

Historic Theatre Starts Second Season

by Jefferson Fietek

After the successful completion of its first play season, the Mounds Theatre is proud to announce that its second season will be starting in August. Once again, the season is professionally produced and utilizes a strong mix of professional actors, as well as actors from the community. The theatre prides itself in creating quality productions and, because of its unique seasons, has given "non-theatre" people a reason to experience the joy of live theatre. Here are the shows scheduled for the Mounds Theatre's second season:

Disney's *The Jungle Book*
 August 18-28, 2005

The Mounds Theatre is proud to announce that it is the first theater in the nation to be granted the official rights to produce the full-scale stage adaptation of Disney's classic animated film *The Jungle Book*. The production includes all the classic songs like "The Bare Necessities" and "I Wanna Be Like You." This

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Bruce Vento Sanctuary Grand Opening

Saint Paul's newest park, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, is a unique urban natural area along the Mississippi River. A former rail yard, the land has been transformed through years of hard work by Saint Paul's East Side and Lowertown communities and a wide range of public and private partners. The park will be open to the public for this first time this spring on May 21st, and will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to enjoy the natural world in the heart of the city.

Park features include:

- * Towering limestone and sandstone bluffs.

- * Stunning views of the Mississippi River and downtown Saint Paul skyline.

- * Incredible bird watching.

- * Beautiful spring-fed water features that include three wetlands and a meandering stream with a footbridge over a two-foot waterfall.

- * Walking paths for hiking and exploring

- * A bicycle trail loop through the sanctuary and soon-to-be installed link around the park that will connect the East Side to the nature sanctuary and the Lowertown/Downtown district.

- * Fascinating remnants of the land's rail history.

- * Caves that include Wakan Tipi/Carver's Cave, an area of great Native American significance and a landmark for early European explorers.

On May 21, the nonprofit Lower Phalen Creek Project will host a community celebration to recognize the many partners that have made the park possible — and introduce local families to this exciting new recreational and natural resource. A formal program and ceremonial tree planting will take place from 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

For the next three hours, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., we are planning an array of events

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Sacrificing Animals for the Human Soul

by Nachee Lee

It's believed that long ago the Hmong people had an agreement with animals - in a time when animals and humans could communicate with one another.

One day the animals asked the Hmong if they could provide them food and shelter, because the animals could not produce food to eat and build shelter in which to live. The animals then made an offer to the Hmong that if they would agree to provide these means for the animals, in return the Hmong could eat the animals and offer the animal's soul to the spirit. In other words, the Hmong would raise the animals, provide food and

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Cinco de Mayo Parade Beckons

by Gabriel Garbow

Cinco de Mayo is fast approaching and Dayton's Bluff will be well-represented in this year's Fiesta in Saint Paul.

Every year, as many Minnesotans across the state prepare to plant their gardens, thousands of Hispanic people from across this state, Wisconsin and the surrounding region, prepare for the one of the country's largest Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

Dayton's Bluff is proud to be home to many Mexican Americans, many of whom will gather with their friends in the nearby District del Sol for the festivities.

Part of our neighborhood's contribution to the celebration comes from Chicanos Latinos Unidos En Servicio (CLUES), located at the corner of Margaret and Seventh Street. CLUES, a leading provider of social services for the Latino community, will continue its annual tradition of building a float for the parade. Community elders will be involved in the

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Church Directory

First Lutheran Church

463 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-7210
1 block N. of Metro State

Sunday Worship - 8:00 & 10:15am

Sunday School - 9:00 am

Adult Forum - 9:00 am

Followship - 9:45 am

Nursery & Handicapped Accessible

ALL ARE WELCOME!

List your church in
the Forum
Directory, call:
651-772-2075



Bethlehem Lutheran

655 Forest Street
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-4737
Corner of Forest & Margaret

Saturday Evening Service
5:00 pm

Sunday Morning Service
9:00 am

Sunday School and Bible Hour
10:15-11:15 am

Hmong Service
Sunday 11:15 am

Have You Had Your Face Painted Lately? Assassins at the Mounds Theatre

by J. Wittenberg

If not, perhaps you should consider hiring from the talent pool within our own rich resource that is Dayton's Bluff. It just so happens I can recommend someone. It was a cold day in March when I talked to Gloria Broderson, who claims to have a passion for the painting of faces.

It seems she has been making faces into works of art for ten glorious years, working at such diverse locations as The Pine Tree Apple Orchard, St. Paul Saints' games, and Professional Face Painters Inc. She claims the face is her canvas, and is for children of all ages. Most recently, she has had the egregious honor of working for Clown Town, U.S.A., and doing motocross events in Rochester. What other recommendations would an artist need? Presently, Gloria is freelance, and is ready, willing and able to make your countenance any color or design under the rainbow.

Ms. Broderson tells me she is available for spring and summer company picnics, children's and adult parties in Dayton's Bluff and indeed, all of St. Paul. "My face painting is a great addition to neighborhood and business festivals, events and openings. I offer a wide range of colorful, popular designs at reasonable, hourly rates," Gloria said. Now what more could anyone ask for? For information and booking, you may call this artist at (651) 773-5346. Her business is called 'Eye on the Sparrow.'

When asked how we can strengthen the arts in our burgeoning, diverse community, she spoke with zeal about restoring the lost after-school programs that have been cut by our governor and legislative body. "After-school programs used to keep the kids off the streets between 4 and 8 p.m., the high crime time. These programs gave them something creative to do; they were something the kids could take pride in, and take home. When these programs were cut, it put children at risk. They should be restored. There are generous churches that have offered their space in the past, like St. Bernards, to keep the kids creating and out of trouble. This is where community is really community!"

I couldn't have said it better myself. ■

Sky's the Limit Productions will be presenting Steven Sondheim's darkest and strangest musical comedy *Assassins* at the Mounds Theatre in May. This is the full-length version of their 2004 Fringe Festival production. *Assassins* explores the history of presidential assassins, assassinations and assassination attempts in America, from John Wilkes Booth all the way up to John Hinckley, Jr.

SCHEDULE:
Thursday - Saturday, May 12 - 14 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 15 @ 2:00 p.m.
Monday, May 16 @ 7:30 p.m.
Thursday - Saturday, May 19-21 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 22 @ 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors. The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. Contact us at 651-772-2253 or www.moundstheatre.org. ■

Celebration of Art

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church presents the "Celebration of Art" on Saturday, May 14, 7:00pm. This service will combine music, drama, and visual art to celebrate the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, featuring adult and children's choirs and Texas artist, Natalie Rahberg. A freewill offering will be received. Our Saviour's is located at 674 Johnson Parkway, St. Paul. For information, call 651/774-2396. ■

Expanded Hours

The Dayton's Bluff Branch Library at 645 East 7th Street has expanded its hours to Monday through Thursday - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday - 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mayor Kelly announced the additional hours on April 14, 2005 at the Library. ■

Need Recycling Bins?

You can pick them up at 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret. Call 651-772-2075 to be sure someone is in the office. Recycling pick up curbside is now **every Tuesday**. Have your recycling on the curb by 7:00 a.m. ■

Eclectic Dance at Kinetic Kitchen

by Sarah LaRose

The next Kinetic Kitchen dance performance at the Mounds Theatre will showcase the choreography of Sarah LaRose, Gerry Girouard, Anja Gallagher-Syfrig, Chris Schlichting and a Chen Style T'ai Chi Ch'uan demonstration by Fred Marych.

Sarah LaRose will present "Comparatively Empty": a modern dance work performed by LaRose and Krisin Grohs. Sarah began choreography for this piece while traveling with the Christopher Watson Dance Company (CWDC) to France last fall. This work is inspired by the physical and emotional experiences of emptiness and also by the music of Beethoven. Sarah LaRose is the presenter of the Kinetic Kitchen dance series.

