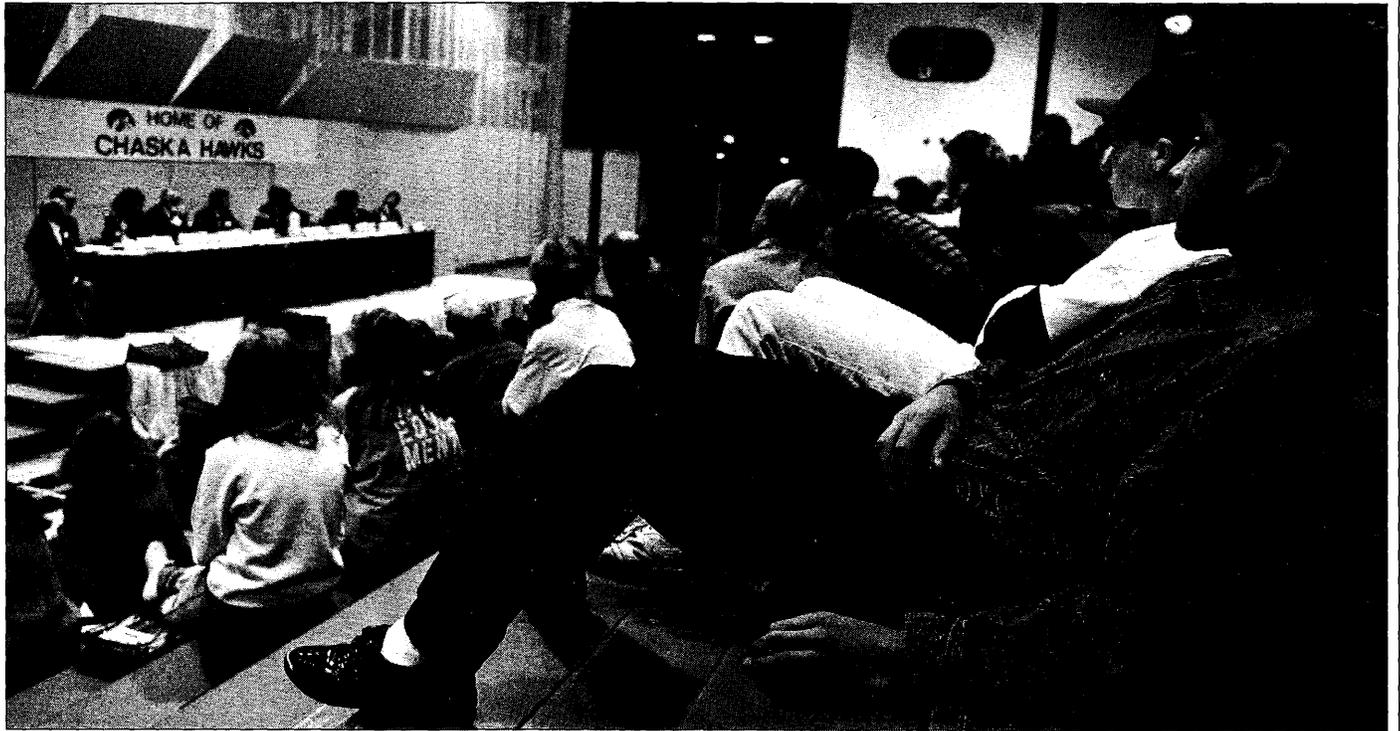


Mini-Session Report

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Chaska High School Freshman George Mendez listens as legislators introduce themselves during the student assembly there Oct. 29.

Universal questions greet lawmakers in suburbs



Minnesota House of Representatives
Suburban Mini-Session
October 28-30, '91

A common perception of the Twin Cities suburbs is that the streets are paved with gold and that there are at least five or six chickens in every pot.

While it's true that many suburban areas are well-to-do, it's also true that many inner ring suburbs are experiencing the same types of problems that were once limited to major cities.

The House of Representatives got a first-hand look at a host of Twin Cities suburbs during the recent Suburban Mini-Session Oct. 28-30.

Just as earlier outstate mini-sessions have shattered preconceptions about different areas of the state, so, too, did this mini-session.

In the suburbs, it's not all BMWs and tennis lessons at the club.

From the community forum in Hopkins to a student assembly in Inver Grove Heights, one thing seemed a constant: Ordinary people had pertinent questions about universal questions.

At Simley High School in Inver Grove Heights, Senior Wade Berquist wanted to know why tuition keeps rising at the State University System.

In Little Canada, Sue Sandidge questioned whether parents in the Roseville school district are getting what they pay for.

At the senior issues forum in St. Anthony Village, senior citizens asked to be considered as contributing members of society.

Of course, there was a healthy dose of skepticism directed at lawmakers. Simley Senior Susana Ortiz was greeted with applause by her classmates when she asked, "Are you going to take into consideration

what we say or are you just going to ignore it?"

House Speaker-designate Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) assured her they would, and delivered the same basic message to another student assembly at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School in Plymouth.

"State legislators have learned a lot from the folks they have met with. We've gotten ideas about some of the problems and issues out there, and we've gone back into regular session and passed legislation in an attempt to address these problems."

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Mini-Session Highlights

Suburban Mini-Session . . . October 28-30, 1991



Gaming

Nintendo not just for kids

Will Minnesotans one day use a Nintendo system to cast a vote for governor? Rep. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) says yes. And those who cringe at the thought of video game systems be advised: Nintendo isn't just for junior anymore.

In fact, it isn't just a video game system. George Andersen, director of the Minnesota State Lottery, told members of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee Oct. 28 that the Japanese are now trading stocks and even betting on horses with the units, simply by plugging into the phone jack that is standard equipment on every manufactured playing deck.

"The [Nintendo] creators were ingenious," said Andersen. "What you basically have are easily adaptable, easy to use computers in approximately 519,000 Minnesota homes."

That means 32 percent of all Minnesota homes have Nintendo decks. And in 47 percent of those homes, the primary user of the system is an adult, not a glassy-eyed teen dodging homework and fighting Ninja turtles. Nowadays you can balance your checkbook, pretend you're Mike Tyson, and even play Monopoly on a Nintendo system.

It's that adult 47 percent that Andersen saw as potential state lottery players. The lottery, in conjunction with Control Data Corporation, planned to test an on-line lottery service that operated through the Nintendo deck. Players would not have been allowed to play on credit, and complex security access codes were developed. A \$10 per month service fee would be charged per household. The lottery would have even supplied the deck, a charge included in the \$10 flat fee.

But some state lawmakers put the brakes on the plan. Opponents called it "unethical" and cited potential abuse by minors as reason enough to nix the idea.



Minnesota State Lottery Director George Andersen spoke about a plan — now shelved — to allow Minnesotans to gamble through home Nintendo entertainment systems. Andersen appeared before the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee Oct. 28.

Andersen said a "pervading feeling that Minnesota has an abundance of gambling already" caused him to withdraw his plan. He insisted the "Nintendo test" would not adversely affect the other forms of legalized gaming in Minnesota.

Andersen said his marketing theory was based on convenience, and that several other states, Indiana and Massachusetts among them, have similar "interactive" betting systems. Locally, a suburban cable company now broadcasts bingo games run by the Oneida tribe in western Wisconsin.

Andersen said this is a "big bucks" opportunity for both the state and Control Data. He speculated that with only a 15 percent participation rate of existing decks, the state would have cleared \$15.5 million a year. Nobody called the lottery office opposed to the idea, he said. "But hundreds did call wanting to sign up, and many of those people didn't even

have Nintendo systems," he said.

"This technology will surface again in our state, maybe in another form," added Andersen. Maybe as a modified voting booth, where the polls will come to you.



Drugs

Revise marijuana code?

Law enforcement officers had nothing but praise for the 1989 sweeping revision of the state's criminal code when they testified Oct. 28 before the Judiciary Committee during the three-day Suburban Mini-Session.

But Brooklyn Park Police Department Sgt. Wade Setter said the Legislature might want to revisit one section of the law that he said makes little sense.

And that's when a marijuana dealer faces the same penalty whether he sells a single joint or 11 pounds. Setter, speaking before the committee at the Brooklyn Center Community Center, said he'd like the threshold lowered to one pound because dealers selling over that amount tend to be serious businessmen.

Marijuana is selling for about \$2,000 per pound in the Twin Cities and about \$3,000 per pound in Duluth, said Setter. So dealing up to 11 pounds requires an investment of more than \$20,000.

"I can tell you marijuana is a very lucrative business," he said.

The state's sentencing guidelines call for a suspended sentence of a year and a day for first-time offenders who sell up to 11 pounds, or five kilograms, of marijuana. An offender would need a considerable conviction record before being sent to prison.

Referring to the cocaine trade, Setter said dealers generally aren't that smart, "but they do know there's a big difference [in penalties] between selling an eighth of an ounce and an ounce."

After the meeting he said Minnesota is now one of the top marijuana-producing

states in the country because the word is out about the state's relatively lax criminal penalties.

Concerning other drug enforcement concerns, Setter said:

- The 31 drug task forces that have been created in the past few years with the help of federal funds have been extremely effective, but more sharing of information between task forces would help. He would like to see a statewide computer network established to enable agencies to share information about drug suspects.
- Federal laws and their state counterparts that allow law enforcement authorities to seize property used in illegal activity have been "really effective," said Setter. So, too, has the state's so-called "grass tax," which requires dealers to buy drug stamps — even though drug dealing is illegal. "They [drug dealers] used to be afraid of narcs until they met some of the guys from the state Department of Revenue," said Setter. "Now, narcs ain't nothing."



Crime

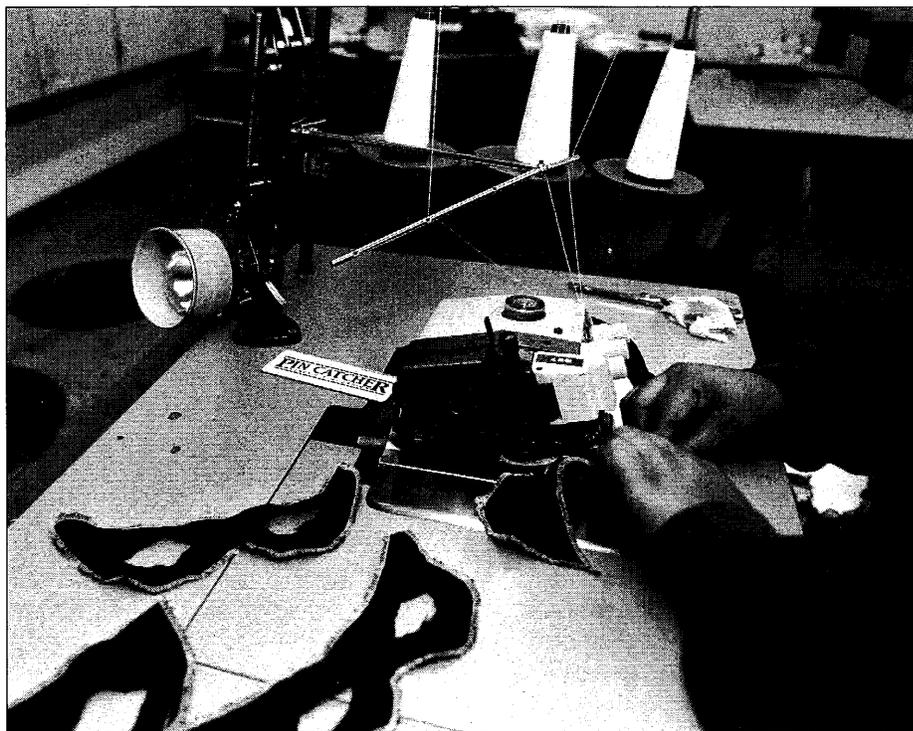
A model facility

"No other state has a facility like this one," said D. Jacqueline Fleming, superintendent of the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee. "We are the model." She said she gets tour requests from people all over the United States and Europe, Japan, and even Russia, to name a few.

