

MINNESOTA

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**Remembering
Humphrey's
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**The Gopher
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page 24 | Hubert Humphrey at Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral April 9, 1968. Photograph by Flip Schulke/Corbis.

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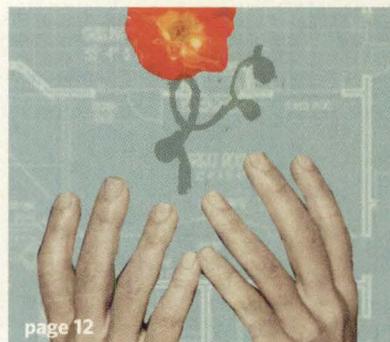
University of Minnesota botanist George Weiblen races to record the biodiversity of Papua New Guinea's rain forests before they disappear.

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Cover photograph by Mark Luinenburg



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Minnesota (ISSN 0164-9450) is published
bimonthly by the University of Minnesota
Alumni Association for its members.

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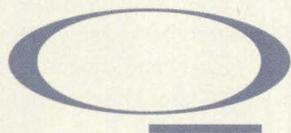
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Periodicals postage paid at
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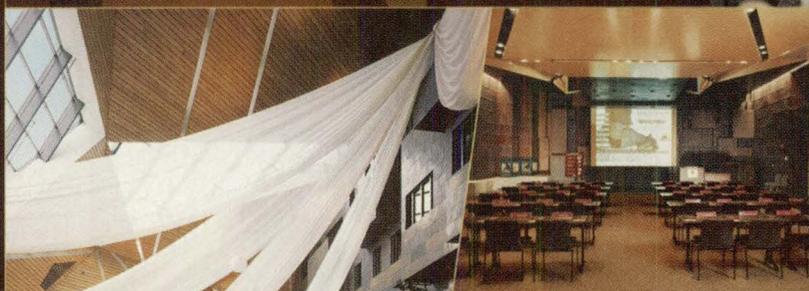
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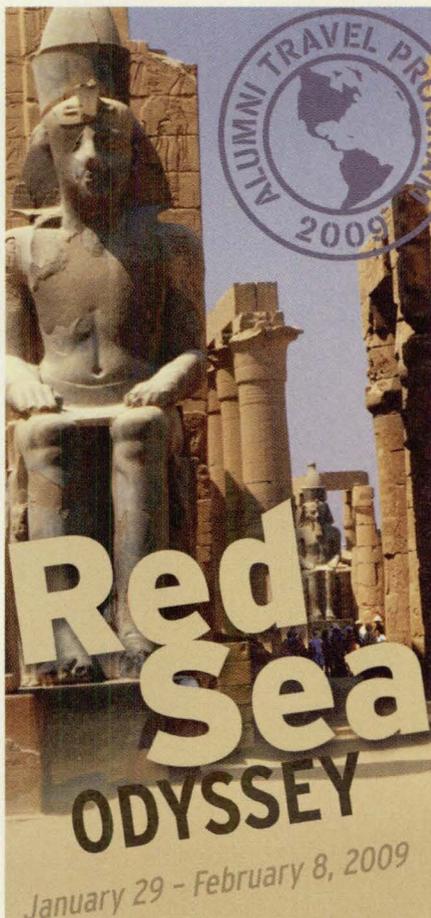
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Editor's Note

Doses of Democracy

In an interview for this issue of *Minnesota*, University of Minnesota alumnus David Domke (Ph.D. '96) said that in America, "democracy is experienced on a daily basis by everybody." I would have sworn that I experience democracy only when I swerve from my routine on election day or by following the occasional impeachment hearing. So I decided to test the idea. I would be on the alert for each instance over the subsequent days that I encountered democracy.

I didn't have to wait long. I attended a neighborhood ice cream social one June afternoon, and who showed up but two of my elected officials. I had voted for just one of them but was happy to see both out shaking constituents' sticky hands. Meeting my mayor and city council member definitely counted as experiencing democracy.



Shelly Fling

I experienced democracy the next day, too, while trying to peel a terrified cat off the ceiling. A quiet night sky had exploded with fireworks from the yard of a neighbor rehearsing for his Fourth of July blowout, still weeks away. I remembered the good old days, when setting off booming, aerial fireworks was illegal in Minnesota. Not that people didn't do it anyway; it's just that sneaking fireworks over the border was so much more fun. But then someone introduced a bill. . . . Democracy, loud and clear.

Walking up to my car the next morning, I took note of the antiwar sticker I had slapped on the rear window a few years earlier. We Americans tend to communicate via bumper stickers and T-shirts. Still, these are forms of free speech in a democracy that protects the rights of individuals. I wouldn't be shocked to find my window broken in response to that bit of speech but feel fairly confident that I won't be arrested for it. Democracy again.

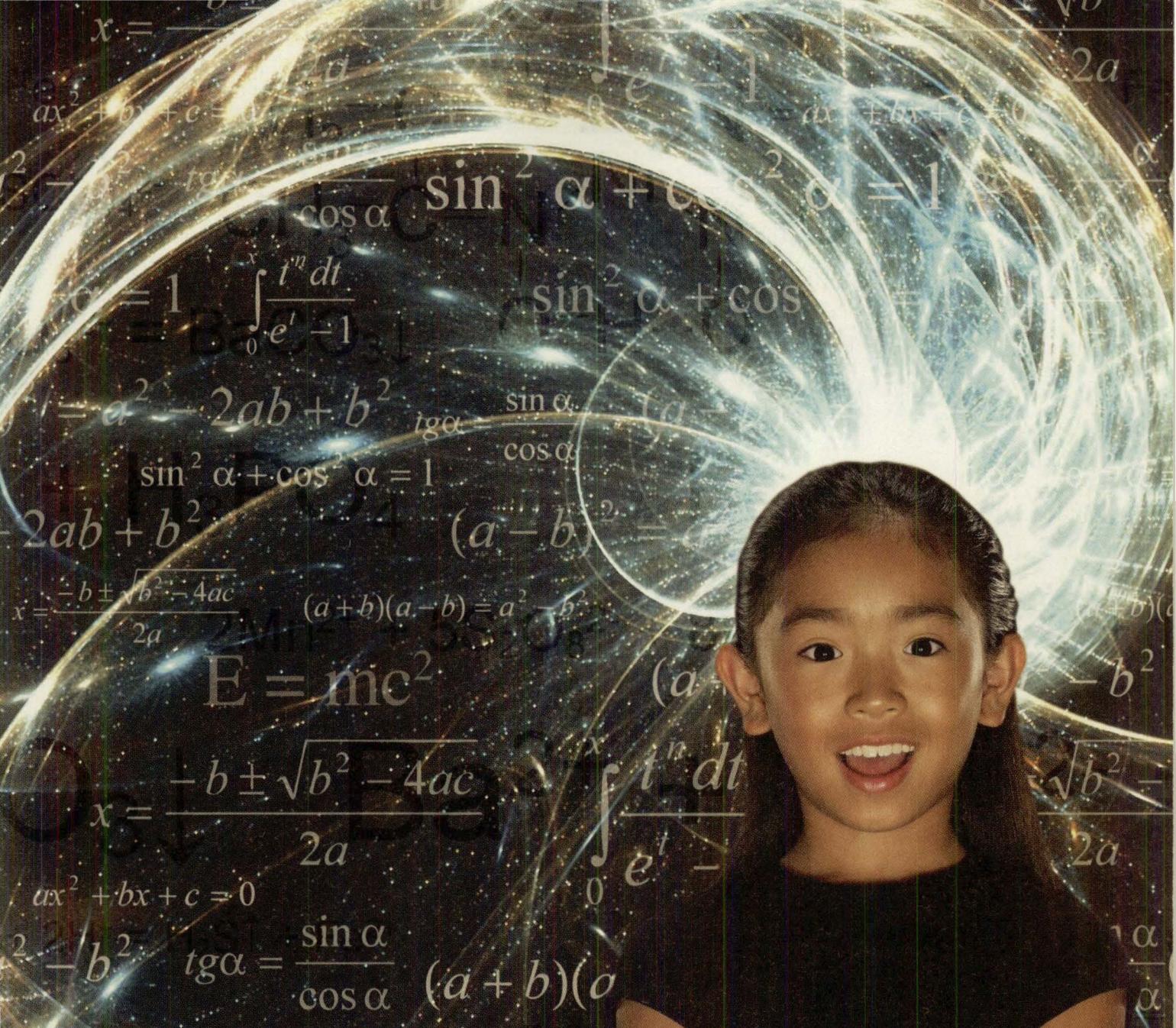
Later that week, in preparing this magazine for the printer, I visited the U's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs to look for photographs from Hubert Humphrey's life and was allowed into the storage room containing the Humphrey archives. Tens of thousands of photos and papers fill several metal file cabinets. I pulled up a chair and began flipping through pictures from Humphrey's mayoral, U.S. Senate, and presidential campaigns; from his trips abroad as a senator and a vice president; and from his days as a University of Minnesota student.

I sorted and winnowed and laid out my favorites on a table. Two hours went by before I took a break and looked around the room for the first time. On a shelf I noticed a well-traveled red suitcase embossed with the letters "H.H.H." Next to it sat a fedora I had just seen on Humphrey's head in countless photos. I reached up and thought about trying it on but stopped myself from the blasphemous act.

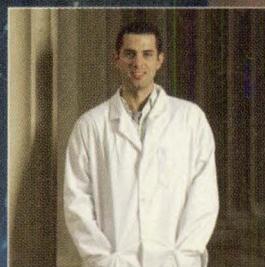
I should quit goofing around and get back to the office, I thought, and began to stack the photos. It was then I realized I hadn't laid these photos out on a table; it was a massive wood desk. I leaned forward to admire the ornately carved sides. Not only was this Humphrey's desk, but for half of the afternoon I had been sitting in his black leather chair from his vice presidency (a small engraved plaque on the rear confirmed this). I sprang to my feet and apologized to Humphrey's ghost.

I tried to envisage Humphrey fuming that his chair wasn't in a glass case behind velvet ropes instead of in a storage room where any old unwashed visitor might plop down. But I just couldn't conjure the image, probably because I knew Humphrey would want it this way. How democratic is that? ■

Shelly Fling may be reached at fling003@umn.edu.



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Thinking Outside the Borders

Student members of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) at the University of Minnesota can be forgiven for talking trash: Their effort to turn garbage into economic opportunity for Haiti recently earned them \$25,000 from Keen footwear.

The U's chapter of the humanitarian organization is using the prize to explore a way to recycle plastic water sachets that litter the streets and beaches of Haiti, a materially destitute island country in the Caribbean. The sachets, pouches made of high-density plastic, are sold by businesses or distributed by aid organizations for toting purified water.

Users typically bite off the corner to open them; since the sachets can't be resealed and are no longer sterile, people discard them after one use. Municipal trash collection and recycling are nonexistent in Haiti. The student engineers hope to use that plastic to make composting toilets for urban families. If it's successful, the project could enhance sanitation, reduce pollution, and, eventually, create jobs for Haitians.

According to Nathan Knutson, a second-year master's student in mechanical engineering, large-scale recycling of plastic in the United States is done with enormous injection-molding machines. "We want to remove the hydraulic press, the sophisticated heating processes . . . and bring this down to something that can be hand operated," he says.

Inspired repurposing isn't a new concept in Haiti. Artists have long transformed discarded oil drums into exquisite metal sculptures called *fer de coupe*, and children make toy cars from film canisters. The EWB students hope to replicate that ingenuity.

The students are investigating the feasibility of melting the plastic with solar-heated oil, using seed oil from the inedible jatropha vine native to Haiti.

"We came into it thinking this was a technology issue," says Chris Weyandt, a recent graduate in electrical engineering. "The technology is there; it's an application issue. It's learning about the people and the culture and . . . how we could successfully implement something like this and have it accepted by the people."

An assessment trip to Haiti, originally scheduled for summer but postponed in the wake of April food riots, is slated for winter break 2009.

—Susan Maas



A Haitian girl walks through a dump in Port-au-Prince. Haiti has no trash collection or recycling.

Heir Apparel



Designer gowns and shoes belonging to journalist Lally Weymouth debuted at the annual Goldstein Museum of Design Garden Party in May. Weymouth, the senior editor of *Newsweek* and an heir to the *Washington Post* fortune, donated to the Goldstein 36 gowns and 4 pairs of shoes that carry designer names such as Oscar de la Renta, Yves Saint Laurent, James Galanos, Halston, and Emmanuel Ungaro. The Goldstein, which is housed in the College of Design, has more than 18,000 costume objects from designers such as Coco Chanel, Christian Dior, Missoni, and Versace. The collection is available to College of Design students to study for technique and inspiration. Weymouth is the daughter of the late Katharine Graham and Philip Graham, both of whom were publishers of the *Washington Post*. Her brother, Donald Graham, and daughter, Katharine Weymouth, are the *Washington Post* Company's current chief executive officer and publisher, respectively.

Reporting for Duty

In what might best be called journalism boot camp, eight University of Minnesota journalism students spent a week in June embedded with soldiers at Camp Ripley, a 53,000-acre training facility operated by the Minnesota National Guard near Little Falls, Minnesota. The program is part of the Humphrey Institute's Warrior to Citizen Campaign, a state-wide effort to support Minnesota's returning veterans and their families. But the week was intended primarily as training for soldiers and student journalists, and secondarily as a way to support the troops.

"The Camp Ripley experience is really giving the soldiers experience with having journalists with them as they do their work, and providing journalists a real good sense of what it's like to be in a combat zone," says Dennis Donovan, a research fellow at the Humphrey Institute and the lead organizer of the Warrior to Citizen Campaign. "As for the students, they're not going to get that experience in the classroom."

Lt. Col. Kevin Olson, an Iraq war veteran and director of public affairs for the Minnesota National Guard, says that he's not aware of this model being used in other states. "We hope that



we can create a model that can be useful for both future military units in training and also future journalism students," he says.

Each of the journalism students, a mix of print and broadcast majors, were expected to develop and produce daily stories. Before heading to the camp, Kevin Keen, a senior broadcast journalism student from Wausau, Wisconsin, said he was eager to learn what it's like to produce television news stories in difficult circumstances. "We'll spend most of our time with the soldiers and we'll get to know them. And at night, when the troops are resting, that's when we're scheduled to get to work," he says.

"The biggest thing I'm excited about is having these deadlines every day, really being expected to produce something every day," says Megan Kadrmas, a print journalism student from Stillwater.

While acknowledging that they'd be helping train soldiers, Keen and Kadrmas were confident they'd be able to maintain

journalistic objectivity. Kadrmas said one of her professors advised her to be sure to "maintain a critical eye." "Hopefully, this experience will make them better journalists and also better citizens," says Donovan.

—Mark Engebretson

U Earns a "B"

The U earned a B on the College Sustainability Report Card for its efforts to achieve a sustainable campus in 2007, putting it in the top one-third of the 200 schools graded. The report card was issued by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a nonprofit organization engaged in research and education to advance sustainability in campus operations. Schools and universities with the 200 largest endowments in the United States and Canada were assessed on policies and practices in eight areas: administration, climate change and energy, food and recycling, green building, transportation, endowment transparency, investment priorities, and shareholder engagement. The U received A's in food and recycling, transportation, and shareholder engagement, while the lowest grades—C's— were in administration, endowment transparency, and investment priorities. Last year, the first year that the report card was issued, the U received a B- overall.



OVERHEARD ON CAMPUS

"Sex isn't controversial because some people don't believe in it; the problem is that sex is a strong driving force in people's behavior, so people fear it. And the reason sex is a powerful drive lies in our evolutionary past."

—Olivia Judson, responding to a question about whether sex or evolution is a more controversial topic in the United States. Judson, an evolutionary biologist at Imperial College London, was the keynote speaker in June at the world's largest annual conference on evolution hosted at the University of Minnesota.



A Toehold on the Family Tree

Researchers in the University of Minnesota's department of fisheries, wildlife, and conservation biology in the College of Biological Sciences and from Villanova University have discovered a new family of gecko, a small, night-active lizard with large eyes that is found on nearly every continent. Scientists have long been interested in geckos and their evolution because their presence is a key indicator of an area's ecological health. Additionally, scientists are interested in the gecko's feet, which have sticky toepads that allow it to maneuver across most surfaces—it can, for example, walk upside down across a ceiling. Scientists believe that unique characteristics might have human application in medicine, emergency rescue service, and military industries.

Researchers identified the new family by sequencing DNA from 44 species of the animal, and using the data to reconstruct the gecko family tree. The new family consists of 103 species and can be found in several semiarid and tropical regions in North Africa, the Middle East, North and South America, and the Caribbean.

Making Epilepsy Drugs Better

Nearly 30 percent of people who take medication for epilepsy do not respond to their medication, and researchers now have a better understanding of why. A College of Pharmacy researcher at the University of Minnesota found that neurotransmitters released during epileptic seizures turn on a signaling pathway in the brain, which in turn increases production of a protein that could inhibit medication's entry into the brain. The finding opens the door to improving the effectiveness of drugs that are used to treat epilepsy.

Weeding out the Cause of Skin Cancer

Researchers at the University of Minnesota's Hormel Institute have discovered that molecular receptors that pull a compound found in marijuana smoke out of the blood play a central role in the initiation and development of sun-induced skin cancer. Researchers found that the point of entry for skin cancer in response to sun exposure is in molecular "hooks" on the outer surface of cells that also pull cannabinoid compounds out of the bloodstream. These receptors were identified as the first point of contact between

ultraviolet light rays and the thin outer layers of skin. The discovery lays the groundwork for development of medication that might be used after exposure to sun to stop skin cancer in its tracks.



Cancer Survivors Face Heart Risks

Childhood cancer survivors have a significantly greater chance of developing heart problems at a young age than their siblings who have not had cancer, according to research led by a researcher at the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center. The research found that survivors of childhood and young adult cancers are 5 to 10 times more likely to develop serious heart problems by age 27, including congestive heart failure, heart attack, and hardening of the coronary arteries. The risks were especially high in survivors who received anthracycline drugs or radiation therapy to the heart as part of their cancer treatment. The 14,358 survivors who were studied were 21 years of age or younger at diagnosis and had survived at least five years after treatment. Researchers said the study points to the need for survivors to be monitored closely in the long-term so that heart conditions can be detected before they become a major medical problem.

One Powerful Protein

University of Minnesota researchers in the Medical School have discovered that a natural human protein called APOBEC3G has the capacity to kill HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS. Many studies over the past six years have investigated the efficacy of human proteins in battling HIV-1, but this research is the first to prove that APOBEC3G is as good at stopping the virus as any synthetic drug currently used for treatment. However, much additional work needs to be done before APOBEC3G can be used as therapy. That's because HIV-1, which has long been known for its ability to mutate, has developed a way to evade APOBEC3G with its own protein, called Vif. Scientists are now working to find a way to neutralize the activity of Vif, which could lead to the development of more effective therapeutics.



Exit Exams: F

High school exit exams are effective in reducing the number of students who graduate, but the standards are set too low to boost academic achievement or improve post-high school job prospects. That was the conclusion of research by a University of Minnesota sociology professor and a colleague from the University of California-Davis who studied the impact of exit exams in the 23 states where they have been implemented. They found that the exams have no measurable impact on 13- to 17-year-old students' reading or math achievement levels and that young people who earned their diplomas in states requiring exit exams experienced the same chances of employment and the same wage rates as those who were not required to pass exit exams.

Taming Leukemia

In a discovery that may put to rest a long-standing debate about the origins of leukemia, researchers at the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center say their study demonstrates that the disease begins in young stem cells rather than in the more mature progenitor cells. The discovery was made in connection with acute leukemia, the most common childhood cancer. Current treatments cure more than 80 percent of children older than 2 when diagnosed with the disease, but the cure rate is much lower for infants. Researchers said the finding might have significance in all types of cancer.

