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How sweet it is

Eight-page section steps up with home improvement ideas.



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Wee Willie

Three men in tights perform all 37 of the Bard's plays in 97 minutes.



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Hoop hopes

CDH, Highland girls gain state tournament berths.



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VILLAGER

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Conflicting visions cloud future of mass transit in St. Paul

City and county bids for light-rail funds may collide at state Capitol

by Jane McClure

A disagreement between the St. Paul City Council and Ramsey County Board over what the area's transit priorities should be may result in conflicting requests for state funding at the Capitol this spring.

The County Board, acting as the Regional Rail Authority, voted on February 23 to ask the 1999 Legislature for \$69.375 million to study three routes—light-rail transit lines along the Riverview Corridor from downtown St. Paul to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and along the Central Corridor between downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis via University Avenue or

I-94, plus a commuter-rail line through the Midway area between downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis.

This week the City Council is expected to approve requests for \$35 million to bring light-rail plans in the Central Corridor to the point of construction by 2002, \$5.375 million to improve the bus system and study light-rail transit in the Riverview Corridor, and \$8 million to bring the Midway commuter rail route to the point of construction by 2003.

City Council member Mike Harris said he disagrees with the county's support for the Riverview

Transit/see page 2



Leaving their mark on Highland Park.

Thirty Highland Park High School students, under the direction of artist Marilyn Lindstrom (left), collaborated on this representation of St. Paul, mother nature and the spirit of learning. The 152-square-foot mural will be hung high over the courtyard of the Snelling Avenue school. Applying the finishing touches were students (from left) Chris Shea, Billy Hampton and Sommaly Yang. Photos by Mike Long.

Denser housing, calmer streets eyed for Shepard-Davern

by Jane McClure

New businesses, an office and hospitality district, up to 1,500 new housing units and landscaped, pedestrian-friendly streets are all envisioned in a new land-use plan proposed for the area near Shepard Road and Davern Street in Highland Park.

The Highland District Council will review the plan at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Parkway. Its recommendation will be sent to the St. Paul Planning Commission and then to

the City Council for approval and inclusion in the city's comprehensive land-use plan. The Shepard-Davern plan will be used to make zoning changes, guide public improvements and shape private development in the area.

More than 60 people viewed the plan at a neighborhood meeting on March 3 at Hillcrest. Although many liked what they saw, some opposed changes that would take out about 50 existing single-family homes and duplexes in a triangular area bounded by Shepard Road, West 7th and Davern streets. The plan calls for that area and the existing

parking lots east of Davern to become a mixed-use urban development with new residential, retail, commercial and hospitality uses. Edgcumbe Road would be extended from West 7th to connect with Shepard Road and form a parkway and focal point for the area.

If everything falls into place, parts of the Shepard-Davern plan could be implemented soon. Work on the Gateway Project, an extensive traffic-calming and beautification project for West 7th Street, could start this year with plantings and the installation of a stone wel-

come sign on Highway 5. Longer-term efforts, such as rebuilding Shepard Road as a parkway and adding more retail businesses on West 7th, are as far as 20 years into the future. New housing could be phased in over a 10-year period.

"This is very ambitious for a small area plan," said Ken Ford of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development. According to him, the city has heard from more than one prospective hotel devel-

Small Area Plan/see page 5

Inside the Villager

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Caucuses quietly kick off '99 campaign

Voter fatigue blamed for sharp drop in attendance at DFL gatherings

by Chris Smith

The three major political parties kicked off their 1999 campaigns in St. Paul in relatively quiet fashion at precinct caucuses on March 2. Seven City Council and four School Board seats are up for grabs this fall, but with few new candidates in the field, only the Reform Party showed an increase in turnout at the caucuses.

Though the crowd of 40 attending the Reform Party's single citywide caucus

was small compared to Republican and DFL turnouts, it was five times as big as the turnout in 1997, according to St. Paul Reform Party chair Philip Fuehrer. "We had eight people at our caucuses two years ago," he said. "Obviously, Jesse Ventura's win in the governor's race has gotten people interested. I added 50 or 60 people to our mailing list in the days after that election."

The Reform Party may have a few candidates for School Board seats and for two East Side City Council seats this

fall, Fuehrer said. "We've got a lot of people who are thinking about it, but when you sit down and crunch the numbers, you realize it's still going to be really tough (to win)."

The DFL Party had by far the biggest turnout, but the 600 to 700 people who participated represented about a third of the turnout of two years ago. "Part of that is probably because there's no mayor's race this time," said Mary Han-

Caucuses/see page 4

Slew of area projects seek place in 2000-2001 CIB budget

by Jane McClure

Playground improvements in Macalester-Groveland and Merriam Park, renovation of the clubhouse at the Highland Park 18-Hole Golf Course and a half-mile extension of Edgcumbe Road through the Shepard-Davern area are among the proposed projects competing for funds in the city of St. Paul's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) for 2000-2001.

The city staff's review of proposals submitted by neighborhood groups and city departments began last week. This spring the city's 19 district planning councils will rank the proposals within their boundaries as will the citywide citizen subcommittees selected to study the proposals in the areas of housing, community facilities, and residential and economic development. The council and committee recommendations will be forwarded

to the citywide CIB Committee and from there to the mayor and City Council this fall.

Several proposals have been submitted for the Shepard-Davern area of Highland Park where a land-use for commercial and residential redevelopment is now being completed (see story on page 1). The Highland District Council and the city departments of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development are seeking funds to redesign Edgcumbe Road and extend it beyond West 7th Street to Shepard Road. The road, renamed Edgcumbe Parkway, would be the focal point of a redeveloped residential and commercial area.

Other projects in the Shepard-Davern area would improve the streetscape, signage and traffic along Shepard Road and Davern and West 7th streets. The St. Paul Department of Public Works is seeking funds to rebuild intersections along West 7th Street for safety

reasons. That project was submitted but was not funded in the 1998-99 biennium.

Parks and Recreation is seeking funds to renovate the Highland 18-hole clubhouse. However, CIB funds will not be sought for other golf course improvements as originally expected. City staff has indicated that other funding sources will be sought.

Several requests were submitted for parks, playgrounds and recreation centers, including improvements at Crosby Farm Park and new playground equipment at Mattocks Park, Desnoyer Park and the Edgcumbe Recreation Center. Funds are also being sought to replace the tile gym floor at the Linwood Recreation Center, to complete the gym and kitchen at the Hillcrest Recreation Center and to build an addition to the Homecroft Recreation Center. The Merriam Park Community Center is seeking funds for the design of a building addition and remodeling project and for

the reconstruction of a parking lot. Parks and Recreation wants to improve the accessibility of the dock at Watergate Marina.

The St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium (NEC) is seeking funds for striping and signage along the Grand Round bicycle path, a partially completed bike route that circles the city. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is seeking funds to add a median as a traffic calming measure on Fairview Avenue. The city's Department of Planning and Economic Development is seeking funds to design streetscape improvements along the length of Selby Avenue.

The city's Department of Public Works has requested funds for the continued study of Ayd Mill Road. The City Council is expected to select a preferred alternative for Ayd Mill Road in late summer. That alternative will then be made the subject of a design and engineering study.

Transit visions conflict

from page 1

Corridor as the top transit priority. According to him, there is greater demand for ridership in the Central Corridor. Harris and council member Chris Coleman have also criticized the Regional Rail Authority for not seeking adequate public comment on plans for the Riverview Corridor. They both said that they have heard little support for the Riverview route, especially the idea of building a light-rail transit line down West 7th Street, one of several Riverview routes under consideration.

The City Council on March 3 adopted an amendment to the city's land-use plan that makes the Central Corridor the city's top priority for the development of a transitway, be it light rail or buses. The council also amended the plan to state that "any major transit development within the Riverview Corridor shall be incorporated into the existing residential, commercial and environmental character of the corridor. In particular, physical changes should respect and complement natural amenities such as Crosby Park, Hidden Falls Park and Mississippi River Boulevard and should avoid unnecessary intrusion."

Ramsey County Board chair Rafael Ortega said he is hearing lots of support for light-rail transit in the Riverview Corridor. He attributed the opposition to "a few negative people from Highland."

Ortega is now pushing for the county to hire a lobbyist to seek state and federal funding for the transit projects. That expenditure

is opposed by County Commissioner Janice Rettman, who has questioned the county policy that allows for such hiring without it being placed on a County Board meeting agenda. (Ramsey County officials may issue contracts for \$10,000 or less without formal review and approval by the County Board.) Among the lobbyists who have been mentioned are former St. Paul City Council members Len Levine and Bob Long, former Hennepin County Commissioner Mark Andrew, Bob Goff and former state Republican Party chair Chris Georgecas.

Ortega and Regional Rail Authority chair Tony Bennett argue that if Ramsey County does not aggressively seek those funds, it will be left out of regional transit improvement plans. "We have to come up with something before the Legislature adjourns or we'll be in the caboose," Bennett said.

A city-county Transit Vision Task Force could not agree early this year on whether to make the Central or Riverview corridors a priority. Instead, its members recommended in January to support both as part of a light-rail "transit triangle" that also includes Minneapolis' Hiawatha Corridor.

The cost for constructing the three pieces in Ramsey County's transit vision could top \$800 million. Riverview's 8.4 miles would cost about \$33 million to plan and \$278 million to build. Central's 9.4 miles would cost \$44 million to plan and \$400 million to build. The Midway commuter-rail route would cost \$8



The Ramsey County Board's vision for mass transit in St. Paul includes light rail along the Riverview and Central corridors and commuter rail on the north edge of the Midway area.

million to plan and \$57 million to build.

County Commissioners Susan Haigh and Victoria Reinhardt questioned whether the county would ever be able to get funding for all of the routes. Federal legislation has authorized funding for Riverview Corridor but not for the Central Corridor or commuter rail route, Haigh said.

Ortega insists that Ramsey County's transit needs have to be met, even though that may put Ramsey at odds with other counties, the Metro Light Rail Transit Board and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He

and Bennett admit that the Central Corridor is no longer a priority for Hennepin County. "They (Hennepin County) really don't care about what happens on this side of the river," Bennett said.

Ortega said that though the plan adopted on February 23 by the Regional Rail Authority calls for light-rail transit in the Riverview Corridor, he is withholding judgment on a preferred transit mode until the completion of a consultant's study. "I'm not wed to any specific route in the area, nor am I supporting light-rail transit over buses," he said.

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Publisher	Michael Mischke
Editors	John Wadell
	Dale Mischke
	Pat Iverson
	Shirley Heyer
	Craig Schuster
Copy Editor	Dennis W. Stern
Production Artists	Tim Carroll
	Susan Dodd
Advertising Manager	Suzanne Glidden
Advertising Sales	Mary Helen Pates
Classified Ad Manager	John Rauch
Classified Ad Sales	
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Contributors	Tom Cody, Dick Gordon, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Mike Long, Jane McClure, Bob Gilbert, Bill Wagner, Brad Stauffer, Steve Michaels, Dave Page, Cathy Condon, Chris Smith, Terry Faust, Kristine Heykants, Leslie Walters, Victoria McCurdy, Iric Nathanson, Tom Surowicz, Michael Werner, Jeff Mores.

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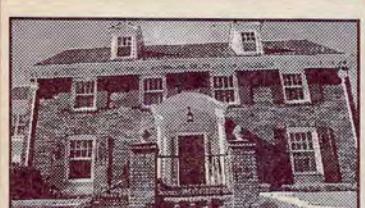
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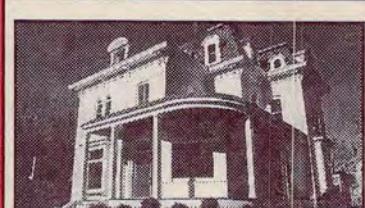
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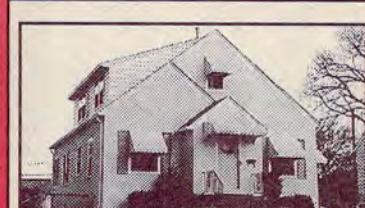
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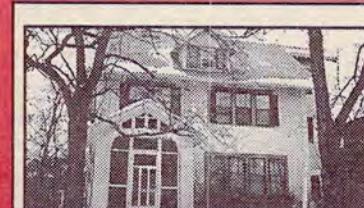
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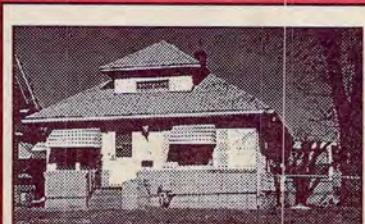
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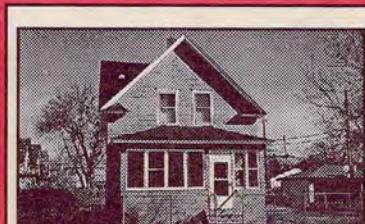
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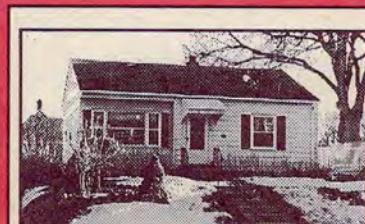
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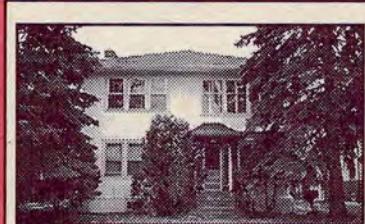
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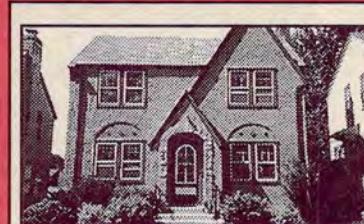
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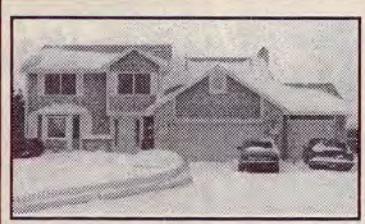
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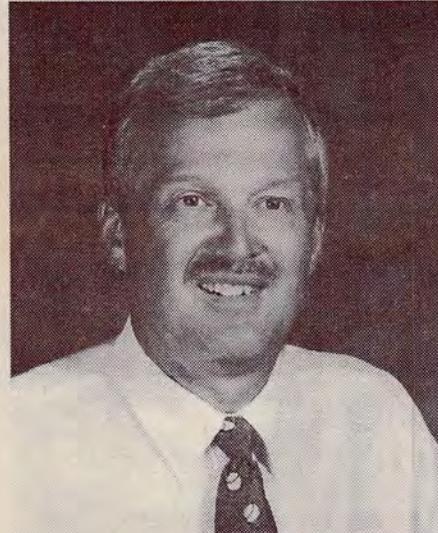
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Caucuses /from page 1

nahan, DFL city chair. "I also think there's a general fatigue on the part of voters. Some people may be taking a little break from politics since there aren't really threatening issues in most wards in this election cycle."

City Council incumbents Chris Coleman in Ward 2 and Jay Benanav in Ward 4 have no opposition within the DFL party. The DFL appears ready to endorse Mitch Gordon, 26, an attorney with Lindquist and Vennum, for Mike Harris' seat in Ward 3. Harris, an independent, has yet to announce whether he will seek a fourth term.

Gordon "has the ability to engage the community," said Ann McGee, Ward 3 DFL co-chair. "The fact that we had the second highest caucus turnout in the city (behind Ward 1, where a five-way City Council endorsement fight is brewing) speaks to that."

The Republican precinct caucuses yielded two potential challengers for City Council seats in the Villager area. John Krenik of Highland Park, a long-time Republican activist and former city party chair, is considering a bid in Ward 3. Victor Gomez, who has ties to the West Side and to young Republican groups, is weighing a bid in Ward 2. "Krenik has formed a committee to investigate the possibility," said Republican city chair Ken Schaefer. "Gomez was willing to stand up and speak in front of 100-some Republicans at the caucus."

Schaefer, a Highland Park resident, was gratified by the Republican caucus turnout. The party drew about 140 participants, roughly the same as two years ago. "In the sense that there's no mayor's race, it's a good result," he said.

In the School Board races,

incumbent DFLers Greg Filice, Al Oertwig and Neal Thao have announced their bid for re-election. Anne Carroll of Highland Park, a communications consultant and school district volunteer, will also be seeking the DFL endorsement. On the Republican side, incumbent School Board member Tom Conlon will be seeking re-election. A few other Republicans are thinking about running, Schaefer said.

Each of the parties held open discussions on issues. Republican caucus-goers were largely concerned with educational issues like increasing parental involvement, according to Schaefer. At the Reform Party caucus, discussion centered on ideas like pressing for public financing of local elections and opposing lawsuits against gun manufacturers.

DFL discussions "didn't settle into any pattern," Hannahan said. However, in Ward 3, there was a lot of discussion about the resolution and endorsement process, according to McGee.

The DFL will endorse its City Council candidates at ward conventions in early to mid-April. School Board candidates will be endorsed at the May 1 DFL city convention.

The Republican and Reform parties have scheduled only citywide conventions. The Republicans will hold their convention on March 24 and the Reform Party will hold theirs during a family picnic in a local park on June 26.

Candidates who wish to run without party endorsement have until the July 20 filing deadline to make their intentions known. The primary election will be held on September 14 and the general election on November 2.

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Small Area Plan envisions 1,500 new homes in Shepard-Davern area

from page 1

What Hertz paid for the land (\$4 million) ... sent surrounding property values skyrocketing to the point where the development of smaller-scale townhouses and condominiums is no longer feasible, said Ken Ford.

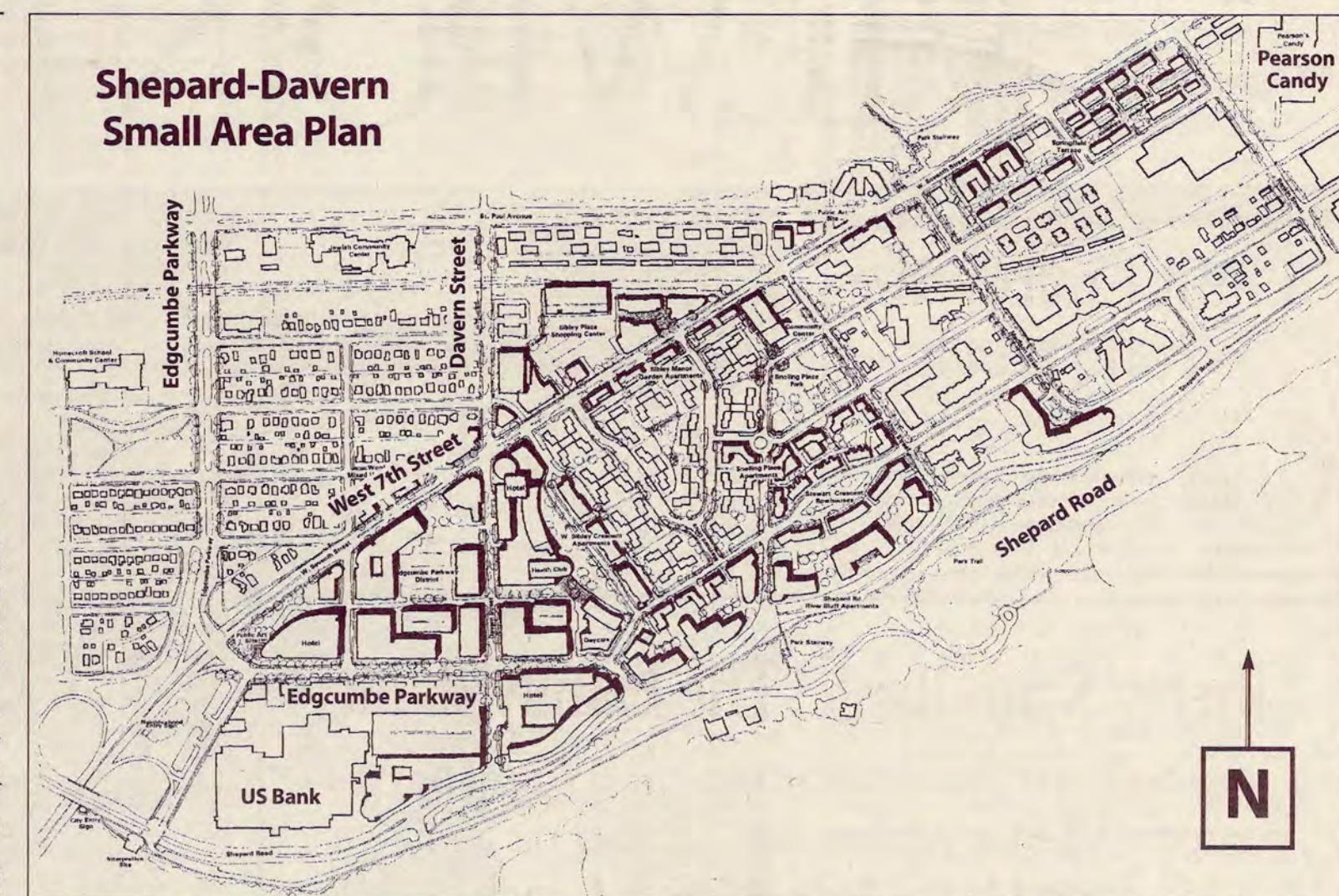
oper interested in the area. Office, medical and high-technology uses also have been proposed. The city is now trying to find a way to respond to the development demand and work with area residents to sell their homes.

"It looks very beautiful," said Graham Avenue resident Amy Hoffheins about the plan, "but I'm not going to be living down there if it goes through. It's great for St. Paul, but it doesn't help me."

When a task force began working on the plan nearly two years ago, its members did not want to remove existing housing. The goal was to add new housing on land currently used as parking lots.

That has changed, Ford said, as the result of the need for more off-site rental car parking during reconstruction of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Hertz and Alamo have moved into the Shepard-Davern area and an expanded Park 'n' Jet facility has added to the sea of cars. Airport officials hope to announce a new parking site this summer for Alamo, Hertz and four other rental companies.

"What Hertz paid for the land (\$4 million) woke everybody up to the economic development forces in the area," said Ford. The price sent surrounding property values skyrocketing to the point where the development of smaller-scale town-



The Small Area Plan for the Shepard-Davern area envisions a mixed-use development of hotels, apartment buildings and rowhouses and retail buildings served by pedestrian-friendly streets like the new L-shaped Edgcumbe Parkway and a calmer Shepard Road.

houses and condominiums is no longer feasible, he said.

St. Paul developer Jerry Trooien's conversion of the former Unisys plant at Shepard-Davern into the RiverBank Business Center also has brought an additional 1,500 US Bank employees to the area. Trooien plans to build a parking ramp near the business center this year and he has not ruled out expanding the center itself. He is also considering building a hotel on property he owns at the northeast corner of Shepard and Davern.

Residents living in the Shepard-West 7th-Davern triangle have met with city staff and real estate consultants to discuss the best way to proceed. City officials do not want the properties to be bought piece-

meal, with houses rented out by absentee landlords.

Several area residents raised concerns at the March 3 meeting about changes to area streets in the neighborhood east of Davern. They also questioned a proposal to make Edgcumbe Road an at-grade intersection at West 7th Street by removing the existing overpass.

"I live near that intersection," said Walter Krueger. "We already see a lot of bottlenecks there. And you're going to put a traffic signal there? Wow! You're going to have traffic backed up all the way to Shakopee."

Mississippi River Boulevard resident Clyde Illg was concerned that the change would divert more traffic up his street and Cleveland Avenue. He asked that the city look

carefully at traffic patterns before recommending changes.

Others questioned the long-range plan to redo Shepard Road as a parkway. "There's one heck of a lot of traffic on Shepard Road," said Don Nelson. "Just how are you going to slow it down?"

Still others raised concerns about the density of housing being suggested for Shepard-Davern. Ford said new luxury apartment buildings along Shepard Road could bring 200-400 new units to the area. Behind some of those units could be 150 to 250 new townhomes along Stewart Avenue.

Housing also could be added near the 550-unit Sibley Manor apartment complex. The Snelling Place Apartments could see 120-

180 new units. Apartments could also be added on the side of Sibley Manor that now faces the Hertz lot.

An additional 110-160 new units could be added along West 7th Street in mixed use retail-residential buildings. Up West 7th at Springfield, 120-200 units could be added in the Springfield Terrace retail-residential development.

The only new housing proposed north of West 7th Street is at Wordsworth Avenue, where eight to 20 new housing units could be mixed in with retail businesses.

Ford said increased housing density is needed if the neighborhood wants to grow commercially. "If you want more businesses, you have to have enough people living in the area to support them," he said.

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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

Light rail on the wrong track

Call me one of those "negative people from Highland," as Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega likes to refer to those who question the wisdom of spending \$33 million just to plan—and as much as \$278 million more to provide—improved mass transit in the Riverview Corridor of St. Paul. That ill-defined corridor would run from the near East Side through downtown and the West 7th and Highland Park neighborhoods before spanning the Mississippi River and linking up with the proposed light-rail line in the Hiawatha Corridor of Minneapolis. Exactly how the Riverview Corridor would span the Mississippi is unclear, though one can assume it would have to involve the construction of a new bridge over the river between Hidden Falls Park and Fort Snelling.

