Globalization means Twin Cities must strive to be best
by Janet Dudrow

That means that companies, individuals and government will have to work harder than they have in recent decades if the Twin Cities is to prosper in the future.

The global economy
Globalization isn’t “globaloney,” as some skeptics have charged. It signals a change in the entire context of economic activity, a change not easily captured by trade statistics alone.

International trade is growing faster than every domestic economy in the world—twice the growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product among industrialized countries. The fastest-growing markets are abroad, sometimes in unexpected

Continued on page 6

State performance reports need more time to evolve
by Marilyn Jackson

The 1993 Minnesota Legislature required 20 of the state’s executive agencies to publish annual performance reports, so legislators, the public and state workers can judge the agencies’ effectiveness. Proponents hoped the law would yield better information about state government, which, in turn, would improve legislative budgeting, policymaking and agency management, while increasing accountability to the public.

So far, legislators and the executive branch have maintained their commitment to performance reporting. But the process has been more time-consuming, costly and difficult than expected and the reports less useful to legislators than desired. As a result, the future of Minnesota’s performance reports is uncertain. Much depends on the quality and use of the next batch of reports, due November 30.

Legislators enacted the performance reporting law quietly, with little discussion or debate. They were moved by some frustration with the quality of information available to them in making budget decisions, a dose of skepticism about the performance information branch have maintained their commitment to performance reporting. But the process has been more time-consuming, costly and difficult than expected and the reports less useful to legislators than desired. As a result, the future of Minnesota’s performance reports is uncertain. Much depends on the quality and use of the next batch of reports, due November 30.

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Continued on page 5

Who should adapt: kids to schools or schools to kids?
by Ted Kolderie

A third of Minnesota eighth-graders can’t pass a basic reading test and a quarter fail a basic math test. People are now asking why and what it means. Mostly it’s adults talking to each other, mostly guessing.

Why doesn’t somebody ask the kids?

Nobody does, much. Certainly not when it comes to deciding what to do with the K-12 system. The kids don’t pay, the kids don’t vote and (legally, before they’re 16) the kids can’t quit. So there’s no real need to listen to what they think.

Still, it might be a good thing to do. The dominant idea coming through policy now is that (a) school is OK, (b) the kids are the problem and (c) it’s time now to make the students learn. Set (high) standards, measure performance and don’t let ’em graduate if they don’t measure up.

It could be a disaster...because “school” is not OK.

You won’t hear that from educators, however. You can hear about that only from the kids. So it’s a problem that nobody listens to kids.

Part of the reluctance is because of what the kids might say.

Continued on page 4
Viewpoint
by Lyle Wrye

West Central Tribune (Willmar) (Mar.) dismissed (June 12) the state’s higher education commissioners for finding that Sen. Roger Moe (RD-Chaska) may have violated the law by laying state employees political work perform political work on public time. The practice takes place every day in every state capital, not to mention in the private sector. It’s called the University’s major deputy shall resign. It’s called the University’s major deputy shall resign. Minnesota National Tribune called on (June 17) the Board of Regents to take action to stay such practices. The paper said (June 18), “It’s time to bring the Board of Regents under a new president who will be expected to do his job.”

Star Tribune (June 14) while political work can never be completely banned from legislative operations, “Don’t dismiss their ability to reprimand a ‘member of the club’. It’s little wonder why other public trust in government continues to dwindle.”

Hibbing Daily Tribune in Tribune (June 29) the sanctions against Chmielewski: “Little more than a momentary political squawk.”

Fargo Forum criticized (June 21) Chmielewski for not participating in the state’s Senate for its inability “to reprimand a ‘member of the club’. It’s little wonder why other public trust in government continues to dwindle.”

The Minnesota Journal
Publisher—Lyle Wrye
Editor—Gary M. Schneider
Contributing Editors—Ted Kolderie, Mark Urdahl, Tari Kabara, Sharyn Skoglund, Ray Heyon

Taxes

Continued from page 2

percent above the U.S. average, but even lower than the other 50 percent of property owners, who pay

Two-fifths of state tax dollars and homesteads alike...Cabin.

