



We build Pride on the Southside

NOKOMIS EDITION

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

JUNE 2019

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Justine Damond: Post mortem

BY TONY BOUZA

The Damond case is a one-in-several-decades of events. Bound to be pored over, examined, analyzed and judged. I admit to rapt fascination with its facets.

Frequently overlooked—and to my regret, by me—is the origin of it all.

Justine Damond was coming to the rescue of a human being she believed to be a victim of assault. Ms. Damond deserves a medal and I'd have awarded her one posthumously.

The case is a potpourri of failures—notwithstanding a settlement that at least tried to make partial amends.

From the beginning the shooter should've been recognized as having committed a murder. Instead, the victim is deprived of her personhood by being called “the threat.” The driver was an accomplice, who not only walked but stonewalled the inquiry and supported the killer.

In order to justify such a shooting there must be a real danger of deadly injury. So the cops manufactured one, demonized it by calling it “the threat” and cast a heroine under the bus. The jury did not buy it.

The press—America's foremost institution—was suppressed. Jefferson

See Bouza, page 6



The sad deterioration of our parks

BY ED FELIEN

On Friday, May 31, Superintendent Al Bangoura and Commissioner AK Hassan celebrated the opening of new swing sets and sod replanting at Peavey Park. It was a gloriously staged event with television cameras and much self-congratulation.

Earlier that week I had sent Bangoura an email talking about the sad deterioration of Powderhorn Park, the grass growing over tennis courts all over South Minneapolis and the neglect of Hiawatha Golf Course. I asked to meet with him for an interview. The Trust for Public Land ranking of parks in the U.S. had just come out, and Minneapolis had dropped from No.1 to No. 3, behind Washington, D.C., and St. Paul. In spite of the decline in ranking, Bangoura

began his remarks by saying, “We are the best park system in the country. We're number one.”

I asked him after the ceremony if I might interview him about the Park Board's plans to flood the Hiawatha Golf Course. He vigorously shook my hand and assured me he wanted to meet with me. I sent him the following email: “Hello Superintendent Bangoura, It was a pleasure to meet you this afternoon, and thank you for the invitation to meet with you to discuss the future of Hiawatha Golf Course. If you have not already read it, I strongly recommend you read the White Paper by SaveHiawatha18. I look forward to our discussion. Ed Felien.”

I have not received an invitation to interview the Superintendent.

I asked Commissioner

Hassan what he thought of the future of Hiawatha Golf Course, since that is one of the precious gems in the crown of our system that is entrusted to his care. He said he'd been out of town and hadn't had the chance to return any of my emails. I asked him for an interview and followed up by sending him another email. He must be out of town again because he hasn't returned the last email.

The Park Board is intent on reducing pumping at Hiawatha Golf Course. They know this will flood the course. Assistant Superintendent for Planning Michael Schroeder has said the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) told him the Park Board had to reduce pumping. SaveHiawatha18 says, “The DNR has stated that they have not defined a pumping level

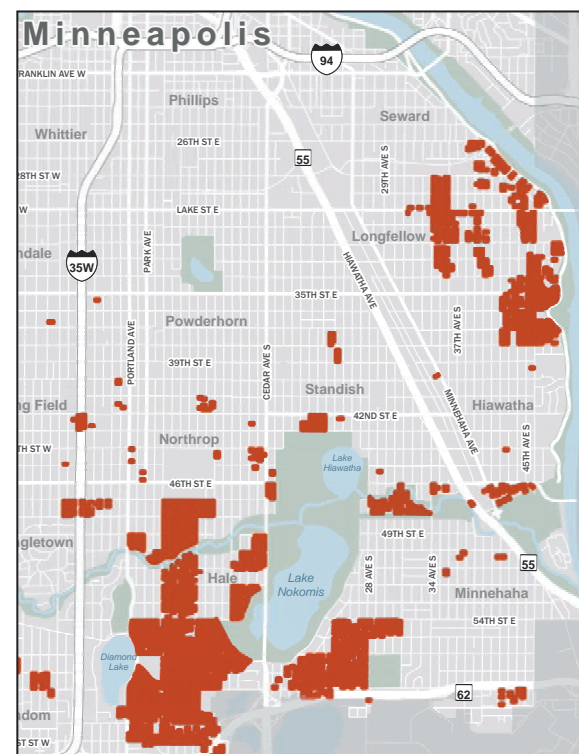
See Parks, page 3

‘The beatings will continue until morale improves!’

BY ED FELIEN

This map, produced by a team of geographers, historians and social activists at the University of Minnesota (<https://www.mappingprejudice.org/>), shows the areas of South Minneapolis that had restrictive covenants written into the deeds of homes for sale: “That the said land or buildings thereon shall never be sold to or the same be occupied by persons of Negro blood,” March 20, 1945.

On July 16, 1931, the Minneapolis Tribune noted: “Angry white mob surrounds Minneapolis home”; “thousands assembled nightly at 46th and Columbus in protest, many hurling taunts and rocks at the home”;



“in June 1931, Arthur and Edith Lee bought a two-bedroom bungalow at 4600 Columbus Av. in south Minneapolis. The Lees were black; the neighborhood white. Despite threats from the neighborhood association, they moved into the home in July, along with their 6-year-old daughter.”

“‘Nobody asked me to move out when I was in France fighting in mud and water for this country,’ Arthur Lee, a World War I veteran, told the Tribune. ‘I came out here to make this house my home. I have a right to establish a home.’”

The traditional and accepted area for people of color

See Beatings, page 6



Our 10th Annual
Celebrate Summer on
Nicollet Avenue
Pages 7, 8, 9 & 10

China has already won the Trade War

BY ED FELIEN

A trade war is when a country raises tariffs (taxes) on a product coming into the country. The business selling that cheaper foreign product then has to pass that tariff (tax) on to the consumer, and this can make the product cost the same as an American-made product.

Big retailers like Walmart and

Target have been lured to China to produce their goods. They've invested billions in creating a manufacturing infrastructure. The Chinese provided special economic zones where U.S. capitalists could build factories, hire workers at low wages, and the workers even agreed to a no-strike pledge.

The only hitch in all this was that the Chinese government owned 52% of the factory.

Lenin said: "The Capitalists will sell us the rope with which we will hang them."

China has gone a step further. They convinced U.S. capitalists to give them the factories with which they will compete with the U.S. for markets in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America. The U.S. gave them the factories and showed them how to run them.

The most far-reaching and pro-



Chinese propaganda poster from the 1970s. The caption reads: Keep the world in your mind and the country in your heart.

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found development in international trade hasn't been Trump's Trade War, it's been the opening of China's New Silk Road, or Belt and Road Initiative. In 2013 Xi Jinping announced a bold plan to link China to the rest of the world through new highways, harbors and airports. They're sponsoring a \$68 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor linking China to Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. They've already spent more than \$200 billion on infrastructure projects in 150 countries, and the final bill will probably be in excess of \$1.5 trillion.