Research with Backbone

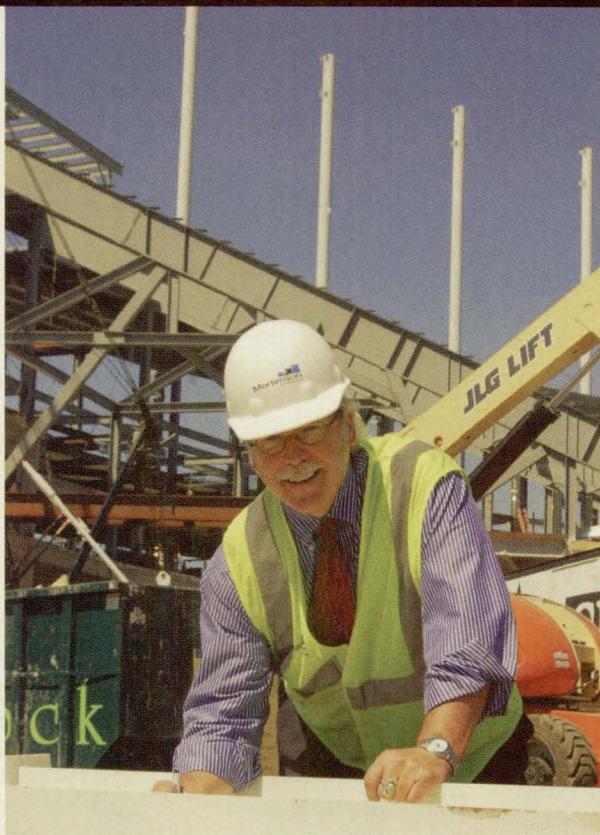
Researchers in the departments of entomology and neuroscience in the University of Minnesota Medical School have concluded that each segment of the human spinal cord may have its own individual generator unit that is activated by the common hormone dopamine and controls walking. When a neuron fires, it sets off a chain reaction that gives rise to rhythmic movement, such as walking. Once those circuits are turned on, the body essentially goes on autopilot. Understanding how the spinal cord controls walking could help lead to treatments for central nervous system maladies such as Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injuries. The next step will be to figure out how dopamine makes individual neurons more or less active. Researchers found these generator units by studying the medicinal leech, whose neurons are large and therefore easier to study than human neurons.

—Edited by Cynthia Scott

The Board of Regents cleared the way for planning the Central Corridor light rail line to run at-grade on Washington Avenue in a resolution that passed 11-1 at its June meeting. The University of Minnesota, a key partner in the billion-dollar project that will connect the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul, had pushed for a route that would go through Dinkytown rather than on Washington Avenue. Of primary concern were the safety of students, the effects of rail traffic on research buildings situated on this main campus roadway, and the impact of closing the street to automobile traffic. While several regents expressed serious concerns about these issues, most felt the need to take action to ensure that the project moves forward. The regents' resolution includes a number of contingencies that must be met in memoranda of understanding with the cities, counties, and Metropolitan Council. Construction on the line is scheduled to begin in 2010, with completion in 2014.

Undergraduate tuition will go up 7.25 percent in the 2009 budget approved by the Board of Regents in June, but University President Bob Bruininks says about two-thirds of Twin Cities campus students will see an increase of 4.75 percent or less. Scholarships for middle-income resident students and the Founders Free Tuition Program will make up the difference, he said. Under the latter, 4,700 low-income students—or 12 percent of university students statewide—will attend classes with free tuition in 2009. In all, scholarship and grant assistance to U students on all campuses will reach a new high at more than \$200 million.

Physicians at the University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview, have determined that an experimental procedure undertaken last year appears to have set the path toward a cure for a young child's fatal genetic skin disease. Last October, a team conducted a cord blood and bone marrow transplant on 26-month-old Nate Liao of Clarksburg, New Jersey, who was born with recessive dystrophic epider-



Reason to Beam

The last steel for the main structure of TCF Bank Stadium was put in place on June 27, a milestone that was marked by a ceremonial signing of the final two beams by University officials and members of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association national board. Those beams, which completed the installment of more than 8,800 tons of steel, were situated on the auxiliary scoreboard structure at the east end of the stadium. Among those whose names will forever support the scoreboard is Alumni Association board member Henry Blissenbach (B.S. '70), pictured. To see an aerial view of the stadium, turn to page 40.

molysis bullosa (RDEB). The lining of the gastrointestinal tract and skin in children with RDEB lack collagen type VII, causing them to become exquisitely delicate. Tearing and blistering occur with minimal friction, and those who are affected must have their entire body continuously wrapped in bandages. Those who do not die from malnutrition and infection in childhood will acquire a uniformly fatal, aggressive skin cancer in young adulthood. In June, doctors determined that Nate's body was producing increasing amounts of collagen type VII, and that his skin was beginning to anchor to his body. Nate's brother, who also has RDEB, underwent the same procedure in May.

For the first time since 1980, University of Minnesota faculty won multiple Guggenheim Awards in consecutive years. This year,

three faculty were awarded the prestigious fellowship, and last year there were four. The 2008 Guggenheim fellows are Professors Kathryn Sikkink in political science, who was recognized for her work on the origins and effects of human rights trials worldwide; Robin Striker in sociology, who has studied government regulation of equal employment opportunity; and Douglas Arnold in mathematics, whose work focuses on developing and understanding mathematical algorithms that enable computer simulation of physical phenomena. This year 190 Guggenheim recipients were selected from 2,600 applicants for awards totaling \$8.2 million, an average of \$43,200 per recipient.

The United States Department of Agriculture has approved a state-of-the-art laboratory on the St. Paul campus to conduct research on exotic plant pathogens. Only three universities in the United States have approval to conduct such research in a combined laboratory and greenhouse containment facility. Two of the pathogens that will be studied in the facility are those that cause stem rust on cereals and Asian soybean rust. The University's Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will jointly operate the facility. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug (B.S. '37, M.S. '39, Ph.D. '42) recently warned that Ug99, a virulent new race of stem rust damaging wheat crops in Africa, could reduce world wheat production by 60 million tons and cause a global crop failure.

The College of Biological Sciences dedicated a new ecology

research facility in honor of a former U graduate student whose work in the 1940s inspired generations of ecologists.

The Raymond Lindeman Research and Discovery Center in Bethel, Minnesota, provides space for ecosystem science research, education, and public outreach. In the early 1940s, Lindeman used research conducted at Cedar Creek Natural History Area, a 5,400-acre field station near the new center, to show how energy and nutrients flow through ecosystems. His insights shifted the focus of ecology from individual species to the relationship between organisms and their environment. The dedication ceremony also marked the renaming of Cedar Creek Natural History Area to Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve.

Improving early childhood literacy is the goal of a center at the U that opened in July and will operate for five years.

The Center for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood will attempt to reduce the number of children with reading problems by increasing the number of children entering school with knowledge and skills in early literacy and language. Research shows that children who read well in the early elementary grades are more likely to be academically successful and thrive later in life. The U is one of three schools nationwide partnering to create a research and development center that aims to improve lifetime academic success by improving children's reading skills as early as age 3. The other schools are the University of Kansas and Florida State University. The project is an initiative of the United States Department of Education.

The Board of Regents has officially approved the appointment of Trevor Ames (M.S. '81) as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Ames has been serving as interim dean since June 2007. Previously chair of the college's Veterinary Population Medicine Department, Ames joined the faculty in 1981.

—Cynthia Scott



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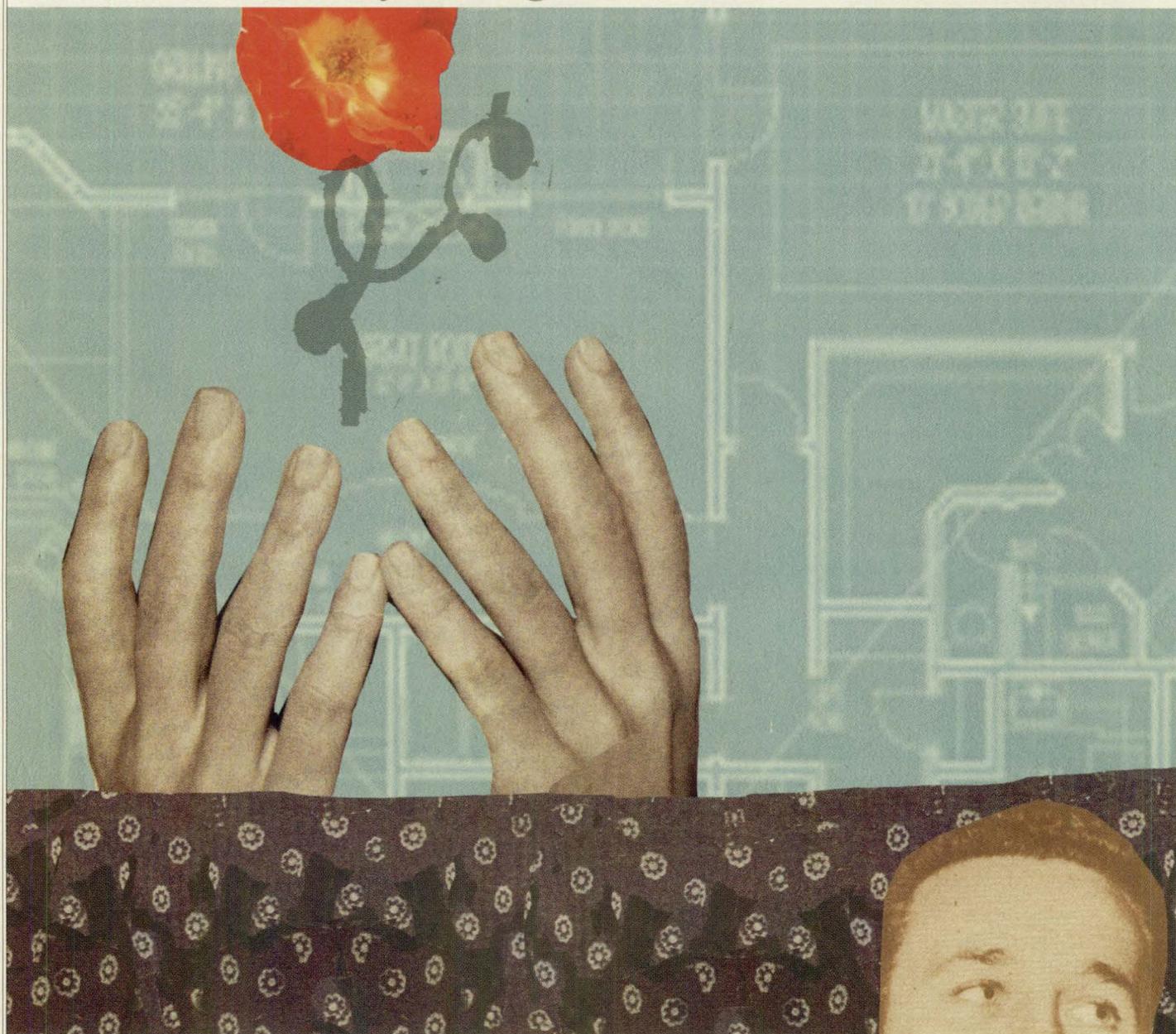
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People want happy endings, not the sad facts,
only adding to the burden of the charade.



The Impolite Truth

After awhile, you get tired of answering the same question: How is Rob doing? Because the answer isn't heartening and will probably never lend itself to a *Reader's Digest* story of triumph over adversity. Because the answer doesn't change much from week to week, and I can see people's faces drop when I respond honestly. Because a lot of people who suffer a massive stroke never do completely recover. And my husband is one of them.

ESSAY BY **LYNETTE LAMB** > ILLUSTRATION BY **KATHERINE STREETER**

Just two years ago, Rob was a successful residential architect, a writer on design and development issues, an energetic, intelligent man with many interests. Only 45, he'd owned his own business for a decade and had a perennial waiting list of would-be clients. Committed to the city he loved, he had written plan books for updating bungalows, ranch houses, and Cape Cods so that people would stay in Minneapolis instead of fleeing to the suburbs. He'd designed townhouses, lake cabins, even the *Star Tribune* booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

Rob was an accomplished amateur photographer and had begun work on a cemetery photo project. Kayaking was a new interest, and Rob had recently begun setting aside money for the kayak of his dreams. He loved fatherhood and was teaching our daughters archery, camping skills, and photography, as well as serving as a chaperone on third-grade swim outings and overnight trips. He'd always had more ideas, more passions, and more commitments than he had time. His brain raced, and his body struggled to keep up.

And then one day it didn't. On that hot July day, as he cared for our two daughters while I drove home from an out-of-town trip, a blood clot shot up to the left side of his brain and brought him down on the bathroom floor. Our 6- and 10-year-old girls, confused by the sight of their father seemingly asleep, watched him fretfully. When I found him three hours later, he was lying on his side, unresponsive, fists clenched. By the time the ambulance arrived, the clot had done its work.

The brain's left side controls the verbal centers—speaking, reading, and comprehending. The left brain also contains the executive function, the multitasking, organizing piece so vital to being a functioning adult in today's complex world. By day two, the doctors were asking about his living will and preparing me for the worst.

When a health crisis like this hits, the family first handles a series of urgent problems. Would he live and would surgery be performed should his brain swell? Where would he go for rehab? Could he ever learn to walk again or to dress and wash himself? Task by task, challenge by challenge, Rob worked hard and I supported him through it. Therapy? Check. Disability insurance? Check. Accessible shower? Check. CaringBridge Web site to keep friends and family informed? Check. The adrenaline of crisis mode carried me through the three months that Rob was hospitalized and in rehabilitation facilities, and people marveled at my coping skills.

During those months, cards flowed in, meals appeared, rides were offered. People rallied round and applauded each new development—first sentence, first solo shower, first walk around the lake. But then recovery slows down. And the months turn into a year. And the second year slowly moves on and still there is no movie-of-the-week climax. Nearly two years post-stroke, Rob continues to speak haltingly and to search for words. He doesn't remember certain people, events, and places he once knew. He cannot talk about the coming presidential election, the rising tide of teardowns in the city's lakes neigh-

borhoods, or his daughters' problems at school.

Rob cannot say what he wants for lunch if he is also washing the dishes. He cannot laugh about something a friend said because he can't remember that friend, nor understand why that particular comment is funny. He can no longer work as an architect because he can't talk on the phone, juggle multiple projects, or remember how to use the design software.

"My husband used to be an architect," I told someone the other day and felt so unutterably sad I could barely finish the sentence. Rob decided to become an architect when he was 7 years old and he never once strayed from that desire. He'd always planned to continue doing the work he loved into his 90s, pointing to role models like Frank Lloyd Wright and Philip Johnson.

Now Rob's identity is no longer tied up with his profession. And what I've come to understand is that *permanently disabled* is not the ending the world wants to hear. Well-meaning former colleagues offer tales of miraculous recoveries, of stroke survivors turned speaking-circuit authors. Friends, be they acquaintances or buddies of long standing, crave the Patricia Neal story,

Rob cannot laugh about something a friend said because he can't remember that friend, nor understand why that particular comment is funny.

not the James Brady story. Once the crisis is past, everyone expects—even needs—a happy ending.

But all too often, as so many stroke survivors and their families know, there is no happy ending. The person is alive but utterly altered. Rob remains a hard worker, a gentle father, a neat freak. But the light that once shown from his eyes is gone, visible now only in photographs. His pleasures, once so various and numerous, are now simple: watching the cats sleep, seeing the girls play, eating a good meal.

The invitations are fewer and more tentative, the inquiries hopeful yet guarded. And my answers vary, depending on my mood and energy level. Usually I say Rob's fine, getting better all the time, thanks. But occasionally, when I tire of the charade, I respond instead with the unvarnished truth: Rob has plateaued, he's permanently disabled, he will never be the same person again.

And the alarmed faces quickly tell me I've gone too far, that it's neither positive nor polite to state the bald truth. Yet the loneliness of not admitting our day-to-day reality becomes so burdensome that the real answer keeps leaking out, leaving social awkwardness in its wake.

So, how is Rob? He's a different man from the one you and I once knew. He's trying hard to get better and to enjoy his life. He misses you, and he sees the world passing him by. He knows, as I do, that sometimes the ending you wish for is not the one you get. ■

Lynette Lamb (M.A. '84) is an editor at Macalester College in St. Paul. She and her husband, Robert Gerloff (B.Arch. '86), live with their two daughters in south Minneapolis.

First Person features personal essays written by alumni, faculty, students, or anyone with a University connection. To request writers' guidelines, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/minnesota.



Saving the Forest for the

Trees



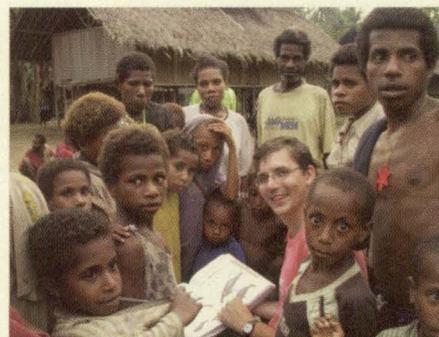
As if its name alone were not ominous enough, *Antiaris toxicaria* also has a fearsome reputation. Tall with drooping branches and whitish-gray bark, the poison tree doesn't look menacing. But according to early explorers, to sleep in the cool shade beneath its wide canopy is deadly. Those who do, they say, never wake up.

The tree's sap contains a potent cardiac toxin—a glycoside called antiarin, which hunters have long rubbed on the tips of their darts. In sufficient doses, the toxin causes the heart to beat ever more slowly until it finally stops. Found throughout Southeast Asia, Australia, and parts of Africa, *Antiaris toxicaria* is one of the 12,000 to 15,000 species of flowering plants that botanists estimate grow in Papua New Guinea's rain forests—if only they had enough time to find, name, and record them all. But time is running out, says George Weiblen, an associate professor of plant biology at the University of Minnesota who has been researching the flora of the country's forests for the past 15 years. The growing presence of commercial interests—including mining, logging, and agricultural—has greatly accelerated human impact on the land. All of this extraction is transforming the rain forests," Weiblen says. "The wild areas where we work are shrinking faster and faster."

Rich with natural resources, including oil, rubber, natural gas, and gold, Papua New Guinea, an independent country on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, is abundant with marketable goods. But it's the world's insatiable hunger for exotic hardwoods—such as mahogany, kwila, and rosewood exported to China, Japan, Europe, and the United States—that has affected the country's rain forests most.

This is a relatively new and pressing problem for the country roughly the size of California that was part of Australia before gaining its independence peacefully in 1975. While commercial interests began plundering the rain forests of the Amazon

With help from local villagers, University of Minnesota botanist George Weiblen and his colleagues race to record the biodiversity of Papua New Guinea's rain forests before they disappear.



Top left: Harvested trees at a timber mill in Madang, Papua New Guinea. Above: George Weiblen shares an encyclopedia with children in a remote village. Opposite page: Weiblen in the Bell Museum's herbarium.

BY MELEAH MAYNARD

WEIBLEN PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUINENBURG



and Congo long ago, the lush lands of Papua New Guinea have remained largely untouched for decades, thanks in part to rough, mountainous terrain that has made it so difficult to get into the heart of the country's dense forests that it simply wasn't profitable to try.

But the rising price of tropical timber has made it worth the timber industry's while to invest in roads and other infrastructure necessary for harvesting the country's forests. And rising prices have stepped up illegal logging, making it virtually impossible for scientists and conservationists to estimate just how much of the country's rain forests have already been damaged or lost.

As the forests change, so do their ecosystems. In a few decades, perhaps sooner, the majority of the country's lowland forest wilderness will be changed forever. The significance of that loss isn't easy for people to comprehend and Weiblen knows it. Looking up from a laptop slideshow of photos from a recent trip, he frowns and poses a question he has heard many times: "So why should we care?"

He answers by explaining that the tropical rain forests of Papua New Guinea are the third largest in the world, after the Amazon and Congo, and most of the species on this planet live in rain forests. "So even though Papua New Guinea's rain forests cover just half a percent of the world's land area, they've got about 5 percent of Earth's plant and insect diversity," he says. "It's a critical time to work there because this is our last chance to capture a snapshot of what wild places are like."

It is also our last chance, Weiblen continues, to study how the complex ecosystems of Papua New Guinea's rain forests have evolved. "We still know so little about

"Thousands of years of accumulated knowledge is about to be lost, so we have this fleeting opportunity to document the traditional knowledge. You know," Weiblen says, citing an adage, "when a medicine man dies, it's like a library has burned down."



Top: Wanang villagers prepare to haul cargo several hours by foot through the rain forest to the research camp. **Above:** The aptly named Hercules moth rests on a bow string at Wanang.

the diversity of New Guinea's forest wilderness," he explains. "Recording the kind of fundamental data we're collecting is critical to understanding how the distribution of plants has changed over time and how it may change in the future as the climate changes."

A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Weiblen was just 23 in 1993 when he first stepped off a plane in Papua New Guinea. Having just graduated from Reed College in Portland, Oregon, with a bachelor's degree in biology, he visited the island on a fellowship that allows college graduates to travel for a year outside the United States.

He chose the South Pacific because, as an undergraduate, he had explored the temperate rain forests of the Pacific Northwest. But he was drawn to the pictures in his textbooks of the tropics. He could only imagine the biodiversity of Papua New Guinea. And what he found far exceeded his expectations.

Most of all, he wanted to know what scientists were doing to document all that was there. "What I discovered was that there were very, very few researchers working in that vast territory," he recalls. "But I was enchanted with the idea of working there because it is one of the last biodiversity hotspots on Earth. It was, and still is, a kind of frontier."

Luckily, he fell in with a group of biologists from around the world conducting biodiversity surveys on the island. Fifteen years later, Weiblen is practically a fixture in Papua New Guinea. He travels there at least once a year, accompanied by students whom he is now introducing to the country.

Weiblen, who earned his Ph.D. from Harvard and joined the U's faculty in 2000, says the University's support of both international interdisciplinary research and the Bell's natural history collection has made ongoing work in Papua New Guinea possible for him and his students.

