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VILLAGER

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Highland feasts on summer. Sun-loving folks turned out in droves two weekends ago for the annual Highland Fest. A near-record crowd heard rocker Martin Zellar (top) and his band belt out their tunes on Saturday night. Kelsey Aurn, 4, donned a mask for the children's parade (right), and an unabashed Riley Quinlan, 2, took a mulligan on the miniature golf course. *Photos by Mike Long.*



Battle lines are drawn over Compete St. Paul

City employee resistance stiffens as mayor presses privatization initiative

by Jane McClure

The St. Paul City Council will hear testimony this week on a proposal that could result in a year-long delay of efforts to contract some city services with private firms.

The privatization initiative was a focal point of Mayor Norm Coleman's 2000 city budget address on August 16. In his speech, the mayor urged the City Council and city employees to embrace the plan.

"I challenge the City Council to join me in demonstrating a real commitment in the coming year to save taxpayer dollars by using competition to lower costs while maintaining quality," Coleman said. By not looking at ways to downsize government, he said, the city would continue to condone an atmosphere "where competition is feared instead of embraced" and "where saving money for taxpayers is disregarded by the fear of cutting down the number of public employee jobs."

The mayor's comments seemed to do little to sway most City Council and union members attending the address. Union representatives plan to hold a rally outside City Hall prior to the August 25 council meeting. During a public hearing that evening, the council will discuss an ordinance intro-

duced by Ward 4 council member Jay Benanav that would give city employees affected by privatization one year to come up with cost-saving measures of their own before the services were contracted out.

If adopted, the ordinance would effectively put Compete St. Paul on hold for the 12-month period. Benanav said he has the votes to get the ordinance adopted on September 1. That is the same day the city administration is supposed to present an update on Compete St. Paul to the City Council.

Advocates of privatization say contracting some city services would reduce costs and improve performance. Opponents say it may actually result in poorer service and increased costs.

The latter claim is disputed by city budget analyst Bruce Engelbrekt. "If there's no cost savings in contracting out a service, we won't proceed any further," he said.

Ward 3 council member Mike Harris, who co-chaired the mayor's Compete St. Paul Task Force last winter, asked some of the most pointed questions during an August 4 update on the plan. Harris said he still believes in privatizing some city services, but has a problem with how the process has been handled.

Compete/see page 5

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St. Paul finally signs off on new I-35E bridge

by Jane McClure

The long-running debate over reconstruction of the I-35E bridge spanning the Mississippi River ended on August 18 with the St. Paul City Council's approval of the plans.

"It took two years, but we got it approved," said Ward 3 council member Mike Harris after the 6-0 vote.

Bids will be sought in late 2001 after design work is completed, according to Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) project manager Steve Ryan. Construction could be completed

in 2003. Project costs are estimated at \$28 million.

The 34-year-old bridge must be replaced because of its deteriorated condition, including cracks in the structural steel that have had to be repaired in the past. "The bridge has reached the end of its useful life," Ryan said.

Just how the bridge should be rebuilt has been the subject of debate on both sides of the river. Dakota and Ramsey counties and the cities of Lilydale, Mendota Heights and Mendota supported proposals for a wider bridge because of worsening traffic congestion during

rush hours. The bridge currently carries 72,000 vehicles a day. That number is expected to increase to 115,000 in 2015 and to 131,000 in 2024.

St. Paul residents, the Highland District Council, the West 7th/Fort Road Federation and Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County wanted a narrower bridge to reduce its impact on the I-35E Parkway, nearby city streets, the river and Crosby Farm Regional Park.

The plan that finally won support

35E bridge/see page 4

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NEWS BRIEFLY

With \$990 chairs, City Hall takes a back seat to no one

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, St. Paul City Council and other groups that use the third-floor meeting room in the City Hall and County Courthouse are sitting pretty these days thanks to the county's purchase of \$990 chairs to accommodate elected officials and staff members who preside at meetings.

However, the high-backed, purple leather chairs have drawn criticism in some city and county offices and have caused problems for the city's Zoning Committee. At its August 19 meeting, committee members had to crane their necks in order to see members of the audience who raised their hands to speak.

"I apologize for not calling on you, but we can't see around these chairs," committee chair Litton Field told one person.

Julio Mangine, who oversees property management for the county, admitted that the chairs could be an easy target for critics of government spending. They were part of \$173,000 in improvements for the meeting room paid for by the county. Other enhancements have been made to the room's cable television cameras.

"We still were using the original barrel-style chairs from when City Hall was built in the late 1920s," Mangine said. Although the old chairs were refurbished over the years, members of previous City Councils used to deliberately switch chairs so latecomers would get the least comfortable seat. Some chairs also were so high that the feet of shorter elected officials would dangle. Others were too low or would wobble. The new chairs can be adjusted for height.

"The old chairs didn't have the ergonomic design features that chairs have today," said Mangine, who added that the county was having difficulty repairing the old chairs because parts were no longer available. "As the chairs would break down, we couldn't use them anymore," he said.

Mangine believes the chairs were an appropriate expense. "This is the seat of government for St. Paul and Ramsey County," he said. "If you go to other courthouses and city halls or up to the Capitol, they also have good chairs."

The county also is looking at other improvements for the meeting room. One will be welcome relief for anyone who has ever sat through a long meeting on the chamber's hard, wooden benches. Pads will be placed on the benches soon.

Request to put antennas on Grand runs into interference

The St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee has laid over a request by American Portable Telecom (Aerial) to install up to four 10-foot cellular telephone antennas on the roof of an apartment building at 1967 Grand Ave.

Commissioner Steve Gordon said the cellular phone company needs to research other areas for the antennas instead of a building that is less than 60 feet tall. "The applicant has to show us that no other locations have worked," Gordon said. "I don't think that has been done in this case."

City staff and a representative from American Portable Telecom said requests to place antennas on the roofs of Groveland Park Elementary School, the University of St. Thomas and St. Mark's Catholic Church were rejected by the property owners.

The company is proposing to place antennas at the rear of the building on Grand Avenue. Some Summit Avenue neighbors are opposed to the proposal because it would place the antennas close to their homes. Chris

Traiser of American Portable Telecom responded by saying the antennas would only be 2-inches thick and could be painted to blend in with the sky.

The Zoning Committee recently recommended approval of US West Wireless's request to mount three antennas on the sides of the chimney of an apartment building at 1954 Grand Ave. The full Planning Commission approved that request on August 13.

"We always seem to do the easiest thing in these cases and that is to put the antennas on Grand Avenue," Gordon said.

Committee urges rezoning of Selby home for office use

The St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee has unanimously recommended approval of a rezoning request by Alison Maule-Kronmiller to convert a single-family house at 1678 Selby Ave. into a psychologist's office.

The request for the B-2C business zoning also has the support of the Merriam Park Community Council. It will go to the full Planning Commission on August 27 and then to the City Council.

Maule-Kronmiller plans to move her Grand Avenue practice to the house, which also would be home to three other psychologists. She and her family have lived in Merriam Park for more than 20 years.

B-2C zoning was created years ago by the city as a way to allow office or retail businesses to locate in houses. It has been used extensively on Grand Avenue to preserve the appearance of converted homes.

City Council sets hearing on Shepard-Davern plan

The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on the small area plan for Highland Park's Shepard-Davern neighborhood at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 8. If eventually adopted, the plan will be used to guide future redevelopment in the area.

The plan, which was approved by the city's Planning Commission last month, envisions a revitalized business district and the addition of more than 1,000 housing units in the area bounded by West 7th and Rankin streets and Shepard Road. It recommends the redesign of Shepard and Edgumbe roads as parkways and the redevelopment of West 7th as a more inviting gateway into the city.

One key part of the plan calls for the redevelopment of a triangular area bounded by West 7th and Davern streets and Norfolk Avenue. Minneapolis-based Christenson Building Corporation and former Thorpe Brothers Realty owner Sam Thorpe want to remove more than 40 homes and two businesses in the area and replace them with a \$50 million commercial development. Tentative plans call for a hotel, 10-screen movie theater, office and retail buildings, restaurants, parking ramps and 30-unit apartment building. The existing homes are already being purchased and the City Council has agreed to designate the area as a tax increment financing district to assist with redevelopment.

Though the small area plan is now in the hands of the City Council, redevelopment in the area continues to be guided on the neighborhood level. The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., to discuss an overlay zoning district in the Shepard-Davern area as well as the establishment of building design standards and a special sign district.

News briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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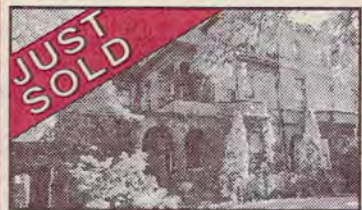
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35E bridge /from page 1

from all parties involved calls for MnDOT to build a 134-foot-wide river span, which would be almost twice as wide as the current 67-foot bridge. The new bridge deck would have two 12-foot-wide traffic lanes in each direction as well as auxiliary lanes to allow traffic to safely merge. It also would have 10-foot-wide shoulders and a 12-foot-wide pedestrian and bicycle lane.

In exchange for the widened bridge, St. Paul is asking MnDOT to construct a \$2 million tunnel at the north end of the bridge to allow safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians who use the Shepard Road trail. The bridge also would hook up with Dakota County's trails to the south.

"I'm glad to see that MnDOT has agreed with the need for bicycle and pedestrian access to the bridge," said Friends director Peggy Lynch. "It's really dangerous right now."

Other conditions worked out between St. Paul and MnDOT include:

- A community review process for any future bridge expansion. The agreement states that MnDOT will not convert the bridge's auxiliary lanes to full-service traffic lanes prior to 2011 without the approval of St. Paul officials. If MnDOT intends to convert the lanes after that date, a public hearing would have to be held in collaboration with the city.
- MnDOT's commitment to a 1984 federal court order that restricts the width, design and speed limit on the I-35E Parkway from West 7th Street to downtown St. Paul. The court order bans

trucks on the parkway, imposes a 45 mph speed limit and allows no more than two through lanes of traffic in each direction.

Neighbors have suggested a bridge with decorative lighting and railings, landscaping and attractive entry signs to the city.

- The use of Crosby Farm Park as a storage area for construction equipment during bridge work. MnDOT must restore the area to its original condition after the project is complete. MnDOT also will compensate the city for use of the land and will build a vehicle turnaround on the park's access road to improve safety.

- The use of St. Paul's development plans as a guide for bridge design. "We don't want this to look like a typical freeway bridge," said Dan Smith, legislative aide to Mike Harris. Neighborhood groups have suggested a bridge with decorative lighting and railings, landscaping and attractive entry signs to the city. No specific design features for the bridge have been set.

Harris said he was pleased that the city and state could come to terms on plans for the bridge. "There was a lot of give and take on this," he said. "By our spending significant time on this, I think we have a good agreement."

Commission OKs Ford's bid to relocate tanks

The St. Paul Planning Commission on August 13 approved the Ford Motor Company's request for river corridor modifications in order to install propane tanks on property it owns on the Mississippi River bluff. Company officials said they hope to start work on the \$2 million project right away so that it can be completed by winter.

Ford plans to place eight 30,000-gallon tanks adjacent to a truck-trailer storage area located between Mississippi River Boulevard and the river. The tanks will replace the 11 smaller tanks that are located east of the plant's main assembly building.

The tank system will provide enough propane to keep the Ford plant running for one day if its normal supply of natural gas from Northern States Power is ever disrupted. The location was chosen because it is adjacent to the plant's primary NSP delivery system for natural gas.

Because the site is in the Mississippi River Corridor, it must meet several conditions, including one that restricts construction on slopes. The Planning Commission approved a modification that will allow Ford to build on a slope of more than 12 degrees so the tanks can be installed on an old road bed. Construction on slopes is regulated because of concerns about runoff and the impact of construction on the river bluff.

The tanks will be covered with earth and the site will be extensively landscaped so it cannot be seen from the river. The Planning Commission has asked Ford to develop a plan for addressing erosion by providing more landscaping than was originally planned.

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Neighbors balk at Burow farm subdivision

Proposal for new assisted-living complex for seniors draws protests

by Bill Wagner

Neighbors of the historic Burow farm in Mendota Heights are letting the partners in a local development corporation know exactly how they feel about a plan to build a senior citizen housing complex on that property. And they don't feel good about it.

The Burow farm is situated on 9 acres of prime property at 1875 Victoria Road. It is Mendota Heights' last 19th-century farmstead.

Last month, the Mendota Heights Planning Commission delayed action on an application by Brian Smith to subdivide the farm in order to build a single-family home on 1.2 acres of the property. Commission members said Smith first needed to present a long-term plan for the rest of the property, produce a signed statement as to who has the right to develop the land and provide a wetland delineation.

The matter is scheduled to be

discussed again at the commission's August 24 meeting.

The farm is owned by Smith, Tom Burow and Mike Cashill, partners in Burow Management LLC. In June, the partners presented a conceptual plan to the city for a 77-unit, four-story senior citizen housing complex on the site. Following an outcry from neighbors, the proposal was withdrawn.

The project would require a zoning change from its present R-1 (single-family residential) to R-3 (high-density residential).

"When we all bought our lots, we knew this was an R-1 area," said Judy Milbery, who has lived on Oxford Court across from the farm for 16 years. "We're totally opposed to this. It's not appropriate."

Robert Momsen, who lives in the nearby Victoria Townhomes, said he was worried about preservation of the pond on the Burow property. "My No. 1 priority is that the wetland be preserved," he said.

Neighbors turned out en masse to voice their objections to the prop-

posal during the Planning Commission's discussion on the subdivision. Among other things, they cited concerns about increased traffic. Many said they preferred to see the farmstead preserved as open space or developed as single-family homes.

All of the members of Burow Management—including attorney Ron Smith, the legal representative for Burow, 87, who has lived on the farm all his life—were unavailable to comment on the matter.

Several years ago, Burow offered to transfer ownership of the farm to the city so that it would remain intact for the rest of his life. The land was to have been managed by a board composed of city staff, Dakota County Historical Society members and a nonprofit group known as Friends of Burow Farm.

The Friends group worked with Smith, who wanted to fashion an arrangement whereby the city would pay Burow \$50,000 up front and another \$1,000 per month up to \$200,000. The value of the prop-



Horses graze on the 125-year-old Burow farm. Photo by Mike Long.

erty has been estimated today at \$600,000 to \$700,000.

The City Council did not accept the proposal at that time, citing financial and legal concerns. Mary Roszak of Stratford Road said she believes the time is right to try a similar approach today, only this time with the neighbors providing the capital.

"We'd like to purchase it and set up a group (to manage it)," she said. "It's historically valuable for the city to hold onto the property."

The Burow farm, originally a 40-

acre parcel, once produced grain and a variety of vegetables. It also supported a herd of cattle and a stable of horses. In the late 1970s, 31 acres were sold off for what is now the Rolling Green housing development.

The remaining spread consists of a house, a barn, a pond and a pasture. Burow and his father were both born on the farm, which was purchased by his grandfather, Ferdinand, a German immigrant, in the 1870s. The house on the property was built around 1877.

Compete St. Paul discussion breaks down and resistance grows

/from page 1

"I think the administration has its work cut out for itself," said Harris, aiming his comments at Engelbrekt. "I think we need to create a fair environment and I don't think you've done that yet."

The City Council has asked the administration to work more closely with the unions and other employee groups on Compete St. Paul. St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly president Shar Knutson said the two sides are not communicating at this point. "You've asked us to report on progress," she said. "I guess, in a word, there is none."

Knutson said union members are disappointed that at a mid-July meeting with the administration there was no discussion between the two parties. Instead, deputy mayor Susan Kimberly read a statement announcing that the drive to privatize services would move ahead.

Harris has also questioned the labor unions' response to Compete St. Paul. The unions formed their own group, the St. Paul Works! Alliance, and drafted their own "prin-

ciples of participation" last spring. Those principles include provisions that no city employees be laid off as a result of privatization, that any contracts with private businesses provide a cost savings of at least 10 percent and that private workers be paid at the same rate as city employees.

Harris said those principles are too inflexible to allow any kind of privatization plan to succeed. He also suggested that there is a need to take a closer look at administrative costs of city services.

Compete St. Paul has been controversial from the outset, but the acrimony has heightened in the past several weeks in confrontations between the administration and employee groups and between the administration and the City Council. Key flash points include how much say the unions and City Council members will have in the privatization process, how city services will be contracted out and how city employees will be involved.

The administration has already rejected

the council's request for two seats on a city labor-management committee. "I'm concerned that the mayor asks for support of Compete St. Paul from the council, yet he refuses to allow two council members to sit on a management committee for the program," said Ward 2 council member Chris Coleman after the mayor's budget address. "His approach seems to be, 'If you agree with me, I'll work with you.'"

Council members, in turn, voted 6-0 on July 28 to adopt an ordinance that allows the council to veto any contract entered into by the administration. The ordinance includes a conflict of interest provision that requires private companies bidding on city contracts to declare any campaign donations made to the mayor or City Council. Harris said he would like to expand the ordinance to also require companies to disclose campaign donations made to unions and employee groups involved in collective bargaining.

City services that have been identified for possible privatization include street sweep-

ing, grass cutting, tree trimming, building maintenance, printing, sign-making, emergency medical services, animal control and parking enforcement.

When grass mowing and tree trimming were identified as the first services to be privatized last spring, it prompted protests from affected Public Works and Parks and Recreation employees. They claimed to have had little if any say in the contracting discussions.

Last month, all but two city departments were asked by the administration to indicate which public services they offer that could be contracted out. The only exempted departments were police and fire.

Engelbrekt insisted the administration has been communicating with city employees about Compete St. Paul. According to him, a training program is now being created to help employees who wish to prepare proposals when their city jobs go out for bid.

"We're just beginning to look at the first couple of services," he said. "We have to see how this plays out."

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Publisher Michael Mischke
Editors John Wadell
Dale Mischke
Copy Editor Pat Iverson
Production Artists Shirley Heyer
Craig Schuster
Advertising Manager Dennis W. Stern
Advertising Sales Tim Carroll
Bob Stjern
Classified Ad Manager Suzanne Glidden
Classified Ad Sales Mary Helen Pates
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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

Where's the conflict in the ring?

Let's see now. Governor Jesse Ventura is a former professional wrestler and talk radio host. His predecessor, Arne Carlson, was for a brief time a Control Data employee who went on to become a career politician and now makes his living in academia. Carlson's predecessor, Rudy Perpich, was a dentist before he entered politics. He was hired as vice president of World Tech, a subsidiary of Control Data, after his first of two stints as the state's CEO. Perpich's predecessor and successor, Al Quie, was a farmer before entering politics and went back to farming after losing the governor's seat. Wendell Anderson was an attorney before and after he served as governor. So was his predecessor, Harold LeVander, who was also involved in the savings and loan business.

So which of our past six governors ran the greater risk that private business dealings would entangle his administration in conflicts of interest?

You can argue about the seemliness of Ventura's return to the wrestling ring last Sunday. You can debate the propriety of a celebrity-governor cashing in on that status on his day off. But you can't tell me that Ventura's decision to moonlight as a referee in a wrestling match presents greater potential conflicts than any of his predecessors faced during their terms of office. If memory serves, they were never criticized for having a life outside of politics.

The armchair ethicists who see conflicts of interest in Ventura's 15-minute return to the ring might do well to turn their attention somewhere else. Anywhere else.

A real neighborhood feel

They promised a bigger and better Highland Fest this year and they delivered. Ranging over the acreage between St. Clair Avenue on the north and West 7th Street on the south, and between Edgumbe Road on the east and the Mississippi River on the west, Highland Fest '99 drew more people this year than in any of its 15 previous years.

To a person, the artists I talked to did brisk business throughout the weekend on the streets of Highland Village. The five sold-out performances of Circus of the Star in the gym of the Hillcrest Recreation Center demonstrated clearly the need of that amazing youth performing troupe for larger quarters. I don't think you could have crammed more than a handful of additional people into Hillcrest Park for the headlining stage performances on both Friday and Saturday nights. It truly seemed that a good time was had by all.

But the real testament to the success of this year's fest was a comment I heard with only slight variations again and again over the course of the weekend: "You know, Highland Fest has a real neighborhood feel to it."

That's not just due to the hard work of the Highland Fest committee, which set that as one of its goals. It's due to the tens of thousands of people of all ages who turned out to celebrate life in a neighborhood they're happy to call home.

The ballpark debate

I'll probably be accused of piling on by publishing the three guest editorials you see on this and the following pages. Each one takes off on a guest editorial we published in the last issue by Erich Mische, Mayor Norm Coleman's right-hand man. His editorial was critical of an earlier one I'd written about the prospects of a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins in downtown St. Paul.

Some will suggest I solicited the editorials. I did not.

Some will say I only published them because I agree with them. I did not and do not—at least in all cases.

Some will say Mr. Mische and I must share a personal animosity. I can't speak for him, but I actually kind of admire the guy. Then again, I tend to admire anyone hellbent on getting something done, no matter what the cost.

No, the reason I'm publishing them is because I believe they all have something different but equally important to say concerning the ballpark debate. If you feel otherwise about the issue, please also feel free to write your own piece.



Illegally stumping for a ballpark

by David Schultz

I read with interest Erich Mische's op-ed piece, "All shook up over a quote he never uttered," in the August 11 *Villager*. In an essay in which he protests that he had been misquoted by the *Villager*, he again misstates Common Cause Minnesota's legal complaint against Mayor Norm Coleman, the mayor's office and the city of St. Paul.

Mische is flatly wrong in his assertion that Common Cause is trying to prevent St. Paul residents from voting on the stadium sales tax. We welcome a fair and honest vote where the public decides this issue. Our complaint is that it is impossible for the citizens of St. Paul to have a fair vote when the mayor's office is illegally spending tax dollars to tell the people how to vote.