Likewise, House Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), made arrangements with Fleming for her committee to tour the facility Oct. 29 during the three-day Suburban Mini-Session.

The prison is the state's only facility for women offenders. Currently, 140 women live in five of the seven buildings in the complex: one with high security, three with medium security, and one pre-release independent living center. The facility, which opened in 1986, replaces an antiquated and overcrowded institution that was built back in 1920.

The women are all over 18; their average age is 32. Most of them have children and usually are solely responsible for



An inmate at the women's prison in Shakopee prepared for a Halloween party as members of the Judiciary Committee toured the facility Oct. 29.

them. "You will see built-in trundle beds that were intended for visiting children," said Fleming.

Inmates' crimes range from theft to murder, said Fleming, adding that most of them were sexually abused as children or found themselves in abusive adult relationships.

The women are often chemically dependent, and they lack education and work skills.

But the programs at the facility are designed to meet the women's needs and to help them become productive members of society upon their release. Course offerings include data entry, telemarketing, textiles, computer-assisted design, electronic office machinery, desktop publishing, and horticulture.

The education department provides adult basic education to those who want to earn a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, and "two nights a week we have college classes," said Tom Daly, education director.

Women employed in the industry programs are paid wages related to those for similar work outside the institution. They handle overload work from private companies, dealing primarily in customer service — data entry and telemarketing," said Karen Meyer, industry director.

In the manufacturing area, the inmates do light assembly work and are starting to do computer-assisted design which "gives women a skill that has a lot of street value," said Meyer.

Aside from taking classes and working, inmates take part in activities such as aerobics, volleyball, rollerskating, and bowling. "The only recreation for many in this population has been taking drugs," said Patt Adair, associate superintendent. "We have to teach the women how to use their leisure time."

Nan Herman, unit director for the independent living center, urged legislators to bear in mind that even though there's getting to be a real stigma with *all* criminals, "some people do succeed in prison . . . we do have people here who made bad choices, but they're good people."

Female criminal offenses

On Oct. 1, the number of women inmates serving sentences at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee was 140. Here is a breakdown based on the types of offenses committed.

Offense	Percentage	Number
Homicide	30	42
Drug Violations	22	31
Crimes Against Person	14	19
Theft	14	20
Forgery	8	11
Damage/Trespass to Property	6	8
Sex Offenses	3	4
Other	3	5

Prison/jail space needed

Minnesota's tougher stance on crime will force Minnesota to build more jails or find alternatives, a member of the Office of the Legislative Auditor's staff told the House Judiciary Committee October 29.

Minnesota jails and prisons are rapidly becoming overcrowded. In 1990, state prisons operated at 102 percent of their capacity, while jails operated at 92 percent.

Despite the addition of 2,300 beds to jails and prisons in the past 10 years, 31 counties are now planning building or expanding their jails.

The legislative auditor's study comes after a one-year review of Minnesota sentencing and correctional policy.

The number of offenders in the system (people in prisons, jails, or on probation) doubled between 1983 and 1989, growing from some 32,000 to more than 65,000.

Minnesota's violent crime rose 28 percent between 1980 and 1989. The study reports that part of the jump in violent crime is due to increased awareness and reporting.

Changes in laws, increased enforcement, a greater willingness to prosecute, and tougher sentences were the major reasons for the growth in the offender population.

The study also found:

- A significant departure from sentencing guidelines for first time violent offenders and property offenders with longer criminal records;

- The percent of felony offenders who receive prison or jail sentences has risen from 55 percent to nearly 80 percent between 1978 and 1988;
- DWI offenders represent a disproportionate share of growth in the jail population. DWI and traffic offenders constitute nearly half of the sentenced inmates;
- Conditions of probation are more strict, resulting in more incarceration following probation violations;
- State legislative changes in the 1980s defined new crimes and reclassified others so they carry more severe penalties. More mandatory minimum sentences were also enacted;
- Prisons and jails are not always used efficiently. In some counties, an inmate may wait up to two years to serve a jail sentence. The largest growth in jail beds is for offenders on work release.
- State funding for the Community Corrections Act has not kept pace with the additional correctional expenditures spent by counties.

The auditor's report recommends that more resources be directed to the development of "intermediate sanctions." These would include house arrest, half-way houses, residential and outpatient treatment programs, intensive supervision probation, day centers, community service, restitution and fines.

In a survey of local corrections officials, the auditor's study found that they considered "more intermediate sanctions" to be second only to the need for more probation officers.

Probation officers now work with an average of 98 offenders — a situation the

auditor's report terms "critical."

Treatment programs also should be increased, since the study found that many offenders are unable to receive necessary treatment. Among the underfunded programs are those for family violence and sex offenders.

Juvenile justice

The director of the Hennepin County Home School says her treatment program for juvenile sex offenders has a 94 percent success rate.

But because only a small number of offenders — 285 — have actually been through the program, Director Janis Bremer says that statistic may be misleading or even wrong.

She asked the House Judiciary Committee to ease the state's confidentiality laws to enable juvenile treatment programs to collect more data to more accurately determine how such programs are working.

That was one of several suggestions offered to House Judiciary Committee members who met Oct. 30 at Sibley High School in Mendota Heights to examine juvenile justice issues.

First Judicial District Court Judge Leslie Metzen said she'd like the Legislature to drop the requirement that both parents be notified before a court order is issued to allow a minor to have an abortion.

She called the law "totally unnecessary" because the absent parent, usually the father, is both financially and emotionally removed from the child. She added that it often can be very difficult to even track down the father.

Her colleague on the bench, Patrice Sutherland, recommended that parental rights laws be revised so they focus on what's the best interests of the child instead of the parents.

She said children are sometimes shifted from one foster home to the next while the court system decides whether to terminate parental rights. Sutherland said the process can take years — at the expense of the child.

Dakota County Attorney Jim Backstrom had several suggestions, among them one that would allow juve-

nile witnesses in both criminal and civil cases to testify on videotape so they wouldn't have to directly face the defendant.

But Backstrom said the defendant's attorney would still be allowed to cross-examine such juvenile witnesses.

"The goal is . . . to make it easier for these child witnesses," said Backstrom.

Jeff Rasmussen, a dispositional adviser for the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office, said he'd like to see the Legislature extend to age 25 the time the juvenile corrections system has authority over offenders.

The problem with the current age cap of 19 is that there isn't enough time to supervise offenders after their treatment, he said.



Metro Affairs

Roars and SOARs

Jet engines are not the only source of loud roars when it comes to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Oct. 30 got an earful in separate hearings — the first in Richfield near the existing airport, and later in the day in Hastings near a proposed relocation site for the Twin Cities airport.

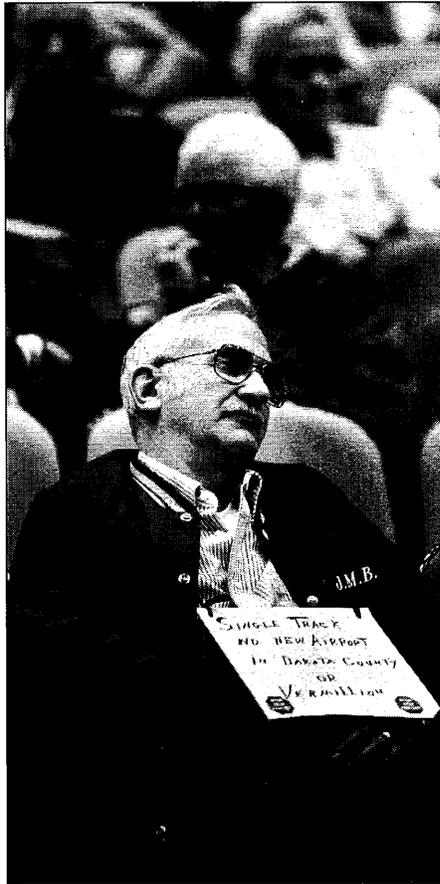
The Legislature must make a decision by 1996 on whether to expand the existing airport or to shut it down and build a new one elsewhere.

Many southern metropolitan area residents oppose building a new airport, saying it would extend "urban sprawl" even further and would cost taxpayers much more than renovating the current facility.

They also say the search process already has driven down property values in a 75,000-acre area near Vermillion, where the new airport could be located. If approved, the new airport also would eliminate thousands of acres of prime farmland, they say.

"We are not a group of 'not-in-my-backyard' homeowners," said Wendy Wustenberg, an organizer for an anti-new airport group, Stop Our Airport Relocation (SOAR).

Wustenberg cited economic and envi-



A sign draped around John Braun's neck summed his position up nicely: "Single Track No New Airport in Dakota County or Vermillion." Braun, of Vermillion, attended an Oct. 30 meeting of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee in Hastings.

ronmental reasons for SOAR's opposition and says building a new airport could cost up to \$15 billion — much more than the estimated \$3 billion to \$4 billion cost of adding new runways, a new terminal and other renovations at the existing airport.

She added that user fees imposed on airlines that would use the new airport wouldn't cover its construction costs. "It is naive to think that taxpayers would not be involved," she said.

But during the hearing in Richfield, residents living near the current airport say they are tired of airport noise and urged committee members to vote for relocation.

Those supporters say building a new airport in Dakota County would affect far fewer people, and that proper zoning could reduce that number even further by preventing homes from being built nearby.

Donald Witz of Richfield says that although the airport expansion plan includes noise-insulation funding for homes in affected neighborhoods, whatever is done would be inadequate.

"I like to spend time in my yard and you can't insulate the outside," he said.

Airport duel intensifies

When the Legislature started the "dual-track" process for airport planning, supporters said it was never intended to create a duel between regions of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

But that, some critics said at Oct. 30 hearings in Richfield and Hastings, is exactly what it's become. They urged lawmakers to put the brakes on the dual-track decision-making process and to concentrate instead on whether changes at the current airport are needed at all.

In 1989, the Legislature established the dual-track process to determine the region's aviation needs over the next 30 years. It was intended to give policymakers the broadest array of information on either option — renovation or relocation of the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport — before they make a final decision.

Two quasi-public agencies, the Metropolitan Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), have been gathering information on the options and will make recommendations to the Legislature by the end of the year. The Legislature is expected to make its decision by 1996.

The MAC, which has been examining renovations at the airport, in August recommended building a new runway roughly parallel to Cedar Avenue South (Highway 77), adding a new terminal, and making other improvements at the current airport.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Council will make its recommendations on one of three search areas for a possible new airport by Dec. 31. Once determined, the MAC would decide on exactly where in the search area the new airport could be sited.

But Gloria Pinke, an employee in the Dakota County Assessor's Office and a citizen member of the Metropolitan Council's search area task force, said she thinks the entire process is flawed.

"Everybody I talk to is questioning why we have the dual track," Pinke said, adding that she believes the council already has decided on the Dakota County site and is now trying to convince the public "the process was fair."

Other residents speaking at the Hastings hearing argued that predictions of large increases in jet travel from the Twin Cities airport are inflated and that wide-scale improvements — either at the current facility or a proposed site — will not be needed.

But Minneapolis City Council Member Steve Cramer, whose ward includes portions of the city near the airport, said he supports moving the airport south.

Cramer said a new airport would be built using a better-designed runway layout and could help the region attract new industry in the future.

"Trying to build a 21st century-quality airport on 3,100 acres of constrained layout [at the current site] will be almost impossible," said Cramer.



Transportation

White line fever

You might be paying for improved roads in the same way you pay your quarterly garbage bill if a group of suburban city engineers and others can warm legislators to the idea.

Faced with deteriorating roads, and reduced state aid, city engineers from across the state are looking for new, stable funding sources to improve roads.

The solution?

A transportation utility fee which would be assessed to all users that would be based on the average volume various properties such as homes, stores and industrial sites use roads.