At this time it's not known which one or more of these routes the River Corridor would follow: West 7th Street, the I-35E Parkway, Shepard Road or the Canadian Pacific railroad tracks between the Mississippi and West 7th Street.

Equally ill-defined is the form of mass transit the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is pushing—improved bus service with designated bus lanes, light-rail transit or a combination of both.

When backed against the wall, county officials will insist that they have no preconceived notions about what transit improvements would make the most sense. Well, I spent the better part of last Sunday reading the entire, voluminous file from five months of meetings of the St. Paul Transit Vision Advisory Task Force, a creature of city and county government. Though improved bus service wasn't totally ignored in the task force's deliberations, it's pretty clear to me that this is all about Ramsey County getting its share of the state and federal money now flowing to light-rail transit projects nationwide.

Unable to decide whether the Riverview Corridor or the Central Corridor (I-94 or University Avenue) should be a higher priority for further taxpayer-supported studies of mass transit, the task force opted in January to recommend that both corridors be given equal priority—to the tune of more than \$800 million in capital costs. That's on top of the tens of millions of dollars that were spent in the 1970s and '80s to study the feasibility of light rail in the Central Corridor, and on top of the huge annual operating subsidies both routes would likely require.

What amazes me is how far down the tracks we've come with such little public involvement and such little apparent support. As St. Paul City Council member Mike Harris has pointed out, there was next to no public debate when the County Board inexplicably shifted its focus from the Central Corridor to the Riverview Corridor in 1987, when the U.S. Congress authorized light-rail transit in the Riverview Corridor but not the Central Corridor last May, and when the Riverview Corridor Major Investment Study was approved later that year.

Yet if light rail makes any sense in St. Paul—and I'm not convinced that it does—the Central Corridor, with far more traffic congestion, far more potential riders, far more polluted air and far more opportunities for spinoff development, is clearly the route with the most to offer.

In the past 20 years many U.S. cities have built new rail systems. Many more plan to do so in coming years. Jonathan E.D. Richmond, a former professor at the University of Sydney who is now evaluating the performance of U.S. rail projects for the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, has noted that, "To their supporters the new (rail systems) are great successes.... A systematic analysis of data on the transit systems shows, however, that in most cases investment in light rail has worsened overall transit-system financial performance while providing little or no gains in public-transport ridership."

His approach to mass transit would be one that any small-business owner would recognize as the key to success:

"We have to stop being obsessed with technology and instead take needs as the starting point of inquiry. Instead of asking if a light-rail project is feasible...we must ask who our clients are and then how they may best be served."



Closing elementary school isn't an answer

by Roxanne Buchanan

The School Board is the policy-making body of School District 197 and has complete fiscal powers for the operation of the schools." That is a direct quote from School District 197's 1998-99 calendar.

Unfortunately, it appears that the School Board, with its "complete" fiscal power, may have caused the district to suffer from a "complete" financial fiasco. In working toward a solution to this financial debacle, board members, along with special task force committees, are supposed to be exploring options at every level. I am not convinced that this is happening. According to recently published information, closing an elementary school (most likely Somerset) keeps showing up as a likely result. This decision would have a great negative impact on the youngest members of our community. Aside from that, it has been reported that closing an elementary school would have a minimal positive effect on the budget deficit. Why would the School Board even consider closing an elementary school as an option?

It seems to me that our School Board would want to look at other options that could provide greater financial relief from our budget deficit. Unfortunately, that will involve making difficult decisions that will not be palatable to all. But perhaps this is the opportunity we've been waiting for—a chance to do something to prove that we (the School Board and the community) are not divisive, self-serving or attending only to the special interests of select individuals.

It would appear that the building and continuing operation of our two middle schools may have led us into our

current financial crisis. Was it really believed that a community of our size with our current student population could support two middle schools? Only nine of the 56 public school districts in and around the Twin Cities support two middle schools and only one high school. Of those nine, our district clearly serves the smallest number of secondary students—2,136. The other eight districts serve from 3,100 to 5,152 secondary students.

Of the same nine districts, ours has the lowest total number of students—4,869. The other eight range from 6,442 students in Edina to 9,428 in White Bear Lake. Lakeville is similar in size to our district with a population of 38,000, but it serves 7,889 students.

These numbers show that our district's student population is dramatically less than similarly situated districts, perhaps due to the number of local families who opt for private education. Aside from working on our current budget crisis, we should be focusing our efforts on attracting and retaining the other students who are living in our district.

We need to be realistic and reasonable in our approach to remedy this unforgivable financial debacle. It would certainly appear that our district cannot afford to support two fully staffed middle schools.

Let's eliminate the redundancy. Let's close one of the middle schools, sell the building—possibly for use as the West St. Paul Senior Center or Dakota County Northern Service Center—and move our 5th-graders back into the elementary schools where they belong.

Editor's note: The writer is a Mendota Heights resident with two children attending Somerset Heights Elementary School.

Ayd Mill is the camel's nose under the tent

Dear editor:

It was very disappointing that the board of the Summit Hill Association voted this week in favor of a two-lane alternative for the Ayd Mill Road corridor between I-94 and I-35E. The advocates of this position stated that it would provide some relief to residents on the south end of Lexington Parkway from the high volume of traffic that presently cuts through their neighborhood.

This proposed solution is like the nose of the camel under the tent. The greater head that follows will be the demand by truckers to use Ayd Mill Road and the south end of the I-35E Parkway to get to the Lexington Avenue bridge. The state

highway commissioner will approve this as a "safety" measure to relieve truck traffic on Snelling Avenue. State legislators and city fathers will quickly agree as their re-election committees report the hordes of new money from the transportation industry flowing into their coffers.

VILLAGE POST

Village Post

Then the body of the camel will enter the tent. Since part of the I-35E Parkway will have trucks on it, there will be no reason that the rest of it can't as well. Once again, for "safety" reasons, the highway commissioner will approve it and so will the state Legislature and City Council.

At last, the tail of the camel will sweep the sand outside the tent smooth and clean before being drawn inside. It will seem there never existed the thousands of residents opposed to additional freeway traffic intruding into our lives.

The easy solution is to build something new in the Ayd Mill Road corridor. The tough solution is to do what is right for all the district: either the "no build" or the "linear park" proposal. You can still get involved. Write or call the City Council now.

Thomond R. O'Brien
Summit Hill

Stop the bleeding in District 197

To the editor:

At the March 1 meeting of the District 197 School Board, we were told that dozens of our children's teachers are being fired to help make up for financial mismanagement of the district. Programs are being cut or eliminated. Now one of the district's elementary schools is on the chopping block. But the school won't really close; the district administration offices and some other district programs will move into the school. This just moves an expense from one district account to another and makes the savings an illusion.

At least some parents from the doomed elementary school will put their children into private schools, further lowering district revenues. The School Board must consider the long-term implications of this sort of financial management. Short-sightedness with little attention and outright hostility to public input got the district into the mess it is in today. Firing teachers and cutting programs to make up for Bob Monson's and the School Board's mistakes is bad enough. By closing an elementary school, the School Board will begin a blood bath of families fleeing the school district. Let the exodus begin.

Victor Sherbanenko
Mendota Heights

Two-way street

To the editor:

A balance can be achieved between the interests of residents who are striving to create much-needed park space in southwest St. Paul and those who are plagued by rush-hour traffic on Lexington Parkway. If the city of St. Paul adopts the two-lane alternative for redeveloping Ayd Mill Road, it should be designated as a parkway that would be closed to traffic on weekends, holidays and other times when the need for this traffic safety valve is low but the demand for recreational space is high.

Such a balancing of interests has been achieved in New York City and Washington, D.C. In New York, most roadways in Central Park are closed to traffic every Saturday and

Sunday as well as on holidays throughout the year. During the summer, Central Park's roadways are also closed to traffic on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when they are the domain of runners, bikers, rollerbladers, skateboarders and strollers. Similarly, roadways in Washington's Rock Creek Park are often closed to traffic on summer weekends.

These roadways are the site of fun runs and other outdoor events that bring neighbors together and enhance their quality of life. The availability of these parkways to reduce rush-hour traffic that would otherwise congest area streets likewise improves the quality of life in nearby neighborhoods.

This modification of the two-lane alternative offers a win-win solution to the Ayd Mill Road controversy. Property values would be enhanced on South Lexington Parkway and near the new Ayd Mill Parkway. And recreational users of such an Ayd Mill Parkway would become a vocal constituency, strengthening neighborhood efforts to fight any proposal to expand Ayd Mill Road to four lanes or to permit trucks on the roadway.

John Halla
Macalester-Groveland

Educational opportunity lost

To the editor:

Many residents in the Villager's distribution area are familiar with the excellent reputation of Capitol Hill Magnet School. Interested students must pass a qualifying test for admission. Due to the program's popularity, there is a waiting list of qualified students at all grade levels seeking admission.

As the parents of one child enrolled at Capitol Hill and another on the waiting list, we were surprised to learn that up to 50 spaces remain unfilled at Capitol Hill due to limited minority enrollment. When there is considerable demand for a program such as that offered at Capitol Hill, the school system should respond by making additional spaces available or by replicating such programs in other parts of the city. If discrepancies in minority enrollment goals exist, they need to be evaluated and addressed. If the qualifying test is biased or unfair, then it needs to be reconstructed by those with the appropriate knowledge and capabilities.

However, deliberately blocking the enrollment of qualified students into available spaces in a public school and allowing those spaces to remain unfilled is an abuse of public trust and a waste of tax dollars. Educational opportunities in schools are not something that can be bankrolled and used later; they are lost if not used.

It has been difficult to get clear and accurate information from the various parties involved in this issue. As elected administrators, the St. Paul School Board has an obligation to clarify these policies, to hear feedback from residents and to justify to parents of students on the waiting lists why their children are being denied enrollment. We encourage interested parties to attend the School Board meeting on Tuesday, March 16, at the administration building at 360 Colborne St. The meeting starts at 5:45 p.m. with public discussion scheduled to begin at 7:00.

Barbara and Philip Jacobs
Macalester-Groveland


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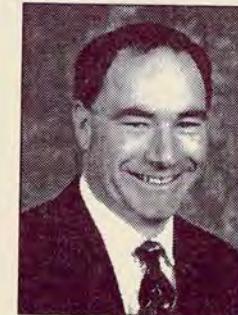
This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three-quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned — and worse — financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

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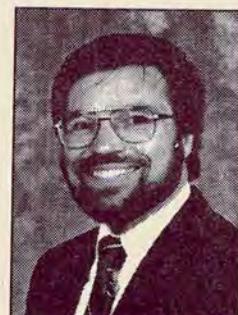
As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System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

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-889-5621 and enter ID #1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Jeff Ewald, D.C.
Faculty Clinician



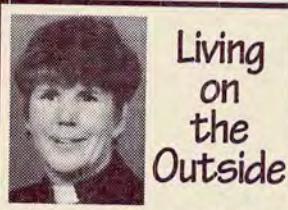
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and strengthening exercise. The role of manipulation or physiotherapy also needs to be considered.

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**Living
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Joshua sat in his wheelchair and looked out the window of the chalet while his "family" went skiing. Living "outside the city," outside the norm is something Joshua often experienced. We may live on the outside because we have different physical abilities or we don't fit into the traditional family paradigm. Ironically, many of us may have a lead role when we are pushed to the outside. We may preach at the funeral of our own parent, but because we love a person of our own sex, we may be excluded from the obituary. Or we may be excluded from the wedding party because of our physical abilities. For those of us who live on the outside, Good Friday has special meaning. Jesus, who broke the rules of his religion and his society, lived outside the "norm," and outside the city. Christ was crucified. In Him we have a friend, a Savior and a great promise:

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A few million years ago, one of our distant relatives got the idea to stand up on two legs. Our hips have been sorry ever since. Hip joints perform a very important job. Even when a hip is at rest—especially if we sit a lot—many of the muscles are under a lot of stress. And many of them are deep in our pelvis, which makes them sometimes tough to evaluate and treat.

A few simple tests can tell you if you have hip problems.

- Look down at your feet as you stand comfortably, and then when you lie down. Does one foot seem to point outward more than the other?
- Do your shoes wear unevenly, more on the outside than the inside of the heel or sole?

- Do you get pain in your buttocks or groin area?
- Find the big knob of bone on the outside of your leg just below your hip. Press just above it with your thumb. Painful?
- Lie on your back. Put each foot in turn on the opposite knee and let your leg relax. Does one knee go down more than the other, or feel less stiff and tight?

A "yes" to any of these may mean a hip problem is present, even if it's not painful. Early treatment is important for hip problems. Chiropractic case management usually includes an examination and diagnosis along with a review of your physical fitness program to introduce appropriate stretching

Daring young troupe

Circus of the Star raises half the funds needed for new Highland Park facility

by Jeff Mores

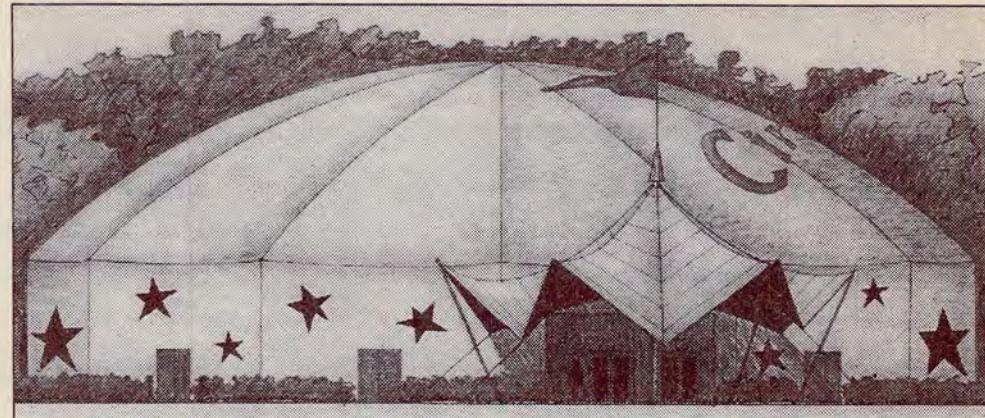
Dan and Betty Butler may see their dream of erecting a big top in St. Paul come true by the turn of the century. In the past year, the Highland Park couple has raised nearly half of the \$1.6 million needed to build a permanent home for their 5-year-old Circus of the Star.

The Butlers, veterans of the Sailor Circus of Sarasota, Florida, founded the Highland-based youth circus with 50 students in the fall of 1994. They began by offering a few classes in circus performing at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The circus has since grown into one of the Twin Cities' most successful youth recreational programs with 140 students ranging in age from 6 to 18. It has a waiting list of over 200 more children.

Last year Circus of the Star was awarded a

\$200,000 grant from the city of St. Paul's Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program to help pay for the construction of its own facility—a proposed tent-like structure that would be built on park land just southwest of the Highland Park pavilion. Since then the Butlers and a group of volunteers have raised an additional \$445,000, including \$100,000 each from the Bush Foundation, the St. Paul Foundation and the Katherine B. Anderson fund of the St. Paul Foundation; \$50,000 from the Mardag Foundation; \$10,000 each from the Beim Foundation and Northern States Power; \$5,000 from the Marbrook Foundation; and \$70,000 from individuals. They also received a \$10,000 operating grant from the Grotto Foundation in 1998.

Last month, a challenge grant was offered by an anonymous donor who has promised to match up to \$100,000 in additional private



An artist's rendering of the \$1.6 million practice and performance facility that Circus of the Star is hoping to erect in Highland Park just south of the pavilion parking lot.

donations raised by May 1.

"The support has been wonderful," said Betty Butler. "When we started, we thought it would take about a year to 18 months to raise the money, and we thought that may have been wishful thinking. Right now I think it's possible that we could hit our goal by the fall. If not, then clearly by year's end."

"The Hillcrest Recreation Center has been great to us, but we've just run out of room," she said. "It's almost impossible, with the number of people we have, to share time with basketball and the other activities that go on there."

The Butlers estimate that with the new structure they would be able to expand their program to a minimum of 500 children. The 21,000-square-foot, 44-foot-high facility would be open year-round for practices and public performances. It would be built of a canvas-like material that would employ the same tensile-membrane technology as Denver's new airport terminal. It would be heated in the winter and air-conditioned in the summer and would include boys and girls locker rooms, public toilets and seating for more than 1,000 spectators.

The Butlers have a 10-year lease from the city for the ground on which the big top would be built with an automatic 10-year renewal. The lease would cost the circus \$700 per month for the first 10 years and \$800 per month for the second 10 years.

Along with trapeze and high-wire acts, the Butlers and their eight coaches teach juggling, unicycling, clowning and a host of other acrobatics. The circus has been a regular feature at Highland Fest since its inception and has performed with the Shrine Circus, for the St. Paul

Winter Carnival and at downtown St. Paul's A Capital New Year celebration, the Mall of America, Bandana Square and the Ordway Theater.

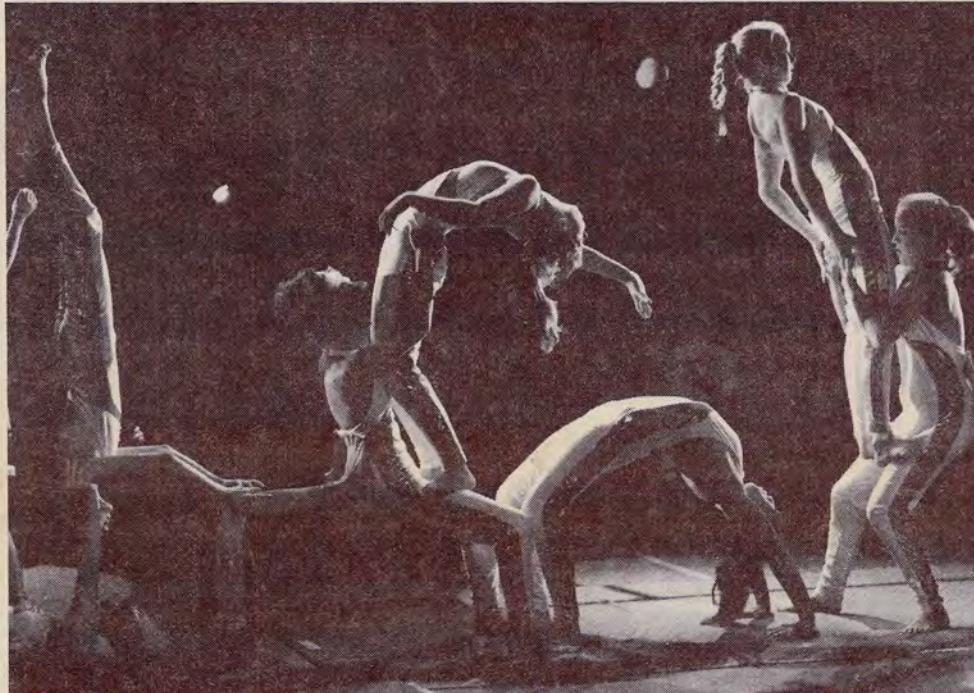
"I've been so impressed with the quality of instruction and with the kids in the program," said David Stahlman, whose 9-year-old daughter, Emily, joined the circus last fall. "It's good for the kids and they definitely learn about teamwork. There's a lot of trust involved there."

"I'm not at all surprised by the amount of money (the Butlers) have been able to raise," said Joe Zappa, the city of St. Paul's director of marketing and promotion. "There are only one or two programs like this in the country, and unique programs usually get funded pretty well. The city is behind this project and has been from the beginning."

"I think Circus of the Star needs the new building," said Kelsey Long, a sophomore at Highland Park High School and one of the Butlers' students. "More people have to be able to experience this. When I joined, it opened up a whole new art form for me. It made me realize that all the stuff I used to see these people doing on television really was possible. I could do it, too."

"It's so exciting," said Betty Butler. "You try not to look too far ahead, but at the same time you just want it to happen. Once we hit \$1 million, we can start thinking about breaking ground. It's like watching a dream come true, but we still need everyone's support to make it all happen."

For information on enrolling in Circus of the Star or on making a donation to the building fund, call Dan or Betty Butler at 651-690-9193.



Silhouetted at center stage is the Circus of the Star hand balancing team performing at the Hillcrest Recreation Center during Highland Fest 1998. Photo by Mike Long.



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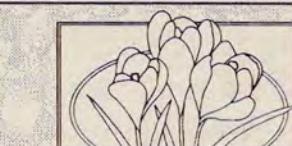
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NEWS BRIEFLY

City Council, MnDOT near agreement on I-35E bridge

An agreement is now being hammered out between the St. Paul City Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) that is expected to clear the way for the reconstruction of the I-35E bridge over the Mississippi River. The two parties are hoping to have a memorandum of understanding ready for City Council approval in the next few weeks, according to City Council member Mike Harris.

The City Council is the only local governmental unit that has not yet approved MnDOT's plan for replacing the 67-foot-wide span with a 124-foot-wide, \$27 million structure. MnDOT hopes to complete the final design for the bridge next year, with construction to follow from 2001 to 2003. However, if a decision is not made in the next few weeks, it could push back those plans, according to MnDOT district engineer Dick Stehr. "We're still waiting to see what we can work out with St. Paul," he said.

Both Stehr and Harris said they are confident an agreement can be reached that will not delay the project but will address issues raised by St. Paul neighborhood groups.

The bridge as proposed would be built in its present alignment. It would have two through lanes and an auxiliary or merging lane in each direction. Bicycle and pedestrian lanes and wider shoulders are also proposed.

This plan has the support of the Ramsey and Dakota County boards and the cities of Mendota Heights, Mendota, Lilydale, Eagan, Burnsville, Farmington, Inver Grove Heights, Rosemount and West St. Paul.

The memorandum of understanding between the city and MnDOT, as proposed, asks MnDOT to agree not to convert the auxiliary lanes into through lanes prior to January 1, 2015, without the approval of the city of St. Paul. It asks MnDOT to commit to supporting the 1984 federal court order that dictated the width, design and 45 mph speed limit of the I-35E Parkway. It also includes provisions for protecting Crosby Farm Park by limiting the width of the southbound entrance ramp from Shepard Road.

County agrees to provide funds for extra deputies

The Ramsey County Board settled its budget dispute with Sheriff Bob Fletcher on February 23 following a special meeting five days earlier.

Fletcher sued the board after the 1999 county budget was adopted in December. He said the budget was insufficient to meet the Sheriff's Department needs and asked for an additional \$903,000 to hire more deputies to staff the county jail and guard hospitalized inmates at Regions Hospital.

The board initially approved \$235,000 to hire five more deputies. The settlement allows the Sheriff's Department to use up to \$258,180 in overtime pay. The Sheriff's Department's total budget for 1999 is more than \$28 million.

St. Paul man faces two felony charges for graffiti damage

The case against what St. Paul police believe to be a particularly prolific graffiti vandal will go to trial on April 5 in Ramsey County District Court. John Paul Lester, 20, of St. Paul pleaded not guilty on February 17 to two felony charges of criminal damage to property. St. Paul police claim Lester has used the graffiti tags "Zam," "Estes," "Eek" and "Ace" in defacing property on Grand Avenue and in the West 7th Street, Merriam Park and Midway neighborhoods.

Lester was arrested last December after

Metro Transit Police caught him vandalizing property downtown. Two months earlier, he had been arrested after St. Paul Police saw him and a juvenile spray-painting property on University Avenue.

Lester is charged with causing more than \$2,750 in damage to property in connection with the December arrest. However, according to police he may be responsible for much more vandalism. Police said Lester kept dozens of photographs of his finished work.

According to police records, Lester is a member of the Midwest Canister Invaders. His case is being followed closely by local district councils, crime prevention coordinators and property owners.

Highland Catholic School breaks ground on addition

Highland Catholic School broke ground March 5 on a \$1 million addition on the west side of its building at 2017 Bohland Ave.

The 5,000-square-foot expansion, which is scheduled for completion by mid-August, will span three floors. The first floor of the addition will provide a new entrance and lobby area, new access to the gym, administrative offices and an expanded nurse's office. New faculty and meeting rooms and additional storage will be included on the lower level. The second floor will feature a new media and computer center.

The expansion is expected to free up space elsewhere in the school for two and possibly four additional classrooms, according to Bill Elmquist, Highland Catholic's business manager. Highland Catholic currently enrolls 485 students in grades K to 8. The school has a capacity of 500 students, Elmquist said, and about half of the grades have waiting lists.

UST proposes \$9 million renovation of Magnus Hall

The University of St. Thomas has proposed embarking on a \$9 million renovation of Albertus Magnus Hall. Plans call for making the building accessible to handicapped people, adding windows along the roof line, bringing the structure up to code and making it more energy-efficient. The university hopes to start work this summer and have it completed by the fall of 2000.

Albertus Magnus Hall housed the university's science department before the construction of the \$37 million Frey Science and Engineering Center at the southwest corner of Summit and Cretin avenues in 1997. After its renovation, Magnus Hall will be used by several liberal arts departments, according to university liaison John Hershey.