Common Cause's complaint does not argue that the mayor cannot advocate for a new stadium. That is his constitutional right. Like the rest of us, Coleman is free—on his own time and at his own expense—to tell people how he would like them to vote.

However, neither Coleman nor any other individual has the right to use taxpayer money to tell the people how they should vote this November.

The heart of our complaint is a St. Paul law that states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to use city property for a political purpose." The law states that an illegal political purpose includes advocating for the success or defeat of any candidate or ballot initiative.

Everyone recognizes that it would be wrong for a mayor to use public money to support the campaign of a particular candidate that he or she likes. That is because we have a First Amendment right not to be forced by the government to pay for a political message that we may or may not support. Similarly, city law makes it illegal for a mayor to use our tax dollars to tell us how to vote on a ballot initiative. Today, it is a stadium tax. What if tomorrow a mayor uses your money to tell you how to vote on taxes, abortion, gay rights or anti-discrimination laws? This would also be wrong.

For almost 30 years, Common Cause Minnesota has advocated for campaign finance reform and ethics in

government. We helped pass many of the political reform laws in the state. Consistently, we have argued that the people, and not big money, should determine elections. Our present complaint against the city and the mayor is consistent with our past. No side should be allowed to use large sums of money—especially public money—to buy an election. Using public money illegally to influence an election is not leadership; it is bribery.

Our complaint also has to do with a basic unfairness in the St. Paul election process. The commission that enforces city election laws, while it exists on paper, is currently unfunded and does not have any members. Because that commission does not exist, the responsibility for enforcing the laws falls to the mayor's office. Whatever the merits of our complaint, the very office accused of violating the law in this case has the responsibility of enforcing it. This is a conflict of interest and a recipe for an unfair political process. The law must be changed.

Some people, such as the City Attorney, argue incorrectly that the law making it illegal to use city property for political purposes is vague and unconstitutional. Ethics commissions in the states of Washington and Massachusetts have successfully enforced similar laws, and the highest courts in New York, Connecticut and California have upheld even more restrictive laws. As

stated by the California Supreme Court, "A fundamental precept of this nation's democratic electoral process is that government may not 'take sides' in election contests or bestow an advantage on one of several competing factions. A principal danger feared by our country's founders lay in the possibility that the holders of governmental authority would use official power improperly to perpetuate themselves, or their allies, in office."

Common Cause Minnesota has never held the position that Mr. Mische incorrectly ascribes to us, and he knows that. If he persists in intentionally lying about our position, we shall take appropriate action.

Editor's note: David Schultz is a Summit Hill resident and president of Common Cause Minnesota.

No side should be allowed to use large sums of money—especially public money—to buy an election. Using public money illegally to influence an election is not leadership; it is bribery.

Five facts about the ballpark that the mayor won't talk about

by Tom Goldstein

Erich Mische is an amazing guy. As Mayor Norm Coleman's director of strategic initiatives, he has orchestrated the dog-and-pony show for building a new ballpark in St. Paul. The show has included, among other things, sham "public forums," disingenuous community meetings, and ballot initiatives bought and paid for by the mayor's monied friends. And yet Mische is upset because he may have been misquoted in a column that appeared in this newspaper two weeks earlier. What's the matter, Erich? Can't stand it when someone distorts the facts? Well, imagine how I feel.

Almost three months ago I sat in on a meeting with you, Coleman and several other community members. We had a long talk about urban ballparks and their ability to serve as a catalyst for economic growth. We discussed how Camden Yards, Coors Field and other new "retro" ballparks were overly expensive and didn't provide meaningful new jobs. We

explored how an alternative proposal would be far less expensive and how the Twins could afford to build a true urban ballpark themselves, with the city perhaps absorbing the infrastructure costs if an appropriate site could be found. The mayor said that he welcomed citizen participation in the ballpark debate and that he wanted to have more meetings as he formulated his proposal. Three days later he unveiled his "own" \$325 million ballpark design.

The mayor did keep his pledge to have a future meeting. It just wasn't the kind that allowed for any discussion. I guess Erich and the mayor think a "public forum" means just that the public is invited—not that the public gets to participate. At least Erich had enough of a sense of humor to hold the meeting at Harriet Island under a circus tent, since that's what the fiasco became.

My dictionary defines a forum as "a public meeting place or medium for open discussion," not a one-sided presentation followed by a riverboat cruise. Sorry for skipping the rest of these "forums," Erich. Let's just say I know a stacked

deck when I see one.

I'm glad to see Erich is such a champion of democracy. It's pretty impressive when the mayor can twist a ballot initiative process that is designed for the people to serve the aims of his administration. That's only possible when one can get paid canvassers to blanket the city for three straight weeks, courtesy of an \$80,000 campaign paid for by his friends at the Chamber of Commerce. And yet you, Erich, presumably with a straight face, express outrage at Common Cause Minnesota and members of the Charter Commission who are attempting to inform the public of this hypocrisy.

Here's a list of the five most important things about the proposed ballpark that the mayor won't talk about between now and November:

1. A "retro" ballpark will never be built in downtown St. Paul for anything close to \$325 million. With the existing highway ramps and maze of narrow streets, it'll be

Goldstein/see page 9

Ballpark 'debate' exposes destructive side of 'Minnesota Nice'

by Andy Driscoll

In Minnesota, we tend to see conflict as a plague on our reticent culture. As a result, we avoid it—to a fault. We become paralyzed by the syndrome, unable to resolve serious questions because of our inability to disagree with a point of view without it being taken personally. It is the destructive flip side of Minnesota Nice.

Those who have learned how to manipulate this cultural anomaly have also learned how intimidating passionate discourse can be to the Minnesota psyche. Such is the case with St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman.

Coleman's modus operandi as mayor has been characterized by stretching the limits the law places on him and his office. By plowing ahead with reckless disregard for state law, the City Charter and city ordinances, he has encountered little resistance by the City Council, the public and even many of his political opponents. Even the daily press has abandoned its duty to question the tactics of this administration.

Out of fear of political and personal retribution, those who should know better—and are in a position to do something about it—stand aside or allow themselves to be trampled by the sheer chutzpah of the man.

This disturbing state of affairs was reflected clearly in Erich Mische's tirade (*Villager*, August 11) against publisher Michael Mischke's recent dissent from the media fawning over taxpayer funding for professional sports facilities. Mische is Mayor Coleman's director of strategic initiatives, a title that eludes description. The reality is that he is the mayor's alter ego—his political pit bull, if you will. And he bites hard.

Mische is the one with whom critics of the mayor's policies must continually contend. The mayor is never available to respond to legitimate concerns over the ramifications of his initiatives—like the commitment of present and future tax dollars to fund private development. The mayor is available only to promote his ideas. When called on to respond to critics, he demurs.

Invariably, it is Mische who is sent to divert the public's attention from the content of the criticism by resorting to inflammatory rhetoric and by attempting to discredit any voice of dissent. It is contemptuous of the public and far more arrogant than the statements he attacks as such.

One would not want to suggest that Mische lies when he is on the attack. Let us just say he makes things up along the way. He employs the tricks of translating the meaning of one statement into something else entirely and lumping one critic into a camp of critics, none of whom relate to each other in any way but in their common dissent from the mayor's view.

Mr. Mische's only mention of Mische was in connection with a quote many people had heard secondhand in the last few weeks—that "the mayor may lose the policy battle over the ballpark, but he'll win the PR war." I heard it myself, but it was made, as Mr. Mische noted in his response, in reference to the mayor's efforts to privatize the city's work force.

Driscoll/see page 9

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It's not about the trees

To the editor:

I read with interest your article, "Civil disobedience does little to slow Highway 55 construction, but state is spending \$50,000 a day for security" (*Villager*, August 11). Most of the individuals quoted appear to be against the highway project. I suppose most of the supporters were unavailable because they were at work or at home with their families.

My heart goes out to those unkempt, adolescent, vagabond hippie-wannabes. During this time of low unemployment, low inflation, peace and tremendous economic prosperity, there are few really good causes. What is an angst-filled, upper-middle-class teen-ager to do? Apparently, trespass at the corner of Minnehaha Parkway and Hiawatha Avenue.

Perhaps if one of the prepubescent delinquents would take a moment out of her hazed Frisbee-fest to read your fine paper, she would realize that a negotiated settlement could bring about the planting of hundreds, if not thousands, of trees. Fifty thousand dollars a day could buy a lot of trees.

But, then, trashing the state Capitol was pretty fun. It really isn't about the trees, is it?

Robert P. Webber
Highland Park

A solution to our transit woes

To the editor:

There is a solution to the Highway 55 transit debacle. It is Personal Rapid Transit (PRT). It would be a magnificent alternative to the proliferation of cars, roadways, parking lots and pollution.

PRT is an automated transportation system based on elevated rails and private capsules seating up to three people. The capsules are programmed to go to their destinations without intervening stops. PRT would be much more energy-efficient and much less polluting than cars, buses and light-rail transit, and the technology is available right now.

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Margaret R. Beegle
Golden Valley

Editor's note: The writer is a member of Citizens for Personal Rapid Transit.

The golf war

To the editor:

After reading your July 28 article about the distraught neighbors of the Mendota Heights Par 3 Golf Course, my parents and I are embarrassed to admit that Simmonds and Trooien live in our backyard. I find it hard to believe that they didn't know what they were getting into when they built on their present site, apparently failing to notice how close their house was to the golf course and how many windows they had directed at the fifth tee.

Our neighborhood has turned into a war zone over something that could have been prevented if Simmonds and Trooien wouldn't have built in the first place. We were

VILLAGE POST

sickened to watch many old, beautiful trees cut down and the valuable habitat for our deer, raccoons, foxes and many other animals destroyed. As Aldo Leopold said, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Simmonds and Trooien are wrong. Their presence in our neighborhood is annoying to both the animals and the humans.

Diane Zwirn
Mendota Heights

The simple truth

To the editor:

Republican state lawmakers have been scurrying around Minnesota in the past few days, taking credit for the \$1.3 billion state sales tax rebate. This is more than just the usual political posturing. It's an effort to rewrite the history of the 1999 legislative session. I want to set the record straight.

The sales tax rebate was not a Republican idea. It originated with legislative Democrats and Governor Jesse Ventura. The Republican plan was for an income tax rebate, and the difference between the two is crucial. The Ventura-DFL sales tax plan provided much larger rebates to families with incomes up to \$100,000. The GOP income tax rebate excluded thousands of Minnesotans and was weighted toward high-income individuals. Equally important, the sales tax rebate is not subject to federal income taxes. An income tax rebate plan would have been taxed by the U.S. government, sending \$200 million of Minnesota taxpayers' rebates straight to Washington, D.C.

Moreover, the House Republicans sat on the sales tax rebate bill for nearly five months. The Senate passed it early in the session, but Republicans blocked action in the House. House Democrats tried time and again to force a vote on the issue, only to be rebuffed on party-line votes.

The sales tax rebate was one of the major achievements of the 1999 session and Democrats, Republicans and the Governor all played a role in passing it. But only one party—the Republicans—tried to block it. That's the simple and verifiable truth.

State Representative Tom Pugh
House Democratic Leader
South St. Paul

Vote for Gordon

To the editor:

As a public school teacher, I have watched the debate in St. Paul over a stadium tax with interest. Why would we vote to raise taxes for a billionaire's stadium when everyone knows that school budgets are suffering?

Fortunately, there is a candidate running for City Council who shares my priorities—Mitch Gordon in Ward 3. Gordon is the first and only candidate for City Council who has stood

up against the stadium tax. He understands that it isn't baseball that makes St. Paul a major league city; it's our schools, our neighborhoods, our safe streets. I urge my neighbors to consider a candidate who shares our values. Vote for Mitch Gordon on September 14.

Anne Wakely
Highland Park

Highland Fest thanks

Dear editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Highland Fest Committee, the sponsors and the volunteers who came together last week to make this the biggest and best Highland Fest ever. I would also like to thank the residents living in and around Highland Village for their patience and understanding during the three days of the festival. The additional traffic and inconvenience brought about by the closing of Ford Parkway was especially evident on Highland Parkway and Pinehurst, Hillcrest and Bohland avenues. To the residents of those streets, I extend a special thank-you. Without that kind of neighborly support, there wouldn't be a Highland Fest.

Thanks to the support of our major sponsors—Ford Motor Company and KSTP-AM 1500—we were able to expand the scope of Highland Fest '99. With continuous entertainment on two stages and several new and exciting attractions, Highland Fest drew an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 people, according to the St. Paul Police.

Thanks again for the tremendous support. We'll see you all again at Highland Fest 2000.

Mark Moeller, Chairman
Highland Fest '99

A word for our sponsors

To the editor:

Hillcrest Recreation Center's 13A traveling baseball team won the championship of the recent Highland Fest tournament for 13-year-olds. This season the team competed in eight tournaments, finishing with one championship, two second places, one third place and one fourth place. The boys from Hillcrest finished second in the Star of the North Games in June in Rochester. At the Minnesota Sports Federation's state tournament in July, they were the only team to beat Eden Prairie, the eventual state champion.

The players and their coaches and parents would like to thank the following sponsors without whom their great season would not have been possible this year: Air Freight Unlimited, Carbone's Pizza, Creative Stitch Embroidery, the HighlandBanks, the Hillcrest Recreation Center, the Johnston Group, Jerome and Peggy Kelley, Kruger Potatoes, Mancini's Char House, Mr. Patom's Saloon, R.F. Moeller Jeweler, Parkway Auto Care, Reliance Real Estate Services, Schmidty's Barbers, Skarda's, Sweeney Borer & Sweeney, and Total Tool.

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Goldstein: Ballot is just a ploy /from page 7

impossible to move 40,000 baseball fans in and out of the city 81 times a year without creating horrendous traffic jams. Road projects are not small expenditures. Figure a minimum of \$150 million in additional costs to make a stadium happen in St. Paul. Of course, these expenses will not be included in the stadium construction budget, meaning the city will be on the hook for the additional expense.

2. The Twins will never pay one-third of the cost of building a new stadium. As has happened in other cities, the Twins are allowed to sell the naming rights to the new park (typically for \$40 million to \$50 million), thus lowering their investment to less than 20 percent of the cost. And since the mayor has already changed the terms of the deal so that the team does not have to advance any up-front money, the risk of the next strike or financial crisis to befall Major League Baseball will be borne by the city, not the ball club.

3. A new stadium will not make the Twins more competitive. Even if, as Coleman suggests, the Twins can afford a \$50 million payroll with a new stadium, the increased payroll can simply be matched by all of the large-market teams as well as the small-market clubs that also boast new publicly subsidized stadiums. The Twins will continue to be outbid for the better players, and with no salary cap or revenue controls, \$50 million in a few years will be like \$25 million today—puny by pro baseball standards.

4. Public financing for a stadium is a huge

giveaway that greatly enhances the value of the team. Why else do you think Carl Pohlad continues to hang on to the Twins despite losing millions every year? A new stadium will never provide a significant number of high-paying jobs or a measurable economic return on the public's investment. Since the Twins would control all the revenue in the stadium, St. Paul would get nothing in return for its investment other than a handful of sports bars that would spring up around the stadium.

5. In the long run, "retro" parks are not good for baseball fans. Those parks are paid for by the public, but are designed simply to yield the maximum revenue for the teams. In the Twins' new ballpark design, for example, there will only be 26 rows of lower deck seats compared to the 36 rows that exist at the Metrodome. The upper deck will be 9 feet higher and 22 feet farther from home

plate than the upper deck at the Metrodome. And as is the case everywhere else, ticket prices will rise exponentially.

A ballot initiative that asks citizens to vote on an issue that public officials have exhibited no interest in debating is not an exercise in democracy; it's a ploy by a mayor with an edifice complex to push through another big development project at the public's expense.

And that, Erich, is what one could describe as an outrage.

Tom Goldstein is a resident of Macalester-Groveland and publisher of the baseball journal Elysian Fields Quarterly.

The mayor did keep his pledge to have a future meeting. It just wasn't the kind that allowed for any discussion. I guess Erich and the mayor think a "public forum" means just that the public is invited—not that the public gets to participate.

Driscoll: PR wins over policy /from page 7

In either case, Mr. Mischke was alluding to this mayor's priorities, and it fits. This administration is nothing if not engaged in a constant pursuit of public relations over policy.

Far worse is Mische's attack on critics of public funding of a stadium as opponents of initiative and referendum. This is the sort of twisted rhetoric that degrades the public debate over public policy. No one has ever suggested the public has no right to vote on this or any issue. It's a complete fabrication.

That does not mean that the upcoming vote is legal, however. On the contrary, the same disregard for the law represented by the mayor's effort

to sell off city services to private corporations is shown in the ballot question over a publicly funded

stadium. At best, the vote is premature. At worst, it is a finger in the eye of the voter because it leads you to believe that you are voting on a tax increase when you cannot. This vote will represent nothing but a poll done at taxpayer expense.

State law and the City Charter do not allow electoral ballots to carry advisory questions. Ballot issues must result in law and this November's stadium question cannot do that because the Minnesota Legislature has not granted the city authority to pass that law. St. Paul voters have no authority to raise their own sales tax without specific state enabling legislation—in advance of, not after, a public vote. The Coleman administration has ignored the legalities and pursued the public

relations angle yet again.

This is the way it must work: The Legislature may grant permission for a city or county to vote on adding a sales tax. The enabling legislation authorizes the City Council—not the mayor—to pass the necessary ordinance imposing the additional tax, as we did a few years ago to pay for the convention center. The ordinance must include a description of the uses to which the increased tax will be put. The mayor then either signs or vetoes the bill. If vetoed, the ordinance requires a 5-2 council vote to override. The council could also vote to refer the issue to the public on the ballot. If passed,

it would become law with no mayoral signing required. Finally, if the enabling legislation is in place but

the council lets it sit, an initiative petition could be submitted to the voters without City Council or mayoral involvement.

It's clear that this November's ballot question is, to put it kindly, the cart before the horse. Coleman, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and the *Pioneer Press* (aided by the *Star Tribune* and Minnesota Public Radio) have launched a blitzkrieg of publicity and promotion that has obscured both the legality of the ballot issue and the overriding importance of other critical matters—say, a shortage of 30,000 units of affordable housing, to name but one.

Andy Driscoll is a resident of Summit Hill and a former St. Paul Charter commissioner.

The same disregard for the law represented by the mayor's effort to sell off city services to private corporations is shown in the ballot question over a publicly funded stadium.

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Commission to recommend best light-rail route for St. Paul

by Jane McClure

St. Paul and Ramsey County officials are on a fast track to making a decision on where the eastern metro area's first light-rail transit (LRT) route should be located.

The St. Paul City Council adopted a resolution on August 11 calling for a transit study by the city's Planning Commission. After city Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff gather information, the commission plans to launch a series of meetings on transit issues this fall.

The commission needs to make a recommendation to the City Council and Mayor Norm Coleman by November 10 so a joint city-county recommendation can go to the Metropolitan Council by January. The state Legislature directed the Metropolitan Council to develop a regional priority plan for LRT by February 1. The city-county recommendation will become part of that plan.

"My understanding is that if we don't come to some agreement, the next LRT line built will be in the west metro area," said Planning Commission chair Gladys Morton.

During the 1999 legislative session, state

lawmakers and Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) officials agreed that the Twin Cities' second LRT line should be located in the east metro area—provided the city and county can agree on where to build it. The Hiawatha Corridor, the region's first planned LRT line, will connect downtown Minneapolis and the Mall of America.

"This is the first official discussion of light rail in St. Paul in several years and the first discussion the city has initiated since the 1980s," said city planner Alan Lovejoy. "It's time for us to weigh in."

The City Council and County Board currently disagree on what route should be the top transit priority. The city is on record as supporting the Central Corridor, which would link the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis via I-94, University Avenue or Pierce Butler Route.

The county supports a "transit triangle" consisting of the Central, Riverview and Hiawatha corridors. The Riverview Corridor would extend from the Lower East Side through downtown St. Paul and the West 7th and Highland Park neighborhoods before

crossing the river at the Highway 5 bridge.

The county is currently conducting a major investment study of the Riverview Corridor, which should be complete by early 2000, according to Kathy Despiegelaere of the county rail staff. The county is also studying commuter rail along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks through the Midway area and along the Canadian Pacific line adjacent to Ayd Mill Road.

Some planning commissioners question whether the transit triangle is practical. "The likelihood that both (Central and Riverview) will be funded is zero," said commissioner Steve Gordon. "There's going to have to be a choice made at some point, and the city and county will have to work together."

If discussion at a recent Planning Commission work session is any indication, several commissioners appear to be leaning toward the Central Corridor. Projected ridership is 34,000 per day in the Central Corridor, compared to 8,000 to 12,000 in the Riverview Corridor. "Doesn't that tell you something?" said commissioner Gene Corbey.

The Metropolitan Council has not taken a position on what the east metro's top transit

priority should be, said Metro Council transit planner Natalio Diaz. "At this point we're staying on the sidelines," he said. According to him, regional officials recognize the need for transit improvements in both corridors.

St. Paul PED staff members have suggested that the Planning Commission focus its study on the Central Corridor. Issues to be studied include the impact of LRT construction on businesses, how LRT would affect traffic and parking on University Avenue and how LRT could potentially spur redevelopment in surrounding neighborhoods.

However, Planning Commission members said they also want to look at the ongoing Riverview study.

Some commissioners expressed skepticism about a recent county poll which indicated that more than three out of five St. Paul residents and business people had not heard of the Riverview Corridor. Of those who were surveyed, seven out of 10 said they supported transit improvements in the corridor. Planning commissioners asked to see the complete survey data, including the questions themselves. A total of 349 residents and 51 business people were polled.

Comment sought on design of scaled-back Hiawatha light rail

by Jane McClure

A public hearing on preliminary plans for the design of the Hiawatha light-rail transit line will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Detailed information on the project will be available during an open house from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. that day, also at the Convention Center.

Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) officials have a September 3 deadline to submit a preliminary engineering draft to the Federal Transit Administration. A final version of the preliminary draft is due by the end of September.

The project has hit some bumps this summer. Costs have had to be cut by about \$100 million to meet a maximum of \$548 million

in 2002 dollars. (Construction is projected to start in 2002 and be complete by 2003.) The cuts were announced last month by MnDOT commissioner Elwyn Tinklenberg.

However, questions remain. Transit officials had planned to run the Hiawatha line along 5th Street in downtown Minneapolis, but moving the underground utilities there would disrupt service and add between \$20 million and \$80 million to the cost, according to NSP.

Another question is whether to cross Lake Street at grade or via a bridge like Hiawatha Avenue does. A project consultant had recommended that the rail line be elevated from north of 28th Street to south of Lake, but that prompted protests from local residents concerned about visual blight. The current plan is to cross Lake Street at grade, according to MnDOT spokeswoman Mary McFarland.

A third question is how much to spend on public art at stations along the Hiawatha line. Art advocates had hoped to procure as much as \$6 million for public art. It now looks like no more than \$450,000 will be spent.

Cost savings that have been recommended by MnDOT include:

- The elimination of a parking ramp at the General Services Administration Building near Highways 62 and 55. Instead, surface parking will be provided at a savings of \$30.1 million.

- The elimination of three rail stations—at Hennepin Avenue, at the Northwest Airlines building south of the Humphrey Terminal, and at 34th Avenue South and I-494—for a savings of \$5.4 million.

With the elimination of the Hennepin Avenue station, the Hiawatha line would end at Nicollet Mall for an additional savings of

\$10.3 million.

A suggestion had been made to drop the Minnehaha Park station at East 50th Street, but complaints from local residents has helped save that station for the time being, according to Hennepin County spokesman John Knudsen.

- A shortening of the line through Bloomington, saving \$6.5 million in construction costs and \$16.5 million in land acquisition costs.

- Providing a ground-level station at the Mall of America instead of an elevated station at a savings of \$11.1 million.

- Reducing trains from three cars to two, saving \$2.5 million in the electricity needed to power the system.

- Eliminating covered storage for extra trains and other storage and rail yard costs, for a savings of \$11.2 million.

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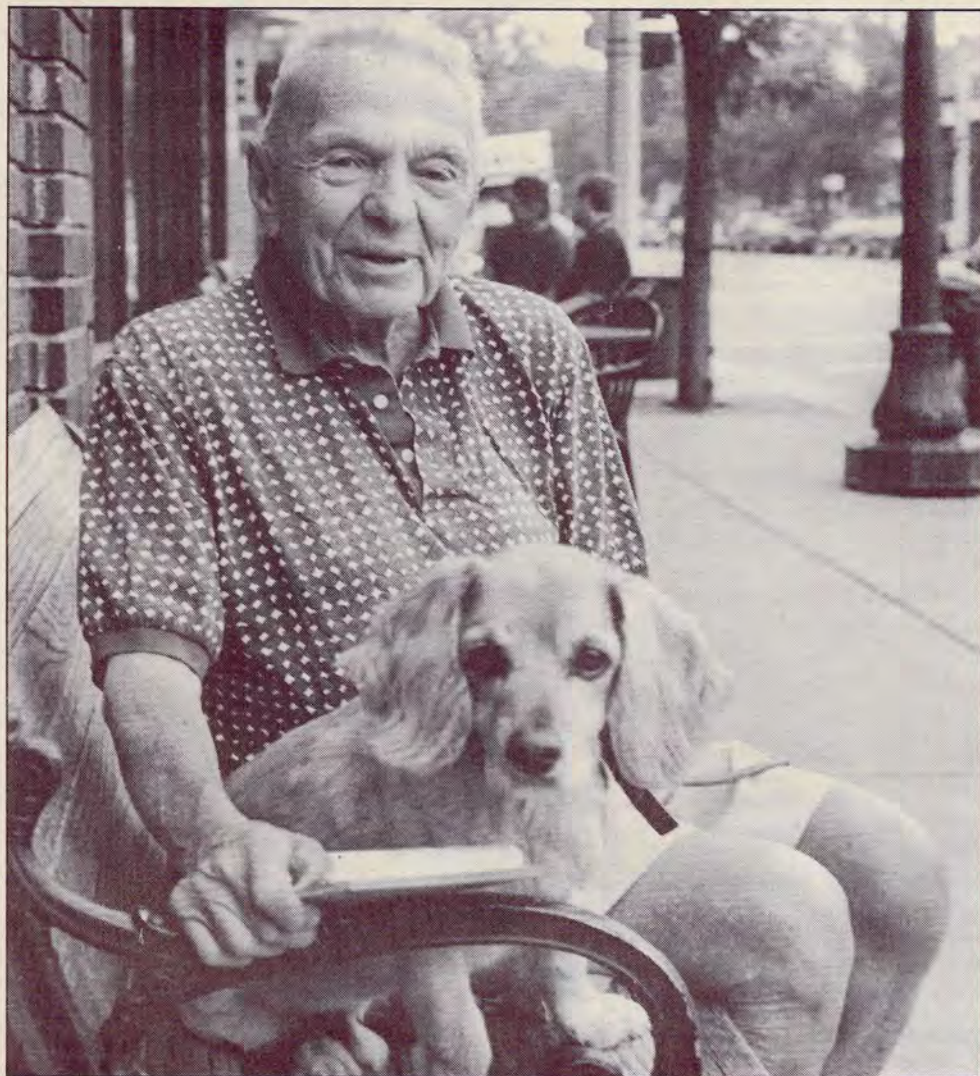
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Inveterate news hound Dick Gordon and his sidekick, Gipper. Photo by Mike Long.

After 70 years on beat, newsman finds sports a little worse for wear

by Dick Gordon

It makes the old bones creak a little to realize one's journalistic career is entering its eighth decade.

The newspaper profession has changed in innumerable ways since 1929, when I did a summer stretch as a cub—and I mean *cub*—reporter for the old *St. Paul Dispatch*. So has my perspective. The other night I fretted because Channel 9's weather forecast was preempted by the Twins-Indians game. After a couple of innings I turned off the game because it bored me. And this from a guy who used to live and die with every ballgame the minor league St. Paul Saints played at long-gone Lexington Park.

As the years roll by, cynicism seems to set in. In 1987 I gladly paid \$60 so that my son and I could watch the decisive seventh game of the World Series between the Twins and Cardinals. I marveled as the local nine made its curtain call and jogged around the Metrodome field after giving Minnesota an unexpected world championship. Now, although the Twins are still gracious enough to tender me a regular-season pass, I haven't seen a game in two years.

In high school and college I looked up to athletes, and I was thrilled to become a sportswriter so that I could meet my heroes and detail their achievements. Today, I'm just happy I'm no longer covering a sports beat on a daily basis. I wouldn't want to have to chronicle the increasingly criminal acts of supposed role models.

Maybe it's because I don't know the current stars like Kevin Garnett and Randy Moss personally. Or maybe it's due to a foreboding that sooner or later the teams and players are going to pull up stakes for greener pastures *a la* the now Dallas-based Stars. Like so many Minnesotans, I've become indifferent if not opposed to building publicly subsidized stadiums to house millionaire athletes so that they and their billionaire owners can become even richer.

As a teen-ager in November 1924 I was fortunate enough to be present at the dedication of Memorial Stadium when Bill Spaulding's Minnesota Gophers upset Red Grange and

unbeaten Illinois 20-7. The old Brickhouse lasted another 60 years.

Today, the 17-year-old Metrodome is already a dinosaur, at least in the opinion of the Twins and Vikings owners. They turned down the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission's proposal to renovate the Dome before the ink was dry on the plans.

When Bernie Bierman and later Wes Fesler resigned as Gopher football coaches in the early 1950s, I remember writing daily stories about who their successors might be. The same situation existed this summer regarding Clem Haskins' successor as Gophers basketball coach, and I had to wonder, who cares?

Although 1960 is ancient history, I'll never forget what a wonderful year it was on the Minnesota sports scene. That's when Calvin Griffith decided to move his American League baseball team from Washington, D.C., to the Twin Cities just a few months after the National Football League made Dallas and Minnesota its first two expansion franchises. That same year the Gophers won national championships in football and baseball without a hint of scandal and St. Paul's Jack McCartan and Paulie Johnson helped the U.S. hockey team beat the Canadians and Russians for the Olympic gold medal.

I was lucky enough to be involved in all of those glorious happenings—just as I was as a college freshman when I got an interview with golf immortal Bobby Jones in July 1930, a few days before he won the U.S. Open at Interlachen for the third leg of his still unmatched Grand Slam. Bobby was 28 then, and I was 19. I called him Mr. Jones. Later, I was old enough to call guys like George Mikan, Harmon Killebrew, Fran Tarkenton and Alan Page by their first names during interviews.

I don't know what I'd call Albert Belle if I had to interview him today. In view of his oft-expressed hatred of the media, I also wonder what Belle would call me.

Yes, times are different, and that applies to both the Minnesota sports scene and the perspective of an aging reporter. Regardless, I hope to still be hunting and pecking the keys in the next century. That is, if Y2K doesn't foul up my electronic typewriter.

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Ready to rumba

Snelling Avenue school takes the lead in a revival of touch dancing with the building of new ballroom



Propelled by her partner, Mark Lee, Christine Jauregui spins across the gleaming wood floors of the Dancers Studio's new ballroom at 99 N. Snelling Ave. Photos by Terry Faust.

Do you love me, now that I can dance?
— The Contours

by Dave Page

He's not particularly good looking," a middle-aged colleague admitted about her new romantic interest. "He's a little overweight, has a bad hip, doesn't have a great job, but he can tango!"

My colleague pronounced "tango" the way a 16-year-old girl might say "car" when speaking of the assets of a boyfriend. Her eyes lit up and she looked as if she was trying to suppress a giggle.

Yes, touch dancing is back, the kind for which you need a partner who knows the steps, whether it's the mambo, the samba, the West Coast swing or the Viennese waltz. Ballroom dancing will even be an exhibition sport at the next Olympics.

Marcy and Shinya McHenry—dance partners, life partners and co-owners of the newly expanded Dancers Studio—have seen dance trends come and go, so they know how fickle the public's tastes can be. Rather than capitalizing on the resurgence of

ballroom dancing, however, their renovation of the old warehouse just north of their studio at 91 N. Snelling Ave. was taking advantage of a golden opportunity.

"We'd been renting (ballroom) space at Walnut and West 7th, but were looking for enough room to have all our studios in one location," Shinya said.

When the building at 99 N. Snelling Ave. became available, the McHenrys leaped at it. "We're not really adding to our staff of 13 instructors," Shinya said. "It just made sense for our students and instructors to be all in one place."

Besides the regulation 40-by-60-foot ballroom, the new building has a smaller classroom, a meeting room and an instructors lounge. At 5,000 square feet, it has five times the floor space of the original studio.

The acquisition of the ballroom space could not have come at a better time. In past

years, the McHenrys rented Cochran Lounge in Macalester College's Student Union for its quarterly recitals. The recent demolition of the Student Union would have posed a problem, but now the Dancers Studio Fall Showcase is slated for September

11 in the new ballroom, which has an exposed wood beam ceiling, gleaming wood floors and, best of all, no supporting columns.

The McHenrys, who were professional dancers before they opened their school in 1987, also host a yearly dance competition in February. The two take pride in the fact that they're constantly bringing in the best professional dancers from around the world to improve the quality of

instruction. For example, Stephen Hannah of England served as the visiting dance instructor in July.

The McHenrys hope to do more corporate work, organizing dance parties for employee

gatherings, but they say that they can shape special events for any group. Earlier this summer, for example, they played host to an 8th-grade graduation party for students of Capitol Hill School. "They were enthusiastic learners," Marcy said, "and really enjoyed themselves."

Nevertheless, 90 to 95 percent of the McHenrys' business comes from what they call "social dancing," designed for people who want to have fun and get some exercise. Customers can sign up for one-on-one instruction by themselves or with a partner, or they can take group lessons. Some students have been coming back for years. Others show up just long enough to gain confidence for a particular occasion.

"Many of the people who come here for a few lessons are planning to get married and don't want to embarrass themselves during that first dance at the reception," Shinya said. "For many newlyweds, dancing in front of a crowd is more scary than the actual ceremony."

A decade ago, most of the students would have been women, Marcy said, but now the numbers are split pretty evenly between

"Up until a few years ago, Marcy and I would go dancing all over the Twin Cities, at clubs like the Prom," Shinya McHenry said. "Now there aren't that many places people can go."

Dancers Studio/see page 15



big daddy's reason

Vibrant Urban Village vs. Domed Wasteland.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Patrick Lee of Macalester-Groveland has been made a partner in the Minneapolis consulting firm of Deloitte & Touche. Lee, who joined D&T in 1987, specializes in international corporate taxation. He will be transferring to Munich to serve both German and U.S. clients.



Patrick Lee



Thomas Kraack

Thomas Kraack of Mendota Heights has joined the Minneapolis office of PricewaterhouseCoopers as a senior consultant in organizational development. Kraack, who has a Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of Minnesota, is a former executive vice president of corporate development at Wilson Learning Worldwide.

served on the faculty at Creighton University School of Law since 1987.

Jeffrey Cairns, a Summit Avenue resident and shareholder with the law firm of Leonard, Street and Dienard, has been elected chair of the Employee Benefits Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association. He is also a certified public accountant and chair of the board of Minnesota Chamber Business Services.

Central High School is seeking St. Paul business professionals who are interested in being guest speakers or serving on an advisory board that will work to improve the school's business curriculum. The school also is looking for businesses to serve as sites for research projects and to hire students through its work experience program. For information, call Paul Tews at 651-293-8700, extension 2031.

Marlin Osthus of Highland Park has been promoted to regional attorney in the Minneapolis office of the National Labor Relations Board. A native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Osthus graduated from St. Olaf College and the Northwestern University School of Law. He joined the NLRB in 1976 as a field attorney.

Liz Flynn of Highland Park has been elected president of the Midway Rotary board of directors. A former chair of Highland Fest, Flynn works in the Highland office of the RE/Max Crossroads real estate agency. Other Midway Rotary officers for the coming year include president-elect Judi Benjamin of the Degree of Honor Protective Association; secretary Pat McGuigan of Highland Park, an attorney with McGuigan & Holly; and treasurer Jim Affolter, senior vice president of Liberty State Bank.

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"Recipes for Business Success," a 12-week class for those who are interested in starting or expanding a specialty food business, will be offered this fall by the St. Paul-based Neighborhood Development Center. Tuition is based on income and ranges from \$50 to \$550. The application deadline is August 31. For information, call 651-291-2480.

David A. Larson of Highland Park has been appointed professor of law and director of the Dispute Resolution Institute at Hamline University School of Law. A graduate of DePauw University and the University of Illinois Law School, Larson had

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The Dancers Studio's new ballroom (above) mimics the design of the original studio next door, which occupies the first floor of the former Fire Station No. 14.

Dancers Studio

males and females and between singles and couples. The McHenrys recognize the romancing part of the dancing scene—after all, they met through dancing—but they do not emphasize it.

On Fridays, students are invited to parties at the studio, and on most Saturdays the ballroom is open to the public. For \$13, non-students can get a lesson and enjoy dancing in an alcohol-free and smoke-free environment. Right now the music is taped, but live bands are in the works.

"Up until a few years ago, Marcy and I would go dancing all over the Twin Cities, at

clubs like the Prom," Shinya said. "Now there aren't that many places people can go."

Porat Cooks, a divorced mother of four and self-proclaimed lover of dance, will not cha-cha or rumba anywhere but at the Dancers Studio. The native Israeli has been taking lessons from the McHenrys for over a year. "I came here because I felt I'd gone as far as I could go in the other studios," she said. "I wanted to take my skills to another level."

Cooks' former husband did not share her fire for the fox trot, so she started lessons only after her separation. "Now, he's taking lessons!" she said.

Meet Jae Shin, M.D., internist/pediatrician



Comprehensive care for children and adults expands at Fairview Highland Park Clinic with the addition of Jae Shin, M.D.

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A graduate of the Medical College of Ohio, Dr. Shin joins two full-time family practice physicians and a certified nurse practitioner.

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Mayor's budget once again holds the line on city's property tax levy

But not without cuts in library, parks budgets

by Jane McClure

Restating his familiar theme of keeping St. Paul "safe, clean and affordable," Mayor Norm Coleman last week unveiled a \$471.1 million city budget for 2000. At that level, the property tax levy would remain at \$62.4 million for general government and at \$840,174 for the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).

This is Coleman's sixth straight budget without a property tax levy increase. City officials have held the line on, or slightly reduced, the city levy for the past seven years. The string began in 1994 under former Mayor Jim Scheibel. In comparison, the 1993 property tax levy was \$65.3 million.

The total budget is about 5 percent more than the 1999 figure of \$449.2 million. Much of the increase is driven by capital improvement projects and by the city's first \$3 million payment for the Minnesota Wild hockey arena.

Even though City Council members praised the mayor's efforts to hold down the property tax levy, debate over the budget promises to be lively in the weeks ahead. Recommended cuts in library hours, recreation center services and the residential street paving program all face a fight.

"It just irks me," said Ward 3 City Council member Mike Harris. "For the past five years we've worked to keep the lid on taxes, yet at the same time make sure that basic city services are held as a priority. What are our priorities? I say they are police and fire protection, libraries and parks and recreation centers."

"I just don't see how we can cut those core services," said Ward 4 council member Jay Benanav.

"I'm disturbed at the cuts in library hours," said Ward 1 council member Jerry Blakey. "We've worked every year to restore those services."

Ward 2 council member Chris Coleman said he would like to find a way to add more city planning staff to the budget. "Neighborhoods need resources for planning, but because we've made so many cuts to city staff we have to contract out for those resources,"

he said.

The mayor's calls to support a new Twins baseball stadium and his Compete St. Paul initiative were also criticized. Benanav said it is inconsistent for the mayor to call for holding down city spending while advocating a doubling of the city's half-percent sales tax to help pay for a stadium.

"We shouldn't be out there campaigning for a new baseball stadium; we should be working to preserve city services that children and families use," Blakey said.

Concerns about cuts in the 2000 budget prompted the City Council on August 18 to lay over a city staff request for a new geographic information system (GIS). City staff had sought \$149,000 from the 1999 fund balance to study GIS and prepare a three-year strategic plan for implementing it. The system itself would cost between \$2 and \$5 million. The Coleman administration had indicated that money for the GIS could be taken from the city's fund balances. However, City Council members said they prefer to discuss GIS as part of the 2000 budget. Benanav questioned trying to start the GIS process any earlier, in light of the just-announced budget cuts.

Two more budget measures will be considered by the City Council on August 25. The council will be asked to ratify the proposed HRA levy for 2000 and to make cuts in city building permit fees. The fee cuts have been proposed as a way to meet Mayor Coleman's goal of adding 2,500 new housing units across the city in the next three years.

The mayor's budget address underscored many positive developments in the city. "Almost 100 percent of the homes in St. Paul gained in value last year," he said. Commercial and industrial property values have also been strong, he said, especially in a downtown once plagued by decreasing values. "If you're not excited and optimistic about St. Paul's future, check your pulse," Coleman said. "You might be dead."

However, Coleman warned that the way city services are delivered might have to change if the city is to continue to hold down property taxes. He cited Compete St. Paul, an initiative to privatize some city services, and a new Twins stadium as ways to hold down costs and bring in more revenue.

About 50 jobs will be added citywide next

City budget/see next page

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A budget balancing act in detail

Here are some of the highlights of the mayor's proposed 2000 city budget:

- Two libraries—St. Anthony Park and Riverview—would lose their Sunday hours. Five libraries would be closed two mornings a week. Coleman said that these library hours are not being used anyway. Savings are estimated at \$109,122.

- The mayor has recommended few changes to the Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) for 2000-2001. The previously recommended handicapped-accessibility improvements to the dock at Watergate Marina (\$100,000) were dropped. Improvements to Hillcrest Recreation Center (\$290,000) were added, including a new kitchen, indoor walking track and gym divider.

- The Residential Street Paving Program for 2000 would be cut from \$12.8 million to \$10.5 million, eliminating a project in the area bounded by Marshall and Dayton avenues, Lexington Parkway and Victoria Street. The mayor increased funding for renovating the downtown public library from \$3.2 million to \$6 million. Coleman also cut from \$2.5 million to \$610,000 the funding for a new multi-field soccer facility

at a site yet to be determined.

- Coleman is also recommending a one-year pilot program that would cut building permit fees in half, in hopes of encouraging more housing. Coleman has set a goal of adding 2,500 new housing units in the city over the next three years. The loss in city revenue from the pilot program is estimated at \$800,000. However, Coleman believes the pilot program could bring in more money if there is a strong response by developers.

- The mayor is recommending holding the line on most other city fees and charges for service. The lone proposed fee increase is \$1.00 per household for recycling.

- Almost \$294,000 would be reserved to deal with any emergencies caused by the Y2K bug on New Year's Day 2000. Coleman said he did not think the city would need to draw on the fund.

- The mayor also wants to consolidate the city's police and fire communication centers and complete a consolidation of city-county workforce development programs. The communications center consolidation would save the city about \$1.4 million.

Budget

from page 16

year, including 10 more police patrol officers—part of a \$2.6 million increase in the police budget.

The budget calls for another 70 jobs to be cut. Of those, the most controversial may be the 10 full-time-equivalent positions in the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Council members and the mayor have sparred over the budget during the past few months. Last spring a potential \$7 million shortfall prompted orders to all departments to cut their budgets so that \$3 million in savings could be realized. The police department responded by recommending eliminating the FORCE unit, cutting 13 police officer positions and cutting some park rangers. The Division of Parks and Recreation suggested closing the Como Park swimming pool. But those changes were rejected by the mayor.

