technical College using a recipe from the 1800s. It will be followed by the Minnesota State Band playing 150 years of music.

The activities are free, with the exception of the SteppingStone production. For information, call 651-292-3225.



George Latimer will portray Alexander Ramsey during the festivities on October 17.

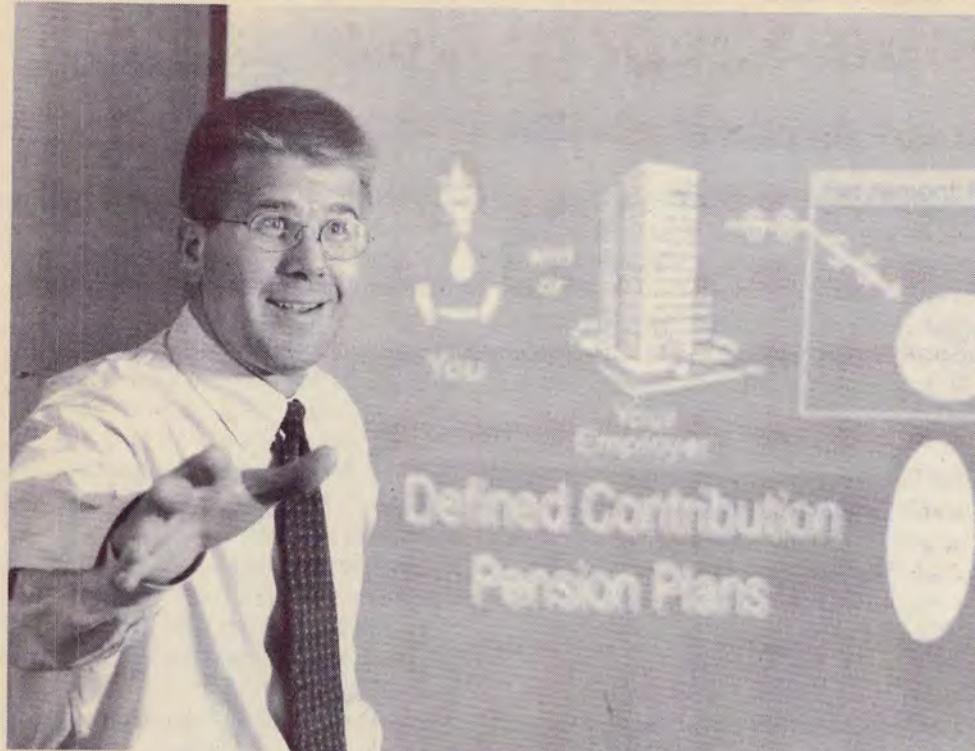
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Paul Grangaard of Financial Education delivers another of his financial planning workshops for employees who are saving for retirement. Photo by Terry Faust.

Highland's FiED takes the sweat out of financial planning for retirement

by Catherine Condon

Paul Grangaard was hired several years ago by a Canadian paper manufacturer to conduct financial planning workshops for employees at plants throughout North America. In Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, 100 miles up a logging trail from the nearest paved road, he met with a group of lumberjacks with high school educations who only spoke English as their second language.

"In five hours I got them from literally knowing zippo to using a sophisticated software program," he said. "They were off and managing their own affairs. And in that same seminar I had the chief financial officer getting as much out of it as the lumberjacks. So I was talking to the most sophisticated and the least sophisticated people at the same time. That showed me how much people need to learn."

With self-directed retirement accounts such as 401(k) plans replacing traditional pensions, more and more workers are facing retirement planning on their own, said Grangaard, president and CEO of Financial Education Inc. (FiED), 2100 Ford Pkwy.

"In the last 20 years, we've virtually turned everyone into a pension plan manager," Paul Grangaard said. "What we haven't done is given them the education they need to do a good job of it."

A Merriam Park resident and CPA, Grangaard founded FiED two years ago after working for 15 years in the Twin Cities as a corporate financial analyst, controller and public accountant specializing in personal financial planning.

At the last firm he worked before founding FiED, "Our clients were begging for help," Grangaard said. Many did not understand the basics such as risk, the different types of investment and the difference between managing money before and after retirement. "We ended up spending the first five or 10 hours educating them at \$150 an hour before we could even start helping them," he said.

As a result of that experience, Grangaard created a basic educational program that employees could use at a much cheaper rate. Encouraged by the response for that program, he founded FiED.

"Everything I'm doing now is an offshoot of what I started doing as a CPA," he said.

In addition to assisting the employees of corporate clients, Grangaard schools CPAs, brokers and other financial planning professionals in how to educate their clients. FiED also shows nonprofit groups creative ways to increase their earnings from donations.

Grangaard has just one other full-time employee and two part-timers—a marketing professional and an Internet designer who maintains FiED's Web site (www.fied.com). In two years, its client list has grown to include dozens of organizations, from small family-owned companies to large law and accounting practices to national and international corporations.

FiED's students determine how much they should be saving for retirement by using the firm's Retirement Needs Analysis software, which considers such variables as current and projected income, estimated retirement date, inflation, 401(k) accumulations, employer contributions and retirement income from Social Security and other sources.

"There's nothing you can't model with this software, and anybody can do it," Grangaard said.

FiED does not manage financial assets, does not carry licenses to sell financial or investment-related products, and does not provide fee-based financial planning services.

"There are other companies out there that (offer financial planning education)," Grangaard said. "They deliver training over the Internet, they go in and do training for companies on various aspects like debt management. But we're unique in that we are strictly objective."

"Most everybody else doing this wants to get people educated enough so that they'll pay money to come in and get some financial planning services. We're in the self-empowerment business. We educate, and then we say, 'Look, we'll help you put together a plan. You can do it!'"

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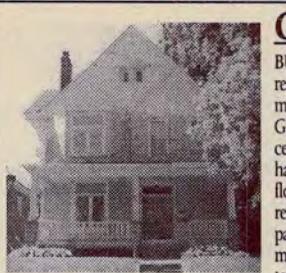
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WPI fellows to air impressions of America at Macalester forum

Nine journalists from cities as far flung as St. Petersburg, Russia, Makati City, the Philippines, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, will share their observations of the United States in a public forum at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 11, in Macalester College's Weyerhaeuser Chapel.

The reporters and editors spent the past four months exploring this country through the World Press Institute, which is headquartered at Macalester College. In the free program they will offer their views on the freedom of the press as practiced in the United States, drawing comparisons between the news media here and in their countries.

The journalists will reflect on their experiences as WPI fellows, touching on such recent events as the shooting at the Jewish day care center in Los Angeles and the media blitz surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy Jr.

The WPI fellows will also discuss their

visits with Midwest farmers, their interviews with scientists at the Human Genome Project, and their briefings by officials of the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. State Department and the Naval Academy.

The WPI fellows for 1999 include Roberto Baldini of *La Nazione* in Florence, Italy; Carlos Camacho of the *Bloomberg News* in Caracas, Venezuela; Radhika Dhawan of *Business Today* in Mumbai, India; Dov Gil-Har of Channel 2 Television in Jerusalem, Israel; Susan de Guzman of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in Makati City, the Philippines; Elena Maizel of Radio Russia in St. Petersburg, Russia; Cordelia Onu of the *Daily Champion* in Lagos, Nigeria; Mircea Opris of *Monitorul de Timisoara* in Timisoara, Romania; and Japhet Sanga of the *Daily News* in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The audience will be invited to respond to the journalists' observations and to ask questions. A reception with refreshments will follow the forum.

SCHOOL NOTES

Lutheran Special Education Ministries of Detroit plans to open a regional headquarters at Concordia University-St. Paul. The office will provide teachers, consultants and resources for more than 600 children with special needs who are attending Lutheran schools in Minnesota. The office is scheduled to begin offering services by the 2000-2001 school year.

Maria Moores and Chandler Poling of Cretin-Derham Hall have been selected for membership in the Minnesota Music Educators Association all-state mixed choir and men's choir, respectively, for the 1999-2000 school year. They will perform at Orchestra Hall in February.

James Daniel has been appointed vice president of development at the University of St. Thomas. Daniel, 53, held a similar position at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, where alumni participation in giving programs increased from 7 to 30 percent during his 10 years there. A graduate of St. Mary's College in Winona, he served as director of development at the College of St. Theresa in Winona from 1981 to 1985.

A fair for families looking at junior high and middle school programs for next year will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, October 18, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Representatives from public and private schools will be on hand to answer questions. Call 651-698-0751.

The University of St. Thomas has set an enrollment record this fall with 10,955 students, a 2 percent increase over last year's figure. The university also has its biggest freshman class with 1,046 new students, its most undergraduates with 5,399 and its biggest graduate-level enrollment with 5,556. Enrollment is 7,299 at the St. Paul campus, which is down from last year's 8,068, and 3,121 at the Minneapolis campus, which is up from last year's 2,077. The shift was a result of moving the school of education to the Minneapolis campus this summer.

Nick Davini, a junior at Cretin-Derham Hall, and Ben Krueger, a junior at Highland Park Senior High School, spent three weeks in Helsinki, Finland, over the summer as exchange students. They stayed in homes of Lions International members and were sponsored by the St. Paul Midway Lions.

The Derham Hall Alumnae Association presented awards to three alumnae during its annual luncheon on September 25. Mary



Sibley High School was one of 52 in the state to receive free mobile phones as part of the Safe Schools Program. The phones will be used by parking lot monitors, security guards and others at the various schools. Pictured at the Capitol steps are Steve Elm of AT&T, Erin McGinn of Sibley, Officer Dan Weber.

Hayes, class of '54, a psychotherapist with Blackmore and Associates, received the Hour Glass Award. Kate McKee, '74, a stockbroker with US Bancorp-Piper Jaffray, earned the Hugh Derham Award. Sharon O'Connor, '73, the technology coordinator at Cretin-Derham Hall, received the Carondelet Award.

The Cretin Alumni Association recognized two individuals at its 103rd annual alumni banquet. Brother Alphonsus Martel, a business teacher at Cretin-Derham Hall, received the St. De La Salle Memorial Award. Future baseball hall of famer Paul Molitor, '74, was awarded the Bishop Cretin Award for his contributions to the school.

Reading mentors are needed to spend one hour a week during the school day helping students at the St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave. At least 100 volunteers are being sought to participate in the HOSTS (Help One Student To Succeed) program. An orientation session is planned for late October. The program will run November through May. To volunteer, call Andrea Willard at 651-293-8670, ext. 1125.

District 197 Community Education is offering two computer courses on Mondays and Wednesdays, October 11-20, at Moreland Elementary School, 217 W. Moreland Ave., West St. Paul. "Putting It All Together" will meet at 3:30 p.m. and "Beyond the Basics" will follow at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$47. To register, call 651-405-2482.

Scaring up fun

Things that go bump await those wanting a jump on this Halloween

Halloween continues to be one of the most celebrated holidays of the year. What used to consist of a single evening of trick-or-treating has developed into a month-long festival of haunted houses, spooky tours, costume parties and more.

Here's a look at some of the events that are being offered for those who want to get a jump on celebrating All Hallow's Eve:

Spooky World, "America's Horror Theme Park," has opened for its fifth season at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. From Wednesday through Sunday evenings now through Halloween, there'll be Hayrides of the Un-Dead, a haunted circus maze, Dracula's haunted house, Gargoyle Manor, Terror Theatre, a "fright-tanic" giant slide, monster mini-golf, games, food and more. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$15. Call 612-445-8555.

Ghosts and Graves Tours are being led at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and at 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday now through Halloween starting from the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. Tales of ghosts, hauntings and crimes of passion will be presented as guests take a two-hour tour past 13 of St. Paul's most spirit-filled sites. The cost is \$18. Call 651-292-1220.

The Tunnel of Terror will open for its 18th season in the sandstone labyrinth adjacent to

Watergate Marina below Shepard Road in Highland Park. Members of the St. Paul Jaycees will dress in costume to guide visitors through a maze of scary scenes set up in the caves. The Tunnel of Terror will run the evenings of October 15-17, 21-24 and 28-31. Admission is \$9.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children. There is a \$1.00 discount for those who bring a food shelf donation. Call 651-222-1708 or visit the Jaycees' Web site at st.pauljaycees.org.

"The Druids Cauldron," an interactive look into Ireland's past, present and future through song, dance and more, will be offered at 7:30 p.m. every Saturday, beginning October 16, at Kieran's Irish Pub, 330 S. 2nd Ave., Minneapolis. Tickets cost \$8.00. Call 612-339-4499.

Candlelight tours of Historic Fort Snelling will be offered from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, October 19-21. Costumed characters will scare up stories from the fort's past. Tours will leave every 15 minutes up to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors and \$5.00 for children. Call 612-726-1171.

Ghost tours of the Ramsey County Courthouse will be given on Thursday and Friday, October 21-22. For decades, those who use the building have been reporting unex-



Amie Jannetto gets help with her makeup from ghoulish colleague Paul O'Neil at the Tunnel of Terror. The St. Paul Jaycees' spooktacular will kick off its 18th season on the evening of October 15 in the sandstone caves near Watergate Marina. Photo by Mike Long.

plained screams and noises and people who "didn't quite fit." Is the building haunted? Are there ghosts of the county's past roaming the building? Find out for yourself. The free tours will leave every half hour from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. To register, call 651-266-8023.

Shadows and spirits will stalk the halls of the state Capitol from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. October 22-23 and 28-30. Visitors are invited to tour the Capitol while they meet costumed characters from the state's past. Tours leave every half hour. Admission is \$5.00 for adults,

\$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children. To register, call 651-296-2881.

Victorian ghost stories will be told at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, October 25-27, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The stories will be read by costumed actors in the parlor of the brooding mansion. Refreshments and tours will follow. The cost is \$5.00. Due to the length of the program and its content, the event is not recommended for children under 10. Call 651-297-2555.

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Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING SET

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its next monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 14, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The agenda will include the election of a representative from Grid 12 (see map) to the board of directors. There also will be a discussion on a revised plan for the neighborhood. For more information about the board opening or the community council, call 651-695-4000.

FALL VOLUNTEER DAY

The Macalester-Groveland Job Connection is now looking for volunteers to assist area seniors during Fall Volunteer Day on Saturday, October 23. Volunteers are needed to perform outdoor tasks, such as yard cleaning, gutter cleaning, window washing and minor outdoor repairs. Hours are flexible and parent-child teams are encouraged to participate. For details, call Laura Gutmann at 651-695-4000.

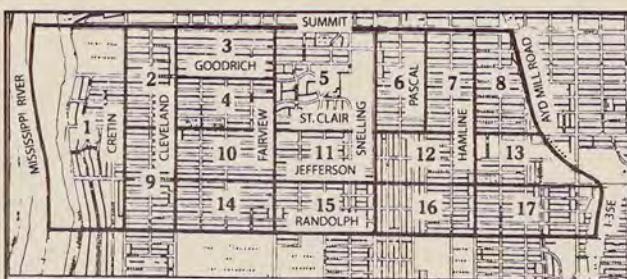
STUMP REMOVAL

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has a group contract with Midwest Tree Technology to remove stumps on city boulevards. The cost to Macalester-Groveland homeowners is \$25. The contractor will also grind stumps outside the district for \$30. To sign up, send a check made payable to the MGCC to 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul, MN 55015.

PUBLIC FORUMS

The Macalester-Groveland, Summit Hill and Highland district councils will host public forums on two of the three referendums that will be on the November 2 ballot.

On October 12, there will be a forum on the ballot initiative that will ask St. Paul voters if they are willing to increase the city's sales tax by another half percent to help pay for the construction of a new outdoor baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins. A panel will include speakers from the mayor's office, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and groups opposed to the initiative.



Macalester-Groveland neighborhood by grids

On October 20, there will be a public forum on the ballot initiative that will ask St. Paul voters if they favor prohibiting the construction of new billboards in the city and removing within five years all existing billboards that are not protected by state or federal law using the city's power to regulate public nuisances.

Both of the forums will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the atrium between Rice and Olin halls at Macalester College. For information, call the community council's office at 651-695-4000.

WARD 3 FORUM

The Macalester-Groveland and Highland community councils and the St. Paul League of Women Voters will sponsor a forum for the Ward 3 candidates for City Council at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 26, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. The two candidates, Pat Harris and Mitch Gordon, have been invited to make presentations and answer questions. For information, call 651-695-4000.