In 1997 Weiblen and his colleagues from around the globe founded the New Guinea Binatang Research Center in the town of Madang on the country's north coast. *Binatang* means "insect" in Melanesian pidgin and is an apt name for the center since its research focuses on the relationship between plants and the insects that feed on them. (One of the most diverse places on Earth, Papua New Guinea has more than 800 indigenous languages, and Melanesian pidgin—a fusion of English, German, and Portuguese that reflects the country's colonial history—has become the country's common language.)

In addition to collaborating with local and overseas academic institutions and governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the non-profit center trains Papua New Guineans to be parataxonomists: biodiversity experts able to go out into the field and identify and classify a wide range of organisms. Many local villagers already have an encyclopedic understanding of the forests in which they live and provide invaluable help to researchers. The center helps the villagers, even those with little formal education, build on that knowledge by teaching them scientific method, biology, ecology, and computer skills. Parataxonomists are hired to take digital pictures of specimens, record data, collect insects that feed on particular plants, and perform field and laboratory experiments.

Having a good relationship with locals is essential for research in Papua New Guinea, and not just because they know the land better than visitors ever could. Unlike most rain forests and wilderness areas, the country has no public lands in which biodiversity can be studied. Instead, 98 percent of the country's land is owned by clans and tribes and is passed down from generation to generation.

In order to do their work, Weiblen and his colleagues negotiate directly with the landowners. Weiblen speaks the local Melanesian pidgin or Tok Pisin, as it is known, and so is able to communicate

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In the politically-charged atmosphere of an election year, the Weisman Art Museum presents the exhibition *Hindsight is Always 20/20*. Artist R. Luke DuBois' prints sort State of the Union addresses from each U.S. president according to word frequency. Looking back on the words chosen for these addresses, Du Bois proposes to test the metaphorical eyesight of the nation.

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without an interpreter. Though Weiblen is well-known in some parts of the forest, there are still plenty of places where villagers are rightfully skeptical of unfamiliar scientists who want to collect specimens. "People value their land and they fear exploitation," Weiblen explains.

This fear has intensified in recent years, Weiblen says, as commercial interests, predominantly logging companies, have stepped up efforts to buy timber rights from landowners. If they're willing, landowners can sign their timber rights over to the government of Papua New Guinea, which deals directly with logging companies. Royalties from the logs that are taken are divided up between the villagers and the government. "It's usually a bad deal and the locals know it," Weiblen says. "But life is really tough and a little money helps in the short term. If you have to repair your roof with thatched leaves every two years, wouldn't it be nice to replace it with corrugated iron that would last 20?"

Still, the long-term reality of these bargains is harsh and bleak. With the big trees gone, villagers can no longer look to the forest for resources they need, such as building materials, natural medicines, and food. Some turn to agriculture, which can provide some cash, but getting produce to market is difficult without passable roads. For most, it is a rough transition into the

lives. Older generations, who are fluent in ancient languages and oral traditions, have no one to pass their knowledge on to. In some ways, Weiblen says, their culture is disappearing faster than the forests. "Thousands of years of accumulated knowledge is about to be lost, so we have this fleeting opportunity to document the traditional knowledge. You know," Weiblen says, citing an adage, "when a medicine man dies, it's like a library has burned down."

COLLECTING AND CATALOGING

Specimens collected in Papua New Guinea are sent to museums and herbaria around the world, including the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium, the National Museum of Australia, England's Kew Gardens, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Weiblen is a curator of plants at the University of Minnesota Herbarium, a division of the Bell Museum. One of four plant curators, he helps to oversee a collection that includes more than 800,000 specimens from around the world. Because so much of

Papua New Guinea has yet to be explored, new and significant finds are commonplace. For example, over the years, Weiblen has discovered six new species of figs. He also studies the pollination of figs by specialized wasps. Weiblen's collection of more than 75 species of living fig trees, which range in size from 6 inches to 30 feet tall, is on display at the Bell, along with thousands of DNA samples that are helping to unravel the evolutionary history of New Guinea's forest trees.

When Weiblen returns to Papua New Guinea in July, he'll be accompanied by two of his students, Annika Moe and Tim Whitfeld. Moe, an evolutionary geneticist, is doing her Ph.D. thesis on how species form. This will be her second trip to Papua New Guinea and she'll stay for six months. Like Weiblen, she is studying the relationship between figs and their pollinating wasps. Her work is focused on recent evidence that contradicts the long-held belief that each fig species is pollinated by a specific wasp. "We are finding that wasps can pollinate more

than one fig species, resulting in hybridization," she says. "This gets at the heart of the question of how we define species."

While there, she'll be staying in the Ohu Bush Laboratory, about a 45-minute drive from the Binatang center. Days begin early, usually 4 a.m., when the roosters start crowing. She and her assistants, two teenagers from Ohu village, work in the forest all



Clockwise from upper left: A sign welcomes guests to the opening celebration for the Wanang research project; rules in Melanesian pidgin prohibit liquor, marijuana, foul language, and fighting. A weevil in the genus *Eupholus* on a leaf. A moth and caterpillar of the same species on a host plant. Ohu villager Erick Brus tends to caterpillar-feeding experiments in a village laboratory. Ohu villager Roll Lillip identifies a caterpillar using a library of digital photographs; new species are photographed and instantly added to the library in the field camp.

cash economy where doctor visits cost money and meat has to be bought in town.

As villagers become more connected to the global marketplace and less connected to the forest, they lose their traditional culture. Instead of hunting and learning the names of forest plants, young people are leaving to go to school and lead modern

morning. By midafternoon it will be too hot to move, so they'll call it a day and Moe will spread out beneath a waterfall near camp to cool off.

Before helping the village women and girls prepare the usual dinner of rice and plantains or rice and sago (a sticky paste made from the pith of sago palm trunks), she and her assistants enter data into a generator-powered computer. Later, Moe and a crowd of villagers will gather around her computer to watch a movie. Action films are particular favorites.

Tim Whitfeld is a botanist earning his Ph.D. studying the ecology of Papua New Guinea's lowland rain forests. He'll be staying three months in Wanang, a remote village that can be reached only by walking four to eight hours (depending on the amount of mud) after a five-hour drive from the nearest town of Madang. "I'm trying to understand how different plants coexist in a diverse forest," Whitfeld says. "Not much of this type of work has been done in Papua New Guinea and our work at Wanang will help us understand the ecological processes that assemble plant communities."

On his last visit, Whitfeld spent a lot of time learning the names of indigenous plants and working to identify specimens with help from the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium. This trip, he'll be doing more of his own research and spending time with locals from Wanang village. "Living in the rain forest is unlike anything I've ever experienced," he says. "The people live so intimately with the land and they know it so well. Even the children are very independent. They just go out into the forest and find food and don't get lost. It's a way of life that anyone in the developed world, of any age, would have a hard time with."

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

For the past few years, in an effort to preserve some of Papua New Guinea's rain forests, Weiblen and his colleagues have been talking with landowners about conservation, explaining that the land is worth far more than cash. To help make clear his point, he brings along villagers from developed areas who regret the decision to sell off their timber rights.

These conversations have led some villages to choose a different path. In Wanang, 11 clan leaders have put together

an agreement not to yield their timber rights but manage the forest for conservation instead. Weiblen and others have been working with the villagers to survey and inventory the plants in a 20,000-acre parcel that these clan leaders control. "The Wanang people have seen the change that's happened on adjacent lands and they don't want that to happen to them," Weiblen says.

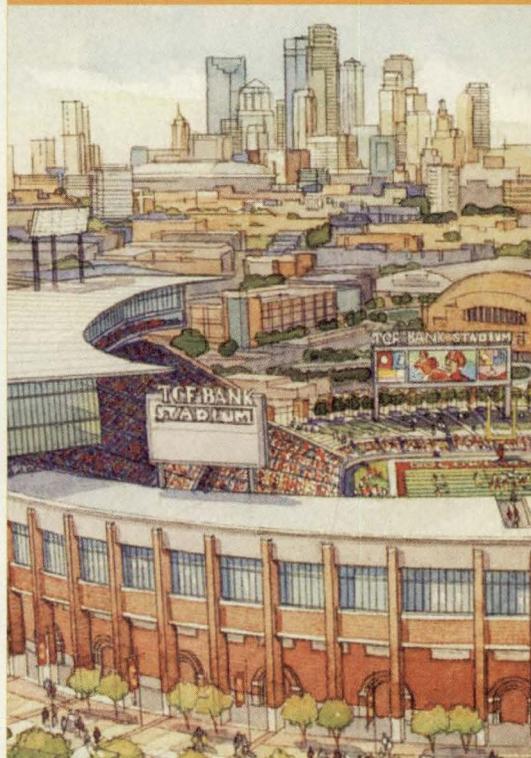
Talks with government officials and timber operators on adjacent lands are under way. But the hope is that this area of Wanang forest will one day be a protected area, something akin to Minnesota's Itasca

State Park or the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Weiblen says.

Perhaps it's a good sign that in Wanang, high on a mountaintop, there stands a sacred stone. Legend has it that this stone is imbued with magical powers alerting landowners to the threat of attack. Anyone who tries to remove that stone, it is said, will be struck by lightning. ■

Meleah Maynard (B.A. '91) is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer. To view more photos from Papua New Guinea, go to www.alumni.umn.edu/weiblen.

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Playing THE GOD CARD

University of Minnesota alumnus David Domke explains how religious politics—mastered by Democrats and Republicans alike—took hold of the American presidency and **why mixing religion and politics makes a lethal concoction.**

Politics in America took a sharp turn 28 years ago when Ronald Reagan, during his acceptance speech for the Republican Party's presidential nomination, posed an unexpected question. "Can we begin our crusade joined together in a moment of silent prayer?" he asked the delegates in the packed arena and the millions of Americans in the television audience. Then he bowed his head before the stilled crowd.

David Domke (Ph.D. '96), a journalism professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, opens his new book, *The God Strategy: How Religion Became a Political Weapon in America* (Oxford University Press, 2008), with this scene in Detroit's Joe Louis Arena. He and co-author Kevin Coe, a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois, proceed to explain what led to that moment and what has transpired since in American politics.

Domke, who was raised Catholic and whose wife is a Presbyterian pastor, asserts that, while God has been a part of presidential politics since George Washington held office, the religious undercurrent in America had until 1980 existed without partisan application. In fact, he says, "From the span of time we look at, from Franklin Delano Roosevelt in '32 through Jimmy Carter's presidency in '81, you've got five decades when there is an increasing secularization, a decreasing religiosity, in the presidency."

But the roots of today's religious politics reach back to before FDR, to the Scopes trial in 1925 when a public school teacher was convicted of teaching evolution. "Even though Christian fundamentalists won this legal battle, they lost in the broader court of public opinion because a lot of the media stars of the period made fun of them in news coverage," Domke explains. "As a result, many fundamentalists withdrew and set up their own infrastructure—universities and media outlets, radio in particular, publishing houses, and film studios—so that when they did reemerge in the political arena in the 1970s and '80s, they had all of this at their disposal."

Domke is also author of the 2004 book *God Willing?: Political Fundamentalism in the White House, the "War on Terror," and the Echoing Press*. He studied 15,000 public communications by U.S. presidents in researching *The God Strategy* and recently expounded on his new book for *Minnesota*.

Beginning with Reagan, the use of words like Providence, prayer, and blessing—what you call "God talk" and "faith talk"—spiked in presidential speeches and communications and has remained at high levels since. Why did that begin with Reagan? In the 1970s, Christian fundamentalists and Christian evangelicals began to come off the political sidelines. They really hadn't been that politically engaged for decades, but they began to be so because of concerns about the nation, concerns about family, concerns about Vietnam and Watergate. And so all of these reasons began to propel folks who thought that voting and political involvement were not really their place. They mobilized and got behind Jimmy Carter and helped to elect him in 1976.

But then a number of their leaders ultimately weren't satisfied with the kind of policies that Carter pursued. It became apparent to both Republicans and Democrats that whichever party could woo these new voters would have a significant influx of voters and their coalition. But the Republicans realized that it's not just about policies, it's also about the ability to speak the kind of faith language of these voters. And Reagan was particularly attuned, or his handlers were particularly attuned to this dynamic, and they emphasized faith and religion and a certain set of policies and they ground those in religious imagery. So much so that Carter, who was clearly uncomfortable with talking about faith in the public arena, late in the 1980 campaign begins to talk about God quite a bit more as he realizes, "I'm getting beat at something that really is my territory; I'm the person of faith here." But it was ultimately too late.

Why is it so terrible if politicians use religious language if many people do, in fact, vote based on their religious beliefs? It's not on its face necessarily terrible, because certainly many Americans

By Shelly Fling ■ Photograph by Julia Kuskin

do believe in God and speak in their own ways in religious terms. What happens in the political arena, though, is you begin first of all to exclude the millions of Americans who don't understand this language or who don't want to participate in it. All really good politicians in American history have been able to talk in ways that capture both people who are religious and those who are not. But when you speak heavily in religious terms, you exclude the many who don't fit that.

And the second piece is that it turns every issue into a moral showdown where it's very difficult to reach a set of compromise positions or to reach the kind of outcomes that are necessary in politics. Religion isn't the domain of compromise, so when you begin to throw these absolutes onto issues—like God wants it this way, or this is what the Bible teaches us, or this is what my faith compels me to do—it becomes very difficult on the conservative side to find any common ground on something like abortion or on the progressive side to figure out ways in which we can address poverty. When absolutist claims become the province of politics, then you become polarized and nobody can talk to each other. And we've seen far too much of that in last several decades in America.

A long-held belief in America is that this is a "chosen nation." Does that idea make the mixing of religion and politics acceptable? The notion that we're a divinely special nation, that God has always had special plans for us and has given us official position in the world to bring democracy and freedom to everybody, doesn't just make it possible for religious politics to occur in the United States, it really almost makes it a necessary piece.

If you're going to run for high office in this country, you have to convince everybody that you love this nation so, so much. And one of the ways that you show you love this country is by embracing certain ideas that are widespread in America, and one of those is this idea that the bravest men and women in the world are the troops in our military. So you always hear talk about our troops as if they're just short of saints. Another way to do it is to tap into this idea that America is a special, chosen place, that we've been put here with a divine decree from the beginning and we're going to be the deliverers of freedom.

All of this makes it essential for presidents and presidential candidates and other politicians to talk about God and country, to say "God bless America," to invoke God, to talk about our "God-given responsibilities." This makes it almost essential, if you're running for high national office, to bring God into the equation.

You wrote that not until 2003 did the media give prolonged scrutiny to religion in politics. What responsibility do the media have in the successful use of religion as a political weapon? Are they to blame? They certainly are to blame, partially. For a number of years, journalists had not scrutinized the ways in which politicians have accentuated faith and used it for political purposes—in large part because journalists thought that the public didn't pay attention to some of these claims. Also, the reality is that journalists didn't know how to ask questions about faith claims. How do you scrutinize a politician's claim that God wants marriage to be between a man and a woman? It's just not open to scrutiny the same way that you can examine someone's immigration plan.

But what journalists have begun to do—and it really started

with the Iraq War, as George Bush used so much God language after 9/11 and up to the war—is to see the broader magnitude of religious politics, that it has led to death and destruction around the world. There was a *Newsweek* cover on "Bush and God" in March 2003 that I think was a big starting point for this kind of scrutiny. And from there more journalists began to pay attention, political pundits began to pay attention, academics began to pay attention—and we were starting to produce material that gave systematic analysis to all of this.

Then, in 2004, faith became such a big deal in that election—Bush running essentially on faith and the war and John Kerry having such difficulty talking about faith. I think journalists grasped that now it's not only going to matter for a war, it's going to matter for a presidential election. Ever since then, Democrats have also responded in a significant way and are emphasizing faith. This has given journalists even more of an impetus to question it.

You wrote about Bill Clinton using the God strategy as masterfully as Reagan. How else have left-leaning politicians or groups used religion to appeal to voters? Merging a progressive world view, a liberal world view, with a religious take on the world is part of American history. The abolitionist movement and the civil rights movement—both of these were grand, progressive causes that had religious dimensions to them.

But beginning in the last several decades, Reagan and the Republicans were more effective at finding a few key issues that became the centerpieces of American political discussion. And those issues were, of course, abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment, and school prayer and then, in the last decade, same-sex relationships and now stem-cell research. Those issues that revolve around issues of life and sex—people pick up on them and grasp them quicker than more complex issues like health-care and poverty.

What liberal politicians have been able to do—when they've been able to craft messages that can be distilled into fairly quick processing by the public—is to talk about issues of faith in their life and how faith has defined who they are. Ted Strickland, the governor of Ohio and a former Methodist minister, when he was running for governor in 2006 he would talk about the two greatest influences in his life: his mother and his church. And that distills things really quickly for people. His mother and his faith: Those are, in the American mythology, pretty good things. He is an example of that and he won very big in Ohio and beat a Christian conservative on the Republican side. He didn't focus on those issues, but he brought it into the debate to talk about how is it that our faith defines us and for him it was about taking care of people and working for the common good.

That's what Bob Casey did in Pennsylvania as well. He talked about the common good. Casey was very successful and he beat in the 2006 U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania one of the most influential and important evangelicals on the Republican side, Rick Santorum. In those two instances, you have Democrats who essentially met faith with faith.

Which suffers more damage by being mixed together and why: religion or politics? I think that's really splitting hairs because they're both so damaged by it. I think ultimately democracy is the piece that is experienced on a daily basis by everybody

regardless of where they stand on religion. And so the damage to democracy is ultimately perhaps a death knell—perhaps not quite that bad, just devastating.

For faith, though, I think ultimately the worst thing that has happened to the Christian faith in the last couple centuries has been essentially the fusion with politics, certainly in the United States but not only in the United States. And so what many people of good mind both in politics and in religion want to keep quite separate, they swept them along together and have no ability to separate them and so neither one of them is able to accomplish their goals. And they're noble goals.

Why is faith used as a political weapon fatal to the nation's future?

Faith is as embedded in this country as baseball. So that's not going anywhere. But being used for political purposes—this running subtly on "I'm a Christian and my opponent here says he's a Christian," like Mike Huckabee suggested about Mitt Romney, that Mormons aren't really Christians, or Hillary Clinton suggesting that Barack Obama might be a Muslim, saying, "I take him at his word" that he's not a Muslim—clearly are attempts to use religion to divide the voting electorate, to use faith to get somebody elected or not elected. It's damaging to our public discussion about politics and who we are as a nation.

The more that we use religion in the public arena to justify positions or to make the case that you should vote for me because of my faith or against someone else because of their faith, what we really do is kill conversations, we stop them, we don't open them up, we really just end them. That's why people use this kind of terminology. You don't help the conversation about Iraq by framing that war as something God has wanted. How do you end a war in Iraq if you're an American politician when the president of the United States and a good number of others think that we're on God's side on this one? If you want to withdraw troops, you essentially have to say "God isn't who I thought God was."

Faith used for political purposes really limits conversations and puts our political discussions into a box and almost closes and seals off the box.

In your book, you call today the end of Act I of religious politics. What brought it to a close and what do you see in Act II? What happened in 2004—with the increased media scrutiny to religion in politics and with Kerry's unwillingness to talk about faith and then losing and many people interpreting his loss because he wouldn't talk about faith—is that the Democrats said, "Never again. We're just not going to allow ourselves to be painted as the party hostile to God."

And so after 2004 Nancy Pelosi creates a working group on faith in the House and a number of other Democrats begin to speak quite publicly about religious faith. For some folks it's solely strategic; for others it's both strategic and something they've wanted to do for a long time. And then what happens is Terry Schiavo [the brain-damaged Florida woman who became the center of the right-to-die battle] comes along and the stem-

cell issue comes along, and on both of those, for religious reasons, the Republican party goes one way and is largely out of step with what the public wants. So you have the Democrats awakening to it and then you have Republicans taking these two steps down pathways that hurt them. So both of those pieces open up, along with the Iraq War, this opportunity for Democrats in 2006. And a number of Democrats step into that opportunity.

As we entered 2008, I would say that the Democrats were much more effectively positioned for talking about faith at the presidential level than the Republicans were. The Republicans had one candidate who wanted to do that—Mike Huckabee—but the candidate they'll nominate [John McCain] is a man who really doesn't want to talk about faith at all.

So how can religion and politics be disentangled? What we need is for people on the political side to have the courage to say, "If people want to believe in God that's great; that's part of the

American sensibility. But I'm not going to accentuate it in my campaign, and when I'm in office I will protect religious liberties and the liberties of all who choose not to believe in a god." You have to have political figures who can embrace the American story, and part of that story is to stand and make sure that no religion or religious group is favored over no religious beliefs.