Gerry Girouard is a long time local dancer/choreographer in the Twin Cities. He started his dance career with the Nancy Hauser Dance Company in 1983. Gerry's choreography literally dances off the walls. He has studied Capoeira: the rhythmic, acrobatic martial art that is the predecessor of Break Dancing. This last year-and-a-half, Gerry has been studying Argentine Tango and is incorporating it into his own dance style. He has received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant to travel to Buenos Aires this August to study Argentine Tango and its culture. He has recently received support from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Jerome foundation.

Anja Gallagher-Syfrig presents "Tango Calor", a two-part work, telling a relationship of love and passion. This energetic duet depicts the varying facets of a man and woman in love, followed by powerful dance movements of seven women. The two pieces are inspired by the music of Astor Piazzolla and portray the tension and support between two individuals and the larger community.

Chris Schlichting is a choreographer and dancer based in the Twin Cities. He is currently generating a dance work with local performers that he will fully unveil in spring of 2006. This work is inspired by questions about the origins of the things we consume. Chris will present segments from the first stages of this project's development during the May 7th Kinetic Kitchen performance.

Fred Marych will demonstrate some of the traditional Chen Style T'ai Chi Ch'uan forms. Chen Style is one of the major branches of wushu (martial arts) in China. The Yang, Wu, Woo, and Sun styles all originate from Chen Family T'ai Chi. Each of the founders of these styles was a student of famous Chen family teachers who after years of studying transformed the original postures to form their particular style. When competing in a Chin Woo T'ai Chi Tournament, the International Martial Arts Championships in Dallas, Fred took home two Gold medals in the Chen T'ai Chi Division. Fred Marych holds the honor of membership in the International Chen Family T'ai Chi Association and is sanctioned and endorsed by Master Ren Guang-Yi to teach Chen Family T'ai Chi. He offers ongoing classes at The Center for Performing Arts in South Minneapolis.

The next performance will take place on Saturday, May 7th at 8 p.m. at the Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. Tickets are \$10/person. Dayton's Bluff residents receive 2 tickets for the price of 1 with this article or proof of residency. For more information or tickets call the box office at 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundstheatre.org. ■

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production will have an all youth cast, with students from communities all over the Twin Cities. This production will be done in partnership with the Mounds Theatre Performing Arts Youth Conservatory.

The World Premiere of *SILENCE! The Musical*

October 14-29, 2005

The unauthorized musical parody of *Silence of the Lambs*. Finally, the cult musical spoof is coming to the stage! This hilarious musical parodies one of the greatest suspense films of all times, *Silence of the Lambs*. The music from this show has already enjoyed a huge following and was featured on Entertainment Weekly's "Must List." This twisted musical is not for the young or the faint at heart, with songs like "Put the F___ing Lotion in the Basket" and "Are You About a Size 14?" The story follows a young FBI agent as she tries to catch a crazed killer with the assistance of a convicted cannibal. Did we mention there is a chorus of lambs?

Jean Shepard's *A Christmas Story*

December 1-18, 2005

Back by popular demand! This holiday classic returns to the stage at the Mounds Theatre. It's everyone's favorite story of Ralphie and his quest to get a Red Ryder Air Rifle. All the delightful moments you fell in love with in the film version are brought to life, as well as a number of other surprises. This year's production will be even bigger and better. Create or continue a holiday tradition at the Mounds Theatre.

The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged)

February 10-26, 2006

From the creators of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* comes this funny send up to one of the most famous books of all time. Three actors in one fast paced evening try to recreate the Bible and its famous characters. This show was a huge hit in London and will surely delight audiences in the Twin Cities. This theatrical event combines shtick, word play, physical humor, sight gags, and audience participation. The play proves that God must have a sense of humor!

Blake Edward's *Victor/Victoria*

April 28-May 14, 2006

Blake Edwards's farce closes out the Mounds Theatre's second season. This musical comedy follows a down-and-out singer who hooks up with a flamboyant theatrical veteran, and together they become the toast of 1934 Paris by dreaming up a provocative nightclub act in which Victoria assumes the identity of a man in drag. It's about a woman playing a man pretending to be a woman, and that's only the beginning of the sexual identity confusion that provides the fuel for this splendidly classy slapstick musical farce. Legendary Hollywood composer Henry Mancini provides the wonderful music in this funny yet charming piece.

Ticket prices for *The Jungle Book* are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors/students. Order tickets in advance because this shows will sell out! For all other shows, admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended for these shows, too. For tickets, or other information, please call the Mounds Theatre Box Office at 651-772-2253 or visit our website at: www.moundstheatre.org. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106. -- Jefferson Feiteck is the Artistic Director of the Mounds Theatre. ■



ANNUAL HOME TOUR

The 2005 Dayton's Bluff Home Tour will be held on **Saturday, May 7th** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and **Sunday, May 8th** from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is part of the Minneapolis - St. Paul Home Tour sponsored by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development. The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public.

The Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour this year are: 800 East 3rd Street, 657 & 661-3 East 5th Street, 243 Maria, 182 Mound Boulevard, 411 Eichenwald Street, and 570-584 Payne Avenue. Look for the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour brochure inserted in this issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*. ■

HOME PRESERVATION EVENT

Want to learn more about repairing and preserving your historic home? Curious about the extensive rehab project your neighbor has taken on? Metropolitan State's Center for Community-Based Learning, Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council, and the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the St. Paul Public Library are co-sponsoring a special event for Preservation Month this May. On Thursday, May 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., please come and hear about historically sympathetic home preservation and repair.

Dayton's Bluff is a historic district, and many neighbors have had extensive experience preserving and repairing their historic homes. Some of these neighbors will be on hand to speak about their homes and show before and after images. Have a historic home you want to preserve and research and don't know where to start? Staff from the Central Library will talk about researching your home and its previous owners in the library. We will also hear from experts in the field, who offer technical advice, assessment, and hard-to-find classes such as historic masonry.

Refreshments will be served, and the event will take place in the Ecolab Community Room, third floor of Metropolitan State University's Library and Learning Center, just east of the intersection of Seventh and Maria. For more information, call Rebecca Ryan at 651-793-1296. ■

SWEDE HOLLOW BOOK CHAT

On **Friday, May 20, 2005** at 7:00 pm in the Swede Hollow Café, Brian Malloy will read from his novel *The Year of Ice*. This book is an artfully written portrait of a young man coming to terms with the world. "Darkly brilliant, treacherously funny, and absolutely convincing. This is

a debut to heed, a writer to cherish. Malloy's poignant, quietly effective debut... shows plenty of talent...the author also displays a razor-sharp comic touch."

This is the second book reading arranged by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council's Arts and Culture Committee. ■

TAKE A HIKE

If you would like to learn more about Dayton's Bluff, join the monthly Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike on **Saturday May 7th**. It starts at 10:30 a.m. at Mounds Boulevard and Earl Street in Indian Mounds Park and lasts until about 1:30 p.m. The group will take the regular tour through historic Swede Hollow and then visit some of the home tour stops on the way back to the starting point. Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn some history about the area and visit a few homes, too.

For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075. ■

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR POSTER CONTEST

The deadline for entries is **May 15, 2005**. In recognition of National Night Out, Saint Paul's Eastside District Councils will be sponsoring the annual poster contest for all ages! Our purpose is to inspire and promote crime prevention and a spirit of community that lasts the whole year.

Poster Contest Theme: **SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS!** What does neighborhood safety mean to you? Draw a picture of what a safe neighborhood looks like to you at home, school, or at neighborhood parks.