So, what happens to those Chinese-owned factories in a trade war? If they manufacture drill bits, and the U.S. tariffs on Chinese-made drill bits go up by 25%, then it's easy for American consumers to switch over to U.S.-made drill bits. And it feels patriotic. And Trump can claim victory by saying he's saving American jobs. And the Chinese factory will have to find other customers for its drill bits. The New Silk Road/Belt and Road Initiative connects that product with new customers.

Customers who had been purchasing a product with a U.S. brand (for products that were probably manufactured in China) will welcome the same product with a Chinese brand at a lower cost. And the tariffs will cause

the U.S. corporation to stop production at its Chinese factory, but the Chinese factory will keep on producing and exporting and supplying the customers that once bought the U.S. products. The result will be that U.S. corporations will lose their international trade and go bankrupt, which could cause a complete collapse of the stock market.

And all because Trump believed trade wars were easy to win, he was playing a short game, and China was (as always) playing a long game. The objective of Eastern martial arts is to allow your opponent to make a mistake by attacking you. Let him lunge at you. Step back. Defend yourself. Be calm and wait it out. A protracted trade war with China will not hurt China. China already owns the factories and knows how to run them. That's why Xi rejected the latest negotiations and broke off the talks. Trump immediately increased tariffs on another \$200 million of Chinese imports, further raising prices to U.S. consumers and further damaging the manufacturing arm of U.S. corporations. The longer this goes on, the more the U.S. will suffer, and the more China will take over U.S. customers in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America.

And Trump still believes he can bully China into submission. He's saying, "If you don't give up, I'll punch myself in the other eye."



Above: Ghastly boulevard erosion

Right: Broken and crumbling wall

Below: Mudhole where neighborhood kids play soccer



We regret that the photo of Vanessa del Campo Chacon by Steel Brooks was not acknowledged in all our March editions and in Phillips/Powderhorn & Nokomis of May.



Parks, from page 1

that is acceptable or unacceptable.”

The Park Board has said reducing pumping will return the property to its natural state, even though they are aware of the Barr Engineering Study that indicated a dam/weir under the 30th Avenue footbridge was holding back 2.7 feet of water. The dam/weir is 810.7 feet above sea level, and the highest point of a utility pipe is 808 feet. Reducing the level of Minnehaha Creek by 2.7 feet would reduce the water level of Lake Hiawatha and lower the surrounding water table by 2.7 feet. That would dramatically reduce the flooding of the golf course and the flooding of neighborhood homes.

The people of Minneapolis deserve answers.



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We will no longer be individually distributing the Consumer Confidence Report (water quality report).

Contact 612-673-3000 to receive a copy or view online at www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/water/2019waterquality



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ON THE
SOUTHSIDE**

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

EVENTS

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power

Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.

WAMM 2nd Monday Movies
4200 Cedar Ave. S.

A decade after "An Inconvenient Truth" brought climate change into the heart of popular culture comes the riveting and rousing follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight, traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy.

Cameras follow him behind the scenes—in moments private and public, funny and poignant—as he pursues the empowering notion that while the stakes have never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion. Renowned filmmakers Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk ("Audrie & Daisy," 2016 Sundance Film Festival) have taken the baton from 2006 Academy Award-winner Davis Guggenheim. What started then as a

profound slide show lecture has become a gorgeously cinematic excursion.

Our extraordinary former vice president invites us along on an inspirational journey across the globe that delivers the tools to heal our planet. The question is: Will WE choose to take the baton?

Connecting the dots ... A chance to discuss the film follows the showing. Always FREE and open to the public. ALL ARE WELCOME! Free popcorn! Sponsored by the WAMM Movie Committee and Veterans for Peace Chapter 27.

Beyond Line 3: Confronting Legal Repression

Monday, June 17, 7 to 9 p.m.

The Seward Cafe
2129 E. Franklin Ave
Minneapolis

As we prepare for action against Line 3, we confront a state highly skilled in using criminal charges to disrupt radical social movements. Using the framework presented in the book "A Tilted Guide to Being a Defendant," this event tackles the question of how we combat state repression and emerge stronger as a result. This workshop will be

led by Betsy Raasch-Gilman, a longtime Twin Cities environmentalist, revolutionary and trainer, whose activism informed the writing of "A Tilted Guide."

All proceeds will be used to provide Tilted Guides to Line 3 defendants.

Organized by PLAN, the Pipeline Legal Action Network
PLANLine3.com/events
tiltedscalescollective.org

If you can not attend but would like to make a donation to buy Tilted Guides for folks struggling against Line 3 please email PLANLine3@gmail.com for donation information. To directly support folks facing repression visit www.planline3.com/legal-solidarity

The Seward Neighborhood – A People's History

June 18, 10:30 a.m.

Bradshaw Funeral & Cremation Services
3131 Minnehaha Ave.

Senior Social and Health Talks occur the third Tuesday of each month and feature guest speakers on health/wellness issues, birthday celebrations and time to socialize! Refreshments are provided. A nominal suggested donation of \$1 - \$2 is appreciated.

BLB PRIDE BLOCK PARTY

Friday, June 21, 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Bryant Lake Bowl
Bryant Ave. & Lake St.
The free Friday Night Block Party at Bryant Lake Bowl

is back! Featuring MC Foxy Tann, Epitome No Question, Venus DeMars and All the Pretty Horses, Dykes Do Drag, Genital Panic featuring Tina Schlieske, Static Panic, a local artist market and more!

A portion of the event proceeds will benefit OutFront Minnesota. Their mission is to create a state where lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are free to be who they are, love who they love, and live without fear of violence, harassment or discrimination.

www.outfront.org
Free! Rain or Shine. All ages. Please leave your pet at home – this is a hot asphalt event! Zero waste event. More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2430125497209183/>

Free Peace Literacy Educator Training Workshop

Friday & Saturday, June 21 & 22, 9 a.m. (coffee); 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (workshop)

First Universalist Church
3400 Dupont Ave. S., Mpls. 55408

Purpose: To inspire and empower Twin Cities teachers, counselors, social workers, community educators, charter school leaders, home-schooling parents, pre-school teachers, public and private school leaders—to create a values-centered and trauma-informed education community. Our workshop leaders are: *Paul K. Chappell, Director of Peace Literacy Education at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

in Santa Barbara, Calif., <https://paulkchappell.com> and <https://www.peaceliteracy.org>

*Dr. Sharyn Clough, Professor of Philosophy, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore., <http://people.oregonstate.edu/~cloughs/> and sharyn.clough@oregonstate.edu

• Social Emotional Learning is part of the workshop.

• Continuing Education Credit Units will be available. School teams are encouraged!

• Educators from greater Minnesota and out-of-state are welcome.

• The workshop is an ecumenical space with no religious affiliation endorsed or assumed by the workshop facilitators. The Peace Literacy Education Team at First Universalist has charted a course to make the Twin Cities one of the nation's first Peace Literacy hubs. Our opportunity now is to make peace literacy the foundation of all education and community building in Minnesota. For more information, email Pat Gottschalk at TCPeaceLiteracyEduc@yahoo.com. To Register for a free ticket: <http://tinyurl.com/PeaceLiteracy>

Roots & Kinship

A community gathering to revitalize our relationships with Mother Earth and each other
Friday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Nokomis Community Center Picnic Shelter
2401 E Minnehaha Pkwy.
Lyla June, musician, public speaker and performance



NOKOMIS EDITION

Southside Pride Nokomis Edition is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the First Monday of the month for free to homes and businesses in South Minneapolis from 35W to Hiawatha, and from Elliot Park to 42nd Street.