POLICING INSTITUTE

Residents, business representatives and police officers are invited to participate in a free three-session training workshop on community policing. The workshop will take place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 12, 19 and 26, at the West Minnehaha Recreation Center, 685 W. Minnehaha Ave. Refreshments and child care will be provided. To register, call 651-695-4000.

KIDSPARK CONCERTS

Folksinger John McCutcheon will perform concerts to benefit KidsPark, the community council's drop-in child-care program, on Sunday, November 21, at the University of St. Thomas. A children's concert will be given at 3:00 p.m. and a family concert at 7:00 p.m.

McCutcheon has appeared around the world, has produced 16 albums and has been nominated four times for a Grammy. On stage with him will be his sister, Patty McCutcheon, an American Sign Language interpreter.

Tickets go on sale October 15. They may be purchased at \$5.00 for the afternoon concert or \$12 for the evening concert by calling Darla Eilen at 651-645-4800, KidsPark at 651-695-4008 or the community council's office at 651-695-4000.

Highland, Mac-Groveland to host neighborhood cleanup

The Highland and Macalester-Groveland community councils' fall cleanup will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 16, in the parking lot of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. An attempt will be made to reuse as much of the incoming material as possible. To make the job easier, those who drop off items are asked to separate materials into the following categories before arriving at the site:

- Fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts.
- Tires—an additional fee will be charged: \$1.00 per car tire, \$2.00 per light truck tire and more for larger tires.
- Metal, such as rain gutters or pipes.
- Bikes, lawn mowers and snowblowers.
- TVs, VCRs and computers.
- Usable furniture and housewares.
- Usable building materials, such as double hung and double pane windows, toilets, sinks, tubs, cabinets and doors.
- Asphalt, concrete and rocks.
- Construction debris, such as drywall, old windows, asphalt, patio blocks, shingles and rebar.
- Clean wood—not brush.
- Refuse—material not in the above categories.

The cleanup is intended for households in the High-

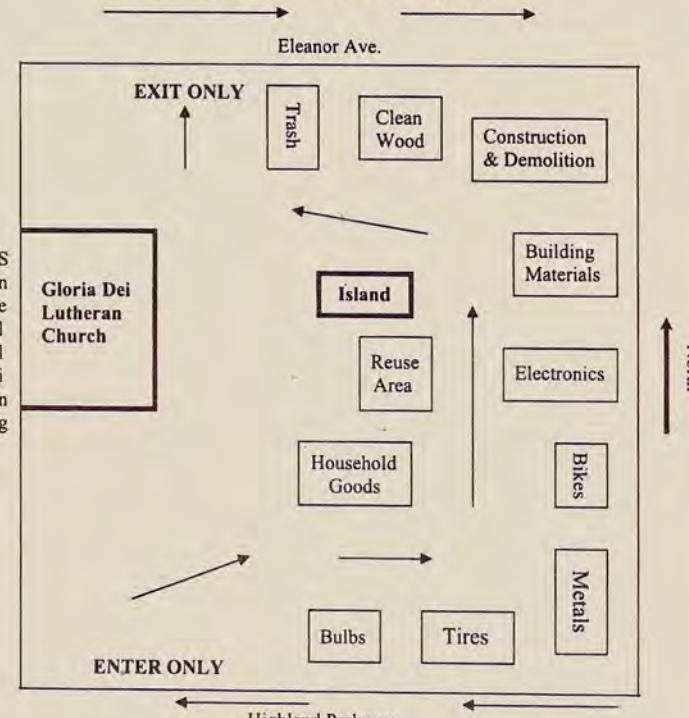
land and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods only, and proof of residency will be required. Brush will be collected in the parking lot of the Highland Ice Arena and will be open to any St. Paul resident. Rootballs and grass will not be accepted.

The cost for bringing items to the cleanup site is \$5.00 for cars, \$10 for pickups, station wagons or trailers, and \$25 for trucks. Household hazardous waste, such as paints, pesticides or solvents, will not be accepted. For details on how to properly dispose of those items, call 651-633-3279.

Appliances will not be accepted during the cleanup, but a half-price curbside collection of appliances will take place on Monday, October 18. The cost is \$15 per appliance and \$23 for air conditioners. To sign up for the collection, call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 by October 14.

Many volunteers are needed to work at the cleanup site. They will be treated to lunch from the Green Mill and Great Harvest Bread Company. Volunteers also will receive T-shirts and free entry to the site. Shifts are from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To volunteer, call the Highland District Council's office at 651-695-4005 or the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's office at 651-695-4000.

Map of Neighborhood Cleanup Site*



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Highland District COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING SET

The Highland District Council will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 21, in the Village View Room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Those who want a look at the agenda may check the council's Web site at stpaul.gov/neighborhoods.com on the Monday before the meeting. The site also will include minutes of the September meeting. For information, call 651-695-4005.

CANDIDATE FORUM

The Highland and Macalester-Groveland district councils will sponsor a candidate forum for the Ward 3 City Council race at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave.

The forum will not include School Board candidates, as was reported in the district council's previous column, because the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a School Board forum the same evening. For details, call the league at 651-224-5445.

HBA sponsors free skating party

A family ice skating party, sponsored by the Highland Business Association, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, October 15, at the Highland Arena (south rink). Thanks to the generosity of George Wozniak and Hobbit Travel, the party is free of charge. It is open to all ages. Nightsounds will provide recorded music by request. Cookies, bottled water and coffee will be sold.

Snelling-Hamline COUNCIL CAPSULE

ANNUAL MEETING SET

The Snelling-Hamline Community Council will hold its annual meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 28, at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1550 Summit Ave. The meeting will focus on the pros and cons of a stadium tax and a billboard ban. Board elections also will be held. Those who are interested in running for the board or who want to request child care for the meeting are asked to call 651-644-1085.

COMMUNITY POLICING

A free, three-session training workshop on community policing will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 12, 19 and 26, at the West Minnehaha Recreation Center, 685 W. Minnehaha Ave. Participants will gain an understanding of community policing, acquire problem-solving skills and learn methods to involve neighborhood residents and businesses in fighting crime. Child care will be provided. For information, call the council office at 651-644-1085.

RAILROAD OVERPASS GRAFFITI

Representatives from the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood, National City Bank and Graffiti Inc. recently met with a representative from the Canadian Pacific Railroad to work out a plan for removing graffiti on the railroad bridge at Snelling and Marshall avenues. The railroad has agreed to remove graffiti on the overpass within 48 hours after it is reported. Anyone who sees graffiti is asked to report it to Meredith Vogel at the Police Force Unit at 651-292-3625. Those who witness graffiti in progress should call 911.

CITIZENS SOUND OFF

Snelling-Hamline residents can now get their concerns heard by participating in Citizen Sound Off. The first 15 minutes of each of the community council's Neighborhood Issues Committee meetings are devoted to hearing from residents on any topic of interest.

Citizen Sound Off begins at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at Liberty Bank, 176 N. Snelling Ave. For information, call Sherilyn Young at 651-644-1085.

RECYCLING PLASTIC BOTTLES

Area residents can now recycle their plastic milk, pop, water and soap bottles by bringing them to Kowalski's Grand Market, 1261 Grand Ave., or Hampden Park Foods Co-op, 928 Raymond Ave. No. 1 and 2 bottles may be placed in the red recycling bins in the parking lots. Lids and caps should be removed and the bottles should be flattened. No plates, tubs, trays, toys, paper bags or plastic bags should be placed in the bins. For information, call the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium at 651-221-4462.

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"One hundred fifty families came into our store in the first two hours because of last year's *Villager* ad for Halloween in Highland," says Nancy Moeller, sales representative for R.F. Moeller Jeweler and promotions director for the Highland Business Association. "We ran out of free glow sticks we passed out to the kids, so this year we're doubling our supply."

"The *Villager* is the main vehicle of communication to the public for the Highland Business Association," she says. "Everyone reads it cover to cover."

According to Moeller, the Highland Business Association has increased its commitment to developing more entertaining promotions to build customer traffic. "And we're committed to promoting those events in the *Villager*," she says.

Mark Sat., Oct. 30

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This year's event will feature a free movie, free trick or treating at participating businesses, cookie decorating, a free glow-stick (while supplies last), the 30-piece

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Call Nancy Moeller at 651-698-6321 or Patricia Boyd at 651-699-9042 if you're a merchant who would like to participate in passing out candy or would like ideas to increase customer traffic on that day.

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Turning the other cheek

Restorative justice gives victims chance to confront juvenile offenders and help get them back on track

by Dave Page

William Moore, a soft-spoken, articulate veteran of the Ramsey County corrections system, knows a lot about restorative justice.

"When I was young," Moore said, "if I broke a neighbor's window, my father would go talk to that person and get things straightened out. Maybe I'd have to clean up the glass and pay for the repairs."

The Chicago native has done volunteer work in restorative justice for the past five years. In 1997 he began serving as a mediator for the Summit-University Restorative Justice Program, which was designed to give victims a say in the punishment of juvenile offenders.

The program closed shop last December, but it was resurrected in April by Heather Burns, a student at the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work who operates it out of an office at 1216 Selby Ave. Now known as the Community Restorative Justice Program, it is one of only a few such organizations in the Twin Cities and, as far as Burns knows, the only one that works exclusively with juvenile offenders. It is funded by the Dispute Resolution Center of St. Paul, which handles adult mediation.

Thus far, referrals to the juvenile program have come exclusively from police and probation officers. However, Burns and Moore are hoping that as word gets out, neighbor-

hood residents will come forward to refer juveniles to the program. Burns said she also is hoping to add adults to the program in the future.

Once a case is referred, a trained mediator makes contact with the perpetrator and the victim. Supporters of either side can come to the meetings, but they currently do not participate. "Community-conferencing" and "circle sentencing" techniques that allow for comments from police, probation officers, neighbors, families, lawyers and victims are still being put into place.

Mediators make it clear that neither the victim nor the offender is forced to participate. If they both agree, a meeting is set up to try to work out a solution amenable to both parties. In all cases, rules are employed to help ensure safety and fairness for all participants.

Moore recalled one case that involved a group of graffiti artists. The parents of one of the offenders were upset with their son and wanted to force him to paint the victims' garage doors. "The police thought showing up unannounced at the victims' homes was not such a great idea," Moore said. So the case was turned over to the restorative justice program.

At the mediation session, the victims told the vandals how frightened they had been. The homeowners thought a gang was terror-

izing their neighborhood. One older woman was afraid to leave her house after the graffiti appeared.

The kids got to see a different side to what they perceived as the "innocent publicizing of their tags," Moore said.

An agreement was reached in which the kids would clean public areas in the neighborhoods and write a formal apology. Moore said the solution was much better than having the kids pay a fine, because they would never have understood the impact of their actions and the victims would never have seen any connection between the punishment and their neighborhood.

Although some residents thought the punishment was too light, Moore made it clear that the perpetrators were still on probation. Their involvement in the restorative justice program was in addition to their court appearance. Offenders can sometimes receive reduced sentences in exchange for satisfactory completion of the mediation contract, but that is not guaranteed.

Of the eight cases mediated by the restorative justice program since the beginning of the summer, two reached an agreement, one was sent to the Dispute Resolution Center, one had one of the parties back out and the rest are still pending.

The program is currently set up to handle only low-level property crimes, including theft, burglary and vandalism. Eventually, Burns would like to work with more serious crimes like her mentor, Mark Umbreit, who has worked with murderers and their victims' families as head of the Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation at the University of Minnesota.

Burns said the program currently has about 30 active volunteers and is always looking for others committed to the principles of restorative justice. The next training session will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, October 8-9 and 15-16. The training is free for those willing to commit at least one year to mediating for the program. For information, call Burns at 651-643-3038.



Sue Stacy of the Minnesota Department of Corrections explains the risks and benefits of restorative justice to volunteer mediators. The next training session will be held October 8-9 and 15-16. Photo by Terry Faust.

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Concert for the Kosovars

Area's top musicians and dance troupes collaborate on a two-hour benefit for the ethnic Albanians

by Judy Woodward

Robert Hindel is a pianist and composer of some renown, but following the Concerts to Benefit the Ethnic Albanians of Kosovo on October 8 and 9, he may be better known as an organizational genius.

The Selby Avenue resident is the guiding force behind the benefit, which will bring together a virtual who's who of local dance and musical groups for two performances in the new fine arts center at Convent of the Visitation School in Mendota Heights.

Proceeds from the concerts will benefit the dozen or so ethnic Albanian families who are now being resettled in the Twin Cities, including two families who will be moving into the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood under the auspices of Catholic Charities. The concerts will also benefit relief agencies that are working with those who are still living in war-

torn Kosovo.

The local Kosovar Albanians will be guests of honor at the concerts, and the energetic Hindel is arranging with Mendota Heights Mayor Charles Mertensotto's office for an official welcoming ceremony during intermission.

Among the groups that will be donating their time and talents for the concerts are the Minnesota Dance Theatre under the direction of Summit Hill resident Lise Houlton, the Sacred Dance Ensemble from the St. Anthony School of Dance on Grand Avenue, the Nativity of Our Lord Parish Choir under the direction of Rob Pontious, Ballet Minnesota under the direction of Andrew Rist, Danceworks, Prairie Harmony and the Irish dance troupe Scioil Na Dri.

Hindel, 44, will be performing with several members of his group, Ecaru. He wrote much of the music for the event, including the new "Kosovo Suite" for choir, instrumentalists and dancers. The piece, which mixes Latin rhythms



Cathy Hollingsworth, Karen Rivet, Sonja Hinderlie and Georgia Amdahl cradle Paula Christenson as Candace Linares grieves in a rehearsal of the Sacred Dance Ensemble's "Agnus Dei." Photo by Terry Faust.

with an Albanian folk song called "The Emigrant," describes the sufferings of the people caught up in the Kosovo conflict.

Hindel credits fellow Ecaru members James Riccardo, Nina Westbrook, Mary Tupper-Judovsky and Leah and Joel Abdella—all accomplished musicians in their own right—for coming up with the idea for the concert. "My friends wanted an opportunity to play the music we love and we wanted to benefit an outside group," he said. "It came together just at the time of the Kosovo crisis."

Although no one in Ecaru has personal ties to Kosovo or Albania, Hindel can relate to the anguish of

people who are forced into exile. "My mother and aunt came to the United States in 1939 as refugees from Hitler's Germany," he said.

Pontious will direct eight members of the Nativity choir in a trio of sacred musical scores arranged by Hindel and accompanied by Ecaru: "Kyrie Eleison," "Ave Maria" and "Psalm 122."

Wilor Bluege, artistic director of the St. Anthony School of Dance, has also chosen religious music for the benefit. Seven members of her troupe will dance to Poulenc's "Agnus Dei."

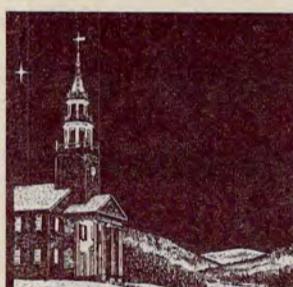
Bluege took her inspiration for the dance from the music and from a Botticelli painting, "Christ's

Descent from the Cross." To complete the creative process, she said, she needed a third element. That came when she saw a picture of a terra cotta figurine from Crete, which inspired the flowing costumes of her dancers.

According to Bluege, the sorrowful yet redemptive nature of the music and the veiled costumes of the dancers will suit the mood of the concert.

Houlton hopes to portray an entirely different mood with her choreography, which will accompany an upbeat medley of Latin tunes, including Hindel's arrangement of "The Girl from

Concert/see next page



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to all the area businesses that contributed to help make the 6th Annual Silent Auction at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church such a huge success! Because of their generosity we raised over \$14,000 to support our local ministries. Please join the congregation at Gloria Dei Church in thanking the following businesses:

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Kosovars fleeing ethnic cleansing find new home in Mac-Groveland

by Judy Woodward

When the curtain rises on the Concerts to Benefit the Ethnic Albanians of Kosovo at Visitation School this weekend, two of the best seats in the house will be occupied by Erman and Dragica Ibrani.

The Ibranis will be guests of honor at the concerts, joining other ethnic Albanian refugees who have resettled in the Twin Cities.