One city engineer said such a fee in the city of Orlando, Fla., averaged to between \$2 and \$3 per quarter per household. But concern over just how much businesses would pay led several business representatives to criticize the proposal.

The transportation utility is "clearly detrimental to business development," Richard Brenneman of Yellow Freight Systems Inc. told the Transportation



Dick Bethke, a small business owner from Minnetonka, told lawmakers that he was concerned about proposals to use state pension funds to help finance Northwest Airlines. Bethke spoke at the community forum in Hopkins Oct. 29.

Committee which met at the Burnsville City Hall Oct. 29.

The Burnsville gathering was one of three Transportation Committee meetings held during the Suburban Mini-Session to address the topic of a transportation utility; the others were held in Woodbury and Shakopee.

Echoing concerns also expressed by the Minnesota Trucking Association and the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association, Brenneman said the broad language in the proposal could spell a steep tax increase for businesses, which have no firm idea how the proposal would affect them.

"We are worried about the cost," said Scott Lambert of the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association. "The concept, I think, is vague. Frankly, our organization is very skeptical."

But several organizations, including the City Engineers Association of Minnesota and a member of the Metropolitan Council, have enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

"It is useful for all cities in the state of Minnesota," said Bruce Bullert, the city engineer in Savage and the legislative chairman of the city engineers association.

Added Bonnie Featherspoon of the Metropolitan Council, "Cities would start winning the battle over their aging infrastructures."

The transit utility concept is based on the premise that all city residents benefit from its streets — not just those property

owners adjacent to a particular street.

Traditionally, it's been adjacent property owners who footed the bill for a portion of street improvements by paying for a special assessment in addition to their property taxes.

But special assessment levies were often successfully challenged in court because it can be difficult for a city to prove that a property owner benefitted from the improvement — a requirement that would be eliminated with the transportation utility, which would spread costs among all users.

"When we try it [to show proof of benefit], we get cut down again and again," said Roger Knutson, the Lakeville city attorney. He said the basic concept of a transportation utility, which was endorsed by the now defunct Transportation Study Board, has been widely accepted in other communities.

Bloomington City Council Member Tom Spies said his community used the same idea to pay for improvements to its sewer system, portions of which were damaged in the "thousand-year flood" of 1987.

"It was very well accepted," said Spies. "We told the people what they would be charged. People will do it if they see the need."



Government

Trimming the Legislature

Should a plan to streamline state governmental services and trim spending include a reduction in the size of the Legislature?

While a few lawmakers say yes — two bills were introduced last session calling for a unicameral, or one-house, legislature — testimony at an Oct. 28 meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee's Governmental Structures Division was decidedly against a smaller legislature.

The committee met at the Gladstone Community Center in Maplewood as part of the three-day Suburban Mini-Session.

"The Minnesota tradition of political involvement, and it is a thriving one, might very well be the result of a large legislature," said Bill Robins, a Maplewood resident.

By reducing the number of members, you are ultimately restricting access to elected officials because of a larger constituency, he said. He argued that fewer legislators would result in "greater public apathy, with significantly less involvement in government."

Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) agreed. His district in rural Minnesota spans 17 cities and 42 townships — a large area that is typical in rural Minnesota. "To coordinate visits to city council meetings, county board meetings, and a host of other meetings — it's tough, and it takes a lot of time, effort and travel. Reducing the number of legislators will only make it worse.

"Right now, our ability to respond to the public is good."

Robins said it's a myth that reducing the number of legislators automatically slices the budget. An increase in staff would be necessary to address constituent concerns and requests, with a net effect of no savings.

Division Chair Rep. Rich O'Connor (DFL-St. Paul) told those present that Gov. Arne Carlson has created the Commission on Reform and Efficiency (CORE) to address similar concerns of restructuring of state agencies.

Headed by Department of Administration Commissioner Dana Badgerow, CORE is expected to bring its recommendations before the 1992 Legislature.

Term limits

A push for term limits for state legislators and other office holders may be gathering momentum in Minnesota. The subject was raised at several legislative meetings during the Suburban Mini-Session.

The arguments against term limits seem clearly drawn. Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar) pointed out that unlike the U.S. Congress, the turnover at the state Legislature has been about 80 percent over the past 10 years.

"We don't have the pay that they do in Congress," Welle told students gathered Oct. 28 at the Lakewood Community College forum. The 1991 salary for legislators is \$27,979, compared with \$125,000 for members of the U.S. House.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) took a different approach.

"We already have term limits," he said. "I have to file for re-election every two years."



Appropriations

MHS loaves and fishes

What do a restored blacksmith's shop in Lamberton, a tugboat from Two Harbors, a turn-of-the-century photographic posing room in Cokato, and a sunken "streetcar steamboat" recovered from Lake Minnetonka all have in common?

Their restorations — either completed or in progress — were all funded in small part with seed money from the Minnesota Historical Society's popular grant-in-aid program.

The society and its supporters were out in force Oct. 28 during the three-day Suburban Mini-Session to protest Gov. Arne Carlson's line-item veto of \$446,000 for the program.

Society Director Nina Archabal explained to the Appropriations Committee's Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Division meeting in Burnsville that the program, begun in 1969, was actually designed to save state money by encouraging gifts on the local level.

"Very modest grants really flourish," said Archabal, explaining that every state dollar is matched by at least \$4 in local gifts. The state grants, she added, serve as a "good housekeeping stamp of approval" to encourage local gifts.

Several representatives from local historical societies touted the program, which requires that state grants be matched by at least 50 percent by the



Chaska High School Junior Karl Crisman questioned House Speaker Robert Vanasek about details of the Northwest Airlines financing package following a high school assembly there Oct. 29.

county or local project group.

"We expand what the Minnesota Historical Society does by reaching into the crevasses of the state," said Jan Warner, director of the Morrison County Historical Society.

Division Chair Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) likened the program to the biblical tale of the "loaves and the fishes," called the line-item veto "improvident," and vowed to restore funding in the 1992 legislative session.

"There will be some attempt to restore the funds, either by veto override or appropriation," Rice said after the meeting.



Taxes

Keep fiscal disparities

Northern suburbs would be devastated by attempts to weaken the state's 20-year-old fiscal disparities law, business and community leaders told legislators October 28.

Legislators met with north suburban officials at Anoka-Ramsey Community College to review the 1971 fiscal disparities law.

The law was enacted to allow communities and the Metropolitan Council to set aside green space and to make residential and industrial planning decisions which benefit the entire region.

Forty percent of the tax revenues from

industrial and commercial growth is put into a metropolitan pool that is distributed to communities according to their population and tax base.

Legislation introduced in the last legislative session would have capped revenue sharing at 1991 levels. Hennepin County is seeking a change in the current revenue sharing formula, arguing that it is a net loser in the arrangement.

But mayors and administrators from northern communities told legislators that the fiscal disparities program is working.

Blaine Mayor Elwyn Tinklenberg told legislators that the fiscal disparities program gives communities without an industrial base a chance to compete.

Tinklenberg said that communities that receive revenues are still highly motivated to attract new business. "Our number one priority has been economic development," he said. "Our city now ranks 14th in retail sales."

The North Metro Mayors Association presented legislators with a resolution supporting continued use of the fiscal disparities program. The association is represented by cities such as Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, Fridley, and Minneapolis.

Without fiscal disparities, the resolution said, the "richest communities in the metropolitan area would have a per capita commercial-industrial tax base 22 times as big as the smallest . . . with the fiscal disparities system the spread between the richest and poorest is just 4-to-1."

Legislators also heard support for the current program from officials of Brooklyn Park, Circle Pines, Champlin, Anoka, the Anoka-Hennepin School District and the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce.

The former legislator who authored the 1971 law, Charles Weaver, Sr., told legislators that fiscal disparities recognizes the different roles that different communities play in the metropolitan area. He was representing Anoka County and the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Those opposing fiscal disparities told legislators that the current program fails to consider the heavy demands on commercial-industrial communities, and that cities that work hard to draw industry should retain the benefits.



Environment

Cleansing the Mississippi

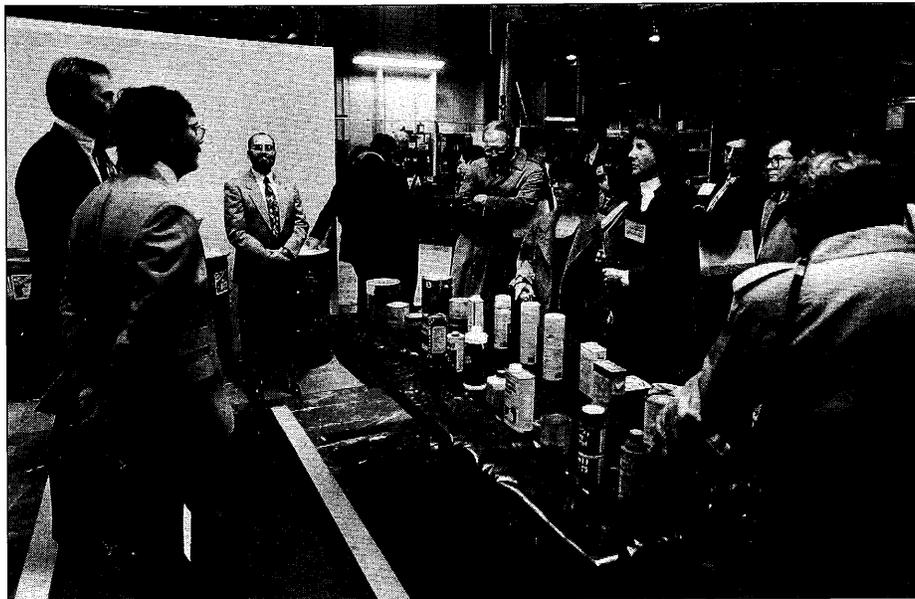
Had Winona of Indian legend been forced into marriage in 1988, she may have thought twice before taking the plunge into Lake Pepin to drown her sorrows.

The lake along the Mississippi River smelled more like a sewer that year — a situation that was blamed on many conditions ranging from the 1988 drought to high phosphorous levels.

Whatever the cause, excessive algae blooms in the lake in 1988 brought to a



Rep. Harold Lasley takes a closer look at one piece of artwork on display at the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, Arts High School Oct. 29. Legislators attended a dinner at the school on the first day of the Suburban Mini-Session.



Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee were shown samples of hazardous waste products that are disposed of at Ramsey County's Household Hazardous Waste Center in Mounds View. The committee toured the plant on Oct. 28.

boil an issue that has long been a concern to those living downstream of the Twin Cities: high phosphorous levels, allegedly caused by the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission's (MWCC) Metropolitan Plant in St. Paul.

But MWCC officials say assigning blame isn't all that easy. They outlined the complexity of the phosphorous problem Oct. 30 to members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee who met at the St. Paul sewage treatment plant.

Because about 60 percent of the state's drainage flows through Lake Pepin, the MWCC contribution to higher phosphorous levels may not be that significant, explained MWCC officials.

Phosphorous is a common element that, in nature, is produced by the breakdown of plant and animal life. But high levels of the nutrient are also found in human waste, dishwashing detergent and in agricultural and lawn fertilizers. In lakes, phosphorous is a key ingredient that regulates the growth of algae; too much of it starves lakes of oxygen, leaving less oxygen for fish and other aquatic life.

The 1979 Legislature limited the amount of phosphorous that can be contained in dishwashing detergent, which helped reduce phosphorous levels. But 67 percent of the phosphorous in the wastewater stream comes from human waste. Aside from drastic dietary changes, there is little way to reduce

those levels.

The problem, say MWCC officials, is that reducing phosphorous levels to one part per million — down from the current level of three parts per million — will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. And reducing levels to 0.4 parts per million will cost twice as much.

The MWCC is conducting a \$3 million demonstration project to test various ways to remove phosphorous from the waste stream. It is also conducting a study of the river to determine what effect phosphorous has on water quality.