We calculated the tax on a $70,000 and a $150,000 cabin in a typical rural area of each state. Minnesota’s $70,000 cabin ranked fourth, 64 percent over the U.S. average. Minnesota’s $150,000 cabin ranked 26 percent over the U.S. average. Generally speaking, the effective tax rate on a $70,000 cabin is 108 percent higher than that of a comparable homestead. Minnesota’s $150,000 cabin is 25 percent over the $70,000 homestead and 2.5 percent on the remaining value. This is in contrast to one percent in 1974 and 47 percent in 1984. Thai value is being homesteaded.

The Minnesota legislature has already enacted legislation reducing the first-tier cabinet rates. The $200 limit on the first-tier rate was increased to $500 in 1995. Minnesota classified cabin property at two different exemption amounts. The first exemption was $300. The second exemption was $70,000. The state’s higher education commissioners was $70,000. The state’s higher education commissioners was $70,000.

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Using a 70 percent assumption for the personal property component, Minnesota’s order of $1,307 in property taxes instead of $70,000 cabin would have paid $150,000 cabin property at 1.5 percent on the remaining value. This is in contrast to one percent in 1974 and 47 percent in 1984. Thai value is being homesteaded.

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I think it’s kids or the schools? What do you think? What (the shops, Central, Drew, ‘dumb graduahg has on the mk achievern~

The culture of commercialism, permissiveness, sex, and media puts terrible stress on the kids now in their schools. Misti Snow runs the MindWorks project for the Star Tribune. She asks kids questions. They write answers, which the paper publishes. “Over the last 13 years I’ve read more than a half-million letters from students, first grade to 12th,” she said. She gets her responses from the children by the year has grown increasingly dark. Many adolescents either ignore or simplify reality to understand the complexities of children’s lives today. She is a book about the difficulties facing teen- aged females—many related to the atmosphere in schools—has been on the New York Times bestseller list for more than a year.

The pressures of the youth culture level and lifestyle go down in school—especially in the African American community.

Despite this, many students who are motivated do well. But for the most part, urban schools in inner cities, the old methods of traditional school—the teacher filling the minds of students with facts—are prevalent and are not working. A 1995 report, “What Works? Ask the Students” by the Minnesota Department of Education, came to the same conclusions. (For a copy call 297-1875.)

Kids are unmotivated now because they don’t see how what they learn to want, is he convinced, and are needed for more such challenging and relevant experiences than were once offered them. A 1995 report, "What Works? Ask the Students" by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has come to the same conclusions. (For a copy call 297-1875.)

Although youth culture levels and lifestyles vary, the general trend is that many urban schools are not working and are failing to meet the needs of students. This is particularly true for students from low-income families, who are more likely to attend schools with high concentrations of poverty.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has been working to improve the quality of education in urban schools. MDE has developed a framework for urban education that includes the following key components:

1. High expectations for all students:
   - All students will be expected to achieve at high levels.
   - High expectations will be communicated to all students and families.

2. Rigorous academic standards:
   - All students will be expected to meet high academic standards.
   - Rigorous standards will be developed to ensure that all students are challenged and supported.

3. Effective professional development:
   - Teachers will receive ongoing professional development that is focused on improving student achievement.
   - Professional development will be aligned with high academic standards.

4. Adequate resources for all students:
   - Schools will have the necessary resources to support high achievement for all students.
   - Adequate resources will include adequate funding, technology, and facilities.

5. Effective family involvement:
   - Families will be actively involved in their children’s education.
   - Families will be supported in their role as partners in education.

These components are designed to create a school environment that is conducive to high achievement for all students. MDE is working with school districts to implement these components in their schools.

In the spring of 1993, Harkins at the University of Minnesota asked 260 students in the 9th grade of Minneapolis public schools, fourth to 12th grade, to believe the superintendent in Minneapolis that students should be improved in the schools. They wrote him their suggestions. He found that, regardless of school or socioeconomic status, the students, the teachers and the administrators all felt they had little say in their school.