For the last month, the Ibranis have shared a Spartan apartment in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood with their son. The journey that carried them from Kosovo to St. Paul began almost a decade ago.

In 1990 Erman, a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Pristina, and Dragica, a research physician, were forced from their posts because they were not of Serb ancestry. After the death of longtime leader Josip Broz Tito in 1980, the fragile ethnic coalition that was Yugoslavia had begun to unravel. By 1990, the Serb majority in Kosovo had begun the grim process of so-called "ethnic cleansing." In the eyes of the authorities, the most important fact about the Ibranis was that they were not Serbs.

It was not always that way. When they met and married as university students in the mid-'60s, Erman and Dragica had friends from many different ethnic backgrounds. They crossed ethnic and religious lines in their own relationship: Erman is a Muslim Albanian, while Dragica is a Roman Catholic of Bosnian-Croatian extraction.

"It wasn't important what your background was then," their son Florin said.

Twenty-five years later, all that had changed. The Ibranis discovered that they both belonged to groups that were historic enemies of the dominant Serbs.

When their son and daughter were expelled from school in 1990 because of their Albanian heritage, the Ibranis resolved to send them to the United States for a chance at a better life.

"We were alone then," said Dragica, who could not restrain her tears as she described in halting English what it felt like to send her children away.

Limited English skills kept the Ibranis from following their children abroad at first. Speaking through his son, Erman joked wryly, "I'm fluent in five or six (southeastern European) languages—all of them completely useless to me now."

The Ibranis stayed behind, piecing together a living by teaching in alternative schools that were set up for ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Then came the summer of 1999 with its threats of Western bombs and Serbian violence. Erman and Dragica said they knew the time had come to leave.

After a brief stay in a Macedonian refugee camp, the couple were at last able to reunite with their family thanks to Catholic Charities. Their daughter is now enrolled in college in Oregon. Florin, who recently graduated from Macalester College and has a promising career as a computer design consultant, opened his home to them.

Erman, a lean, craggy-faced man, refused to recount the details of his and Dragica's flight and escape. Instead, he would only say, "Our story is similar to many in Kosovo. We're probably luckier than most."

Learning English is now the top priority for both of the Ibranis. Beyond that, Erman said, "I am 53 years old and I have been in the United States for 45 days. I am a diehard realist who does not expect miracles."

Dragica, meanwhile, offered these first impressions of America: "Very pleasant and clean. And the people, they smile all the time."

Concert for the Kosovars

Ipanema."

"We want to keep it upbeat and positive," said Houlton, who knows Hindel from his work as an accompanist for the Minnesota Dance Theatre. "The point is not to bring more devastating emotions into their lives," she said. "Rather the opposite."

The Concerts to Benefit the Ethnic Albanians of Kosovo will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, October 8 and 9, at Visitation, 2245 Visitation Drive in Mendota Heights. Admission is \$15 for adults or \$30 for an entire family. A reception with refreshments will follow each concert.

VOLUNTEERS

Reading mentors are being sought to spend one hour a week during the school day with elementary students at the St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave. The program will run from November to early May. Orientation is planned for late October. For information, call Andrea Willard at 651-293-8670, extension 1125.

Zoo Boo volunteers are needed to help kids celebrate a not-so-frightening Halloween at Como Zoo. Opportunities include costumed characters, greeters and traffic and parking controllers. Costumes, training and orientation are provided. Call Krista Spieler at the Como Zoological Society at 651-645-1014.

The Bethany Convent Retirement Center, 1870 Randolph Ave., has many new opportunities for volunteers. For information, call Sister Mary Ellen at 651-696-2518.

Swimming instructors are being sought to work one-on-one with mentally disabled individuals. Volunteers will work under the su-

pervision of a certified adapted aquatics instructor. Call Evelyn Senty at 651-266-6375.

Tutors are being sought to help children improve their reading and enjoyment of reading through America Reads. The tutors will read with a child, listen to the child read and assist him or her with writing exercises. Various St. Paul locations are available. Call Alan Dubinsky at 651-221-2820.

Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County needs volunteers to provide telephone counseling, crisis intervention, and information and referral to victims of sexual assault. The position includes providing support at hospitals, police stations and other settings. Call Emily Lindgren at 651-643-3022.

Como Zoo is seeking volunteers interested in working three hours a week or every other week teaching zoo visitors about the plants and animals on exhibit. Morning and afternoon shifts are available. Training begins October 30. For information, call 651-487-8247.

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Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais-Villages 750 ml.	\$8.99	Fonseca Bin 27 Porto 750 ml.	\$15.49
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Domaine Ste. Michelle Brut, Extra Dry & Blanc de Blanc 750 ml.	\$9.99	Hogue Johannisberg Riesling 750 ml.	\$5.49
Taittinger Brut LaFrancaise 750 ml.	\$36.99	Fetzer Sundial Chardonnay 750 ml.	\$5.99
Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut, Extra Dry & Brut de Noir 750 ml.	\$7.99		
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Top dogs

Taste of Windy City blows Village's way with opening of Chicago Beef

by Catherine Condon

Near the braising pan at the newly opened Chicago Beef Co. in Highland Village, co-owner Larry Bertz explained how to prepare the aged Angus beef for the restaurant's Italian roast beef sandwich.

"You take about seven or eight 12-pound beef roasts," he said. "You braise them, flip them over and braise them again. You fill the pan up with water, add all of your secret ingredients and then let it cook at 450 degrees for three and a half hours. You pull it all out, put it in the freezer, let it sit for an hour and then take it from the freezer to the refrigerator. It sits overnight and first thing in the morning it goes right into the meat slicer."

Bertz and fellow owner Scott Buttermore opened Chicago Beef two weeks ago in the former Chesapeake Bagel space in Highland Crossing. Along with Italian roast beef, meatball and other sandwiches, the restaurant serves Chicago-style hot dogs and Polish sausages, all loaded with peppers, mustard and relish. Chicago Beef Co. also features garden and chicken salads, burgers and fries, kids' meals, daily value meals and 10 flavors of Brown's Velvet Smooth Ice Cream.

However, it is not the varied menu that sets Chicago Beef Co. apart.

"What makes us unique is the use of fresh beef," Bertz said. "It's not buying beef that's pre-packaged, vacuum-sealed and pre-cooked, and then just warming it up and serving the customer. It's fresh beef every day. That's what makes this Chicago-style. Most of

the mom-and-pop shops in Chicago make their own. Nobody else in Minnesota is cooking their own beef the way we do."

The two owners categorize their restaurant, which creates made-to-order sandwiches in two minutes or less, as "semi-fast food"—a term they say that is used a lot in Chicago. "You come in, you order, you sit down and eat, or you buy take-out," Bertz said.

Their previous restaurant experience is limited to the part-time jobs Buttermore picked up during high school and college, but both men believe their combined 40 years of experience in the professional and service fields will pay off in their new venture.

Bertz, a Mendota Heights resident and Henry Sibley High School graduate, is a long-time salesman who still works full time for Millar Elevator Service Company. Buttermore, a CPA with a 15-year accounting background, recently left a controller position at a local law firm to devote his time to the restaurant. He is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas and lives in Stillwater.

The two men became friends when Buttermore was the financial manager for an elevator company that employed Bertz. After discovering their mutual interest in owning and running a restaurant, they sought advice from an acquaintance who was part-owner of three Chicago-area restaurants called Pop's.

"We approached him about franchising," Buttermore said. "He called back and said, 'I don't really want to franchise and get into all those legalities. But I'll tell you what: Come



Larry Bertz, left, of Mendota Heights and partner Scott Buttermore have opened the semi-fast food Chicago Beef Co. in Highland Crossing. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

down and I'll tell my manager to fill you in on the whole business.' So for two years, we've sort of been going back and forth on the phone and going down there on weekends, learning the business."

Pop's shared with them its recipes for hot Italian roast beef sandwiches and Chicago dogs. "You take a Vienna beef hot dog nestled in a poppy seed steamed bun, a squirt of yellow mustard, pile on the onions and the relish, two tomato wedges, a dill pickle spear, and top it off with two sport peppers and a dash of celery salt," Buttermore said.

Both Bertz and Buttermore are thrilled by the early public reception of Chicago Beef Co. The feedback was tremendous at their food booth during Highland Fest, according to Buttermore. "We outsold our competition

probably at least four to one," Bertz added. "We're very, very impressed with the response."

The two men expect to sell 300 to 450 sandwiches daily and to eventually expand in other locations around the Twin Cities. One of their promotional ideas is to figure out a way to deliver to the Ford plant. "That'll come later, probably three months later by the time we refine our processes here," Bertz said. "Then we'll go out and talk to Ford and say, 'We've got a product that your employees are going to love.'"

Both men also are eager to contribute to the neighborhood. "This is a close-knit community where you can actually jump in and say, 'We want to help,'" Bertz said. "That, to me, is what business is all about."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Pearle Vision-Highland, 2034 Ford Pkwy., now has a doctor on staff who specializes in vision-related learning problems for people of all ages. Dr. Kristi Backer graduated with honors from the Illinois College of Optometry in 1995. She is a member of the American Optometry Association, the Minnesota Optometrists Association and the International Academy of Sports Vision. She specializes in pediatrics and geriatrics and is available for day, evening and weekend eye examinations.



Dr. Kristi Backer

graduate of Macalester College, she is working toward a graduate degree in youth development at the University of Minnesota.

Trotter's Cafe and Bakery, 232 N. Cleveland Ave., will celebrate its 10th year the week of October 11-16 by rolling back prices to 1989. It also will offer free birthday cake, drawings and more.

Theresa Skillrud of Macalester-Groveland, former marketing and public relations director for the Franciscan Health Community, has been hired as director of communications for the St. Paul Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Skillrud earned a degree in mass communications and public relations at St. Cloud State University.

Lori Dowell of Mendota Heights has been named supervisor of database management for James & Co., a St. Paul-based promotion, performance and communications agency. A native of Swanville, Dowell comes to James from Exlar Corporation.

The Business and Professional Women's Forum will host a networking event from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 7, at the Women's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove St. Entertainment will be provided by local author and actress Lorna Landvik. Sponsors of the forum include Women Venture, the College of St. Catherine and Metropolitan State University. The cost is \$35. For details or to register, call 612-870-8001.

Dakota Bank is planning to open an outlet this fall on the skyway level of the new Minnesota Life building at 6th and Robert streets in downtown St. Paul. The new branch will give Dakota Bank seven outlets in the east metro area, including its headquarters in Mendota Heights and its facility on West 7th Street in Highland.

KAT Salons, a full-service hair salon, has opened at 714 S. Cleveland Ave. in the former Golden Comb location. The salon is owned by sisters Kou Vang and Tia Manning, and offers haircuts, perms, manicures, skin care and waxing.

Former Governor Arne Carlson will speak at an Insider's Breakfast presented by the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce on Friday, October 8. The program will run from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Midway Hotel, 400 N. Hamline Ave. The cost is \$20 to nonmembers.

Grand Remnants, a vintage textile, clothing and furniture store located at 1692 Grand Ave. for the past three years, has moved into new quarters at 1136 Grand Ave. The store displays its goods on two floors of the century-old home. A grand opening will be celebrated Thursday through Saturday, October 7-9. Owner Sue Loomer invites area residents to stop in and register for door prizes. Three \$25 gift certificates will be given away.

The Organization for Bat Conservation will present a program on Bats of Minnesota, featuring live bats, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 9, at Wild Birds Unlimited, 2050 Ford Pkwy. For information, call 651-690-9525.

Sprios Mediterranean Market has opened at 2264 University Ave. Owner Sprios Kallimanis has more than 200 Mediterranean cooking ingredients in stock. He eventually plans to add a deli with prepared food for sale.

Mark Streed of Highland Park, a partner in the Twin Cities law firm of Meshbesher and Spence, has been elected to the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association's Board of Governors. He is a 1985 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and specializes in personal injury and wrongful death cases.

Elizabeth Wood has been appointed executive director of Longfellow United for Youth and Families (LUYF), an educational, employment and community service organization for youths in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis. Wood, who lives in Longfellow, comes to LUYF from the Minnesota Children's Museum where she worked for six years as a program coordinator. A

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SPOTLIGHT on Seniors

Your guide to local programs and services especially for mature adults.

In the running

Twin Cities Marathon is latest notch in the belt of Summit sexagenarian

by Dick Gordon

When Peter Butler listed running and travel as his hobbies when replying to a high school alumni questionnaire, he wasn't kidding.

"I'm hooked on running," said the 67-year-old Summit Avenue resident.

Last Sunday, Butler competed in his 18th consecutive Twin Cities Marathon. But that's just scratching the surface.

Butler has run a marathon in every one of the nation's 50 states, completing the cycle in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1985. He also has run marathons in eight of the 10 Canadian provinces and he expects to hit the other two next year. He has run in the Boston Marathon nine times and in every Grandma's Marathon on the North Shore except for the first.

All told, Butler estimates that he has participated in at least 400 marathons, which for Butler averages out to more than 17 a year. That includes 100 ultra-marathons, in which the distance is 31 miles instead of the traditional 26.2. He logs about 40,000 miles annually flying to and from the various marathon locations.

Butler said he has not come close to winning any of the marathons he has entered. "I'm too slow," he said. But make no mistake, he does finish.

In last Sunday's Twin Cities Marathon, he crossed the finish line at the state Capitol at 4:37.07, which was a little over two hours behind the winner. He finished eighth in his 65-69 age group and placed 3,053 out of the approximately 7,500 who turned out for the 18th annual race.

He has never subscribed to the "winning is everything" philosophy, but he is proud that

in his age group he stacks up as above average.

Except for a couple of days before and after competing in a marathon, Butler can be found taking his regular 5-mile jaunt on Summit Avenue from his Ramsey Hill condominium to Snelling Avenue and back. It is his daily afternoon routine, except in severe weather.

Butler never participated in track or cross country in high school or college. He was more interested in team sports, along with tennis and skiing.

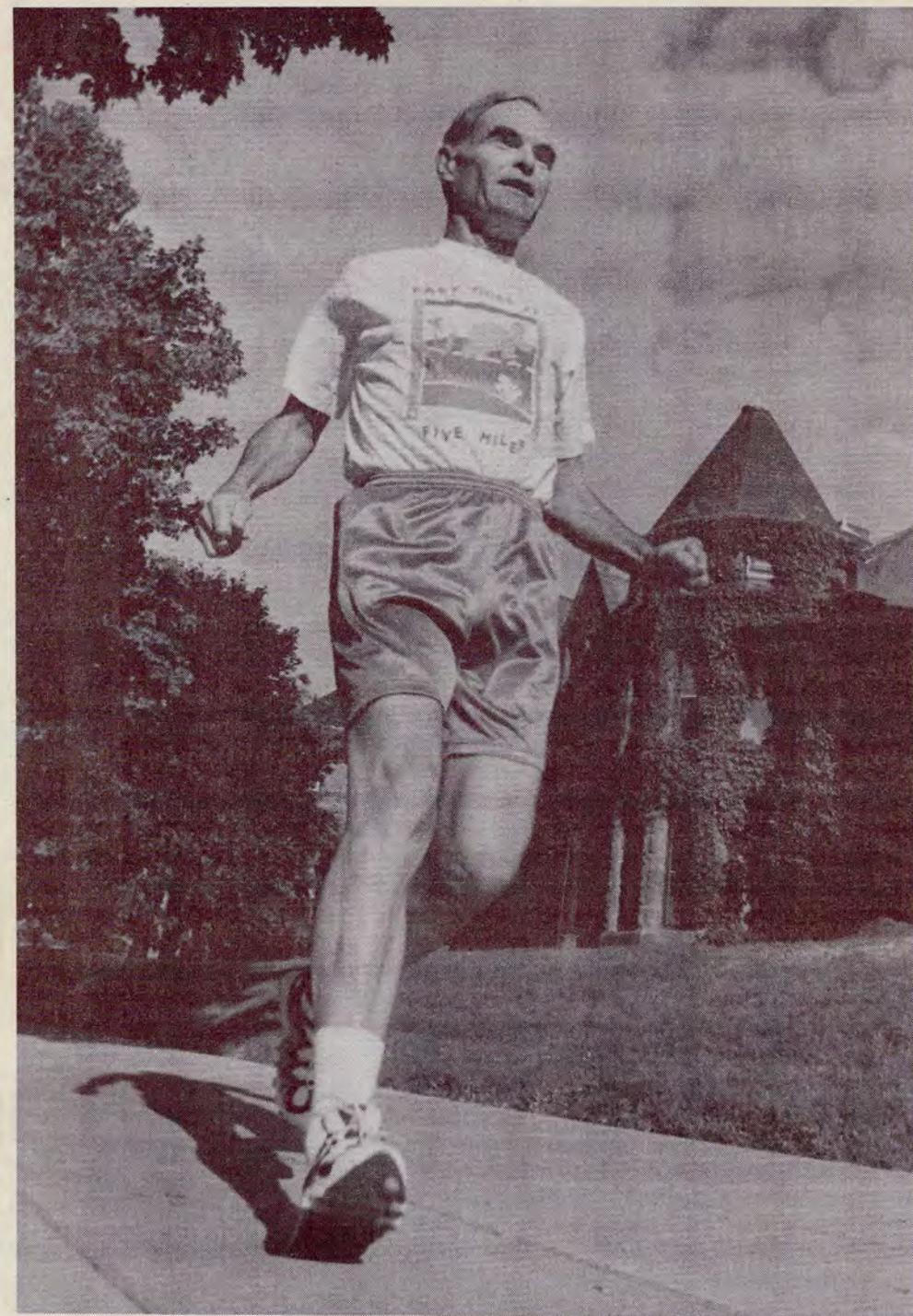
"When I turned 40, I decided I needed more exercise," he said. "So I started running a couple of miles on the balcony track at the St. Paul Athletic Club."