We need educators, including people like myself but also at the secondary and primary levels, to have the courage to talk about faith in ways that are inclusive and also help people to understand the truths

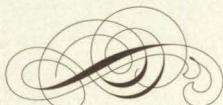
about religion in the founding of the nation, where religion rightly plays a role, and where that role stops in the public arena. I think that educators are feeling the tension and fears that many people feel in this country about how you talk about these issues. It's very difficult terrain, but I think it can be done and I think that it has to be done for the good of creating citizens who understand the appropriate boundaries for faith and for politics.

And we have journalists at major news outlets beginning to scrutinize and take seriously the faith claims and faith justifications that politicians put forward, whether it's running for president or for city council. So I think journalists are beginning to recognize the scrutiny that needs to be given to faith claims every bit as much as the scrutiny that's given to economic claims.

Ultimately we will force politicians to disentangle themselves from religion and we'll force religious leaders to disentangle themselves from politics. And, in fact, this is going on right now. There's this thing called "An Evangelical Manifesto," which was drafted this spring by a group of evangelical leaders, and a number of high-profile religious leaders in this country, many of them conservative, are signing on. They make the claim that their faith has been politicized and that this is inappropriate, that they shouldn't stand by and allow this to happen, and that political leaders shouldn't try to make it happen.

And so I see this disentangling starting to come from the religious side too. And that is essential. ■

The notion that we're a divinely special nation, that God has always had special plans for us, doesn't just make it possible for religious politics to occur in the United States, it really almost makes it a necessary piece.



Shelly Fling is editor of Minnesota.

The Good Son 1968

Forty years ago this summer, University of Minnesota alumnus Hubert Humphrey accepted the Democratic nomination for president. The rest, alas, is history.

BY WILLIAM SWANSON

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Above: Hubert Humphrey and his wife, Muriel, vote at the Marysville Town Hall in Waverly, Minnesota, November 5, 1968. Below: A campaign wagon in the 1940s. Humphrey was mayor of Minneapolis 1945-48. Bottom: Humphrey campaigning in California in 1968. Opposite page: Humphrey at 2 or 3 years old, photographed with Uncle Tom's Cabin on his knee.



"The trouble with you, Hubert, is that you're just too damn good."

—Lyndon Baines Johnson

O

in the warm, humid evening of August 29, 1968, Hubert Horatio Humphrey Jr. (B.S. '39), the 57-year-old vice president of the United States, rose to the podium of the International Amphitheatre in Chicago and told the 13,000 Democrats in the auditorium and 20 million Americans watching on television that he was ready to be their president.

Humphrey's formal acceptance would conclude one of the most tumultuous political conventions in American history. On the previous evening, when the vice president was finally about to receive the party's presidential nomination, downtown Chicago was a war zone. Tear gas wafted into the lobbies of the Michigan Avenue hotels and up into the VIP suites. The vice president could peer down into the street from his command center on the 25th floor of the Conrad Hilton and see demonstrators breaking windows and police officers cracking skulls. When he turned from the windows to watch on TV as the mayor of Cleveland, Carl Stokes (B.S. '54, J.D. '56), seconded his nomination, Humphrey and tens of millions of shocked Americans saw instead 17 minutes of televised mayhem unlike anything they'd seen before—cops in battle gear whacking white kids, clergymen, reporters, and television crews.



Inside the amphitheater, the Democrats had been going at each other with only slightly less venom. The presumptive nominee, Humphrey had seemed at times almost a forgotten man, less a focus of speculation and excitement than fellow Minnesota Senator Eugene McCarthy (M.A. '39), the contrarian anti-Vietnam War crusader; South Dakota Senator George McGovern, who, for many antiwar delegates, was carrying the mantle of assassinated candidate Robert Kennedy; and Kennedy's younger brother, Ted. For four days, everything from delegate credentials to the individual planks of the party platform was a point of bitter contention.

Now, at the podium, Humphrey seemed oddly out of scale. Though a vital, vigorous man of respectable height and heft, he appeared to many of those watching somehow shrunken—small, certainly, in comparison with his boss, President Lyndon Baines Johnson, who was not a literal presence in the amphitheater that night but filled it nonetheless the way God fills a cathedral. He seemed smaller, too, than Bobby Kennedy, the murdered senator whose emotional cinematic memorial preceded Humphrey to the stage, and smaller than the frequently invoked ghosts of President John Kennedy, the murdered senator's murdered brother; of Adlai Stevenson, the sainted should-have-been-president; and of Franklin Roosevelt, the greatest Democratic president of them all. Humphrey, by contrast, seemed *vice presidential*.

Humphrey—who had aspired to the presidency his entire life—expected to run for the top spot in 1972, after L.B.J. had completed his second term and their administration had successfully, or at least honorably, concluded the war in Vietnam and brought Americans “back together.” But in March, Johnson decided not to run. Now, late to the race and still beholden to the president at a time when his independence would be the critical question mark of the electoral season, the vice president struggled for voice, direction, and stature.

His aspect on the evening of August 29 notwithstanding, Humphrey was by many lights a great man—or, at the very least, a *good* man who had accomplished great things. Even after nearly four, often humbling years as Johnson's VP, he was still—surely among the older Democrats, union members, and people of color who shared his history—the tireless paladin of New and Fair Deal Democracy. Before he was vice president, Humphrey had been a bold reform mayor and a powerful U.S. senator—one of the most skilled and effective of the 20th century.

Humphrey had been an exceedingly adroit and pragmatic parliamentarian, with close friendships and productive relationships that transcended background, breeding, bank account, and caucus. He was, during the late 1950s, then-Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson's right-hand man, chosen for his ability to build bridges across deep political divides. On even the most abstruse issues, such as tax reform, he was called the “Senate's quickest study.” Democrats who had worked with him would tell stories about his gregariousness, empathy, and photographic memory. He was known for his almost supernatural ability to remember the homeliest face, commonest name, and most ordinary life story years after a first encounter. Brilliant and well-educated, he had the common touch, having grown up the dutiful son of a Main Street merchant, attended public schools, raised a family, and never bothered to get rich.

Humphrey had addressed his party's national convention before. In Philadelphia in 1948, Humphrey, then the 37-year-old mayor of Minneapolis and a senatorial candidate, had risen to the podium at the Democratic National Convention and taken on the entrenched segregationist wing of the party. Speaking for a minority plank on behalf of racial integration in the party's platform, he defied its southern barons, not to mention a sympathetic but cautious President Harry S. Truman. In what would be an unusually concise address for the notoriously voluble young pol,



Top: Humphrey addresses an unfriendly crowd of students at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey, October 31, 1968. Bottom: Eugene McCarthy supporters wave peace placards during a demonstration for him on the floor of the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Humphrey spoke for only eight minutes. But his words turned the convention on its head, provoked a Dixiecrat walkout, and established the Democratic Party as the party of human rights.

Two decades later, old-timers could still repeat from memory a couple of the punch lines from the Philadelphia speech: “To those who say that we are rushing this issue of civil rights—I say to them, we are 172 years late!” And: “The time has arrived in America for the Democratic Party to get out of the shadow of states’ rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights!”

And in his 1964 acceptance of the Democrats’ vice presidential nomination in Atlantic City, he had reduced the Republican choice for president to the butt of a rollicking sing-along (“But *not* Senator Goldwater!”) that had the partisan crowd in the aisles.

But tonight, in Chicago, *that* was ancient history. Even the convention week’s ugliness had temporarily receded into a nightmarish blur, and what the vice president as newly nominated presidential candidate was obliged to address was the future. Whatever else he was, or had become, Humphrey had clung to his reputation as a visionary. He had been legendarily forward-looking, ahead of his time—as demonstrated by his speech to the ‘48 convention and, later, his leadership in the creation of the Peace Corps, food stamps, and other innovations. As presidential nominee, he would, perforce, talk about change and progress. He would refer to “the end of an era and the beginning of a new day.” He was still the best-known political orator in America, certainly alone at the public podium since Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination in April, and this evening—after delivering countless speeches in more than a quarter of a century—he was about to deliver what would surely be the most important speech of his life.

The speech’s preparation had been grueling, spread out over several weeks and involving many of the Democrats’ top guns, such as Bill Moyers, Jack Valenti, and poet and editor Norman Cousins. Its emphasis would be on the future, yes—but first the vice president would have to acknowledge the deteriorating situ-

ation in American cities and around the world, most critically in Eastern Europe and Indochina.

Later it would emerge that a small group of senior advisers had secretly hatched a spectacular plan in which Humphrey would use the acceptance speech to resign the vice presidency,

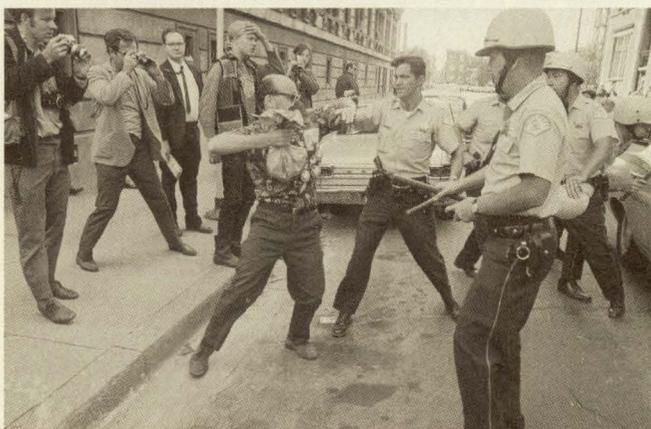
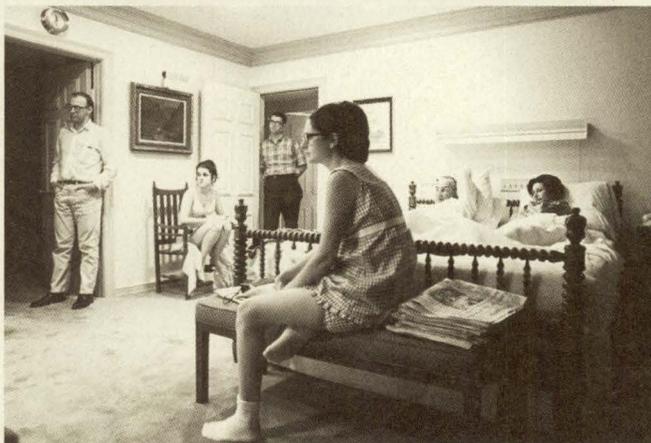
present a blueprint for peace in Vietnam, and offer himself as his own man to the American people. Such a move would have been unprecedented. It would have been yet another one of the year’s stunning events—a towering bookend to the president’s surprise no-second-term declaration back in March. But, while intrigued, the vice president—ever the good son to the president’s domineering father—rejected the idea, believing, he told an aide, that “it would not look like an act based on principle or conviction.” He said, according to biographer Carl Solberg, it would seem “strange,” like a “gimmick.” And it would “enrage the president.”

The crafting of a more conventional speech, by Solberg’s account, would go on until the last minute as the vice president compulsively, as was his habit when he was nervous, picked up clothes, emptied ashtrays, and otherwise tidied his surroundings on Fortress Hilton’s 25th floor. Every so often he would snatch the typescript from one of his wordsmiths, read the latest iteration, and scribble in changes with a felt-tipped pen, or he would dictate a thought or phrase to one of the stenographers who’d set up shop in the vice presidential suite.

To calm the demons that were roiling Chicago that week, he planned to invoke the words of Francis of Assisi. The 13th-century friar’s familiar prayer had been struck from previous

drafts by the vice president’s scribes. Now, at the last moment, he reinserted it in the text, beginning, appropriately—or ironically—enough, with: “Where there is hatred, let me sow love. . . .”

Minutes later, ascending to the convention hall’s dais in what he would later describe as his “moment of triumph,” the vice president heard the cheers and the music (including the “Minnesota Rouser”) he had waited a lifetime to hear in that context.



Top to bottom: Humphrey with Democratic rivals Eugene McCarthy (left) and George McGovern (right) at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. President Lyndon Johnson and his family watch reports of violence in Chicago during the 1968 DNC from their Texas home. Police arrest an antiwar demonstrator during the 1968 DNC.

RIVALS AND ARREST PHOTOGRAPHS © BETTMANN/CORBIS; JOHNSON FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH BY YOICHI OKAMOTO © CORBIS



Humphrey looks out his Chicago hotel room window at demonstrators in the street during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

acknowledged “the troubles and the violence which have erupted regrettably and tragically in the streets of this great city” and recited St. Francis’s prayer. He talked about the end of the era and the start of a new day, and called forth the spirits of his Democratic predecessors. Only then, at the mention of the absent sitting president—L.B.J. was watching from his ranch in Texas—was there noticeable disapproval among the big crowd: boos and catcalls from McCarthy’s antiwar delegates and other malcontents who resented L.B.J.’s juggernaut.

Chin out, the vice president pressed on. Instead of creating

Ever conscious of his appearance, he could tell himself, as he waited to speak, that he looked his best for the thousands of party faithful in front of him and for the millions more watching at home. During the hours before his appearance, a chiropractor had kneaded the kinks out of his neck, shoulders, and back. Humphrey had dithered about the right suit and tie, finally settling on a dark blue Brooks Brothers and a maroon cravat. He’d had his thinning brown hair darkened and puffed. His makeup, though later criticized for giving him a grayish pallor, was chosen for the bright lights and the cameras.

Now, at the podium, looking out at the noisy throng—he would recall “the hall filled, the color, the lights, the thirteen-thousand people, mostly cheering, some possibly ready to embarrass me. (Where are they? I thought. New York back there. California.) Signs waving. The noise level building. And the TV cameras going to carry what I have to say to millions of Americans”—he resolved that this was the greatest challenge of his life and he was equal to the moment. “I proudly accept the nomination of our party!” he shouted into the microphone.

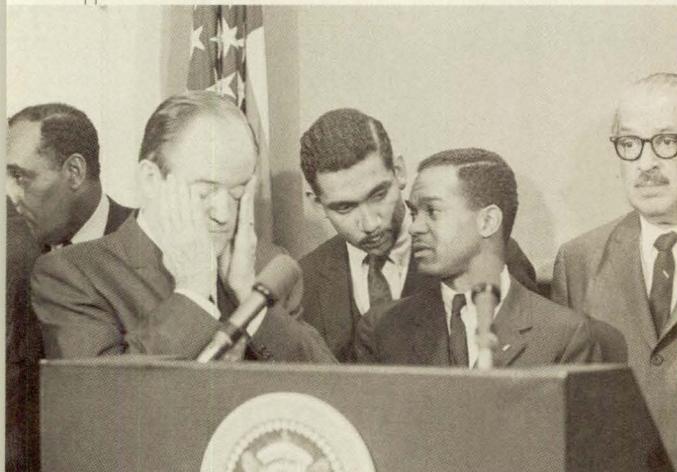
The speech lasted 48 minutes, not overly long for a presidential acceptance speech or for one of the vice president’s perorations. Those who track such minutiae tallied 71 interruptions for applause and three standing ovations. The vice president

some breathing room for himself, let alone declaring his independence, he called on “history” to “record the greatness of [the president’s] contribution.” “And tonight,” he added with an obsequiousness that had to seem provocative to the anti-L.B.J. element in the audience, “to you, Mr. President, I say: *Thank you, thank you, Mr. President.*” Mostly L.B.J.’s people, the crowd rose, cheered, and shook cowbells, overriding, if not muffling, the dissenters’ jeers.

The vice president spoke about “the three realities that confront this nation”—“the necessity for peace in Vietnam. . . , the necessity for peace in our cities. . . ,” and “the paramount necessity for unity in our country.” He said, “Let those who believe that our cause in Vietnam has been right—and those who believe it has been wrong—agree here and now: Neither vindication nor repudiation will bring peace or be worthy of our country. The question is: What do we do now? No one knows what the situation in Vietnam will be on January 20, 1969”—the next presidential inauguration day. “Every heart in America prays that, by then, we shall have reached a cease-fire in all Vietnam, and be in serious negotiation toward a durable peace. Meanwhile, as a citizen, a candidate, and vice president, I pledge to you and to my fellow Americans that I shall do everything within my power to aid the negotiations and to bring a prompt end to this war!”

He talked about the administration’s progress toward peace around the world, on behalf of freedom against the forces of tyranny and oppression, and toward stopping the worldwide creep of nuclear weapons. “We have been building, patiently stone by stone, each in our way, the cathedral of peace,” he intoned. Here at home, he went on, “there can be no compromise” in the effort to protect the right of every American, “black or white, rich or poor,” to a “safe and decent neighborhood.” Democrat to Democrat, he talked about the right to a job, home, and education. And because this was the summer of 1968, the cities’ streets were up for grabs, and the party’s right flank was under fire, he spoke, too, of the *right* to “law and order.”

Finally, the vice president said, essential to all other efforts and achievements is “the necessity . . .



Humphrey and African American leaders—including Maryland senator Clarence Mitchell III (center), Washington, D.C., councilmember Walter Fauntroy (at podium), and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (right)—wait for President Johnson to address the nation April 5, 1968, in an effort to deter violence in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

for unity in our country, for tolerance and forbearance, for holding together as a family. . . . Are we to be one nation, or are we to be a nation divided between black and white, rich and poor, north and south, young and old?" Acknowledging the discord in the party, he made note of his "good friends" McCarthy and McGovern, and urged unity among Democrats. He appealed to America's hopes, faith, and good judgment, and he declared himself prepared to be its president.

Most conventioners rose and applauded. Humphrey delegates jitterbugged beneath their state standards, and balloons clotted the heavy air. Front and center, Humphrey beamed, eyes shining and arms raised. His high forehead glistened with exertion. He was excited, exhilarated, and spent. He was also, he would concede later, enormously relieved: The walkouts and disruptions that some feared might cloud his presentation had not come off, and even the restive, raucous New York and California delegations were cheering. He had done his best, and judging by the response and demonstration, he had done all right. The prize he had pursued his entire adult life was finally within his reach.

His wife, Muriel, and their children and grandchildren joined him on the platform. So did his running mate, Maine Senator Edmund Muskie, and Muskie's family. McGovern came out to a surge of enthusiasm from the antiwar stalwarts. McCarthy was a no-show—he had gone to join the counter-crowd in Grant Park, where he declared the gathering a "government in exile."

Eight years later and two years before he died of cancer, Humphrey wrote, "As I talked about a new day for America, I thought I . . . saw signs of hope for the future of our party and the candidacy of Ed Muskie and myself." In fact, that night in Chicago, he and Muskie—and the party as he knew and loved it—were finished.

For Democrats, who had made up the American electoral majority for most of the previous half-century, 1968—*annus horribilis*—was the end of an era.

In retrospect, 1968 marked the effective death of what latter-day progressives called the "Democratic wing of the Democratic Party." Champions of human rights, progressive taxation, public education, and protections for the working class and poor, liberal Democrats had been a major force since the advent of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s. A muscular consensus of social activists, intellectuals, union members, and ethnic minorities, led or enabled by a phalanx of tough and forceful governors, legislators, judges, justices, and presidents, the "Democratic wing" produced a series of advances that profoundly changed American life in the 20th century.

By 1968, however, the core alliance was coming undone as chaos in the streets and on campuses produced demands for "law and order" and the Black Panthers and other violent organizations terrified erstwhile allies and sundered the civil rights movement. Young Democrats were facing off against their elders on matters small and large, from hairstyles and hallucinogens to the increasingly divisive Vietnam War, which by the late 1960s

was producing alarming numbers of American dead, atrocities by U.S. forces in the field, and a sea change in attitudes about America's role in the world.

Bound by old loyalties—including his almost filial dependence on the president's good opinion—and what seemed to many Democrats a failure of imagination, Humphrey couldn't come to grips with the changes reshaping America's cultural and political landscape. To the vice president, who had been ahead of the curve his entire career, the sense of the times passing him by had to be startling—yet, like many members of his generation, he seemed powerless to respond in a meaningful way. With Bobby Kennedy dead and a sour, dispirited McCarthy no longer mounting a serious challenge, Humphrey became his party's standard bearer. But the party was in a shambles, and Humphrey would be unable to rally its disparate factions, especially the rebellious young. "Unlike McCarthy," observed British author Dominic Sandbrook, "Humphrey made no attempt to challenge the orthodoxies of the 1940s and 1950s: he stuck to the rhetoric of the Fair Deal, basing his campaign on a defense of the welfare state and the Cold War."

If his only adversary had been Republican nominee Richard



Robert Kennedy campaigns in Lafayette, Indiana, with his wife, Ethel, May 1, 1968. He was assassinated a month later in California after winning that state's primary.

Nixon, Humphrey may still have been elected president in 1968. But if ever a person did not need enemies with the friends he had, it was the vice president. Cowed by Johnson and sideswiped by McCarthy, Humphrey was unwilling to break the bonds that chained him to the president's failing Vietnam policy until it was too late, and his late-starting, poorly managed, and chronically underfunded candidacy was an uphill slog. It is a testament to his spirit and tenacity that he rallied in the campaign's final days and made it one of the closest presidential elections ever.