Who can enter? **EVERYONE!** Be creative and design your poster using paints, crayons, colored pencils or magic markers. Posters need to be either 8" x 11" or 11" x 17". The poster contest features four entry categories: Pre-K - 3rd grade, 4th - 6th grade, 7th - 12 grade and adults.

Every entry will receive a prize and special selected prizes will be awarded in each category after judging. Prizes will be awarded for posters in each category.

All entries **MUST INCLUDE** name, age or category entry, gender, school/grade, full home address and phone number. Prizes will not be awarded to entries without this information. Entries will not be returned and will become the property of contest sponsors and may be used for publicity purposes

Bring or send the posters to: Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council 798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul 55106 For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075. ■

Plant Sale / Exchange

The Third Annual Greening Dayton's Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates in the gardens outside the Swede Hollow Café. Plants for sale will include perennials and annuals.

If you have plants in your garden that you have too many of or do not like any more, dig them up and bring them to the plant exchange and take home something you would rather have in our garden. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075. ■

NEIGHBORHOOD SALE

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council will be holding a Neighborhood Sale on Saturday, June 11. The Neighborhood Sale is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hamm Park, located at East 7th Street and Greenbrier. This is an open event. If you have something to sell, each family participating is asked for a \$10 donation to help cover advertising and other expenses. For those who are selling items, set up in Hamm Park at East 7th and Greenbrier is at 8:00 a.m. on the 11th.

Or if you have items you want to get rid of and do not want to spend the day selling them, donate the items to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and they will sell them as part of their fundraiser.

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Sale will feature many great items for the home and family. This is a great way to clear out clutter and find new treasures. Come meet your neighbors! Call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075 for more information. ■

May Events at the Community Rec Center

800 Conway St. 651-793-3885
Director: Jody Griffin
jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us

SUMMER SPORTS REGISTRATION was April 4-15. Late registration will be accepted where space allows. Ages 3-18. Pick up a form at the center.

SAFE KIDS FUN NIGHT - For kids ages 12 and under, the #1 health risk isn't kidnapping, drugs, or disease. It's injuries. Discover ways to keep your family safe from unintentional injuries. Meet SPARKY the Fire Dog, learn what to do during severe weather, play "Be Safe Bingo!", learn Poison Prevention, see a fire truck and ambulance, try the "pain o' meter", test your skill in the fire safety obstacle course, and see a demonstration on electricity. Food will be available for a small fee. Thurs., May 19; 5:30-7 pm; Free

PARENT-CHILD SOFTBALL GAME - Looking for families to start an annual event. All you need to bring is your glove. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available to purchase for \$2. Register by May 18. Wed., May 25; 6-8 pm; Free.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL - Friday nights 6-8:45 pm; Fee: \$1.

PARENT TOT PLAY - Mon., Wed., Fri.'s; 10 am-12 pm; Free; Ages 0-5.

SENIOR CARDS - 500; Fridays; 12:30-4 pm; Fee: \$12/yr + weekly fee for the kitty.

SUMMER PROGRAMS will be out May 1. Stop by the center for a copy. LOTS of great stuff planned! Hope to see you at the center. ■

Summer Classes at the Mounds Theatre

The Mounds Theatre Performing Arts Youth Conservatory (PAYC) will be offering the following classes this summer.

CREATE YOUR OWN MUSIC

August 15-27; Fee \$50

Participation limited to 16 girls, ages 11 to 14

Cost of the workshop includes all supplies and lunch.

Create your own music with "Hearing Girls!" Spend the summer exploring the sounds of Indian Mounds Park! Become an expert listener as you learn how to capture sound with a mini-disc recorder and then transform it into music using a computer. Invent and play your own musical instruments and create "sound art" using your body and your voice. Maybe even write a musical composition for the wind and a chorus of trees!

Composer Michelle Nagai will collaborate with a group of girls to help them understand the sonic ecology of Mounds Park and Dayton's Bluff through creative listening and sound play. At the end of the summer, the Hearing Girls! group will present an exciting and totally original multi-media performance in the park. Each girl will contribute to the show by writing and performing music, making instruments and helping out behind the scenes. This is a hands-on, performance-oriented workshop designed just for girls! No musical training or special equipment is needed. At the end of the summer, each girl will take home a journal full of notes, drawings and photographs from the workshop, plus an audio CD.

Schedule:

August 15 to 27 - Monday through Saturday

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

August 27: Hearing Girls! Performance
This class is made possible by the American Composers Forum through the 2004 McKnight Visiting Composer Program.

SUMMER THEATRE PROGRAM

Fee \$50

Open to students in Grades 3 through 12.

Be a part of this unique intensive theater experience. Students will not only rehearse and perform a show but each week will be in workshops where they will have the opportunity to work with professionals in the theater community to learn about auditioning, acting, design, vocal techniques and dance. The students will also be taught theater terminology and how to be successful as theater artists.

The Mounds Theatre and PAYC are proud to say that they were the first theater in the nation to be given the rights to stage Disney's *The Jungle Book* as part of this course. Due to high demand and limited number of spots available, actors must audition to be a part of this course. Pre-registration is not required; simply show up at the audition time you choose. Schedule:

Auditions: June 13 and June 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Rehearsals: July 6 - August 17 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Eight performances of Disney's *The Jungle Book*: August 18 through 28; evenings at 7:30 p.m.; afternoon matinees at 2 p.m.

Scholarships are available for all classes through the generous support of the Target Foundation. Please contact the Mounds Theatre at 651-772-2253 for an application form or more information. ■

"Cinco de Mayo" from page 1:

decorating of the float, according to CLUES' Public Relations Co-ordinator, Stacy Opitz. "The parade is huge - it takes hours. It is one of the tenth largest in the nation." One reason given for its size is that Cinco de Mayo has become the pre-eminent celebration of Latin-American culture in the region.

"To newer immigrants, it is not as significant." Says Barbara Pena, the Director of Operations for CLUES. "To others, like those who grew up here, second generation, it's a bigger deal." To understand this dynamic, it is important to understand that Cinco de Mayo -- meaning 'the fifth of May' in Spanish -- is not the Mexican Independence Day, as many assume. Rather, it is the commemoration of the Battle of Puebla -- considered to be a turning point in the war. It has become something more than that for many Mexican Americans. As Barbara Pena puts it, "It's more a celebration of Hispanic culture."

The majority of the festivities this year will not actually begin on the fifth of May. Rather, the evening of Friday the sixth kicks things off with events including a street dance. The party will continue on Saturday. Attractions for young and old alike will include a salsa tasting contest, a low-rider car show, history displays, and plenty of authentic food, beverages, and shopping.

The parade, a major focal point of the Fiesta, is slated to begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday May 7. It will start at Wabasha and follow Cesar Chavez Street (Concord) to Highway 52.

The Riverview Economic Development Association (REDA), along with volunteers, organizes the festivities. You can get more information on everything there will be to see and do online at www.districtdelsol.com/cinco.html.

If you plan to take your family to enjoy this cultural event, expect to share the experience with over 100,000 others, as the event organizers estimate.

If you prefer to avoid crowds, but still want to show your appreciation of local Hispanic culture, then head to one of Dayton's Bluff's own Mexican restaurants on East Seventh Street between Margaret and Arcade.

In the following months, area Mexican Americans can also look forward to the opening of the Mexican Consulate in the CLUES building in June, and the Grand Opening of the combined CLUES facilities expected in July. ■

Yard Clean Up

The compost site nearest to Dayton's Bluff is at Sims and Frank. You can bring leaves, grass clippings and other **soft-bodied plant materials**. Brush and tree waste EXCEPT roots can also be brought to the Frank and Sims site. They also have compost and wood chips from time to time.