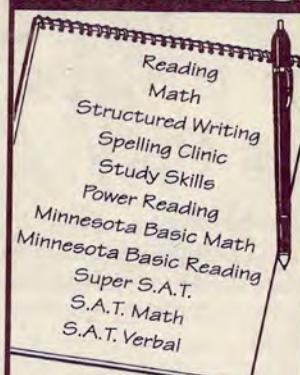
Since the structure is located in the Summit Avenue West Historic District, all exterior work has to meet historic district guidelines. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) got a look at the renovation plans on February 25. Plans for additional windows generated the most discussion.

Hershey and architect Patrick McGuire explained to the commission that the windows are needed so the fourth floor can be used for offices. A skylight on top of the building now provides the only natural light on that floor, which originally housed the building's mechanical systems. Since that time, some fourth-floor space has been converted for office use.

HPC members and university officials debated how the fourth-floor windows should be configured. The HPC would like St. Thomas to consider windows that would better complement the windows on the lower three floors of the building.

News Briefly was compiled by Jane McClure and Dale Mischke.

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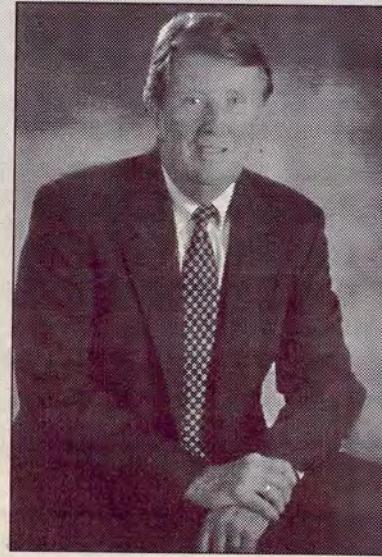


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10 whole garlic cloves, peeled, split in half	1/8 tsp. crushed red chili flakes
1/8 tsp. pepper	1 cup red wine
2 tsp. olive oil	1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 large fennel bulb	1/2 tsp. arrowroot

Preheat oven to 365°. Place onions, garlic, and pepper in a glass baking dish and toss with olive oil. Bake 15 minutes; stir. Bake 15 minutes more; stir in fennel, tomatoes, oregano, chili flakes, bake 15 minutes. Add wine, vinegar and arrowroot. Bake 25 minutes. Prepare pasta according to package instructions. Serve vegetables and sauce over pasta; sprinkle with cheese. Serves 4.

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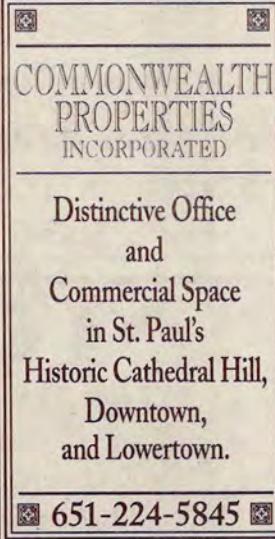
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Three district councils recommend connecting Ayd Mill Rd. to freeways

by Jane McClure

As district councils and business associations weigh in with their recommendations on the future of Ayd Mill Road, support appears to be growing for rebuilding it as a city street connected to I-35E and I-94.

Three district councils lent their support to the freeway connections in February. The Summit Hill Association (SHA) and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council voted in favor of replacing Ayd Mill Road with a two-lane parkway connected directly to I-35E on the south and indirectly to I-94 on the north via frontage roads. The Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC) voted in favor of a four-lane road similarly connected to I-35E and I-94.

The Merriam Park, Highland, Lexington-Hamline and Hamline-Midway community councils are all scheduled to vote on the matter in the next two weeks. A citywide public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, in the basement of City Hall. Drawings of the six proposed alternatives for Ayd Mill Road will be displayed there beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Other options on the table for Ayd Mill Road include building a four-lane roadway connected directly to I-35E on the south and to I-94 on the north via bridged ramps; replacing the roadway with a linear park; leaving Ayd Mill Road as a four-lane roadway not connected to the interstates; and instituting a system of traffic signals and transit improvements on Ayd Mill Road and surrounding streets.

More than three dozen people spoke at the February 18 public hearing before the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. Proponents of the linear park option argued that it would enhance the neighborhood's quality of life. Residents living near South Lexington Parkway, on the other hand, argued for rebuilding Ayd Mill Road as a connection between the two freeways. Lexington Parkway residents said they need relief from the bumper-to-bumper traffic that has

clogged that street during morning and afternoon rush hours since the I-35E Parkway opened.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council subsequently voted to recommend making Ayd Mill Road a parkway, a designation that would keep large trucks, buses and billboards out of the corridor. The council has also asked the city to study the possibility of closing the parkway to motorized traffic on weekends and holidays to allow the road to be used by bicyclists, in-line skaters, skateboarders and pedestrians. The idea was brought forward by neighborhood resident John Halla, who said it has been used successfully in New York City's Central Park and along the Rock Creek Parkway in Washington, D.C.

About 30 people turned out for the SHA's public hearing. The SHA had supported the two-lane option in the past and worked to make sure that option was included in the Ayd Mill Road environmental impact statement (EIS), according to John Siekmeier, who represents the SHA on the Ayd Mill Road Task Force. The SHA called for the road to be designed as a parkway with a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour.

The traffic on Lexington Parkway was cited by the SUPC as the reason for supporting the four-lane alternative for Ayd Mill Road. "I see this as an issue of fairness," said SUPC member Bill Gahr. "A linear park would provide a benefit for one group, the immediate neighborhood, over others. Ayd Mill Road was built with the intent to carry traffic and it should carry its share."

The Merriam Park Community Council will vote on its preferred alternative for Ayd Mill Road at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The council's task force representatives have recommended leaving Ayd Mill Road as is.

The Highland District Council will vote on Ayd Mill Road at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March

Ayd Mill Road/see next page

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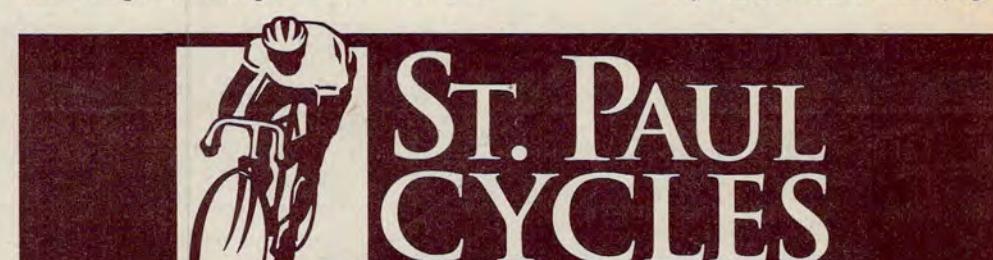
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Ayd Mill Road for the uninitiated

Following are some of the most frequently asked questions about Ayd Mill Road:

Why do some people call it the Short Line? The roadway was designated the Short Line by the St. Paul City Council in 1965 to recognize the railroad tracks that at one time provided a commuter route between Minneapolis and St. Paul. The tracks were built in 1880. Train stations were located at Victoria Street and Marshall and Prior avenues. Canadian Pacific now owns the tracks. The street name was changed to Ayd Mill Road in the 1980s in honor of the Ayd family, who owned land in the area before the turn of the century. The Ayds had a grist mill near the south end of the roadway.

Why was Ayd Mill Road built? It was originally planned as a north-south link between the region's two freeway systems. Controversy over the construction of I-35E and concerns about traffic—especially in the neighborhoods north of Selby Avenue—put the brakes on Ayd Mill Road's completion in the mid-1960s.

What has changed since the 1960s? The opening of the I-35E Parkway in 1987 and the resulting increase in traffic on Lexington Parkway created most of the pressure for connecting Ayd Mill Road to the freeways.

Does the "no build" option mean nothing will be done with Ayd Mill Road at all? No. Even with the "no build" option, the city plans to remove and replace the existing pavement, redeck the bridge over Hamline Avenue and replace lighting at a cost of about \$6.6 million.

Who has jurisdiction over the road? Ayd Mill Road is a St. Paul city street. However, city staff and consultants believe the city should be able to use state or federal funds for the project without ceding control.

Could light rail or commuter rail be used in the Ayd Mill corridor? It would likely be many years before either option is built along Ayd Mill Road. The corridor is not a priority for the county's light-rail plans or the state's commuter rail study.

How do you pronounce "Ayd"? It's pronounced "I'd," not "aid."

Ayd Mill Road

18, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

The board of the Grand Avenue Business Association was scheduled to vote on Ayd Mill Road on March 8 as this edition of the *Vilager* was going to press.

The Lexington-Hamline Community Council will vote on Ayd Mill Road at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 22, at its office at 1160 Selby Ave.

The Hamline-Midway Coalition will vote on Ayd Mill Road at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, at the Hamline Recreation Center, 1564 LaFond Ave.

City staff will respond to all oral and written

comments received during the city's public hearing period, which will continue through April 12. Written comments may be sent to Mike Klassen, Department of Public Works, Room 800, City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th St., St. Paul, MN 55102.

The comments will be reviewed before the Ayd Mill Road Task Force, the St. Paul Planning Commission and the mayor select a preferred alternative. A final decision by the City Council is not expected until summer.

Copies of the Ayd Mill Road EIS are available at St. Paul's public libraries. An executive summary of the EIS may also be viewed at www.stpaul.gov.

Board drafts plan for newly formed Capitol Region Watershed District

by Molly McBeath

Concerns over the declining water quality of Como Lake has resulted in the formation of the state's 44th watershed district and a new level of government for the citizens of St. Paul, Falcon Heights, Roseville and Maplewood.

Responding to a petition by the District 10 Planning Council, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) dismantled the old Central Ramsey Watershed Management Organization and replaced it with the Capitol Region Watershed District. The district covers 37 square miles and includes Como, McCarron's and Crosby lakes, Trout Brook Creek and 10 miles of the Mississippi River.

Contrary to its name, the old watershed management group was not an organization so much as a contractual agreement between cities. The new watershed district, on the other hand, is an autonomous governmental unit directed by a board of five managers appointed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.

Among the initial five managers appointed by the BWSR is Highland resident Jay Riggs, an employee of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District. The other managers are Pat Byrne, Marylyn Deneen, Jim Leuthner and Michael Thienes.

"I'm hoping that our organization can be more responsive and a lot more inclusive than the previous (arrangement)," Riggs said.

According to Riggs, the new board will develop a management plan for the district that will address surface and groundwater quality, soil erosion, flooding, storm water discharge

and wetland reclamation. It will identify priorities for the district's water resources, introduce new regulations for water management and outline strategies for addressing water quality problems. The four cities in the district will be required to develop matching plans.

Most of the storm sewer system will continue to be owned and maintained by the cities. A representative from each city will sit on a technical advisory committee of the board.

Watershed projects will be funded by property taxes. The estimated cost is between \$12 and \$41 per year for a \$150,000 home, and twice that amount for commercial properties, depending on the projects that the watershed district handles. The Ramsey Soil and Water Conservation District loaned the new watershed district \$45,000 to help with startup costs. That money will be repaid with the first tax levy in 2000.

In addition to the technical advisory committee, the district board will be assisted by a citizens advisory committee that will help develop the management plan and resolve conflicts when necessary. The citizens committee currently has four members, but applications are being accepted for more. "Our concern is that we get as many committee members as possible who live throughout the watershed," Riggs said.

Watershed district board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month at the district office, 2015 Rice St. in Roseville. For more information or an application for the citizen's advisory committee, call 651-488-1476, ext. 14.

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Area residents raise concerns over pedestrian safety, crosswalk law

by Michael Werner

St. Paul City Council member Jay Benanav put Minnesota's nearly 3-year-old crosswalk law to the test last week when attempting to cross Grand Avenue in midday. He stood in the crosswalk and counted 15 cars pass by before a motorist stopped to let him cross.

"I think we need a lot more education," Benanav said about the crosswalk law, which requires motorists to yield to pedestrians at all intersections where traffic control devices are not in operation. "It works in California and they have a lot more cars than we do. There's no reason it can't work here."

Benanav was among more than 40 people who gathered on February 24 at Macalester Plymouth United Church to voice their concerns with police officers and transportation authorities over pedestrian safety and enforcement of the crosswalk law. The meeting came two days after a 79-year-old woman was injured when she was struck by a car in a marked crosswalk while attempting to cross Grand Avenue at Cambridge Street around 7:45 p.m. Earlier in the month, a 77-year-old man was killed at Arcade Street and Minnehaha Avenue while trying to cross the street around 10:00 a.m.

The crosswalk law, which was enacted in September 1996, ups the ante for violators. First-time offenders are guilty of a misdemeanor and may be sentenced to 90 days in jail or required to pay a \$700 fine or both. Those who violate the law two or more times within a year are guilty of a gross misdemeanor. According to police Lieutenant Mike Morehead, repeat offenders do not get off lightly. "They (officers) can't write you a tag," he said. "They have to book you into jail."

Some people believe the law creates greater danger for drivers and pedestrians. "I was driving home tonight and there was no way I could have stopped for a pedestrian while traveling 35 mph on Snelling," said Douglas Zang of Macalester-Groveland. "By the time I see that pedestrian, it's too late. I would have to slam on my brakes in order to abide by the law and possibly get rear-ended."

Merriam Park resident Scott Heiderich saw

Ramsey Junior High opts to install rotate-eight block schedule this fall

by Michael Werner

It sounds like something from a coach's playbook: Ramsey Junior High School students will be doing the "rotate-eight" in their classrooms next fall.

The new class schedule will involve eight classes rotating through six 56-minute periods. It is being adopted at Ramsey as an alternative to the eight-over-two schedule being required by the St. Paul School Board to bolster student achievement in middle schools and junior highs. In January, the School Board agreed to allow schools to come up with alternatives to that schedule after parents and teachers balked at the mandate, claiming it limited choice and weakened school autonomy.

The new schedule means Ramsey students will attend each class three out of every four days, as opposed to two out of every four days. Both schedules produce approximately 168 minutes of instruction per class during a four-day span.

"The two schedules compare in terms of how much overall class time the kids have and what the teachers' load is," said principal Larry Gallatin. "It's basically identical to the eight-over-two; it just organizes it differently."

Ramsey's staff voted 33-7 in favor of the rotate-eight schedule. Faced with that support and the endorsement of the Ramsey School

other problems with the crosswalk law. "As much as I'm in favor of the law, I think there's a lot of danger involved," he said. "There've been many times when I've stopped (for a pedestrian) and cars have whizzed by on my left side at 30 mph. This is going to lead to someone getting killed. They're going to walk out in front of a car thinking it's safe and—bang."

Macalester-Groveland resident Bob Penhron said two of his relatives were killed while crossing Snelling Avenue. He suggested that there may be a simple and cost-effective solution to the danger faced by pedestrians: repainted crosswalks and bright signs on both sides of the street to warn drivers of pedestrians.

City officials said motorists will continue to violate pedestrian safety laws until Minnesota's driving culture changes. Many believe that change will only occur if enforcement and penalties are increased. Last year 10 pedestrians were killed in St. Paul, including six in crosswalks.

Senate Transportation Committee member Randy Kelly (DFL-District 67) compared Minnesota's driving culture to Wisconsin's. "People slow down as soon as they get over there because Wisconsin enforces the speed laws," he said. "I don't know that it's been prioritized to the degree it should be in our state. I do think there's growing concern among citizens."

Stiffer penalties may help change the driving culture, but Highland resident Phil McDonald said additional measures also need to be taken. McDonald, who has been campaigning for greater pedestrian safety since 1990 when his wife was killed in a crosswalk by a turning city bus at Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue, has proposed legislation that would give pedestrians more crossing time at stoplights. He is working with state Representative Alice Hausman (DFL-District 66B) to draft the legislation.

"I'm fighting to make sure (a pedestrian fatality) doesn't happen to any other family," McDonald said. "The minimum we can do is allow the individual to get across the street at pedestrian crossings."

Association, the school district recently accepted the alternative for the 1999-2000 school year.

"The school had overwhelming consensus on the part of the parents and staff," said Cy Yusten, the school district's assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. "If they believe they can do it, just the excitement and enthusiasm alone could easily result in greater student achievement."

Gallatin said dealing with absenteeism was a major factor in the staff's decision. The prevailing wisdom was that missing one of the eight-over-two's 80-minute classes would be more difficult to make up than the rotate-eight's 56-minute classes. "Under the eight-over-two, each class counts for more if the kid is absent on a given day," he said.

The new schedule is also expected to benefit students who are not early risers or who get worn out at the end of the day by rotating the first and sixth periods. "Teachers like that feature because sometimes kids have a particular class at an hour of the day when they're not functioning at their peak," Gallatin said.

Gallatin said the rotate-eight schedule will have to demonstrate improved test scores and other measurable data in order to survive. "If it's not working, we won't be continuing it beyond next year," he said. "We'll have to go to the eight-over-two."

Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

AYD MILL ROAD OPTION

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council held a public hearing on the Ayd Mill Road environmental impact statement (EIS) on February 18. The hearing gave area residents a chance to share their opinions on the six roadway alternatives under consideration.

Following lengthy testimony, the board voted in favor of a two-lane roadway with a direct connection to I-35E on the south and an indirect connection to I-94 on the north. The community council also is recommending to the St. Paul City Council that if the two-lane option is chosen, the board would support closing the roadway to traffic on weekends and holidays. The board also is recommending that Ayd Mill Road be designated a parkway with the provision that public transit would be allowed.

The board will hold a meeting to address traffic problems on Lexington Parkway through traffic calming and better enforcement at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 22, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

The city will hold a public hearing on the Ayd Mill Road EIS at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, in City Hall. An open house with diagrams and background information on the roadway will be held between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Written comments may be submitted by April 9 to city traffic engineer Mike Klassen at 800 City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th St., St. Paul, MN 55102.

GROVELAND PLAYGROUND

The City Council has awarded funds for the renovation of the children's play area at the Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave. A community council committee will meet to plan these improvements at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at Groveland. Those who are interested in the design of the play area are invited to attend.

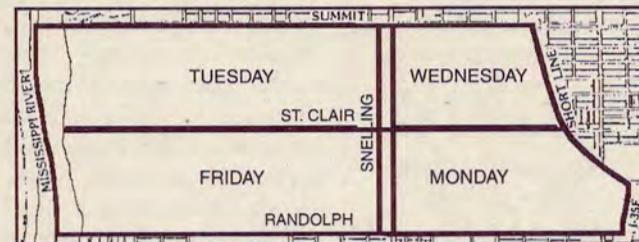
MIDDLE INCOME FIX-UP

Macalester-Groveland owners of single-family homes and owner-occupied duplexes can still borrow up to \$10,000 for home improvements through the community council's Mid-

dle Income Fix-Up Fund. The loans are offered at the prime rate with no household income limit and no second mortgage. For information, call Jessica Bakkene at 651-698-7973.

CIB TASK FORCES

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is seeking area residents who are willing to serve as delegates or alternates to three task forces that will be reviewing projects seeking St. Paul Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) dollars this year. The task forces will review and rank the projects in the following categories: community facilities, residential and economic development, and streets and utilities. The task forces will meet weekly from mid-April to late May. For more information, call the community council office.



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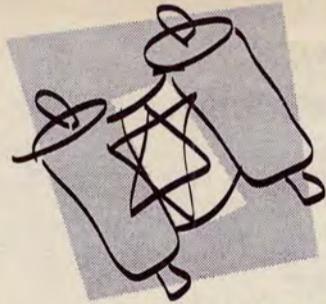
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The Highland District COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING

The Highland District Council will be considering several important items at its meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

The first will be the approval of the Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan. The board will be taking into consideration community comments that were aired during a public hearing on March 3.

The board will also be taking a position on the Ayd Mill Road environmental impact statement. The council's Transportation Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss the EIS at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at Hillcrest. Its recommendation will be presented to the full board on March 18.

Also at the meeting, the council's Community Development Committee will present a resolution regarding improvements and an addition to the Alamo Car Rental site on Stewart Avenue. For information, call the district council office at 651-298-5138.

BOULEVARD TREE PLANTING

The Highland District Council has teamed up with the city to again offer a boulevard

tree planting program. Residents may order a 2- to 3-inch diameter balled and burlapped tree for \$100 or a 1-inch diameter bare root tree for \$35. Both types will be planted by a contractor and guaranteed for one year.

Trees will be selected for each block in accordance with the city's tree plan. For information or to order, call the district council office at 651-298-5138 before March 22.

CRIME ALERT

Several instances of purses, cell phones and other items being stolen from cars at day-care centers have been reported in the area. Most items are taken when a parent arrives to either drop off or pick up a child and leaves items of value visible inside the car.

Motorists are urged to not leave items visible in their vehicle even if they plan to lock the car and only be gone a minute, since that is all it takes for someone to break the window, steal something and be gone.

RECYCLED REMINDER

The next recycling day in the Highland area is on Monday, March 15. Have items sorted and on the curb by 7:00 a.m.

THE HBA TODAY

BY PATRICIA BOYD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HIGHLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

ANOTHER DATE FOR SKATERS

Still flush with the success of its first Valentine Skate Date, the Highland Business Association is planning an even bigger skating event for Friday, March 26. Rock and Skate will be presented from 8:00 to 10:00 that evening on the north rink of the Highland Arena at Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue.

Area residents and business people age 15 and older are invited to join in the fun. A deejay by the name of Nightsounds will play music by request. Davanni's will serve pizza and coffee will be available.

MEETINGS TO REMEMBER

HBA members are invited to attend any or all of the following meetings scheduled this month.

The HBA board of directors will hold its

monthly breakfast meeting at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, March 11, at Faricy's in the Village, 2012 Ford Pkwy. Greg Clark of Drake Ice Arena will speak. Following the meeting, the HBA's Promotions Committee will meet.

The Membership Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. and the Community Development Committee at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, at the HBA office in the HighlandBank building, 2100 Ford Pkwy.

The Highland Fest Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 24, in the Village View Room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

The monthly general membership luncheon will be held at noon on Thursday, March 25, at Famous Dave's, 1930 West 7th St. Judy Cavanaugh of the Jewish Community Center will speak. The cost is \$10.

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'Jewel of a school' marks its diamond jubilee under new prez

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

In spite of having only three weeks on the job as the new president of the College of Visual Arts, Tom Triplett waxes eloquent about the 75-year-old school that he describes as "the best-kept secret in town."

"We're invisible," he said. "Very few people know about us."

Part of his new mission is to change that.

Housed mostly in a stately mansion at 344 Summit Ave., the college offers students a four-year bachelor of arts degree in either visual communication—including photography, graphic design and illustration—or the fine arts—including painting, sculpture and drawing.

The Summit Avenue mansion contains administrative offices, classrooms and photography and computer design studios. The mansion's former carriage house serves as a sculpture studio.

However, the college's facilities also include the former Laska Drug Store on Selby and Western avenues, which now houses an art gallery and fine arts classrooms, and a former fourplex at 394 Dayton Ave. that has been converted into a library.

The college took a giant leap in its long his-

tory as an art school when it received accreditation by the North Central Association last year. The school has also started forming an association of alumni, whose ranks include well-known wildlife artist Terry Redlin and author and illustrator Warren Hanson.

Triplett has set three major goals for this diamond anniversary year. They include enhancing the visibility of the school, assessing how much space the college needs and where it could possibly operate out of a single facility, and continuing to improve the college's programs while still being able to "pay our faculty what they're worth."

Triplett believes he was recruited for the presidency because of his wide-ranging contacts and experience. "I've raised a lot of money and built a lot of buildings in my prior jobs," he said. "I think the board of trustees felt that kind of background was important at this point in the college's history."

Triplett is quick to confess that he is not an artist by any stretch. A lawyer by training, he has served in a variety of capacities in Minnesota state government, including a stint as Commissioner of Finance during the Perpich administration and a time as interim vice chancellor for finance of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. He also served for



Thomas Triplett

five years as the executive director of the Minnesota Business Partnership, an association of Minnesota's largest corporations.

Having worked on educational issues for many years, Triplett said he sees his new job as "a chance to stay active in education but to do it in a hands-on way rather than from a distance."

The College of Visual Arts currently has 250 full-time students enrolled in a fundamental liberal arts course of study, including English, math and science, as well as the subjects that will make up their majors. Triplett said the school is now looking to broaden its scope by adding majors in art history and possibly art education and historic preservation. It also is seeking ways to increase employment opportunities for its graduates.

"The best art schools, of which we like to think of ourselves as one, have a baccalaureate program," Triplett said. "We are an art and design college. There are art schools where you don't get a college degree. We do much more than that."

Students are taught by 11 full-time faculty members and about 30 adjunct professors,

making the faculty-to-student ratio about 1:6. Tuition is just under \$10,000 per year and about 85 percent of the students receive financial assistance.

Though about 75 percent of the college's students come from Minnesota, Triplett said a growing number is emerging from the other states that make up the five-state region. The college's admissions department is working hard to build contacts with high school art teachers from throughout the Upper Midwest who know talented students and their work. "Two admissions people are pretty much on the road at any given time," Triplett said.