"Even without the Vietnam issue, Humphrey, at fifty-seven, would have been a victim of the generation gap," historian Mark Kurlansky has argued. No doubt. But in the autumn of 1968, Nixon, though slightly younger than Humphrey, was hardly the candidate of America's youth. With an earlier and more enthusiastic endorsement from McCarthy, who gave his niggardly blessing only a week before election day, and another couple of weeks to raise money and buy television time, it's not difficult to imagine a different outcome—and a different future for both the Democratic Party and the nation.

Then again, the challenges of the era may have been impos-

sible to overcome by President Humphrey. It might have taken Humphrey as long as it took Nixon to extricate U.S. forces from Indochina. The government's response to poverty, civil disorder, and racial conflict might have been as fitful and unsatisfactory during a Humphrey administration as it was during Nixon's. All we know for sure is that under Nixon and Gerald Ford the war dragged on until 1975, that the nation's social fissures grew more pronounced, and that the "Democratic wing of the Democratic Party" declined in power and influence—to the point where *liberal* would be almost as leprous as *Com-*

munist once was within the party. Politically, the center would slide to the right, and the two Democrats—Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton—elected president in the subsequent decades were "pragmatic" southern centrists more reminiscent in their business-class orientation of moderate Republicans than of their progressive Democratic forebears.

Fittingly, the last of the Great Society liberals to run for president was Walter Mondale (B.A. '51, J.D. '56), one of Humphrey's bright, young protégés. Mondale, like his mentor, had been a popular and effective U.S. senator before serving as

vice president (under Carter), but he was swimming against a high conservative tide. In the 1984 presidential election against incumbent Ronald Reagan, Mondale carried only the state of Minnesota and the District of Columbia. ■

William Swanson (B.A. '68) is a senior editor of Mpls.St.Paul Magazine and the author of Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson.

To view more photographs from Humphrey's life and to hear a recording of his 1948 speech to the National Democratic Convention, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/humphrey.

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Author's Note

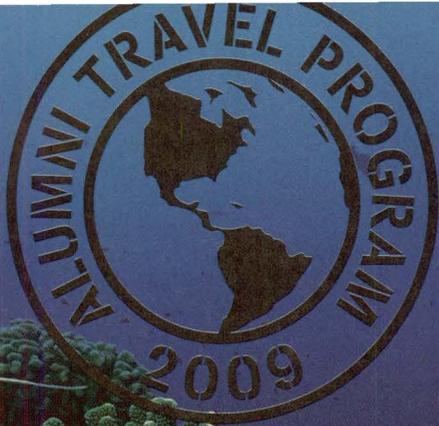
In 1968, I was a 23-year-old tyro working for an English-language newspaper in Mexico City, looking at my country from the outside. It was an unsettling but instructive experience.

Thunderstruck, I joined my colleagues huddled around the paper's chattering teletype machines, reading bulletins announcing the Tet offensive, Johnson's abdication, King's murder, burning cities. Stepping off the bus one April morning, I was greeted by newspapers that bore an inconceivable headline, "TERROR NEGRO EN MINNEAPOLIS." Two months later, I woke to the news that Bobby Kennedy, victorious in California's Democratic primary, had been gunned down in a Los Angeles hotel.

Viewed on Mexican television, Hubert Humphrey—now a candidate for president—seemed tired, diminished, and self-parodic. He was not the larger-than-life, up-and-at-'em dynamo I remembered from home. Meanwhile, my Mexican friends worshipped the Kennedys, even (maybe especially) in death, and several of my pals back in Minnesota, fired by antiwar idealism and the prospect of a draft notice, signed on to the McCarthy crusade. I opposed the war and was happy L.B.J. was stepping down, but impatient as I was with Humphrey's reluctance to break free on Vietnam, I felt he was grotesquely mistreated by his Democratic critics and, all things considered, would be an excellent president.

Decades later, those of us who knew Humphrey—if not personally, then as fellow Minnesotans and Democrats—have more positive memories. We recall the high forehead and jutting chin, the rapid-fire palaver, the quick, avuncular smile and happy cackle. More important, we remember Humphrey as the definitive progressive lawmaker of the age, a man whose exciting, inspiring kind would be suggested by Paul Wellstone but duplicated by no one in his time or since.

—W.S.



2009 Travel Preview

We invite you to experience the comfort and camaraderie of traveling with other U of M alumni and friends. Please join us on one of these unique and educational adventures next year!



Wonders of the Galapagos Islands

January 9-17

Take a journey of a lifetime aboard the *M.V. Santa Cruz*. The islands' abundant wildlife accepts human visitors up-close to an extent not found elsewhere on earth. Excursions are led by a team of certified naturalists. This unique itinerary also includes time in mainland Ecuador and a post-program option to Peru and Machu Picchu.

From \$3195

Australia and New Zealand

January 25 to February 7

Experience New Zealand's remote beauty and Australia's age-old traditions. This journey culminates with a three-night cruise aboard the *Coral Princess* along the Great Barrier Reef. This stylish vessel is designed to navigate secluded reefs, inlets and small islands not accessible to larger ships. A pre-program visit to the port of Auckland is also available.

From \$3995

Antiquities of the Nile Valley and the Red Sea

January 29 to February 8

Stand face to face with the Sphinx in the shadow of the Great Pyramid; walk in the footsteps of Ramses II in Thebes; journey to the birthplace of monasticism in Egypt's Eastern Desert; travel to the Monastery of St. Catherine at the foot of Mount Sinai; experience authentic Bedouin culture; and marvel at the long-lost city of Petra.

From \$3995

Island Life in Tahiti and French Polynesia

February 1-9

Sail aboard the intimate *S.Y. Star Flyer* clipper on this seven-night cruise to the idyllic French Polynesian islands of Tahiti, Bora Bora, Moorea, Raiatea and Huahine. Snorkel and swim in the pristine waters and idyllic lagoons surrounding the islands. Immerse yourself in the incomparable beauty and hospitality of these isles.

From \$2795

Expedition to Antarctica

February 8-21

See the pristine wilderness of Earth's "last frontier," including majestic coastal scenery, teeming rookeries of shorebirds, abundant marine mammals and breathtaking natural wonders. The unique itinerary combines two nights in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, South America's most elegant city, and a nine-night cruise aboard the finest ship to cruise these fabled waters, the *M.S. Le Diamant*.

From \$5295

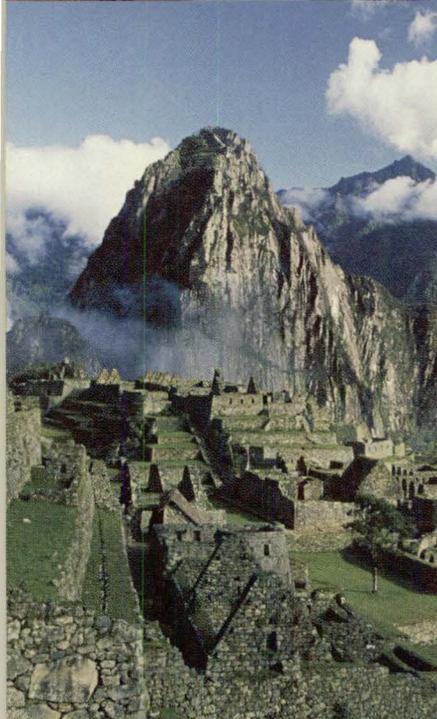
Tanzania Safari During the Great Migration

February 15-25

This 11-day safari features the natural amphitheater of the Ngorongoro Crater, the plains of the Serengeti, and the snowcapped peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The itinerary is timed to coincide with the migration of the plains animals in the Serengeti and features Tanzania's finest game parks. A five-night extension to Kenya game parks is available.

From \$4995

Detailed trip brochures are available approximately eight months prior to the departure date. For more information, call 612-625-9247 or visit www.alumni.umn.edu/travel.



Cruising Thailand and the Malay Peninsula

February 18-28

Cruise along the scenic jungle coasts of Thailand and Malaysia aboard the *S.Y. Star Flyer*. Sail to the idyllic Thai islands of Ko Phuket, Similan Islands, Ko Hong, Ko Adang, and the Malaysian islands of Penang and Malacca. Tour temples, stroll along beaches, and experience Bangkok's bustling markets while savoring the bold flavors of Thai cuisine.

From \$2995

Amazon River Expedition

March 6-15

Explore the vast rainforests and untamed headwaters of one of the worlds' most exotic and mysterious natural realms aboard the *Jewel of the Amazon*, an intimate ship designed specifically to evoke the 19th century's age of exploration while providing 21st-century amenities. A post-program option to magical Machu Picchu is available.

From \$3195

Italian Favorites: Rome & Florence

March 7-15

Marvel at Rome's Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Trevi Fountain, and St. Peter's Basilica (the largest church in the world) and visit legendary Pompeii. Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance," has architectural treasures around every corner, including the Duomo and the Ponte Vecchio Bridge. Visits to Lucca and Pisa showcase the scenic Tuscan countryside.

\$1649

Paris & the French Riviera

March 14-22

Experience beauty, culture and glamour on the French Riviera and in the City of Lights. Find yourself amid historical riches such as the Louvre Museum, the Palace of Versailles and the Eiffel Tower. Experience the rich ambience and Mediterranean landscapes of Cannes, Monte Carlo and the sun-kissed towns of Nice, St.-Paul-de-Vence, and Eze.

\$1749

River Life in Saxony Along the Elbe River

April 17-25

From the splendid castles of Prague and the captivating beauty of Bohemia to the medieval river towns of Saxony, immerse yourself in the timeless treasures and traditions of the Elbe River through the Czech Republic and Germany. Cruise aboard the deluxe *M.V. Frederic Chopin* through enchanting hillside villages, cliff top castles and verdant woodlands.

From \$2695

River Life Along the Waterways of Holland and Belgium

April 10-18

Celebrate the beauty of springtime in the Low Countries through the waterways of Holland and Belgium aboard the deluxe *M.V. Heidelberg*. Discover the picturesque Old Dutch towns of Volendam, Middelburg and Delft, and explore the well-preserved medieval Flemish cities of Bruges and Antwerp. Explore the famous windmills at Kinderdijk and the extraordinary gardens of Keukenhof.

From \$2495

Treasures of China and the Yangtze River

April 13-25

Explore Shanghai, one of China's largest and most dynamic cities, and Beijing, its capital and home to the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall. Tour historic Xi'an and the amazing Terracotta Army of the Qin dynasty. Then cruise the mighty Yangtze and marvel at the sheer beauty of the Three Gorges.

From \$2799

Sensational Spain

April 24 to May 2

Known for flamenco music and dance, fantastic beaches, cities filled with art and history, breathtaking countryside and mountain ranges, and whitewashed villages, Spain is a land of excitement and beauty. Visit exciting Madrid, lively Barcelona, historic Toledo, and mystical Montserrat, one of the most sacred places in all of Catalonia.

\$1974

Please note that prices do not include airfare or taxes and are per-person, double-occupancy. Dates, itineraries and prices are preliminary and subject to change due to operational conditions.

Essence of India

April 17-26

India is an exotic land of breathtaking landscapes, magnificent palaces and temples, and timeless villages. Experience the age-old crowded bazaars of Old Delhi, and see architectural marvels in New Delhi. Visit one of the world's most exquisite treasures, the Taj Mahal, in the city of Agra, and see the remarkably colorful city of Jaipur.

\$2599

Magical Mediterranean

May 7-16

Sail aboard the elegant 694-passenger *Azamara*. Journey to lovely Mediterranean ports beginning in Athens, the cradle of democracy. Discover architectural gems, ancient ruins, and sun-splashed beaches, with stops at Canakkale and Istanbul in Turkey, at the Greek Isles of Chios and Mykonos, and at Sorrento in Italy.

From \$2499

Japan: Kyoto

May 11-19

This exploration of the cultural heart of Japan takes you to the ancient capital of Kyoto, where emperors held court from 794 to 1868. You'll also visit Nara, Japan's first capital. Spend a night in a traditional temple lodge in an important Buddhist enclave established 1200 years ago.

\$2795

Iceland

June 4-12

Scan the coastal islands of North Iceland on a whale watching cruise. Begin in Akureyri, Iceland's second largest city, and conclude in cosmopolitan Reykjavik. Learn how this tiny nation has harnessed volcanic activity, varied terrain and rivers with changing currents to cultivate indoor gardens and generate efficient hydroelectric power for export.

\$2795

The Great Journey Through Europe

June 7-17

This unique cruise and rail itinerary traces the Rhine River from the Swiss Alps to the North Sea. Begin in Switzerland, travel three of Europe's most spectacular rail journeys - the Mt. Pilatus Railway, the Glacier Express and the Gornergrat Bahn, and then cruise down the Rhine River through France, Germany and Holland to Amsterdam.

From \$3195

Cruising the Baltic Sea and the Norwegian Fjords

June 22 to July 4

Sail across the Baltic Sea on this special voyage featuring an opportunity to meet Lech Walesa, Nobel Peace Prize winner and former president of Poland. Marvel at the stunning beauty of Norway's Sognefjord and Aurlandsfjord. From the medieval treasures of Riga, Tallinn and Gdansk to the unrivaled artistic heritage of St. Petersburg, delve into the region's historical legacy.

From \$5895

The Danube River: From Vienna to Istanbul

August 2-12

A nine-day journey discovering the lands of the eastern Danube River Basin and the imperial splendors of Istanbul. Admire the architecture of Vienna and Budapest, and marvel at a dazzling display of horsemanship in Hungary's fabled plains. Delve into the rich Slavic heritage of medieval Belgrade and walk in the footsteps of sultans amid mesmerizing palaces, mosques and bazaars.

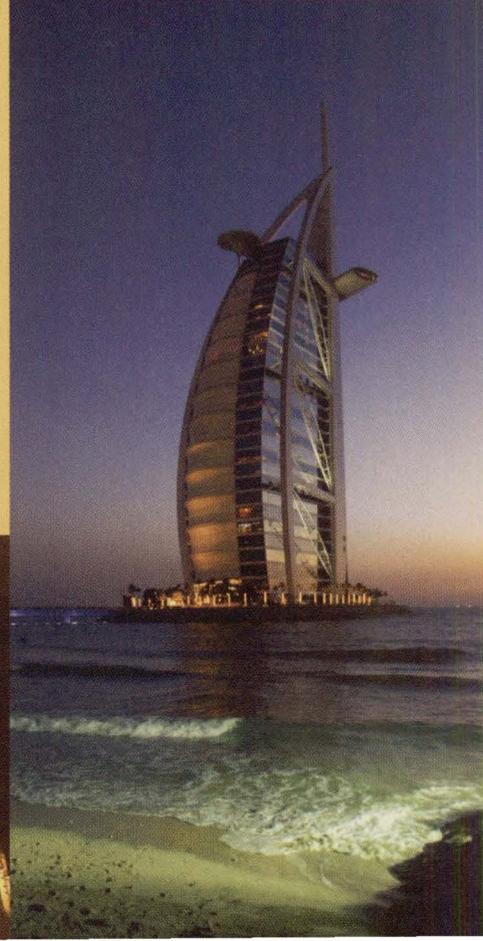
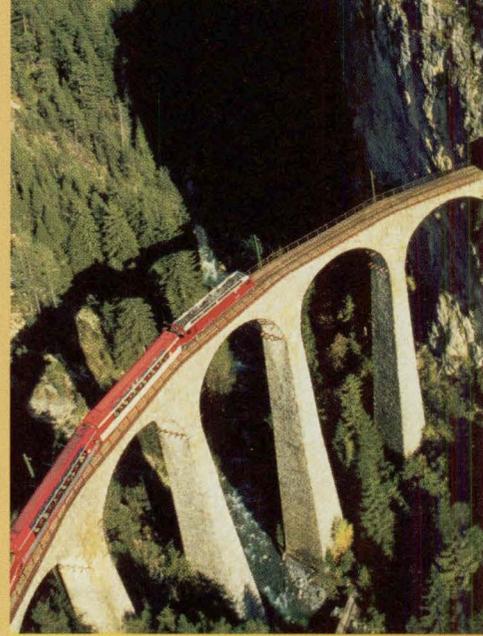
From \$2995

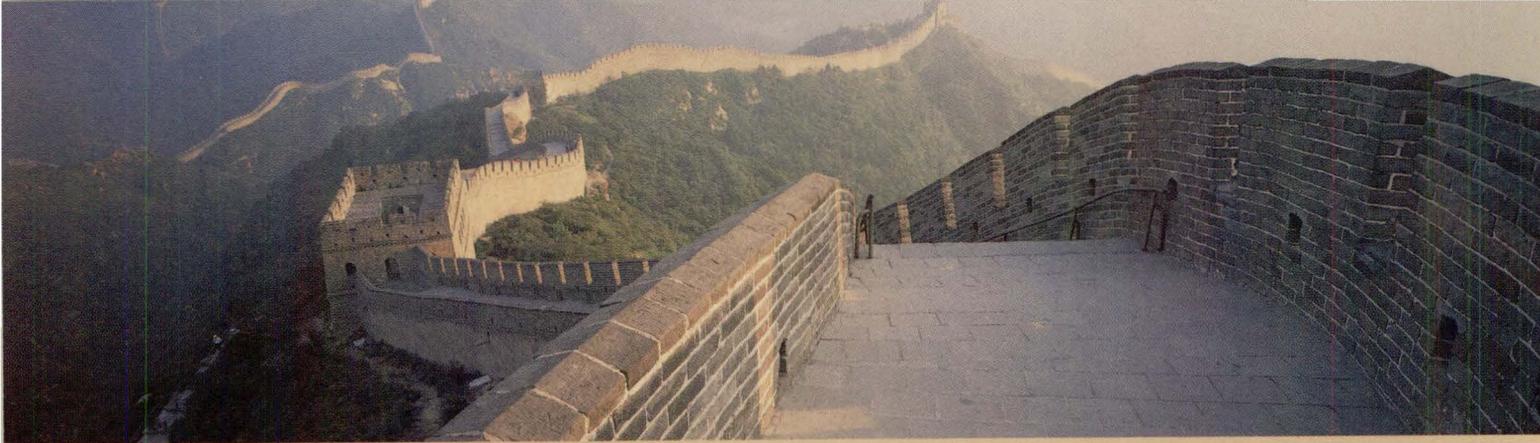
Celtic Lands

August 22 to September 2

Cruise aboard the *M.S. Le Diamant* from the Irish capital of Dublin to the Norman port of Honfleur along the coasts of southern England and northern France. Experience Scotland's Hebrides, Edinburgh, Northern Ireland and Wales, and the Cornish port of Penzance. In Normandy, stroll along the historic beaches where Allied forces landed on D-Day.

From \$5195





Dubai

September 4-12

Experience the excitement of the world's fastest-growing city in this glittering and palm-studded metropolis. Marvel at the largest man-made harbor ever constructed, visit ancient souks (markets) and traditional mosques, explore the United Arab Emirates capital of Abu Dhabi on the azure Gulf shore and admire the architectural splendor of the Jumeirah Mosque.

\$2174

Italy's Lake Garda and the French Alps

September 9-17

Be enchanted by the magnificent natural beauty of Italy's Lake Garda, with its deep blue waters fringed with emerald green flora, and stylish Chamonix at the foot of spectacular Mont Blanc in France. Visit romantic Venice, beautiful Montreaux with the 13th century Chateau de Chillon, and charming Zermatt, a classic mountain village.

\$1499

Croatia and Venetian Treasures

September 18-26

Explore sophisticated Opatija, charming Lido di Jesolo, and picturesque Rovinj on the sparkling Adriatic coast. Admire the natural phenomenon of the Postojna Caves or explore an 11th Century Franciscan monastery on Kirk Island. See Venice with its canals, bridges and opulent palaces. Revel in the splendor of Padua, declared a World Heritage site.

\$1499

Village Life Along the Dalmatian Coast

September 22-30

Join us on a nine-day voyage aboard the intimate 31-cabin *M.V. Monet* from Venice across the dark blue Adriatic Sea and along Dalmatia's ruggedly beautiful, island-dotted shoreline -- a boater's paradise. Explore the Roman legacy of Split, visit Korcula, the medieval birthplace Marco Polo, and step back into the Renaissance era in Dubrovnik.

From \$2995

Best of the Italian Riviera and Tuscany

October 2-10

The best known of all Italian spa towns, Montecatini is located in the heart of Tuscany. Experience the beauty of the surrounding landscape with visits to Siena and Florence. The seaside resort town of San Remo on the Italian Riviera is ideally situated for visits to Monte Carlo and Nice.

\$1499

Enchanting Ireland

October 3-11

Ireland is a country of folklore and legend, magnificent landscapes, and rich color. Experience the Camelot-like town of Killarney as well as Kilkenny, one of Ireland's loveliest medieval cities. Enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Dingle Peninsula; visit historic Blarney Castle and Dublin, Ireland's capital; and tour the famous Waterford Crystal Factory.