Hours of operation are:
Monday, March 28th through Wednesday, November 30, 2005 (weather permitting)
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sundays: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon, Wed, Fri: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tues and Thurs: CLOSED
CLOSED: Memorial Day, May 30th; Independence Day, July 4th; and Labor Day, September 5th.

While you are at the compost site stop and say thank you to the attendant at the site. He has been working at the Sims and Frank site answering questions and helping people for the last 10 years. ■

Oliver Dayton's Bluff: A Brief History

by Steve Trimble

I recently attended the funeral of Gareth Hiebert, a long-time newspaper columnist who chronicled life in the city and surrounding area for three decades. He died of pneumonia at the age of 83. Under the pen name "Oliver Towne" he explored a variety of interesting and unusual people and places, including Dayton's Bluff.

"Gary" as friends called him, grew up in New Ulm, where he got his start in journalism as a high school sports editor. He attended the University of Minnesota, where he was a campus correspondent for the Dispatch, a paper he joined full-time before joining the military in 1942. After a stint with the Army Stars and Stripes magazine, he settled in St. Paul, raising a family and serving as assistant city editor.

Hiebert was also a colleague of mine at Metropolitan State University where he offered a class in Twin Cities history. I sometimes team taught the course with Gary. So I have decided to do something a little different this month. Instead of writing another chapter in the continuing saga of Dayton's Bluff (I'll get back to it in June), I'm going to share portions of some of Hiebert's descriptions of our neighborhood.

Some of his work has recently been reprinted by a local publisher and the original books he wrote are available at the library. I happen to have an extra copy or two of the originals and am willing to send them out to any two readers who send in their own memories of Gary Hiebert or any of the places included in this article

It is not generally known, I suppose that the last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought in St. Paul 67 years ago in front of a house at 258 Bates, on the East Side....

They called it the Noble riot and it occurred on July 4, 1892.

Percival Noble, an Englishman, lived at 258 then and determined to assert his rights in a free country by flying the British flag on a pole in front of the home.

John DeCourcy of 717 Conway... ran across the Van Buren schoolyard to protest. DeCourcy pulled down the British flag, folded it and handed it to Noble with a diplomatic protest in the name of the fathers of the American revolution.

But Noble only waited until Mr. DeCourcy had returned to his home, then he ran up the Union Jack again and cut the halyards.

Mr. DeCourcy returned, shinned up the pole, pulled down the flag and started to slide back to the ground. But Noble was waiting with a horse whip and laid on DeCourcy heavily.

Whereupon John Morris, headwaiter at the formal dining room of the Rvan hotel, was attracted to the scene from his house at 705 Conway. An adroit bouncer, Mr. Morris stepped on Noble's toes and punched him in the nose.

Mr. DeCourcy now reinforced by the reserves, grabbed Noble's whip and counterattacked, driving him into the house.

The neighbors, aroused by the commotion, moved in as shock troops, tearing off parts of the porch..

It was in this atmosphere of disagreement that Paddy Hines, 721 Conway, made a plea for law and order,

and took his family to Winnipeg.

Thus was the last outpost of the British empire wiped out in the United States..."

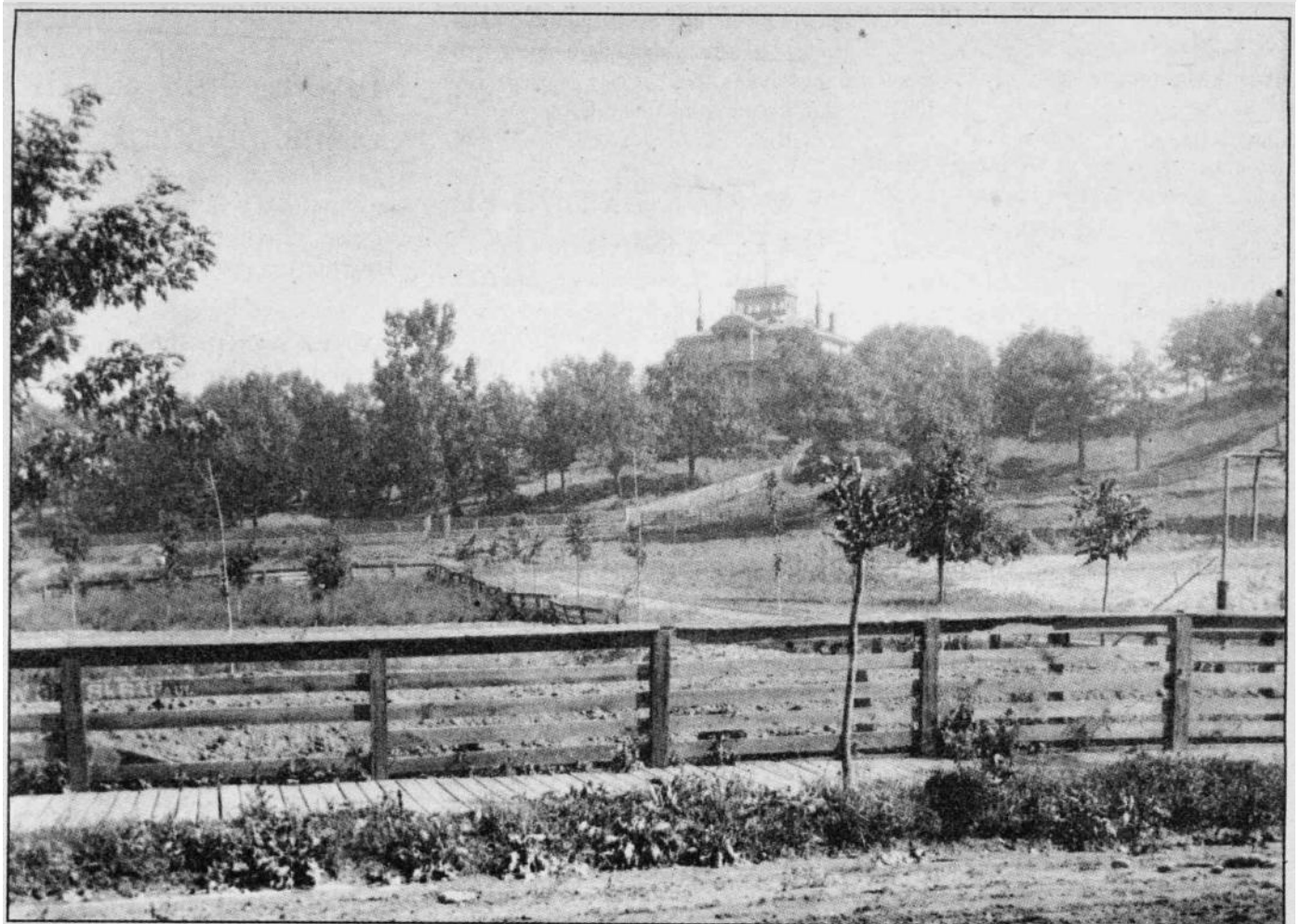
Back in 1959, when the next article was penned, the railroads were still major employers and many of the workers lived in this vicinity. This now vanished landmark was the kind of unique remnant that Gary Hiebert loved. If you go to the edge of the bluff behind the Mounds Park pavilion, you can see where it once stood. Any readers ever eat there?

"A Railroad Beanerie

In the rapidly ebbing era of the old time railroad beanerie hotel, there remains between Chicago and San Francisco only one worth a reputation. And that is the Burlington Hotel, set on a shelf at the foot of Earl Street, just to the left of the Warner road overpass...