The college also offers a summer art program for elementary and high school students. "We double the size of it each year," Triplett said. College officials are also considering plans to offer non-degree post-secondary programs as a way of reaching out to non-traditional students.

One of the big questions facing the college is where to house those new programs. "We're going to have to grow," Triplett said. "We need more space."

The college has been considering locations in Lowertown, which is already the site of an arts enclave, as well as other properties near Selby and Western. Penumbra Theatre has plans for a new performing facility six blocks west on Selby Avenue and Triplett sees the potential of combined programming that could benefit both the theater and the college.

Wherever the College of Visual Arts ends up, "I'm sure we're going to stay within the city of St. Paul," Triplett said. "I think our board is committed to that. Beyond that, we're looking at everything."

Triplett said that living just a couple of blocks from work in an 1880s Ramsey Hill mansion that has been converted into condominiums is "glorious." One of the other perks in his new job is that he has no problem finding great artwork to hang on his office walls, which he uses to showcase a rotating collection of student creations.

"I'd like people to know that not only is this the best-kept secret in St. Paul," Triplett said, "but it's a jewel of a school."

College celebrates 75 years of growth

1924—Opened as Mills College and School in downtown St. Paul.
 1948—Purchased by Lowell Bobleter, chair of the fine arts department at Hamline University. Becomes the School of Associated Arts.
 1963—Moved to 344 Summit Ave.
 1966—Incorporated as a nonprofit.
 1973—Bobleter dies. Academic dean Virginia Rahja named president.
 1978—Becomes nationally accredited and eligible to receive state aid.
 1986—Rahja retires. Jerome Gallagher is appointed president.
 1988—Robert Hankey named president.

1989—Name changed to College of Associated Arts.
 1991—College begins leasing space in the Ramsey Hill neighborhood.
 1993—Chris Kabella named president. New building purchased and rehabbed at Selby and Western.
 1995—Name changed to College of Visual Arts.
 1997—New building purchased and rehabbed at 394 Dayton Ave.
 1998—Granted accreditation by North Central Association.
 1999—Thomas Triplett appointed president.

Groveland Park Elementary School will register its kindergarten for 1999-2000 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at the school, 2045 St. Clair Ave. Families of prospective students are invited to tour the school and learn about its programs. An informational program will begin at 6:00 p.m. All kindergarteners should have a copy of their birth certificate. For information, call 651-293-8760.

The University of St. Thomas honored the following individuals at its annual St. Thomas Day celebration on March 6: Humanitarians of the Year—Amy Machacek Etzell ('91) and Mark Etzell ('84) of Northfield for opening their home to more than 30 foster children; Distinguished Alumnus—Michael Ciresi of Mendota ('68) for his work as lead counsel in the state's \$6.6 billion settlement against the tobacco industry;

SCHOOL NOTES

Professor of the Year—Dr. Brenda Powell of Macalester Groveland, a member of the English faculty since 1984; **Monsignor James Lavin Award**—Thomas Winkels of Independence ('81) for his service to the Alumni Association; and **Tommy Award**—Sara Freund of Iowa ('99), a journalism major minoring in Spanish and Catholic studies.

Highland Park Senior High School students raised \$2,100 for charity during their annual Snow Days celebration the week of February 23. Festivities have traditionally included a

pep rally and coronation; however, this year the student council and staff designed activities geared toward raising money for the Harriet Tubman Center and Head Start of St. Paul. Among the events were a series of lunchroom competitions to see who could slam the most cans of soda, eat the most White Castle hamburgers and spit a pickle the farthest. "For the very first year, I think that was stupendous," said Highland Park teacher Janet Richards. "It was an absolutely awesome week."

Cretin-Derham Hall will hold its 10th annual live and silent auction at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, in the gymnasium of the school, 550 S. Albert St. The benefit will feature an Italian buffet catered by the Prom. The cost is \$35 in advance. For reservations, call Pat Oxley at 651-696-3309 or 651-698-5263.

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A mother's perspective

One of greatest stories ever gets retold through the eyes of Mary

by Catherine Condon

One night last March in Barron, Wisconsin, Vanessa Muras Gamble had just finished playing the title role in *Mary's Story*, an original musical drama about the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus as seen through the eyes of his mother. A woman approached her, sobbing.

"She was crying so hard she could barely talk," said Gamble, a Highland Park resident. "She said the feelings that I expressed (on stage) were how she felt when her own son had died."

The actress and singer said it was one of the greatest compliments she has ever received. The woman was Barron area resident Marlene Beecroft, whose teen-age son had died in a traffic accident. It was his death that inspired writer Barbara Swant and lyricist/composer Ruth Monier-Anderson, educators at the Barron area school that the boy attended, to create *Mary's Story*.

The musical was first brought to the stage last year for three weekends of standing room-only performances at the Barron Area Community Center. Gamble is again playing Mary this Lenten season, but the play is making its Twin Cities debut in the much larger O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. *Mary's Story* will be presented in 12 performances from March 13-21. (For tickets, priced from \$23.50 to \$37.50, call 651-989-5151.)

Several local theater professionals are involved in the production, which features a cast of 24 and a professional orchestra. The musical arrangements are by Steve Barnett

(producer of MPR's "St. Paul Sunday Morning"), the choreography is by Marvette Knight (Penumbra Theatre and Great American History Theatre), the sets are by Bruce Charleworth (Walker Art Center and Museum of Modern Art) and the director is Terry Lynn Carlson (formerly of the Loring Theater).

Though the story may move many to tears, Gamble said it also offers comic relief via a dancing Gypsy chorus. "They're kind of the street people," she said. "They don't abide by any of the laws of Caesar. They don't have any cares. They're just goofballs. There's some lightheartedness that you don't really think of, some weird twists."

It was a twist of fate that brought Gamble to the theater. She was stricken with bone cancer as a teenager growing up in Winona. She recovered, but the disease weakened the bones in one leg enough to end her budding athletic career as a gymnast and

tennis player. Instead, she discovered music and theater, and eventually earned a music performance degree from Bethel College.

Gamble has landed spots in recent television commercials and industrial films, including corporate training videos, and will soon narrate a Jostens promotional video.

However, she stays far busier in theater, having acted in dozens of shows with such local companies as the Children's Theatre, Refreshment Committee, Minnesota Musical Theater, Minneapolis Playwright's Center and Living Room Opera.

She also performs in the ongoing production of Illusion Theater's *Like Waters Rolling Down*, which will travel to Washington, D.C., in March. "It's about low-income housing and actual steps that people

"I think people forget that she was a human, she was a mom, she was scared. I think it's great that people will be able to see that and how much she loved her son."



Highland Park resident Vanessa Muras Gamble is Mary and Ken Mueller plays Jesus in *Mary's Story* running March 13-21 in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine.

can take to help get people off the street," she said. "It's really practical and people just go nuts over it. They can change the community with this show."

Between auditions and performances, Gamble takes voice lessons and squeezes in shifts as a singing waitress at Gustino's in downtown Minneapolis.

After *Mary's Story*, Gamble will begin rehearsing *Goblin Market*, a two-person, musical fairy tale produced by Nautilus Music Theater that is scheduled to open in May at the Minneapolis Theatre Garage. She also is working on composing music for her husband, Jeremiah, a member of the

a cappella group Poor Baker's Dozen.

For now, all of her energy is going into preparation for *Mary's Story*. Out of the countless crucifixion stories, Gamble said it is the only one she knows of that is told from a mother's perspective.

"It's so different," she said. "It's hard to believe that no one's ever done it before. I think one reason is because people view Mary as this great sinless woman who is so lofty and high. I think people forget that she was a human, she was a mom, she was scared...she was all those things. I think it's great that people will be able to see that and how much she loved her son."

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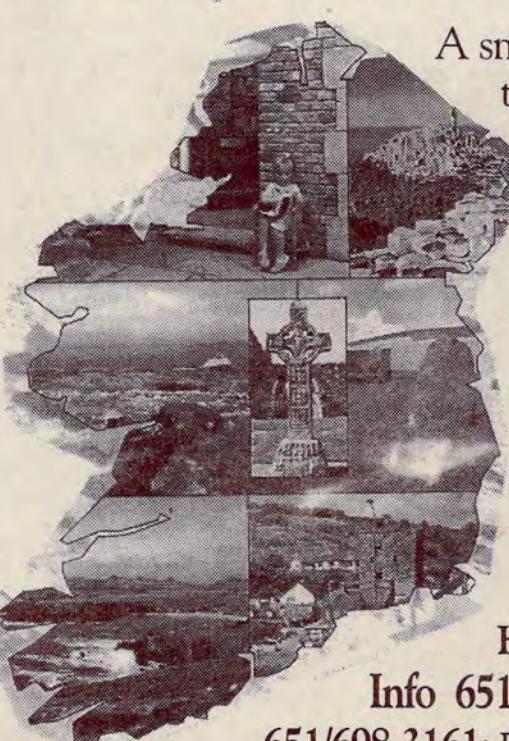
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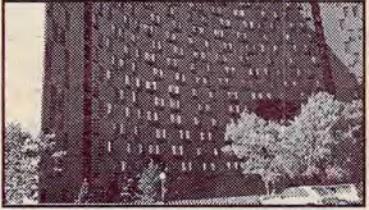
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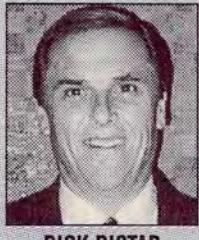


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There'll be no famine of activities this month in honor of St. Patrick

Descendants of natives of the Emerald Isle and those who are Irish for just a day will have plenty to smile about in the coming week as folks hereabouts tip their hats to St. Patrick. The following are just a few of the activities that have been scheduled in honor of the wearin' o' the green:

The Worst Irish Tenor Contest will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at Mancini's, 531 W. 7th St. Patrons are advised to bring their own earplugs. Admission is free. Call 651-224-7345.

St. Mark's School, 1983 Dayton Ave., will hold an Irish dance from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Friday, March 12, in Joseph Meyer Gymnasium. The school also will be serving breakfast beginning at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 14. Running concurrently with the breakfast will be the school's annual fun fair featuring bingo, a silent auction, a raffle and more. Call 651-645-5717.

The Best Irish Tenor Contest will begin at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the Dubliner Pub on University Avenue and Vandalia Street. Call 651-646-5551.

IHM-St. Luke's School, 1065 Summit Ave., will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13. The event will include a dinner, dance and silent auction. Tickets are \$20. Donations and reservations may be made by calling co-chair Jane McManus at 651-227-5017.

"Snakes Alive," an event commemorating St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland, will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. James Gerholdt of Remarkable Reptiles will talk about snake lore and bring along some of his slithering friends. Irish fiddler Mag McDermott will play and children can make a snake-shaped draft-stopper. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

Irish Indeed at Randolph and Snelling avenues will host St. Patrick's Day festivities on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 16-17. There will be live Irish music, dancers, food specials at Doran's Deli and more. Green carnations will be given out while supplies last.

A St. Patrick's celebration will begin at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, under the big top in the parking lot of Gabe's by the Park, 991 N. Lexington Pkwy. Featured artists include G.B. Leighton and Lamont Cranston. Call 651-646-3066.

A Mass in memory of St. Patrick will be celebrated by Archbishop Harry Flynn at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. A brunch will be served on the lower level of the Cathedral immediately afterward. The cost is \$9.00. Reservations are required by March 12. Call 651-690-3888.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Paul will step out at noon Wednesday, March 17, from the Union Depot at 4th and Sibley streets. The parade route will follow the green center stripe up 4th Street to Rice Park. The 33rd annual parade will be led by Miss Shamrock Therese Slattery King and Mr. Pat Dick Murphy. Call 651-887-7052.

Landmark Center will be festooned with shamrocks and shillelaghs for the 18th annual Irish Celebration from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 17. Irish culture will be celebrated with music, dancing, exhibits,



DANA, an internationally renowned Irish singer and songwriter, will present a benefit concert for Project Life at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. The program will include Irish, Christian and popular music. Tickets are priced from \$12 to \$100. Call 651-690-6700.

food, storytelling and more. New this year is a tea room sponsored by Irish on Grand. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. Call 651-292-3225.

Minneapolis will step out with its 30th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17. The parade begins at 12th Street and Nicollet Avenue and makes its way to 5th Street. Parade officials will include Ms. Blarney Joana Shaughnessy Johnson sponsored by Irish Indeed, Peace Officer James Patrick Ryan and businesswoman Sheila Hanley of Dublin Walk. Call 612-788-1925.

"An Evening of Irish Poetry" will be presented at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at the Town Hall Brewery, 1430 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis. Sponsored by SASE: The Write Place, the free program will feature readings by Ethna McKiernan, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Carol Connolly, Georgia Greeley and Patrick O'Donnell. An open reading will follow.

The Center for Irish Studies will host a St. Patrick's Day open house from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in the Special Collections Reading Room of the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library at the University of St. Thomas. A brief program at 3:00 p.m. will feature readings by St. Thomas students and faculty from the university's Celtic Collection. Call 651-962-5662.

A St. Patrick's Day dance for singles age 25 and older will be held by the T.G.I.S. Singles Social Club at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the Radisson Hotel-St. Paul, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. Music will be provided by 2nd Generation, featuring Michael Loonan on keyboard and guitar. Admission is \$8.00 before 8:00 p.m. and \$10 thereafter. Call 651-644-3443.

The St. Patrick's Day Human Race will be run on Sunday, March 28. Runners will travel along Summit Avenue beginning at the University of St. Thomas. A 1K youth race begins at 11:15 a.m., followed by a 5K walk/run at 11:45 a.m. and an 8K run at 1:15 p.m. Call 651-228-1986.

University women sponsor poetry contest

The St. Paul Branch of the American Association of University Women is sponsoring a poetry contest for metro-area residents 18 and older. The unpublished entries should be no longer than 50 lines. First prize is \$150. The entry fee for each poem is \$5.00 and the deadline for entries is March 20.

Entries should be mailed to: Poetry Contest, 990 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. The winning poems will be read at Poetry Day on May 18 at the St. Paul AAUW Clubhouse. For information, call 651-698-6337.

Snelling-Hamline COUNCIL CAPSULE

PRIDE IN NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING

Grants are now available for Snelling-Hamline and Merriam Park property owners who are interested in making exterior improvements to their homes or rental units. Eligible projects through the Pride in Neighborhood Housing program include replacing or repairing siding, roofing, foundations and porches.

Pride in Neighborhood Housing is funded by a \$150,000 grant from the city of St. Paul's Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program. Applicants may be awarded grants of up to

15 percent of the total project cost, or a maximum of \$1,500. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, call Sherilyn Young at the Snelling-Hamline office at 651-644-1085.

CALLING ALL LANDLORDS

Owners of apartments with fewer than 10 units are being encouraged to have their tenants place their recyclables on the curb every other Thursday in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood. Owners of apartments with 10 or more units are eligible to receive free 90-gallon containers with hinged lids for recycling newsprint, glass, cans and paper products. The recyclables will be picked up weekly or biweekly as the volume warrants.

For recycling bins, schedules and other information, call Sherilyn Young at the Snelling-Hamline office at 651-645-6887. For information on recycling for larger buildings,

call the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium at 651-644-5436.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs of Lutheran Social Service are looking for volunteers age 55 and older to spend 12-20 hours a week helping seniors and children. In exchange for their services, volunteers receive tax-free stipends, transportation reimbursement and other benefits.

The Foster Grandparent Program provides support to children who need extra attention, companionship or help learning basic skills. Senior Companions build relationships with elderly residents who are lonely and isolated, require more support than what their families can provide or are recovering from an illness. For information on either program, call Alice Smith at 612-879-5217.

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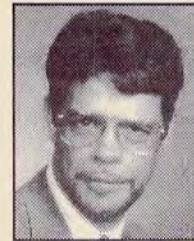
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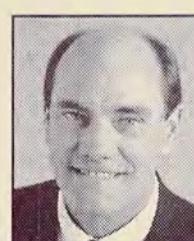
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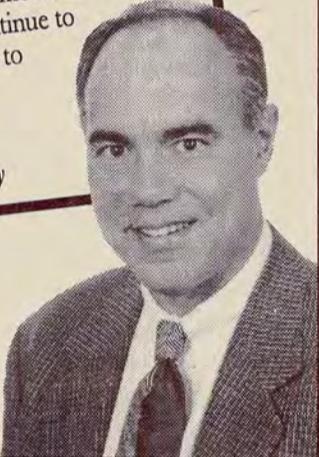
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RELIGIOUS NOTES

John Marboe has been named associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. He received a master's of divinity degree at Luther Seminary and was ordained in December. Before attending the seminary, he did campus ministry for 12 years, including three years at the University of London.

Congregation Shir Tikvah, 5000 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis, will present "Yidishe Lider," an introduction to Yiddish songs, at 7:00 p.m. on five Mondays beginning March 22. The cost is \$60. To register, call 612-822-1440 by March 15.

"Let's Get Physical," a public forum on the use of space and movement in worship, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 13, at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is \$5.00.

Marcus Borg, an internationally renowned scholar on the life of Jesus, will be featured during a Lenten seminar series the weekend of March 12-14 at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. Borg will present lectures at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The cost is \$5.00 each. He also will preach at the 9:15 a.m. Sunday worship service.

The Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will hold the following programs at the temple in the next two weeks (unless otherwise noted): the Women's Rosh Chodesh group at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 15, at Caffe Con Amore, 917 Grand Ave.; a joint Men's and Women's Torah Break at noon Wednesday, March 17 (\$5.00 for lunch); and a Learner's Minyan at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, March 20. For information, call 651-698-8874.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., will offer adult forums at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, March 14 and 21. The topics include "America and West Africa, the Mississippi and the Niger Rivers—What's the Difference" and "The Wise Women of Samuel." In addition, Lenten worship services are being offered at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, preceded by a soup supper. For information, call 651-699-6886.

The World Apostolate of Fatima will sponsor its 13th annual Marion Congress from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, March 20, in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. The Reverend An-



Immanuel Lutheran's new associate pastor John Marboe and his wife, Andrea.

drew Apostoli will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. For information, call 651-457-6609.

Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., will continue its Mazal Mondays with "The Year 2000 Problems: A Look at the Year 2000 of the Jewish Calendar" on March 15 and "Talmud Study—What Makes a Civilization Tick?" on March 22. Sessions run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For details, call 651-698-3881.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Laurel Avenue and Howell Street, is holding candlelight prayer services at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent. Child care is provided. For information, call 651-646-6175.

"Holy Moses! — Experience Passover Through the Arts," a special family program of activities for Passover, will be offered from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$6.00 per family, or \$4.00 for JCC families. To register, call 651-698-0751.

Sisters Dolore Rochon, Susan Oeffling and Chris Ludwig have been named the new leadership team for the St. Paul Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Rochon is part of Sisters Care, which helps elderly people remain in their own homes. Oeffling is in the membership office for the St. Paul Province. Ludwig is a member of the music department of Cretin-Derham Hall. Their leadership term runs for five years and begins on July 1.



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More homeowners are returning to the beauty of hardwood floors now that they're no longer a burden to maintain



Bob Carlson and Sweeney Hagerman of Pete's Hardwood Floors stain the mopboard of a staircase while working on the hardwood floors at a residence on Goodrich Avenue. Photo by Mike Long.

by Leslie Walters

Hardwood was the flooring of choice for homes constructed before 1950, and more and more local homeowners are rediscovering its great appeal.

The last remnants of the carpet craze of the 1960s and '70s are now being removed, according to Tim MacDonell, who operates Highland Hardwood Floors out of his Macalester-Groveland home. "People are realizing that carpeting isn't the answer," he said. "It's hard to clean and it picks up a lot of dust and mold and mildew."

Pete's Hardwood Floors at 186 N. Fairview Avenue has been operating since 1993 and has seen business grow by 20 percent each year, according to owner Thomas Peters. "It's

a huge boom," he said. "Ninety percent of my business is right here in the neighborhood."

Nothing warms a room or pulls a house together quite like hardwood floors, according to Peters. Their popularity has increased as the need for maintenance has decreased, he said.

Gone are the days when homeowners had to strip and re-wax their floors each month. A polyurethane finish, with proper care and attention, can last for 10 to 15 years. As for cleaning, a small amount of

vinegar and water or soap and water with a damp cloth usually does the trick.

Hardwood floors are typically oak or maple—oak in living and dining rooms and maple in bedrooms and kitchens. However, there is a wide array of hardwoods to select from, including birch, red oak, white oak and Brazilian cherry.

Peters estimates that 80 percent of his business is in refinishing floors. The rest is in installing new hardwood floors, typically in additions.

The cost for a new floor ranges from \$9.00 to \$13 a square foot, Peters said. Often he is asked whether he can match a floor to existing woodwork or trim.

"It's an impossibility," he said. "If your attitude is set on matching, you're going to be disappointed. All wood is different. That's its special beauty. Instead, you've got to think in terms of contrast. You can do beautiful work in contrasts."

Though some do-it-yourselfers will refinish a hardwood floor themselves, MacDonell advises against it. The process involves an array of special tools and some potent chemicals, he said.

"But if the average guy doesn't mind a lot of

Hardwood/see page 25

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Setting the stage

Whole room lighting surges in popularity among those looking to add drama to the masterpiece they call home

by Catherine Condon

The track lighting in Cindy Johnson's home office not only reduces the glare on her computer screen, but brightens what used to be a dark basement space. The adjustable "fish eye" lights cast a warm glow on several of her unique art pieces.

"All I have to do is redirect the lighting," said Johnson, a Summit Hill resident and recently retired Supreme Court commissioner who consulted with Muska Lighting Center in Summit Hill on her recently completed lighting project.

Johnson is one of many believers in whole room lighting, a concept that has surged in

popularity over the last few years. The idea is to enhance a room's aesthetics and functionality with three types of lighting: ambient, or general room lighting; task, which aids in a specific duty; and accent, which illuminates particular spots or objects.

Whole room lighting is very much in vogue at Creative Lighting & Home Accents in Merriam Park as well. "We always suggest thinking of the room as a stage," said Jeremy Minsberg, Creative Lighting vice president. "Plan the lighting first, then add the furniture and the artwork. Most people choose one of the three (types of lighting) to light a room. A good lighting job will use two, while an excellent application will use all three."



All three whole room lighting techniques—ambient, task and accent—were used in this kitchen remodeling project to enhance the room's aesthetics and functionality.

Over the past few years, both Muska and Creative Lighting have seen a lot more whole room lighting converts. "Years ago, you had one light in the center of the kitchen and one in the center of the bedroom," said Muska sales merchandiser Margaret McNeely. "Now you play with the lighting more and get different effects with different sources of light. The whole room and all the activities that go on in that room are taken into consideration."

According to McNeely, the mix of lighting can transform any room, even those with second-rate furnishings. "You can have a dated, ugly room with things you wish you didn't have," she said. "But by putting just the right light on one really great sculpture or painting,

your eye will automatically go to that object when you walk into the room. The rest just doesn't matter."

The price can be surprisingly reasonable. Puck lights, which are hockey puck-sized, low-voltage lights, can be wired or plugged into a ceiling, cabinet, buffet or shelf and start at just \$30 a set. Can lights, which are juice can-sized fixtures that can be positioned on the floor behind a plant or in a corner, sell for \$15 to \$20.

Still, the cost of some home lighting projects can be considerable. "I'm working on one right now," McNeely said. "Just in light

Whole/see page 26

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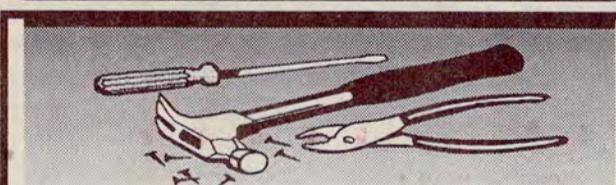
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Friends holds sale to replenish trees lost in summer's storms

Homeowners needing to replace trees lost in last summer's storms or who would like to help replace trees lost in city and county parks may do so by participating in the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County's 1999 tree sale.

Deciduous trees, evergreens and shrubs are now available to order for spring pickup. Trees and shrubs may be purchased for personal use or to donate to an area park. The city of Mendota Heights and Dakota County also are seeking tree donations.

Park staff will plant the donated trees. Those ordering a tree for personal use will pick them up at the Highland Park Pavilion

on Saturday, May 1.

Available trees include northfire maple, heritage birch, bicolor white oak, patmore green ash, Black Hills spruce, Baker blue spruce, red splendor crab, Kelsey crab, harvest gold crab, Japanese larch, discovery elm. Two shrubs also are available: Albert Holden lilac and Regent juniper.

Prices range from \$10 to \$45. Orders must be placed by April 8. Brochures are available in Dakota and Ramsey county libraries, all St. Paul libraries and most city halls.

For information or an order form, call 651-698-4543 or check out the Friends Web site at www.friendsoftheparks.org.

Hardwood floors gain appeal

from page 23

dust, fumes and a C to C+ job, he could do it," MacDonell said.

A typical refinishing job—a living room and dining room with two radiators and a total of 700 square feet—costs \$1,800 through Pete's Hardwood Floors. MacDonell charges between \$1.75 and \$2.25 per square foot with an additional 50 cents per square foot for stain.