\$1449

Village Life in Dordogne

October 15-23

France's provincial charm has been distilled into one of Europe's most intact medieval villages, Sarlat-la-Caneda. Explore the Dordogne's culinary heritage, prehistoric caves, Richard the Lionheart's castle at Beynac, and the charming villages of Domme and Rocamadour. Experience one of the region's centuries-old traditions during a visit to Sarlat's colorful weekly market.

From \$2695

Cultural Capitals of Russia

November 7-16

Experience the history, culture, and imperial splendor of Moscow and St. Petersburg with luxury rail travel through the countryside aboard the first-class Grand Express Train. Marvel at Moscow's czarist grandeur including Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin. Explore the artistic and architectural treasures of St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum and Catherine's Palace.

From \$2995

Dynamic Beijing

November 4-11

Beijing is a flourishing city with many ancient monuments and architectural wonders. Stroll around Tiananmen Square, explore the imposing Forbidden City, and be spellbound by the magnificent Great Wall. Visit the giant pandas at the Beijing Zoo, admire the ancient Temple of Heaven, or visit the archaeological wonder of Xi'an's 7,000 life-sized terracotta soldiers and horses.

\$1449



Hungry for Wins

The football Gophers are starving for success in 2008.

Last January, Steve Davis sat at his home in St. Louis watching bowl game after bowl game on television—and getting angrier and angrier. The Gophers had just completed a 1-11 season, the worst in Minnesota history. Davis, a junior linebacker, had played on a defense that finished dead last in Division I-A. Not playing in a postseason bowl game for the first time in his career crushed him. “That really frustrated me. This is my last year, the seniors’ last year, and the team’s last year at the Metrodome before they go to the new stadium,” Davis says. “Coming into this year, we’re even more hungry. We’re starving.” Here’s how the Gophers plan to satisfy their appetite for success in 2008.

NEW BLOOD

With four offensive starters and five defensive starters lost from last year’s team (see sidebar on page 37), the Gophers will rely on a mix of returning players and promising newcomers from second-year head Coach Tim Brewster’s inaugural recruiting class. Widely considered the best recruiting class in Minnesota history, and ranked No. 17 in the nation by scouting Web site *rivals.com*, the Gophers are banking on several recruits to make an immediate impact. Brewster hopes the competition for starting spots will be intense; he wants to have enough depth at each position so that multiple players will compete for playing time.

There will be new blood on the sidelines too. The Gophers hired former Duke head coach Ted Roof to replace defensive coordinator Everett Withers, who resigned in February to take a similar position at the University of North Carolina. Roof’s track record at Duke suggests he might have what it takes to retool the defense: Before becoming Duke’s head coach, he took Duke’s defense

from 113th nationally in 2001 to one that led that Atlantic Coast Conference in rushing defense and finished the 2002 season ranked 58th nationally.

DEFENSE

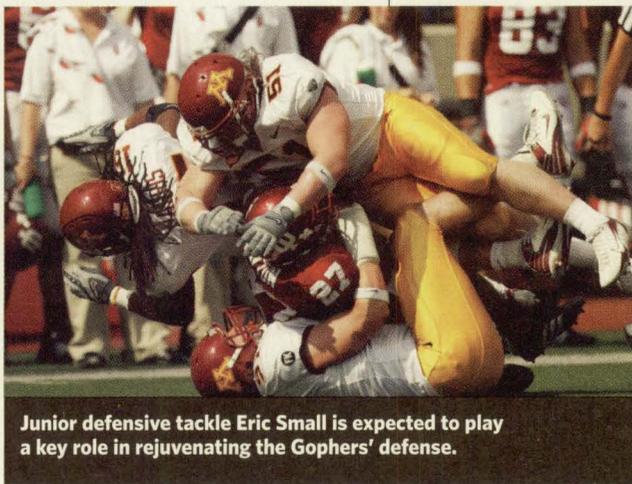
The newcomers could make an immediate and substantial impact on defense, where there is the most glaring need for improvement. “We signed 31 kids total, and 20 of them are on the defensive side of the ball,” Brewster points out. Junior college transfers include free safety Tramaine Brock and defensive end Cedric McKinley, who played for one of the nation’s top junior college programs at Mississippi Gulf Coast, helping the team to a perfect 12-0 record and a share of the 2007 National Junior College Athletic Association championship.

Junior linebackers Simoni Lawrence and Rex Sharpe are expected to boost the squad: Lawrence started two seasons at Valley Forge Military Academy, where he was twice named the Seaboard Football Conference Player of the Year, and Sharpe, from Arizona Western College, impressed coaches and teammates during spring football. Defensive tackle Tim McGee from East Mississippi Community College and defensive back Traye Simmons from College of the Sequoias appear poised to become impact players for Minnesota as well.

First-year students Tim Dandridge, a defensive back from Detroit, and Keanon Cooper, a versatile, top-ranked recruit from Dallas, could make an impact as well. But highly sought recruit Sam Maresh, a linebacker from Champlin Park, Minnesota, who was expected to compete for a starting position, was found to have a heart condition that required surgery. He will miss at least one season.

With so many new faces, it is essential that returning players provide leadership and they know it. “For me, and the seniors like Deon Hightower and Willie VanDeSteege, this is the time to step up,” Davis says. One of

four co-captains, Davis has taken his intensity up a notch, and not just on the field. “I looked at a lot of film from last year and I saw the mistakes



Junior defensive tackle Eric Small is expected to play a key role in rejuvenating the Gophers’ defense.

BY SHEILA MULROONEY ELDRED



I made and the things I needed to improve on, like my footwork, my vision, and my progressions,” says the linebacker, who, along with teammate VanDeSteege, is tied for 10th all-time at Minnesota with 11 career sacks. “I took down a lot of notes on things I need to get better at and how to strive and reach a goal to get there.”

VanDeSteege, named captain for a second year, is healthy again; last year a broken wrist prevented him from repeating his sophomore success, when he earned All-Big Ten Second Team honors. He’ll team with junior defensive end Lee Campbell, who started every game in 2007 and topped the defensive line with 40 total tackles.

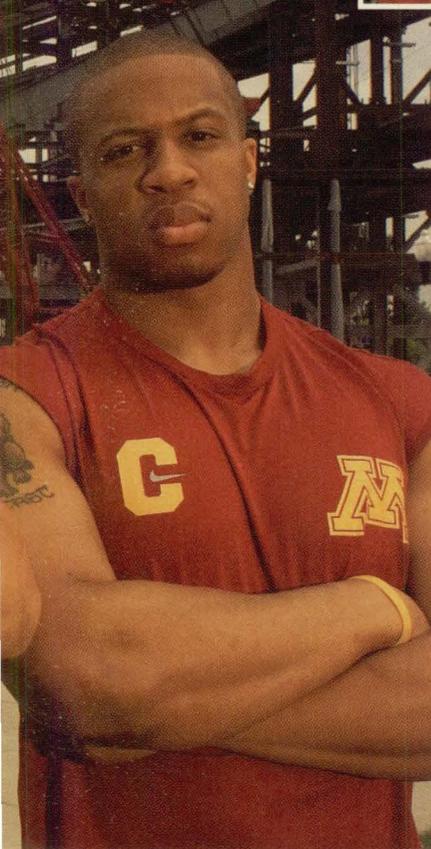
Sophomore safety Kyle Theret is back; he led the Gophers in interceptions, with three, earning the Outstanding First Year Defensive Player Award. Last year, then-junior linebacker Deon Hightower emerged as a defensive force: he leads current Gophers in career tackles, with 148, and promises to be even better his senior year. Also, look for junior defensive tackles Eric Small and Garrett Brown to continue to develop as leaders.

OFFENSE

Minnesota finished the 2007 season ranked sixth in the Big Ten in total offense, averaging 407.5 yards per game. Second-year offensive coordinator Mike Dunbar reminds his players that they don’t need to reinvent the wheel; they just need to true up the one they already have. The team will stay with Brewster’s system, a spread coast offense that is designed to utilize the passing game and the running game equally. One absolute for 2008: eliminating mistakes, especially turnovers, a category in which the 2007 Gophers ranked last in the Big Ten. “Last year we were young and inexperienced and made a lot of mistakes,” says sophomore quarterback Adam Weber. “I know I made a lot. Now we’re more mature, smarter.”

Weber is the clear favorite to take the first snap for the Gophers. Last year he earned third team freshman All-American and freshman All-Big Ten honors from *The Sporting News* and set school records for pass completions, attempts, yards, and touchdown passes. He followed up those accomplishments with

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN MARSHALL



Left: Senior co-captains (left to right) Deon Hightower, Willie VanDeSteege, and Steve Davis. **Top:** VanDeSteege is ranked 10th in school history in sacks, with 11, and is 11th in tackles for losses, with 25. **Above:** Punter Justin Kucek has taken every Gopher punt during the past three years. He enters his senior year averaging 41 yards per punt and is regarded as one of the best punters in the nation.

a strong spring season, but he understands that nothing, including the starting quarterback job, is a guarantee—especially with Brewster’s philosophy of signing one great quarterback every year.

This year, that signee was MarQueis Gray, a highly touted, athletic four-star recruit (on a five-star rating scale) from Indianapolis. Pasadena City College transfer David Pittman, who led the California Community College system in passing in his two years there, is also in the running. He is considered one of the top junior college athletes in the nation, and Brewster considers it merely a question of where, not if, he will fit in. “I guess we’re just going to have to wear him out,” Brewster says. “He’s a dynamic young kid who has a lot of energy and passion for the game, so we’re going to get him in.” Besides quarterback, Pittman can play at receiver or defensive back. Others in the hunt for the quarterback job are fifth-year seniors Tony Mortenson and Mike Maciejowski.

**2008 ROSTER
BREAKDOWN**

Total number of letterwinners returning: 43 (20 offense, 20 defense, 3 special teams)

Total number of letterwinners lost: 17 (6 offense, 10 defense, 1 special teams)

Offensive starters lost: Left tackle Steve Shidell (B.A. '07), center Tony Brinkhaus (B.A. '07), right tackle Matt DeGeest, and wide receiver Ernie Wheelwright

Defensive starters lost: Defensive back Dominique Barber, cornerback Jamal Harris, defensive tackle Todd Meisel (B.A. '07), linebacker Mike Sherels (B.A. '07), and linebacker John Shevlin (B.A. '07)

“Nothing’s promised to you, ever,” says Weber, a co-captain. “In a sense that’s what makes it so exciting. It forces you to either get to the next level or fall behind. My job is to be that person to get ahead—and it’s everyone else’s job too.”

Brewster agrees. “The one thing that Adam Weber is learning, as well as all the quarterbacks in this system, is that it doesn’t happen overnight. It’s a very complex system; there’s a lot to it. I think asking a kid to come in as a true freshman and learn it all would be very difficult. Overall I think Adam had a heck of a year [last year] and I anticipate Adam to be a whole lot better this year,” Brewster says.

Brewster’s game plan calls for Weber to spend much of his time on the field getting the ball to junior receiver and fellow co-captain Eric Decker. Last year, Decker earned the team’s outstanding offensive player award after starting every game and setting the Minnesota single-season record

for receptions with 67, nine of those for touchdowns. Senior tight end Jack Simmons, who last year was hampered by a foot injury, is healthy again and will be a legitimate offensive threat. Sophomore guard D.J. Burris is back; last year he earned freshman All-Big Ten honors from *The Sporting News*. Sophomore offensive tackle Dominic Alford should also continue to see increased playing time.

If there’s a sparse spot on offense, it’s the backfield. The Gophers lost running back Amir Pinnix (B.S. '07), who led running backs last year with an average of 56.3 yards per game. The team will bank on the health of junior Jay Thomas, who missed the final four games last year due to a knee injury. Before his

Continued on page 39

Fabric of Success

The football Gophers will start the 2008 campaign with a clean slate—and a whole new look for the first time since the 1999 season. Redesigned Gopher uniforms will feature a darker shade of maroon and two jersey colors—maroon and white—that can be paired with three pant combinations: gold, maroon, and white. It's the first time since the 1967 season that the Gophers will have the option of incorporating white pants into the uniform rotation. And, look for MINNESOTA emblazoned on the chest for the first time since 1993. Aside from the new look, technical innovations include jerseys and pants that are significantly lighter in weight and tighter in fit, thus minimizing “grab points”—areas on the jersey that opponents can hang onto.

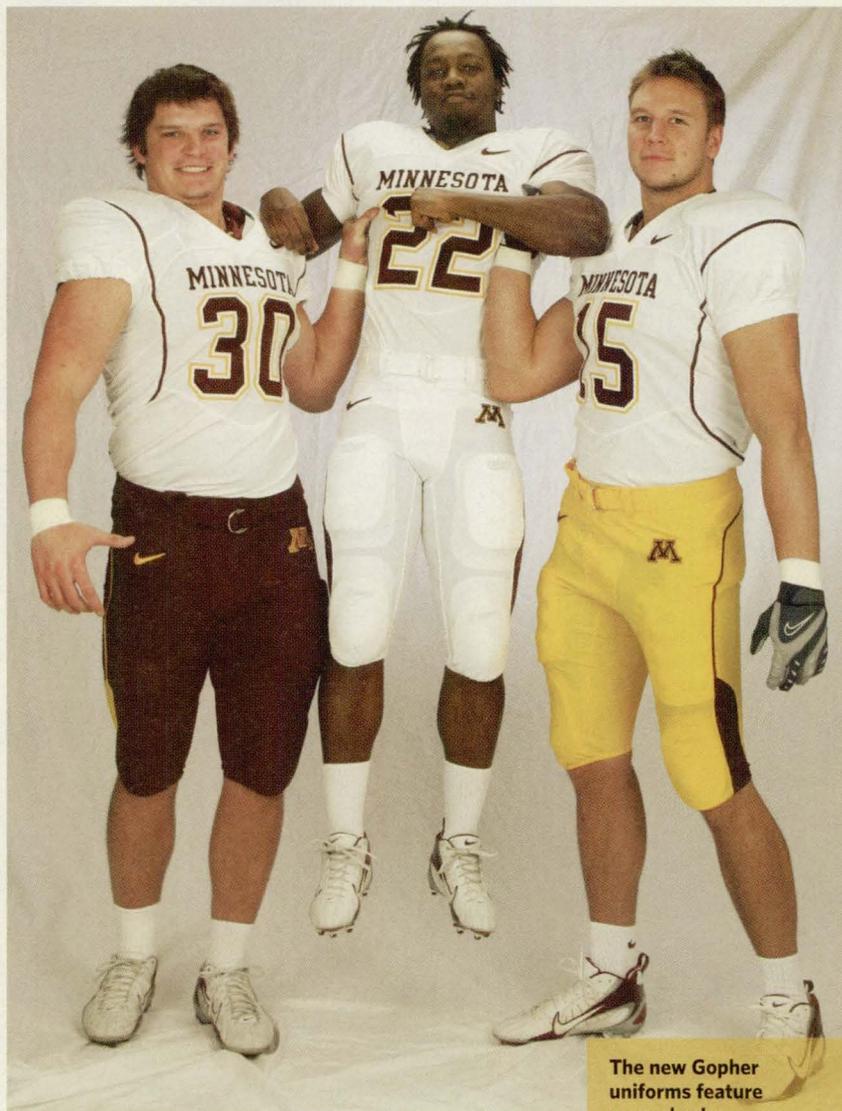
Do clothes really make the men? To find out, *Minnesota* talked to Kim Johnson, a professor in the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel.

The old uniforms seemed perfectly serviceable. Why is it a good idea to update uniforms every few years? New uniforms incorporate new safety and performance features. And [new design] can provide a visible symbol of change. It's a new attitude represented by a new uniform.

The new uniforms are a darker shade of maroon than the old ones. Does this have any significance? Actually, yes. Researchers found that hockey and football teams that wear black uniforms ranked near the top of their leagues in penalties. So if penalties are a good indicator of aggressiveness, then dark uniforms can be viewed as more aggressive than light uniforms. These researchers also asked people to react to black uniforms, and their research indicated that people perceived the black uniforms as mean, bad, strong, and aggressive.

In the new color schemes, the maroon or white jerseys can be paired with white, gold, or maroon pants. In your opinion, which of the six possible combinations would be the most intimidating to opponents? Well, based on the research, I think I'd go with maroon and maroon.

The designers at Nike who overhauled the Gopher uniforms



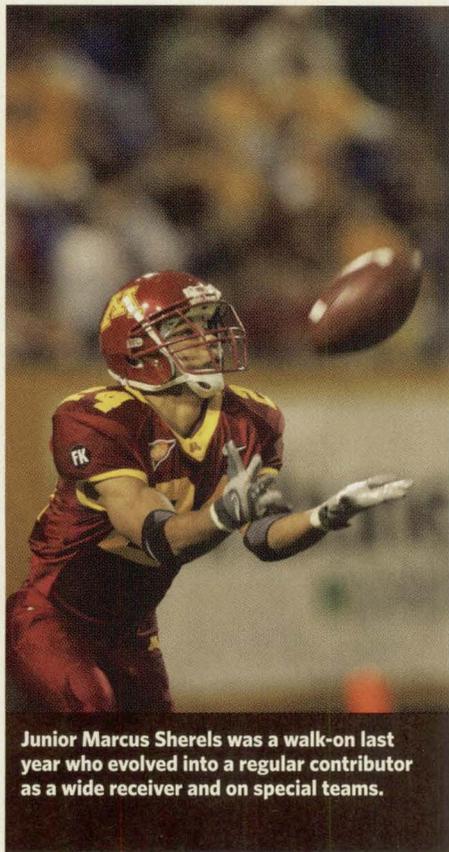
The new Gopher uniforms feature several color combinations, including the option of all-white pants, for the first time since 1967. Sporting the new duds are (left to right) junior defensive end Lee Campbell, sophomore running back Duane Bennett, and senior tight end Jack Simmons.

report that they have a “tight, shrink-wrapped fit.” Outside of the runways of Milan, does this look really work on anyone? It's probably related to things like wind resistance, for example. Formfitting uniforms for running backs and wide receivers may increase performance. In that sense, the look would work.

My replica jersey is so 2007! Do I need to update my gear? Some might say that you should keep up with the current look, but others might suggest that being an authentic fan has nothing to do with how you look—it's what you know about the team, its history, and its players. It wouldn't be symbolized by your appearance.

Conventional wisdom says that if you look good, you feel good. Do you think the same would be true for players in these brand-new uniforms? Probably for players who think they look good in the uniforms. There are likely players who do not think they look good, and players who do not care about how they look on the field ... they care about how well they play.

—Erin Peterson



Junior Marcus Sherels was a walk-on last year who evolved into a regular contributor as a wide receiver and on special teams.

Continued from page 37

injury, he rushed for 215 yards and one touchdown on 40 attempts and a backfield-best 5.4 yards per carry. They'll also look to promising sophomore runningback Duane Bennett, who earned freshman All-Big Ten honors from *The Sporting News*.

SPECIAL TEAMS

On special teams, expect to see familiar faces: Senior punter Justin Kucek has taken every punt for the Gophers over the last three years, earning second team All-Big Ten honors from the media, and senior placekicker Joel Monroe ranked second in the Big Ten in both kickoff distance and net average in 2007. Junior Marcus Sherels, a walk-on who evolved into a regular contributor, made nine solo tackles on special teams while averaging 21.4 yards on 17 kickoff returns.

PROVING IT

Brewster expects more from himself and his staff as he begins his second year. He admits he learned a lot last year, his first as a head coach. "The thing you learn in college is that coaches have to take guys and make them better," he says. "We lost a lot of close games last year and our kids played their hearts out. But we as a coaching staff have to do a better job of taking the kids we have and going out there to win games. We have to take what we have and win."

The learning curve last year was steep: Brewster's system was new, complicated, and even somewhat daunting. "Now looking back, I think I was a little overwhelmed, but that is part of it and I did my best," Weber says. "I just know that last season is going to help me so much going into this season."

Davis knows it's the team's on-field performance that will count. "You have to show people with actions," he says. "You can say anything, but people will just look at last season. So I've been telling the team we've got to go out there and compete. If we grow as a team, there's no limit to what we can do."

In particular, Davis has his sights set on January, when he hopes to be taking in bowl action from behind the line of scrimmage rather than on his television. ■

Sheila Mulrooney Eldred is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer.

2008 GOLDEN GOPHER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE (Home games are in bold.)

August 30	Northern Illinois	6 p.m.
September 6	at Bowling Green	TBA
September 13	Montana State	TBA
September 20	Florida Atlantic	TBA
September 27	at Ohio State	
October 4	Indiana	TBA
October 11	at Illinois	11 a.m.
October 25	at Purdue	TBA
November 1	Northwestern (HOMECOMING)	11 a.m.
November 8	Michigan	TBA
November 15	at Wisconsin	TBA
November 22	Iowa	6 p.m.

All home games are played at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis. For information on game times, go to www.gophersports.com

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TCF Bank Stadium photographed in mid-June. The white roof of the Metrodome, where the football Gophers will play one more season, is visible near the Minneapolis skyline.