It has breached the space of time between the old and the new in communication, for instance. You see at once a new French-style telephone and also an old-type wall phone, one of the few remaining in use hereabouts. That is for special calls - incoming only, from the 'call boy' in the yards who summons his minions at all hours to come down and start the wheels of a fast or slow freight rolling south or west. Upstairs in the 12 box-shaped rooms holding 21 beds you will find odd-looking ropes, looped near the windows. These are fire escape ropes, swinging exits to the ground below...

The hours of dawn and 7 p.m. are the noisiest and busiest... when the railroaders swarm into the place. They climb the long stairs from the sea of



A view of the Scheffer house from Mounds Boulevard around 1890.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

For those who are new to the neighborhood, Van Buren School was replaced by Dayton's Bluff Elementary. In his 1958 book, St Paul is My Beat, Gary Hiebert described the following event that took place in its immediate vicinity.

"258 Bates: July 4th Noble Riot

pled for peace and then called the cops.

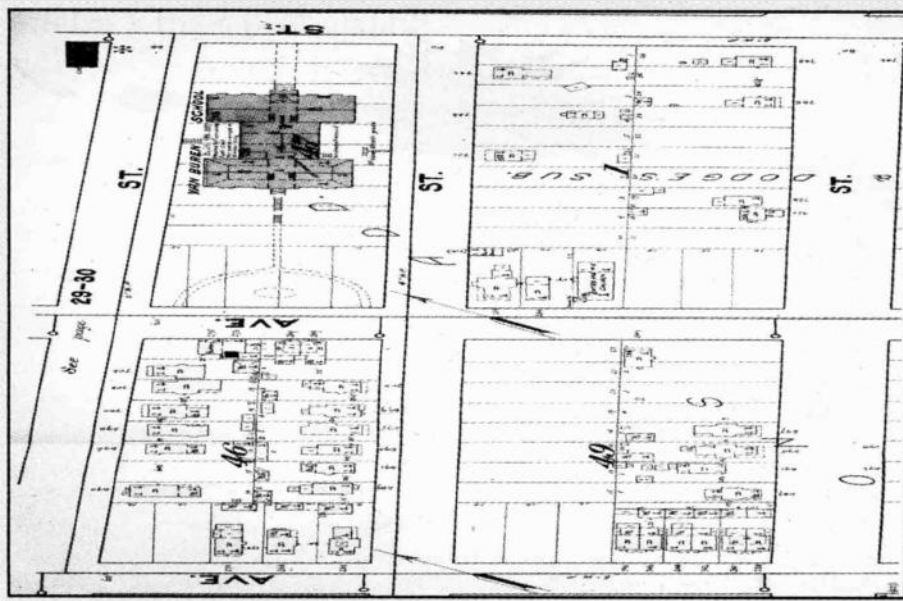
A squad of St. Paul's finest arrived on from Margaret Street Station and dispersed the rebels and loyalists alike.

Patriotic groups demanded that Noble be prosecuted for his defamation of the Fourth of July sentiment...

But Noble, in full retreat, packed

red and green switch-lamps below, while wiping shaving soap off hastily trimmed faces, shuffle bleary-eyed into the glare and grope for steaming coffee cups.

'Ham and cake!' That is railroad fare at the Burlington at 7 a.m., something to stick to a man's ribs while he rides the cab of a diesel or swings from the



Street left of Van Buren School is Conway, below are Bates and Maria. Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.

icy, iron rungs of a boxcar at the end of a string of freight cars. Historically, the Burlington has enjoyed a tenure of more than 50 years on the East Side ledge....

The Burlington enjoys one more distinction that few other hotels in America can claim. If you stand on the lawn in front, it is possible to see every form of transportation known to man—the planes at Holman field, trains, boats in the river, cars, busses, trucks, people walking, bicycles and motorcycles.

And every room comes with a view."
-- from Gary Hiebert, *Once Upon A Towne*.

Although the street is now paved, the segment of Point Douglas Road described below in a 1958 article is still there. The dead end mentioned is across from today's Obb's Bar. One thing Hiebert did not mention is that Point Douglas is itself a remnant of the old Territorial Road which snaked across Dayton's Bluff in the 1850's.

"Bricks and Opera

I drove down a winding stretch of old brick paving on the East Side of the city the other day. And there would be those who scoff at the idea that a row of bricks could spawn even the haze of a memory.

But there is more than one along Old Point Douglas Road, as it runs like a meandering stream from Hudson Road near Earl, to a dead end at Burns and Clarence

It was St. Paul's most imposing entry from the southeast for nearly 40 years - leading into Hastings Road that skirted the bluff

The romance of that old piece of paving began from the day the first bricks were laid.

Point Douglas Road was built 50 years ago. Those were the days of the horse and wagon. And the workers were mostly Italians.

Each day at 5 a.m. the wagons would go down to Earl and Hastings and pick up the laborers and then start rumbling to the day's bricklaying site.

'And those Italians would begin to sing operatic arias,' I was told by a woman who remembered. 'It was the most beautiful music I ever heard. I used to lie in bed and listen to it and it sent chills up and down my spine....'

And the three saloons over at Earl and Hastings were 'halfway' houses for farmers who came in from Hastings to sell their produce down in the city.

All that happened along the old piece of brick paving—no longer an artery of commerce, but running—seemingly without rhyme or reason—through a half, mile of East Side residential area filled with bright new homes.

There is only one mark of its former glory—at the Burns and Clarence intersection. An ancient highway sign with arrows, and one which reads—'Hastings 19 mi.'"

Written in 1958, this Hiebert column looked at the history of one of the oldest residences in St. Paul. It is still standing, though greatly remodeled, on Mound Street just off Mounds Boulevard and is now the Mound Park Rest Home. To get a sense of its architecture, it is best viewed from Bates Street below. The article below is a shortened version:

"Captain's Roost on Mounds Park

It was on one of those April-like December afternoons before Christmas that Ary Scheffer and I went back to review the strange but fascinating history of his old home, a statuesque fortress that has commanded a stirring panorama of the city and valley for more than a century...it stands, a sentinel of grandeur up there near the peak of the ridge leading into Mounds Park.

A Commodore Davidson built the place in 1856. Like a lot of other steamboat captains and nautical persons who built houses along the Mississippi, he put this place at what he considered to be the best possible vantage for looking at the river. In addition, the Commodore erected on the roof a glassed-in pilot house...

1872, the house, having fallen into tarnished times, became part of a newspaper raffle and Dr. J. H. Murphy, well-known St. Paul physician got it for a five dollar bill.

The Scheffer reign began in 1886 and lasted until about the turn of the century. It was during this period that the yard boasted a fountain and artificial lake and a long, winding gravel driveway.

'It was a wonderful placed in which to grow-up,' says Ary, referring to his own childhood and that of his four sisters, one of them the late Mrs. William Hamm, Sr. of the brewing company.

But the panic of the late 1890's took the house out of Ary's life and it took an erratic course until the early 1940's then Mrs. Evans moved in and restored to its present status....

And I think this is one of the reasons the house holds so much fascination for me. I have written about many an old building and landmark, but usually in a minor key, observing the demise or fall.

Not so with the old dowager up there on the ridge. She wears her pride as jauntily as any new home of style finished in the city within the last month.

--Gareth Hiebert, *St. Paul is My Beat*.

More Variety in the Cities

The Twin Cities premier variety show is once again bringing its family-friendly live matinee performance to the Mounds Theatre on Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m. This month's performers are magician Don Campbell, jugglers In Capable Hands and physical artists Kirsten & Renee.

Don Campbell is a retired orthopedic surgeon who presents the cutting edge of classical magic with unusual twists and turns. Psychic overtones and a layer of comedy create an enjoyable magical experience.