MacDonell will tear up the old floor covering as part of the job. Peters asks the homeowner to clear the floor or hire someone who specializes in such work.

"It's one part of the job no one wants to do," said Cody Nelson of Cody Nelson Renovations. "It's crucial because you've got to know what to do with the waste." Nelson charges 55 cents per square foot to tear out old hard-

wood and 25 cents per square foot to remove carpeting.

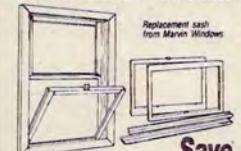
Hardwood floors that are well-maintained only need to be buffed and vacuumed before receiving a new polyurethane finish. Others need to be sanded, perhaps the most difficult part of the refinishing job.

"I generally recommend hardwood floors for all rooms in the house as long as standing water is not a problem," MacDonell said. "The biggest trick in maintaining the floor is to make sure it doesn't get damaged in the first place."

To that end, MacDonell advises placing a protective surface between hardwood floors and all furniture, placing area rugs in heavily trafficked areas, and leaving sand and gravel from the bottom of shoes at the front door.

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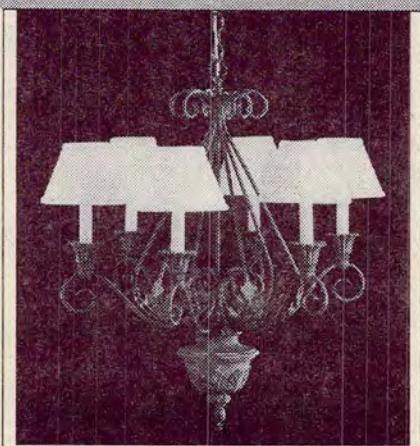
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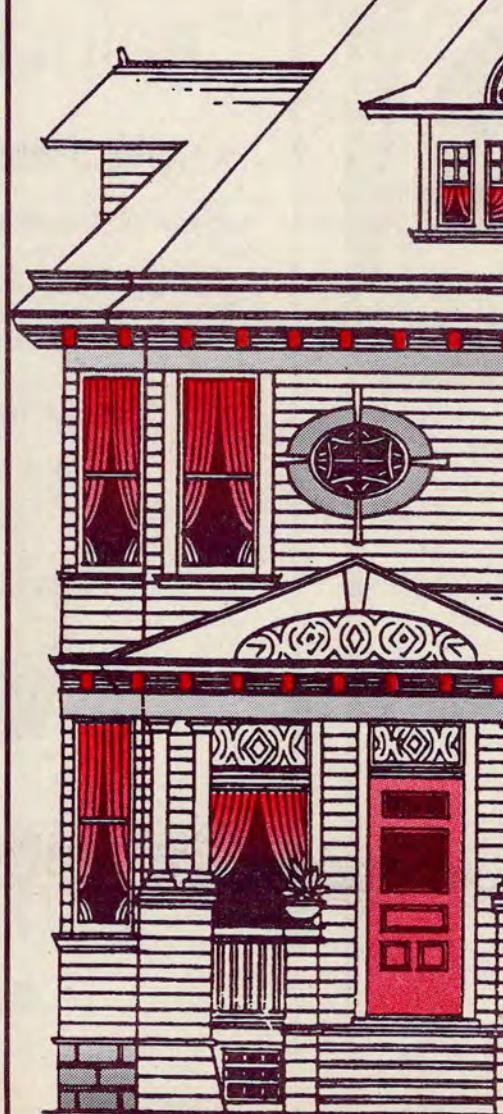
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Whole room lighting comes in vogue

from page 24



Along with a chandelier, this dining room features wall-wash lighting on the artwork, indirect lighting in the wall sconces and soffit, and toe-kick lighting underneath the cabinetry.

That is out of the ordinary, said Minsberg. "Lighting and electrical is generally about 10 percent of the price of a room remodel, including labor," he said. "For new construction, lighting normally accounts for between 1 and 3 percent of the total price."

Minsberg and McNeely agreed that all three types of lighting are applicable to every room in the house regardless of size. The kitchen may provide the best example. "People may have one center ceiling light which will be very bright," Minsberg said. "They may also have under-the-counter lighting so they can see what they're doing when cooking and an accent light to illuminate a clock or a cute frame on the wall."

"In a family room, you might have a couple of recessed lights that come down to give general, overall lighting," McNeely said, "but you might use an eyeball light on a fireplace or a piece of artwork that angles toward the object. Then you might mix in some lamps for reading or little lights inside a cabinet to light a collection of glass-work or old books."

With prices starting at \$10 for high-quality, commercial models, dimmers have been

come one of the most popular and economical ways to incorporate whole room lighting.

"They also save on the power and the bulbs will last longer," McNeely said.

"You need the kitchen really bright when you're cooking and cleaning, but everyone knows that every party in the world winds up in the kitchen," Minsberg said. "Do you need 300 watts to show off every bit of dirt and grime? You need it really

dimmed down."

Rooms are taking on all sorts of different uses and lighting is the key, McNeely said. "I have a lot of (clients) who have dining rooms, but they're not using them as dining rooms because they're not that formal," she said. "I've had people put pool tables in them, make play-rooms out of them and make another office or a music room."

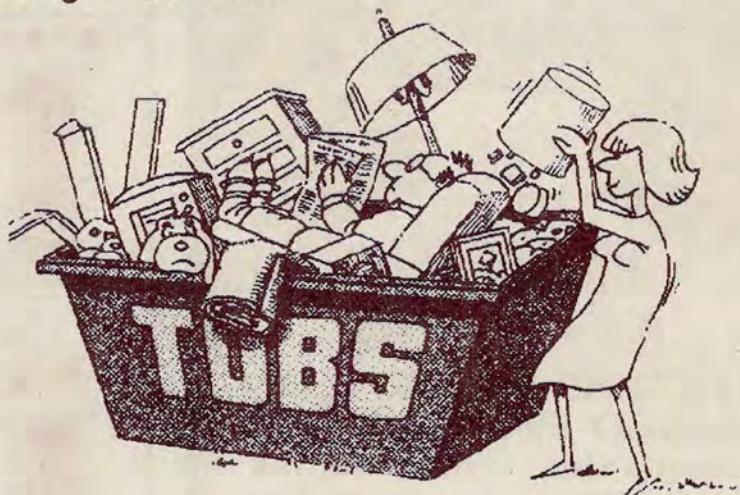
Minsberg said whole room

lighting ensures adaptability. "Things are changing so quickly for what people are using their homes for," he said. "So many people are telecommuting today that their homes are becoming their offices. You may be using (a room) as a bedroom today, but it might be your office tomorrow and it might be an art gallery three weeks from now. People want their rooms to be as versatile as possible."

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Right landscaping can help save energy

Saving energy isn't always as simple as turning off a light or making certain that a faucet doesn't drip. The landscaping that you have around the outside of your home can prove to be a valuable energy saver inside. Properly placed wind-breaks, snow fences and shade trees can be very beneficial when it comes to saving money in the heating and cooling of your home.

The provision of shade and cooling in the summer and protection from the cold winter winds can lead to a reduction in heating and air conditioning bills for the homeowner by as much as 30

percent. Property values also are increased with improved privacy, beauty and noise reduction.

When planting a windbreak or a snow fence, consider fast-growing deciduous trees and augment the wind-break with slower growing evergreens. The deciduous trees will offer a great deal of shade and wind protection in the summer and fall. Even though they lose their leaves, they will provide effective wind protection in the winter, too. The evergreens will take 20 or more years to provide much protection, but will be a viable solid wind barrier year-round af-

ter maturity.

Springtime is ideal to start planning your windbreaks and sites for specific shade trees. You should contact your local county extension office for a list of evergreen trees and other deciduous trees that would be suitable for your area. Proper ground preparation and watering of all new plants will increase the success of your living energy-saving investment.

Courtesy of Article Resource Association,
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Do-it-yourself water ponds are making waves

Would you like to spend a little less time getting your hands dirty this summer, but still enjoy the pleasures of gardening? Then consider building a water pond, a creative alternative to the "average" garden.

The water garden is really nothing more than a manmade pond with a liner to contain the water, a pump to circulate it and a filter to aid in keeping it clean and clear. A small goldfish pond can be built in about a half-day and cost under \$300, while a larger garden with a waterfall may take an entire weekend to complete.

Location. Choose a site with at least four hours of sunlight, preferably in the morning because midday rays encourage algae growth. Select a level spot, protected from water runoff, which may contain fertilizers or herbicides.

Size. First draw your design on paper and then lay it out on the ground, using a garden hose to decide upon the shape.

You'll need to measure it so you can purchase the right size liner. Don't forget to have your utilities marked before you dig so you don't disturb buried power lines in the process.

Construction. Begin with the deepest point. A standard depth is 18 inches, but if you add fish, you will need to dig down two to three feet. The bottom of the pond should be flat, so make sure it is level. Remove all rocks, cut back roots in the basin and add about 2 inches of sand before putting the liner in place.

Drape the liner in the hole and anchor the edges with weights to hold its position and form. Use native stone, boulders or discarded brick to finish the edges. Fill the pond with water to just below the ground level.

Pump/filter. Ponds without pumps generally require more care and upkeep. You may not need a pump if you keep the algae growth and ammonia levels in check and maintain a balance between

oxygenating plants and have a minimal number of fish.

A pump will keep the water circulating and therefore will cut down on constant upkeep. For a distinctive touch, try connecting a fountain or waterfall to the pump. The filter is used to collect decaying organic matter. To assure complete filtration, locate the pump and filter at one end of the pond, then run discharge tubing to the opposite end. This will ensure that the entire pump is thoroughly filtered.

Plants and fish. Add one bunch of submerged plants for every 1 to 2 square feet of pond surface. Plant lilies in containers and set them on submerged bricks.

Japanese ornamental fish known as koi have become popular in water gardens, but many pond owners are content with stocking only goldfish. Plan on one inch of fish per foot of pond surface.

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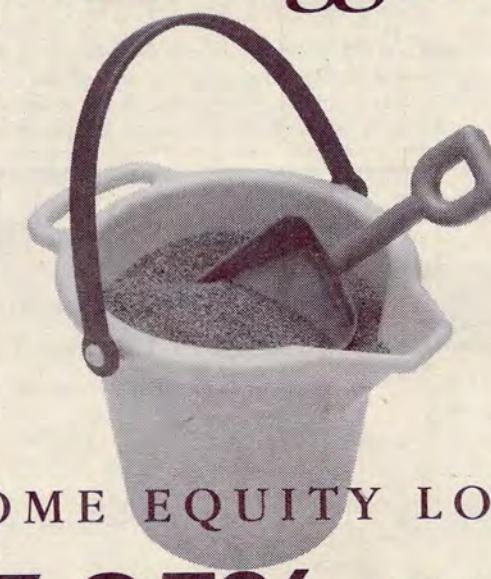
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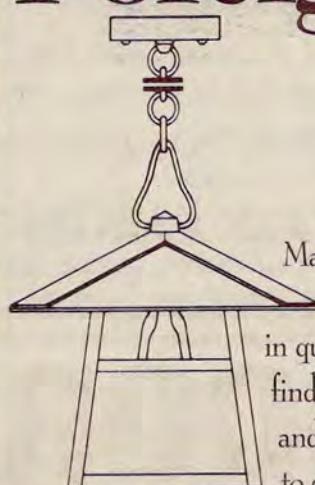
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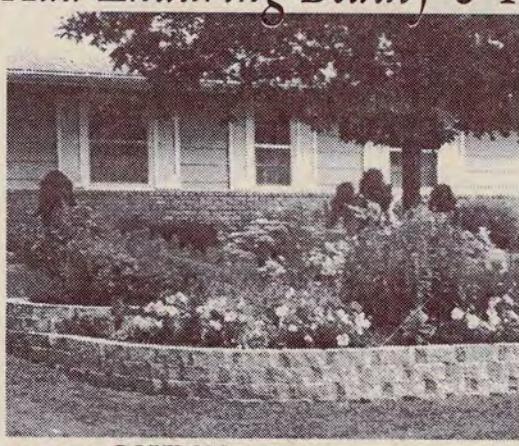


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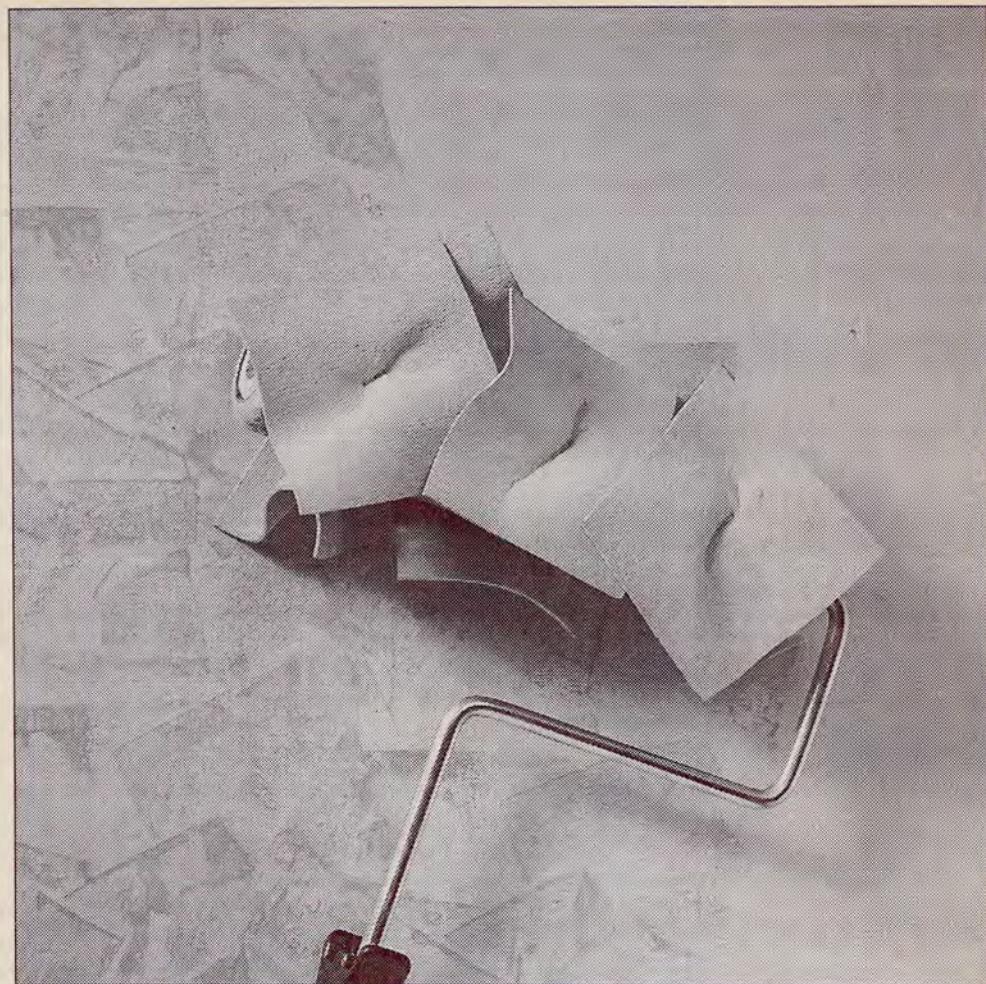
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Stapling pieces of chamois cloth to a roller provides a simple variation to the rag-rolling technique of adding texture to a painted wall.

With time and a little imagination, faux finishes can transform a room

There are usually two schools of thought when it comes to viewing paint: one is that it's nothing more than a way to color a wall and the other is that it's an artistic tool that stokes the human imagination and helps create visual illusions.

With that said, this is for everyone who wants to do more than just slap paint on the wall and watch it dry. This is for those individuals who want to take a wall and turn it into a canvas. With a few simple tips and materials, any do-it-yourselfer can use paint to create the look of Italian marble on a wooden floor, capture a Mediterranean sky in a ceiling or give an impressionistic watercolor feel to a bathroom wall.

These faux finishes, as they are called, create an illusion of texture on your walls or floors. They can also create the impression of depth and angularity. And, of course, the fin-

ished project is a beautiful work of art. Some of the more common techniques today are stenciling, combing and rag-rolling. Tortoise-shelling and marbling tend to be for the more adventurous, but are relatively simple to do nonetheless. And with nothing more than a few special materials (i.e. masking tape, rags, sponges) these dramatic and creative flourishes are easy to achieve.

Here is a quick rundown of some of the more common techniques and what's needed to create them:

Combing. This technique gives a textured finish by raking a toothed instrument through a wet topcoat of latex paint. First, make a comb from a squeegee (with handle removed) by cutting notches from the blade every inch. Apply a basecoat to the wall.

Painting/see next page

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Participants will learn how to eliminate barriers to home buying, steps to buying a home, how real estate transactions work, how to qualify for a mortgage loan and how much home they can afford.

The workshop is designed for, but not

limited to, moderate-income persons who live or are interested in living in the following areas: West 7th, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Lexington-Hamline, Merriam Park, Macalester-Groveland, Hamline-Midway, Summit-University, Highland Park and downtown St. Paul.

The workshop is free. Individuals can receive a copy of their credit report for \$20. Free child care will be provided. To register, call 651-222-0311.

Women can nail down building careers

Two programs are being offered this month for women considering careers in the building trades.

Women in the Trades will present a program on Tuesday, March 16, for women who are considering a career in the building trades or other non-traditional fields. The session will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Women's Building, 550 Rice St. For in-

formation, call 651-228-9955.

Career opportunities for women in the construction industry will be explained this month in free sessions cosponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The two-hour program will be presented five times between March 11 and April 8 at the Hubbs Center, 1030 University Ave. For information, call WomenVenture at 651-646-3808.

Painting with style

/from previous page

When dry, roll on a contrasting color of paint. Use long, smooth, continuous strokes to comb the surface (from the ceiling down) while the contrasting color is still wet. Wipe the paint off the comb after each stroke. While combing, let your imagination be your guide. You can pull straight, diagonal or create waves.

Rag-Rolling. Here you're rolling twisted rags through diluted paint to produce a surface that resembles moire or watered silk. Mix one part latex paint with one part water to create a topcoat mixture. Remember, the basecoat you select will show through exposed areas of the topcoat. Apply latex mixture by twisting a piece of fabric into a tight, 6-inch-wide roll. Hold the twisted rag at each end. Work from the bottom up. Don't let the paint dry before applying the rag.

A variation of this technique is to insert a nap roller cover onto the frame of a roller. Then, staple 4-by-4-inch pieces of chamois cloth onto the roller using a heavy-duty staple gun. Use nine pieces (turned in different directions to provide the best pattern), arranging them in rows of three. Roll randomly over the entire surface of the wall.

Color Washing. This elegant finish adds warmth to rooms and is extremely forgiving to uneven walls. Brush a topcoat color over

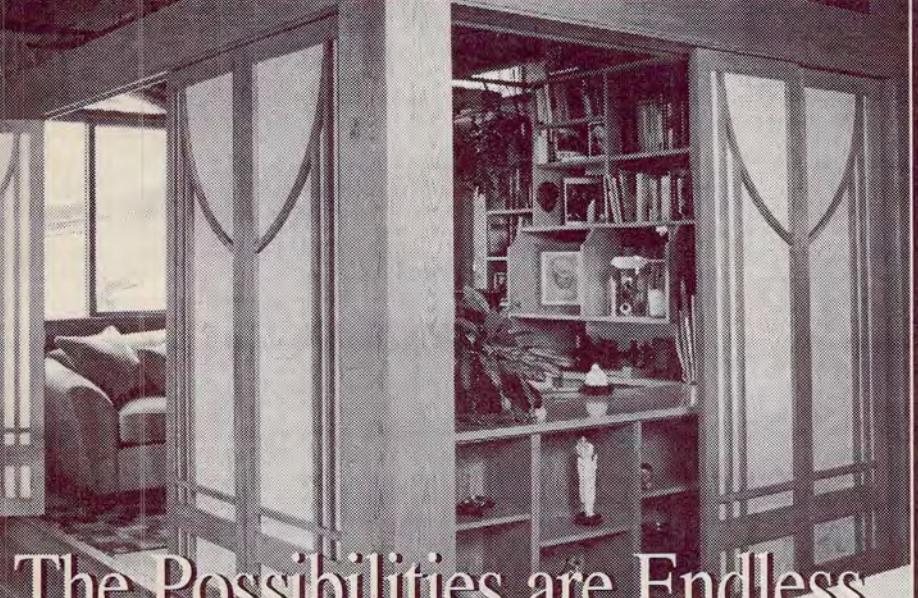
the background (it's best to use a combination of pale colors). Let the brush strokes show and don't attempt to cover the basecoat completely. To soften, let paint dry several seconds, then lightly dab surface with a dampened rag. Rinse the rag frequently to keep wash consistent. To create a nearly matte wash, mix one part interior latex paint with two parts water.

Distressed Stipple. This technique creates the luxurious look of leather as the translucent stippling effect adds dimension to your walls. The added technique of distressing implies slight folds, wrinkles or mars in the surface. First, apply a darker basecoat and allow to dry. Roll on a glaze and start tamping with the stipple brush. Move on to surrounding areas with little or no overlapping. Just before the glaze starts to set, snap it with a soft rag to get sharp crease marks. You may also dab the glaze with the rags to get softer, subtle folds.

Painting a room in one solid color is always a rewarding do-it-yourself project. However, letting your imagination take over can lead to a magical transformation in your surroundings.

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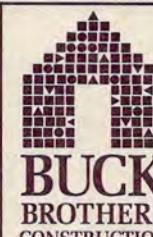
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Kitchens become best dressed rooms in house

Walk into a kitchen today and you may spend more time searching for the refrigerator than deciding how to satisfy a hunger. With kitchens becoming an extension of the living room for entertaining, working and socializing, they are being transformed to exemplify the best in design. Most noticeably, appliances are going incognito. Refrigerators, dishwashers and other appliances are being ingeniously hidden behind veils of wood and steel, and when closed, they disappear completely.

With their newly advanced silent motors, kitchen machines are being neither seen nor heard. Instead of interrupting conversation or drowning out the soundtrack, the most advanced appliances have changed the way kitchens are designed and have invited a variety of activity into the room. The integration of appliances into cabinetry enables both flexibility in design and increased functionality and style. Kitchens have been freed from the restraints of four walls against which appliances were routinely placed. Instead wine coolers are concealed below countertops, food warming drawers work alongside storage drawers, and refrigerators are divided and multiplied in spe-



Dishwashers and other appliances are being designed to blend into the kitchen decor once closed.

cialized compartments. This flexibility even allows cooktops to be incorporated into central islands with down-drafts quietly working away.

Part and parcel of this trend is the growing appeal of "European unfitted" cabinetry designed to look like furniture yet work like cabinets. The popu-

larity of this style has resulted in a host of English cabinet companies establishing U.S. showrooms. American companies, too, are mixing finishes, woods and colors on cabinet fronts. Cabinetry no longer has a factory-ordered look, but reflects a variety of heights and depths.

With entertaining at home bigger than ever, form and function enable even greater use of kitchens. As the kitchen continues to evolve from a food prep area into one of the best-decorated rooms in the house, keeping up with technological advancements on many fronts has been added to the mix.

Looking good is only one stipulation in design. Today's consumers are increasingly sensitive to the need for products that are friendly to the environment. Many household products from computers to dishwashers carry the Energy Star label signaling the utmost in energy efficiency.

While the kitchen has long been one of the most expensive rooms in the house, it is now one of the most beautiful and functional. Today, multi-tasking is not only a requirement of the workplace but of the home.

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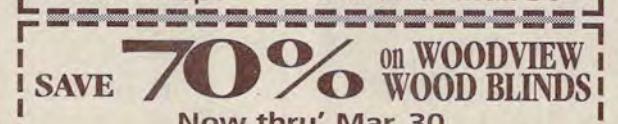
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THE KIOSK

Wednesday/March 10

A VISUAL REFLECTION on the Holy Land," a slide lecture by Sister Roland Davey, who spent 11 weeks last year touring Israel, Egypt, Turkey and Greece, will be presented from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at St. Luke's School, Summit Avenue and Oxford Street. Admission is free.

"POSTCARDS FROM EUROPE," a free travel talk and slide show, will be given by Rick Steves from 5:00 to 6:30 this evening at Books for Travel, Etc., 857 Grand Ave. For reservations, call 651-225-8006.

A LANDMARK SERIES Public Affairs forum will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 this afternoon at Landmark Center, downtown St. Paul. Environmental consultant and building energy systems expert John Picard will speak on "Moving Toward Sustainability: Making Companies Environmentally Responsive and Profitable." Admission is free. For information, call 651-292-3276.

Thursday/March 11

CHRIS NEILL of the Ecosystems Center in Massachusetts will speak on deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon at noon today in Olin Rice Hall at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-8157.

A WORLD WAR II ROUNDTABLE discussion will be held at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. The topic of discussion will be the Battle of the Coral Sea. For information, call 612-726-1171.