His first running event was the St. Patrick's Day Human Race, a 5-miler from the University of St. Thomas to the Cathedral, in March 1976. The following fall, he made his long-distance debut in the City of Lakes 26.2-miler, the predecessor of the Twin Cities Marathon.

"Soon I was hooked," he said. "Sure you get bushed, but it's fun. It doesn't require much skill and it cleans out the cobwebs."

Butler does not confine his long-distance running to marathons. For variation, there is the Fans 24 Hour, a benefit where participants run around Lake Nokomis from 8:00 a.m. one day until 8:00 a.m. the next day. Food is provided along the route and participants run or walk to see how many miles they can cover in 24 hours. Butler, who has run in all 10 of the events, logged 96 miles in his best one. The Fans 24 Hour has raised some \$40,000 to date for a college fund for inner-

Marathon/see page 27



A veteran of some 400 marathons just since the age of 40, Peter Butler can be seen almost every day running the 5 miles of Summit Avenue from his Ramsey Hill home to Snelling Avenue and back. Photo by Terry Faust.

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SENIOR NOTES

The Merriam Park Senior Program will present the following programs in the coming weeks: a blood pressure clinic from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6; a tour of Cannon Falls from 9:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12 (\$28, includes lunch); a lecture on the importance of Vitamin D at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 18; and a 55 Alive senior driver refresher course from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20 (\$8.00). Call 651-645-7424.

Free flu shots will be offered to persons age 60 and older during Seniors Day, scheduled from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 9, at Regions Hospital. Blood pressure checks, refreshments, music, door prizes and tours will also be available. Call 651-221-3456.

A 55 Alive senior driver refresher course will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 14, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$8.00. To register, call 651-698-0751.

A driver improvement program for those age 55 and older will be offered from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, October 18-19, at Nativity Church, 324 S. Prior Ave. The cost is \$16.50. A four-hour refresher course will be offered on the first day for those who have already taken the full course. For information or to register, call 1-888-234-1294.

A flexible-route bus service is being made available to residents of Mendota Heights, West St. Paul and northern Eagan through Dakota Area Resources and Transportation for Seniors and the Dakota County Transportation Collaborative. The bus will stop at

specific locations at scheduled times, but will also go to rider-requested pickup and drop-off points within a defined area. Pickup requests must be made at least one hour in advance. Riders may try the service for free until November 1. Call 651-234-2290.

"Caring About an Aging Loved One," a free educational and support program, will be offered by Dakota Area Resources and Transportation for Seniors from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in October at Augustana Lutheran Church, 1400 S. Robert St., West St. Paul. Topics will include understanding memory loss on October 12, legal and financial matters on October 19, and anger and guilt on October 26. For information or to register, call Vicky at 651-455-1560.

The Macalester-Groveland Living at Home/Block Nurse Program is offering three new programs this fall. The Health Promotion Project offers home safety checks, flu and pneumonia vaccinations, glaucoma screening, blood pressure checks and depression screenings for area seniors. The Faith in Action Project works with local churches to mobilize volunteers to assist the elderly. The Respite and Caregiver Program provides home visits, a quarterly newsletter, respite volunteers and an educational support group for caregivers. For information, call 651-690-5291.

Volunteers are needed to drive seniors to and from medical appointments and help them get in and out of buildings and vehicles. Vehicles are provided. If interested, call the American Red Cross at 651-291-6707.

Marathon man

/from page 26

city high school seniors.

Butler also runs in the Easy Does It, a 5-mile race for Hazelden, the chemical dependency treatment facility in Center City. His father, the late Patrick Butler, served as chairman of the Hazelden board for many years.

"Hazelden was a big part of my father's life," Butler said. His father was a patient there before taking an active role in the center's operation.

Butler is almost as partial to the Historic Hill District as he is to running. He grew up at 370 Summit Ave. and, after 20 years of living in Mendota Heights, moved back in 1997 with his wife Sandy to a condo just a few

blocks east of his boyhood home. "We love the neighborhood," Butler said.

The Butlers have three sons and a daughter. Though his wife does not run, all of their children do, though not quite to their father's extreme. Still, one of them did team up with dad for a father-son tandem during a Twin Cities Marathon.

Butler, a trim 6 feet tall and 160 pounds, recently returned from a marathon in Alberta, Canada, and has four more races scheduled between now and the end of the year.

This marathon man has no thoughts of cutting back. He said he hopes to continue to pursue his hobby until he is at least 80.

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Some programs are funded in part by Ramsey County and Title III, Older Americans Act, administered through the Metropolitan Area on Aging and Ramsey Action Program

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Being of sound mind and body...

Seniors can plan for a time when they may not be so sound

by Leslie Walters

What happens if you lose your ability to handle your finances? What kind of medical care will you want if and when you can no longer make your desires known? What will happen to your property after you die?

Growing old can be full of uncertainty, but it does not have to be. With open family communication and some fundamental planning, seniors can be well prepared to answer the important legal questions of the future, according to Martha O'Toole and Mary Payne, authors of *Legal Planning for Your Parents*.

"Legal planning is something that not only older people need to think about, but adult children and grandchildren as well," said O'Toole, a Macalester-Groveland resident and attorney who specializes in legal issues for older people. But because the generations are so emotionally and legally involved, the topic is difficult to broach, she said.

O'Toole and Payne's booklet is intended to encourage those discussions. It describes the legal tools that are available to seniors to make financial and medical decisions in the event of death or disability.

"They're a way to control what happens to you and your property," O'Toole said. When those decisions are not made ahead of time, the

courts may appoint a conservator or guardian to make the decisions, and that can be costly and time-consuming, she added.

O'Toole described a scenario in which an elderly woman who has done no legal planning suffers a stroke and is comatose. "All sorts of decisions need to be made," she said. "Where is she going to live? What sort of treatment will she receive? Who's going to sign the consent forms?"

Generally, doctors will turn to family members to make the health care decisions, O'Toole said, but it makes it easier for everyone concerned if a plan is in place.

"Especially with adult children living all over the country," Payne said.

The booklet outlines two tools for directing a person's future health care—a living will and health-care power of attorney.

A living will sets forth the kind of care to be administered in the event of a serious illness. However, one must be in a terminal condition for it to take effect, and it will not cover every contingency.

Health-care power of attorney, on the other hand, names the agent who will make the medical decisions when a person is not capable of making his or her own decisions. The agent should be trustworthy and able to resist any undue pressure exerted by doctors and family,



With granddaughter Francis O'Toole on her lap, author Martha O'Toole visits with her 92-year-old mother, Isabel Naphin.

O'Toole said.

A former attorney in the Minnesota Department of Human Services, O'Toole has a master's degree in social work. Payne, who has a master's degree in human development, works as a social worker in the field of mental health.

"Everybody has heard of a will," O'Toole said, "but what a lot of people don't realize is that in a will you can leave only the property you own individually." Retirement benefits, life insurance policies and other assets that have a designated beneficiary and property that is owned jointly with the right of sur-

vivorship do not pass under a will, O'Toole said.

"If dad dies without a will, the intestacy laws in your state will determine who gets the (individually owned) property," O'Toole said. "That can produce some unforeseen effects."

Payne told of a good friend whose uncle wanted her to have his house upon his death. However, the uncle refused to make a will. "He kept saying, 'I don't care what happens after I go,'" Payne said.

Payne's friend appealed to her uncle's common sense and sensitivity. "She asked, 'Uncle, don't you

care about me?'" Payne said. "Of course, he cared about her, and that was the trigger that got him to write a will. If he hadn't, the state would have come in and she may not have gotten the home."

The booklet also describes two tools for deciding property issues in the event that a person is incapacitated. The durable power of attorney ensures that an agent of that person's choice will make those decisions.

"Minnesota also has a statutory short form power of attorney that lists 13 powers that you can give to your attorney-in-fact," O'Toole said.

A person may want to transfer his or her property through a revocable living trust, O'Toole said. The person names a trustee—usually himself or herself—to manage the trust, but also names a successor trustee in the event he or she becomes incapacitated or is no longer interested in managing the trust. In the event of death, the trust document becomes a will.

Trusts are more expensive to set up than the power of attorney, so most attorneys suggest a minimum of assets, O'Toole said. People should always consult an attorney with any of these arrangements to understand the pros and cons, she said.

Legal planning/see next page

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John Judge demonstrates the simplicity of Bag 'em All, a device he created to make it easier for seniors and single individuals to bag leaves by themselves. Photo by Terry Faust.

Retiree's invention keeps rakers from being left holding the bag

by Catherine Condon

When he retired four years ago, John Judge finally found the time and energy to do his own lawn work. But each year, the six oak trees in the backyard of his Merriam Park home made bagging leaves almost a full-time job in the fall.

After two years of frustration, Judge devised a tool that would allow a bag to stand open so he could use both hands for depositing leaves in it. He made a square sleeve out of a cardboard packing box that he found in the garage, placed a 33-gallon plastic bag over it, turned it upside down and started to fill it up with leaves.

"I called to my wife and said, 'Come out and watch how easily I can fill these bags,'" said Judge, now 74. "She said it was a good idea and that I should do something about marketing it."

Judge's initial product was short-lived. Rain soaked his prototype and ruined it. However, as a former manufacturer's representative who had dealt primarily with plastic and metal products throughout his career, Judge knew that coating the sleeve with plastic would repel moisture. He took a handmade plastic model of his design to Golden Valley-based Diversi-Plast, which made him some samples out of the same corrugated plastic it uses in manufacturing U.S. Postal Service tote boxes.

Judge tested the samples and made some modifications. Last fall his invention, called Bag 'em All, made its nationwide debut on the shelves of all Hardware Hank and Trustworthy Hardware stores as well as select Ace Hardware and True Value locations. Local businesses stocking the Bag 'em Alls include Grand Avenue Ace Hardware, S & S Hardware on Randolph Avenue and Total Hard-

Bag 'em All also can be used to hold open bags for sorting clothes and other household items as well as for cleaning up after parties and picnics. "It does everything but vote," Judge said.

Though rewarding, bringing his invention to the market did have its frustrations. "It doesn't move as fast as you anticipate and it's expensive," he said. "Once you put the money, the patent, all of the development costs and everything else into it, it ceases to be a hobby."

The payoff appears to be imminent, however. Half of the first production run of 11,000 Bag 'em Alls have already been sold.

"I think we've got enough to handle us through fall, but we'll have to start making more in January or February," Judge said. "We're now working with Wal-Mart and Home Depot (on retailing possibilities). We're not in a profit position yet, but the potential is there."

Judge said he has had all kinds of ideas for inventions in the past, but until now he never really followed through on them.

"But when you're old and the leaves are heavy and the children are all gone," he said, "I guess necessity makes you do it."

Legal planning

/from previous page

Planning for disability and death is "such a hard thing to talk about," Payne said. "But it's really important to empower an older person. It's part of how we stay alive, how we fight disease. You don't want to take that away."

Legal Planning for Your Parents and a companion booklet, *Long-Term Caring for Your Parents*, in which O'Toole and Payne lead the

reader through the maze of housing and health-care services and resources for the aged, may be purchased at the Hungry Mind Bookstore, through amazon.com or by sending \$9.95 plus 65 cents sales tax plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling to Sandwich Press, LLP, P.O. Box 385793, Minneapolis, MN 55438-5793.


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Reaching across the years

Nursing home enlists a legion of young volunteers

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

About 70 youngsters, from toddlers to teens, are treasured members of the family at the Episcopal Church Home.

The children, most of whom are students at nine St. Paul schools, play cards and other games with residents of the Merriam Park nursing home. They read to the residents, deliver their mail and help them answer it, work in the coffee shop or serve fruit and popcorn. Some of the kids perform music for residents. Others write the residents stories, escort them to meals or on walks, sew for them or assist them with Bible study or art projects. One of the youngest, Sam Groth, age 2, until recently came with his mother every Thursday morning to pass out cookies.

"The residents love having the kids come," said Cami Farley, director of Volunteer Services at the Church Home. "They have these sweet, sweet friendships."

Best friends Monica Herron and Caitlin Madzo, both 7th-graders, come for a couple of hours after school each Friday and again on Saturday to chat with residents and make themselves useful. They started volunteering last January after filling out an application and interviewing with Farley.

The interview was not intimidating, said Madzo, who attends Ramsey Junior High School. Mostly, Farley informed her of such things as the way to push a wheelchair and the importance of not making promises to residents "because you might not be able to keep them," Madzo said.

The students must have their parents' consent to volunteer at the home, and all of them report to an adult supervisor.

"I like chatting with the residents. I learn a lot from



Central High School students and Episcopal Church Home volunteers Peter Corbett (left) and Kurt Miller help resident Prudy Miller operate her computer. Photo by Terry Faust.

them," said Herron, who attends St. Mark's School. "We talk about whatever is on their minds. There are some people who, when we read the newspaper, always want to hear the sports scores. And they're curious about my life. A lot of times they tell me what it was like when they were a kid."

Last year Ani Little, a teacher at the Family Learning Center charter school on University Avenue, brought her entire 3rd and 4th grade class to the Church Home every Wednesday afternoon to read to residents. Afterward, they played host for a popcorn and card party for residents.

When one of the residents was hospitalized, Little's class made get-well cards. They sang along with residents as part of a music class and danced with them as part of a Dixieland jazz program. The class also invited some of the residents to a barbecue and poetry reading celebrating the end of the school year.

"The kids really developed

relationships," Little said. "I think it's so great for everybody involved."

Students at the Skills for Tomorrow charter school on University Avenue volunteer at the Church Home to learn about career choices. One student who wants to be a chef works in the kitchen. Another one who is interested in administration volunteers in the nursing home's office.

Farley recruits volunteers through letters sent to the schools twice a year. When the two nearby charter schools opened a year ago, "I was at the ribbon-cutting ceremony with my business card," she said.

Other volunteers come from Central and Minnesota Technology high schools, St. Paul Academy and Summit School, Learning Adventures and Expo middle schools, IHM/St. Luke's Grade School and Concordia Creative Learning Academy.

Volunteers fulfill a crucial role at the Church Home, and Farley and other staff members strive to let them

know they are appreciated through awards and occasional parties. Little's whole class was honored as Volunteers of the Month this past August in the nursing home newsletter.

"A lot of adults feel that they'd never want to volunteer in a nursing home because it's too depressing," Farley said, "but as children they just accept it as part of life. Some students have met residents who are forgetful or confused, but they sit and enjoy each other."

One resident who is often disoriented and does not converse with anyone else will talk with the children and loves having them around, she added.

Volunteering not only helps the youngsters explore their interests and develop skills, she said, "it also helps the community see youths as producers and givers rather than takers."