The city has since been able to fill the gap in funding through a variety of measures, including an additional \$1 million in state aid, a police pension refund from the state and about \$4 million from the city's reserve fund.

SENIOR NEWS

The Merriam Park Senior Program will offer an exercise class at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and line dancing at 1:00 p.m. on Mondays. Call 651-645-7424.

The American Red Cross needs volunteer drivers to provide transportation to senior citizens living in Ramsey County. Last year, volunteers provided more than 32,000 free rides to seniors. Automobiles, gas and training are provided. For more information, call 651-291-6707.

Senior volunteers are needed to lend a hand in the public schools and parks and recreation centers of St. Paul, at the YWCA, Dodge Nature Center, Highland Mac-Groveland Family Center, St. Paul public libraries and elsewhere. For details, call the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 651-221-2820.

Home Share is now being offered to senior citizens and disabled people in Dakota County as a way to reduce their monthly housing costs. Participants share their home with a renter who is willing to assist with light housekeeping, yard work, meal preparation or errands in exchange for reduced rent. Call DARTS at 651-455-1560.

The Good Age Senior Talent Show will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, in the Rotunda at the Mall of America. Adults 50 and older will sing, dance, perform comedy, do magic tricks and more as they compete for cash prizes. A drawing will be held for free airline tickets and other prizes.

The ElderLearning Institute at the University of Minnesota will offer fall courses beginning the week of September 27. The classes are scheduled during the day and at locations throughout the metro area. Most meet once a week for 1½ hours. No tests are given. A fall information fair will be held at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, in Willey Hall on the West Bank campus. For information, call 612-624-7847.

The District 197 Senior Center will present Seminars for Inquiring Minds (SIQ) September 13-November 4. The seminars explore various aspects of the humanities and meet once a week for eight weeks at various locations. Topics include "The Art of Knowledge," "Australian Kaleidoscope," "Life Writing" and "Herstory: I Don't Want to be Famous, Do I?" The cost is \$50 per class. For information, call 651-457-2127.



Phyllis Chickett of Macalester-Groveland has been crowned Ms. Minnesota Senior. In this, the first year that the Ms. Senior pageant was held in Minnesota, the grandmother of three was deemed the most gracious of entrants age 60 and older in evening gown and talent competition. A former St. Paul Winter Carnival Klondike Kate, Chickett will compete against women from 39 other states for the Ms. Senior America title on September 24 in Las Vegas.



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Speaking the same language

College turns out teacher role models for growing Asian student population

by Catherine Condon

Though she is still a year away from receiving her degree in elementary education, Vilai Tchaa knows she belongs in the classroom. Fluent in Hmong and English, the South Minneapolis resident loves her full-time position as an educational assistant in Central High School's English as a Second Language Department. Through her job, Tchaa, 23, has not only helped Asian students thrive but has resumed her college studies through the Southeast Asian Teacher (SEAT) licensure program at Concordia University.

SEAT, which began operating last fall with the help of a \$500,000 grant from the state Legislature, received another \$1 million from the Legislature this year to carry it through June 2001. The program helps educational assistants employed in Minnesota school districts obtain their elementary school teaching licenses. Twenty-seven students participated in SEAT this year, but that number is expected to grow to 40 this fall.

All SEAT students receive partial tuition, a stipend and books. They must keep their full-time jobs in education while they attend evening classes at Concordia. Though SEAT welcomes students of all ethnic backgrounds, it targets those of Southeast Asian origin.

"It's not a career-change program," said Lee Pao Xiong, Concordia's director of government and community relations. "It's for those who are already in the schools and feel passionately about wanting to teach and help

students."

Xiong, 31, a Hmong immigrant, laid the groundwork for SEAT two years ago with the help of St. Paul School Board member Neal Thao and other members of the city's Hmong population. St. Paul School District officials had asked Concordia about offering such a program to address the lack of Southeast Asian teachers, according to Roberta Kaufman, dean of Concordia's College of Education, who oversees SEAT along with Xiong and SEAT director Bill Staley.

Minnesota is the perfect place to launch a program like SEAT, Xiong said. The state is home to over 113,000 people of Asian or Pacific Island descent, and "the Twin Cities has the largest concentration of Hmong in the United States," he said. "One in three students in the St. Paul school district is Hmong."

Asians as a whole are the largest ethnic group in the St. Paul Public Schools, according to Xiong, making up about 40 percent of the student body. However, only 157 of the 3,507 teachers in the school district are of Asian descent.

Xiong, who was recently appointed to the Metropolitan Council by Governor Jesse Ventura, immigrated to Indiana from Laos in 1976. Three years later, he moved to St. Paul along with his parents and brothers. When Xiong enrolled in Cleveland Middle School, he was one of five Hmong students. "Now more than half of the students at Cleveland are Hmong," he said.

With Thao's help, Xiong formed nearly 40



Concordia's Lee Pao Xiong helped lay the groundwork for the university's year-old Southeast Asian Teacher Licensure Program. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Hmong parent-teacher organizations in the city's public schools. "The school district said, 'We don't need these; we have existing PTOs. Why don't the Hmong parents just join them?'" Xiong recalled. "But they couldn't because of the language barrier. It's not like they're not concerned about their children's education. For the Asian community, education comes above everything."

Xiong can attest to the importance of Asian teachers in the city's public schools. "Throughout high school (at Como Park), I sat in the back of the class," he said. "Most of us (Hmong) were bunched in the back because of our last names (beginning with letters near the end of the alphabet)—and we needed the most help!"

Though integrating with other students might have helped the Hmong, "we were separated from them," Xiong said. "I guess that's why we don't feel a sense of attachment to our schools, because we were always outside, and

not an integral part."

By providing role models and reinforcing the value of education, SEAT helps prepare children of Southeast Asian descent to become productive members of society, Xiong said. A child who sees a classroom aide not only working full-time but also attending college may think, "Hey, even though you're doing well, you're moving on to get a degree," he said.

"What's really sad nowadays is that educators end up being social workers," Xiong said. "They play a dual role. But if you're not from the same ethnic background and don't speak the language, sometimes you can't play those roles effectively."

Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk, who spent two-thirds of her 36-year teaching career in the St. Paul Public Schools, wholeheartedly endorses the SEAT program. She

Southeast Asian/see next page

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The start of light rail transit service in the Hiawatha Corridor by 2003 is a giant step forward to improve and enhance transit services in the Twin Cities metro area. As the project moves to federal review, you have a chance to comment. Visit www.metrocouncil.org for more information.

The Hiawatha Corridor route is 11.5 miles long, with 15 light rail stations, and links downtown Minneapolis, Mpls.-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. Estimates are that 24,000 riders per day will use light rail with convenient neighborhood connections from Metro Transit and other regional bus service.

Light rail two-car trains will be 180' long with low floors for easy boarding. Each car will seat 72 customers and have room for 95 standing passengers.

VOLUNTEERS

Clare House, a Macalester-Groveland home for people living with HIV or AIDS, is seeking volunteers to prepare evening meals for residents. Volunteers may cook at their own homes or at Clare House. Household helpers are also needed on weekdays. Call Lynn at 651-222-3577.

Como Zoo needs volunteers to help out during its Zoo Boo on October 16-17 and 22-24. Some 300 costumed volunteers are needed to provide Halloween treats to children. Call Krista Spieler at 651-645-1014.

Birthright of St. Paul is seeking volunteers to assist women with unplanned pregnancies. Volunteers provide support, advice and help with housing arrangements, maternity and baby clothes, and referrals to other agencies. Last year, more than 1,000 women contacted the organization's University Avenue office for help. Call 651-646-7033.

The Minnesota Newspaper Museum at the Minnesota State Fair is seeking volunteers who know how to operate the old linotype machines or Babcock, Kluge and Chandler & Price presses. Volunteers are being asked to work a 5 1/2-hour shift. The museum will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on each day of the fair, August 25 through September 6. For information, call 612-672-0948.

The Ramsey County Community Corrections Department is recruiting volunteers to work with clients of the county's juvenile, adult and family courts. Twelve hours of training is offered. The first orientation session will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 4, at the Juvenile Justice Center, 480 St. Peter St. To register, call 651-266-2386.

The HealthEast Foundation is seeking nominations for its sixth annual Caring Neighbor Award. The award recognizes individuals whose volunteer efforts make a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of the

east metro area. Nominations are due by September 15. The winner will receive \$10,000 to be contributed to the charitable organization of his or her choice. For more information, call 651-232-4828.

Children Are People Support Groups is looking for men and women to lead educational support groups for children, teens and adults in chemical-abusing families. Interviews are being conducted for those interested in attending volunteer training the weekend of September 10-12. For more information, call 651-490-9257.

The Minnesota Historical Society is seeking volunteers to welcome visitors at Fort Snelling, help out at the History Center and lend a hand at other historic sites. Weekday and weekend shifts are available. Call Jackie Maas at 651-296-2155.

Adult couples in stable relationships are being sought by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater St. Paul to befriend youngsters from the area. Volunteers are matched with youths with similar interests. They are asked to meet with their Little Brother or Sister three or four times a month for at least a year. For more information, call 651-224-7651.

Future Force, a YouthWorks AmeriCorps program, is accepting applications from those 18 and older who want to teach school readiness skills to preschoolers, tutor and provide after-school programs for school-age children. A yearlong commitment is required. Volunteers earn a living allowance, health insurance and an education award of up to \$4,725 to help pay student loans. For more information, call 651-641-8748.

Ramsey Action Programs is seeking volunteers for its Meals on Wheels program. Volunteers are needed one to two days a week. Meals are delivered weekdays from the West 7th Community Center. Call 651-645-6445.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

The Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer the following events in the next two weeks: a family service at 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 27, followed by an informal "Erev Shabbat Live" service at 8:00 p.m.; a Learner's Minyan at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 28; a monthly Shabbat Lunch and Learn study group following services on Saturday, September 4 (\$5.15 for lunch); Call 651-698-8874.

The Cathedral of St. Paul will offer the following activities: marriage counselor Mary Kay Olson will present "Hurting, Healing and Moving on After Divorce" at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 8; and "How to Read the Bible," a four-week adult informational series, will hold its first program at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14. For information or to register, call 651-228-1766.

The Minnesota Satsang Society will present "Angels, Masters and Inner Guides" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 30, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Admission is free. For information, call 651-771-1165.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., will hold an outdoor worship service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, August 29. The portion of Prior Avenue beside the church will be closed to traffic during the service, which will feature global music led by drummers and choir. Free sandwiches and sweets will follow. For information, call 651-699-6886.

Southeast Asian teachers

knows the critical role Asian educators play. "They'll talk to children in their language and try to help them understand the problem through their language before having them do it the English way," she said.

Schunk understands the trauma faced by grade schoolers with limited English skills. Until first grade, she spoke mostly Croatian. "I know how I felt when I went to school and didn't understand," she said. Luckily, her teacher spoke both Croatian and English, easing Schunk's transition into the English-speaking world.

The St. Paul School District has tried to recruit more teachers of Southeast Asian descent from elsewhere around the country, according to Luz Maria Serrano, assistant su-

perintendent for accountability, technology and support services. Those efforts have fallen short, partly because of the cold weather here and partly because of the reluctance of Southeast Asians to move away from their families, Serrano said.

The SEAT program, she said, "is very important for Minnesota. I think all of the programs that aim at growing our own teachers are important."

Xiong hopes the St. Paul and Minneapolis school districts will eventually help fund SEAT. "Both school districts are basically saying, 'We want to hire all of your (SEAT) students,'" he said. "We're saying, 'We want you to hire all of our students. We're preparing teachers for you.'"

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SCHOOL NOTES

Twin Cities Academy, a new charter middle school, will open this fall for grades 6 and 7 in the former St. James School at Randolph Avenue and View Street. The academy, which will expand to 8th grade in the 2000-2001 school year, has adopted a rigorous curriculum based on educator E.D. Hirsch's concept of Core Knowledge. The program will stress leadership skills, community involvement and conflict resolution and will include an extended 9:00 a.m.-to-5:00 p.m. school day with such extracurriculars as music, sports and theater. Open houses are scheduled at the school for 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26; 9:30 a.m. Saturday, August 28; and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1. For information, call 651-205-4797.

Higher Ground Academy, a new charter school at 1381 Marshall Ave., will open this fall for 400 students in grades K-9. The college preparatory program will add one high school grade each year for the next three years. Its year-round curriculum will stress basic academics using principles developed by the Efficacy Institute. It will include peer counseling, small study groups, service learning and some two dozen student clubs. The academy is hoping to hire part-time teaching assistants, tutors and club coaches and coordinators in all subject areas. For information on paid and volunteer staff opportunities, call Samuel at 612-626-7537. For other information on the school, call 612-624-2842.

Macalester College announced last week that it has received a \$25 million gift from the estate of the late John Holl, a longtime supporter of the college and a former president of Seeger Refrigerator Company and Whirlpool executive. Holl, who died last spring at the age of 93, was a member of the Macalester board of trustees for 27 years. His gift is among the largest the college has ever received.

The **School of Social Work**, a joint program of the colleges of St. Catherine and St. Thomas, will offer a new dual-degree program this fall. Graduates will earn master's degrees in social work and theology. The school also is in the process of developing the Spirituality Institute, a continuing education program set to begin this fall.

World Heritage is seeking families to host high school students from Spain, Mexico, France, Germany, Great Britain, Thailand, Japan and the former Soviet Union during the 1999-2000 school year. For information, call 651-698-5355.

The **University of St. Thomas** will offer a bachelor of science degree in real estate this fall. The new undergraduate major was developed by a committee chaired by Dr. George Karvel, who holds the endowed chair in real estate at St. Thomas.

The **College of St. Catherine** has named three new academic deans: Susan Cochrane as dean of professional studies, Jan Czechowski as dean of arts and sciences and Margaret McLaughlin as dean of health professions. Cochrane has been an associate professor of social work at St. Catherine since 1986, Czechowski was previously a professor of theater at Grinnell College and McLaughlin is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pittsburgh.

David A. Larson of Highland Park has been appointed professor of law and director of the Dispute Resolution Institute at Hamline University School of Law. A graduate of DePauw University and the University of Illinois law school, Larson has served on the faculty at the Creighton University School of Law since 1987.

The **University of St. Thomas School of Education** will offer a new doctorate in organizational development beginning next year. It will be the fifth doctoral program offered by St. Thomas. Classes will meet in Opus Hall, the new home of the School of Education, which opened in the university's downtown Minneapolis campus this summer.



Students from Convent of the Visitation School in Mendota Heights and its sister schools in Virginia and Missouri moved mattresses at the Frogtown Furniture Warehouse as part of a week-long community service program. The program began last year as part of Visitation's bicentennial. Last year, participants went to West Virginia. This year, the girls spent July 24-31 doing charity work in the Twin Cities. Pictured, from left, are program director Nancy Downey, Katie Walsh from St. Louis, and Marie Warren and Cristina de Cardenas from Georgetown.

Back to School on Randolph!

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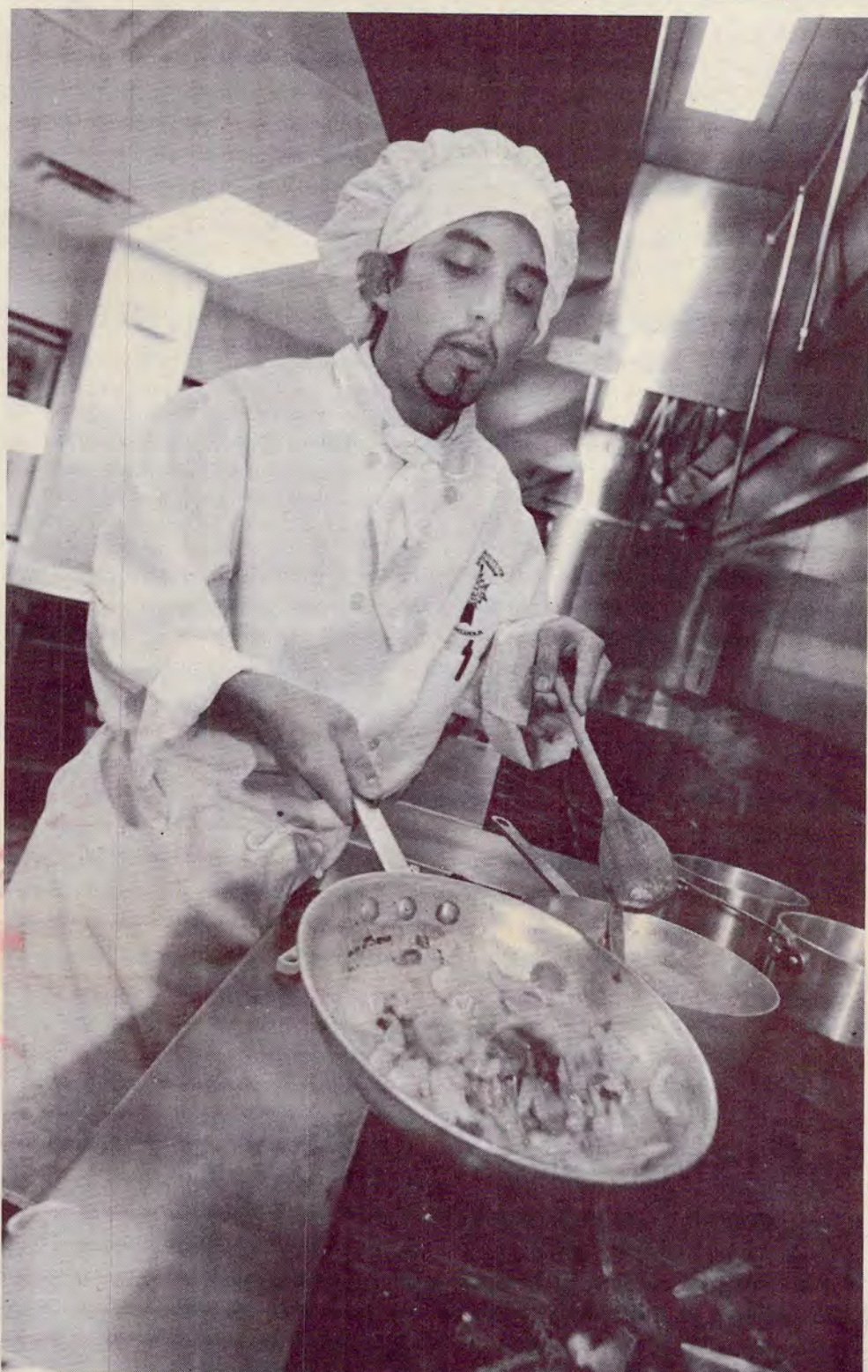
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SPOTLIGHT on Education

Your guide to local school programs, personnel and educational services.



Alain Rodriguez prepares mussels and mixed vegetables during class at Le Cordon Bleu, the new culinary arts school at Brown Institute in Mendota Heights. Photo by Mike Long.

Fine dining defined

Le Cordon Bleu gives students taste of what it takes to be a great chef

by Catherine Condon

With half a dozen years of restaurant cooking under his belt, Alain Rodriguez is an expert by many people's standards. However, he says he still has a lot to learn.

"If you make a sauce, sometimes it doesn't taste good," said Rodriguez, a native of Monterey, Mexico, who works in the kitchen of W.A. Frost, a half mile from his Grand Avenue apartment. "Sometimes it breaks. I didn't know why. Now I'm learning."

Rodriguez, 23, is a student at Le Cordon Bleu, a new culinary arts school operating out of Brown Institute in Mendota Heights. The program is the first to open in North America through an agreement with Career Education Corporation, which acquired Brown five years ago, and Le Cordon Bleu, a Paris-based culinary arts school that is touted as one of the world's finest.

"It's giving us the opportunity to take everything the great chefs of Europe have done, combine them with what North America is all about and give some spectacular training to chefs," said Ronald Andersen, president of Brown, which moved from Lake Street in Minneapolis in 1997. "At the end, our grads will receive Brown Institute and state of Minnesota credentials as well as a Le Cordon Bleu diploma. That's pretty exciting."

The school operates out of an 18,000-square-foot wing with six instructional kitchens, a butcher shop, and 17 refrigerators and freezers. It opened in January with 30 students and now has an enrollment of 105.

Among them are recent high school graduates, a onetime elementary school teacher, a former retail buyer and several chefs.

About 170 students are expected to be enrolled in the program by the start of the September term, according to executive chef Urbano Salvati, one of 10 full-time instructors on staff. "We will end up with probably 250 or 260 students by the end of the year," said Salvati.

Tuition for the 50-week program, which includes an unpaid six-week internship, is \$19,900, significantly higher than that of Brown's seven other areas of study. "The program simply costs more to operate," said Andersen.

During the first half of the program, students attend daytime classes in everything from food service sanitation, a la carte fine dining and butchering, to nutrition, dining room procedures, and purchasing and cost control.

"The students learn how to use the computer in order to do the ordering," said Salvati, pointing to prices and dates recorded by students on jars of olives and bottles of vinegar. "We do that because students have no conception of what food costs."

The last six months of training takes place in the evening, with students taking advanced dining room service, cold food and buffet management, kitchen management, international cuisine, and more courses in baking, pastry, soups and sauces.

"It's a very comprehensive program, basi-

Le Cordon Bleu/see page 23

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Highland Senior's new principal is no stranger to the neighborhood

by Michael Werner

If you see Mary Beth Cutting at the Highland Park Library this week, it is not in her role as the new principal at Highland Park Senior High School. Cutting is just going about her normal routine.

Unlike many principals in Twin Cities school districts, Cutting is a longtime resident of the neighborhood in which she works. She moved to Highland Park when she was 7 years old and attended St. Leo's Grade School (now Highland Catholic).