THE HIGHLAND MAC-GROVELAND Family Center, 2390 W. 7th St., will offer a series of cooking and nutrition programs for parents of young children. "Food for Kids and Parents too" will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon today and "The Dreaded Vegetable and Fabulous Fruits" will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17. Admission is free. To register, call 651-695-3790.

A JEWISH SINGLE PARENTS support group will meet at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The group will also meet on March 25, April 15 and 29, and May 13 and 30. To register, call 651-698-0751.

Friday/March 12

A SPEAKERS SERIES will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center in Fort Snelling State Park. Ed McGaa, author of *Sacred Hoops-Dakota Stories*, will be today's speaker.

'ROUND AGAIN, a free exchange for new and gently used maternity and infant clothing, will hold a grand opening from 9:30 to 11:30 this morning at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1945 St. Clair Ave. For information, call the Family Center at 651-695-3790.

Saturday/March 13

THE Y2K COMPUTER CHALLENGE and its implications for neighborhood readiness will be discussed today in a program sponsored by Global Education Associates and the Great River Earth Institute. The pro-



Winter's majesty. Weeds along West River Road in Minneapolis put on a show with the recent snow. *Photo by Terry Faust.*

gram will run from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Loyola, 389 N. Oxford St. Coffee and bagels will be served. For reservations, call 651-649-0510.

A SILENT AUCTION & FUN FAIR to raise money for Young Christian Nursery will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is \$1.00.

"HEALING THE MIND AND BODY," a workshop on cancer, will be given by Dr. Robert Rountree from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at the Sheraton Midway Hotel, I-94 at Hamline. The morning session will cover natural therapies to prevent and treat cancer and the afternoon session will cover how your mind can heal your body. The cost is \$35 per session or \$55 in advance for both. Call 612-781-7494.

MICHAEL PAYMAR, state representative from District 64B, will hold a constituent forum from 9:00 to 11:00 this morning in the Village View Room at the Hillcrest Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Sunday/March 14

A SLOVAKIAN ETHNIC DINNER will be served at 12:30 and 2:30 this afternoon at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St. The cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 6-12. For reservations, call 651-224-6498.

pants discover their unique calling and develop it as a gift.

A SUPPORT GROUP for people dealing with depression will be offered from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Call 651-698-0751.

Thursday/March 18

THE MIDWAY-HIGHLAND CHAPTER of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet at 1:00 this afternoon at the Lyngblomsten Senior Center, 1298 Pascal Ave.

THE MOMS CLUB will meet from 10:15 to 11:30 this morning to share the joys and concerns of motherhood. For meeting location information, call 651-917-3823.

LA LECHE LEAGUE (St. Paul Metro chapter) will meet at 7:00 this evening. The meeting will focus on the advantages of breastfeeding, avoiding difficulties, nutrition and weaning. For meeting location information, call 651-227-3887.

A SILENT AUCTION to benefit Friends School of Minnesota will be held from 7:00 to 10:00 this evening in Bandana Banquet and Conference Center at Bandana Square.

Saturday/March 20

"WOMEN'S VOICES: From the School Board to the Statehouse," will be offered at 1:30 this afternoon at the state Capitol. A costumed actor will portray a suffragist and will recall important leaders in the movement, tell stories about the struggle to get the vote and the eventual ratification of the 19th Amendment. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For information, call 651-296-2881.

DEMONSTRATIONS of maple syruping will be presented at 1:00 this afternoon and tomorrow afternoon at Historic Fort Snelling. The program is free, but a Minnesota State Park vehicle permit is required to enter the park. For information, call 612-725-2724.

Tuesday/March 16

THE SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES Center will offer a gardening program on starting seeds indoors from 7:00 to 8:45 this evening at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Admission is free. To register, call 612-872-3291.

"WHAT DOES JUDAISM SAY About...," a series of discussions for Jewish singles of all ages, will continue with "What Does Judaism Say about the Role of Women?" at 7:30 this evening at Beth El Synagogue in Minneapolis. For information, call 612-692-8306.

Wednesday/March 17

"HEALING THE PURPOSE of Your Life," a free presentation by the Reverend Matthew Linn, will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at St. Luke's School, Summit Avenue and Oxford Street. Linn will help partici-

Sunday/March 21

A ROAST BEEF DINNER will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 550 W. 7th St. The cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. Call 651-224-0228.

THE GREEN PARTY, a growing progressive political party, will hold a discussion forum from 1:00 to 3:00 this afternoon at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. The topic of discussion will be "Nonviolence: Developing a Peaceful Foreign Policy."

Tuesday/March 23

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening in the Baker's Square parking lot, 2239 Ford Pkwy., for a walk around the neighborhood. For information, call 651-644-3770.

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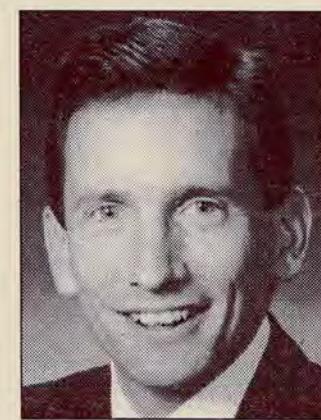
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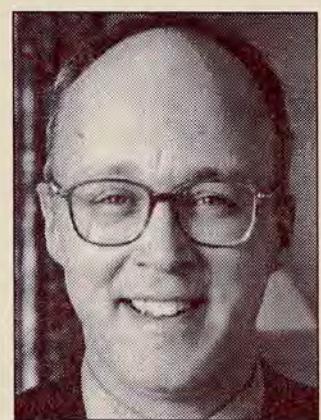
BUSINESS BRIEFS



Dr. Ann Jennen



Michael Unger



Charles Paton

Dr. Ann Jennen of Highland Park is the new owner of the dental practice located at 2390 W. 7th St. Former owner Dr. John Maeurer is now practicing there as an associate. Jennen received her doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of Minnesota in 1998. She has worked as a registered dental hygienist since 1977.

Dan Parker, owner of White Way Cleaners, is succeeding himself as the 1999 president of the Grand Avenue Business Association. He also will chair the Grand Old Day Committee as he did in '98. Other officers for 1999 include vice president John Wolf of Dixie's, secretary John Hershey of the University of St. Thomas and treasurer Dick Crighton of Strategic Financial Group.

Michael W. Unger of Macalester-Groveland has joined the Minneapolis law firm of Rider, Bennett, Egan

Charles L. Paton of Merriam Park has been appointed

& Arundel. Formerly a partner at Mackenzie & Hallberg, Unger serves as a civil trial specialist in the areas of personal injury, employment and business litigation.

Therese Casey Simmons of Highland Park has been appointed controller at the McKnight Foundation. She was on the McKnight staff for 10 years before going to work for Cargill last June, where she was a financial systems accountant. She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of St. Thomas in 1997 and passed the CPA exam last May.

Generations Gift Shop, located in the Diamond Jim's Mall at 801 Highway 13, Mendota Heights, will offer free demonstrations and gift ideas for St. Patrick's Day at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 17. For information, call 651-552-1498.

Charles L. Paton of Merriam Park has been appointed

general manager of the Saint Paul Hotel. The former food and beverage director for the Saint Paul, Paton is now overseeing the day-to-day operations of the 254-room hotel and its 400-person staff.

"An Insider's Look at the Power of the Editorial Page," a breakfast forum sponsored by the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 26, at the Sheraton Midway Hotel, 400 N. Hamline Ave. The 90-minute program is the first in a series of six Friday breakfast forums on a variety of issues. Subsequent programs will address the tobacco settlement (April 23), the 1999 legislative session (May 28), lobbying and public relations (September 24), Twin Cities talk radio (October 22) and the three-party system (November 19). The cost for non-members is \$20 per program. For more information, call 651-223-5000.

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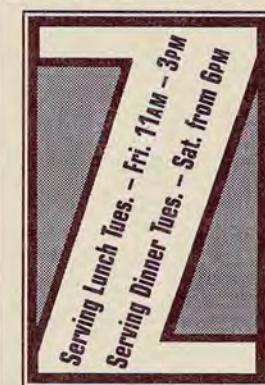
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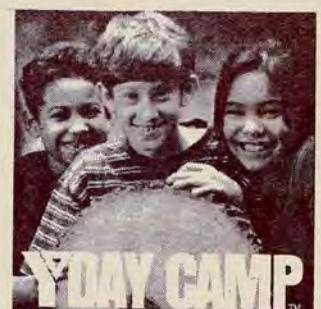
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ON THE TOWN

Essence of Shakespeare

Three men in tights perform all 37 of the Bard's plays in 97 minutes

by Bob Gilbert

In his 28 years on the stage, Tom Winner has never acted in any play by William Shakespeare. This spring the Macalester-Groveland resident and fellow comedians Jim Cunningham and John Brady will present every one of the Bard's plays in 97 minutes. The Pandemonium Theatrical Company's production of *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)* opens March 12 at the old Dudley Riggs' Etc. Theatre at 2605 Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis.

Presenting all of Shakespeare's works in one evening requires some poetic license, Winner said. The trio begins with a 12-minute rendition of *Romeo and Juliet* followed by a rap version of *Othello*. Shakespeare's 16 comedies are synthesized into a 10-minute multi-media presentation called "The New Love Boat Goes to Verona." *MacBeth* is all of 20 seconds long, and the history plays are presented as a strobe-lit football game with the English crown as the pigskin. *Hamlet* is presented forwards, backwards and sideways, faster and faster each time, and it takes up most of the second act.

Cunningham, a Merriam Park resident and the show's producer, thinks it's a good time for a spoof on Shakespeare. The movie *Shakespeare in Love* has been a hit at the box office this winter and is up for 13 Academy Awards. *Titus Andronicus*, a new film starring Michelle Pfeiffer, is now in the works, and literary critic Harold Bloom recently came out with a book entitled *Shakespeare and the Invention of the Human*.

The Compleat Wrks Of Wllm Shkspr, which was first presented by the Reduced Shakespeare Company of California in 1981, holds the record as the longest running comedy in London's West End theater

district. That's where Cunningham first saw the show. He liked it so much he bought the rights to perform it in Minnesota.

"My great love for Shakespeare is rivaled only by my great love for comedy," Cunningham said. "This play merges those two things for me and allows me to mess around with Shakespeare in a way that makes me happy."

Winner plays the roles of Hamlet, Titus Andronicus, Marc Antony and Julius Caesar's luckless bodyguard, among others. "When I was approached to play the parts, I thought it might be a fun way for me to get a taste for performing Shakespeare," he said. "Believe it or not, we'll be performing some actual Shakespeare in the show."

Though the show offers a lighter side of Shakespeare, it is no less intimidating for the players, according to Winner. "A lot of actors are deathly afraid of doing Shakespeare," he said. "It's so hard to memorize all the lines and, because of the rhythm involved, if you forget your lines it's nearly impossible to improvise your way back to the text. Plus, you have to know the other guy's lines, too, because if he screws up you have to be smart enough to help him."

A Pittsburgh native, Winner became acquainted with the Twin Cities during furloughs from the U.S. Air Force base in Minot, North Dakota. Following his discharge, he moved to Minneapolis. His first local performance was at a bus stop at the corner of 7th and Marquette where on winter mornings he donned a sandwich board advertising downtown businesses and handed out coupons to morning commuters.

Prior to Minot, Winner was stationed at an Air Force base in Greenland 500 miles south of the North Pole. Minnesota in January is a day at the beach compared to that, he said.

Winner earned a degree in psychology at



Jim Cunningham, John Brady and Tom Winner act, rap, improvise, cook and cross-dress their way through all 37 of Shakespeare's plays in *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)*, opening Friday, March 12, in Minneapolis. Photo by Greg Helgeson.

the University of Minnesota. One of his most memorable classes there was Comedy: Theory and Practice. "The woman who taught it stood up before the class the first evening and the first line out of her mouth was, 'The study of comedy is a very serious business. There won't be a lot of laughter in this class.' And honest to God, there wasn't."

But there has been plenty of laughter since. "Tom makes me laugh harder than anybody I know," said Cunningham, who worked with Winner in the early '90s as part of the resident company at Dudley Riggs' Brave New Workshop. "His humor is dark and cerebral in a way that reflects his tough blue-collar neighborhood in Pittsburgh."

Apart from memorizing their lines, the most daunting task for Winner, Cunningham and Brady is the costume changes. Of the three, Winner plays the fewest roles. Brady, on the other hand, takes

all of the female parts. To save time during the *Hamlet* sequence, the left side of his face is made up as Hamlet's mother, Queen Gertrude, and the right side as his love interest, Ophelia.

For those who think such treatment belittles Shakespeare's legacy, Cunningham has a ready response. "What we're presenting here is kind of like a St. Paul Saints baseball game with Shakespeare as the stadium, action everywhere and the audience hanging on for dear life," he said.

"Even if you don't know squat about Shakespeare, by attending the show at least you'll get a list of all his plays," Winner said.

The Complete Wrks Of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged) will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Thursdays and at 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 22. For tickets, which range from \$19.99 to \$37.97, call 612-332-6620.

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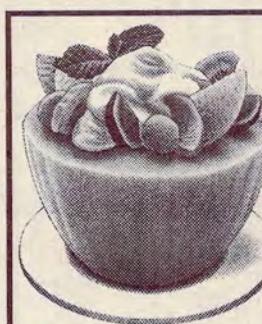
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Music

Pipe organ concerts will be given during house tours from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays in March at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The cost for tours is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. The cost is \$1.00 for just the music. Call 651-297-2555.

The Steve Westby Quartet will perform from 9:00 p.m. to midnight Wednesday, March 10, at The Vintage, 579 Selby Ave. Admission is free.

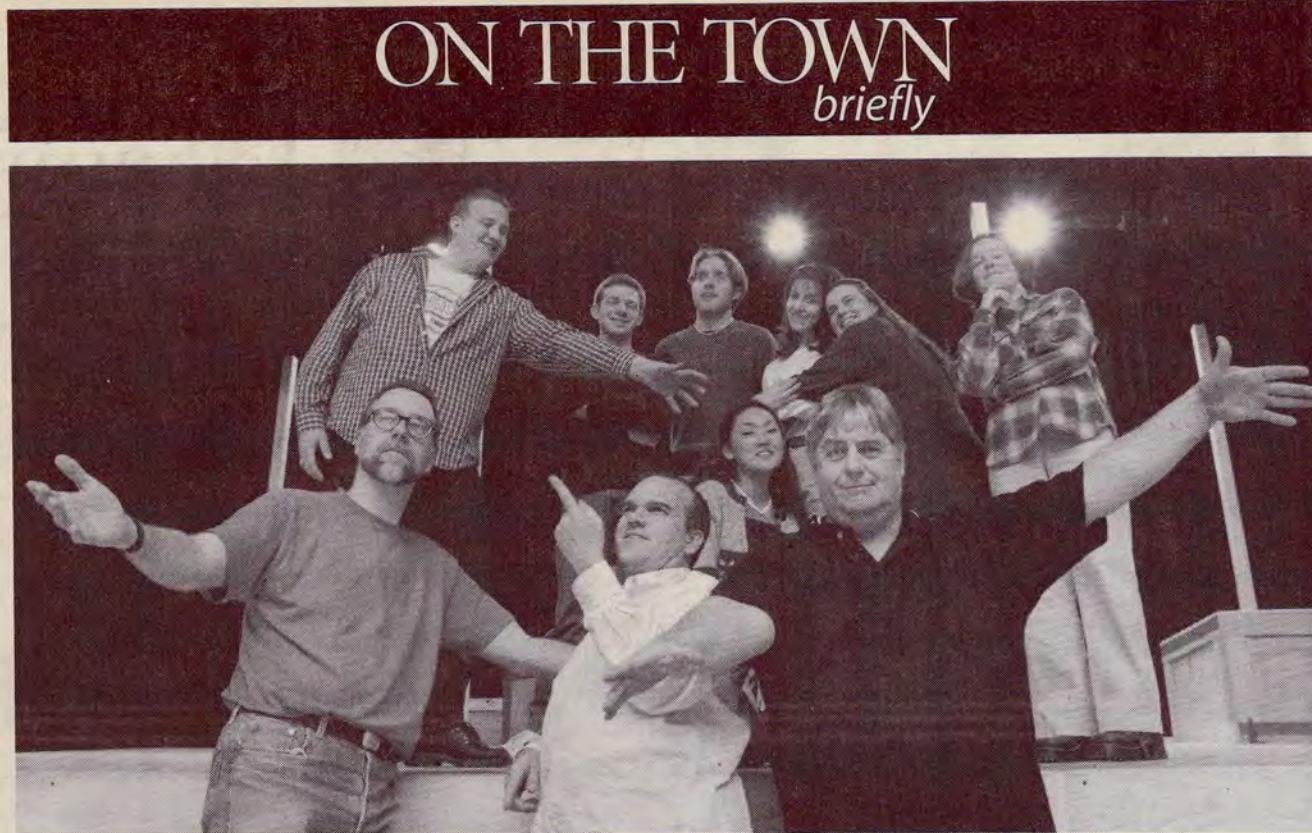
"Evenings Under Glass," a series of jazz concerts from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the Como Park Conservatory, will continue with Kiko Rangel Jazz and Latin Quartet on March 11; and jazz and soul saxophonist Ronny Loew on March 18. Admission is \$5.00. For information, call 651-487-8200.

The Minnesota Guitar Society will present classical guitarist Judicael Perroy at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 12, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 for students and seniors.

Zeitgeist will perform "Zeit-ghosts" by Daniel Lentz, a new work by Mary Ellen Childs and a new work by students at Webster Magnet Elementary School for the Arts at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at Unity Church-Unitarian, 732 Holly Ave. For tickets, priced at \$12 and \$14, call 651-224-7522.

Cleo Galhano will perform on the recorder with Vivian Montgomery on the harpsichord at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. House tours will be given before the concert at 7:15 p.m. For tickets, priced at \$14, or \$10 for seniors and students, call 651-296-8205.

The Women's Choir of the College of St. Catherine and the Men's Chorus of St. John's University will perform a concert at



University of St. Thomas alumni Tim Barrett, left, Greg Sawyer and Greg Morrissey are backed by their student cast of *The Fantasticks*, which will be performed by the joint theater department of St. Thomas and St. Catherine at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, March 17-20, in Foley Theater at St. Thomas. For tickets, priced at \$5.00, call 651-690-6700.

4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, in the chapel at the College of St. Catherine. Admission is free. Call 651-690-6690.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra will perform at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$19.75 to \$35.75, call 612-371-5656.

Organist James Biery will perform Marcel Dupre's "Le Chemin de la Croix" at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 239 Selby Ave. Call 651-228-1766.

The Prospect Park Players will present "Brahms by Candlelight" at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, in Sundin Hall on the campus of Hamline University. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-331-8345.

The Frederic Chopin Society will present Russian pianist Grigory Sokolov at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. For

tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-822-0123.

The Bakken Trio will perform classical chamber music at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at the Southern Theater, 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$12.50 and \$15, call 612-340-1725.

The Landmark Center New Music Series will present the following concerts at 7:30 p.m. in Courtroom 317 at the Landmark Center: Anahada Nada will make its world debut on Friday, March 19; and Dare to Breathe will present a showcase of new works by area composers on Tuesday, March 23.

For tickets, call 651-228-1407. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-331-8345.

Minnesota Sinfonia will perform "Musicians' Choice," a free concert of some of the group's favorite pieces in honor of their 10th anniversary, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 20, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University.

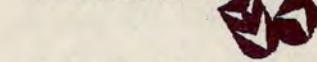
Quartet a la Mode will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the Church of St. Peter in Mendota. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Tickets may also be purchased in advance for \$8.00 and \$3.00 by calling 651-452-4550.

The Dale Warland Singers will perform "Cathedral Classics," a concert dedicated to the memory of choral conductor Robert Shaw, at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. For tickets, priced from \$10 to \$30, call 612-339-9707.

"Happy Birthday, Bach!" will be performed at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21, in the Buetow Music Center Auditorium at Concordia University. Admission is free. Call 651-641-8248.

The Singer's Voice, an autobiographical music series hosted by Dan Chouinard, will continue at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Dakota Bar & Grille in Banda Square with Mary Jane Alm and Gwen Matthews on March 21. Call 651-642-1442.

Theater



The Hamline University Theatre will perform Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, March 12-13 and 19-20. There will also be a 7:00 p.m. performance on Thursday, March 18. Performances will be held in the Anne Simley Theatre on campus. For ticket information, call 651-523-2905.

Hmong! The CIA's Secret Army, will open at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The play, based on a true story of love, family, war and ultimately, immigration to St. Paul, takes place in Laos in 1962. Performances will continue through April 3.

For tickets, priced from \$16 to \$20, call 651-292-4323.

Lysistrata, Aristophanes' fast-paced romp, loaded with double entendres and hand-to-hand combat between the

sexes, will open Wednesday, March 17, at the Guthrie Lab, 700 N. First St., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through April 4. For tickets, priced at \$17.50 and \$19.50, call 612-377-2224.

Illusion Theater will open *Fever: A Tribute to Peggy Lee*, featuring Connie Evingson as Peggy Lee, on Friday, March 19, in the Hennepin Center for the Arts, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue at 8:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 3:00 p.m. Sundays until April 18. For tickets, priced from \$13 to \$17, call 612-339-4944.

Books



The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Peter Carey will read selections from his novel *Jack Maggs* on Wednesday, March 10; Joanna Rawson will read from her book of poems *Quarry* on Friday, March 12; Brent Olson will read from his book *The Lay of the Land: A View from the Prairie* on Monday, March 15; Katherine Anne Dieter will read from her novel *Mattie & Frank* on Thursday, March 18; and Satish Kumar will discuss his autobiography *Path Without Destination* on Friday, March 19. Call 651-699-0587.

"Literary Witnesses," a special literary arts program, will present poet and children's book author Lucille Clifton at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. Call 612-870-7927.

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library will kick off its Fireside Literary Series, held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through March 23 at the Hamline Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. The series will continue with Philip Bryant who will read from his new collection of

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poetry *Sermon on a Perfect Spring Day* on March 16; and Ellen Hawley will read from her novel *Trip Sheets* on March 23. Call 651-222-3242.

"What Are Men and Women Reading in the 90s?" will be presented by Deborah Dora, founder of Singles With Heart, and Jay Gubrud at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 19, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Proceeds from books purchased during this presentation will be donated to The Volunteer Center.

Yi-Fu Tuan will discuss his book *Escapism* at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 22, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-699-0587.

Family



Preschool storytimes will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on Fridays beginning February 26 and continuing through March 19 at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Also deaf storytimes will be held beginning March 20. To register, call 651-642-0385.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following activities for children at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays: Irish troubador Michael Casey will tell St. Patrick's Day stories on March 13; and Phyllis Root will read and sign her new book *What Baby Wants* on March 20. Call 651-224-8320.

ArtScraps, 1459 St. Clair Ave., will offer the following Super Scrapper Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.: "Bedazzling Beads" for children ages 9 and up on March 13; and "Crazy Cat Kaleidoscopes" for children ages 7 and up on March 20. For details, call 651-698-2787.

History Hijinx programs for children ages 3-11 will be offered from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The line-up includes the



Metaphor, featuring Macalester-Groveland residents Mike and Kitty Croswell, front, will serve up an international medley of sounds featuring the didgeridu (pictured), Punjabi snake charmers and marimbas at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 19, at the Cedar Cultural Centre, 416 S. Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. The trio Medulla Oblongata will follow at 9:30 p.m. For tickets, priced at \$8.00 or \$6.00 for students, call 612-338-2674.

following: meet James Gerholdt and his traveling snakes and make a snake door-draft stopper on March 14; and make a spring hat for a doll on March 21. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

Peter Pan, starring Tony Award nominee Cathy Rigby, will open Tuesday, March 16, at the Ordway Music Theatre. Performances will continue at 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, at 7:00 p.m. Sundays and at 2:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through March 28. For tickets, priced from \$24 to \$55, call 651-224-4222.

Music in the Park Series for families will present "Animal Voices" performed by Dare to Breathe at 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 19, at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Admission is \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children, or \$5.00 and \$4.00 in advance by calling 651-644-4234.

"Free to Be... You and Me," a musical play based on the book by Marlo Thomas, will be presented by 40 3rd- and 4th-graders at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 20, and at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call 651-698-0751.

Creative Kidstuff, 1074 Grand Ave., will hold a grand opening reception from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, March 20, for its Clothesline Art Show, an exhibit of artwork by children ages 3-18. The exhibit will remain on view until March 31. For information, call 612-929-1124.

"Sundays at Landmark," a family-oriented event series, will continue at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays at Landmark Center: Ragamala Dance Theater on March 21. For information, call 651-292-3225.

CitySongs, a St. Paul inner-city youth choir, and the St. Paul Tal-

mud Torah Day School choir, Nitzanim, will perform together in the second annual Youth Freedom Concert at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 22, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free. For information, call 651-698-0751.

Dance



"Sunday Evening Dance," featuring the waltz, foxtrot, tango, hustle, Latin and swing dancing, will take place from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. every Sunday in March at the Twin City Ballroom, 265 W. 7th St. Lessons will be given at 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00. For information, call 651-771-4718.