In Capable Hands is a zany, classy, sophisticated, clever, inventive and extremely diverse mixture of juggling and musical theater. Coming from the varied backgrounds of circus and musical theater, the comedy duo of Steve Russell and Kobi Shaw is a two-person vaudeville extravaganza.

Kirsten & Renee present an unusual and highly entertaining combination of mime, dance and comedy. Kirsten attended the Marcel Marceau School in Paris and furthered her studies with Karl Margolis in Minneapolis. Renee also studied with Karl Margolis and has a B.A. in theater from Jacksonville State University.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children - with special family pricing for more than one child. Check www.wildtheater.com for details.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

For more information call the box office at 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundstheatre.org.

Volunteer Opportunity: Social Services Assistant

Make a difference and impact your community by supplementing agency staff in the provision of services.

Duties to include: assisting with clerical/administrative duties, locating vendors or community resources, conducting and documenting home visits, and assisting staff or clients with form completion.

If the volunteer is placed with a Child Protection Unit: monitoring supervised visits between children and their parent(s). Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

Contact Ramsey County Community Human Services—Volunteer Services at 651-266-4090 for additional information or e-mail to volunteerservices@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Smoke-Free Bar and Restaurant Watch

Now that the Smoking Ban is in effect and the bars that have exemptions are known, the search for smoke free establishments is on. One place located at the edge of Dayton's Bluff is Savoy's on East 7th and Lafayette Road. Now non-smokers have places that they can go and not be overwhelmed by smoke. In the past many non-smokers did not go to smoke filled bars. Non-smokers are a new market that smoke free bars can tap into.

Anyone know of other non-exempt (smoke free) bars and restaurants nearby?

Brewing Beautiful Granite and Marble

One of the businesses in the former Hamm Brewery complex is Saint Paul Marble Company owned by Mark Sciamanda. The company fabricates interior elements such as countertops and architectural embellishments out of marble, granite and other stone.

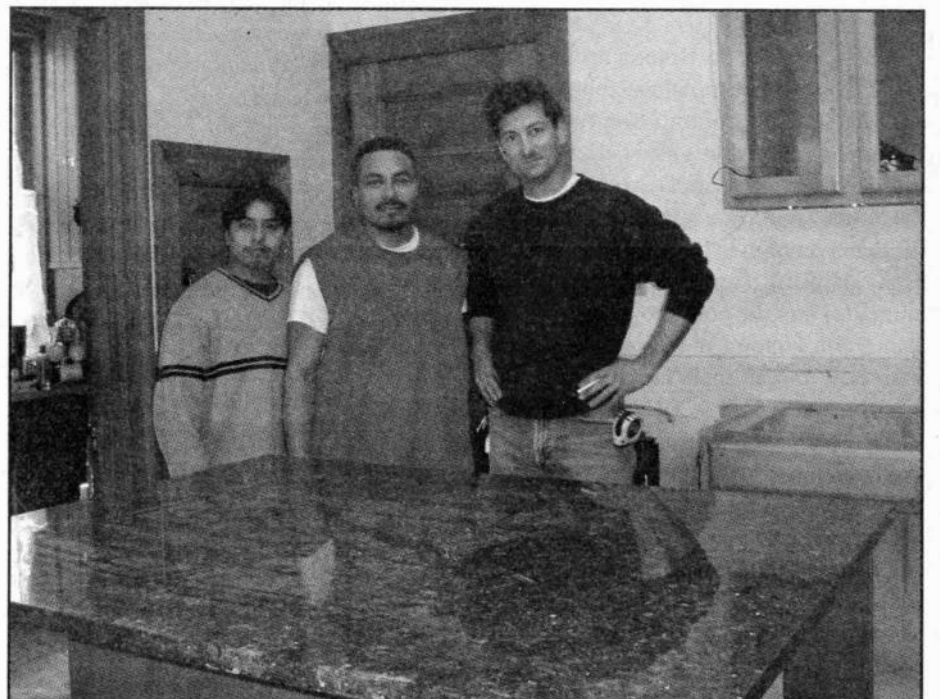
His work has been featured in the Architectural Digest. He has installed marble and granite in homes and businesses all over the metro area and recently installed beautiful Royal Blue Pearl granite counter tops in one of the old Hamm family homes on Dayton's Bluff.

Mark installed tile for many years before getting into the marble and

granite business. He had always liked the look of marble and granite products. So when Drake Marble went out of business, Mark purchased much of their stock. He stored the stone in garages in Minneapolis before moving into the Hamm's Brewery complex where he now has his workshop.

Mark has two employees and they work on commercial as well as residential projects. They do extra touches such as hand polishing the surface of the stone and finishing the under edges to give it a smoother finished look.

Want to learn more? Call Mark at 612-812-1222.



Mark Sciamanda and company admire a fine piece of marble and a job well done.

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"Animals" from page 1:

shelter for the animals, and sacrifice the animals for spiritual exchanges. The Hmong agreed with the animals. Some of the animals that made this agreement with the Hmong were pigs, dogs, cats, cows, chickens, and goats.

Since the agreement was made between the Hmong and the animals, Hmong continue to slay animals for food and sacrifice their souls for spiritual purposes. An animal is sacrificed when a person is identified to be physically, emotionally, and spiritually ill through a shaman ritual ceremony. An animal sacrifice is also made when the spirit of the ancestor or a bad spirit makes a specific request in exchange for the well being of the living person. At the ritual ceremony the shaman communicates and negotiates with the spirit about the specific offering. Usually through the negotiation with the spirit, the shaman would agree to offer an animal's soul along with materialistic gifts such as spiritual money, incenses, and/or food in exchange for the human soul. Most of the time after a shaman ritual ceremony is performed and the animal's soul has been offered to the spirit, the sick person regains his/her health and well-being.

Before the sacrifice of an animal, it is procedure for the Hmong to make it clear to the animal(s) involved that the slaying is not for a bad reason. It is also important to state to the animal(s) that the purpose is to offer and exchange the animal's soul in place of the living or ancestral spirit and food made using the animals should bring the family good health. Making this request, they must also make an offering to the animal and its soul by lighting incense and burning spiritual money to the animal sacrifices.

Most of animistic Hmong around the world who practice traditional religion still sacrifice raised animals for food and spiritual purposes. It's also believed that each animal's soul can be exchanged for the human soul for a specific purpose. It is not uncommon in the United States for some Hmong families to bring the animal(s) into the house to be sacrificed. Some non-Hmong individuals disagree with how the animals are slain for the sacrifice and may view it as animal cruelty, such as a chicken's throat being slashed or a cow's head being hammered to death. Such primitive methods of slaying have been carried on for generations and are not necessarily viewed as cruel in the Hmong community due to the lack of technologies/supplies in their homeland country.

Nachee Lee is the Executive Director of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. ■

Obi Sium Aims For Endorsement

by Laurie Diethelm

As Obi Sium talks about his bid for the Republican Party endorsement in his campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives, the first-time candidate nearly bursts with enthusiasm. Sium, who was born in Eritrea, came to the United States in the 1970s. Since 1977, he has worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and is currently in charge of the state's Floodplain



Management Program. When asked why he wants to run for the U.S. Congress rather than starting his political career at a local or state level, Sium responds that he is a "globalist" and a "big picture person." His childhood experiences in Africa and his emigration to the United States have helped him develop a global perspective. Sium states that he can provide an African and Middle Eastern viewpoint to help interpret issues, especially in the areas of freedom and security. He believes his status as a new American and as a U.S. citizen helps him relate to the citizens of the first district, which includes Saint Paul. The candidate emphasizes the importance of economic revitalization and development, education, affordable health care, and affordable homes. He is an environmentalist and is strongly pro-life. Sium believes that his training as an engineer and as a coalition builder has provided him with the problem-solving and teamwork skills he would need as a member of the U.S. Congress.