Cutting later attended the College of St. Catherine, and during her senior year there she worked as a teacher's aide in the music department at Highland Park Junior High School. Following a brief teaching stint in Austin, Minnesota, she returned to Highland Park and the St. Paul Public Schools. She taught vocal music for 10 years at the former Wilson Middle School (now EXPO Middle School), and then took a teaching post at Ramsey Junior High. She served as an assistant principal at Johnson, Harding and Humboldt high schools before taking a job in the school district office as principal on special assignment and director of teaching and learning.

While working for the district office, Cutting specialized in secondary education. Former assistant superintendent of teaching and learning Cy Yusten said that training will aid

her transition to Highland.

"She knows the secondary programs across the district like the back of her hand," Yusten said. "Highland will clearly end up being one of the best secondary schools in the district under Mary Beth's direction."

Cutting succeeds Joann Knuth as principal at Highland Senior, and by all indications she is ready for the challenge. "I'm really looking forward to leaving the district office and going into a building where I can be part of a community, part of a group of parents, students and staff who are all working together to educate one group of students," she said earlier this month. "I've been dealing with all the schools across the city for six years and I've felt very fragmented. This will give me focus."

During her 28 years of service to the school district, Cutting has always resided in Highland Park. She says that her intimate knowledge of the neighborhood and close ties with the people afford her advantages that most new principals do not have.

"A lot of principals have to go out and learn the community when they move into a new school," Cutting said. "I don't. I don't have to learn the names of the streets, where the boundaries are, who the business people are. I don't have to do that because it's been part of my life for my whole life."

Ironically, it was her strong ties to the neighborhood that made her think twice



Mary Beth Cutting soaks in the surroundings of her new principalship beneath a mural that was installed outside Highland Park Senior High last spring. Photo by Mike Long.

about accepting the principal's job at Highland Senior. "The only reservation I had about Highland was that I lived too close," she said. "For a lot of people that's not a problem, but it was the only reservation I had."

"Of course, I still need to learn the staff," she said. "I need to learn the inner culture of the building. People can tell you what the school is like, but you really need to experience it."

One of Cutting's priorities at Highland Se-

nior will be to attract more Highland and Macalester-Groveland residents to the school. "Twenty-five years ago, the students who went to Highland lived in the neighborhood, but for a while that was kind of lost," she said. "I think Highland Senior's new status as a Blue Ribbon School will help with that—show what an excellent school it is and return to Highland Senior High as many students who live in the neighborhood as possible."

Principal shuffle also affects Highland Junior, Groveland, Capitol Hill

by Michael Werner

When students and staff in the St. Paul Public Schools return to classes this fall, many of them will see new faces, including those of the principals.

Nearly one-third of the district's schools will have new principals or assistant principals for the coming school year, including Highland Park Junior and Senior highs, Groveland Park Elementary and Capitol Hill Magnet.

According to district officials, the high number of leadership changes are a result of new Superintendent Patricia Harvey's reor-

ganization plan. The shakeup created several new positions and eliminated others in an effort to recast the district's central administration, which Harvey deemed a "clumsy organization to lead."

"In some cases, it's a domino effect," said former Highland Park Senior High principal Joann Knuth, who helped search for her replacement after being appointed to one of the five newly created area superintendent positions.

As it turns out, Knuth and the school district did not have to look far. Mary Beth Cutting, a lifelong Highland Park resident, was chosen as the new principal at Highland Se-

nior High (see story above).

Mary K. Boyd, another of the five newly appointed area superintendents, created a void at Highland Park Junior High School by choosing principal Gene Janicke as her assistant. Janicke, who began teaching in the district 29 years ago, had served as principal at Highland Junior High for the past five years.

Janicke said he was not seeking a new position. "I was very happy working at Highland," he said. "The job came looking for me. Mary and I have worked together on a number of different projects over the years and we're good friends. I just couldn't turn her down."

Brad Manor, a former principal at Como Park Senior High School and most recently on special assignment with the school district, will succeed Janicke. The two worked together at Battle Creek Middle School for five years. At the time, Manor was an assistant principal and Janicke was a teacher.

Janicke said Manor will be up to the challenge. "He's a terrific administrator, very effective and very efficient," Janicke said. "He's had a lot of experience in junior high school and he did a great job at Battle Creek."

"But working at Highland Junior is always

Principals/see page 24

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Le Cordon Bleu /from page 21

cally two years folded into one," Salvati said. "We know we cannot make a chef in one year. No school can. We also know that chefs might want to become managers. Sometimes chefs are trained just to be cooks and that's it. But they need to know all operations. Maybe they just want to specialize in baking. Maybe they want to be a maitre d'. They can, with a strong culinary background. We can give the basics and they can build on it."

Uniformed instructors in chef hats lecture to students outfitted in either white shirts or white cooking jackets. The kitchens have industrial-sized sinks, counters, ovens and the finest equipment in the industry.

In one kitchen, dozens of students worked on perfecting the art of chopping vegetables. In the soup and sauce kitchen, students prepared to make beef stock in 40-gallon kettles. "After the butchering, the bone comes here and we make stock," Salvati explained over the crash of a dropped pan.

Paul Clarke, a former chef at Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights, nodded at a white board covered with jottings. "We're making a plan for what we're going to spend our week doing," said Clarke, who teaches a course in cold food preparation. "We're doing our requisitions for the week so we have enough food."

Students are tested continuously. "Before they leave the school, they have to prove to us that they can do everything," Salvati said. "They have to cook the whole dinner—the soup, the appetizer, the bread, the dessert. Le Cordon Bleu has a set proficiency that we

need to (attain). They're very fussy."

The school also features the Minnesota Room, an in-house restaurant run by culinary students for Brown staff and students. Members of the public may phone the school for an invitation. Prices range from \$2.00 for breakfast to \$10 for a seven-course dinner.

"The meals are just spectacular," said Andersen, who recently dined on chilled three-melon soup, ham puff pastries, Caesar salad, broiled Wisconsin trout, filet of beef flambéed table-side, watermelon sorbet, and layered raspberry cream torte. "I think they're selling out every day. I have to restrict myself to once a week at the most."

Salvati said providing students with an internship is key. "(Without it), you cannot walk into the restaurant and say, 'I want to work here.' But the internship gets you in the door. I tell my students, 'Before you decide on your internship, think: It could be your job.'"

Twin Cities hotels and restaurants are eagerly awaiting the first graduation day. "It's incredible," said Salvati, who has fielded inquiries from Hotel Sofitel, D'Amico & Sons, the Hilton and others that are interested in his students. "The time will come to place students when we say, 'This student is good in this area. He's got this type of talent. I think he should come to your operation.'"

"With no disrespect meant for any other schools running (culinary) programs, this brings a resource to the restaurant and dining world of the Twin Cities that hasn't existed before," Andersen said. "But I guess I feel that way about everything we do here."



Voilà—the finished mussels and mixed vegetables in bisque à la Rodriguez. Photo by Mike Long.

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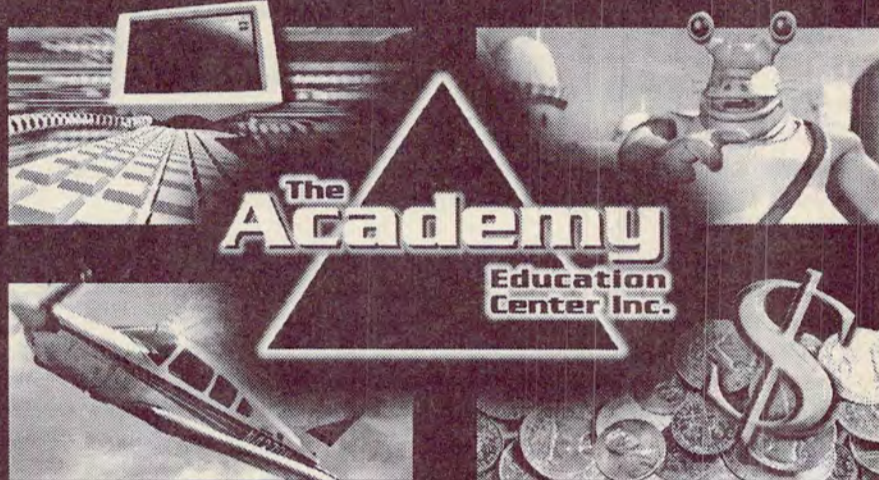


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Highland alums now have easy way of tracking down classmates

by Michael Werner

Ever wonder whether the class clown back in high school is doing standup comedy somewhere today?

For Highland Park Senior High School graduates, the answers to questions like that are at their fingertips in the pages of the school's new alumni directory. The directory provides detailed information about Highland graduates, including their job titles and employers. For those who may want to reminisce with friends or rekindle an old romance, phone numbers and addresses are also provided.

The directory carries some historical significance as well. Dr. Kenneth Berg, Highland's first principal, and Betty Richardson, an English teacher at Highland since its inception, each wrote passages detailing the school's history.

"It's the first history of Highland that we know of that's been written," said Tom Conlon, a 1978 alumnus, president of the Highland Park High School Alumni and Friends Association and a member of the St. Paul School Board.

Patty Keyes Spahn realized the directory's value. She used it to organize her 30th high school reunion in June.

"The book made it a lot easier to find people," Spahn said. "We didn't have to sit and go through phone books like we did before. It's also nice to look back and see what happened to people in other classes."

Conlon said the book offers much more than an aid to reunion organizers. He sees it as a means of drawing alumni back into the fold and strengthening the school's ties to the neighborhood.

"The book is one way to preserve friendships, contacts and memories of the school as well as support for the school," he said. "If you're moving to another city and you want to know if anyone from Highland lives there, you can look it up."

Highland Park is the first St. Paul public school to produce an alumni directory, according to Conlon, who picked up the idea three years ago at a national meeting of school board members. He and other members of the alumni association worked for nearly a year to gather lists for all the graduating classes through 1987. In the end, they located nearly 6,000 alumni.

"The most tedious part of the project was getting all of the addresses," Conlon said. "In some cases we had addresses that were 30 years old."

Nearly 1,000 of the directories have been sold to date. Conlon said he wants to produce a new directory every 5 years or so. The next edition is scheduled to be published in 2003.

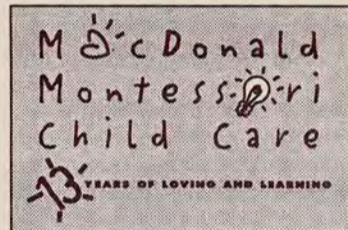
"I'm hoping it'll start a trend for all St. Paul public schools," Conlon said. "I think we can get some other schools interested."

The directories cost \$60 each and only a few copies still remain. Those who are interested in purchasing one are invited to call Conlon at 651-699-7399.

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Principals do the shuffle /from page 22

a challenge because the communities it serves are spread across the city. Thirty percent of the kids come from the Highland neighborhood, but 70 percent come from all other neighborhoods around St. Paul. Trying to keep the staff and himself connected with the various communities is the biggest challenge he'll face.

The wheels of Capitol Hill's leadership change were set in motion in late June, when a group of 14 parents wrote to Harvey asking her to replace principal Mary Dybvig with someone who would better "integrate low-income students and students of color" into the school.

As the letter was being circulated, a group of parents supporting Dybvig began a

counter-campaign to keep her at Capitol Hill. Faced with a divisive battle between parents over her leadership, Dybvig chose to leave for the principal's job at Como Park Elementary.

"The attention brought about by that petition was starting to be the focus and would've diverted my attention from being the best leader I could be," Dybvig said. "To be the subject of controversy is not what I wanted to be doing every day. It takes the energy away from working with the kids and the parents and the staff."

Former Groveland Elementary School principal Mary Jo Stump will take the reigns at Capitol Hill, while East Consolidated Elementary School assistant principal Julie Cox will replace Stump at Groveland.

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THE KIOSK

Thursday/August 26

"BY HAND AND HEART," a craft workshop for adults at the JCC, will hold a holiday sale from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today and again on Sept. 2 and 7 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. For information, call 651-698-0751.

Saturday/August 28

A YARD SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. today in the parking lot of Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave. The sale will benefit Human Service Associates, a program which helps meet the needs of children in foster care. In case of rain the sale will be held Saturday, September 11. For information, call Christine at 651-645-0688.

A SILENT AUCTION and benefit concert will be held this evening at Summit Avenue Assembly of God Church, 845 Summit Ave. Bidding will run from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. The concert, featuring Robert "Eddie" Robinson and the 50-voice Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, will begin at 7:00 p.m. For tickets, priced at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, call 612-288-0990. Proceeds will benefit the choir.

TOURS of the Sibley and Faribault houses, which are located on the Sibley Historic Site in Mendota, will be given from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and from noon to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. The tours will focus on menus, food storage and preparation techniques, and dining etiquette practiced in the 1840s. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and \$1.50 for children ages 6-16. For information, call 651-452-1596.

Sunday/August 29

A BICYCLE TOUR of St. Paul's former Jewish neighborhoods as well as other sites of Jewish interest will take place at 9:30 this morning beginning in the parking lot of the Media One building, located at the south end of the Robert Street bridge. Participants can choose either a 6- or 18-mile ride. The cost is \$5.00, or free for members of the Jewish Historical Society. For information, call 651-523-2407.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the intersection of East River Road and St. Anthony Ave. in Minneapolis for a walk around the neighborhood. For information, call Chuck at 651-644-7502.

A CARD AND BAKE SALE will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at Rosewood Estates, 750 Mississippi River Blvd. For information, call Melissa at 651-698-1111.

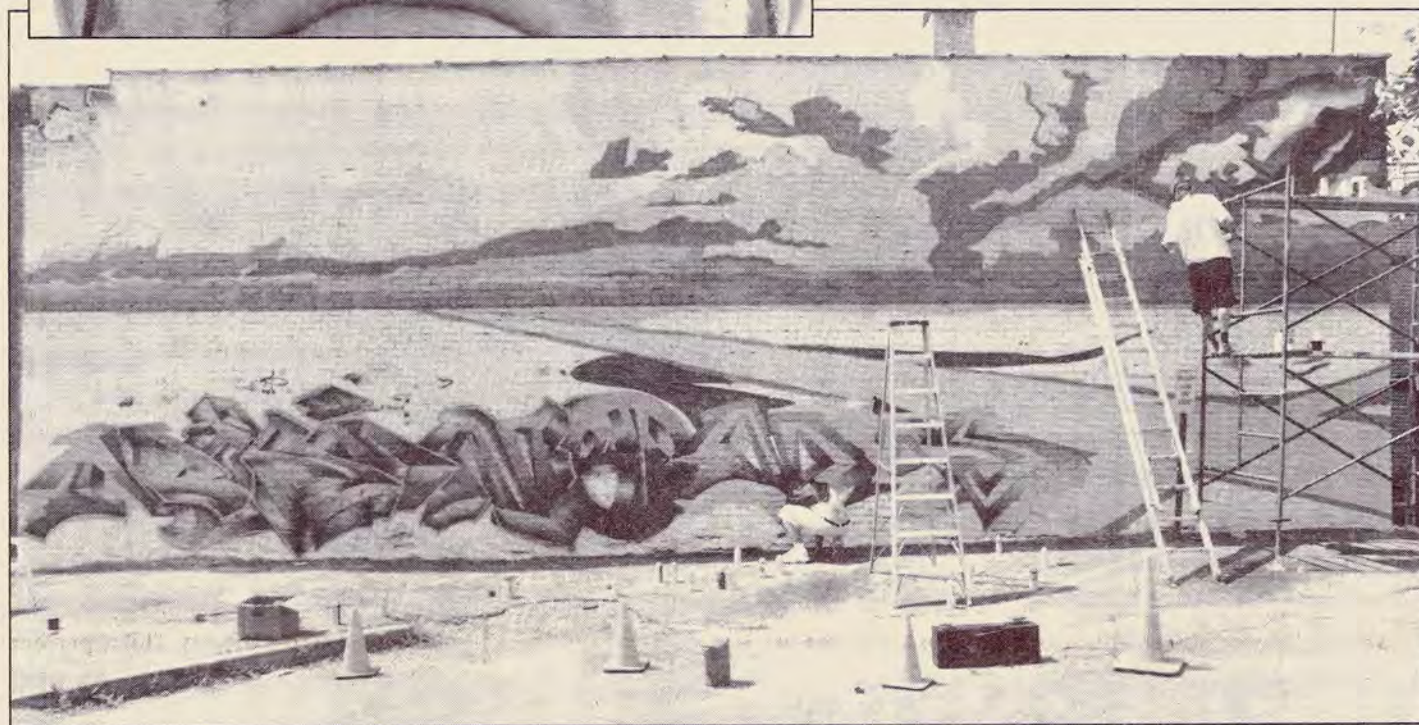
Monday/August 30

WORDSMITHS TOASTMASTERS will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 this evening in the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The meeting is open to anyone wanting to improve public speaking, listening and leadership skills. For information, call Keith at 651-772-6806.



Dunn's mural gets redone.

Urban artists Mesh of Minneapolis and Bcuz of St. Paul work on a new mural at Dunn Brothers Coffee on Grand Avenue. Mesh, a former graffiti vandal, designed the original mural at the coffee shop in 1993. "I take it from an artistic point of view now," said Mesh, who doubles as a Hip Hop producer. He figures there are at least 50 mural artists working in the Twin Cities. At left, the new mural at Dunn's is reflected in the sunglasses of Bcuz as he steps back to take a look at his work. Photos by Mike Long.



Tuesday/August 31

"REFLECTIONS," the annual reading of the JCC's Senior Creative Writing Workshop, will take place at 1:30 this afternoon at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. There will also be a luncheon at noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$2.25 for seniors and \$4.50 for others (the reading is free). For reservations, call 651-698-0751.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening in the parking lot of Nina's Cafe, at Selby and Western avenues, for a walk around the neighborhood. For information, call Rachael at 651-644-3770.

Wednesday/September 1

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

TOURS of the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St., will be given from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning today. Visitors will learn about the technology used by the Ramseys 125 years ago. Tours will continue between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Sundays through September 30. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For reservations, call 651-296-8760.

A RUMMAGE SALE will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 beginning this evening at

Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St., Minneapolis. The sale will continue from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. tomorrow and end with a bag sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Admission to the pre-sale is \$1.00.

Thursday/September 2

CLASSES ON TAE KWON DO KARATE will be offered to those ages 12 and older beginning today and continuing through November at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Classes for beginners will take place from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and classes for intermediate/advanced will take place from 7:00 to 8:10 p.m. The cost is \$40, or \$30 for JCC members. To register, call 651-698-0751.

"SOUND THE SHOFAR," a family event including a dairy dinner, storytelling and a shofar-making workshop, will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. To register, call 651-698-0751.

Saturday/September 4

A FORT SNELLING SHOWCASE will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today, from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday at Historic Fort Snelling. There will be hands-on crafts, family competitions and theatrical presentations. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For information, call 612-726-1171.

SUMMIT AVENUE WALKING TOURS will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today. The 90-minute tours will leave from the James J. Hill House, proceed up Summit Ave. to Ramsey St. and conclude by the Cathedral of St. Paul. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For reservations, call 651-297-2555.

Sunday/September 5

A WALKING TOUR to explore some of Mendota's landmarks will be given from 2:00 to 3:30 this afternoon. Visitors should meet at the site office in the DePuis House, located at the Sibley Historic Site. The cost is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and \$1.50 for children ages 6-16. For information, call 651-452-1596.

Monday/September 6

A LABOR DAY CELEBRATION will be held from noon to 5:00 p.m. today in the Highland Park Pavilion. There will be food, children's rides and games, music, informational booths, a history display and prize raffles. Prior to the picnic, a worship service will be held at 11:00 a.m. for all faiths. Admission is free.

Tuesday/September 7

"MEET THE MOUSE," an introductory computer class for adults, will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon beginning today and continuing through Friday. The cost is \$55, or \$40 for JCC members. To register, call 651-698-0751.

Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING SET

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its next board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 9, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The agenda will include consideration of the Transportation Committee's recommendations for traffic calming measures for streets in the area bounded by St. Clair, Cleveland, Randolph and Fairview avenues. The committee is suggesting that the city install bumpouts at each corner throughout the area as part of next summer's street paving project. The bumpouts are expected to slow traffic and prevent cars from parking within 30 feet of the crosswalks.

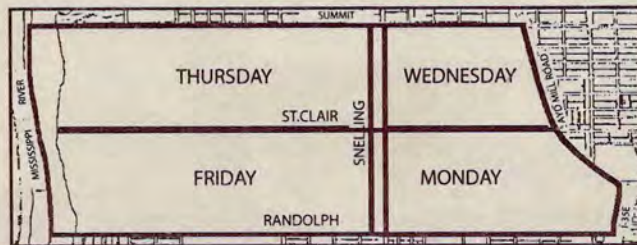
The agenda also will include discussion of Macalester College's plans to place retail on the first floor and apartments on the top two floors of a proposed building at the northeast corner of Grand and Cambridge. Board members also will hear a presentation on a revised long-range plan for the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. For information, call the council office at 651-695-4000.

RECYCLED REMINDER

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has hired

SuperCycle as its new recycling provider. Recyclables are picked up weekly on specified days (see map). Due to Labor Day, residents who normally have their recycling picked up on Mondays are being asked to place their items on the curb on Friday, September 10.

Antifreeze, used motor oil, car batteries and scrap metal are no longer being accepted as part of the curbside program. For details on where to take those items or to report missed pickups, call Patrick Shannon at 651-695-4000.



Macalester-Groveland recycling days

KIDSPARK

KidsPark, the community council's licensed drop-in childcare program, is closed for the rest of the summer. It will reopen for its 12th year on Wednesday, September 8, in the warming house at the Groveland Recreation Center, 1961 St. Clair Ave. Staff members will be at KidsPark between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Tuesday, September 7, to take reservations and distribute membership packets.