We publish 18,000 copies each month. 18,000 are delivered door-to-door to homes and another 1,000 are left in area businesses and public buildings. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community. If you want to share some news of your church, school or organization, please write us at:

Southside Pride

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or edfelien@southsidepride.com

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• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NOKOMIS EDITION

poet of Diné (Navajo), Tsétséhestâhese (Cheyenne), and Scandinavian lineages, explores indigenous resurgence, reclaiming European indigenous roots, forgiveness, reconciliation, and love as a revolutionary force. The Wisdom Dancers, traditional dancers and singers drawing from Balkan, Greek, and Asia Minor lineages. Share the collective joy of traditional songs and dances as tools for healing. Through dance they connect with their roots and explore ways to live in right relationship in Minnesota. FREE. Please bring a blanket for sitting on the ground or your own chair. In the case of rain, we will meet inside the Lake Nokomis Community Center. ASL interpreted. Accessible seating available. More information at wisdomdances.com or <https://www.wisdomdances.com/events/rootskinship/>

ARTS

The Wicked Arts Festival, A Multi-sensory, Multi-artistic-discipline Arts Festival
Friday, June 28, 7 p.m. (doors): 8 p.m. (performance)
The Hook and Ladder Theater
3010 Minnehaha Ave.
Presented by Zerobudget Records, the event will include two CD releases. Plague of Stars' new album, Daedalus (currently on pre-sale), is Death/Doom/Black metal fronted by clean, strong female vocals. Cwn Annwn is a metal band with dynamic female vocals, shredding twin guitars, and powerful melodies. In the span of one evening you can hear these bands plus enjoy interlude acts showcasing belly dance, piano and burlesque; view Gothic art; look at tattoo art and steampunk, electricity sculpture art by 33 Mad Scientists; and consider some radical hair and makeup designs. The event is 21+ and tickets are \$10 presale, \$12 at the door. Get them at: <https://wicked-arts-festival.eventbrite.com>. Complete event information is at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/595227210886926/>.

DANCE

6th Annual Minnesota Salsa Fiesta
Saturday, June 22
Doors: 7 p.m. / Show: 8 p.m.
The Cedar Cultural Center
416 Cedar Avenue South
Start the summer with the Latin music and dance highlight of the year, the 6th Annual MN Salsa Fiesta! Featuring an all-star collection of performers

from all the area salsa bands including Charanga Tropical, Salsa del Soul, Salsabrosa, Seven Steps To Havana, Q-Band, Havana Gypsies, and more. Doors open at 7 p.m. with DJs spinning salsa hits mixed to rare music videos. Then it's a lively salsa lesson from one of the best, Cuban-born instructor Rene Thompson, former lead dancer at La Tropicana in Havana. This is a standing show with an open floor. Tickets: \$20 Advance / \$30 day of show. Information at www.cedar.org

MUSIC

RIO MIRA
Sunday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.
The Cedar Cultural Center
416 Cedar Avenue South
Fronted by singer Karla Kanora, Rio Mira is an exciting recording collaboration between artists from neighbouring Ecuador and Colombia, and is guided by the distinctive percussive tones of the marimba. Taking its name from the river which runs from Ecuador into Colombia, the band is living proof of the rich history of the northwesterly Pacific coast. Recalling the history of the Pacific, the music is a reminder of the unity which binds together a region divided up by state borders. In 2015, UNESCO declared the marimba music of South Pacific Colombia and Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador to be Intangible Cultural Heritage. This is a standing show with an open floor. All Ages - \$16 Advance or \$18 day of show
Info: www.thecedar.org

THEATER

Blood Knot
May 17 - June 16, Wednesdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m.
Pillsbury House Theatre
3501 Chicago Ave. S.
612-825-0459 (Box Office)
www.pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/
Athol Fugard's "Blood Knot" is a parable of two brothers who share a one-room shack near Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Equally important today as it was at the time of its 1961 premiere, the play is a poignant, piercing metaphor for racial tension, powerfully acted by James A. Williams and Stephen Yoakam. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at pillsburyhousetheatre.org or by calling the box office.

Drag Story Hour - Pride Extravaganza
June 22, 11 a.m.
Pillsbury House Theatre
3501 Chicago Ave. S.

Now in its second year, Drag Story Hour seeks to inspire young audiences through story telling and dramatic play. The program features Pillsbury House Theatre Resident artists Pedro Pablo (Doña Pepa) and Emily Zimmer (Old Man Zimmer) and occasional special appearances by other drag performers. Drag Story Hour seeks to inspire curiosity in children of all ages and connect them with those that may be different in a lively, playful performance. Drag Story Hour is for children and caretakers of all ages. Free. <http://pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/drag-story-hour/>

Mixed Blood Presents: Luubaan Stories Project 154 Storytelling Festival
June 22, 2 - 10 p.m.
Mixed Blood Theatre is located at 1501 S. 4th Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55454
This festival will encapsulate all the stories, experiences and lessons collected by Mixed Blood's Project 154, a program which aims to address barriers to healthcare through the use of theater practices and traditional Somali storytelling. The day will include storytelling workshops, learning centered on community health needs, and will feature Mixed Blood trained storytellers. Luubaan Stories will be comprised of storytellers, professional development workshops for both residents and providers, videos, music, face painting, kids' activities, and more. The event is free and all are welcome. Members of the Cedar Riverside community and healthcare providers are encouraged to attend. Visit <https://mixedblood.com/community/project-154/>, email keri@mixedblood.com, or call 612-338-6131 for more information.

Matilda
April 28 - June 23
See website for times: www.childrenstheatre.org
Children's Theatre Company
2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. 55404
Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, this is the story of Matilda. Her dreadful parents can't stand her. Her headmistress is a horrible, nasty, name-calling, life-sucking tyrant who puts kids in cupboards with nails and broken glass. (And you thought you had it bad.) This captivating kid-power romp revels in the anarchy of childhood. Celebrating the tenacity of the small, Matilda proves that the strength to be yourself (along with a little telekinetic power) will prevail at the end of the day.



ColorWheel Gallery

319 W 46th St (46th & Grand)
Minneapolis • 612-823-5693
ColorWheelGallery.com

This Sunday, June 9th 12-4pm (Prince's B-day Weekend) -Join us for another Fun Event at the ColorWheel Gallery! Enjoy Local Art, Sweet Treats & Coloring pages from "Rated P 4 Funky" Prince Inspired coloring book Together at Our #InspirationTable (Free & Open to Everyone) - PLUS, Guest Artist - Victoria will be with us again offering HEN-



NA (designs starting at \$10) Adorn Yourself with Beautiful Henna Designs + Shop for local Art, PRINCE Inspired Icon Art & Memorabilia, Beautiful Jewelry, Funky Gifts, UpCycled Gently used Global style Clothing & Fabrics, Gently used Social Justice Books & so many more Unique Inspired Treasures that Speak with Diverse Voices!