"Volunteering is not a strenuous job and it's a lot of fun," Herron said. "It really feels like you're making a difference."

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THE KIOSK

Wednesday/October 6

A FALL HARVEST REVIVAL will be held at 7:00 this evening and again tomorrow evening and Friday at Camphor United Methodist Church, 585 Fuller Ave. The theme for this year's revival is "The Blessings of the Anointing," and the featured speaker will be Reverend Douglas Simpson, a former pastor at Camphor. A potluck dinner will follow Friday's service. For information or transportation, call 651-224-0341.

FREE MINDS, INC., a nonprofit cult-awareness group, will hold a free forum from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. For information, call 612-378-2528.

Thursday/October 7

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS will hold a constituent meeting at 7:00 this evening at the Martin Luther King Center, 270 Kent St. Ramsey County commissioners Jan Wiessner and Susan Haigh will be available to explain the responsibilities of their office and answer questions. For information, call 651-222-1215.

THE PUZZLE OF MENTAL ILLNESS, a series aimed at broadening understanding of mental illness, will continue at 7:30 this evening at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. The free program will feature five people sharing their triumphs over mental illness through music, drama and their own stories. For information, call 651-450-2217.

CAPITAL CITY GRIEF COALITION will offer a support group from 5:00 to 6:30 this evening at the Macalester College Chapel. The group will meet every week through December 30. For information, call Linda Schmid at 651-696-6275.

Friday/October 8

THE TWIN CITIES WOODWORKING Show will take place from noon to 7:00 p.m. today, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. tomorrow and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday at the state fairgrounds. There will be a variety of exhibitors displaying and demonstrating a wide range of woodworking, turning, carving and finishing materials and supplies, plus seminars and free workshops. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

Saturday/October 9

PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES will be offered by Homeward Bound Theatre Company at Central High School this month. The lineup includes "Storytelling and Acting" from 10:00 a.m. to noon today for grades 9 and up; and "The Ups and Downs of Juggling" from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 20, for grades 4 and up. For information, call Central Community Education at 651-293-8708.

THE HIGHLAND WATER TOWER will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and tomorrow for fall color viewing. Those who wish to climb the tower's 151 steps will be rewarded with one of the best views the Twin Cities has to offer. Admission is free. For information, call the St. Paul Water



Window to an earlier day. A couple stroll past the Cambridge Street side of Grand Avenue Ace Hardware where work continues on a new mural. Artist Ed Charbonneau, creator of the mural outside Thomas Liquors (1996), is re-creating a street scene from the 1930s, showing what may have appeared within and outside the venerable storefront. Photo by Mike Long.

Utility at 651-266-6308.

A GARAGE SALE to raise funds for the United Way will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at the Sibley Plaza Shopping Center next to Champps.

THE MIDWAY LIONS CLUB will hold a food drive from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today at the Midway Rainbow Foods store to benefit the Merriam Park Foodshelf. Nonperishables will also be collected that same day at R.C. Dicks, at Dodd Road and Smith Avenue in West St. Paul.

Sunday/October 10

THE ANNUAL CROPWALK to stop hunger will step out at 2:00 this afternoon from Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church, 2149 Edgcumbe Road. Proceeds from the walk have supported efforts in places as far-ranging as North Korea and Kosovo to here in St. Paul, including Second Harvest. Call 651-646-8805, ext. 22.

A FALL FESTIVAL will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at the Cathedral of St. Paul. There will be a ham dinner, raffles, games, a silent auction, a craft boutique and bakery. The cost for the dinner is \$6.00, \$3.00 for children ages 3-12 and free for children under age 3.

Monday/October 11

MEDIEVAL MYSTICS and Reformation era feminists will be discussed in a free program on women in Christian history beginning at 7:30 this evening in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center auditorium at the University of St. Thomas. UST assistant professor of theology Sherry Jordon will moderate a panel that includes Elizabeth Dreyer of Fairfield University and Merry Wiesner-Hanks of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Tuesday/October 12

THE RAMSEY COUNTY Charter Commission will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. To bring up ideas or concerns at the meeting, call Terry Lindeke at 651-266-8012.

A COMMUNITY FORUM on "Exploring GLBT Jewish Teen Issues" will take place from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Rabbi Yehuda Fine, author of *Times Square Rabbi: Finding the Hope in Lost Kids' Lives*, will recount stories of many runaway gay teen-agers, their tragedies and triumphs. To register, call Debra at 612-542-4814.

A NEW PARENTS AND BABIES GROUP will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The topic of the meeting will be "Infant Safety: Home and Car." To register, call 651-698-0751.

A FAMILY ISSUES PARENTING GROUP will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Discussion will focus on providing parents with a better understanding of their children's fears and will explore parenting strategies to help children cope with their anxieties. The cost is \$7.00, or \$5.00 for JCC members. To register, call 651-698-0751.

Wednesday/October 13

"CATHOLICS COMING HOME," a six-week series for those who have been away or are drifting away from the church, will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning today, at Holy Spirit Church, 512 S. Albert St. Call 651-698-5581.

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet at 7:00 this evening at the

Longfellow Community Center, at 36th Ave. and 35th St., Minneapolis, for a potluck dinner. Participants should bring a dish to pass, their own place setting and photos of their gardens to share.

Thursday/October 14

THE 1999 MAYOR'S DESIGN FORUM will be held beginning today and continuing through Saturday at the National Guard Armory, 600 Cedar St. More than 80 neighborhood organizations, public agencies, artists and designers will showcase their visions for St. Paul's parks, playgrounds, riverfront, and other public spaces. A highlight of this year's forum will be exhibits of designs for West 7th, Wabasha and Concord streets and Snelling, Payne and White Bear avenues. Hours are from noon to 7:00 p.m. today and tomorrow, and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

A HARVEST DINNER will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The cost is \$6.50 for adults, \$2.75 for children ages 5-12 and free for children 4 and under. Call 612-722-0232.

Saturday/October 16

BRUSH, TREE TRIMMINGS, STICKS and branches may be dropped off between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today at the Highland Ice Arena, Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway. Tree roots, stumps, leaves and grass will not be accepted. The service is open to all St. Paul residents. The cost depends on the size of the load and is about \$5.00 for a carload and \$15 for a truckload.

A FINE ART AUCTION will be held beginning at 7:00 this evening with a preview at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. The



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RELIGIOUS NOTES

The Minnesota Satsang Society will offer a free presentation on "Angels, Masters and Inner Guides" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 25, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. For information, call 651-771-1165.

Jill Underdahl has entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet following a yearlong candidacy program. Underdahl has been an English teacher at Visitation School for the past three years and before that taught at St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye. In the coming year, she will take inter-novitiate classes with women from other religious communities.

A spirituality series for men will hold its first session, "Men and Their Shadows: Exploring the Dark Side of Masculinity," from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 6, at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. Other sessions in the series include "Men and Stress: Strategies for Coping" on Wednesday, November 3, and "Men and Work: Developing a New Vision" on Wednesday, December 1. The cost is \$60 for the series or \$25 per session. To register, call Wisdom Ways at 651-690-8830.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer the following activities in the next two weeks: a Learner's Minyan at 9:10 a.m. Saturday, October 9; and a meeting of the Women's Rosh Chodesh at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 11. For details, call 651-698-8874.

Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., will offer the following free adult education classes this month: "Unpacking on the Prairie: A History of Jewish Women in St. Paul" at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 11; "A Conversation with Ruth Brin," author of *Bittersweet Berries: Growing Up Jewish in Minnesota* at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, October 17; and

"The Journey of Mourning: Jewish Insights on Death," including a tour of Hodroff and Sons Funeral Home and Mount Zion Cemetery, at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, October 31. Call 651-698-3881.

Macalester College will present its sixth annual International Roundtable, "Contending Gods: Religion and the Global Moment," Thursday through Saturday, October 7-9, in the Weyerhaeuser Chapel. Guest speakers will offer their perspectives on such religions as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Shinto as well as on religious pluralism. All sessions are free. For information, call 651-696-6332.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., will offer a Sunday morning forum on Holden Village, a spiritual retreat center in the Cascade Mountains, at 9:00 a.m. on October 17. The Reverend Carol Tomer, pastor of Pilgrim, will lead a group to Holden next summer. Call 651-699-6886.

Rabbi Yehuda Fine, who for 10 years roamed the seedy fringes of New York City offering hot chocolate and hope to drugged-out kids and other "throw-aways," will share his experiences during a free workshop from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 13, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. To register, call 612-542-4814.

Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis, will host a Children's Sabbath at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 17, and a dialogue on religion and organized labor from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 20. For information, call 651-729-7556.

A healing service will take place at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 18, at St. Therese Church, 1928 Norfolk Ave. The Reverend Dennis Dempsey, pastor of St. Francis and St. James churches, will preside.

Libraries close for a day to get system on line

St. Paul Public Library branches will each be shut down for one day over the next several weeks in order to train staff on the use of a new computer system.

The Highland Park Library will be closed on Wednesday, October 6, and the Merriam Park Library will be closed on Thursday, October 7.

Other closings include Sun Ray on October 13, Hamline on October 19, Lexington on October 20, Rice Street on October 26,

Riverview on November 2 and Hayden Heights on November 3.

"We apologize for any inconvenience these training days might cause," said library support services manager Fran Galt, "but at the same time we're excited about the new possibilities this system offers both staff and the public."

Funded by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, the new computer system should be operational by mid-November.

The Kiosk

from previous page

sale will continue the next day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission to the preview is \$7.00 and free on Sunday.

A FALL BAZAAR, featuring homemade crafts, Christmas items, a white elephant sale, bake sale, raffle, food, etc., will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Call 651-698-9443.

A RUMMAGE SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at Macalester-Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave.

Sunday/October 17

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the Scenic Overlook parking lot, just south of Hartford Ave. and Mississippi River Blvd., for a walk around the neighborhood. For information, call Rachael at 651-644-3770.

Tuesday/October 19

THE CASS GILBERT SOCIETY will meet at 7:00 this evening at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. The featured speaker will be architect and historian Gail Fenske. For information, call 651-298-1127.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening in the parking lot of the St. Paul Cathedral for a walk around the neighborhood. For information, call Chuck at 651-644-7502.

"RAISING EMOTIONALLY Competent Children," a three-part series focusing on the emotional lives of children at three different age levels, will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 beginning this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Other sessions will take place on November 16 and January 18. The cost is \$10 per session. For information or to register, call 651-698-0751.

ON THE TOWN

Black and white and read Oliver

Hiebert publishes his best writing from 32 years as roving columnist

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

Like Rome, St. Paul is built on seven hills. Those who need help figuring out what those hills are can find it in Gareth Hiebert's new book, *City on Seven Hills: Columns of Oliver Towne*. The venerable journalist, who once entertained readers of the *St. Paul Dispatch* and *Pioneer Press*, has collected some of his most memorable columns in a 204-page volume packed with local lore and personalities and the author's insights into what makes the Capital City click.

Hiebert's pen name was Oliver Towne, a take on his beat as a columnist, and many people still greet him by that name.

Hiebert retired from the *Pioneer Press* in 1986, but he hasn't let the grass grow under his feet. In fact, it's a wonder he gets the ample lawn of his Highland Park home mowed at all.

Hiebert teaches a course in local history at Metro State University, as he has for the past 28 years, serves on the board of the North Star Opera, lunches downtown with old cronies, guides tours of the city and surrounding countryside and still writes a few columns for other publications.

He also travels extensively, continuing the activity that he enjoyed with Janet, his wife of 51 years, until her death in 1997. He now shares the home they built in 1951, and where they raised their four children, with two cats.

Hiebert was destined for a career in journalism. As a lad of 7, he published his own neighborhood newspaper, making copies with carbon paper and distributing it to the people who lived on his block in Minneapolis. His father, a dentist, moved the family to New Ulm shortly thereafter.

As a teen-ager Hiebert not only wrote for his high school newspaper but for the local *Brown County Journal*. After graduation, he stayed on at the *Journal* for a year to earn money to attend the University of Minnesota.

In 1939, the 18-year-old Hiebert landed a job at the *Pioneer Press*. He started by covering events at the University of Minnesota and filling in for reporters on vacation. When World War II broke out, he enlisted in the Army Reserves, hoping to finish his degree before he was called to duty.

"I was on the *Pioneer Press* full-time staff, went to school days and worked nights, and also carried on a romance," he said. "I managed to get my degree two weeks before I had to report for duty."

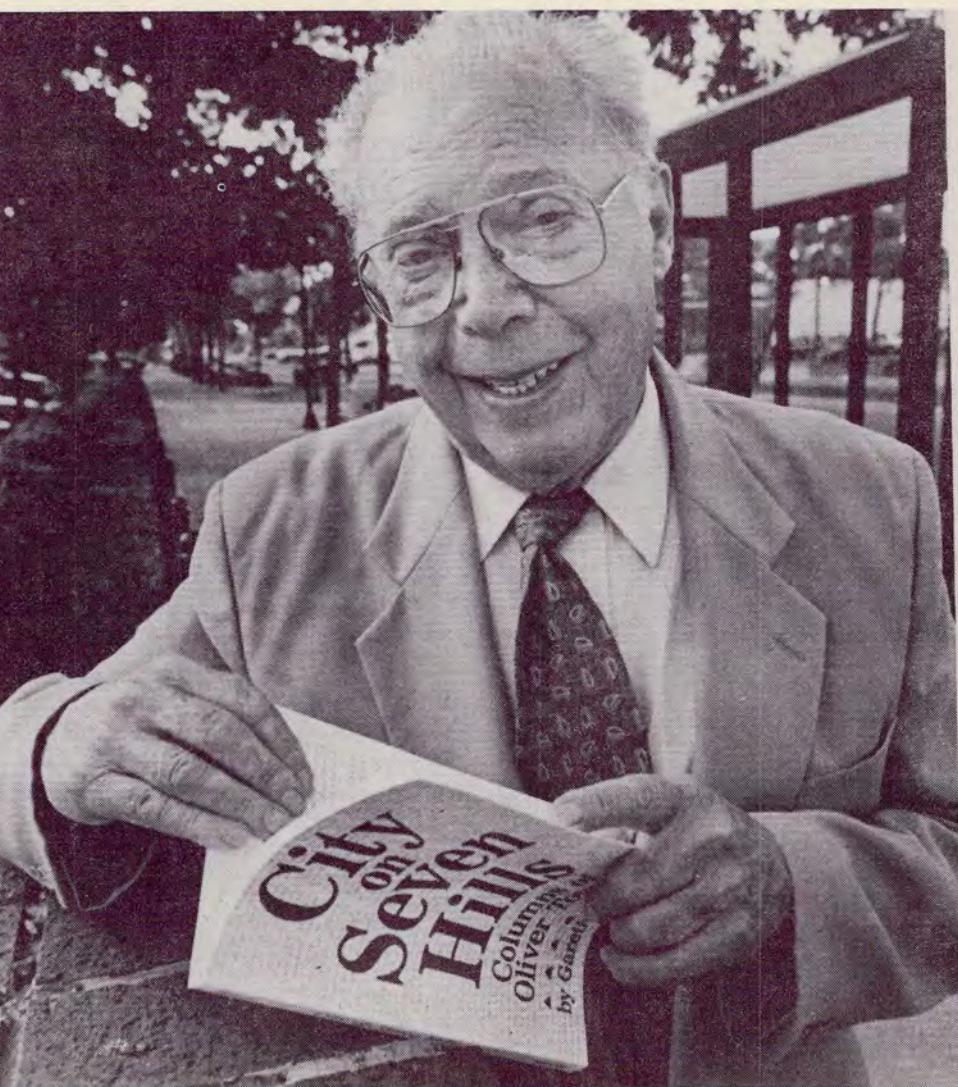
After serving for a time in the infantry, Hiebert became chief of the public relations section of the 84th Division, where he and his colleagues—soldier-writers from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Antonio Bee* and *Boston Globe*, among others—put out the "84th Rail Splitter" three times a week.

Returning from the war, he married his college sweetheart and was rehired by the *Pioneer Press*, working as a feature writer and assistant city editor until "Oliver Towne" debuted on November 1, 1954.

"My column was a reporting-type column," Hiebert said. "I didn't have to dream up all these ideas out of my head. People gave me tips on the phone or through letters."