This achievement test thing has me worried. It has the parents scared. It’s time to get our parents, experts and ask the little buggy wagons what they think it.
The average fare per passenger mile in 1994 was about nine percent lower than in 1979. At the major airports that GAO reviewed, fares declined at 36 of 51 large-community airports, 19 of the 38 medium-size-community airports, and 18 of the 25 large-community airports.

Companies are "unbundling," the practice of providing fewer workers are needed. Firms are turning to new technologies and breaking down the barriers that kept them apart. The hub of Midwestern international trade.

Globally, Thriving Locally: What should we achieve that goal? Part two of this series continues in next month's MinnesotaJournal.

How should we achieve that goal? Part two of this series continues in next month's MinnesotaJournal. Tune in for a discussion of how the greater Twin Cities region should position itself among global cities, a six-point agenda for the region's economic future on July 23, 1996.

The hub of Midwestern international trade.

The Twin Cities region is behind the curve in embracing information technology.

The Twin Cities region is behind the curve in embracing information technology.
School facilities planning missing for region, state

What, me plan? If there is one thing Minnesotans do comparatively well, it’s plan. This is particularly true of our infrastructure, with one notable exception—school facilities.

Enrollment projection, facility capacity and future demand is by no means an exact science—but no less so than transportation planning. Unlike transportation, however, there is no body or agency charged with thinking about current capacity and future demand of K-12 schools for the metro region or state. Instead, school facility planning and construction takes place, as Minnesota House Education Committee member Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) put it, “when 200 or 300 students show up and district officials say, ‘What should we do with them?’”

Yet in the last 10 years, metro school districts metro received approval (either internally or through voter referendum) for over $2 billion worth of new construction, remodeling and other capital improvements, according to the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Metro school districts are in the midst of an enrollment surge from the “echo boom” generation, which is expected to peak in about 2001. Kelso fears that once this wave peaks, the region might find itself overbuilt, much like it did in the 1980s, when dozens of schools closed in the fully developed area while new schools were built in nearby districts. “Taxpayers have suffered through lack of planning in the past,” she said.—Ron Wirtz.

Day care center, doctor’s office, music lesson, grocery store—and that’s just on the way home from work. The working mom’s familiar drill is the main force behind the growth in solo commuting, according to the Urban Mobility Corporation.

Between 1980 and 1990, women’s share of the work force grew from 51 percent to 57 percent—and the biggest increase was among mothers with young children. The number of miles driven by women increased 49 percent, while the number of miles driven by men increased only 19 percent. Another study by the U.S. Department of Labor confirmed that women—especially working women with young children—are more likely to drive alone than men. One implication is that imposing even steep disincentives to solo commuting, such as making single-occupancy parking more expensive or charging congestion fees for peak-hour travel, might have little effect. The reason: Driving would still cost less than additional child care.

All the more reason to look at non-transportation strategies, such as flexible work scheduling and telecommuting, to solve some of our transit problems.—Janet Dudrow.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, in its legislative candidate questionnaire, asks candidates if they will support an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to allow revenue from future fuel tax increases to be used for roads or bus transportation. (The Constitution does not currently allow fuel tax revenues to be used for non-highway purposes.) The business community believes, says the Chamber, that the dedication of fuel tax revenues to support transportation, along with highway ways. Revenues from the current tax would continue to be dedicated for highway projects only.—Betty Wilson.

A new Minnesota Taxpayers Association study makes an impressive case that Minnesota’s commercial-industrial (C-I) property taxes are high—not only compared to other states, but also compared to Minnesota’s residential property taxes. (See report excerpts on pages 2 and 3.)

Does that mean Minnesota’s C-I property taxes should be lowered? Possibly. But merely tinkering with the system—lowering the tax rates on C-I property, for example—would miss part of the problem, as the Citizens League pointed out in its last major property tax study, A First Class Property Tax System, in 1987.

While expressing some concern about the level of C-I taxes, the League focused on the unevenness of the “break” given to homestead and other property taxed at favorable rates. If a city has little or no C-I property onto which the tax burden can be shifted, such a break is minimal. Right next door, however, another community may have a high proportion of its tax base in C-I property, resulting in a hefty break to favored property.