The tests will be completed by 1993. After that time, lawmakers will have to decide just how money they want to spend, if any, to reduce phosphorous levels.

At least one person who attended the meeting hopes sewage costs don't rise any higher. Gary Kaziukewicz, corporate manager of regulatory compliance for the Waldorf Corporation, said adding a phosphorous removal system could add 40 percent to their sewage treatment costs.

Such a system would require Waldorf to pay about \$5,000 per year for sewage treatment for each of its 1,000 employees — up from the current cost of \$3,500 per employee.

"How much can a business stand," said Kaziukewicz, whose company is the major recycler of paper in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Checking milfoil spread

Eurasian watermilfoil, the aquatic plant which was first discovered in Lake Minnetonka in 1987, has now spread to 47 Minnesota lakes.

The milfoil crowds out native plants, forms dense mats on rivers and lakes, and uses up oxygen in water leaving less of it for fish. The milfoil also has been found in the Mississippi River and Minnehaha Creek.

Legislators heard testimony about the exotic plant during a meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Oct. 29 at the University of Minnesota's Landscape Arboretum.

Eurasian watermilfoil was first identified in the U.S. during the 1940s, and has now spread to 37 states and three Canadian provinces. It is a native to North Africa, Europe, and China.

Jerry Meysembourg, representing the Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District, spoke of the explosive growth rate of the aquatic plant.

Milfoil was first sited on Prior Lake last June. Within three months, Meysembourg said, the plant had spread to 30 acres.

Some of the lake residents testifying proposed that the Department of Natural Resources make milfoil eradication a higher priority.

Chaska resident Cob Burandt told legislators that "nothing has been done to keep boat ramps clean on Lake Minnetonka." This would be more effective than [DNR] road checks, he said.

"The state hasn't spent a dime on commercial de-rooting [of milfoil]," Burandt said. "Pouring massive amounts of chemicals in these lakes will surely come back to haunt us."

The DNR currently is using 2,4-D in its eradication program, and is evaluating other methods. DNR Eurasian Watermilfoil Program Director Tom Sak told the committee that the DNR is evaluating the safety of the herbicide Garlon 3A [trichlopyr], which has a half-life of six to 10 hours.

A number of lakeshore residents expressed appreciation for the help that Sak has given them. They proposed more funding for the program.

Marilyn Proulz, representing the Lake Waconia Association, spoke of the "hard battle that takes a great toll [on residents

who try to eradicate the milfoil]. "We need to be able to share resources, and we have to have assistance."

Prior Lake City Manager David Unmacht spoke of the impact on the lake's recreational use, property values and the property tax base.

"It is a regional lake and it needs regional solutions," said Unmacht. "I don't think we're going to be able to do it ourselves."

Fine-tuning the wetlands law

A broad range of people representing local governments, conservation groups, developers and government agencies let lawmakers know what they think of the 1991 wetlands law during an Environment and Natural Resources Committee meeting at the University of Minnesota's Landscape Arboretum Oct. 29.

Most of those testifying before the committee proposed managing wetlands more closely, while other members of the audience suggested simplifying the process of protecting them.

Mounds View Public Works Director Rick Minetor told legislators that "wetlands, depending on where they are, need to be managed differently. We need to *manage* the wetlands — not preserve them."

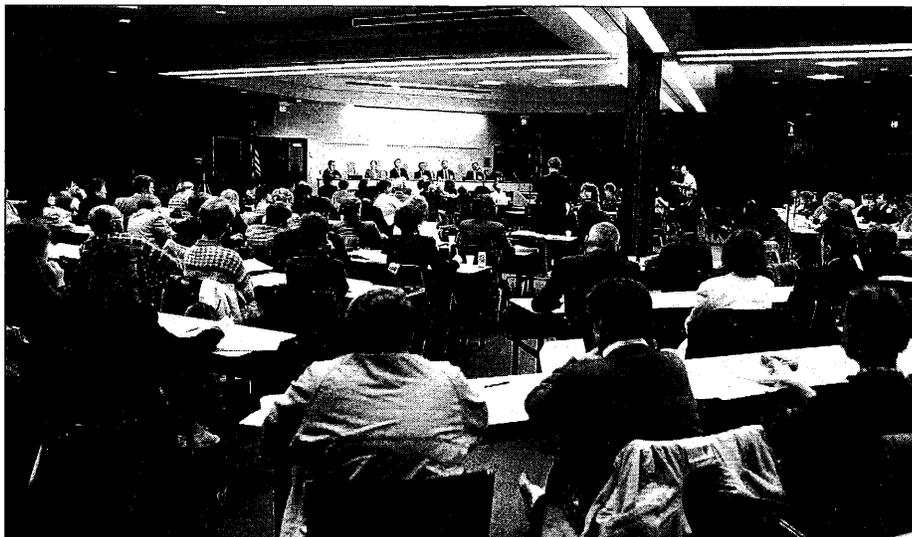
In addition, he said wetlands in urban areas should not have the same set of rules as a 20-acre rural wetland.

John Stine, regional hydrologist for the DNR, told legislators that the value of wetlands is increasingly appreciated. "Eleven years ago it wasn't unusual to receive a permit to fill five to 10 acres of wetland," Stine said. While wetlands are now saved more consistently, he told legislators that agencies should also be concerned about what is being put into them.

Wetlands are increasingly being polluted with nutrient-loaded water runoff in urban areas and are being degraded in the process, Stine said.

Rick Packer, a residential land developer from the Sienna Corporation in Edina, told lawmakers that wetlands protection should be simplified.

"The confusion is getting so great that attorneys are now holding free seminars [on wetlands regulations]," said Packer.



Several hundred people traveled to Anoka Oct. 28 to air their views on a bill that would allow parents to prevent their children from attending certain "non-traditional" classes. An Education subcommittee met at the Anoka School Staff Development Center to hear testimony.

"Someday I would like to pick up the phone and dial 1-800-W-E-T-L-A-N-D-S and get answers to my questions."

Committee Chair Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) assured the audience that the Legislature will be "working to make necessary changes [in wetlands legislation] in the next session."



Education

OBE works

The "pop quiz" doesn't fit in with the philosophy of South Washington County Schools, legislators learned during their Suburban Mini-Session meeting in Cottage Grove Oct. 30.

Legislators on the Education Committee's Education Finance Division met with South Washington County school administrators and teachers to learn about that district's nine-year experience with outcome-based education (OBE).

OBE, which will be gradually phased into Minnesota schools in the 1990s, defines specific educational goals in each grade. Curriculum is designed to meet those specific educational goals.

"Surprises don't happen with OBE," South Washington Curriculum Director Lelia Redin told legislators. Students know exactly what they are expected to

learn, she said.

Teachers monitor students for understanding, and use "correctives" and "enrichments" for students, depending upon whether they have mastered a subject.

Learning time needs to be flexible [if teaching is to be successful], Redin said. "Clock hours and learning do not go hand in hand."

School district administrators cited improvements in student testing since they began using the OBE program. They told legislators, however, that OBE's focus on individual students takes significant time for curriculum development, staff re-training and assessment.

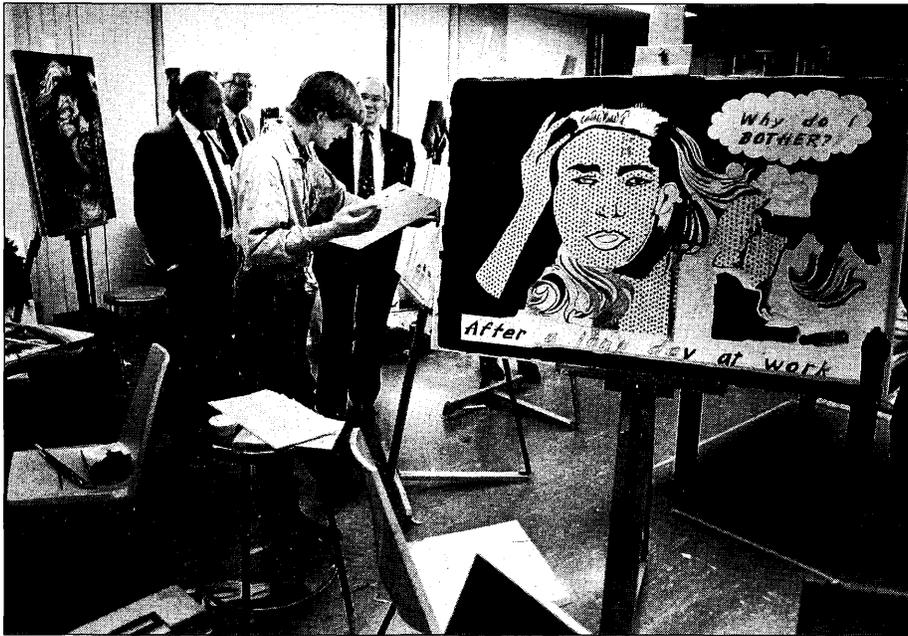
'Opt-out' schooling

Parents concerned with the content of "non-traditional" classes are pressing state lawmakers to allow them to determine if their children should attend those classes.

Although much of the controversy in several school districts has centered on sex education and AIDS-related health curricula, proponents of "opt-out" legislation (HF 1629) instead say the issue extends into nearly every subject area.

"We need to be able to specify what our children are taught," said Peg Fairbourne of St. Cloud during an Oct. 27 House Education Committee hearing in Anoka. "We need a voice in the system."

If approved, HF1629 would divide



Victor Policheri, Ely, works on a painting at the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, Arts High School, as members toured the facilities Oct. 29.

school course work into “traditional” and “non-traditional” subgroups. Non-traditional classes would include those on suicide and death prevention, spirituality and meditation, and classes that offer students values clarification and self-esteem techniques. Math, natural sciences, language, history, fine arts, and most other subject areas would be considered “traditional.”

After reviewing class materials and textbooks, parents would be allowed to remove their children from non-traditional classes they find objectionable. Students whose parents don't respond within a reasonable period would be automatically enrolled in those classes, although parents would retain the right to remove their children anytime they choose.

Opt-out language was included in the state Senate omnibus education bill approved last session. But the provision was dropped from the final education bill in conference committee negotiations.

“There's no way you can ban curriculum,” said the bill's author, Rep. Teresa Lynch (R-Andover). “But there is a need to meet the different sensitivities of parents. . . . There's not a consensus on this, but what I'm saying is ‘let's separate them out’ and let the parents decide.”

Opponents of the proposal said parents already have the means to remove their children from courses they find objectionable and argue that Lynch's bill is,

instead, a concerted attempt by a small minority to dictate school policy. Others said it likely would result in numerous battles between teachers and parents.

“Censorship in any form is wrong,” said Susan Strand, an Anoka County Health Department nurse. “This [bill] threatens my freedom of speech and my children's freedom of speech. It is imposed theocracy.”

Additional hearings on HF1629 by the House Education Committee are planned later in November at the state Capitol and during the upcoming session that begins Feb. 17.

Do you know?

Hennepin County, established on March 6, 1852, was named in honor of Father Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan missionary, explorer and author born in Belgium around 1640.

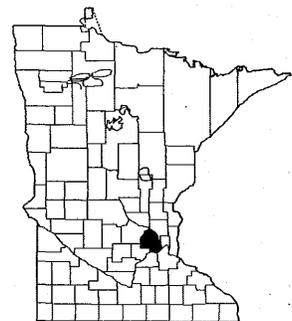
After years of travel throughout much of Europe, Hennepin sailed to Canada in 1675. His traveling partner was Robert Cavalier La Salle, named by some as “the greatest French explorer of the New World.”

In 1678, Hennepin joined a LaSalle expedition to the Great Lakes, and later to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. Their goal: “to unlock the secrets of the “New France.”

But on April 11, 1852, while heading up the Mississippi River, the explorers encountered 33 canoes carrying 120 Dakota Indians. The Indians seized three men — two Frenchmen and Father Hennepin.