"What I liked to do in my column was take people where I was," he said. "My philosophy was, you go with me where I'm going and we're going to stand where I'm standing and you'll have the feeling that you're at the place I'm writing about."

Hiebert wrote about the barbers and



"Oliver Towne" columnist Gareth Hiebert is back on his old beat promoting his new book.

Photo by Brad Stauffer.

bakers and Indian chiefs as well as the movers and shakers of St. Paul. He wrote about houses, buildings and bridges, always managing to find the tidbits of fact and myth to spark the memory and curiosity of his readers.

Hiebert interviewed playwright Thomas Wolfe's brother—"the one who stuttered in *You Can't Go Home Again*," he said—and spent half an hour chatting with Salvador Dali at his home in Spain. On a memorable yuletide flight to Europe with his family, a fellow passenger gave birth. Hiebert's account of the labor earned him a \$100 bonus from the *Pioneer Press*. The Associated Press picked up the story and sent it around the world.

After his retirement, he and his wife continued their travels, following the paths of favorite writers such as William Wordsworth and Robert Burns through England and Scotland and doing their own art crawl through France.

In a Parisian gallery, they overheard two women admiring a Monet painting and wondering "what that place looks like today," he said. "On the plane home, I said to Janny,

"You go and study photography and we'll go to France and start taking pictures of the places these people painted, and so we did. She'd take the photographs and I'd write the captions."

The Hieberts put together six slide shows on the French impressionists and presented them all over Minnesota. "First we'd show them the painting and then we'd show them the way it looks today," he said. "We had a great time."

Two collections of the writings of Oliver Towne were published in book form in the 1950s—*St. Paul is My Beat* and *Once Upon a Towne*. Hiebert has no idea how many columns he wrote over the course of 32 years, but his mother kept them all and he has them stashed in a grocery bag. He sorted through them to choose the material for *City on Seven Hills*, all the while reminiscing about the people, the places and the city "whose story I have chronicled with love," he said.

Hiebert will sign copies of *City on Seven Hills* beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 12, at Borders Books in Midway Center.

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Music



Violinist Nigel Kennedy will perform with the Minnesota Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 6, and at 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, October 8-9, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$18.25 to \$63.50, call 612-371-5656.

The Minnesota Guitar Society will present Monica Salmoso and Paulo Bellinati performing a concert of Brazilian music for voice and guitar at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 9, in Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University. For tickets, priced at \$10, or \$8.00 for students and seniors, call 612-418-6219.

The Dale Warland Singers will perform Rachmaninoff's "Vespers" in its entirety at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 9, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$20 and \$25, call 612-339-9707.

Keys to Romance: An Evening of Piano, Song & Celebration, featuring Jim Brickman, John Trones and Mary Beth Carlson, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 9, at the Historic State Theatre, 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$25 and \$30, call 651-989-5151.

Celebrating American Music, a concert of music by American composers performed by violinist Jorja Fleezanis and pianist Karl Paulnack, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, October 10, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall. Admission is free. Call 612-626-8742.

A concert of chamber music will be performed by the Hill House Chamber Players at 7:30 p.m. Mondays, October 11 and 18, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Admission is \$12, or \$10 for students. Call 651-297-2555.

The Estonian National Male Choir and the Minnesota Orchestra will present an all-Scandinavian program at 11:00

ON THE TOWN
briefly

College of Visual Arts sets gallery gala Oct. 16

Art-Mart, a live and silent auction for the benefit of the 75-year-old College of Visual Arts, will be held on Saturday, October 16, in the CVA Gallery at the corner of Selby and Western avenues.

The event will open at 6:00 p.m. with music by Mark Stillman and Francine Roche, a silent auction for everything from dinner and theater packages to a two-week stay at a Greek beach house on the Ionian Sea, and desserts served up by Never Enough Thyme.

The live auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. On the block will be works by established artists like Vance Gellert and Karen Wirth, up-and-coming artists like abstractionist Derrick Loring Buisch and Michelle Grabner, and three McKnight Artist Fellowship winners—painter Shana Kaplow and photographers Colleen Mullins and John Johnston.

Auction items may be previewed in the gallery between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00

a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 14, at the Ordway Music Theatre. The concert will be repeated at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 15 and 16, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$17.75 to \$63.50, call 612-371-5656.

The Singer's Voice, an autobiographical music series hosted by Dan Chouinard, will continue with a salute to the music of Tom Waits with Rob Burdahl, Katy Elsen and Dennis Curley at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 17, at the Dakota Bar & Grill in Bandana Square. For information, call 612-321-0100.

A duo-organ concert will be performed by James and Marilyn Biery at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 17, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. They will perform the world premiere of "Written in the Dust," a new work by Merriam Park resident David Evan

Thomas. Admission is free.

"A Tribute to Chopin" will be performed by Highland resident Yakov Gelfand at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 17, at MacPhail Center for the Arts, 1128 LaSalle Ave., Minneapolis. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to benefit the Chaya Gelfand Memorial Scholarship Fund. Call 612-321-0100.

Irakere, a 12-member Afro-Cuban jazz band, will perform at 8:00 p.m. Monday, October 18, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall. For tickets, priced at \$19.50 and \$24.50, call 612-624-2345.

"Gathering at the River," a music series exploring Jewish musical traditions, will kick off with East Side Story performing Broadway and popular songs by Jewish composers at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 19, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Free tickets are available at the JCC front desk or the Highland Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. A 45-minute lecture on popular Jewish-American song traditions will be held at 6:15 p.m. To register, call 651-698-0751.

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History Hijinx, a drop-in program for children and families, will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The lineup will include the following: create a handwoven and appliqued decorative panel called a mola on October 10; and view the quilts on display in the "Minnesota A to Z" exhibit and make a miniature pincushion on October 17. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development will open *Little Bird That Was Caught: The Jane Gibbs Story* at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 15, in the Landmark Center. Performances will continue at 7:00 p.m. on Fridays, at 2:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and also at 9:30, 11:00 and 12:45 a.m. on Mondays through Wednesdays until October 30. For tickets, priced at \$6.00, call 651-225-9265.

Dance



The Twin City Ballroom, 265 W. 7th St., will present dances every Friday and Sunday throughout October. Dancing, including the waltz, foxtrot, tango, hustle, Latin and swing, will take place from 10:00 to 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. on Sundays. Dance lessons will be given one hour prior to the dances. Admission is \$5.00. Call 651-292-8463.

The Dancers Studio, 99 N. Snelling Ave., will present dances every Friday throughout October. Dancing, including swing, ballroom and Latin, will take place from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$10. Call 651-641-0777.

"Swing Night in the Caves" will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. every Thursday at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The line-up will include the following: the Moonlight Serenaders on Octo-



Mikveh, an all-women Yiddish band, will perform at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, October 9, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 for JCC members. For information, call 651-698-0751.

ber 7; and the Minnesota Jazz Orchestra on October 14. Free dance lessons will be given at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$7.00. Call 651-224-1191.

James Sewell Ballet will perform at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 8-9, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 10, in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. There will be discussions before the evening concerts at 7:30 p.m. and a question-and-answer session with the dancers after the Sunday matinee. For tickets, priced from \$10.50 to \$21, call 651-690-6700.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold the following smoke-free singles dances at 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays: The Classics will provide the music for a dance on October 9 in the Grand Ballroom of the Thunderbird Hotel, 2201 E. 78th St., Bloomington; and Canoise will provide the music for a dance on October 16 in the Hall of Tribes also at the Thunderbird Hotel. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 before 9:00 p.m. Call 651-644-3443.

Rosas, under the direction of Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, will perform "Drumming" at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 16, at Northrop Auditorium. The

70-minute performance transforms Steve Reich's landmark minimalist composition of the same name into hypnotic contours of dance. For tickets, priced at \$14.50, \$20.50 and \$26.50, call 612-624-2345.

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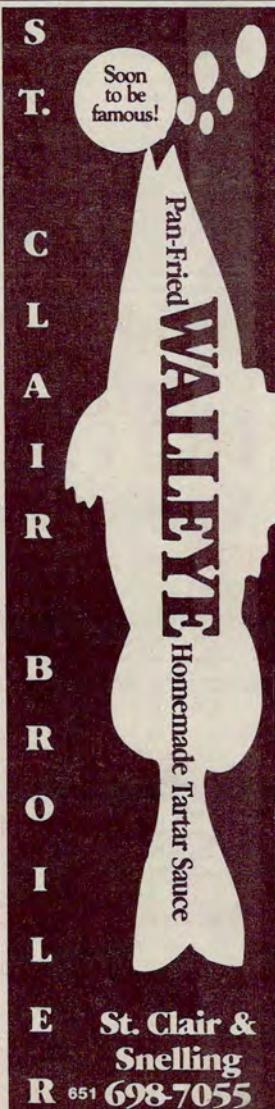
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Film

"Cinema With Passion," a festival of Hong Kong films, will take place at midnight on Fridays at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, and at 11:00 a.m. and midnight on Saturdays at the Oak Street Cinema, 309 S.E. Oak St., Minneapolis. The festival will continue with *Iceberg Cometh* on Saturday, October 9; and *A Kid from Tibet* on Friday, October 8, and Saturday, October 16. Admission is \$6.00. Call 612-376-7715.



Exhibits

An exhibit of paintings in watercolor and acrylic by Edie Abnet will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, October 8, at Art Resources Gallery, 494 Jackson St. The exhibit will run until October 30.

Two new exhibits will open at the Argyle Zebra Gallery in the Northern Warehouse Building, 308 Prince St. "D.O.A.: Grab a Shovel," a multi-media installation by Jeffrey F. Morrison and "New and Unusual," an exhibit of paintings by John Erste, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, October 15. The exhibit will run until November 13. Call 612-837-3741.

Theater

Frank Theatre will open *The Threepenny Opera* at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, October 7, at the Southern Theatre, 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis. Based on John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, the production refocuses the story to question the link between money and morality. Performances will continue at 8:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays until October 31, with one Monday night performance on October 18. For tickets, priced from \$14 to \$20, call 612-340-1725.

Blues For An Alabama Sky, a poignant drama which tells the stories of men and women new to the urban north who have left their rural heritage in search of fulfillment in the "black mecca" known as Harlem, will open Friday, Octo-

ber 8, at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Performances will continue at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 7:30 p.m. on Sundays, as well as matinees at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays, until November 14. For tickets, priced from \$15 to \$30, call 612-825-8949.

"Katie's Cabaret," an interactive improvisational theatre performance for the young and young at heart hosted by Ramsey Hill resident Amy Elizabeth Fisher, will begin its seventh season at noon on Saturday, October 9, and every second Saturday of the month through May at the Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater, 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$5.00, call 612-825-8949.

tickets, priced from \$7.00 to \$13, call 612-624-2345.

The Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company will open *Mizlansky/Zilinsky, or "Schmucks"* at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 16, at the Hillcrest Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The play tells the story of Davis Mizlansky, a fast-talking Hollywood has-been and the gaggle of strange bedfellows he gathers in one last, ill-fated fling at wealth. Performances will run through October 31. For tickets, priced at \$12 and \$15, call 651-690-5879.

Etc.



"Women of Substance," a series celebrating women's artistry and contributions to public life, will take place at the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. The series will continue with Queen Bey, Kansas City's ambassador of jazz, at 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 15. For tickets, call 651-690-6700.

The St. Paul Art Crawl will take place from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, October 8, and from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 9, in the Lowertown area of St. Paul. There will be more than 170 studios and galleries participating in the crawl. For information, call 651-292-4373.

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SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



Still riding high after the Ryder Cup

It was the best televised sporting event I've seen in years. I was completely enthralled by the come-from-behind victory of the U.S. team in the Ryder Cup. The best players in this country had to produce their very best efforts to mount the improbable Sunday charge against the European team. It was gratifying to watch these millionaires play with something besides other people's money at stake. The players actually had something to lose.

But let's not get carried away with the "U-S-A" chants. This was not the overachieving 1980 Olympic hockey team. The U.S. team would've been an easy winner had it played the first two days with the same resolve it brought to the final singles matches. Face it: The Europeans always do well in team play, while we Yanks fare better *mano-a-mano*.

The Ryder Cup provided us with a rare glimpse into the souls of people like David Duval and Tiger Woods. Both maintain a stoic persona on the PGA tour, but both revealed more of themselves under the pressure of the Ryder Cup. It was fun to watch Woods show an interest in somebody besides himself. It was fun to watch Duval take off the shades and cap and violently shake his fists at the crowd.

As for the controversial celebration after Justin Leonard's miracle putt? I loved every minute of it. One should not have to apologize for acting human.

VIKINGS BEAT

My son and I went to the Vikings-Raiders game at the Metrodome last month. The Vikes' early-season frustrations have been well-documented, but to get the real story there's no better place than the long line in the Metrodome men's room. The informal urinal-analysis at halftime produced many theories about the team's less-than-stellar play.

Two guys in front of me thought it was all Todd Steussie's fault. "He couldn't block *me* on a pass rush," offered one man wearing purple face paint.

Another blamed Jeff Christy. "He's calling the wrong blitz protection on the line," he said. (I had pretty good seats, but they were so far away I couldn't even see Christy. I wondered how these people knew what he was calling.)

Some of the bathroom coaches wanted to throw long, while others opted for "hot reads" and screen passes to Robert Smith.

The toilet poll was split about 50-50 on who was worse, Randall Cunningham or Ray Sherman. Another common theme was that the Vikings' pass rush wasn't doing the job.

I tried to keep my mouth shut while I was in line and did a good job of it until I finally approached the trough. "They should've hung onto Brad Johnson," I blurted out. Hey, if I was going to have to listen to these idiots, I sure as heck was going to get my two cents too.

Cody's Corner/see page 42



Packing a potent offensive punch for Highland Park this season are quarterback Kevin Mason, left, fullback Dawan Propps, tailback Heighlos Riser and halfback David Jones. Photo by Terry Faust.

Backfield in motion

Talented Scots are 5-0 in the City and having a ball

by Bill Wagner

Teammates do not need to be good friends, but it certainly helps. Just ask two kingpins of the Highland Park High School football team, quarterback Kevin Mason and fullback Dawan Propps.

Mason and Propps, together with speedy senior tailback Heighlos Riser, make up what may be the most potent offensive backfield in the St. Paul City Conference this year. The two seem to know each other's every move and have so since grade school, when they played together at the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center.

"It's more than just sports. (Mason) is like a brother to me," said Propps, who at 6-foot-2 and 235-pounds plays defensive linebacker as well.

"We've known each other a long time, and it not only helps us in football, but

in life," said Mason, who also plays in the Scots' defensive backfield.

Good friends that they are, Mason and Propps are never shy about critiquing each other's performances. The seniors both transferred to Highland Park from Central—Propps as a sophomore and Mason as a junior—and they have flourished under Scots coach John Heller.

"I'm having a ball at Highland," Propps said.

"Coach Heller really cares about you as a person," Mason said. "There's no doubt that I did the right thing in coming here."

Mason runs the option for Highland, which stands at 5-0 after a 17-12 home victory over previously undefeated Arlington and a 34-22 victory over Johnson last Friday.

Running the option requires the ability to make quick decisions about

whether to run with the ball, pass it downfield or lateral it to a running back, and the Scots' signal caller is good at it. According to Heller, Mason has always been a running threat, but this year he has added a deft throwing arm to his arsenal. Through Highland's first four games, he was averaging 10 yards per carry and had completed 29 of 45 passes for 467 yards and four touchdowns.

What has impressed Heller most, however, is his ball control. Mason has committed no turnovers.

Against Arlington, Mason completed six of eight passes for 67 yards, including a 13-yard scoring strike to senior halfback David Jones that sealed the victory.

As for Propps, he turned in his usual sterling performances as a blocking

Highland/see next page

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Kitty Montgomery, left, and teammate Ester Bedard psyche each other up during halftime of their September 29 contest against Cretin-Derham Hall. Photo by Terry Faust.

Montgomery gives Central girls soccer a leg up in conference race

by Bill Wagner

It took Kitty Montgomery a little while to find her true colors. She used to think she looked best in the purple and gold of Cretin-Derham Hall. Now she has decided that the red and black of Central is more to her liking.