Additional information about Sium and other potential candidates will be published in the coming months. ■

Spring is here Walk, Walk, Walk

One of the best forms of exercise is walking. Let's start walking about the neighborhood. Here are the benefits of daily physical activity:

- *Reduces the risk of heart disease by improving blood circulation throughout the body.
- *Keeps weight under control.
- *Improves blood cholesterol levels.
- *Prevents and reduces high blood pressure.
- *Prevents bone loss.
- *Boosts energy level.
- *Helps manage stress.
- *Releases tension.
- *Improves the ability to fall asleep quickly and sleep well.
- *Improves self-image.
- *Counters anxiety and depression and increases enthusiasm and optimism.
- *Increases muscle strength, giving greater capacity for other physical activities.
- *Provides a way to share an activity with family and friends.
- *Establishes good heart-healthy habits in children and counters the conditions (obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, poor lifestyle habits, etc.) that lead to heart attack and stroke later in life.
- *In older people, it helps delay or prevent chronic illnesses and diseases associated with aging and maintains quality of life and independence longer.

Information provided by the American Heart Association.

A new program to encourage residents to walk be will be starting in Dayton's Bluff soon. Watch for more information in the next issue of the *Forum*. ■

Budget Will Shift Costs to Local Hospitals

by State Rep. Sheldon Johnson, District 67B

As lawmakers, we are tasked with crafting a state budget. While this is never a small job, the \$1.16 billion budget deficit certainly adds an additional challenge.

Tough economic times require tough decision-making. However, I disagree with the notion that eliminating affordable health insurance options is either a fiscally or a morally responsible thing for the state to do. That is why I have joined with my colleagues in support of a plan that would cover more, not fewer, Minnesotans.

Since 2001, 77,000 Minnesotans have lost their health care coverage. If the Governor's budget plan were to pass as proposed, it is estimated that another 26,000 Minnesotans would find themselves in the same predicament.

While the human cost to these cuts is evident, it also provides great expense to taxpayers.

The state may initially save money by changing eligibility requirements for state subsidized health care, but taxpayers are inequitably burdened later on.

The fact of the matter is people without healthcare coverage don't stop getting sick. Instead, they wait until they are in need of expensive emergency care and find themselves in our hospitals and clinics unable to pay. Hospitals in our state lost almost \$330 million in 2004 due to bills that patients were unable to pay or were written off by providers as charity care. These "uncompensated care" costs have increased by 28 percent in recent years. County hospitals and clinics turn to the state's taxpayers to fill that budget void. In addition, those of us who are insured pay some of the price in ever increasing healthcare premiums and co-pays. Inevitably, it is you and I that absorb the cost of their care.

The best way to avoid the expensive uncompensated care costs is to improve access to affordable health insurance. One of the ways to do this is to provide options for small business to offer affordable healthcare to their employees. Currently, 84 percent of Minnesota's uninsured are either employed or are dependents of an employed person.

I am proud to support the "Main Street Care" initiative that would open up access to two existing health care programs in the state. The first would enable small employers and families to save on the cost of health insurance by buying into MinnesotaCare and paying discounted premiums. By expanding, not dismantling this innovative program, we allow the state to negotiate to reduce the cost of healthcare by leveraging our purchasing power. This is what other large insurers are able to do, why shouldn't the state?

The second would give individuals the option to buy the same health benefits currently available to state legislators. Employers would save five percent on the cost of coverage, and workers would have a choice of providers from three health plan networks instead of just one.

Expanding existing programs to allow additional access to healthcare options for small employers, the self-employed, family farmers and individuals, doesn't cost the state a thing. But it does provide choices for businesses that struggle to provide their workers, who they value, with affordable healthcare for their families.

Tough economic times require us to make the tough decisions. But it also makes us set priorities. I remain committed to improving access to healthcare and providing for our public education. ■

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

We are seeking caring and compassionate individuals of all ages and/or groups to spend some time with our elders. Whether you have an hour or two, or several hours of time you are able to donate per month, we'd love to hear from you. Here are some of the opportunities we have to offer:

Beauty Shop escorts

Chiropractic Clinic Receptionist

Visiting or reading to our elders

Dining Room assistants

Chapel Service ushers

Recreation program assistants for individual or group activities

Musical entertainers (singers, persons who play the piano or organ, or any musical instrument)

Grocery shopping helpers

And much more!

By volunteering at Marian of Saint Paul, you will be contributing to the community and helping the "quality of life" of our elders. They need your help and support! Volunteering is very rewarding to people of all ages ... and it's fun!

If you are interested in joining our wonderful team of volunteers, please contact Robert Johnstone, Volunteer Services Coordinator at (651) 793-2116. ■

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Warning: Unreliable Narrator Ahead

by Mary Petrie

That's right. I can't be trusted to tell the truth. And neither can you. Instead of pretending that we're a nation of honest Abes, I say it's time to stand up and admit: "truth," as a value, is being batted about in a dangerous way.

Consider a couple of our biggest cultural collusions: Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. Nearly every adult will jump in and jiggle the truth, wink and nod, to keep the little ones believing. What about lies as omission or speedy verbal maneuver? Your four year old pops questions in the minivan, during rush hour: Where do babies come from? How do they get out? When I die will I go away forever? Can you promise me you won't die tomorrow, Mommy? And my personal favorite: If I'm reincarnated, how will I recognize you in my next life, Mommy?

I've fielded all these. I stooped to magic, hidden doors; heaven and Buddha and everything reassuring wrapped together. Part of my job as a parent—as I see it—is to introduce children to the various realities and uncertainties of life when they're ready. As one mother put it, she alters the truth a tad every time she turns down the radio or flips the paper to hide the horrible headline of the day. We easily admit that we, as parents, omit, evade, shield, censor, monitor, hide, and delay. Much of this isn't exactly lying. But it's not the truth, either.

Just as some evasions may be benign, others are heinous. Match the fancy footwork to the politician: weapons of mass destruction; I am not a crook; I did not have sex with that woman; and Iran-contra. Lives are lost and broken on those lies. When you shoulder certain responsibilities (leader of the free world comes to mind) or put your hand on a good Book and vow, truth is paramount. Here, truth is more than virtue or legal matter: it is a moral obligation.

We live amidst some wild contradictions. Today, "truth" is not

understood as a gold standard of moral behavior; truth is not thoughtfully measured, with care, consideration and reverence. Instead, we view truth as something more mundane – an ordinary and constant requirement. Tell the truth, we admonish our children. Yet they're surrounded by lies.

Perhaps we'd tolerate the dangerous lies less if we acknowledged the benign first. Let's spread all the inconsistencies, untruths, evasions and downright lies on the table. Acknowledge that they exist! Take that first step as a nation and 'fess up to our duplicities.

We should discuss the way we handle truth and its transgressions because we value it so much. Truth is *not* ordinary or mundane, but a virtue to be levied with care. If only we could take that universal stamp off truth (everybody is assumed to tell the truth all the time), we could aim our expectations *higher*. We might no longer stomach the lies that cost thousands of lives, millions of dollars, or hundreds of jobs—lies that tread upon the sovereignty of nations and the integrity of life. Right now, we hold out a thin and unexamined standard of truth for all, something we all wiggle around and within. I'd like to make sharper distinctions. Some lies are acceptable. Some lies are not. Let's live that new truth.