The KidsPark Parent Advisory Committee has set new rates effective this fall. The new fee will be \$3.50 an hour for tod-

dlers and preschoolers, and \$11 per morning for infants between 6 weeks and 16 months. The membership fee will remain at \$30. Parents who are willing to work mornings at KidsPark can exchange hours of service for hours of child care.

This year, KidsPark will be staffed by two Macalester-Groveland neighborhood teachers. Sarah Dolan, who worked as a teacher at KidsPark this year, has been named the program director. Lynne Schroeder has been hired as a KidsPark teacher. Use of KidsPark is not restricted to Macalester-Groveland families. Reservations can be made up to one week in advance by calling 651-698-7841.

JOB CONNECTION

The Macalester-Groveland Job Connection is looking for experienced workers who are interested in providing housecleaning, window washing, gutter cleaning and indoor and outdoor painting for senior citizens. Pay and scheduling are negotiated by the resident and the worker. For more information, call Laura Gutmann at 651-695-4000.

BOULEVARD STUMP REMOVAL

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has a group contract with Midwest Tree Technology to remove stumps on city boulevards in the neighborhood. The cost to Macalester-Groveland homeowners is \$25. The contractor will also grind stumps outside the neighborhood for \$30. To sign up, send a check made payable to the MGCC at 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul, MN 55105.

Highland District COUNCIL CAPSULE

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

The Highland District Council extends its congratulations to the Highland Business Association on another successful Highland Fest. The members of the district council's board enjoyed meeting area residents and business people who stopped by the council's booth on Saturday. For those who did not, "Highland Park" T-shirts, sweatshirts and caps are still available in the council's office in the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-695-4005.

BOARD, COMMITTEE MEETINGS SET

The Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan Task Force will review a proposed zoning overlay district for the Shepard-Davern area when it meets at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The provisions of a zoning overlay district may be more restrictive or expansive than the provisions for the zones contained within it.

The Community Development Committee will meet Thursday, September 9, to consider the Franciscan Care Community's proposal to build assisted-living apartments for elderly residents adjacent to St. Mary's Home at 1925 Norfolk Ave. The Franciscans are seeking five variances from the zoning code to construct the facility. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Village View Room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

The next meeting of the Highland District Council's board of directors will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16, in the Community Room at Hillcrest.

FREE RECYCLING BINS OFFERED

The district council has received a new supply of blue recycling bins. However, area residents may recycle without a bin. The next recycling day is Monday, August 30. Items should be on the curb by 7:00 a.m.

FALL CLEANUP PLANNED OCT. 16

The Highland/Macalester-Groveland fall cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 16, in the parking lot of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Area residents who are interested in volunteering their time and talents to the cleanup are asked to call Patrick at 651-695-4000.

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ON THE TOWN

'Iron Ore Betty'

Mac-Grove artist proves you can take the girl out of the Iron Range, but you can't take the desire to paint out of the girl

by Catherine Condon

Although more than a half century has passed since Betty Beissel Vachon sat sketching in her 7th-grade art class in Chisholm, Minnesota, she still remembers the words of her instructor.

"We were copying old pictures," she recalled. "There was one of a girl with her hand around a jug. The teacher said, 'You don't want to do that. You wouldn't be able to do the hand.' And I said, 'I can too do the hand.'"

Since that day, Vachon, 75, has relied on the same confidence to master painting, illustrating, sculpture and other art forms. Artwork spanning six decades can be found in the garage studio of her Macalester-Groveland home, from the "Cosmopolitan Cover Girl" pastel she created as a teen-ager to a book on the history of the Iron Range that she illustrated a few years ago.

"I just never stopped," said Vachon, who is now exhibiting 12 of her oil and watercolor paintings at the downtown Minneapolis campus of the University of St. Thomas. The free exhibition, which runs through October 20, features views of the Twin Cities from the 1950s and 1960s as well as scenes depicting the Iron Range's mining industry.

Since 1981, Vachon's work has been displayed in more than two dozen

exhibitions in Minnesota. Her paintings are part of permanent collections of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul and the St. Louis County Historical Society in Duluth.

Vachon grew up in Fraser, a now-defunct Iron Range town built by U.S. Steel and Oliver Mining Company for their workers. After graduating from Chisholm High School in 1942, she moved to Milwaukee to work at a defense plant. For fun, she enrolled in a figure drawing course. Arriving late on the first day, she said, "I went to sit down and I looked up. Here was this nude girl. There were men in the class and they were watching me. I just turned beet red."

She eventually returned to Minnesota to attend the Minneapolis School of Art. Following completion of a three-year

painting program, she joined the advertising department of Northwestern Bell. There she worked as a Yellow Pages artist for eight years, traveling throughout Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Beissel married St. Thomas alumnus Robert Vachon in 1954 and they had three children in rapid succession. She quit the phone company to raise her family, but continued drawing and painting at home.

When she joined the League of Women Voters in the '60s, she discovered a new outlet for her artistic abilities. "If they needed a chart or if they did a study and were going to put it into a book, they'd give it to me," she said. "I'd figure out the typeface, make a cover design, bring it to the printer and get it done."

She took art classes regularly to broaden her range, which led to what she refers to as "nature art."

"These are just some things I picked up at the St. Croix," she said, pointing at a driftwood, shell and pod sculpture she created in 1970. Another piece made of rocks and driftwood collected on the shores of Lake Superior is included in her exhibition at St. Thomas.

Also featured in the show are several oil paintings, including a downtown St. Paul scene, a view of the St. Paul Cathedral and Capitol as seen from the vicinity of the High Bridge, and an illustration of life on the corner of Nicollet and Washington avenues in 1947.

"This was 'The Bowery,'" she said of the Minneapolis street scene. "I made my sketches and took it to my composition class and organized it the way I wanted it. Then I painted it."

While explaining one of her mining landscapes, Vachon revealed her extensive knowledge of bygone mining days by discussing electric shovels, bucket capacities, digging versus blasting and iron ore depletion. "This holds 85 tons," she said, pointing to a mining truck in the piece she painted more than three decades ago. "It's small compared to what they're doing now."

'Iron Ore Betty'/see page 30



Iron Range native Betty Beissel Vachon now paints in a garage studio behind her Macalester-Groveland home. An exhibition of her scenes from the Mesabi mining area, along with views of the Twin Cities from the 1950s and '60s, is now on display at the downtown Minneapolis campus of the University of St. Thomas. Photo by Brad Stauffer.



Vachon's 1969 oil painting of an electric shovel would even make Mike Mulligan smile.

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Music



Free concerts will be given in Minnehaha Falls Park. The lineup will include the following performers at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Disentanglement on Wednesday, August 25; Bend in the River Big Band on Monday, August 30; the Kenwood Chamber Orchestra on Wednesday, September 1; and a bluegrass festival from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 6. In case of rain, the concerts will be held in the Minnehaha Falls Pavilion.

A Summer Serenade to celebrate the opening of the Scandinavian Cafe, the new European-style sidewalk cafe at Landmark Center, will take place from noon to 1:00 p.m. Friday, August 27. Dan Newton and Joe Steinger from the Cafe Accordion Orchestra will perform European concerts. Free treats and discount coupons will be given away.

"Voyage À Paris: A Poulenc Party," a music marathon of every song Poulenc wrote, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, August 28 and 29, at Theatre de la Jeune Lune, 105 N. 1st St., Minneapolis. Programs will take place at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. The cost is \$10, or \$25 for all three programs. For tickets, call 612-333-6200.

Debbie Friedman will perform at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 29, in the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets, priced from \$18 to \$100, call 651-698-3881. The concert is a fundraiser for Mount Zion Temple.

A concert to celebrate Selichot, which is the beginning of the Jewish High Holyday period, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, September 4, at the Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The concert will feature classi-

cal and Jewish music, including an original composition by Temple of Aaron Cantor Mitchell Kowitz. Admission is free. For information, call 651-698-8874.

A bluegrass festival will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, September 6, in the newly constructed performance area near Minnehaha Falls in Minnehaha Park. Featured bands will include the Middle Spunk Creek Boys, True Blue, the Platte Valley Boys, the Christensen Sisters Bluegrass Band and the Buffalo Gals. Admission is free.

Books



The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): David Lee will read from his two new books of poetry *News from Down to the Cafe* and *A Legacy of Shadows* on Wednesday, August 25; Ed McGaa will read from his book *Eagle Vision: Return of the Hoop* on Monday, August 30; Deborah Watts will discuss her book *101 Ways to Know You're "Black" in Corporate America* on Tuesday, August 31; and Lorna Landvik will read from her new novel *The Tall Pine Polka* on Wednesday, September 1. Call 651-699-0587.

Jesse Ventura will sign copies of his book *I Ain't Got Time to Bleed* from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26, in the chapel at Macalester College. For information, call the Hungry Mind at 651-699-0587.

Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy., will hold the following events for adults: the Guthrie Bookclub will discuss *Ah, Wilderness!* at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 26; the Spirituality Bookclub will discuss *Seat of the Soul* at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1; Ann-Mae Johnson, author of *Parents*

ON THE TOWN

briefly



Macalester-Groveland singer-guitarist Pat Donohue will perform blues, folk and jazz at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 26, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. Admission is \$10 at the door, or \$9.00 in advance. Call 651-645-2647.

Shape School Success, will lead a back-to-school seminar at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 2; and Laara Duggan, author of *The Best Flowers for Midwest Gardens* and *The Best Plants for Midwest Gardens* will present a fall gardening workshop at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 3. Call 651-690-9443.

"Home-Brewed Drafts," an afternoon of free readings by Minnesota authors, will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, August 28, at Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Faith Sullivan will read from her forthcoming novel *All On A Summer's Day*; Minnesota's Poetry Slam Team will perform; Lorna Landvik will read from

her newest novel *The Tall Pine Polka* that is due out in September; and Alexs Pate will read from *The Multicultiboho Sideshow*, a satirical look at the Twin Cities' art community, that is due out in October. After the readings, the authors invite everyone to join them at the Great Waters Brewing Company, 425 St. Peter St. For information, call 651-222-3242.

Family



"Baby Dinosaurs" has opened at the Minnesota Children's Museum. There will be automated dinosaurs in a swampy, prehistoric environment. Chil-

dren can take a swamp walk, dig for dinosaur fossils and build a dinosaur out of a bag of bones. The exhibit will remain on view until September 6. Call 651-225-6000.

"The Big Adventure," a challenge course of fun-filled, action-packed adventure, has opened at the Minnesota Children's Museum. The exhibit encourages kids to test their abilities, both mental and physical. It will remain on view until November 7. For information, call 651-225-6000.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following activities for children at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays: children will learn new sidewalk games by using Arlene Erlbach's step-by-step instructional *Sidewalk Games Around the World* on August 28. For information, call 651-224-8320.

Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following children's activities: a back-to-school storyhour at 10:00 a.m. Monday, August 30; a back-to-school party, including games, treats and a back-to-school goodies bag, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 2; a Grandparent's Day storyhour at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 6. All events are free. For information, call 651-690-9443.

"Nine Nights of Family Fun," a free concert series for families, will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through August 31 on the grounds of the Minnesota History Center (families may bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and a picnic supper). The series will conclude with Cansa'yapi Oyate Dance Troupe on August 31. For information, call 651-296-6126.

The Children's Theatre Company, 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, will open *A Village Fable* at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 3. The production is a musical tale of three individuals who find themselves outcasts in their own community. It is set in a

village in the valley where the river ran dry. The villagers believe that the Six-Fingered Man, who lives on the mountain beyond, caused the river to run dry. They are ruled by superstition and cannot accept anyone who is not like them. Performances will continue through October 30. For tickets, priced from \$10 to \$25, call 612-874-0400.

History Hijinx, a drop-in program for children and families, will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The lineup will include the following: try your hand at the techniques of crop art on September 5. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

Dance



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

"Swing Night in the Caves" will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. every Thursday at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The line-up will include the following: Swing Beat on August 26; and the Moonlight Serenades on September 2. Free dance lessons will be given at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$7.00. Call 651-224-1191.

Bando Mitsuhiro-Kai will introduce traditional kabuki-style Japanese dance at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 28, in Baumgardner Auditorium at the University of St. Thomas. Admission is \$15, or \$10 for students.

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Benvolio (Joshua Wade), Mercutio (Joe Wilson Jr.) make a point with Romeo (Patrick Wilson) in a scene from the Ordway Music Theatre's production of *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Musical from William Shakespeare*. Performances of the Shakespeare classic set to a contemporary rock score will continue at 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays through September 5. For tickets, priced from \$24 to \$55, call 651-224-4222.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold the following smoke-free singles dances at 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays: the Underbeats will provide the music for a dance on August 28 in the Grand Ballroom of the Thunderbird Hotel, 2201 E. 78th St., Bloomington; Express will provide the music for a dance on September 4 in the Marian KC Hall, 1114 W. 79th St., Bloomington. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 for those arriving before 9:00 p.m. Call 651-644-3443.

A special "Swing Night" will be held from 8:00 p.m. to midnight on Friday, September 3, at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The Moonlight Serenaders will provide the music. Dance lessons will be given at 7:15 p.m. Admission is \$8.00. Call 651-224-1191.

Film

"Cinema With Passion," a festival of Hong Kong films, will take place at midnight on Fridays at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, and at 11:00 a.m. and midnight on Saturdays at the Oak Street Cinema, 309 S.E. Oak St., Minneapolis. The festival will continue with the following films: *Furious Slaughter* on Saturday, August 28; *The Return of the Chinese Boxer* on Friday, August 27, and Saturday, September 4; and *A Better Tomorrow* on Friday, September 3. Admission is \$6.00. Call 612-376-7715.

Theater

William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Picnic* has opened at the Jungle Theater, 709 W. Lake St., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through August 29. For tickets, priced at \$18, \$22 and \$26, call 612-822-7063.

Park Square Theatre has opened *Noises Off*, an ingenious, hysterical farce, that follows the cast of *Nothing On* as they struggle to save their misbegotten production from disaster, in the Historic Hamm Building, 20 W. 7th Place. Performances will continue through August 29. For tickets, priced from \$9.00 to \$24, call 651-291-7005.

Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!* has opened at the Guthrie Theater. The play takes a humorous and sentimental look at American society at the turn of the century and centers around the Miller family and their 17-year-old son Richard, who is on the edge of manhood. Performances will continue through August 29. For tickets, priced from \$16 to \$39, call 612-377-2224.

The Civil War, a musical epic which recalls the passion, idealism, turmoil and heroism of the men and women who defined a nation, has opened at the Historic Orpheum Theatre. Performances will be given until August 29. For ticket information, call 612-339-7007.

Etc.

The Reformation Singers is looking for new members. Rehearsals are held once a week and performances approximately once a month. Any singer interested in joining should call Director David Stark at 651-690-0222 by August 30.

Artists are sought for "Art at Ramsey: A Holiday Art and Craft Fair" held in conjunction with the Grand Meander, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4. There is a nonrefundable \$5.00 jury fee. The cost for a 10-by-10-foot space will be \$80. The deadline for entry is September 1. For an entry form, call 651-293-8948.

Inner City Youth League's summer day camp will present its fourth annual musical extravaganza, "Revolution: New World Through Performance," at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 29, in the Minnesota History Center theater, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The 40 children in the program have been working this summer with a variety of arts professionals, including Broadway dancer Stephan Reynolds, Penumbra Theater actress Jada Odom and drill team director and choreographer Toya Poole. They will be joined by 15 professionals in a program of music, dance and spoken word. Admission is a \$5.00.

The Macalester Festival Chorale will hold auditions on Wednesday and Thursday, September 1 and 2, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. To arrange an audition time, call Martha Davis at 651-696-6520.

Exhibits

"Not Your Ordinary House," an exhibit of drawings and photographs of Minnesota concept houses, is on display at the Ramsey County Historical Society in Landmark Center. The exhibit will remain on display throughout the summer. Admission is free. For information, call 651-222-0701.

"A Gathering of Stitches," an exhibit of historic and contemporary quilts and garments that include quilting, has opened in the Goldstein Gallery in McNeal Hall on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The exhibit will be on display until September 12.

"Eating," an exhibit of art, artifacts and photographs illustrating eating as a social experience, has opened at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. For details, call 651-296-6126.

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The Highland Business Association would also like to thank all its members who so graciously contributed their time and energy to make this year's festival such a huge success. Please show your support to all of these publicly spirited firms with your patronage.

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"NewArt," an exhibit of recent work by Patricia Canelake, Barbara Lea and Mary Gibney, has opened at Cafe Latté, 850 Grand Ave. The exhibit will remain on view until October 15.

"Terra Ephemera: New Works by John Finkler" and "High Ceilings: A Mixed-Media Group Exhibition" has opened at the Argyle Zebra Gallery, 308 Prince St. The exhibit will remain on view until September 3. Call 612-837-3741.

"Chagall," a focused exhibition of paintings and works on paper by Russian artist Marc Chagall, will open Saturday, August 28, at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The exhibit will remain on display through October 24. Call 612-870-3131.

"American Alphabeticians," an exhibit of alphabet paintings by Chank (Macalester College alumnus Charles Anderson) and torched metal plates and abstract wire sculptures by Spunk (a.k.a. Jeff Johnson), will open Wednesday, September 1, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. A reception will take place at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 10. The exhibit will run until October 1. Call 651-696-6416.

"American Glass: Masters of the Art," an exhibit showcasing the works of 13 contemporary glass artists, will run from September 4 through October 31 at the Minnesota Museum of American Art in Landmark Center. For details, call 651-292-4355.



Showing of their art, from left, are (front row) Nicole Tuma, Carl Pearson, Elena Vakos of the St. Clair Broiler, Elise Tuma and Annie Tuma; and (back row) Kelsey Tuma, Laura Hamilton, Jayne Pearson and Kyle Gikling.

ArtScraps calls young artists

Most art made by young people ends up hanging on refrigerators or tacked on bulletin boards. But on Thursday, September 9, that will change. On that day, youth artists who enter the Art Flair on St. Clair art exhibit will have a chance to see their masterpieces hanging on the walls of the St. Clair Broiler. Each child who enters will also receive a free malt at the opening reception.

Entries are available by going to ArtScraps, 1459 St. Clair Ave., and buying a \$1.00 art exhibit kit. Free workshops also will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, August 24 and 31, at ArtScraps for young artists needing assistance with their creations.

The kids' art exhibit will be part of Art Flair on St. Clair, a family-oriented outdoor art festival that will be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 12, at ArtScraps. For information, call 651-698-ARTS.

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Betty Beissel Vachon captured life on the corner of Nicollet and Washington avenues in downtown Minneapolis in this oil painting from 1947.

'Iron Ore Betty' /from page 27

Despite her Iron Range roots, Vachon did not take on the nickname of "Iron Ore Betty" until eight years ago. "I was driving up to Hibbing," she said. "There was this song (on the radio) with the words, 'I'm going steady with Iron Ore Betty and she's going steady with me.' I thought, 'Gee, I'm Iron Ore Betty. I was born in a mining town, I paint pictures of iron mines and my family members were all miners.'"

Shortly afterward, she listed "Iron Ore Betty" in her biography for her art school's class reunion. The nickname stuck. Vachon hopes her Iron Range paintings

will preserve the memories of an era and an industry she credits for her inspiration and success.

"The mining companies had all this money," she said. "We had these fabulous schools and teachers. We never had to buy a book. We had bus service to school and back. We had a theater that had a seating capacity of 1,200. All across the range, we had swimming pools and swimming teams. It was very unusual, but we thought everybody had schools like that. We really were privileged."

SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



Soaking in Minnesota stem to stern

It's customary for the Cody family to head to the farthest reaches of North America in the summer. However, this year the busy schedules of our growing lads would not allow for an extended excursion. Instead, we put together a four-part trip that covered Minnesota from one end to the other.

With our "Gopher State Atlas & Gazetteer" in hand, we embarked with stops at Grand Rapids, Ely, Brainerd, Fargo-Moorhead and Lanesboro. Along the way, we passed through Frazee, Home of the World's Largest Turkey, and Floodwood, where Catfish Days offered us the opportunity to dine on catfish sandwiches. I think we drove past Tobie's in Hinckley 10 different times and not once did I succumb to the lure of its famous caramel rolls.

We have plenty to be proud of in this state. Ours is a land of loons and leeches and that big walleye statue in Garrison. We have aspen trees, the Iron Range and Highway 1 from Ely to Lake Superior. We can reel in fish from the end of a dock or measure our manhood against that of our lumberjack forefathers at Paul Bunyan Land in Brainerd.

There were more than a few revelations as we traversed the Land of 10,000 Lakes:

- As miserable as jet skis might sound to those who are trying to relax on a lake, they sure are fun to drive. We logged quite a few miles on them while staying at a friend's cabin on Lake Pokegama. A buddy of ours brought along his new super-charged model. The little dynamo can hit 65 mph at full throttle. I was scared to death at 30 mph. This isn't a jet ski; it's a hydroplane. Like a bucking bronco, it tossed one of my pals right over the handlebars. He hit the surf at 55 mph, saw a few stars, then went back out on the lake for more.

- Do you like the woods, but not the rain, the bugs and sleeping on the ground? Then pick up a copy of Bill Bryson's hilarious new book, *A Walk in the Woods*. I read it at the lake and loved it. Bryson and a couple of pals hiked the Appalachian Trail together. After 20 pages, you'll swear you're out there on the trail with them.

- We discovered the best little golf course for kids in the state—Hidden Hills, a pitch-and-putt layout in Grand Rapids whose nine holes range from 30 to 70 yards in length. All you need is five bucks, a wedge and a putter. Better than mini-golf, this can actually help your short game. And there are no electric windmills or drawbridges.

- There's no more serene place on earth than a putting green at dusk. We were staying at Madden's with the entire Cody clan. An impromptu putting contest began after dinner and lasted until the mosquitoes carried us away at sunset.