"I just felt that I needed to make a change," said Montgomery, a Highland Park resident.

And is the Central girls soccer team glad she did.

Montgomery, a junior midfielder, is among the elite players in the state this season and is a cinch to be a Division I college prospect by this time next season. She has seven goals and three assists already this fall and has helped lead the Minutemaids to a 6-1-1 record in the St. Paul City Conference.

Montgomery is proving to be everything that Central coach Bo Conroy thought she would be—a speedy midfielder and team leader who has great field awareness, a great shot and great playmaking abilities.

Though she has played everything from forward to sweeper, Conroy usually places Montgomery at center midfield to make use of her ball-handling skills. Against Como Park, she put on a clinic at that position, working the ball through three players before netting a crisp 30-footer.

"There's no weakness in Kitty's game," said Conroy. "You can put her anywhere on the field and she'll be one of the better players. Her vision is just great."

here," she said. "But we're definitely going to keep getting better as a team. I've taken the role of getting everyone to step it up during the game. Our team has really improved since the start of the year."

The only blemish on Central's conference log so far this season was a 4-0 loss to Cretin-Derham. It also was the only game that Montgomery has played this year in which she was not outstanding.

"That was hard losing to (CDH)," she said. "It's been a while since Central beat them, but we just have to keep at it. That's definitely a major goal of our team."

The Minutemaids showed the Raiders what they were made of in their conference rematch last week. The two teams battled to a 1-1 tie that held up in overtime.

Montgomery has had to adjust to a new role with the Minutemaids, where she has been called upon to be more creative offensively. "This year, I've worked on my dribbling skills and going for the goal," she said. "I need to get the ball up field more here."

Montgomery comes from a family of talented soccer players. Her sister Juli played at Cretin-Derham and now starts at sweeper for the University of Minnesota. Her sister C-Lin played for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and became a student coach there.

Just as they helped show her the ropes, Montgomery said she takes her position as a team leader seriously. "I remember when I was a younger player just how much it meant for one of the team leaders to spend time talking to me," she said. "It's really important that these kids feel part of the team."

At the same time, Montgomery is receiving plenty of support in the Minutemaids' midfield from junior Megan Strom, who scored two goals in Central's 6-0 win over Como Park, and junior Ester Bedard. Conroy figures his three midfielders are as good as anyone's in the state.

The Minutemaids also have a strong defense with senior sweeper Abby MacKenzie, senior defender Megan O'Connell and junior defender Katie O'Rourke.

Conroy hopes that his team can keep pace with the first-place Raiders.

"We have a good team," he said, "but so do they. There's a lot of the season to go. It'll be interesting."

Montgomery admitted that it was hard playing for Central at first. "I was with new teammates and was learning a new system

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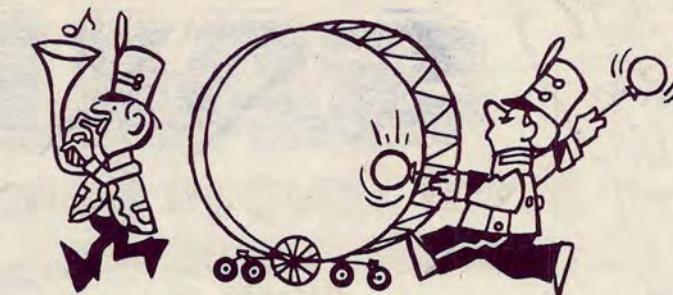
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Vixen for a bruisin'

An attorney by day, Suzette Schommer dons helmet and pads at night for the novelty of playing full-contact pro football

by Tom Cody

Suzette Schommer was the only girl in her 6th-grade class to join the boys in playing football during recess on the asphalt playground at Nativity School. On Saturday, October 9, the 27-year-old attorney will join 79 other women on the field at Midway Stadium for the first-ever women's professional football game.

A Summit Hill resident, Schommer has been selected as a wide receiver for the Minnesota Vixens, one of three franchises in the new Women's Professional Football League. The WPFL has scheduled a six-game "Barnstorming Tour" this fall as a prelude to its hoped-for first season in 2001.

The Vixens will face the Lake Michigan Minx in their first four games—at 7:00 p.m. October 9 at Midway, on October 16 in Chicago, at 7:00 p.m. October 30 at Midway and on November 13 in Green Bay.

They will travel to New York to face the Long Island Sharks on December 11. A Supra Bowl is scheduled for December 18 at the Metrodome, and a league all-star game will be played at the Orange Bowl in Miami on January 22.

The WPFL is the creation of Terry Sullivan and Carter Turner, the league's CEO and president, respectively. Both have been involved in the men's minor Mid-American

Football League, which has operated such franchises as the St. Paul Pigs and Minneapolis Lumberjacks since 1995.

"(Carter Turner) told me about his work with women's professional fast-pitch softball," said Sullivan. "We're always interested in starting something that's not out there yet."

The Vixens are coached by John Turner, the University of Miami defensive back who went on to play nine seasons with the Vikings in the late '70s and '80s.

Over 300 women tried out for the two teams in Minnesota and Michigan, according to Carter Turner. The 40 who made each team will be paid under a profit-sharing agreement. As Sullivan explained, "Players, coaches and administrators are all subcontracted investors in the league. If no fans come, they won't make much. If the interest is there, the money will be good."

"We've had a lot of interest from the media," Sullivan said. "I've had interviews with *GQ*, *Forbes* and (ABC's) 'Night Line' already. Whenever the media are interested, the people are usually interested, too."

"People are going to like watching this," said John Turner, who is also a counselor at Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park, where the Vixens have been practicing this fall. "There are some great athletes out here learning the game."

"When I first heard about this league, I just smiled," coach Turner said. "After I thought about it, though, I said, 'It's time.' The women

have already conquered softball and soccer and basketball. They've played football with their dads, their boyfriends, their brothers. This is just taking it one step further."

Schommer, the youngest in a family of six boys and two

girls, agreed. "My family has always played football," she said. "We have a Turkey Bowl game every Thanksgiving."

Schommer was an outstanding basketball player at Cretin-Derham Hall, and she believes many of the skills she exhibited in that game will transfer over to her wide receiver's role in football.

"I'm looking forward to getting the helmets on," she said. "I've had my bell rung in prac-

tice twice, and that was supposed to be contact-free."

The four-night-a-week practices have not gotten in the way of Schommer's job in the Minnesota Attorney General's office. The Vixens' games will all be played on weekends, "and no bus trip will be over 12 hours," Sullivan said. "Long bus trips kill minor league sports."

Sullivan's plan is to have the WPFL play in two divisions in 2001 with four teams on the East Coast, two more in Texas, and two more in Daytona Beach and Miami.

"There are some great athletes here," John Turner said, "but we're starting from scratch. I began practices with how to line up, teaching the stance. You've got to learn to crawl before you learn to walk. Then we worked on football lingo. The women have to get the terminology down before we can teach the game. From there, we'll move on to team plays and put the helmets and shoulder pads on."

"What we're selling here is an opportunity that didn't exist 15 years ago," Sullivan said. "It's a platform for people who want to play. We'll have some rugby players, some soccer players, a couple kick-boxers. We're not going to follow a path. We're going to go where there is no path and leave a trail."

Tickets for the Vixens' home games on October 9 and 30 range in price from \$15 to \$20. For information, call 612-833-2029.



Women's Professional Football League CEO Terry Sullivan fits Vixens' wide receiver Suzette Schommer with shoulder pads in preparation for their exhibition season opening October 9 at Midway Stadium. Photos by Brad Stauffer.



Suzette Schommer displays her talents.

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Opponents, former ADs agree it's time for CDH to leave conference

by Bill Wagner

The days of Cretin-Derham Hall's dominance of St. Paul City Conference athletics may be numbered. With its undefeated football team outscoring opponents through its first five games this fall by a total 333 to 53, the high school has come under increasing fire.

It is not the first time the city's public schools have sought to oust the Raiders, but it may be the last. Even some of the CDH faithful are saying it's time for the Raiders to leave for a more competitive conference.

Depending upon whom you talk to, CDH either did or did not apply to join the St. Paul Suburban Conference last week. According to CDH athletic director Rich Kallok, the school merely sent "a letter of inquiry" in mid-September to Pete Veldman, executive director of the St. Paul Suburban Conference. However, Veldman said the letter was a formal application.

Kallok would not comment on the letter. Veldman was planning to meet this week with the conference's athletic directors to discuss the matter.

At a St. Paul School Board meeting in September, Humboldt High School boosters called for CDH's ouster, contending that Humboldt's athletes cannot compete at the same level as CDH's. According to the Humboldt boosters, the Raiders have won 124 of 240 City Conference titles in the past 10 years, and in the remaining 116 conference races they have finished second 69 times.

St. Paul Public Schools superintendent Patricia Harvey promised to address the Humboldt boosters' concerns, but she did not say how. Calls to her office last week went unanswered.

Central High School athletic director Nate Galloway said he favors a City Conference without CDH, the only private school in the league. "It's not fair for our kids to have to play an all-star team," Galloway said. "We want a level playing field."

The prospect of competing against CDH is

not exactly being embraced by some St. Paul Suburban Conference athletic directors either. "With our school being one of the smaller schools in the conference, it's not a plus by any means," said Tom Orth of Henry Sibley.

"I have no feelings either way because we don't have enough information yet," said Jack Zahr, athletic director at St. Thomas Academy. "We haven't heard what (CDH) has to say."

CDH, with an enrollment of 947 in grades 10-12, is smaller than all but three St. Paul Suburban Conference schools. Those with larger enrollments in grades 10-12 are Park (1,745), Woodbury (1,432), Hastings (1,367), Tartan (1,260), North St. Paul (1,252) and Sibley (1,065). South St. Paul (884), Simley (883) and all-male St. Thomas Academy (397) have smaller enrollments in those grades.

Back in the mid-1980s, a contingent of public school coaches, citing competitive imbalance, tried to kick CDH, Hill-Murray and St. Thomas Academy out of the league. STA and Hill-Murray eventually were ousted, but CDH was allowed to stay because it is located in St. Paul. STA is in Mendota Heights and Hill-Murray in Maplewood.

CDH's and STA's athletic directors at the time, Dennis Denning and Gerry Brown, respectively, fought to keep their schools in the City Conference, but both say they would not put up the same fight today.

"I don't think Cretin belongs in that conference anymore," Brown said. "The movement to get them out probably has more credibility now."

Brown and Denning both cited a changing public school population for the decline in competitiveness. More and more public school students play either a limited number of sports or no sports at all, they said.

"Years ago, all the teams in the City Conference were pretty darn even," Denning said. "But now it's a no-brainer: Cretin-Derham Hall shouldn't be in the conference."

High school football roundup

Central (3-2)

Sept. 3 vs. CDH at Griffin	34-67
Sept. 10 vs. Arlington at Griffin	30-44
Sept. 17 vs. Humboldt at Bakken	48-0
Sept. 23 vs. Como Park at Griffin	16-14
Sept. 30 vs. Harding at Bakken	56-20
Oct. 7 vs. Johnson at Griffin	.....
Oct. 14 vs. Highland at Griffin	.....
Oct. 20 vs. Minneapolis city team	.....

Cretin-Derham Hall (5-0)

Sept. 3 vs. Central at Griffin	67-34
Sept. 9 vs. Humboldt at Bakken	70-6
Sept. 16 vs. Harding at Bakken	71-6
Sept. 24 vs. Johnson at Griffin	63-7
Sept. 30 vs. Como Park at Griffin	62-0
Oct. 8 vs. Highland at Bakken	.....
Oct. 15 vs. Arlington at Griffin	.....
Oct. 20 vs. Wayzata at UST	.....

Henry Sibley (0-5)

Sept. 3 at St. Thomas Academy	0-36
Sept. 10 vs. Hastings	6-41
Sept. 17 at Park-Cottage Grove	0-30
Sept. 24 vs. South St. Paul	10-19
Oct. 1 at North St. Paul	7-34
Oct. 8 vs. Simley	.....
Oct. 15 at Tartan	.....
Oct. 20 vs. Woodbury	.....

Highland Park (5-0)

Sept. 2 vs. Humboldt at Griffin	42-0
Sept. 9 vs. Harding at Griffin	56-0
Sept. 17 vs. Como Park at Griffin	33-19
Sept. 25 vs. Arlington	17-12
Oct. 1 vs. Johnson at Bakken	34-22
Oct. 8 vs. CDH at Bakken	.....
Oct. 14 vs. Central at Griffin	.....
Oct. 20 vs. Minneapolis city team	.....

Mpls. Roosevelt (3-2)

Sept. 2 at North	18-0
Sept. 9 at Edison	7-12
Sept. 17 vs. Southwest	32-17
Sept. 24 vs. Farmington	27-42
Oct. 2 vs. South at Metrodome	26-8
Oct. 8 at Washburn	.....
Oct. 15 vs. Henry	.....
Oct. 20 vs. St. Paul city team	.....

Minnehaha Academy (3-2)

Sept. 2 at Mound Westonka	24-13
Sept. 9 vs. Blake	28-12
Sept. 17 vs. De La Salle at Benilde	7-41
Sept. 25 vs. Rush City	36-38
Oct. 2 vs. St. Bernard's at Midway	29-0
Oct. 8 vs. St. Agnes	.....
Oct. 14 vs. St. Paul Academy	.....
Oct. 20 at Breck	.....

St. Paul Academy (2-3)

Sept. 3 vs. Somerset, Wisconsin	20-43
Sept. 11 vs. St. Agnes at Augsburg	18-25
Sept. 17 vs. St. Bernard's at Midway	26-6
Sept. 24 vs. Blake	39-8
Oct. 2 vs. Breck	7-29
Oct. 8 vs. De La Salle	.....
Oct. 14 at Minnehaha Academy	.....
Oct. 20 at Hinckley-Finlayson	.....

St. Thomas Academy (3-2)

Sept. 3 vs. Henry Sibley	36-0
Sept. 10 at River Falls	48-25
Sept. 17 at Hastings	33-61
Sept. 24 vs. Park-Cottage Grove	19-35
Oct. 1 at South St. Paul	41-20
Oct. 8 vs. North St. Paul
Oct. 15 at Simley
Oct. 20 vs. Tartan

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Cody's Corner: Baseball kudos come due

/from page 37

It's been said before and it'll be repeated throughout this NFL season: The Vikings cannot run the football. Last year, the rushing game was solid enough to complement the high-octane passing game. You think maybe the offensive line has lost a step? I'll bring it up next time I'm in the men's room.

BESTOWING HONORS

With the baseball playoffs beginning today, it'll soon be time for the post-season awards to be announced. Sammy Sosa should edge Mark McGwire this time around for the National League Player of the Year. Their amazing 1998 seasons set the bar so high that it seemed impossible to reproduce the excitement, yet both men followed with sterling 1999 campaigns. The two-year production by Sosa and McGuire has done wonders to restore interest in the game. They have truly become baseball's ambassadors.

There's lots of talk about Pudge Rodriguez, Rafael Palmeiro, Roberto Alomar and Manny Ramirez for the American League MVP. I still like the two shortstops better. The Yanks' Derek Jeter is the most deserving because he did the most to make his team the best. Boston's Nomar Garciaparra had a season that would usually lock up the trophy. These two are dominant offensive players, but they're also gifted glove men playing the most demanding position on the field.

Fellow Red Sox Pedro Martinez should win the Cy Young Award unanimously in the American League. With the season he had, they should give him the NL Award as well. Not since Ron Guidry has the league seen a pitcher take over a season like this.

Two other honors should be awarded to the front offices of the Cincinnati Reds and Oakland A's. In these days, to do what they did with the resources they had is an accomplishment of which to be justifiably proud.

TWO TIPS

I saw a sports movie, read a sports book and loved 'em both. Kevin Costner should stick to what he does best: making sports movies. After a couple of the worst flicks ever (*Waterworld* and *The Postman*), Costner has returned to the diamond with *For the Love of the Game*. He does a decent golfer (*Tin Cup*), but he does wonderful baseball characters (*Bull Durham*, *Field of Dreams*). The rest of the cast in *For the Love of the Game* isn't much to write home about. There's a bad owner, a really bad catcher and a really, really bad manager. However, Vin Scully does his usual magnificent job as the play-by-play announcer.