For the next eight months, Hennepin lived in captivity with the Dakota near Mille Lacs. He was eventually rescued by explorer Daniel DuLuth. But it was during his captivity that Hennepin made a famous discovery.

In July of 1678, the Dakota allowed Hennepin and a companion, Anthony Augelle, to leave camp on a supply mission. They found an unexpected surprise — the Falls of St. Anthony. Hennepin and his cohorts are said to be the first white men to see the falls, named for Hennepin's patron saint, Anthony of Padua.





Labor

Changing to a civilian economy

In the post-Reagan era, an about-face in military spending philosophy has cost some Minnesotans a job.

Richard Bolan of the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs said "29,500 Minnesota jobs were lost between 1987 and 1989 due to a 29 percent drop in prime defense contracts."

Testifying before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Oct. 30 at the Eagan Municipal Center, Bolan said the defense industry in Minnesota needs to establish alternative-use committees "to plan for an orderly transition away from military dependence."

And he is advocating that the state provide some financial aid to help with the transition of defense workers into the civilian economy.

But Tom Lindquist, director of communications for Unisys, disagrees. "We should let the market system work out this issue," he said, adding that the skills of a defense worker can be used in the civilian economy. In addition, he said less than half of Unisys' employees are classified as defense-related.

Some lawmakers noted that many industries are suffering layoffs and decreased revenue. "Singling out the defense industry seems to be a simplistic solution to something happening every day, in every market," said Rep. Ray Welker (IR-Montevideo).

But Bolan believes otherwise. Two recently completed studies show Minnesota is expected to lose another 3,500 defense-related jobs within the next three years, and a total of 16,000 defense-related positions by 1996. While the youngest and brightest often find work quickly, older employees aren't so lucky, said Bolan.

Many of those workers end up in the dislocated worker program, which was created by the 1990 Legislature. Don Buckner, a member of the Dakota County Private Industry Council, says 80 percent of special project dollars allocated for dislocated workers go to companies with strong defense ties. He asked lawmakers not to see the program as a cost "but as

an investment."

Of 12 recent county projects, eight were defense-related and Buckner's organization administered seven of those projects, he said. A total of 1,718 defense workers were helped in those seven projects and the job placement rate was between 72 and 95 percent. The hourly pay of the new jobs ranged from \$8.10 to \$11.75.

Unisys employees were replaced at slightly higher wages, with a range of \$9.74 to \$12.14 per hour. Buckner says \$1.46 million was spent on former Unisys employees alone.



Technology

Focusing on the 'U'

When stacked against the international competition, the United States "has secured a second-class rating in the high technology industry," said Chuck Denny, vice president of Minnesota-based ADC Corporation. ADC employs 2,500 people, with 1,500 based in Minnesota.

The House Economic Development Committee met Oct. 29 at ADC headquarters in Minnetonka as part of the three-day Suburban Mini-Session. There, Denny and others debated how Minnesota might counter the national tailspin in the high-tech industry. All agreed suc-

cessful penetration of the international market is necessary for corporate survival.

Currently, 15 percent of ADC's business is international. If that figure doesn't double within the next five years, Denny said there will be trouble.

"The day of the free-wheeling American buccaneer is past," said Denny. "Only a few U.S. companies can take on the international competition, and I doubt even they can stay the course."

So where have we gone wrong?

Denny said America has failed to form a partnership with government. The international heavyweights — Germany, Japan, France, and Sweden — have become powerhouses in the high-tech industry with governmental assistance.

"We spend 10 percent of our net revenue on product development research with no guarantee it will be bought by anyone," said Denny. In contrast, foreign competition has little or no "at risk" research. Here in the United States, the only similar contracting exists in the defense industry.

Citing Honeywell as an example, Denny said "their relationship [with the Department of Defense] was so close there was virtually no risk in research dollars."

Jim Johnson, chair of the Minnesota High Technology Council, said he believes Minnesota can be a player in the international arena. The key is in tapping



Members of an Agriculture subcommittee toured Bongards' Creameries Oct. 29 and got a first-hand look at how cheese is made and packaged for distribution across the United States.



Gene Peterson, vice president of corporate research at the Deluxe Corp., explained to legislators that electronic payment methods will become more prevalent in the 1990s. Members of the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee toured Deluxe headquarters in Shoreview Oct. 28.

what Denny calls "the last great American advantage" — our universities.

Minnesota needs one great research university, said Denny. He believes it should be the University of Minnesota. Johnson agreed that there should be a focused research effort.

"As you dissipate research dollars for whatever *good* reason, you lose a competitive edge," said Johnson.

And while the percent of dollars spent on higher education has remained about the same over the last few decades, the system has developed new tentacles. The community colleges, technical colleges, and state university systems have all bloomed.

"Science and technology today require a focus to compete in the international market," said Johnson.

Science and technology

"There's no set of issues more important to the future health of the Minnesota economy than what it does about its investments in science and technology," said G. Edward Schuh, dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Today, the key to national security is economic strength rather than military strength, he said. "And the key to eco-

nomics strength is what we do about our science and technology."

He and several others spoke to the Education Division of the Appropriations Committee Oct. 28 at Anoka Technical College during the three-day Suburban Mini-Session.

Jacques Koppel, president of Minnesota Technology Inc., said that industry's greatest needs to compete in the global marketplace is knowledge and human resources.

"I think its important to know that when technology companies are looking to expand or relocate, one of the first things they look at is what's available from a major research university," he said.

David Powers, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board, also spoke of the link between knowledge and economics. "Economy is knowledge-based, not capital-based," he said.

He cited the results of an annual survey of high school juniors and seniors: "It used to be 8 percent of the students wanted to be engineers; now only 4 percent want to be."

Teaching strategies in science are not the best, he said.

Ettore Infante, provost and former dean of the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota, at the request of Division Chair Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), made suggestions for the

K-12 system that would encourage more students to study math and science.

Carlson said studies show math and science are the most popular subjects in the elementary grades but are the least popular by junior high. Why?

"We're boring them to tears," said Infante.

A recent study showed that in every grade after the first grade, 45 percent of the material in math textbooks was a repetition of what was learned the year before, he said.

"We're not making the subject exciting," said Infante, because the teaching of math and science has become too abstract and removed from events that surround us.

"And we need to raise our expectations as parents and members of the community," he added.

James Johnson, chair of the High Technology Council, told legislators that he wants the issue of technology to become one for public debate — "an election issue."

"We are in trouble in this state. . . . We want to get this policy down to the people — your constituents — so that this state doesn't just have the Twins and the fact that we opened up a brewery to get happy about," he said.

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Redistricting

Congressional boundaries

If a congressional reapportionment plan approved Oct. 30 by the House Redistricting Committee becomes law, Minnesota's federal delegation will get "10 years of guaranteed re-election," said Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka).

The DFL-designed boundary plan for the state's eight congressional districts was approved on an 11-6 party-line vote. IR committee members have labeled the proposal — and the state's legislative district plan approved at the end of the 1991 session — as incumbent protection plans.

Unlike the legislative plan, which created 12 "open" districts, the congressional plan has each of the eight sitting congressmen residing within the proposed district boundaries.

Shifts in population during the 1980s cost rural Minnesota four seats in the state's 134-member House, but the proposed congressional plan maintains the current split of four rural and four metro members.

The 4-4 plan was approved by a federal judicial panel in March 1982. Prior to that time, there was a 5-3 district split, with rural Minnesotans in the majority.

If analyzed using only the often cited "one-person, one-vote" principle to create districts of nearly equal size, the new congressional plan is nearly perfect.

When the total number of Minnesotans is divided by the number of congressional districts, the result is 546,887 — based on U.S. Census data. Five of the eight proposed districts have exactly that many people. The remaining three each have one extra person, at 546,888.

The IR caucus has also developed a congressional plan, but it has not received a hearing before the Redistricting Committee.



The House mini-sessions have led committees to meet in all manner of unusual places, including in a barn at the recent mini-session in the Brainerd lakes area. But the Judiciary Committee may have topped that with its meeting Oct. 28 at the Brooklyn Center Community Center, which was appropriately festooned with Halloween decorations. "This is historic," began Committee Chair Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul). "I think this is the first time we've met underneath two skeletons."

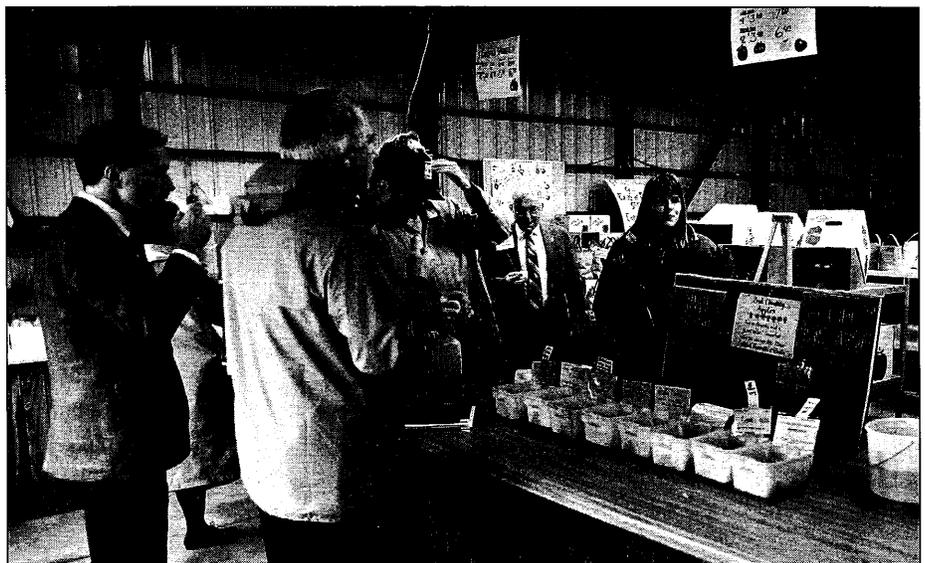
Rochester, Minn., doesn't normally come to mind when you think of the drug capitals of Minnesota. But Brooklyn Park Police Department Sgt. Wade Setter told members of the Judiciary Committee Oct. 28 that the airport in Rochester is now one of the primary sites for flying in drugs from other parts of the country. Why? Because the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension have become so adept at profiling suspected drug dealers at the Mpls./St. Paul International Airport. Dealers have turned to Rochester and the Duluth airport instead, he said.

A member of the Office of Drug Policy apparently had a little trouble with his choice of words when discussing police drug task force policies before the House Judiciary Committee Oct. 28. Dan Bostrom repeatedly referred to staffing levels in terms of "manpower" rather than a more gender neutral term. Bostrom, who was seated before Committee Chair Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), quickly updated his phraseology by using "people power" and "person power."

It's difficult to infiltrate Minnesota's tight-knit heroin community, Brooklyn Park Police Department Sgt. Wade Setter said. Heroin addicts' different physical appearance, and their close-knit society, prevents undercover officers from infiltrating its ranks. "Heroin junkies don't look normal," he said.

House Speaker-designate Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) turned the tables on Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) when Milbert referred to legislative panelists at Simley High School as among the best at the Capitol. "We'll transmit it [that message] to the rest of your colleagues so they know what you think of them, too," joked Long.

Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin) took a bit of good-natured abuse during a school assembly Oct. 30 at Simley High School in Inver Grove Heights. After a student asked where all his cigarette tax



House members got a chance to sample some different apple varieties at the University of Minnesota Arboretum in Chanhassen Oct. 29. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee held a meeting there.

money was being spent, House Speaker-designate Dee Long referred the question to Ogren, the chair of the Taxes Committee. "He looks like the villain, doesn't he?" she asked. Later, Simley senior Jeff Ogren was asked if he was any relation to liberal Paul. "Not at all," said Jeff. Several members later commented that Simley seniors had a decidedly conservative bent.