Guest Henna Artist!

Henna Body Art by Victoria is a Fantastic & Talented Henna Artist! She has Great Love & Knowledge of the History & Style of Henna Art! - She uses All Natural Red Henna for a Safe & Beautiful Stain. Adorn Yourself!



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Bouza, from page 1

would have winced in horror.

The murder charge required “a depraved mind,” but the jury was in the dark. The phrase infers a reckless disregard for the consequences, and the result is evil. Throwing a safe out of the window over a busy sidewalk might be an apt example.

And there is the settlement. Ah, yes—and I was wrong. The actual amount was double what I feared would be an outrage. It proved a double outrage. And guess who pays? You.

Curiously, most of the cops will be exempt. They don’t live in Minneapolis.

Respondent Superior is a legal concept meaning that superiors are responsible for the work of their servants—up to a point. A steward has general responsibilities for outcomes—but not for all. Only for those s/he should have known about—and done something to mitigate. An insurer is re-

sponsible for each separate act. A subtle, but huge, difference.

Why didn’t the city disavow employees committing criminal acts? I asked the City Council this question in 1980 when they opted to pay for an officer’s acts when I had disciplined him and disavowed the action. He was not my agent when he broke the law. A very simple legal concept. The Council voted to pay.

Every citizen of Minneapolis—even Enso Benyo—should be outraged and insulted over having their pockets picked.

The case is muddled by the reversal of racial roles, but what is forgotten here is that the cop is blue—neither white nor black. I will, however, hasten to add that, had he been white and the victim black the courtroom would’ve been stuffed with cops in uniform, offering solidarity. The union supported the cops, but not with their usual passion.

That, I sincerely hope, is my final word on a case that is far from



Mohamed Noor and Justine Damond (photos: Minneapolis City Facebook)

over. The appeal will be interesting for what is bound to be said about instructions to jurors.

No one will say this, but, in the

end, these cases evolve into two issues—money and retribution. One of the unspoken tragedies resides in the intra-family squabbles

frequently inspired by thinly concealed pecuniary motives.

Stay tuned.

Beatings, from page 1

to live was between Chicago Avenue and Nicollet from downtown south to 42nd Street. There was a crepe paper barrier that informally

restricted housing east of Chicago and west of Nicollet. The Lees were the first to move the boundaries south of 42nd Street.

Racism was alive and active even within the black community in

South Minneapolis in the first half of the twentieth century. Nelson Perry, in his book, “Black Fire, the Making of an American Revolutionary,” talks about growing up in South Minneapolis and turf battles

in the early ’50s between white and black gangs over in Phelps Park. He also talks about Brown Paper Bag parties in the black community where young blacks would post a brown paper bag at the entrance to a house party—signifying if you were darker than the color of the bag you were not welcome.

The Minneapolis City Council has proposed radical changes in the city’s zoning and development plans. In South Minneapolis this would mean three- and four-story apartment buildings could be built everywhere from downtown to 42nd Street. The plan is being sold as a means of compensating for previous patterns of racial discrimination in housing.

MPR reported: “The plan will try to mitigate the effects of climate change and racial discrimination in part by increasing density in the city, particularly along transit corridors. Among other things, the document allows triplexes in every neighborhood, a provision that many residents criticized.”

Will Stancil, an attorney and research fellow at the University of Minnesota, said in an article in the Star Tribune: “The comprehensive plan is not a panacea for housing inequality. But addressing part of the problem is better than addressing none of it at all. No matter how forward-thinking Minneapolis is today, it counts for little if the city’s land-use laws indefinitely perpetuate decades-old patterns of discrimination. By adopting the

comprehensive plan, Minneapolis shows that it’s willing to take action against its own pernicious legacy of segregation.”

Council President Lisa Bender said, “I think most of my constituents agree with the overall values of the draft plan’s focus on race equity, environmental sustainability, safer streets and housing affordability.”

What the plan does, of course, is just the opposite. It will wipe out the communities of color that live in South Minneapolis that have not had restrictive covenants, and it will leave intact those neighborhoods and communities that discriminated against people of color. People in the inner city who have been able to rent a house with a yard will be displaced. Their landlord will be offered a handsome price for their home; it will be knocked down and replaced by a three- or four-story apartment building. The inventory of affordable homes will shrink, and the only option available will be to rent an apartment in a building with young urban professionals who want to live closer to downtown.

The communities of color that suffered most under housing discrimination in the first half of the 20th century will be the ones displaced and asked to suffer yet again.

The beatings will continue until morale improves.



Edith and Arthur Lee (photo courtesy of the Lee family)

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BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Southside Pride dropped by the interesting Simply Jane Studio and ArtAble over the weekend. The address is 5411 Nicollet Avenue, but if your method is to drive slowly looking for a sign like mine is, you might miss it, because it's set back perpendicular to Nicollet, along with three or four other small establishments. Fortunately, there is a sign. The driveway is just south of WiseAcre Eatery and connects the avenue to the alley. Simply Jane Studio has a few dedicated parking spots off this drive, so you may not need to worry about Nicollet Avenue parking restrictions. Inside, we were warmly greeted by one of the staff, who explained thoroughly what Simply Jane is all about and what their offerings include. You

can tell at a glance it's about painting stuff, primarily. It's not exactly paint by numbers, but it is using

acrylic paint and staying in the lines of line drawings on canvases, but also on other objects such as mugs,

trays and vases. As a member-based nonprofit, Simply Jane extends member benefits for \$50 per year, which can include your family for the same cost. They have extensive hours for drop-in painting, which is \$5 plus materials for non-members, or just materials for members. Additionally, they offer the studio as a venue for a painting party, with or without pizza, either for socializing or for fundraising. Also, classes are offered, taught by local professional artists, and again, members get a

discount. Some of the finished art pieces are for sale, along with several adorable adult therapeutic coloring books, all drawn by Jane herself. We didn't get to meet Jane when we were there, although she is there a lot of the time, but you can read all about her on the website at <https://simplyjanestudio.com/our-history/>. There is also a Facebook page for current goings-on. In addition to the in-studio activities, Simply