Don’t keep tinkering with a system that depends on hidden, uneven shifting of tax burdens, the League said. Tax all property at the same rate and then decide in an up-front way if the state needs to levy an add-on statewide tax on C-I property. The proceeds of such a statewide tax could be used to help the burden moving to a one-class school system. The League would put on home-stead and other classes of currently favored property—perhaps through better targeted relief programs. Still seems like a good plan nine years later.—Dana Schroeder.

According to the National Science Foundation, 44 percent of the college freshmen who said they intended to major in a natural science or engineering subject had switched to other majors by the time they were seniors. That’s a higher attrition rate than for other major fields.

What gives? Dr. Rama Murthy, professor of geology and geophysics and director of undergraduate advising for the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Technology (IT), said a pervasive culture of fear of science and math is likely part of the problem. The workload demands of science and engineering courses are typically higher and many students “get panicked at the first experience of not doing well and then quit science and switch to another subject,” he said.

Dr. Fred Zimmerman, director of graduate programs in manufacturing and engineering at the University of St. Thomas, said another possible explanation is that students’ high school preparation is inadequate. “The education system in the U.S. is so weak that it forces the engineering schools to devote the first two years to teaching remedial courses—and they’re boring,” Zimmerman said. “Engineering students don’t get to the interesting stuff until the third year.”

Whatever the reasons, the attrition rate should prompt concern. While the percentage of college students majoring in engineering is declining in the U.S., it is increasing in China, Eastern Europe, India, Latin America and Russia, according to Zimmerman. More than half of those who receive doctoral degrees in science and engineering from U.S. universities have student visas. And the world’s second-largest pool of scientifically trained, English-speaking people is in India.—J.D.

“Take Note” contributors include Minnesota Journal and Citizens League staff members and Betty Wilson, a freelance writer and former Star Tribune political writer.
Welcome
New
Members

Mike Gair
George McMahon
Richard T.
Murphy, Sr.
Tim Rogers
Brian Swanson
Adrienne A.
Wickstrom

THANK YOU
RECRUITER
Marie Grimm

Nearl 600 Citizens League members cast their ballots during the League's annual election of the Board of Directors.

Elected this year for terms that expire in 1999 are: Mary Anderson, Golden Valley Mayor; Cal Clark, Economic Development Director, Utilicorp United in Minnesota; Suzanne Fuller-Terrill, Associate Director, General Mills Foundation; Peter Gove, Vice President, Corporate Relations, St. Jude Medical, Inc.; Marie Grimm, independent consultant; Pam Neary, doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota; Matthew Ramadan, Executive Director, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council; Christine Roberts, Deputy to the Chancellor for Public Affairs, MN State Colleges and Universities.

Mary Anderson was elected to her second consecutive three-year term. Four of the newly elected directors (Gove, Grimm, Neary and Roberts) are finishing one-year stints as appointed Board members. Ramadan and Fuller-Terrill are new to the League Board.

The newly-elected directors will assume their positions at the annual transitional Board meeting which is scheduled for August 27, 1996 at the Nicollet Island Inn. Officers for the 1996-97 year will be elected by the new Board at that meeting.

Thank you to the retiring Board members: Peter Bell, Chuck Denny and Penny Hunt and past presidents Becky Malkerson, John Brandl and Kent Eklund. That's a lot of experience and leadership leaving the Board this year. Many thanks to them for their great service to the League and to the community.
Mind-Opener topics cover all the bases—and score some runs too

Nearly 2,000 people attended the 36 Mind-Opener meetings held this season, an average of 53 per meeting.

There were many great moments during this very successful season. But undoubtedly the highlight of the season was the record breaking series (for attendance) on regional growth which featured speakers from Toronto, Portland and Indianapolis.

Here’s a list of the speakers and topics for the 1995-96 Mind-Opener series:

Communities vs. Crime:
Robert Olson, Minneapolis Police Chief; Richard Solum, Hennepin County District Court; Frank Wood, Commissioner, MN Department of Corrections.

The Federal Spending Crunch:
Coral Houle, Bloomingtion Mayor; Maria Gomez, Commissioner, MN Department of Human Services; Ann Schuler, Acting Commissioner, MN Department of Education; Peter McLaughlin, Chair, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners; James Denn, Commissioner, MN Department of Transportation.