A **roast beef dinner** was held for House members and staff at the new Shoreview Community Center Oct. 28. The event was hosted by the mayors of the northern suburbs and Stu Alexander of Deluxe Corporation. Following the meal, Mayor Bob Benke of New Brighton began his remarks with, "You may have noted the frequent correlation between the main dish on the menu and the topic of discussion afterwards. . . ." He went on to assure legislators that he was just joking, and that it wouldn't be a "beef session" after all.

Capital punishment could save a lot of time and money, according to a high school student at one of the Suburban Mini-Session forums. He said, "I think that once people are found guilty of committing a murder that they should be put to death right away and not spend any time on death row. Therefore, it would save money right away. It would only take however much electricity it would take to run through a person's body."

When Zubaz, those popular baggy pants with the wild patterns, first came out, they were made by women inmates at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee. "But when the company grew so large that they needed 180,000 dozen pairs per month, there was no way we could keep up with that," said Patt Adair, associate superintendent of the facility.

State lawmakers received qualified praise for their 1991 efforts on property tax reform during a Oct. 29 community forum in Hopkins. Several homeowners told House members they appreciated the end of the "third-tier" rate on property taxes and urged them to continue the reform by establishing a single, flat-rate system. In addition, they urged lawmakers to lower taxes on commercial and

rental property as well. Legislators at the forum said tax reform is far from complete, but that further changes may be a few years away — or at least until after the next election. Said House Speaker-designate Dee Long (DFL-Mpls): "The system we have now was built up over time, changing it is also going to take awhile."

The continuing slide in the nation's economy has state lawmakers concerned they may be facing another round of state budget squabbles similar to the one that dominated the 1991 session. The Department of Finance is set to release its next semi-annual revenue forecast Nov. 26 and most expect the news to be bad. Gov. Arne Carlson said last month that the state may face a \$200 million shortfall next year. But some say the news is even more bleak. "The most optimistic forecast I've heard is a \$300 million shortfall," said Rep. Sally Olsen (IR-St. Louis Park). "But \$500 million is probably more realistic."

"Minnesotans love to gamble," said George Andersen, director of the Minnesota State Lottery. And he has the statistics to prove it. At \$463 per person, Minnesota leads the nation in per capita spending on gambling. The state's closest competitor is Massachusetts, at \$405 per person. Iowa, by comparison, spends only \$121 per capita.

Lotto America sales are in a tailspin nationwide, with all 16 participating states reporting declining sales in fiscal year 1991. Wisconsin was the biggest loser, with sales down by more than 70 percent. Minnesota sales are down by about 45 percent, said George Andersen, the Minnesota State Lottery director.

It's a fact!

Suburban populations are booming, and that means more kids are causing more schools to bulge at the seams.

The state's three senior high schools with the highest enrollment totals are all located in northern suburbs. Anoka Senior High ranks first with nearly 2,700 students. Coon Rapids is a distant second with about 2,200, and Blaine Senior High, built in 1975 in response to booming populations, is a close third with 2,100. All three schools are in Anoka County, the state's fifth-fastest growing county during the 1980s.

Department of Education officials aren't surprised by the numbers. In 1985, Anoka was also ranked first, with 2,757 students. Coon Rapids was second with 2,383, but Rosemount Senior High was third with 2,382. The addition of a new area high school has pushed Rosemount from the top three.

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Mini-Session Forums

Suburban Mini-Session . . . October 28-30, 1991

Students, citizens voice concerns at forums



Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) answered a student's question at the Blaine High School assembly Oct. 28.



High Schools

Simley High School

Wade Berquist wanted to know why tuition rates are rising again at the State University System. Karen Jacobsen asked whether legislators believe doctors should be tested regularly for AIDS. Josh Didier questioned where all the money he shells out for cigarette taxes is being spent. And nearly everyone wanted to know why they can't ride their snowmobiles on Inver Grove Heights city streets anymore.

Those are just a few of the many questions legislators fielded during a two-hour "school assembly" at Simley High School in Inver Grove Heights Oct. 30. Like high school itself, the questions from seniors ran the gamut of human ex-

perience.

Legislators did their best to answer, whether it had anything to do with state government or not. When one student said young people need more places to go, Speaker-designate Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) turned to personal experience.

She said her teenage son said the same thing about Minneapolis and actually drove to a suburb near Inver Grove Heights for entertainment.

But most of the questions came closer to home at the state Capitol.

Tuition costs are rising, students were told, because the state faced a budget shortfall and had to scale back its funding for higher education.

Most legislators on the panel, as did Simley senior Karen Jacobsen, seemed opposed to mandatory AIDS testing of doctors. Reps. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin)

and Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said it's the health care workers who are more at risk than patients.

As for the omnipresent question of where tax dollars go, Ogren, chair of the Taxes Committee, reminded students that it takes about \$5,000 per year just to send each student to school.

There was no easy answer to the snowmobile question, which was a hot topic because Inver Grove Heights city leaders had just recently voted to ban snowmobiles from city streets.

Just as opinions vary among legislators, so, too, do students have contrasting views on a topic that, at first glance, you may think all students would support.

The school assembly began with senior Carie Hertaus speaking out against a proposal that would give 16-year-olds the right to vote, arguing that kids don't

know how they feel at that age.

But classmate Tabitha Nord was greeted with applause when she said, "I think if a 16-year-old has the right to vote, then they should be tried as an adult."

At least a few of the students who spoke up at the high school assembly seemed to welcome the idea of holding minors more accountable for their actions.

Armstrong High School

Competition with the Twins' victory celebration didn't interfere much with the assembly held in the Robbinsdale Armstrong High School auditorium Oct. 29.

Some 375 seniors out of a class of 430 faced a panel of nine House members moderated by House Speaker-designate Dee Long (DFL-Mpls).

Several students were curious about the universal health insurance plan. One wondered why the bill was vetoed by the governor, and whether it will be considered again. Another wanted to know about the cost of the plan.

Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), who supports the bill, said "Many of us are working hard to override that veto when we come back into session."

She conceded that the bill had some shortcomings, one of which was that initially it would have covered only 32,000 of the estimated 370,000 uninsured Minnesotans. But she explained that the plan was scaled back because the money for a larger effort wasn't available.

Rep. Sally Olsen (IR-St. Louis Park), who opposes the bill, said that "funding began with a cigarette tax that was estimated to raise something like \$32.5 million." She said that a large percentage of that cost would have gone "to establish a bureaucracy" rather than to take care of health problems.

"When the plan was fully implemented in 1996 or 1997, the cost was estimated to be around \$500 million to \$700 million," she told the student.

Regarding energy efficiency, another student asked if the Legislature would go further in promoting energy savings than the law enacted in 1991 that requires energy efficient fluorescent lighting in exit signs.

Rep. Jerry Bauerly (DFL-Sauk Rapids) told him that that was only a start, and that other measures taken this year included requiring Northern States Power and municipal utilities to use portions of their revenues to educate the public and to promote energy conservation applications.

One student said he acquired a new awareness of the meaning of "discrimination" when he watched the fervor over the Atlanta Braves fans' "tomahawk chop" during the World Series.

Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji), who has three of the state's largest Indian reservations within his district, told him that "there was a great outcry based on a spiritual barrier the Indians felt had been violated."

"These incidents serve as a reminder that we have to develop more sensitivity, and that we have not gotten out of that shadow of characterizing nationalities and races," said Rep. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple Grove).

Other students talked about lengthening the school year, requiring parents to be notified before a minor can obtain an abortion, prison time for sex offenders, emissions testing requirements, juveniles charged with gun possession, recycling, the abortion pill, and child support enforcement.

Blaine High School

At a school assembly at Blaine High School Oct. 28, legislators also got a chance to field questions from students from Anoka and Coon Rapids who came to participate.

Pointed questions related to mandatory AIDS testing, student representation on school boards, abortion, the drinking age, and outcome-based education.

Some students wanted to lower the voting age, a proposal Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) supports. She's authored HF24, a bill that calling for a constitutional amendment to be placed on the ballot for voters to decide. If approved, it would lower the voting age to 16.

"An irresponsible 16-year old driver is going to do me much more harm than an irresponsible voter of the same age," said Kahn. "Historically, the same arguments I'm hearing against this issue today are

the same ones used to deny women and blacks the right to vote."

Capital punishment drew the greatest emotional response from both lawmakers and the student body.

"What gives you the right to kill someone who commits a violent crime?" asked one student.

"What gave them the right to kill in the first place?" shouted another. With little dissent, the students seemed to favor capital punishment, as does Rep. Bettermann, (IR-Brandon), in some cases.

"I strongly believe the punishment for a crime should fit the crime," said Bettermann. Referring to this past summer's spate of heinous crimes — the killings of Carin Streufert and Melissa Johnson — Bettermann said the death penalty should apply. "They [the killers] have no conscience," she said.

"But a distinction needs to be made," said Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey). "Do you want to punish someone by making them dead, or do you want to prevent further crime?"

The state of Texas, which has the death penalty, Solberg noted, is the national leader in prisoners per capita, and is currently under federal order to build more prison space. "Does the death penalty stop crime? Probably not," he said.

Solberg said the criminal justice system needs to start intervening earlier with troubled children. "When you see problems with a kid in junior high, you're already too late," he said.

Chaska High School

At Chaska High School Oct. 29, the most hotly discussed topics were student work curfews and drunk-driving checkpoints.

"Why should the government intrude on a family decision-making process?" asked one student, explaining that attending school athletic events can also mean late hours for students. "Why can I play for the school football team, but I can't go to work?"

Should the state tell minors they can't work past 11 p.m. on school nights? The House said yes during the 1991 Session, approving such a bill by a 75-51 margin. But the measure later died when it failed to clear the Senate Employment Committee.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount), one of the bill's co-sponsors, said the bill was partly directed at the business community.

"They should adjust to allow minors/students to work reasonable hours," said Ozment.

Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar) voted against the measure. "There's no mention of athletics anywhere. It's selective, it's impractical, and it's not very fair."

Rep. Gary Schafer (IR-Gibbon) said the Minnesota State High School Athletic League is currently examining the possibility of holding more weekend games and limiting the distance traveled to athletic events on school nights.

"Are drunk-driving checkpoints a wise use of taxpayer dollars?" asked another student. Rep. Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville) doesn't think so.

"What's next, and where do we go from here?" she asked. "It's an issue of privacy, and I'm beginning to wonder whether we want to walk too far down that road."

House Speaker Robert Vanasek says it's also an issue of increased police power. He told students we should be careful not to give police too much of it.

"In a different political climate, such a power could easily be abused," said Vanasek. He then told students of the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, where in Grant Park he found himself surrounded by police, and "staring down the wrong end of a bayonet, simply for exercising my constitutional rights."

The assembly finished with students presenting representatives with several bills they had drafted, ranging from dealing with gang violence to term limits for elected officials.

Chaska Principal Chuck Achter thanked lawmakers for listening and encouraged them to return "to spend a day with a student — to see what life is like in today's educational system."



Junior Melissa Hansen questioned legislators at the Oct. 29 "student assembly" at Chaska High School.

Eagan High School

It was obvious that Eagan High School students had done their homework when they met with the Minnesota House of Representatives Oct. 30.

They delivered their carefully written pro and con statements on nine current issues — many centering on education and crime — before a panel of a dozen state legislators and more than 700 juniors and seniors.

Student concerns about education included the law that will make the school year longer beginning in 1995-96, the student work curfew bill that has stalled in each of the last three legislative sessions, cutbacks in education funding, and outcome-based education, which stimulated the most debate.

The system of outcome-based education would allow students to work at their ability levels rather than in the curriculum established for their age group.

"It assumes that all students can learn, but that they learn at different rates," said one student.

"A student in this system would have to learn one area before moving on to the next one," Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) explained.

"We're in a situation now where earning a high school diploma means that

you've put in enough hours sitting in classes, that you have done a sufficient amount of work to pass these classes, and that you do not have to repeat any of the work," she said.