About two years ago, my daughter's then four-year old friend showed up for a play date with hair she'd cut herself. The poor thing had only half her bangs; the rest of her brown locks fell chin-length. The back ranged from half a scraggly inch near her scalp to scraping shoulders. She topped off the new hair-do with some gel pen tattoo work. No amount of scrubbing could get the orange and pink off her arms. Her cheeks. Her chin. The child looked awful.

My daughter, Scarlett, gave the girl a huge hug. "You look so pretty!" she exclaimed, with feeling. To me, she mouthed, 'not really,' behind the friend's back and rolled her eyes in horror.

The friend beamed and elaborated on how she achieved *just* this look.

Scarlett told her first 'white' lie. And I was proud of her. ■

Senate Passes \$886 Million Package

by State Senator Mee Moua

Senate Democrats accomplished one of our major goals for the 2005 session recently, passing a comprehensive capital investment package that could create 10,000 jobs throughout Minnesota. The full Senate voted 61-3 to pass the \$886 million bonding bill that had been agreed upon in a conference committee two weeks ago.

The bonding package is heavy on funding for the state's higher-education systems, transportation initiatives and environmental projects—three areas that I believe are vitally important to sustaining the quality of life we enjoy in Minnesota.

Education

The state's higher education institutions have been hit very hard by budget cuts in recent years, and many are resorting to tuition hikes and fee increases to stay competitive. The bonding bill dedicates \$108 million for the University of Minnesota system and \$213 million for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, which will go a long way in helping campuses across the state, renovate and expand their facilities.

Locally, Metropolitan State University will receive \$488,000 of this sum for a demolition project. In addition, \$10.9 million is secured for the

renovation of construction-trades space at St. Paul College.

Transportation

Four transportation projects funded in the bonding bill will directly benefit the East Metro area. Combined, the projects will bring us significantly closer to the goal of having an expanded, efficient transit system available in our neighborhoods.

I was the chief author of legislation designating money for the Central Corridor Transitway, so I am very happy that it will be receiving \$5.25 million in the bonding bill. The Cedar Avenue Busway project also will receive \$10 million, and \$500,000 will go toward expanding the Red Rock Line Corridor Transitway. Finally, the Phalen Corridor will be receiving \$4 million.

Metro Parks

Metro Parks are granted a substantial amount of money in this year's bonding bill, which will help enhance our city's public spaces and the thriving environment of which Minnesotans are so proud. Specifically, Raspberry Island will be receiving \$4.6 million and Desnoyer Park will get \$388,000 toward renovation and clean-up efforts.

Disappointments

As good as this news may be, I am disappointed that two major park efforts—Como Zoo and Henry Park—did not receive capital investment dollars. Both of these park areas have statewide significance and reach far beyond just local residents. Henry Park, in particular, is part of a 30-year effort by

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the State of Minnesota to protect bluffs and shore land that, along with Port Crosby, covers more than 70 miles and 54,000 acres.

The state dedicated this land as a Critical Area to preserve a valuable state resource, and I have been working for several years to ensure this area remains protected. Unfortunately, because funding was not included in the bonding bill, the state missed its last opportunity to designate the area as regional parkland. This means developers can go forward with plans to build on the land and we now risk the potential loss of a very important piece of our environment.

Another provision of the bonding bill that disappoints me is the Holman Field flood-protection project. This was not a priority of the St. Paul legislative delegation because many of our constituents told us they did not approve of building a floodwall around the airport. But despite the interests of most St. Paul residents, the Holman Field project received \$1 million in the bonding bill—money that perhaps could have been designated to other areas such as Henry Park.

The Governor and Mayor Randy Kelly had very different priorities when it came to this project. Rather than listening to the requests of St. Paul lawmakers and the people we represent, they insisted the project be included in the final bill. Mayor Kelly went so far as to verbally threaten a member of the conference committee to ensure the

success of Holman Field. Although I was encouraged by the compromise and geniality that went along with this year's bonding process, the blatant disregard for constituent interests and legislative authority I witnessed from our mayor and governor was a truly depressing learning experience.


Other projects

Besides these local projects, the bonding bill allocates: \$37.5 million for the Northstar commuter rail system; \$27 million for flood hazard mitigation grants throughout the state; \$18 million for a new Red Lake school; \$22 million for the Minnesota Zoo; \$50 million for road and bridge replacement and improvement; \$84 million to expand the correctional facility in Faribault; \$22 million for the Minneapolis Planetarium; and nearly \$22 million for the U of M/Mayo biotech research facility in Rochester.

The spring construction season is nearly upon us, meaning that the time for getting projects started and getting Minnesotans back to work is now. I am pleased we got this job done so the bidding and construction process can begin as soon as possible—this is truly a wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

If you have any questions or comments on the bonding bill or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651-296-5285; sen.mee.moua@senate.mn; or 235 State Capitol, 75 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155. ■

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Phone: 651-772-2075
FAX: 651-774-3510
E-mail: KarinDD@msn.com
Monthly Circulation: 6,000.
Also available online at
www.daytonsbluff.org This is a
publication of Hopewell
Communications, Inc. and is
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arranged by calling 651-772-2075.
Board of Directors: Allen Clausen,
Greg Cosimini, Robert Johnstone,
and Karin DuPaul.
Editor & Layouts: Gabriel Garbow.
Next issue: June 2005.
Deadline for material: May 10.

"Bruce Vento" from page 1:
that will get people excited about using
this new park. The National Park Service's
John Anfinson will be leading history and
ecology walking tours of the site, and the
Audubon Society will have birding experts
on hand to provide tips for seeing eagles,
migrating songbirds and other species that
are already using the area as critical urban
habitat. "Freddy the Flat Head Cat Fish,"
the National Park Service's mascot, will
greet families and provide information on
places to visit along the Mississippi River.
The area's value as a place for bicycling
will also be highlighted. We expect up to
300 people at this festive event.
For more information on the event,
contact Karin DuPaul at 651/772-2075, or
check out the Lower Phalen Creek Project
website at: www.phalencreek.org. ■

**WaterFest 2005 -- A
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10 AM - 3 PM
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Wheelock Parkway and Arcade St.

Families from around the Twin Cities are
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2005. Sponsored by the Ramsey-
Washington Metro Watershed District, City
of St. Paul and other partners, WaterFest
is a celebration of our clean lakes and an
opportunity for hands-on learning about the
water quality, wildlife, and special
ecological features of our beautiful
watershed. It is also a celebration of the
District's 30th anniversary.

- Highlights of WaterFest activities include:
- * On-the-water education by canoe and
pontoon boat
 - * Fishing and stream monitoring
 - * Como Zoo and Conservatory's raptors
and other critters
 - * Live animals from around the lake and
beyond
 - * Juggling show, music and clowns

- * Watershed Awareness Expo: student and
professional exhibits
- * The opportunity to exchange your lead
tackle for non-toxic lead alternatives
- * Demo snowplow, street sweeper and
vacator truck
- * Student dramas and games

Everyone can play a role in protecting
our water resources. At WaterFest 2005
we will help families make the connection
between activities in our neighborhoods
and the health of local lakes, streams and
wetlands. This free event is also an
opportunity to celebrate spring and enjoy
one of the lakes that makes our area a great
place to live!


The Ramsey-Washington Metro
Watershed District is bounded by the I-694/
494 corridor and 35E and the Mississippi
River, which encompasses sections of
North St. Paul, Maplewood, White Bear
Lake, Vadnais Heights, Little Canada,
Oakdale, Woodbury, Landfall, Gem Lake
and St. Paul. The District works to protect
and improve local water quality and natural
resources.

For more information, call Louise Watson
at 651-704-2089 or visit the website at
www.rwmwd.org. ■

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