See Nicollet Ave., page 8



Jane Elias, third from left, with some family outside Simply Jane



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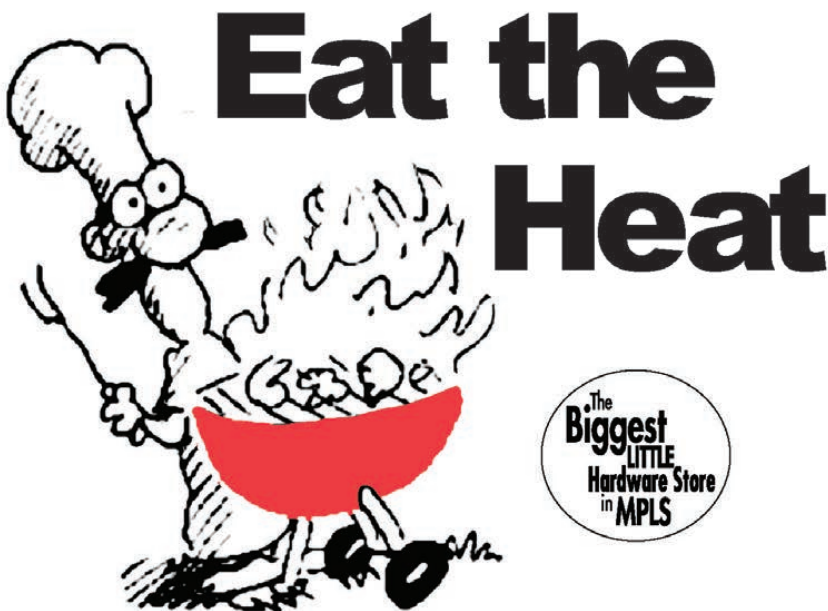
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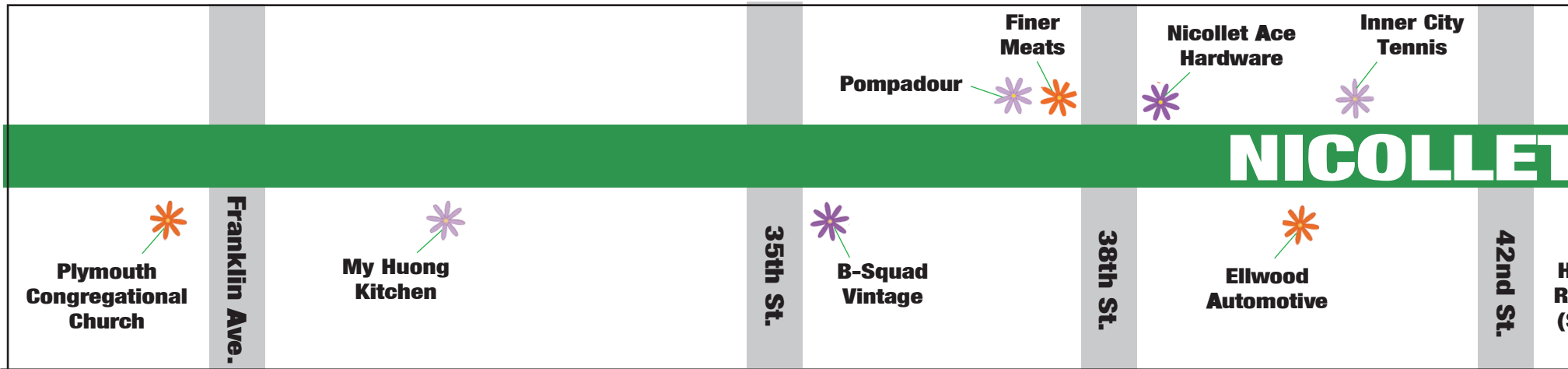
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Nicollet Ave., from page 7

Jane has a full schedule of disability art programs (their main mission), including "hospital- based" classes for expectant mothers on bed rest, cancer patients, and children undergoing major medical procedures. And for members with disabilities or mental illness, there is a scholarship program where part or all of the studio costs can be waived in return for some volunteer hours. You can also contribute to Simply Jane's mission by volunteering, donating money, or buying gifts and gift certificates. Drop by and

visit; this is a truly unique southside resource.

A little north along Nicollet Avenue you will find the Salt Cave. We have written about the Salt Cave before, but we still have not managed to squeeze in an actual visit. In the interim, they have greatly expanded their services and products, so let's look at some of those. (Visit their website if you need more info or want to book a session: <https://saltcaveminnesota.com/>.) First, in the services line, there is now a full schedule of various group treatment sessions in the cave. Salt yoga—in partnership

with Peace by Piece Yoga, salt Reiki, salt gong (sound therapy), and salt meditation—in partnership with TrueSanctuary.com, are all offered monthly (see the somewhat irregular schedule on the home page). In partnership with Tula Spa, you can have any one of a variety of chair massage techniques as you get your individual halotherapy (the correct term for salt inhalation treatment) for an add-on price plus tip. And the most intriguing new concept is Salt Cave Mobile, where they bring a salt cave, complete with a choice of seating and sounds, to your location for an event. A standard session in the cave (with 0 to 7 other people in there with you) costs \$30 for 45 minutes, or you can buy a block of three for \$75 if it's your first time, or larger blocks at any time. Once you're a convinced client, you can buy one-, three- or six-month "memberships," which can bring the price down as low as \$6 per session if you use it regularly. Also note—if you have an HSA and want to use it for salt therapy, all you should need is a doctor referral. In the products line, Salt Cave is selling pretty much every salt-related thing you have ever heard of—and salt is really big these days, isn't it? Salt lamps of course, and



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COST: \$100/dancer

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er on Nicollet Ave.



Ingridredients chef Ingrid Richard

candle holders, bath salts, salt blocks for culinary uses, edible specialty salts sold in bulk, and salt purifying-exfoliating bars for skin therapy. I really need to clear some time and make it to the Salt Cave.

InnerCity Tennis is probably mistaken at first for part of the parks system, since it has its headquarters in the Martin Luther King, Jr. park at 40th and Nicollet in the building that used to be (and is still often called) the Nicollet Tennis Center. Founded in 1952 as Northwest Tennis Patrons by Lachlan Reed and his wife, Martha Sweatt-Reed, and Martha's father, Harold Sweatt (also a co-founder of Honeywell), plus other civic leaders, the organization became Minneapolis Urban Tennis in the 1980s. Subsequently, St. Paul Urban Tennis was founded, later spinning off into its own nonprofit organization. In 1994, Northwest Tennis Patrons became InnerCity Tennis Foundation. It's estimated that over the six decades of its existence, at least 75,000 children have grown up participating in ICT programs. The building in which it was housed was in a separate organization, built by Jack Johnson on the site of

See Nicollet Ave., page 10

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BANH MI PHO BUBBLE TEA FRENCH CREPES

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Nicollet Ave., from page 9

outdoor tennis courts in 1973, then bought by ICT in 2000. ICT has too many programs to list here, so



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download their brochure or check out their programs at <http://www.innecitytennis.org/>.

Among the many vintage shops in town, B-Squad Vintage, at 3500 Nicollet Ave., is one of the survivors and thrivers. Recently celebrating 15 years in business, Betsy started B-Squad just off of Nicollet on 38th Street, but moved to its present location after the first two years. The building is in a great location, with plenty of parking but also good for walking, transit and biking. You'll recognize it by the Nicollet Ball Field mural on the north-facing wall. The products for sale are a heady mix that concentrates on vintage clothing, mostly 1930s through 1980s (but with a few gems going back to Victorian or Edwardian times) for both men and women. If you want a real silk kimono actually from Japan, a velveteen column dress, or a church lady pillbox hat with a little veil, they will likely have it. But there is more than clothing here. A few home decor items, a good selection of vintage vinyl records and some tapes—cassette and 8-track—, board games, very early video games, and a small selection of electronics are in the mix. There are lots of great accessories too—hats galore, gloves both warming and formal, belts, wraps, neckties, and purses and bags of all descriptions.