Gopher Sports News and Notes

Minnesota has now joined nine other Big Ten schools in using a points system for assigning seating for football season ticket holders. The new Gopher Points system will determine seating in TCF Bank Stadium, which is slated to open on September 12, 2009. The system awards points based on three criteria: the season ticket holder's financial generosity, consecutive years and quantity of season ticket purchase, and ties to the U, including being a graduate of the University and a fully paid life member in the Alumni Association. Minnesota's points system is unique among Big Ten schools in that it awards more points to graduates and letter winners in all sports than does any other point system in the conference. It also rewards academic giving to the University as well as giving to athletics at a greater level than do the point systems at any other Big Ten institution.

Season ticket holders who want to sit between the 20-yard lines can secure a seat for a donation of \$100 to \$500 per seat per year, in addition to the price of the season ticket. Only fans who choose to sit in the preferred seating area will be required to pay an annual seat donation. The donation will be tax deductible and will be allocated to paying off the debt on TCF Bank Stadium and to providing athletics scholarships.

Between now and December 31, 2008—the date on which all point totals will be final—season ticket holders have the opportunity to increase their point totals. Several options exist for doing that, including making a financial gift to TCF Bank Stadium through the Back to Campus campaign; making a gift to athletics or University academics; or becoming a fully paid life member in the Alumni Association. During this period of time, Gopher Points staff will also work to resolve problems or unique circumstances

that affect point totals. The seat selection process will begin in spring 2009.

For more information on Gopher Points, call 612-624-8080 or go to www.gophersports.com and click on Gopher Points.

It's easy to envision being seated in TCF Bank Stadium these days.

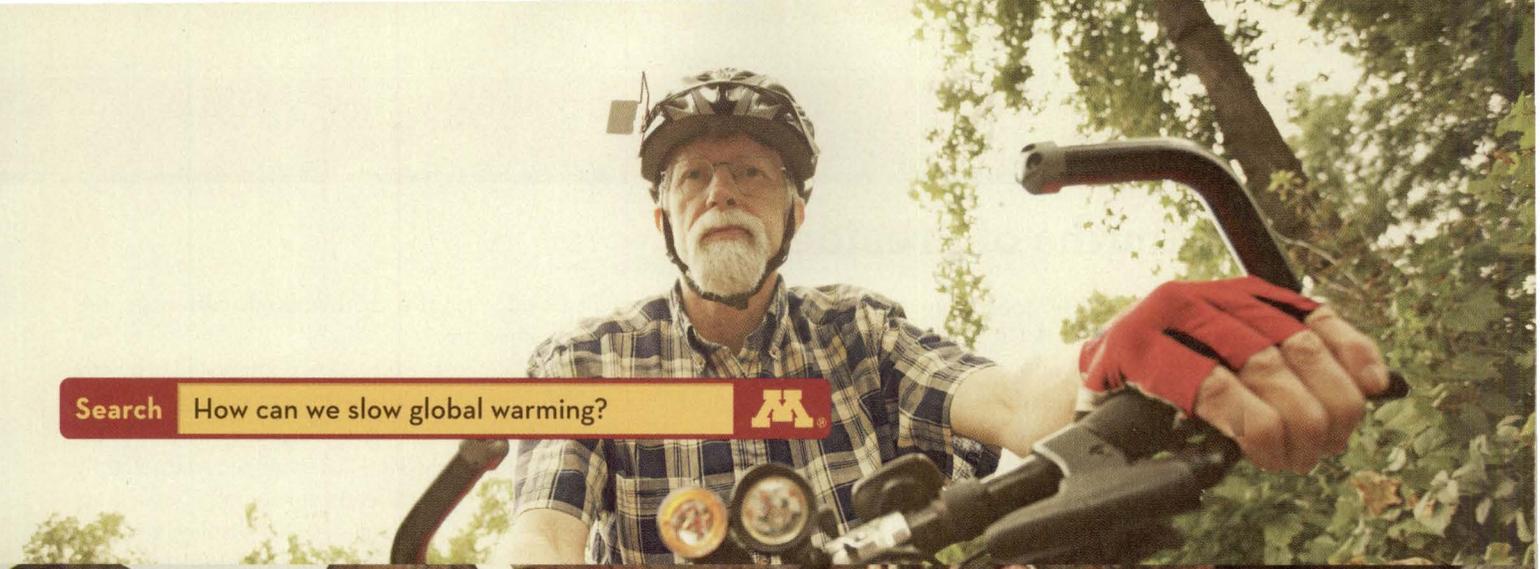
The entire steel structure is in place, and most of the upper and lower seating bowls have been installed. Brick has been laid on most sections of the exterior, and arched entrances in the Minnesota Room (the covered walkway around the stadium) are taking shape. The 87 cast stone signs inscribed with the name of every Minnesota county are being installed on the exterior perimeter; each stone is 16 feet wide and 5 feet 4 inches tall, and weighs 6,500 pounds. The stadium is expected to be fully enclosed by November, and interior finishing will then begin.

Off-site development of TCF Bank Stadium is under way across the state under the banner of "Join the Ultimate Homecoming." Gopher athletics is inviting all Minnesotans to be part of the Gophers' return to campus by becoming involved in the statewide county tour. For details on getting involved, go to www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour."

The Minnesota women's track and field team capped a stellar season by collecting a trio of all-America citations at the NCAA finals.

Liz Roehrig was the national runner-up in the heptathlon, while Heather Dorniden placed fifth in the 800 meters and Ruby Radocaj finished sixth in the javelin. It was Dorniden's seventh all-America honor. Earlier in the season, the Gophers won the Big Ten indoor team title. On the men's side, Hassan Mead earned all-America honors with his sixth place finish in the 5,000 meters at the men's finals.

—Cynthia Scott



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U of M geography professor Steven Manson and his students research human activity and its effects on global environmental change. By generating agent-based modeling, a way to examine how humans alter land surface on the earth, they predict probable environmental consequences of this surface alteration. This research could help avert potentially disastrous changes in climate. Seems like modeling is a model way to slow global warming. So the search continues. **Learn more at umn.edu.**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

From the Mouths of Presidents

A couple years ago, as the 2008 U.S. presidential election cycle approached, New York City artist Luke Dubois decided his next project would be politically relevant. During a musical gig on the West Coast (he's also a musician who records his own computer-generated music), Dubois visited the American Presidency Project archives at the University of California–Santa Barbara for inspiration. He wanted to study every State of the Union address delivered by the presidents, from George Washington through George W. Bush.

"I'm interested in political rhetoric used by the presidents," Dubois explains. Moreover, he adds, "The State of the Union is our only constitutionally mandated piece of political theater."

As he read through the addresses, Dubois noticed that each president used some distinct words more often than others. He wrote a computer program that would sort through the text and eliminate words commonly used in all of the speeches—such as *United States*, *American*, *Congress*—as well as disregard prepositions and articles like *of* and *the*. The result was amazing, according to Dubois, as "the unique words rose to the top." Dubois then thought of the Snellen charts used by eye doctors to test vision. The charts include 11 rows of letters whose size decreases from the top of the chart to the bottom.

(A patient who can read the smallest row without corrective lenses while 20 feet from the chart has 20/20 vision.)

Using the Snellen chart as a template, Dubois arranged the most common words for each president's combined State of the Union addresses in a similar chart, with the most-used word largest and at the top. The result was "an amazing snapshot of the political zeitgeist of every presidency and what was on their minds—or at least the speechwriters' minds," Dubois says.

Abraham Lincoln's number-one word, for instance, is *emancipation*. Herbert Hoover's is *unemployment*. George Bush's is *terror*. The prints of each president's chart, collectively titled "Hindsight Is Always 20/20," will be exhibited August 23, 2008, through January 9, 2009, at the Weisman Art Museum. "Dubois's work has produced some intriguing commentary on the power of rhetoric in a political context," says Diane Mullin, associate curator. "We're hoping this 'eye test,' with its metaphorical

meanings, will provide visitors with insights into current politics and presidential campaigns."

"When I started making the piece, I was interested in having them shown during the conventions," Dubois says. He's getting his wish. The Weisman show will be up during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul in September. And a slightly different version of "Hindsight Is Always 20/20," displayed in light boxes, will be exhibited at the Denver Performing Arts Complex during the Democratic National Convention in August.

Dubois emphasizes that, because of its mathematical process, the work is objective and nonpartisan. "It's just numbers, word counts," Dubois says. But viewers are free to apply their own interpretation to the charts. For example, some might see Richard Nixon's frequent use of the word *truly* as ironic, humorous, unfortunate, or simply as an idiosyncrasy of his speaking style.

Bill Clinton's colloquial style is revealed in his second and third most-used words: *got* and *lot*. At the same time, those terms also succinctly describe the tremendous economic growth that occurred during Clinton's presidency, just as his top word, *21st*, reflects the millennial challenges the country was facing at the time.

"These words are telling insofar as a lot of the presidents were discussing the country's tension about the future," Dubois says. Gerald Ford's top word is *barrels*, followed by *crude* and *gas*. *Corporations*, followed by *railroads* and *wage*, are Theodore Roosevelt's number-one, -two and -three words. The top words for Cold War president Dwight Eisenhower are *nuclear*, *planning*, and *scientific*. In contrast, George Washington's most used words are *gentlemen*, *provision*, and *fellow*.

Dubois adds that, "We Americans value the best, are always trying to order things. We're obsessed with number-one songs. By presenting words in a similar way, we can also—in a metaphorical sense—test the eyesight of the nation."

"Hindsight Is Always 20/20" shows August 23, 2008, through January 9, 2009, at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55455; www.weisman.umn.edu.

—By Camille LeFevre



Artist Luke DuBois created Snellen charts representing the words U.S. presidents used most often in their State of the Union addresses. Harry S. Truman's and Ronald Reagan's most-used words are *Soviet* and *deficits*, respectively. The Snellen charts are part of the "Hindsight Is Always 20/20" exhibition at the Weisman Art Museum.

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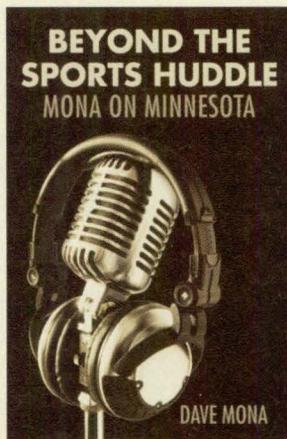
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More than a Sports Authority

Dave Mona has been an institution in Minnesota for more than 40 years. His long career includes founding his own public relations firm, providing color commentary for Gopher football broadcasts, and stints at the *Minnesota Daily*, the *Minneapolis Tribune*, WCCO TV, and WCCO Radio—including more than 25 years co-hosting the Sunday morning sports radio show with sportswriter Sid Hartman from which the title of the book is taken. Over the years, Mona—a past president of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association—has rubbed elbows with such Minnesota luminaries and high-profile personalities as Calvin Griffith, Garrison Keillor (B.A. '66), Halsey Hall, and Molly Ivins, who worked at the *Minneapolis Tribune* when Mona was cutting his teeth in journalism.

Beyond the Sports Huddle does exactly what the title suggests: It goes beyond the public storytelling that Mona has done for four decades to the behind-the-scenes people, places, conversations, and events that have shaped his career. Mona is a great raconteur with a knack for



Beyond the Sports Huddle: Mona on Minnesota
By Dave Mona (B.A. '65)
Voyageur Press, 2008

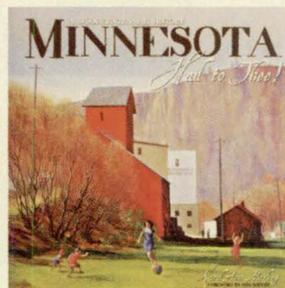
lively dialogue, and he uses it to bring decades' worth of experiences to life. He writes richly of his years as a journalism student at the U and of the rigorous training he received from legendary professor Mitchell Charnley. Minnesotans who remember WCCO TV's Dave Moore (B.A. '49) will enjoy Mona's stories about his tenure as the first editor of Moore's *Bedtime Nooz* program in the 1960s.

The book contains several award-winning features that Mona wrote during his career, including one from the *Minnesota Daily* on the third- and fourth-stringers who played on the Gopher football squad. And baseball fans will relish the article on the old Nicollet ballpark that first appeared in the *Minneapolis Tribune* in 1966.

Mona's wide-ranging experience combined with his reporter's eye for detail make *Beyond the Sports Huddle* an entertaining, informative, and

often humorous recollection of nearly a half-century of Minnesota history. It's a great read for sports fans as well as anyone interested in Minnesota history and culture. —Cynthia Scott

Bookmarks



Minnesota, Hail to Thee!
By Karal Ann Marling
Afton Press, 2008

In a tribute to Minnesota's sesquicentennial, University of Minnesota professor Karal Ann Marling wrote a rich history of the nation's 32nd state, full of facts, anecdotes, and drama. Marling, who has taught art history and American studies at the U for 30 years, is a popular culture scholar and has authored more than 30 books. She covers the North Star state's roots as a territory, French and Indian place names in the state, Minnesotans in the Civil War and the U.S.-Dakota War, milling and the other industries that built the economy, art and architecture, and, of course, state icons, from the giant Willie Walleye in Baudette to the U's Goldy Gopher.



Open Line
By Ellen Hawley (B.A. '81)
Coffee House Press, 2008

A work of political satire, Ellen Hawley's second novel unfolds when late-night Minneapolis radio host Annette Majoris suggests that the Vietnam War was a hoax. When the phone lines light up, she realizes she's hit a national nerve that needs numbing. If the war never happened, then the United States never suffered a defeat, the country never split along an ideological divide, and the American psyche did not need to be so bruised. But she underestimates the political forces at work as she rides a wave of fame in a world of celebrity culture, big-money politics, and 24-hour news.



The Soul Thief
By Charles Baxter
Pantheon, 2008

University of Minnesota English professor Charles Baxter's fifth novel wrestles with identity, just as the main character wrestles with relationships. The first half of the novel is set in upstate New York in the 1970s where graduate student Nathaniel Mason is pulled into the orbit of elusive and enigmatic friends and lovers, one of whom begins to appropriate objects and details from Nathaniel's life until a tragic event triggers the crumbling of Nathaniel's world. The novel's second half is set 30 years later, when a character from Nathaniel's grad-school days resurfaces, questioning Nathaniel's identity. Baxter is the author of the National Book Award-nominated *The Feast of Love*, which was recently made into a film.



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Jolene Baker

International Bridge

A serious shortage of nursing assistants in the United States combined with a growing immigrant population from east African cultures has created the perfect opportunity for Jolene Baker (B.S. '78). The nurse and onetime immigrant to Ethiopia who is fluent in Amharic—the official Ethiopian language—has found her niche teaching in the Nursing Assistant Training Program for New Americans at the International Institute of Minnesota in St. Paul. “I see myself as a bridge between two worlds,” she says. “I know what it’s like to be an immigrant, trying to learn the language and the culture. Trying to make friends. Trying to make sense of a completely foreign place. So I can add that dimension to my teaching. I can put the two together and be the bridge between here and there.”

The 12 students in Baker’s spring-term class came to Minnesota from Somalia, India, Liberia, Cameroon, and Ethiopia. Each is a refugee, permanent resident, naturalized citizen, or has been granted asylum, and all went through rigorous testing and interviews before being accepted into the program. They have one thing in common that makes them ideal candidates to help fill the nursing assistant shortage in this country: They come from communities that are accustomed to honoring their elders. “There is an enormous shortage of nursing assistants in nursing homes and other medical facilities, so this is a job that suits our

students who come from cultures where, if people make it to old age, they are revered and deserve to be cared for,” Baker says.

The 20-hour-a-week training program follows the state-mandated curriculum for training nursing assistants. In addition, Baker instructs her students in the cultural values within which they will work. Some of those values are speed, convenience, cleanliness, and even how to shake hands and smile during a

The people in the village would seek her out whenever they needed routine medical care or emergency attention, including, once, a group of five men who had been attacked by a leopard.

job interview. “We teach not only how to be a nursing assistant, but how to adjust to the American culture and how to make a contribution to that culture,” Baker says.

Baker spent 14 years in Ethiopia, beginning in 1988 when she and her husband, Jeff (B.S. '77), went to live and work in the mountain village area of Gebre Awanno with Serving in Mission, a Christian missionary group. They chose Ethiopia because the needs of the country matched the combination of Jeff’s skills as a carpenter and Jolene’s skills as a nurse, and because it was far away from the comfort of their home in Minneapolis. “We lived

in a shipping container that Jeff converted into a house by cutting windows and doors into it and building a roof over a screen porch," Baker says. "We had a solar panel to run one little radio, we had no electricity or running water, and the outhouse was about a block away."

Jeff helped build housing and a hospital while Jolene home-schooled their two young daughters and practiced what she described as "ad hoc nursing." The people in the village would seek her out whenever they needed routine medical care or emergency attention, including, once, a group of five men who had been attacked by a leopard. "These people were in desperate need of basic health care, clean water—all the essentials," she says. "So the work we were doing was very satisfying."

After three years in the village, the Bakers relocated to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, where Jeff worked as a teacher, administrator, and builder, and Jolene developed counseling and support systems as a project coordinator for an HIV/AIDS prevention program.

In 2002, when the Baker's daughters were close to finishing high school, they decided to return to Minnesota. Back in their homeland after living more than a decade in another culture, they experienced what has come to be called the hidden immigrant phenomenon: Externally they appeared to be like other Americans, but internally they had as different a worldview and life experiences as any true immigrant would have. But in time Jolene answered a two-line newspaper ad for a clinical instructor at the institute and discovered that she could put her nursing skills and her immigrant experiences to good use by teaching others who had to adjust to life in a new country.

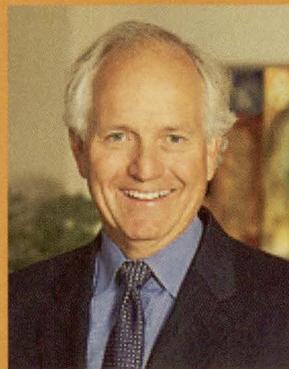
The institute, which is located across from the State Fairgrounds on Como Avenue in St. Paul, is the key sponsor of the annual Festival of Nations. A cross-cultural, non-sectarian social service agency founded in 1919 and affiliated with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and the United Way, one of its functions is to provide academic assistance to immigrants who are transitioning into the American culture and are interested

in medical careers. The Nursing Assistant Training Program was started in 1990 and has more than 1,000 alumni—all of them immigrants. Most graduates go right to work in a nursing or assisted living facility; many continue their education in the nursing/medical field.

"Our success rate for certification is the highest of all nursing assistant pro-

grams in the state, and our students stay longer in their jobs than those who get their training elsewhere," Baker says. "I think this is because they bring their cultural values of honoring and caring for the elderly to the program, and we bridge the cultural gap by beautifully imbedding these values into what we teach."

—Evelyn Cottle Raedler



GPM congratulates Bruce Mooty on being elected the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's President.

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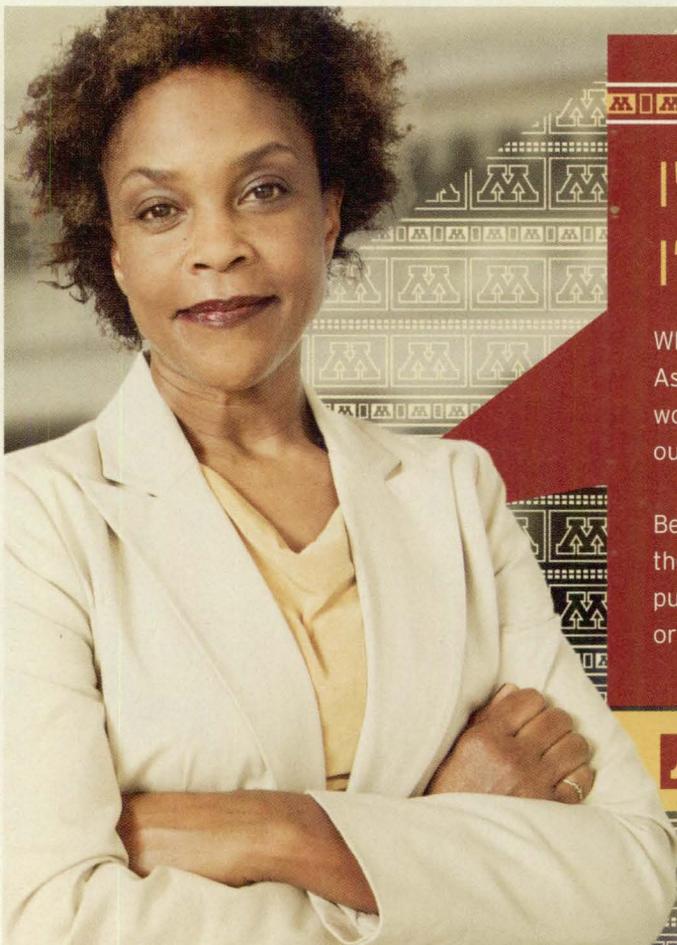


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Alumni Association Angle



Ski-Ewe-Mah. Every August, Minnesotans flock to the state fairgrounds, adjacent to the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus, for the Minnesota State Fair. The University Extension Service, through its 4-H Clubs and numerous educational exhibits, features prominently in the annual summer classic. In this photo, W.E. Morris (M.S. '31), a pioneering extension livestock specialist who was on the U staff from 1913 to 1955, judges sheep at the 1950 state fair. This year, the annual Maroon and Gold Day is on August 24. Stop by the University building on Dan Patch Avenue to learn more about what's happening at the U and to visit with other alumni and friends.