Student proponents of outcome-based education felt that if standards — both academic and social — are set, then the high school diploma will have more power and greater value.

On the other hand, one student thought that some may "slack off" in this system because they would not be motivated to keep up with their class.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) said he fears there will be a lot of "teaching to test." In other words, teachers, knowing students have to pass certain tests, will teach accordingly.

"I have a hard time when I don't pass a test, and I have to keep on studying for that test and learn new material at the same time," said a student who is currently taking an outcome-based class. She was concerned that some people would "never, ever be able to pass a test."

Even though recent brutal killings have rekindled public interest in the death penalty, few favored it as a solution to violent crime.

Rep. Terry Dempsey (IR-New Ulm) said, "The states that have capital punishment at the present time are some of the highest crime states [in the country]. Minnesota hasn't had it [capital punishment] for over 60 years and I don't think that our crime rate has been any greater than that of any of the other states."

A student, convinced that rehabilitation doesn't work, asked whether members thought the death penalty would act as a crime deterrent to criminals.

Rep. Art Seaberg (IR-Eagan) replied, "Studies show that the death penalty is not really a deterrent in crime [because] people don't think about the penalty at the moment they're committing the crime."

Other issues discussed included the requirement that both parents be notified before a minor can obtain an abortion, the abortion pill, and AIDS testing.



College

Lakewood Community College

There should be little doubt that a large number of community college students are "non-traditional" and care deeply about the future of public college education in Minnesota.

No fewer than four women — some with children and on some form of public assistance — spoke Oct. 28 at a college forum at Lakewood Community College to tell legislators of their problems with the welfare system.

Although all spoke highly of the STRIDE program, which helps parents pay for child care so they can work and/or go to school to get off welfare, some were critical of eligibility requirements.

The program requires that parents be on public assistance for at least three years before they are eligible.

"Doesn't that kind of force people to hang out on welfare for three years?" asked one student, who is enrolled in the program.

Student Barb Overholser, while not on STRIDE, is enrolled in the AFDC program. And she questioned why there is such a low cap on the income she is allowed to bring in from a part-time job. Why can't the cap be raised a bit so she could get ahead? she asked.

Although sympathetic, Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar), the former chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and now the majority leader-designate, said there will always be unmet needs.

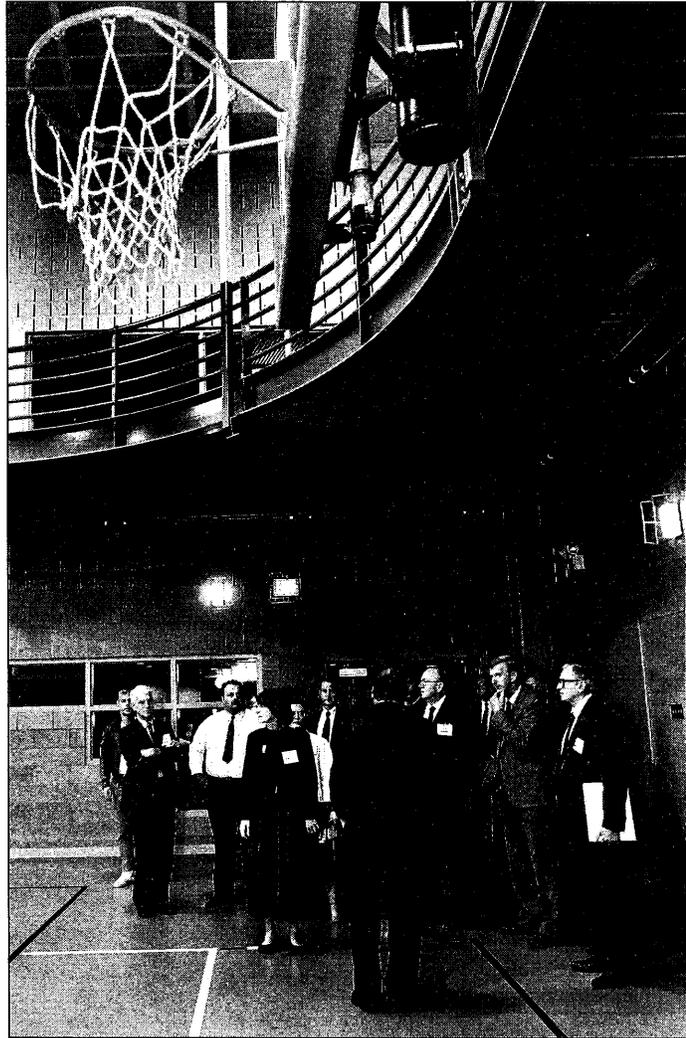
"We don't come near to reaching everybody," he said. "You try to prioritize."

Other students were concerned about the recently approved merger of the community college, technical college, and state university systems by 1995.

Kent Sinclair, president of Lakewood's student senate, questioned whether legislators really listened to students when they lobbied against the proposal during the 1991 session.

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), assured Sinclair that they had, but said Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) forced their hand.

"We had hoped to re-open the negotiations," said Dorn, explaining that the House was against the merger. "Time was running out."



Shoreview's director of Parks and Recreation, Jerry Haffeman, led a group of legislators through the city's new community center Oct. 28. The basketball court with an elevated running track is one feature of the 88,000 square-foot building.



Community

Little Canada

Concern about education was a major focus of the community forum held at the Roseville Area Middle School in Little Canada Oct. 28 in connection with the Suburban Mini-Session.

Challenging classes for gifted students, increased teacher training, and better access to health care were among the suggestions the audience offered.

A number of the people expressed concern about the proposed parent empowerment act, which, if adopted, would allow parents to prevent their children from attending "non-traditional classes" such as those on sex education. Others talked about the lack of opportunities for

gifted children.

Sue Sandidge, who has two children in the Roseville school district, advocated lengthening the school day and enriching the curriculum.

Sandidge told legislators that the average Roseville teacher salary — with benefits — is more than \$50,000 per year.

That money, Sandidge said, "... should be providing us seven classes a day, not six. It should be providing us enriched curriculum. It should be providing us 180 days of education, not 171."

One resident attending the forum expressed concern about funding cuts for metropolitan parks. Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) agreed. The \$6.5 million in regional park funding vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson, she said, "has created a serious problem."

While most comments might result in the need for more revenues, one resident proposed something different.

"If we want to spend less," said White Bear Lake resident Tim Billstrom, "we're going to have to do less. When my boy is 35, how is he going to have a dime left in his paycheck?"

Woodbury

Legislators fielded questions about Northwest Airlines funding, road formulas, job conversion, the higher education merger, school funding, gambling, and worker's compensation rates at the Woodbury community forum Oct. 30.

House Speaker-designate Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) told residents who came to Woodbury High School that the House tax committee "is scrambling to hold down property taxes." The forecast for economic growth in the 1990s is about half what it was in the 1980s, she said.

"We're going to have to make some hard decisions," she told the audience.

When one resident thanked legislators for lowering the highest rate on residential homes, Long said that she is disturbed by the trend over the last 15 years to rely more heavily on the property tax.

She cited the loss of federal funding as the cause, and one which has affected not only the state, but cities and townships as well.

Eagan resident Terry Davis thanked legislators for passing "good legislation" for the environment. Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said the Legislature will hold hearings in December on waste management "to get ideas from people about what the Legislature should be doing." She added that the Legislature also will have a bill "aimed at re-education, recycling, and toxics" in the next session.

Answering a question about how the Legislature proposes to help school districts, House Speaker Robert Vanasek (DFL-New Prague) told the audience that the Legislature has continued to be supportive of education.

"We increased the K-12 budget even though we were facing a severe deficit," said Vanasek. "Historically, the Legislature has had education as its number one priority."

Several Woodbury residents spoke out in opposition to a proposed I-494 interchange within their city's limits. They asked legislators for assistance in side-tracking the interchange.

Woodbury has proposed construction of the interchange in early 1993 to relieve congestion at the city's Valley Creek Road interchange.

Carol Ann Banister, executive director of the East Metro Women's Council, urged legislators to consider incentives that would help communities deal with NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) issues. "Suburban communities are not taking their responsibilities," said Banister. "We need leadership at the state level to build incentives for making decisions that benefit the entire state."

Waste management, airport issues, and affordable housing for low-income residents are some of the issues she said communities should address.

Hopkins

David Sherman wonders how a state that prides itself on its quality of life allows so many people to live without any health care insurance.

"We're not reinventing the wheel here," observed Sherman, a University of Minnesota researcher living in St. Louis Park, during a House community forum Oct. 28.

"Nearly every country has come up with a way to pay for their health care programs. Why can't we?"

State lawmakers recognize the public's growing demand for health care reform, but appear divided on how to go about it.

And despite lawmakers' partisan divisions, the question nearly all of the elected officials want answered is what price the public is willing to pay for whatever program is ultimately approved.

"If taxes have to be higher, I think Minnesotans would be willing to pay it," said Dick Bethke of Minnetonka. "I'm a small business owner and I have to pay all of the insurance for employees by myself. I can't rely on a big corporation to pay it for me. I might have to pay more on one end with higher taxes but I might be able to save it in other areas."

DFLers attending the forum repeated their intent to attempt an override in 1992 of the governor's veto of a health

care access plan that was approved by the 1991 Legislature.

The measure would have provided at least partial coverage for a fraction of the estimated 400,000 uninsured state residents within two years, with comprehensive coverage in place by 1997. It would have been partially financed through additional taxes on cigarettes, but it hadn't been determined how the more comprehensive program would be funded.

Independent-Republicans, however, expressed concern over whether DFL estimates of a \$300 million-a-year price tag for its program is realistic. They say it would cost far more, and believe much of the program's funding likely would have been eaten up by a new bureaucracy within state government.

IRs instead intend to introduce an alternative program prior to start of the 1992 legislative session. "We don't want to just come back and vote against the override," says Rep. Sally Olsen. "We want to come up with something that's realistic."

House Speaker-designate Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) acknowledged that nearly any proposal would have its shortcomings but says without a nationalized health care policy to limit cost, individual states have no alternative but to start developing their own programs.

"I don't think we can afford not to do something," she said.

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Arne H. Carlson 296-3391

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Joanell M. Dyrstad 296-3391

Secretary of State

Joan Anderson Growe ... 296-3266

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Mark B. Dayton 296-2551

State Treasurer

Michael A. McGrath 296-7091

Attorney General

Hubert H. Humphrey III .. 296-6196



Seniors

It's a gray area

St. Anthony Village, sometimes known as a "graying" suburb because it is home to a higher percentage of citizens over the age of 65 than any other community in the Twin Cities suburban area, was an appropriate setting for a senior issues forum Oct. 28.

The event, held at Chandler Place, a 119-unit senior apartment building, was part of the Minnesota House of Representatives' three-day Suburban Mini-Session.

A panel of nine House members led by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) fielded questions and offered advice to the nearly 80 seniors, staffers, and civic leaders who came.

Four of the issues that surfaced during the discussion focused on attitudes toward aging, transportation for the physically impaired, finding places to socialize, and abolishing excessive paperwork.

A recent St. Anthony retiree, Dennis Cavanaugh, was disturbed about what he felt was a pervading attitude regarding seniors and their problems. He told the panel that "there is an assumption that you are immortal, and the elderly are mortal."

He suggested that lawmakers try to empathize with the elderly as they consider their programs.

"We're talking about yourselves, as you approach your own mortality. We're all aging — every single one of us whether we like it or not," he said.

"Since I retired, I sense a tremendous segregation. I no longer am someone because I lost my title . . . I worry about losing my friends; I worry about losing my self-respect because I am alone, cut off from society.

" . . . We have bond issues for grade schools, bond issues for high schools. Why not bond issues for us?" The orientation should be that we're not a problem, we're a part of life, he said. "We want respect."

Roger Blohm, chair of the United Handicapped Federation Transit Task Force, told the panel that "health is fine and housing is fine, but if you can't use them due to the fact that you can't get from point A to point B, you've wasted the tax payers' money."