There is a wide variety of boots and shoes, men's suits (I saw a baby blue polyester leisure suit jacket in my short browse through the store) and coats of wool, leather, and even real furs. Betsy is in the shop to buy your vintage items on Tuesdays from noon to 6 p.m., and the shop is open for sales Tuesday as well, plus Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. She can also make house calls if you have a lot to sell or an estate clearance.

Finally, a brief mention of farmers markets. We have covered the Kingfield FM before, so we'll just mention that it's open now, Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 4310 Nicollet Ave. But there is another smaller FM a block off of Nicollet Avenue—the Whittier FM at 2608 Blaisdell Ave. You may have heard of the Caribbean pop-up restaurant Ingridients that was occurring at Modern Times Cafe. This is the work of Ingrid Richards, who is also the mother of well-known artist Junauda Petrus. Initially a Trinidadian food piece of one of Junauda's performances, Ingridients went on to be a pop-up at Whittier FM before its gig at Modern Times, and it's set to start popping up again there. The dates to watch for it are June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug. 3 and Aug. 10. Hope to see you there!



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Cheesy pleasures at All Square

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

All Square
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Hours: Wed. thru Sun.,
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

All Square is not like other restaurants; it's not even like other small neighborhood diners with an excellent but limited menu and a family-friendly vibe, though it is all those things. There are two reasons for this. First, its menu is limited quite deliberately—to grilled cheese sandwiches and their accompaniments! This still leaves considerable scope. The menu comprises 12 sandwich offerings, some of which are cheese and meat, some are cheese and vegetables or fruits, and a few can be made vegan. But the second and primary reason All Square is not like other restaurants is because of its mission and its staff. Its mission is to provide a path to work and financial stability for formerly

incarcerated people, probably the most disadvantaged sector in the job-seeking pool. So, its staff consists of such folks, with training from the organization behind All Square to enable them to advance to the level of "fellows." Or in its own words: "All Square is a civil rights social enterprise centered on a craft grilled cheese restaurant and professional institute." All Square the restaurant is the public face of a nonprofit called All Square, and the related program

piece is called The Institute. The Institute provides a one-year curriculum for formerly incarcerated men and women called Fellows. The Fellows go on to design dishes and cook in the restaurant. There is an impressive board of directors, including a number of high-powered lawyers and policy wonks, a few of whom have also been incarcerated, wrongly and for a long time in one case. The restaurant and the Institute are housed in a brand-new, architect-designed building on the corner of Minnehaha and 41st Street. Half of the building comprises the restaurant, and the other half, which houses the Institute on Monday and Tuesday for classes, is called the Dream Lab. The Dream Lab also hosts both internal and external events. An internal event example was a kids' movie party, at 10 a.m. last Saturday (May 18). I don't see any upcoming public events in the Dream Lab, but All Square is co-hosting, along with Surly Brewing, "We Are All Criminals," and Squirrel Haus Arts (where

the event takes place), a gallery art show opening. This is called "Another Fine Mess," by artist Russ White and is Friday, June 7, from 5 p.m. Squirrel Haus Arts is located at 3450 Snelling Ave. in Minneapolis.

So, what do they have to eat at All Square? The vegetarian menu has six selections, the omnivore menu has six selections, and the side dish section has three. The sandwiches all come with a very nice salad of artisanal mixed greens and vinaigrette. There is a small but good selection of beers and wines, as well as Coke products. On our visit we had the Basil Pesto sandwich (which contains both basil leaves and basil pesto, with mozz and provolone) with a side of Tomato Basil Bisque and a nice locally-brewed stout (the beer selection rotates). One of the sandwiches is called Kid's Grilled Cheese (cheddar blend on artisan white bread), but it doesn't say whether adults can have it too. Fancier fare includes the Apple-Brie-Pecan (with candied pecans) or the cleverly named Did My Thyme, which consists of five Mediterranean cheeses on a bed of hummus and cucumber. In the omnivore section, the Jerk Chicken is popular,

according to social media, and there is the Hot Wing (pulled chicken, bleu cheese, hot sauce), the Back to BAC (bacon, avocado, cheddar), and the very elegant Charcuterie (prosciutto, Brie, almonds, onion jam). The other two accompaniments available are Chicken-Wild Rice Soup and some yummy-looking fries.

The vegetarian section denotes a few items that are available as gluten-free and/or vegan. I have a couple of suggestions about that, plus a couple more suggestions for slight improvements (although a lack of customers does not seem to be one of their problems). Vegans care about taste as much as "normal people" and not all vegan cheese is that good. The menu should say from where you get your vegan ingredients. Ditto the gluten-free bread. (And if your bread is baked in-house, for heaven's sakes, state that on the menu.) Another suggestion—the omnivore menu is chicken times three and pork times three, kind of same-y. The Tuna Melt is a classic sandwich, always good for a gourmet upgrade. How about just a single nod to the pescatarians? And maybe a nice Reuben for people who don't do pork?



TYPICAL ALL SQUARE MEAL



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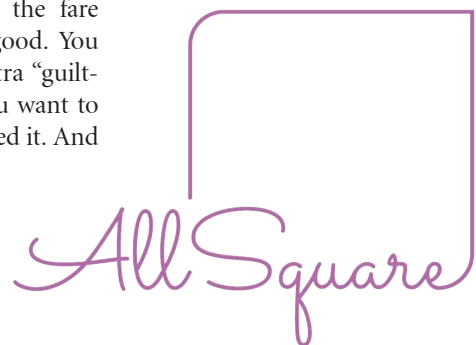
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But criticism aside, the fare at All Square is very good. You don't even need the extra "guilt-free" hook to make you want to go back once you've tried it. And maybe slide them some cash on their website too, to keep this worthy idea in operation.



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–NA Group, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, 7 p.m.
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–Card Club, First Mondays, 1 p.m.
–Life Line at Faith, Friday, July 20, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-897-9177 to make an appointment.

Curran’s Restaurant

BY JO YOUNGREN

On Sundays we come from a church where “All are welcome wherever you are on your journey.” Going from there to Curran’s Restaurant on 42nd and Nicollet for breakfast we get the same sort of welcome. In a way, they both feel a lot like coming home.

For one thing, Curran’s has been on the same corner block just across from Martin Luther King Park for 71 years.

There appear to be no strangers at this place. There is a constant hum of jovial talk, like when those leaving the restaurant inform those coming in that they just ran out of food. Or, to start conversation, “Is there a chance that this could really be spring?”

This same sense of camaraderie spills over among the waitpersons

and their customers, many who seem to know one another well.

Those who frequent this place include different colors and races, Spanish speakers, blue collar workers, legislators, lawyers, musicians, doctors and young persons with boots and multiple tattoos.

Tucked in on the walls amid the ubiquitous depictions of the Old Sod is original art for sale, which comes from the ranks of the Minnesota Art Association, a local group who have breakfast at Curran’s every Wednesday. On Mother’s Day there are pink roses for any woman who wants one. Corned beef and cabbage is served on St. Patrick’s Day.

Mike Curran started this restaurant as a drive-in back in 1948.

Dennis Curran, his middle son, went into business with his dad in 1977.

When asked, Dennis says the best thing he learned from his dad about life and running a business was to be humble, honest and fair.