INSIDE

What's Cooking
in Chicago

Honoring
Distinguished
Teachers

The Annual
Celebration
in Photos

A Half-Century
Reunion



Chicagoland Chefs



Members and friends of the Alumni Association's Chicago chapter sliced, diced, braised, and simmered their way to a three-course feast during a hands-on cooking class at Flavour Cooking School in April. Dubbed the Gopher Iron Chef, the class drew 14 enthusiastic participants who labored over and then enjoyed a Minnesota-themed dinner of pan-fried walleye with cranberry and wild rice pilaf followed by banana caramel mocha pie for dessert. In a spirit of interstate goodwill, the appetizer was Vermont cheddar soup. Pictured are participants lending their own creative flourishes to the meal. Clockwise from upper left: Bethany Bonner, Sekou Robertson (B.S. '02), Heather Meyer, Sara Steidaman, and Jerry Steidaman.



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National President

Past Presidents' Presence

Past presidents of the Alumni Association don't simply fade away. In fact, many continue to serve the University of Minnesota in a variety of ways.

For example, more than a dozen of those who once served in this role are current or former trustees for the University of Minnesota Foundation and Minnesota Medical Foundation. Larry Laukka (B.A. '58), president in 1994–95, is the volunteer leader of the UMORE project. Nancy Lindahl (B.S. '68), president in 2000–01, and her husband, John (B.S. '68), are leading the campaign to raise private gifts for the new Gopher football stadium. Several others—including Linda Mona (B.A. '67), president in 1995–96; Dave Mona (B.A. '65), president in 1999–2000; Jerry Noyce (B.S. '67), president in 2003–04; and Andrea Hjelm (B.A. '65), president in 2004–05—have also stepped up to help in the stadium fund-raising effort. And Dennis Schulstad (B.A. '66), president in 2006–07, is heading up the plan to memorialize Minnesota war veterans in the stadium plaza design.

Others, like Bob Stein (B.S.L. '60, J.D. '61), president in 2005–06, are serving the U in ways less visible but just as important to the vitality of the institution.

The University is undergoing a year-long, campus-wide study of its intercollegiate athletics department for NCAA recertification, and I was pleased to hear last fall that Bob was asked to sit on the steering committee. Currently on the Law School faculty, Bob is a former dean of the school and for almost 15 years was the U's faculty representative to the NCAA, Big Ten, and WCHA. Whether sports fans or not, we all know how important athletics is to the image and reputation of the University. "Sports is an important part of the college experience and campus life and helps build student-faculty-alumni community of support for the University," Bob says.

The NCAA recertification committee is assessing academic integrity, governance and compliance, and equity and student athlete well-being and has sought input from numerous University-affiliated groups and stakeholders, including the Alumni Association.



Top to bottom: Outgoing national board president Tom LaSalle (B.A. '72) (right) passed the gavel to new president Bruce Mooty (B.A. '77, J.D. '80).

Alumni Association past presidents Nancy Lindahl (B.S. '68) (left) and Andrea Hjelm (B.A. '65)

Alumni Association past president Bob Stein (B.S.L. '60, J.D. '61) (left) and president-elect Archie Givens (B.A. '66, M.H.A. '68)

ciation. I recently asked Bob to share with alumni what the committee has learned and what's next.

According to the report the U submitted to the NCAA this past spring, the U last completed a recertification process in 2001. Since then, we've made great progress in certain areas. To name just a few:

- Investments in the advising center have raised the quality of academic support provided to student athletes.

- The study found that the proportion of male and female athletes reflects that of the general student enrollment and the racial and ethnic minority participation in athletics mirrors minority student enrollment.

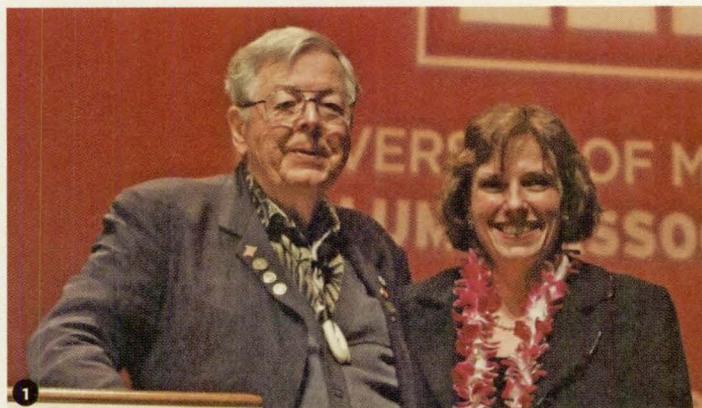
- The study also concluded that the U's athletic compliance program has become one of the best in the nation.

Of course, through the self-study process, the U also identified areas where it needs to commit additional resources—namely, to the timely graduation of student athletes, particularly in football and men's basketball. The study also noted a decline in female coaches and budget disparities in men's and women's sports in the areas of equipment, publicity, administrative support, and recruiting.

Bob says the steering committee will review the conclusions in the report and ensure that the U implements strategies to continue the progress. This fall, a peer review team will visit campus to assess the U's report, and, by February, the NCAA will decide whether to recertify the U.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I thank all of our past presidents for their ongoing service to this great university. They set a tremendous example for all alumni—and for people like me, now a past president myself. This is my final column of what has been a fantastic year—marked by reaching record life membership numbers, securing legislative funding for four biomedical research buildings, and watching the new football stadium rise on campus. I've passed the gavel to Bruce Mooty (B.A. '77, J.D. '80), but you—and the U—haven't seen the last of me.

—Tom LaSalle (B.A. '72)



- 1 Earl Bakken (B.S. '48), who lives in Hawaii, brought a fresh flower lei for keynote speaker Doris Taylor.
- 2 National board member Debra Peterson (B.S. '78) with her husband, Greg (B.S. '80)
- 3 Alumni Association CEO Margaret Sughrue Carlson (Ph.D. '83) (center) with Dave Mona (B.A. '65) and Linda Mona (B.A. '67), both past presidents of the Alumni Association

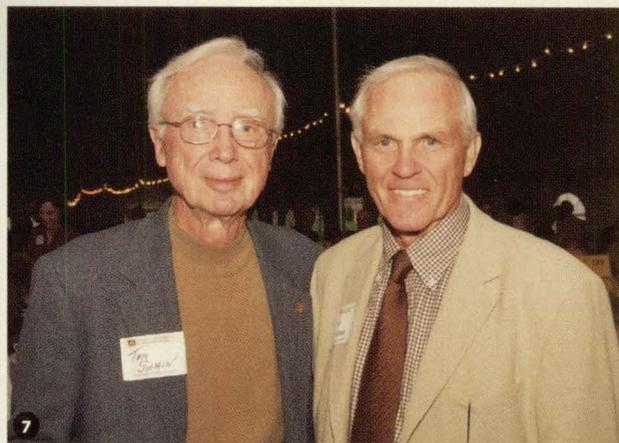
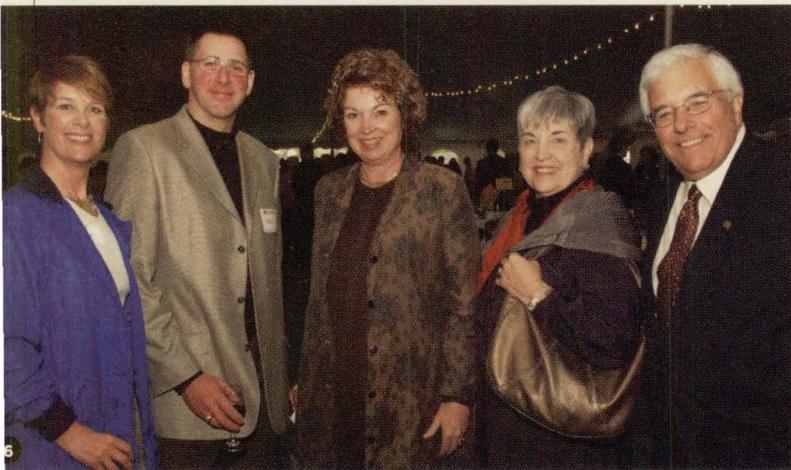
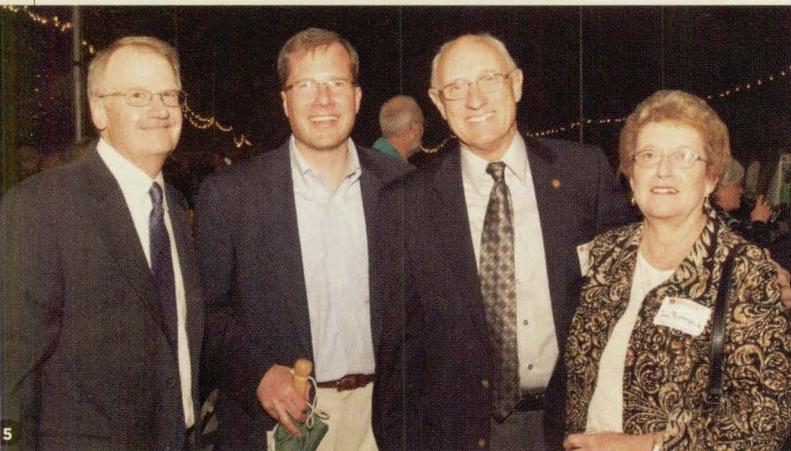
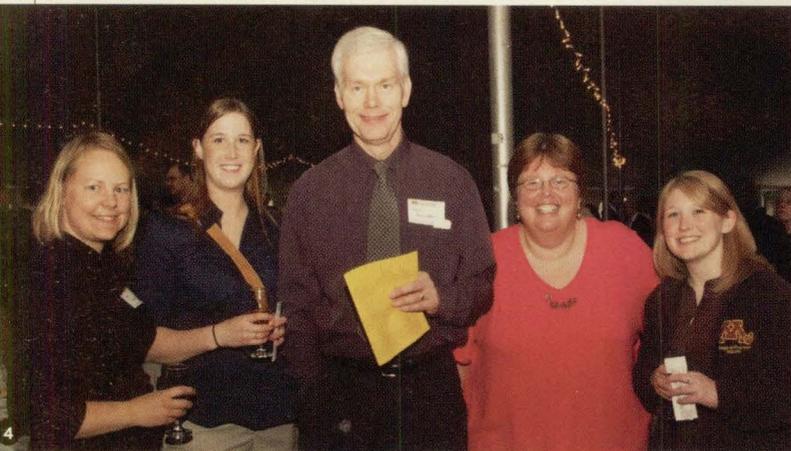
A Celebration with Heart

Nearly 1,500 alumni and friends gathered on Northrop Mall May 29 for the 2008 University of Minnesota Alumni Association annual celebration. Guests enjoyed dinner and socializing to kick off the evening and then proceeded to Northrop Auditorium for the program, highlighted by remarks from featured speakers Medtronic founder Earl Bakken (B.S. '48) and groundbreaking U of M heart researcher Doris Taylor, who is the Medtronic Bakken Professor and director of the Center for Cardiovascular Repair.

Bakken, inventor of the first wearable pacemaker, recounted his long and wide-ranging involvement in the evolution of medicine and healthcare and introduced Taylor, who made headlines earlier this year when she and her team created a beating heart in her U of M laboratory. Taylor acknowledged being a “geek” her entire life and said she grew up believing that adults woke up on Saturday mornings and invented things. She spoke about how her father’s death when she was 6 was instrumental in her decision to pursue scientific research and said she left Duke University to come to Minnesota in 2004 “in large part because this was an opportunity to think outside the box.” Taylor called Bakken her hero, adding, “How can you come to the University of Minnesota and not work on the heart?”

“The heart is an incredibly beautiful organ,” she continued, “and I hope I can convince you of that tonight.” Without a doubt, she did.

Multimedia content from the Annual Celebration—including video, a slideshow, and audio—are available at www.alumni.umn.edu. Click on “News & Events.”



4 From left: Dana Simonson, student representative to the Pharmacy Alumni Society Board; pharmacy student Lexie Hunzie; Joel Amundson, president of the Pharmacy Alumni Society; Amy Olson (B.A. '92), associate administrator for Professional and External Relations in the College of Pharmacy; and pharmacy student Tiffany Selly

5 From left: Wes Mahlberg (B.S. '75), Alumni Association secretary/treasurer Kent Horsager (B.S. '84), Regent Dallas Bohnsack (B.S. '60), and his wife, Joanie

6 From left: Meredith McQuaid (B.A. '82, J.D. '91), associate vice president and dean of International Programs; her husband, Brad Delapena; Board of Regents chair Patricia Simmons; and Cathie and Jerry Fischer, president and CEO of the University of Minnesota Foundation

7 From left: Alumni Association past presidents Tom Swain (B.S. '42) and Larry Laukka (B.A. '58)

8 From left: Dan Falbo (B.A. '80 UMD, M.A. '87); Pat Cummins (B.A. '83); Lee Anderson (M.A. '82), assistant professor of architecture; and Tom Fisher, dean of the College of Design

9 Senior vice president and provost Tom Sullivan and Jane Mooty (B.S. '43), mother of new Alumni Association president Bruce Mooty

Honoring Teachers Who Excel

Sixteen University of Minnesota faculty members received the University's most prestigious award for excellence in teaching at the Distinguished Teaching Awards ceremony on April 28. Eight faculty members received the Morse-Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Award for their outstanding contributions to undergraduate teaching, and eight received the Graduate-Professional Teaching Award for outstanding contributions to postbaccalaureate, graduate, and professional education. All 16 were inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Nearly every honoree echoed the sentiment voiced by one recipient, who said, "Above all, I have learned how to teach from my students." The Distinguished Teaching Awards are sponsored by the Alumni Association, the University Senate Committee on Educational Policy, and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

Recipients and their respective departments are as follows (recipients are from the Twin Cities campus unless otherwise noted). Morse-Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Award (top photo, seated left to right): Todd Arnold, fisheries, wildlife, and conservation biology; Kristopher McNeill, chemistry; Kristen C. Nelson, forest resources; Leon Hsu, postsecondary teaching and learning. Standing, left to right: Terry Jones, astronomy; Janet Schrunk Ericksen, English, University of Minnesota-Morris; Barry R. McQuarrie, mathematics, University of Minnesota-Morris; and Timothy Johnson, political science.

Graduate-Professional Teaching Award (bottom photo, seated left to right): Richard C. Brundage, experimental and clinical pharmacology; Stephen A. Katz, integrative biology and physiology; Cesare Casarino, cultural studies and comparative literature; Melissa Middleton Stone, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; and John Matheson, law school. Standing, left to right: Douglas N. Foster, animal science; S. Massoud Amin, electrical and computer engineering; and John Freeman, political science.



The Morse-Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Award recipients



The Graduate-Professional Teaching Award recipients

A Hot Topic

The Institute of Technology Alumni Society hosted the Institute's 50-year class reunion in May. As part of the reunion festivities, members of the class of 1958 were treated to a sneak preview of the University of Minnesota solar car, which was under construction by current IT students. Pictured here are Peter Leonhardt, left, a member of the Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team, and Ken Albrecht (B.S. '58). Centaurus, the University's solar car, is in the background. The University is one of 26 international teams competing in designing, building, and driving a solar-powered car in the North American Solar Challenge July 13-23, a 2,400-mile race from Dallas, Texas, to Calgary, Alberta, sponsored by Toyota. In addition to viewing Centaurus, members of the Class of '58 led the procession at this year's IT commencement.





UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Where members are ambassadors

A special welcome to
our newest life members.

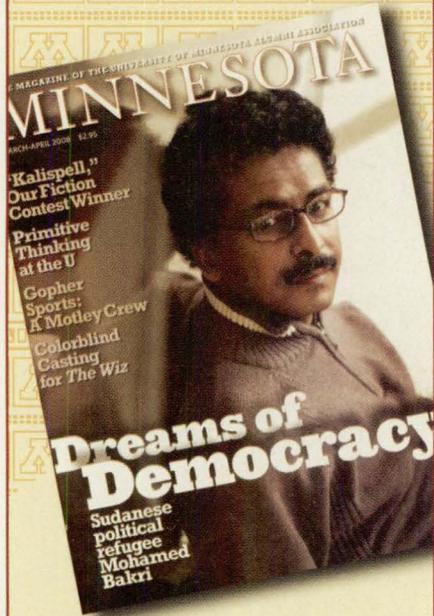
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MINNESOTA MAGAZINE FICTION CONTEST



Minnesota magazine's 10th-annual fiction contest is open to all University of Minnesota alumni and students. The winning entry is published in *Minnesota*.

Submissions must be postmarked by December 1, 2008.

Visit www.alumni.umn.edu/fiction for guidelines and to read previous winners.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Where members are ambassadors

Chief Executive Officer

Train Reaction

While the University of Minnesota could function without light-rail transit, the broader community would benefit from LRT through campus. And so the U's Board of Regents voted 11-1 in June to support the Central Corridor LRT line at-grade on Washington Avenue. The regents did so for the good of the state, but it was an extremely difficult vote.

The U and the Alumni Association wanted LRT to tunnel under Washington. When this didn't prove feasible, our eyes turned to the Northern Alignment through Dinkytown. A study funded by the University, however, showed that this route didn't meet federal funding guidelines.

LRT down Washington has the green light for now, but more tough votes lie ahead for

the regents. Washington Avenue would be transformed into a transit mall with trains, buses, and bikes. University President Bob Bruininks said that when LRT comes through campus, he wants the University left improved in its wake.

Regent John Frobenius said he was not convinced the safety of thousands of patients coming from across the state to the University Medical Center has been taken into account. That has to be considered in the next steps, he said, and noted that the resolution passed by the regents has checkpoints, "and we have to have the guts to stop the train if this doesn't work."

Regent David Metzen's main concern was where the 25,000 automobiles that use Washington daily will go and who will pay to reroute traffic to other roads around campus. Everyone agrees this project has far more mitigation costs than money to pay for them. Regent Venora Hung, who cast the dissenting vote, believed LRT could seriously impact the U's resources.

"Mitigation measures" are improvements needed to alleviate traffic and other environmental impacts. These improvements are necessary for the line to function, but who will pay has not been determined. "Betterments" are improvements that are not critical but are important for traffic flow or desirable for aesthetic purposes. It's crucial that the memoranda of understanding among the University, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Hennepin and Ramsey counties address the mitigation costs. Simply put, this academic institution can't be burdened with mitigation costs.

Regents chair Patricia Simmons noted that the resolution approved by the regents provides two important assurances. Should LRT at-grade on Washington ultimately prove infeasible, the U urges all project partners to remain open to considering other route options. And the memoranda of understanding and all other agreements necessary to complete the LRT line through campus shall be subject to the approval of the regents. Without it, the project doesn't go forward.

The Board of Regents has LRT at the top of its agenda, as does the Alumni Association. We'll continue to provide the alumni viewpoint as we track this nearly \$1 billion project that will impact our campus for generations.

—Margaret Sughrue Carlson (Ph.D. '83)



Margaret Sughrue Carlson near the LRT line in downtown Minneapolis



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Is the food we eat safe?



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Food facts.

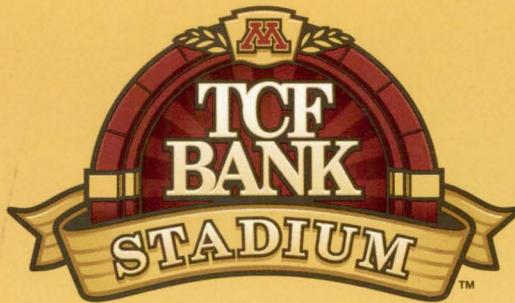


U of M veterinary medicine professor Jeff Bender and his students study how farms, processing plants, and retailers can effectively protect the food we eat from foodborne illnesses. Bender teaches how to detect and manage animal disease before it turns into an epidemic like mad cow disease. Being properly educated on what to look for as trouble signs helps make sure that the food we eat makes a safe journey from farm to fork. So the search continues. **Learn more at umn.edu.**

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History in the Making



In late spring 2008, construction of TCF Bank Stadium proceeded on schedule. The first bricks were put in place as the stadium continued to take shape.

TCF is proud to be associated with the University of Minnesota and this exciting new chapter in Golden GophersSM history. We look forward to bringing you updates as construction progresses on TCF Bank Stadium, the new football home of your Golden Gophers.



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