The Minnesota Dance Theatre will perform "Rumblings," a contemporary ballet inspired by the emotion behind the blues, at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 11-13, and at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, March

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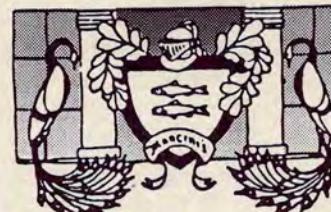
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Irish Dance: Friday, March 12, in the Joseph Meyer Gym, 7:00-11:00 pm. Live Irish music. Adults \$5, children & students \$2, families \$15.

Breakfast: Sunday, March 14, in the Cafeteria. Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk or coffee. 8:45 am-1:00 pm. Adults \$3, children (12 & under) \$2.

Raffle: Sunday, March 14. Drawings for prizes will be held at 2:45 pm in Carolyn Hall.

Fun Fair: Games and prizes in the Joseph Meyer Gym and Rumpus Room. Sunday, March 14, 10:30 am-3:00 pm.

Silent Auction: Sunday, March 14, in the Old Gym across from Carolyn Hall. Bidding goes from 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

Bingo: Sunday, March 14, 10:30 am-2:30 pm in Carolyn Hall. Donation of one canned good equals one free game.

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Lex-Ham Theater to present pair of one-acts in March

The Lexington-Hamline Community Theater will present *The Mice Have Been Drinking Again* and the premiere of *Fielder's Choice* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 18-20 and 25-27, at Central High School, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy.

Fielder's Choice is about the emotions that surface during a family gathering on Father's Day. It was written by Lexington-Hamline resident Urban Landreman, whose audience-participation murder mystery *Bullets and Beauties* played to sell-out crowds last year.

The Mice Have Been Drinking Again by Cleve Haubold looks at the comic results of a San Francisco couple's attempts to arrange a date for a female cousin who is into transcendental meditation and health foods.

The plays include a cast of nine residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods. Tickets for the performances are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. The March 26 show will be signed for the hearing impaired, who will be charged \$2.00 to attend. For ticket information, call 651-645-3207.

14, at the Southern Theater,
 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis. For tickets, call 612-338-0627.

Northrop Auditorium. For tickets, priced from \$20.50 to \$33.50, call 612-624-2345.

Etc.



The Wild Yam Cabaret will perform from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at Linwood Center, at St. Clair Ave. and Victoria St. The performance will include Carla Vogel sharing a tale about Jewish grandfathers doing "Purim in Reno," Stefanie Levi will sing folksongs, Kathleen Richardson will spin a cross-cultural comedy about Jamaica, Mexico and the USA, children's writer Fletcher Schwartz will share a tale and Eve Blackwell will portray a middle-aged Marilyn Monroe in "In the Temple of Aphrodite." Admission is \$7.00. For tickets, priced at \$6.00 in advance, call 651-293-9072.

The Macalester Dance Ensemble will present a concert featuring works by student, faculty and guest choreographers at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 18-20, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. For tickets, priced at \$7.00, or \$5.00 for seniors, call 651-696-6359.

Tango Buenos Aires will perform "Candion de Buenos Aires" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23-24, at

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SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



So long Joe, it's been good to know you

When I began coaching back in the mid-1970s, I was fortunate. Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) legends like Joe Meyer, Jim Pacholl and Wally Wescott were just finishing their coaching careers and I was able to learn from them. Meyer passed away late last month, but the impact he had on hundreds of youngsters will be felt for years to come. The St. Mark's gymnasium may bear his name, but what his former athletes carry with them will always be the real tribute to his career.

I first ran into Joe when he was coaching football against my brother's St. Rose team in 1966. He was gruff and demanding—definitely not your "90s guy." He'd shout "You're killing us!" to players on his team who jumped offsides. Once at a basketball clinic at St. Mark's, I watched from the bleachers as he called on one of his players to help demonstrate a defensive drill. Meyer accidentally popped the youngster in the nose during the drill. Blood began to pour, but Meyer continued his lecture. The crowd stirred nervously. When Meyer realized the kid was bleeding, he turned and barked, "Get off my basketball floor! You're ruining it!"

"He taught me more fundamental basketball than anyone," said Mark Gautschi, who played at St. Mark's in the '60s. "Meyer's players were ahead of everyone when they went to high school. He'd literally coach about 800 kids a week—2nd-graders, 3rd-graders, everybody in the school. The whistle blew and you stopped what you were doing or you might get a basketball in the back of your head."

Meyer was among the first to push for girls basketball programs in the CAA. Felicia Glidden remembers playing for him in the late-'70s. "He made me learn to shoot left-handed lay-ups by tying my right hand behind my back," she said. "Then he gave me a big, weighted basketball and made me shoot left-handed for hours during lunch time. He always had something nice to say to each kid. There was discipline, but there was also an open feeling in his gym—and it was his gym."

Dick Powers tells a famous Meyer's tale about a late-inning, 3-2 baseball game. "Joe was trailing St. Andrews, but he had runners on second and third with two outs," Powers said. "Some kid in the St. Mark's dugout yelled 'time out' just as the pitcher was winding up. He stopped, the ump called a balk and gave St. Mark's the tying run. Meyer came across the infield, bellowing 'who said that?' He instructed his runner to go back to third and told the bench that nobody wanted to win as much as he did, but he wasn't going to win that way."

Cody/see next page

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CDH, Highland girls earn state berths

by Bill Wagner

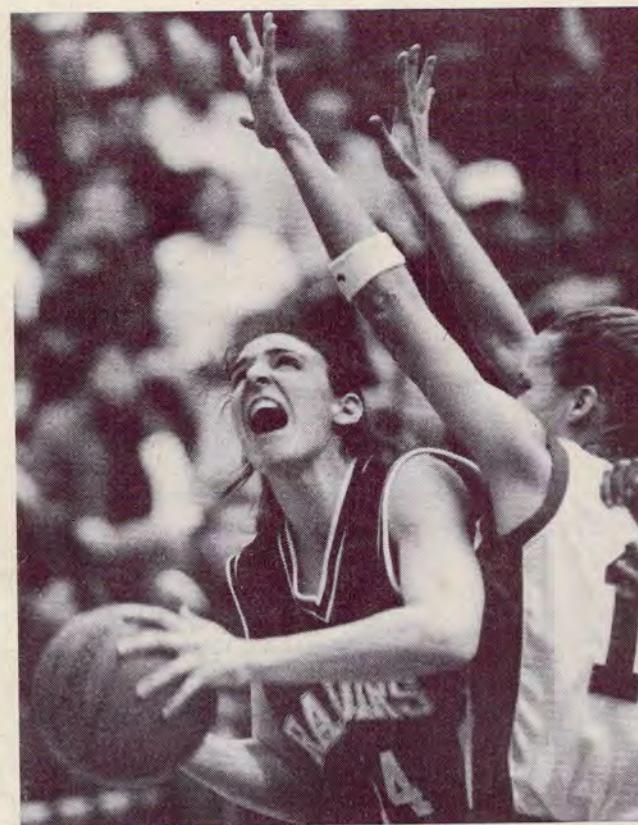
The first week of March brought jubilation to two girls high school basketball teams in the Villager area and despair to one other.

The jubilation belonged to Cretin-Derham Hall and Highland Park, who made their way into the state tournament with victories in their section finals—the Raiders 63-48 over Eagan in Class AAAA and the Scots 58-50 over South St. Paul in Class AAA. Visitation, on the other hand, saw its season end with a 90-40 loss to Blake in the Section 4AA final.

The Raiders (23-2 overall and 14-0 in the St. Paul City Conference) were scheduled to face Woodbury in the first round of state tournament on March 9 (after this issue of the Villager went to press). Meanwhile, the Scots (16-9, 10-4 in the City Conference) were to play undefeated Worthington (25-0).

The Raiders, runners-up in the state last year and ranked No. 1 in their class for much of the year, used outstanding defense, a killer offense and an awesome presence on the boards to pull away from Eagan in the second half. CDH's Michelle Fowler hit from underneath midway through the third quarter to make it 33-31 Raiders. A steal and a quick layup by CDH junior guard Kate Townley made it 35-31. Senior forward Jackie Bye then hit from close in to make it 37-31. Eagan never threatened after that.

"We did a good job inside," said Raiders coach Tom Cody. "We had 39 rebounds, including 11 by Townley. She's always doing



Cretin-Derham Hall's Jackie Bye looks for a shot beyond the reach of Eagan's Liz Mundahl. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

something to help us win, whether she's getting points, assists, rebounds or steals."

Townley, a junior guard who was 10 of 11 from the foul line, led the Raiders with 16 points. Kari Laliberte had 12, Bye 10, Brie Valento and Chrissy Melander 8 apiece, Kristin Greenwood 7 and Fowler 2.

Cody credited Townley and Bye for limiting Eagan's Sarah Rome, one of the premier players in the state, to 13 points. He also praised Valento, a senior forward who sat out last season with an injury, for her defense, some key baskets and two big steals.

"Woodbury's a team that is kind of like us," Cody said. "They're very quick and very aggressive." But he likes his team's chances with two all-

state players in Townley and Bye and three great defensive players in Townley, Bye and Valento.

The Scots mounted a second-half surge of their own against South St. Paul. The Packers led 31-30 at the half and 45-42 after three quarters, but the Scots came out with a full-court press in the fourth period that created turnovers and easy scoring opportunities.

Highland coach Lynn Nelson had not planned on using the press, but the Packers were shooting the ball so well he felt the Scots needed to disrupt the tempo. "South St. Paul shot the lights out in the first half," he said, "but we had one of our better offensive games too. We showed good balance and good patience. I guess we're coming

together at the right time."

The Scots got outstanding play from sophomore point guard Keke Hinkle (19 points). "She handled the ball well at the point, penetrated and did a terrific job of running the show," Nelson said.

Nelson also credited senior forwards Niambi Shakir (4 points) and Shaunte Johnson (13 points) for outstanding play under the boards. "(Shakir) has definitely been one of our more improved players," he said.

Senior guard Jill Reinhardt had 8 points for Highland, all of them in the second half, and junior guard Laura Hauen added 12.

The Packers' Katie Worm scored a game high 20 points, including six 3-pointers, but Highland held her in check down the stretch. It was the Scot's third straight appearance in the sectional final, but the first of the three that they have won.

Defending AA champion Blake (25-4) had little trouble against the Blazers (16-9, 6-4 in the Tri-Metro Conference). Its swarming defense held Visitation's star senior forward Maureen Smith to 10 points. The Blazers lost two players to injury early in the game, senior guard Elisa Ryan and junior center Katie Hanson.

"Those injuries were not why we lost the game," said Visitation coach Paul Bernabei. "Blake is an outstanding team with literally no weaknesses. They had four losses, but all against very difficult teams. Our kids gave it everything they had. They didn't let up. But against that team, you have to play a near-perfect game just to give yourself a chance."

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Camp director Paul Bernabei has enjoyed coaching and teaching young basketball players for many years. Please call 651-690-5758.

Cody /from previous page

"When Joe gave you a nickname, it stuck," said John Morin, St. Mark's class of 1967. "I started playing right when Lew Alcindor (later Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) was big at UCLA. Joe called me 'Lew' and it's been my name ever since."

"Joe never minced his words—you knew where you stood with him all the time. He was a disciplinarian, but he had to be with hundreds of kids in that gym. He was a fierce competitor who hated to lose."

"Joe had an old blue station wagon that he'd drive to games," Morin said. "When we'd play at Minnehaha or someplace, he'd put the back seat down and start loading players into the back end. He'd stack us like cord wood, layer upon layer. You didn't want to be one of the bigger kids because they'd get stuck on the bottom of the pile."

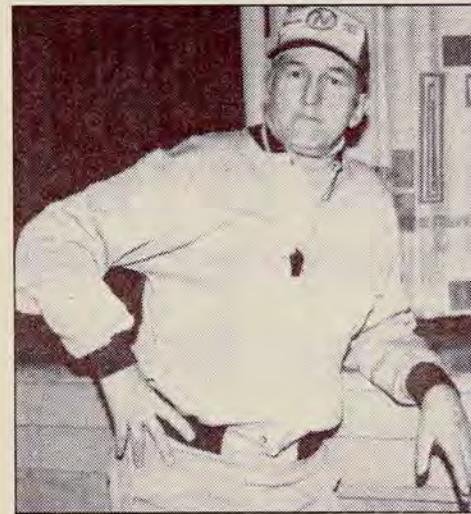
Joe Meyer had a passion, commitment and dedication to coaching that went far beyond the job description. He loved the competition, but he loved the kids even more.

TRAVELING BASKETBALL

The Timberwolves' short-season schedule has produced more than the usual amount of back-to-back games and the Wolves are already howling about how hard it is to play without a travel day in between. They've got to be kidding. These are all millionaires, traveling first class in BarcaLounger seats. They'll work three, maybe four nights a week for four months this year. That's not even remotely like most people's work schedules.

The Wolves should have spent a little time with the St. Paul Capital City 5th-grade boys traveling team this season. Then they'd know just how grueling road trips can be. My son Brendan just completed his season with the AAU squad. When they call it traveling, they're not kidding. We hit exotic locales like Cambridge, Blaine, Edina and St. Louis Park, sometimes making four round trips during a tournament weekend. These were not first-class tickets for Brendan. He traveled in my rusted out '86 Blazer with the cracked engine block and no heater. It was amazing that he could summon the physical strength to do battle on those Saturdays when he had three games in one day. And then we've got Stephon Marbury complaining about a plane ride to Milwaukee.

The epitome of sports in the '90s: Brendan's 5th-grade team played in a 6th-grade tournament in Edina last month and got smoked in three straight games by a combined score of 164-29. Afterward,



The late Joe Meyer in 1981, shortly before his retirement from St. Mark's School.

Brendan and his teammates were awarded 16-inch trophies to commemorate their achievement as the fourth-place champions. I applaud my son's sense of perspective. He's using the thing as a doorstop in his bedroom.

GOPHERS TO THE DANCE

This might be one of the best jobs that basketball coach Clem Haskins has ever done with a Gophers team. Going into the season, it looked like a two-man offense (Quincy Lewis and Kevin Clark). Instead, Clark disappeared in mid-January and left Lewis to carry the load. Haskins has been masterful with his bench, squeezing minutes out of over-matched players throughout the demanding Big Ten campaign. Not only is Lewis deserving of the conference's MVP trophy, which he didn't get, but Haskins should have been named coach of the year.

The Gophers' record may have earned them a tough seed in the West region and an early flight home from Seattle. Even so, Minnesota probably deserved its ranking among the top 25 teams.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

One of life's certainties has been dashed. Spring training used to mean that everybody in major league baseball was starting out dead even. Not so anymore. Though spring will most certainly bring us lilacs, potholes and fresh dog droppings, there will be no hope in Twinsville. Not this year. Not next year. Maybe not ever again.

While the Twins were busy advertising reliever Rick Aguilera at bargain-basement prices, the New York Yankees went out and added Roger Clemens. George Steinbrenner is apparently intent on winding up with the best 25 players in baseball in hopes of going undefeated over the entire 162-game

schedule. The only team that might match the Yankees' won-lost record this year might be the Harlem Globetrotters. King George III's insatiable quest for more, more, more continues to amaze; this megalomaniac must have been weaned with a Monopoly game on his high chair.

Part of baseball's allure has always been the feeling of starting over each spring. No matter how unlikely, it was always fun to project the most optimistic prognostications for the home team. The feeling wouldn't last, but it might carry a fan at least to Mother's Day. This year, the Twins haven't even had the decency to throw in the towel—yet another item that apparently isn't part of Carl Pohlad's budget.

STA WINS CONSOLATION CROWN

Billy McCarthy guided his St. Thomas Academy boys hockey team to its first-ever appearance in the state tournament last week. The Cadets took home the Class A consolation trophy, beating Silver Bay 7-6 and Red Wing 3-2 after losing a heart-breaker to Blake 4-3 in the opening round.

"We had a bunch of great chances to win that Blake game," McCarthy said. "We missed an open net. Then they came back and got the game-winner. Our goalie (senior Ethan Keller) played great (36 saves)."

STA trailed Silver Bay 5-2 after two periods the next morning. "I just went into the locker room and wrote 'check-out time is 1:15 p.m.' on the blackboard," McCarthy said. "The kids decided that they weren't finished yet. They erased the board and came back strong." John Funk had the hat trick and the winning goal in the double-overtime victory, while Bill Filkeid's short-handed goal decided the Red Wing game.

"This was big for our program," McCarthy said. "It put us in competition with the top 20 teams. It lets us know that we're moving in the right direction."

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- The final stats are in for local girls basketball leaders: Laura Haugen of Highland Park, (17.3 points per game), Maureen Smith of Visitation (16.4), Nakia Carlisle of Central (16.1), Kate Townley of Cretin-Derham Hall (14.7) and Shaunte Johnson of Highland Park (12.2).

Tessa Tritabaugh of Central, Jackie Bye of CDH, Townley, Haugen and Carlisle were all named to the first team All-City squad. Seven area players were honored with second team recognition, including Kristin Greenwood and Brie Valento of CDH, Wazira Withers and Vel Williams of Central, and Niambi Shakir, Jill Reinhardt and Johnson of

Highland. Townley was named the conference's player of the year in a vote by league coaches.

- The final stats for local boys basketball leaders: Eric Nelson of Sibley (19.5 points per game), Mark Wingo of Highland (16.6), T.J. Prunty of St. Paul Academy (16.6), Jerry Webb of Central (14.6), John Dungy of Central (13.0), Terrance Stokes of Highland (11.9), John Breneman of Minnehaha Academy (11.5).

The St. Paul All-City team featured Webb, Dungy, Wingo, Stokes, Maurice Hardgrow of Highland, and Jim Krieger and Andy Fleming of CDH. Highland's Charles Portis was named the conference's coach of the year.

- Five area girls participated in the state gymnastics meet in late February. Mandi Neuman of Highland, Natalie Kronschnabel of CDH and Katie Lecher of Sibley all qualified in the vault, while Samantha Kronschnabel of CDH made it in the bars, beam and floor exercise. CDH's Kristi Germann qualified in three individual events as well as the all-around competition.

- Individual area wrestlers fared extremely well in the state tournament: Desmond Radunz of Sibley (112 pounds) and Marcus LeVesseur of Roosevelt (135) both won individual state championships. Radunz finished 38-0 this year, winning the first-ever gold medal for the Warriors, while LeVesseur took his second straight title with an identical unblemished record. Vincent Zeiher of Roosevelt placed third at 160 pounds, Dan Schroeder of Highland Park was fifth at 135, Jafari Vanier of Roosevelt was fifth at 103 and his brother Carey was sixth at 135.

- St. Thomas Academy took first place in the Class A state swim meet on March 6, edging Red Wing 317-300. Kip Winden led the Cadets with a gold medal in the 500-yard freestyle even and a silver in the 200 free. The Cadets' Alex Bals swam fourth in the 200 free, Tony Mason was fourth in the 50 free, Andy Eilertson was third in the 100 butterfly and Matt Marott was second in the 100 backstroke.

- The Central boys swim team advanced to the Class AA state meet, finishing second to Minneapolis South in Section 5. Dan Garrett-Steineman led the Minutemen by qualifying individually for the 500 and 200 freestyle events. CDH swam third in the section, but sent four individuals to state, including Joe Strike (100 fly, 100 back), Pat Marzolf (200 individual medley, 100 breast), Mike McNamara (100 fly, 200 free) and Luke Schuster (50 and 100 free). Schuster placed second at state in both events.

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Hoop hopes still alive for local boys teams

by Tom Cody

Three local teams are still alive and well in boys basketball playoffs, looking to qualify for berths in next week's state tournaments.

Central will face top-ranked Minneapolis North for the Section 2AAAA title this Wednesday, March 10, at 8:00 p.m. at the University of Minnesota's Sports Pavilion.

Meanwhile in Section 3AAA, the semifinals were set to feature newly crowned Twin Cities champion Highland Park battling it out with St. Thomas Academy at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday March 9, at Hamline University.

Class AAAA

Central trailed Cretin-Derham Hall 23-20 at halftime of their Section 2AAAA semifinal game on March 5 at Washburn High School. "The difference was that (senior forward) John Dungey didn't play much in that first half (because of two early fouls)," said Central coach Steve Lasley. "He came out and made some big plays in the second half." Dungey had two big blocked shots and three key rebounds down the stretch as Central rallied to win 47-42.

"This was a very intense, physical game, a great basketball game," Lasley said. "We withstood their defense and held our ground. We were able to take care of the ball and avoid stupid mistakes against them. We grew up a little bit in this game."

CDH led by seven in the middle of the third period, but Central stormed back with a 19-5 run. "That run really killed us," said CDH coach Bill McKee. "We made some mistakes and it really hurt us when (point guard) Joe Schmidt got into foul trouble. Jim Krieger (15 points) played well for us, but we had some trouble against their defense."

Cretin tied the game with 1:30 remaining on an Andy Fleming layup. The score stood at 42-42 with 18 seconds left. The Raiders lost possession on a five-second call, then Central's Jerry Webb got loose to lay in the game-win-



The Scots' 6-foot-8 center Tom Miley Jr. soars above his defenders for 2 points in a Section 3AAA quarterfinal victory over Rosemount. Photo by Mike Long.

ning bucket. Two CDH turnovers and three Central free throws iced it. Dungey finished with 12 points and Webb with 11.

"Dungey had some big plays in the fourth quarter," McKee said. "He's tough. They're tough. People don't give them much of a chance against North, but I think it'll be a good game. I wouldn't

count them out."

Central lost to North by two points in an early-season non-conference game. "They're quick, they're talented, they're well-coached," Lasley said. "They have great tradition. The name of the game in this one is don't beat yourself with

Boys basketball/see next page

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Recalling days when Mikan prowled the paint

by Dick Gordon

It's getting to seem like the old days," George Mikan said the other day regarding the Minnesota Timberwolves' best start in the 10-year history of the franchise. By old days, the National Basketball Association's first superstar was referring to 1947 to 1954 when the Minneapolis Lakers, with Mikan as the centerpiece, won six professional basketball championships.

Mikan's memory is razor sharp when it comes to that era. But for even older days—like 1943—Henry Hyde's memory appears to be even better. It may seem odd to mention those two men in the same breath—Mikan, who was voted the best basketball player of the first half of the 20th century, and Hyde, the U.S. congressman who served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee at President Clinton's impeachment trial. However, the two were once court antagonists—the basketball court that is.

Musty newspaper accounts attest to the fact that on March 25, 1943, Mikan and Hyde faced each other in the NCAA tournament semifinals in a game between DePaul and Georgetown. It was a Madison Garden confrontation that Hyde vividly recalls, but Mikan does not.

Mikan, then one of college basketball's few big men at 6-foot-8 and growing, was just starting his four-year career at DePaul but was already his team's star. Hyde, a 6-foot-3 junior, was a string bean substitute for the Bulldogs who came off the bench in the second half and held Mikan to a single point. Talking about the game in a recent issue of *Sports Illustrated*, Hyde said he did a lot of elbowing and shoving to keep his taller rival from scoring. "I know I will spend a lot of time in purgatory for what I did to Mikan in that game," he said.

Mikan remembers nothing about Hyde and few details of the game except that DePaul lost 53-49. Of course there are ample reasons for their contrasting recollections. For Hyde, it was undoubtedly the highlight of his basketball career, while for Mikan it was just the beginning.

After leading DePaul to a National Invitational Tournament title and another NIT runnerup finish, Mikan

became the 6-foot-10 bellwether on seven pro championship clubs with the Chicago Gears and the Minneapolis Lakers. After his playing days ended, he became commissioner of the American Basketball Association, where he introduced the three-point shot. Though busy with his travel bureau business, Mikan found time to chair the governor's expansion committee, which brought the NBA back to Minnesota in 1989.

Mikan, 74, is a frequent courtside fan at Target Center, where he remains in high demand for autographs. Mikan always obliges, following the example of Babe Ruth, his long-ago idol. Mikan remembers the Babe willingly signing a baseball and posing for a picture with him, then an oversized 10-year-old, at Chicago's Comiskey Park in 1934. That anecdote was culled from Mikan's autobiography *Unstoppable*, which he co-wrote with Joe Oberle and to which he refers writers when searching for historical facts.

Recovering now from hip replacement surgery, Mikan is always willing to air his opinions on basketball past and present. It's a different game today from when Mikan and the Lakers dominated the NBA. One major difference is that the current Timberwolves have their own palatial home at Target Center. In Mikan's day, the Lakers were basketball nomads, frequently being forced to vacate their supposed home court at the Minneapolis Auditorium because it was booked for other events at playoff time.

"I spent quite a bit of time playing at the St. Paul Auditorium," Mikan said.

In particular, he recalled the title game played there in 1960 against the Washington Capitols. Mikan had suffered a broken bone in his right wrist earlier in the series, but he still scored 29 points, mostly on left-handed hook shots, in the Lakers' 77-56 victory in the decisive sixth game.