Kelly Preston is the girlfriend in a love story framed by one late-season game for the arm-weary, veteran pitcher. It's corny, predictable, full of cliches and marvelous. This isn't one of those Lagoon Theater pieces that will challenge your concept of the universe; this is how movies are supposed to make you feel.

Our computer is shot and we need a new furnace. I've got enough problems at home without unearthing more at the movies. People may be embarrassed about it, but they'll be

cheering at the end of this movie.

John Feinstein's new book about golf, *The Majors*, is another example of an old sports journalism rule: the smaller the ball, the better the writing about the sport. This one is a gem.

Feinstein followed the entire 1998 major golf tour, giving golf fans a rare close-up on these four pressure-packed events (the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship). The writer gets into the players' heads, exposing their strengths and weaknesses. Feinstein has an uncanny knack for dredging up demons from the players' past. He does a particularly good job with Mark O'Meara, John Daly, Fred Couples and Payne Stewart. After the Ryder Cup performance by Team USA, this book will be even more interesting to golf fans. It's at the library. Check it out.

THE PREPS

• St. Paul Academy quarterback T.J. Prunty led local hurlers after the first four games of the season with seven touchdowns and 1,036 passing yards. Other top signal-callers include Nate Hunkins of Central (7 TDs, 776 yards), Joe Mauer of Cretin-Derham Hall (10 TDs, 552 yards), R.J. Welsh of STA (468 yards) and Kevin Mason of Highland (467 yards).

Top receivers to date include Jay Eyunni of SPA (2 TDs, 511 yards), Rasheem Sharpe of Central (44 points, 265 yards), Walter Bowser of CDH (36 points, 174 yards), Mike Skold of SPA (275 yards), Robin Jackson of Highland (215 yards), Anthony Blumer of STA (195 yards) and Mike Dahlstrom of STA (168 yards).

Top totals among running backs include Kim Sarin of CDH (66 points, 440 yards), Joe Vannelli of CDH (48 points, 281 yards), Vern Simmons of St. Thomas Academy (46 points, 345 yards), Heighlos Riser of Highland Park (44 points, 303 yards), Sundi Griffin of SPA (42 points, 411 yards), Casey O'Connell of Central (36 points, 392 yards), Keith Jackson of Minnehaha Academy (340 yards), Mason of Highland (270 yards) and Rashon Powers of CDH (262 yards).

• Laura Amundson of Central and Natalie Livshitz of Sibley remain on a collision course for the individual Section 3AA girls tennis championship. Playoffs begin this week. Since the top two players in each section will advance to state, both have solid opportunities to qualify.

• Kemmons Seldman of Minnehaha (14 goals, 1 assist) leads area boys in soccer scoring. Following behind are Sam Assow of Highland (9, 6), Casey Scheutte of Central (11, 2), Josh Perlich of Central (3, 6), Meng Vang of SPA (6, 3), Brett Branen of SPA (7, 1) and Alex Lacy of Central (3, 8).

Top goaltenders and their save percentages include Peder Hatling of Central (92.1), Kerry Haigh of Minnehaha (86.1) and Jamie Burns of SPA (84.6).

On the girls front, no area player ranks among the top scorers, but both Minnehaha goalies have posted strong save percentages. They include Katy Boynton (97.9) and Libby Kiedrowski (89.5).

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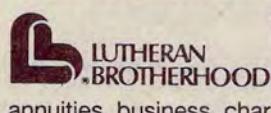
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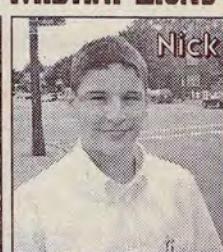
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Less than 9th grade	1,762	2.7%
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*Individuals who receive the *Vilager* age 18 and over. Source: 1990 U.S. Census

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15 years of references in area

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Help Wanted

STYLIST, NAIL TECH with following, FT, PT; very high comm. or chair rental; work your own hours, great location; immediate opening: 651-698-0430.v

For additional job openings, turn to the Employment Opportunities ad section. For advertising information, call 651-699-1462.

Child Care Wanted

PT POSITION. Energetic, experienced person for 3-year-old, our home near Como Lake. Tues. & Thurs., 11:30-5:00. Car and references required. 651-489-0149. gv

CHILD CARE needed for my 2nd-grade daughter, Mon.-Fri., 7:15 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. Prefer walking distance to Horace Mann School. Call Deb days, 612-948-8738; evenings, 651-698-7727. v

CHILD CARE wanted for infant, in my home; begin Nov. 1, full time; Jane, 612-722-6210. v

Child Care

Parents are urged to exercise caution in arranging child care. Be sure to investigate references. To obtain a list of licensed day care providers in the area, call 651-641-0332. gv

SITTER SERVICE has nannies for all occasions; days, evenings, vacations; FT/PT; 651-429-2963. v

LICENSED DAY CARE, any age, full/part-time, nonsmoking, 35E & W. 7th area; 651-224-2072. v

MOM'S LOVING home day care, licensed, experienced, references, CPR, ages 2-years+: 651-698-5427. v

LICENSED DAY CARE has 2 full-time openings available immediately; ages 1-5 years; 14 years' experience; 651-699-0135. v

MUD PIE KIDS: All openings, reasonable rates, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., food program, field trips, crafts, preschool education; positive nurturing; 11 years' experience; 651-699-9049. v

OUR LITTLE CENTERS meet rigorous standards while maintaining the warm homelike atmosphere of your favorite day care home. Small group sizes, stable teaching staff, and cheery spaces packed with great equipment make lasting childhood memories. Serving kids 6 weeks-5 years. A Child's View, 651-690-0590.v

Home Health Care Svc.

CAREGIVER HELP in your home; honest, experienced, references, car; 612-588-4647. v

For Rent Residential

All real estate or rental advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Equal housing opportunity. gv

For Rent Residential

APARTMENTS all around St. Paul. Newly decorated apartments in all shapes and sizes, 1 & 2 bedroom. Professional management. For additional information, call 612-874-1718. v

ONE- & TWO-BEDROOM apt. located in exclusive scenic area. Quiet, controlled access entry building on Mississippi River. NO PETS. Call 651-690-2639 for more information. v

MERRIAM PARK, 2-bedroom lower duplex, \$595; Tel, 651-645-5387. v

ONE-PLUS BEDROOM, lower duplex, 2 baths, hardwood floors, fireplace, private entrance; cozy, quiet, clean, near United Hospital, \$750, utilities paid; avail Nov. 15; 651-228-3027. v

SUMMIT AVENUE efficiency, \$450 per month includes utils. and cable (not telephone); avail. Nov. 1; 651-665-0762. v

Roommates Wanted

TWO MALE GRADUATE students to share furnished four-bedroom home near Macalester College, quiet house, quiet neighborhood, serious students only, nice yard, close to good shopping and restaurants, Express Bus/biking distance U of M; nonsmoker, no pets; \$330+; 651-698-1546; 612-474-4389. gv

NONSMOKER SHARING 3-bedroom house near Midway, off-street parking; Oct. 15; \$345 + dep., 1/3 utilities; 651-699-5480. v

FEMALE NONSMOKER to share apartment in Highland, \$330/mo., deposit, 1/2 utilities; avail. immediately; 651-699-5480. v

Garage/Storage

SELF-STORAGE, 10' x 25', secure, \$95/month; 514 Prior Ave. No.; 612-943-9053. gv

AUTO STORAGE: Controlled card access, enclosed parking in the St. Paul/Midway area. Heated and unheated, 6-months minimum. Contact Terri Ann, 651-641-0166. gv

GARAGE FOR storage of small boat or car; 21XX Watson; 651-698-8163. v

WEST 7TH/RANDOLPH, garage, \$50/month (6 months); Nov. 1; 651-224-6612, call 5 p.m.-7 p.m. v

GARAGE FOR storage only; \$40/month; Randolph/Cleveland; 651-699-0558.v

Wanted to Rent

MATURE ADULT male professional with two cats seeks two-bedroom home or duplex plus garage; nonsmoker. Dan in the morning, 651-698-7437.v

Personals

THANKS TO ST. JUDE for miracles received. M. G. v

Restaurants

BREAKFAST IS NOW HERE! Trotter's Cafe and Bakery, 232 N. Cleveland (near Marshall); 651-645-8950. v

Next Issue: Oct. 20

Deadline: Oct. 13

Humane Society of Ramsey County

Pet of the Month

"Sangria"

SANGRIA (Sandy) is a 4-year-old Doberman Pinscher / Shepherd mix who has been spayed. Sangria loves to be around people and has made many visits to senior care facilities as part of our Companion Animal Assisted Therapy Program. Sangria is looking for a lifelong home full of love and companionship. If you are interested in adopting Sangria, call the Humane Society of Ramsey County at (651) 645-7387, ext. 105.

Humane Society of Ramsey County

1115 Beulah Lane, St. Paul, MN 55108
Open daily 12 - 6, Tuesday & Thursday 12 - 8

Due to publication deadlines, this particular animal may already have been adopted. Please call the Humane Society for further information.

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Larry Forsman 651 698-7653

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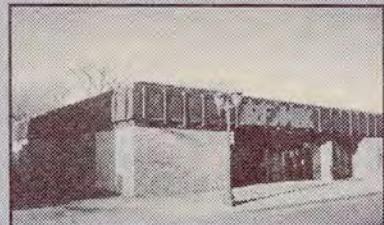
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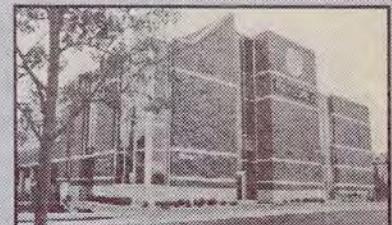
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Brick Colonial Revival

Enjoy tasteful renovation blended with original detailing, myriad of updates including kitchen, 5 BRs, 4 baths.

Rory Anderson/
Andrea Burmeister

651 696-0882 **\$489,000**



Need Studio Space???

Highland starter in convenient location, oversized heated garage with studio space above, 2 BRs.

651 696-0882 **\$129,000**

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Renovated Victorian in historic Summit/Hill neighborhood. 5 BRs, 5 baths, beautifully improved with all the amenities.

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Congratulations!
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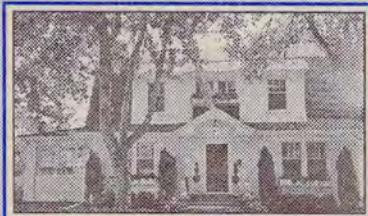
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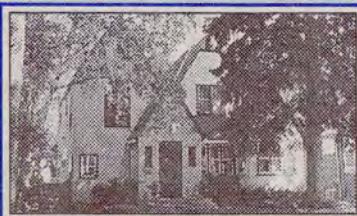
"Opening Doors To The American Dream!"



Magnificent Setting

384 Holly. Prestigious interior! This elegant 2-story exudes charm and grace. Impressive details throughout this quality home. Call 24-hour information line.

1-800 516-9707 Ext. 1032



Premiere Offering!

2027 Portland. Exceptional 2-story, charm galore! Beautiful nat. wdwk., bookcases, main floor sunroom and family room, rec room w/fireplace. Call 24-hour information line.

1-800 516-9707 Ext. 1072



First Offering!

1234 Lafond. Cozy 2-BR with room for growth. Move-in condition, beautiful hardwood floors and natural woodwork, 3-season porch. Call 24-hour information line.

1-800 516-9707 Ext. 1052



Great Starter Home!

2060 Temple Court. Charming 1-1/2 story, beautiful hardwood floors and wdwk., French doors to sunroom or 3rd BR. Finished expansion. Call 24-hour information line.

1-800 516-9707 Ext. 1012



Charming 4-BR

554 Glendale (Pelham to Doane E.). Spacious 1-1/2 story in Desnoyer Park. Main floor fam. room, newer kitchen & FP, updated elec./plumbing. Call 24-hour information line.

1-800 516-9707 Ext. 1002



Too New for Photo

New on the Market!

5551 Village Drive. Spacious town-home in high demand area of Edina, 3 finished levels, walk-out lower level, skylights and more. Call 24-hour information line.

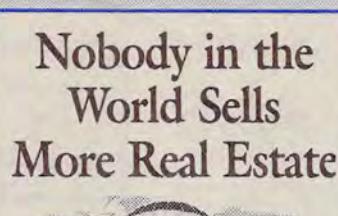
1-800 516-9707 Ext. 1062



St. Anthony Park!

970 Manuel. \$124,900. Spacious 1885 built 4-BR, 2-bath home freshly redone! Sweet private yard! Fire place! Don't wait!

651 646-2100 **\$124,900**



New Listing!

Fabulous Midway home with 4 BRs and 2 baths! Features include: eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, lower level family room and a heated garage!

651 251-4833 **\$84,900**



Lakeshore Living!

This wonderful view is located just a few minutes drive south of St. Paul! Beautiful 2-BR townhome on the shore of Lake Early in Burnsville. Call today for a showing!

651 251-4833 **\$229,900**



Highland Location!

Wonderful 3+ BR home! Main floor fam. rm! Eat-in kitchen! Large upper BRs w/built-in dressers in wall! Sauna in basement! 2-car garage. www.twincities-realestate.com

651 251-4888 **\$152,900**



Great Phalen Home!

Gorgeous 3-BR home! Formal LR and DR. Beautiful wdwk. throughout, gleaming hdwd. floors, spacious kitchen, porch, fenced yard. www.twincities-realestate.com

651 251-4888 **\$134,900**



!! Mint 2-Story \$149,900!!

This home is loaded with extras — hardwood floors, natural woodwork, built-in buffet, 2 full baths, porch and more!! For all your real estate needs, please call Mitch Fink.

651 696-0888



Vintage 2-Story

3849 Minnehaha Ave. 3 BRs, 1 bath, 2+ car gar. Gleaming woodwork, floors & beamed ceiling. Stained glass windows, front porch & rear sunroom. Privacy fence & many updates.

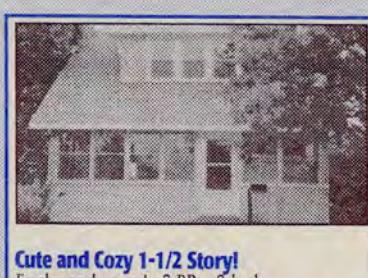
651 696-0856 **\$129,900**



Soft Contemporary

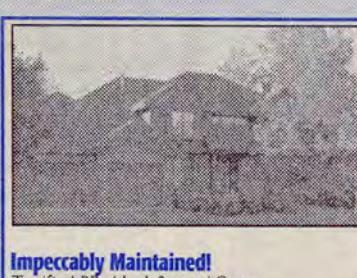
4-BR, 3-bath home on wooded cul-de-sac. Very private. Archways and pillars, 2-story windows and deck off kitchen. Take a virtual tour at realtor.com MLS#1452221.

651 696-0856 **\$309,900**



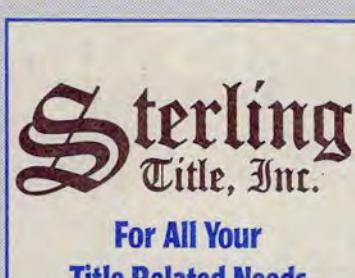
Cute and Cozy 1-1/2 Story!
Fresh and new! 3-BR, 3-bath charmer! Formal dining with oak buffet, plaster walls, coved ceilings, re-finished hardwood floors! A must see!

651 490-1234 **\$119,900**

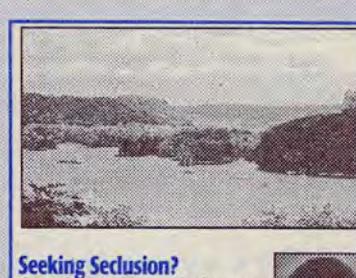


Impeccably Maintained!
Terrific 4-BR, 4-bath 2-story! Gourmet kitchen, great room w/FP. Fabulous owner's suite with whirlpool tub and his/her vanities. Great wooded private lot! Call for details!

651 490-1234



Phone: 612 252-3800



Seeking Seclusion?

Sprawling rambler perched in privacy on 1/5 acres high above historic Stillwater. 3 BRs, 3 baths, wrap-around decks embrace an incredible view! Pristine home. Prime location.

651 696-0850 **\$475,000**



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