Part of living up to this legacy is reflected in the quality of food served there. A local farm in East St. Paul supplies fresh vegetables in season and eggs, along with Canadian bacon. A little butcher shop sells them natural beef and pork with no hormones. Curran’s beef, pork, turkey and corned beef are cooked and sliced there daily. You can find fresh squeezed orange juice here too. Dennis says they go through 70,000 oranges every year. Their homemade caramel rolls are irresistible.

But hamburgers and fries are what started with Mike Curran, so these are always on the menu. Comfort food, Dennis calls this.



Curran’s owner Dennis Curran

Dennis says what he can’t stress enough is the help he has managed to find through the years. Every year or two, they revise the menu, with suggestions from everyone who works there, because, says Dennis, “They are on the front lines and see a lot that I don’t.” The most indispensable employee, however, is his wife, Lori, of 39 years. She is the bookkeeper and has been his most important advisor.

Dennis feels like part of his mission is to support local enterprises with donations to local youth teams, bowling teams, local churches, educational programs and other needy organizations. Whether by chance or fate, Curran’s and Martin Luther King Park have been good neighbors for many years. Everyone who knows them hopes this happy partnership will continue for many more.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local church disagrees with larger church body

My name is Jason Emrick. I am a lifelong United Methodist and current member of Minnehaha United Methodist Church in South Minneapolis. I want to state that I, as well as many if not most of our congregants, were saddened, then outraged at our General Church conference’s decision to affirm the Anti-LGBTQIA language of our Church Discipline. I want to say that the United Methodist Church no longer speaks for this church in either opinion or policy. After the vote, many in our local church and churches across the country began considering separating from the united church we have been a part of since 1968. Though many of us would like to see our denomination choose a way forward to keeping the churches together, we will not sacrifice principle for the sake of unity. I ask that when

you consider the decision of our global church you stop to recognize that within any group there are dissenting opinions. It would be unfair to consider all Methodists complicit in this decision and equally unfair to throw derision on a local church, whose own members stand in opposition to that decision. At our church, the Sunday immediately following the general conference vote had the third most attended service after Easter and Christmas. We were disheartened at the decision and came to gather in community to share our lament. We at Minnehaha are not a LGBTQIA church. We are simply a church. A church that believes that all are entitled to God’s grace and love. A church called to share that love, for the transformation of the world.

Schizo-Affective (schizophrenia and major depression), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Anxiety are FOREVER

BY ASHLEY'S FRAYED

I remember when I first told my psychiatric nurse practitioner that I was hearing voices and had paranoid thoughts. She called them delusions. I knew they were real. Most of the time it still is real. People read my mind and are out to ruin my life.

I casually asked my practitioner when I would get a "clean bill of mental health." She became very compassionate. She told me that some of my symptoms might improve with medication. However, she made it clear that these illnesses do not heal. I will have mental illness for the rest of my life.

I have made some progress but it is never back to the mentally healthy me. She is gone. But I still am here. Here is painful. My therapist told me once that out of the 1,000 schizophrenic patients she

has treated, one had returned to full-time work.

Work is one of the most important aspects of an adult's life. Without work the days blandly blend together. If I guess the day of the week, I have a 50/50 chance of guessing correctly.

Forever. It makes me angry! Why do I have to suffer because other people have demons. Demons. When I say demons, my psychiatric nurse practitioner tells me that I am having delusions. I don't believe that for a minute.

In June of 2003 I was "Date Raped" by a former state employee with the initials BRM. I told him he was hurting me and told him to stop. I went blackout. He continued. I have no memory of most of the attack. I also was afraid to press charges. Sometime I think my PTSD could heal if the trauma stopped happening. But they

don't.

I know I said goodbye in my last column. My job was high security clearance and would not allow me to have a second job. Anyway, I was let go from that job for whistleblowing. Maybe I could keep a job if I learned to do the "wrong thing" instead of the "right thing." Losing my job slid me right back into poverty and scarred my psyche. Another trauma.

In addition to being date raped, I was sexually molested and raped as a small child. From the ages of 6 to 11 I have no memories. I fired my therapist. She said she could help me bring the memories back so that I could work through it. I disagreed. Having no memories of the abuse shields me from the horror of it all. I recently have had flashbacks now that I am into my 40s. I am hoping the actual events will never haunt me. One of my abusers may still be alive. None of them were family or my mother's

lovers. They were friends' parents. People my mother trusted because I was friends with their children. Huge mistake. One I did not make when I became a parent at age 23.

How did I function as a young adult? I was fine. I went to college and law school. I graduated with honors. I became a licensed attorney and practiced human rights and bankruptcy. There was a triggering stressor that caused my total mental collapse at the age of 35. The trigger was a death threat and a false accusation against me that was made public. Since 2010 I have been hospitalized more than 13 times. Seven months is the longest I have made it without a hospitalization. My record for holding a job continues to be two months.

What does forever mean? When I dwell on recovery, I can occasionally get well and convince myself that I beat the odds. I am recovered. It never lasts more than a few days. "Let's face it," I tell my-

self. "Friendships end, lovers leave, but mental illness is forever." Less costly than a diamond. That is the only bright side to it.

How do I wake up each day and face "Forever"? I don't. I live in a river called De-nial. I celebrate small wins. I showered twice today. I cleaned my clothes. I took care of an old feline friend, Sophie. When I think about my longevity, I get really down. Statistically my assortment of mental illnesses may shorten my life by 20 years. I know I have a role to play in my attempts at survival to old age. The only problem is that the symptoms are so excruciating, I don't always want those 20 years back. My goal is to live to the ripe old age of 82. I joined a community center in my suburb and now I can swim in an Olympic size pool. I have access to a gym. I can live.

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Exxon Mobil lied to us

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

In 1978, 11 years before NASA scientist James Hansen sounded the alarm to Congress about carbon emissions and global warming, Exxon Mobil (EM) scientist James Black reported to the top brass that, "There is general scientific agreement that the most likely way in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide release from the

had detected morphed into comely opportunities: diminishing ice in the Arctic Ocean would make drilling for oil easier and cheaper; the company even postured as a grand world benefactor claiming the added carbon would boost crop production and so ease world hunger.

EM, along with Chevron, Shell and Amoco, formed the Global Climate Coalition "to coordinate business participation in the international policy debate." More can-

a carbon tax, but the fossil fuels Leviathan spent record sums to defeat it. British Petroleum alone chipped in \$13 million.

If anyone remained uncertain about EM's intentions, CEO Rex Tillerson, in his last address to stockholders before joining the Trump administration, stated the company's position with alarming clarity: "The world is going to have to continue using fossil fuels, whether they like it or not."

The actions of his successor, Darren Woods, are fulfilling Tillerson's pledge. All the majors—EM, Chevron, Total, Shell and BP—plan to gin up production of oil and gas. EM's plan is especially ambitious. Indifferent to climate disruption, it has embarked on a new \$200 billion investment tsunami that intends to ramp up oil and gas production by 25% by 2025, with output continuing to grow by 2040 and beyond.

This surge promises to be most lucrative; EM is shooting for \$23 billion in profits in 2025, triple those of 2017. Crucially, this leap boosts the rate of profit.