Since funding for Metro Mobility was cut last year, Blohm asked legislators to consider re-funding the program in 1992.

"Impaired seniors cannot afford their own transportation, so they must use mass transit or Metro Mobility," he said.

Harold Lewis, a retired resident of Spring Lake Park, asked whether a regional senior citizens' center could be built that would serve Fridley, Mounds View, New Brighton, and Spring Lake Park.

Lewis, representing a 21-member task

force composed of representatives from all four communities, said the task force has completed the legwork for the proposed center. He said he believes the project could be built successfully under the authority of a separate senior center service district that would have its own taxing and borrowing authority. Lewis asked legislators to consider such legislation in 1992.

Minnesota's Representation in Washington, D. C.

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Senator
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(202) 225-6211



Residents of Chandler Place and other interested seniors met in St. Anthony Oct. 28 during the Suburban Mini-Session's senior issues forum.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1991 Membership

District/Member/Party Room* Phone 296-**

45A	Abrams, Ron (IR)	209	9934
10B	Anderson, Bob (IR)	317	4946
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	585	4936
30B	Anderson, Richard H. (IR)	239	8635
6A	Battaglia, David P. (DFL)	377	2190
18B	Bauerly, Jerry J. (DFL)	337	5377
56B	Beard, Pat (DFL)	565	3135
6B	Begich, Joseph R. (DFL)	477	5063
16B	Bertram, Jeff (DFL)	571	4373
11B	Bettermann, Hilda (IR)	315	4317
33B	Bishop, Dave (IR)	357	0573
41B	Blatz, Kathleen (IR)	281	4218
35B	Bodahl, Larry D. (DFL)	423	8872
8B	Boo, Ben (IR)	311	2228
11A	Brown, Chuck (DFL)	569	4929
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	379	4255
47B	Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	575	3709
60A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294
21B	Cooper, Roger (DFL)	545	4346
9B	Dauner, Marvin K. (DFL)	581	6829
32B	Davids, Greg (IR)	331	9278
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	371	5158
23A	Dempsey, Terry (IR)	267	9303
21A	Dille, Steve (IR)	227	4344
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	533	3248
42B	Erhardt, Ron (IR)	241	4363
67A	Farrell, Jim (DFL)	407	4277
24B	Frederick, Marcel "Sal" (IR)	303	5513
32A	Frerichs, Donald L. (IR)	389	4378
40A	Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	539	5375
27A	Girard, Jim (IR)	213	5374
9A	Goodno, Kevin P. (IR)	327	5515
61A	Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	375	0173
17B	Gruenes, Dave (IR)	201	6316
33A	Gutknecht, Gil (IR)	309	9249
56A	Hanson, Jeff O. (DFL)	429	3018
30A	Hartle, Dean (IR)	255	5368
13A	Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	413	4333
31A	Haukoos, Bob (IR)	279	8216
63B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	451	3824
50B	Heir, Phil (IR)	329	2439
40B	Henry, Joyce (IR)	323	7158
41A	Hufnagle, Paul C. (IR)	229	7803
29A	Hugoson, Gene (IR)	221	3240
49B	Jacobs, Joel (DFL)	485	4231
5B	Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	597	0172
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246
57B	Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)	577	8659
19B	Jennings, Loren G. (DFL)	349	0518
51A	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	515	5510
4A	Johnson, Robert A. (DFL)	345	5516
34A	Johnson, Virgil J. (IR)	207	1069
58B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	369	4257
29B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240
36A	Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072
4B	Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	449	2451
43B	Knickerbocker, Jerry (IR)	283	4315
18A	Koppendrayner, LeRoy J. (IR)	233	6746
53A	Krinkie, Philip B. (IR)	211	2907
12B	Krueger, Richard "Rick" (DFL)	403	3201
19A	Lasley, Harold (DFL)	433	5364
45B	Leppik, Peggy (IR)	225	7026
2A	Lieder, Bernard L. (DFL)	527	5091
48A	Limmer, Warren E. (IR)	301	5502
59A	Long, Dee (DFL)	459	0171
14B	Lourey, Becky J. (DFL)	421	4308
50A	Lynch, Teresa (IR)	313	5369
36B	Macklin, Bill (IR)	307	6926
65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	507	9714
17A	Marsh, Marcus (IR)	203	7806

District/Member/Party Room* Phone 296-**

22A	McEachern, Bob (DFL)	343	4237
63A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	567	4342
55B	McPherson, Harriet (IR)	245	5511
39B	Millbert, Robert P. (DFL)	579	4192
38A	Morrison, Connie (IR)	387	4212
7A	Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
62A	Nelson, Ken (DFL)	367	4244
12A	Nelson, Syd G. (DFL)	551	4293
54B	Newinski, Dennis R. (IR)	223	1188
66B	O'Connor, Rich M. (DFL)	593	7807
14A	Ogren, Paul Anders (DFL)	443	7808
44A	Olsen, Sally (IR)	261	3964
2B	Olson, Edgar (DFL)	525	4265
28B	Olson, Katy (DFL)	549	5373
16A	Omann, Bernie (IR)	295	6612
22B	Onnen, Tony (IR)	277	1534
64B	Orenstein, Howard (DFL)	521	4199
59B	Orfield, Myron W. (DFL)	553	9281
66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	591	4224
23B	Ostrom, Don (DFL)	401	7065
37B	Ozment, Dennis (IR)	287	4306
42A	Pauly, Sidney (IR)	273	7449
52B	Pellow, Richard M. (IR)	215	0141
34B	Pelowski, Gene, Jr. (DFL)	531	8637
20A	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	523	4228
39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	501	6828
31B	Reding, Leo J. (DFL)	537	4193
46A	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	439	4176
57A	Rice, James I. (DFL)	381	4262
25B	Rodosovich, Peter G. (DFL)	445	8237
5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	473	0170
52A	Runbeck, Linda C. (IR)	251	4226
58A	Sarna, John J. (DFL)	563	4219
35A	Schafer, Gary L. (IR)	217	8634
47A	Scheid, Linda (DFL)	583	3751
48B	Schreiber, Bill (IR)	247	4128
38B	Seaberg, Arthur W. (IR)	393	3533
44B	Segal, Gloria M. (DFL)	417	9889
51B	Simoneau, Wayne (DFL)	365	4331
61B	Skoglund, Wesley J. (DFL)	409	4330
43A	Smith, Steve (IR)	353	9188
3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	453	2365
1B	Sparby, Wally (DFL)	351	9918
53B	Stanius, Brad (IR)	259	5363
27B	Steensma, Andy G. (DFL)	471	4336
26A	Sviggum, Steven A. (IR)	237	2273
55A	Swenson, Doug (IR)	321	4124
10A	Thompson, Loren P. (DFL)	529	5387
37A	Tompkins, Eileen J. (IR)	231	5506
67B	Trimble, Steve (DFL)	491	4201
1A	Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	335	9635
15A	Uphus, Sylvester (IR)	253	5185
54A	Valento, Don J. (IR)	359	7153
25A	Vanasek, Robert (DFL)	463	4229
64A	Vellenga, Kathleen (DFL)	509	8799
62B	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	517	4200
26B	Waltman, Bob (IR)	289	9236
49A	Weaver, Charlie (IR)	243	1729
60B	Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	431	7152
20B	Welker, Ray (IR)	291	5066
15B	Welle, Alan W. (DFL)	437	6206
13B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
28A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	411	5505

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul MN 55155

**All area codes are (612)

Mar. 1, 1991

Minnesota State Senate 1991 Membership

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone 296-**
22 Adkins, Betty A. (DFL)	G-29 Cap	5981
29 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	G-24 Cap	5713
41 Belanger, William V., Jr. (IR)	107 SOB	5975
32 Benson, Duane D. (IR)	147 SOB	3903
17 Benson, Joanne (IR)	153 SOB	6455
11 Berg, Charles A. (DFL)	328 Cap	5094
60 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	G-9 Cap	4261
21 Bernhagen, John (IR)	113 SOB	4131
16 Bertram, Joe (DFL)	323 Cap	2084
33 Brataas, Nancy (IR)	139 SOB	4848
14 Chmielewski, Florian (DFL)	325 Cap	4182
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	G-27 Cap	5931
50 Dahl, Gregory L. (DFL)	235 Cap	5003
18 Davis, Charles R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap	2302
30 Day, Richard H. (IR)	105 SOB	9457
27 DeCramer, Gary M. (DFL)	309 Cap	6820
5 Dicklich, Ronald R. (DFL)	235 Cap	2859
4 Finn, Harold "Skip" R. (DFL)	321 Cap	6128
61 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	227 Cap	4274
51 Frank, Don (DFL)	225 Cap	2877
20 Frederickson, David J. (DFL)	306 Cap	5640
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (IR)	143 SOB	8138
8 Gustafson, Jim (IR)	115 SOB	4314
38 Halberg, Charles C. (IR)	133 SOB	4120
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	G-29 Cap	6153
54 Hughes, Jerome M. (DFL)	328 Cap	4183
15 Johnson, Dean E. (IR)	131 SOB	3826
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap	8881
19 Johnson, Janet (DFL)	303 Cap	5419
36 Johnston, Terry D. (IR)	135 SOB	4123
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	G-27 Cap	5285
53 Knaak, Fritz (IR)	149 SOB	1253
57 Kroening, Carl W. (DFL)	124 Cap	4302
55 Laidig, Gary W. (IR)	141 SOB	4351

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone 296-**
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	G-24 Cap	3205
10 Larson, Cal (IR)	145 SOB	5655
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap	4136
47 Luther, William P. (DFL)	205 Cap	8869
63 Marty, John J. (DFL)	G-9 Cap	5645
48 McGowan, Patrick D. (IR)	129 SOB	2159
26 Mehrkens, Lyle G. (IR)	127 SOB	8075
49 Merriam, Gene (DFL)	122 Cap	4154
39 Metzgen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap	4370
2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap	2577
44 Mondale, Ted A. (DFL)	325 Cap	7-8065
34 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap	5649
25 Neuville, Thomas M. (IR)	123 SOB	1279
52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap	4334
43 Olson, Gen (IR)	125 SOB	1282
65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	G-24 Cap	1802
37 Pariseau, Pat (IR)	109 SOB	5252
31 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap	9248
58 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	306 Cap	7809
56 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	111 Cap	7-8060
62 Ranum, Jane (DFL)	317 Cap	7-8061
46 Reichgott, Ember D. (DFL)	301 Cap	2889
35 Renneke, Earl W. (IR)	117 SOB	4125
40 Riveness, Phil J. (DFL)	309 Cap	7-8062
12 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	G-9 Cap	7-8063
13 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap	4875
7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap	4188
59 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	G-27 Cap	4191
42 Storm, Donald A. (IR)	119 SOB	6238
1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap	8660
45 Traub, Judy (DFL)	235 Cap	7-8064
28 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	122 Cap	5650
66 Waldorf, Gene (DFL)	317 Cap	3809

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MINNESOTA I N D E X

Nintendo Culture

Number, in millions, of Macintosh computers in United States households, December 1990	6
Number, in millions, of Nintendo Entertainment Systems (NES)	31.9
Estimated number of NES units in Minnesota households	519,000
as a percentage of all Minnesota households	32
Percent of adults who are primary Nintendo users, six-month period ending December 1988	27
six-month period ending December 1990	47
Percent of all Nintendo users who are college graduates	30
Percent of all Nintendo users whose annual income is greater than \$30,000	47
greater than \$60,000	13
Number of available cartridges for the Nintendo	427
Number of NES 'game counselors,' who offer tips on game play to callers	100
Average number of calls fielded by counselors, per week	155,000
Number of <i>Nintendo Power</i> magazine subscribers, in millions	1.5
Number of <i>Newsweek</i> subscribers, in millions	3.5

Sources: MN State Lottery, Nintendo of America, Inc., Newsweek

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