When asked how his Lakers of a half century ago would fare against the 1999 Wolves and other NBA teams today, Mikan answered by hailing his former teammates. "Where would you find better forwards than Jim Pollard and Vern Mikkelsen or a better play-making guard than Slater Martin?" he asked.

He didn't add the obvious: Where would you find a better center than George Mikan?

Boys basketball playoffs

/from previous page

turnovers. That's what we were able to do in beating Cretin.

Class AAA

Rosemount was no match for Highland Park in the Section 3AAA quarterfinals on March 6, losing 76-43. "They were small. They just didn't match up well with us at all," said coach Charles Portis. "They played a 2-3 zone and we hit a few outside shots on them. That opened up the middle for our big guys."

Highland (21-2) used a 40-23 run in the second and third quarters to bust the game wide open. Shooting guard Maurice Hargrow had six assists, setting up power forward Mark Wingo (18 points), Terrance Stokes (13 points) and Tom Miley (12 points).

St. Thomas Academy (15-9) pounded Farmington 91-61 in the other quarterfinal game. "We just played an exceptional game," said coach Mike Sjoberg. "We hit 10 three-pointers, shot 55 per-

cent from the field and outscored them 31-6 in the third quarter. Conor Murphy was particularly outstanding on defense."

Murphy had plenty of company in double figures, including Kevin Fitzgerald with 15 points, Vern Simmons with 18, Eric Patterson with 12 and Nick Schenck with 11 points.

"We're a much improved team now that we have Fitzgerald back in our lineup," said Sjoberg. "He broke his wrist in late December and missed six weeks, but he's back to full strength now. He's averaging 15 points and 10 boards a game since he returned. He's back in top condition again."

"Fitzgerald is the intangible in this (Highland-STA) game," Portis said. "If we guard him with a post player, he's too quick on the outside. If we put a guard on him, he's too big (6-foot-9) in the post. Simmons is another good athlete for them. We know each other very well."

They beat us in the section finals last year, then went on to win the (Class AAA) state title. This should be a great basketball game."

"We've tried to simulate Highland's quickness in practices but it's impossible to do," Sjoberg said. "They also have great size, which presents other problems for us. They're the best team in our section. We'll have to play our best game of the year to beat them. If we can stop their penetration to the basket, we'll have a chance."

Whoever survives the semifinal game will probably face South St. Paul in the Section 3AAA final at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 12, at Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

"The last two AAA state champions (Simley in '97, STA in '98) have come from our section," Sjoberg said. "The basketball in the Suburban and St. Paul City conferences is really, really good. The section champion this year will have a great shot at winning it all."



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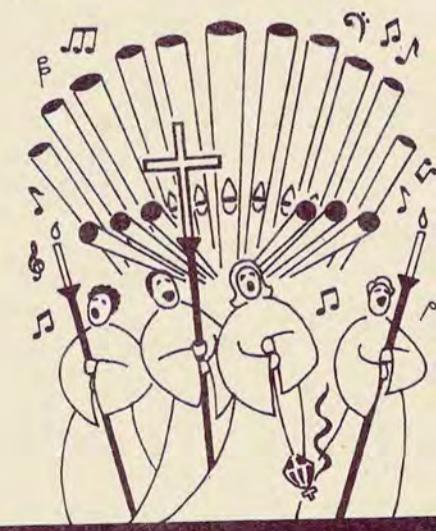


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Macalester College will conduct a softball skills camp from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 13, for players ages 10-18. The cost is \$25. For information, call Tina Johnson at 651-696-6165.

Frannie Villafana of Highland Park was named the College of St. Catherine's athlete of the week last month for her performance at the MIAC conference swimming championship. Villafana, a junior, posted season-best times and set school records in the 100- and 200-yard backstrokes. She finished fourth in the 200 individual medley, fifth in the 200 backstroke and 7th in the 200 freestyle. She also was a member of three of the college's five relay teams that competed in the event.

The Groveland Sonics track and field team will hold registration for the summer season from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, March 22-24, at the Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave. Boys and girls will compete for the team, which is coached by former collegiate track champion Bill Hume. Divisions include Bantams (age 10 and younger), Midgets (11-12), Youth (13-14) and Young Adult (15-18). The Sonics won the 1998 state track and field championship and the 1997 state cross country title. Team members also have qualified for regional and national championships. The cost to participate in the program is \$45,

SPORTS SHORTS

plus \$9.00 for membership in the USATF. For more information, call Groveland at 651-695-3714.

The Mendota Heights Athletic Association will hold registration for baseball, T-ball, transitional ball and slow-pitch girls softball now through March 13 at its office, 1948 Dodd Road. Registration will be accepted from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Volunteer coaches are also needed. For information, call 651-454-0433.

Southwest Area girls fast-pitch softball registration for girls ages 14-18 will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursdays, March 11 and 18, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Teams will play two nights per week and may compete in weekend tournaments. The cost is \$100. For information, call Jerry Tschida at 651-698-4821.

Katy Rollwagen, a 1998 Visitation School graduate, and her sister **Kerry**, a Visitation sophomore, have skated to a Blaze of glory in hockey this month.



The Edgcumbe "C" Squirts won the divisional Minnesota Amateur Hockey Association Tournament on February 19-21. Edgcumbe defeated Minneapolis Washburn 2-0 in the first game, lost to Highland 6-5 in the second game and then came back to defeat East Side/Harding 3-2 in overtime for the championship. Team members, from the left, are (front) goalie Andy Moran; (first row) Ben Reid, Mitch Teisberg, Jonah Finkelstein, Danny Naber, James McGuire, John McGuire and Ross Orenstein; (second row) Allison Muccio, Nick Kubat, Victoria Stein, Dana Diederich, Jordan Heaps, Ben Belland, Nathan Conners and Bobby Galligan; and (back row) coaches Dan Muccio and Chuck Belland.

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Interior/Exterior; 18 years' experience; Jim, 651-653-9155. **v**

SHEETROCK, TAPE, texture, plaster, water repair, paint, free estimate; Dick, 612-888-0600; 612-721-4645. **v**

HARDWOOD FLOORS professionally installed, sanded & finished; free estimates; licensed/insured. Great Scott's Hardwood Floor Service, 651-674-4529. **v**

MASTER PLUMBER, \$44/hour; small/large project; 651-690-2782, Joe. Lic. 2398. **v**

AFFORDABLE PLUMBING; bathroom/kitchen remodeling, pressure loss, water heaters, boilers, fixture repair, sewer/drain cleaning, basement bathroom specialist; John, 651-772-1546; free estimates. **v**

PRO-PAINTER. Interior painting; exterior (one story); wall washing. Honest, neat, free estimates; experienced; Ron Theriault, 651-699-7202. **v**

BASEMENT EGRESS window specialist, free estimates, year-round service; 651-777-5044. **v**

HANDYMAN HANK. Home repairs, plumbing, electrical, carpentry; insured; references available; reasonable rates; 612-722-4087, Henry. **v**

ELECTRICAL. QUALITY work, reasonable rates, free estimates, A/C outlets, smoke detectors, ceiling fans. RPM Electric, Inc. 612-531-2412. **v**

CABINETS, CARPENTRY. In home or my shop. Furniture repairs, refinishing. Small jobs welcome. John 651-659-8926. **v**

HOUSE & YARD doctor. No job too small. We do them all. Carpentry, masonry, and more. Senior citizen discount. Call Lou, 651-487-1113. **v**

QUALITY PAINTING

Personal service since 1984; expert wall, fine enameling, custom finishes; Mark Moreau, painter, 651-698-3391. **v**

PAINT, WALLPAPER specialist, winter rates 15% off; Gary, Jason, 612-299-9662. **v**

CARPENTRY. Interior trim work, framing, demolition and general repairs. Call David, 612-724-2645, Nice Finish Construction. **v**

CARPET CLEANING

Residential or commercial; big job or small job. If you need the best of the best in carpet cleaning, call Tim, 651-698-1094. **v**

HAULING, REASONABLE rates; free estimates, demolition, etc.; 612-869-8697; 612-722-0292. **v**

SEWING MACHINE & Serger: service, sales, rentals; in-home, economical, 30 years' experience. Truman, 651-699-0436. **v**

HANDYMAN, 20 years' experience, big or small jobs; 651-482-9386. **v**

CLOCKS REPAIRED, experienced craftsman, reasonable rates; all work guaranteed; 651-698-9698. **v**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TELEPHONE SURVEYS

Conduct telephone surveys from our office. No selling. Hours 2-9 or 5-9 weekday evenings and occasional Saturdays, 10-4, 3+ evenings per week. (612) **729-2306** between 10:30 & 5:00. Apply: 5005 1/2 34th Ave. So. (Office located near Ford Bridge on 22 bus line).

RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

Design studio in Highland Park has immediate opening for a PT receptionist to work 15-20 hours per week, 8:00-11:00am or 12:00pm. Monday thru Friday. Responsible for operating our multi-line phone system. \$8.00/hr. Please call Bonnie at **651-698-3335**.

Production

PART-TIME Are You Looking For A Second Job?

Have fun while making a great part-time income making pizzas for Northwest Airlines. Work 1 or 2 shifts on the weekend or Mon./Tues./Wed. evenings \$8.00/hr

Oven Hearth Bakery

is located at
825 Montreal Way
(35E and W 7th St.)

Stop by before 2pm to pick up an application or call Beth/Kari at **651 298-9800**.

DAVANNI'S

EOE

Temple Administrator

St. Paul Reform Synagogue seeks FT Temple Administrator beginning 7/1/99. Duties: financial/administrative operations, support programs, supervise staff. 5 yrs experience in budget, personnel, information systems, facilities management. Programming, PR, volunteerism, fundraising exp. desirable. Resume including salary history by March 19 to: Mt. Zion Temple, ATTN: Ellen Sampson, 1300 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105.



The World Is At Your Fingertips

RESERVATIONS SALES AGENTS

Northwest Airlines has positions available for full-time and part-time Reservations Sales Agents at our Mpls./St. Paul reservations office located near Hwy 494 and 34th Ave South. In this key role as the initial customer contact you will promote and sell Northwest's services and help meet customers' travel needs. Position requirements include strong sales and communication skills; the ability to work any shift: days, evenings, weekends, holidays; computer/keyboard proficiency, 18 years of age, high school diploma or GED; and at least one of the following: 2 years of college, 2 years of vocational/technical school, 2 years of sales experience, 2 years of customer service experience or completed travel school.

- ▼ Base salary range \$10.64 per hour (starting) to \$20.14 per hour
- ▼ Potential opportunity for shift premiums and overtime pay
- ▼ Both full-time and part-time are 5 days per week with 2 consecutive days off
- ▼ Paid training
- ▼ Excellent company paid medical/dental/life insurance benefits program
- ▼ Outstanding travel privileges for employees and eligible family members
- ▼ Paid vacation
- ▼ Opportunity for career advancement

Drug screen and background check are a condition of employment.

For additional information and registration to attend an upcoming information/testing session, please call

(800) 692-4146.

For more information about the many other opportunities at Northwest Airlines, call (612) 726-3600.

Northwest recognizes and values diversity. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Receptionist

CLINIC RECEPTIONIST

Fairview Highland Park Clinic is looking for a receptionist to work Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. The position is responsible for answering phones, greeting patients, scheduling appointments and pulling medical records. If you are interested please send/fax your resume to:

FAIRVIEW

Corporate Human Resources
2450 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454
Fax: **612/672-6337**
e-mail:
clinices@fairview.org
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Looking for uncommonly qualified employees?

The smart employer looks for a highly educated pool of labor.

If you had a hunch that the best place to look for good employees was in your own back yard, here's proof you were right. The 65,593 adults who receive the *Highland Villager* on their doorsteps represent a highly educated labor pool you'd be smart to tap to fill your next job opening.

Educational attainment of Villager readers*		
Less than 9th grade	1,762	2.7%
9th - 12th grade (no diploma)	3,373	5.1%
High school graduate	12,198	18.6%
Some college, no degree	16,605	25.3%
Associate degree	3,987	6.1%
Bachelor's degree	17,493	26.7%
Graduate or professional degree	10,175	15.5%
Total	65,593	100%

*Individuals who receive the *Villager* age 18 and over. Source: 1990 U.S. Census

Associate Trainee

Do you have strong interpersonal skills, entrepreneurial spirit, and seek a career with challenge and income based on your effort? Tremendous growth potential. We will train the right person. Now hiring. For a confidential interview, call Kathie Phillips at **690-8595** **Coldwell Banker Burnet**

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U.S. Census Bureau
In St. Paul:
(651) 290-4294
In Minneapolis:
(612) 334-4360

BANKING BANK ACCOUNTING/PROOF

St. Anthony Park Bank, a growing and progressive community bank, is seeking an individual in the accounting area of our bank. Qualifications should include:

- Excellent accounting and 10-key skills
- Detail oriented and able to meet deadlines
- Excellent customer service skills

Benefits include competitive salary and comprehensive benefit package including medical, dental, life benefits, 401(k) plan and profit sharing. Send resume to Personnel, St. Anthony Park Bank, 2265 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55101. PH: **651-523-7800**. FAX: **651-523-7885**.

EOE/AA

Program Coordinator

Dispute Resolution Center is seeking a Program Coordinator for the Community Restorative Justice Program serving the Summit-University and Hamline-Midway communities of St. Paul. Position is 20-30 hour per week at \$12.00 per hour with a possibility of full time. Duties include promotion and outreach, working with referral sources and volunteers, and case management.

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Responsible, experienced, quality sewers needed to make decorative home accessories. Earn money sewing at home. Items are challenging and are one-of-a-kind. No mass assembly. Call Liz **651-224-0139**

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651 698-5403

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EOE/AA

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612 728-1818

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Are you ready to make a career change? You don't need to put in your notice just yet because Jeane Thorne Inc. can help you find the right opportunity while you continue in your current position. If you have 1-2 years of office or related experience, we will either provide computer training or put you to work using Access, Excel, Word or PowerPoint. Currently we have opportunities in the following areas:

- Accounting
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Interested individuals need to FAX a resume and cover letter to **(612) 726-5858** or send them to Signature Flight Support, Attn: Human Resources, 7100 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450.

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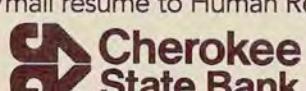
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- Competitive pay/Good benefits!
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Quickly contact Human Resources at **(651) 290-6111**, send/mail resume to Human Resources at:



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ST. PAUL HANDYMAN, general home repair, free estimates, senior discounts, call Mark, 612-722-4031. **v**

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BLADE'S CLEANING Service is 100% guaranteed. For excellent cleaning, Letia, 612-522-1285. **gv**

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IF YOUR BUSINESS demands a person with reliability, thoroughness and integrity, call 651-227-4320, Linda. 15 years' experience. Excellent references. **gv**

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PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/Secretary. Local funeral home seeking individual to greet families and perform secretarial duties. Computer experience preferred. Please send resume to: Villager, Box 301, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116. v

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WOMAN NEEDS HELP with meal preparation; appointments, etc. PT. 651-690-9954. v

SITTER SERVICE needs adults, days, evenings & vacations; \$350/week and up. Car necessary. 651-429-2963. v

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NEED A JOB CHANGE? We need FT/PT Temporary Direct Care Professionals. Work M-F with people with DD. Many locations. Experience required. \$9/hour. 651-917-9710. **v**

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PART-TIME SECRETARY/Assistant for solo estate planning attorney. Legal knowledge not necessary. Need computer knowledge, typing, attention to detail and desire to learn. Avail. April 1. Nice office setting in the Midway area. Free parking. Near busline. Call 612-978-3538 and leave name, phone and best time to call. **v**

LEGAL. Secretary/Typist; 2-3 days/week. Hours flexible. Hourly rate. DOQ. Send resume to Villager, Box 100, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116. **v**

GOOD PAY and benefits (full time). Hiawatha Reddy Rents is seeking two people (1 FT, 1 PT) to fill openings in the yard person position. Job includes service, cleaning and loading of equipment. The ideal candidate is a strong person with mechanical aptitude and at least 18 years old with valid driver's license. 612-722-9516; 4411 Hiawatha Ave. **v**

ASSISTANT TEACHER to work with small group of infants in our cozy, home-like center. Don't have a degree? Aide positions also available. Join our team (of caring professionals) and make a difference in a child's life. Call A Child's View, 651-690-0590. **v**

SUBSTITUTE BABYSITTER. Help out at a fun tennis club when our sitters are sick. Great benefits. Call Marge or John at 651-457-4954. **v**

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

Business Opportunity

A FREE SPECIAL report reveals how to create an extra stream of hassle-free income fast. 24-hour message. 888-571-3454. **v**

Child Care Wanted

SEEKING NANNY. Responsible, caring, flexible individual with car to watch three active school-age children part time until the end of May, 3-6 p.m. Full time June-August, 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Great for student. Call after 6, 651-690-9482. References required. **v**

MENDOTA HEIGHTS family needs PT (10-15 hours/week), temporary nanny for ages 1, 3, & 6. Child care needed immediately through early May. Day/hours flexible, \$10/hour. Previous experience, references, transportation required; 651-905-9334. **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. **v**

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

SEEKS TO DO day care in my home for one family; Diane, 651-645-5219. **v**

PART-TIME DAY CARE, Mon., Wed., Fri. Small group. 651-698-1889. **v**

EXPERIENCED DAY CARE has immediate openings for part-time or drop-in care in my Crocus Hill home. Kathy, 651-227-9478. **v**

Home Health Care Wtd.

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER/caregiver for older person. Highland area, days free; references; 651-699-4273; 651-698-1482. **v**

For Rent Residential

SPACIOUS ONE-BEDROOM apartment, hardwood floors, off-street parking, near Macalester, on-site laundry, no pets; \$500/month; 651-699-8594. **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**

COZY, ONE-BEDROOM duplex, lower, near St. Catherine's, \$400; avail. Apr. 1; 651-699-5624. **v**

DOUBLE BUNGALOW, two bedrooms, fenced yard, garage, near 35E and West Seventh, \$575 +; June 1; 651-292-8468. **v**

DUPLEX, one bedroom, clean, heated, parking area; near Victoria and West Seventh; perfect for one mature person, \$400/month; 292-8468. **v**

MALE SLEEPING ROOM. Must work or go to school days. Fridge, microwave, burner, W & D, TV; references; April 1; \$180/month; 651-699-1565. **v**

CLASSIC ONE-BEDROOM apartment. Randolph/Hamline. Natural wood-work, beautiful hardwood floors, mini-blinds, quiet, laundry, storage available; April; \$550; heat paid; 612-619-4718. **v**

37XX EAST 50TH ST. Immaculate! Beautifully remodeled 2-bedroom home. Sunny & spacious, new hardwood floors, high ceilings, built-ins, large closets, garage, washer/dryer, storage, quiet, bus, small pets OK; \$1,200 + util.; avail. immediately; 612-869-8035. **v**

For Rent Commercial

MASSAGE ROOMS for rent. Great space. Ample parking. Call 651-222-2525. **gv**

A RARE OPPORTUNITY. Updated store front now available after 70-year tenant. 900 sq. ft. plus basement space on Snelling near Randolph. Heavy electrical service. This won't last. 651-698-0728 or 651-454-6113. **v**

NICE, QUIET cozy office in beautiful historic building, Grand/35E; \$395 includes util.; 651-222-4567. **v**

Roommates Wanted

526 GRACE. Share house with 3 young men; off-street parking, fireplace, no pets; \$250 includes util.; near downtown; 651-224-2259 after 3 p.m. **v**

MATURE FEMALE, nonsmoker, share nice 2-bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, duplex, Crocus Hill; \$345 + utilities; 651-292-1512. **v**

ST. CLAIR/7TH: \$300/month + utilities; share lower duplex; 651-227-3586. **v**

SAFE, CARING individual to create mutually supportive environment with abuse/crime victim; 612-676-1719. **v**

Wanted to Rent

WOMAN WITH 2 cats needs a home; call 612-708-4757. **v**

RESPECTFUL MALE grad student from Louisiana seeks room or affordable apartment in home atmosphere; negotiable price; 651-224-6093. **v**

CARING ENVIRONMENT (somewhat like foster care) for abuse/crime victim; 612-676-1719. **v**

Garage/Storage

SELF STORAGE, 10' x 25' units, \$125/month, University/Prior, secured, lighted; 612-943-9053. **v**

Lost & Found

LOST KEYS on black remote key chain in Victoria Crossing area on Feb. 21. Reward. Call 651-454-0701. **v**

Free! Free! Free!

WANTED: HOME for Grandma's cat! "Sophie," gentle, loving beautiful black, white accents (approx. 10-15 years); declawed; 651-224-2148. **v**

Restaurants

BREAKFAST STARTS March 1st. Trotter's Cafe and Bakery, 232 N. Cleveland (near Marshall); 651-645-8950. **v**

Next Issue: March 24

Deadline: January 27

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651 696-0879 \$104,900 Scott Brownlee



Nokomis 1-1/2 Story

3-BR, 2-bath home near Morris Park. Exceptional expansion with separate den or office! 4-season porch off kitchen, 1-car and 2-car garages. Double lot!

651 696-0856 \$169,900 Beth Johnson



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built in 1984 — great cul-de-sac near school, park and shopping. Vaulted ceiling, fireplace, deck, 2-car garage. www.stpaul-girl.com

651 696-0846 \$124,000 Lynn O'Hara Ritter



New Edgcumbe Rambler

Spacious home with great location and fabulous updates, sunken living room with marble fireplace, new kitchen with granite counters, all-season porch, family room with FP.

651 696-0849 \$254,900 John Schneeman



Newell Park Duplex Reduced

Great property near Hamline College. 1-BR lower unit, upper unit has 2 levels and 2 BRs. Easily converted back to 3-BR home with 3rd floor rental. Present income \$1,300 mo.

651 696-0849 \$119,900 John Schneeman



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Exceptional all brick rambler with 6,500 square feet tastefully decorated and completely updated, 3-car garage, acre+ lot, new kitchen, baths, all the amenities you expect!

651 696-0855 \$598,000 Bob Reidell



Just Listed!

1992 Berkeley. Impeccable 2-BR bungalow with all the extras! Hardwood floors, fireplace, 2 porches, new bath and kitchen, finished basement plus charm and character!

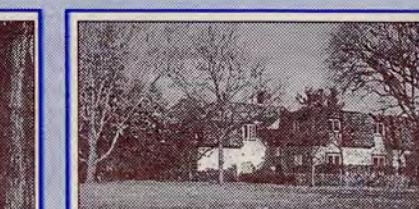
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1805 Eleanor. Handsome 3-BR English Tudor beautifully maintained and decorated. All upgraded mechanics, modern kitchen, oversized lot with fenced back yard. Hurry!

651 696-0855 \$124,900 Bob Reidell



River Road Location

Incredible views, beautiful wooded lot and prime location! 5 BRs, 4 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, lots of room to move around! Quality construction! Hurry!

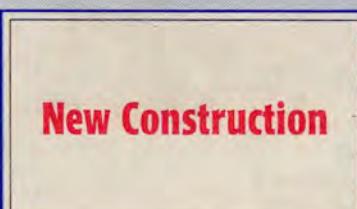
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Fabulous Kitchen

This 4-BR, 4-bath, 4-level Eagan beauty features a huge kitchen with center island, custom range top & tons of cupboards. Family room w/fireplace, walkout to 22x20 deck.

651 686-8895 \$196,500 Randy Brown



New Construction



One-Level Townhomes!

Buy with or without a basement and walk-out basements available also. Open floor plans, vaulted ceiling, 4-season porches and large kitchens with center islands!

651 696-0876 \$129,900 - \$175,000 Cathy Smithknecht



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Fabulous 3-BR in Merriam Park! Gorgeous woodwork, French doors, formal dining room, sunroom & more! A real beauty!

651 251-4888 \$149,900 John Otteson



*** Remodeled W 4-BR ***

Spacious 2-1/2 story home w/new kitchen, baths, carpet and paint! 100-amp electric, newer water heater, gorgeous sun porch and many special details!! Move right in!

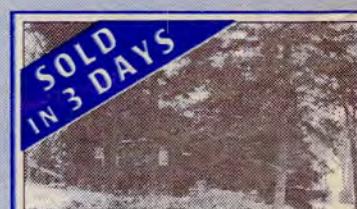
651 251-4888 \$149,900 John Otteson



Quiet, Country Setting

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651 696-0859 \$179,900 Mark Wiebusch



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Lakeshore home — 65' of Long Lake located in New Brighton. Why stress out when you can go to the lake every day. Wonderful views, relaxing.

651 696-0859 Mark Wiebusch



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Must see this 2-BR, 1-bath bungalow. New kitchen, natural woodwork, built-in buffet, hardwood floors. Don't miss 1211 Sherburne.

651 696-0866 \$79,900 Marc Swanson



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651 696-0895 \$99,900 Orrin Jenstad



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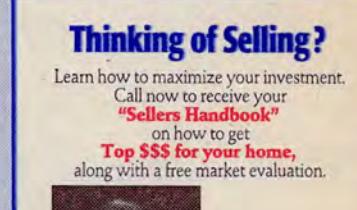
651 696-0888 Mitch Fink



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Lakefront — Roseville
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