Worldwide, the oil giants are already four of the 20 largest dividend providers, and the drive to further gin up the rate of profit serves as a magnet for investors seeking higher returns. As a result, instead of divesting from fossil fuel companies, big institutional investors are adding shares to their portfolios.

Here, we should note that the new wave of investment starts from an unfathomably high rate of oil consumption. In 2018, the world surpassed using 100 million barrels of oil per day, every day of the year—and the heat accruing daily from this combustion equals the heat of 400,000 Hiroshima atomic bombs. Given modern technology's power to impact the biosphere, it's hardly surprising that the Holocene Era has given way to the Anthropocene Epoch, an epoch defined as one where "human activities equal or exceed the great forces of nature."

EM will work tenaciously to keep demand for its products

growing. Indeed, it has to do so, because a big chunk of the new investment is in expensive deep water wells. If demand flags, so will prices, leaving the oil too expensive to extract. If that happens, profits morph into losses, and losses signify lower dividend and stock prices—capitalism in reverse.

Ominously, EM's ambitions collide with the inconvenient truth of climate disruption and the urgent calls to reduce carbon emissions. Consider just a few events from 2018: Cities in Iran and Pakistan saw high temperatures just shy of 130 degrees; a fierce heat wave in Montreal, Canada, killed more than 70 people; the Paradise fire in California razed 10,000 buildings and snuffed out the lives of 63 people; due to the encroachment of salt water born of rising sea levels, 24,000 people in Vietnam had to abandon the fertile fields of the Mekong Delta. From now on, in each coming year, thousands more will join the migration.

This gathering storm lends urgency to the need to reduce carbon emissions. In its most recent report (December 2018), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calls for an 80% reduction of annual carbon emissions from 32 million tons to 7 million tons. Without such reductions by 2050, the target of confining the rise in air temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius cannot be met.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) also recently issued a report, a report that reveals an unfolding reality starkly at odds with

the recommendations of the IPCC. Given the new surge in investment, the IEA sees carbon emissions rising to 43 million tons by 2040. Spewing that much carbon into the atmosphere signifies that temperatures will blow past the 1.5 degrees target and add at least 4 degrees, meaning that EM and its confederates are building a Doomsday Machine to rival the one posed by nuclear weapons.

Given that EM was a pioneer in discovering the dangers of vast fossil fuel burning, it is now giving a darkly ironic answer. Along with the other majors, the company is proclaiming boldly that the ruling principle of our economic system remains the maximization of profit. And this quest must take priority over all other values—including the survival of the human species.

In opposition to this invitation to omnicide, we are well advised to consider the ever-fresh words of Martin Luther King: "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."



burning of fossil fuels." "General scientific agreement" now amounts to 97% of climate scientists.

By 1982, EM's scientists had refined their analysis to conclude that "potentially catastrophic events would require major reductions in fossil fuel combustion." Despite this, EM's executives chose not to embrace James Hansen. Instead of moving away from fossil fuels, the company, knowing that sea levels would rise, opted to raise the height of its off-shore oil platforms.

Almost immediately after Hansen's testimony, EM changed the party line "to emphasize the uncertainty in scientific data," an uncertainty that the company itself had dispelled. In 1997 CEO Lee Raymond had his Orwellian moment when he announced to the World Petroleum Conference in Beijing that the atmosphere was actually cooling. The disinformation campaign worked all too well: As recently as 2017, a poll showed that almost 90% of Americans didn't know that a scientific consensus existed.

Eventually, the peril that EM

didly, Republican consultant Frank Luntz urged the oil giants and their political supporters to "make lack of scientific certainty a primary issue in the debate."

The Global Climate Coalition then linked up with the National Coal Association and the American Petroleum Institute in a campaign to rebuff efforts to increase taxes on fossil fuel emissions. In 2018 voters in the state of Washington leaned toward imposing

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Purple Rain

BY LAURA HALL

“Purple Rain” is the kind of song that makes you stop what you are doing and invokes you to sing along and sway to the epic creation.

Prince sang the song during the 2007 Super Bowl while it magically rained, making both the stage and the singer glisten. “Purple Rain” may even be considered a Twin Cities anthem because Prince truly was ours. “Purple Rain” is also the song that inspired Twin Cities visual artist Esther Osayande, a Phillips neighborhood resident, to create the Purple Raindrop sculpture in North Minneapolis. Osayande, along with two other artists, Christopheraaron Deanes and Christopher E. Harrison, was selected by a panel of community members, arts experts, city staff, and other key stakeholders to create artwork along the newly built 26th Avenue North bike path. The artwork serves as a way to connect the Northside community through sparking meaningful conversations and also providing tangible meeting spots in the area.

The inspiration for the raindrop came to Osayande a couple of weeks after Prince’s passing. While she was in downtown Minneapolis, she heard “Purple Rain” being blasted from First Avenue. With the iconic song pulsating through the downtown streets, Osayande felt like it was a “divine intervention,” leading her in the direction of creating the raindrop. Purple Raindrop now stands gloriously and proudly in Farview Park in North Minneapolis honoring both Prince (the one-

time resident of North Minneapolis) and the neighborhood.

Completion of the raindrop was an all-women effort. Osayande designed the curving, flawless sculpture and chose the vibrant

purple shade. Two female Twin Cities welders, Denise ‘Seven’ Bailey and Heather Doyle, then constructed the raindrop. Osayande feels like, “It’s the year of the woman,” reflecting on how at one

time, women would never have been thought able to do a job like being a welder.

Osayande also greatly admired Prince, describing him as someone who believed in peace and getting along with one another. And prior to his fame, Osayande had met the singer. At the time, she was dating someone who was friends with a musician in a band Prince was putting together. She recalls how the young, about 18-year-old Prince quietly and shyly entered

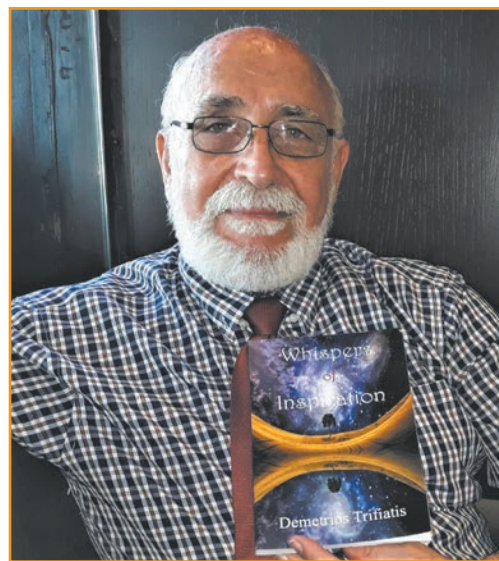
her home, politely asking her how she was and saying how it was nice to meet her. “I had greatness in my house,” says Osayande.

As Prince said, “Music was put on earth to enlighten and empower us and feel closer to our center.” This quote could also apply to Osayande’s artwork, stirring up a similar sentiment as you ponder the beauty and intrigue while also feeling a sense of strength and hope in her work.



Artist Esther Osayande with her sculpture Purple Raindrop

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