Minnesota Higher Education:
Making the Grade?: Reverend Dennis Dease, President, University of St. Thomas; Nils Hasselmo, President, University of Minnesota; Judith Eaton, Chancellor, MN State Colleges and Universities.

Government and Professional Sports:
Art Rolnick, Senior Vice President & Director of Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; Jay Weiner, Staff Writer, StarTribune; Wheelock Whitney, Chairman, Whitney Management Company and part owner of the Minnesota Vikings.

Senior Health Care at the Crossroads:
Deborah Paone, Vice President of Member Services, National Chronic Care Consortium; Patsy Riley, Vice President of Government Programs, Allina Health System; Elaine Timmer, Assistant Commissioner, MN Department of Human Services; Jeanne Lally, Vice President, Continuum Operations.

Fairview Health System.
The Youth Community:
Laura Lee Geraghty, Director, Healthy Communities for Youth Initiative, Search Institute; Colleen Moriarty, Executive Director, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board; Delroy Calhoun, Director, Bethlehem Community Center; Kathy Marker, Youth Development Specialist, YMCA.

Moderators keep things moving
Thanks to the moderators who helped make this yet another successful season: Jim Terwedo, Mike Christenson, Tony Morley, Bob de la Vega, Rick Heydinger, Buzz Cummins, Jane Vanderpoel, Jean King, Barbara Lukermann, Tom Swain, Kent Eklund, Marie Grimm, Milda Hedblom, Steve Kelley, Jim Dorsey, Curt Johnson and Jan Hively.

The Information Revolution:
Randy Young, Government Accounts Manager, MEANS, Inc.; Pat Kovel-Jarboe, former Coordinator for Distance Education, University of Minnesota; Sheldon Mains, Coordinator, Minnesota E-Democracy.

Policing the 'Net:
Mick Souder, Internet Curriculum Specialist, TIES, and President, Minnesota Citizens On-Line; Hubert Humphrey III, Attorney General, State of Minnesota.

A Tale of Three Cities:
Managing Urban Growth:
Phil Wickern, University of Manitoba; Ken Greenberg, Berridge Lewinberg Greenberg Dark Gabor Ltd.; Beverly Stein, Chair, Multnomah County (Portland, OR) Board of Commissioners; John Krauss, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, Indiana University; David Gurin, Acting Commissioner of Planning, Metropolitan Toronto.

Workforce 2000 and the Harder-to-Employ:
Steve Rothschild, Founder and President, Twin Cities RISE!; David Johnson, Director, National Transition Network, Institute of Community Integration, University of Minnesota; Jane Samargia, Executive Director, HIRED.

Tired of the quality of political campaigns?
If so, the Minnesota Compact wants you. Earlier this year a coalition of civic groups launched the Minnesota Compact, a project designed to raise the level of discourse in political campaigns.

The Minnesota Compact challenges politicians and journalists to a higher standard of political discourse. But at its heart it’s really about reinvigorating active citizenship. The goal is to encourage Minnesotans to participate in citizen conversation groups that will discuss candidates and issues.

Compact organizers are organizing these citizen conversation groups. If you would be willing to host a group in your home on the night of the Senate and/or House debates scheduled for September and October, please call the Minnesota Compact Coalition at 612-625-2530. Or write the Compact, c/o the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455. You can also e-mail (compact@tc.umn.edu) or visit the web page (http://www.umn.edu/compact).

Thanks to the Election Committee
Ever wonder what happens to your ballot when you fold it up and put it in that tiny envelope?

An Election Committee, appointed by the Board, removes each ballot, tallies up each nominee’s total and certifies the final results. Over the years a few “regulars” have volunteered for the Election Committee, making the last Friday in June an enjoyable day for the staff as the volunteers do the important work of overseeing the election results while renewing old friendships.

Members of this year’s Election Committee were: Peggy Alnes, Ruth Hass, John Knutson, Patricia Leary, John Parsons, Bill Tarbell and Gertrude Ulrich.

Thank you!