- I played my usual golf along the way. One par four at Madden's epitomized my inconsistent game. I smoked a drive 250 yards, leaving a 50-yard chip shot to the pin. I proceeded to chunk the next two shots, excavating two rolls of sod in the process. Lying three from 48 yards out, I promptly chipped in for a ho-hum par.

- Later that night, the Codys headed out on Gull Lake for a three-hour tour. Renting a pontoon boat has always been a favorite family activity. The 16 of us were doing fine until a couple of our kids wandered up to the front of the craft. The bow suddenly dipped beneath the water and soon half the boat was submerged. The whole crew headed to the rear in record time. Obviously, this was a group that had paid close attention to the final frames of *Titanic*. Next year, a family croquet tournament has been scheduled instead.

- This marked our third consecutive trip to the Pyrotechnic Guild's summer fireworks convention, held this year in Fargo. We brought along a couple of our nieces—novices who were shocked to see how calm all the campers were during the first evening's explosions. "You'll get used to it," our boys told them.

It's difficult to describe the unbridled passion and excessive mayhem of this annual gathering. There's nothing else

Cody/see page 34

Pigskin prognostications

Area coaches size up chances for gridiron greatness

by Tom Cody

The Central receiver went down and out and the ball was right on target. However, when he dropped it, coach Floyd Smaller was less than ecstatic. "Hold onto that ball and it's 15 yards, son," he said. "Use two hands, that's what they're there for."

Smaller retired last fall after completing his 26th year coaching in the St. Paul City Conference. It was a short retirement.

"They threw a real nice party for me over at the Sheraton," he said. "I was all set to get out of coaching. They started a search process and didn't get the candidates they wanted. The principal asked me to take the position back for this year."

Smaller has a reputation as a "players' coach" among his peers. "He's always concerned about his kids," said Highland Park coach John Heller. "Floyd is big-hearted when it comes to his players and they respond well to him."

Cretin-Derham Hall coach Rich Kallok concurs. "Floyd really cares about his kids," he said. "I respect him and I've enjoyed coaching against him over the years."

The Minutemen will have to dislodge the Raiders and the Scots if they want to claim a piece of the St. Paul City Conference hardware this year. It won't take Smaller long to find out how his players stack up, since they'll take on CDH in the season opener.

The eight high school clubs in the Villager area will kick off their seasons on September 3. Here's a look at how the coaches rate their chances for success:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City

1998 record: 4-5

Coach: Floyd Smaller

Key players and their strengths:

- Rasheem Sharpe, senior RB. Does a bit of everything: returns kicks, catches passes, runs the ball.

- Nikita Hollomon, senior RB/S. Excellent hands and quick feet.

- Ryan Gilson, senior QB. Led the conference in passing in '98.

- Kellen Burch, senior RB/WR. Gilson will deliver the mail into his hands often.

- Matt Schmidt, junior T/DT. Should be the main man on both sides of the line.

- Casey O'Connell, junior WR. "Can catch a BB in the dark," according to Smaller.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Sharpe is one of the finest running backs in the league and an obvious asset for Central. "We have eight or nine really good skill people," said Smaller. "That's the most we've ever had here. We have a bunch of guys who can catch the ball. Our big questions are on the line, both ways."

Outlook for 1999: Roseville, White Bear Lake and North St. Paul are Central's big section rivals. "If we're playing well in October, we can win this sec-



Highland Park High School coach John Heller puts his defensive line through a drill at practice. Photo by Mike Long.

tion," Smaller said. "I like our chances in the City Conference as well. I'd make it Central, Cretin and Highland Park."

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: St. Paul City

1998 record: 11-1

Coach: Rich Kallok

Key players and their strengths:

- Joe Vannelli, senior RB. Elusive scat back who gained over 1,000 yards last year.

- Rashon Powers, junior RB. Big, strong runner who gained nearly 500 yards off the bench last fall.

- Joe Mauer, junior QB. Has already attracted the attention of big-time scouts.

- Andy Fleming, senior WR. An athletic receiver with good hands.

- Walter Bowser, senior WR. Biggest deep threat on the team. Adjusts well to the ball.

- Mike O'Hara, senior TE. A big target who can block as well.

- Mark McElroy, senior OT. A massive force on the offensive line.

- Ryan Melander, senior OT. Another college prospect in the trenches.

- Ronny Dox, senior MLB. A rugged hitter and defensive leader.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Offensive skill positions are very strong for the Raiders. Mauer could be the next marquee quarterback in the metro area. "We have a lot of experience back on offense," Kallok said, "so we'll use multiple sets and play wide open. We lost seven starters on defense, so that's a question mark coming in." Depth is good with 85 players out for the team.

Outlook for 1999: "Highland Park has an outstanding offensive backfield returning," Kallok said. "Johnson has 100

players and Arlington will be tough in the conference." Cooper and Apple Valley join CDH's section this season. "We like new blood, especially from a strong conference like the Lake," Kallok said. The defending section champion Raiders will be tough as usual.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: St. Paul Suburban

1998 record: 1-8

Coach: Tom Orth

Key players and their strengths:

- Joe Winge, senior RB/DB. A feisty little competitor. One of the team's co-captains.

- Tony Vitelli, senior QB. Battling for the signal caller's job. Another co-captain.

- Tom Lopez, senior T. A 6-foot-7, 282-pounder who has played on the line for two years.

Team strengths, weaknesses: "We had a good one (Andy Gross) at fullback-linebacker for three years and now he's gone," said new coach Orth. "We don't have many of those fullback-linebacker bodies on our team. We might be solid on the line and we've got decent receivers." Sibley will be young, with some sophomores being called on to play a lot, but its depth is improving with 105 players in grades 9-12. "We don't want to play people both ways, so we're going to have to make some tough decisions," Orth said.

Outlook for 1999: "I don't see how you can pick anybody but (defending state champ) Woodbury," Orth said. "Our goal is to become a contender by October. I like our new section assignment." Sibley dropped down one class level to

Football/see next page

Football preview: Coaches rate their prospects for the season /from previous page

3A. Their opponents in the section now include Highland Park, St. Thomas Academy and South St. Paul.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City
1998 record: 5-4
Coach: John Heller

Key players and their strengths:

- Heighlos Riser, senior RB. Scored a ton of points as a junior. Will be one of the metro area's finest offensive players.
- Kevin Mason, senior QB. Can run and pass. A versatile athlete who will spearhead the Scots' wide-open offense.
- Dawan Propps, senior FB. Very strong at 6-foot-2, 240 pounds. A punishing runner.
- David Jones, senior HB. Has excellent hands. A threat to catch the ball from the half-back position.
- Aaron Howard, junior T/DE. Started both ways as a sophomore. The only returning lineman for Highland.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Highland's offensive backfield is among the most explosive in the Twin Cities. The Scots have experienced, quick players who can score from way out. Mason can throw the football and Heller has some guys who can go catch it. "But we lost our whole offensive and defensive lines to graduation," Heller said. "Even though we have good depth at linebacker and defensive back, the defense is a question mark."

Outlook for 1999: "CDH is head and shoulders above the rest of league," Heller said. "Johnson and Highland will be the best two public schools." The Scots have to be ranked among the top three in Section 3A with St. Thomas Academy and South St. Paul.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro
1998 record: 1-7
Coach: Ron Monson

Key players and their strengths:

- Kristoff Hendrickson, senior G/LB. Tough two-way player and third-year starter.
- Luke Hennig, senior T/DT. Back with experience. A quick, solid lineman.
- Bryan Murphy, senior C/NG. Cat-like

quickness at 5-foot-10, 205 pounds. Leader on the line.

- Adam Arnold, junior FB/LB. A bruiser at 6-foot-4, 235 pounds.
- Andy Haugen, junior QB. Played a lot as a sophomore and developed a strong understanding of the game.
- Todd Grantham, sophomore RB/S. A 6-foot-4, 210-pound back who can fly through defenses.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Seventeen of 22 starters are back for the Red Hawks, but many of them are two-way players. "Our depth is poor," Monson said. "If a kid gets hurt, we lose two players." Minnehaha's kicking game is strong and its offensive backfield is experienced. However, overall team speed is not remarkable.

Outlook for 1999: De La Salle rates as the favorite in the Tri-Metro race. "I like our chances in the section playoffs," Monson said. "We moved down a class (to 2A) and we match up better in this size division." He hopes to exceed the .500 mark with the Red Hawks this fall.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City
1998 record: 9-3
Coach: Rod Lossow

Key players and their strengths:

- Marcus Levesseur, junior QB. Smart, tough scrapper who runs the option well.
- Ferlando Harris, senior G/DE. Returning 6-foot-2, 230-pound All-City performer.
- John Burczek, senior C. A 215-pounder with a powerful first step. Another returning starter.
- Justin Carter, junior HB. A speedy back with magic moves. Roosevelt's chief ground threat.
- Danny Pearson, senior HB. Transferring from Cooper. Brings speed and size to the backfield.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Levesseur will be a huge asset, while Harris and Burczek will anchor the line protecting him. "We're not a team with a bunch of stars," Lossow said of the defending section champion Teds, "but we do have a solid, all-around lineup. Our second team is about as good as our first."



Highland Park High School's senior running back Heighlos Riser reels in a pass at a recent practice. Photo by Mike Long.

The Teds lack team speed and a big burner who can score from anywhere.

Outlook for 1999: "We have 30-plus juniors and seniors," Lossow said. "That's good depth for us. We have no real weak area." He sees Washburn as the biggest obstacle in city and post-season play.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro
1998 record: 4-4
Coach: Brian Sandifer

Key players and their strengths:

- T.J. Prunty, senior QB/DB. One of the best athletes in the cities. He'll be playing Division I collegiate ball next year.
- Sundi Griffin, junior HB/DB. Another Division I prospect. Griffin has size, speed and experience.
- Jay Eyunni, senior WR. Runs great routes and has good hands.
- Sam Polk, senior TE/LB. Tied for conference lead in catches with Eyunni last year.
- Louie Skowyra, senior G/LB. Tough as

nails. This guy loves to hit.

- Mike O'Halloran, senior S. One of top tacklers on the team. A three-year starter.
- Kevin Flynn, senior C. Mainstay on the line at 6-foot-4, 225 pounds.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Prunty is a major strength. He will key the Spartans' running and passing game. Griffin will put up big numbers and the team's receivers are another strength. "This will be the best defensive team we've had here in a while," Sandifer said. "Injuries will kill us, though, because we're not real deep."

Outlook for 1999: "De La Salle is the Tri-Metro pick, but they're never around come state tourney time," Sandifer said. "I like our chances in the section playoffs." Breck could be the biggest obstacle for the Spartans. "If we stay healthy, we've got a good chance," said the coach.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: St. Paul Suburban
1998 record: 10-3
Coach: Bob Slater

Key players and their strengths:

- R.J. Welsh, senior QB. A backup last year who'll key the offense.
- Kevin Geraghty, senior LB. The only returning defensive starter. Will have to lead by example.
- Vern Simmons, senior FB. Likes to run inside. A strong presence on the ground.
- Anthony Blumer, senior HB. A game-breaker who can run and catch.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Talented offensive backs are about all STA brings back from last year's state tourney team. "The offensive line will be all juniors, but they're going to be OK," Slater said. "We'll try to get over the early bumps and not embarrass ourselves in September. We'll be a lot better later in the season." Defense could be the Cadets' black hole. There are lots of question marks there.

Outlook for 1999: "We have every intention of defending our section (3A) title and going back to state," Slater said. "Woodbury has the best player (QB Bobby Granadaf) in our league. They're the favorite." Look for the Cadets to keep playing well into November.

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The Dartmouth-bound Laura Ashley, sans milk mustache. Photo by Terry Faust.

Multi-talented Sibley star ready to give soccer the old college try

by Dick Gordon

Laura Ashley has been asked countless times if she is any relation to the internationally famous clothing boutique of the same name. Though she is not, the Mendota Heights teen-ager has added to the cachet of the Laura Ashley name by her own endeavors.

Ashley was an all-state competitor on the Henry Sibley High soccer, basketball and track teams, earning 14 letters and setting several records in the three sports over the course of her career at the Mendota Heights school. She was equally proficient in the classroom, where she mustered a perfect 12.0 grade point average and served as valedictorian of her 335-member senior class.

Her accomplishments both on and off the field recently earned her the national SAMMY (Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year) award. Co-sponsored by USA Today and the milk industry, the award entitled her and the 24 other national recipients to a \$7,500 scholarship and all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The scholarship will help defray the costs of a post-secondary education at Dartmouth College. The Ivy League institution recruited her as much for her school record 83 career soccer goals as for her academic excellence.

Ashley quit her summer job as a Somerset Country Club waitress so she could make last week's deadline for soccer practice on the Hanover, New Hampshire, campus. She is one of 11 freshmen recruits on the Dartmouth varsity team this season. After a week of workouts, she and the rest of the club were scheduled to embark for a series of games in Iceland, Norway and Sweden. After two weeks in Europe, she is scheduled to return to Dartmouth, where freshman classes start on September 22.

Of all the awards she has amassed in high school, the SAMMY is the one that Ashley

cherishes most. Other awards have included Mount Olivet's Minnesota Female Athlete of the Year Award and the Minnesota State High School League's Triple A for arts, academics and athletes.

At Sibley, Ashley was a virtual Ms. Everything. She was an advanced placement scholar and National Merit commended student. She coached youth soccer and basketball. She played alto sax in the Sibley band. She was president of the National Honor Society. She was the leading scorer on the school's Math Team. She co-chaired the school's blood drive.

She said math and psychology were her favorite subjects at Sibley, but she has no idea what she will major in at Dartmouth. In the athletic arena, she said she plans to concentrate on soccer, which her banker father—who played three sports at St. Olaf College, but not soccer—persuaded her to take up 13 years ago.

It was a wise decision for his precocious 5-year-old daughter. Ashley was the leading scorer in Minnesota during the 1997 girls soccer season. Her 33 goals helped Sibley win the girls state high school championship that year. She was hampered by a shoulder injury all of last season, but still scored 16 goals to help the Warriors reach the region finals and was named to the all-Midwest regional team.

Ashley said one of the reasons she picked Dartmouth was for its women's soccer team, which is ranked seventh in the nation among Division I schools. Though she is excited about playing college soccer, Ashley said she has no dreams of competing on the international or Olympic soccer scene.

At Sibley, she said she put a lot of time and effort in academics, as well as athletics. She plans to continue that same pattern at Dartmouth. "After college," she said, "I'll just lead a normal life."

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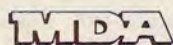
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SPORTS SHORTS

Highland Gymnastics is now accepting registration for its fall session that runs September 13 to November 15. The program is open to youngsters ages 3 and older and includes recreational, pre-team and team divisions. All classes are held at the Highland Park Senior High auxiliary gym. Call 651-293-8874.

The St. Paul Classic Bike Tour will be held on Sunday, September 12. More than 5,000 cyclists are expected to participate in the fifth annual event. Routes of 15 and 31 miles are offered. The ride starts at 7:30 a.m. at the University of St. Thomas and includes music, food and art at rest stops along the way. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$12 for children. For information, call 612-882-3180.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation is asking hockey enthusiasts to bring new or used youth hockey equipment to the Minnesota Wild preseason game on Monday, September 13, at Target Center. The gear will be used to outfit inner-city kids who play hockey through the Mighty Kids program. The biggest need is for helmets and skates. Hockey gear also may be dropped off at

metro-area ice arenas September 11-26. A bin will be set up at the Highland Ice Arena from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 12. To donate equipment at a different time, call Pam Bott at 651-603-0908.

The Highland Central Hockey Association will hold registration for the 1999-2000 season from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 12, and from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 15, at the Highland Ice Arena on Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue. Play is open to area youths ages 5-16. For information, call Pam Bott at 651-642-9560.

The 13A Traveling Team from Hillcrest Recreation Center brought home the hardware from Highland Fest's Little League tournament for 13-year-olds. Coached by Frank Cicalello, Dave Lueck and Brad Johnston, the team included Joe Parilla, Ty Johnston, Ryan Lynch, Charlie Cicalello, Andrew Bennett, Donovan O'Connor, Brendan McGibbon, Ben Morrison, Joe Borer, Joe Llewellyn, Andrew Tolbert, Tyler Lueck and Matt Cadwell.

The Devil Rays captured the Highland Little League's girls fast-pitch Major League title by



The Twins won the Senior League championship in the Highland Little League's girls fast-pitch program. The team of 13- to 15-year-olds finished in second place during the regular season, but went on to win the title in the league playoffs on July 14. Pictured, from left, are (bottom row) Jackie Kelly and Amy Lau; (middle row) Alicia Hageman, Alexis Belisle, Kaitlin Tracy, Lauren Bisanz and Catherine Marinac; and (top row) coach Jane Schifsky, Emily Hennig, Rose Barrett, Tricia Runyon, Lauren Raheja, Patricia Hickey and coach Julie Henderson. Not pictured is Molly Layer.

defeating the Diamondbacks in a 13-12 nail-biter on July 15. The team of 11- to 12-year-olds finished the year with a 14-4 record. Coached by Midge Hernandez, Mark Rufener and Jan Ballman, the team included Katie

Rufener, Chelsea Hernandez, Maggie Stark, Nikki Barghini, Jackie Hernandez, Jessica Young, Julie Knopp, Kathryn Fischer, Annie King, Andrea Fields, Angie Ballman and Nancy Ho.

Cody: Family trip showed a lot to be desired about our land of lakes /from page 31

remotely like it. Next year, it's on to Muskegon, Michigan.

- We ran into an all-day rain in Fargo with seven teenagers in the van. Not a pleasant experience. I figure Dante must have based his *Inferno* on a similar experience. We desperately searched for a mall, for video games, for an indoor pool. We finally found a movie theater with eight screens. Our crew scattered into five of them, successfully killing a couple of hours in the process.

And get this: Fargo has absolutely the worst traffic jams I've ever been caught in. Day, night, rush hour, it didn't matter. It was bumper-to-bumper at every street light. What gives?

- The best place we stayed was Lanesboro, silently tucked away in the southeast corner of the state. I'd never been through these parts before. The Root River Valley was a magnificent setting for my wife's family reunion. We spent some time on the bike trails there, and without a doubt they're the best I've ever ridden. The trails follow old railroad beds and are flat, well-kept and shaded. They cross iron bridges, weave through woods and lead to quaint little villages. Very nice.

- The village of Whalen (population 84) is one such town on the Root River Trail. While pedaling through it, we discovered a homemade miniature golf course that's open only on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We put in a call to

Rocco, the proprietor, with a special plea for a Wednesday tee time. He responded by giving us the keys to the place, only asking that we leave appropriate remuneration in the cash box. We opened up Rocco's on that Wednesday, cranked up his stereo system, turned on the waterfall on No. 3 and had at it: 36 holes of miniature golf for all 10 of us. It was one of those rare pleasures that life can offer on a lazy summer afternoon. We left Rocco a few of our Rice Krispie bars as a tip and headed back to camp.

SPORTS PAGE HEADLINES

During our August travels, I somehow found time to keep up on the sports scene by way of the out-state editions of the daily news. Herewith my thoughts:

- So Dimitrius Underwood's illustrious Viking career has come to a close. This first-round (No. 29 overall) draft choice amounted to absolutely nothing and has to be a major blow to coach Dennis Green's ego. But then, Denny's ego was the problem in the first place. Underwood was a known quantity, a confused young man with very little interest in playing football. Following his Randy Moss coup, Green thought he could single-handedly turn Underwood around as well. One for two, Denny.

- Twenty-two Major League Baseball umpires will not be

returning next season. Their resignations were quickly accepted by the league office when their union tried to play hardball. The bottom line with these ump's is simple: They're not very good at their job and they're not coming back. It's refreshing to see these positions decided on merit rather than the good-old-boy seniority system that's been intact since baseball's beginnings.

- Coincidence? There are three states that have two Major League Baseball teams with winning records: New York, Ohio and Texas. Any presidential candidate who corrals the electoral votes of these three states would probably have a winning record as well.

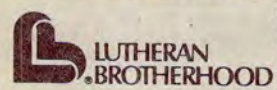
- Have you noticed that I've made no sarcastic reference whatsoever to the Governor's return to the professional wrestling ring? That's because I got my sales tax rebate check. I've never heard of such a thing. I'm stunned.

- After Tiger whupped the field at the PGA Tourney, the talk quickly turned to the upcoming Ryder Cup. Here's hoping that the pay-for-play controversy is resolved well before the event begins on September 24. Patriotism aside, this is golf's only true team tournament. It's a lot of fun to watch Woods and Duval go head-to-head, but it'll be even more fun to watch them team up. Here's hoping for a Sergio-Tiger rematch at the Brookline Country Club.

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For more information, call 651-699-1462.

Classified ads appearing in the *Villager* are coded with a "v" in the ad. Those in the *Grand Gazette* and *Villager* are coded with a "gv."

Home Improvements

*****LARRY'S PAINTING***** Exterior-Interior, spray painting, ceilings textured, paper hanging, dry wall; free estimates; licensed, bonded, insured; 651-222-4227. **gv**

LES OLESEN PAINTING, since 1960, (interiors plus), patching, taping, drywall, repairs, exterior trim; 651-698-0531. **gv**

ELECTRICAL. Quality work, reasonable rates, free estimates, complete rewires or small jobs; telephone jacks, smoke detectors, ceiling fans, service calls. Residential Electric, Inc. 651-645-6462, 612-427-4951. **gv**

COMPLETE CERAMIC TILE service, 17 years' experience; call Mark, 651-439-0946. **gv**

ROGER'S PAINTING Service. licensed, bonded, insured; interior, exterior; free estimates; 651-699-4119. **gv**

*****NO SALESMEN***** WE DO OUR OWN WORK. General Remodeling. Roofing, Decks & Porches. Portfolio and References. Mn. Lic. #20068296; Erik, 651-659-6575; 612-722-8394. **gv**

EXTERIOR/INTERIOR painting and repair; powerwash, stucco; reasonable rates; 651-698-9492. **gv**

HANDYMAN. Door replacement; basement/bathroom remodeling. Dakota Construction, 20% Senior Discount; 612-598-3081. **gv**

*****SPRAY TEXTURED CEILING***** Patching, taping, water damage; interior/exterior painting; hydro-spray painting; all work guaranteed, free estimates; Scott, 612-724-4119. **gv**

Home Improvements

ALL HOME REPAIR. Affordable and reliable, roofs, gutters, aluminum trim, carpentry, wood rot, plumbing, plaster water damage. Power washing, deck refurb/sealing; 20 years' experience; insured; free estimates; Jeff, 612-391-2134. **gv**

EXTERIOR PAINT, repair, color match; power washing, wood, stucco; best prices; workmanship guaranteed; 651-699-2832. **gv**

CONCRETE WORK, all types. Tuck-pointing, chimneys, foundations; free estimates; licensed, bonded; 651-642-5484; 651-462-4462. **gv**

HOME REPAIR. Expert carpentry, serving Highland since 1960; licensed, bonded, insured; Tom Oberg; 651-698-3156. **gv**

EXTERIOR PAINTING. Spring specials; free estimates; licensed, bonded; 651-642-5484; 651-462-4462. **gv**

ROTTEN WINDOW SILLS & trim replaced; Tom Oberg, 651-698-3156. **gv**

SASH CORDS BROKEN? Tom Oberg. Licensed, bonded, insured. Serving Highland since 1960; 651-698-3156. **gv**

PRESERVE YOUR DECK today. Power wash and seal. Will restore its natural beauty. 1-year finish guarantee per specs. Deck and porch repair. Quality Home Repair. Affordable. Free estimates. 612-391-2134. **gv**

REMODELING. Licensed. Bonded. Insured. 612-588-4821. **gv**

CABINETS. Quality woodwork products made to order. Free estimates. Bruce's Wood Works, 651-488-8283. **gv**

Home Improvements

*****ST. PAUL PAINTING CO.***** Quality work, affordable price. Experience, insured, free estimates, prompt service, local references. Russ, 651-227-1472; 651-274-5723. **gv**

TOM ABELL PAINTING where quality & dependability count. Interior/exterior, decks, restoration; free estimates; 5% off; 612-890-1107. **gv**

CHAINLINK FENCE installation and repair. Small and big jobs; free estimates; 651-644-0406; 612-839-5232. **gv**

STOP. Tired of looking for someone to handle most of your repair needs? Metro Repairs Plus is set up to handle anything from top to bottom. Plus fence, gutters, roofing, gutter cleaning, deck repairs; Greg, 612-374-9139. **gv**

HANDYMAN. Bathrooms, repairs, flooring. No project too unique. 612-670-2829. **gv**

ROB'S ROOFING. Professional quality roofs, free estimates; 651-281-0227; 651-592-3113. **gv**

PLASTER REPAIR/CERAMIC Tile, custom plaster and texturing, ceramic tile bath, kitchen and entry; total kitchen, bathroom, basement and attic remodel; B. Witte, 651-644-9177. **v**

SCHUFMAN BROS. QUALITY painting, interior/exterior, textured ceilings and water damage repairs, professional service at affordable rates, local references, free estimates, insured; Jonathan, 651-645-5119; 651-481-0402. **v**

HOME REPAIRS, painting, plumbing, carpentry, electrical, reasonable; free estimates; Dave, 612-722-7965. **v**

PROFESSIONAL EXTERIOR/INTERIOR PAINTING, CEILING TEXTURING, WALLPAPER HANGING, MODERATE PRICES; FREE ESTIMATES; LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED; MERRIAM PARK PAINTING, ED, 651-224-3660; "A NEIGHBOR YOU CAN TRUST." **v**

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

CARPENTRY, general repairs, decks, porches, fences, new and rebuilt; painting, interior and exterior; Ron, 612-753-6974. **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**

Home Improvements

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**

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

HIRE A HUSBAND. I make housecalls. Carpentry, repairs; 35 years' experience; John, 651-699-7077. **v**

CEMENT FLAT WORK specialist. Steps, sidewalks, patios and slabs; 651-488-6574. **v**

DONNA'S INTERIOR Painting. Small jobs my specialty. Color consulting. 651-771-8693. **v**

WE SPECIALIZE in trim painting; Bob Finn & Son; 651-488-2761. **v**

BIGS SEAMLESS rain gutters. Custom-built, maintenance-free. Free estimate; 651-768-7168. **v**

ROOFING/REMODELING. Patio doors, decks. Free estimates. Since 1968. Jim Lentsch, 651-730-4124. Licensed, bonded, insured. **v**

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

TRADITIONAL FINISHES. Restoration services, period baths, kitchens, millwork, cabinetry; 612-810-8283. Mn. Lic. #20064321. **v**

PAINTING, interior and exterior; reasonable rates; call Douglas, 651-699-9595. **v**

BROWN ROOFING & REMODELING Roofing, Siding, Repairs, Insurance claims. Lifetime warranty. Since 1912. Free estimate. No salesmen. We do our own work. Licensed, bonded, insured. Many references. 651-480-0229. **v**

SAME-WEEK SERVICE. Tear off, re-roof, patching; senior discount; LBI; 612-724-3934. **v**

Home Services

KEN BRISSON SEWING Machine Repair; home services, free estimates, work guaranteed; 464-3702. **gv**

BURTON'S RAIN GUTTER Service. Install, clean, repair; rainleader disconnects; chimney caps; since 1973, licensed, insured; #20126373; Burton Johnson, 651-699-8900. **gv**

Betsy Jensen
Estate & Household Sales
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<input type="checkbox"/> Autos, Boats, Etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation
<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/> Personals
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<input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Services	<input type="checkbox"/> House/Pet Sitting	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health Care	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Snow	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Commercial	
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Please Note: Classified ads are 75 cents a word, \$7.50 minimum. All classified ads are payable in advance: cash, check, credit card. Mail, fax or deliver your ad to: *Villager*, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116. Fax: 651-699-6501. For more information, call 651-699-1462.

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\$15 - \$25 PER HR.
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RN/LPN Vacation Pay 401K
 Part-time positions available (.5) nights and (.2) days every other weekend in Highland area board and care facility.
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GREAT PT AFTER SCHOOL JOB!
 For bright, cheery person. \$7/hr. to start. M-F 3-7 pm every other day plus Sat. 8 am-3 pm. Will train.
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Secretary
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 1712 Randolph Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55105

Seeking experienced secretary to work with our college counseling and middle/upper school admissions staff. Candidates with strong communication and organizational skills will be considered to contribute to our energetic work environment. Wordprocessing and data management experience required. Salary includes benefits. Send cover letter and resume to above address by Sept. 1, attn: Judy Somers.
 SPA is committed to diversity and equal opportunity.

Retail
★ TIMBUKTU ★
 Unique Women's Clothing store is looking for individuals with entrepreneurial spirit, strong leadership, and sales skills, retail experience a plus. Interested in people who want to move into management with an aggressive, fun, growing company. Excellent earning potential, benefits, discount, FT & PT avail. Send resume:
 Attn: Julie & Karin,
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 (612) 920-4043; Fax: (612) 920-8193

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Cleaning Person Needed
 Part-time days, flexible schedule. St. Paul area only. Experience preferred, but not necessary. No holidays. Performance bonuses monthly.
MAID TO CLEAN!
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 Iris Park Commons-Senior apt. bldg. 4pm-12mid FT/PT Monitor + some cleaning
 Call Mark (651) 632-8856

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).

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 Steve Iwaniszyn at 651-695-4305
Coldwell Banker Burnet

PART-TIME Secretary/Receptionist
 Local Funeral Home seeking the right person to work every other week. Requires good people and secretarial skills as well as some computer experience. Please send resume to:
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Villager Communications
 757 Snelling Ave. So.
 St. Paul, MN 55116

RESTAURANT Dining Room Positions!
 Beautiful 106-unit Residential Home Care Community located in scenic Highland Park seeks full-time:
Host/Supervisor 11AM - 7PM
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 to join a great team and work in their full service dining room. We offer excellent benefits for our full-time employees. To apply, contact:
ROSEWOOD ESTATE
 Tasha at 651-696-3160
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 Equal Opportunity Employer

Fun Work Sell Flowers on the Internet! Customer Service, PT
 Our growing company is looking for fun, enthusiastic, customer service orientated people. Duties include placing orders by phone, Email, and problem solving. Computer & internet experience helpful. Good keyboard & communication skills required. Must be available for day hours and some Saturdays. Call Tom or Michelle at: Internet Florist
 651-695-3224.

STATE FAIR
12 Days - Aug 26 - Sept 6
 Kirschner's Beer Stube is hiring Fry Cooks and Wait Staff for two shifts 11am-7:30pm and 2pm-10:30pm. Free fair admission and one meal daily is included. Fry Cooks \$8.50/hr. Wait Staff \$6.50/hr. Must be age 18. Call Bob at 612-724-3604 to apply.

Your opportunity gets even better NOW HIRING

when you walk into our store.

We're Herberger's and soon we'll be opening our new locations in Rosedale Center and Midway Marketplace.

TWO HIRING EVENTS
 Mon., Aug. 23 - Fri., Aug. 27, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Sat., Aug. 28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

ROSEDALE CENTER
 West Hwy. 36 & Fairview Ave. Roseville Lower Level, Herberger's Wing
 For more information call (651)-697-9529

MIDWAY MARKETPLACE
 New Herberger's location:
 (Old Montgomery Ward Building) or
 Sheraton Midway Hotel, Rm 350
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 For more info call:
 651-642-1234

We are currently hiring for:

- Sales Associates, FT, PT, & Temporary, All Departments
- COSMETICS: - Excellent base pay plus commission. Full & part time positions available at Southtown, Rosedale & Midway.
- Hair & Nail Salon
- Support Areas
- Customer Service/Cash Office
- Receiving - Loss Prevention

We will be holding on-the-spot interviews and job offers. We are also accepting applications for our new store in Southtown Shopping Center in Bloomington.

We offer an attractive salary/benefits package, a generous merchandise discount and more. Please join us for our Hiring Events or feel free to apply in person today at any one of our three metro area Herberger's locations.



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Retail
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 Paper Warehouse a national retail store chain specializing in party supplies is seeking sales associates to join our team! As a sales associate, you will provide superior service to our customers to include cashiering and merchandise assistance. Please stop by 2103 Ford Parkway St. Paul, or call the Mgr. at (651) 698-5275 for more info. EOE




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We're looking for the RIGHT PEOPLE to join our TEAM:

NOT YOUR TYPICAL FRONT DESK POSITION: Up to \$9.00 per hour full or part-time — are you upbeat, energetic, and organized? Come work in a positive, healthy atmosphere with flexible work hours. College experience and love for people and selling. Send resume (Attn. Jordan) or apply in person.

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EOE

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Papa John's delivers the perfect pizza and the perfect opportunity for dynamic individuals. We are the fastest growing pizza company in America and currently seek the following part-time and full-time individuals.

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Our employees enjoy: flexible schedules, weekly paychecks, a fun work environment, potential for advancement, pizza discounts, comprehensive training, 401(k), health, dental and life insurance, and awards for safe drivers (drivers only).

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SERVICE DIRECTORY

Home Services

WILLIE'S RUBBISH HAULING and small demolition and garage and basement cleaning; 612-825-6511; 612-650-7695, pager; licensed. **gv**

A & B APPLIANCE Repair and maintenance; 10% senior discount; Visa, MasterCard accepted; 651-698-6017. **gv**

ALL BRIGHT Window Cleaning. Gutter cleaning. Chandelier cleaning. Mike, 612-884-5063. **gv**

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DISCOUNT WINDOW CLEANING. Wash storms, screens, sills. Gutters. Glazing. Phil, 612-522-7211. **gv**

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Len, 651-698-6434. **gv**

PEOPLE'S CHOICE Hauling. For all your hauling needs. Rubbish, compost, construction debris. Specialize in small demolition jobs; concrete removals. M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 612-655-2205; 651-983-6097. **gv**

HANDYMAN. Painting, hauling, stucco/plaster, ceilings, sheetrock, carpet, plumbing. 651-637-3836; 651-587-0383. **gv**

BROWNS EZ Does It Carpentry, 25 years, specializing in interior finish. No job too small, jut call 612-597-9216. **gv**

*****HANDYMAN PLUS*****
All your home repairs and improvements professionally met; 28 years' experience; Mike Monahan, 651-480-7888. **gv**

FURNITURE REPAIR. All types; nicks, gouges, scratches, buttons, springs and things; complete antique restoration; 651-482-9386. We also buy antiques. **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**

ANTIQUA CLOCK REPAIR (and others); Grandfather service; local moving; 651-698-9220. **v**

UPHOLSTERY. Labor starting at chairs, \$225; loveseats, \$325; couches, \$425; Orb Upholstery, 25 years; Dave, 612-721-5105. **v**

CARPET CLEANING, two average-size rooms, \$42.00; 10% off upholstery cleaning; Dave, 612-721-5105. **v**

*****I DO WINDOWS*****
651-645-1451, Chris. Insured. **v**

*****RAIN GUTTER CLEANING*****
Free estimates. 612-722-6039, Mike. **v**

*****I CLEAN GUTTERS*****
651-645-1451, Chris. Insured. **v**

HARRIS WINDOW and gutter cleaning; free estimates; 612-880-2527. **v**

HOME REPAIRS. No job too small. Reasonable rates. Call Dave or Vern, 651-292-1889. **v**

Housecleaning

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING COUPLE
15 years; housekeeping, office cleaning; window washing, carpet cleaning; move in/move out cleaning; insured, bonded; William, 612-823-2590. **gv**

BLADE'S CLEANING Service is 100% guaranteed. For excellent cleaning, Letia, 612-549-0530. **gv**

PLACES TO GO. People to see. Things to do. That's why Merry Maids cleans our house. Since 1980, bonded, insured. 651-552-4979. **gv**

MARIA'S CLEANING at your service. Quality, affordable, great references; 651-407-7071. **gv**

LITE/DEEP CLEANING; one time/regular scheduling; office/home; Ruth, 651-917-3460. **gv**

QUALITY CLEANING. Serving Highland area for 15 years. Rita, 651-699-7022. **v**

HOUSECLEANING, Excellent references. Call Betty, 651-690-1599 or leave message. **v**

ST. KATE'S STUDENT interested in housecleaning, Highland Mac-Groveland area; great references; reasonable; 651-905-1845. **v**

A BRIGHTER DAY cleaning has bi-weekly openings available; one-time cleaning welcome; 651-451-3282. **v**

VALUE YOUR free time. Personalized, professional cleaning; thorough, insured, references and supplies provided; free estimates. Call Clean by Jean, 651-552-8720. **v**

AUDREY ERICKSON, one-time home cleaning. Insured. "We do windows." 651-699-3728. **v**

Housecleaning

HOUSECLEANING, responsible, reliable, experienced. References available. 651-638-9743. **v**

NO EXTRA FEES. Reasonable rates; 13 years' experience, rental turnovers, offices, excellent references; 651-487-5365. **v**

TWO HONEST cleaning ladies; fast, free estimates; 612-724-4314, lve. msge.v

THOROUGH HOUSECLEANING. Also, clean-up for rental property, moving, etc.; Ann, 651-774-6396. **v**

THOROUGH, RELIABLE housekeeper looking for work; Gerry, 612-724-5868. **v**

Commercial Cleaning

HODGES CLEANING CO. Complete office, business, home cleaning; 612-518-3371; 651-698-7149. **gv**

Lawn/Landscape/Snow

MURPHY'S LAWN & LANDSCAPING. FERTILIZER/WEED CONTROL. LAWN MAINTENANCE, LANDSCAPING, RETAINING WALLS, PATIOS, PLANTINGS, ROCK/WOOD CHIPS. FREE ESTIMATES. LICENSED. INSURED. VISA/MASTERCARD. 651-645-1441. **gv**

LAWN SERVICE FOR SALE. Highland Mac-Groveland area, 108 accounts, \$125,000 gross; \$20,000, accounts only; equipment available separately; 651-699-1169. **gv**

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Free estimates, lawn rehab, sodding, seeding, drainage grading, patio retaining walls. Tree and shrub trimming, removal and planting. Decorative rock garden removed and installed. Hauling and more. **gv**

THE BEST SUMMER lawn care. Seasonal contracts starting at \$105/month. Retaining walls, patios, rock & wood-chip beds, sod, grading; Bluhm Brothers, Inc. 651-227-2584. **gv**

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TIM'S GRASS CUTTING. Spring cleanups, year-round contracts, estimates. 651-690-1284. **gv**

WESTLUND TREE SERVICE. Professional tree and shrub maintenance, stump and brush removal; insured and free estimates; immediate response; Larry, 651-459-7552. **gv**

LANDSCAPING FOR THE MILLENNIUM: Design and installation, renovations and hardscapes. Good quality work, reasonable prices, guaranteed. Greenleaf Design, 651-695-1711. **gv**

SNOWBIRD SNOWPLOWING lawn care for the year. Please call for free estimate. 651-224-2766. **gv**

HEDGE AND BUSH Trimming. 20 years' experience. Please call, 651-222-1699. **gv**

WEEKLY LAWN mowing and trimming; senior discount, free estimate; Chris, 651-224-1420. **gv**

SANDHAHL LANDSCAPE & General Home Repair, 651-696-1754. Lawn mowing and edging. **gv**

TOM GALLAGHER LAWN & LANDSCAPE SERVICES. RETAINING WALLS. Monthly lawn mowing contracts; shrub & hedge trimming; fertilizing, bobcat work, edging, rock, and mulch work. EXPECT THE BEST. Commercial/Residential. 651-293-9462. **gv**

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GUTTER CLEANING/REPAIRS; tree trimming; hauling; sign up early for snow; Jim, 651-698-9492. **gv**

OGER'S TREE SERVICE. TREES & SHRUBS trimmed, removed; serving Highland 25 years. Licensed/ insured; Roger Gatz, 651-699-7022. **v**

EARLY BIRD LAWNSCAPES. Landscaping, lawn service, cleanups; spring aeration; 651-645-6050. **v**

LAWN MOWING; hedge trimming, edging. Call for estimates. HRS Lawn Care; days, 651-699-1388; message, 612-581-9407. **v**

BOECK TREE SERVICE. Remove, trim, stumps; lawn aeration; senior discounts; 651-772-2168. **v**

DEW LAWN Service. Special services, quality, experienced; free estimates; 651-698-6148. **v**

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Just Listed 2-Story

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Mac/Groveland 1-1/2 Story

1862 Berkeley. Charming 3-BR features gleaming hardwood floors, fireplace, French doors to the 3-season porch. 24-hour recorded message.

1-800 516-9707 Ext. 5202



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U of M Campus - Duplex

618 Erie Street S.E. Great location, heart of the University of Minnesota. 2 BRs in each unit. Great rental history. Call 24-hour information line...

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Convenient Living

1901 St. Anthony — attractive 2-story townhome offers large open rooms, main floor laundry. Call 24-hour information line.

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Premiere Offering

361 N. Wilder. Spectacular 5-BR, 4-bath 2-story. Beautiful double lot overlooking Merriam Park. Everything you've always wanted! Call 24-hour information line.

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651 686-8895 \$254,250



Randy Brown



Looking for Charm?

Stop looking! It is as cute inside as it is outside. Hardwood floors, 3 BRs, 2 baths, finished recreation room, 2-car garage plus a bonus room above garage.

651 696-0857 \$167,500



Liz Flynn



Spacious and Gracious!

Highlights of this St. Paul Midway home include beautiful woodwork, inviting foyer, 5 BRs, sewing room, 2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2-car garage and shed.

651 696-0857 \$168,900



Liz Flynn



Just Bring Furniture

This Highland Park home has been completely updated. 3 BRs, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, finished recreation room, beautifully landscaped are just a few highlights.

651 696-0857 \$171,000



Liz Flynn



Too New for Photo

Immaculate Home!

Beautiful rambler that's been well-maintained! Breezeway, patio and fenced yard! Hardwood floors and gorgeous knotty pine family room in lower level!

651 696-0876 \$122,900



Cathy Smithknecht



Magnificent Opportunity

Great duplex for owner to occupy! New combination windows, new roof and new appliances! Hardwood floors under carpet and room for workshop/studio in lower level.

651 696-0876 \$122,900



Cathy Smithknecht



Stunning Craftsman Bungalow

In excellent condition. Spacious and airy feel, state-of-the-art kitchen and vintage bath, plus a double garage. 2165 St. Clair.

651 699-4269



Gloria Smith



Shadow Falls Rambler

Spacious 3-BR with master suite. Enjoy very large living and dining room and lots of updating; new roof, central air and electric '97, new furnace and water heater '90.

651 699-4269 \$184,900



Gloria Smith



1757 Hampshire

Pretty 2+ BR rambler in move-in condition. Lots of updating, plus a new deck, lower-level family room and fenced-in private yard.

651 699-4269



Gloria Smith



Dramatic Contemporary

4-BR, 3-bath former model, white-on-white 2-story. Windows face the woods. Quiet end of cul-de-sac. Multi-level w/media room, finished LL rec room, huge MBR, 3-car garage.

651 696-0856 \$319,900



Beth Johnson



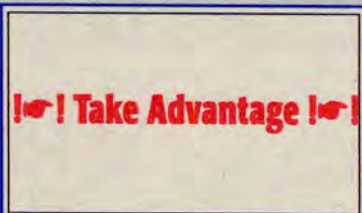
Roayl Oaks \$119,900

2-BR, 1-3/4 bath Shoreview Quad home. Finished lower level family room with wood-burning fireplace. New siding and deck. 2-car garage.

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Lynn Ritter



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651 251-4833 \$94,900



Scott Brownlee



Next to Golf Course

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